



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

## 2021 PCA Events

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Mark your calendars!

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

**April (date to be confirmed):**

Virtual Fire and Emergency Preparedness Q&A

**June 5:** Neighborhood Garage Sale

**August (date to be confirmed):**

Pool Party

**November 6:** Chili Cook-off

**December (date to be confirmed):**

Holiday Caroling

## Find Us Online

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Website: [parkmead.org](http://parkmead.org)

Facebook: Parkmead Community Association WC

Email: [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org)

## Donate Today

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Voluntary annual dues (\$15) fund our events, newsletter, and website. Please consider joining today with the enclosed envelope or via PayPal: [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org). PayPal link also on our website.

## President's Corner: Back in the Saddle!

Hello! I'm Josh Brann, your Parkmead Community Association president for 2021. I've lived on Camelia Lane for the past 10 years. I hope everyone in the Parkmead neighborhood is getting through these challenging times as best as you can. After a difficult year for everyone, the PCA is ramping up to be as active as possible this year (taking all county-recommended health precautions into consideration). We're starting the year off with a virtual event to help us be prepared for emergencies, including fires (see next page). It has been nice to see people walking around the neighborhood, but it will be fantastic once we are able to gather together at our traditional PCA neighborhood events. I very much look forward to the first in-person PCA event of the year! (whenever that may be...)

If you have any questions, concerns, thoughts, suggestions or anything else you'd like to communicate about the neighborhood, you can reach me at [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org). I also encourage you to find information about neighborhood events at the PCA website, [www.parkmead.org](http://www.parkmead.org). Finally, we encourage you to make your voluntary \$15/household contribution to the PCA in 2021 to officially be part of the association! The PCA depends on your member dues to support our events in the Parkmead neighborhood.

## New logo!

The PCA Board decided it was time to refresh the PCA logo. The logo was designed to reference the Parkmead neighborhood's location (at the foot of Mt. Diablo), our mature trees, our walkability, and the schools at the heart of Parkmead (child reading under the tree). We hope you like it!



# Virtual Spring Event! Fire and Emergency Preparedness Q&A with CCC Fire and WCPD

*(Watch for signs and updates on the PCA website for event details)*

Are you as prepared as you can be for wildfires and other emergencies? Our 2020 fire season was historic. At one point in August 2020 the 2nd and 3rd largest recorded wildfires in California history were approximately 35 miles north and 35 miles south of the Parkmead neighborhood, and smoke filled our skies. Do you know what to do if a wildfire starts in or near our neighborhood? How much fire risk is there in the Parkmead neighborhood? When and how should you evacuate? Where should you go? These are all questions many of us have, and we'll get some answers in a virtual Q&A. Since our neighborhood is partly unincorporated, we'll have both the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and the Walnut Creek Police Department join us. We are working to confirm the exact date and time keep your eyes and ears open for more information about when and how to access this virtual event.

If you haven't already, follow the Parkmead Community Association Facebook page as one good way to stay updated on events and other important information.

## Neighborhood Highlight: Memorial Park, and Memorial Brick Fundraiser

*by Glenn Wechsler*

If you have not yet visited the newly redesigned Lancaster Park (on Lancaster Road just south of Lilac Drive) you are missing a truly inspirational part of our community. Thanks to the Miles Hall Foundation, community volunteers, and the City of Walnut Creek, the park has been transformed into a living breathing memorial to three young adults - Miles Hall, Andrew King and Aisha Horley. Benches, a picnic table, new landscaping and walkways were installed transforming the park into a place we all can rest, reflect and smile upon those departed friends, family and loved ones. Make a point to stop by this peaceful spot to sit and enjoy the bird songs and spring smells.

The Miles Hall Foundation, in partnership with NAMI Contra Costa, is sponsoring a Memorial Brick Drive whereby members of the community can purchase custom engraved bricks honoring their own loved ones, to be installed at Lancaster Park during a community event in May 2021, during Mental Health Awareness Month.

**Order must be placed by March 30, 2021.** Please order your bricks today. For more information, examples and order forms can be located at <http://justiceformilesball.org> and <http://polarengraving.com/tbemilesballfoundation>.

## Join the PCA Board!

Do you care about your neighborhood, and want to make it a better place? The PCA is always seeking additional members for the Board! Meetings are about an hour, once per month. The Board is a fun and friendly group, come join us! Email: [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org) to find out when the next board meeting is, or reach out to any of the board members directly.

## 2021 PCA Board

### Officers

*President*, Josh Brann

*Vice-President*, Lena Schorkopf

*Treasurer*, Chris Morris

*Secretary*, Kristen McLeran

### Board Members

Roderic Campbell

Adam Foster

Kristin Lanham

Grace Lindsay (LLHS liaison)

Richard West

Sadie Waddington

# Meet Lena Schorkopf, PCA Vice President and scholarship recipient

*By Kristen McLeran*

Lena Schorkopf served on the PCA board as our high school liaison for two years. She was very active in planning and decision making, and was elected PCA Vice President for 2021. In April 2020, the PCA presented Lena with a \$500 scholarship in recognition of her exemplary service to our community. Lena is finishing her first year at UCLA as a Political Science Major, remote learning from her home in Parkmead. Board Secretary Kristen McLeran recently had the opportunity to talk with Lena. Below is a small part of their conversation.

**Kristen:** Are there any experiences or insights that stand out from your time on the board?

**Lena:** It was interesting to see all that goes into an event or activity. I participated with my family in these events before I joined the board, but I had no idea how much work is involved.

As a board member, I participated in planning, budgeting, and organizing. It was great to see the fruits of our labor on the day of the event and how we brought people together. Even if only a small group participated, it was a new opportunity to meet neighbors.

I am interested in political science and it was interesting to see that even a small, informal organization like a neighborhood community group has by-laws and bureaucratic structure determining how meetings are run.

**Kristen:** Your first year as a college student is different from what you expected, since you have been learning and living at home. Can you describe your experiences with your new remote college community?

**Lena:** I definitely felt a part of the school and valued as a student. The ease with which I could meet my professors during their online office

*Contd. next page*

**Meet Lena Schorkopf, PCA Vice President and scholarship recipient Contd.**

hours was terrific. I successfully connected with professors even when I was one of 300 students in a large lecture class.

On the other hand, I did not really find a social community. It was hard to make long lasting connections with new friends without being together in person. It is even hard to connect with students in the small groups that are organized for classes.

Since I was living at home I saved money on room and board, but I still had to pay for tuition, various student fees and textbooks. The PCA scholarship helped me with those expenses.

**Kristen:** Do you have any closing thoughts to add?

**Lena:** I would like to recommend joining the PCA to high school students who are interested in getting involved with the neighborhood on a very personal level. Being on the board is unique because you are giving back directly to your own community, something that can be difficult with a larger organization.

