



# The Woodlands

[www.WoodlandsAssn.org](http://www.WoodlandsAssn.org)

December 2005

## What's Next? A Community Prepared

In the past nine months our Woodlands community has taken critical steps towards preparedness in the event of emergencies. Until we are tested locally with a real disaster, the question will continue to be... *what emergency?*

What emergency are we preparing for? A bird flu pandemic and general quarantine? A Martinez refinery disaster? A 7.1 East Bay earthquake? A terrorist total power disruption? A Livermore lab disaster? The big Pacific storm?

How can we be prepared for something not yet defined? What are the common denominators across the more likely emergencies in our area?

The Woodlands now has several dozen neighbors that are much closer to answering questions such as this, and as a result, have a deeper passion for emergency preparedness in our neighborhood. These neighbors are CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) graduates. They are beginning to know what the rest of us don't yet know. This core group of neighbors labored through six hard-hitting, three-hour, hands on training sessions at our CC Fire Department Training Center.

Members of our Woodlands Assoc. Board have met with several Woodlands CERT graduates to begin mapping out what needs to be done for our community in the event of an emergency. The feedback from the CERT training has been stunning! It confirms that there is a deep need and passion to create an emergency prepared Woodlands community.

*Here are a few brief extracts from the written comments of our Woodlands graduates...*

Marlene Clark wrote, "I was surprised at the range of subjects covered and that we actually got to have hands-on experience with skills such as fire fighting, search and rescue, triage, cribbing, turning off the gas and electricity..."

Woodlands teen, Isaac Rose said, "I think learning what to do in disaster situations is one of those things that will stick with me forever. More pertinent than chemistry or math, a disaster will occur in your lifetime and this class has taught me what to expect and how to prepare."

Joe Warren said, "The more folks who are hands-on informed, the better we'll all be in a real disaster -- which inevitably will come."

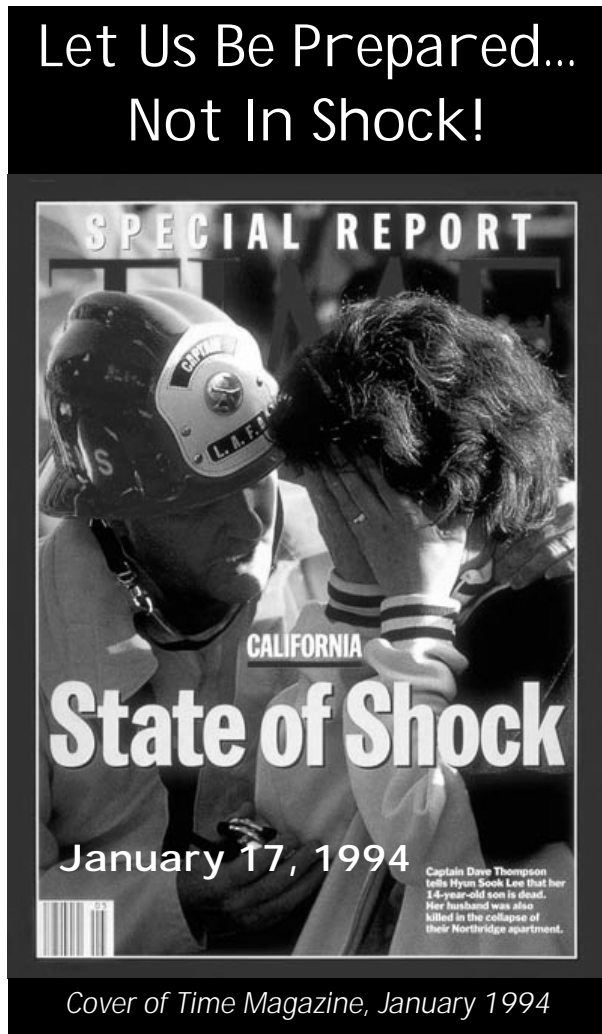
Marthe Parvin said we need to "share a set plan-of-action with our community utilizing each other's areas of strength."

Tom Mahon indicated that every household in the Woodlands "needs at least one person trained."

