



# IN A Nutshell

No. 151

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek November/December 2010

## New manager arrives Dec. 1

**W**alnut Creek's next City

Manager has an extensive background in government finance, and a deep commitment to collaborating with the community and employees.



Ken Nordhoff

Ken Nordhoff, 49, will start as the City's top executive on Dec. 1. He is currently the City Manager in San Rafael.

The City Council unanimously selected him from a field of 57 qualified applicants, said Mayor Sue Rainey.

"Ken is extremely personable and has an excellent history, including a wealth of experience in economic development," she said in announcing his appointment.

"He has been active in regional issues on behalf of San Rafael and will continue Walnut Creek's tradition of regional leadership. At the same time, he is committed to working with the community and plans to make Walnut Creek his hometown," said Rainey.

The next City Manager is equally impressed with Walnut Creek.

"Walnut Creek represents things that are appealing to me: a well-governed organization, a staff that is extremely competent and committed, and a community that is active and engaged," he said.

Nordhoff's enthusiasm for Walnut Creek grew stronger during the application process, when he was interviewed by two community panels.

See **NORDHOFF**, back page



Photos courtesy of Ben Krantz

## Lesher Center 20th anniversary dazzles & delights

More than 600 celebrants turned out for the Lesher Center for the Arts' 20th anniversary gala on Oct. 9. They dined, they danced, and they donated a record amount to support the Diablo Regional Arts Association in making quality arts programming available to all. At right, gala co-chairs Steve and Mackenzie Lesher stand with Kirsten and Peter Bedford, and, seated, Ken and Jean Hofmann. Steve's grandfather, Dean Lesher, the Bedfords and the Hofmanns played a major role in making the dream of a performing arts center in Walnut



## Letting shops 'color outside the lines'

### City permit opens door to creative outside displays

**D**owntown Walnut Creek will be especially festive this holiday season, thanks to a pilot program that lets merchants create artistic displays outside their storefronts.

Although city regulations normally prohibit displaying merchandise outside, the City approved a blanket permit by the Downtown Business Association on behalf of the downtown business district to make way for the displays.

The special permit allows businesses to creatively display their goods and services to passersby, and hopefully will entice them to stop in and browse, said Kathy Hemmenway, DBA Interim Director.

Of course, the displays must not block public walkways, or exceed size limits.

Granting the blanket permit is part of the City's ongoing commitment to work with businesses on economic stimulus ideas while improving the "downtown experience" for all.

Take a stroll through the downtown and enjoy the scenery!

## City Event Calendar

### November

**11**  
**Veterans Day ceremony**  
(see story, page 3)

**26**  
**City Tree Lighting**  
(See back page)

### December

**3-5**  
**Holiday Studio Art Sale**  
(see story, page 3)

**23-31**  
**City offices closed**

## City Meeting Calendar

*Study Session: City Council,  
Transportation Commission*  
5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30  
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

*City Council*  
7 p.m. Nov. 16; Dec. 7, 21  
City Council chamber  
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

*Planning Commission*  
7 p.m. Nov. 18; Dec. 9  
City Council chamber

*Arts Commission*  
4:30 p.m. Nov. 15  
City Council chamber

*Transportation Commission*  
7 p.m. Nov. 16; Dec. 30  
City Council chamber

*Design Review Commission*  
7 p.m. Nov. 3, 17;  
Dec. 1, 15  
City Council chamber

*Park, Rec & Open Space  
Commission*  
7 p.m. Nov. 1; Dec. 6  
City Council chamber

**TV** City Council, Planning and Design Review commission meetings are aired live on Comcast Channels 28 and 26 (Rossmoor), Astound Channel 29 and AT&T U-Verse 99, and walnutcreektv.org. They may be watched live and on demand through the City's website, [www.walnutcreek.org](http://www.walnutcreek.org). For re-broadcast times, check the schedule at [walnutcreektv.org](http://walnutcreektv.org).

## Lively Viva Arts! fund-raiser set for Oct. 30

**M**ark your calendars! On Saturday, Oct. 30, the Friends of the Civic Arts Education Foundation will hold its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala—*Viva Arts!* beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Shadelands Arts Center auditorium. The event supports art scholarships for low income Contra Costa County residents.

Join East Bay artists, art enthusiasts and community leaders for a fun-filled evening featuring complimentary wines, an appetizer and



dessert buffet, entertainment and more.

