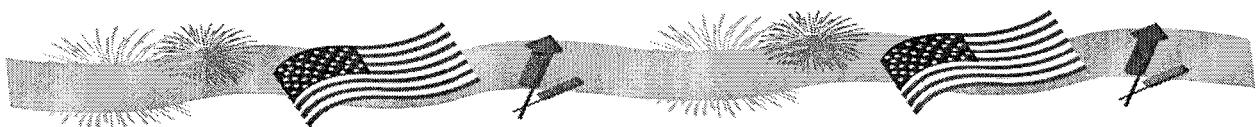


The Woodlands

Keeping You Informed For Over 40 Years

August 2007



The Woodlands Annual Fourth of July Parade & Barbecue



The 4th of July parade is our best tradition in the Woodlands

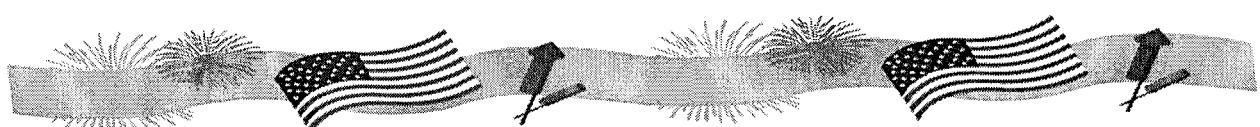
Thank you to all for another successful 4th of July Parade and Barbecue! This year's parade reminded me of something right out of a Norman Rockwell painting. There were pre-parties for decorating bicycles, scooters and go carts in the olé Red, White & Blue. Families gathering together, sharing stories of past parades, while children decorated for the big parade starting at Valle Verde. Winding its way through the neighborhood the parade, lead by the much anticipated big red fire truck, to the joy of the children & spectators along the way, ending at the Cabana Club with a big wet finish as the firemen cooled the children off with a real fire-hose! In the eyes of a child there is nothing quite like being sprayed by a real fire-hose. The barbecue and games provided a wonderful day that would not have been possible without the collective efforts by local friends, residents and families. Watching the children running around all day so excited and having so much fun made all the efforts worthwhile. A special thanks to all for their help and support.

By: Marc Graves

Thank you to all for another successful 4th of July Parade and Barbecue! This year's parade reminded me of something right out of a Norman Rockwell painting. There were pre-parties for decorating bicycles, scooters and go carts in the olé Red, White & Blue. Families gathering together, sharing stories of past parades, while children decorated for the big parade starting at Valle Verde. Winding its way through the neighborhood the parade, lead by the much anticipated big red fire truck, to the joy of the children & spectators along the way, ending at the Cabana Club with a big wet finish as the firemen cooled the children off with a real fire-hose! In the eyes of a child there is nothing quite like being sprayed by a real fire-hose. The barbecue and games provided a wonderful day that would not have been possible without the collective efforts by local friends, residents and families. Watching the children running around all day so excited and having so much fun made all the efforts worthwhile. A special thanks to all for their help and support.



The Kids being sprayed with water at the parade





PARCEL TAX TO BE PLACED ON 2008 BALLOT BY MDUSD SCHOOL BOARD

The MDUSD Board of Education voted 5-0 on July 17th to place a school parcel tax before the voters by June 30, 2008. This is the first step towards placing the tax before the voters. The amount of the parcel tax, duration, and what it would cover will be considered once additional information has been gathered by the district.

Our schools are one of the key reasons many of us chose to settle in the Woodlands. As we have all read and heard from friends, neighbors and the press our school district is working hard to provide our teachers equitable pay and benefits appropriate to their roles and in line with the surrounding school districts.

Our Mount Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD) is in negotiations with our teachers for a new and fair contract for the coming school year. In question are salaries and, of course, benefits. The hottest dilemma on the table is that our MDUSD currently only provides paid dental & vision benefits, but no paid medical coverage. Medical is not covered because teachers voted in 2000 to take a pay raise of about \$3,600 in lieu of medical benefits choosing to pay for medical coverage out of their salaries. Since 2000 the cost of family medical coverage has skyrocketed to over \$14,000 per year. So the teachers want to regain full medical benefits and are also negotiating salary increases. However, looking at salaries only, our MDUSD is competitive with surrounding districts that are similarly funded, but not with those districts that have more money than MDUSD.

