



SPRING 2014

PCA SPRING FLING: NATURALIST *Plus* SCAVENGER HUNT Sunday, May 4, 1:00 pm Parkmead Elementary

Have your kids (or you) ever wanted to pet a snake or hold a Tarantula? Now is your chance! Naturalist Michael Marichano will bring his "backyard critters" for a show and tell at Parkmead Elementary (at the rear entrance near the picnic tables) on Sunday, May 4 at 1:00 p.m. Come and meet a snake up close and personal. See the difference between our only venomous snake ...the Northern Pacific Rattlesnake ...and all the other snakes that live in the area. Also come out and shake hands with the fascinating and harmless gentle giant of the spider world...a Tarantula. Michael will tell you about the lives of these wonderful and beneficial creatures.



Plus, back by popular demand, the neighborhood scavenger hunt will follow at 2:00 p.m. Perfect for adults and kids alike! Come scour the neighborhood for obscure items. We have a new list of unusual items for you to find. There will be prizes for the winning team, plus homemade treats for all.

Why PCA Membership Dues?

Annual dues are \$12 per house. The dues pay for newsletters, the BBQ 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

COMING UP 12th ANNUAL PARKMEAD GARAGE SALE Saturday, June 7



The 12th annual Parkmead Garage Sale will be Saturday, June 7. Last year over 50 of your neighbors made some extra cash. 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 12 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.

President's Message

by Richard West

Good day to everyone in the greater Parkmead area and Happy Spring!

The PCA Board elected several new members to the board earlier this year. I want to congratulate Chris Hockett, Ben Allen & Lisa Lazarus. Perhaps one of them is your neighbor?

I want to sincerely thank those that "retired" from the PCA Board last year as they all truly helped out and will be missed. These members include Dave Wright, and the late, great, Ann Hinshaw.

Please join us on May 4th for the 2nd annual Scavenger Hunt. I participated last year and had fun being on a team of very focused young people scurrying up to front doors and asking for special items to win it! Please look for the participants on your street May 4.

We continue to receive donations and bank the proceeds for the "Newell Avenue Pathway Repair Drive". We have raised over \$2,212. We are re-evaluating how we will implement the actual repairs as we would need well over \$25,000 to have it done completely by a contractor.

Newell Avenue has certainly been in the local news regarding the traffic and cross-walk evaluations, and this might help with respect to receiving some type of outside funding. Another option is getting volunteers like you from the neighborhood to perform most of the labor (in several phases) and have the work supervised only by an experienced contractor.

Enjoy the Spring that is here upon us.

In Memoriam

Parkmead Community Association board member Ann Hinshaw passed away on February 3 after a long illness. Ann served on the PCA board from 2005 until late 2013. She was a mentor and resource in our dealing with City and County government based on her 34-year career in local government including the City of Richmond. Ann loved and valued this neighborhood and wanted the best for neighborhoods in general as they dealt with traffic and nearby development. She will be sorely missed.

Parkmead Community Association

www.parkmead.org

Why Does PCA Exist?

by Kyle Riesenbergh and Liz Menkes

The Parkmead Community Association (PCA) began in 1947 with a group of neighbors seeking to foster positive relationships among one another and increasing the quality of life in the neighborhood through social means.

The PCA is not a homeowners association - far from it. We celebrate diversity in our neighborhood and are entirely consensus driven. We do not dictate to any member of the community on any matter and when differences of opinion occur we act as a neutral and independent voice to assist in resolving issues.

With that said, the PCA is only as strong as those in our community who assist us in addressing concerns. The most recent and frustrating issues that the PCA has attempted to tackle were the traffic problems discussed at the Traffic Safety meeting last year. As you may be aware, the PCA's Board of Directors (BOD) attempted to address and resolve the issues but unfortunately no substantive results have yet been achieved. The BOD attempted to work with members of the neighborhood to facilitate contacts with appropriate City and County officials. Many neighbors had the best of intentions as they voiced their safety concerns, but in order to move forward on these issues, the BOD needed several people from the neighborhood to actively work on this project. Several people initially thought they could help but unfortunately no longer have the availability. Regrettably, without this assistance, the BOD is unsure of how much can be achieved.

