

Walking on Wednesday



Wednesday Walkers stopped to visit Bruce Johnson at Siegel's Tuxedos on Grand at Boulevard Way. Pictured are: Barry Gantt (left), Carol Long with K-9 friend Bailey, Satsuki Morimoto, Sarah Johnson, Heidi Shale, Quincy Dong, Dick Carter, Holly Gardner, Marion Lim Yankowitz, Christina Schneck, Alan Goldhammer, Penny Harris, Store Manager Bruce Johnson, Nadine Guffantin, Harriette Louie, Helen Dong, Melba Yee, Noemi Alvarado, Michael Gardner, Michael Henn, Bob Gustafson, Michael Marx, and Lori Rubens.

By Dick Carter

During a previous walk, the Piedmont Recreation Department's Walking on Wednesdays group was fascinated to see the construction work being done on the damaged section of Cavendish Lane. This past April the group walked to Sunnyside Avenue to see the street repair work being done. With the work recently finished, Sunnyside was selected as the day's destination.

A group of 24 walkers and two K-9 best friends were joined by first time walker Maryann Annunziata, who Alan Goldhammer had invited. Going to Sunnyside also provided the opportunity for the walkers to go down Magnolia Avenue and get another look at the construction on the high school's new 3-story STEAM building. Steel beams are now high in the sky and impressive.

At the foot of Magnolia it

merges into Wildwood Avenue and continues to its corner with Grand Avenue.

Just around this corner is Siegel's Tuxedo Shop, owned by Holly and Michael Gardner who were on the walk. Michael invited the walkers to come into the store to meet the longtime manager, the affable Bruce Johnson. The group enjoyed seeing the fancy formal wear, but Walking on Wednesdays is very casual, so no purchases or rentals were transacted.

The history of the retail presence in this section of Piedmont was shared with the group based on a past Piedmont Post article by Gail Lombardi. Gail had reported that the expansion of Piedmont's commercial center from Highland Avenue came after a long struggle. In 1929 the City Council finally adopted an ordinance that allowed businesses on Grand Avenue, on the west side from the city line to Linda Avenue, and the east side from the city border to Fairview Avenue. Seven months later, voters turned down another zoning ordinance that would have allowed businesses up to Oakland Avenue. The Piedmont business district on Grand today remains the same as it was in 1929 – nominally one block.

The walkers crossed Grand and began recalling the businesses that had populated the Grand Ave. corridor. A hamburger restaurant where the Ace Garden store now stands was fondly remembered by Michael Gardner.

At the corner of Grand and Sunnyside there was once a Piggly Wiggly grocery store, followed by Foudy's Fine Foods until 1967. When the store was torn down it became a gas station, and ultimately the current location of the Piedmont Financial Center. However, no one was old enough to remember the A Mon Chateau saloon on the corner of Grand and Linda Avenues. The building was torn down in 1936, and the walkers said they were sorry that it is gone.

The walkers turned up Sunnyside to revisit the road that was torn up when they visited in April. They found the street to be repaved, and lined with beautiful trees whose leaves were still in their fall glory.

The walkers emerged from Sunnyside and turned down Oakland Avenue and down the Oakland Avenue bridge, where they observed workers building rails that will make it even safer for walkers.

Crossing Grand Avenue, they went up Oakland Avenue, turned on Arbor Drive and made a loop back to Oakland Avenue on Fairview. Going one more block up Oakland Avenue, they walked the upper portion of San Carlos Avenue, one of only a few split-level streets in town. From there it was back up Magnolia to the Exedra, their starting point.

The approximately 2.5 mile walk had taken the 90 minutes that the group usually spends together. The fall weather had

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Kitchen remodel ideas that deliver long-term satisfaction

By Philip Anderson

If you know the slightest bit about home renovations, you're certainly aware that kitchen and bath remodels provide the biggest returns on your investment. Of the two, kitchens tend to reap more sizable rewards. After all, any soiree worth its salt has shown us that the kitchen is the epicenter of the home. For that reason, we'll take a look at kitchen renovations that drive lasting returns on your investment.

