No. 160

A newsletter produced by the City of Walnut Creek

WINTER 2012-13

National Lincoln exhibit at library

A national traveling exhibition focused on Abraham Lincoln's struggle to meet the constitutional challenges of the Civil War will be at the Walnut Creek Library Dec. 14



through Feb. 8. A special open house on Friday, Dec. 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. will turn the library into a living history showcase. For details, see **Page 3**.

Pop-ups plus plaza equals pizzazz!

Six pop-up kiosks showcasing unique specialty retailers are open for business at Liberty Bell Plaza. Activating the City-owned plaza at the corner of Broadway and Mount Diablo Boulevard is part of the City's Economic



Development Plan. In addition to the kiosks, "Liberty Bell Pop-up Plaza" will offer a variety of live entertainment. Learn more at www.popupplazawc.com.

Holiday closures for City offices

Most City facilities will be closed for the winter holidays beginning Monday, December 24, reopening Wednesday, January 2. Public safety services will continue to be available.

For a comprehensive list of what is open or closed, visit the City's website, www.walnut-creek.org.







Photos by Nan Siegel

Here's to the 1,100-plus volunteers who wiped, swept, painted and planted on one of 45 projects throughout Walnut Creek on Community Service Day, Saturday, Oct. 6. To watch the "Creek Currents" video from the day, go to YouTube.com/cityofwalnutcreek.

Public invited to weigh in on wayfinding

new wayfinding system is in the works for Walnut Creek. The purpose of the system is to make it easier for drivers and pedestrians to find key locations and amenities throughout the city, from Heather Farm Park to downtown parking, through the strategic use of clear, attractive signage. In addition, citywide wayfinding creates a sense of place through the use of consistent colors, shapes and fonts.

The design process is currently under way. Interested in weighing in? Drop by the Oak View Room in the downtown library between 5 and 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12 to see samples of several design alternatives, ask questions and give

feedback. There will also be opportunities to give feedback online between Dec. 13 – 19 at www.walnut-creek.org.



At left, an example of a wayfinding system (not intended to represent Walnut Creek's system.

WALNUT TV

Winter highlights

(check cable listings for showtimes or go to walnutcreektv.org)

Holiday Concert with the WC Concert Band

Enjoy the music of the season from the comfort of your home! The Walnut Creek Concert Band's holiday concert will be aired throughout December.

This winter on 'Creek Currents'

Brendan gets up close and personal with a hawk at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, while Ruby joins hardworking volunteers on Community Service Day. Congratulations to "Creek Currents" on its 1st place NATOA award!

State of the City

What's new in Walnut Creek? Look for the Mayor's State of the City presentation in early February (exact air dates TBA).

Public Meetings

City Council and all Commission meetings are televised live and available on demand.

Channel information

Walnut Creek TV is on Comcast Channel 28 (incorporated WC only), Rossmoor 26, Astound Channel 29, and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99. For streaming video and programs on demand, www.walnutcreektv.org.



"Broadway Revealed: Behind the Theater Curtain" will be at the Bedford Gallery Dec. 6 - Feb. 17.

Broadway comes to the Bedford Gallery

ew York's iconic theater district comes to Walnut Creek this winter with "Broadway Revealed: Behind the Theater Curtain," at the Bedford Gallery Dec. 6 – Feb. 17, 2013. The exhibition features artist Stephen Joseph's photographs of some of Broadway's most critically acclaimed productions alongside theatrical props, costumes, and other artifacts. "Broadway Revealed" showcases the complex

Opening Reception: Broadway Revealed

Thursday, Dec. 6, 6 to 8 p.m. \$5 admission; Wine and hors d'oeuvres hosted by the Bedford Gallery Guild

support network of design, lighting, directing and staging that come together to create the magic world of the theater. www.bedfordgallery.org.

Here's what's happening

Ice rink returns to Civic Park

Walnut Creek on Ice is back at Civic Park through Jan. 13. To learn about skating lessons, open skate times, birthday parties and special events, go to www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com or call 925-935-7002.

Parade of Lights at Broadway Plaza

Broadway Plaza's Parade of Lights begins at 7 p.m. Nov. 29, concluding when Santa Claus lights the 40-foot tree.

