



# Parkmead Community Association

## Spring 2007

### **Ice Cream Social**

**Tuesday, May 1, 7 to 9 p.m.**

Hillside Covenant Church  
2060 Magnolia Way

### **Walnut Creek City Updates**

Presented by a representative from the City of Walnut  
Creek Planning/Traffic Division

*For details, see Development & Traffic Committee Update on p. 2*

**Baby-sitting provided & videos for kids**

### **Message from the PCA President**

Spring is here and it is time to have our annual Parkmead Community Association Ice Cream Social. This is a great opportunity to meet and visit with your neighbors and listen to an important topic. We will have representatives of the City of Walnut Creek give a presentation on the General Plan and other development and traffic issues that directly affect our neighborhood.

Spring is the season of new growth. As sure as new rose blossoms, each spring there is a crop of proposals for new development in or around Parkmead. It is inevitable that new development will continue in our area and change is always controversial. Like the rose, the blossoms may come with a few thorns. As a Board, we accept that there will be change, and yet, we want to do all we can to maintain or improve the quality of life in Parkmead. We have a Development Committee that does a wonderful job of closely monitoring the rumors and proposals to see how they may affect us. We periodically put out informational emails on development and other topics that we feel will be of interest to the community. Francine Podenski is the Chair of this committee so if you are not on our email list or want more information please contact her or any Board member.

Spring is also the time that we ask you to renew your annual membership in the Parkmead Community Association. Last year we had record membership and it is our plan to get even more members this year. Only about one in three Parkmeadians are members so we still have a lot of growth potential. The Board has decided to keep the dues at the phenomenally low rate of \$12 per year.

Last year we decided that the summer Block Party will be our signature event. For those of you who attended you had the chance to hear live music for the first time and enjoy an expanded menu. We were able to do this without increasing dues because some of you decided to make donations in addition to dues. We thank you for this and urge you to continue your generosity.

There are three new members of the Parkmead Board this year. Terri Almeida, Katie Conlan and Katie Zeigler have all come forward to invest a few hours a month in our quality of life. Although all the Board positions are filled, we have many programs planned for this coming year so there are always opportunities to make a contribution to your community. We have a great group of neighbors involved in our association and we always need more. If you want to get involved, I urge you to contact a member of the Board.

*Joseph Patch Curtis*



*Preserve the Newell Pathway; see article inside.*

## **Join—Renew Now**

### **Annual Parkmead Community Association Membership Drive**

*Use enclosed membership form and return envelope.*

*Please act now!*

*Also sign up for our email list.*

## Development & Traffic Committee Update

The Parkmead Community Association is monitoring a number of actual and potential projects that will impact the Parkmead neighborhood directly or indirectly. Attend the upcoming Tuesday, May 1, Ice Cream Social at the Hillside Covenant Church to learn more about the projects mentioned here. There is also more information in the news section of [www.parkmead.org](http://www.parkmead.org)

**Trader Joe's & Elephant Pharmacy:** A Trader Joe's at California and Newell has been a welcome addition to the neighborhood. Signage provided by the City of Walnut Creek to clearly direct traffic coming out of the parking lot toward Highways 24 and 680 appears to be effective in reducing potential cut-through traffic on Newell. However, neighbors are concerned about whether or not parking will be adequate when Elephant Pharmacy opens in late May or early June next door to Trader Joe's. Walnut Creek City staff has promised a traffic study this Spring to measure traffic impact from Trader Joe's and Elephant Pharmacy. The project continues to be closely monitored.

**Lilac/Arbutus:** A "farmhouse" located on the corner of Lilac and Newell has been demolished to make way for 4 new homes. The property is currently parceled and zoned to accommodate four two story homes. Neighbors are waiting to review the developer's proposed plans. Mark Scott Construction has not yet contacted the neighbors or filed plans with the city as of early April.

