

IN A

Nutshell

No. 155

Community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

FALL 2011

Catch the spirit! Build a stronger Walnut Creek

Walnut Creek's first Community Service Day is Oct. 1, and volunteer registration is under way. With 45 projects, from helping in the Open Space to painting the fence at the Equestrian Center, there is something for everyone. For project descriptions and tips on how to sign up, **turn to page 7.**



Photo/Ben Krantz Studio

Civil War stories sought for Veterans Day ceremony

Do you have a Civil War story handed down through the generations? Did your great-great-great-grandfather fight at Manassas/First Bull Run? Did Great-Granny meet Great-Grandpa while nursing him back to health after an epoch Civil War battle?

The City of Walnut Creek plans to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War at its 2011 Veterans Day observance. The ceremony begins at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 11 at the Leshar Center for the Arts.

The ceremony will honor the veterans among us today, while recognizing the long tradition of military service by highlighting the stories of Civil War veterans from local residents.

Whether through letters home or from a family oral tradition, share your family stories by contacting City Clerk Patrice Olds at olds@walnut-creek.org or (925) 943-5819.

ONCE UPON A TIME — The Fifth Annual Chevron Family Theatre Festival on July 30 drew more than 7,500 kids, parents and grandparents to the Leshar Center for the Arts. There, they mingled with princesses and pirates, sang and danced along with live theatrical performances, and got in touch with their creative side making sock puppets in the Bedford Gallery. Above, a cast of storybook characters lines up outside the Leshar Center front doors awaiting the cutting of the royal purple ribbon and the start of an enchanting day.

Library gets 'gold' for being green

Just in time for its one-year anniversary, the Walnut Creek Library received LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a point-based system where building projects earn points for satisfying specific green building requirements. The Library's Green Building design elements include an Energy Star-rated roof; storm-water management; daylight harvesting control; use of recycled and regionally manufactured materials; water-efficient landscaping and plumbing; and a raised flooring system to provide efficient heating and cooling.

The Walnut Creek Library is the first building in incorporated Walnut Creek to achieve LEED Gold certification for new

construction.

The Walnut Creek Library opened on July 17, 2010. The \$39.9 million, 42,000-square-foot building was designed by Group 4 Architecture, Research + Planning, Inc., and built by West Bay Builders. Construction was managed by Gilbane Building Company. The project team included Assistant City Manager Lorie Tinfow and City Architect Chris Erdle.

The LEED Gold Certification is the latest piece of good news for the library. In May, the Library was named the 2011 Sapphire Partnered Project of the Year by the International Partnering Institute. Additionally, the Library was a finalist for 2011 Excellence in Design Awards sponsored by the Environmental Design and Construction magazine.

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

Walnut Festival Twilight Parade

Catch this year's Walnut Festival Twilight Parade live on WCTV Saturday, Sept. 17 at 6 p.m.

Live! From the Library

Author, ecologist (and Las Lomas graduate) Eric Sanderson discusses *Mannahatta: A Natural History of New York City*.

TED TV

Featuring some of the world's brightest minds in Technology, Entertainment, and Design.

Behind the Shadelands Ranch Museum

Learn the surprising history of the Shadelands Ranch Museum and the many opportunities to explore one of Walnut Creek's gems.

Public Meetings

City Council, Planning and Design Review meetings are 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. www.walnutcreektv.org.

Howe Harvest Festival coming

The highlight of fall programming in the Open Space is the Howe Harvest Festival. This year's festival will be Sunday, Oct. 30 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Return to this old family homestead for a fun day of harvest and Halloween activities for the entire family. Carve pumpkins and stuff scarecrows, play carnival games and make crafts, listen to stories and travel on the "Spooky Trail." Howe Homestead is at 2950 Walnut Blvd. Admission is free; there are nominal fees for the crafts and games to cover materials. Contact Ranger Art Janke at 925-943-5899 ext. 3521.

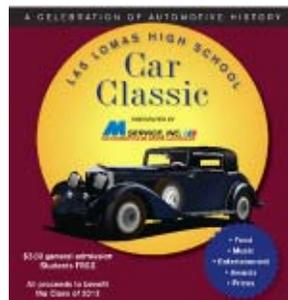


Pumpkin carving at Howe Harvest Festival.

Here's what's happening

Las Lomas Car Classic

The first annual Car Classic held at Las Lomas High School will be Saturday, Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities include food, music, entertainment, awards and prizes. The parking lot at Las Lomas High School will be chock full of vehicles ranging from hot rods to muscle cars, custom and early-model cars and more. Students will also have the opportunity to show off a few of their unique modes of transportation. General Admission is \$3. Students are free. Go to www.LLHSCarClassic.org.



These semi-annual events extend along the sidewalks of Cypress, Locust and North Main streets between Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Civic Drive. Saturday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 25, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.downtownwalnutcreek.com or call 933-6778.

