

The Woodlands



Keeping You Informed For Over 40 Years

April 2015

The Power of Community

GoFundMe Campaign: Help Make a Difference for Our Woodlands Neighbor

By Tammy Hurst & Carol Carter

You may not know her name but you know who she is...She's the woman in the wheelchair. You see her when you take a walk, when you're shopping in Nob Hill or when you are driving through the Woodlands. Christy Alexander is a mother and a wife who has been battling ALS since 2002. If you know her or have ever spoken to her, you know she is just like you and me. She takes care of her kids and wants the best for them. She is a loving wife who tries to live her best life. She is our friend and neighbor.

From 1995-2004 Christy worked as a Social Studies teacher at our local high school. Christy began noticing symptoms after her second child was born. Her disease has progressed from requiring a cane to a walker and now a motorized wheelchair. Because of this, travel is difficult. When she does travel by car Christy is unable to bring her wheelchair and must rely on a non-motorized chair, leaving her totally dependent on others.

She has experienced tremendous support from her community. Since 2006, more than 60 families have been providing dinners for Christy and her family 3 days a week.

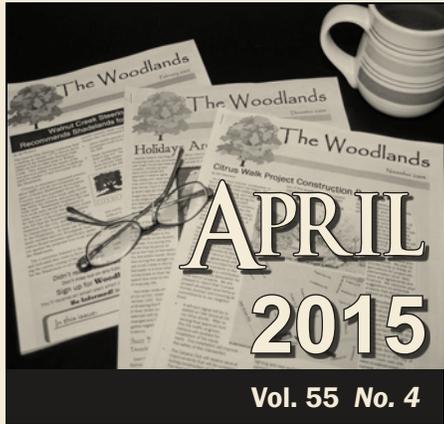
Christy relies on part-time help in order to accomplish light housekeeping chores and some of her activities of daily living. Because of her debilitating disease, she lacks the ability to make a simple cup of coffee.

Over the past few years she has started to feel more and more isolated. She is limited to her chair leaving her unable to attend activities involving her children and spends most of her time inside her house.

Even still, throughout the progression of this unforgiving disease, Christy remains strong, positive and continues to give back to those in need. Our wish for Christy is a vehicle that would accommodate her motorized wheelchair allowing more freedom for her and her family.

In an attempt to achieve this, her friends have started a GoFundMe account and have raised over \$13,000 in just 3 weeks. The goal is \$50,000. As a community, we can help Christy live a life many of us take for granted. Please visit www.gofundme.com/christyalexander.





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Established in 1965, The Woodlands Newsletter is a monthly publication that is published by the Woodlands Association. Archived issues are located at www.WoodlandsAssn.org

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Who to Contact?

The Woodlands Association receives some emails and questions about many issues that are best resolved by contacting the following agencies directly. The following is a reference guide:

Walnut Creek Code Enforcement, 925-256-3508 or 925-943-5863
 The Code Enforcement Division of the Community Development Department is responsible for enforcing provisions of the Walnut Creek Municipal Code involving quality of life and neighborhood quality issues. http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/cd/nuisance_abatement_n_code_enforcement.asp

Walnut Creek Police Department, 925-943-5844
<http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/police/default.asp>

Oversized Vehicle Reporting, Sandy Mulligan: Parking Lead Services Officer, 925-943-5874

Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District (Pests and Insect Issues), 925-771-6196
http://www.contracostamosquito.com/programs_services_index.htm

Contra Costa Water District, 925-688-8000
 Water conservation, information, gardening resources, moneysaving tips. <http://www.ccwater.com>

Allied Waste Services of Contra Costa County, 925-603-1144
<http://www.pleasanthillbayshoredisposal.com>

Valley Waste Management (recycling and yard waste service): 925-935-8900

Canal Maintenance, 925-313-2235
 The canal is part of the Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Maintained by the Public Works Department

Graffiti Reporting: City of Walnut Creek, 925-943-5854

Contra Costa County Animal Control, 925-335-8300
 After business hours, contact the Walnut Creek Police through Dispatch Center at 925-935-6400. <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/index.aspx?NID=59>

Street Maintenance: 925-943-5854

Let's Get to 200 Facebook Likes!