**Pinky's Pizza and Sunrise Bakery/Catering:** These neighborhood businesses were faced with closure when major electrical problems occurred on the property and there was a dispute over who was responsible for repairs. PG&E and the property owners both wanted the other to pay, the city mediated the dispute and a temporary fix was completed by PG&E in late March. Pinky's reopened while Sunrise chose to remain closed until a resolution was reached on a permanent repair and recovering costs to the tenants for generators and lost business. Beside the loss of popular local small businesses, there is continued concern that if they are forced to close, the property will be

sold and developed. Kaiser owns the property behind the businesses and is interested in buying them plus the corner gas station. The PCA Board and Development Committee are monitoring the situation with a concern about structures with increased height and density and potentially increased traffic. Any development on this parcel will involve the City, the new General Plan and the need for a Specific Plan—a topic for our May 1 neighborhood meeting.

**Paulson Lane (accessible from Olympic Blvd.):** Braddock and Logan Homes have demolished three homes and removed 100 trees to make way for 16 new two story homes on Paulson Lane next to the 680 freeway. Fencing will soon be installed to protect the remaining trees and the creek habitat during construction. Discussions are underway regarding eradication of arundo within the Paulson Lane project. Arundo is a non-native invasive plant that looks like bamboo, is a fire hazard and causes flooding problems. For more info about Braddock and Logan, see [www.braddockandloganhomes.com](http://www.braddockandloganhomes.com)

Some of the *potential* development projects being closely monitored include a future Specific Planning Process for Change Area #3 (includes Newell Avenue from the 680 freeway overpass to Main Street), renovation or replacement of the tall white building at the corner of Newell and Main, a Broadway Plaza expansion, possible high-density housing at the corner of Newell and Broadway, proposed mixed use projects on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, high-density residential project on Olympic Boulevard directly across from Dewing Park, high-density residential project on Tice Valley Boulevard near Olympic, high-density residential project and expansion of the Jewish Community Center into a regional center on Tice Valley Boulevard, high density housing project at the Walnut Creek BART Station, and others. Come to the May 1 Parkmead Community Association Meeting and Ice Cream Social to learn more about these and other potential projects.

Please consider joining the Parkmead Community Association Development Committee. For more info, contact Francine Podenski at [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org).

## Pedestrian Pathway on Newell

What's 10 years old, a great asset to our community, and in need of repair? It's our pedestrian pathway along the south side of Newell Avenue.

One of our community's greatest features is its proximity to downtown Walnut Creek, with safe and easy pedestrian access on the pathway. How many times have you told someone "We can walk downtown from our house?" Kids and parents walking or biking to and from school, parents with strollers, families or friends heading downtown for shopping, dining, or the movies, joggers, swimmers headed to Dewing Park pool, and neighbors just out for a stroll — our path gets a lot of use!

Thanks to a 2-year community effort led by Patti Petromilli, the path was constructed with money obtained by Contra Costa County through a special one-time grant. However, the county does not maintain or repair the path. And while it has served us well over the past ten years, our pathway needs some work.

PCA, which has hosted several "pathway repair parties" will be coordinating a more extensive pathway maintenance and improvement project this summer—filling holes, leveling the walkway, repairing drainage, and hopefully adding some landscaping at each end of the path. We'd like to get the pathway back in shape before school

starts in late August. To do so will require another community effort, and we're asking for your help:

- Are you or do you know a contractor or landscape professional with experience in this type of work?
- Know of a source for donated or discounted materials?
- Make a donation to help purchase materials.
- Give us a hand—grab a shovel, roll up your sleeves, and help with the work. There will be a variety of tasks - including some pretty easy stuff.

If you or someone you know can help in any way, please contact us at [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org):

*Chris Sherwood*

*Katie Conlan*

*Terri Almeida*

So celebrate our community pathway - use it to get out and enjoy the beautiful spring weather, and give us a hand to make it an even more meaningful part of the Parkmead community. Watch the PCA website ([www.parkmead.org](http://www.parkmead.org)) or e-mail PCA at [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org).