Artists Market

Artists from Walnut Creek's Civic Arts Education program offer a variety of hand-crafted items for sale Nov. 30 through Dec. 2 at two locations. An opening party at the Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N.Wiget, on Nov. 30 from 5 to 9 p.m. will feature live music, hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

The Artists Market at Shadelands Arts Center will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 1; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 2. At the Civic Park clay studio, hours are 5 to 9 p.m. Nov. 30; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dec. 1; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 2.

Teddy Bear Tea

The Gardens at Heather Farm presents its Teddy Bear Tea and Boutique on Dec. 1 and 2, featuring elegant tea, raffle baskets, storytelling, and gifts for sale. There will be two seatings each day at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Reservations are required. Call 925-947-1678 or visit www.gardenshf.org.

Holidays at historic Shadelands

The Walnut Creek Historical Society presents "Holidays at Shadelands" Nov. 24 through Dec. 9. This festive event includes a three-course tea luncheon at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., as well as hand-crafted items for sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is free; luncheon is \$30 per person. Reservations for the tea luncheon are required; call 925-935-7871. The Shadelands Ranch Museum is at 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road.

Have breakfast with Santa, or ring in the New Year at Boundary Oak

Santa comes to the Clubhouse at Boundary Oak on Sunday, Dec. 9 to have breakfast with kids of all ages. Looking for a festive spot for New Year's Eve? Join the gala celebration at the Clubhouse. Call 925-934-3600 ext. 21 for reservations and information, or visit www.playboundaryoak.com.

Speakers series at the Gardens

The Gardens at Heather Farm announces its 2013 Speaker Series. Speakers are Matthew Levesque, author of "The Revolutionary Yardscape," on Jan. 24; photographer Saxon Holt, "Plants and Landscapes for Summer Dry Climates," on Feb. 28; and Steve Sando, owner of Rancho Gordo New World Specialty Foods, on March 28.

Doors open at 7 p.m. Cost is \$75 for the series, or \$35 for individual speakers. Visit the website, www.gardenshf.org, for details.

Civic Arts ballet program featured in documentary

Civic Arts
Education's
ballet program is
center stage in
the award
winning movie
"First Position."
The full-length
film follows six
young dancers,
including 11-



year-old Miko Fogarty from the Civic Arts' program, preparing for the Youth America Grand Prix. With hundreds from around the world competing, perfection is expected. The film won awards at the New York City Film Festival, Toronto Film Festival, Portland Film Festival, San Francisco Documentary Film Festival and was shown at Sundance. See www.balletdocumentary.com for trailers.

Carnegie Hall, Royal Conservatory OK music testing at Civic Arts

The City's Civic Arts Education music department has been selected as an Assessment Center for The Achievement

Program of
Carnegie Hall and
the Royal
Conservatory.
Music students
from throughout
the East Bay will
now be able to
enroll in nationally
recognized
instrumental and
vocal testing at the



Civic Arts Education Shadelands Campus. To learn more, visit

www.theachievementprogram.org.

Juried show at Bedford accepting applications

The deadline to submit work for consideration for the juried show "Peaceable Kingdom: Animals Real and Imagined" is Jan. 9.

For more information and to apply online visit www.bedfordgallery.org.



A national traveling exhibit about Lincoln will be at the Library Dec. 14 through Feb. 8.

Stunning Lincoln exhibit at library

he national traveling exhibition "Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War," will be at the Walnut Creek Library from Dec. 14 through Feb. 8. Six special library programs and events, presented by the Walnut Creek Foundation, have been designed to support and enhance the exhibit.

"Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War" focuses on Lincoln's struggle to meet the political and constitutional challenges of the Civil War. The exhibition explores how Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the war — the secession of Southern states, slavery, and wartime civil liberties. Visitors will leave the exhibition with a more complete understanding of Abraham Lincoln as president and the Civil War as the nation's gravest constitutional crisis.

The traveling exhibition and tour are funded by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to the National Constitution Center. The Library Foundation and Walnut Creek Library partnered with the American Library Association and the National Constitution Center to bring this exhibit to Walnut Creek.

Special events Open House

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14
A presentation of the Gettysburg
Address, a Lincoln impersonator, and
"The Civil War in Four Minutes" are
among the offerings at this free and
family-friendly open house.