Visit the Woodlands on Facebook at <http://www.woodlandsassn.org/> to see what your neighbors are posting about - from community event updates to the new BBQ at our neighborhood park. We are at 158 "Likes" and it's our goal to reach 200 before the summer, when everyone will be posting fabulous photos from the annual 4th of July parade.



Woodlands Association Board of Directors

- Adrienne Robillard ~ *President*
- Bill Gilmyers ~ *Vice President*
- Jan Gall ~ *Treasurer*
- Erik Ehlers ~ *Secretary*
- Jody Gilmyers ~ *Newsletter Coordinator*
- James Goudy ~ *Webmaster*

Marc Graves ~ *Advisory Board*

Jennifer Zotti ~ *Newsletter Distribution Manager*
 Interns: Danielle Arauzo & Talia Arauzo

Upcoming Board Meetings

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 4th
Saturday, May 2nd

at Denica's,
 2280 Oak Grove Road,
 Walnut Creek
 (in Citrus Marketplace)

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings.

Letters to the Editor

Special April Fool's Day Edition

Dear Editor,

What were you thinking publishing a full-length article singing praises of date night? As if it wasn't bad enough for young parents to raise kids, hold down a job, keep both sets of grandparents happy, keep some semblance of social life together (in person and over various forms of social media) and get some sleep in between, now they have to have "date nights" too? Are we supposed to leave little Timmy with yet another baby sitter so we can throw his college fund on dinner and wine and end up talking about Timmy anyway? In my experience, most people who have the "mandatory" every Friday date night have kids that are sleep trained, which means rain or shine little Timmy is in his room at 7:00 p.m. Whether he sleeps, screams or kicks, that is up to him, but he is out at 7. So don't those parents have every evening together just by themselves? I don't need the inane and awkward chatter of couples on their first date along with my dinner. After fielding a flood of questions from a three year old, I only need wine and silence with my dinner. Silence is golden. In fact, silence is platinum!!!

Sincerely,

Agnes 'Wine and Silence' Porcello

Dear Editor,

In England there is a long tradition of putting 'Page Three Girls', or attractive young ladies, on the third page of newspapers and tabloids. Has the Woodlands newsletter ever considered doing this? I'm sure it would be a big boost to circulation and would give the newsletter and nice 'international' flair. What do you think?

Steve 'definitely not a 13 year-old boy using a fake name' McManus

Dear Editor,

I'm concerned that the level of discourse in the Woodlands Newsletter is rapidly falling. Like many in the neighborhood, I look forward to receiving the newsletter every month to get the highest quality journalism written by your highly paid staff who does nothing but sit around and think about what to write next. Sadly, the quality has dropped off dramatically of late, with particularly egregious examples of 'potty humor', like canines having carnal relations with their owners' extremities and such.

I've even heard there's even a teenage boy asking to see naked ladies in this month's newsletter!

I look forward to a return of the 1950s values that made the newsletter great!

Susan 'throwback' Williams

Dear Editor,

I am being driven to extreme envy for my neighbor's front yard and would appreciate your advice on how to deal with this obsession. First of all, 1/3 of my neighbor's yard is artificial grass: always green, always shiny. Secondly, my neighbor has a two-tiered clay fountain that gurgles like a natural brook, and it sings songs of invitation to both me and to migrating birds, who enjoy stopping for a drink of slightly chlorinated water. When my neighbor saw me with a plastic Hello Kitty cup dipping into the water he waved me away.

The birds attract both feral and domesticated cats of all types: the dappled calico, the gothic tortoiseshell, the sleek tabby, and an exotic longhaired Persian. Cats do not stop in my yard, either out of meanness (cats can be so mean) or out of disinterest. My neighbor said the cats stay away because I have daily lawn service, with leaf blowers and lawn edgers scaring small animals into hiding, but if there's one leaf rotting on my driveway, I tend to shoplift.

My neighbor has not invited me over since 1989 when I accidentally set fire to his roof during a BBQ.

