



The Woodlands

Special Notice

November 2005

Do You Enjoy Reading The Newsletter Each Month?

The Woodlands Newsletter receives its funding through our loyal advertisers.

Without these advertisers, we wouldn't be able to go to print each month.

As the newsletter grows, so must our advertising revenue.

How Can You Help?

Each time you have a business come to your home to do a repair, installation, or maintenance, mention the Woodlands Newsletter to them! Show them a copy of the newsletter, give them our contact info or the form below. These companies will earn business from Woodlands residents by advertising in our newsletter - and in return - your Association can continue to maintain an excellent free monthly newsletter and assist our local community.

Woodlands Neighborhood Newsletter



- * Delivered to 850 households
- * Published monthly
- * Very high level of home ownership
- * Many families with children
- * Educated readership

www.WoodlandsAssn.org

Call to place your ad!

465-4464

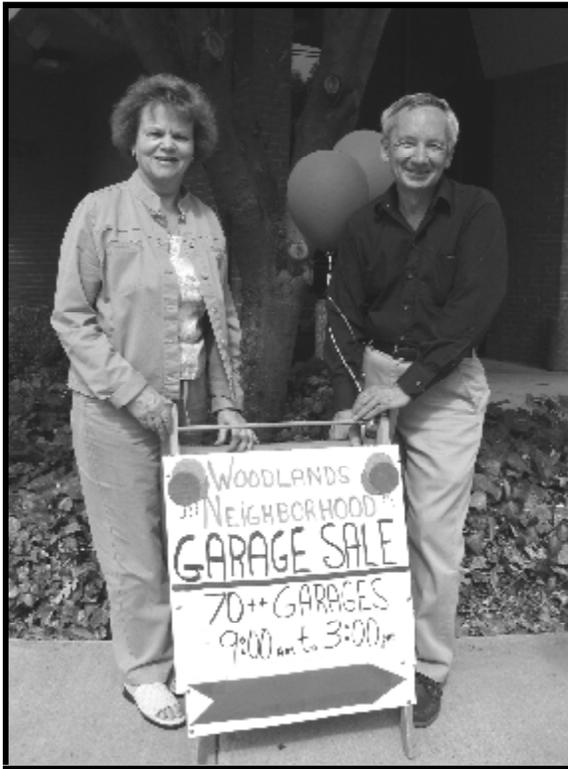
srizzo@woodlandsassn.org



The Woodlands

November 2005

Annual Garage Sale A Hit Once Again!



Jan Williams & David Galindo

Our annual neighborhood garage sale hasn't missed a beat for well over 25 years. The last nine of these years have been organized and run by our friends David Galindo and Jan Williams from Intero Real Estate Services. All of their efforts are certainly appreciated by roughly 75 households who participated, as well as all of those who found gold in our Woodlands garages. David and Jan answered literally hundreds of

telephone calls regarding the garage sale. They also prepared and printed the thousands of maps. David and Jan went door-to-door delivering the seller packets to each of the 75 households that signed up. David and Jan continue to do this gratis year after year.

With much thanks,
The Board and Residents of
The Woodlands



Perada Dr. resident Donna Eames held a garage sale benefiting PEO - a women's philanthropic educational organization.



Devan, Megan & Dylan Darsow sold lemonade and brownies on Perada Dr.



On Bayberry Dr. Matt Williams, Kate Kafka & Hannah Rogers sold lemonade and raffle tickets for their school, St. Marys.

In this issue:

Page 1 Annual Garage Sale
Page 2 Crime Corner
Page 3 Foothill Casino Night

Page 5 School Boundaries
Page 6 Calendar
Page 7-9 Want Ads

**See Valle Verde Flea Market
Photos on Page 4**

Community News

CRIME CORNER

By Danielle Walrath, WCPD

In the Woodlands area between August 1 and September 30 there have been approximately 120 incidents (remember, this includes Citrus Center). Not necessarily crimes that were committed, but incidents that warranted a call to the police or initiated by the police (i.e. traffic stop).

The important thing to note is that although we can never stop crime completely, there are steps to take to reduce the probability of becoming a victim.

