



Parkmead Community Association

Summer 2006

Message from the PCA President

As President of the Parkmead Community Association I regularly read the Statement of Purpose in our Bylaws. It occurs to me that most Parkmeadians have probably never seen it, so here it is:

The Parkmead Community Association will provide an organization to represent the area before governmental bodies and to encourage activity by residents interested in furthering the peace, health, safety, quality of life, and environment in the Parkmead Community Area.

Your Board of Directors is involved in many projects at the moment to further these objectives. I urge you to read this newsletter in its entirety to get a flavor of what we have been up to.

On the governmental front, we are still working to minimize the effect the Paulson Lane project will have on the neighbors. We are also working with the Walnut Creek Design Review Commission to mitigate any issue that the new Trader Joe's may create. In addition, we are exploring the possibility of sponsoring a Candidates Forum that will feature the Walnut Creek City Council candidates. For years we have been developing relationships with City and County representatives and we will continue to create and take advantage of opportunities to work with them.

You may have noticed a change as you enter Parkmead on Newell Avenue. The Deodora tree in the traffic island at Circle Drive has been trimmed, the weeds removed and mulch was spread around. Thanks go out to Traverso Tree Service for the nice discount they gave us on the tree work. The balance of the money was donated by members of the PCA. Also, Mary Andre, Francine Podenski and Tom Sheridan all deserve our thanks for the work they did under the tree on a very hot day.

An objective of mine is to increase the sense of community within our neighborhood. I have always felt that one way to do this is to have a BIG party. This year we are making some changes to our annual Block Party with the hope that we can get a huge

Summer Block Party

Sunday, September 10, 1 PM to 5 PM

Maple Lane

Across from Parkmead School off Magnolia Way

Join Your Neighbors

Bring Your Family

Live Music

See article on this page

Calendar of Events

Sunday, Sept 10, 1 to 5pm – Block Party

Saturday, Sept. 30, 9am-11am – Creek Walk

October 4 – 8 – Walk to School Week

Nov 14 – Fall Pizza Party & Elections – see next newsletter

attendance. For the first time we will have live music and some different refreshments so plan to bring your family and neighbors.

Your Association is constantly looking at ways to further the quality of life in our neighborhood and we need your help. We have more ideas than resources so if you want the opportunity to contribute to your community and work with some quality people, talk to a Board member about how you might get involved.

Joseph Patch Curtis

Annual Parkmead Community Block Party – September 10th

Please join us at the annual Parkmead neighborhood summer block party and barbecue on Sunday, September 10th from 1-5 PM. Meet your neighbors, bring your neighbors, and have fun with your neighbors while listening to a LIVE steel drum performance from 1:30-3:30!

Walk or bike if you can to Maple Lane (off Magnolia Way) and feast on hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks provided by PCA. Please consider bringing a salad, dessert or your signature dish (to feed about 10 people). More importantly, we want you to come out and join the fun – please leave your 4-legged friends at home. We will have chairs for relaxing in the shade and activities for the kids. Special thanks to our Maple Lane neighbors for letting us use their street. Hope to see you there!

PCA Electronic Communication

Check our website – www.parkmead.org

To join our neighborhood e-mail list, send e-mail to parkmead@parkmead.org with your name and (optional) home address. See article on page 2

Our website is up and running at last – www.parkmead.org

Thanks to the enormous help of neighbor Jeff Roseman in Arlene Gardens we are now virtually there: - at www.parkmead.org. This website will supplement the newsletters by keeping you up to date with new and changing developments that might affect the Parkmead community and it will give you background information and useful links relating to the local issues. The website will also be a place to find interesting stories about the history of Parkmead, about neighbors in the news, all our upcoming events and activities, plus it will give you links to other local news sources and services.

The website is still a work in progress that is slowly evolving and we want to make sure that it is useful and relevant for the neighborhood – so please take a tour around it, tell us what you like and don't like and give us advice and suggestions about how we could make it better for you.

At the moment we have 'markers' for topics such as the Parkmead History Project and we do have a few articles and photos that we will be adding soon – but we need lots more so please e-mail us any souvenirs that you have. We are also considering publicizing neighborhood groups, clubs and activities that people might not otherwise hear about. So if you are interested in forming a group or already have one, please send us an e-mail and let us know. To join our e-mailing list, publish a group or to send us your comments, articles and photos; you can e-mail us at parkmead@parkmead.org

If you join our e-mail list you can also choose to receive periodic e-mail updates on neighborhood issues and events. 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 e-mail to parkmead@parkmead.org with your name and (optional) home address.

Tony Phillips, Web Page Coordinator

Walk to School Week – Oct. 4-8

As they say: 'ignoring the childhood obesity issue is like ignoring the elephant in the room". The percentage of overweight kids has doubled in the last 20 years and the average life expectancy of your child is now actually lower than it was for you as a child because of this issue.

You need to ensure that you and your kids are fit and healthy by eating well and getting regular exercise. Simple changes in lifestyle – such as walking to school or work each day can have a significant long term affect on health. Walking to school each day with your kids will not only help them stay healthy, it also gives you time to chat with them, meet their friends and check out other parents as well. It also makes the neighborhood a friendlier, safer, cleaner place to be.

