



# Parkmead Community Association

## Spring 2008

### **Ice Cream Social**

**Tuesday, April 16, 7 to 9 p.m.**  
Hillside Covenant Church  
2060 Magnolia Way



Meeting downstairs; park in lower lot

Free babysitting & videos for kids.  
Ice cream at 7:00; speaker at 7:30.

### **Native Plants Add Beauty, Conserve Water & Provide Habitat**

Presented by Patricia Bacchetti

California native plants in the home landscape, the benefits and how to get started. Her home has been part of the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour in past years ([www.bringingbackthenatives.net](http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net)). She is also on the board of Friends of Sausal Creek ([www.sausalcreek.org](http://www.sausalcreek.org)).

What's special about California native plants? They are adapted to our soil and climate and are easy to care for.



Native plants are naturally drought tolerant. They attract native birds, butterflies, and other forms of wildlife. California native plants are beautiful and uniquely Californian.

### **Garage Sale June 7**

The 6th annual Parkmead community garage sale will be held Saturday, June 7, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Visit [www.parkmead.org](http://www.parkmead.org) if you'd like to be part of it.

The Parkmead Community Association will make it easy for you to sell your stuff - we provide publicity for the sale, "shopping maps" to the participating homes, and mailbox balloons to the participants. All you have to do is put your stuff out in the driveway.

Last year's sale was the biggest ever, with over 50 homes participating. We expect even more participants - and more shoppers - this year.

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.

So visit [www.parkmead.org](http://www.parkmead.org) to sign up. We will need your address, phone and e-mail (if available).



*Now, start cleaning out that garage!*

### **Join—Renew Now**

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

*Use enclosed membership form and return envelope.*

*Please act now! Don't put it aside for later!*

*Also sign up for our email list on the membership form*

## Message from the President

Hello, my name is Joseph Curtis and I get to be President of the Parkmead Community Association again this year. 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 interesting topic.

Spring is also the time that we ask you to renew your annual membership in your 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 remarkably low rate of \$12 per year.

There are four new members of the Parkmead Board this year. John Love, Lisa Lundquist, Richard West and Bram Zeigler have all come forward to invest a few hours a month in our quality of life.

We should all be proud of the quality of the PCA Board this year. It is very exciting to associate with such motivated and hard working individuals. This year we have continued to expand the idea of setting up committees and contact people to oversee the various duties and projects we pursue each year. Francine Podenski is Chair of Development; Pete Johnson is Chair of Communications; Lisa Lundquist is Chair of Events; Tony Phillips will oversee the Website; Chris Sherwood will oversee the Garage Sale; Bram Zeigler will be the contact person for crime related issues and John Love will help us better understand the City and County regulations. I also want to thank Terri Almeida for agreeing to be the Vice President this year.

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. I urge you to join, or rejoin, your Association and volunteer to help on a committee. We need your support and we have a lot of fun. If you want to get involved, just contact a member of the Board.

## PCA Website

The "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. If you have suggestions of things you would like to see on the website, send them to [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org)

### Information on Parkmead Law Enforcement/Crime Coming to Website

The PCA Board is reviewing the information available on [www.parkmead.org](http://www.parkmead.org) related to crime, neighborhood watch programs, and other security matters with the goal of making it more useful to Parkmead residents. If you have any specific information you would like to see included, or other suggestions, feel free to contact Bram Zeigler at [bram.zeigler@acinvestors.net](mailto:bram.zeigler@acinvestors.net)

## Arbutus/Lilac Properties Update – House #4

Since the last newsletter in November, the three new homes on Arbutus at Lilac have been pretty much completed and are selling. Mark Scott Construction has marketed them as "Megan Terrace" and "Green Homes". During the review process last September, the developer said he had no current or actual plans to build on the fourth lot on the hillside behind the homes.

On March 3, Mark Scott Construction submitted plans to the city for a new one-story, 3,723 square foot home on the upper lot (1509 Arbutus). When the 531 sf garage and 368 sf front porch are added, the home will leave a 4,622 sf footprint and peak out about 43' above Arbutus. Because of the size and a city hillside ordinance, the home will have a public hearing. Several neighbors will again be monitoring the process and scheduling meetings. Contact Matt Mead at 256-0651 or Sue Chan at 937-8473 if you have any questions, would like to review the plans or want to be involved in the review process. You may also provide comments to the city via Ken Nodder, Senior Planner at City of Walnut Creek, P.O. Box 8039, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; [Nodder@walnutcreek.org](mailto:Nodder@walnutcreek.org) or 943-5899 x234.

The PCA Board does not have a position on home size. Part of our purpose is: *"to encourage activity by residents interested in furthering the peace, health, safety, quality of life, and environment in the Parkmead Community Area."*

*Pete Johnson on Lilac Dr.*

## Protect Your Home...and Your Neighbor's Home!

Not long ago, I had an automatic gas shut-off valve installed at our gas meter by QuakePrepare, a company which provides this and other earthquake-safety related services and products.