Teens produce benefit for charities

Don't miss "By the Kids, For the Kids," a musical fund-raising extravaganza produced and performed by students of Civic Arts Ed's Youth Theatre Company on Oct. 2 at the Shadelands Auditorium. Proceeds from the Oct. 2 event benefit the Friends of Civic Arts Education scholarship fund and the Monument Crisis Center. Last year, "By the Kids, For the Kids" raised more than \$3,000. Tickets are \$10, and are available at the door or by calling 925-943-5846.

Pancake breakfasts

The best meal deal in town is the Walnut Creek Seniors' Club pancake breakfast, featuring all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, coffee or tea for only \$2.25 adults, and \$1.50 for kids under 12. Breakfast will be served Oct. 2 and Nov. 6 at the Civic Park Community Center. All proceeds benefit the Walnut Creek Seniors' Club.

Fall Wine Walk

The Fall Wine Walk is back for its fifth year. Enjoy a unique wine tasting event while strolling through beautiful downtown Walnut Creek. Wednesday, Sept. 14, 6 to 9 p.m. For details, call 925-933-6778 or visit www.downtownwalnutcreek.com.

Walnut Festival happenings

Mark your calendar for three Walnut Festival-related events. On Sunday, Sept. 11, is the Walnut Festival "Run For Education," which features both an easy 5K walk/stroll/jog option and a 10K run. Last year's run raised more than \$10,000 for local schools.

On Saturday, Sept. 17, the Twilight Parade will enchant viewers of all ages as it makes its way down Main Street.

Last, but not least, the Walnut Festival comes to Heather Farm Park Thursday, Sept. 22 – Sunday, Sept. 25. Details on all three events can be found at www.thewalnutfestival.org.

Trick or Treat downtown

Bring the kids to downtown Walnut Creek from 2 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28 for the 4th annual Trick-or-Treat at participating downtown stores. Don't forget to wear costumes! Visit www.downtownwalnutcreek.com or call 933-6778.

Annual Holiday Boutique

The Walnut Creek Seniors Club Annual Holiday Boutique will be Friday and Saturday, Nov. 4 and 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr. During the year, the Club's Bazaar Group create beautiful gifts — decorative creations to grace the home, cuddly afghans and quilts, and beautiful handmade sweaters. Proceeds benefit the Walnut Creek Seniors' Club.

Pacific Fine Arts Festival

Artists will line the sidewalks of Downtown Walnut Creek during the Fine Arts Sidewalk Festival.

Author's appearance tops 'One City, One Book' line-up of events

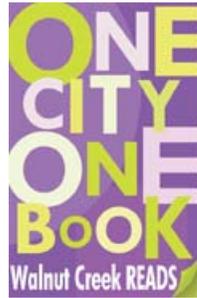
Mystery writer Jacqueline Winspear will kick off this year's community events for *One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads* with a special presentation on Mon., Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$10 and will go on sale Aug. 12 through the Leshner Center box office.

This year's program features Winspear's seventh novel in her bestselling Maisie Dobbs mystery series, *The Mapping of Love and Death*. The first Winspear novel, *Maisie Dobbs*, was published in 2003 and nominated for an Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America.

Copies of the book are available at the public libraries, Rossmoor library and area bookstores.

Now in its sixth year, *One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads* creates a citywide 'book club' by encouraging community members to read the same book and then come together for a series of special events.

It is presented by the Contra Costa County Library, the American Association of University Women, Walnut Creek Library Foundation, Walnut Creek and Ygnacio Valley Friends of the Library groups, the Rossmoor Library and the City of Walnut Creek.



Fall into art at the Bedford Gallery

The Bedford Gallery opens the fall season with *Insider/Outsider Art: Selections from Bay Area Collections*,

an intriguing exhibition that connects audiences with the "unschooled" artist who has abandoned or ignored traditional influences. "Outsider art" has become an umbrella term for folk art, pop culture and street art – this exhibition will feature more than 300 artworks.



Ted Gordon, Cat

Tours are available for school classes and adult groups. Call 925-295-1423 for more information. This dynamic show runs from Sept. 18 through Nov. 20.

Calling all photographers! We are now taking submissions for *SNAP!*, a national juried exhibition of photography. Juried by Drew Johnson, Curator of Photography at OMCA and Sandra S. Phillips, Senior Curator of Photography at the SFMOMA.

Get Involved! Mark your calendar for Volunteer Recruitment Day, Sept. 26. Learn more about the great volunteer opportunities available at the Gallery.

Visit our redesigned website, www.bedfordgallery.org, to sign up for Bg E-news and get the latest information first!

Boundary Oak named 'Best in the East Bay'

For the second year in a row, Boundary Oak Golf Course has been named the 2011 Best Golf Course of the East Bay by *Diablo* magazine's 136,000 subscribers.

