

# The Woodlands



Keeping You Informed For 50 Years

February 2019

## Officers from Beat 32 Meet with Woodlands Association Board

By Bill Gilmyers



On January 5<sup>th</sup>, Officer Godinez of the Walnut Creek Police Department and two other officers posted to Beat 32 attended the monthly Woodlands Association Board meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to answer questions from the Board and the community, and to share their thoughts on the work the Walnut Creek PD is doing to help keep the city, and the Woodlands, safe. In last month's newsletter Officer Godinez provided some information on the city's enforcement activities in the area, and in this meeting built upon that by providing data particular to collisions and accidents in the Woodlands and Beat 32 more broadly (on page 6 of this newsletter).

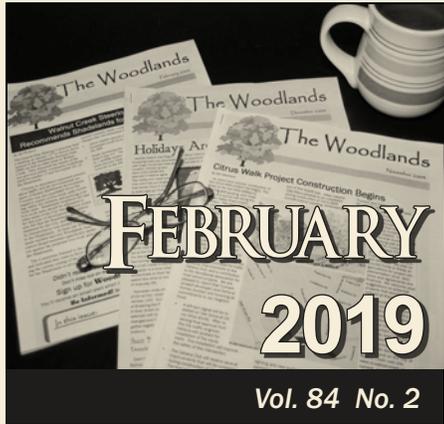
In addition to discussing traffic and speeding, we also discussed concerns regarding homeless encampments that periodically pop up on the outskirts of the neighborhood, particularly in the Lime Ridge open space. Officer Godinez shared that it is possible to report issue-related homelessness on the Walnut Creek PD's website, but also provided a flyer with non-police resources to help those with mental health or housing insecurity issues. We'll plan to publish this flyer in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

Officer Godinez indicated that he would continue to provide the Woodlands Association with key statistics and information so that we can make it public in future editions of the newsletter. We also discussed setting up a regular community meeting with the police, the Woodlands Association Board and the broader community. Look for more information on this in the months to come.

Overall, Office Godinez wanted to stress that the WCPD is making an active effort to police our neighborhood and ensure the safety of residents. "We take this seriously," said Officer Godinez "There's a time to educate and a time to enforce" he continues, noting "When I catch someone speeding in this neighborhood, I'm not giving a 'warning', that's for sure!"

The Woodlands Association Board would like to thank Officer Godinez and his colleagues and look forward to a continued partnership with our neighborhood.





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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](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>  
To report a suspicious circumstance, call 925-935-6400

### 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](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

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!

## Woodlands Association Board of Directors

Bill Gilmyers ~ *President*  
Erik Ehlers ~ *Vice President*  
Pete Dinapoli ~ *Treasurer*  
Ron Chesney ~ *Secretary*  
Jared Asch ~ *Members at Large*  
Todd McNeill ~ *Webmaster*  
Susan Pfau ~ *Newsletter Editor*

Jennifer Zotti ~ *Newsletter Distribution Manager*  
Ryan Park ~ *Intern*

## Upcoming Board Meetings

**8:00 - 9:00 a.m.**  
**Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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

Woodlands residents  
are encouraged to  
attend board meetings.

## Woodlands Association Hosts Second Saturday Spotlight

By Bill Gilmyers



On Saturday January 12<sup>th</sup>, the Woodlands Association led representatives from the city and other interested members of the community on a walking tour of the neighborhood. The walk was a part of the city's 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Spotlight, where Mayor Silva joins community members to visit a local non-profit and then tour the surrounding community. The event started at Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) before touring past Valle Verde Elementary, turning onto Candleberry, Citrus and Oak Grove.

