



Parkmead Community Association

Fall 2007

Fall Pizza Meeting Tuesday, November 13th

Hillside Covenant Church
2060 Magnolia Way

Guest Speaker*
Videos for Kids
Free babysitting

6:30 Pizza

7:00 Meeting – Speaker Jim Hale*

8:00 Board Elections

Pizza and drinks provided by PCA

Desserts appreciated; please consider bringing one to share.

Meeting Downstairs

Parking OK in either lot; lower lot has easier access.

**Dr. Jim Hale, Contra Costa County Watershed Biologist, has a slide show and will talk about riparian habitat (plants and animals) in the Parkmead neighborhood and how neighbors can support riparian habitat ... which makes our habitat and neighborhood more sustainable.*

He's just returned from trapping and relocating bears in the California high country ... And surely has some stories to share.



PCA Electronic Communication

Check our website: www.parkmead.org

To join our *neighborhood e-mail list*, send an e-mail to parkmead@parkmead.org with your name and (optional) home address.

Message from the PCA President

Fall is in the air and it is time for our annual Fall Pizza Meeting and PCA Elections. We have a great evening planned for November 13th so plan to bring the kids, have some pizza and hear some interesting wildlife stories.

This has been an eventful year. We had the biggest Block Party yet with live music and plenty of good food. The Garage Sale had more participants than ever and we have a record number of Association members. We also worked with the City of Walnut Creek and Contra Costa County on a number of issues to help preserve the quality of life here in Parkmead.

In way of a brief review of the Association here is our statement of purpose:

The Parkmead Community Association will provide an organization to represent the area before governmental bodies and to encourage activity by residents interested in furthering the peace, health, safety, quality of life, and environment in the Parkmead Community Area.

We are a community organization, not a homeowner's association that enforces "covenants, codes and restrictions." So much of what we do is focused on building a feeling of community within the neighborhood. Currently we have several committees: Communications, Events, and Development/Traffic. Also, we have a variety of projects: Garage Sale, Emergency Preparedness, Neighborhood Watch, Newell Pathway, Parkmead History, Website and Traffic Calming.

Your Parkmead Board is in the process of restructuring for next year so once again we are looking for volunteers who would like to give something back to the community. We elect representatives to the thirteen-member Parkmead Board the night of the Pizza Meeting. There will be some turnover on the Board this year so this may be your opportunity to have input on what goes on in the neighborhood. The map on the back page of this newsletter shows our 7 districts and a list of board members.

Joining a committee or the Board is a great way to get involved in the community and meet your neighbors. If you have some interest please contact me; my information is on the back page of this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at the Pizza Meeting!

Joseph Patch Curtis

Emergency Preparedness News – for Pets and Humans

I wanted to remind you that in the event of an emergency, don't forget that your pet(s) will need to have supplies just as you will. If you have a large dog, it could carry its own stuff in a doggie backpack. If you do not have a dog pack, you can purchase them at any one of several pet stores in the area. If you are considering using this backpack, you will need to let your dog get used to it. If you don't like this idea, you could use a regular backpack for them. The items you should have in the backpack are:

- Something with your scent on it for comfort, like a blanket
- Crate or carrier, leash or harness, collar & ID tags
- Water and a collapsible water dish, packaged food, including canned or vacuum packed dry food (7-day supply), can opener, favorite treats
- Booties to protect their feet, & a muzzle
- Poop bags, litter pan & litter,
- Toys, like a Cong or rope
- Medications & Medical Records (including calming meds and emergency vet information)

The Contra Costa County Animal Services is offering pet first aid & CPR classes. You can contact them directly for more information on the class location and times. Their web site is: www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/animal/ or call them at 925-335-8300.

As for us humans, it is recommended that everyone have a 72 hour kit, in your home and in your car. This is a kit containing items that you will need to have for 72 hours—items like food, water, first aid items, gloves, flashlight, space blankets and other items you personally would need to survive for 72 hours. These items would be placed in a backpack or other similar container, and that would be placed in an area of the home so you could grab it on your way out of the home. You can make this yourself or you can purchase this at many stores or web sites.

When there is a major disaster, the Parkmead Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will be the first ones to help the neighborhood community. Our CERT team is made up of about 15 people who will take care of the 600 homes in the neighborhood. That is one person for every 40 homes. We need to have more members in our community on the team. The training is easy, as is keeping it current. You don't have to be a "survivalist" to help. If you would like to be more informed on what to do when there is a disaster, or would like to help the neighborhood when there is a disaster, you can join CERT as well. Please contact me at ulrichtribe@earthlink.net for more information.

Michael Ulrich

PCA Emergency Preparedness

Parkmead Emergency Preparedness Program

Several years ago, members of the Parkmead community and Hillside Covenant Church, along with The City of Walnut Creek, sponsored an Emergency Preparedness Fair at Parkmead Elementary School. Now, we are establishing an Emergency Preparedness site at Hillside Covenant Church. Some items suggested by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be stored at Hillside Church for you, the community, to use in case of a disaster.