Exacerbating this situation is the fact that the MDUSD's student population is actually dropping. State funding is based on student enrollment so fewer students mean decreased revenue to the MDUSD. Although it would seem that as student numbers drop costs would drop as well but this is not the case. The loss of one student in each grade at each elementary school would reduce MDUSD's budget by about \$1 million, with no accompanying reduction in the costs (the loss of a single student in one grade does not equal any reduction in teaching staff, other staff, or other costs). Also interestingly, the unrestricted state funds that can be used directly for teachers salary & benefit increases is significantly lower per student than the surrounding school districts.

MDUSD simply does not have enough funding for what our teachers are requesting. It turns out that the surrounding school districts simply have more funding per student. Firstly, as mentioned above, the surrounding districts get more unrestricted funding from the state. Surrounding districts also have parcel taxes in place for the schools. Examples include Moraga where property owners pay two taxes... \$325/year for elementary/middle schools and \$189/year to the Acalanes high school district totaling \$514/year. Another example is the Piedmont School District where property owners pay a \$1,800/year parcel tax for schools. (continued on page 3)

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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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Board email ID's can be found at www.WoodlandsAssn.org

Upcoming Board Meetings

**Saturday August 11th
and
Saturday September 1st**

8:15am in Carl's Jr.
Conference Room

Woodlands residents
are encouraged to
attend board meetings

(continued) PARCEL TAX TO BE PLACED ON 2008 BALLOT BY MDUSD SCHOOL BOARD

Teachers can get similar or higher pay plus regain their medical benefits in surrounding school districts and we have too many cases of quality, experienced teachers leaving our school district for appointments in other districts. Needless to say, maintaining the quality of our schools also helps protect the Woodlands property values.

A parcel tax would bring us closer to a level playing field and reduce the competitive pay/benefits disadvantage in relation to the surrounding school districts. A parcel tax would be used to pay for teacher salaries, special programs, etc. and requires two thirds majority vote to pass. Parcel taxes are assessed as a fixed amount per property parcel. Every property owner pays the same. Contrast this to a school bond issue. School bonds require 55% voter approval to pass and then are assessed to home owners based on the assessed value of your property. School bonds are typically for school buildings and various infrastructure improvements and cannot be used for programs. Of course bond assessments would vary from home to home.

Keep your eyes and ears open on this item. Information sources on the teachers' contract negotiations on the web include our MDUSD website under "negotiations news updates". For a broad view of the issues see the website of Paul Strange. Mr. Strange is a member of our school district board. See www.strangelaw.net

By J Tilley

Woodlands Swim Team Wins the 21st Annual All-City Meet



The Woodlands Swim Team won the All-City Swim Meet for the 4th year in a row by 117 points this year (last year we won by 7 ½ points). The event was held at the Clark Memorial Swim Center at Heather Farms. The two-day event was held July 14-15th. It was a great team effort enjoyed by all. Congratulations to all the Woodlands swimmers! If you are interested in joining the Woodlands team next summer - no experience necessary - ages 5 to 18 - please contact Tracey Garber at traceygarber@sbcglobal.net.

By Ed Wohlers

SIGN-UPS FOR FALL DISASTER TRAINING AVAILABLE

Community Emergency Response Training (CERT)

Free CERT classes will start on Wednesday, September 19th through October 24th . These classes are held very close to the Woodlands at the Contra Costa Fire District Training Center located at 2945 Treat Boulevard. Nearly 50 Woodlands households now have been trained. Learn how to help yourself and your neighbors in the event of various disaster types through Community Emergency Response Team training.

The free six-week course includes lessons on suppressing small fires, shutting off utilities, light search and rescue, disaster First Aid, and local CERT team organization and processes.

Graduates are assigned to a CERT Area. Our leader is George Jardim who graduated from the Woodlands training session conducted last year. George's group is called the Valle Verde CERT group. If a disaster strikes, CERT team members are trained to check and assess their own families and homes first, and then assemble at a pre-designated site to work together to respond to the needs of the community.