With retiring City Manager Gary Pokorny as emcee, the evening will feature one-of-a-kind auction items, a "Wine Pull" and selection of the winner of the Raffle Grand Prize—a sumptuous two-night trip to Napa including lodging, dinner at Ad Hoc, and wine tastings at Duckhorn and

Paraduxx.

Tickets for the evening are \$65; raffle tickets are \$20 or six for \$100. Go to [www.friendsartsed.org](http://www.friendsartsed.org) or call 925-939-2787.

## What's Happening

### Taste the love at Wine & Whiskers

Join Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) for "Wine & Whiskers" on Saturday, Nov. 13 from 5 to 8 p.m. Select vintners and restaurateurs serve up their best to benefit ARF's life-saving programs, with our furry friends as the natural "piece de resistance." Tickets are \$75. Go to [www.arf.net](http://www.arf.net).

### Annual Holiday Boutique

Start your holiday shopping at the Walnut Creek Seniors Club Holiday Boutique on Nov. 12-13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr. Find beautiful handcrafted gifts, including holiday ornaments and wreaths, table centerpieces, cuddly afghans and quilts, sweaters and baby clothes. Admission is free. Lunch is \$3 and served 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Walnut Creek Seniors Club. Call 925-943-5851.

### All aboard! Model railroad open house

Delight in intricately detailed model trains at the Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society's Holiday Show the weekends before and after Thanks-



giving: Nov. 19, 8 to 10 p.m.; Nov. 20 and 21, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Nov. 26, 2 to 10 p.m.; and Nov. 27 and 28, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. "Fare" is \$3, ages 13 and up; \$2, seniors and ages 6-12; free, under 6. Located next to Larkey Park at 2751 Buena Vista Ave. Call 925-937-1888 or go to [www.wcmrs.org](http://www.wcmrs.org).

### Walk this way for sales

The Semi-Annual Sidewalk Sale returns to downtown Walnut Creek on Nov. 20 and 21. Visit old favorites or stop into a new store to take advantage of holiday prices while strolling the streets of downtown. Participating businesses will

host outdoor displays for all to see, so bring your gift list and enjoy the day.

### Teddy Bear Tea

Bring your favorite teddy bear to the Gardens at Heather Farm on Dec. 4 and 5 for a photo, teatime treats and story time in an elegant setting decorated for the holidays. Seatings are 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. There will also be a gift boutique and special raffles. Cost is \$25 for adults, \$15 for children. Call 925-947-1678 or email [reservations@gardenshf.org](mailto:reservations@gardenshf.org). The Gardens at Heather Farm is located at 1540 Marchbanks Dr. Visit [www.gardenshf.org](http://www.gardenshf.org).



### Holidays at historic Shadelands

The Shadelands Ranch Museum will host its 28th annual "Holidays at Shadelands" Nov. 27-Dec. 12. The beautifully decorated historic house, located at 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road, will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and feature a wide variety of hand-crafted items and gifts for sale by more than 30 vendors. Admission is free. Three-course Victorian Tea luncheons will be served at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$28.50. Call 925-935-7871 or go to [www.WalnutCreekHistory.info](http://www.WalnutCreekHistory.info).

### Menorah Lighting and Parade of Lights

The lighting of the Menorah at Broadway Plaza will take place daily Dec. 1 – 8; times vary. The Grand Menorah Lighting will be Sunday, Dec. 5 from 4 to 6 p.m.

On Thursday, Dec. 2, Broadway Plaza hosts the Holiday Parade of Lights, complete with a visit from Santa, and an Open House from 6 to 9 p.m. For more information, call 925-933-6589.



## Veterans Day at Lesher Center

**W**alnut Creek will honor those who served at a Veterans Day Celebration on Thursday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m.

The Walnut Creek Concert Band will play a musical tribute to our American heroes.

The celebration will be held at the Lesher Center for the Arts and is free and open to the public.

Veterans and their families are encouraged to attend.

For questions, please call City Clerk Patrice Olds, 925-943-5819.

## Ice skating returns to Civic Park on Nov. 11

**G**lide into winter with “Walnut Creek on Ice,” brought to you by the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown



Business Association. The ice rink returns to Civic Park for its sixth season on Thursday, Nov. 11 and will remain through Jan. 17.