California & the Civil War: From Frontier to Province

7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7
Kevin Starr, California State Librarian
Emeritus, will discuss the emergence
of national leadership in California
during the Civil War. At the Lesher
Center for the Arts. For tickets,
www.LesherArtsCenter.org.

Wit and Wisdom of Lincoln

6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17

Master storyteller Arnold Kunst offers a program designed for all audiences interested in a good laugh, with a dose of inspiration. In the Oak View Room at the Walnut Creek Library.

There are six special programs. www.WCLibrary.org or 925-935-5395.

Record amount raised for arts and arts outreach

The Diablo Regional Arts Association netted a record \$275,000 for arts and education programs at the "On Broadway" gala held Oct. 6 at the Lesher Center for the Arts

The proceeds support DRAA's ongoing efforts to expand the diversity of entertainment and culture available in the

East Bay suburbs. Proceeds also support DRAA's Arts Access School Time program, which will bring more than 6,000 K-12 students from underserved Contra Costa County schools to high-quality performances at the Lesher Center during the 2012-13 year. Many of these students have never seen a live performance.

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Welcome! It was the 1 of bully given to make a more. NO Weapons NO Drug NO Arras N

ROSSMOOR GETS READY — The Red Cross, Rossmoor, Contra Costa County and the City of Walnut Creek partnered on a shelter operations drill at Rossmoor's Del Valle Clubhouse on Oct. 17. Above, City employee Melissa Ridenour gathers information from a volunteer playing the role of a shelter client.

Are you prepared?

A re you prepared for a flood in your neighborhood? Walnut Creek last experienced a major flood event in 1958 when much of downtown was inundated with up to 2 feet of water. More recent floods in 2002 and 2005 caused hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage.

What should you do before a flood?

- Know the flood risk to your property.
- Purchase flood insurance for your property.
- Protect your property by retrofitting your residence.
- Keep drainage channels and pipes free from obstruction and debris.
- Do not dump trash, leaves, or debris into any part of the drainage system.
- Keep emergency supplies and develop a family evacuation plan.

What should you do during a flood?

- Tune in to local radio or television to monitor weather forecasts.
 - Turn off gas and electrical service.
- Seek shelter in the highest areas possible and avoid low-lying areas.
- Avoid wading or driving through moving floodwaters.

Contact the City of Walnut Creek, Engineering Division at 925-943-5839 for additional information about retrofitting property and permitting requirements or to determine the flood risk for your property.

Habitat for Humanity comes to W.C.

ivic and community leaders, generous donors, and some very happy families came together on Oct. 27 to break ground on Pleasant Creek Homes, a ten-home Habitat for Humanity project on an infill parcel of land next to Interstate 680.

Volunteers and new homeowners, using Habitat's sweat-equity down-payment program, will build the homes on Barkley Avenue. The homes are expected to be completed in 2014.

In tandem with the Habitat project, the City successfully applied for a \$1 million state Safe Routes to Transit grant to build a sidewalk connecting Pleasant Creek Homes and the surrounding neighborhood with BART and downtown Walnut Creek. The pedestrian walkway, a traffic-signal button and crosswalk striping will make it possible for



Photo by Margot Ernst

While civic leaders and future Habitat homeowners prepared to break ground on Pleasant Creek Homes, these little girls were content to simply watch and hang onto their hard hats. Below, an artist's rendition of Pleasant Creek Homes.



the first time to safely cross the busy Hillside Avenue/Ygnacio Valley Road entrance to Interstate 680.

West downtown planning area extended

The City has received additional funding from the Metropolitan

Transportation Commission to extend the West Downtown Specific Plan Area south to Olympic Bouelvard. A "catchup" workshop for those within the newly added area will be held in December; residents, businesses and property owners in the affected area will receive a postcard notice prior to the workshop.

The West Downtown Specific Plan is focused on exploring the potential for new homes and businesses in the planning area; making easier pedestrian and bicycle connections between BART and the downtown; and preserving the Almond-Shuey neighborhood. To be added to the "interested parties" mailing list for all future meetings, email senior



planner Andrew M. Smith at <u>asmith@walnut-creek.org</u> or call 925-943-5899, ext. 2213.

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An illustration of the Paragon/Brio project, corner of Civic and Ygnacio Valley Road.