The BOD consists of 13 members, three of which are Las Lomas High School students, all of which seek the betterment of the neighborhood we live in. All members of the PCA BOD are employed full-time elsewhere (or the equivalent thereof for the students), have been elected by PCA members during the annual Fall Meeting, and serve with the simple goal of making a positive impact in the neighborhood that we are all grateful to call home. Like most volunteer positions, the BOD spends hours every month working collectively as well as independently of one another on personal time to further PCA goals and objectives to benefit the neighborhood.

All members of the neighborhood, dues paying members or not, are welcome to attend any BOD meeting to

Page 2

discuss issues of concern. BOD meeting days vary from month to month but a simple email to Parkmead@parkmead.org will result in a timely response detailing the date, time, and location of the next meeting.

We encourage interested parties to participate in the PCA and to assist in making the Parkmead neighborhood a better place for everyone.

The PCA's mission today echoes that of why it was created in the first place: To provide an organization to promote the peace, health, safety, quality of life and environment of the Parkmead Community Area by encouraging or sponsoring activities and events intended to further that purpose and assisting in the communication of community interests to governmental bodies.

Parkmead Local Business Fair

Do you have a business or hobby that you would like to share with your neighbors in the Parkmead area? Perhaps you make jewelry or greeting cards and you want others to know? We are going to have a **Parkmead Business Fair** on **November 8th from 3 PM to 6 PM** at the Hillside Covenant Church. We will follow promptly with our Fall General Meeting in the same room.

Here are the specifics if you want to participate and have a table: Participants must live in the Parkmead area – go to www.parkmead.org and click on *map* if you aren't sure of the boundaries. The business can be anywhere but the proprietor must reside in our neighborhood. Tables will be set up in the large event room at the Hillside Church. Table cost will be \$20 each to participate. All proceeds will go into the PCA General Fund. Limit is 1 table per business. We can't guarantee that you can hang signs on the walls at the church so plan accordingly with a banner that will fit on a table like a skirt. To apply – just send an email to parkmead@parkmead.org describing your business with your name and telephone number so we can reach you if we have questions. If you have a business name, please also include that.

We will contact you before June to let you know you are included. First come first served!



President Richard West

Vice President Kristin Lanham

Treasurer Mary Andre

Secretary Lisa Lazarus
District 4 Representative

City and County Liaison Pete Johnson
District 6 Representative

Communications Chair Terri Almeida
District 3 Representative

Newsletter Editor Terri Almeida

Webmaster Kyle Riesenberg

Emails Richard West

Facebook & Nextdoor Lisa Lazarus
District 4 & 5 Representative

Garage Sale Coordinator Kristin Lanham &
Richard West

Events Chair Vacant

District Representatives
Chris Hockett -- District 1
Julia Cohen – District 2
Hannah Edgar – District 7

At Large Representatives
Ben Allen
Mary Andre
Kristin Lanham
Liz Menkes
Kyle Riesenberg
Richard West



The Annual Creek Cleanup is May 10 at 8:45 am. See <http://www.friendsofthecreeks.org> for information and contacts.



2013 Christmas Caroling

This past December marked the Parkmead neighborhood's fourth annual holiday caroling event. It was wonderful to see the many families who came, with neighbors of all ages joining in for some good fun. Our route took us from Parkmead through Maple Lane and down Magnolia into Camelia. Singing tunes such as *Deck The Halls* and *Santa Claus Is Coming To Town*, we were a holiday spectacle. If you missed out this time, be sure to come to the fifth annual event happening next year!

Neighborhood Pool

We have a wonderful Swim Club/Team in our neighborhood and if you have young children, it is a great way for them to get to know other kids and be better swimmers. Dewing Park Swim Club Opens May 3 (which would also be an Open House day).

Registration for Swim Team starts March 1 - April 20th

Swim team spring clinic - April 14 - May 9.

Spring practice begins May 12 & summer practice begins June 16.

For all details, fees and registration please go to dewing.com
Submitted by: Kristin Lanham

Nextdoor Parkmead

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

