

IN A

Nutshell

No. 125

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

JULY/AUGUST 2006

City finds funds to proceed with new library

The City Council is confidently moving forward with design plans for the new downtown library after agreeing in June that the City can afford to build the project with its own funds without any cutbacks in services or programs.

"The City has the ability to finance the library without jeopardizing the security of the city or any of our services," said City Manager Mike Parness.

Although City leaders were profoundly disappointed over the defeat of the state library bond measure on June 6 that would have brought Walnut Creek an additional \$18.2 million for the project, Parness pointed out to the Council in a special meeting on June 14 that it has a variety of options for funding the library.

For its part, the Council remains committed to moving ahead without delay in building a new, 42,000-square-foot library where the current one stands in Civic Park. Indeed, the Council vowed in February that it would proceed with the \$43.5 million project even if state assistance was not forthcoming.

Parness showed the Council that besides the \$17.4 million already set aside for the project, the City can readily shift another \$8.2 million from various fund sources in the 2006-08 operating budget.

The remaining \$17.9 million could be obtained through private contributions, and a range of other City funds (some of which are available now and some which will be available by the time construction begins).

Parness noted that the City would still have \$15 million for its capital improve-

LIBRARY, see back page



This preliminary sketch for the east entry into the new downtown library was prepared by Group 4 Architecture. A final conceptual design will be ready for review in July.

2006-08 budget keeps City healthy

Careful planning and a strong local economy have allowed the City to once again balance its new 2006-08 General Fund budget, meaning residents and businesses will continue to benefit from services and programs without any reductions or major increases in fees.

At presstime, the City Council was expected to adopt the new \$132 million spending plan on June 20.

Unlike so many other cities across California, Walnut Creek has been able to continue its time-honored tradition of crafting a healthy budget from respectable revenues from sales and property taxes and a frugal spending plan that keeps the City running smoothly and economically.

More significantly, besides planning for a new downtown library, the City will move ahead on several projects in the next two years, including a dog park, relocation of the Civic Arts Education classes from Civic Park to the Shadelands campus, and

the preparation of a new master plan for Civic Park East and extension of the Creek Walk.

On top of those larger projects, the City will be spending \$3 million for street repairs/resurfacing in residential areas and close to \$5 million to rebuild portions of Mt. Diablo, Treat, and California boulevards, along with making plans for reconstruction of Ygnacio Valley Road.

In her budget report to the City Council on May 16, Administrative Services Director Carol Swindell said the new budget will maintain service levels, promote long-term stability, and include Council priorities (such as the library).

Services are also being enhanced in many areas, including the addition of two police officer positions in 2007-08.

Sales tax revenues continue to be the City's biggest source of funding, representing nearly 34 percent of the total pie.

BUDGET, see back page

City Event Calendar

July

4

4th of July Concert
(See *What's Happening*)

29

Pops Concert
WC Concert Band
(See article, this page)

August

25

Movies Under the Stars
"Back to the Future"
Teen Night; opens at dusk
Heather Farm Park; free
(See *What's Happening*)

City Meeting Calendar

City Council

July 18; Aug. 1
7 p.m.
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

Planning Commission
July 13, 27; Aug. 10, 24
7 p.m.
City Council chamber

Arts Commission
July (no meetings), Aug. 22
4:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Transportation Commission
July 20, Aug. 17
7 p.m.
City Council chamber

Design Review Commission
July 5, 19; Aug. 2, 16
7 p.m., City Council chamber

Park, Rec & Open Space Commission
July 10, August (no meeting)
7 p.m., City Council chamber

 **City Council meetings are televised live on Comcast Channels 6 and 26 (unincorporated), and on Astound Channel 29. They are repeated the following Saturday at 1 p.m. on all.**

 **Walnut Creek Currents, a City-produced 10-minute video digest on City activities and services: Comcast Channels 6 and 26 — Daily at 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., and Wed. at 7:30 p.m. Astound Ch. 29 — Daily at noon and 7 p.m.**

'By the Hand' show to feature crafts at Bedford

Hand-crafted art, known as the Craft tradition, will be displayed in "By the Hand: A Juried Exhibition of Traditional and Innovative Craft" at the City's Bedford Gallery July 9 through Sept. 10.

"By the Hand" will present artists working in clay, glass, wood, metal, and fiber to represent a broad range of styles.