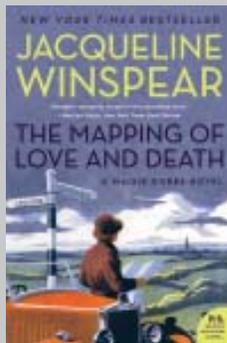
"We are honored to be selected as the 'Best Golf Course of the East Bay,' said golf course General Manager Lance Iwanaka. "It is a true testament to the commitment and hard work by our golf course maintenance staff who continue to improve course conditions year after year."

Boundary Oak will host the Susan G. Komen for the Cure for Breast Cancer Awareness tournament on Friday, Sept. 26. To learn more about participating in the tournament, contact Tournament Sales Manager Mark Wiese, at 925-934-4775 ext. 13.

One City, One Book 2011 events

An Evening with the Author

Jacqueline Winspear
Monday, Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Leshner Center for the Arts
Admission \$10
Tickets on sale Aug. 12
925-943-SHOW



"Children's Detective Fiction Fun"

Sleuths Program for Ages 7-12: Wednesday, Sept. 14, 4 p.m.
Walnut Creek Library.
Free event; limited seating.
Make reservations at www.ccclib.org starting Aug. 22

"How Maps Win Wars"

Lecture on Cartography
Monday, Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Walnut Creek Library (free)

"In the Footsteps of Maisie Dobbs"

London Travel Adventures
Monday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m.
Walnut Creek Library (free)

"A Night at the Pub"

Dining and social book discussions
Wednesday, Oct. 5, 6-8 p.m.
Pyramid Alehouse
1410 Locust St.
Paid event.
For reservations, call 946-1520 after Sept. 1; mention One City, One Book

Book Discussions

Book discussions are free to the public and do not require reservations

Thursday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.
Ygnacio Valley Library
2661 Oak Grove Road

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m.
Walnut Creek Library
1644 N. Broadway

Wednesday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m.
Rossmoor (location tba)

Visit www.WalnutCreekReads.org for the latest Events Calendar or call 925-938-1481.

Fiscal health task force presents update to Council

The Community Blue Ribbon Task Force on Fiscal Health presented a progress report to the City Council on Aug. 2.

In February, the City launched the Task Force to develop and recommend viable, long-term solutions for the fiscal health of the City. Early in the process, the Task Force formed four subcommittees to manage and research specific topics.

The Demographic Changes and Growth subcommittee focused on current and past census data; interviewed stakeholders from local schools, real estate agencies, City staff and downtown retailers; and researched issues surrounding higher density housing, aging of City population, auto sales and economic development strategies.

The Capital Improvements subcommittee identified several focus areas including: various debt financing mechanisms; effect of capital improvements on operating expenses; funding and maintenance of the City's current and desirable assets; and other means of funding capital improvement projects.

The Delivery of Services subcommittee compiled data from several interviews with City staff on current and future levels of service delivery to residents, businesses and employees, including salary and benefits, permitting, outsourcing and the use of volunteers.

The Revenue Preservation and Enhancement subcommittee researched major sources of operating revenue to determine the sustainability of the sources; evaluated current cost recovery policies; and gathered information on the role of redevelopment on the City's operating budget and Walnut Creek's current position in the local, county and regional markets.

The Task Force is set to make a final presentation to the City Council in mid-November. Task Force meetings are the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Street Conference Room (3rd Floor) at City Hall, 1666 North Main Street. Meeting agendas, minutes and other information are available online at www.walnut-creek.org/fiscal_health.



END OF AN ERA — A bulldozer takes a big bite out of the old co-op at Geary and North Main to make way for a new project known as the Geary Marketplace, which will feature a Sprouts Farmers Market grocery store, a Habit Burger restaurant, SuperCuts and The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf cafe. The marketplace is expected to open in Spring 2012.

Economic development strategy focuses on supporting innovative companies

The City is embarking on a new economic development initiative to grow its economy from within by focusing on innovative companies with potential for growth.

It is partnering with Grow-California, an organization that connects growth companies with sources of capital, talent and customers. Also participating are the Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Business Association and Contra Costa Council.

As a first step, Grow-California leaders held an "Innovation Boardroom" workshop on Aug. 1 at City Hall. Business leaders used a scorecard to assess Walnut Creek's readiness to support growth companies by rating Walnut Creek in

myriad areas, from availability of investment capital to employment options for spouses.

The scorecard results will help Grow-California identify things Walnut Creek and its community partners might do to support innovative growth companies. A second meeting in September will bring in growth businesses to get their insight into opportunities and obstacles.

The Innovation Boardroom is one example of the City's growing focus on economic development. In addition, the City is in the final steps of hiring an Economic Development Manager; look for more information on the City's website as it becomes available.

Commission study goes to City Council

A report by a Stanford Alumni Consulting Team (ACT) on the City's five commissions and four advisory committees was presented to the City Council on July 19. The study examined each of the appointed bodies' purposes and responsibilities, and made recommendations to increase effectiveness.