Projects to watch for in 2013

Business owners and building developers are investing in Walnut Creek in a big way. The City Council on Oct. 16 approved the Walnut Creek Transit Village, which will eventually bring up to 600 housing units and groundfloor retail to Walnut Creek BART.

The project is expected to continue through the next phase of development review throughout 2013. Here is a sample of some other projects to watch for:

Encina Shopping Center remodel

The owner of the Encina Grande shopping center at the corner of Ygnacio Valley and Oak Grove roads wants to remodel the existing 101, 605 square-foot shopping center and add 6,353 square feet of new floor area. Among the ideas being considered: a drive-up service window for the Walgreen's Pharmacy.

The project planner is Alan Carreon, <u>carreon@walnut-creek.org</u>.

Rossmoor Shopping Center

The 15-acre Rossmoor Shopping Center anchored by Safeway was purchased in mid-2012 and staff expects to see plans that involve a major renovation.

For more information, contact Economic Development Manager Ron Gerber at gerber@walnut-creek.org.

Brio - 141 N. Civic Drive

The Brio project (formerly called Paragon) will bring 300 apartments to the west side of North Civic Drive, along with two significant traffic improvements: a new signalized crosswalk mid-block on Civic Drive will create a pedestrian connection between the Iron Horse Trail and BART and a longer left turn lane going southbound on Ygnacio Valley Road will ease the commute back-up.



Artist's rendition of 1500 Main Street, currently going through design review.

Brio's project planner is Chip Griffin, griffin@walnut-creek.org.

Laconia - 1500 N. California

The Laconia project will include a "pocket plaza" (about 1,000 square feet) opening up on Locust Street with public art and outdoor seating to connect to the ground-floor café.

The project is being built on the California Café and Scotts Valley Bank site.

The ground floor will most likely include a restaurant, while the three upper floors will be home to 140 apartments.

The project planner is Jeremy Lochirco, <u>lochirco@walnut-creek.org</u>.

1500 Mount Diablo Boulevard

Brian Hirahara, who created the elegant Sasa and Va di Vi restaurants, entered into a development agreement with the City to develop the city-owned lot at 1500 Mount Diablo Boulevard; the project is going through design review. The two-story building will include retail and restaurant tenants; plus there will be a roof-top deck for dining.

The project planner is Ethan Bindernagel, <u>bindernagel@walnutcreek.org.</u>

Stay informed, stay involved

Here are some ways to stay informed about proposed development in Walnut Creek.

Project Pipeline Report

Long before a project is approved, it goes through a review process. That's true for every project, from individual residences to large commercial buildings. For a complete list of projects, go to www.walnut-creek.org/current_projects.

Get notified!

Sign up to receive agendas for any City Council or commission meetings in advance. Just go to the City's website - www.walnut-creek.org - and chose "enotify" under the main Services menu.

For further information, contact City Clerk Suzie Martinez, 925-943-5819.

Public meetings on demand

All Commission meetings are now aired live on Walnut Creek TV, and recorded for future viewing.

Plus, video is archived online, along with meeting minutes, making it possible to click on an agenda link and watch what actually happened on-line at any time.

- For Walnut Creek TV viewing information, check out the WCTV box on Page 2 of this newsletter.
- To watch meetings on demand, and to find meeting agendas and minutes, go to www.walnut-creek.org/meetings.

Planning workshop for small businesses

The City of Walnut Creek and the Contra Costa Small Business Development Center will offer a 10-week "Practical Business Planning" program to help current or aspiring small business owners thrive.

Orientation sessions will be from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28 or Wednesday, Dec. 12 at City Hall, 1666 N. Main Street, 3rd floor conference room. Register online at www.contracostasbdc.com. Questions? Call Sue Russo, 925-602-6806, or email srusso@contracostasbdc.com

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GOOD DOG! Meet the newest member of Walnut Creek PD, K-9 Unit Figo. On his first official night on the job, Figo and his handler, Officer Joe Coffin, responded to an in-process burglary call at a local business. Officers arrested two men inside the business, and Figo tracked down a third suspect who was hiding under a vehicle.

Seat belt safety tips

eat belts can save lives and prevent injuries. In a recent example, a citizen collided with a light pole while driving about 35 miles per hour. He was not wearing a seat belt and was lucky to survive the collision even though

the airbag properly deployed. Medical staff said he would likely be in intensive care for up to a month.