Classes meet weekly and run from 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. To register contact our Walnut Creek Community Relations Manager, Gayle Vassar at Vassar@walnut-creek.org or call her office at 943-5899 ext. 189.

By J Tilley

OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES

We've likely all been to the large wildlife enclosure near the Bayberry Drive entrance to our beautiful Open Space. The enclosure contains a dam and water catch that fills up during the rainy season in December through April. It attracts Mallard Ducks, lots of frogs, occasional Canadian Geese, as well as our local Coyote and the like. You can clearly see the pond coming down Ygnacio Valley Road from Clayton. This enclosure was excavated and enclosed back in 1990 and has been a continuous hit with kids and adults alike. Students from Valle Verde have collected mud samples and tadpoles for science projects here for over 15 years now.

The Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation has come to us for help. The area has become overgrown with non-indigenous plants and weeds, particularly with black mustard, which leaves large dry stalks and makes access to the pond difficult. The protected enclosure is no longer providing the wildlife benefits that it was initially intended to provide... nor is it easy access for our young future scientists.

Removing the black mustard plants, and any other exotic, invasive plants would make an excellent project for some Woodlands families or possibly a local girl scout or boy scout troop. The open space foundation is looking to us for help to take on the challenge to clean it up.



Open Space Pond needs TLC

Once cleaned up, we could then plant some riparian species (willows, cottonwoods and similar but indigenous species) in the wetland area, some oaks in the upper banks, and then perhaps some native grasses and wildflowers. The Woodlands Board has met with Bob Simmons, President of the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation, and he thinks the Foundation can certainly provide real technical assistance and help Woodlands volunteers with the plantings mentioned above. This joint effort can make this valuable resource more accessible to our families and schools once again.

Contact either Jim Tilley of the Woodlands Board ([jptilley @astound.net](mailto:jptilley@astound.net)) or Bob Simmons of the Open Space Foundation ([robertsimmons @astound.net](mailto:robertsimmons@astound.net)) if you would like to lead, help, or otherwise volunteer for this effort... or if you just have questions.

By J Tilley



We all thank the Cabana Club for a glorious afternoon on the 4th of July.

MONEY MAGAZINE COMING TO THE WOODLANDS!

Money magazine has some takers on this request from our last month newsletter and is looking for one or two more. Recall that Eric Schurenberg was a one-time Woodlands resident on Cassena Drive and is now the managing editor of Money Magazine. Their readership is in the millions. Eric is looking for one or two more Woodlands families who'd like to be featured in an upcoming issue of Money.

As part of the story, a Money writer will come and visit each family to talk about their lives and their financial goals and strategies. Each family then sits down with one or more of the Bay Area's well known financial planners for an in-depth meeting. This is a great opportunity but you have to be frank about how you handle your finances — so this is not an opportunity for someone who gets embarrassed talking about money... especially their money. But the outcome is a revised plan that should make it far easier for your family to handle needs and reach goals you may have. Plus, you get to read about yourself in the magazine.

If you're interested in being part of this story... and getting personal advice from a local financial professional... send a note to Eric at managing_editor@moneymail.com

By J Tilley



STARS AND STRIPES AT EVERY HOUSE IN THE WOODLANDS

A thank you again this year for placing a US Flag at every Woodlands home. The Woodlands Board thanks Steve Poirier and Ron Vallerga of the Executive Brokers.





WOODLANDS CRIME REPORT

*Thank you to Marilyn Todacheene
for compiling this report from the WCPD website*

