

THE CROSSINGS The Signal

MARCH 2017

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ST. PADDY'S DAY SHINDIG!

(see page 3)

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

(see page 6)

WCST Chili Cook-off FUNDRAISER

(see page 4)

PG&E GAS LINE PROJECT

- Phase 2 -

PG&E has begun their second phase of gas line replacements, similar to their project in the northwest quadrant last year. The gas main on South Larwin will be replaced from the West entrance to the community to about Clear Creek, beginning at the West entrance. Laterals to homes will be replaced only on Lawson and Oakbrook Courts. All homes directly affected have already been notified by PG&E. Traffic will obviously be slowed at times, so please take that into consideration when travelling.

SUMMER LIFEGUARDS

Lifeguard season at the Crossings begins when schools get out for the summer; usually mid-June through mid-August. Lifeguards begin their shifts at noon. Historically, before mid-June, after mid-August, and before noon every day, there have not been lifeguards at any of the pools. This year, for the security of the lifeguards, we will now have two lifeguards on duty at the Main pool — from the usual times of noon to closing. However, because it's been a challenge to hire enough lifeguards to staff all three pools with only one lifeguard each for the past two years, there will be no lifeguards on duty at the side pools any time this summer. So, please, watch your children and keep them safe.

SPRING FESTIVAL April 15th - 10am—2pm

Spring is almost upon us and that means it's time for the annual Spring Festival. This year not only are there going to be oodles of eggs to hunt down and all your favorite cartoon characters, but we also have two bouncy houses, a balloon twister, face painting, crafts to make, AND some munchies. In addition, the Safety and Security Committee has partnered with the Red Cross, CERT, Animal CERT, Ham Radio Operations (CARE), Volunteers Police Services (VIP), Salvation Army (SATURN), Concord K-9 police, and the Contra Costa Fire Department to provide residents with lots of community information. The festival is being held on the upper greenbelt area. Residents are allowed to bring guests, however the total amount allowed per household is 6 people. By the way, there is No Charge for this event! BUT you must RSVP by Saturday, April 8th via the following online reservation link: <http://evite.me/wKVg4TxB5C>

We also need your help to make these events fun for everyone, so please consider volunteering an hour of your time via the following Sign-Up Genius Link:

[www.SignUpGenius.com go/4090C45A8A623A0FD0-2017](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090C45A8A623A0FD0-2017)

So, bring those baskets, bring those kids, and let's have a grand old time. What better way to spend a few hours on a beautiful spring day?

SOCCER at the CROSSINGS

Come one, come all

5 to 7 year old boys and girls

A beginning soccer league

is coming to Walnut Country!

Registration will begin in March

The season will start in April

For information call * 925-825-0250

*** COACHES NEEDED ASAP! ***



Treasurer's Report (Year To Date)

BALANCE SHEET as of January 30, 2017

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Current Assets

Cash Operating Acct.	\$427,214
Cash Reserve Acct.	2,288,261
Receivables	6,128
Prepaid Expenses	48,053
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$2,769,656

Current Liabilities & Capital

Liabilities	\$133,711
Reserves	2,281,503
Owner's Equity	344,021
Income	10,421
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	\$2,769,656

Year-To-Date BUDGET REPORT

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual Over (or under) Budget</u>
Total Revenues	\$109,737	\$126,077	\$(16,340)
Operating Expenses			
Payroll/Benefits/Taxes	\$10,017	\$14,298	\$(4,281)
Management Expenses	17,143	15,487	1,656
Office Equip/Supplies	3,369	2,275	1,094
Professional Services	2,402	1,766	636
Facilities Repair/Maint.	14,321	22,047	(7,726)
Recreation	2,087	1,999	88
Utilities	13,552	15,792	(2,240)
Security Expenses	3,542	4,074	(532)
Insurance	4,796	5,338	(542)
Tax & Licenses	2,814	1,049	1,765
Capital Acquisitions	0	3,538	(3,538)
Reserve Expenses	24,630	24,630	0
Miscellaneous Expense	0	0	0
WCST Expenses	645	13,782	(13,137)
Total Operating Expense	\$99,318	\$126,075	\$26,757
 Net Income	 \$10,419	 \$2	 \$10,417



Pat Magee, General Manager

The Crossings Business Office
925- 687-9961
Businessoffice@Walnutcountry.com**President's Corner – March 2017**

Rain, Rain go away! I know we need it but we could also use a break! Through the recent heavy rains and storms, I'm very pleased to report that our greenbelt areas continue to "weather" it well. We've had no major issues (trees down, large branches falling) which I take as a testament to our ongoing attention and maintenance.

The recent weather also made getting our new sun shades installed to our standards a challenge, but with a cooperative vendor and oversight by Pat and Board Member, Rich Ellenson, they are up and looking great. We hope this makes a big difference when the summer heat comes.