The Woodlands Board has designated board member, Mr. John Gregory, along with two core graduates (yet to be named), to co-develop and co-chair what will become the next steps towards emergency preparedness for our Woodlands community. This group will determine what funding we need, if any, and where it will come from. Part of the group's efforts will be to understand what it will take for our activities and plans to become relatively self-perpetuating. This group will also review the "most likely" disasters to hit our area and come up with the most efficient and appropriate plans as our *next steps*.

The Woodlands Association will host the next session for our Woodlands CERT graduates on **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** from **7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** in the multi-use room of Valle Verde Elementary at 3275 Peachwillow. We encourage every CERT graduate to join us for this important "**next steps kickoff**". No RSVP is required but we will send a follow-up note to the CERT participant email IDs we have gathered to-date. As always, all Woodlands neighbors are invited to attend... not just our CERT graduates.

*By J Tilley*



*Cover of Time Magazine, January 1994*

Bev & Bill Tornberg wrote that this was "excellent practice in how to make quick decisions and how to direct and help others."

"In a large disaster we will need to rely on our neighbors until help arrives and this could take far longer than one might expect. I would like to see us meet on a regular basis," wrote Carol Gross.

### In this issue:

- Page 1 Community Prepared
- Page 2 Crime Corner
- Page 3 Dog Waste & Leaves

# Community News

## Crime Corner

By Danielle Walrath, WCPD

The holidays are fast approaching, which means our homes and lawns are all decorated with beautiful and fun ornaments! It also means the crooks are out in full force. How do you protect yourself, your property and your neighbors? Be aware! Be aware and call the police **whenever** you see or hear something or someone suspicious. Be sure your vehicle and residence doors are kept locked (even if you are home). Keep the outside of your home well lit. Make sure your neighbors know if you are going to be out of town. Don't leave **anything** in your car!

**10 Most Wanted!** Burglaries from vehicles are on the rise. Out of the 14 reported burglaries in the Woodlands area, 7 of them were vehicles. Here is a list of the 10 most likely items to be stolen from a vehicle, locked or unlocked.

- Cell phone
- Purse/Wallet
- Briefcase
- Laptop computer
- Money (paper or coin)
- Gym Bags
- Backpacks
- Shopping Bags (Nordstrom, Macy's, etc.)
- Sunglasses
- Fast Track Transponder

### Crime Stats

**August 1, 2005 – October 31, 2005 in Woodlands area:**

Burglary	14
Theft	2
Vandalism	8
Theft of Vehicle	0

**Curfew!** The curfew hours for the City of Walnut Creek are as follows for children under 18 years of age:

Sunday – Thursday 10 p.m. – 6 a.m.

Friday – Saturday And Holidays  
Midnight – 6:00 a.m.

The curfew on the trails, (Iron Horse, Canal, etc) regardless of age or day of week: 10:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m.

**Neighborhood Watch** is a great crime prevention tool. 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.

## Free Refrigerator & Freezer Recycling \$35 rebate

PG&E is partnering with JACO Environmental (JACO) on a refrigerator/freezer recycling program to reduce electricity consumption. Old refrigerators and freezers can use up to three times as much energy as newer ones. JACO will pick up and recycle working refrigerators and freezers that are in working condition, manufactured before 1990, and 14-27 cubic feet in size. If you sign up through the website or call the number below to schedule the appointment, PG&E will send you a check for \$35 (while supplies last).

For additional information and requirements, or to schedule a free pickup, call 1-800-299-7573 or visit [www.appliancerecycling.com](http://www.appliancerecycling.com) Select Rebate Pickup on the website for details.  
*By Ed Wohlers*

### Woodlands CERT

#### Graduates

#### "Next Steps Kick-Off"

#### Session

**Wednesday, December 14, 2005**

**7:00pm-8:30pm**

Valle Verde Elem.  
Multi-Use Room  
3275 Peachwillow.

All Woodlands Residents are welcome to attend.

**Questions? Contact Jim Tilley**  
[jtilley@woodlandsassn.org](mailto:jtilley@woodlandsassn.org)

# Good Neighbors

## Doggone Dogs!

We have been contacted by several families about dog owners running their dogs at Valle Verde. It's great to run the dogs but not at Valle Verde. This is not a place to allow dogs to relieve themselves. That's just what is happening. No matter how hard you try to pick up after your dog after a run at the school it just doesn't

work. Our kids playing there are running into dog doo all the time. If you do have to pass through Valle Verde with your dog, you must keep the dog on a leash. Firstly it is a county regulation and of course the dog waste just cannot be controlled or collected when the dogs run free.

