

IN A

# Nutshell

No. 132

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek September/October 2007

## Arts panel OK's dynamic artwork for new library

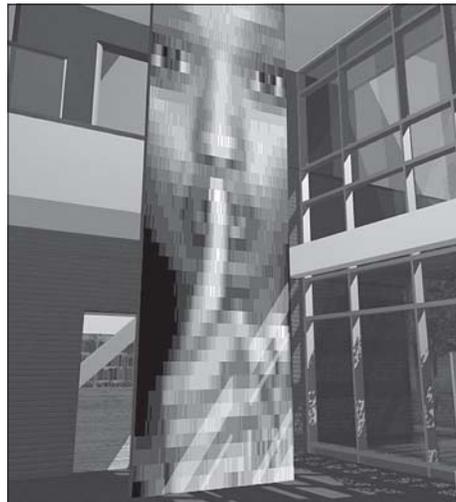
A whimsical and functional public artwork that uses 4,400 books to create a unique, pixilated image has been approved for the new Walnut Creek Library by the Arts Commission.

The Commission voted unanimously July 16 to approve artist Christian Moeller's concept that depicts a person holding a finger to her lips in the timeless and universal gesture that essentially says "Shhhhhh."

Entitled *Portrait in 12 Volumes of Grey*, the unusual piece depicts a giant bookshelf standing 26 feet tall and measuring 100 inches wide in the lobby of the new library.

The spines of 4,400 sketchbooks contained within the bookshelf will act as "pixels" to create a visual image that, from afar, is a crisp, photo-like image but which becomes completely abstract as one approaches it.

"I think library visitors will enjoy it the first time they see it and be inspired by it on every return visit," said Cindy



Artist Christian Moeller's concept for the public artwork for the new library depicts a woman urging patrons to be quiet.

Brittain, Walnut Creek Librarian.

The City has awarded a \$200,000 commission to create the signature public artwork for the library.

A panel of appointed professional and community leaders last spring chose Moeller from a field of 30 artists.

Moeller is internationally recognized artist for works considered to be innovative, dynamic, and elegant.

## 'Sustainable Walnut Creek' Going green together theme of Oct. 20 event hosted by City

Sustainability. Carbon footprint. The Kyoto Protocol. LEED-certified. Photovoltaic.

Sometimes it seems the jargon folks use when discussing how to protect our fragile environment is spoken in a different language. What most people really want to know is: "How can I become part of the solution instead of the problem when it comes to protecting our local environment?"

To help the community answer this query, Mayor Sue Rainey is inviting citizens and business owners to attend *Sustainable Walnut Creek: Going Green Together*, on Saturday, Oct. 20. Exhibits will be open from 8 a.m. to

GOING GREEN, see page 4



Dan Ashley

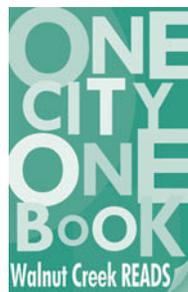


Doug McConnell

## Speakers, music events planned around 'WC Reads' program

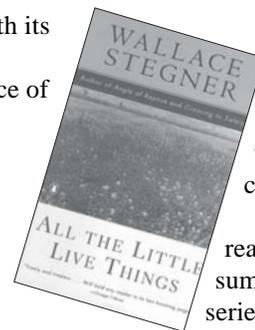
Everything from book discussions and an art exhibit to a concert in the park and a hike in the open space has been planned this fall in tribute of Wallace Stegner's *All the Little Live Things*, the latest entry in the popular *One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads* program.

As they did last year, hundreds of Walnut Creek residents have spent the summer enjoying the Stegner novel,



published in 1967, with its underlying themes of maintaining the balance of nature in an urban environment.

The fall activities will provide residents more ways to engage in the issues of the built-versus-natural environment, sustainability, and preserving and protecting our open space.



The *One City, One Book* program encourages community members to read the same book at the same time, thereby creating a citywide book club.