6/18/2007	19:49:09	2800 BL YGNACIO VALLEY RD	911 OPEN LINE W/ FEMALE TALKING. LINE THEN DISCONNECTED....EMPLOYEE, SARA ADVISED NO PROBLEM IN THE BLDG.
6/18/2007	22:57:14	YGNACIO VALLEY RD / OAK GROVE RD	REPORTS RECKLESS GRN OR DK BLU JEEP DRIVING AT UNSAFE SPEED WITH NO LIGHTS WB ON YGN....AREA CHECK UTL
6/18/2007	23:29:12	300 BL DOGWOOD DR	REPORTS GROUP OF 4JUVS DRINKING AND THROWING BEER CANS IN THE STREET. ALL WEARING WHI TSHIRTS....AREA CHECKED. UTL/GOA.
6/18/2007	23:28:47	2900 BL YGNACIO VALLEY RD	TRAFFIC STOP: 5XAK225 JUV ARRESTED (Redacted 01) FOR DUI ROTO TOW FOR BLK HOND CIVIC 2D STORAGE INCIDENT TO ARREST....
6/19/2007	12:15:12	OAK GROVE RD / YGNACIO VALLEY RD	REPORTS AUTO VERSES BIKE WITH MINOR INJURIES....MINOR INJURY ACCIDENT
6/19/2007	21:06:00	YGNACIO VALLEY RD / OAK GROVE RD	REPORTS INJURED DEER IN THE ROAD EB YGN PAST OGR. CARS SWERVING AROUND IT....11-82
6/20/2007	23:25:06	3000 BL CITRUS CR	REPORTS HIS EX GIRLFRIEND(Redacted 01)IS AT HIS OFFICE CONTINUALLY KNOCKING AT THE DOOR. STATEWIDE PROTECTION AGENCY IS THE BUSINESS....CONTACT MADE WITH BOTH PARTIES. FEMALE HALF LEFT UPON REQUESTED.
6/21/2007	7:39:47	600 BL PERSIMMON RD	REPORTS HOUSE BROKEN INTO A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO. ENTERED FROM THE SIDE GARAGE DOOR, BROKE CASING FROM LATCH. LOSS: GOLF CLUBS....RES BURG. LOSS: JACK NICKLAUS GOLF CLUBS/BAG AND TIGER WOODS T4 DRIVER. OCCURRED 6/18/07 0700-2200 HOURS.
6/21/2007	10:24:18	ROCK OAK RD / PERADA DR	***Complex*** REPORTS A SUSP VEH/SUSP MAR HOND @2KRH470 POSSIBLY A SUBJECT SLEEPING IN THE VEHICLE. SINCE AT LEAST 0800 HRS....DETERMINED OCCUPANT WAS WAITING FOR HIS BOSS TO SHOW UP(Redacted 01)SO THEY COULD BEGIN CONSTRUCTION WORK. NO CRIME.
6/21/2007	13:45:46	2600 BL OAK GROVE RD	REPORTS A HOMELESS SUBJ SLEEPING IFO THE BUSN. RP WANTS THE SUBJ TO BE ASKED TO MOVE ALONG....CONTACTED RP. SUBJECT HAD ALREADY LEFT. AREA CHECK WAS NEGATIVE.
6/21/2007	14:44:03	YGNACIO VALLEY RD / OAK GROVE RD	CPD ADVISING RECKLESS DRIVER LS OUTBOUND YGN PASSING COWELL WHI FORD EXPEDITION PARTIAL PLATE 5AZG. SPEEDING CHANING LANES....UNABLE TO LOCATE
6/22/2007	10:00:57	YGNACIO VALLEY RD / OAK GROVE RD	ADVISING ANIMAL CONTROL OF DEAD DEER IN THE CENTER DIVIDE....ADVISED ANIMAL CONTROL.



WOODLANDS CRIME REPORT

*Thank you to Marilyn Todacheene
for compiling this report from the WCPD website*