Resurfacing Kitchen Cabinets

A lot of your decision-making, when it comes to cabinets, will likely come down to your budget and the condition of your current kitchen cabinets. There are plenty of budget-friendly options that don't involve replacing cabinets, including repainting or resurfacing your current cabinets. A popular choice right now that looks absolutely stunning is resurfacing with wood veneer. It's an ideal way to modernize without breaking your budget.

If you've got cabinet interiors that are in stellar shape, remove the cabinet doors altogether for a mesmerizing and contemporary kitchen design.

Updating kitchen appliances

This is another great option for those looking to make a big impact with a small change, and it's an instant kitchen facelift. Nothing makes a kitchen more attractive quite like shiny and

sleek appliances that also serve a functional purpose. You'll get huge bonus points for energy-efficient and/or smart appliances, too.

Installing new kitchen countertops

This is another great option for those who want to give their kitchen a whole new look without a lot of elbow grease. No matter what type you choose, new countertops instantly improve the look of any kitchen. Current trends include mixing materials, such as installing stone countertops with metal hardware accents and glass shelving. Bold, black countertops with a bright and boldly patterned backsplash could be just the juxtaposition you need to make your kitchen truly unique.

Replacing kitchen flooring

If your floor is still in good condition and relatively contemporary, you might be able to get away with a deep clean and polish. However, it's often best just to go ahead and pull the trigger on the purchase, especially if you're putting in new hardwood floors. We say this because hardwood floors have been known to drive the longest and highest return on their purchase.

Time to repaint?

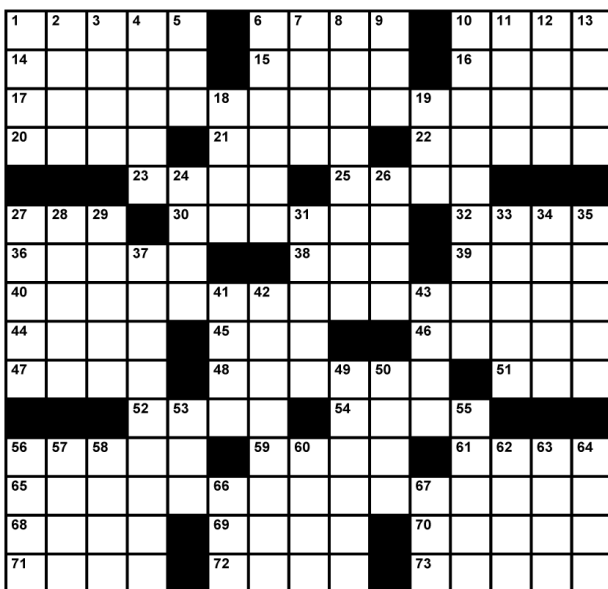
Never underestimate the power of a new kitchen paint job.

A new paint job with a hue that's perfect for highlighting the best features of your kitchen

See HDR on page 28

Crossword Puzzle

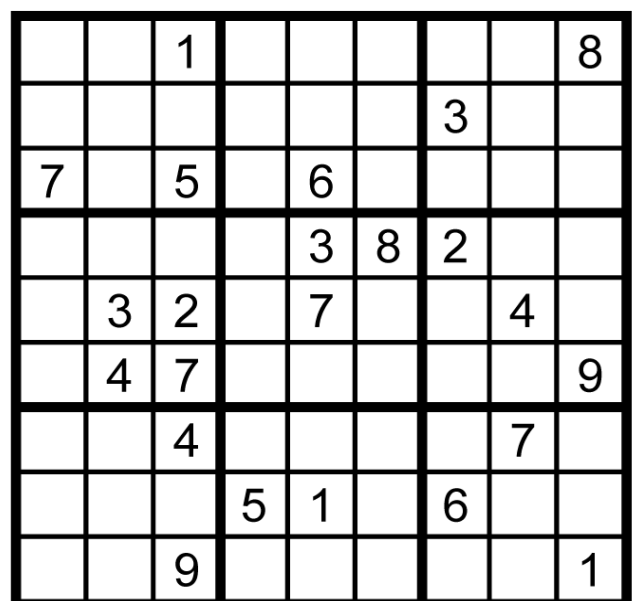
Head Starts
by Myles Mellor and Sally York