Local residents are invited to read *All the Little Live Things* this summer and then to participate in a series of community-wide literary and events that celebrate the book

WC READS, see page 5

## City Event Calendar

### September

3  
**Labor Day Concert**  
(See *What's Happening*)

20-23  
**70th Walnut Festival**  
(See story, page 3)

29  
**Arts Viva!**  
(See story at right)

### October

20  
**Sustainable WC:  
Going Green Together**  
(See story, page 1)

## City Meeting Calendar

**City Council**   
Sept. 18; Oct. 2, 16  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber  
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

**Planning Commission**  
Sept. 13, 27; Oct. 11, 25  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Arts Commission**  
Sept. 17, Oct. 15  
4:30 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Transportation  
Commission**  
Sept. 20, Oct. 18  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Design Review Commission**  
Sept. 5, 19; Oct. 3, 17  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Park, Rec & Open Space  
Commission**  
Sept. 10, Oct. 1  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

 **City Council meetings** are televised live on Comcast Channels 28 and 26 (unincorporated), and on Astound Channel 29. They are repeated the following Sunday at 1 p.m. on all. Video of the meetings is also available online at [walnut-creek.org](http://walnut-creek.org)

## Arts Viva! fundraiser for Civic Arts Ed set Sept. 29

**A**rts Viva!, an evening-long celebration in support of Walnut Creek's Civic Arts Education program, will be held Sept. 29 at the Shadelands Arts Center, 111 No. Wiget Ln.

The event, featuring salsa and gourmet foods and beverages from many of the area's top restaurants and caterers, will begin at 7 p.m.

The nonprofit Friends of Civic Arts Education hopes to surpass the \$12,000 raised last year when Arts Viva! made its debut to a sellout audience. Once again, proceeds will underwrite scholarships for students.

In 2006, 16,000 students of all ages — from pre-school children through senior citizens — participated in art, music, theater, dance, ceramics, and glass classes offered through the Civic Arts Education program, which was established in 1963.

Arts Viva! will feature the Latin band La Ventana and performances by talented music,



**Adrian Flores with 3-year-old Georgia Hudson**  
Photo by Dave Hanney

dance, and theater students. Professional dancer and choreographer Adrian Flores will also provide demonstrations in the art of salsa dancing.

Tickets are \$55. For more information, go online to [www.arts-ed.org](http://www.arts-ed.org).

## What's Happening

### Labor Day Concert at Civic Park

Music Director Harvey Benstein will conduct the Walnut Creek Concert Band at its annual Labor Day Concert on Monday, Sept. 3 at 6 p.m. at the Civic Park gazebo as part of the City's popular PARKconcert series. Admission is free. Bring a blanket, a picnic supper, and friends and family.

### Gardens at Heather Farm fall events

The Gardens at Heather Farm Fall Events: **Orientation for Volunteer Teachers** — Tuesday, Sept. 25, 10-11 a.m., 1540 Marchbanks Drive. Individuals who love gardens and nature and wish to make a difference with children and the environment to are encouraged to join the team of volunteer educators. **Artisan Show & Sale** — Sunday, Oct. 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 1540 Marchbanks Drive. Local artists present jewelry, ceramics & more. **Fall Plant Sale** — Saturday, Sept. 29, 9 a.m. -noon, 600 North San Carlos, in Heather Farm Park. For more information call (925) 947-1678 or visit [www.gardenshf.org](http://www.gardenshf.org).

### 50th Shadelands Antiques Show Sept. 9

Over 100 vendors will be selling their wares at the 50th Shadelands Antique & Collectible Sale and Show will be Sunday, Sept. 9, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd. Admission free; reduced admission price to museum, \$1/person. Proceeds benefit the Walnut Creek Historical Society.

### Movies Under the Stars: 'Raiders'

The last two installments of the City's popular open-air film series, *Movies Under the Stars*, in 2007 will feature Steven Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Ark* on Friday, Sept. 7 (Teen Event), and the *Charlotte's Web* (1971) on Saturday, Sept. 8. Both movies will be shown at dusk (approximately 9 p.m.) on Heather Farm Park's front ballfield. Admission is free; best to arrive at least one hour early.



### Free home composting workshop Oct. 9

The Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority will offer another free home composting workshop Tuesday, Oct. 9, 7-8:30 p.m. at Heather Farm Community Center, 301 N. San Carlos Dr. Reservations are required; call (925) 906-1806.