			REPORTS BEING INVOLVED IN A NON-INJURY ACCIDENT NOT BLOCKING TRAFFIC. IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE POST OFFICE. GRY HOND VS RED TOYT TACOMA...INFO EXCHANGE BETWEEN DRIVERS.
6/23/2007	12:03:19	OAK GROVE RD / YGNACIO VALLEY RD	REPORTS A VEHICLE DOWN MECHANICALLY IN THE #3 LANE EB YGNACIO E OF OAK GROVE...OFC CONED OFF AREA PRIOR TO TOW TRUCK ARRIVAL DUE TO AN ER CALL.
6/23/2007	12:39:20	YGNACIO VALLEY RD / OAK GROVE RD	REPORTS 2ND HAND INFO THAT NEIGHBOR SAW SOMEBODY GO INTO THE BACKYARD OF THE HOUSE. (Redacted 01)...ARRESTED: SMITH,BRENDAN D 02/15/76 FOR 459
6/23/2007	12:44:05	3100 BL PEACHWILLOW LN	REQ 21 FOR ADVICE RE: 12 YO STEP-SON NOT RETURNING HOME. LS 40 AGO RP DOESN'T WANT A RUNAWAY RPT AT THIS TIME. (Redacted 01)...RP CALLED BACK TO DECLINE PD CONTACT. SON RETURNED HOME.
6/23/2007	22:56:17	2100 BL OAK GROVE RD	6-8 JUVS BETWEEN 13-16YRS TALKING ABOUT GETTING DRUNK THAT JUST CAME OUT OF THE CANAL TRAIL. ALL WRNG SWEATSHIRTS W/HOODS GIRLS AND BOYS....GOA/UTL
6/24/2007	1:24:00	3700 BL CITRUS AV	YELLING AND SCREAMING BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE. ALSO SOME LOUD BANGING. HEARD ONLY...CONTACTED BOTH PARTIES AT HOME. THEY WERE YELLING AT THEIR DOGS. NO CRIME.
6/24/2007	19:57:00	3500 BL CITRUS AV	REPORTS FINDING CHECKS MISSING FROM OFFICE, UNK TIMEFRAME....UNKNOWN WHEN THE CHECKS WERE STOLEN. COULD HAVE BEEN UP TO A YEAR AGO.
6/25/2007	10:19:28	3000 BL CITRUS CR	REPORTS A RED BICYCLE HAS BEEN LEFT AT THE LIBRARY FOR THE PAST THREE DAYS....FOUND RED MAGNA MOUNTAIN BIKE.
6/25/2007	11:05:45	2600 BL OAK GROVE RD	REPORTS ALARM (Redacted 01)...(Redacted 01)
6/25/2007	11:51:04	2200 BL OAK GROVE RD	REPORTS ID THEFT. UNK SUBJS TRYING TO MAKE PHONE TRANSFERS FROM WESTERN UNION (Redacted 01)...SUBJECT USED RP'S PERSONAL INFORMATION TO ATTEMPT A FRAUDULENT WIRE TRANSFER ON A 3RD PARTIES CREDIT CARD.
6/25/2007	13:08:39	200 BL SISKIYOU CT	WB YGN: 2 VEH 11-82 NOT BLOCKING, HAVE PULLED OVER IFO THE CITRUS SHOPPING CENTER IFO NOB HILL. SIL TOYT CAM VS BEIGE TOYT CAMRY...INFO EXCHANGE
6/25/2007	17:36:27	YGNACIO VALLEY RD / OAK GROVE RD	CHP XFER. MALE VS FEMALE ARRESTED:PAMELA LYNN PEREZ 08091965 FOR 243E1...SUBJ BOOKED
6/25/2007	20:03:03	YGNACIO VALLEY RD / OAK GROVE RD	

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Junk Removal Specialist: We haul residential and commercial junk for the best prices in the East Bay! To schedule an appointment or if you have any questions please call us @ (925) 934-3743 or visit our website at: www.DUMPOLOADSONUS.COM

NEED A BABYSITTER? You are in luck! Guille Freschl is willing, reliable, flexible babysitter. Northgate student and Woodlands resident, who has prior experience. Available anytime. Please call Guille @ 939-4389

Picture of the Month



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Contact **Marc Graves 925-336-6272** or **madmacsdad@aol.com**

Advertising Rates & Sizes

MARC

Please note: the actual sizes below allow for binding/bleed space. Size = height x width in inches

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¼ Page – 5 x 3.5 - \$25/month

¼ Page on back cover - \$45/month

1/8 Page – 2.5 x 3.5 - \$15/month

Want Ads - line ad with 30 words or less:

\$5 Woodlands Residents, \$13 Non-Residents

Next Advertising Deadline

Please submit all ads and
payments for the next issue by

August 15, 2007

Submission Guidelines

- Please submit your ad in the actual size/dimensions listed above.
- Ad should be formatted with any artwork you want included at the time of submittal.
- If your ad needs layout/design or artwork, there is an additional \$10 design fee.
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- Payment is due when you submit your ad. Please make checks payable to "Woodlands Association" and mail to:
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