

Valle Verde Fall Carnival a Big Success By Bill Gilmyers



Thanks to the hard work of a small army of volunteers, the Valle Verde Carnival went off without a hitch on October 30th. Despite the appearance of heavy rain, hundreds of students and their families enjoyed a day of games, costumes, and treats, helping to meet the fundraising goals to support valuable programs at the school.

Highlights of the event included the costume contest, with a range of fun and creative costumes, the super spooky haunted house and the petting zoo. We have it on good authority that the pig from the petting zoo was thrilled with the rain as it created all sorts of mud in the back field to play in.

Adrienne Robillard, who co-chaired the carnival committee, expressed satisfaction with how well the community came together to support this annual event, "A big thank you to the community for coming to support Valle Verde, despite the rainy weather. It was the first rainy day carnival in 5 years, and we were thrilled that everyone still had a great time and supported the school at the same time."

A Woodlands Holiday Tradition Continues

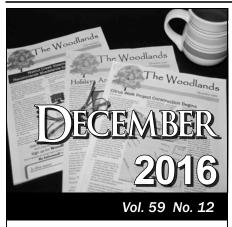
By Julie Rattaro

It's that time of year where lights adorn our neighborhood and fill it with holiday spirit and joy. My husband and I are proud to continue our family's traditions and light up our home for all to enjoy. This year, the annual holiday lighting will take place on Friday, December 2nd at 7:00pm. Please join us for this festive occasion at 219 Rock Oak Road. Santa Claus will make his appearance after the lights are lit. This evening will also kick off our toy drive. Please bring an unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots. Happy Holidays!



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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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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

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

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

School's Back in Session!

Drive 20 in the Woodlands and Look for Children Playing.

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Upcoming Board Meetings

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Saturday, December 3rd Saturday, January 7th

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

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings.

Facebook

Coming Soon: Neighborhood Survey Northgate Unified School District

As has been reported in previous issues of the Newsletter, there is an ongoing petition drive to place the creation of a new school district on the ballot in 2018. Many members of the community are actively engaged in this process, knocking on doors and collecting signatures. The Woodlands Association wants to learn more about what you think about this important process. We'll be launching an online neighborhood survey on this subject, look for more information in a future newsletter.



Learn More About the Northgate Unified School District

By Jared Asch

Have you seen the orange yard signs popping up in the Woodlands in support of a new Northgate Unified School District? If you are still wondering what this is all about, I hope you'll take a few moments to learn more about this campaign, because it has the potential to bring important positive changes to our local Northgate schools and our community. Nearly 500 people in the Woodlands have already signed the petition to put this proposal before the County and State officials who will spend a year reviewing our request.

Unlike past efforts to separate our schools from the troubled Mt. Diablo district, this effort would lead to a new community-based school district being created just for the Northgate area. We value our local schools and the educators who work so hard with our students, but we believe they could be much more successful under a smaller, local administration focused on the needs of our students. Even if your children have graduated from high school, our schools remain a focal point of our community and a source of great pride. Every year, more young families join our neighborhood, and their children – our future leaders -- deserve your support!

If you have signed remember to have adult/college children and your spouse sign over the holidays. Sign at one of our signature-gathering locations on Saturdays, 9am-12 pm at the Shadelands Farmers Market. Saturday, December 10th 1:30-4 at Rocco's or call us at 415-738-6396 and we will come to your house.

If you'd like to learn more about the campaign for NUSD, please visit the NorthgateCAPS.org Let's come together and support the creation of a new school district for our community.

SCHOOL NEWS

Valle Verde Elementary school

- December 1 Box Top Collection
- December 5 Book Fair Begins (Runs all week)
- December 6 50th Anniversary Tile Painting (1:30pm-3:00pm) or (5:00pm-6:30pm)
- December 7 Whole Foods Fundraiser

Foothill Middle

A6 Project Alert - DeClerq (All Day except last Per. in MU) Thu, December 1, 8:00am – 2:30pm - Foothill Middle School, 2775 Cedro Ln, Walnut Creek, CA 94598, USA - Project Alert through PE classes for 7th Graders.