A major focus of the tour, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Spotlight more broadly, is to allow participants to get a better understanding of the different communities in Walnut Creek, learn about the different types of housing, issues of concern to the neighborhoods, etc. The tour was led by Board members, Jared Asch, Todd McNeill, Ron Chesney and Bill Gilmyers, along with Mayor Silva. The Association was able to share both specific facts about the neighborhood (900+ homes and just under 3,000 residents, etc.), trivia (did you know that Mark Spitz, Olympic Gold Medalist, used to swim at the Cabana Club?) and also share thoughts regarding speeding, new development in and around the neighborhood and other concerns.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday spotlight runs from 9 to 11:30am on the (you guessed it) second Saturday of every month. Tours are free but pre-registration is requested. February's event on the 9<sup>th</sup> will be at the Leshner Center for the Arts, followed by a tour of housing in the downtown area surrounding it. More information is available under the 'Community Resources & Programs' section of the City of Walnut Creek's website [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org).

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## WHERE HAVE ALL THE STRAWS GONE?

By Jared Asch

In 2019, traditional plastic straws are disappearing. The world's oceans are filled with more than 150 million tons of plastic, according to the Ocean Conservancy. An estimated 500 million plastic straws are used in America each day. To reduce future risk to wildlife and our environment, dozens of cities and companies around the world are leading the way to cut plastic waste out. Just like we saw the reduction in plastic bags (after a 2014 CA ban), drinking straws are fading away from everyday life. Straws and one-time use products such as plastic ware are not able to be recycled.

On July 1, 2019 a new California law takes effect, which will further reduce the availability of plastic straws. The law does not outright ban them, the way certain cities have, but does reduce the need. After the law goes into effect, restaurants can only offer plastic straws upon request for special needs.

Alternatives for your home include compostable paper straws and reusable stainless steel straws. Both products can be found locally at Whole Foods, Target and online at Amazon.

Some of the largest companies across America have phased out plastic straws:

1. Food & Beverage: Starbucks, McDonalds, Bacardi
2. Hotel Chains: Hyatt, Hilton, Marriott
3. Airlines: Alaska, American
4. Entertainment: Disney, SeaWorld, Royal Caribbean

Some cities have out right banned them including:

1. Berkley, CA
2. Oakland, CA
3. San Francisco, CA
4. Miami Beach, FL
5. St. Petersburg, FL
6. Seattle, WA
7. The United Kingdom

## It's Good to be Gassy

By Erik Ehlers

Now that the days are shorter, and the nights carry a chill, many of us think we are destined to be house bound until we reach the portion of the spring when the outdoors have turned a bit friendlier. However, there are a number of ways to warm up those cold evenings. Of course, there are those who like to harken back to those days of yore when some adult would inquire "Why don't you just put on a sweater and maybe some long underwear?", as if layering on more clothes is the only solution to the mercury dropping. Not that I'm suggesting that you gallivant around the neighborhood in shorts, flip flops and a t-shirt, but there are easy ways to warm up and improve your home's ambiance without resorting to Ambien fueled adventures.



If you're like me, you've typically enjoyed the smell of wood smoke in a campfire or in your fireplace. However, in this day and age where fires seem to equal danger and misery, switching your fireplace to gas can be a real boon. Gone are the days when you'd have to painstakingly build from kindling to a roaring asthma inducing conflagration, when all you need do is flip the switch to start the gas. Suddenly, you have a beautiful, safe fire in the comfort of your own abode.

Similarly, while purists will rage against the dying of the lighter fluid and charcoal, a gas grill is a fast and easy way to make raw meat edible. However, in the winter months it can seem way too chilly to fire up the propane flames, so why not invest in a couple more gas-powered options? A gas fire pit is a wonderful way to shore up the aesthetic appeal of your backyard, whether it is the built-in variety or the portable sort. Similarly, a patio heater casts a protective bubble of heat as if by magic, allowing you, your family and friends to enjoy the outdoors with nary a worry about the cold.

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## PLASTIC FOOD BAGS – MUST RECYCLE

By Jared Asch

In 2018, California mandated that recycling agencies account for plastic bags, in order to avoid their fate in our drinking water and oceans.



