



IN A

Nutshell

No. 148

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

MAY/JUNE 2010



They're here! Public Services business manager Matt Huffaker stands by one of the new pay stations installed in the City-owned parking garages. The pay stations use reusable plastic tokens instead of paper parking tickets, or customers may pay by credit card. Get the scoop on parking in downtown Walnut Creek, from maps to a video demo of the new pay stations, by logging onto www.walnutcreekparking.org.

Fiscal shortfalls dictate lean budget

By Gary Pokorny, City Manager

By the end of June, the City will adopt its 2010-12 budget.

It won't be an easy process. With substantial shortfalls projected over the next two years, program cuts are inevitable.



Gary Pokorny

Many of you participated in last year's two-part "Community Conversation on Balancing for the Future," designed to involve the public in our budget process in a new way.

Step 1 of the Conversation asked community members to help define the six Goals established by the City Council. The Goals are: A Safe Community; Culture, Recreation and Learning Opportunities; Economic Vitality; Strong Neighborhoods and a Sense of Community; Stewardship of the Natural and Built Environment; and Effective Transportation and Mobility Options.

Step 2 of the Conversation invited community members to invest a virtual \$500 among the goals/sub-goals they considered to be the highest priority. Some 170 people participated in this second step; while not a large number, they were broadly representative of our community's demographics.

Culture, Recreation and Learning Opportunities received 24 percent of the virtual dollars, followed by A Safe Community (21 percent) and Economic Vitality (18 percent). The Strong Neighborhoods, Stewardship and Transportation goals received 12 percent, 13 percent and 12 percent, respectively.

BUDGET NEWS, see page 6

Korean War focus of Memorial Day event

Sixty years ago, in June 1950, the Korean War began. This year, the City of Walnut Creek will give special attention to remembering the veterans of that war at our Memorial Day Observance.

As is tradition, the observance will also honor all service personnel who gave their lives for our country.

The Memorial Day Observance begins at 10 a.m. Monday, May 31 at the Civic

Park gazebo, and will conclude with the laying of a wreath at Veterans Memorial Plaza.

The Walnut Creek Concert Band, under the direction of Harvey Benstein, will perform.

All veterans and active duty services personnel and their families are especially invited to attend. Please contact City Clerk Patrice Olds at 925-943-5819 or olds@walnut-creek.org.

Police volunteers offer free vacation house checks

As you're making summer plans, don't forget to request a free vacation house check from Walnut Creek's Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS).

These trained volunteers perform a thorough inspection of your property while you are away. They act as an 'extra set of eyes and ears' on patrol to improve

neighborhood safety. This service is provided to vacationers who are gone for at least 3 days, up to a maximum of 30 days.

To request your vacation house check, go to www.walnutcreekpd.com and click the vacation house check link. Or call 925-256-3525.

City Event Calendar

May

1-2
Civic Arts Sale
Time, locations vary
(See *What's Happening*)

31
Memorial Day Ceremony
10 a.m., Civic Park, free
(see story, page 1)

June

5-6
Art & Wine Festival
11 a.m. both days; free
Heather Farm Park
Call 925-934-2007

12
Heritage Day
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Old Borges Ranch
(see story, page 5)

City Meeting Calendar

City Council
May 4, 18; June 1, 15
7 p.m.
City Council chamber
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

Planning Commission
May 13, 27; June 10, 24
7 p.m.; Council chamber

Arts Commission
May 17
4:30 p.m.; Council chamber

**Transportation
Commission**
May 20, June 17
7 p.m.; Council chamber

Design Review Commission
May 5, 19; June 2, 16
7 p.m.; Council chamber

**Park, Rec & Open Space
Commission**
May 3, June 7
7 p.m.; Council chamber

TV Council meetings are broadcast on Walnut Creek TV, which is on Comcast Channels 28 and 26 (Rossmoor); Astound Channel 29; and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99. For streaming video of meetings, go to www.walnut-creek.org.

Dutch Impressionists featured at Bedford Gallery

Back by popular demand, *The Dutch Impressionists: Selections from the Beekhuis Collection* is the extraordinary collection of Dr. Jan and Mrs. Mary Ann Beekhuis.

