



Spring 2005 Newsletter

Ice Cream Social

**Monday, May 9th
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

Hillside Covenant Church
2060 Magnolia Way

- ☆ Baby-sitting provided
- ☆ Activities for young ones
- ☆ Kid-friendly video



Ice Cream Social is on Patio
Child-care in downstairs classroom
Meeting is in church sanctuary

Parking OK in upper & lower lots

NOTE: The church is undergoing remodeling and our normal meeting rooms are not available.

Schedule of Events

- 7:00 PM – Ice cream scooping begins
7:30 PM – Speaker: **Lesley Hunt, President of Friends of the Creek**
8:15 PM – Traffic and Development update, issues/announcements, Representatives of County Supervisors Uilkema and Piepho invited

Topics:

- Learn about local creeks, plans for creek pathways and cleanups, and the possible impact of the Paulson Lane development on Las Trampas Creek.
- Discuss traffic and development and the role of the PCA in these issues.

Stay Informed, Get Involved

The impact of traffic and development in the Parkmead neighborhood continues to be of concern to many of us. The PCA Board monitors these areas and strives to keep the neighbors informed. We established a Traffic Committee last year and are in the process of establishing a Development Committee this year — both are open to non-board members. We have set up an “E-mail list” to inform you of these issues and upcoming events.

Members of the PCA Board and committees have attended and addressed sessions of the Walnut Creek Planning Commission and City Council as the city updates its General Plan. Of particular interest are plans to allow and possibly promote more development on Newell across from Kaiser, including Albertsons, with up to 50-foot heights allowed. Broadway Plaza may be allowed 400,000 square feet of expansion. The increase in traffic using Newell to exit downtown Walnut Creek will be noticed.

*See **Involved**, Page 2*

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Join the Parkmead Community Association

Your participation and support are critical to the success of your association. If you haven't already done so, please fill out the form below and submit with your annual dues of \$12. We also urge you to sign up for our e-mail list via this form when you join.

NOTE: This year we are asking garage sale participants to become members.

PCA E-Mail List

The PCA Board has established an e-mail list of neighbors who want to be informed on events and issues of interest to the neighborhood. This is an attempt to improve communications during the months between our 3 newsletters. There will be no commercial or political use of your e-mail address, no attached files, no sharing the list. We do not expect more than one posting a month on average. You will be listed as "blind copy" so others will not see your email address. If you want to be on this list, send e-mail to parkmeadboard@comcast.net with your name and (optional) home address.

Senior Lunch

Sirkka Lonzo, one of our PCA Board members, is interested in starting occasional lunches for seniors. The idea behind these periodic lunches is to allow neighborhood seniors to get together on a social basis. If you are interested in helping set this up, please contact Sirkka at parkmeadboard@comcast.net.

The planned development of 30+ housing units on Paulson Lane is moving through the Contra Costa County planning process. This will have a direct visual impact on "lower" Magnolia for some of our neighbors, plus increased noise and traffic.

The issue of "large homes" is controversial, with both sides having strong opinions. The City and County have different regulations as to what is allowed and what requires public notice.

The PCA Board is working with other neighborhood associations, especially Saranap Homeowners Association, to better inform our neighbors and to coordinate efforts. We have met with the staff of both of our County Supervisors, Gayle Uilkema and Mary Nejedly Piepho, as well as with City staff. All three entities have been interested to listen to us and committed to keeping us informed of County and City plans that could impact our neighborhood. The PCA Board has not yet taken official positions on these issues, but most of us are concerned. We need to hear from you and learn your opinions.

So—how can you be informed and involved?

- Attend our PCA neighborhood meetings
- Sign up for our e-mail list (see article on left)
- Join the Parkmead Community Association
- Read the local newspaper or their website
- Check the Walnut Creek website www.walnut-creek.org and click on General Plan Update
- Attend Walnut Creek Planning Commission and City Council meetings (also on local TV)
- Contact City and County officials

It's easy to just complain about traffic and development; it's difficult to impact or change things. We think that the PCA has a role to inform. We need your involvement. Please join us.

Pete Johnson. President

Parkmead Community Association Annual Dues

One membership per house, whether you rent or own.