Luckily, October 4th – 8th is International Walk to School Week. So if you have school kids at Parkmead School or Dorris-Eaton School, this is a great time for you to start that new regime. All you have to do is walk to school with your kids each morning. You may also be interested in organizing a Walking School Bus – this is where a group of kids all walk to school together along with a couple of parents just to keep an eye on them. Anyone who lives outside the Parkmead neighborhood can park their car on Lilac Dr. or Arlene Dr. and meet us at the Bus Stop on Lilac Dr. at Newell Ave. at 8:00 am. Even if you don't have kids, you are still welcome to stroll with us each morning for a chat and a chance to meet your neighbors.

On Monday 4th October, we plan to hand out balloons to all the kids that walk or cycle to school – and during the week there will also be small gifts for the kids – but really just doing the walk will be a reward in itself.

If you do need to drive through the neighborhood during this week, please be especially slow and cautious to avoid any stray kids and wobbly bicycles. If you live on Newell Ave or Lilac Dr, please try to keep the sidewalks clear of cars and bins for us. You can get more information about the Parkmead walk to school week by e-mailing us at parkmead@parkmead.org

Tony Phillips, Walk to School Coordinator

Development News

Trader Joe's - Elephant Pharmacy Update

As you know, Trader Joe's will be coming to the old Albertsons site on S. California Blvd. this fall. The store is being remodeled to accommodate Trader Joe's in one half and Elephant Pharmacy on the other side of a wall with separate entrances. Most of the work only requires a building permit but the exterior design and parking lot fall under Walnut Creek's design review process. Albertsons was more of a neighborhood store while the new tenants will be more unique and draw customers citywide, including Rossmore, as well as from areas off Olympic Blvd. and beyond. Our concern is increased traffic on Newell Ave. from shoppers exiting the new stores and wanting to avoid downtown traffic.

City planning and traffic staff met with several PCA board members on July 21 to review plans submitted by the new tenants and some initial suggestions by city staff to mitigate traffic. The tenants want to reconfigure the parking lot and entrances/exits as well as add landscaping between the sidewalks and parking lot. We made some suggestions to reduce traffic on Newell including more signage directing drivers to use S. California and Olympic to exit the area. As this is written in mid-August, the City awaits revised plans from the store architect and will meet with us again. It is anticipated that this project will go to the city Design Review Commission on September 6. We will use the PCA e-mail list to let you know as well as post updates on our website. The Contra Costa Times will also announce this public meeting.

If you have questions about this project or suggestions to mitigate traffic on Newell Ave, contact us at parkmead@parkmead.org

Paulson Lane Update

BNB Ventures developers Brad Blake and Bob Walsh have submitted an application to build a planned development on Paulson Ln. Over 100 trees are proposed for removal to make room for 16 two-story homes on 3.13 acres. The project requires approval of a zoning change. Large trees growing along the top of the Las Trampas Creek channel bank will be preserved and the developers propose considerable tree replacement after all the homes are built. The project impacts Parkmead residents who live on lower Magnolia Way, Magnolia Ct, Camelia Ln, and part of Newell Ave. More information about the development can be found at <http://www.paulsonlane.com/> Paulson Ln. is accessible from Olympic Blvd near the 680 freeway overpass.

The PCA sent a letter to Contra Costa County Community Development in April 2006 describing community concerns and requests regarding the proposed new subdivision and attended a Contra Costa County Planning Commission meeting in May 2006. A Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors hearing to consider the proposed zoning change originally scheduled for August 1 was postponed to Tuesday, September 19, at 1pm, to allow time for additional concerns about the project to be reviewed and discussed. If you would like more information about the proposed Paulson Ln. Planned Development, and/ or if you would like a copy of the letter that the PCA sent to the county, send a request via e-mail with your name, address, and phone number to parkmead@parkmead.org

Household Battery Recycling

As you know, effective February 2006, the State mandated that batteries may no longer be put in household garbage due to the eventual leakage of toxics into landfills.

By law, retailers who sell rechargeable batteries and cell phones must accept them for recycling. They cannot be commingled with single-use batteries.

Single-use batteries can be taken to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility (HHWF) at 4797 Imhoff Dr., Martinez. However, as a convenience to our neighbors, the Parkmead Community Association will collect them at our events that are held 3 times a year. The only step you need to take is to place a piece of tape over the terminals to prevent sparking in the containers.

The PCA Block Party on September 10 will be the first event where this service will be provided. Look for the HOUSEHOLD BATTERY RECYCLING sign at the Block Party.

Neighborhood Creek Nature Walk

Saturday, September 30, 9am-11am

Join Friends of the Creeks biologist, Dr. Jim Hale, for our second annual neighborhood creek channel nature walk. Learn about flora and fauna in the Parkmead portion of Las Trampas creek channel between the Olympic Boulevard Bridge and the California Boulevard Bridge. Participants must be seven years of age or older; minors must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. RSVP to reserve your space early. Group size is limited. For more information, contact us at parkmead@parkmead.org

Parkmead Community Association Newsletter – Summer 2006

NAME	BOARD	OFFICER/COMMITTEE/CONTACT	PHONE
Joseph Curtis	District 4	President	
Cris Tarozzi	At Large	Vice President	
Mary Andre	At Large	Treasurer	
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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