The early 20th century was a tremendous period of artistic creativity and productivity in the Netherlands. The paintings range in style and subject matter from muted palette Hague School interiors, landscapes and rural life depictions to the brighter colored works of the so-



Martin van Waning (1889-1972)
Shell Fishers on the Beach

called "Amsterdam Impressionists" and images of urban life and work. Featured artists include Johan Hendrik Mastenbroek, Jan Simon Knikker, Sr., Reiner Sybrand Bakels, Martin van Waning, and Jan Rijlaarsdam.

The Dutch Impressionists: Selections from the Beekhuis Collection is on view at the Bedford Gallery through June

27. For time, location and other details, go to www.bedfordgallery.org or call 925-295-1417.

What's Happening

Celebrate mothers - and fathers - May 7

Come celebrate "country-western style" at the Mother's and Father's Day Luncheon on Friday, May 7 at the Civic Park Community Center.

The fun begins at 10:30 a.m. with line dancing led by Dennis McGuire, followed by a delicious BBQ Chicken 'n' Ribs lunch. Rob Smith and Gary Potteron of the country-western band "California Cowboys" will perform. \$12. Call 925-943-5851.

Aquanuts' 'Night of Champions' May 29

The Walnut Creek Aquanuts synchronized swim team will present its annual "Night of Champions" show Saturday, May 29, 2-6 p.m., at Heather Farm Park.

Enjoy an afternoon of breathtaking performances by some of the finest swimmers in the world, including 2008 Olympian Jillian Penner. Appetizers from top local restaurants and a silent auction are included. \$25 general admission; \$50 poolside VIP. Call 925-934-4792. For more about the Aquanuts' summer trainee program and synchro camp for girls 6-12, go to www.aquanuts.org.



Come 'fore' the Mayor's Cup

The Mayor's Cup returns to Boundary Oak Golf Course on Friday, May 21. This low-key event benefits the First Tee and LPGA-USGA Girls Golf youth programs. Entry fee includes green fee with cart, tee prizes, refreshments, lunch and dinner. Cost is \$150 per player, \$600 per foursome. For details, go to www.playboundaryoak.com.

Gowns of days gone by

Prom dresses and accessories dating back to the 1920s, including cotillion dance cards, will be on display at the Shadelands Ranch Museum from

May 23 to June 30. The dresses represent the changing styles and fashion over the years and illustrate how the Cotillion Ball has evolved to the high school prom of today.

The museum, at 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road, is open 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for under 15.

Miniature horse show at Equestrian Center

The Janet Read Memorial Miniature Horse Show comes to the Equestrian Center at Heather Farm Park on Saturday, May 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, May 23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission is free. Children can learn how to groom and lead these gentle companions during a hands-on demonstration from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. both days. Cost is \$1. Call 925-939-2929.



Wine & Roses at Gardens at Heather Farm

"Wine & Roses," a benefit event in support of The Gardens at Heather Farm, will be Friday, June 4 from 6-9 p.m. A champagne garden stroll starts the evening, followed by wine tastings sponsored by Wine Thieves, live music, a silent auction and hors d'oeuvres prepared by the area's finest caterers. Advanced reservations required. \$40 per person. Call 925-947-1678, or go to www.gardenshf.org.

Shadelands Antiques Show slated June 13

Over 80 dealers will be selling their antiques and collectibles at the Shadelands Antiques Show on Sunday, June 13, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum grounds, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road. The event benefits the Walnut Creek Historical Society. Admission is free. Call 925-935-7871 for more information.

Amazing artwork on sale April 30 - May 2

Find beautiful, one-of-a-kind artwork at the Civic Arts sale, Friday, April 30 – Sunday, May 2.

Ceramics, pottery, sculpture, dinnerware, stoneware and more will be available at Civic Park, 1365 Civic Dr.

At the Shadelands Arts Center, find drawings, glass, gourds, jewelry, paintings, pastels, photography, pottery, textiles, sculpture and more.

Refreshments and live music will be at both locations Friday.

