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November 2009

# **Another Successful Woodlands Garage Sale!**

Last month we had the 28th annual Woodlands Garage Sale. There were over 60 families participating. As usual, local realtors David Galindo and Jan Williams from J. Rockcliff Realtors organized the sale. They fielded many phone calls, handled signage, drafted the newspaper ad, and printed hundreds of maps for the customers, as well as door to door delivery of the sellers packets. Without their help I don't know how we could have had such a successful garage sale! We appreciate all their efforts with this annual event. Be sure to express your thanks when you see them!

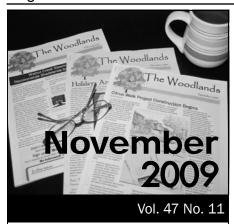
# **MDUSD High School Sports**

By Joe Casey

Two very important public hearings took place in the past few weeks, and the outcomes of these public debates, similar in nature but clearly distinct, could have long-range impacts on our community. The first hearing took place Sept. 28 at College Park HS, and was hosted by the United Mt. Diablo Athletic Foundation - UMDAF (www.unitedmtdiabloathletics.org), a non-profit organization of concerned parents, teachers, administrators, and athletic coaches, whose charter is to generate support for high school athletic programs, and provide all students with the opportunity to enjoy the high school athletic experience. The second hearing on Oct. 5th at Northgate HS gave the MDUSD school board the opportunity to hear public comments about the proposed installation of lights, permanent bleachers, sound system, and press box at Northgate's newly refurbished football field. Leading the funding for the proposal is the Northgate Pride Foundation (www.northgatepride.org), another non-profit organization whose charter is to aid in the improvement and enhancement of educational and athletic facilities and programs at Northgate High School and other schools in the Northgate Community.

The hearing hosted by UMDAF addressed the broader issue of financing for all athletics for the remainder of the 2009/2010 school year. Simply put, high-school sports funding in the MDUSD is on life support since the MDUSD cut all funding for high school sports after the state cut funding to the MDUSD earlier this year. Without additional revenues, many if not all sports programs (winter and spring sports) will be cancelled due to lack of funding. The UMDAF was created to bring attention to the issue, and this hearing was very well attended, as parents are now beginning to realize that due to a tsunami of financial problems - cutbacks in state funding, the long-term impact of Prop. 13 and restrictions on how school systems are funded in the state of CA, the defeat of the parcel tax measure earlier this year, etc. Families of participating students in high school sports are assessed in two ways - a "sports contribution" and a "transportation fee". With coffers almost dry, additional means of generating revenue must be created, and fast. The school board will review the financial

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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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Crime Report

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

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# 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 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. To the extent that space is available, articles received and ready for print by the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.



# Woodlands Association Board of Directors

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Board email ID's can be found at www.WoodlandsAssn.org

#### Upcoming Board Meetings

Saturday, November 7th at 8:15 am and Saturday, December 5th at 8:15 am in Carl's Jr.

Conference Room Woodlands residents

are encouraged to attend board meetings

# Thanksgiving: One of the Most Family-Oriented Holidays of the Year

By Jessica Williams

Traditionally a time of rejoicing after reaping a bountiful harvest, Thanksgiving today has become more about sharing time with family and friends. For many of us, it's also about marking the changing of the seasons and kicking off the beginning of the holiday season. One central feature of Thanksgiving that has remained: The sharing of a hearty meal with others

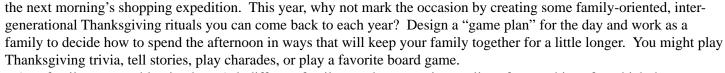
However, family-oriented occasions such as these are often taken for granted or seen as a time of stress and fatigue. But, with a little preparation and collaboration, you and your family can create a gathering you will all cherish for a long time to come.

Design the menu together. Sit down as a family and make a list of the dishes that you like to have. Planning the meal together will help your family start thinking about the fun of eating together and spending time as a family rather than getting anxious about the preparations.

Try cooking in groups. This will make the cooking easier on everyone and can bring every family member in on the preparation. Make sure that you assign dishes appropriately and be sure that at least one person in each group knows what a measuring cup is, can use the oven, and has a vague idea as to the location of the ingredients!

Put the children in charge of the table décor. They can craft place cards and centerpieces to feel more involved with the celebration and to solve the tricky maneuver of who sits next to whom.

