

Keeping You Informed For 50 Years

September 2015

Valle Verde Elementary School Beautification Calling All Volunteers for Community Service Day

By Adrienne Robillard

Walnut Creek's Annual Community Service Day will be held on Saturday, October 10th this year. The Woodlands Association is working in tandem with the Valle Verde Elementary School PTA on a school beautification project. Join us for a few hours to keep our neighborhood elementary school campus a gem.

Kicking off at 9 a.m., we will meet at the school. Bring your labeled gardening tools to help weed, pick up litter, plant and give the school some landscaping TLC. All ages are welcome. Children under 12 must be chaperoned by an adult. Snacks will be provided, but you are also welcome to bring your own. Bring your own water bottle and be sure to wear sunscreen and closed-toed shoes.

Sign up to participate in this popular citywide event online at www.walnut-creek.org/about/resources_n_programs/ community_service_day.asp. By signing up prior to the event, you will receive an invitation to the kick-off pancake breakfast at Heather Farm and a T-shirt.

Drive 25: It's the Limit in the Woodlands

By Adrienne Robillard

After numerous neighbors reported dangerous incidences of speeding in the neighborhood, the Woodlands Association spoke with Officer Adams of the Walnut Creek Police Department. The primary areas of concern are Citrus Avenue, Peachwillow Avenue, Perada Drive, and Rock Oak Road, where drivers are speeding well past the 25 mph speed limit within the Woodlands.

During school drop-off concerns spread through the area where parents are dropping their kids off near Valle Verde. Remember to always use crosswalks when going to school. That two extra minutes helps to keep everyone safe.

Officer Adams reports that traffic and speeding have begun to be monitored and ticketed in the Woodlands. That is a terrific start, providing awareness to motorists to stick to the 25 mph limit. Should police presence and friendly reminders to our neighbors like the article you're reading here not be proven effective, possible future solutions include the installation of additional stop signs throughout the neighborhood, a radar trailer to track driver's speeds, and speed bumps.

Please keep the Woodlands Association updated on any concerns and remember to drive safely, slowly, and never text and drive. Thank you!

www.WoodlandsAssn.org



In This Issue...

Valle Verde Beautification1
Drive 25
The Orchards Senior Housing 3
Woodlands Survey Results 3
Are you a Wordsmith?
School News4
Enhance the Facility 5
Woodlands Police Calls 5
Water-Wise 6
The Changing Shadelands 7
September Recipe 7
Advertiser Contents 5

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> Newsletter printed by Minuteman Press (925) 256-6444

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.pleasanthillbavshoredisposal.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

The Woodlands Association receives some emails and questions about many issues that are

Let's Get to 300 Facebook Likes!

Visit the Woodlands on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WoodlandsAssn to see what your neighbors are posting about - from com-

munity event updates to goats in the gully. We are at 272 "Likes" and it's our new goal to reach 300 this summer. Invite your friends and neighbors to join our Facebook page, post photos from the 4th of July Parade, and other fun Woodlands moments.

Who to Contact?



Woodlands Association **Board of Directors**

Adrienne Robillard ~ President Bill Gilmyers ~ Vice President Jan Gall ~ Treasurer Erik Ehlers ~ Secretary **OPEN** ~ Newsletter Coordinator James Goudy ~ Webmaster

Jennifer Zotti ~ Newsletter Distribution Manager Interns: Danielle Arauzo & Talia Arauzo

Board Meetings 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Upcoming

Saturday, September 5th Saturday, October 3rd

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

Woodlands residents are encouraged to attend board meetings.

The Orchards Senior Housing Presentation

The sponsors of the new senior housing community being developed at The Orchards invite you to a preview

> When: Wednesday, Sept. 9th, 2015 *Time:* 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm **Place:** Shadelands Art Center (111 N. Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek, CA)

You will be among the first to learn about the proposed not-for-profit community and preview current design before presented to the City of Walnut Creek Design Review Committee.

