



Parkmead Community Association

Fall 2006

Message from the PCA President

Your Association has accomplished a lot since the last newsletter. We had a great Block Party and we put on a very effective Forum for the Walnut Creek City Council Candidates. The Block Party was the best attended ever. It was a great opportunity to meet neighbors and to help build community. We had lots of food and for the first time we did a little fund raising so we could have live music.

For those of you that missed it, the Candidates Forum was a great event. It was professionally moderated and was a wonderful opportunity to hear the candidate's positions on the issues that directly affect us. For more on the forum, read the article on page 2 of this newsletter.

Fall is here and that means it is time to put together the Parkmead Community Association Board for the next year. We need to fill several vacancies. If you have some time, energy and ideas that you would like to contribute to our beautiful neighborhood, I would like to hear from you. Please call me at 938-3399. We hold our elections at the Fall Pizza Meeting so please attend.

Membership has grown this year. For the first time we have over 200 members. I am excited about this growth and the direction I see our Association going. We have accomplished a lot this year, yet we have much to do. The continued population and business growth in the area is taxing our infrastructure to the limit; there is more development planned and there are new community leaders to create relationships with. Growth is the economic engine that is driving Walnut Creek unfortunately, it is people driving to that growth that is creating many of our issues.

We need your help. This year we have been lucky enough to have many people make contributions to our community and we all owe them thanks. They have contributed time, energy, ideas and occasionally money. Your home is worth about a million dollars, how much is it worth to keep our idyllic neighborhood around it?

Joseph Patch Curtis

Battery Recycling

Quite a few neighbors brought used single-use batteries to the Block Party to be recycled. We collected 27 lbs.2oz.of batteries. Keep up the good work. We'll collect batteries again at the **Fall Pizza Party on Nov. 14**. Please remember to put tape on the terminals.

Ann Hinshaw

Fall Pizza Meeting

Tuesday, November 14th

Hillside Covenant Church
2060 Magnolia Way

Guest Speaker*
Videos for Kids
Free babysitting

6:30 Pizza

7:00 Meeting

8:00 Board Elections

Pizza donated by Extreme Pizza
and drinks provided by PCA

Desserts appreciated – (we need a few)

Meeting Downstairs

Parking OK in either lot; lower lot has easier access.

***Jim Townsend Trails Development Program Manager
for East Bay Regional Parks
will join us with maps and various handouts highlighting
the wonderful parks that surround us and how to take
advantage of them.**

PCA Electronic Communication

Check our website – www.parkmead.org

To join our neighborhood e-mail list, send an e-mail to parkmead@parkmead.org with your name and home address. See article below.

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 three newsletters. There will be no commercial or political use of your e-mail address, no attached files, and no sharing of the list. We do not expect more than one posting a month. You will be listed as "blind copy" so others will not see your e-mail address. If you want to be on this list, send an e-mail to parkmead@parkmead.org with your name and home address.

PCA Website Update

Thanks to everyone who gave us feedback about the Parkmead Community Association website. We have expanded the website to include a section for Neighborhood Clubs and Groups. So far we have added details about the Parkmead Mothers' Club and about the Parkmead Babysitting List plus the Welcome Wagon for anyone who's new to the neighborhood or who just wants to find out more about Parkmead and the people who live here.

If anyone is interested in hosting or joining in a Monthly Coffee Morning or Afternoon Tea Party for retired people in the neighborhood we would also love to hear from you. You can also contact us if you would like to meet up with other neighbors who share common interests such as Gardening, Dogs, Running, Cycling, Walking, or any other sports or hobbies. We would be happy to add you to our clubs board.

Other changes to the site include extra links to local events and things to do, including voluntary service. We have also added a section for Neighbors in the News where we plan to post local news articles about the Parkmead neighborhood. If you have any articles or any more suggestions for how the site might be improved, we would love to hear from you. You can contact us via the website or email us at parkmead@parkmead.org

Tony Phillips, Web Page Coordinator

Candidates Forum Draws Crowd

The Candidates Forum held on October 25 at Parkmead Elementary drew about 100 neighbors and city residents to hear the four candidates for Walnut Creek City Council answer questions on neighborhood and city issues. The Parkmead Community Association along with the Tice Valley and Almond Shuey neighborhoods sponsored the event. Questions were solicited in advance from the 3 neighborhoods and formulated by the planning committee made up of folks from the 3 neighborhoods. Each candidate had the opportunity to answer each question as well as make a closing statement. Our intent was to educate the neighbors about the 4 candidates and to let the candidates know that Parkmead and the other 2 neighborhoods are engaged in city issues now and in the future.

Thanks to the Parkmead PTA for cosponsoring the forum and to the Parkmead Elementary School for hosting the event. The Diablo Valley League of Women Voters supplied guidance and a moderator. Two neighborhood high school students helped out the night of the event - Trey Lawrence and Calvin Sherwood. The idea for this came from former PCA Board member Tom Sheridan who resigned from the board several months ago. Quite a few neighbors were involved in planning

and in the logistics - Cris Tarozzi, Pete Johnson, Francine Podenski, Ann Hinshaw, Chris Sherwood, Dennis Hoagland, Carol Stockbridge, and Susan Neyer. The Contra Costa Times and its Walnut Creek Journal supplement publicized and reported on the event. More information is available on our website www.parkmead.org

Pete Johnson

NOTE: The Parkmead Community Association does not endorse nor campaign for candidates.

Thank You!!!

Thanks to the following for their support of recent PCA activities and events:

Traverso Tree Services – for work at a reduced fee on the deodora tree on Newell at Circle Drive

Extreme Pizza – owned by new neighbor, Dave Wright, for donating the pizza for our Nov. 14 event

Monica Mead – Parkmead neighbor, who donated a Dreyer's Ice Cream Party for the Block Party.

