

COMING UP

Summer BBQ will be held at our local swim club Dewing Park on Olympic at Newell

Saturday, August 25, 2012 1-5pm



Enjoy a sun soaked afternoon while mingling with your Parkmead neighbors, have a splash in the Dewing Park pool and indulge in a tasty hamburger or hot dog at our annual summer gathering on Saturday, August 25, 2012 from 1-5 pm. Bring a side dish to share. Beverages will be provided along with live music.

Our new County Supervisor, Candace Andersen, will be stopping by to meet Parkmead neighbors. ■

Other upcoming events

School starts! August 22nd

Bike to school week of Oct. 1-5 for Parkmead
<http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>

Fall Meeting, Board Elections and Pizza Dinner – Wednesday, November 14, at 6:30 at Hillside Covenant Church

Guest Speaker: County Supervisor Candace Andersen

Summer 2012

July 4th Parade



In 1965 Pat and George Hoar moved to Arlene Dr. in Parkmead. At the time the July 4th celebration consisted of a parade of children with cake and beer afterwards. Pat and George wanted to make the celebration better. They invited the local fire department to bring a fire truck, they bought hot dogs and hamburgers, and their neighbors brought a dish to pass.



On July 4, 2012, it was my first time attending the parade. I had heard about it through fellow board members Dave and Kristin. I walked over to Arlene Dr. with my husband, son and our neighbors Stacy, Dean, Lucas and Alex. We didn't see much or hear much. We weren't sure what to expect. Slowly we started seeing kids riding bikes around. Within the next 15 minutes the people poured into the streets. Neighbors welcomed us and introduced themselves; old friends gave each other



hugs. An orange classic 1970 Plymouth Fury 3 was the grand marshal. Then we heard the siren of the fire truck and it was time for the parade to begin. The fire

truck parted the waves of the crowds to make way for Pat riding shotgun in the Plymouth Fury 3. What seemed like over a hundred kids on scooters, bicycles, tricycles, wagons and strollers, some with

parents in tow, participated in the parade. Everyone sported their red, white and blue and some even carried banners and signs reminding us of the purpose of the celebration. Twice around the Arlene Dr. loop and we all ended up at 149 Arlene Dr., the home of Steve and Michelle Allard. The fire truck stopped as children lined up for an opportunity to take the wheel and a huge bounce house was instantly filled with bouncing children. Susie, Grant, Susan, Michael, Denise, Cheryl, Michelle and Steve have been the caretakers of the parade for the last few years. They had been busy preparing over 200 hot dogs, drinks, and many sides while neighbors brought everything from fruit and veggies to potato and lettuce salad. Then there was the dessert table! Brownies, cookies, cupcakes for all! What a treat.

In 2012 their vision is still alive! Although George has passed away his vision still lives strong through the charity of his neighbors that carry on the tradition and through all of the neighbors that come, participate, donate a dish and donate a dollar. The celebration continues every year, same time, and same place. Don't forget your dish to pass or donation. As Pat said, the parade is about great memories of great times spent with family in a safe place to raise that family. See you next year!

By Heidi Nelkie

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Parkmead Community Association has decided to make a couple of big, daring commitments this summer and fall.

First off, we feel it is time to make some dire needed repairs to the pathway along Newell Avenue, beginning at the intersection at Olympic Blvd, all the way to the freeway. Patti Petromilli worked on getting the County to install this decomposed granite rock pathway in 1996. It has been maintained each spring through the participation of board members like Chris Sherwood, Joseph Curtis, Mary Andre, Bram Zeigler and Tony Almeida, as water and tires do take their toll on these surfaces throughout the year. It has been in place almost 14 years with this minor maintenance effort.

Now it is time to bring in the professional contractors, obtain two or more bids, and get the repairs made as part of the required maintenance that the pathway now deserves.

This of course costs money, money that the County will not provide. We are asking for your help by donating what you can this summer for these repairs through our "Newell Avenue Pathway Repair Drive". Our goal is to raise

\$8,000. We are officially kicking this off August 1st, and it will run through the end of the year.

Secondly, we are going to host the annual Summer Block Party at the Dewing Park Pool on Olympic Blvd on August 25th. We thought it would be good to change the venue, allowing you to see the pool perhaps for the first time, or enjoy it again after a long time. There will be plenty of food, soft drinks, and Pyramid beer on hand. We also plan on having live music there and are looking for a local band to play in the afternoon!