Voice of the Reader-

Woodlands Newsletter Survey Results

Bill Gilmyers

In June and July the Woodlands Board surveyed neighborhood residents to better understand what they like about our monthly newsletter and how it might be improved. 37 Readers responded with most providing positive feedback about the newsletter, with over 80% indicated that they felt it was either an "essential part of what makes our neighborhood special" or "a useful source of information". Most (89%) look to the newsletter as a way to stay informed, with a smaller number indicating that it is a good way to find contact information for local services.

Respondents expressed an interested in a wide range of content, with the majority indicating that they look forward to receiving updates on the area (92%) or community events (80%). Police calls (65%), advice and tips (57%) and updates on community members (51%) all received support from over 50% of respondents.

At least one contributor did ask about the content in the newsletter and wondered if it would be possible to "see more stories and fewer ads, or more personalize ads catered to the community". That said the ads seem to be working, as a full 57% indicated that they had hired a newsletter advertiser to provide goods or services.

To all that completed the survey we appreciate your feedback. As always, if you have any feedback for the Woodlands board, or would like to serve you community by helping out, feel free to drop us a line at woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com. Better yet, feel free to visit a monthly board meeting the first Saturday of each month at 8 AM in the back room at Denica's!

We welcome your attendance and look forward to your input.

ARE YOU A WOODLANDS WORDSMITH??

The Woodlands Board is looking for someone who has experience and/or interest in journalism and publishing to fill the open position of Newsletter Coordinator. This is an opportunity to contribute your skills to the publication of The Woodlands newsletter each month by compiling monthly articles to send to the printer,

editing where needed, providing input into what content we publish and communicating timely information to the Woodlands community. Plus, this is a great way to enhance and update your resume.



To find out more about this opportunity, please email us at woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com.



SCHOOL NEWS

Valle Verde Elementary School – Back to School Fun!

8/25: First Day of School & Coffee Social

Tuesday, August 25th is the first day of school. After you settle your child into class, stop by the PTA sponsored Coffee Social in the MUR. Have a treat, catch up with old friends and meet new families. We will be on the regular Tuesday schedule for the first day of school.

8/27: Ice-Cream Social

On Thursday, August 27th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, the PTA is sponsoring a (free) ice-cream social behind the MUR. Bring the entire family and enjoy a treat, while the kids have fun re-connecting with friends and so will parents!

9/1: PTA Meeting

On Tuesday, September 1st starting at 7pm in the MUR, will be the first the PTA meeting of the year. Everyone welcome. We will approve our 2015-2016 budget, programs and fundraisers and discuss our survey results and (as a result) the increase in teacher assistant hours.

9/8: Back to School Night On Tuesday, September 8th from 6:30pm-7:15pm for grades 3-5 and from 7:15pm-8pm for TK-2nd grade.

10/10: Community Service Day

On Saturday, October 10th from at 9am-1pm come by Valle Verde and help clean up our campus. Light gardening, raking leaves and picking up trash. Water and supplies will be provided. Stay as long as you wish. All ages can help!

10/25: Fall Carnival

On Sunday, October 25th from 10am-2pm come to the back of the school for a family friendly Carnival including games, treats, raffle, silent auction, haunted house and more. At Valle Verde, it takes Every Viking to Sail Our Ship! We look forward to a wonderful year! -Valle Verde Office Team and PTA

Foothill Middle School – Dates to Remember

September 2- Back to School Night September 7- Labor Day; no school September 9-8th grade welcome assembly September 16- PFA Meeting in Library (7pm) September 24- MDUSD Technology Advisory Committee Meeting in T2 October 2- Quarter Progress Reports

Northgate High School

The Northgate Instrumental Music Boosters are pleased to offer these high-quality totes to the NHS community!

The totes are 100% cotton twill with reinforced cotton web handles and an embroidered Northgate logo. These sturdy totes are \$20/each with an optional custom name added for an additional \$5. The tote order form is available at northgatehs-pfc.com/nimb.

