

The Woodlands

www.WoodlandsAssn.org

Celebrating Woodlands Mams!



May 2006

My Mom: Ann Bonano

"Why is your mom the greatest mom?"

Kurtis: "She likes me and takes good care of me."

Danny: "She helps me with my homework."

Sarah: "She makes me pancakes in the morning."

What makes their mom different from all of the other moms? **Kurtis:** "She does not make us clean our rooms frequently, only on the days before the cleaning lady comes." **Danny:** "She has red hair."

George Bonano says that his wife Ann is the greatest mom because "she always puts the needs



Ann Bonano assists son Danny during a class party while little sister Sarah looks on.

of the kids first instead of her work life or personal life." George also says what makes his wife stand out from all of the other moms is that "she lets me keep my old 1965 Plymouth Belvedere stuffed in the garage!"

My Mom: Margaret Brown

"Our mom is generous, friendly, kind, sweet, funny, nice, caring and takes care of me all of the time. I don't know what I would do without her in our life. Our mom is different from all of the other mom's because she works 5 days a week, and she went to a night school to get a real estate license, and she studied for 2 months straight and took care of the whole family at the same time, and she still passed the test for the first time she had ever taken the test!"

~Courtney (9) & Brittany Brown (12)

My Mom: Marilyn Hawes

"My mom is the greatest because she has so much love to give and she teaches her children and grandchildren so many things...to enjoy the simple things in life, to treat everything and everyone with respect, and to appreciate all of the blessings that are given to us each and every day. Happy Mother's Day Mom! We love you, Michele, Joe, Jessica, and Joseph

(A rare case: Two generations of Woodlands moms living in their own homes in the Woodlands!)



My Mom: Lori Warren

"I love my mom because she teaches me how to love by being so loving herself."

~ Benny Chesney, 8yrs

(Pictured above with his mom Lori)

A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie.

-Tenneva Jordan

"My mom is the greatest because she is a lot of fun. She makes us all laugh and have a great time. She will do anything to make you laugh. My mom is different from all the other moms because she knows how to make us laugh after we have had a bad day. Sometimes she will embarrass us but it will still be really funny. She is caring, loving, funny, and the nicest mom I have ever known. I love my mom very much."

~ Joelle Stegner

My Mom: Susan Bertolozzi

"The best thing about my mom is that she tucks me in at night and always hugs me and reads to me books sometimes. Also she helps me in the monkey bars. ~ Allison & Isabella Bertolozzi

Marco Bertolozzi says that his wife is the best mom because "she treats me like one of her own - the literal mother of 3...Allison 8yrs, Isabella 4yrs, and me...42 going on 8 and 4 all over again - NEVER A DULL MOMENT! However hectic her schedule, she shares her hobbies with our kids and is there every moment of the way to comfort them. Whether swinging a racquet, the reading of a book, bedtime chats with the girls, or the warmth of hugging the kids, she never forgets the importance of family time."

Mothers are supposed to be kind, caring, and nurturing; but what makes a mother great? In my mother, I have observed her sense of patience and understanding that far exceeds what is expected from a mother. My mother is the greatest because she always has an open ear and great input into all facets of life. ~ Isaac Rose



Gifts Mom Will Love!



Community

Out-Of-The-Box Mother's Day Gift Guide

- ◆ Create a coupon book just for mom. Include coupons for an uninterrupted nap, a great big hug, foot massage, quiet reading time, etc.
- ◆ Clean the house for mom or hire a cleaning service to do the job!
- ◆ Give her an "at home" spa day. Let mom relax in the tub, then pamper her hands and feet with lotion and nail polish.
- ◆ Arrange for a distant relative or long time friend to make a surprise visit or phone call to mom.
- ◆ Taxi mom around for a day. Take her to all of her favorite places!
- ◆ Husbands, watch the kids for a couple of hours so mom can go shopping or to the salon. She'll love you for it!
- ◆ Have a movie night at home for mom. Rent all of mom's favorite movies and get plenty of her favorite snacks!
- ◆ Make a homemade card for mom. Be sure to tell her how special she is!
- ◆ Clean mom's car - inside & out!

MOM I S M S

- Don't make that face or it'll get stuck in that position!
- Be careful or else you'll put your eye out.
- What if everyone jumped into a well? Would you do it, too?
- You have enough filth behind those ears to grow potatoes!
- C'mon close that door! Were you raised in a barn?
- If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all.
- Don't put that thing in your mouth; you don't know where it's been!
- Eat your dinner...there are starving children in Africa.
- Don't chew with your mouth open.
- Look both ways before crossing.
- You can look, but don't touch!
- Don't drink out of the milk bottle.
- Turn off that light! Do you think we own the electric company?
- Did you flush?
- You can be anything you want to, if you just set your mind to it.
- If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.
- Wipe your feet!
- Go ask your father.
- It's all fun and games until someone gets hurt.
- Do I embarrass you?
- Money doesn't grow on trees.
- You are so cute!
- Don't wipe your hands on your clothes.
- This too, shall pass.
- Let me kiss your boo-boo... Mommy will make it all better.
- I will always love you.



