

THE CROSSINGS

The Signal

May, 2015

Association Web Page
www.walnutcountry.com

Clubhouse & Business Offices
Closed May 25: Memorial Day

MOVIE NIGHT May 8 @ 6:30pm
"The Penguins of Madagascar"

CERT for PETS May 8th
(See page 7)



Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo with us! All you need to do is bring yourselves and an entrée to the clubhouse Saturday, May 2nd from 4:00-7:00 pm. CHOA will supply all the side dishes, beverages and a piñata for the kids. So, don't forget your sombrero and serape, and bring your amigos along, too!!

RSVP's appreciated!

925-825-0250

recdirector@walnutcountry.com

Think you've done everything possible to reduce your water usage?

EBMUD has a free self-audit kit that may help you find further ways to save. The kit provides step-by-step instructions on how to locate leaks, measure flow rates and evaluate your water use in your home and landscape. After you complete the audit, send EBMUD your survey results on the provided form, and request free low-flow showerheads, swivel kitchen aerators, moisture sensors, brochures and hose nozzles that will be mailed directly to your home.

For more details visit: www.ebmud.com.

Thank you!



Walnut Country T-Ball

Registration starts May 4th!

Season begins June 15th

Open to kids 4 to 6 years old

The \$85 entry fee includes:
MLB team logo shirt & hat and end
of season party/award ceremony

Call the clubhouse office
for more information!

925-825-0250



Walnut Country Garage Sale

The Crossings Annual Garage Sale sponsored by resident & realtor Nancy Bennett is coming up **Saturday, May 2**, from 8am-1pm. The entire community will be awash with hidden treasures. Go to: MegaGarage-Sale2015.eventbrite.com to sign up.

SWIMMING POOL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the main pool is now open for your swimming pleasure. Hours of operation are as follows: Monday through Friday 7am - 3:30pm and Saturday/Sunday 7am - 8pm. In addition, the East & West pools will be open starting Saturday, May 23rd. They will be open daily from 7am - 8pm.

Special Dates

May	2	Cinco de Mayo Celebration	4-7pm	Clubhouse
May	2	CHOA Garage Sale	8am-2pm	
May	6	Landscape Committee Meeting	7pm	Business Office
May	8	MOVIE NIGHT	6:30pm	Clubhouse
May	13	Senior Potluck	5:30pm	Clubhouse
May	19	Election Day	Clubhouse office closes at 5pm	
May	20	Book Club Meeting	6:30pm	Clubhouse
May	27	Architectural Committee	6:30pm	Business Office
May	28	Board of Directors Meeting	7pm	Business Office

Treasurer's Report (Year To Date)

BALANCE SHEET as of March 31, 2015

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Current Assets

Cash Operating Acct.	\$291,078
Cash Reserve Acct.	2,352,790
Receivables	15,872
Prepaid Expenses	27,756
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>\$2,687,496</u>

Current Liabilities & Capital

Liabilities	\$97,333
Reserves	2,351,840
Owner's Equity	186,298
Income	52,025
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	<u>\$2,687,496</u>

Year-To-Date BUDGET REPORT

	Actual	Budget	Actual Over or (under) Budget
Total Revenues	\$319,223	318,963	260
Operating Expenses			
Payroll/Benefits/Taxes	\$20,070	32,550	\$(12,480)
Management Expenses	49,687	36,735	12,952
Office Equip/Supplies	6,407	6,744	(337)
Professional Services	6,343	6,906	(563)
Facilities Repair/Maint.	53,792	78,648	(24,856)
Recreation	4,839	3,948	891
Utilities	20,036	28,562	(8,526)
Security Expenses	9,781	13,941	(4,160)
Insurance	11,076	12,162	(1,086)
Tax & Licenses	10,872	3,237	7,635
Reserve Expenses	73,833	73,833	
Miscellaneous Expense	465	1,500	(1,035)
Total Operating Expense	\$267,201	298,766	\$(31,565)
Net Income	\$52,022	\$20,197	\$31,825

Pat Magee: General Manager

The Crossings Business Office

925- 687-9961

Businessoffice@Walnutcountry.com

President's Corner – May, 2015

In an HOA such as ours, there are many who help both run and improve the community with their service. We don't take enough time to thank them enough. So, on behalf of myself, I'd like to thank them here. To our Clubhouse staff, thank you for helping make our clubhouse a great place for events and also helping to run our programs. Thanks to our committees for their tireless work in improving our landscaping, insuring that our architectural rules and guidelines are adhered to and helping plan and host great events making this a vibrant and beautiful place to live. Thanks to our great staff and vendors who keep the community looking great, keeping it secure and helping us maintain it. Thanks to our volunteers in the community who help sponsor and support great activities like our swim team, scouting groups, and events (like our upcoming garage sale). And finally, I want to personally thank are Board of Directors for volunteering their time to help make all of the decisions to keep our association run at a high level. THANKS!