### Howe Harvest Festival Oct. 28

The Howe Harvest Festival will be Sunday, Oct. 28, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Howe Homestead Park, 2950 Walnut Blvd. The festival celebrates the life of Associated Press correspondent James P. Howe with old-fashioned Harvest and Halloween activities for families, including pumpkin carving, crafts, games, scarecrow making, and the "Wicked Maze." For details, call (925) 930-7731.

### Correction

In the July/August 2007 issue of the *Nutshell*, former Public Services director Dan Richardson's name was misspelled in a story about the new department director.

## Learn how to get ready for disasters at Sept. 15 fair

Living in earthquake country doesn't mean you have to be a helpless victim.

Get the tools and the know-how to prepare for earthquakes and other emergencies at a "Celebration of Preparation" on Saturday, Sept. 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 100 Northgate Rd.

Exhibitors will offer everything from hands-on lessons in shutting off gas and water valves to tips on keeping your pets safe in an emergency. To make your planning easier, "72-Hour Emergency Food Kits" will be sold for \$10.

Kids will enjoy checking out the fire engine and police car, and the first 1,000 participants will be treated to a free Tri-Tip barbecue.

Other highlights will include free child



The Community Policing Team will be on hand at 'Celebration of Preparation.'

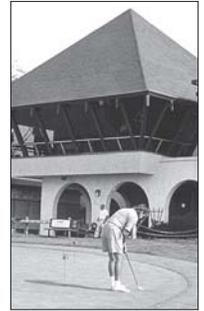
fingerprinting, American Red Cross presentations, information on water purification and food and water storage techniques, visits from Walnut Creek's Community Policing Team and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, and demonstrations by Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members. There will also be a blood drive.

"Celebration of Preparation" is co-sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the City of Walnut Creek.

## Free golf offered to active duty military at Boundary Oak

Free golf at the City of Walnut Creek's Boundary Oak Golf Course is now available to all active duty members in the U.S. military.

With the assistance of private donors in the community, the City of Walnut Creek, and the operator of the golf course, free rounds of golf are being offered to all active duty personnel serving in any branch of the U.S. armed forces.



Boundary Oak

Members of the military need only contact the Boundary Oak Pro Shop for available tee time reservation and present their active duty identification card at time of play to receive this benefit.

This program was made possible by the generosity of three anonymous donors who to date have contributed \$4,500 to fund this benefit.

Boundary Oak Golf Course is at 3800 Valley Vista Dr. For more information, and to contribute to this program, contact George Claus, general manager at the golf course, (925) 934-4775, ext. 12.

## New off-leash dog area to open this fall

After months of preparation, the City's new off-leash dog area will open later this fall in Heather Farm Park.

The one-acre area will provide pet owners a new, wide-open space to let their dogs run free. It will have separated

sections for small/senior dogs and larger dogs, as well as nearby parking and restrooms.

Watch for details on the official opening on the City's website at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org) in October.

## Rediscover WC on fall City Bus Tour

Learn about Walnut Creek the easy way and leave the driving to us.

Join Public Information Officer Brad Rovanner on the 20th anniversary fall City Bus Tour scheduled Saturday, Oct. 27.

This 3 1/2-hour morning excursion, first offered in 1987, will include stops at Borges Ranch, the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, the Gardens at Heather Farm, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, the Diablo Valley Lines Model Railroad, and the Leshner Center for the Arts.

First-come, first-served tickets are \$10 per person and must be reserved in advance by phone by calling (925) 256-3505. Seating is limited to 23.

## Walnut Festival celebrates 70th with 'It's a Small Town' theme

The Walnut Festival Association will celebrate the 70th edition of its venerable Walnut Festival, featuring King Walnut and carnival rides for the whole family, Sept. 20-23 at Heather Farm Park, with a new emphasis on wellness and celebrating family values.

Floats, marching bands, and vintage cars will be featured at the 65th **Walnut Festival Twilight Parade**, Saturday, Sept. 15, 6 p.m. on North Main Street, between Botelho Avenue and Civic Drive.

The theme of this year's **Walnut Festival** is "It's a Small Town Afterall." Events will include the traditional carnival, children's rides and games, teen activities, live entertainment, arts and crafts, food and beverage. New this year is a fishing tournament at the lake in front

of the Heather Farm Park Community Center on Saturday and Sunday.