Summer Enrichment Programs for Students

Every year I get calls from parents asking about the National Youth Leadership Conferences. The impressive invitation implies that your son or daughter has been nominated by a teacher, counselor, or school administrator, when in fact it may have been another student who attended one of the conferences last summer. It's more about marketing than merit.

Bill Fitzsimmons, the longtime Dean of Admissions at Harvard University, addressed the issue of summer programs at a College Board Conference I attended several years ago. Bill indicated that a competitive college can't give applicants "points" for participation in these programs "because they are purchased." An experienced high school counselor, reflecting on his own child's participation in an Oxbridge program, says "the value added to a student's profile by programs like these has diminished, in that it may look like just another nice thing that affluent families can do to make their kids look good. However, if a kid wants to do this for the experience and the learning, it's great."

Under what circumstances will a summer program likely enhance a college application? Here are some features to look for:

- If located on a college campus, the program is sponsored by that college, or a department within that college, not an outside organization or consortium. The exception would be outreach programs developed for students from low income families or students of under-represented minority status.

- The program is selective; not everyone who applies is accepted. Exceptions might be programs designed to introduce students to a particular major, like architecture or

engineering. If nothing else, a summer program in architecture gives a student a head start putting together a portfolio, and an aspiring engineer an understanding of what engineering is all about. UC, for instance, wants engineering applicants to address why they are interested in engineering in the Personal Statement.

- The program is low or no cost; if not, financial aid is available for students who would otherwise not be able to afford to attend.

The program is taught by regular college faculty, not part-time instructors or summer hires. University faculty members can serve as mentors and advocates for high school students they believe will be assets to their departments. They may be willing to write a recommendation and submit it to the admissions office, or at least verbally advocate for the student.

Even a high cost summer program can work to an applicant's advantage if the experience helps that student fine tune goals and aspirations, and gain confidence and insight into his or her sense of self - colleges refer to this as self-realization, and it will be reflected in an applicant's personal statement and responses to short essay questions on the application. I've seen a student accomplish the same level of personal growth through a paid summer internship for the city of Walnut Creek - with the maintenance department, no less. So think locally as well as globally, and look for a program that's a good match for your son or daughter, be it educational, recreational, or extra-curricular.

Pat Brands
College & Career Counselor,
Northgate
brandsp@mdusd.k12.ca.us



Congratulations Valle Verde!!

2006 California Distinguished School

In an announcement Tuesday, April 25, State Superintendent of Schools Jack O'Connell made it official. Valle Verde has been named a 2006 California Distinguished School!

Valle Verde MUR Stepping in for Northgate Little Theatre

The Northgate High School *Little Theatre* construction is well underway. When you stop by the high school you can see the pieces coming together. You have also likely seen extra activity at our Valle Verde elementary school on Peachwillow Lane. Some key events normally scheduled for the old theatre at the high school

have been taking place at Valle Verde including the Northgate annual senior student fashion show that filled up our streets and the Multi Use Room at Valle Verde just a month ago. In just a few more months the new Little Theatre will be ready to open. Our Northgate Pride Foundation still needs funds to fit out sound, lighting and the

changing rooms for the theatre. If you can help at all with donations, see www.northgatepride.org for details...or send donations directly to NGPF, PO Box 31652, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

By J Tilley

A Community Prepared Emergency Preparedness Next Steps

Our Woodlands CERT graduates have been working behind the scenes to continue our foundation for a prepared Woodlands. Recall that "CERT" stands for Community Emergency Response Training. Our CERT graduates from the Woodlands made it through nearly 20 hours of training over a six week period last year. The Woodlands now has over 50 individuals that have been CERT Trained and "certified". This training has been conducted by the City of Walnut Creek periodically for the past few years and the session last fall was primarily for

our Woodlands participants.

As a result, these graduates have further volunteered for six specific Woodlands preparedness projects headed by small CERT teams. These project teams include Organization and Skills Assessment, Resources plans, Storage design alternatives, Communications, Preparedness Plan development and Plan testing & maintenance. This group now has named volunteers in each of the small project teams. Significant progress has been made in the Plan development headed by George Jardim and the neighbor-

hood Skills assessment headed by Marlene Clark... both are CERT graduates. Last month, Marlene and George reviewed their progress with the City of Walnut Creek. We will be hosting several open meetings in the next few months to review this progress and discuss direction with our Woodlands neighbors. Please support these projects by offering your help and advice wherever possible and attending their brief review sessions. We will announce the review sessions in the next few newsletters.