Hours are Friday, April 30, 5-9 p.m.; Saturday, May 1, 11 a.m. – 9 p.m., and Sunday, May 2, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. (6 p.m. on Sunday at the Shadelands location.)

Downtown doings

Take to the sidewalks of downtown and enjoy these events sponsored by the Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association:

- **Bouquets & Bubbles** on Saturday, May 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy flowers and champagne tastings at participating businesses as you stroll through the downtown! Check in at SkinSpirit, 1647 N. California Blvd. Stroll and receive a flower at all participating downtown stores. \$8 in advance, \$10 day of event.

- **Semi-Annual Sidewalk Sale** on Saturday and Sunday, June 12 and 13 during participating store hours. Come find great bargains and super savings.

- **Downtown Wine Walk** on Wednesday, June 23, 6 to 9 p.m. For details, call 925-933-6778 or go to www.walnutcreekdowntown.com.

Fiddlers for pianos

The San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers will perform a benefit concert to raise money for Civic Arts Education's 'piano fund' on Sunday, May 23 at 7 p.m.

In the past, Sherman Clay Pianos has loaned pianos to the Community Music Program of Civic Arts Education. Unfortunately, they are no longer able to loan the pianos, but have offered to sell them at extremely reduced rates. Proceeds from the May 23 concert will be used to buy the pianos.

The concert will be at the Shadelands Arts Center auditorium, 111 N. Wiget Lane. \$20 suggested donation.



Geographic Information System analyst Phil Beilin, right, chats with a young job-seeker during the annual Teen Job Fair held on March 4.

Center REP's 44th season announced

The City's professional theatre company, Center REPeritory, is getting ready to raise the curtain on its most diverse season yet, says Artistic Director Michael Butler.

"Two musicals—one a classic and one a celebration of the classics, a French farce, a great American classic, a re-imagined thriller and the second season of our new Off Center series with two regional premieres," Butler said.

"Three of our offerings are set in another period of economic stress: the 1930s. Yet all three present a unique and hopeful take on tough times in which resilience and character triumph over despair. It's thoughtful entertainment."

Butler will direct Bram Stoker's gothic thriller *Dracula* as well as Harper Lee's timeless American classic *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Director and Choreographer Robert Barry Fleming returns to open and close the season with two musical favorites, *She Loves Me* and *Blues in the Night*. Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" will return for its 13th year, followed by the Tony Award-winning comedy "Boeing-Boeing."

"It's a season that celebrates strength of character and strength of the individual," added Butler. "Atticus Finch stands up to society, Georg stands up to his boss, even if it means jeopardizing his job during the Depression, and the women in *Blues in the*

The 2010-11 season:

- ◆ *She Loves Me*
Sept. 3 – Oct. 10,
- ◆ *Dracula*
Oct. 22 – Nov. 21
- ◆ *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*
Dec. 9 - 19
- ◆ *Boeing-Boeing*
Jan. 27 - Feb. 26
- ◆ *To Kill a Mockingbird*
March 31 - April 30
- ◆ *Blues in the Night*
May 19 – June 25

Off Center season:

- ◆ *Becoming Britney*
Oct. 28 - Nov. 14
- ◆ *The Lady with All the Answers*
April 28 – May 15

Night all stand up to that 'no good snake of a man.'"

The 2010-11 Off Center season presents the West Coast premiere of the NY Fringe festival hit "Becoming Britney" and Kerri Shawn as Ann Landers in the Bay Area premiere of "The Lady With All the Answers."

A variety of subscription packages, ranging from \$128 to \$522, can be purchased by calling 925-943-SHOW.

Walking tours highlight public art

The Second Saturday walking tours of Walnut Creek's key public art works have returned with the sun. Grab a friend for some exercise, art and civic pride. Tour routes rotate each month.

The May tour will cover the area north of the Walnut Creek BART station and includes Fletcher Benton's *Folded Square Alphabet G*. Bedford Gallery docents are trained by public art specialists and can offer information and insight appropriate for all ages. Other tour stops offer an up-close view of works by Stephen De Staebler, Bruce Beasley, and Josh Keyes, as well as the Veterans Memorial Plaza by Cliff Garten and a recent installation at the Mercer building by artist Martin Webb.