Festival hours will be Thursday, Sept. 20, 5-10 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 21, 5-11 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 23, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Carnival rides will be on the parking lot in the front of Heather Farm Park.

Admission is free.

Paid parking will be available within the park Sept. 20-21 only, and parking all four days will be located in the Shadelands Business Park with a free shuttle service to the festival.

"Proceeds from the Walnut Festival will help fund a variety of community non-profit organizations," said Walnut Festival Association president Ted Porter.

Call (925) 935-6766 or go online to [www.thewalnutfestival.org](http://www.thewalnutfestival.org).



# Going Green

## From front page

1 p.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts; the program will begin at 9 a.m.

The purpose is to share information and creative ideas on the various ways we can improve the local and global environment, and to become inspired so that we might take action on our own.

KGO-TV anchor Dan Ashley will be emcee of the event, which will also feature *Bay Area Backroads* host Doug McConnell, who will talk about things the City is already doing and things we all can do to be more green at home and at work.

Inspired by the successful *Community Conversations* program conducted in 2001, *Sustainable Walnut Creek: Going Green Together* will also give citizens an opportunity to break into small discussion groups to discuss ways

## Sustainable growth topic of library panel talk September 6

Beyond Gridlock: Urban Design and Sustainable Growth” will be the topic of a *Live! From the Library* panel discussion Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. at the downtown Walnut Creek library.

Panelists will include *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist John King, Ron Brown of *Save Mt. Diablo*, and Valerie Barone, Community Development Director for the City of Walnut Creek.

This event is free to the public. The library is at 1644 N. Broadway.

For details, call (925) 935-5395 or go online to [www.wclibrary.org](http://www.wclibrary.org)



the community can be more sustainable.

Advance registration for the program is requested; those who sign up by Oct. 12 will get a free Going Green Eco-Kit with assorted goodies.

To pre-register, call (925) 256-3556, or email [greenwc@walnut-creek.org](mailto:greenwc@walnut-creek.org).

For more details on the Oct. 20 event, visit the *Going Green Together* page on the City's website at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org).

## Have you gone green already? Give us your story

We're interested in hearing from Walnut Creek citizens and business owners who have already embraced the color green.

If you've changed out your lightbulbs, created a compost pile, or come up with a creative way to protect our world, we want to include your story at the *Sustainable Walnut Creek: Going Green Together* event on Oct. 20.

Your experience could inspire others. Please contact event coordinator Gayle Vassar at (925) 943-5899, ext. 189 or email her at [vassar@walnut-creek.org](mailto:vassar@walnut-creek.org) no later than September 15.

## Survey says citizens eager to improve environmental quality of life in WC

Most Walnut Creek citizens polled last spring said they would be likely to do a variety of things themselves to improve the environmental quality of life in Walnut Creek.

Results from the 2007 Citizen Survey conducted by the National Research Center of Boulder, Colorado indicate:

- 81% of residents sampled are likely to patronize a "green" business
- 65% are very likely to properly dispose of or recycle household batteries
- 61% are very likely to reduce the use of their wood-burning fireplace

- 50% are very likely to replace standard light bulbs with energy-efficient bulbs

- 72% are likely to reduce landscape watering

Further, the poll findings showed that:

- 42% are likely to park once downtown and use the Free Ride trolley
- 63% are likely to use a commute alternative (carpool, transit, biking, etc.)
- 87% are likely to time their car trips to avoid commute hour traffic
- 77% are likely to use a commercial car wash rather than wash at home

## City arborist encourages proper tree pruning

There are two unfortunate tree pruning practices seen far too often in Walnut Creek neighborhoods: topping and over-thinning.

Topping is the indiscriminate removal of branches to stubs. Over-thinning is the practice of removing all of the growth from the inside at branch attachment to the outer branch tips. This has the appearance of a "lion's tale" which is sometimes how it is referred to.

Proper pruning involves the selective removal of tree growth undertaken with regard to the health and needs of the tree.

City Arborist John Davis points out that there are many things to consider when hiring a tree service. Information is available at [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com). This site has brochures covering many aspects of tree care available for viewing. You can also get these brochures for free at City Hall in the second floor lobby area.

Additionally, you can also contact Davis at (925) 943-5854 or email him at [jdavis@walnut-creek.org](mailto:jdavis@walnut-creek.org). Look for more detailed information at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org) and click on "Quick Links" to find *Tree Care* or *Tree Removal Permit*.