Never leave items in your vehicle

Always lock your vehicle, home and garage

Report suspicious persons or vehicles

There were a number of “suspicious circumstance” calls from concerned citizens for incidents ranging from soliciting, suspicious persons, trespassing (mainly at Valle Verde), and suspicious vehicles. This is very good practice because it means that the residents are taking notice and calling the police.

Neighborhood Watch is also a great crime prevention tool to use. There are a number of neighborhood watch groups in the Woodlands area but there can always be more. Getting involved in your neighborhood, meeting your neighbors and taking a proactive stance against crime is the first step in keeping your family, neighbors and property safe and secure. If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch group please call **Danielle Walrath, Crime Prevention Coordinator for the Walnut Creek Police Department at 943-5885**. The time investment is minimal but the rewards are priceless.

Highlights That Woodlands Residents Need to be Aware of Are:

9 Burglaries: 3 Commercial Businesses (1 office, 1 Valle Verde, 1 storage trailer on construction job site)
4 Vehicles—all were locked and all had items in view,
2 of them purses.
1 Unlocked garage
1 Residential-domestic property dispute.

6 Vandalisms: - All but one were vehicles, window smash, tires slash, egging, etc.

2 Thefts: - Residential

10 Reasons to Vote NO on R For New Downtown Library

The following article is solely the opinion of the author and it is not necessarily the opinion of the Woodlands Association Board nor have we actually checked facts or figures for either side of this campaign.

1. There is a better choice for a downtown library. We can have a library that is not oversized, excessive in cost and requiring bond financing. A smaller, state-of-the-art library that fits Civic Park can be accomplished with smarter planning.
2. Avoid a Bay Bridge type boondoggle by completing the design and planning first. Neither the design nor the studies on the proposed new library’s impacts on the environment, Civic Park and the creek will be completed before we vote on Nov. 8th.
3. A multi-level 300-car garage at the Lincoln/Broadway intersection will exacerbate traffic congestion on Broadway, which is Walnut Creek’s second busiest street.
4. The new library garage should be paid for by the parking garage reserves as we normally do in Walnut Creek NOT from a bond measure.
5. Allow Civic Park facilities breathing room. A 42,000 Sq. Ft. library and large multistory parking structure constrains growth potential and casts a shadow on both the Senior and Community Centers.
6. Concentration parking in a multi-level 300-car garage makes it inconvenient and expensive to use the tot lot, park, or the library. Families and seniors will have to ride an elevator and walk further plus pay \$1 per hour for the privilege of parking.
7. Bonds are an expensive method of financing capital projects. The \$21 million library bonds will cost Walnut Creek taxpayers \$46 million in added property taxes over 29 years.
8. Measure R sponsors are giving the impression that a library of 42,000 Sq. Ft. is required to support recent agreements with the Acalanes and Walnut Creek Elementary school districts. A smaller library with state-of-the-art services will meet school district needs.
9. Relying on State Bonds is not sound financial planning. The hope of receiving state grants has contributed to the excessive size and cost of this project. The State Library Bond Measure in June ‘06 may not pass and even passage does not guarantee that this project would be selected for funding.
10. The current City plan is TOO EXPENSIVE at over \$700 per sq. ft. for library construction and \$67,000+ per space for the multi-level parking garage.

Downtown Walnut Creek planning is at the crossroads and we, as a community, can insist on quality enhancements for our downtown that are not over-sized and funded by DEBT financing. Walnut Creek can do better than the current proposal for the new branch library. TELL THE CITY TO GIVE US A BETTER PLAN by voting NO on R on Nov. 8th.

For more info, go to www.NOonR.info or call 295-2123.

**By Hardy Miller Co-Chair,
NO on Measure R Campaign**

Community News



Cub Scout Pack 464 is "Scouting For Food"

Cub Scouts from Valle Verde Elementary's Pack 464 will be placing food collection bags on front porches November 12th and will pick them up on November 19th. Pack 464 is asking Woodlands residents to continue their great support for this program, which

helps those less fortunate. Scouts participate in many activities such as this, as part of their commitment to "Doing a Good Turn For America."

