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April 2012

Neighborhood Meeting to Discuss Proposed Shadelands Gateway Specific Plan

By Deb Karbo, Property Development Centers

In May 2011, Property Development Centers, a Safeway company, owner of the 25 acres located on the northwest corner of Ygnacio Valley Road and Oak Grove Road, submitted a Pre-Application request for the City Council to consider an amendment of the existing General Plan land use designation from Business Park to General Retail. On August 2, 2011, the City Council endorsed the idea of processing a General Plan Amendment through the creation of the Shadelands Gateway Specific Plan. The Council authorized the creation of an Advisory Committee (AC) comprised of city officials, business leaders, and residents. The purpose of the AC is to develop the Shadelands Gateway Specific Plan for the property and make a recommendation to the City Council.

In addition to the monthly public AC meetings, Property Development Centers is hosting community meetings in the existing office building located on the site. We invite all members of the Walnut Creek community to attend. The purpose of these meetings is to update the community on the progress of the AC and to listen to your comments regarding the future development of the site. Property Development Centers will share feedback from the neighborhood meetings at the ensuing AC meeting.

The first neighborhood meeting on February 8th had a great turnout! Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday**, **April 10**th **from 6:45 pm to 8:30 pm**. We hope to see you there.

For your convenience we have also scheduled the following meetings so that you can plan ahead. We will mail notices of the meetings two weeks prior to each.

Tuesday, May 8th Tuesday, June 12th Tuesday, July 10th

What: 2nd Community meeting to discuss the Shadelands Gateway Specific Plan

When: Wednesday, April 10th, 2012

Time: 6:45 pm to 8:30 pm

Where: 2800 Ygnacio Valley Road



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

Newsletter printed by Minuteman Press (925) 256-6444

Want to Write Something?

The Woodlands newsletter provides a community service by keeping neighborhood residents informed about issues and events of interest. We encourage Woodlands residents to submit articles for the newsletter and we regularly receive articles that are published in the newsletter.

If you would like to contribute an article, please contact us and we will be happy to work with you to help get it edited and published. Our publication guidelines are relatively simple – topics should be of interest to Woodlands residents, the newsletter can not be used as a forum to air issues between individuals, and articles may need to be edited to fit within available space (typical length is 200 words or less). To meet our publication schedule for a monthly newsletter, we have established a closing date of the 10th of each month. To the extent that space is available, articles received and ready for print by the 10th of the month will be published in the next version of the newsletter.

We appreciate your help in making the newsletter as informative, useful, and relevant to Woodlands residents. To submit an article, please write to woodlandsassn@yahoo.com.

QUARTERLY BOOK SALE AT YGNACIO VALLEY LIBRARY

Put down those Nooks, iPads and Kindles—and mark your calendars for April 20th & 21st. The Friends of the Ygnacio Valley Library quarterly book sale will take place at the library on 2661 Oak Grove Road, Friday, April 20, 6 - 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Friday night sale is for "Friends" members; you can purchase a minimum \$10 annual membership at the door. The Saturday sale is open to the general public. Most books are bargain priced at either 50 cents or \$1. CDs, DVDs VHS tapes and audio books are also available. From 4PM to 5PM Saturday, fill a bag of books for just \$3 during the final hour of the sale.

Sale proceeds fund the purchase of new materials as well as library programs for children, teens and adults at our Ygnacio Valley Library. Come support your local community and the neighborhood library that makes our corner of Walnut Creek a wonderful place to live. Tell all of your friends and we look forward to seeing you at the sale. For more information, please visit http://ccclib.org/friends/yvl.html

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Upcoming Board Meetings

Saturday, April 7th at 8:15 am and Saturday, May 5th

at 8:15 am in Carl's Jr. Conference Room

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings

Update: What's Happening with the Safeway Development?

By: Ed Wohlers

The Shadelands Gateway Specific Plan Advisory Committee ("AC") met for the 3rd time on February 22nd to discuss the 25 acres of land that Safeway would like to develop at the corner of Oak Grove Road and Ygnacio Valley Road. Six members of the public raised questions about the potential traffic impacts, economic impacts on surrounding shopping centers, and the types of uses to be considered. Two people expressed specific concerns about the viability of the existing Nob Hill store at Citrus Center if Safeway were to build a proposed 55K sq. ft. store at this location.

Project consultants discussed the relative size of the parcel and compared it to the smaller, 22 acre Clayton Valley Shopping Center, located at the corner of Ygnacio Valley Road and Clayton Road. The consultants separated the AC Committee into two groups and led them through a design charrette intended to capture members' visions for the property on paper. This exercise allowed the teams to map out the types of buildings they thought might work well on the site. Neither group had any large or medium box retail with the exception of a proposed new Safeway. Both groups included public spaces, retail and mixed uses.

Public participation in this process is encouraged. The best way to get involved is to attend one of the monthly AC meetings (see article in this month's issue for specific dates/times). The next AC meeting is scheduled for <u>Tuesday, March 27th from 7-9 pm</u> in the 3rd floor conference room a Walnut Creek City Hall. You can also send comments to <u>woodlandsassn@yahoo.com</u>.

