Keeping You Informed For 50 Years

October 2016

Communily Service Day

Two Woodlands Projects

by Adrienne Robillard

On Saturday, October 8th, join friends and neighbors in making our community a better place to live in. There are two projects in the Woodlands: Valle Verde Elementary School's 50th Birthday Beautification and the Pine Creek Cleanup.

With Valle Verde Elementary School celebrating its 50th birthday this year, we are giving it some TLC. We will be removing trash from the campus and field, weeding, and replanting garden areas, as well as preparing the front of the school for benches to be installed later this year. The benches will be available for sponsorship by interested members of the community, alum, and current students. We will meet in front of the school office at 9 a.m. To sign up to participate, please visit

http://wcserviceday.volunteerhub.com/Events/Event/Summary.aspx?EventID=3418336

Pine Creek is the gully that runs under the bridges on both ends of Perada Drive in the Woodlands.

Volunteers will meet at 3341 Perada Drive at 9 a.m. to clean up the gully. Please sign up here:

http://wcserviceday.volunteerhub.com/Events/Event/Summary.aspx?EventID=3417743

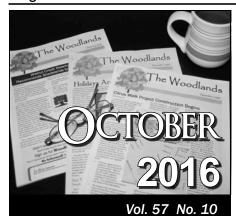
School Is Back

by Erik Ehlers

With the new school year in full swing, October promises a bevy of exciting events at our local educational institutions. In addition, all three local schools now feature not only learning, but 20 miles per hour speed limits as well. So the lesson would seem to be to go fast in the classroom, but take your time getting there or leaving. Fall is best known for leaves falling, a chill in the air and for the excitement over pumpkin spice everything returning to local eateries.

At Valle Verde, not only is there the promise of improvements at the Community Service Day October 8th, but there is the fun and excitement for young and old alike at the Fall Carnival on October 30th.

Moving up the ladder to Foothill, October is home to Red Ribbon Week, which encourages students to take a stand on drugs. Presumably that stance would be against using drugs, in case you are concerned or confused. At Northgate, Homecoming is October 14th and will include the usual pageantry and hubbub, as well as a 7pm kickoff against local rivals Ygnacio Valley High. The Broncos-Warriors tilt will feature gridiron gallivanting from both local schools under the Friday Night Lights, though they will be shining on a Saturday. In addition, the month includes a number of contests for the girls' volleyball, girls' tennis, boys' and girls' water polo and cross country teams, as well as dance and cheer teams in action – see northgatebroncos.org for more information.



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Newsletter Advertising:

woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com

Newsletter Delivery:

Jennifer Zotti ~ jennsta2000@yahoo.com

Web Site Inquiries:

woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com

Neighborhood Inquiries:

woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com

Woodlands Association P.O. Box 31085 Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Newsletter printed by Minuteman Press (925) 256-6444

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.

Woodlands Association Board of Directors

Bill Gilmyers ~ President Erik Ehlers ~ Vice President Jan Gall ~ Treasurer Robert Baldwin ~ Secretary Lori Bhatia ~ Newsletter Editor Todd McNeill ~ Webmaster

Jennifer Zotti ~ Newsletter Distribution Manager Members at Large ~ Jared Asch Interns: Ryan Park & Alissa Johnson

Upcoming Board **Meetings**

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Saturday, October 1st Saturday, November 5th

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

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings.

Former Woodlands Association President Running For Re-Election to City Council

by Justin Wedel

My name is Justin Wedel and I am running for re-election to the Walnut Creek City Council. As a former president of the Woodlands Association I have a uniqueunderstanding of the issues facing the Woodlands neighborhood - from traffic issues, to public safety, to finances, and more.