As we anticipate the arrival of spring, Activities and Safety Committees work on upcoming events. We have two and we continue to need help to plan and carry them out. First, our second annual Spring Festival will be back with a valuable new companion event the Safety & Security Fair. This new event will bring safety & security topics and groups together for the benefit of all our homeowners. See the details in this edition of the Signal. Both of these events will take place on Saturday, April 15th. Coming next will be our annual Crossings Annual Wine Tasting on Sunday, May 21st. We hope to see you at these great events.

Keeping on the safety topic, we continue to address the increased traffic at rush hour through our neighborhood. We recently saw that the City of Concord is willing to work with neighborhoods as they announced Clayton Rd. traffic control changes to reduce cars in adjacent neighborhoods. As a result, we'll be ratcheting up our work and will be calling upon all of you to assist us with communicating our needs to the City. Watch our communications for the coming "call to action".

We would be pleased to have you join us on March 23rd for our next regular monthly BOD meeting. Until next month...

Mark Weinmann, President

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER**Saturday, March 11th****5:00 to 9:00pm**

Corned beef, cabbage and green beer once again will highlight sponsor Nancy Bennett's St. Paddy's Day feast. Starting at 5pm Nancy's leprechauns will serve up traditional Irish-American fare for your enjoyment. Join the party and dance a jig for old St. Pat!

You must RSVP for this event!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-patricks-day-celebration-tickets-31335156296>



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

BIKE LANES

At a meeting in 2016 with the city traffic engineer and police, we were told that the solid white lines on either side of North and South Larwin were "Fog Lanes", meant to show vehicles the extent of the roadway in heavy fog. We just found out that, in September of 2016, these Fog Lanes were officially changed to Bike Lanes and are now on the Concord Bike Lanes map. As such, it is illegal for vehicles to cross over these bike lanes to avoid the traffic speed bumps. This is a good thing, as many people still, despite our pleadings, walk, jog and push their baby carriages in these lanes. We do not want anyone to be hit by a vehicle crossing the line in an attempt to avoid part of the bump. Please, if you are driving, do not cross these lines. And please consider using the sidewalks for all activities other than bicycling.

CURB CUTS

After much pleading by members of the Safety and Security Committee, the City of Concord has agreed to install handicap access curb cuts to the two corners of Spoonwood Court in March. There are other corners on North Larwin that also need curb cuts, but these will have to wait for another budget cycle. Curb cuts are an essential part of our effort to get wheelchairs and baby carriages off the street and onto the sidewalk.

GREENBELT AND OTHER OUTDOOR LIGHTS

By the time you read this, the project to replace all of the outdoor lights in the community with LED bulbs will have been completed. During this process, we had a number of the old metal halide bulbs burn out, but did not replace them right away, waiting for the new bulbs to come in and be installed. There is a string of light poles by the preschool and pool that could still be out when you read this. They have been retrofitted with the new LEDs, but the recent rains have shorted that circuit and it needs to be rewired in places. The cost of the project is \$18,795 for all 75 lights, and we expect to have it paid back in lower utility and maintenance bills in about a year and a half.

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

Third Annual WCST Chili Cook-off Fundraiser

Join in the fun on March 4th and enter your award winning chili recipe for a chance to win prizes and 2017 bragging rights. To enter the Cook-Off please email WCSTfundraising@gmail.com. Email soon - we always have GREAT participation and I want to hold your spot!

To attend the Fundraiser, simply RSVP to the following address: <http://evite.me/vTGbpy82FG>

Entry is \$10 for adults for All You Can Eat Chili, cornbread and soda and \$5 for kids (pizza or chili). Drinks will be available for purchase.

FEEL FREE TO INVITE FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS
AND FAMILY.

This is a fundraising event—the more the merrier!

Andy Steinberg, Recreation Director

Clubhouse Office
925-825-0250
recdirector@walnutcountry.comWALNUT 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 books have been chosen by Book Club members for...

March: "Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes

April: "The Terror Years"
by Lawrence Wright

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 21st,
at 6:30pm in the Clubhouse.

**POOL USAGE FOR RESIDENTS OF
THE CROSSINGS**

**STARTING TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 28, 2017**

**11:00am - 3:00pm
MONDAY, TUESDAY,
THURSDAY & FRIDAY**

**11:00am - 8:00pm
ALL OTHER DAYS**

*** DON'T FORGET YOUR BADGE *
AND POOL KEY**

VIEW FROM THE CLUBHOUSE

St. Patrick's Day is a festive holiday celebrated on March 17 by people of many nationalities and religions who often know little about the history of St. Patrick or the holiday's symbols. Most people are aware that the holiday originated in Ireland and that Patrick was Irish. They also may know that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and choose to wear green clothes on the holiday in order not to be pinched.