Clearly unleashed dogs at the school are also a safety hazard for younger children on the school grounds. A bigger dog can inadvertently run right over a small child. Because the school fields are used extensively after school hours, many of the com-

plaints we have received come from parents and coaches that find dog waste on clothes of the children after team practice. This happens at school recess as well.

Because of the E Coli bacteria in dog waste, always take gloves, bags and appropriate tools to collect your dog's waste and then properly dispose of the bags and keep

the tools clean.

There certainly are alternatives to Valle Verde for running your dogs. First and closest is the open space bordering the Woodlands. Leashes recommended unless your dogs are well controlled by

your signals and voice commands. Read the open space regulations posted on this.

Other alternatives for running your dogs off leash include San Miguel Park, but only during certain hours. For more information on off-leash areas in and around Walnut Creek and responsible dog ownership see the Walnut Creek Dog Owners Group at [www.wcdog.org](http://www.wcdog.org) or the Contra Costa Animal Services Department at [www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/animal/](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/animal/).

Thank you to those Woodlands residents who continually keep their dog on a leash. You are setting an excellent example and contributing to cleanliness and safety especially at our own Valle Verde Elementary School.



Vol. 39 No. 11  
Woodlands Assoc. Inc.

### Board of Directors

James Tilley  
*President*

Bill Swanson  
*Vice President*

Elsie Witt  
*Secretary*

Ed Wohlers  
*Treasurer*

Shawn Rizzo  
*Editor/Webmaster*

Steve Elster  
*Special Projects*

John Gregory  
*Special Projects*

Kay Ready  
*Newsletter Distribution Manager*

Board Email ID's are at [www.WoodlandsAssn.org](http://www.WoodlandsAssn.org)  
Woodlands Newsletter is a monthly publication. Prior issues are posted on our website.

Next Board Meetings:  
December 3, 2005 @ 8:15am  
January 7, 2006 @ 8:15am  
It's A Grind Coffee Shop

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

## What to do With Those Fall Leaves?!

The cool winds are blowing and the trees are showing their beautiful fall colors. Along with the beauty come lots of leaves to pickup and dispose of.

According to the city, each homeowner is responsible for collection and disposal of all leaves that fall on their property. Here are some tips on properly disposing of your fall leaves:

1. **Dispose of leaves in the green waste trash container.** If too many leaves fall for the green waste container consider bagging and saving leaves, then disposing of a couple of bags per week.



2. **Mulching is another great option.**

3. CAUTION: **Do not sweep, rake, or blow leaves into the streets.** Why?

a. Leaf piles in the street of more than two or three inches high will cause street sweepers to clog and malfunction, so the operators are instructed to go around them. So leaves blown into the street stay there until fall winds and rain kick in, creating messes that other neighbors have to clean up.

b. If no one cleans the leaves that are left in the street, they generally end up down gradient of the property that created them

– blocking a storm drain. Each year the city spends countless hours during storm events cleaning out storm drains blocked with leaves.

And what if they don't clog the storm drain? Well, they end up wherever the storm drain leads, which is usually a surface water such as a lake or river. Here they can create something called Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), which creates an oxygen deficient environment in the water and can kill fish and other wildlife.

So collect and dispose of those leaves – it creates a nicer neighborhood, less work for neighbors and the city, and helps to protect wildlife!

# Community Happenings

# December 2005

Now thru Jan. 16: "Walnut Creek on Ice" - Downtown Ice Rink, Civic Park  
M-F 11am-10pm, Sat 11am-11pm, Sun 11am-8pm [www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com](http://www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
V V = Valle Verde FH = Foothill NG = Northgate		<b>Now thru Dec. 24 Santa Photos Broadway Plaza</b>		1 <b>Holiday Parade of Lights @ Broadway Plaza 6-9pm</b>	2	3 <b>Woodlands Board Meeting 8:15am <u>It's A Grind</u> ARF Volunteer Orientation 10am</b>
4 <b>Kid's Celebration @ Fair Oaks Church 10:30am</b>	5 <b>ARF Volunteer Orientation 12pm</b>	6	7	8	9	10 <b>Holiday Singing @ Fair Oaks Church 6pm</b>
11 <b>Holiday Singing @ Fair Oaks Church 6pm</b>	12	13	14 <b>CERT Graduate "Next Steps" Meeting VV MUR 7pm-8:30pm</b>	15 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!!!</b>	16 <b>Last Day of School until 2006!</b>	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 <b>Christmas Day</b>	26 <b>Chanukah Begins  Boxing Day  Kwanzaa</b>	27	28	29	30	31 <b>New Years Eve</b>

