

Spring 2011

**Spring Meeting
and Ice Cream
Social****Wednesday, April 13 - 7 to 9 pm
Hillside Covenant Church
2060 Magnolia Way**

- Meeting downstairs – some parking in lower lot
- Free babysitting & videos for kids
- Ice Cream at 7:00; speakers at 7:30

Walnut Creek City Arts Program

- A panel of experts from the various art programs – these are top people from our City Arts Staff
- Parkmead School kids visit the Bedford Gallery—adults can, too
- Attended any plays lately? Check out the many options
- Learn what educational programs are available for adults and children

The Panel

Moderator: Jacque Smith from Arts Commission and a Parkmead resident

Visual Arts: Carrie Lederer, Curator of Exhibitions and Programs at Bedford Art Gallery

Performing Arts: Michael Butler, Artistic Director at Center Repertory in the Leshner Center for the Arts

Civic Arts (classes): Kathy Nelson, Arts Education Supervisor at Shadelands

Neighborhood Artists will display their art. If you are a neighborhood artist and want to participate see page 3.

Upcoming Events**Community Service Day
Saturday, April 16
10am-1pm
(see page 3)****Parkmead Garage Sale
Saturday, June 4
8am (see below)****Summer Block Party
Sunday, August 28
Live Music, Free Food, and Lots
of Fun on Maple Lane
Details to follow in summer
newsletter.****9th Annual Garage Sale Saturday June 4**

The 9th annual Parkmead Garage Sale will be Saturday June 4. Last year 55 of your neighbors made some extra cash as they cleaned out their garages and made this Walnut Creek's biggest garage sale.

The Parkmead Community Association provides publicity for the sale, shopping maps to guide buyers to participating homes, and mailbox balloons to participants. We ask that participants pay the annual PCA dues of \$12. You'll find a membership payment envelope enclosed with this newsletter. Our website also has membership information.

Sign up to participate in the sale at our website, www.parkmead.org. Questions? Contact Chris Sherwood at Garage@parkmead.org

Join/Renew Now**Annual Parkmead Community Association Membership Drive**

Dues only \$12! Use enclosed membership form and return envelope. Please act now! Don't put it aside for later!
We want your input for 2011—see survey. Also sign up for our email list on the membership form.

President's Message: Onward in 2011

Well, we are all wrapping up the 1st quarter of 2011 already and the Parkmead Community Association is in full swing planning events for this spring and summer.

I am pleased to be the new President of the PCA and am looking forward to this year's changes, events, and representation with you. This is my 4th year on the board, and the camaraderie and support is just fantastic to be a part of.

I have been living in this neighborhood since 1991 and even attended Las Lomas High School back when big hair and long hair were the styles of the decade. I will let you figure out when that was!

I have two boys that were born here at Kaiser Walnut Creek; one goes to Parkmead Elementary and the other to Walnut Creek Intermediate. My wife, Nancy, was on the PALS Parkmead Board for two years, allowing me to be exposed to all the fundraising and culture within that school. The schools here are fabulous, and the parents add so much to the environment for all the children who attend our schools.

I love this area of Walnut Creek and all that it has to offer. We are so close to downtown and often this is a blessing as well as a curse.

I want to invite each of you to be a part of the PCA, whether you want to just help plan one of our events, like the summer block party, the June garage sale, or to join the board as a member. We currently have three positions open.

The PCA board meets once a month, usually in one of the houses of our members, and we would like you to join us for a meeting. Check it out—a great chance to meet some friendly neighbors, learn a bit about the politics of the City and County, and be a part of this great neighborhood in a different way this year.

Also, as a neighbor, please come to our annual Ice Cream Social on April 13th and hear our guest speakers from the Walnut Creek art programs on what is available, how to take advantage of the opportunities, and much more.