St. Patrick's Life: Patrick lived in 5th century Ireland and was the son of a Christian deacon. When he was 16 years old, he was taken prisoner by Irish raiders who had sacked the family estate. Held captive for six years, he turned to his religion for solace and began planning the conversion of the Irish from their nature-based pagan religion to that of Christianity. He eventually escaped to England. Upon his return, he put his plan into action, converting much of the Irish population to Catholicism by incorporating their religious symbols into their understanding of Christianity. March 17th was the day of St. Patrick's death, and it became a religious feast day within the Catholic Church.

Shamrocks and Wearing the Green: The shamrock was a sacred plant to the Irish pagans because it symbolized the rebirth of spring. As Christianity flourished, the shamrock came to incorporate ideas of the Holy Trinity, as well. Later, under the oppression of the English who outlawed Irish language and Catholicism, wearing the green shamrock was a symbol of heritage and pride. Today, the shamrock is still a symbol of Ireland and donning green clothing stands as a substitute for pinning the little three-lobed leaf to your shirt.

Go dtí an chéad uair eile ("Until Next Time" in Gaelic)

Andy Steinberg, Clubhouse Supervisor

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

Recreation, Preschool & Communications News

WALNUT COUNTRY PRESCHOOL

In February, the students celebrated Valentine's Day by exchanging cards and treats. The rest of the month focused on our appreciation for the community workers that we rely on every day. We had visits from nurses, police officers, and fire fighters who also happen to be moms and dads of our students. Thanks to everyone who came in to share information about their careers—and inspire young minds!

Mark your calendar: March 25 is our school's annual Silent Auction. Come enjoy an evening of drinks, desserts, and fun. All proceeds go to our school programs and help offset tuition costs.

It's not too late to register for the 2017-2018 school year. If you know a child who would love to learn with us, please give us a call today at (925) 798-9686 or email us at wcpreschool@astound.net.

BOY SCOUT TROOP #429

Boy Scout Troop 429, sponsored by the Cowell HOA, was founded in the late 1960's and has continually provided life skills training, outdoor adventures and leadership development to boys (11 years old and up). With a strong tradition, Troop 429 has built a solid foundation on teaching Boy Scout skills, experiencing the outdoors and having fun!

We invite all Scouting-aged boys (11 years old and up) and their parents to visit our Troop Meetings on Monday's from 7:00p – 8:00p in the Crossings Club House. For more information, please contact: Scoutmaster Anita Luttrell Phone: 925-270-7289 E-mail: JamesL@astound.net

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

You will find included in this month's signal the 2017 Walnut Country Events Schedule that has been finalized and approved by the CHOA Board. These events are sponsored by the CHOA Board of Directors and there is no charge for any of these events. The Activities Committee utilized an online reservation system (Evite) to provide data that is helpful to track reservations. In 2016, this data indicated that 27% – 30% of residents who RSVP did not show up. This is not only frustrating but costly, as we purchase food based on the number of RSVP's received. We understand that plans can change, so we ask that you cancel your reservation either online via Evite or by calling the Clubhouse (925-825-0250).

Also, we continue to struggle with the lack of volunteers during these events. In order to make these events successful and fun for everyone we need residents to volunteer at least an hour during these events. A volunteer link is included on the Evite reservation system. So when you RSVP for these events, please consider volunteering by signing up for one of the event tasks. If we don't get enough volunteers, we will be forced to cancel an event.

WALNUTCREEK.COM TIP OF THE MONTH

When you want to find out when a CHOA Board or Committee meeting is being held, you probably look at this month's Singular insert or call the Business Office. Another source for meeting dates, times, and locations is our website. There are two ways to find your meeting information from the homepage: 1) Below the community picture and blue bar of information icons, locate the sidebar on the right where you'll find the next few meetings; or 2) Below the community picture, in the blue bar of information icons, click on the "Calendar of Events" found on the right to take you to the CHOA meeting calendar page (this will allow you to see several months ahead).

Walnut Country Signal

SENIORS' POTLUCK DINNER

It's going to be raining corned beef and cabbage this coming potluck. Even though it is not what our Irish brethren ate in celebration of dear St. Pat, it's what we eat that matters. So bring it on! Let's celebrate!!

Please join us on Wednesday, March 8th in the Walnut Country Clubhouse at 5:30 sharp. If you would like to come as a first-time guest, please call Ken Cellini, Chairman, (925-798-7839) to reserve your seating, and get a food assignment before 3/1/17. New members are always welcome!



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Rental rate is \$350 for the lounge area (up to 8 hours). Game room is an additional \$50 and use of the fully equipped downstairs kitchen is an additional \$75.

Conditions apply including:

- Serving alcohol requires hiring and paying for a security officer.
- Certificate of Insurance (COI) is required.
- If you book a party you **MUST** be present during the entire party.
- The resident who books the party is responsible for what takes place during the entire event.

To reserve a date you must put down a \$500 security/cleaning deposit.

All fees and paperwork are due at least two weeks prior to your event.

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



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