I am a Boy Scout Eagle candidate and my Eagle Project is to collect and store items for the Parkmead neighbors' use in case of a disaster/earthquake. On October 27th, Troop 226 distributed flyers in the neighborhood for the collection of disaster items. I want to thank neighbors who donated items for the site. *However, if you missed the pick up and still want to contribute, items may be dropped off at Hillside Covenant Church, 2060 Magnolia Way.* Items that can be donated are the following: packages of paper towels, packages of toilet paper, boxes of heavy duty yard/garden bags, adhesive tape, boxes of gauze or bandages in assorted sizes, flash lights, scissors, individually wrapped moistened towelettes, gallon-sized zip locked bags, cans of disinfectants. For additional information on emergency preparedness, go to www.fema.gov.

Ryan Carlson

Creek Kids Care's Holiday Boutique December 1, 2007 1-4 p.m.

Hillside Covenant Church – Kids' Connection Room

Mark your calendars to do your holiday shopping and support Creek Kids Care at the same time. Creek Kids Care, a Walnut Creek organization of kids and teens, will be selling their original art stationery, touchstone magnets, framed original art and knitted items. All items make thoughtful holiday gifts. Parkmead residents formed CKC.

Proceeds will fund CKC's two major projects: caring for our homeless community members and fully funding a preschool in Zimbabwe that serves kids who have been orphaned by AIDS.

Household Battery Recycling Program

The Central Costa County Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) has partnered with local retailers to provide free recycling for common household batteries. Since December 2006 residents have been able to drop off their single-use household batteries at 18 stores in the CCCSWA service area. Some drop-off locations include Longs Drugs, Rite Aid, Ace Hardware and Radio Shack, but not all stores in these chains participate so you should call first. The CCCSWA website has more information: www.wastediversion.org/battery-recycling-program.htm

Arbutus/Lilac Properties Update

Since the last newsletter in late August, the new homes on Arbutus at Lilac have basically been approved for construction, with some modifications after a public hearing before the Walnut Creek Design Review Commission on Sept. 5. The developer, Mark Scott Construction, met with the neighbors twice over the summer and made some design changes at the suggestion of the neighbors. The single story corner house did not require a public design review hearing and was issued a building permit. The two 2-story houses went to a public hearing because of their size relative to the lots.

About 30 neighbors attended the Sept. 5 meeting and a dozen spoke to express their concerns over house size and building mass. Several of the Design Review Commissioners felt the houses were too large for the immediate neighborhood, but it was beyond their authority to require reductions in size beyond the city requirements, which meant the developer had to reduce each house about 500 square feet to fit the lots. They also made some design suggestions which is more in their arena of responsibility. The topic was continued for further review.

In October, Mark Scott Construction resubmitted revised plans slightly reducing house size to meet city requirements and thus avoid further public design review and easily obtain building permits. The two 2-story homes will be about 3200 square feet plus about 600 square feet for garages and porches for a total of about 3800 square feet. They retained the design suggestions made by the neighbors, which they did not have to do once they avoided further hearings. Construction is underway and a “coming soon” for sale sign is on the corner house.

The PCA Board does not have a position on home size. Part of our purpose is: *“to encourage activity by residents interested in furthering the peace, health, safety, quality of life, and environment in the Parkmead Community Area.”* The board encouraged concerned neighbors to become involved. Contact Pete Johnson at PeteRPCV@astound.net or Sue Chan at sjhuettl@astound.net if you have any questions.



Traffic Study Completed

The City of Walnut Creek completed another traffic study on Newell and Lilac in October. As promised after Trader Joe’s and Elephant Pharm were open and school was back in session, they returned to our neighborhood to count traffic. When the 2 stores were approved, PCA Board representatives had met with the City and requested direction signage be placed prominently at the exits to the parking lot pointing drivers to freeways via California Blvd. The city installed several such signs. In addition we requested a follow up traffic study on Newell and Lilac similar to the one done in January 2006 before the stores opened. They used city staff to count through traffic on the two streets at midday and afternoon. The percentage of through traffic on Newell and Lilac was pretty much the same, as seen in the chart below. This fits the anecdotal evidence of some neighbors and pedestrians – traffic is still “bad” but has not gotten worse from the two new businesses.

MIDDAY		
	% through traffic January 2006	% through traffic October 2007
Newell Avenue	35.1	34.9
Lilac Avenue	5.5	9.6

AFTERNOON		
	% through traffic January 2006	% through traffic October 2007
Newell Avenue	30.4	34.7
Lilac Avenue	16.1	12.1



Above: Kids get balloons to celebrate Walk to School week in October.

Left: Neighbors enjoy the block party in September.



Name	Board	Officer/Committee Contact
Joseph Curtis	At Large	President
Anna Gunn	District 4	Vice President
Mary Andre	At Large	Treasurer
Terri Almeida	District 2	Secretary
Jodi Hayes	District 1	
Chris Sherwood	District 3	Garage Sale Coordinator
Matthew Mead	District 5	Events Comm. Chair
Tony Phillips	District 6	Web Page Coordinator
Ann Hinshaw	Dist 7 acting	
Katie Conlan	At Large	
Pete Johnson	At Large	Communications Comm. Chair
Francine Podenski	At Large	Development/Traffic Comm. Chair
Katie Zeigler	At Large	

Board members may be contacted at parkmead@parkmead.org