By the Board

City Update on Downtown Library Project

The Walnut Creek City Council voted 4-1 in a special community meeting on Feb. 27 to move forward without delay on building a new downtown library. The meeting was attended by more than 250 community members.

As part of the decision, the City Council approved a revised site plan and authorized Group 4 Architects to proceed with design concepts for the new 42,000-square-foot facility. The revised site plan

moves the library further south along Broadway into the existing library parking lot and away from Civic Park. The plan encompasses parking for 170 vehicles in a one-level underground garage and a small surface lot - 130 fewer parking spaces than originally proposed.

At the same meeting, the council members endorsed State Proposition 81, the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and

Renovation Bond Act of 2006, which will be on the June 6 Primary Election ballot. If approved by state voters, Walnut Creek is slated to receive an \$18.2 million grant to help build the downtown library.

More information and illustrations are on the city's website, www.walnutcreek.org.

~ This article is provided by the WC Library Foundation



Woodlands Association

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See board email ID's at:
www.WoodlandsAssn.org

Woodlands Newsletter is a monthly publication.

Previous issues are posted on our website.

Next Board Meetings:
5.6.06 @ 8:15am
6.3.06 @ 8:15am
Carl's Jr. Conference Rm.

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings



Want Ads

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Advertiser Quick Reference

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|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
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| Arreola Landscaping | 709-8561 | Light Speed Networks | 437-4268 |
| Bay Healing | 935-2502 | Marc Graves, Realty | 935-5895 |
| Brana Home Repair | 283-1107 | McLaughlin Remax | 877-473-6425 |
| CA Custom Carpets | 828-7810 | Newpane Windows | 800-614-7263 |
| David Galindo, Intero | 945-4575 | Neck/Back Pain Ctr | 947-1507 |
| Dumploads On Us | 934-3743 | Painting, Paul Morris | 939-2498 |
| Executive Brokers | 974-1170 | Roger Studebaker | 595-3934 |
| Green's Lawn Service | 827-0103 | Sheri Nodder | 975-5244 |
| Handyman Paul Fleck | 676-6607 | Fast Dri Steam Clean | 937-4042 |
| Happy Nest Childcare | 934-8396 | Julian's Bistro | 288-9239 |
| Chris Moulis, Kropa | 979-0730 | Genesis Triangle | 945-7622 |
| Food By Hand | 415-341-FOOD | Fair Oaks Church | 687-4810 |

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ADVERTISING RATES

DEADLINE: 15TH OF EACH MONTH

Contact: **Elsie Witt 925-935-0463**
ewitt@woodlandsassn.org

PLEASE MAIL 1 copy of your ad & payment to:
"Woodlands Association"

P.O. Box 31085, Walnut Creek, CA 94598
WANT ADS

Line Ad with a maximum of 30 words.

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Woodlands Residents | \$8.00 |
| Non-Woodlands Residents | \$13.00 |

BUSINESS ADS

(Guidelines) *Please submit ONE copy of your ad in the size you have chosen.

***There is a one time set up fee for ads that need layout/design or artwork.**

Set-Up Fees are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| 1/8 page ads | \$5.00 |
| 1/4, 1/2 and full page ads | \$10.00 |

Color paper is only offered for FULL Page Ads. Colors: blue, green, yellow.

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Full Page, white paper | \$80.00 |
| Full Page, colored paper | \$85.00 |
| 1/2 Page | \$45.00 |
| 1/4 Page | \$25.00 |
| 1/8 Page (Woodlands Residents) | \$15.00 |
| 1/8 Page (Non-Woodlands Residents) | \$18.00 |

FOUND

Found a *RING* while walking in the Woodlands:
Call to identify & pay for ad. **939-9570**

Dear Loyal Advertisers,

Thank you for being so patient while we switch advertising hands from Shawn Rizzo to Elsie Witt. Please make note to mail all ads and payments to:

Woodlands Association

P.O. Box 31085, Walnut Creek, 94598

To place a new ad or to change your ad, please contact **Elsie Witt at 935-0463** or elsiejwitt@aol.com

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1031 Burnhan Dr.
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Annual Library Walk Set for May 6
Raises Funds for Children's Summer reading Programs

Registration starts at 8 a.m. at the Ygnacio Valley Library. The walk starts at 9 a.m., followed by a special Walk Celebration in front of the Downtown Library from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Registration fee is \$25 for individuals and \$30 for families.

For more information and registration forms, visit the public library, go to www.wclibrary.org, or call the Walnut Creek Library Foundation at 925.935.5395.