Skate under the stars seven nights a week, or take advantage of special programs such as children and adult skate clinics, birthday party packages, private ice rink rental and frequent skater passes.

Many nearby businesses make parking available to skaters; just look for the signs. Or check out the Holiday Parking Guide on Page 7 for parking locations.

For more information, go to [www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com](http://www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com).

## Wondering what to do in Walnut Creek?

### There’s an app for that!

**T**he Downtown Business Association is pleased to announce the launch of Walnut Creek’s own mobile phone app – GoTown!

The app lists dining, shopping, events and special deals in and nearby Walnut Creek.

The free “GoTown” app can be downloaded on iTunes and Android.

Go Town” is also online at [www.gotown.com](http://www.gotown.com).



Pulitzer Prize-winner TJ Stiles, right, is interviewed by Diablo Magazine editor Peter Crooks for the Walnut Creek TV series “Get Lit.” Stiles will speak at “Authors Under the Stars” on Nov. 13.

## Pulitzer winner to speak at library gala

**D**ine and mingle with local authors at the “Authors Under the Stars” gala hosted by the Walnut Creek Library Foundation on Nov. 13 at the downtown Library. TJ Stiles, winner of the 2010 Pulitzer for his biography “The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt,” will be the keynote speaker.

Tickets are available at



[www.wclibrary.org](http://www.wclibrary.org) or call 925-935-5395.

For a sneak preview, many of the authors sat down with Diablo Magazine editor Peter Crooks to talk about writing, libraries and all things literary.

These interviews can be seen on Walnut Creek TV’s “Get Lit” series. For airtimes, or to watch a specific program on demand, go to [www.walnutcreektv.org](http://www.walnutcreektv.org).

## Making the ‘art’ of gift-giving easy

**W**alnut Creek’s diverse art scene offers ample opportunities to find clever, creative gifts.

On Nov. 13, 25 cool crafters from the East Bay and beyond will set up shop inside the Bedford Gallery for the “Bg Craft Fest.” This event is free and runs from noon to 4 p.m. Come support local artists and pick up some one-of-a-kind artist-made goods. The Bedford Gallery is on the first floor of the Lesher Center for the Arts, at the corner of Locust and Civic.

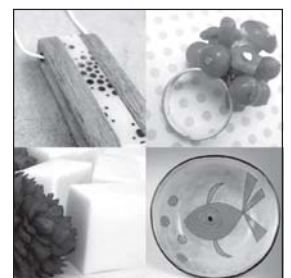
In early December, faculty and students from the Clay Arts Guild and Civic Arts Education will hold their joint Holiday Studio Art Sale.

On sale at Civic Park will be a large selection of hand-crafted pottery and ceramic sculpture. At Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Lane, jewelry, paintings and other arts will be available.

Hours are Friday, Dec. 3, 5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Clay Arts Studio; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Shadelands Arts Center. Admission is free.



Find works of art such as the “Cool Cat,” above left, at the Clay Arts Guild sale, or a one-of-a-kind hand-crafted jacket, top right, at the Civic Arts Ed. studio sale at the Shadelands Arts Center, both from Dec. 3-5. Above right, a sample of crafts by independent artists to be found at the Bedford Gallery Craft Fest on Nov. 13.





## Autumn outings in the Open Space

Late autumn in the Open Space is an exciting time. Seasonal change may be subtle in California, but plants and animals preparing for winter are remarkable to watch. Rangers have some special programs prepared to encourage you to visit your 2,704 acres of wild lands.

◆ Saturday, Nov. 6, 10 a.m. to noon. *An Oak is an Oak is an Oak ... or is it?* Borges Ranch in Shell Ridge. Hike through the oak communities you see every day. Learn to identify the variety of oaks in our area and talk about the animal life dependent on those oaks.

◆ Saturday, Nov. 6, 7 to 8:30 p.m. *Fall Family Campfire.* Hanna Grove Picnic Area in Shell Ridge. Family fun under the star-filled sky. Share stories, tall tales, fall wildlife lore and who knows what else?

◆ Saturday, Nov. 13, 2 to 3:30 p.m. *Blacksmithing at Old Borges Forge* Borges Ranch in Shell Ridge. Blacksmithing is the ultimate playtime for all ages; get dirty, make noise, smash things and play with fire. Reservations required. Call 925-943-5899 ext. 2665.

