

THE CROSSINGS The Signal

OCTOBER 2016

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LINDSAY WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

(see page 6)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE HAUNTED HOUSE

(see page 4)

SMOKESTACK BOUTIQUE *has moved to another location*

(see page 7)

SAFETY & SECURITY SURVEY

We Need Your Input!

The CHOA Board of Directors would like your thoughts and opinions about the status of our community's safety and security and possible future plans to improve operations.

Homeowners are invited to take the survey by clicking this link:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/choa-safety

The survey's results will be shared at the Safety and Security Town Hall on October 16, from 2-4p, at the CHOA Office.

SAFETY & SECURITY TOWN HALL

Sunday, October 16, 2-4 pm in the
Business Office

At our last Town Hall in August, the majority of the questions and comments from Homeowners in attendance revolved around safety and security issues. As a result, the Board has called for a special Town Hall that will focus on these issues. An officer with GSG Security will be on hand to explain their procedures, listen to your concerns and answer any questions. We'll have examples of situations where you should call GSG and other situations where you should call Concord PD. And we'll have results of the Safety and Security Survey, as noted above. Please try to make this important meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER 27

Due to the lack of a quorum of ballots, the Annual Membership Meeting on September 22 could not be held and has been re-scheduled, with a lower quorum requirement, for Thursday, October 27, at 7pm in the Business Office. At that time, the ballots will be opened.

It is very important that you return your ballots prior to the October 27 Meeting, as this is an election not only for the Board of Directors, but for the adoption of revised Bylaws. If the Bylaws pass, among other things we will not have to re-schedule the Annual Meeting in the years to come, as the initial quorum requirement will then be 25%, instead of the 50% that it is now.

If you don't have a ballot, please stop by the Business Office to pick one up between 10am and 6pm, M-F, call 925.687.9961, or email businessoffice@walnutcountry.com and we'll mail one to you.

Ballots can be mailed to Collins Management or dropped in the Business Office mail slot and must be received by October 26. And please remember to sign the outer envelope.

***** HAUNTED HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT *****

This year the Board of Directors has planned a grand treat for your Halloween enjoyment... **Free Admission Tickets** to the fabulous CHOA Haunted House! Here's how it will work...

Each Walnut Country household receives four complimentary tickets for their household only. The tickets are available at the Clubhouse office starting October 1st. The last day free tickets will be available is Tuesday, October 18th. Anyone going to the Haunted House without a ticket, including Walnut Country residents, will pay the admission fee of \$5.00 at the door. We ask that you please do not give tickets to non-residents. **See you at the Haunted House!**



Treasurer's Report (Year To Date)

BALANCE SHEET as of August 31, 2016

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Breast
Cancer
Awareness
Month

Current Assets

Cash Operating Acct.	\$458,424
Cash Reserve Acct.	2,236,638
Receivables	6,404
Prepaid Expenses	19,119
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$2,720,585

Current Liabilities & Capital

Liabilities	\$175,819
Reserves	2,193,617
Owner's Equity	337,691
Income	13,458
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	\$2,720,585

Year-To-Date BUDGET REPORT

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual Over (or under) Budget</u>
Total Revenues	893,623	861,997	31,626
Operating Expenses			
Payroll/Benefits/Taxes	92,645	97,168	(4,523)
Management Expenses	117,461	117,104	357
Office Equip/Supplies	20,989	18,880	2,109
Professional Services	22,386	16,936	5,450
Facilities Repair/Maint.	214,808	208,248	6,560
Recreation	12,234	10,328	1,906
Utilities	116,469	120,208	(3,739)
Security Expenses	27,622	29,824	(2,202)
Insurance	40,076	42,000	(1,924)
Tax & Licenses	10,606	8,728	1,878
Capital Acquisitions	11,950	0	11,950
Reserve Expenses	165,774	189,456	(23,682)
Miscellaneous Expense	(720)	3,336	(4,056)
WCST Expenses	27,864	0	27,864
Total Operating Expense	880,164	862,216	17,948
 Net Income	 13,459	 (219)	 13,678

Pat Magee, General Manager

The Crossings Business Office
925- 687-9961
Businessoffice@Walnutcountry.com

President's Corner

Thanks to all of you who came out and enjoyed our second Fall/Back to School BBQ Celebration on Saturday, September 10th. We had a great attendance of more than 250 people at this family picnic event feasting on great BBQ! But the most thanks go out to our Activities Committee led by Donna Glover and the more than 40 volunteers, who made this possible. As our events grow, we can only put them on if we can get those volunteers. So many thanks!

Unfortunately, we again did not meet the quorum for our Annual Meeting in September. This has happened as far back as I can remember. With our updated by-laws, this and other out-of-date practices will be eliminated, but we need YOUR VOTE for them to pass. You now have until our reconvened Annual Meeting on October 27th to vote. Please join us to welcome the new board and hear the results of the election.