We just completed our 5th annual wine tasting with a great format of having Italian wines and a special tasting hosted by Peter Andrews, sommelier from Prima Ristorante. It was a great event well attended by the community. One of the big topics of discussion was the recent news on California's ongoing drought challenges. At our recent BOD meeting, Tom Sweeney for our landscape company informed us the CCWD will be imposing a cutback for irrigation to 60% of 2013 levels. However, we have made great strides in the past few years so while we will be impacted, it should be manageable. Will we suffer some "brown" areas? Yes, but we will manage them to keep it looking as good as possible. Also note that our Architectural Committee does pay close attention to your home's landscaping as well. While we do recognize that we may have more brown lawns, we do support you cutting back on watering to meet the state's goals. But, we also ask that you keep your yard maintained and looking good.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that the BOD has appointed a new member to the Board of Directors to fill the recently vacated position. We welcome Rich Ellenson to the BOD. He is new to the Crossings with a wife and young son. We look forward to his bringing a new perspective to our Board. Rich will serve in this position until our upcoming election later this year.

We would be pleased to have you join us on May 28th for our next regular monthly BOD meeting. Until next month...

Mark Weinmann, President

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE NEWS - May, 2015

The Architectural Committee (AC) currently has one position available. If you are interested in joining the AC and are in good standing stop by the Business Office and fill-out an application. You must also attend two consecutive AC meetings. The AC meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Business Office for conferences, application approvals, and other committee business. The AC will continue focusing on the following while doing inspections: Beams, eaves, and fascia boards rotting and/or in need of new paint. Base, trim and wood paneling in need of new paint or replacement. Non-operable vehicles stored on driveways and/or street and unregistered vehicles. Trash and recycle containers stored in front of houses. Weeds growing in rock beds, driveway cracks, bushes and shrubs. Dead palm fronds. Ivy, bushes and/or shrubs growing onto sidewalks and/or blocking sidewalk access. Driveways and sidewalks severely cracked and/or lifting. Tree branches hanging lower than eight (8) feet from sidewalk and twelve (12) feet above street. Fences painted, falling apart, leaning, missing boards, and mismatched boards (excluding new replacement fence boards). Balconies aged and/or in need of replacement or in need of new paint. Items stored in front of house such as trailers and boats. Although, the AC is not writing up violation notices for dead lawns; they will continue writing violation notices for houses with weeds growing in lawns. Please note that the AC is NOT imposing new rules; they are merely following what is stated in the CC&R's, By-Laws and Rules Booklet under the direction of the CHOA Board. If you receive a letter and you have been given prior approval by the AC or Board of Directors please notify the Business Office. And also, have a copy of your application approval, so that the issue may be resolved and documented in your file. We do apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. As always your feedback is welcomed. If you have any questions or concerns please notify the Business Office and that information will be forwarded to the committee or attend an AC meeting.

(855) 371-5300 Security for Common Area

GSG Protective Security



5 April @ 0100 hrs

While on patrol the security officer observed two vehicles parked in front of the clubhouse. One was a Grey Toyota Tacoma and the other a yellow Acura Integra. The Toyota showed signs of damage to the rear bumper and window, which appeared to be caused by paintballs, as well as both side mirrors broken off. The yellow Integra showed no visible signs of damage. The officer reported the vandalism to the CHOA Property Manager.

14 April @ 19:34 hrs

Security officer responded to call regarding a suspicious pair of individuals on the greenbelt. Upon arrival the officer patrolled the area and observed two girls in front of the door to the East pool. One was standing and the other was sitting on the ground. As the officer approached the pool area he observed the girl that was standing start to hit and kick the one on the ground. When the officer approached the two girls they started to run towards the greenbelt. The girl who was sitting took a few steps before falling to the ground. The officer called out for the second girl to stop and come back to him. He asked the her why she was hitting the other girl and she responded "nothing, we're fine." The officer asked their names, but they refused to tell him. He then asked if they were residents and they said they were not. Based on their slurred speech and difficulty standing up, he asked if they had been drinking. They admitted they were. The officer informed them that they were on private property and that they needed to leave the area. One of the girls said that her mom was already on her way to pick them up. Soon afterwards the mother arrived and both girls got in the car. The officer informed the mother of what had transpired. The mother apologized and left with the two girls.