Loaves and Fishes Fri, December 2, 8:30am – 2:00pm - Community Service



6th Grade Dance Fri, December 2, 2:45pm – 4:00pm - Multi-Use Room - 6th Grade Dance in the MU

7th/8th Grade Dance Fri, December 2, 7pm – 9pm - Multi-Use Room - 7th/8th Grade Dance in the MU

Winter Concert I (7-8 Orchestra Symphonic Band) Wed, December 7, 7pm – 9pm - Foothill Multi-Use Room - 7-8 Orchestra Symphonic Band

2nd Quarter Progress Reports Friday, Dec 9, 2016

Project Alert 7thA6 Project Alert - DeClerq (All Day except last Per. in MU) Grade Mon, December 12, 8:00am – 2:30pm - Foothill Middle School, 2775 Cedro Ln, Walnut Creek, CA 94598, USA -Project Alert through PE classes for 7th Graders.

Leadership Field Trip Tue, December 13, 8:30am – 2:30pm - Build a Bear / Kindred Care

Winter Concert II (Cadet Bands 6 Orchestra) Tue, December 13, 7pm – 9pm - Foothill Multi-Use Room - Cadet Bands. 6 Orchestra.

Winter Concert III (Concert Band/Jazz Band) Thu, December 15, 7pm – 9pm - Foothill Multi-Use Room - Concert Band. Jazz Band.

Coffee with Dave Fri, December 16, 7:45am – 8:15am - Library

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Northgate

Jazz Bands in Little Theater Thu, December 1, 8:30am – 9:30am - NH Little Theater - JB I & II

Winter Concert I Thu, December 1, 7pm – 10pm - NH Little Theater - Jazz Band 1 & 2

CCC Honors Band Auditions Sat, December 3, 10am – 11am - TBD - Time TBD

NCMB Meeting - NHS Tue, December 6, 7pm – 9pm - Board meeting every 1st Tuesday of the month.

Winter Concert II, WE & O Tue, December 6, 7:30pm – 10:00pm - NH Little Theater - Windensemble & Orchestra

PFC Executive Committee (tentative) Wed, December 7, 8:15am – 9:30am - Administrative Conference Room

Financial Aid Night Wed, December 7, 7pm – 8pm

Grad Night Planning Committee Wed, December 7, 7pm – 8pm - Library

[Tentative] Mock Congress Thursday, Dec 8, 2016

Athletic Booster Meeting (Library) Thu, December 8, 7pm – 8pm

Winter Concert III, CB & SB Thu, December 8, 7:30pm – 10:00pm - NH Little Theater - Conceert Band & Symphonic Band

[Tentative] Mock Congress Friday, Dec 9, 2016

San Ramon Jazz Festival, JB I & II Sat, December 10, 8am – 6pm - San Ramon Valley High School, 501 Danville Blvd, Danville, CA 94526, USA -Jazz Band I & II

PFC General Meeting (tentative) Thu, December 15, 9am – 10am

PFC General Meeting (tentative) Thu, December 15, 7pm – 8pm

See website for sporting event details





Roasted Acorn Squash with Balsamic Reduction

by Colleen O'Donnell



Acorn squash are my most favorite squash. When sliced and roasted they are flavorful with a creamy texture. I have included just acorn squash here but this method works for any root vegetable or winter squash- parsnips and butternut squash are also great options! Reduced balsamic vinegar is a great secret weapon to have in the kitchen and its uses are limitless. Try it drizzled over fresh tomatoes and basil or fresh berries in the summer or even drizzled on vanilla ice cream! You can roast the squash a day ahead- keep in the refrigerator and heat in the oven until warmed through then drizzle with the reduction and garnish when ready to serve!