Sincerely,

Millicent 'Yard Envy' Chesterfield

Dear Sir Madam,

I love the Woodlands and want to make it a better place! Is there any way to get involved or support the Newsletter or Woodlands board? Perhaps I could join the Board or write an article? I really like to write about dogs humping legs, Safeway and miscellaneous police activity in the neighborhood. Is there anything I can do to help?

Nigel 'trying to make the world a better place' Farfalaller

Editor: Yes! Please e-mail us at woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com or attend a Board meeting the first Saturday of the month, 8 AM in the back room at Denica's. Hope to see you there!

SCHOOL NEWS

Valle Verde Elementary School

Check out what is coming up this spring....

PTA Meetings: We have just two meetings left for the school year and everyone is welcome to attend! At the Tuesday, April 14th meeting, we will be electing officers for the next school year and at the Tuesday, May 5th meeting we will be presenting our annual service awards and discussing plans for the following year. Meetings are held at 7pm in the Bpod.

Staff Appreciation Week: The week of May 4th, we will be celebrating our teachers and staff. If you would like to join in the celebration (ie bring a treat, flowers, write a card etc) please email the PTA President at vvptaprez@gmail.com.

Box Tops: Check your cereal boxes for box tops before tossing them out. At **\$0.10 each**, it really adds up!! Just cut them out and drop them off at the school office and we will take care of the rest.

Foothill Middle School

Course Electives Selections for 2015-16

During March, 6th and 7th grade students will attend a presentation to discuss the course electives for next year. The window for electronic registration, through HomeLink, will open on April 3 and close on April 15. Registration instructions will be included in the course packets, which will be available online. Please contact the office if you need more information.

California Assessment on Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)

Students at Foothill will be assessed in April/May using the new California Assessment on Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). This year's result will be available to parents. As always, it is very important for our students to do a good job on the assessment. The Foothill testing window this year will open on April 13 and continue until May 8. The reason for the lengthy testing window is the availability of computers. For this reason, students will be taking this online assessment during their regularly scheduled English or math classes in a computer lab. We estimate each student will need three to four class periods to complete the trial assessment. Please contact the administrative team if you have any questions or concerns about CAASPP.

Absences

Hello Parents,
This has been a very hectic time in terms of attendance.

Lots of students have several different illnesses. If your student is out 3 days, or more, you can contact me with a homework request. I send a form to the teachers requesting homework, which is turned back into the office by 3:00, otherwise you can contact your student's teachers by using your Homelink account. If your student is out for more than 4 days, we need a note, or call, from your Doctor's office. If needed, please obtain a Dr. note for PE, as well.

If you have any questions, please contact the office at (925) 939-8600.

Thank you,
Mary Shepherd
Attendance Secretary/Registrar
Foothill MS

Northgate High School

Spring Break: April 6-10

Denim and Diamonds - Spring for Education Auction

Northgate PFC's Spring for Education Auction/Dinner/Dance
Saturday, April 25, 2015

6pm-11pm

\$55.00 per person

Heather Farm Park Lakeside Room

Tickets on sale soon!

For more information on how you can donate to the silent or live auction or volunteer at the event, please contact Jackie Byrd at byrdmom1213@gmail.com

Senior Grad Night

Ticket prices for Grad Night 2015 increase after March 13th. Buy your ticket today! Grad Night is Thursday, June 11, 2015 from 9:30 pm - 4:30 am at Centre Concord
Use the Grad Night Link on the PFC website to access information and forms. Read the Senior Parent Packet and register online. The price is \$120 for tickets purchased February 4 - March 13, \$135 March 14 - May 1 and \$150 after May 1. <http://www.northgatehs-pfc.com/grad-night.php>

Volunteers from all grade levels can use the Sign-Up Genius link to sign-up for a work shift. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d4babae23a75-northgate2>

Anyone can support Grad Night 2015 with a tax-deductible donation. Sponsorship forms are available on the Grad Night link found on the PFC website. <http://www.northgatehs-pfc.com/documents/grad-night/SponsorForm2015.pdf>

This Month at the Cabana Club

Opening Day

Don't forget that the Opening Day B-B-Q is Saturday, May 9th from 1:00 pm-7:00 pm. So dig out those bathing suits and come on down to the pool for a good time. This is a great chance to show off the club to prospective members and earn that \$100 referral fee, so bring a friend! Hamburgers and hotdogs will be available to purchase. This event is open to non-members.