Tours start every second Saturday at 11 a.m. The 45-minute tour departs from the front of the Leshner Center for the Arts, corner of Locust and Civic. Tour participation is \$5 and includes entry to the Bedford Gallery. Reservations are suggested. Call 925-295-1417. Special group tours are also available for groups of 15 or more, by reservation only. Remember to wear comfortable shoes and sun protection.

Art enthusiasts can also venture on their own to hunt for animal sculptures in Broadway Plaza, and works at Heather



Docent Jane Emanuel gives background on an interesting piece of public art during a Second Saturday Walking Tour.

Farm and Shadelands Park. A printable Walking Tour Map is available online at www.bedfordgallery.org

Bedford Gallery is a program of the City of Walnut Creek and is located inside the Leshner Center for the Arts. Call 925-295-1417 or go to the website for information about exhibits, hours and special events.

— Ann Trinca
Bedford Gallery

Now playing on Walnut Creek TV

Walnut Creek TV, the City's government access channel, has added UCTV to its program offerings.

UCTV is produced by the University of California, and brings the tremendous range of knowledge, culture and dialogue generated in UC classrooms into Walnut Creek living rooms. Programs explore a broad spectrum of subjects, including science, health and medicine, public affairs, humanities, arts and education. Currently, UCTV programming is being shown on Walnut Creek TV from 1-4 p.m. weekdays.

"UCTV seemed like a perfect fit for our community, which values education so highly," said Community Relations Manager Gayle Vassar, who manages Walnut Creek TV.

Launched as a pilot program in November 2009, Walnut Creek TV broadcasts City Council and Planning Commission meetings, and produces programs that

highlight City services and programs, making what goes on in City Hall visible to the community we serve. In addition, non-profit groups serving the Walnut Creek

community may submit Public Service Announcements for airing on the channel. To submit PSAs, email community@walnut-creek.org or call Liz Payne at 925-943-5899 ext. 2136.

Walnut Creek TV is shown on Comcast channels 28 and 26 (Rossmoor); Astound channel 29; and AT&T U-Verse channel 99. Program schedules and streaming video are at www.walnutcreektv.org.



Teen theater dances away with awards

Civic Arts Ed's Youth Theatre Company's Teen Theatre won four top awards at the Musical Competitions of America in Los Angeles Feb. 12 – 15.

YTC's Teen Theatre winners include Gabe Blake, Best Male Dancer in an Ensemble; Audrey Lamb, Best Female Dancer in an Ensemble; Jonathan Miller, Best Male Vocalist in an Ensemble; and Jonathan Miller and Francesca Blake, Best Duet, for their rendition of "Follow Your Heart" from *Urinetown*.

The Youth Theatre Company offers stepping-stone programming in theater for children ages 5 – 18. For more information, call 925-943-5846 or go to www.YouthTheatreCompany.org

Get 'em while they last! Camp spots still open

What are your kids going to do this summer? Enroll them in one of the many camps offered by the City of Walnut Creek.

From Lego camps to sports camps, and arts camps to traditional day camps, complete with swimming and other fun-filled excursions—there's something for everyone!

See www.walnutcreekrec.org to view the Summer Camp Guide or call 925-943-5858.

Host families sought for teen exchange students

AYUSA International, a non-profit youth exchange organization, is seeking families in the area who are interested in hosting an outstanding high school student from Europe, Asia and elsewhere.

Host families will have the opportunity to broaden their horizons and make a positive impact on global youth.

E-mail Lauren Ross, AYUSA's East Bay Community Representative: laureng24@comcast.net, or go to www.ayusa.org.

WC Swim Club openings

The City-sponsored Walnut Creek Swim Club invites youths ages 4 to 18 to join the team this summer.

The 49-year-old club offers excellent coaching, supervised social activities and swim meets. Visit www.walnutcreekswimclub.org.

Helpers needed for Creek Clean Up Day

It's time for our three downtown creeks to get their annual "spring cleaning." Volunteers are needed to help remove a year's worth of debris during the Creek Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 8.