## Emergency Preparedness: News from Parkmead CERT!

If you are not aware, we have CERT in our neighborhood. CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Team. The purpose of CERT is to assist the professional rescue workers in the event of a major disaster. We would be the first on the scene (first responders) for our neighborhood. We set up a command & communication post in the neighborhood and then send members out to do light search and rescue, put out small fires, and take care of other minor problems. We are also in communication with the city.

We are trained by the Contra Costa County Fire Department (and sponsored by the City of Walnut Creek, the State, and the Department of Homeland Security), and receive additional training throughout the year. If you would like to know more about CERT, please contact Michael Ulrich at [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org). About 20 neighbors have received training; if you would like to take a class go to the City's web site at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org) and under Quick Links select Emergency Preparedness. They are offering 3 more classes in 2007:

- Wednesdays, April 18 to May 16 and Tuesday, May 22, 6:30 – 9 p.m. at the Contra Costa Fire District Training Center in Concord (this class might be full)
- Tuesday, July 24 to Aug 28, 6:30 – 9 p.m. at the Contra Costa Fire District Training Center in Concord
- Wednesday, Sept. 19 to Oct 24, 6:30 – 9 p.m. at the Contra Costa Fire District Training Center in Concord

We are always looking for more members for the team. Please help us help those in the community.

In order for CERT to help our community be prepared for an emergency, we will distribute a questionnaire asking about where your gas shut off valve is located, the main electrical panel, and other such items so we can assist you in the event of an emergency.

For a list of items that you should have on hand for an emergency, please go to [www.parkmead.org](http://www.parkmead.org) and click on Emergency Preparedness on the home page. We would like to have some of our neighbors in the community that have room, to volunteer to store items for Parkmead CERT, such as tents, crowbars, lumber and other items that we would need in an event of a disaster. If you are interested in helping us, please contact Michael Ulrich at [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org).

## PCA Website Update

The “[parkmead.org](http://parkmead.org)” website has information about all our upcoming events, plus news about issues that could affect our neighborhood and links to other useful local websites.

We have now added a link to a neighborhood “Forum” so that you can start a discussion on any neighborhood topics, or let everyone know about upcoming events, or let neighbors know about any services that you would like to offer or recommend to others. We have also added links for more events and meeting people plus a link to environmental information.

## Monitoring Neighborhood Crime

In December we had a bit of an increase in crime in our neighborhood – car burglaries, etc. We sent out an e-mail bulletin to the neighbors on our e-mail list as a heads up. In that we encouraged folks to report any crimes to the Walnut Creek Police (925- 943-5844 non-urgent) if you are in the incorporated area of the City or to the County Sheriff (925-646-2441 non-urgent) for homes in the unincorporated area. It helps for the police to know of neighborhood crime, even if it's minor or you figure it won't be solved, so that they know what the trends are in Parkmead and will be more watchful with patrols.

*Handy Hint:* Save the ‘non urgent’ Police numbers in your cell phone as all cell phone 911 calls go directly to the CHP.

We are also trying to track crime on behalf of the PCA and ask that you report such incidents to us at [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org).

Graffiti is a city-wide concern and it is seen with regularity on the freeway wall and path between Lilac and Newell. The City is very responsive to removing it if you call 943-5855.

## Neighborhood Watch

The PCA Board encourages neighbors to form Neighborhood Watch groups on your block or some small section of 15 to 20 homes. The City Police and County Sheriff Departments are supportive and have lots of information on “how to.” In the city call 943-5885 for information. For the county call 646-6075 (Alamo substation).

Please let the PCA board know if you set up a Neighborhood Watch so we can keep track.

## Parkmead History - Photos Needed

The Parkmead Community Association is still working on a history of the neighborhood. If you have any old pictures of the neighborhood or the people who used to live here, we would love to put them on our website and/or use them for the History Project. We would also love recent images of the neighborhood – so send us anything you have. In addition, the hosts of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Arlene Gardens would like to create a memory board of pictures from past parades for the parade this year. Please call Tony Phillips at [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org) if you want us to make copies of them (we will return originals) or email copies to us at [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org)

If you want to assist with or participate in the History Project or have some local history to share, please contact Ann Hinshaw at [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org). Your help would be appreciated.