The Woodlands Cabana Club has a Membership for Everyone. Did you know that the Cabana Club isn't just for families? It's true! The Cabana Club proudly offers memberships to meet the needs of all Woodlands' residents. Memberships start as low as \$275.00 per season so contact Cathy or Mike Escobar at: 925-943-6987 or email: membership@woodlandscabanaclub.org to sign up today.

In addition to our family membership, the Cabana Club also offers the following discounted memberships:

Adult Only Membership: Kids off to college? Want to swim laps or enjoy free water aerobics? Then this membership is for you. This discounted membership was designed for households with one to two adults who would like to enjoy the pool.

Senior Membership: Want to enjoy an invigorating water aerobics class before meeting the ladies for lunch? Want to swim laps? Grandkids visiting on a hot day? This is a discounted membership for seniors ages 62 or older who would like to enjoy the benefits of a pool without all the upkeep!

*All members are permitted to bring 10 guests per season to the Cabana Club

The Woodlands Cabana Club 2015 Social Calendar

Open for spring break – April 6th -12th

Opening Day: Saturday, May 9th

Annual 4th of July Celebration

Movie Night Sept. 25th

Chili Challenge-TBD

Kids' Corner

Fun in the Woodlands

By Beatrice Lowrie, age 7

What do the kids in the Woodlands like to do? Share your ideas so we all know how to keep from being bored!

- Ride your bike on the trail
- Hike the open space to the top of a hill and look for San Francisco
- Go to Valle Verde Neighborhood Park to have a picnic or play hide n seek
- Search for ducks along the canal (there will be ducklings soon!)
- Play board games, like Candyland
- Go outside and look for bugs
- Invite some friends over to play
- Go to the Ygnacio Valley Library

Kids' Corner is a new part of our newsletter just for kids. If you want to write about something fun to do, or review a new movie, or just send us something to share, send in your article to woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com.

WOODLANDS POLICE CALLS

The following information is taken from the Police Daily Bulletin as posted for public viewing on the Walnut Creek Police Department's website. The entire Walnut Creek police daily bulletin can be viewed at: www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/police/bulletin.asp. Some issues of the Woodlands Newsletter may include only a portion of the monthly police activity in our neighborhood as available print-space varies from issue to issue.

Police Calls from 2/5/15 - 3/6/15

02/05/15 17:17:15 600 Bl.
Candleberry Rd.
Turquoise large truck been there for 2 hours,

double parked & parked really far away from curb.
Dispo: canceled by reporting party, vehicle left approximately 10 min ago. Parking complaint.

02/12/15 22:47:02 3500 Bl Sugarberry Ln.
Reports someone knocked on the door and then went running down the street toward Sitka; there is no description and not sure if male or female. Susp. circumstance.

02/15/15 17:20:24 Citrus Av. / Sugarberry Ln.
Four juveniles on bikes in canal. Dispo: canceled by reporting party, subjects left the area while on 10-21. Service to citizen

02/17/15 04:32:09 3300 Bl.
Reporting party reported a suspicious woman around 200lbs wearing a white shirt with blue shorts stumbling and yelling to himself. Susp. circumstance.

02/25/15 09:37:40 100 Bl. Dogwood Dr.
Suspicious glass jar with yellowish gel/liquid sitting on the sidewalk.. Dispo: determined to be pickle juice and thrown away. Service to citizen.

02/27/15 09:52:07 3600 Bl. Perada Dr.
Reporting parties reports theft of packages from the reporting porch's front porch. It was taken sometime in January. ****lobby rpt****. Dispo: theft of two packages (late December/early January) from doorstep. UPS requires police report. No suspects. Theft.