The driver's passenger was wearing a seat belt and walked away with a couple of minor scrapes.

Seat belts must be properly worn to work. This means:

- The seat belt should not be loose.
- It should rest snugly against your lap and chest without being uncomfortable.
- It should not be twisted; this reduces the surface area of the belt against your body, making it less effective and possibly causing injury in the event of a collision.
- The shoulder strap should not be worn under the armpit. The shoulder strap is designed to be worn over the shoulder and major bones (pelvis, upper ribcage/ sternum/collarbone). Did you know that wearing the seat belt under your armpit is against the law?

Share these tips with your family and friends. Happy and safe travels!



The vocal and handbell ensemble Tapestry is performing in or near Walnut Creek.

Singing and ringing in the season

Tapestry, the Bay Area's only combined vocal and handbell ensemble, will be singing and ringing in the holidays with performances of "Dear Santa."

Tapestry begins its season with a concert Wednesday, Nov. 28, at 7 p.m. in Rossmoor, followed by a 7 p.m. Nov. 30 performance at Walnut Creek United Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Avenue. Concerts are free; donations will

gladly be accepted in support of the Alzheimer's Association of the East Bay.

Tapestry singers rehearse in Walnut Creek throughout the year; ringers rehearse in Clayton.

For more information about holiday season performances, or how to join Tapestry, call Susana Taylor, 925-768-8025 or visit the Tapestry website, www.tapestryringersandsingers.org.

Chair lifts make pools accessible to all

Two chair lifts to assist persons with disabilities in and out of the water are now available at the Clarke Swim Center. Because they are portable, the lifts can be used at any of the swim center's three pools.

"We are excited about the new lifts," said senior pool manager Steven Marlowe Jr.
"We will be able to move a person in or out of the water at any location at our three pools. Someone who may not be comfortable using a ladder or stairs can enter or exit the water safely in any lane."

Swimming, water exercise, water walking and water-related activities contribute to the health of individuals of all abilities, and these lifts will allow even more users to receive these benefits.

Clarke Swim Center is open people year-round for adult lap swimming, water exercise classes, family lap swimming, recreational swimming, specialized classes and swim teams. The



Portable chair lifts at Clarke Swim Center help lift people in and out of the pool.

pool at Larkey Park, which is open mid-June through mid-August, has also been outfitted with a portable chair lift.

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Ready to head to Hungary are (standing) Sister Cities Youth Ambassadors Lauren Boxold, Cambra Lutz, Bella Pineda, Jada Larson, Eva Schoenholz, Aditya Rao, Benjamin Lewis, Mark Levins and Patrick Donoghue. Kneeling in front are Kylie Lindquist and Bailee Davis.

Walnut Creek's Youth Ambassadors

Bleven Walnut Creek eighth graders spent nine days in Siofok, Hungary in October on the first Walnut Creek Sister Cities Youth Ambassador Exchange (YAE!!) program. They stayed with Siofok families, attended local classes, toured Siofok and met the mayor and council members. Walnut Creek Intermediate teacher Carol Hoy led the group, along with two adult chaperones, Sue Levins and Tracy Wonnell.

To prepare for the trip, the teens went through a six-week orientation, learning everything from history and a bit of Hungarian to receiving travel tips and information on exchange rates. In April 2013, Siofok will send its youth ambassadors to Walnut Creek.

Looking ahead to the 2013-14 school year, Walnut Creek Sister Cities will begin interviews of seventh graders in the spring. Leaders hope that sister city Noceto, Italy, participates in the future.

Sister Cities International was founded in 1955 by President Dwight Eishenhower to promote peace through people-topeople relationships. There are nearly 2,000 sister city programs in 136 countries.

To learn more about Walnut Creek Sister Cities, call Jerry Hicks, 925-945-7465 or email him at jerryhicks@astound.net.

Free tax preparation for the 2013 tax season

Free tax preparation for the 2013 tax season is available starting February 2013 from AARP's Tax-Aide and United Way's "Earn It, Keep It, Save It" program. All tax preparers are trained and certified by the IRS. Both programs serve taxpayers of any age. Tax-Aide does not have an income limit, while "Earn It, Keep It, Save It" can only serve individuals whose incomes do not exceed \$50,000.