City Arborist John Davis inspects an illegally cropped sycamore tree.

# WC Reads

## From front page

this fall.

The events will kick off with a talk by popular *Contra Costa Times* columnist Gary Bogue on Sept. 19 at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum.

Book discussions are scheduled at Rossmoor (for Rossmoor residents only), and at the two Walnut Creek branch libraries. There will be art and historical exhibits, two talks by Bay Area professors on the life of Wallace Stegner and how the era of the Sixties in America has been portrayed in films and on stage. Outdoor events, including a hike in the Sugarloaf Open Space and a free concert in Civic Park, are also planned.

(For the complete calendar of events, see box at right.)

"I think we are widening the scope this year to include activities that might interest families and high school-aged students," said Carol Kennedy, chair of the *One City, One Book* committee. "I think it's really great. The variety is great, and the book is great, too. The scope of it is large because of the time period. The Sixties are always popular."

The Walnut Creek Downtown and Ygnacio Valley libraries have 100 copies of *All the Little Live Things* available for checkout, made available through donations from the Walnut Creek Library Foundation. The Rossmoor Library has copies as well. Local bookstores are also carrying the book. A book discussion guide is available at the libraries, or at [www.WalnutCreekReads.org](http://www.WalnutCreekReads.org)

*One City, One Book* is presented by

## 'Walnut Creek Reads' calendar of activities

### Opening:

"All OUR Little Live Things"  
An evening with Gary Bogue,  
Contra Costa Times columnist  
Wed., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Speaker reception: 6:15 p.m.  
Admission: \$15  
(Tickets available online or  
call 935-5395)  
Lindsay Wildlife Museum  
1931 First Avenue



Stegner

### Speakers:

"Stegner and His Influence"  
Professor Nancy Packer,  
Stanford University  
Monday, Sept. 24, 7:45 p.m.  
Knight Stage 3 Theatre  
Leshler Center for the Arts  
(Get free ticket at box office)

### Book Discussions:

Thursday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m.  
Moderator: Edwin Cohen  
USF professor emeritus  
Gateway Clubhouse, Rossmoor  
(Rossmoor residents only)

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m.  
Moderator: County Librarian Anne Cain  
Ygnacio Valley Library  
2661 Oak Grove Rd.

Wednesday, Oct. 10, Noon  
Moderator: Dan Ashley, KGO-7 anchor  
Downtown Library  
1644 No. Broadway

### Exhibits:

Art of Mount Diablo and Open Spaces  
Sept. 21 - 28  
Ygnacio Valley Library  
2661 Oak Grove Rd.

"The Life and Times of Wallace Stegner"  
Sept. 19 - Oct. 13  
Downtown Library  
1644 No. Broadway

"America in the '60s: Stage and Screen"  
Professor Larry Eilenberg,  
San Francisco State University  
Monday, Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.  
Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Ln.

### Outdoor Events:

Hike 'n Picnic  
Guided evening walk and picnic dinner  
with Open Space Ranger Bruce Weidman  
Saturday, Oct. 6, 5 - 8 p.m.  
Sugarloaf Open Space  
End of Youngs Valley Rd. off Rudgear Rd.  
(Bring your own picnic dinner)

"Celebrate the '60s in the Park"  
Sunday, Oct. 14  
Noon - 3 p.m.  
Music, cooking demos, family fun  
Civic Park, corner of Civic Drive and  
North Broadway  
(Bring your own picnic)

Visit [www.WalnutCreekReads.org](http://www.WalnutCreekReads.org) for the  
latest Events Calendar.

Unless otherwise noted, all events are  
free.

the Walnut Creek Downtown and Ygnacio Valley libraries, the City of Walnut Creek, Walnut Creek Branch of American Association of University Women, Walnut Creek Library Foundation, Walnut Creek Friends of the Library, Ygnacio Valley

Friends of the Library, Rossmoor Library, and through the sponsorship of the *Contra Costa Times*, *Diablo Magazine*, Comcast, and Minuteman Printers of Lafayette.

Call (925) 938-1481 for details.