"In the wake of our high-tech lives, it's easy to forget that there are still millions of human beings who live by the use of their hands alone," said Bedford Curator Carrie Lederer. "Indigenous cultures are often reflected in their craft-making and it is our hope that this show will provide a similar reflection of



Bottleneck base, 2005 by Sam Scott

American culture today."

The exhibition will be juried by independent curators Suzanne Baizerman, former curator of crafts and decorative arts at the Oakland Museum of California, and Jo Lauria, former decorative arts curator at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. A series of workshops will take place at the gallery in July and August and are open to participants of all experience levels. For details, go online to bedfordgallery.org

The Bedford Gallery, located in the Leshner Center, is open Tuesday — Sunday, noon — 5 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, 6 to 8 p.m. and during performances at the Center.

What's Happening

4th of July concert at Civic Park

The Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein returns to the Civic Park gazebo to present its Independence Day Concert on July 4 at 6 p.m. as part of the City's PARKconcert series. The Devil Mountain Barber-shop Chorus will perform Sunday, Aug. 13, 6 p.m. at the gazebo. Bring a picnic and a blanket and enjoy the summer sounds.

Concert Band to give Pops Concert

The Walnut Creek Concert Band will present its annual Summer Pops Concert at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts on Saturday, July 29 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the Regional Center Box Office, 1601 Civic Drive or by calling (925) 943-7469 (SHOW). The Walnut Creek Concert Band, under the direction of Harvey Benstein, has been the official band of Walnut Creek since 1987. For more information about the band, go online at www.WalnutCreekBand.org

Synchronized swimming trainee program

The Walnut Creek Aquanauts Synchronized Swimming Club will run its summer trainee program July 31 through Aug. 26 at the Clarke Memorial Swim Center in Heather Farm Park. Practices will be held three times a week in the afternoons. This program is a chance to learn what synchro is all about and the basic synchro skills in a fun environment. For more information, go online to aquanauts.org

Aquanauts' end of summer show

The Walnut Creek Aquanauts Synchronized Swimming Team will present their annual Swim Show on Aug. 24, 25 and 26 at Clarke Memorial Swim Center in Heather Farm Park. Several members of the Aquanauts have been selected for

the Senior and Junior U.S. National teams and will be swimming in world competitions in Japan and China this fall. For more information, go online to aquanauts.org

Movies Under the Stars: Back to the Future

The City's popular "Movies Under the Stars" series will continue on Friday, Aug. 25 with a special teen night showing of "Back to the Future" starring Michael J. Fox. The movie will show at dusk in the front ballfield at Heather Farm Park, located at Ygnacio Valley Road and No. San Carlos Drive. Admission is free.

Leshner Foundation grant for the arts

The Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation has awarded a \$450,000 grant to be dispersed over three years to support Diablo Regional Arts Association's new mission: enriching the quality of artistic programming within the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts. For more information about DRAA and how to support the arts in Walnut Creek, go online to draa.org or call 925-932-1731.

Opera in the Park returns July 23

Festival Opera will present its annual "Opera in the Park" on July 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. in Civic Park, corner of Civic Drive and No. Broadway. This is a free event and people are encouraged to bring picnic suppers and blankets. The program is sponsored by Walnut Creek Honda and Oakland Acura. Music from *Tosca* and *Don Giovanni* is expected to be performed. For details, call 925-944-9610 or go to festivalopera.com.

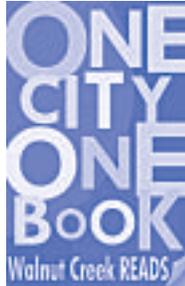
All-City Swim Meet July 15-16

Hundreds of swimmers will be converging on Clarke Swim Center in Heather Farm Park for the annual All-City Swim Meet July 15-16.

One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads program launched

The joy of reading is the theme of a new program that has been launched this summer to give those who love to read an opportunity to be involved in a community-wide reading experience.

The *One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads* program, inaugurated on June 6, focuses on *The Namesake: A Novel* by Jhumpa Lahiri (2003), about a couple from



Calcutta who emigrate to the United States and how the experience shapes their lives and affects family ties.

One City, One Book gives Walnut Creek residents the chance to read and enjoy the same book and then participate with their friends and neighbors in a series of community-wide activities and special events in September and October that are designed to enrich the reading experience.