By Leo Brajkovich, Pack 464 Committee Chair

FOOTHILL CASINO NIGHT November 18, 2005 @ 6:00 p.m.

Foothill's 5th Annual Casino Night and
Silent Auction will be held at 6pm—11pm,
Friday, November 18
Blake's at Boundary Oaks.

Pre-sale admission is \$45.00 per person
until November 4, 2005.

Pre-sale chip prices are \$25 in chips for \$20.
After November 4, chips are face value and
admission is \$55.00.

Your admission includes:

Gourmet Buffet Dinner * \$5.00 in complimentary chips

* Trying your luck at Blackjack & Craps *

* Full-service bar * And more!

Questions? Call Tracy Lindow @ 939-1462.



NEW This Year! Texas Hold'em!

We will be running two poker tables for one hour, 9:45-10:45pm. There will be a buy-in charge of \$40.00 to be paid at event check-in. Reserve your spot at the tables by emailing lindowca@astound.net.

Help Enrich Our Website!

Your association is looking for some volunteers! As you may have seen on our website, many neighbors have uncovered historic newsletters, great photographs, and old clippings that have already been posted on our site. There are many more old newsletters and photographic gems that need to be scanned so all of us can see them from our browsers at home. Much of this material would never be saved without the web. If you have a scanner and a couple hours to spare, we really need your help to capture and preserve all of the rest.

Contact: Shawn Rizzo, srizzo@woodlandsassn.org or 465-4464.

Visit us on the web at: www.WoodlandsAssn.org

Vol. 39 No. 11

Woodlands Assoc. Inc.

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Board Email ID's are at
www.WoodlandsAssn.org

Woodlands Newsletter is a
monthly publication. Prior issues
are posted on our website.

Next Board Meetings:
November 5, 2005 @ 8:15am
December 3, 2005 @ 8:15am
It's A Grind Coffee Shop

Woodlands residents are
encouraged to attend
board meetings at all times!

Community News

Woodlands Association Bio: *Elsie Witt*

As newlyweds, John and I came to California (Concord) when he accepted a position with US Steel in Pittsburg. Our family has been part of the Woodlands since January of 1968, when we moved into a new house only to discover that the builders hadn't installed door locks or carpeted the living room.

With our two young boys, we watched the homes being built around us. We had wonderful neighbors who were given to socializing regularly. We found families who shared our interests in camping, supporting the local swim team and the local schools.

When our boys, Brian and David, were attending Northgate, I taught preschool in Concord. When our youngest, Jeanine, was at Valle Verde, I became involved in a Parents & Teachers Club study to set up an after-school program. With a group of parents who needed child care, I started and directed Valle Verde Children's Center from 1980 to 1986, incorporating as a non-profit, parent-owned agency.



In 1988, son David earned his Engineering degree from UC Berkeley, and I earned my Masters' Degree in Education from Cal State, Hayward. I was the first director for Children's World Learning Center. In 1992, I began working in Head Start in Concord and Bay Point, as Education Coordinator.

With a growing interest in Infant/Toddler Child Care, I worked in Oakland to help set up a federally-funded Early Head Start for families with children under 3 years of age. When Contra Costa County Head Start received a grant to open Early Head Start sites, I returned here, and started their Infant/Toddler centers. Until I retired last year, I supervised federally and state-funded sites in different parts of the county for families with children 0 to 5 years of age.

I am currently enjoying our newly re-landscaped yard and garden, traveling, and searching out the best sites for Wildflowers in California and Nevada. I am happy to be serving my first term on the Woodlands Association board.

General Plan Update Process Nearing Completion

The City of Walnut Creek is completing a 3-year process to update the General Plan, which is scheduled for final publication next February. A Draft Environmental Impact Report that described the effects of implementing all the recommendations in the Draft General Plan was made available for public review and comment. The only change that

could affect this area is an increase in allowable building sizes for some lots in the Shadelands, which is intended to improve the economic viability of the business park. An idea that was dropped before the EIR started would have allowed housing in Shadelands.