Advisory Committee Meetings Schedule - Safeway Property By: Ed Wohlers

As discussed in prior newsletters, the City of Walnut Creek is holding a series of public meetings to discuss possible changes to the 25 acre Shadelands property owned by Safeway that is located across from the Woodlands neighborhood at the corner of Oak Grove Rd. and Ygnacio Valley Rd. The Advisory Committee will be meeting monthly to discuss this property and will gather input from the community to form a Specific Plan for this property. If you are interested in learning more about this process, this project, or how to get involved, please visit our website – www.woodlandsassn.org to sign up for our e-mail list, or send us an e-mail – woodlandsassn@yahoo.com with your comments or contact information. You can also see the City website on this project: http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/cd/planning/shadelands_gateway_specific_plan.asp. Over the next 7 months, the Advisory Committee will be meeting in the 3rd floor conference room at Walnut Creek City Hall from 6:30pm - 8:30pm to discuss this project on the following dates:

- AC Mtg. #2 Wednesday, January 25, 2012
- AC Mtg. #3 Wednesday, February 22, 2012
- AC Mtg. #4 Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7pm-9pm
- AC Mtg. #5 Wednesday, April 25, 2012
- AC Mtg. #6 Wednesday, May 23, 2012
- AC Mtg. #7 Wednesday, June 27, 2012
- AC Mtg. #8 Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Upcoming Woodlands Board ElectionsBy Ed Wohlers

Are you looking for an opportunity to become more involved in our community? The Woodlands Board of Directors is comprised of four elected and several appointed positions. As required in the by-laws, the elected positions serve two-year terms. Board of Director positions that are up for election in 2012 are President and Secretary.

The <u>President</u> leads the Association and has general supervision, direction and control of Association affairs, subject to the control of the Board of Directors. Responsibilities include corresponding with existing and potential advertisers, communicating with neighbors, and representing the neighborhood at government meetings, with a time commitment of 5-10 hours/month. The <u>Secretary</u> maintains the corporate records, meeting minutes, records of the proceedings, and other projects as necessary, with a 1-2 hours/month commitment. Both positions require regular attendance at monthly Saturday morning board meetings.

All residents of the Woodlands over the age 18 are eligible for these positions. Interested candidates are invited to submit brief statements of interest (up to 200 words) to the Woodlands Board for consideration. Eligible candidates' statements of interest will appear in the June newsletter. A ballot will be included in the July newsletter. All submissions and any questions should be sent to the Woodlands Board at woodlandsassn@yahoo or P.O. Box 31085, Walnut Creek, CA 94598 no later than May 3rd, 2012.

Secondhand Smoke in Walnut Creek

Five communities here in Contra Costa County (unincorporated Contra Costa, Richmond, Martinez, Pleasant Hill and Pinole) have adopted laws to protect people from secondhand smoke in outdoor public areas, including within 20 feet of building doors and windows open to the public and in outdoor dining areas. All five communities offer some protections in multi-family housing. Walnut Creek has none of these types of protections in place.

Science shows that even brief exposures to secondhand smoke in places like outdoor dining or in building doorways can be harmful. Low levels of exposure to secondhand smoke have been shown to trigger sudden blood clots, strokes, heart attacks, asthma attacks and aggravate existing lung conditions. The U.S. Surgeon General concluded that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. The California Air Resource Board has declared secondhand smoke a toxic air contaminant.

The Tobacco Prevention Coalition is working with Walnut Creek residents to advocate for the City Council to strengthen secondhand smoke protections. The Coalition provides training to develop advocacy skills, speaking points, sample letters and more. For more information about how to advocate for stronger protections in Walnut Creek, please contact the Tobacco Prevention Coalition at cctobaccopreventioncoalition@gmail.com or call (925) 313-6216.

The Woodlands Association welcomes residents' input into this initiative, whether in whole or in part, and encourage you to share with us at woodlandsassn@yahoo or P.O. Box 31085, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

CERT Training Begins in April

By Ed Wohlers

Are you interested in learning how you can safely help your family and your community in the event of a disaster? If so, consider becoming a Community Emergency Response Team member (CERT). CERT training classes will be offered on Wednesdays from 6:30-10pm, April 18 - May 23, at Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation on 2890 Mitchell Dr. @ Oak Grove Road. A final hands-on drill will take place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, June 9 at Heather Farm.

Training topics include but are not limited to: disaster preparedness, how to safely turn off utilities, fire extinguisher use, search and rescue techniques and first aid. CERTs complete a basic 20-hour training before being sworn in as volunteer Disaster Service Workers for the City of Walnut Creek. In the event of a disaster, CERT volunteers first confirm their family's safety before meeting at their pre-designated CERT Staging Area to help the community.

Cost is \$25 and pre-registration is required. For additional information visit the website at www.walnut-creek.org with your address and best contact number, or call 925-256-3556.

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Submission Guidelines

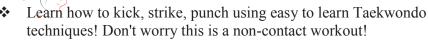
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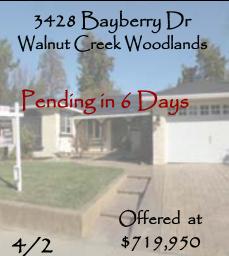






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