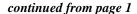
With any holiday, some families feel a little "lost" once the meal is finished and people tend to wander off to sleep, watch football, or plan



As a family, create a blessing box. Ask different family members to write on slips of paper things for which they are thankful. Pass around the box, pull out the slips of paper and read the blessings. Reflect on the past year by sharing one thing that happened to them during the past year for which they are grateful.

Take a moment before eating to pray for or remember those who have lost family members during the last year. Light a candle of remembrance and call out the names of those in the family who are no longer physically present. Be sure to take a moment to think of those who do not have family and friends with whom to spend this happy event.

By planning the day as a family, you will all stay focused on the joy and true meaning of the holiday and create rooms filled with warmth and laughter.



picture once again on Oct. 27, and if UMDAF and other efforts do not raise an additional \$200,000 by that time, then winter and spring high school sports will most likely be cancelled for MDUSD.

More locally, Northgate remains one of three high schools in the district without the ability to play football games at night. This "Friday Night" exclusion has a majority of school officials and parents supporting the proposal to build permanent seating and adding lights. Supporters also point to the pride that would be generated by hosting home games. On the other hand, residents in the area are of course concerned about the impact to their neighborhood, both from a lifestyle standpoint - beautiful views of Mount Diablo for some residents would be blocked by the erection of permanent seating - as well as environmental - light and people noise, traffic congestion, and safety. Northgate neighbors fear being labeled "bad people", but continue to oppose the idea until Northgate Pride and other supporters complete a more robust environmental review and also downsize the ambitiousness of the project. Public comments were taken through Oct. 22, with a decision by the school board expected later this year.



# **Woodlands Resident Simon Kim in Local Concert**

By Susan Ellis

On November 13 at 7:30 p.m., The Woodlands very own Simon Kim, a Northgate student (and a Valle Verde alumni) will be performing at the Walnut Avenue United Methodist Church. Kim and his friends, all advanced violin students of Art and Gail Peterson, will knock your socks off with their accomplished musicianship and deft playing. The music of Vivaldi, Gershwin, Mozart, Nero, Monti, and Chopin are all on the evening program.

This will be the third concert that the Walnut Avenue United Methodist Church is hosting in what hopes to become an ongoing event in Walnut Creek: "The 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Concert Series."

"I love living in Walnut Creek," says Susan Ellis, Woodlands resident and one of the concert series founders, "and I have desired for a long time to both feature local talent and bring talent locally to our community. Sometimes the challenge of traffic, pricey tickets, and limited parking on the 'other side of the tunnel' keeps me home. I think I'm not alone, and I hope people find out about and enjoy 'The 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Concert Series.'"

In keeping with the desire to have affordable concerts, tickets are priced at \$10/person and \$25/family. There is free childcare available at the church during the concert for children too little to sit still for an hour. After the concert, water, juice, coffee, and cookies are available for a nominal price in the social hall of the church.

Come on down and support the local arts, and enjoy an evening of classical music!

# "The 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Concert Series" Featuring the violin students of Art & Gail Peterson Friday November 13 7:30 PM

Walnut Avenue United Methodist Church 260 Walnut Avenue, Walnut Creek 94598

\$10/person; \$25/family
Tickets sold at the door
FREE PARKING! FREE CHILDCARE!



#### Additional Library hours funded by your generous support!

At the PFA meeting on September 16, the PFA members voted to spend a portion (up to \$32,000) of the 2008/9 extra undesignated funds on staffing the library so that students will have more than 2 days a week of library access. These funds will cover extra library hours for the 2009/10 school year only. There were a lot of questions regarding how we were able to come support these new expenditures, so here is how the PFA came to have extra funds at the end of the 2008/9 school year.



- After all the expenses were paid for the 2008/9 school year, revenue exceeded expenses by \$45,000. This was accomplished by careful spending and the generous support of Foothill parents. The undesignated funds are available to pay for extra needs that the Foothill community may have that will not be funded in the 2009/10 school year.
- Last fall (2008) the PFA voted to fund a variety of needs that the Strategic Planning Committee identified, including 20 computers for use in all the science classrooms, disaster preparedness, and an afternoon school intervention program. The funds to pay for the needs came from excess revenue from the 2007/8 school year. The total amount approved to be spent was \$71,000. In the spring, most of the items that were approved had been completed and paid for. There were 3 items the PFA approved that the administration asked to remove from the original list. These items were no longer viable projects. The total amount actually spent was \$51,000.
- This past spring it became apparent that funds that were to be held to pay for 07/08 accounts payable would not be needed. Those funds amounted to \$14,000.
- The total funds available for strategic planning and spending this fall are \$79,000.
- After taking into account the \$32,000 approved for the library, there are still \$47,000 available to spend on unbudgeted "extras" for Foothill. What that money will be spent on is yet to be determined.