Anna and Geoff Gunn – for donating a keg of beer to the Block Party

Resolving Neighbor Conflicts

One of the objectives of our Association is to provide information on issues of interest to the community. One question that has come up this year is how to deal with a neighbor that you may consider a nuisance. The Board can help but only as a last resort. Here is our policy: First, we recommend communication. Neighbors should be able to talk together to arrive at a compromise solution. If that doesn't work, and the issue is related to an enforceable City or County code, then we recommend you contact the appropriate agency. If information is needed on how to contact a governmental agency, the PCA website (www.parkmead.org) has a number of links that may help. If that doesn't work or if you need help finding the right agency then perhaps the Board can help. The PCA Board does not "police" the neighborhood but we can help facilitate communications between neighbors or help you find the resources you need.

Trader Joe's Update

As you know, Trader Joe's is scheduled to open a store at S. California and Newell where Albertson's used to be located and the goal is November 17, 2006. Elephant Pharmacy from Berkeley will share half the site (on the right side as you face the store) and open later. Though this may be welcome news for Parkmead residents, the cut-through traffic impact on Newell Avenue from the two stores could be considerable. The PCA is working with the City on traffic mitigation. The Design Review Commission (DRC) reviewed the project on September 6th. It was basically approved with some landscaping and store sign modifications to be finalized prior to opening. Some of our neighbors spoke to the landscaping design and the need to make it pedestrian friendly and relate to a proposed creek path beside the store.

Our concerns about traffic did not really fall under "design review" but the City staff and DRC listened to our concerns and the developer heard them too. We will work with the two storeowners to make them aware of the issue. The City did agree to post more prominent signs directing exiting traffic away from Newell to use California, Olympic and Mt Diablo to reach the freeways. They also agreed to do an updated traffic study several months after the stores have been open to see if traffic has increased on Newell and Lilac.

Pete Johnson

Paulson Lane Update

On September 26, 2006, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors approved the application of BNB Ventures developers Brad Blake and Bob Walsh, to build a planned development with a zone variance on Paulson Lane. Braddock and Logan Group, homebuilders in Danville, took possession of the Paulson Lane property immediately after the zoning variance was approved. Over 100 trees will be removed to make room for 16 two-story homes on 3.13 acres. Large trees growing along the top of the Las Trampas Creek channel will be preserved and the developers propose considerable tree replacement after all the homes are built.

Conditions of permit approval include prohibition of second story decks looking down on the creek channel and all exterior lighting must be aimed down and away from the creek channel. The developer is required to provide \$15,000 for Las Trampas Creek Channel improvements and to work cooperatively with the City of Walnut Creek to identify a ten foot wide right of way for a public trail to the creek channel either along the 680 freeway wall or on the north side of the planned development.

Paulson Lane is accessible from Olympic Boulevard near the 680-freeway overpass. The planned development impacts Parkmead residents who live on part of Magnolia Way,

Magnolia Court, Camelia Lane, and part of Newell Avenue. For more information go to the PCA webpage at www.parkmead.org The Parkmead Community Association will continue to closely monitor this project.

Francine Podenski

Thanks to Our Neighbors

On August 29th our house on Newell caught fire, and we lost a portion of our garage. My children and I were in the house experiencing a normal Tuesday morning when we heard the loud banging on our front door. My daughter was napping in a back bedroom, and my son and I were on the other side of the house eating lunch. We had no idea that our home was on fire.

When we got outside, I was shocked to see the number of people who were already fighting the fire that had begun in our trashcan and was spreading quickly through our garage. Many of these people I had never met and some left before I could thank them.

On that day our neighbors saved our home and quite possibly our lives. The silver lining of this experience is that we live in a neighborhood with incredible people. Thank you. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

Sincerely,
The Conlan Family

Parkmead Mothers' Club

If you are interested in meeting other Parkmead moms for informal play dates and other events with children age 5 and under, please contact Anna Gunn at gunn@astound.net. Be sure to include your name, street address and age of your children. We try to meet once a month in the morning or afternoon at a neighbor's house or a park. Dads looking to meet other dads are also welcome to contact us.

Veterans' Day Event Nov. 5

In appreciation of our soldiers and veterans', the Annual Parkmead Veteran's Day Event will be held Sunday afternoon, November 5th, 2006. 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at Parkmead Elementary. A kid's Patriotic Parade will be added this year, including mini floats and decorated bikes and wagons. Memorabilia, and a military history time line, will be included. Veterans sharing their stories, the Marine Color Guard, Blue Star Moms, patriotic music, scout participation, ice cream and pie, will again be the mainstay of the event. Please contact Karol Coyne for questions, contributions, and parade participation. Coynez4@astound.net

Parkmead Community Association Newsletter – Fall 2006

NAME	BOARD	OFFICER/COMMITTEE/CONTACT	PHONE
Joseph Curtis	District 4	President	
Cris Tarozzi	At Large	Vice President	
Mary Andre	At Large	Treasurer	
Tony Almeida	District 2	Secretary	
Jodi Hayes	District 1		
Chris Sherwood	District 3	Garage Sale Coordinator	
Matthew Mead	District 5		
Tony Phillips	District 6	Web Page Coordinator	
Ann Hinshaw	Dist 7 acting		
Anna Gunn	At Large	Events Comm. Chair	
Pete Johnson	At Large	Community Liaison	
Francine Podenski	At Large	Development Comm. Chair	
Vacant	At Large		

Contact parkmead@parkmead.org