Last month, the Woodlands Association submitted written comments on the

Draft EIR noting that the General Plan does not include any type of housing in the Shadelands and that any future proposals to consider it would require extensive environmental review. A copy of our letter to the City is available at www.woodlandsassn.org under "What's New".

By Bill Swanson

Walnut Creek Skate Park Opens 11/12/05



Join in the festivities on Saturday, November 12, 2005 starting at 10:00 am as we open the new 12,250 square foot Walnut Creek Skate Park! The new Skate Park is located at the corner of Heather Drive and Marchbanks Drive in **Heather Farm Park** between the tennis courts and the Clarke Swim Center.

Part of Heather Drive will be closed to traffic as we dedicate this new addition to our City's park facilities. Vendor and informational booths will be set up along Heather Drive which will include; The Friends of the Skate Park, Copeland Sports, Walnut Creek Police Department, and more. A local radio station will broadcast from the Skate Park.

-Excerpt from Northgate online newsletter.

Woodlands Youth



Volunteer & Valle Verde mom Sumi Dahlen straightens a table of clothing at the Flea Market.



Volunteer & Valle Verde mom Annette Hagewiesche collects money from shoppers at the Flea Market.

Valle Verde Flea Market For Katrina



Shoppers loaded up at the VV Flea Market

In conjunction with the Annual Woodlands Garage Sale on October 2nd, Valle Verde held a "Flea Market for Katrina" in their Multi-Use Room. Faculty and parent volunteers were inundated with donations for the Flea Market. They spent hours pricing items and setting up. All proceeds will go to the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Thanks to all who donated items and volunteered their time! The total amount raised was not tallied by the time the newsletter went to print. We'll report the total in next month's newsletter!

By Shawn Rizzo

Foothill Tech Center Progress

I received an e-mail from the President of the Foothill PFA, Vicki Fraser, indicating that 85% of the equipment has been ordered and that they were processing the first batch of invoices received from the district. You may recall from prior issues of the

newsletter (available on the website, www.woodlandsassn.org), that the Woodlands Association funded \$40,000 towards technical improvements in progress at Foothill.

By Ed Wohlers

School Boundaries Update

As previously discussed in the July, 2005 newsletter (www.woodlandsassn.org), the School District is deciding on many issues with regard to the proposed high school boundary issue. This study would consider changing the geographic boundaries for attendance at district high schools. The Mt. Diablo Unified School District Board will not be addressing this issue again until next year according to an e-mail received (9/27/05) by School Board Member Gary Eberhart.

The Woodlands Association will continue to monitor the status of this topic.

The School Board typically holds two meetings each month on Tuesdays. The agendas are posted on their website http://www.mdusd.k12.ca.us/mdusd/board_of_education.html the Friday prior to the next meeting.

By Ed Wohlers

Visit us on the web at: www.WoodlandsAssn.org

Community Happenings

NOVEMBER 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> V V = Valle Verde FH = Foothill NG = Northgate </div>			VV: Picture Make-Up Day	VV: 4th & 5th Grade Musical Auditions		Woodlands Board Meeting 8:15am It's A Grind <hr/> ARF Volunteer Orientation 12pm
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	ARF Volunteer Orientation 12pm	<div style="background-color: black; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> Election Day VOTE! </div>	Positive Family Communication Seminar 7pm Bancroft Elem. Register @ the door—FREE	VV: 4th & 5th Grade Musical Auditions	NO SCHOOL! Veterans Day Observance Civic Park 11am	Walnut Creek Skate Park Grand Opening 10am Heather Farm <hr/> Pack 464 delivers food collection bags
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!!! <hr/> VV: Nov. 15-18 5th Grade Camp			FH Casino Night @ Blake's at Boundary Oak 6-11pm	Pack 464 picks up your filled food collection bags
	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> VV: Nov. 14-18 Book Fair </div>					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
					WC Tree Lighting 6pm Civic Park	Nov. 25—Dec. 24 Santa Photos Broadway Plaza
<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px;"> Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL! </div>						
<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px;"> Nov. 20 - Jan. 16: "Walnut Creek on Ice" - Downtown Ice Rink, Civic Park M-F 11am-10pm, Sat 11am-11pm, Sun 11am-8pm www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com </div>						
27	28	29	30			
<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px;"> Nov. 20 - Jan. 16: "Walnut Creek on Ice" Downtown Ice Rink, Civic Park </div>				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> Please submit any events you would like to see on the December calendar to srizzo@woodlandsassn.org or 465-4464 by November 15th </div>		

THE CALENDER IS NOW ONLINE! WWW.WOODLANDSASSN.ORG
Visit the Woodlands website and print this month's calendar!

