



The Parkmead Community Association (PCA) is a voluntary organization, run by volunteer board members who are passionate about engaging in and improving their community.

2022 PCA Events

Mark your calendars!

All in-person events will be dependent on county health guidelines.

November 5th: Chili Cook-off

Find Us Online

Website: www.parkmead.org

Facebook: Parkmead Community Association WC

Email: parkmead@parkmead.org

Donate Today

Voluntary annual dues (\$15) fund our events, newsletter, and website. Please consider joining today by send cash or check to PCA Treasurer at 1521 Arbutus Dr., or via PayPal or Zelle: parkmead@parkmead.org. The PayPal link is also on the PCA website.

President's Corner: Getting chilly / chili!

It has been great to see so many neighbors out enjoying PCA events this year, meeting new neighbors, and sharing fun times. We have one more great event coming up, the annual Parkmead Neighborhood Chili Cook-off, on Saturday, November 5th! Details below. We hope to see you there, and we always need chili-making entrants, so please join us!

This is the last PCA Newsletter for the year, and my term as president finishes at the end of this year. It has been a pleasure and honor serving as PCA President this year, seeing our quaint neighborhood rebuild our social bonds post-pandemic. I also have to thank our entire PCA Board for all of the hard work and volunteer efforts this year. The PCA Board is a great group of people whom I'm happy to call friends as well as neighbors.

As always, if you have any comments, questions or suggestions, you can reach the PCA at parkmead@parkmead.org. We hope you'll make your voluntary \$15/household contribution to the PCA in 2022 to officially be part of the association! Information on the various ways to pay dues is available at the PCA website, www.parkmead.org. The PCA depends on your member dues to support our events in the Parkmead neighborhood!

Josh Brann
PCA President 2022

Chili COOK-OFF

By Amy Sherman

Calling all chili chef competitors and tasting aficionados! The PCA is holding the annual Chili Cook-off on Saturday, November 5th at 1p-4p on Maple Lane. Visit Parkmead.org to enter your chili asap. We hope to see you there!

The Chili Cook-off is the event that I look forward to all year long. It's the perfect way to celebrate the transition of the seasons. The leaves have changed color and are beginning to fall, it's getting cooler in the mornings and evenings, and we're getting ready for the winter months

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2022 PCA Board

Officers

President, Josh Brann

Vice-President, Kristin Lanham

Treasurer, Chris Morris

Secretary, Kristen McLeran

Board Members

Craig Geldard - *NEW*

Jodi Hayes - *RETURNING*

Tiffany Hillis

Silvia Lucchi

Paul and Raigan Roy

Amy Sherman

Sadie Waddington

Richard West

Join PCA!

We always welcome neighbors who want to get involved and make Parkmead an even better place! Reach out to parkmead@parkmead.org if you would like participate as a board member, help volunteer at an event, or anything else.

Chili COOK-OFF Contd.

ahead. What better way to spend a Saturday afternoon than mingling with neighbors, enjoying the crisp air, the crunch of leaves under your feet, and getting judgy about which chili will reign supreme! This year's event promises to be amazing - and there will be no shortage of delicious food!

This is a great event for all ages - bring yourself, friends, family, your chili - all are welcome. We'll see you then!



Stepping Out with the Parkmead Walking Club: Come one, Come All!

By Kristen McLeran

Physical activity and positive social connections are two critical parts of a healthy lifestyle. Walking and connecting with neighbors complement each other very well and our Parkmead neighborhood is a perfect setting for this!

The PCA is organizing our very own Parkmead Walking Club. We all know that people engage more routinely in fitness activities when it is supported by a group. The PCA will begin by offering weekly 45 minutes walks. We plan to have two leaders on each walk, one will lead a group on a brisk walk while the second group will walk at a slower pace. This way all are offered the opportunity to benefit from movement, fresh air and friendship.

As interest grows, the PCA aims to offer multiple walks per week and begin walks with guest speakers offering short discussions of other healthy

Stepping Out with the Parkmead Walking Club: Come one, Come All! Contd.

lifestyle concepts, including healthy nutrition, sleep health, stress management and reducing substance use. We plan to develop alternate routes in our neighborhood of varying length and terrain.

Details:

Who: All Parkmead neighbors, family and friends.

What: 45-minute, volunteer-led, walking routes through the Parkmead Neighborhood.

When: Thursdays at 6:30 PM. - Weekly

Where: Begin and end at Parkmead School, 1920 Magnolia Drive.

How: Meet in front of Parkmead School. Walkers are encouraged to wear light colored clothing and/or bring a flashlight/headlamp. This is a volunteer-led, free, non-profit, non-competitive activity. All participants agree to assume complete personal liability.