Public safety is a key issue to all of us. As the co-founder of the Public Safety Committee of the Council, I ensured that Walnut Creek continues to remain a safe community. The WCPD now has a fully staffed organization, ensuring we have the personnel required to patrol our streets and monitor Citrus Marketplace. We have also resumed many of our long past programs, including School Resource Officers to protect our children. Additionally, we have increased patrols and traffic enforcement in all areas of Walnut Creek, including the Woodlands. On the financial front, I have ensured that we have a strong and successful business community. Being the vocal advocate for strong business development in Walnut Creek, including the redevelopment Broadway

(Continued on Pg. 5)

Woodlands Halloween

By Todd McNeill



All my life, I've loved Halloween. It was an excuse to get dressed up as my favorite character from books, television or movies, and then roam the neighborhood, begging for treats. I remember spending weeks plotting and putting together the perfect costume. On that night, my friends and I would prowl around, and judge which houses had the best jack-'o-lanterns, the scariest decorations, the best candy. We'd remember for the following year, and plot our routes accordingly.

In my neighborhood where I grew up, there was a house whose owners loved scaring the kids on Halloween. Their house would always be dark, with a line of jack-'o-lanterns up the path to the front door. If there was a breeze blowing the

leaves around, it would create a really spooky effect, with the rustling sounds and the flicker of the candles. There would be scary noises coming from inside the house: moans, screams and shrieks. Not too loud, just enough to hear from the street. It was subtle. The homeowners were artists. Every year, I would watch the older kids nervously approach the house and knock on the door. It was a rite of passage for those brave enough to make the attempt. I would just shake my head, grip my mom's hand and tell her that we needed to go to the next house, because this one was too scary. I needed easier pickings.

I was six-and-a-half when I first built up enough courage to head up that dark driveway. By then, I was much older and wiser than those kids that were just six, but still young enough to be escorted by my mom. I was dressed as a black cat, complete with tail, and I felt that this costume would give me enough protection to stealthily approach the house and get my treats without being eaten. Upon reaching the door and yelling "TRICK OR TREAT!", I found I wasn't snatched up by a witch, goblin or ghoul, but instead greeted by a nice lady who rewarded me for my bravery with candy. This house didn't just offer the mini candy bar, a quarter, or a rock, but a whole Snickers bar! JACKPOT! Yelling my thanks, I ran back to my mom on the sidewalk. Sharing my success with her, I looked back at the house, which wasn't so scary any more. The woman was still in the doorway, and waved to us, calling out "Happy Halloween!" I was hooked on Halloween from that day forward.

(Continued on Pg. 7)

SCHOOL NEWS

Valle Verde Elementary School

October 8- Community Service Day, Valle Verde (9am – 1pm)

HELP OUR VALLE VERDE CAMPUS ON COMMUNITY SERVICE Registration is open for Community Service Day, Saturday 10/8. Join friends and classmates where we will be beautifying the campus to celebrate the school's 50th Anniversary from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come for part or all of the morning. All are welcome! Register online @ http://wcserviceday.volunteerhub.com/Events/Event/Summary.aspx?EventID=3418336

October 30- Fall Carnival

DONATIONS OF HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS NEEDED FOR FALL CARNIVAL! The Fall Carnival Committee is now accepting any Halloween Decor to display at the Fall Carnival on Sunday, October 30th. Nothing is too big or too small but we ask the items to be in good condition. Donations can be dropped off on the porch at the home of Natalie Ivankovich: 3531 Bayberry Drive (in the Woodlands) Thank you for making this event even more spooktacular!

Foothill Middle School



October 11- Minimum Day, Release @12:02 pm

October 18- ELAC @8:30 am

October 27- Make Up Picture Day

Northgate High School



October 4-

3:30pm VARSITY/JV TENNIS VS MIRAMONTE 6:30pm Girls Varsity Volleyball at Miramonte 7:00pm NCMB Meeting - NHS 7:30pm Fall Concert II, WE & O

October 6-

3:00pm Home Volleyball
3:30pm VARSITY/JV TENNIS AT LAS LOMAS
6:00pm College Fair - Case Study
6:30pm Campolindo at Girls Varsity Volleyball
7:30pm Fall Concert III, CB & SB

October 7-

6:00pm Drake at Girls Varsity Water Polo

October 8-Campus Clean Up Girls Varsity Water Polo at Amador Tournament Northgate Community Service Day