Want Ads

Services

3 GOOD PAINTERS: FAST, CLEAN & NEAT. Interior & Exterior. Exceptional prep work. All your painting needs. Acoustic removal, wallpaper removal, drywall repair, texturing. CUSTOM WORK TO REPAINTS. Many References. **Free estimates. 925-935-7593**
Lic. 740315

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Paul 676-6607

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HAULING COMPANY: Woodlands resident eager to aid neighbors' waste problems! We haul and/or perform additional services such as demolition, garage/shed clean-out, tree trimming, and much more! **CALL US TODAY! (925)934-3743** or visit our web-site www.dumploadsonus.com

Painting Contractor: *Area Specialist* LCG Painting/Removal of acoustical ceilings and retexturing. (Cal Lic #765438) For all your painting needs. Specializing in interiors, exteriors and decks. Quality workmanship. Affordable rates. Satisfaction guaranteed. Many area referrals. Bonded and insured. Call **Larry 933-3766**

Advertising Rates

Want Ads:

Line Ad with a maximum of 30 words.

\$8.00/Month—Woodlands Residents

\$13.00/Month—Non-Woodlands Residents

Business Ads:

(Guidelines)

*Please submit only 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:

\$5.00 for 1/8 page ads

\$10.00 for 1/4, 1/2 and full page ads.

*Color paper is only offered for FULL Page Ads.

Available 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.....\$15.00 Woodlands Residents

1/8 Page...\$18.00 Non-Woodlands Residents

Advertising Deadline: 15th of Each Month

Contact: Shawn Rizzo @ **465-4464** or
srizzo@woodlandsassn.org

Visit us on the web at: www.WoodlandsAssn.org

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BISTRO

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

Come see our Beautiful Restaurant and bring this ad in for a free salad when you purchase a sandwich or entrée.

With the holidays approaching, Julian offers catering for all sort of occasions and events.

1950 Market St. Unit C, Concord, CA.
(located on the back side of Park n Shop, across from BMW)
Tel: (925) 288-9239
Monday thru Thursday 8am - 7 pm
Friday and Saturday 8am - 5pm
Closed Sunday

Found

FOUND: Large baby carrier backpack during the Annual Woodlands Garage Sale. Call to claim: **944-5258**

Custom Greeting Cards & Slideshows

Beautiful Hand Crafted Cards!

- Christmas**
- Hanukkah**
- New Years**
- Baby Announcements**
- Party Invitations**
- Wedding Invitations & Programs**
- And More!!**



Turn Your Photos Into a DVD Slideshow of Memories!



Let me turn your photos into a personal DVD movie to enjoy for years to come!
The ideas are unlimited, but here are a few options:

- Baby's 1st Year*
- Child's School Year Memories*
- 5, 10, 15, 25, 50th Anniversary*
- Family Reunion or Traditions*
- School Sports Teams Memories*

Your DVD includes a menu, titles, transitions, background music & a custom case!
Multiple copies can be made

Contact me for a price quote & samples!

925-465-4464 ~ shawn@rizzos.net

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Fair Oaks Church

Invites You To Worship With Us!

*Please join us for our Thanksgiving Service,
Sunday, November 20th at 10:30am*



925-687-4810

Sunday Services

Sunday School 9:00am ~ Adult Communities 9:00am

Worship Service 10:30am

Childcare is available during Adult Communities & Worship Service.
School age children are invited to "Kids Club" during Worship Service.