The program also serves to increase awareness of the role the library plays in Walnut Creek.

"We just thought there was value in this and people would enjoy reading the same book at the same time," said Walnut Creek Librarian Cindy Brittain.

The Walnut Creek Downtown and Ygnacio Valley libraries have 100 copies of *The Namesake* available for checkout, made possible through donations from the Walnut Creek Library Foundation and the Library Friends groups. Local book sellers are also carrying the book.

"I guess what we're hoping is it will be a great thing for the community and bring people together," said Carol Kennedy, AAUW chair for the program.

Book discussion guides and background information will be available at www.wclibrary.org.

The *One City, One Book* program is co-sponsored by the City of Walnut Creek, Walnut Creek Downtown and Ygnacio Valley libraries, Walnut Creek Branch of the American Association of University Women, Walnut Creek Library Foundation, Walnut Creek Friends of the Library, Ygnacio Valley Friends of the Library, the Rossmoor Library, and the *Contra Costa Times*.



Recycling made easier at Borges Ranch

Lois Courchaine of the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority uses one of several new recycling receptacles installed at Borges Ranch's Hanna Grove in the Shell Ridge Open Space. A \$10,000 mini-grant from the Authority paid for 10 combination recycling/trash containers. There are also new picnic tables and benches made from recyclable materials at Borges Ranch and in several parks.

Paul Valle-Riestra named new city attorney

The City Council has named Senior Assistant City Attorney Paul Valle-Riestra to become Walnut Creek's new city attorney.

The Council voted June 6 to make the appointment, which will take effect July 24, one day after Tom Haas retires after 18 years in the post.

Valle-Riestra, a Walnut Creek native and 1977 graduate of Las Lomas High School, was hired in 1990 as an assistant city attorney. Prior to coming to work for the City, he worked for a San Jose law



Paul Valle-Riestra

firm and was a staff attorney with the League of California Cities.

Recognized nationally as an expert on telecommunications, Valle-Riestra was instrumental in fostering an environment for competition among cable television operators in Walnut Creek by recruiting Astound to come to the city in 1999.

Valle-Riestra has also written a book on telecommunications.

In 2001, he was named Employee of the Year for exemplifying excellence in the City organization.

Low-cost home rehab loans available

If you need to bring your home up to code or make an improvement for safety or energy efficiency reasons, the City offers low-interest loans to qualified residents.

Under its Home Rehabilitation Loan Program, the City offers loans of up to \$60,000 with 3 percent simple interest over 20 years, and payments aren't due until the house is sold.

To qualify, a family of four must not earn more than \$92,180 a year. A two-person household is limited to \$73,700.

In 2005-06, the City issued eight loans.

This year, \$320,000 in loans will again be available through the program.

Emergency grants up to \$10,000, which do not need to be repaid, are also available to low-income households for roof repairs, plumbing problems, and other emergencies. To qualify, a two-member household must not earn more than \$53,000 a year.

For more information on the Home Rehabilitation Loan Program and emergency grant program, contact Pat Corum, 925-335-1137, or go online at www.walnut-creek.org.

Little did Francisco Borges realize back in 1899 that the rustic cattle ranch he would build with his sons in the oak-studded foothills of Mount Diablo would one day be considered a treasure to the 21st century residents of Walnut Creek.

When Francisco, known as Frank to everyone, died in 1938 at the age of 77, it was the end of a bygone era in which, as patriarch of a large family that included six children, he oversaw a cattle operation that is today celebrated as one of the most colorful chapters in Walnut Creek's frontier past.

Dan and Frank Borges are the grandsons of Francisco Borges, and their memories of growing up on the old Borges Ranch are still vivid 70 years later.

"When I was young kid, we drove the cattle down Main Street to Botelho's Island [where Broadway Plaza is today]," recalls Frank, 72. "Cattle and horses had the right of way in those days. If you hit a cow, you paid for it."

Frank is proud of the fact that he was born in the Borges ranch house in 1934 and came back to live there with his family from 1939 to 1942 when his father, Fred, ran the operation.

Fred Borges and Dan's father, Albany, were brothers who helped their father nearly 90 years ago to build the picturesque barns that still stand today.

"The ranch hasn't changed that much,"



Frank, left, and Dan Borges inspect a wall they helped build as youngsters growing up on the Borges Ranch in the 1940s.