All proceeds support Northgate Instrumental Music programs, serving 150 NHS students in 7 instrumental music groups as well as programs for the NHS community! For more information contact Monica Collard at kyle.monica@att.net.

Enhance the Facility, Enhance the Woodlands, Improve Your Life!

By David Lamm

We are Woodlands (www.wearewoodlands.org) is launching a fundraising campaign for our treasured Woodlands Cabana Club. Funds raised will support projects that enhance the 53-yearold neighborhood jewel, including solar power, adding more shade, resurfacing parts of the pool deck, and water-efficient landscape enhancements. Plus, repairs to the lanai will ensure that family gatherings, ping pong, team banquets and birthday parties will be even more fun.

You may think this is a stretch but we beg to differ (now that we are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization, begging is no longer an option).

A smooth pool deck, an updated lanai, costeffective landscape and increased shade will make the Cabana Club even more attractive for birthday parties, a cooling dip after work, water aerobics, team banquets, impromptu barbecues and so much more. Here's the best part: Your tax-deductible donation to We Are Woodlands will go far in increasing the value of your real estate.

Make a tax-deductible donation today at www. gofundme.com/y2jsnn2j.

WOODLANDS POLICE CALLS



The following information 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: www.walnut-creek.org/ citygov/depts/police/bulletin.asp. 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



	Police Calls from 07/05/15 - 08/04/15			
	07/07/15 22:17:58 3600 BI Sugarberry Ln.			
	Reporting party reports hearing several males on fenceline near ca- nal yelling and talking about car that saw them. Dispo: subjects gone on arrival. Unable to locate. Susp. Circumstance.			
-	07/13/15 17:01:01 2200 BI Oak Grove Rd.			
ol	Reporting lost iPhone, reporting party left it on the counter at 09:14, realized it was gone and went right back and it was gone. Reporting party spoke to manager, who said they announced lost phone and someone took it. Dispo: reporting party called officer back to advise the phone has been located. No need for report. Service to Citizen.			
	07/15/15 17:56:52 Ygnacio Valley Rd. / Oak Grove Rd.			
	Up the hill eastbound Ygnacio Valley past Oak Grove - male bicyclist laying on the side of the road behind some bushes - bike looked wrecked. Reporting party is passerby, Is 1 ago. Dispo: unable to locate. Welfare Check.			
	07/20/15 11:06:57 Ygnacio Valley Rd. / Oak Grove Rd.			
	Westbound-passerby reporting what appears to be a firehose in the roadway-says its a hazard. Dispo: removed from roadway. Miscel- laneous Traffic.			
	07/20/15 14:21:06 Ygnacio Valley Rd. / Oak Grove Rd.			
6	Long piece of metal in the 2 and 3 lanes, just prior to intersection. Eastbound lanes. Dispo: equipment was delivered to whole foods construction site. Miscellaneous Traffic.			
	07/25/15 12:30:04 3500 Bl Perada Dr.			
	Ex-boyfriend showed up to reporting party's home this morning, be- ing very confrontational and causing disturbance. Dispo: 415 verbal between ex partners. Male not on scene. Advice given to female half regarding restraining orders. Disturbance- 415 PC.			
	07/29/15 09:17:47 3500 Bl Sugarberry Ln.			
	Broken lock to a back fence. Reporting party heard a noise last night and now the fence is broken. **in person contact**. Dispo: deter- mined gate was not locked. Appears gate was opened during the night. No indication anyone was in rear yard. Susp. Circumstance.			
	08/04/15 12:41:38 2200 BI Oak Grove Rd.			
	Reporting party's bank called him and said a subj came in and tried to cash a check. Per the reporting party his vehicle was stolen in Pleasanton and it had the checkbook in it. Reporting party says the bank told him this occurred 40-50 ago. **21 rpt**. Dispo: susp: white female adult or hispanic female adult, 35yrs, 5'tall, short black hair in ponytail, milky left eye, transient looking. Tried to cash 2 stolen checks. Burglary.			