Based on the recommendations, the Council agreed that the five commissions will remain intact with some modification of duties, number of members and meeting frequency, as well as modification or elimination of their advisory committees. Changes will take effect in 2012.

Action for Beauty award luncheon set for Oct. 14

The Action for Beauty Council will honor Outstanding Projects of Merit at its 2011 Community Awards Luncheon on Fri., Oct. 14 at Scott's Restaurant.

Established in 1966, the Action for Beauty Council awards encourage good design, exceptional landscaping and high-quality development in the community. Awards also recognize special projects and neighborhoods. Recent award winners have included 555 YVR, Villa Vasconcellos, St. Matthew's Church and the Parkmead Neighborhood.

To make reservations to attend, contact Janet Abrams, 925-932-2746

John Muir Health ranked among best in nation, Bay Area

For the fifth consecutive year, John Muir Medical Center, Walnut Creek has been ranked one of the nation's top hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report* in its list of America's Best Hospitals.

John Muir Medical Center, Walnut Creek was ranked in the Top 50 nationwide in Orthopedics and Gastroenterology.

In addition to the national rankings, *U.S. News & World Report* published metropolitan area rankings. In the San Francisco Bay Area, 45 hospitals were surveyed. John Muir Medical Center, Walnut Creek was listed at number 2 and John Muir Medical Center, Concord at number 3.

In total, the two hospitals had 19 services nationally ranked or rated as high performing. Hospitals were rated based on four elements: patient survival, patient safety, care-related factors such as nursing and patient services, and reputation.



DOWNTOWN PARKING DISCUSSION CONTINUES

The City recently received a Metropolitan Transportation Commission grant to develop an implementation plan for the Downtown Parking Task Force recommendations. As part of the process, about 30 residents, business community members and parking experts met July 29 at City Hall to review the recommendations and consider how to move forward. Above, Public Services Business Manager Matt Huffaker captures comments from participants. As details are worked out, there will be many opportunities for public input. Updates will be posted at www.walnut-creek.org/parking.

Youth Council accepting applications

The Walnut Creek Youth Council is now accepting applications for the upcoming school year. Youth Council is a group of 20 teenagers who strive to provide a teen perspective on City issues. While the Youth Council is no longer a program of the City of Walnut Creek, members may offer input to government bodies such as the Park, Recreation and Open Space Commission and the City Council.

The Youth Council also provides teens and families of Walnut Creek with fun

activities throughout the year, including the Spring Egg Hunt, Adopt-A-Family, and citywide dances for 7th and 8th graders.

Membership is open to teens in grades 7 through 12. Teens must reside in or attend a school in the city of Walnut Creek. Members are selected based on representation from the intermediate and high schools in the Walnut Creek area.

For an application, and to learn more about the Youth Council, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/thenewwalnutcreekyouthcouncil/home>.

In Memoriam

Ricco Lorenzi Police Services Supervisor

Police Services Supervisor Ricco Lorenzi passed away May 17 after a long illness. He worked for the City for 21 years, and was the 2004 Employee of the Year.

His ties to the Walnut Creek Police Department extended back to his early teens; he became a Police Explorer at age 15, and later began volunteering as a member of the Police Reserves.

Paul Valle-Riestra City Attorney

City Attorney Paul Valle-Riestra died May 20. He joined the City in 1990 as Assistant City Attorney and was promoted to City Attorney in 2006; in 2001, he was named Employee of the Year.

He was a nationally renowned expert on telecommunications and author of "Telecommunications: The Governmental Role in Managing a Connected Community."



IT'S HIS BUSINESS — Liam Hicks displays the business license he obtained prior to opening his lemonade stand. While the City doesn't require licenses of minors in most cases, staff was happy to help Liam fill out the necessary paperwork and provide him with a special license. Thinking of starting a business of your own, but not sure what the rules are? Visit the Business License website at www.walnut-creek.org.

Back-to-school safety tips



By Alicia Williams
Crime Prevention Coordinator

It's that time of year again! The new school year is just around the corner. Here are some tips to keep kids safe:

- Pay attention to traffic around the school. Children have very little regard for their personal safety and may dart out to catch up with a friend or runaway toy.
- Obey the crossing guards. They are there to protect the children.
- Pick a spot to drop off and pick up your child. Make sure you both feel comfortable with it, as a child may say "Sure! That's fine!" and then forget where it is because it's complicated or seems too far from their classroom.
- Familiarize yourself with the school staff. If you know who should be there, you'll have a better feel for who *shouldn't*.
- Know your children's friends and become acquainted with their parents.
- Reinforce your family rules for going somewhere after school and checking in if your child goes home alone.
- Teach your children that a stranger is somebody they don't know, and that not all strangers are going to be scary or intimidating. In general, adults should not ask children for help. If an adult needs help finding something, they should ask another adult.
- Teach your children their home address, phone number including area code and the names of family members, as well as your employer's name and city. If your child needs help, it will be that much easier to find you.
- Check in with your kids on a regular basis. Ask them how school is going, how they're treating other kids and how they're being treated. Let them know how you expect them to behave toward others, and what you want them to do if they're being bullied at school.
- Teach your kids that police officers are there to help them, and show them how to dial 911.
- Monitor your children's activities.