As I write this we have two milestones approaching. The first is the go-live of our new Walnut Country website. With its modern interface and vastly improved usability, all can now get the information they need quickly and efficiently. A BIG thanks to Rich Ellenson, Communications Chair, for his passion and hard work in bringing this long sought after vision to life. The second is our special Town Hall on Safety and Security in the Crossings. At our August Town Hall, we heard loud and clear that safety & security was THE top priority for our residents. This special Town Hall will be held on Sunday, October 16th, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Business Office. To ensure that we'll be covering what's important to you, we invite you to take part in a special survey that will be made available this week.

We bid farewell to the Santa's Smokestack Boutique. They have unfortunately decided to move their craft sale to another location. We will keep you posted where that will be and wish them well as they move on.

Please join us on October 27th for our reconvened annual meeting and regular monthly BOD meeting..

Until next month...

Mark Weinmann, President

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE OPENINGS

The Architectural Committee is a group of eight Crossings Homeowners that helps keep the Community as beautiful as it is. Many people appreciate the Committee's attention to detail in reminding folks of items needing attention and in reviewing Architectural applications.

The Crossings is divided into eight sectors, each assigned to a Committee member for monthly inspections. Each month the Committee meets to review applications and inspection findings.

Through recent resignations, the Committee is currently short three members and is looking for new people to fill those vacancies. The time commitment is one two-hour meeting and one sector inspection a month (about one hour). If you are interested in hearing more about joining this great group of people, please contact CHOA's General Manager, Pat Magee at 925.687.9961, businessoffice@walnutcountry.com, stop by the Business Office, or attend an Architectural Committee meeting on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 6pm. It's a great way to give back to your Community.

GSG PROTECTIVE SECURITY - (855) 371-5300 - Security for Common Area

Tip to Improve your Exterior House Lighting During the Night Time

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 6th. Here is something you can do to supplement the poor uneven street lighting provided by the City of Concord.

Use your existing driveway and front porch wall-mounted light fixtures to automatically turn on in the evening and go off in the morning. This costs very little to purchase and to operate all night.

A dusk-to-dawn lighting control device (available at hardware stores) screws into the light fixture socket in place of the existing bulb. Then install an 8 to 10 watt LED bulb into the dusk-to-dawn control device.

Make sure you have the clearance in the fixture for both the dusk-to-dawn control device and the LED bulb. This also can give the appearance that someone is home, or at the very least have the lights on for you when you arrive home.

Tired of cars speeding through our neighborhood every morning?

With school back in session I am sure you have seen the increased traffic through our neighborhood on South and North Larwin. While cutting through our neighborhood is not illegal, speeding, illegal passing, and other traffic violations endangering residents are! Although the Safety and Security Committee continues to work with the city on various issues, YOU, as taxpayers, have the power to submit complaints to the city and Police Dept about traffic and other issues we experience. There are many ways to do so.... Call them at 925-671-3200, or you can Email fieldoperations@cityofconcord.org or cpd@cityofconcord.org. You can also contact them on Social Media such as Facebook and Twitter. Additionally, another convenient way to contact the city is to download the "Concord Connect" free mobile app. Again, you have rights and the power to make a positive impact on keeping our neighborhood safe and secure.

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 925-687-9961 or email businessoffice@walnutcountry.com.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POLICE (Non Emergency)	925-671-3200
GSG Protective Security	855-371-5300
CHOA Business Office	925-687-9961
Clubhouse Office	925-825-0250
John Muir Hospital Emergency	925-939-5800
CC Emergency Med Services	925-646-4690
CC Water District	925-688-3158
CCC Fire Protection District	925-941-3330
CC Animal Services Dept.	925-335-8300

Walnut Country

The Crossings

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE HAUNTED HOUSE

*Meeting for volunteers on
Thursday, October 6th, at 6:00pm
in the clubhouse*



Andy Steinberg, Recreation Director

Clubhouse Office

925-825-0250

recdirector@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 925-825-0250.

The following book has been chosen by Book Club members for...

October: "I Am No One"

by Patrick Flanery

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 18th, at 6:30pm in the Clubhouse.

******* CLUBHOUSE NEWS *******

THE VENDING MACHINES ARE BACK AND STOCKED WITH ALL KINDS OF GREAT SNACKS AND DRINKS. C'mon down!!

MAIN, EAST/WEST POOLS HOURS

~ East & West Pool Hours ~

7am to 8 pm

7 Days a Week

~ Main Pool Hours ~

Monday - Thursday 9am - 3pm

[Swim Clinic 3 - 8pm / Mon-Thursday]

Friday - Sunday 7am-8pm

**RESIDENTS MUST BRING THEIR
CHOA ID BADGE**

**ALL GUESTS MUST HAVE A GUEST
BADGE or A ONE-DAY PASS**

**GUESTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A
RESIDENT**

VIEW FROM THE CLUBHOUSE

As you might have heard already, the Oktoberfest event has been cancelled. So has next years' Super Bowl event and the Cinco de Mayo potluck. Why, you ask? No, it's not because these events were not well attended. Since the Fall BBQ and Winter Holiday Celebration have more than tripled in attendance over the years, and the Egg Hunt has turned into the much larger Spring Festival, the budget has been condensed to accommodate these and the remaining CHOA sponsored events. Does this mean there will be less association sponsored events? Yes. But the great news is that the remaining events will be better than ever. Stay tuned for more news about what's in store for The Crossings in 2017.