### What counts?

- The bag inside a cereal or cracker box
- Ziplocs
- Frozen pea bags
- The bag with your Trader Joe's spinach
- Graham cracker wrappings
- Shipping bags from Target or the Gap with clothing in it
- Popsicle wrappers
- Plastic straws from kids juice boxes

### How to dispose:

You put them all together and put them in your recycling. Just put a few of those items in one of the bigger bags each week and slip it in the blue cart. It's that easy. Yes, for less than 30 seconds a week you can make a big difference to our oceans and drinking water.

## The Passing of Block Captain Marjorie Smith

By Brad Smith

Good Woodlands neighbors, on December 20th of last year, Marjorie Smith, a 58-year resident of the Woodlands passed away in her home. She was 95. Marjorie and her late husband, George moved into their new house on Rock Oak Court in 1965. They raised three kids; and were active members of the Woodlands community. When we moved into our new home there was not much around. A lot of dirt, construction, and walnut trees. My mom and dad soon made many friends. They were past presidents of the Cabana Club, and members of the Woodlands Association. My mom and dad helped to start our 4th of July parade and celebration, the old "Steer and Beer", and the Valle Verde Halloween carnival. Sadly, my father passed away much before his time, but mom took on the position of "Block Captain" for our street. She held that position for the rest of her life. To those who remember her, be assured that she remembered you. To those who never knew her, think of why you moved into the Woodlands. We live in a great community. My mom called the Woodlands her home. It made her happy to see so many young families as her neighbors. She will be missed by her children and grandchildren.

Thank you kindly, your new Rock Oak Court Block Captain, Brad Smith.

## CABANA CLUB NEWS!



While you may still be feeling the winter chill - Woodlands is busy getting ready for the swim season to start! We have some exciting things planned for the 2019 Season!

Please note some important dates:

**WOODLANDS KICK OFF & REGISTRATION will be held on Sunday March 10th from 1-3 @ The Woodlands Cabana Club.**

Come on by to visit the club, have a tour and socialize by the pool. If you are interested in joining WST, or just the Cabana Club - we will have all the necessary information for registration, pricing and details of membership. Member volunteers will be there to answer any questions. Weather permitting there will be free swim. Open to the public.

Note: you can also register at [woodlands.org](http://woodlands.org) starting Feb 1, 2019. Here you can also find out more about membership, pricing and pool calendars. Please note our new early-bird special if you register before March 15th. Rates go up after this date.

Spring Clinic Registration is OPEN Register at [www.swimwoodlands.org](http://www.swimwoodlands.org) for our Spring Clinic for the weeks of March 11th, 18th, and 25th. Space is limited, so sign up now.

**KERMIT PALS** - Woodlands Swim Team readiness program will begin April 8th and go through May 9th. Evaluations will be held Sunday, March 10th 12-2pm. We welcome both Woodlands Cabana Club members and non-members to our Kermit's program, so please spread the word to those you believe may be interested in WST!

**WOODLANDS IS GOING GREEN** - Do you know that Woodlands is committed to "greening" ourselves whenever we can? From environmentally friendly cleaning and paper products to energy efficiency: Our new SOLAR PANEL PAVILIONS are going up right now - giving shade to the parking lot and lanai - AND producing sustainable energy! Gooooooo WOODLANDS!