October 10-Columbus Day (regional holiday) Teacher In-Service Day - No Students

October 11-

3:00pm Home Volleyball 3:30pm VARSITY/JV TENNIS VS ACALANES 6:30pm Acalanes at Girls Varsity Volleyball 7:00pm NIMB Board Meeting

October 12-

8:15am PFC Executive Committee5:00pm Campolindo at Girls Varsity Water Polo7:00pm Jr Parent Night7:00pm Grad Night Planning Committee

October 13-

3:30pm- VARSITY/JV TENNIS AT CAMPOLINDO 6:30pm- Girls Varsity Volleyball at College Park

October 14-

** Homecoming ** Home Football Game vs Ygnacio Valley High School

4:30pm- MB @ Football Homecoming Game

October 15-

8:00am Practice SAT/ACT

4:30pm Santa Cruz Band Review MB

October 18-

3:00pm Home Volleyball

3:30pm VARSITY/JV TENNIS VS COLLEGE PARK

6:30pm Las Lomas at Girls Varsity Volleyball

October 19-

5:00pm Girls Varsity Water Polo at Acalanes

October 20-

9:00am PFC General Meeting

3:00pm Home Volleyball

3:30pm VARSITY/JV TENNIS AT MIRAMONTE

6:30pm Miramonte at Girls Varsity Volleyball

October 21-

Home Football Game vs Berean Christian High School

October 22-

6:00am Foothill Band Review MB

October 25-

3:30pm VARSITY/JV TENNIS VS LAS LOMAS

5:00pm Clayton Valley at Girls Varsity Water Polo

6:30pm Girls Varsity Volleyball at Campolindo

October 27-

6:30pm Girls Varsity Volleyball at Acalanes

October 28-

End of Quarter 1

5:00pm Alhambra at Girls Varsity Water Polo

Re-Election (Continued from Pg. 3)

Plaza, Walnut Creek is assured to be the economic engine of the East Bay.

While we all benefit from the successful business community in Walnut Creek through additional tax revenue, it is important that we spend our resources prudently. As such, I have made an extra effort to be the taxpayers' watchdog, successfully defeating two proposed sales tax measures on homeowners and residents. During my tenure not only have we balanced the budget but we will have a \$4M surplus this budget cycle and a projected \$7M during our next.

In a time where many of us do not trust our elected officials due to unkept promises, it is with pleasure that I report promises made, my promises kept. In 2012 during my successful run for the Walnut Creek City Council, I promised a principled fight for a fully staffed police department, to ensure safe neighborhoods, and for fiscally competent policies - all of which I have delivered upon.

The 2016 election cycle has already proven itself as an interesting one and the local elections will be no different. For the Walnut Creek City Council election, to win will take the same effort, if not more, than what was required during the 2012 election cycle. As such, I am asking for your support for my re-election to the Walnut Creek City Council.

I fundamentally believe that government works best when our elected representatives are held accountable. My email address is: justin@justinwedel.com and my home phone is 925-899-2535. For more information visit my website at: www.justinwedel.com. Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns, I would love to hear from you.

I would be honored to have your vote.

Respectfully,

Councilmember Justin Wedel

This Month at the Cabana Club

It's hard to believe that another summer is coming to an end, but Closing day is Sun., October 2, 2016. There will be an opportunity to work off your maintenance levy on October 9, 2016, as we shut down the club for the winter. Stay tuned for details.

In other news, a few members of the current Board of Directors for the Cabana Club are retiring, leaving three spots open. The Woodlands community was built, and has been sustained, by many gracious people who have volunteered their time and talents over the years to make our neighborhood the close-knit and desirable community that it is today. New volunteers are an essential part of sustaining this Woodlands tradition. You can be a part of it by becoming a member of the Board of Directors of the Cabana Club. The following positions are immediately available:

Board Member - Vice President

Specific VP duties include:

Assisting president with assorted duties

Hiring and training lifeguards and overseeing scheduling Assisting with non-member facility rentals, parties, and events

General job duties include:

Attending monthly board meetings

Working with Swim Team to coordinate usage and events Promoting and marketing the club to prospective and current members

Organizing and participating in WCC events at the Club, including Opening day and July 4th.