I know that all of this carryover/unbudgeted/undesignated terminology can be a bit confusing. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Kathy Frattini PFA Treasurer kfrattini@sbcglobal.net

#### Strategic Planning Committee Members Needed

During the spring the PFA votes on a budget for the following school year. This budget includes expected incomes and expenditures based on the previous years income and expenses. We work very hard with the administration to address any possible needs of the upcoming school year and any changes in enrollment. We try and make a conservative budget with reasonable incomes and accurate expenditures.

Due to parents' generous contributions and conservative expenditures over the past several years the following year's PFA has been fortunate to have carryover monies available for non-budgeted expenses. A committee of parents, PFA executive committee, principal and teacher representatives have developed a list of possible expenditures called the Strategic Plan. All of the staff has the opportunity to put forth possible items or uses for this pot of money. Many parents throughout the year come up with fantastic ideas for enhancements for our students education and these ideas are evaluated and considered by the committee. This plan is presented to the PFA, where it is prioritized and voted on by members in attendance.

Please let me know if you are interested in being part of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Thank you for all you do to make a difference at Foothill.

Mary Phalon PFA President

#### Fall Social

#### Time to Boogie!

The third annual Foothill Fall Social is soon approaching! For those of you who know it as the Pasta Feed, we are talking the same fun event with some menu changes and a totally groovy theme: The 70's!



Adults-only auction dinner/dance Friday, November 6 starting at 6:00 PM Shadelands Campus Auditorium



It is open to families and friends of Foothill Middle School, as well as our faculty and staff, whom we've heard are already combing their closets for long, white tube socks, bell bottoms, Lycra bodysuits, and safety pin earrings! (Please, don't wear all of these at the same time!) So, yes, dress up in your get-down-get-funky outfits, feather your hair, or rip your T-shirts to shreds!

We have also amped up the silent auction/drawing portion of the evening, so come with wallets in the back pockets of those bell bottoms or hot pants and support our kids' middle school by supporting the Foothill PFA!

To purchase tickets, contact <u>Susan Broehm</u>, or fill out a form in the school office and leave it there with your payment. Tickets are \$45/person.

We need volunteers beforehand as well as for the night of the event. We are looking for beverage bartenders, auction runners, closers, data entry persons, as well as someone to help plan the Dessert Auction! Please contact <u>Holly Schick</u> to join the team or for more information.

If you would like to make a donation to the auction, or have a contact for items such as wine, desserts, sporting events, or vacation spots, please contact <a href="Maintenant-Incomognetic-Like Here">Cynthia Hamilton</a> or Lisa Lamm at your earliest convenience! No donation is too small! <a href="Maintenant-Incomognetic-Like Here">Click HERE</a> for donation ideas and form.

Save the date! We'll see you in November!

#### **Parent Patrol**



Thank you for all the tremendous parent support for lunch supervision. Parent presence has a positive impact on lunch time safety. A reminder schedule is sent out the week prior. If you require notification of dates you signed up for further in advance or need to find a sub, contact Anne O'Donoghue at <a href="mailto:aodonoghue@astound.net">aodonoghue@astound.net</a> or Faye Mettler <a href="mailto:gmettler@astound.net">gmettler@astound.net</a> and we will send you your scheduled dates or a sub list to find a replacement.

Anne O'Donoghue and Faye Mettler, Parent Patrol co-chairs

#### Yearbook is Looking for Your Photos!

New School Year! New Staff! New Ideas! New Direction! New Yearbook!

Yearbook is asking for your help. We would like anyone who has fun photos of their summer vacations or after school activities to submit them to yearbook. You don't even have to leave the comfort of your home. Photos may be submitted online through eShare!

