



# Parkmead Community Association Newsletter

Summer 2009

## President's Message by Terri Almeida,

The best PCA event of the season is happening on Sunday, September 13, and it's FREE! Come celebrate with us at the Annual Parkmead Summer Block Party and BBQ on Maple Lane (off Magnolia Way) across the street from Parkmead Elementary from 12 until 4 p.m. The Parkmead Community Association is providing hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. Please consider bringing a salad or dessert to share. We ask you to leave your four legged friends at home, but we'd love you to come out and join the fun. There will be live music, activities for the kids, and chairs in the shade for relaxing. Enjoy the chance to see old friends and meet new ones. If you've recently moved into the neighborhood—this event provides a great opportunity to meet your new neighbors. Special thanks to our Maple Lane neighbors for letting us use their street. Hope to see you there!

You may have spotted some neighbors hard at work on the pathway, or weeding and planting under the large Deodora on Newell during the Parkmead Community Day in May. A special thanks to those who worked to repair the worn areas of the path and improve our neighborhood.

If you've noticed more graffiti popping up around town, you're not the only one. Please take a minute and call the graffiti hotline number as soon as you see any new marks so they can be removed in a timely manner. The number to call is 943-5844 and can be found under the *useful links* tab on our website: [www.parkmead.org](http://www.parkmead.org). Another notable link on our website to help you sort rumor from fact is under the *crime watch* link.

We have a new board member this year, Michael Lester. Michael has stepped forward to invest a few hours each month to help us keep Parkmead the great neighborhood it is and has offered to co-chair our spring garage sale. Welcome Michael!

We still need someone to partner with Michael to coordinate the June Multi Family Garage Sale, so if you have an interest, please call (925-938-1176), email [parkmead@parkmead.org](mailto:parkmead@parkmead.org)

**School is back in session,  
Please Drive Carefully  
Residents of Lilac and Newell, please  
keep pathways clear of vehicles and  
remove garbage and recycling cans  
promptly**

## Summer Block Party

September 13th, 12 to 4pm

Maple Lane near Parkmead School

Burgers, Hot dogs + drinks supplied by PCA.

Please bring a salad, dessert or dish to share if you like,

Live music & games for kids.

No Dogs, please

for information, or contact a member of the board.

Have you got some fluorescent light bulbs you'd like to get rid of? Walnut Creek residents can dispose of them at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at 4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez, Tuesday. – Saturday. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Call - 800-646-1431 with questions.

I look forward to seeing you on September 13!

## Walnut Creek Recognizes Parkmead Neighborhood

The Parkmead Neighborhood received the first-ever "neighborhood pride award" from the Walnut Creek Action for Beauty Council in June. The award recognized the neighborhood for its active community association, school and church. As reported in the Walnut Creek Journal section of the *Contra Costa Times*, Parkmead was seen as a "neighborhood which has block parties, an active church, a school and a high degree of local activism." Quoting Terry Camp, local architect and Action for Beauty coordinator, "Parkmead is one of those enclaves that has aged in a distinguished way over the years," he said. "If I had to give it a description, I would say it's very eloquent."

The Action for Beauty Council is an independent entity which chooses the best-completed projects Walnut Creek has to offer each year and gives out awards for beauty. Usually it recognizes businesses or their architects but also public art and environmental projects such as trails. The group has been in existence for more than 40 years and is made up of community leaders and local architects, many who have served on city commissions. This year the Council gave out 17 awards at a lunch at Boundary Oak Clubhouse on June 19. With pictures of the neighborhood, Parkmead Elementary, and Hillside Church on the big screen, including people at the Block Party

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

and July 4<sup>th</sup> parade, all could see the wonders of our "quaint and charming" neighborhood. Other winners included the Mercer condos, the Cheesecake Factory, and the new homes on Arbutus and Paulson Lane. Last year Trader Joe's won an award. The entire list for 2009 can be seen on the *Contra Costa Times* website at [www.contracostatimes.com](http://www.contracostatimes.com).

The award will be on display at the September Block Party and future PCA events.



