



McDonald's Not Coming To The Woodlands Neighborhood

By Joe Casey

As I'm sure you've heard by now, the city planning department of Walnut Creek informed the Woodlands Board on January 12th that McDonald's has dropped their pursuit of the former bank building at the corner of Oak Grove and Citrus Drive as their next expansion location. Though McDonald's did not give the city a full explanation as to why they withdrew their application, the recently completed traffic study was likely a significant factor in the decision-making process for the international conglomerate. As most residents know, the intersection in question is a heavily trafficked intersection, and adding a fast-food establishment with a drive-thru at this location had the potential to dramatically escalate already existing traffic woes.

It is almost one full year since the Board learned of the potential McDonald's application. As some Board members, such as President Ed Wohlers and Secretary Elsie Witt, have been on the Board for several years, this was not the first controversy the Board has had to contend with. The Citrus Walk proposal caused much anxiety in the community initially, and the Board learned much from the experience of being a liaison between the community, developers, and various city departments and committees. Ultimately, the project was a success by most standards, and the Board learned some valuable lessons from the experience.

First and foremost was learning to trust in the process and to get involved early. The Board did come under some criticism from residents because we did not take a position on the McDonald's application. When the Board first learned of the McDonald's application, we quickly reached out to city officials, learning who the key players, departments, and committees would be in the vetting process, and then acting as a bridge to the Woodlands community to keep you informed. We also wanted to hear the communities thoughts on the project (which lead to the community meeting on September 25, 2010), as well as give McDonald's an opportunity to convey their side of the story. City officials and McDonald's knew early on that they were dealing with an organized and disciplined unit that would closely monitor developments and hold the process to account.

Employing this "process", knowing and understanding early on significant hurdles existed for McDonald's to overcome, and exercising patience in letting the process unfold, we believe served us and the community better than if we had reacted without trusting the process. I can tell you that as individuals on the Board, none of us wanted a McDonald's restaurant to be the first thing you see when

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Want to Write Something?



The Woodlands newsletter provides a community service by keeping neighborhood residents informed about issues and events of interest. We encourage Woodlands residents to submit articles for the newsletter and we regularly receive articles that are published in the newsletter.

If you would like to contribute an article, please contact us and we will be happy to work with you to help get it edited and published. Our publication guidelines are relatively simple – topics should be of interest to Woodlands residents, the newsletter can not be used as a forum to air issues between individuals, and articles may need to be edited to fit within available space (typical length is 200 words or less). To meet our publication schedule for a monthly newsletter, we have established a closing date of the 10th of each month. To the extent that space is available, articles received and ready for print by the 10th of the month will be published in the next version of the newsletter.

We appreciate your help in making the newsletter as informative, useful, and relevant to Woodlands residents. To submit an article, please write to woodlandsassn@yahoo.com.

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Polar Bear Plunge a Splashing Success!!!

By Polly Bradbury

Fires were raging, s'mores roasting, and the hot cocoa flowing at the first (annual?) Polar Bear Plunge at the Cabana Club on January 9th. Considering how cold it was, we had a great a turn out with an estimated 100 attending. The temperature in the pool was even colder as the 20 or so brave souls ranging in age from 5 to 49 found out; a bone chilling 47 degrees! Two youngsters, John Lamm and Evan Ruiz even swam a lap!

Look for many more family fun adventures at the Cabana Club in 2011 and beyond!

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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Newsletter printed by
Minuteman Press
 (925) 256-6444

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

Upcoming Board Meetings

Saturday, February 5th
 at 8:15 am
 and
Saturday, March 5th
 at 8:15 am
 in Carl's Jr.
 Conference Room

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings

Good Neighbor Gestures

By Elsie Witt

Being good neighbors is an important part of the social fiber that makes our community so great. Some neighbors are seeing trash when they take their walks through our lovely Woodlands, and dog droppings and resident's trash cans that never seem to be put away (maybe a sign that no one is home).

Several neighbors are seeing fast-food papers and cups being discarded at the end of Bayberry by the canal trail, and along Citrus Avenue, particularly near the fast food restaurants. Using convenient trash cans is the obvious answer, and when that doesn't happen, it is important for all of us to clean up the area near us.

Proactive neighbors take a plastic bag with them when they walk and pick up the trash they see. We owe them our thanks as such a hands-on gesture preserves the appearance of our community. Unfortunately Rock Oak Creek has accumulated a lot of trash in it. Is there a scout troop that is looking for a project? Cleaning the creek would be a wonderful service for all of us.