Water Wise: Instant-On Hot Water- No More Wasted Water

By Bill Gilmyers

While searching for new ways to save water I recently heard about a hot water recirculating pump that attaches to your water heater for 'instant on' hot water. You can find these pumps under the brand names Watts and Grundfos and they retail for a little under \$200. Online reviews are very good and with a little elbow grease you can have instant hot water at any faucet in your home.

Here's how it works. First, you install the pump to your hot water heater. The device is about the size of a toaster and requires a power supply nearby. Second, you'll install a small heat sensitive valve to the water hoses below the sink furthest from your hot water heater.

When the hot water touching the heat sensor drops below a certain temperature, the valve pulls a little bit of hot water through and returns it to the cold pipe. In this way there is always hot water at the furthest sink, and, since the hot water runs past all the other sinks on the way, they will have hot water too. You can install multiple valves if you have more than one hot water line.

With hot water constantly flowing, your hot water heater will have to work a bit harder, which may drive up your energy costs a bit. To mitigate this, the water pump has a timer so you can set it to only run when you typically need hot water. When it's off you'll get hot water as normal, with the usual wait to warm up.

Some reviewers noted that the valve is the 'weak link' and needs to be replaced frequently. The expected lifespan of these valves is a little unclear, but a year seems pretty typical. Replacement valves cost \$70, so you'll have to decide if it's worth it from the standpoint of convenience and conscience alone. Others indicated that while their hot water came right on, they actually had to let their cold water run a bit as it initially comes out a bit warm after installation.

Finally, some noted that they had good luck using just the heat sensitive valve and skipping the cost of buying and hassle of installing the actual pump. While this could save you some money up front, you lose the benefit of the timer feature on the pump.

All in all this seems like a good way to save water, and having always available hot water a nice convenience. I'm going to take a stab at installing one in the next month or two and will share my results in a future issue of the newsletter. In the mean time, good luck saving H20!

Advertise With Us!

To Advertise in the Woodlands Newsletter, Contact woodlandswalnutcreek@gmail.com or visit www.woodlandsassn.org/advertise

Advertising Rates & Sizes

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

- Full Page 10 x 7.5 \$90/month
- 1/2 Page 5 x 7.5 \$50/month
- 1/4 Page 5 x 3.5 \$30/month
- 1/4 Page on back cover \$50/month
- **1/8 Page 2.5 x 3.5 \$20/month** Want Ads - line ad with 30 words or less:

\$5 Woodlands Residents, \$13 Non-Residents

NEW Advertising Deadline Please submit all ads and payments for the next issue by October 10, 2015

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.

The Changing Shadelands

By Leif Fairfield

On August 5, the Walnut Creek City Counsel, led by Chairperson Marilyn Weiss, heard proposals to renovate signage for Shadelands business park tenants, including BMP Shadelands Office and the Walnut Creek Execute Park. The BMP Shadelands Offices, currently housing Muir Orthopedic, proposed 2 updated free standing illuminated signs and additional tertiary signs, to better direct traffic through the business park.

The counsel questioned the possibility of light pollution, safety concerns, and sign aesthetics. Managing BMP owner Bill Murphy agreed with all of the counsel's requested changes, and suggested a timer to turn off lights by 10pm. The counsel heard from one very enthusiastic public supporter.

Not to be outdone, the Walnut Creek Executive Park also proposed changes from existing 2003 signage to a semi-modern upgrade of address signs, tenant numbers, wayfinding system, and an updated street-facing sign on Oak Grove Boulevard. The signs would both match the property's existing "campus" aesthetic and better direct traffic.

These proposed updates were unanimously approved with the understanding that smarter navigation will be imperative as The Orchards at Walnut Creek project, now slated to finish Oct 1, 2016 (according to the Whiting-Turner Contracting Company) continues to progress, drawing additional traffic to the area.

The activity in the Shadelands continues to draw future tenants, including Calicraft Brewing Company, which will open their Walnut Creek taproom on Mitchell Drive "by the end of 2015." Calicraft is seeking community input for their Mitchell taproom, promising food trucks, locally made empenadas, outdoor lawn chair seating, bike parking, bocce ball, and an onsite hop field.

