

SPRING 2015



COMING UP

**13th ANNUAL
PARKMEAD
GARAGE SALE
Saturday, June 6**

The 13th annual Parkmead Garage Sale will be Saturday, June 6, starting at 8:00 am. The PCA provides publicity for the sale, shopping maps to guide buyers to participating homes, and mailbox balloons to participants. We ask that participants be members of the PCA.

If you've been letting junk pile up in your garage for 13 years without joining in, let this be the year you reverse that trend and take part in the Parkmead Garage Sale. Sign up to participate in the sale at our website, www.parkmead.org. If you have questions or are interested in volunteering to help contact Kristin Lanham at garage@parkmead.org.

PARKMEAD SIGN

When longtime Parkmead resident Lois Potter passed away in late 2012, she asked her family to donate \$1,000 to the Parkmead Community Association 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 her 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 which 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 would like to donate to this project, please feel free to add your donation to the membership dues form in this newsletter. Any questions may be directed to Lisa Lazarus at lisalaz13@gmail.com or 415-577-6261.

PARKMEAD POOL PARTY and PCA Business Fair Sunday, August 30

The Summer Pool Party is by far our most attended and therefore, enjoyable event. Please come by to have a hamburger, turkey burger, and snacks and meet some new people from the neighborhood. Pyramid Brewery is donating a keg with one of their summer specialty brews and we plan on having live music again this year. The hours are from 12:00 – 3:00 PM on August 30, at Dewing Park Pool.

After requests from the participants we decided to have the PCA Business Fair in conjunction with the Pool Party.

Participants can set up tables and mingle with the crowd near the pool

during the same hours as the Pool Party. We will have a table for each registered business owner that wants to participate for a cost of \$20 which goes into the General Fund to work for all of us in the neighborhood over the coming years. If you are interested you can register online at www.Parkmead.org under the Pool Party Event.



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PCA Board News

by Pete Johnson

At our Fall General Meeting and Business Fair last November 1 we said farewell to 3 board members and welcomed 2 new members. Our 2 student board members, Julia Cohen and Hannah Edgar, had left for college in the late summer after 3 plus years on the board as the first ever student reps. They set a high standard with their ideas and enthusiasm, especially creating and managing the annual caroling event. Kyle Riesenbergh pitched in on several fronts including web-master. We elected Michaela Caughlan and Kyle West as new board members. Kyle West joins Ben Allen who ran the most recent caroling as one of two student reps. Michaela has already jumped in with coordinating events.

The big change came in early 2015 as Richard West decided not to run for president after 4 busy years in that position. He led us to try new events and got Pyramid to donate the beer keg for the pool party. He responded to a Las Lomas student complaint about Kaiser employees smoking on Lilac under the freeway by lobbying his former employer to encourage employees to smoke elsewhere. Richard has been on the board for 8 years and remains on the board as an at large member ready to advise and help out. Thank you, Richard, for your service.

Tice Creek School Comes to Parkmead

by Pete Johnson, City/County Liaison

The parents of Parkmead school age children are most likely well informed about the closing of Dorris-Eaton School this June and the opening of Tice Creek School in August. For those not so involved in the schools, we want to make sure our neighbors are aware of the change.

Faced with increased enrolment and overcrowding in some elementary schools, the Walnut Creek School District (WCSD) has redrawn school boundaries and will open a new school. The new school will use the site that is currently leased out to The Dorris-Eaton School on Newell Avenue, a private school. This was the location of Parkmead Intermediate that closed in the late 1970s. Per the WCSD website, the new K-8 school will be an option for all students in the district regardless of where their home is. They will use project-based learning and other alternative teaching methods. The district hopes to have enrollment of 250 to 300 students at the new

school next year. It will initially be K-6 and grow to K-8 in 2 years.

Some PCA Board members met with WCSD officials to make sure there is communication with the neighborhood association in addition to parents. We will also meet with the new principal, Connie McCarley, when she begins her new position. The WCSD is aware of the traffic flow problems for our neighborhood and will stagger start times to alleviate some congestion.

Newell Avenue Pathway Repair

by Chris Hockett, Traffic Committee

PCA Seeks Grown-Up Volunteers

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 \$3,810 as of April 08, 2015 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.



Here's another way to be involved in the Parkmead Neighborhood. Sign up for Nextdoor Parkmead at <https://parkmeadneighborhood.nextdoor.com>. This is an independent neighborhood social network. Exchange ideas, sell and buy or trade items within the neighborhood, find sitters, contractors and more by asking your neighbors for advice. It's free.

Membership Dues

Annual dues are \$12 per house. The dues pay for newsletters, the Pool Party and our other social events, neighborhood activities, maintaining our website, and emails. Where else can you get all these great things the PCA brings you (including two free meals) for just \$12?

An envelope and dues form is included in this newsletter for your convenience. Your generous support and that of your neighbors has kept the annual dues amount manageable for most at \$12 in spite of increasing costs. Thank you so much. How does it get any better than this? Please join us in helping to keep our community a great place to live. Everyone who lives or owns property in the neighborhood is welcome, only \$12 per house or cottage.

Please make check payable to Parkmead Community Association and mail to:
Parkmead Community Association
21 Lee Street
Walnut Creek, California 94595

Fall 2014 Business Fair

By Richard West

The PCA Board supported and approved the 1st PCA Business Fair and held it in conjunction with the Fall PCA Meeting at Hillside Covenant Church last November.

15 local residents participated, displaying and sharing their businesses with each other and the other residents that showed up. The businesses that participated and the proprietors all live here right here in our neighborhood:

Extreme Pizza, EMF Abatement, Steve Allard Screen Printing, Joseph Patch Curtis Registered Investment Advisor, Premier Designs High Fashion Jewelry, Richard J. Greenstone Attorney at Law, Get Real Compost, Academic Tutoring Services, Davis Investment Group, Arbonne Independent Consultant, Joie Horseware, California Document Preparers, Blue Shift Creations, One Big Fish Events, and Physical Therapy Interventions, Inc.

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POKER NIGHT 2014

On September 12th Kristin Lanham held a Poker Tournament to raise money for the Parkmead Pathway and raised almost \$1,300. She organized the night with the help of Toan, whose non-profit Poker Scale does the set up and dealing. Toan also

coordinated the food from Dickies BBQ. There were 21 participants from beginners to seasoned players. Toan began with a refresher on Texas Hold'em basics and how to play the game - there is always beginners luck! We got to know some new neighbors in addition to players coming from outside of Parkmead. There were a couple of neighbors who donated money, but did not play, and a handful who donated beer/wine to make the overall evening much more enjoyable. A big shout out to Liz Menkes who so graciously hosted the event.

As we are still in need of pathway funds, Kristin may have another event in early 2016. Thank you to Kristin and all who played and donated! The big winner was Jim Georgantes, a seasoned player, who works with Kristin and came to support her efforts. He won a trip to Hawaii and \$200; there were also 2nd & 3rd place prizes/cash. A fun night was had by all.



The PCA Board and your neighborhood need your help. We have many events each and every year - the annual PCA Garage Sale, the Summer Pool Party, and the upcoming Newell Pathway repairs are all events that you can participate in. Just a few hours here and there will help us all and improve the neighborhood that you live in.

We can also use some assistance with the PCA website. Your tech skills can improve the website that many families use to find out what is happening in the Parkmead area. If you are (or know) a Las Lomas student, you can earn required volunteer credits by aiding the PCA.

Let us know if you want to help. A few hours of your time and energy will benefit everyone! Email Richard West at parkmead@parkmead.org and type "Volunteer" as the subject or feel free to call Richard at home on 937-5444.