Board Member - Facilities Manager

Specific facilities duties include:

Showing the club to potential members

Invoicing new and returning members at the beginning of each season

Processing membership payments

Working with the board to determine community membership needs

General job duties include:

Attending monthly board meetings

Working with Swim Team to coordinate usage and events Promoting and marketing the club to prospective and current members

Organizing and participating in WCC events at the Club, including Opening day and July 4th.

Board Member – Membership

Specific Membership duties include:

Giving tours of the club to potential members

Invoicing new and returning members at the beginning of each season

Processing membership payments

Working with the board to determine community membership needs

General job duties include:

Attending monthly board meetings

Working with Swim Team to coordinate usage and events Promoting and marketing the club to prospective and current members

Organizing and participating in WCC events at the Club, including Opening day and July 4th.

Current board members have kindly agreed to help new Board Members come up to speed in their positions. So, if you are looking for a fun way to donate some time and give back to your community, this is the job for you! For more information, please contact Kristen McNulty at: president@woodlandscabanaclub.org or Joanne Wathen at: marketing@woodlandscabanaclub.org

Save the Date!



The Valle Verde Fall Carnival is coming up on Sunday, October 30th. Join in the fun for all ages with a Halloween Costume Contest, Candy Corn Alley, Games, Cupcake Walk, Haunted House, train ride and more. Enjoy lunch on campus and lots of sweet treats from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. This is a major fundraiser for our neighborhood school at 3275 Peachwillow Lane.

Orchards Update

by Eric Ehlers

Now that October is upon us, filled with an early onslaught of warmth followed by the howling bitter bite of autumnal gales, it is with great excitement the local community witnessed the latest news emanating from the Orchards. Safeway led off the excitement with a festive mid-month opening, which seemed to break the seal and prepare the local populace for what would follow. While the masses enjoyed a new caffeine delivery system originating inside the store's Starbucks, they quickly were able to peruse the aisles at Stein Mart, a national clothing chain.

Of course, those two openings were followed by the birth of a new Petco in the center. In addition, the site showcased new landscaping. Other tenants that are scheduled to open include Wells Fargo, Safe America Credit Union, a Pancheros Mexican grill, MOD Pizza, and a Crunch gym – after all that tasty fare, the gym should help everyone burn off some of the excess calories.

Local residents expressed some questions about how the final landscaping would look, particularly in the area facing Oak Grove Road north of Ygnacio, near where Citrus intersects Oak Grove. With many of the stores having back doors facing that intersection, there is hope, as of this writing, that the area will be further landscaped to improve the aesthetics of this new development.

Donated Halloween Decorations Requested for Valle Verde Fall Carnival

by Bill Gilmyers

The Valle Verde Fall Carnival is coming up on Sunday, October 30th from 11am-3pm and will feature a haunted house, train ride, games, treats and more. The decor committee is looking for donations of Halloween decorations to make this even more festive and spooktacular. No decoration is too big or too small! We only ask the decorations to be in good condition. If you are already cleaning out your home in preparation of the Woodlands garage sale on October 2nd please think of going through your Halloween decorations and donating them to our neighborhood school in lieu of a sale. All donations can be dropped on the porch of 3531 Bayberry Drive, Walnut Creek 94598. Thank you so much for your support and we hope to see you at the carnival. It is an event open to the community!

Woodland Halloween

(Continued from Pg. 3)

One of the wonderful things about the Woodlands is that it's incredibly kid friendly. We have wide sidewalks for riding bikes, open spaces for hiking, great schools and parks to play in, and families that love and care about all of these things. We have great holiday events, from the 4th of July parade to the Christmas lighting ceremony, where even Santa makes an appearance. And this neighborhood is perfect for Halloween.