Why: A terrific chance for each of us to improve personal fitness and increase our community connections in a beautiful setting.



Our first walk is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2022, 6:30 PM. Please come join us! Bring a neighbor!

Please contact us if you are interested in helping lead walks, develop routes, speak prior to a walk or have questions about the walking club: parkmead@parkmead.org.

BLOCK PARTY RECAP

By Paul Roy

The annual Parkmead Block Party that took place on Saturday, August 27th, was a huge success! A special thanks to the residents of Camelia Ln. for sharing their street, and to the many others who helped plan, support, and participated in the event. Approximately 250 Parkmead neighbors enjoyed the festivities which included a food truck, beverages (adult and for the children), play areas (including rock painting and bubble wands), and drone coverage (link below). It was clear that the neighborhood was ready to get out and about at this year's block party, and we're looking forward to seeing everyone again at the **Chili Cookoff on Saturday, November 5th, 2022.**

As always, the PCA board appreciates feedback about this and other events and would welcome additional participation from neighbors on the board or subcommittees as they form. Please provide your feedback and/or interest at <https://www.parkmead.org/contact>.

Link to Drone Video of the Block Party:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LGSU7ImvRX9ztNdtAu0qy46zERZBssK/view>

Proposed Changes to Newell Avenue Downtown

Lane reductions to accommodate bicycle lane and crosswalks

By Christopher Morris

Earlier this year, staff at the City of Walnut Creek presented a proposal to the Transportation Commission regarding Newell Avenue in the downtown area. Staff are proposing multiple changes along the Newell corridor starting at the entrance to our neighborhood (west of the 680 Freeway at the City limit) and ending at Newell Hill Place to the east. The project consists of changes at the intersection along Newell Avenue to enhance pedestrian safety, provide a low-stress bicycle facility connecting to the Iron Horse Trail, and install a mid-block crosswalk at Kaiser Hospital.

These changes will necessitate removing a driving lane in each direction on Newell as well as removing some turn lanes at certain intersections. In addition to the mid-block crosswalk at Kaiser, a diagonal scramble is being proposed at Broadway to connect the Iron Horse Trail. Timing of the traffic signals will also be modified which could lead to increased delays for motor vehicles along the route.

The PCA has been in contact with the City traffic engineering staff to make sure we are included as a stakeholder in discussions should this project move forward. At this point the project is in the planning stage and staff hasn't provided any timeline for when they will be reaching out to stakeholders or when the project might move forward.

Diagrams of the proposed intersection layouts as well as links to the staff report and a video of the transportation commission meeting can be found on our website, www.parkmead.org, under the Neighborhood Development tab.



The PCA: To 501(c)(3) or Not to 501(c)(3), That is the Question

By Josh Brann

As you may recall from previous newsletters, the PCA is seeking to become a legally registered, tax-exempt, non-profit organization, also known as a 501(c)(3) organization, in reference to the corresponding IRS tax code. We are seeking assistance from any legal or accounting professionals in the neighborhood who have experience working with non-profit organizations.

We have received some questions as to why the PCA should become a non-profit organization. There are multiple pros and cons that the PCA Board has considered when making this decision, a few of which are summarized below:

PROS

- Non-profit status would mean that PCA annual dues and other donations to the PCA would be tax-deductible for neighborhood residents.
- Increase liability protection for PCA Board members.
- Continued or expanded ability to collect annual dues via electronic options (i.e. Zelle, Paypal, etc.), which are increasingly popular. Beginning in 2022, the IRS implemented a reporting threshold of \$600 for funds received from electronic platforms; in 2022 we would have exceeded this threshold if we had not disabled our accounts part-way through the year.

CONS

- Increased annual record keeping and reporting requirements to maintain non-profit legal status.
- Increased need to ensure a consistent, stable, and active PCA Board. The level of engagement in the PCA Board by neighborhood residents has waxed and waned over the years; there is a chance that if there is a period of low engagement and activity that the non-profit status would lapse.
- One-time cost of registration as a non-profit organization; time and energy required to initiate the transition.

Considering the above, we believe the Pros outweigh the Cons, and the PCA Board decided in early 2022 that it would be in the PCA's best overall interest to pursue 501(c)(3) status. Now we just need to make it happen! Please let us know if you are able or willing to help by emailing parkmead@parkmead.org.

SCHOLARSHIP

Calling all high school seniors! The PCA is happy to announce that we will be offering a \$500 scholarship for outstanding community involvement for the 2022-23 school year to a worthy high school senior or 2023 high school graduate. To apply please submit a 300-word essay to parkmead@parkmead.org explaining your civic engagement, preferably within the Parkmead community, and your post-high school plans. All applicants must be residents of the Parkmead neighborhood. **Please submit applications by November 30, 2022.** Good luck!