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|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Across | 56. Pond buildup | writer |
| 1. Paperlike cloth | 59. 1987 Costner role | 26. Blown away |
| 6. Apple variety | 61. Greek letter | 27. More crude |
| 10. Window part | 65. Head starts | 28. Cremona artisan |
| 14. Owning land | 68. Flu symptoms | 29. Masters |
| 15. Carbon compound | 69. Bog | 31. Bunk |
| 16. Arch type | 70. Fred of hockey | 33. Shoe type |
| 17. Head starts | 71. Form | 34. Cream vessels |
| 20. Military cap | 72. Aspersion | 35. Razor sharpener |
| 21. Channel | 73. Itsy-bitsy bits | 37. "My Little _____" |
| 22. Anxiety | | 41. Camp sight |
| 23. Defunct ruler | Down | 42. Dowel |
| 25. Hit ground | 1. Approach | 43. Annul |
| 27. Dust remover | 2. Feel pity | 49. Narc's target |
| 30. "You betcha!" | 3. Strengthen, with "up" | 50. "Spirit" rock band |
| 32. Has a mortgage | 4. European gull | 53. Colo. neighbor |
| 36. Frenzied | 5. Obstacle to learning | 55. Dusk to dawn |
| 38. Bauxite, e.g. | 6. Actor Depardieu | 56. First fellow? |
| 39. Gingrich | 7. Soon, to a bard | 57. Child's building brick |
| 40. Head starts | 8. Mooning | 58. Showy trinket |
| 44. Case | 9. A pint, maybe | 60. Almond |
| 45. Do exist | 10. Metaphysical poet | 62. Sundae topper, perhaps |
| 46. The "N" of U.N.C.F. | 11. All excited | 63. Course |
| 47. Microprocessor type | 12. Ryan and Tilly | 64. Stirs |
| 48. Calculator grid | 13. One-up | 66. Dash lengths |
| 51. Precognition (abbr.) | 18. Flair | 67. Group w. troops |
| 52. Wounded ____ | 19. Amscrayed | |
| 54. "____ my word!" | 24. "The Open Window" | |

Sudoku Puzzle

Sudoku by Myles Mellor
Medium



See Crossword and Sudoku Puzzle Solutions on page on page30.

HDR

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can make a huge difference, especially if it accompanies some of the other kitchen remodel renovations already mentioned.

For the biggest impact, combining several of these kitchen renovation ideas will certainly deliver long lasting value for your home. Researching what's going to pay dividends in your kitchen either now or down the line is just good sense, but if the idea of tackling this on your own is overwhelming, contact us today. HDR Remodeling will

be able to incorporate the best aspects of your current kitchen with some sleek new options for a reimagined space that will surely get you the lasting value you deserve.

Philip Anderson is the Founder and President of HDR Remodeling, an award-winning design build firm located at 2952 Sacramento Street in Berkeley. Anderson started Honey Do Repair, a handy man service, in 1987, and 30 years later his company is one of the East Bay's most sought after design build firms. For information, see <https://hdrremodeling.com>.

Deadline

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near 314 Wildwood Avenue, was not heard by Council because the application was considered incomplete. Furthermore, an application for a 19th site near 44 Wildwood Avenue was withdrawn by Crown Castle in October. This latter application will not move forward.

The City will hear next week about the fate of the lawsuit.

"December 2, 2019 is the deadline for Crown Castle to dismiss its lawsuit, pursuant to the terms of the settlement agreement," Macdonald-Powell continued.

On October 29, the Planning Commission recommended that Council deny the applications. Earlier this month, staff direction recommended that Council approve the applications.