Please stop by the booth both to make a donation to the "Newell Avenue Pathway Repair Drive". Alternately, you can mail donations to Parkmead Community Association, 21 Lee St., Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

We live in a great part of Walnut Creek, enjoy the rest of the summer and early fall.

Richard West
PCA Board President

10th Annual Parkmead Garage Sale- Spring Cleaning With a Profit

The 10th annual Parkmead community garage sale featured a near-record number of participants, perfect weather, big and small sales, and a chance to get out and shop without leaving the neighborhood. The garage sale has grown from a small affair with 20 participating homes to a community wide event featuring nearly 60 sales across the neighborhood. Many Parkmead residents have participated multiple times, and many of the shoppers are now “regulars” - coming year after year from throughout the bay area to visit our sale. Next year’s sale will be Saturday, June 1, 2013, so mark your calendar now. If you have questions about the garage sale, or would be interested in helping organize the 2013 event, please contact Chris Sherwood at garage@parkmead.org. ■

City and County News

By Pete Johnson

New County Supervisor

Candace Andersen was elected as our new District 2 County Supervisor in June. PCA President Richard West sent her a congratulatory letter on July 9 and she has expressed interest in meeting with the PCA neighbors. Her new Community Liaison staff person, Donna Maxwell, is our

contact. Supervisor Andersen was sworn in early since the incumbent Supervisor, Gayle Uilkema, passed away on May 19 after a long battle with cancer. The PCA sent condolences to the family and staff of Gayle Uilkema.

Chabad Child Care Center and Synagogue

The proposed Child Care Center at Chabad of Contra Costa at 1671 Newell Ave. near Circle Dr. and the freeway underpass is slowly making its way through the County review process. Since Chabad had never sought approval as a religious organization from the County this was part of their application too even though they had been in operation there for several years. As this newsletter goes to print in late July the next public meeting is scheduled for August 6 in Martinez, but that could change. We will update the PCA website www.parkmead.org once that is confirmed and later with the results of that hearing. The website also has some background information on the project, if you want to know more.

Since our spring newsletter, the County issued its environmental report on the project in late April and found no significant environmental impacts - (a “negative declaration”). Neighbors near the project had the opportunity to submit comments and several did so expressing their concerns. The PCA does not take positions on such projects but did express concerns about traffic and parking and worked to involve the immediate neighbors in the review process. Chabad was also asking for several variances for off-street parking. A Staff Report to the

County Zoning Administrator was published on July 10 with copies to the PCA and neighbors who had commented on the project. The recommendation was to approve the childcare portion but to deny the synagogue based on inadequate parking for their services and events. The report stated the increase to traffic was not substantial enough to have an impact.

A Zoning Administrator public hearing was held in Martinez on July 16 with the applicant, several neighbors and a representative of the PCA (Pete Johnson) in attendance. Chabad announced that they were working with Kaiser to use their surface parking lot on Newell for Saturday services and other events. Kaiser and Chabad are working on the details so the hearing was continued until August 6 at 1:30 in Martinez. Check the PCA website for confirmation and updates.

I-680 South Bound HOV Lane

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) held a public meeting on May 31 at Parkmead Elementary School and all neighbors should have received a mailing from the CCTA announcing it. There is background in the spring newsletter and on the PCA website. Basically the high occupancy lane on south bound 680 will be extended from the N. Main exit to Rudgear with some work being done over Las Trampas Creek in our neighborhood. Actual work would be done in 2016-18.

About 45-50 people from the surrounding neighborhoods and Alamo attended. The main concerns were that it would take more time than Caltrans envisioned (memories of the 680/24 interchange), changing sound walls might impact noise, it might interrupt creek flow during the rainy season, and disturb wildlife. There was discussion of the planned creek pathway (Olympic to S. Main) and making sure the changes would not inhibit that. Also asked was why they are not doing northbound HOV at same time (no funds, more difficult project). One person spoke at length in opposition to HOV lanes. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be out in late 2012 and another public meeting will be held. There will be a FAQs section on the CCTA website at some point. ■



Parkmead learns about solar, spring 2012

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Join/Renew Now

Forgot to join the PCA this year?
Never too late!!
You can join for \$12 at the Pool Party.
Or you can get information on how to join at www.parkmead.org or contact a board member (see list in this newsletter).
Not sure if you are a member? Contact us at membership@parkmead.org or call.



PCA ice cream social, spring 2012