Most important of all, enjoy this new school year! Have fun meeting new parents, teachers and students and look forward to all that school has to offer your children.



Mark Moore, left, with Police Chief Joel Bryden, and Misty Lohe, right, received Citizen's Commendation Awards in recognition of their proactive response to crimes in progress.

Honoring citizen crime-fighters

Continuing their tradition of recognizing everyday heroes, the Walnut Creek Police presented Citizen's Commendation Awards to Mark Moore and Misty Lohe on May 23.

Moore was in a downtown coffee shop in October when he heard someone yelling "Stop" and saw a man run out of the café with a necklace. Moore gave chase and caught the man, getting injured in the process. The suspect managed to break free and escape, but not before the police identified him.

Thanks to Moore's unselfish actions on behalf of a stranger, the suspect was arrested and the necklace was recovered, said Police Chief Joel Bryden.

Lohe was leaving a downtown parking

garage in November when a car alarm caught her attention. She spotted a man take a laptop computer out of a car through a smashed window, and then run toward the stairwell.

Lohe drove out of the garage and spotted the suspect entering a restaurant on Locust Street. She called 911 and described what she had seen. Police quickly arrived on the scene and arrested the suspect, who Lohe identified as the person she'd seen taking items from the car.

Lohe's willingness to get involved led directly to the capture of the suspect and the recovery of stolen property, said Bryden.

"Mark and Misty are deserving of the respect and admiration of the Walnut Creek Police Department," Bryden said.

Community announcements

Sing with barbershop chorus

The Devil Mountain Chorus welcomes men of all ages who enjoy singing in harmony. The chorus is the local chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, an international organization. The group rehearses Tuesday evenings in the Trinity Lutheran Church hall, 2317 Buena Vista Ave. For information about joining or to request a performance, contact Dolores Mendenhall, 925-934-1096.

English tutors needed

The Diablo Valley Literacy Council is seeking volunteers to help non-English speaking adults learn to read, write and speak English. Required tutor-training workshops will be held Saturday, Sept.

24 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Sept. 27, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Oct. 1 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Diablo Valley Literacy Council, 4000 Clayton Road, Concord. There is a \$15 fee.

For information or to register, leave a message for Maureen at 925-685-3881.

Civil Grand Jury Association welcomes members

Former Contra Costa Civil Grand Jury members are invited to join the Contra Costa County Grand Jury Association. The association meets the third Wednesday of each month at 651 Pine Street, Room 108, Martinez.

For details, email Maryann Sheridan, maryannmull@gmail.com.



Walnut Creek Historical Society Docents



CERT Volunteers at Emergency Drill

2011 Community Service Day Walnut Creek

Saturday, October 1

7:30 a.m. ~ Check-in & breakfast
Heather Farm Park

8:45 a.m. ~ Meet at project sites

9 a.m. ~ Work begins



ARF Teen Volunteers at Animals on Broadway

Give a Half-Day for the Community Help a Favorite Cause

Schools ~ Libraries ~ Open Space ~ Emergency Preparedness
Animals & Wildlife ~ Gardens ~ Arts

Turn to next page for details & complete list of projects

www.walnut-creek.org/service

Community Service Day projects for every interest

Community Service Day is Oct. 1. With 45 projects to choose from, there is something sure to inspire everyone. For complete details on a specific project, visit the Community Service Day webpage, www.walnut-creek.org/service.

ANIMALS, CREEKS & OPEN SPACE

Clean the Lindsay Museum Storage Area

(sponsored by the Lindsay Wildlife Museum)

Our large storage building is in dire need of major cleaning and reorganizing. With your help, we will empty and clean the building, sort and purge the items, and then move what's left back into storage.

Fall Landscaping at ARF

(sponsored by Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation)

Lend a paw to freshen up the yard surrounding ARF's pet adoption and community center. We will rake leaves, trim plants, pull weeds and move mulch.

Howe Homestead Entrance Beautification

(sponsored by Walnut Creek Open Space)

A multitude of projects are planned to clean up and re-landscape the entrance to Howe Homestead Park.

Projects include staining and repairing wood structures, preparing planting beds, creating a trail and installing a short block retaining wall.

Improve Open Space Habitat

(sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Walnut Creek and the Open Space Foundation)

Depending on conditions, volunteers will either rake dead weeds to prepare a new site for planting or pull invasive weeds from quail habitat.

Pine Creek Cleanup

(sponsored by Friends of the Creeks)

Pick up trash from a beautiful section of Pine Creek.