The buzzing Shadelands activity will excite adventurous Woodlands residents by offering a walkable alternative to the downtown area, encouraging us all to eat, drink, shop and thrive while supporting our local community.

September Recipe: Late Summer Grilled Corn & Tomato Salad

Contributed by Woodlands Chef Colleen O'Donnell

This salad celebrates the late summer flavors of tomatoes and corn- you can grab almost everything at the farmer's market. Fresh corn, tomatoes and basil are a great match while the hazelnuts add an additional layer of texture and a nice crunch. Arugula has a slightly peppery bite that works well here, but you can substitute your favorite lettuce. As for tomatoes- use whatever looks best- baskets of heirloom cherry tomatoes are a great choice and add color.

The Vinaigrette

This dressing makes more than you need so make it in a jar for easy mixing and storage. It is a great all-purpose dressing for any green or grain salad and can double as a sauce to drizzle over grilled chicken or fish. Place all ingredients in a bowl or a jar with resalable lid, such as a mason jar. Whisk or shake to combine. Store the leftover dressing in the refrigerator.

- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/2 cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 1 teaspoon Kosher Salt

 $^{1\!\!/_{\!\!2}}$ teaspoon fresh ground black pepper

Salad

- 4 ears grilled fresh corn
- 1/4 cup hazelnuts- toasted and chopped

2 cups chopped tomatoes- large tomatoes should be seeded, while smaller cherry tomatoes can just be cut in half.

1/2 cup basil leaves, chopped

1. Grill the Corn- preheat your grill to medium heat, shuck the corn and brush with olive oil (about a tablespoon). Grill corn for about 8-10 minutes (depending on your grill), turning every three minutes. Corn should have some char. Remove from grill and let cool. Once cool, cut the kernels from the cob and set aside.

2.. In a large bowl add the arugula, corn, tomatoes and hazelnuts.

3.. Drizzle on vinaigrette to taste- be sure not too add too much; start with 1 or 2 Tablespoons, toss and add more as needed. Too much dressing will make the greens soggy.

Questions or comments? Feel free to contact me: cookinginthewoodlands@gmail.com





ADVERTISING

Advertiser Contents

BELFAST PLUMBING 15
BLADES OF GLORY 18
BRUCE LESSER - REALTOR 17
DAYNA WILSON - REALTOR11
GOLDEN PALM LANDSCAPE 13
HAPPY NEST CHILDCARE 15
HOUSE DOCTOR - VICTOR LOPEZ 15
KEVIN'S LAWN SERVICE
KYLE M. JOHNSTON - ESTATE ATTORNEY 13
MARC GRAVES - REALTOR14,20
MASTER ELECTRIC8
MELANIE AND RAY KOZAK - REALTORS 13
MINUTEMAN PRESS
PLAYPAL PET CARE8
RE POWER
RENEE WAGNER - REALTOR 19, 20
STEVE HANSEN - REALTOR 12
THE WOODLANDS CABANA CLUB 10
WOODLANDS GARAGE SALE
YOUR LOCAL HOME REPAIRS





Woodlands Annual Garage Sale Sunday, October 4, 2015

A map of the neighborhood, identifying the locations of those who are participating in the garage sale is created to aid buyers to find your homes. Maps will be provided to the participants to hand out to buyers. To get on the map you need to register. You may still participate without registering.

When you call, please leave (1) your name, (2) home phone number, (3) address, & (4) a brief description of the items for sale. You will receive a call back to confirm the information within a few days.

> Garage sale hours are advertised as 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You can open and close your garage whenever you wish.