I particularly notice dog droppings on the sidewalks after a rain. I know our neighbors who own dogs are reluctant to let them go off into the mud, but cleaning up after your dog is city ordinance, just as keeping your dog on a leash and under your control is an ordinance.

If you have tree fruit dropping on the sidewalk, or trees and overgrown bushes obstructing the sidewalks, it is time to sweep and cut back. When the sidewalks are blocked it creates a safety problem for children and adults.

One neighbor noticed a huge bunch of letters on Bayberry by the canal trail entrance. These had a common address from another city. This is a reason to alert the police, because it may be an indication of a crime.

We can't just wait around for someone else to do this work; we must take responsibility for our environment, so we urge everyone to be a "good neighbor," and do their part to restore the beauty of our neighborhood.

Enjoy your Woodland Walks.

Free Tax Help Available

By Ed Wohlers

AARP Tax-Aide will be offering free tax preparation services in 2011. They are targeting low and moderate income taxpayers of any age, with special attention to those 60 and older. They are also partnering with the United Way's *Earn it, Keep it, Save it* program by serving their targeted population – those earning household income less than \$49,000. Dates and times vary, so please call to make an appointment. These services will be offered at the following Walnut Creek locations:

- ***Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr., 925-943-5851.***
- ***St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Ave., 925-979-5013.***
- ***Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., 925-405-6278.***

Be sure to bring all your tax records including Form W-2's, 1099's, your prior year tax return (call the number above for specific documents needed).

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you enter our wonderful neighborhood, but we had a higher collective duty to the community to proceed in the way we did.

So ultimately, this was a very successful exercise in civic engagement. There is not enough room to thank everyone involved in the process, but the Board does wish to call out in particular Walnut Creek Senior Planner Jeremy Lochirco for his patient and thorough deliberations, and putting up with my many calls for updates and requests for meetings. Jeremy was a professional throughout, and the Board and the community owe you a big thank you. We want to thank the Woodlands community for all their input on this issue. We would also like to thank Woodlands residents Bill Swanson, Tom Johnson, Chuck Bond, and Steve Elster who each contributed their time and effort (now if the owner can just find a nice low-density business to fill the former bank building!!).

Crime In The Woodlands - Community Meeting Coming In March

By Ed Wohlers

As stated in our January newsletter, in response to neighborhood concerns about increased crime in the Woodlands area we met with the City on January 13th to voice our concerns about this issue. Specifically, several members of the Board and Woodlands resident Chuck Bond met with Mayor Cindy Silva, Councilman Kish Rajan, Police Chief Joel Bryden and City Manager Ken Nordhoff. We appreciate their time and left the meeting very impressed with their commitment to fight crime in Walnut Creek. The following is an excerpt we received Jan. 14th following the meeting from Police Chief Joel Bryden:

“In response to the robberies that have occurred in our City, we have taken steps to try to deter, prevent and stop suspects from committing those crimes. Our detective bureau has been actively investigating several subjects responsible for the robberies in our city and one suspect was taken into custody and charged by the District Attorney’s office. Two others are in custody for crimes outside of Walnut Creek and have been identified as suspects in two of our recent robberies adjacent to downtown.

Specifically related to the Citrus Plaza and the Woodlands neighborhood, our patrol division has been performing extra patrols of the various shopping centers in an effort to demonstrate a high visibility presence in these areas. In addition, our detective bureau and reserve officer division have been conducting covert surveillances of several of the shopping centers. We have also reached out to the businesses in those areas and have been providing crime prevention tips and education on the crimes occurring in these areas (including Citrus Plaza).

We will continue to provide extra patrol through the two business centers adjacent to the Woodlands neighborhood and take any pro-active measures we can to prevent these crimes from re-occurring. In addition, we have plans to organize a business watch meeting with the owners/operators of the various businesses in the centers as well as having a larger community meeting to address issues and expand neighborhood watch groups in the area. We also plan to continue to work with the Concord Police Department in an effort prevent crimes from occurring and arrest those responsible when they do.....”

The Woodlands Board will be working with the City to set up a Woodlands community meeting in March. If you would like to provide input on this meeting, please e-mail us at woodlandsassn@yahoo.com. Please read your March Woodlands newsletter, or our website www.woodlandsassn.org for details on the date and time of the community meeting.



WOODLANDS CRIME REPORT

*Thank you to Kathy Master
for compiling this report from the WCPD website*

The information in this Crime Report 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. The most current information available is listed first.