Sign up by 9:30 a.m. at Civic Park, corner of Civic Drive and North Broadway. Don't forget to pick up plastic trash bags at the check-in station! A free continental breakfast will be offered at 8:45 a.m.

This event is co-sponsored by the City and Friends of the Creek. Call Lesley Hunt at 925-937-6791.



Rotary Club leads Iron Horse Trail clean-up

The Diablo View Rotary of Walnut Creek invites the community to participate in a cleanup of the Iron Horse Trail on Saturday, May 8. The day will begin at 9 a.m. with a kick-off meeting at Civic Park, complete with coffee and snacks. Volunteers will clean until 1 p.m., and then join one another for a BBQ at the park.

All participants must register prior to starting the cleanup. To pre-register, contact Kyle Taylor at 510-729-7110 ext. 9122 or kyle@shredworks.com.

Prune trees wisely — it's the law!

Did you know that the City's Municipal Code requires that trees be pruned using industry best practices?

How does one know what those best practices are? The website www.treesaregood.com offer a variety of pamphlets on caring for trees, as well as lists of certified arborists and tree workers.

Always verify that the tree company you hire has the proper insurance, and, if they say they are certified by the International Society of Arboriculture, ask to see the certification card.

Questions? Contact City Arborist John Davis at 925-943-5899 ext. 2281 or jdavis@walnut-creek.org.

Celebrate City's pioneer beginnings at Heritage Day at Borges Ranch

History comes alive on Saturday, June 12 as the city celebrates Heritage Day at Old Borges Ranch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Private cars won't be allowed on the road to Borges that day, but just jump on the shuttle bus at Northgate High School, 425 Castle Rock Road, for a quick ride up to the ranch. Admission is free; shuttle is \$5 per family.

Once at the ranch, choose from many activities. Step into the carriage barn for movies from the Niles Essanay Silent Movie Museum or see Andreas Koch's video presentations on how our western way of life is being preserved in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. At the historic Borges Ranch house, you will see home crafts being demonstrated by the Treadles to Thread spinning group and quilting with the Contra Costa Quilter's Guild. Storytelling from the Delta Word Weavers, dancing demonstrations from the Diablo Mountain Cloggers and the folk and children's music of Big Foot will entertain you, make you laugh and take you back in time.

Many local community organizations will be on hand to share information on gardening, beekeeping, and a variety of outdoor activities. Members of the Pleasant Hill 4H will do presentations about the



Ranger Bruce Weidman and a young helper at the Blacksmith Shop.

animals that live at Borges Ranch and Ranger Bruce will be entertaining and educating in the Blacksmith Shop.

Don't forget to allow time for children's pony rides provided by Castle Rock Arabians. There will be old-time games and a variety of crafts for children to enjoy for very low cost. Food will be available for purchase or bring your basket for a family picnic at the adjacent Hanna Grove picnic area and Bob Pond. Rain? It wouldn't dare.

— Nancy Dawson Dollard
Supervising Open Space Ranger

Bike to Work Day pedaling our way

Bike-to-Work Day is May 13. "Energizer Stations" (or bike rest stops) will be available in the morning and evening at the following locations: corner of California and Ygnacio Valley Road; Newell Avenue and Magnolia; the Iron Horse Trail/Canal Trail by Whole Foods Market; the Canal Trail at N. Wiget; and Encina Bicycle Shop. Visit www.511contracosta.org for more information.

If you, your organization, family, school or business would like to host an Energizer Station, call 511 Contra Costa at 925-969-0841 ext. 208. 511 Contra Costa provides all of the supplies you'll need to host an Energizer Station.

If you want to make sure your bike is



"road ready" before May 13, Sports Basement in Walnut Creek is offering free bike safety checks April 26 – May 7, and will host bike clinics on May 4 and 6 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Encina Bike Shop also offers safety checks on

May 1, 2, 8 and 9.