Richard West
PCA Board President

Recap of Fall Pizza Party and Meeting

The November Meeting was very informative with two guest speakers: Kevin Moore and Russ Donovan. Kevin spoke about earthquakes and what to expect in our neighborhood after a major event. He touched on how the houses with serious damage would be tagged by officials but perhaps with a lag time.

His discussion set the stage for Russ, who shared with us the importance of emergency preparedness and how the authorities and police would be taxed with a major disaster and that we might not receive outside help for weeks. Therefore, it is very important for each neighborhood to have local CERT team members that understand how to observe, report and communicate in an organized fashion based on CERT protocol.

Disaster Preparedness in the PCA

Many of our Parkmead Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) graduates have recently been trained in the Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) Program. The goal of the MYN program is: immediately after a disaster prevent further property damage, to know where help is needed and appropriately relay that information within one hour after a disaster. This is accomplished by organizing neighborhood groups of 15-25 homes, prior to a disaster, to know what to do and how to check in on each other. While this program is organized through CERT graduates, you need to participate to be included. If your neighborhood has a CERT graduate who received the training you will be contacted regarding how you can take part. For details on this program, web search "map your neighborhood program" or use URL http://www.emd.wa.gov/myn/myn_why.shtml.

In the event of a disaster, CERT is the organization through which the police, fire and medical responders will be determining areas of need, not through calls to 911. The information CERT will have is very dependant on the number and organization of the CERT graduates able to mobilize in an area. Our area is the Tice Unit, one of nine units of the greater Walnut Creek area. We presently need more participation to be effective in the event of a disaster. If you would like more information on our Tice Unit, contact Mary Andre, at 925-934-7530 or maryrsvp@yahoo.com.

If you would like to see what CERT is all about but are not ready to commit to the training, consider participating in the CERT drills. They are always looking for people to play the part of a disaster victim.

CERT information is available on the web by searching "walnut creek cert training" or using the URL http://www.walnut-creek.org/services/city/emergency_preparedness_cert.asp. If you would like to take CERT training, **register for Spring 2011 CERT classes by email to cert@walnut-creek.org** or contact Gayle Vassar, Communications and Outreach Manager for the City of Walnut Creek, 925-943-5895. CERT training is available to you through the City of Walnut Creek even if you do not live within the city limits. The next training begins April 14th. This class is almost full. The city will schedule more classes to meet the demand, so if you are interested but cannot attend the next class series, email the CERT registration address or call Gayle to get on the waiting list.

Mary Andre
Parkmead CERT Coordinator

Neighborhood Artists— Parkmead does the arts!

The PCA Spring Ice Cream Social is a great opportunity to learn about the arts in Walnut Creek and share your artistic talents with your neighbors.

We'll welcome a panel of speakers from the city on the latest in our visual and performing public arts scene.

And we invite you, members of the Parkmead neighborhood, to show your artistic creations -- painting, sculpture, jewelry, textiles, photography, etc. -- to the community. We know that some of you are professional artists, and we hope you will come and share with us, but we also know that many of you are talented artists avocationally, and especially hope you will take this opportunity to let your neighbors learn about your work. We want to support you!

We ask you to bring a work or two (maximum of 3) to display for the evening. This is not a sale, but you are welcome to leave business cards for those interested. Because of space concerns, each artist is limited to a 3'x3' space; so if you have larger works, we'd be glad to have you display a photograph of them. Although this is not a juried show, we ask that you please submit an image of your work to the PCA board in advance.

We hope to have the performing artists in our community present at a future event. And we ask everyone to come and join us April 13th to support our local visual artists.

Rob Weiner

Events Chair, PCA Board

rob.weiner@sbcglobal.net

Community Service Day Saturday April 16, 10am-1pm

The annual Parkmead Community Cleanup Day is Saturday, April 16, from 10am – 1pm. Meet at Parkmead Elementary School at 10am and spend just a few hours helping to keep our neighborhood and school beautiful. Work will include cleaning, clearing, weeding and trimming at the school, repair and maintenance of the Newell Ave. pathway, and weeding at the intersection of Newell and Olympic Blvd.