## How to deal with unlawful loud noises, sounds

There is nothing more irritating than a loud noise you can't stop or avoid: an early morning leaf blower, a neighbor's late night loud music, a workman's incessant sawing or hammering.

That's why the City has rules and restrictions on noise and vibration. The Walnut Creek Municipal Code defines a loud noise as "excessive or unreasonable noise, sound or vibration which endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others."

Whether a noise is unreasonable depends on the hour, place, nature and

circumstances. However, the following rules are set forth in the Code for the most common noise violations:

• **Radios, stereo systems, barking dogs, birds, etc.** — Any sound "plainly audible" from 50 feet and that disturbs the peace. After 10 p.m., call the Police at (925) 943-5844. For barking dogs during daytime hours, contact County Animal Control at (925) 335-8300.

• **Maintenance equipment** — Any noise-creating landscaping or home maintenance equipment (eg. blowers, mowers, chainsaws, etc.) used before 8 a.m. or after 7 p.m. weekdays and before

9 a.m. or after 7 p.m. on weekends or holidays. (Exceptions: Use of this equipment by businesses or individuals in the downtown core area and in business parks may begin at 7 a.m. and be finished by 6 p.m. on weekdays and holidays.)

• **Construction projects** — They are not allowed to start before 7 a.m. weekdays and not at all on weekends (unless the City has issued a permit).

To report a violation, call Code Enforcement at (925) 943-5863 (be sure to leave a phone number where you can be reached). All calls to Code Enforcement are confidential.

## City Council Update

### Council seeks veterans for honors

At the City's Veterans Day Ceremony on Nov. 11, the City Council would like to honor local military veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

If you know someone from Walnut Creek who has recently returned from military service overseas, please call Public Information Officer Brad Rovanpera at (925) 943-5895 and leave your contact information.

### \$150,000 in grants for Lindsay

The City Council on Aug. 7 agreed to provide grants totalling \$150,000 to the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in response to the museum's request for \$800,000 in additional funding from the City.

On top of the \$100,000 in annual support already provided by the City to the museum, which is located in Larkey Park, the Council approved a \$100,000 matching grant (which requires museum officials to raise a like amount in new dollars in order to receive the grant). The Council also approved an additional \$50,000 grant with no strings attached to assist in the museum's fundraising campaign.



## Student interns helped out this summer

Associate Engineer Simin Timuri (right) showed 2007 Las Lomas High graduate Nicole Esposito how a signal controller works during Nicole's stint as a summer intern in traffic engineering. She was one of 18 Walnut Creek high school students and recent graduates who worked alongside City staffers during the 14th annual Summer Intern Program.

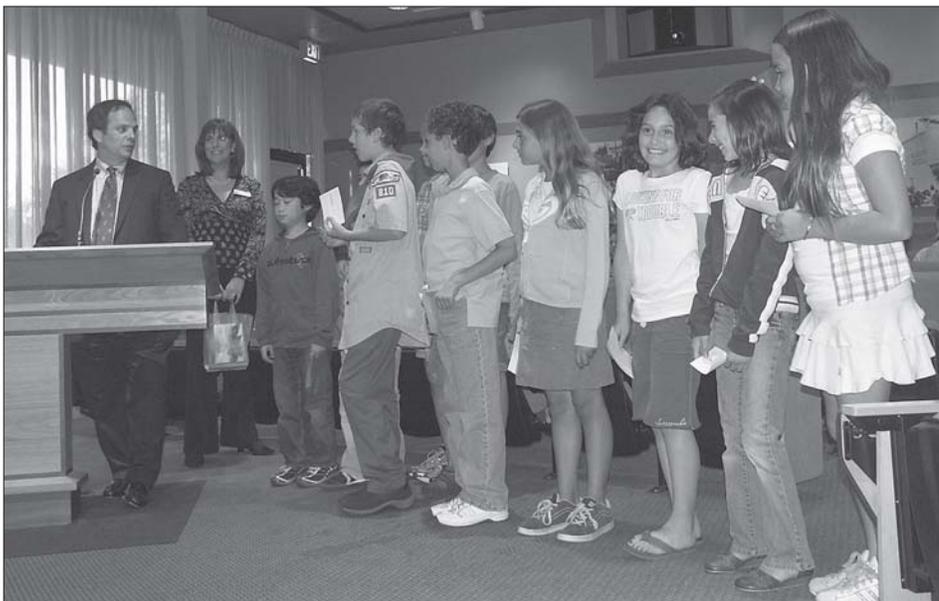
Photo by Grant Hochstein

## City wins state award for wellness efforts

The City will receive the coveted Helen Putnam Award of Excellence in September for its efforts to promote

wellness in the community.