Because of the details involved in setting up this event. Please Call No Later Than 6:00 p.m., Sunday, September 27th



Beginning Tuesday, September 1 st call 945 - 4575 To Register ! Please do not call prior to this date



David Galindo CRS Jan Williams GRI, CRS

J. Rockcliff Realtors 1700 North Main Street Walnut Creek. Ca 94596 (925) 945-4575

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The Woodlands Cabana Club

Show your support by going to this linkwww.gofundme.com/y2jsnn2j



We are Woodlands, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is launching a fundraising campaign at our treasured Woodlands Cabana Club located in Walnut Creek, California.

We are looking at projects that enhance the facility such as solar power, adding more shade, resurfacing parts of the pool deck, and options for enhancing the Landscape. We also have a Lanai where our families gather for shade, family gatherings and birthday celebrations that needs repairing.

Your generous gift will make a permanent difference in the lives of our children and the community as a whole.

What is **We are Woodlands**? – www.wearewoodlands.org

More about The Woodlands Cabana Club - www.woodlandscabanaclub.org

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Biscay, WC— Sold \$955,000. Represented Buyers





•

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Elmwood, WC-Sold \$975,000. Multiple offers, Sold over asking



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The Fall selling season should be great this year! Make sure you **INTERVIEW THE RIGHT REALTOR for the RIGHT RESULTS**



564 Banyan Cir, Walnut Creek Fabulous remodeled home with pool in The Woodlands 5 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, 2,770, Sq Ft, 2-Story List Price \$995,000 - Sold for \$1,175,000 Steve represented the lucky Buyers!



162 S. Cody Ln, Pleasant Hill Storybook, Farmhouse 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, 1872 Sq Ft 2-story List Price \$749,000 - Pending well over! See my photography and staging at www.162SouthCody.com

Thinking about a move? Make sure to include the marketing professional in your interviewing process. All my Woodlands sellers are sure glad they did!

Bringing The Woodlands values up one seller at a time. I will expose your home in its most flattering light, so it will not be overlooked or undervalued.

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The Woodlands 3623 Sugarberry Lane, Walnut Creek For Lease

• Three bedrooms, Two baths • 1600+ sq. ft. of living space • Fresh Paint

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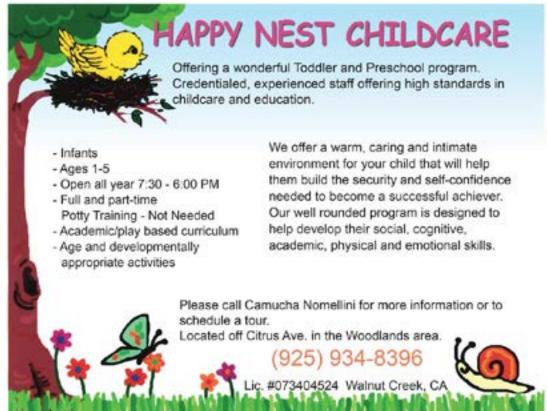
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September 2015



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 - Repair of Leaking Pipes
 - New Installations
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- Exterior Interior
- Spot Painting After Repairs
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GUTTER WORK

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CARPENTRY & DRYWALL

- Installation of Doors, Locks
- Repair Stucco Drywall
 - Brickwork
 - Odds and Ends

TILE WORK

- New Tile Installation
- Seal and Grout Existing Tile

If you need a service not mentioned above, just call us. Prices will be quoted by the job.



KITCHENS	BATHROOMS	HOME
CABINET INSTALLATION	NEW TUB INSTALL	WINDOW
COUNTER TOPS SINK AND FAUCET GARBAGE DISPOSAL DISHWASHER NEW FLOORING PAINT LIGHTING	TOILET	WINDOW
	VANITY	DOORS IN
	MEDICINE CAB	GALVANI
	FLOORING	WATER R
	HOLDERS	HOSE BIB
	PAINT	FENCING
	EXHAUSTS	SHEET RO
	LIGHTING	NEW WAI

Bruce Lesser is not your "ordinary" Realtor ...

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- ✓ WCPD's longest serving **volunteer** Reserve Police Officer, since '79
- ✓ Past Alumni Board President at De La Salle (Class of '76)
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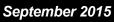
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