JUST SAY NO!



AUTO THEFT PREVENTION TIPS

All auto break-ins usually have one thing in common: there's something left in the car worth stealing. Most larcenies from cars are "crimes of opportunity" that could be prevented by taking some preventative steps.

- Don't leave valuables in your vehicle
- Place items out of sight BEFORE reaching your destination
- Avoid leaving packages or shopping bags out in the open
- Lock ALL of your vehicle's doors
- Leave nothing in plain view
- Alarms or anti-theft devices work
- Don't leave spare keys in your vehicle

One of the "hottest" items that thieves are targeting both locally and nationally, is the GPS system in your vehicle. It's very simple police say: "if you leave a GPS system in your car, the chances are it will be stolen". Here are few tips to prevent your satellite navigation system from being taken:

- Take the whole unit out of your vehicle including the mounting bracket. Don't leave your vehicle unattended with the GPS system in plain sight.
- wipe the windscreen so that the suction marks left from the system are wiped away.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POLICE (Non Emergency)	925-671-3200
GSG Protective Security	1-855-371-5300
CHOA Business Office	925-687-9961
Clubhouse Office	925-825-0250

REWARD

The Board of Directors is prepared to pay up to \$2,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone who willfully destroys or damages association property, including graffiti. If you know of or see someone using a marking pen, paint pen or spray paint, etc. to deface property within The Crossings, please contact the CHOA Manager at 687-9961 or e-mail: businessoffice@walnutcountry.com

*Clubhouse Office**4465 South Larwin Ave.**925-825-0250**reedirector@walnutcountry.com***WALNUT COUNTRY
BOOK CLUB**

For more information about the WC Book Club you can go to: info@berkshire-books.com or call the Clubhouse at 825-0250.

The following books have been chosen by Book Club members for the upcoming months...

May: "The Storyteller" by Jodi Picoult.

June: "The Martian" by Andy Weir.

July: The Man In The High Castle" by Philip K. Dick.

Next meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20th at 6:30pm in the clubhouse.

"WE'RE IMPRESSED"

We would like to thank the following households for enhancing the look of our community!!

4482 Clear Creek Ct.
4411 Sugarland Ct
4481 Camstock Ct
4304 N. Larwin
4417 Shellbark
4419 Corkwood

**View From The Clubhouse**

As we approach the summer vacation I'm sure you and your children will be looking for extracurricular activities to while away all those lazy, carefree days. Here are a couple of suggestions: how about joining the Walnut Country T-Ball League? Registration opens for your 4 to 6 year old on May 4th, with play starting June 15th.

Looking for another cool activity? How about swim lessons? For just a small pittance your son or daughter can be swimming with the fishes this summer. Specifics will be out shortly.

Hey, did you happen to make it to either the Spring Egg Hunt or the Wine Tasting event? If you did, then lucky you because both events were spectacular! This year's Egg Hunt was made special by the appearance of many of your favorite Disney characters. Many thanks to Salinda Cardoza for providing the transportation for all those wonderful characters from Disneyland to The Crossings. And congratulations to Hannah and Nathan for finding the magic golden eggs this year. The look on their faces when they received their prize was priceless.

The second huge event was the annual Wine Tasting. This year the Activities team decided to get into the wine education business. Peter Andrews, sommelier from Prima Ristorante was on hand to share his knowledge of Italian wines. The 120 guests established a new record for this event. Wait until next year... more big surprises will abound!

Quick mention about this month's Movie Night... **Friday, May 8th** we will be showing a movie that the kids will absolutely love. It is newly released on DVD and sure to bring a smile to the face of your little ones. The movie is entitled, **"THE PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR."** C'mon down, pull up a chair or a piece of floor, enjoy some popcorn... What's not to like?!

Hasta Luego...

*Andy Steinberg
Clubhouse Supervisor*

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Walnut Country Recreation News

WALNUT COUNTRY PRESCHOOL

As we start winding down the school year, fun lessons and great activities keep rolling in at Walnut Country Preschool. Our 4s and Pre-K classes had a great time after Spring Break visiting a pumpkin farm in Clayton. Our students learned all about spring planting, composting, and critters in our gardens, especially earthworms. The students each planted a sunflower of their own to take home. Our Mother's Day brunch was fun and fabulous as always. The children performed an adorable program and presented wonderful gifts to the special women in their lives. Our families are looking forward to the end of the month when we will have our annual Ice Cream Social and Raffle.