Monday Night Football is back in a big way! If you think you might want to view the game on the clubhouse surround sound 70" television give us a call at 825-0250 and we'll make it happen. Sports viewing is much more exciting in the company of others!

Quick mention about October's Clubhouse hours... The Haunted House set-up begins on October 13th. This is a major undertaking that will transform the clubhouse in such a way as making it not suitable for its usual use. With that said, the office will be open from noon to 5pm October 13 - 18th. We will reopen for business as usual on Monday, October 24th.

And as they say in Transylvania...

pana data viitoare

("Until next time" in Romanian)

Andy Steinberg, Clubhouse Supervisor



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Great job one and all and thank you so much for helping make the Crossings a great place to live!

Recreation, Clubhouse & Communications News

WALNUT COUNTRY PRESCHOOL

The days are getting shorter, there's a chill in the air, and our students are learning all about fall this October. Our annual trip to the pumpkin farm for the 4s and Pre-K students is fast approaching and as always, they will have a great time with the Fall Fairy during their Halloween parties.

We have room for a child who would love to learn. Come see what we are all about! Call 925-798-9686 or email wcpreschool@astound.net to schedule a tour today.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Signup for the eSignal!

While the Signal is delivered to your doorstep once a month, did you know that relying on it for all of your news means missing out on several dozen other, more timely, news articles every month?

Signup for the eSignal, our emailed newsletter sent about three times a month, and you'll be kept up to date all the time. As a subscriber for the last few weeks, you'd have been the first to know about the Oktoberfest being replaced with a Safety and Security Town Hall, Fall BBQ RSVP details, drought restriction changes, Concord sidewalk ordinance enforcement, and pool closures.

So get in the immediate know, signup by visiting www.WalnutCountry.com. Then, locate the "Join eSignal - Our E-mail List" box on the right (or at the bottom for the redesigned website), enter your address, and click the "Go" button to complete signing up. It's that simple!

The Website Goes Live This Month!

The fabled redesign of Walnutcountry.com is coming this month! After final quality control checks, writing additional content, and making final design tweaks, we will publish the new site. A full article explaining the changes will appear in the eSignal immediately, and later in the Signal too. Content will be added regularly for news, events, and community information. Keep checking Walnutcountry.com throughout the month and you will soon see some big changes!

LINDSAY WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

Lindsay Wildlife Experience is a nonprofit wildlife animal hospital and education center in Walnut Creek. Volunteer Docents lead educational field trips at the center, for elementary students, Tuesday through Friday mornings during the school year.

You are invited to Meet & Greet Lindsay Docents from 10 - 11 a.m. Wednesday, October 19, in the Walnut Country Business Office, to learn how much fun it is to share your knowledge and love of local wildlife with students, families and the public, at Lindsay Wildlife Experience, 193 First Street, next to Larkey Park in Walnut Creek. Free.

Lindsay Wildlife has been saving injured local wildlife for 60 years. Over 500 volunteers work at the organization, which accepts and treats over 5,000 animals each year. Injured animals are brought to the hospital for rehabilitation, and many are then able to be released back into the wild.

If you are interested in learning more about how you may participate, please email Docent Council representative faithbarnidge@sbcglobal.net, or your neighbor, Docent Kris Brady, at krisbrady67@gmail.com.

Walnut Country Signal

SENIORS' POTLUCK DINNER

Not that anyone could notice, but Fall has fallen over the Walnut Country Clubhouse. What does this mean? Well, it's the time of year there's a slight chill in the air come dusk. And also it's **Oktoberfest** time! Polka music, red cabbage and all the fixings will combine to make a fun and flavorful night at the Seniors' Potluck. Time to break out the savory recipes that will warm the cockles of your heart AND stomach. Please join that old gang of senior potluckers on Wednesday, October 12th in the lovely Walnut Country Clubhouse at 5:30 sharp. And to find out what dish you can bring to share please contact Carolyn Jackson at 925-687-7052 by October 5th.



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SANTA'S SMOKESTACK BOUTIQUE

Will not be held at the Walnut Country Clubhouse on November 4 and 5, 2016

We thank all the past and present residents of Walnut Country / The Crossings and the greater Concord community who have supported us for 38 years. We are sorry to say goodbye since we began as a "homegrown" craft fair with Walnut Country roots. However, we have chosen to hold our events in a new location.

Follow us on facebook at:

[facebook.com/smokestackboutique](https://www.facebook.com/smokestackboutique)
to learn of our new dates, new times and new location.

Sincerely,

Santa's Smokestack Boutique
members and officers

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HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 15th

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The Gym @
Faith Missionary Baptist Church
4266 Thompson Dr, Concord

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Food & Fun

Activities for all ages!

Costumes are welcome!

(Please no gruesome or inappropriate costumes)



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Faith Missionary Baptist Church Gymnasium
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