When I first moved into the Woodlands, I immediately started plotting for Halloween. I remembered the neighborhood where I grew up, and especially the scary house that both frightened and excited me as a kid. I wanted to be *that* house in this neighborhood, the scary house, the rite of passage. Researching on the internet, I found many others that shared the same passion, creating Halloween "haunts" at their own homes to scare and entertain the neighborhood kids. So I started putting together my own "haunt", keeping it both scary and fun. Every year I try to change up my decorations and add a little more, in order to keep it fresh. I have fog machines, a graveyard, scarecrows, and a witch stirring a cauldron. Pumpkins and carved jack-'o-lanterns line my walk. It's really spooky.

And it's so much fun! Every year, kids slowly walk up the path, checking out the props, decorations, and pumpkins before finally making it to the porch and yelling "TRICK OR TREAT!" I happily oblige with the treats. Every year, I see a little kid standing on the sidewalk, gripping his mom or dad's hand tightly, shaking their heads firmly despite encouragement, before moving on to the next house. I know they'll make it up to the house one day, and I'll make sure to reward them, because I was there once myself.

I'm always interested in sharing Halloween experiences, so if you have good stories or pictures, if you have fun Halloween ideas, or if you have a haunt in the neighborhood, please post to the Woodlands Facebook site. Here's to a scary, fun, and safe Halloween! The McNeill haunt is at 3548 Perada Drive. Stop by for some spooky fun this Halloween!

THANK YOU James Goudy!

The Woodlands board would like to thank James Goudy for his service as Woodlands Webmaster from 2013-2016. During this time James has been our data architect and chief troubleshooter for the Woodlands front page to the world. We greatly appreciate his work and the spirit of service that drove his efforts on our behalf.

Thank you, James.

Triple Chocolate Salted Caramel Cookies

by Colleen O'Donnell

These cookies are a crowd pleaser! What appears to be a decadent triple chocolate cookie transforms into almost a candy/confection once you bite into the center to reveal gooey, salted caramel. You could certainly make your own caramels, but for ease, my favorites are the Fleur de Sel Caramels from Trader Joes- Cut them in half and freeze before forming and baking the cookies. You could certainly add in anything else you like to the cookie batter- chopped toasted hazelnuts would be amazing. Makes about 48 cookies

24 Fleur del Sel Caramels unwrapped,
cut in half and frozen until solid
2 ¼ cup all-purpose flour
½ cup cocoa powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon kosher salt
1 cup butter, at room temperature
1 cup brown sugar, packed
¾ cup granulated sugar
2 eggs, room temperature
1 cup milk chocolate chips or chunks
1 cup semi sweet chips or chunks
Fleur de Sel- for sprinkling on top of baked cookies



Preheat oven to 375°F.

Unwrap 24 caramels, cut in half and shape into ball. Place on plate and freeze until solid. In a medium bowl combine flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt- whisk to combine.

In a separate bowl cream the butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar until creamy. Add eggs one at a time, beating for about a minute after each addition. Beat in the vanilla. Add in the flour mixture and mix until just combined. With a spatula or wooden spoon mix in the chocolate chunks or chips until well distributed.

If the dough is very soft- you can chill for a brief time or even overnight.

To form the cookies- scoop about 1-1 ½ Tablespoons of dough. Press a frozen caramel in the middle and form the dough around to completely cover. It is best to be sure that there is no exposed caramel as it will run during baking. Bake for 8-10 minutes until cookies are just set. While hot- sprinkle a tiny bit of Fleur de Sel on each cookie. Allow to cool on pan for a few minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

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GAIL MURRAY for BART BOARD Leadership for a Better BART Vote November 8th

Gail has served as your BART Board Member since 2004, is past President of the Woodlands Homeowners Association, and has been a Woodlands resident since 1970. A transportation professional, BART commuter, and the former Mayor of Walnut Creek, Gail understands how important BART is in connecting our region, decreasing congestion and keeping passengers safe. Gail also chairs the Strategic Finance Committee to ensure that we don't leave future generations with big pension debts.

www.GailMurrayforBART.com



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Your Real Estate Source for the Woodlands Neighborhood

Prepare for an Emergency

Maje than of Americans live in accurates that have experienced a weather related disaster. However, only of Americans have created an emergency plan for their households. While its almost impossible to predict when are emergency or natural disaster will occur, creating a plan may help keep your family safe in the event of one. The better prepared you are the more comfortable you'll be it you have to not work possible or action.