If you or someone you know is looking for a great learning environment for their child, please come see what we are all about. We still have a few spaces available for the fall. Schedule a visit anytime by contacting our director, Caryn Borba, at 925-798-9686 or wcpreschool@astound.net.

WALNUT COUNTRY TENNIS NEWS

The Walnut Country USTA 40+ Mixed Doubles 7.0 tennis team captained by resident Dale Crabtree made the playoffs in the Diablo North USTA league and will be playing @St Mary's on April 19th Sunday at 10am. The winner will advance to the USTA Northern California Sectional Championship on June 5th-7th near Sacramento. The winner of that tournament will advance to the USTA National Championship in mid-November at Surprise, AZ. Dale's Walnut Country 55+ Mixed Doubles 7.0 team recently won the Northern California Championship played January 24th-26th.

All of the current spring teams are in full swing. Registration for the summer leagues will be starting in late May. If interested in joining a Walnut Country USTA league team or lessons – Call TENNIS PRO THOR SCHRECK AT 925-324-0285

EAST & WEST POOLS TO OPEN

On May 23rd both the East and West pools will be open to residents. Pool hours are Monday to Sunday, 7am to 8pm. There are some rules that everyone is asked to follow:

- Do not open the gate for anyone without a key
- Keep the gate closed except for ingress and egress
- No roughhousing
- No diving
- No glass containers of any kind
- No smoking—anything.
- No one under 14 years old without guardian
- Showers limited to 2 minutes or less
- Problems? Call the clubhouse at 825-0520; Security (888) 919-7070; or the office at 687-9961

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT BEING OUTSIDE?

For starters, kids engage in more active play when they are outside, as opposed to inside. Active kids are healthy kids, and outdoor activities are especially healthy for them! Out door play is vital because it:

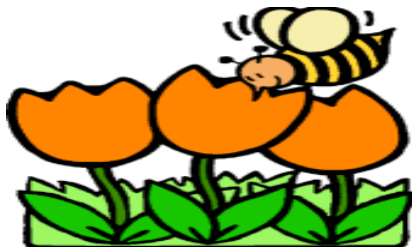
- Gives kids a chance to burn off energy
- Can be calming and allow kids to "recharge" their energy levels
- Helps kids learn to interact with and understand the natural world
- Offers a chance for more social interaction with peers
- Helps to develop their powers of observation and their assessment of risk
- Offers more opportunities for creativity and free play helps to build a strong link between physical health and outdoor play, at a young age.

Walnut Country Signal

* SENIORS' POTLUCK DINNER *

April showers bring May flowers. And what do the flowers bring? Yes, bees! And what do the bees do? Correcto-mundo, they pollinate your vegetable gardens!! And what does that mean? You have veggies to cook up a magical concoction with to bring to the next potluck dinner!! The next potluck is coming up on May 13th at 5:30pm in the clubhouse. Deadline to get your food assignment from Caroline Jackson is May 6th. Those of you who wish to join the fun can call Caroline at 687-7052 to get all the information you'll ever need.

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO DINNERS HELD IN JULY & AUGUST



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WANT TO RENT THE CLUBHOUSE?

Rental rate is \$300 for the lounge area (up to 8 hours). Game room and downstairs kitchen are an additional \$50 each. Conditions apply including:

- Serving alcohol requires paying for security AND a one day "Host Liquor Liability" certificate.
- Proof of homeowners insurance required.
- Refundable cleaning deposit of \$500.
- Homeowner must attend entire event.

To reserve a date your \$500 cleaning deposit check must have been received. Dates cannot be reserved without your deposit. All fees and paperwork are due two weeks prior to event.

DATES ARE RESERVED ON A "FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED" BASIS.

To reserve the Clubhouse, or for inquiries concerning renting the clubhouse, please call 925- 825-0250.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE for PETS

**Friday, May 8, 2015
7:00pm Business Office**

Last year, Carmen Estrada made a presentation for pet owners. This was about how to be ready to respond safely and appropriately in emergency events with your pets. The pet owners that attended learned how to prepare, what to pack, where to go in case of emergency. The folks that attended took handouts with lists and forms for a pet record and an authorization to treat a sick or injured animal. They also got window identification to tell emergency responders that there is a pet in the home. She had many of the supplies she has collected for examples. We hope the pet owners that missed the presentation last year can make it this year.



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