

SUMMER 2015



COME JOIN THE FUN AT OUR ANNUAL POOL PARTY AND BUSINESS FAIR AT DEWING PARK!

Sunday, Aug. 30, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

It's that time of the year again. Too hot, can't stand the heat, already tired of the NFL pre-season games? Stop by Dewing Park on Olympic at Newell and get to know some new neighbors while enjoying the pool, music, and BBQ'd hamburgers & hot dogs. This year's music headliner will be acoustic guitar player Dave from the Smoking J's playing your favorite tunes from the 60's thru 90's. PCA will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks - including cold beer. We appreciate your participation in the PCA by contributing your \$12 dues! Look forward to seeing you there.

Please bring a favorite side dish to share.

We have a special treat for you this year. We have combined the 2nd Annual Parkmead Business Fair with the pool party. Last year we had 15 businesses at Hillside Church. There are over 600 homes in the Parkmead Community Association area and many residents own their own businesses, create their own art or products, or provide consulting that others would be interested in hearing about. Encourage your teenager if they have a business like baby-sitting or car-washing, to promote and brag about their business!

If you would like to participate, please submit your application on the PCA website at parkmead.org to reserve an 8' table. Registration ends August 23. Participants must be current PCA members and the registration fee for the business fair is \$20. If you have any questions contact us at parkmead@parkmead.org.

Parkmead Community Association

www.parkmead.org

School Begins August 24 and 26 – Please Drive Carefully!

The new Tice Creek and Parkmead Elementary/PALS begin Aug. 26 and will have staggered start and end times, as they had with Dorris-Eaton. The PCA is working with both schools to emphasize safe driving plus pedestrian and bike safety. Las Lomas begins Aug. 24.

Parkmead Neighborhood Sign

In hopes of beautifying our neighborhood and creating a cohesive community, the PCA is working on the design and installation of a sign at the Newell entry to the neighborhood at Circle Drive. A neighborhood entry sign helps visitors find our neighborhood, welcomes them to our community, and creates a great first impression.

When longtime Parkmead resident Lois Potter passed away in late 2012, she asked her family to donate \$1,000 to the PCA to be used in her memory and for the good of the neighborhood. Her daughter and son both agreed using it toward a Parkmead sign would be appropriate. George and Lois Potter were original homeowners on Newell Avenue near Lilac, since their home was built in 1948. Dr. Potter was a physician in the Army for almost 30 years and in private practice near Rossmoor until his passing in 1991. Lois continued living in their home until her passing on September 30, 2012 at the age of 102. She was thrilled when our high school-led carolers came to her door a few months after her 100th birthday and later taped another caroling for her. She attended some PCA events and was always eager to hear neighborhood news interspersed with her historical memories, especially of the Newell family, who owned much of the original land near the entrance to Parkmead.

We are currently working on obtaining the requisite permits and hope to begin the project in the coming months. If you have questions please contact PCA at parkmead@parkmead.org. In addition, we are also seeking donations for this project. Donations are accepted by check at 21 Lee Street, Walnut Creek, CA 94595 or in person at any PCA event.

Lisa Lazarus, PCA Board Secretary

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR NEWELL PATHWAY

The date of the Newell Avenue Pathway Repair project has been postponed until Saturday, September 12, 2015. We are seeking volunteers for that date (leave the kids at home) to assist with the pathway repair project. Chris Hockett will be in touch with those who graciously volunteered for the previously proposed dates in July. If you would like to volunteer for this project, or let us know your updated availability, please email us at parkmead@parkmead.org.

For those of you who walk along the south side of Newell Avenue between Olympic Boulevard and the I-680 overpass, you may have noticed that some of the pathway segments become inundated with water whenever it rains. In addition, there are significant differences in elevation between the pathway and the many driveways that cross its alignment, making it a tripping hazard and difficult to push those strollers. Measurements taken by PCA representatives indicate that path is now between 1 and 3 inches lower than when it was constructed in the late 1990s.

Through the gracious donations of our Parkmead neighbors, the PCA is coordinating a project to bring the pathway back to its original elevation. The PCA has raised \$4,000, which is enough to repair a short segment of the half-mile long pathway. While it is hoped that eventually all of the pathway will be restored to the original grades, it has been decided to focus on the area that receives the highest volume of pedestrian traffic; at the entrance to Parkmead Elementary on Magnolia and then Newell Avenue to the East. If we can get enough volunteers from the community to help out, we will be able to repair several hundred feet of the pathway.

With volunteer labor, we will be able to repair a longer segment of the pathway than we otherwise could by going through a contractor. Volunteer work would include running a rototiller, spraying the path with water, raking the new decomposed granite material to level it out, operating a walk-behind vibratory compactor plate to compact the material into place, and spraying the path with a binder to lock everything together. With enough help, we can finish the project in one day.

In addition, we are also seeking donations for this project. Donations are accepted by check at 21 Lee Street, Walnut Creek, CA 94595 or in person at any PCA event.

by Chris Hockett, Traffic Committee

PARKMEAD LANDSCAPING UPDATE

Over the years the PCA has made an effort to keep the landscaping on Newell at Circle Dr and at the barrier at Olympic cleaned up. This is on County land. Our neighbors occasionally ask about this and this year they helped the PCA get things cleaned up.

“Deodora Park” at Circle Dr was adopted by the PCA several years ago as we had the tree pruned, planted drought tolerant plants and installed the bench. Alyssa Morea, a student at Walnut Creek Intermediate, was in search of an Eco Action project for a science class to improve the environment. She and her friend Mia joined Mary Andre, our PCA “gardening consultant” (and treasurer), in cleaning up the area. Mary also installed signs identifying the plants. Soon we hope to have a Parkmead sign installed there.

Meanwhile at the barrier we have done weed abatement in past years, and sometimes the County does. When neighbor Jodi Servatius enquired about the weeds we suggested she call the County. The next day the weeds were cut down. Some former and current PCA board members spent a couple hours one Sunday moving some free mulch by pickup from Arbutus to the barrier and spread it around.

Thanks to all involved for improving our neighborhood. Specifically, thanks to former PCA board members Dave Wright for the mulch and Joseph Curtis for use of his truck. And thanks to former board members Chris Sherwood and Dennis Hoagland along with current board members Mary Andre, Pete Johnson, Richard West and Kyle West for supplying the labor.

Our neighbors at Chabad of Contra Costa Synagogue at 1671 Newell joined the effort as they plan for a childcare center on their site at Circle Dr. As part of the County approval process they were asked by the PCA to include some landscaping at the entrance to our neighborhood. This has now been done. Mary Andre once again helped out by suggesting some drought tolerant plants.

Save the Date

FIRST ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF



Please join us on **October 10th, 4-7 pm** for a **fall meeting chili cook-off** and block party on Lee St! Prizes will be awarded for the three best chilies. Do you have a delicious chili and want to enter your concoction for a chance to win? Watch for our fall newsletter in mid-September for details.