Bedford Gallery Docent

Prepare Planting Sites in Shell Ridge

(sponsored by the Open Space Foundation)

Cut off dead mustard to clear a new planting area. Remove weeds to create individual planting sites for shrubs.

Equestrian Center Beautification

(sponsored by the Equestrian Center)

Help us paint fences surrounding the riding arena and do general landscape clean-up work.



Creek Clean-Up Day

ARTS & LIBRARIES

Art Party for All Ages

(sponsored by Creek Kids Care)

Join the Creek Kids as they create art to use for their fund-raising stationery. Proceeds

benefit Fresh Start Walnut Creek.

Assemble Book Shelves for Ygnacio Valley Library

(sponsored by the Friends of the Ygnacio Valley Library)

Help us assemble book shelves for storing and displaying donated books.

Organize the Theater Costume Closet

(Walnut Creek's Performing Arts division)

Volunteers will hang costumes and sort shoes, hats and hand props; help launder costumes; and sew buttons and make other simple repairs.



Landscape the Center REP Actors Center

(Walnut Creek's Performing Arts)

Weed and plant to beautify the area outside the Actors' Center.

Organize Our Theater Props

(Walnut Creek's Performing Arts)

Organize theater props stored at Heather Farm Park maintenance yard.

Paint the Art Displays

(sponsored by the Walnut Creek Civic Arts Education program)

Sand and re-paint the wire panels and pedestals used for Civic Arts Education art exhibits and art sales.

Spruce Up the Landscaping at Actors' Housing

(Walnut Creek's Performing Arts)

Help improve the landscaping at the small house where out-of-town actors reside while they perform for Center REP.

Spruce Up the Ygnacio Valley Library

(sponsored by the Friends of the Ygnacio Valley Library)

Help library staff with several "housekeeping" projects, including creating and updating new bulletin boards and displays and dusting shelves.

Support the Downtown Library

(sponsored by the Walnut Creek Library)

Possible activities include: Assemble new library card packets; clean children's picture books; clean and repair DVD or CD sets; help to create bulletin board displays; and create craft materials for children's programs.

Theater Spruce Up

(sponsored by the Diablo Actors' Ensemble)

Paint deck, spruce up garden and hang lights near entrance area to increase visibility.

Continued on Page 9

How to volunteer

1. Go to www.walnut-creek.org/service to get detailed project information — including minimum age and special requirements
2. Follow the link to the online volunteer registration system; you can register as an individual, or on behalf of a family or group. (Limit 1 project per person, please!)
3. Mark your calendar for October 1 and help build a stronger Walnut Creek!

Don't have Internet access? Call the Community Service Day hotline and leave a message: 925-256-3505



John Muir Caring Hands Volunteer

COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY
continued from previous page

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Community Emergency Preparedness Outreach

(sponsored by Walnut Creek's Community Emergency Response Team & Disaster Animal Response Team)

Help us distribute emergency preparedness literature to residents. The information covers how to prepare your home, family and pets for a disaster. You will walk door to door in a neighborhood, covering about 100 homes.

Food Drive

(Sponsored by the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano)

Collect food in your neighborhood to help the Food Bank. You will distribute bags and fliers the week before the drive (bags and fliers will be provided), then collect the food and deliver to the collection spot at Heather Farm on Oct. 1. Great project for youth groups, church groups and families.

Paint Meals On Wheels Parking

(sponsored by Meals On Wheels and Senior Outreach Services)

Help us paint the front wall and ceiling of the 10-space covered parking lot at Meals On Wheels.



Lindsay Wildlife Museum Volunteer

GARDENS & PARKS

Beautify the Garden of Hope

(sponsored by the Cancer Support Community)

The Garden of Hope honors those affected by cancer by offering a place for quiet reflection. Volunteers will help us plant flowers, enhance ground covering, install lighting and re-stain fencing.

Edible Garden 1906

(sponsored by the Walnut Creek Historical Society)

Help us rejuvenate the Shadelands Ranch 1906 garden. You will weed, cultivate, install drip irrigation, prune trees, label trees in the orchard and other projects.

Fall Garden/Outdoor Clean Up at Fresh Start

(sponsored by Fresh Start Walnut Creek Homeless Respite Center)

Volunteers will do general outdoor and garden projects: rake and bag leaves and shrub prunings; move and spread wood chips around raised garden beds.

Garden at Civic Park Community Center

(sponsored by the City of Walnut Creek)

Help us add more plants to spruce up the garden area between the Community Center and the Library.

New Fence for Civic Park Community Center Garden

(sponsored by the City of Walnut Creek)

Help us install a short fence along the back corner of Civic Park Community Center to protect the new garden and discourage "cut through" traffic.

Plant a Demonstration Garden at Civic Park

(sponsored by the Gardens at Heather Farm)

Help re-plant and renovate the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) garden at Civic Park. Co-sponsored with the City's Clean Water Program.