The City Wellness Challenge, launched in 2005 by local restaurant owner Cindy Gershon and former Mayor Gary Skrel, is the first program to be honored by the League of California Cities in the new category of wellness.



## Parkmead pennies for new library

Leading off the June 5 City Council meeting, Ed Del Beccarro, right, president of the Walnut Creek Library Foundation, accepted a check for \$1,336.36 for the new Walnut Creek Library from a group of Parkmead Elementary fifth graders who raised the funds in a penny drive at their school. The students were aiming to match the \$500 raised last year for the library by fifth grade students at Buena Vista Elementary. The Foundation, which has pledged to raise \$5 million for the new library, has also received a \$1 million donation from the Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation.



### It's hot — drink water!

It's summertime, it's hot, don't let your mouth go dry.

Keep hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids. It's better to drink a full glass of water rather than taking sips when your mouth is dry (you are already dehydrated).

In other words: By keeping it wet, you will have more energy in the heat.

Have you got a wellness tip to share? If so, submit it online at [www.wellnesscitychallenge.com](http://www.wellnesscitychallenge.com). If it is selected and printed in the *Nutshell*, you may win a fun and exciting prize.



By Officer Joe Donleavy

## Back to school

As the summer winds down it's time to think about the start of the school year, which brings with it the challenges of kids and parents getting used to new schools. One of the biggest issues parents face is how to safely get their kids to and from school. Fewer and fewer kids walk to school these days and this has increased vehicular traffic congestion around our schools.



Following are a few tips to prepare for the back-to-school traffic congestion and how to handle it:

1. Check out the school and the traffic routes into and around the school before the school year starts. Many school zones have reduced speed limits, restricted turn areas and restricted parking.
2. If you are comfortable with where your child waits, try arriving at the school 10 minutes after the final bell. A large percentage of the parents will have left with their kids by then and parking near the school is usually easier to find.
3. Follow the directions of the crossing guards, who are there to protect the children and whose directions are lawful commands that must be obeyed.
4. Slow down. School zone speed limits are 25 MPH regardless of the regularly posted speed limits as long as "children are going to or leaving school either during the school hours or during the noon recess period."
5. Use the crosswalks. It's bad behavior to teach our kids to obey the rules and then cross the street mid-block outside of the provided crosswalks simply because it's the most direct route. It also places the children in danger, as motorists often don't look for pedestrians to cross outside of the crosswalks.
6. Stay alert. It is never safe to be distracted by cell phones and the like while driving, but it's extra dangerous near our schools. Children are prone to dart out into the street and have little regard for their own safety.

## City mourns passing of former mayor Gene Wolfe July 7

Whether leading the pledge of allegiance at a Memorial Day ceremony in his signature Stars n' Stripes jacket or hoisting a flaming torch at the Walnut Creek Senior Olympics, one always knew where Gene Wolfe's heart was. He loved his country, he loved Walnut Creek, and he loved being on the City Council. Unbridled patriotism was his hallmark, and the Veterans Memorial Plaza next to City Hall his enduring legacy.

Wolfe, who twice served as Mayor of Walnut Creek in the 1990s, passed away July 7 at his home in Rossmoor after a lengthy illness. He was 83.

First elected to the City Council in 1991, he demonstrated an independent nature that earned him a reputation as a political maverick not easily swayed by external pressure. He had a great sense of humor, uncommon humility, and a high regard for City staff.

During his first stint as mayor in 1992-93, the Council adopted its Growth Limitation Program that placed new limits on development for the next decade. The City also began the first phase of its downtown enhancement program and broke ground on the South Locust Street Garage. In his second term as mayor in 1997-98, Wolfe helped christen the Tice



Former Mayor Gene Wolfe carried the torch to the awards ceremony at the Walnut Creek Senior Olympics in 1997.

Valley Gym, Liberty Bell Plaza, and the Knight Stage 3 Theatre at the Leshner Center for the Arts.