Francisco Borges' son Albany, father of Dan Borges, on the ranch in the 1940s.

says Dan, 81, who was one of six children born to Albany and Mary Borges. Dan returned to live at the ranch after his father died in 1939. The house continues to bring back happy recollections.

"We used to come and visit my grandfather," said Dan Borges. "I loved that man. I've got his hat still. He liked to joke, I'll tell you that. He liked to pinch ya."

Francisco Borges came to the area from Elmira in 1899 and bought 700 acres for \$4.50 an acre from the Union Savings Bank in San Francisco. He bought up all the stray calves in the vicinity to start his new ranch. He and his wife, Mary, and their children initially occupied a three-sided cabin on the flat where Hanna Grove is. In 1901, at Mary's insistence, Frank moved the cabin up the hill to its current spot

Creek COWBO



The grandsons of early pioneer rancher Francisco Borges stand in front of the historic family home at Old Borges Ranch.

and completed it as a real home.

In 1981, the Borges Ranch was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The City, using a state grant, restored the former home in 1990.

The Borges Ranch has retained the wild west feeling of the early days, thanks largely to the Walnut Creek voters who in 1974 passed a historic open space bond measure to buy and preserve the Shell Ridge Open Space that was formerly the Borges Ranch.

Even in the mid-20th century, the Borges clan was defending their turf from "flatlanders."

"It was a little western," says Frank. "We always packed guns when we were

MEMORIES OF OLD BOYES Borges Ranch



Dan Borges — Dan Borges, left, and Frank Borges — stand in the Shell Ridge Open Space.

out there (on the hills).”

Dan smiles as he talks about his dad, pictured astride his horse in a vintage photo at the Borges Visitors Center.

“He was a tough old man,” he says of Albany Borges. “He didn’t take no crap from nobody. He was a good father.”

Dan remembers that “when we came home from school and had to do our chores — feed the pigs, fix a fence — regular ranch work.”

His least favorite chore was milking cows twice each day.

“We probably milked about 50 cows and separated it,” he says. “Fed skim milk to the calves and pigs and took the cream and made butter (selling the rest to



Early pioneer rancher Francisco Borges astride his horse on the cattle ranch he started in 1899 that is today part of the Citys Shell Ridge Open Space.

Borges Ranch Visitor Center

Lommel’s Creamery on Main Street).”

Dan also remembers taking in the show at the old El Rey Theater three times a week, stopping by Tiny’s Hut for a hot toddy, and getting hamburgers at a place next to the theater.

Dan recalls when Ygnacio Valley “was all walnuts.” In fact, he and his cousin Frank also worked at the Walnut Growers’ Association processing plant downtown (where Growers’ Square is located today on Civic Drive).

Dan worked the ranch until 1949, when at the age of 24 he married Barbara

(his wife now of 57 years) and raised two sons, Dan Jr. and Robert. The older Dan bought a partnership in Concord Disposal that lasted until his retirement in 1992.

Frank and his late wife, Sue, were married in the early 1960s and had four children: Denise, Guy, Dale and Tim.

Frank is wistful about the small-town atmosphere that characterized Walnut Creek during the 1930s and 1940s.

“I remember the boardwalks and horse troughs and hitching rails,” he says. “Used to be you’d know everybody. Now it’s so crowded you can’t even park a horse.”

About Borges Ranch

- Located at 1035 Castle Rock Road
- Open daily from 8 a.m. to dusk
- Visitor Center (in the original Borges ranch house) open Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. and the first Sunday of each month, noon to 4 p.m.
- Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981
- Part of the Citys Shell Ridge Open Space recreation area
- The ranch complex includes a blacksmith shop, numerous outbuildings, and farm equipment displays. It also features a barn and covered trellis available for group reservations.
- For information: (925) 942-0225 or go online to walnut-creek.org

At right, Debi Bylin gives a tour of the original Borges ranchhouse to children.



City Council Update

Downtown parking fee hike OK'd

The City Council on May 2 approved a wide-ranging downtown parking and transportation plan that calls for increasing on-street parking meter rates from 50 cents to \$1 per hour and increasing the municipal garage daily fee from \$3 to \$5 per day to be more in line with fees charged at nearby parking facilities.

The three primary goals of the plan are to: 1) improve parking access and availability downtown and in the three City garages; 2) evaluate the Free Ride Trolley service and find ways to increase ridership; and 3) find ways to make downtown more pedestrian-friendly.