*Fair Oaks is conveniently located just minutes
down Oak Grove Rd. from The Woodlands...*

1925 Risdon Rd. in Concord

www.fairoakschurch.com

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Chocolate Spiced Mocha **Original Spiced Latte**

Indulge your senses with a cozy combination of cinnamon, vanilla, ginger and pumpkin spices topped with whipped cream and a dusting of cinnamon.

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Mon - Sat: 5:30 am to 10 pm
Sun: 5:30 am to 7 pm
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Walnut Creek, CA 94598

\$10 off First Time Clients

ONE for Books!

Your donation of just \$1 buys more books for our school.

Dear Families:

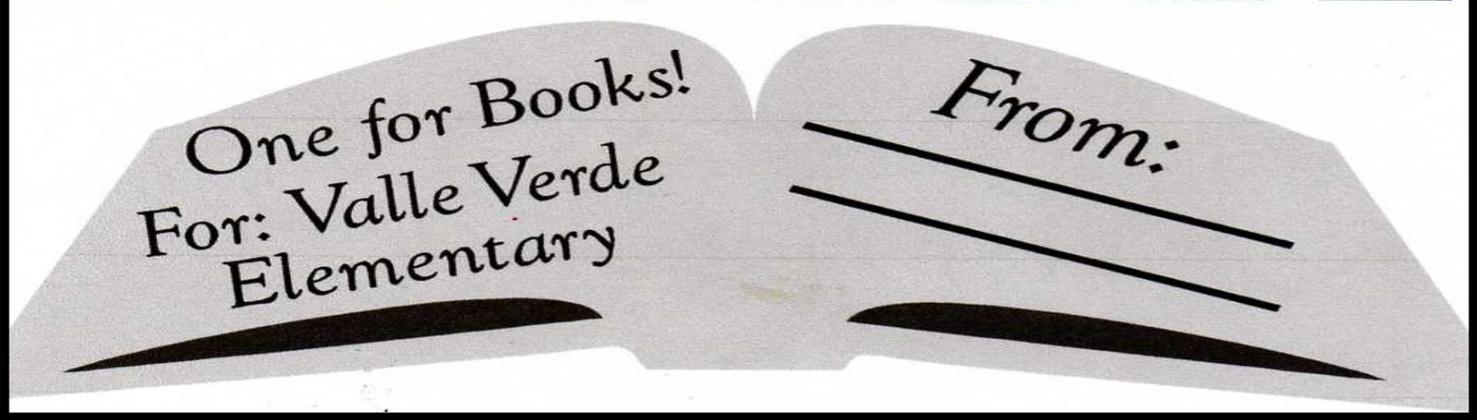
Our Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon. We hope you can visit the Fair during the week of November 14th, 2005.

This year, we have a new opportunity to bring more books to our students. We call it One for Books.

Donate just \$1 and sign the Book Slip below with your name or child's name so we can display it at our Book Fair. All of the money you give goes directly to purchase books for our school. We will use it to help add books to the Valle Verde Library. Scholastic Book Fairs will match the One for Books dollars you raise with a donation of up to a million books to three non-profit programs devoted to improving reading skills among children: Kids in Distressed Situations, National Center for Family Literacy, and Toys for Tots.

Please bring your dollar and signed paper Book Slip to the Multi-Use Room during the fair. Also look for the One for Books displays at local businesses. Thank them for their support ... and on behalf of the students of Valle Verde Elementary.....THANK YOU!

Gloria Bertolozzi and Kathy Frattini
Scholastic Book Fair Chairpersons



Students! Parents!

Come Shop at the

VALLE VERDE GIFT FAIR

The Gift Fair will be held at the VV Book Fair

Tuesday, November 15th 11am-8pm and

Wednesday, November 16th 2pm-5pm

This year the Gift Fair will consist of products from businesses of our own Valle Verde families!

Positive Family Communication

Learn how to communicate with your child in a way that promotes boundaries, closeness & confidence. All of this will contribute to healthy emotional development of the child, and family bonding.

Bancroft Elementary

Wednesday, November 9th 7:00pm MUR

No FEE. Please register at the door.

Sponsored by MDUSD