PCA President Terri Almeida, Parkmead Elementary School Principal Kathleen Scott and Hillside Covenant Church Pastor Jeff Reed accepted the award for the neighborhood.

## Neighborhood Creek Nature Walk Saturday, September 26

Join Friends of the Creeks biologist, Dr. Jim Hale, for a neighborhood creek channel nature walk on Saturday, September 26, 9:15-11:15 a.m. Learn about flora and fauna in the Parkmead portion of the Las Trampas creek channel between the Olympic Boulevard Bridge and the California Boulevard Bridge.

Participants must be seven years of age or older; minors must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. Group size is limited. Contact Francine Podenski to RSVP and reserve a space by email: [fpodenski@comcast.net](mailto:fpodenski@comcast.net) or by telephone: 933-6344.

## Walk to School Week October 5 to 9

The Parkmead Community Association will be joining with Parkmead Elementary School to celebrate Walk to School Week.

"Walking School Buses" will start at the end of Arlene Lane, the top of Magnolia Way and the Olympic/Dewing Park area. Walkers will set off at around 7:45 a.m. on Monday through Friday with balloons and will collect other walkers along the way.

If you live too far away to walk or bike to school, you can park on Lilac Drive or Arlene Drive and join us at the Walking School Bus Stop (the real bus stop) on Lilac Drive at Newell Avenue at 7:45 a.m.

Email us ([walktoschool@parkmead.org](mailto:walktoschool@parkmead.org)) if you or your kids would like to join in a walking school bus, and we will try to hook you up with other walkers.

### Volunteers

We need parents to volunteer to help coordinate the "Walking School Buses" and to meet up with or call in for other kids on their way to school. We also need help handing out balloons and gifts. Please email us if you are willing to help.

## School News

### Parkmead Elementary

The Parkmead staff will be ready to go on Wednesday, August 26, the first day of the 2009-2010 school year. Although we are impacted by recent budget cuts, we know that we are part of a wonderful school community that will support and understand as we adjust to a few changes. Our class sizes will go up in grades K-5, and specialty programs will be offered for less time during the year, reducing art, music and PE instruction and teacher collaboration by six weeks. We are happy to welcome another pre-School program, joining the pre-school speech program to our site, to serve students with special needs.

More than ever, we welcome volunteers to Parkmead. If you have a little time to give and a love of school life, we would gladly find some meaningful work for our neighbors. Our campus is beautiful; our sense of community is strong. As a staff, we know we are fortunate to work in this supportive community in this great school district. We wish our neighbors a happy fall. See you around.

- Kathleen Scott, Principal

### Las Lomas High School

Despite the state budget woes, we at Las Lomas continue our commitment to provide the very best education for Walnut Creek students. Our efforts are supported by all members of the Walnut Creek community. While facing some cuts, we are better off than surrounding districts, which is a direct re-

*(Continued on page 3)*

sult of donations to the Walnut Creek Education Foundation and community-supported parcel taxes. On behalf of our students and staff, I thank all residents of the Parkmead community for your commitment to excellence in our schools! I invite you all to Homecoming 2009 (October 16) and to attend other school activities. Please see the Las Lomas Web page to see a listing of our upcoming events.

[www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/laslomas](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/laslomas)

- Pat Lickiss, Principal

### Parkmead Community Day

The Newell pathway allows children and adults to walk to school and through the neighborhood without being in the street. It was created through the efforts of the PCA and is maintained by the community, not the County or City. The photo at right shows board members Bram Zeigler and Joseph Curtis repairing the path surface on Parkmead Community Day in May.



---

## City and County News

by Pete Johnson, - PCA Liaison to City and County

---

### 1500 Newell High Rise Project at S. Main

The PCA Board continues monitoring the proposed mixed-use commercial and residential project at 1500 Newell that would replace the current high-rise office building and 7-11 store. The proposed four-story building would create about 50 residential units (flats and two-story town homes) above retail stores and would include underground parking for residents and customers.