- 1. Log on to: www.hjeshare.com and enter school code: 2010591
- 2. Enter your information and upload your photo(s)
- 3. In the "Student shown in picture" box type your student's name
- 4. In the "Description" box, give us the background info. (Where are they, what are they were doing, why and when.)

If you haven't purchased a yearbook there is still time. Please contact the office to purchase your 2009-2010 yearbook. Please help make the yearbook a success!

#### **Foothill Parent Needed at Northgate!**

The Youth Educator Program at Northgate is looking for 2-3 parents to train this year so that the program can continue in the future. This will be the last year that Aileen Walton and Nancy Freitas run the program. We hope to train 2-3 parents this year to take over the following years to keep the program alive. Youth Educator follows the same format as PEP and Smart Start.

If you have enjoyed teaching either of those you will LOVE Youth Educator. We train a select group of Northgate Juniors and Seniors to teach the Foothill 8th graders about drug prevention and life as a freshman at Northgate. It's a fabulous program! The Northgate students like it and so do the 8th graders. We start interviewing the Northgate students mid October and begin teaching November 2. The program runs thru February with weekly Monday night sessions from 7-9pm. Please call Nancy Freitas for more info at 944-9040 or email her at <a href="mailto:nfeitas@rogersoffice.com">nfeitas@rogersoffice.com</a>.

#### **School Test Scores are In**

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT October 5, 2009 Mt. Diablo Unified School District

#### **State Test Scores Improve**

The California Department of Education recently released the Academic Performance Index (API) results for the last school year. Mt. Diablo's API increased by 21 points over the prior year, in contrast to 8 points in 2007-08. Sixty-eight percent of district schools met their growth targets as compared to forty-nine percent in 2007-08. Local test score results are as follows:

#### **Elementary Schools**

Bancroft: API above 900; Increase of 15 points

Eagle Peak: API above 800

Meadow Homes: Increase of 15 points

Sequoia: API above 900 Valle Verde: API above 900

Walnut Acres: Highest API in the District (934), Increase of 10 points

Woodside: API above 800

#### **Middle Schools:**

Foothill: API above 800

Oak Grove: Largest increase for middle schools - 64 points

Sequoia: API above 800, increase of 12 points

#### **High Schools:**

Clayton Valley: Increase of 26 points College Park: Increase of 22 points

Concord: Largest increase among high schools - 37 points

Northgate: API above 800, increase of 20 points

Olympic: Largest increase among continuation schools - 67 points

Summit: Increase of 17 points



# WOODLANDS CRIME REPORT

Thank you to Kathy Master for compiling this report from the WCPD website

The information in this Crime Report is taken from the Police Daily Bulletin as posted for public viewing on the Walnut Creek Police Department's website. The entire Walnut Creek police daily bulletin can be viewed at:

<u>www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/police/bulletin.asp</u>. Some issues of the Woodlands Newsletter may include only a portion of the monthly police activity in our neighborhood, as available print-space varies from issue to issue. The website is a useful resource for keeping apprised of the "full picture" of criminal activity in the Woodlands, in our adjacent neighborhoods, and in the rest of the City.

09-20564 (*incident number*) 09/06/09 19:59:48 (*date and time*) **Trespass** 500 block Banyan Circle. Unknown person entered backyard and place a pump in residence pool last night; water is being pumped out. Neighbor saw a small gray pickup, unknown make and model. Subject described as white male adult, 6'2", 170 lbs, curly blonde hair, wearing a blue baseball cap, tan pants and black tank top. Dispo: Subject gone on arrival. Ofc. Sadler

09-20638 09/08/09 08:18:51 **Suspicious Circumstance** 500 block Banyan Circle. Security check requested at vacant property where garage door is open. Related to 09-20564. Dispo: No problem identified at residence. Ofc. Thompson

09-20723 09/09/09 09:03:03 **Theft** 3200 block Sugarberry Lane. Vehicle entered overnight. RP states car was locked. Loss is registration card, coins and gasoline from tank. Victim vehicle is gold Toyota Corolla. Dispo: Theft of above said items, no damage to vehicle.

09-20743 09/09/09 15:13:29 **Vandalism** 200 block Rock Oak Rd. RP states on going problem of someone letting air out of tires of her gray BMW. Problem has occurred since May. RP suspects neighborhood juvenile.