Perhaps Wolfe's most lasting contribution was his support for a Veterans Memorial next to City Hall. He proposed the concept, served on the planning committee, and urged the City Council to "bite the bullet" and approve the Memorial, which was dedicated on Memorial Day 2004.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Wolfe graduated earned a Masters of Divinity degree at Yale University in 1950. A highly decorated World War II combat veteran, he participated in the central Germany and Rhineland campaigns. After the war, he was an associate pastor at Central Baptist Church in Hartford, Connecticut and later worked 23 years for the City of Oakland.

## Bike valet parking at festival a hit

In an attempt to promote healthy and viable commute alternatives, the Walnut Creek Bicycle Advisory Committee and the City of Walnut Creek teamed up to provide free valet bicycle parking at the Art and Wine Festival in June at Heather Farm Park.

The initial response from the community was overwhelming, with more than 340 bikes parked during the two-day event. Its success far exceeded initial expectations and marked the first time valet bicycle parking was provided at this event.

More importantly, the valet parking option was done with almost no advertising and little, if any, costs. The use of all

of the equipment was donated, as were the 10-plus volunteers who dedicated their time to make this available.

When asked how they heard of the valet parking, many residents responded that they were out for a bicycle ride on the canal trail and saw the sign indicating "Free Valet Bicycle Parking," while others said they saw the valet parking noted in the newspaper advertisement about the festival.

The success of the free valet parking is an indication that when provided, these facilities will be used by the community and will help create a more healthy and sustainable alternative of transportation for Walnut Creek residents.



# Last call for 2007 Civic Pride Grant applications

The deadline for submitting an application for a 2007 Civic Pride Grant is Monday, Sept. 10 at 5 p.m.

The City is soliciting applications from local organizations for a second round of grants this year in an effort to increase participation in the program.

To download an application online, go to the City's website, [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org) and find "Civic Pride Grants" under the "Quick Links" on the homepage.

Since 1989, the Civic Pride Grant program annually has provided funding for community projects that promote cultural diversity, provide a long-term community benefit, or are new or expanded programs and services that involve public/private partnerships.

For more information, contact Pankti Clerk at (925) 943-5899, ext. 216.



## Muppet fun at Chevron Family Theatre Festival

Muppets member Leslie Carrara entertained hundreds of kids with her puppets at the City's Chevron Family Theatre Festival on July 28 at the Leshner Center for the Arts. Close to 5,000 people attended this inaugural event, which featured family entertainment in all three theaters of the center. Chevron provided \$75,000 to sponsor the event, which will return in summer 2008.



## City Directory

Arts Education classes	943-5846
Bicycle registration	943-5844
Building Division, permits	256-3549
Business licenses	943-5821
City Clerk's Office	943-5818
City Hall main number	943-5800
City Manager's office	943-5812
Civic Park rentals	943-5853
Crime prevention	943-5885
Employment hotline	943-5817
Fingerprinting	943-5844
Flood zone info	943-5839
Garbage collection	603-1144
Heather Farm Pool	943-5856
Leisure Service classes	943-5858
Mayor's Office	256-3504
Open Space information	943-5854
Planning/Zoning hotline	256-3558
Police (non-emergency)	943-5844
Public Information	943-5895
LCA Ticket Office	943-7469
Senior citizen activities	943-5851
Street light outages	943-5854

## On-street parking meter rates go up to \$1/hr. in downtown core

Parking meter rates in the core downtown area have been increased from 50 cents to \$1 an hour, effective immediately.

The rate increase was approved by the City Council on June 19 to free up on-

street parking spaces so that there is more opportunity for motorists to find on-street parking in the area bounded by Civic Drive, Broadway, Botelho Avenue, and California Boulevard.

About 600 of the 1,600 parking meters downtown will be affected by the rate increase, which was supported by the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Business Association.



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**Sue Rainey, Mayor\***  
**Gwen Regalia, Mayor pro tem**  
**Charlie Abrams**  
**Cindy Silva**  
**Gary Skrel**

\* For appointment: Call 256-3504

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IN A **Nutshell**

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Editor:  
 Brad Rovanpera

We welcome your comments and questions.  
 Please call 925-943-5895  
 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For past issues, go online at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org)



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