11-1215 01/11/11 17:09:37 **Bank Robbery** 2200 block Oak Grove Road. Alarm-Robbery occurred at about 1700 hours. Suspect gave teller a note demanding cash. Ofc. Spoto

11-1211 01/11/11 16:13:46 **Service to Citizen** Sitka Drive/ Sugarberry Lane. RP states his wife tripped on uneven sidewalk, reporting repair of sidewalk needed. Wife does not need medical help. Dispo: Passed information on to Corp. Yard. No officer assigned

11-694 01/07/11 14:19:42 **Service to Citizen** 3000 block Citrus Circle. RP in the lobby of PD to report being extorted and threatened by her divorce lawyer. Dispo: No crime substantiated. Advice given. Ofc. Kolmeister

11-590 01/06/11 14:09:12 **Service to Citizen** 3100 block Sugarberry Court. RP requests phone call from officer to request assault by his juvenile son. RP not sure about filing official report at this point. Dispo: Advice given regarding on-going violent behavior by son. No report desired at this time. Ofc. Donleavy

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DAY	DATE	OPPONENT / EVENT	SITE	TIME
Saturday	Nov 20	Deer Valley (Scrimmage)	Deer Valley	12:00 PM
Saturday	Nov 27	Moreau Catholic (Scrimmage)	Moreau Catholic	12:00 PM
NON CONFERENCE				
DAY	DATE	OPPONENT / EVENT	SITE	TIME
Thurs-Sat	Dec 2-4	Lady Dragon Classic	Sonoma Valley	Bracket Play
Friday	Dec 10	Campolindo	Miramonte	8:00 PM
Saturday	Dec 11	Miramonte	Miramonte	6:30PM
Wed-Fri	Dec 15-17	14 th Annual Walnut Creek Classic	Northgate	Bracket Play
Wed	Dec 22	Casa Grande (Miramonte Shoot out)	St Mary's College	3:30PM
Mon-Thur	Dec 27-30	Seaside Sweet 16	Seaside	Bracket Play
Saturday	Jan 22	Alameda (Campolindo Shootout)	Campolindo	12:00 PM
DIABLO VALLEY ATHLETIC LEAGUE (2010-11 TBA)				
DAY	DATE	OPPONENT / EVENT	SITE	TIME
Tuesday	Jan 4	Concord	Northgate	7:00pm
Friday	Jan 7	Berean Christian	Berean Christian	7:00 pm
Tuesday	Jan 11	Ygnacio Valley	Ygnacio Valley	7:00 pm
Friday	Jan 14	College Park	Northgate	7:00 pm
Tuesday	Jan 18	Clayton Valley	Clayton Valley	7:00 pm
Friday	Jan 21	Bye		
Tuesday	Jan 25	Mt Diablo	Northgate	7:00 pm
Friday	Jan 28	Concord	Concord	7:00 pm
Tuesday	Feb 1	Berean Christian	Northgate	7:00pm
Friday	Feb 4	Ygnacio Valley	Northgate	7:00 pm
Tuesday	Feb 8	College Park	College Park	7:00 pm
Friday	Feb 11	Clayton Valley	Northgate	7:00 pm
Tuesday	Feb 15	Bye		
Friday	Feb 18	Mt Diablo	Mt Diablo	7:00 pm

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Assistant Coach: Kirk Shelby Web site: northgatebasketball.org
Assistant Coach: Wendy Rounds Colors: Scarlet/Gold/Black
JV Coach: Bob John Mascot: Broncos

Revised 10/10/2010

2009 UNDEFEATED DVAL CHAMPIONS 12-0
2010 UNDEFEATED DVAL CHAMPIONS 12-0

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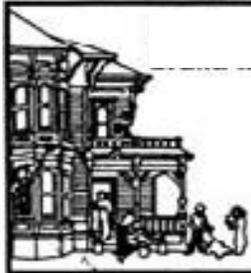
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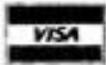
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CALL FOR LICENSED CONTRACTOR OR HANDYMAN

TERMITE WORK
•All necessary work to obtain a clearance

ELECTRICAL
•Bathroom and Kitchen Fans
•Wiring
•Fixture Replacement

PLUMBING
•Repair or Replacement of Broken Pipes
•Repair of Leaking Pipes
•New Installations
•Repair Replacement of Washer, Faucets, Commodes, Wax Rings • Water Heaters

PAINTING
•Exterior - Interior
•Spot Painting After Repairs
•Wall & Ceiling texturing

GUTTER WORK
•Clean out Gutters • Installation of gutter screens

CARPENTRY & DRYWALL
•Installation of Doors, Locks
•Repair Stucco - Drywall
• Brickwork
•Odds and Ends

TILE WORK
•New Tile Installation
•Seal and Grout Existing Tile

If you need a service not mentioned above, just call us. Prices will be quoted by the job.