An automatic gas shut-off valve is an inexpensive way to protect you, your family and your house. If you happen to be away when a serious quake hits, or if you are home but lack the strength or knowhow to manage the manual valve, the automated shut-off acts on your behalf.

Contra Costa Country now requires "the installation of approved gas shut-off devices in existing residential, commercial, and industrial buildings prior to the sale of those buildings, or when additions valued at more than \$15,000 are made..." (Ordinance No. 2006-44) Other counties and municipalities are likely to follow suit.

I have negotiated with QuakePrepare to lower their regular price of \$345 per valve installation, to a special Parkmead price of \$295. If you are interested, contact Larry Guillot at 510-758-3299, or [larry@quakeprepare.com](mailto:larry@quakeprepare.com). You can get more information about QuakePrepare and the valve they use on their web site, [www.quakeprepare.com](http://www.quakeprepare.com).

*Bram Zeigler  
PCA Board, District 1 Representative*

## Are You Climate Neutral?

PG&E launched its ClimateSmart program on June 28, 2007, which offers PG&E customers an opportunity to make the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the energy use in their home or business "climate neutral." Once enrolled, PG&E includes an extra charge on one's monthly bill (roughly 6 cents per therm of natural gas and 2.5 cents per kilowatt hour of electricity) with which it embarks on greenhouse gas reduction projects. Better still, all ClimateSmart contributions in 2007 were tax deductible!

To learn more about how to balance out your carbon footprint while potentially reducing your tax bill, visit [www.pge.com/climatesmart](http://www.pge.com/climatesmart).

## Contra Costa Weed Abatement Deadline

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District requires that weeds and wild grasses be cut and removed from properties by no later than mid-May.

It is important that you attend to this matter before the deadline date. If you have a compelling reason that your weed removal can not be completed before the deadline, you can apply for an extension from the county before the middle of May.

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District staff will intervene in our neighborhood after mid-May, 2008. This year's exact date has not yet been set due to the unpredictable rains. If county staff locates weeds and wild grasses that they consider fire hazards on your property after the deadline date, they have a legal right to enter your property, remove the weeds and wild grasses, and then bill you for the work done at county rates.

If you need names and phone numbers of companies who specialize in removing weeds and wild grasses, telephone the Contra Costa Fire Protection District at 941-3300. Then press "6" for the Weed Abatement Division, and, for referrals to weed removal companies, press "3". If you would like more info about weed abatement call George Laing at 941-3545.

We don't want a fire in our neighborhood like the Oakland Hills fire a number of years ago. Please — let's each do our part to ensure our neighborhood is safe from fire danger this year!

## New Emergency Training Classes

The City of Walnut Creek and the Contra Costa Fire District are offering free classes in Community Emergency Response Team. The next 2 sessions are Tuesdays April 15-May 20 and July 8-August 14 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Call the city at 256-3556 or go to the city website at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org) and chose "Emergency Preparedness" under Quick Links.

## Annual Creek Cleanup, Saturday, May 10

Friends of the Creeks' annual creek cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 10 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, visit their website [www.FriendsoftheCreeks.org](http://www.FriendsoftheCreeks.org) or contact Pam Romo 939-8979.

# Name That Neighborhood

The PCA needs your creative input for a neighborhood slogan or tagline. Please send us your suggestions using the form below by April 16. You can bring the form to the Ice Cream Social on April 16 or send it in with your dues by April 16. You can also e-mail the info to [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org)

parkmead

## Name that Neighborhood

---

### Enter to Win

The chosen submission will win a fabulous prize!

A great tagline or slogan that describes our Parkmead Neighborhood would be:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple entries accepted. You can also email your suggestion to [Parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:Parkmead@parkmead.org)



**parkmead**  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

e-mail: [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org)    [www.parkmead.org](http://www.parkmead.org)

## 2008 Calendar

- Tue. April 16**    Ice Cream Social, 7:00 p.m.,  
                         Hillside Covenant Church
- Sat. June 7**        Neighborhood Garage Sale
- Sun. Sept. 14**     Annual PCA Block Party  
                         watch for summer newsletter
- Sat. Sep. 27**      Las Trampas Creek Nature Walk
- Wed. Nov. 12**     Fall Pizza Meeting, 6:30 p.m.,  
                         Hillside Covenant Church

## PCA Electronic Communication

Check our website: [www.parkmead.org](http://www.parkmead.org)

*To join our neighborhood e-mail list, send an e-mail to [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org) with your name and (optional) home address.*

Name	Board	Officer/Committee Contact
Joseph Curtis	At Large	President
Terri Almeida	District 2	Vice President
Mary Andre	At Large	Treasurer
Lisa Lundquist	District 5	Secretary & Events Comm. Chair
Bram Zeigler	District 1	
Chris Sherwood	District 3	Garage Sale Coordinator
Richard West	Dist 4 acting	
Tony Phillips	District 6	Web Page Coordinator
Ann Hinshaw	Dist 7 acting	
Jodi Hayes	At Large	
John Love	At Large	
Pete Johnson	At Large	Communications Comm. Chair
Francine Podenski	At Large	Development/Traffic Comm. Chair

Board members may be contacted at [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org)