- 2 acorn squash- washed and dried
- 3 Tablespoons Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 1 teaspoon Kosher Salt
- 2 sprigs rosemary

1 cup balsamic vinegar (not anything super expensive)

Garnishes (Choose one or completely optional) Sliced Toasted Almonds Pomegranate Seeds Pistachios Toasted Pecans or Walnuts

- 1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
- 2. Wash and dry the acorn squash. Peel just the ridges of the squash with a vegetable peeler (this gives a beautiful striped look but you can opt to not peel at all if preferred)
- 3. Slice off the very top stem, then cut in half lengthwise.
- 4. Scoop out seeds and slice each into half inch slices (slice across the ridges so that pieces are half circle shape)
- 5. In a large bowl, toss sliced squash, olive oil, salt and two rosemary springs (no need to chop as these will be removed once squash is roasted).
- 6. Roast on a sheet pan lined with parchment paper or foil for 40-45 minutes until golden brown and tender.
- 7. While squash is roasting, in a large saucepan (the wider the pan the more quickly the balsamic will reduce), bring the balsamic vinegar to a boil over high heat. Boil for approximately 8 minutes until thickened (it will continue to thicken as it cools). A good way to test is to coat the back of a spoon with the vinegar and drag your finger across- if it leaves a trail and is visibly thicker it is done. For 1 cup of vinegar it should yield about 1/3 cup reduction (consistency of thin honey/thick maple syrup when done).
- 8. To serve- arrange the hot squash on a platter and drizzle with the balsamic syrup and sprinkle with garnish of your choice.

ADVERTISING

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Questions About

The answers are right here

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in your neighborhood.

Kyle M. Johnston

Estate Attorney

Northgate

Walnut Creek

925.278.6180

Wills, Trusts, and Probate?

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Advertising Rates & Sizes

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

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 1/4 Page on back cover - \$55/month

 1/8 Page – 2.5 x 3.5 - \$22/month

 Classified Ads maximum 30 words:

 \$5 Woodlands Residents, \$15 Non-Residents

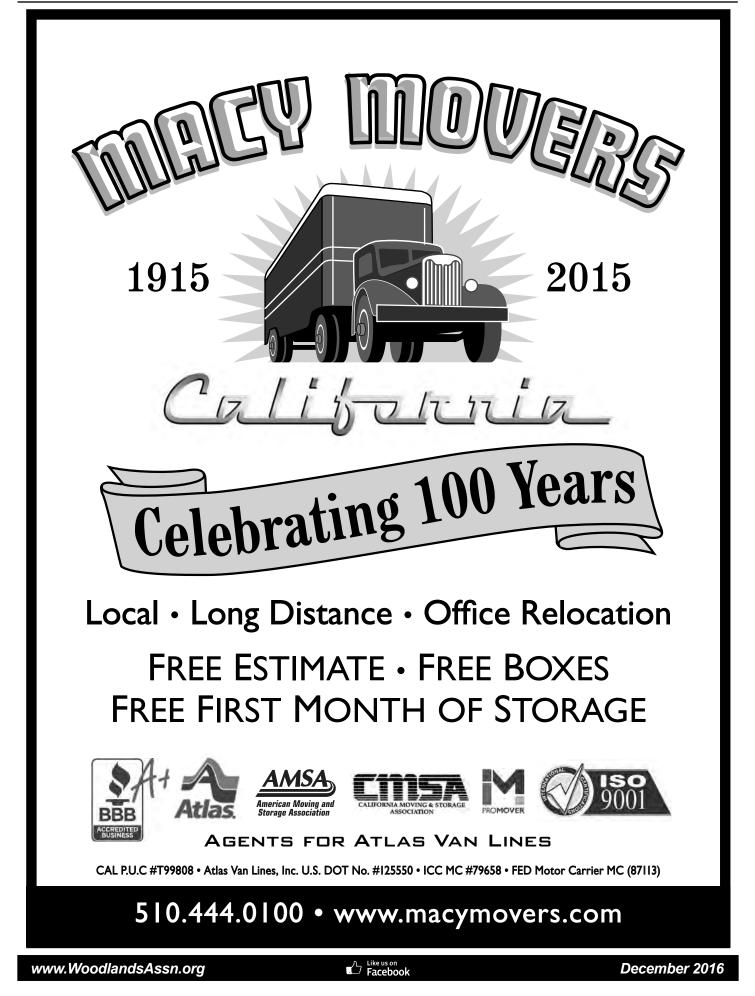
Submission Guidelines

- Please submit your ad in the actual size/dimensions listed.
- Please email a digital file of your ad to woodlandsassn@yahoo. com. We accept PDF and Microsoft Word documents ONLY.
- Payment is due when you submit your ad. Please pay via www. woodlandsassn.org/advertise/ or make checks payable to "Woodlands Association" and mail to: PO Box 31085, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