## It's Parkmead School Auction Time, Saturday, May 5

Come celebrate the difference you make for Parkmead Elementary School at its annual fundraising auction event. Be festive, be with your friends and neighbors, toast Cinco De Mayo, enjoy a night out, and be prepared to bid on great prizes. And it all goes to the children in our community! Ticket proceeds and your winning bids pay for school wide enrichment programs at Parkmead Elementary School.

Make a difference this Cinco de Mayo with your friends and neighbors at the beautiful Veterans' Memorial in Lafayette. Top off the evening by dancing to your favorite tunes spun by Parkmead's own DJ, Mr. Dick Weyand. Reserve your place today!

- *What:* The 2007 Parkmead Elementary School Auction Party: "Cinco De Mayo Fiesta"
- *When:* Saturday Evening, May 5, 2007, from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
- *Where:* Veterans Memorial in Lafayette
- *Cost:* \$75 per person (all inclusive)
- *RSVP:* On line at [www.percfundraising.org](http://www.percfundraising.org) The courtesy of your reply by April 24 is appreciated.
- *Need a baby-sitter?* Complimentary childcare for the evening has been generously donated by Hillside Covenant Church (just up Magnolia Street hill from Parkmead). Limited reservations.

If you would like to donate a prize, such as gift certificates to a restaurant, a hotel stay, offer business services, or provide corporate leads for donations, please contact Jonathan Becker at 947-6996 or Hilary Friedman at 988-9902.

## Annual Creek Cleanup, Saturday, May 12

Friends of the Creeks' annual creek cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 12 with registration at 8:30 a.m. in Civic Park. We hope you will attend and help clean up the creek or restore its habitat. For information, contact Lesley Hunt at 937-6791.

## Fifth Annual Parkmead Garage Sale, Saturday, June 2

Save the date - and your "treasures" for the 5th annual Parkmead community garage sale!

Saturday, June 2, starting at 8:00 a.m., everyone is welcome to participate as the Parkmead community moves its stuff—either out of, or around in, the neighborhood.

We had nearly 50 homes participating last year, and we're hoping to make this our biggest sale yet. The Parkmead Community Association provides publicity for the sale, shopping maps to the participating homes, and mailbox balloons to the participants.

We do ask that participants pay the annual PCA dues of \$12. You'll find a membership payment form and envelope enclosed with this newsletter.

You can sign up for the garage sale on the website at [www.parkmead.org](http://www.parkmead.org). We will need your address, phone and e-mail, but only addresses will be printed on the garage sale map.

***Now, start cleaning out that garage!***

### Calendar

**Tue. May 1** —Ice Cream Social, 7:00 p.m.,  
Hillside Covenant Church

**Sat. June 2** —Neighborhood Garage Sale

**Sun. Sept. 9** – Annual PCA Block Party  
watch for summer newsletter

**Sat. Sep. 29** —Las Trampas Creek Nature Walk

**Tue. Nov. 13**—Fall Pizza Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,  
Hillside Covenant Church

Name	Board	Officer/Committee Contact
Joseph Curtis	At Large	President
Anna Gunn	District 4	Vice President
Mary Andre	At Large	Treasurer
Terri Almeida	District 2	Secretary
Jodi Hayes	District 1	
Chris Sherwood	District 3	Garage Sale Coordinator
Matthew Mead	District 5	Events Comm. Chair
Tony Phillips	District 6	Web Page Coordinator
Ann Hinshaw	Dist 7 acting	
Katie Conlan	At Large	
Pete Johnson	At Large	Communications Comm. Chair
Francine Podenski	At Large	Development Comm. Chair
Katie Zeigler	At Large	

For a map of the Parkmead districts, see the website at [www.parkmead.org](http://www.parkmead.org) or call for a copy.