Dues: \$12

Please make check payable to:

Parkmead Community Association

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail (For PCA use only): _____

You may bring your dues to a meeting or contact us at at parkmeadboard@comcast.net.

Neighborhood Projects

In cooperation with Hillside Covenant Church, the PCA has worked on three neighborhood projects in the past year. The PCA Board wants to continue this effort and has agreed to some guidelines to select projects.

1. That the homeowners be elderly or not physically able to do the necessary work on their homes/yards themselves, despite their best efforts to do so;
2. That there be a partnership with the homeowners' neighbors and the workers from Hillside Covenant Church so that the work is a joint effort to help the neighbor in need and to improve the neighborhood.

Ideally, a successful project should also empower those participating to feel that they can do this again on their own if they see someone who needs help or any further assistance.

We also want to develop a list of possible future projects based on the above guidelines. If you need assistance or know of someone who does, please let a PCA Board member know. Want to help out on future projects? Let us know that, too.



Request for Dues

Your participation and support are critical to the success of your association. If you haven't already done so, please fill out the form on the previous page and submit with your annual dues of \$12.

Thank you.

Neighborhood Garage Sale Saturday, June 4

Spring Cleaning! Clean out the closets and garage! Sell your "stuff"! Buy your neighbor's "stuff"! Turn your "stuff" into cash!

Take advantage of a community garage sale on one date for the entire neighborhood with ads run in the local papers paid for by the Parkmead Community Association

Your community association is planning our 3rd annual neighborhood-wide garage sale for June 4th. We will provide maps to shoppers as they enter the neighborhood (on Newell by the freeway overpass and at Lilac/Lancaster), which will indicate homes participating. Signs will guide folks and balloons will mark participating homes. Consider sharing garage sale space with a neighbor if you aren't going to be around that day, maybe a neighbor will sell your "stuff".

Please let us know your willingness to participate by contacting Pete Johnson at parkmeadboard@comcast.net. We need your name, address and phone number to include you on the map and deliver a balloon to you in time for the great sale to begin! (Only addresses will be printed on the map.)

Please let us know as soon as possible or R.S.V.P. at the Ice Cream Social on 5/9. The more sellers the better the event for everyone. We look forward to seeing you and your "stuff" on June 4th!

NOTE – this is open to members of the PCA, so please join now.

Reminder to Dog Owners

As a friendly reminder, we are aware that some dog owners have recently been ticketed or warned for having their dogs off leash. Even if your dog is under voice command, the law requires that your dog(s) be leashed while walking on public property unless otherwise posted (such as the Open Space). This is not only for your dogs safety, but also for the safety of others walking in the neighborhood and for people driving. There is a \$50 fine for your first offense. We have also had some complaints of dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs. This is not only a health code violation, its inconsiderate of your neighbors. Please, be a responsible pet owner and clean up after your pets.

-- Submitted by concerned dog owners

Meet Your Neighbor with Cris Tarozzi

We recently had a chance to sit down with neighbor and local artist Charlotte Panton and her husband Jamie. They are original Parkmead homeowners, having purchased their lot in 1951. They've been married for 57 years. They have 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandson.

When you walk in their house you can't help but notice the beautiful paintings hanging on the wall. Charlotte was kind enough to show us her studio and some of her other paintings. And then the questions started to flow.

MYN: When did you first become interested in art?

CP: When I was three my uncle taught me to draw red birds, and I was good at it. I went on to study at UC Berkley where I was an Art Major.

MYN: What is your medium and style?

CP: Watercolor Landscape, I sketch then I work from that to paint.

MYN: Do you show your Art?

CP: Yes, I'm a member of the California Watercolor Association. My next show will be the Marin County Art and Garden Show in July.

MYN: Have you won any awards for your art?

CP: Yes, local and at the National level, but I never wanted to do it for the awards or to be famous, or even to try and make a living at it, I just love it. When my children were young and they would leave for school and Jamie would go to work I would start painting the minute I was alone. I remember once I was so in to my work that the door opened and my children were home from school. The day had quickly gone by and there I was still in my robe painting away at the kitchen table.

MYN: Where would you like to revisit to paint?

CP: New Mexico, I've been to Taos and Santa Fe and pretty much all over New Mexico, I love it there, it's so beautiful.

MYN: Do you ever have days when you no longer want to paint?