NEW Advertising Deadline Please submit all ads and payments for the next issue by December 10, 2016

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BRENTWOOD Delta Valley Health Club 120 Guthrie Lane LAFAYETTE Dudum Real Estate Group 999 Oak Hill Road, #100 WALNUT CREEK Dudum Real Estate Group 1910 Olympic Blvd., #100



You can also reach out to me directly, and I will pick up your coat donations from you! My contact information is below.

All coats collected will be donated to residents in our own community. We hope you will join us in Sharing the Warmth this holiday season! Thank you for your support.

Thank You!



Tish Kanat Realtor[®] Mobile: 925.286.4401 Tish@dudum.com CalBRE# 00668240







- 6. Buyers have more time to look for a home during the Holidays than during the regular work week!
- 5. Buyers are more emotional during the Holidays, so they are more likely to pay your price!
- 4. Houses show beautifully when tastefully decorated for the Holidays!
- 3. Since the Supply of listings will dramatically increase in January/February there will be less demand for your particular home! Less demand means less money for you!
- 2. Serious buyers have fewer houses to choose from during the Holidays and less competition means more money for you! You did want to net the most amount of money, right?

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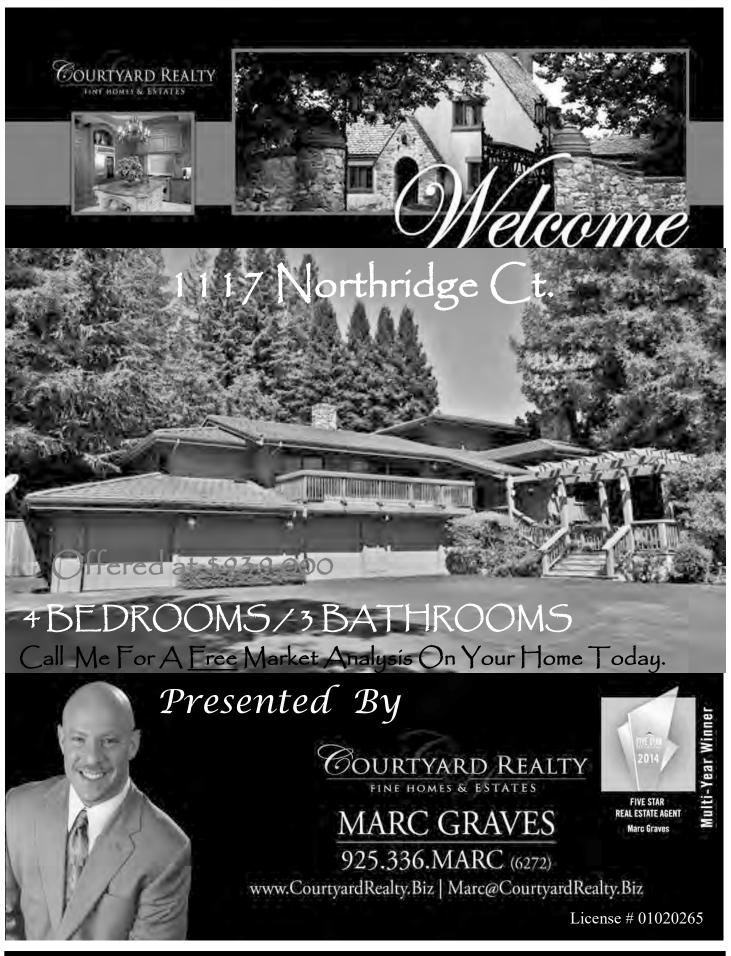
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