And, have you tried the City's new BikeLink eLockers, located at 1666 N. Main Street? These electronically controlled lockers will keep your bike safe and dry. Get your free BikeLink card at 511contracosta.org

511 Contra Costa programs are paid for through the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Transportation Fund for Clean Air and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority.

Budget

From front page

At the same time the community was weighting the Goals, staff was taking each of our programs and scoring it against its effectiveness in achieving each Goal.

The staff scores and community weighting were then merged to create a ranked list of programs.

The list is available on our website with a detailed description of the prioritization process.

Prioritization is one tool we are using in preparing the budget, but it is not a magic bullet. It does not mean that all low-ranking programs will be cut nor that all high-ranking programs are untouchable.

Continued community involvement is important as we work together to find the right balance between the resources we have, the programs we want, and maintaining the quality of life that makes Walnut Creek so special.

I encourage you to stay informed and involved throughout this process.

There will be a number of Council budget meetings and study sessions over the next two months. For the most current meeting information, go to www.walnut-creek.org.

Two new commissioners named to 3-year terms

The City Council on March 2 appointed two new commissioners to three-year terms.

Michael Fotheringham was appointed to the Design Review Commission and Joe Stadum joins the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission.

Open Space programs abound this spring

Our Open Space is a treasure that everyone should enjoy. Open Space rangers have an array of programs for every interest, age and ability.

Ranger Dan Bylin's "Frog Fanatics" takes folks on an evening stroll around Borges Ranch and Bob Pond on May 1 in search of amphibians, while May 16 finds Ranger Art Janke teaching how to harvest and sample fresh honey at Howe Homestead. To get a list of Open Space programs, call 925-943-5899 ext. 2135 or check out their Facebook page!



LOOKING UNDER THE HOOD 2010 Citizens Institute members Catherine Finn, left, and Cynthia Mercado get an inside look at a police car during a Citizens Institute tour of the Public Services Corporation Yard. The 2010 Citizens Institute class graduated on March 27. To date, 435 community members have participated in the Institute, which seeks to increase citizens' understanding of the City's programs and services, and to foster collaboration between City staff and residents. To be placed on the interest list for the 2011 Citizens Institute, email community@walnut-creek.org.

Ygnacio Valley roadwork paves way for John Muir Health expansion

Roadwork on Ygnacio Valley Road and La Casa Via in preparation for the opening of John Muir Health's new five-story hospital tower is expected to continue through November. The street improvements are being done to improve traffic flow around the medical center.

To reduce the impact on motorists, work will be limited to one lane closure at a time between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays. Work on weekends and at night will be limited to critical traffic



transitions and is expected to be minimal.

Work schedules will be communicated to neighbors, homeowner associations and businesses on an ongoing basis.

John Muir Health has also launched a web site www.johnmuirhealth.com/roadwork to provide

information about the improvements, a general phasing and outline schedule, a "look ahead" at upcoming work that may disrupt traffic and the specific schedules of these impacts, and contact information for concerns or questions.

WC to PH BART tracks closed May 28 - June 1

BART tracks between Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill will be closed from 9 p.m. Friday, May 28 to 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 1 to accommodate installation of new crossover tracks.

BART will provide free bus service between Walnut Creek and Pleasant Hill BART stations while the tracks are closed.

Passengers should allow up to 20 additional minutes for the bus detour.

The Central Contra Costa Crossover Project is expected to allow more trains to be run between Pleasant Hill and San Francisco, providing more seating during peak commute hours.

For more, go to www.BART.gov.

Citizens able to report crimes on-line

Citizens can now report certain types of crime to the Walnut Creek Police Department simply by logging on to the Internet.

The CopLogic program can be used to file reports of vandalism, theft, lost property, identity theft, vehicle tampering, harassing telephone calls, non-injury accidents and crime tips.

Emergencies should *always* be reported by calling 9-1-1. And non-emergency criminal activity that does not fit the criteria for online reporting should be reported by calling 925-943-5844.

A report can be filed online if the following criteria are met: The crime occurred within the city limits of Walnut Creek; the suspect is unknown; the reported incident is not an emergency; and, the report is one of the types of crimes allowable for online reporting.