CP: No, in fact if I can't paint I get cranky, it just builds up inside of me and I have to let it out.

MYN: Do you have a favorite artist?

CP: Monet, I love Impressionism. I like some of Picasso's early work and his early sculptures.

MYN: Do you have any of your paintings that you can't part with?

CP: Yes, I have a painting I did in New Mexico and a friend and fellow artist offered to buy it. I had to turn her down; I just can't part with it. Jamie also has a favorite painting that he can't part with; he absolutely loves it.

When asked if there was a major event in her life that defined who she was Charlotte talked of meeting Jamie at the I House at UC Berkeley, getting married and living in the Alameda Projects and then finding their lot in Walnut Creek and scraping the money together to pay for it and their home. She reminisced about driving around in the hills in their convertible Buick. She spoke of Jamie's work at the Berkley Lab., and talked about his experiences in the military, the symphony that he wrote, still being in touch with sorority sisters, and the talent her children seem to have inherited. Not one thing defines who Charlotte is, it's a collection of so many wonderful experiences that translates onto canvas and makes her art so serene, peaceful and beautiful.

If you have a chance to attend one of Charlotte's shows, please do so. You won't be disappointed.

Next Issue – Jane Burton

Next issue we will introduce you to Jane Burton a neighbor and sculptor. Before that issue comes out please try to attend her first show at the Regional Arts Center beginning June 1st.

Emergency Preparedness

By Rob Weiner

The Parkmead Neighborhood is proud to be home to one of Northern California's first Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). Our team consists of about ten Parkmead neighbors who decided to take the training course offered by the Contra Costa County Fire District (and sponsored by the city, the state, and the Dept of Homeland Security), so that in case of a major earthquake or other disaster, we could help our families and our neighbors survive as best as possible. We are not experts, of course, but we do have a somewhat heightened sense of how to cope and how to help others cope with such emergencies. That's why we organized the Emergency Preparedness Fair at the school the past two years and are collaborating with the city to present the fair this coming 9/11 at Civic Park.

Of course everyone is very busy, but we strongly encourage you to take the time to join us at our next meeting, Thursday, May 19th, 7:00 PM, and then to take one of the coming series of trainings directed by Kathy Woofter of the Fire District. Emergency Preparedness is a very serious matter, and every single one of us should be attentive to it. At the same time, our CERT group is a fun-loving mix of Parkmead neighbors who understand that working together is definitely the way to go.

For further information, please contact: Rob Weiner at parkmeadboard@comcast.net. The City of Walnut Creek will hold 4 CERT Trainings in 2005. The remaining dates are:

- Tuesday, May 24th to June 28th
- Tuesday, July 19th to August 30th
- Tuesday, September 13th to October 18th

All classes will be held at Hillside Covenant Church, 2060 Magnolia Way, from 6pm to 9:30pm. If you are interested, please call Gayle Vassar at (925) 943-5899, Ext. 189 to enroll.



Oral History Project

Our Oral History Project is still making history. We need more interviewers to interview some long-time residents. Have a neighbor in mind to interview? We have lists of questions and a tape recorder. Interested? Contact Lynn Nerland at parkmeadboard@comcast.net. We also would like old photos of the neighborhood and are willing to make

Future Events

- May 7** – Neighborhood Project (see page 3)
- May 14** – Clean the Creek Day – 9:00 AM Civic Park sign-up with BBQ afterwards.
Contact Lesley Hunt at 937-6791
- May 19** – Emergency Preparedness Meeting
Please see notice above
- June 4** – Neighborhood Garage Sale (see page 3)
- September** – PCA Block Party

Parkmead Community Association District Map



Officer	Position
Pete Johnson	President
Joseph Curtis	Vice President
Mary Andre	Treasurer
Tony Almeida	Secretary

Francine Podenski	Development Committee
Mike Mulligan	Traffic Committee

parkmeadboard@comcast.net

District	Board Member
1	Jodi Hayes
2	Tony Almeida
3	Paul King
4	Joseph Curtis
5	Sue Chan
6	Tony Phillips
7	<i>Vacant</i>
At Large	Ann Hinshaw
At Large	Sirkka Lonzo
At Large	Francine Podenski
At Large	Cris Tarozzi
Editor	Craig Pollock