03/06/15 06:46:22 Peachwillow Ln. / Oak Grove Rd.
Reporting party is unsure of the specific direction, says either coming northbound Oak Grove Road approaching Peachwillow for the left turn lane or possibly over one of the southbound lanes- reporting a loose overhead traffic signal that's dangerously dangling from a wire.. Dispo: call out requested for damaged light. Miscellaneous traffic

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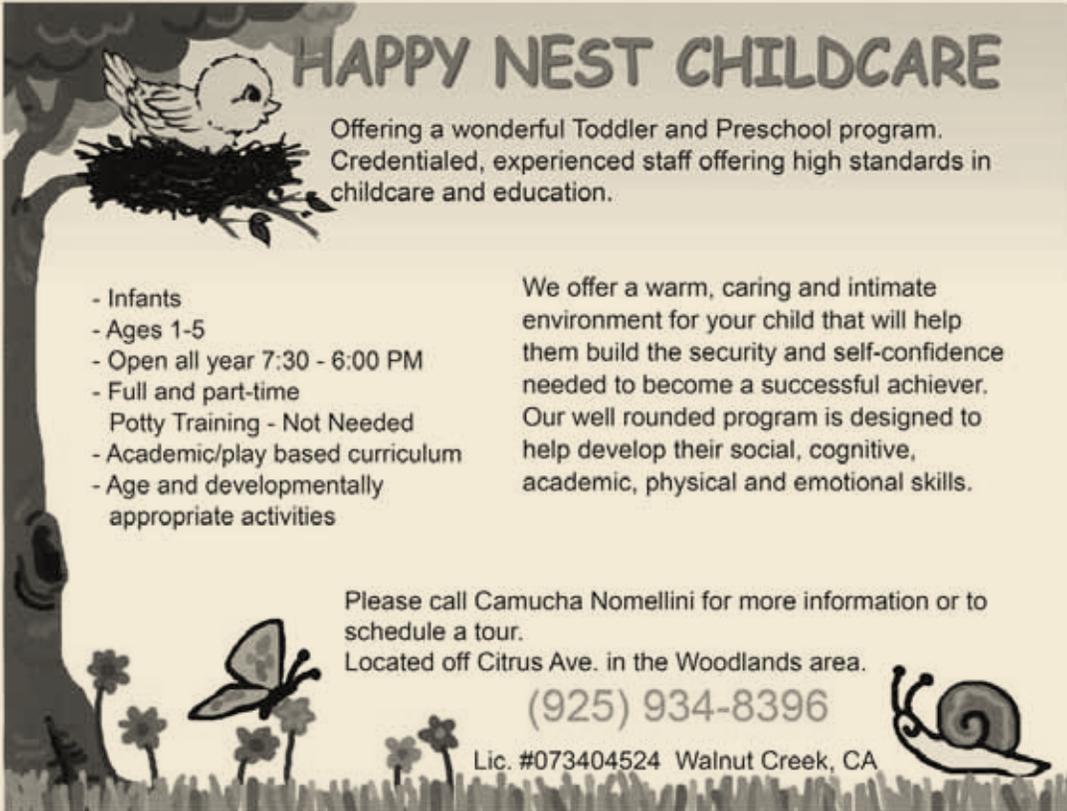
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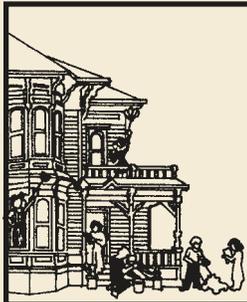
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“Helping Families Make the Right Move”

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We have an understanding of the Woodlands community that spans from growing up there to purchasing a personal residence and helping clients sell and buy their homes.

On a personal note: We have five wonderful daughters and two grandchildren. We are dedicated to making their future an amazing place. We believe that children are our future and we want to make a difference in their lives. We have been able to follow this passion of giving back to our community by raising funds for Special Olympics, Feeding Hungry Children and supporting The Education Foundation.

OUR NEXT EVENT WE ARE ORGANIZING IS:

April 10, 2015

*Charity Golf Tournament & Dinner
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Please call or email us for more information*



Renee Wagner

925.250.5440

Website: yourhomeprofessional.net

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