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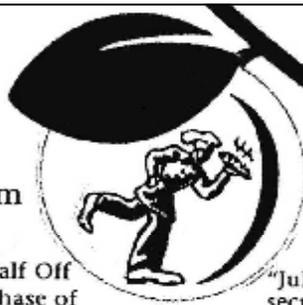
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"Julian's is the best kept secret in Contra Costa County. The food is the best anywhere and I give this Restaurant Four Stars"
A.R. Woodlands Resident

1950 Market Street, Unit C, Concord, CA (located on the back side of Park n Shop, across from BMW)

5 Reasons Why You *NEED* a Personal Chef!



1. The local pizza guy knows you as "Double Sausage, No Peppers"
2. The vegetable bin in your refrigerator smells like "swamp"
3. Your kids no longer fall for the "pancakes are too dinner food" speech
4. Your silverware is buried under mounds of chopsticks, soy packets and to go menus
5. Your kids call Rachel Ray the Magic Lady!

A Unique & Healthy Alternative

Need a Break?

All too often our busy life-styles force us to choose fast food or tasteless frozen entrees when we'd much rather enjoy the benefits of good, home-cooked meals.

Unfortunately, our schedules leave us little time to plan, shop for and prepare the kind of food we'd like to eat.

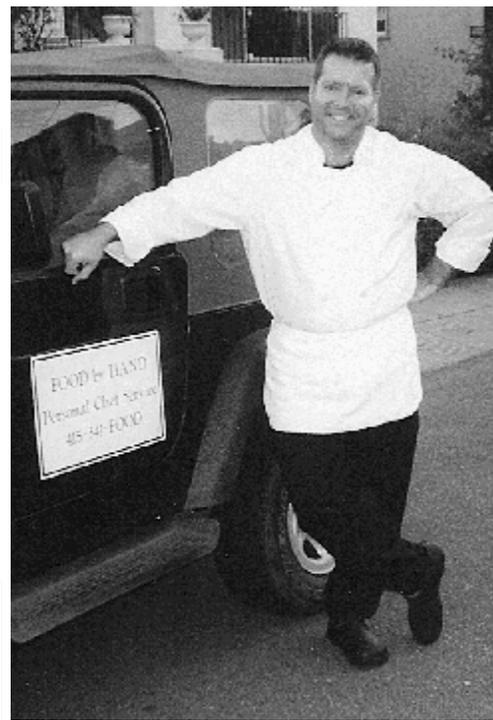
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May 2006

Calendar of Events

VV=Valle Verde FH=Foothill NG=Northgate

- Monday, May 1 - Thursday, May 4: VV Book Fair in MUR
- Tuesday, May 2: VV Kindergarten Registration 9-11am or 1-3pm
- Wednesday, May 3: VV Registration for new students grades 1-5
- Thursday, May 4: FH Drama "Attack of the Pom Pom Zombies" FH MUR 7-9pm
- Friday, May 5: FH Drama "Attack of the Pom Pom Zombies" FH MUR 7-9pm
- Friday, May 5: VV 5th Grade Panoramic Picture 1pm
- Saturday, May 6: Walk The Library Walk 9am-noon. Ygnacio Valley Branch Library. 2661 Oak Grove Rd. to Downtown Branch Library. Details: www.wclibrary.org
- Saturday, May 6: Movies Under The Stars: Wallace & Gromit, Heather Farm Park @ dusk. Free admission.
- Saturday, May 13: Annual Creek Clean Up Day, Civic Park @ 9am. Call Lesley Hunt at 925-937-6791 for details
- Saturday, May 13: Cabana Club Opens!!!
- Sunday, May 14: Mother's Day
- Monday, May 15: Parent Education: Current Drug Trends, Northgate Library 7-9pm
- Friday, May 19: WC Seniors Club Anniversary Celebration 6-10pm, Civic Park Community Center
- Saturday, May 20: Movies Under The Stars: Madagascar, Heather Farm Park @ dusk. Free admission.
- Saturday, May 20: ARF: Animals on Broadway @ Broadway Plaza, 11am-4pm. Pet photos, contests, games, prizes, etc. Contact Judy Bentley for booth or info: 296-3154
- Saturday, May 20-Sun, May 21: Art on the Main, Arts & Crafts on Main Street
- Monday, May 29: 8th Annual Tournament of the Creek, Boundary Oak Golf Course, Joe Paclebar, President, 925-939-0119
- Monday, May 29: City's Annual Memorial Day Observance, Civic Park @ 10am.
- Tuesday, May 30: VV Jr. Choir @ 6:30pm. Honorary Service Awards @ 7pm & Choir Concert @ 7:30pm
- Wednesday, May 31: FH Open House 7-8:45pm