More projects on Page 10



Rossmoor Books to Go

COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

continued from previous page

Prep Bancroft Garden for Fall

(sponsored by the Bancroft Garden)

Choose from a variety of projects, including repotting and grooming plants in the nursery, sheet mulching, garden clean up and winter cover inventory.

Riparian Garden and Creek Restoration

(sponsored by the Gardens at Heather Farm)

Clean out debris from creek and adjoining garden and then add new plantings to improve the habitat for birds and wildlife.

Saklan Indian Burial Site Restoration

(sponsored by Rossmoor Activities Council)

Clean up the grounds, plaque, bench and mortar rocks.

Stain the Bridge at Heather Farm

(sponsored by Rotary Club of Walnut Creek)

Help restrain the bridge between the ponds at Heather Farm Park.

Winterize Garden Plots

(sponsored by Rossmoor Garden Club)

Help us remove dead vegetation, spread compost, weed garden paths and spread wood chips at the garden plots.

SCHOOLS

Bancroft Elementary Garden

Help us create a learning garden.

Volunteers will clear pathways, prepare composting area for student use, clean out pond and repair irrigation/sprinklers.

Buena Vista Book Cleaning

Help clean the covers of the books at Buena Vista Elementary School library.

Buena Vista Work Day

Come help us spruce up our campus!

We'll be painting, planting and spreading woodchips.



Open Space Work Day



Landscaping at Walnut Acres

Lay landscape cloth and prepare for planting.

Indian Valley Book Cleaning

Help clean the covers of the books in our school library.

Mulch Spreading at WCI Gardens

(sponsored by WCI Science Department)

Volunteers will help spread wood chips (mulch) in both the Native Plant Garden and the Science Department Garden.

Murwood School Book Cleaning

Clean library book covers and correctly shelve books.

Northgate High Clean-up Day

(sponsored by Parent Faculty Club)

Work alongside student volunteers to clean and beautify the campus. Remove trash, construction debris, and weeds; spread mulch near tennis courts; prepare new bleacher area in sports complex for landscaping; plant several new trees.

Paint the Bancroft Elementary Bobcat Paw Prints

Bancroft Elementary's mascot is the bobcat, and we want to paint bobcat paw prints on the playground blacktop to build school pride and help students know where to line up for play time.

Thank you to our sponsors

Lead Sponsor

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management,
Bank of America Corporation

Premier Sponsors

Mechanics Bank
Sports Basement

Diablo Valley Lions Club
Walnut Creek Host Lions Club
Ygnacio Valley Lions Club

Major Sponsors

Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority
John Muir Health

Major Supporters

Allied Waste
Kaiser Permanente
Safeway

Media Sponsors

Contra Costa Times
Walnut Creek Magazine
86 Degrees Magazine

Paint and Stain Bancroft

Elementary Outdoor Furniture

Sand, prime, re-paint the playground benches on the school blacktop and re-stain the flower boxes at school front entrance.

Parkmead Library Book Cleaning

Help clean the covers of the books in our school library.

Walnut Heights Elementary

Library Book Cleaning

Help clean the covers of the books in our school library.

WCI Library Book Cleaning

Help clean the covers of the books in our school library.

WCI Campus Clean Up

(sponsored by WCI & Walnut Creek Education Foundation)

Volunteers will help with various campus projects, including washing windows, sweeping hallways and landscaping chores.

Autumn programs in the Open Space

Birds to blacksmithing, plus a hike into the past

Resident “birder,” Ranger Dan Bylin from Borges Ranch, will present a pair of very popular two-day bird study programs this fall. A program on fall raptors takes place the evening of Friday, Sept. 23 and morning of Saturday, Sept. 24.

On Dec. 2 and 3, Ranger Dan will lead a program on backyard birds.

Reservations are required for these in-depth bird classes. Call Ranger Dan, 925-943-5899 ext. 2162 for reservations and information.



A red-tailed hawk, photographed by Bob Brittain

Do you know how Lime Ridge got its name? Find out the second Sunday of any month, when Ranger Art Janke leads a hike to explore the old quarries and discuss the history of this popular Open Space site. This is a walk into the past while observing the present all around you. Contact Ranger Art at 925-943-5899 ext. 3521 for more information.

Ranger Bruce Weidman will present blacksmithing programs at Borges Ranch on Nov. 5 and 12. This is your opportunity to get dirty, make noise, smash things and play with fire – or watch others if you wish. Blacksmiths played a very important role on our local ranches and this program explains why. Call Ranger Bruce at 925-943-5899 ext. 2665 for additional information.

There are many more Open Space programs available throughout the fall.

For a copy of the fall program brochure, email dollard@walnut-creek.org or go to www.walnut-creek.org. And join our 1,500-plus fans on Facebook to stay on top of all that’s hapening in our Open Space!