For information or to make an appointment for the Tax-Aide sites, call the following beginning Jan. 10: Walnut Creek Senior Club site, 925-943-5851; Walnut Creek Grace Presbyterian Church site, 925-

405-6278; Walnut Creek St. Paul's Episcopal Church site 925-979-5013. To make an appointment in Rossmoor, go to the Hillside Clubhouse Vista Room on Feb. 5 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

For general information and other site locations, call 925-726-3199.

For information on "Earn It, Keep It, Save It" sites call 2-1-1 or visit www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org.

Bring the following documents: Social Security Card or ITIN letter for all individuals to be listed on the return; copies of all W-2s, 1098s and 1099s; other income and deductions: 2011 tax return.

Clothing drive held by teens for teens

Need coats for girls 12 - 17

Two Walnut Creek teens have started their own non-profit to ensure that

other young women in the area have access to warm coats and nice clothing.



As a first step, "What's

Mine is Yours" founders Katie and Paige are holding a coat drive. (Their last names are not being identified at the request of the family.)

Donations of any clothing in good condition that would be suitable for girls ages 12-17 is appreciated.

"We want to make sure that every girl has a coat to call her own," said Paige. "As you pull out your winter clothing, remember there is someone out there who does not have the luxury of, or access to, a warm winter coat."

Donations can be dropped off between noon and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at the office of "What's Mine is Yours" board member Marci Shakelton, New Concept Staffing, 190 N. Wiget Lane. Or email whatsmineisyours 2@gmail.com.

Half marathon returns to Walnut Creek Dec. 8

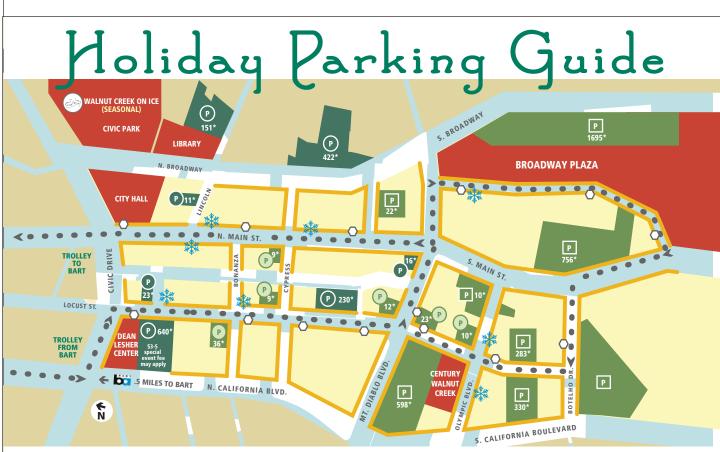
The Walnut Creek Half Marathon and 5K Race will be Saturday, Dec. 8. The route has been modified and "trafficthinning" techniques will be used to ease the impact on residents, but delays getting out of neighborhoods along the race route may occur. Everyone is invited to come to one of eight coffee stands along the route to cheer the runners. For a map of the route, visit

www.runwalnutcreek.com.

Correction -

A photo caption on Page 4 of the Fall 2012 issue of the Nutshell incorrectly identified CERT student Emily Zahner, who was tending to a "victim" during the June CERT graduation drill.

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FREE TROLLEY

- •> FREE TROLLEY (ROUTE 4)
- FREE TROLLEY STOPS



PARKING

- CITY PARKING LOT/GARAGE
 - METERED PARKING LOT
- P FREE PARKING GARAGE

PARKING METER ZONE (\$1/HR)



* NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES PER LOT



CITY COUNCIL
Bob Simmons, Mayor*
Kish Rajan, Mayor pro tem
Gary Skrel
Kristina Lawson
Cindy Silva

NOTE: As is tradition, the Council will choose a new mayor at its first meeting in December. For appointment: Call 256-3504

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

CITYMANAGER
Ken Nordhoff
CITYATTORNEY
Bryan Wenter
CITYCLERK
Suzie Martinez
CITYTREASURER
Ronald Cassano

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Sandra Meyer, Director
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INA Nutshell

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Communications and Outreach Manager

We welcome your comments and questions Call 943-5895 or vassar@walnut-creek.org

For past issues, go online at www.walnut-creek.org



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