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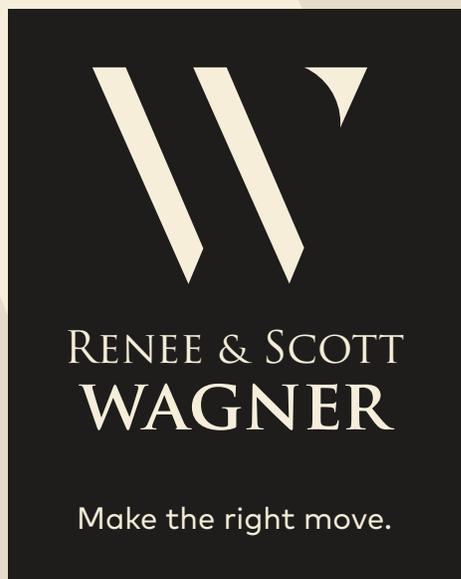
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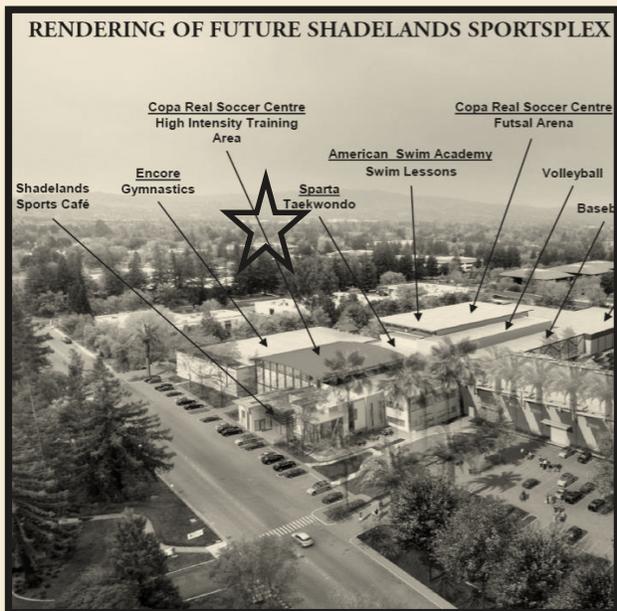
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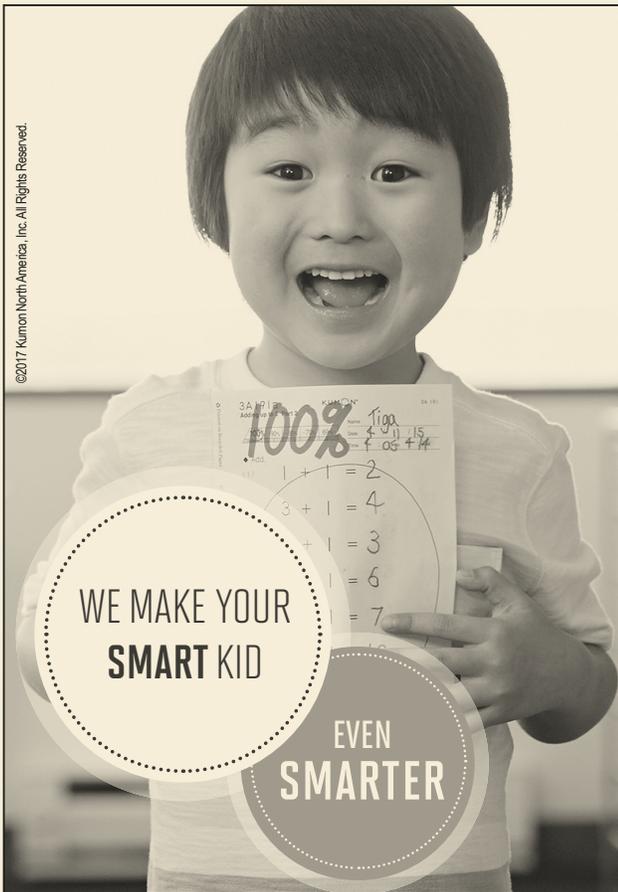
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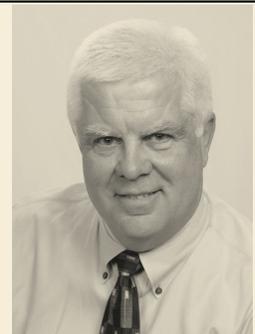
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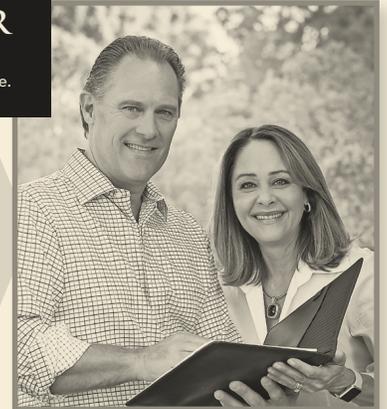
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