Consistent with our mission (bottom right), the PCA represents area interests regarding potential traffic impacts of the project as well as assuring pedestrian and bike access through the project area as outlined in the Walnut Creek General Plan. We are also working with Friends of the Creeks for access to Las Trampas Creek near the 7-11.

Of particular interest would be increased traffic on Newell, especially for cars exiting the new garage on Newell and heading west toward S. California Blvd. Turning left on California from Newell leaving our neighborhood can be difficult during AM and PM commute hours. Despite the increased residential and commercial presence, we are surprised the City's traffic study predicts a net reduction in traffic due to the closure of the 7-11.

Based on our concerns, the City agreed to consider traffic mitigations directing traffic away from our neighborhood and assist our ability to turn left from Newell onto California. We also expressed concerns about the safety of turning left from the new garage across several lanes of Newell traffic in front of Kaiser to get to S. Main.

The developer has made some pedestrian and bike improvements since the original design. These hopefully will make it easier to pass through the area on the way downtown as well as to improve creek access if Newell Promenade is ever re-

developed.

For more information on 1500 Newell, you can link to the City website from [www.parkmead.org](http://www.parkmead.org) and then to "Latest News". You can also go direct to the city at [www.walnutcreek.org](http://www.walnutcreek.org) and then Quick Links to "Current Projects" or "The Village Mixed Use Project" for drawings at [www.walnutcreek.org/citygov/depts/cd/planning/projects.asp](http://www.walnutcreek.org/citygov/depts/cd/planning/projects.asp)

### Parkmead Neighbor on Walnut Creek Downtown Parking Task Force

Former PCA board member Tony Phillips has been appointed to the city Downtown Parking Task Force by the City Council. Council members Kish Rajan and Sue Rainey are heading up the task force, which comprises members of the Planning and Transportation commissions, business owners, the Downtown Business Association, the Chamber of Commerce and the public. Per the city website: "A 2006 City study of downtown parking concluded that, although there is ample parking in the heavily visited retail and dining district, some garages are "hard to spot" and some people don't want to pay for parking. That means more people are competing for a limited number of on-street parking spaces while plenty of spaces sit empty in nearby City garages." This is seen as a "parking management" problem rather than a "parking supply" problem. For more information go the city website and search for Downtown Parking Task Force.

*The Parkmead Community Association will provide an organization to promote the peace, health, safety, quality of life and environment of the Parkmead Community Area by encouraging or sponsoring activities and events intended to further that purpose and communicating the interests of the membership and community to governmental bodies.*

## Parkmead Real Estate Update by Lisa Lundquist

In the past 3 months six homes have sold in Parkmead, with an average sales price of \$703,333 and an average of 72 days on the market. There are currently 6 active listings and 4 homes that have a pending status. Realtors have seen an increase in home sales as buyers are trying to take advantage of the \$8000 tax credit, historically low interest rates and reduced prices. And once again we are seeing multiple offers, and many times offers going over the asking price, on homes that are priced correctly and in great condition - the 2 key elements sellers have control over in getting a home sold quickly. Two great resources for information on real estate news are the California Association of Realtors website ([www.car.org/](http://www.car.org/)) and RISMedia ([www.rismedia.com/](http://www.rismedia.com/)) Representative

## PCA Membership Drive

Forgot to join the PCA this year? Never too late! You can also get information on how to join on our website at [www.Parkmead.org](http://www.Parkmead.org), or contact a board member (see list below).

Not sure you are a member?  
Contact [www.Parkmead.org](http://www.Parkmead.org)

Board Member	District	Position	Contact
Terri Almeida	At Large	President	
John Love	At Large	Vice President	
Mary Andre	At Large	Treasurer	
Lisa Lundquist	District 5	Secretary, Events Chair	
Bram Zeigler	District 1	Communications, Crime Chair	
Chris Sherwood	District 2		
Michael Lester	District 3	Garage Sale Coordinator	
Richard West	District 4		
Jonathan Rosenbaum	District 6	Webmaster	
Ann Hinshaw	District 7		
Pete Johnson	At Large	City/County Liaison	
Francine Podenski	At Large	Development/Traffic Chair	
Jodi Hayes	At Large		