The event is co-sponsored by Parkmead Elementary School, Hillside Covenant Church, and the Parkmead Community Association.

Bring work gloves if you have them - gardening tools are helpful but not mandatory. Kids are welcome, as long as there is a participating adult along too. For more information contact Victoria Johnson at victoriamjohnson@mac.com.

Annual Creek Cleanup, Saturday, May 14

Friends of the Creeks' annual creek cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 14 with registration at 8:30 a.m. in Civic Park. We hope you will attend and help clean up the creek or restore its habitat. For information, visit their website at www.FriendsoftheCreeks.org

Board Elections

New board members were elected at our Fall meeting. Julia Cohen, Hannah Edgar and Rob Weiner join the re-elected board members listed below. Julia and Hannah, both Las Lomas High School students, are our first "student reps."

Thanks to departing board members Lisa Lundquist, Jodi Hayes, Michael Lester and Ann Skram for their service. Lisa was both board secretary and Events Chair and Jodi has served in many capacities for over a decade. Michael and Ann made major improvements to our newsletter and Michael also upgraded our website.

New officers were elected at the January board meeting. Richard West is now PCA president as former president Terri Almeida "steps back" after a busy 2 years as president to be vice president and "acting" secretary. Mary Andre continues as treasurer.

There are still 3 board vacancies. Interested? Contact PCA President Richard West. Come to the Ice Cream Social or a board meeting to learn more.

PCA Board 2011

Name	Board Position	Officer / Committee
Richard West	District 4	President
Terri Almeida	District 1	Vice President/Secretary
Mary Andre	At Large	Treasurer
Julia Cohen	At Large	Student Representative
Hannah Edgar	District 5 acting	Student Representative
Ann Hinshaw	District 7 acting	
Pete Johnson	District 6	City-County Liaison; Communications Chair
Debra Minnigerode	District 3	
Chris Sherwood	District 2	Garage Sale Coordinator
Rob Weiner	At Large	Events Chair

Contact us at parkmed@parkmead.org

Caroling in the Rain

If you were to ask a child what images come to mind at the mention of Christmas, they will waste no time bombarding you with pleasant holiday symbols: candy canes, Santa Claus, and, brightest in their mind, presents left under the Christmas tree.

On the other hand, if you were to ask their parents what the holidays meant to them in their youth, the responses might largely be the same, but with the addition of another Yuletide tradition—going from door to door around the neighborhood caroling.



Though falling somewhat out of practice in recent years, the Parkmead community demonstrated its neighborly spirit when over twenty committed carolers braved the rain and wind on December 18th of last year to spread holiday cheer to their fellow Parkmeadians. The group continued from Magnolia to Lilac Drive, heading down other interconnected roads to arrive at doorsteps and break into hearty rounds of "Frosty the Snowman," "The Little Drummer Boy," the occasional "Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel," and other holiday tunes.

"At one point, people actually started coming out of their warm, dry houses to join us along the way," one attendee recalls of the Parkmead caroling night. "The younger kids were so excited because they got to stand up close to the door and shake their handbells to the music. It was a very unifying, very heartwarming experience."



Though the weather forecast called for rain all evening, it even ceased sprinkling several minutes after the carolers' ascent from Parkmead Elementary, amounting to what can only be described as a true "Christmas miracle," as described by another caroler.

Exciting for the young, nostalgic for the old, and an excellent opportunity to get to know your neighbors for all those in between, the Parkmead Community Association, weather permitting, plans to hold the Parkmead Caroling Night again on Saturday, December 17th, 2011. Mark your calendars now as not to miss out on what is sure to be a timeless Parkmead tradition.

*Julia Cohen and Hannah Edgar
Student Reps, PCA Board*



PCA Website

The parkmead.org website has information about all our upcoming events, plus news about issues that could affect our neighborhood and links to other useful local websites. If you have suggestions of things you would like to see on the website, send them to parkmead@parkmead.org.