09-20784 09/10/09 08:02:19 **Theft** 3500 block Perada Drive. Loss of items from blue Honda van, including GPS navigator, DVDs, adapter and Q-tips. Occurred between 2030 hours and 0740 hours. Ofc. Thompson

09-20839 09/10/09 16:04:33 **Auto Burglary** 200 block Rock Oak Rd. Gray 2008 VW Jetta license 6EDW114 entered during the night via unknown means. Dispo: Loss of loose change. Ofc. Watson

09-20848 09/10/09 17:23:59 **Theft** 200 block Rock Oak Rd. Unknown loss (at this time) of theft from unlocked vehicle sometime during the night. Ofc. Watson

09-20910 09/11/09 13:19:30 **Suspicious Circumstance** 3000 block Citrus Circle. RP states .22 caliber shells on ground in front of the building. No damage observed in the area. Dispo: No vandalism to business or surrounding area. Ofc. Pickett

09-20928 09/11/09 17:23:56 **Suspicious Circumstance** 700 block Mandarin Lane. RP reports she is at this residence to pet sit for elderly resident. Unable to find key in usual location. RP looked in window and said it appears someone is in resident's bed. Dispo: Resident determined to be playing golf. Ofc. Duggan



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#### MCS Painting and Design www.mclovekraft.com

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- Please call Mike Staples for more information or any questions you may have. 925-300-6586

#### FOR SALE

Wesley Allen white iron daybed and trundle. Mattresses included. Perfect for girls room. \$150.00 or best offer - 925-938-2286

#### **LOST AND FOUND**

Found: Binoculars on Rock Oak Road 10/01/09 To claim: identify brand and size Call Larry 925-935-2131

#### **MONEY MANAGEMENT FOR TEENAGERS**

- Individual and small group instruction available
- Enrollment now open
- Taught by Richard Gross, MBA, CMFC, CFP
- E-mail rggross@astound.net or call 925-876-0492 for more information.

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# LOW COST TEETH CLEANING

My name is Amanda Rogan. I am in the Dental Hygiene Program @ Chabot College in Hayward. I am looking for people who have not had their teeth cleaned in a while who are interested in receiving a complete dental cleaning. This includes an oral cancer screening, fluoride treatment, polishing, a toothbrush, floss, toothpaste & oral care instructions under the supervision of faculty made up of licensed dentists & dental hygienists. The very low clinic prices range from \$20-\$60 depending on patient need, but other financial arrangements may be made. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call (925) 951-7254 or email amandayourhygienist@yahoo.com

#### **Sharon's Montessori Tutoring**

- Happy with your child's 1<sup>st</sup> quarter progress report?
- •Is your child struggling with language, math or reading?
- Call Sharon to discuss whether she can help your child achieve his or her academic success.
- Should you wish, Sharon can communicate with your child's teacher.
- Your child does NOT need to be in a Montessori classroom to benefit from Sharon's expertise.
- Contact: Cell 925-286-1097, email: sharon duarte@hotmail.com

# Advertise With Us!

To Advertise in the Woodlands Newsletter,

Contact Marc Graves 925-336-6272 or Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com
Advertising Rates & Sizes

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

Full Page  $-10 \times 7.5 - \$80/month$ 

 $\frac{1}{2}$  Page – 5 x 7.5 - \$45/month

 $\frac{1}{4}$  Page – 5 x 3.5 - \$25/month

1/4 Page on back cover - \$45/month

1/8 Page  $-2.5 \times 3.5 - $15/month$ 

Want Ads - line ad with 30 words or less: \$5 Woodlands Residents, \$13 Non-Residents

### **Next Advertising Deadline**

Please submit all ads and payments for the next issue by November 15, 2009

#### Submission Guidelines

- Please submit your ad in the actual size/dimensions listed above.
- Ad should be formatted with any artwork you want included at the time of submittal.
- If your ad needs layout/design or artwork, there is an additional \$10 design fee.
- We love DIGITAL FILES! If you can provide a digital file of your ad, please email it to Woodlandsassn@yahoo.com. We accept PDF, Microsoft Publisher, and MS Word documents.
- If you only have a paper copy of your ad, please mail it and the payment to: Woodlands Association, PO Box 31085, Walnut Creek, CA 94598
- Payment is due when you submit your ad. Please make checks payable to "Woodlands Association" and mail to: PO Box 31085, Walnut Creek, CA 94598