The parking meter rate hike is intended to create an environment so users can regularly find an on-street parking space and to encourage users to "park once and walk." The rate increase could take place later this year.

New commissioner takes seat

Lonna Coleman was appointed May 2 to the City's Arts Commission to complete the unfinished three-year term of Ann Clementi Flynn, who resigned April 12.

City OKs \$433,000 for affordable housing, local public resources

The City Council on May 2 approved allocating \$433,000 in federal and City funds in 2006-07 to support affordable housing programs and community service organizations for a variety of public resource programs that assist groups ranging from the homeless to seniors. The spending plan calls for \$150,000 in City funds to be used for social services.

Civic Pride Grants to continue

Local organizations will again have an opportunity this year to apply for Civic Pride Grants to help underwrite the costs of special, one-time projects that foster pride in the community.

The program, begun by the City Council in 1989, has traditionally allocated \$75,000 a year to fund 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 Sandi Kendle at 943-5899, ext. 240 or via e-mail at kendle@walnut-creek.org



Character Counts' grads honored

Police Officer Sean Wallace stands on stage with students from Valle Verde Elementary School who successfully completed the City's new Character Counts program this spring during the program's second graduation on May 15 at the Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts. Nearly 800 fifth graders from 12 public and private schools throughout Walnut Creek participated in the program, which reminds children to be honest, treat others with respect, and take responsibility for their actions.

Council agrees to build new dog park at Heather Farm

After considerable community discussion and debate, the City Council in May decided to build a long-awaited dog park at the north end of Heather Farm Park instead of Arbolado Park as planned.

The new dog park will be a place where pets may be let off-leash by their owners in a fenced off, protected area near parking and restrooms. Plans are being drawn to build it within the next year.

For several years, San Miguel Park has been designated as an off-leash area only during the hours of dawn to 9 a.m. Dog owners have also been able to allow their pets off-leash in the Walnut Creek Open Space areas so long as they are within sight and under voice command.

However, a more desirable environment has long been requested by dog owners who place a high value on the socialization that they and their pets enjoy with other owners and their pets.

In response to this need, the City's Park, Recreation & Open Space Commission created the Off-Leash Dog Area Task Force in October 2002 to identify and explore the feasibility of creating addi-

tional off-leash dog areas. The task force recommended maintaining off-leash areas at San Miguel Park and the open space areas, creating a new, fenced-off area adjacent to a City-owned park-and-ride lot in the Shadelands Business Park, and actively pursuing shared use at the Equestrian Center in Heather Farm Park.

After the commission accepted the task force's recommendations in February 2005, the grass roots Walnut Creek Dog Owners Group (WCDOG) expressed concerns over the recommendations.

The City Council in January 2006 asked staff to study Arbolado Park as an alternative site. City staff held several community meetings, during which WCDOG proposed that the dog park be in a more centrally-located park.

The Council agreed on May 16 to establish the dog park in an area in Heather Farm Park that is currently used for maintenance activities. The area is bordered by two Contra Costa Water District canals to the north and west.

The PROS Commission will need to amend the 2003 Heather Farm Park master plan to include the dog park area.



CopTalk

By Officer Chris Norlund

What? A parking ticket?!!

I can't believe it! Is the City really that strapped for cash? Revenue must be down.



The purpose of parking tickets is not to generate revenue for the City. The purpose is to ensure safe parking, and enough parking space turnover to allow the maximum amount of visitors to patronize the downtown.

People get more upset by a parking ticket than they do a moving violation, such as speeding or running a red light. Most of the parking violations are the result of an expired meter.

So, here are some of the "Don'ts" about parking:

- Don't even think about stopping in a red zone.
- Don't block a crosswalk, a driveway, a handicap ramp or space, a sidewalk, a bus zone, or private property.
- Don't double park (stopping next to a parked car, while still in the travel lane).
- Don't park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
- Don't park outside the painted parking space lines. (You park in between spaces, because the car in front of you parked between spaces — then that car leaves, leaving only your car to get a ticket).

OK. How about those meters? They only allow two hours maximum time. I'll just come back and put more money in (feed the meter).

Then you might get a ticket with time still on the meter. Why? Because you can only stay two hours. Regardless of how much money you put in.

Is there a better way?