KNOW THE RISKS

No matter where you live, your region may be susceptible to one or more emergency situations or weather hazards, including: earthquakes, wildfires, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes or blizzards. Although some of these events—like hurricanes—may provide some advanced warning, others—like earthquakes—are hard to predict. Most of these occurrences may lead to extended power outages; however, if you live in an area where they are likely, having a plan will help you prepare for the next event.

Other emergencies can happen at any time, such as a house or building fire. Common causes include faulty appliances, electrical components and smoking. In fact, cooking equipment was the cause of 45% of home structure fires from 2009-2013.²

DECIDE ON AN EMERGENCY MEETING PLACE

Emergency situations are chaotic. In the midst of the confusion, it can be difficult to get in touch with loved ones. Decide on a meeting place with your family ahead of time to reduce some of the initial stress. Choose three locations: one in the neighborhood, one in your town and one out-of-town, and make sure everyone knows how to get there. Your safe area may vary depending on the emergency—for example, in the event of a tornado or hurricane, stay away from windows and take cover in an interior room of your home or building, on the lowest floor.

MAKE A PLAN

Make a plan that outlines all the information you'll need to know in the event of an emergency. Not only will it help you get to a safe location, it'll also allow you to let your loved ones know you're safe.

1. Create a spreadsheet that includes:

- · Names and nicknames of each family member
- · Phone numbers
- Email addresses
- Names of doctors
 Places of work
- Schools

2. Plan a safe evacuation route.

If you're home when an emergency occurs, you may have to evacuate with little to no notice. Select several safe evacuation routes, and make sure everyone is familiar with them.

3. Assign roles.

Have someone turn off the utilities, like water and electricity, while another person packs the important documents and another grabs pets. Giving everyone a responsibility will ensure nothing important is left behind.





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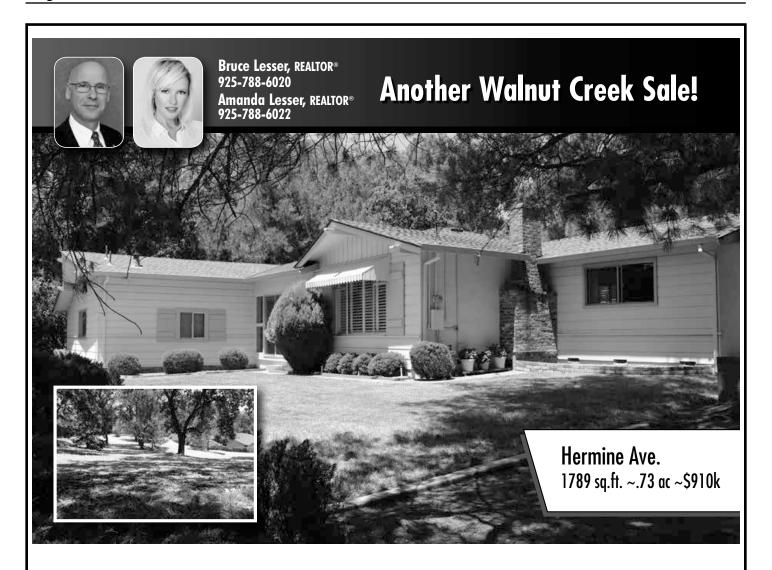
If you would like to participate and did not get a chance to register for the map by the deadline, just open your garage door. There will be lots of buyers driving around the neighborhood.

Have A Good Time!



David Galindo CRS
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Ava (5), Justin, Melissa, Sophie (6)

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