The City Council faced a ticking clock – Federal Communications Commission regulations say that cities have a 50-day "shot clock" to make decisions on wireless facility applications. Because Crown Castle filed complete applications for the 17 sites on October 3, Council had to make a decision by Friday, November 22.

Specifically, the approximate addresses for the proposed sites are 340-370 Highland Avenue, 150 Highland Avenue, 799 Magnolia Avenue, 740 Magnolia Avenue, 303 Hillside Avenue, 428 El Cerrito Avenue, 355 Jerome Avenue, 1166 Winsor Avenue, 201 Hillside Avenue, 237 El Cerrito Avenue, 410 Hillside Court, 338 Magnolia Avenue, 96 Fairview Avenue, 108 MacKinnon Place, 100 Palm Drive, 185 Wildwood Avenue and 523 Boulevard Way.

Crown Castle must take additional actions before constructing the small cell sites, which are

supposed to be less intrusive than designs presented to the community back in 2017.

"Before construction can start, Crown Castle must obtain additional ministerial permits, specifically building permits and excavation permits (for utility work in the public right-of-way - whether or not grading will occur)," Macdonald-Powell said.

Now the City is waiting for the company to submit more applications.

"Once Crown Castle submits complete applications for building permits and excavation permits, the Building Official and Public Works Department will have 30 days to process the permits and issue the permits," she continued.

Complete applications must include information like clearly identified concealment elements, construction management plans, emergency vehicle access plans, traffic control plans, construction completion schedules, tree protection plans, proof of insurance and security deposits.

In November of 2016, Crown Castle began filing applications to install nine small cell sites around Piedmont Park. These antennas will be used by Verizon, and were heralded by Crown Castle as necessary to pave the way for next-generation "5G" wireless connection in town.

Since then, the company has been the subject of three years of intense controversy and protest from Piedmonters who do not want the new towers installed due to fears about health issues, decreased home values and other concerns.

Federal law dictates that cities cannot deny wireless facility applications due to public health reasons as long as the facilities keep radiofrequency emissions within FCC limits.

In 2017, the City denied five of Crown Castle's proposals for cell towers in residential areas after wide public outcry. The City approved four other proposals with a long list of conditions.

Crown Castle filed a lawsuit in federal court soon after alleging that eight of the nine decisions violate federal law. The suit claimed that the denials violated the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. The company also stated that the conditions in the approvals were so onerous that they were tantamount to denials; therefore, Crown Castle said even the approved proposals were in violation of the law.

"Lengthy, court-supervised settlement negotiations related to the Crown Castle complaint resulted in a settlement agreement which improved the design of the wireless communication facilities and offered a potential resolution to the pending litigation should the City Council ultimately approve facilities which are consistent with the location and design of the facilities, as configured in the settlement agreement," the staff report said.

In December 2018, City Council approved a settlement agreement with the company.

As part of the terms of the settlement, Crown Castle was able to reapply for sites proposed in 2017 as well as additional sites. The staff report noted that the wireless facilities outlined in the new applications are smaller, more compact, quieter and would cause fewer impacts to the City's street trees. Additionally, City staff pointed out that the new designs do not require underground vaults.

More information about the applications and updated timelines can be found at the City's website: piedmont.ca.gov

Walkers

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been good, the history and different construction projects were interesting, and the company with friends was excellent. The Walking on Wednesdays group meets every Wednesday morning at the Exedra (Highland & Magnolia

Avenues) at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to join the group and there is no charge. Registration with the Piedmont Recreation is required. New walkers and their friendly K-9 best friends are especially welcome.

For more information, call the Recreation Department at 510-421-3070.

Gardner

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sonable to work with. If you are prepared, have done your homework, and most importantly have a viable project that is ready to go, you are much more likely to get the undivided attention of the best contractors.

Jim Gardner is owner of Jim Gardner Construction Inc. A long-time Piedmont resident, he has been doing structural repair in your neighborhood since 1983. To schedule an estimate or for more information, see the website: jimgardnerconstruction.com.



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