Sure. Park in one of the many city garages or downtown parking structures. The City's three garages charge a maximum of only \$3.00 for the entire day. A much better deal.

Check the lot where you park. Some private lots contract for parking enforcement. And those tickets can be expensive.

Yes, you still have to pay them.



Marshall Morse, 10, and his dad, Mike, a Webelos leader with Pack 248, wrestled a shopping cart out of Walnut Creek during 17th annual Creek Clean Up Day on May 13.

Volunteers make creek clean up a success

The City of Walnut Creek and the creek wildlife are grateful to the Friends of the Creeks led by Lesley Hunt, and all of the volunteers who participated in the Creek Clean-Up on May 13. Approximately 250 volunteers met at Civic Park and were divided into several groups. The groups were assigned various creek sections to clean up, ranging from Walnut Creek at Civic Park, San Ramon Creek at Creekside Drive and Las Trampas Creek at California Boulevard. The hard-working volunteers removed 60 cubic yards of debris from the creeks!

After cleaning up the creeks, the volunteers returned to Civic Park to be treated to a BBQ lunch and music by a live band. The Contra Costa Resource Conservation District promoted pollution prevention by demonstrating the Clean Water Program's diorama, which models

how pollution sources reach our creeks. Mr. Funnelhead made an appearance.

He and his associates provided information and promotional materials regarding Used Oil Recycling. The City's Clean Water Program provided materials promoting less toxic gardening methods and other creek care awareness.

We can all participate in promoting healthy waterways year-round by recycling and using creek-friendly methods for landscape, home and auto maintenance.

For used oil recycling info, visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov/UsedOil/Recycle.htm.

For other ideas, visit www.ccleanwater.org/residents/index.php.

Friends of the Creeks is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, protection, and enhancement of Walnut Creek's natural creek channels. To become a member, call (925) 937-6791.



City's emergency training sign-ups open

Neighborhood teams of eight people or more are invited to register for the free Community Emergency Response Team training program.

CERT classes meet weekly for six weeks, 6-9:30 p.m. at the Contra Costa Fire District Training Center in Concord. Space is available in the sessions begin-

ning Tuesday, July 25 - Aug. 29, and Wednesday, Sept. 13 - Oct. 17.

Space is limited, and teams are encouraged to register as early as possible. To register, call Community Relations Officer Gayle Vassar, 925-943-5899 ext. 189, or e-mail her at vassar@walnut-creek.org.



WC military personnel honored

U.S. Army Col. Michael Caples of Walnut Creek, left, was interviewed by KGO-TV's Wayne Freedman following the City Memorial Day Ceremony on May 29. Col. Caples, U.S. Air Force Capt. Nicole Green (second from left), and U.S. Army Sgt. Ricke Branum (third from left) received City Council commendations from Mayor Kathy Hicks for their military service in Iraq.

Budget

From front page

Meanwhile, property tax revenues are expected to account for about one-fourth of all revenues through 2008.

As it has for the last 30 years, Walnut Creek's budget will show a surplus of

funds in 2006-07 and in 2007-08, said Parness.

Further, \$2.7 million in revenues over expenditures was to be allocated to the downtown library project after all the 2004-06 bills are paid on June 30.

Library

From front page

ments program, which will pay for major street maintenance and other projects.

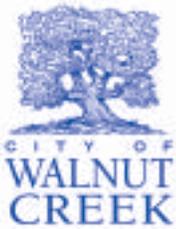
"We're in a good position," he said. "The Council can fund all our operations, programs, and maintenance projects and still do this. Though it's not the approach we'd prefer, we can do it without jeopardizing services and programs. In fact, the 2006-08 Capital Improvement Program will be one of the most aggressive work programs in many years."

The Council got its first look at preliminary conceptual designs for the site and exterior of the library on June 6 and directed Group 4 Architecture, Research + Planning, Inc., to prepare final site and conceptual plans for its approval in July.

"This project will reflect and celebrate the values of the Walnut Creek community," project designer David Schnee told the Council. "It will be a beautiful place."

Parness said the schematic design should be approved in November. The Council plans to break ground on the library in early 2008 and is expected to be completed in 2010.

The current library, opened in 1961, has seen increased use in recent years despite its small size and inadequate space for patrons, staff, books, and computers.



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Gwen Regalia
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* For appointment: Call 256-3504.

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IN A

Nutshell

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Editor:
Brad Rovanpera

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