Once police have reviewed an online report, the reporting party will

receive an email copy with an assigned WCPD case number. The report will automatically merge into the police department records system, where it will receive the same investigative and statistical analysis as a report filed by a police officer.

Filing a report online means not having to wait until an officer can respond. Walnut Creek police officers handle an average of 30,000 incidents per year. While the average response time to the scene of an emergency is less than four minutes, during periods of peak demand, the response to non-emergency calls may be delayed.

Victims benefit from online reporting by not having to wait for a police officer, and public safety is enhanced when police man-hours are saved, freeing officers for other duties. To access the program, go to www.walnutcreekpd.com.

— Sue Garcia
WCPD

Have a safe summer! Emergency prep fair to be held June 3

Get prepared for any disaster by attending a free Emergency Preparedness Fair on Thursday, June 3 from 5-8 p.m. in the Las Lomas High School gymnasium.



Fair participants include the Walnut Creek Police, Contra Costa Fire District, animal disaster response experts and more!

There will be free food and prizes, hands-on demonstrations and emergency supplies for sale.

The fair is co-sponsored by the City's Citizen Corps Council and Community Emergency Response Team program, which seeks to "help people help themselves prevent, prepare and prevail in event of disaster."

Our New
**WALNUT
CREEK
LIBRARY**

SAVE THE DATE!

WONDER CONNECT LEARN

NEW LIBRARY
OPENING
July
17th!

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE
A Place for You

2009 Employees of the Year honored for outstanding service

Tess Wendler and John Haithcock, well-known for their positive energy throughout the organization and with the public, are the 2009 recipients of the Rosie Coan Award, honoring them as the City's Employees of the Year.

Tess joined the City's Human Resources Division in 2000, and currently serves as the Risk Management administrative analyst. "She approaches every undertaking with the utmost integrity and commitment to excellence," said City Manager Gary Pokorny in announcing the award.

John joined the City in 1979 as part of what was then the Cultural Services department and was instrumental in the



Tess Wendler and John Haithcock

early success of the Leshler Center for the Arts. He worked in a variety of positions before finding his niche in the Police Department, where he coordinates training and Volunteers in Police Services.

"John's can-do attitude and positive recognition of volunteers serves to strengthen relationships that are immeasurable in their benefits to the Police Department and the City as a whole," said Gary.

Lecture looks at U.S. presidents and foreign policy

KGO Radio talk show host John Rothman is the featured speaker for the Emeritus College Distinguished Lecture, "The Presidency & Foreign Policy." The lecture will be Sunday, May 16 from 1-3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, Diablo Valley College.

Rothman, a political and foreign policy consultant specializing in the United

States, the Middle East and the former Soviet Union, will address the impact of U.S. Presidents on foreign policy since WWII. Tickets are \$20. Call 925-685-1230 ext. 2388.

Emeritus College offers not-for-credit, short-term, affordable classes. There are no tests and no homework! For a list of classes, go to www.dvc.edu/emeritus.



City Directory

Arts Education classes	943-5846
Bicycle registration	943-5844
Boundary Oak Golf	934-4775
Building Division	943-5834
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
Flood zone info	943-5839
Foothill Gym	256-3539
Graffiti reporting	943-5854
Heather Farm Pool	943-5856
Leshler Center Box Office	943-7469
Recreation classes	943-5858
Mayor's Office	256-3504
Open Space information	943-5855
Planning/Zoning hotline	256-3558
Police Administration	943-5869
Police (non-emergency)	943-5844
Recreation classes	943-5858
Shadelands rentals	943-5842
Senior citizen activities	943-5851
Street light outages	256-3529
Tice Valley Gym	256-3572



CITY COUNCIL
Sue Rainey, Mayor*
Cindy Silva, Mayor pro tem
Bob Simmons
Kish Rajan
Gary Skrel

* For appointment: Call 256-3504

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
CITY MANAGER
 Gary Pokorny
CITY ATTORNEY
 Paul Valle-Riestra
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

INA **Nutshell**

Published bi-monthly and mailed to Walnut Creek residents and businesses

Editor:
 Gayle Vassar

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

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