Open Space volunteers hit the trail

By Nancy Dawson Dollard
Supervising Open Space Ranger

Paul Gates and Jeff Slusarz have hit the trail as the first two patrol volunteers bicycling the Open Space trails to help insure that our visitors have a safe and fun time.

They are among a number of volunteers who have begun working in many different capacities in the Open Space.

Bicyclists and hikers are patrolling the trails. History buffs are studying up on our ranching past to provide visitors to Borges Ranch with information on our local history. Site volunteers are preparing to work on maintenance issues side by side with city staff and the trail crew is preparing for trail maintenance projects. These volunteers are all interested in promoting the use of



Volunteers Paul Gates and Jeff Slusarz patrol the Open Space trails by bicycle.

the Open Space and are dedicated to making our visitors feel welcome as they explore our natural treasures.

To learn more about volunteering in the Open Space, contact the Supervising Open Space Ranger at 925-943-5899 ext. 2135 or dollard@walnut-creek.org.

Free bus passes for middle, high school students

The fall 2011 SchoolPool Transit Ticket Program is back.



The program offers complimentary County Connection punch passes to middle and high school students as an alternative mode of transportation to get to and from school.

Applications are available online through Sept. 16.

Go to www.schoolpool.org/application. There is a limit of two tickets per household.

The program is available to students

attending middle and high school in Walnut Creek as well as the other Central and East

County cities of Antioch, Brentwood, Clayton, Concord, Martinez, Oakley, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, and unincorporated Contra Costa County.

The SchoolPool program is sponsored by 511 Contra Costa in cooperation with the local cities, Contra Costa County, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Downtown trolley adds later evening hours

Beginning Monday, Aug. 22, the FREE BRIDE trolley schedule will be adjusted to run later on Monday-Friday evenings. The trolley runs between the Walnut Creek BART station, the downtown shopping district, and the Broadway Plaza. And as the name implies – it’s free.

Service will be less frequent in the morning hours before the shops open and there are fewer riders (the first trolley leaves BART at 7:10 a.m.). Between 8:25 a.m. and 6:55 p.m. the trolley will run every 15 minutes. After that, the trolley

will run on 35 minute intervals, with the last trolley leaving the fountain at Broadway Plaza at 9:30 p.m.



The change in service allows the City to gain four later-evening trips without additional expense, and gives shoppers, employees, and downtown residents extra time to enjoy all that

downtown Walnut Creek has to offer.

For schedule information, visit the County Connection website, www.cccta.org, or call County Connection Customer Service at 925-676-7500.



Sign up for emergency response team training

Help your community during disaster while staying safe yourself by becoming a Community Emergency Response Team member.

CERT training classes will be Tuesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. Sept. 13 - Oct. 18, at Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation. There will be a final drill the morning of Saturday, Oct. 29.

Training topics include disaster preparedness, how to shut off utilities and use a fire extinguisher, light search and rescue techniques and disaster First Aid.

CERT graduates are sworn in as volunteer Disaster Service Workers for the City of Walnut Creek. In the event of an earthquake or other disaster, CERTs gather at pre-designated staging areas and use their training to work as a team in responding to the community.

Cost is \$25 and pre-registration is required. Email cert@walnut-creek.org or call 925-256-3556. More information may be found at www.walnut-creek.org/cert.



Hannah Portner talks about the importance of creeks during the dedication of the Creek Walk in Civic Park East. She was invited to speak at the dedication after she led a creek clean-up as part of her 5th grade ROPE (Rite of Passage) project at Walnut Heights Elementary School.

Docents sought for 3rd grade tours of downtown

The Walnut Creek Historical Society is seeking interested adults to lead students on historical walking tours of downtown Walnut Creek.

Applicants who have an interest in history and an aptitude for relating to children will enjoy this lively and interesting activity.

The 60-90 minute walking tours are given to classes of Walnut Creek third

graders, their teacher and accompanying parents in the fall and spring. The tours are typically conducted on weekday mornings and are completed by 11 a.m.

New docents will be trained by experienced volunteer tour guides.

Tours for the general public will be added in the coming year.

To apply, call 925-935-7871 or email wchstours@sbcglobal.net.



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

* For appointment: Call 256-3504

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

CITY MANAGER
Ken Nordhoff
ACTING CITY ATTORNEY
Margaret Kotzebue
CITY CLERK
Patrice Olds
CITY TREASURER
Ronald Cassano

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
Lorie Tinfow, Director/Assistant City Manager
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Sandra Meyer, Director
ARTS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES
Barry Gordon, Director
POLICE
Joel Bryden, Chief of Police
PUBLIC SERVICES
Heather Ballenger, Director

IN A **Nutshell**

Published quarterly and mailed to Walnut Creek residents and businesses

Editor:
Gayle Vassar
Communications and Outreach Manager

Call 943-5895 or vassar@walnut-creek.org

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



1666 North Main Street
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WALNUT CREEK CA
PERMIT # 282

*******ECRWSS*****
POSTAL CUSTOMER