Please submit any events you would like to see on the January calendar to [srizzo@woodlandsassn.org](mailto:srizzo@woodlandsassn.org) or 465-4464 by December 15th

The Calendar is now online! [www.woodlandsassn.org](http://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

**Handyman:** Quality work. Versatile—almost any standard job or unusual problem. Electrical, plumbing, carpentry, linoleum, tile, windows, and doors. Honest and have references. Paul 676-6607

## Services

**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](http://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](mailto:srizzo@woodlandsassn.org)

## Piano Lessons Made Fun!

*Let Music Brighten Your Life!*

Now accepting new students

All ages and levels

Loving, individualized approach

25 years experience

Local references available

*Bringing the joy of music into your heart and home*

**Please call Gerri at 925-935-7536**



YOUR SATISFACTION IS OUR SUCCESS\*

*"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 half off any sandwich with the purchase of 2<sup>nd</sup> sandwich of equal or greater value**

**With the holidays approaching, Julian is offering FREE desserts on catered orders over \$200**

**Call for other Special Catering Offers**

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



*You deserve a massage... close to home!*

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

Many holiday blessings to you and those close to you from the *Professional Massage Therapy office of Keri Salemme, CMT.*

Keri has been in practice in Walnut Creek since 1997 and is here to help relieve your stress and tension everyday.

Massage Therapy is a wonderful gift for yourself & loved ones.  
**Gift Certificates available.**

**Keri Salemme, CMT**

Professional Massage Therapist  
3093 Citrus Circle Suite 105  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598  
Phone: 925.947.0780  
Email: [massage@astound.net](mailto:massage@astound.net)

**Keri's clients say:**

"Thank you for helping me find my Zen."

-Darin S.

"You clear my mind while you soothe my body. It's magic."

-Barbara B.

**Better to be Naughty  
or Spiced?**

**Holiday  
Eggnog Latté**



**It's A Grind Coffee House**  
2230 Oak Grove Rd.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

**Winter Hours:**  
Mon thru Sat: 5:30 am to 8:00 pm  
Sun: 6:00 am to 4:00 pm

# Peachwillow Cabinets

## Fine Custom Cabinetry

- Home Offices
- Bookshelves
- Entertainment Centers
- Bathroom Vanities
- Kitchens
- Fireplace Mantels
- Custom Furniture

Trim Work: Crown and Base Molding  
"Let Peachwillow Cabinets work with you to  
build your dream custom cabinetry."  
*Add true value to your home!*



For a FREE Estimate Call:  
**Greg Meyer**

**925-451-9711**

Woodlands Resident Since 2003

License #846300. Bonded.

# This Christmas... Give Your Loved Ones The Greatest Gift of All

Come celebrate the *real* meaning  
of Christmas with Fair Oaks Church

### Holiday Events:

Sun, Dec. 4, 10:30am - **Kid's Birthday Party for Jesus** (Grades 1-5)

Saturday, December 10, 6pm *and* Sunday, December 11, 6pm

**"An Evening of Christmas Celebration",**

*Presented by the Adoration Singers*

[www.fairoakschurch.com](http://www.fairoakschurch.com)

**925-687-4810**

### Sunday Services

Sunday School & 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 just minutes down Oak Grove Rd. from The Woodlands... 1925 Risdon Rd. in Concord*

Congratulations  
Valle Verde!

The Valle Verde  
Flea Market  
for Katrina  
raised

**\$3,533.61**

Thanks to all who  
donated & shopped  
to make this possible!

## Dead Bird in Your Yard?

Report it to the state-  
wide tracking center for  
West Nile Virus!

[www.westnile.ca.gov](http://www.westnile.ca.gov)



**877-968-2473**