◆ Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m. to noon. *Why is That Bear on our Flag?* Borges Ranch. Go on a 1.5 mile hike to explore the historic hunting grounds of the California grizzly. Learn how many cultures lived with and dealt with this primary predator and why the grizzly is no longer found in California.

◆ Saturday, Dec. 11, 1 to 3 p.m. *Winter Animal Tales.* Howe Homestead Community Park. It's storytelling time on this pre-winter afternoon. We'll share stories of local wildlife and how they prepare for winter. Reservations required. Call 925-943-5899 ext. 2135.

For more information, call the Open Space office at 925-943-5899 ext. 2135, or email [dollard@walnut-creek.org](mailto:dollard@walnut-creek.org).

See you on the trail!

## Food scrap recycling made easy

Walnut Creek residents who receive weekly yard waste service through Valley Waste Management should have received a container for food scrap recycling in October. The program is coordinated by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority and is designed to make food scrap recycling easy and convenient.

In Contra Costa County, food comprises about 20 percent of landfill materials. Besides taking up space, food scraps and other landfilled organics create methane, a potent greenhouse gas. By "recycling" your banana peels and coffee grounds, you keep them out of the landfill; and after composting, they become a useful soil amendment. Why "waste" food scraps, when they can be turned into something valuable?

The free food scrap collection pail conveniently fits under the kitchen sink and has a tight sealing lid to prevent odors. The collection pail can be lined with newspaper or a paper lunch sack to keep the pail clean. The paper liner or sack can be composted right along with food



Gwen Ho-Sing-Loy demonstrates how to use the food scrap recycling pails in Walnut Creek TV's light-hearted take on the program. Watch it on [www.YouTube.com/CityofWalnutCreek](http://www.YouTube.com/CityofWalnutCreek).

scraps. The container can also be cleaned in the dishwasher.

When the pail is full, simply empty it into the green yard waste cart. You may want to cover the food scraps with green waste to help avoid pests.

Questions? Call 925-935-8900 or visit [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org).

## Golf course fits charitable events to a 'tee'

With the golf season winding down, the news from Boundary Oak Golf Course is good; 2010 saw substantial increases in rounds played, and the golf course was named "Best of the East Bay 2010" in Diabolo Magazine's reader poll.

Still, the management team is most proud of the variety of charitable events hosted this year benefitting Walnut Creek and the greater Contra Costa community, said General Manager Lance Iwanaka.

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month, Boundary Oak hosted the 1st Annual Rally for the Cure Golf Tournament on Oct. 25, benefitting the Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization, which leads the way in funding breast cancer research and support.

In June, the Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament raised close to \$20,000 to benefit junior golf programs including the First Tee of Contra Costa and the LPGA Girls Golf organizations.

Other "events for a cause" held at Boundary Oak this year include the Northgate High School Baseball Golf Tournament and the Ruth Bancroft Garden Dinner Auction.



Boundary Oak Golf Course has become a favorite venue for charitable events, such as the Mayor's Cup, above.

Boundary Oak offers non-profit rates for golf tournaments, and even further discounts for Walnut Creek-based non-profits, Iwanaka said. "We are the ideal location for golf tournaments because of price, location and capacity," he said.

And, added Golf Course Liaison Barry Slavin, "Boundary Oak Golf Course can host events with golf AND food, and has the best views in the county."

To learn more, call 925-934-4775 or go to [www.playboundaryoak.com](http://www.playboundaryoak.com).



## City Update

### Parking task force to present recommendations on Nov. 30

The City Council and the Transportation Commission will hold a joint study session on Nov. 30 on the recommendations of the Downtown Parking Task Force.

Task Force members have been working since September 2009 to develop recommendations for an integrated parking management plan that reflects the diverse needs of residents, businesses and visitors.

They identified six key strategies to for “making parking work,” including effective use of public and private garages; successful management of employee parking; effective inventory management; effective communication about parking options through signage, marketing and outreach; a plan for residents; and alternative modes of getting around downtown.

The study session is open to the public and will begin at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30 at City Hall.

### New commissioners named

The City Council in October appointed the following people to fill unexpired commission terms: Cindy Darling (Planning Commission), David Crawford (Design Review Commission); and Luke Lucas, Transportation Commission.

### City Hall closed Dec. 23 - Jan. 2

Most City employees will be on Unpaid furlough Dec. 27-29. In combination with the winter holidays, City Hall will be closed beginning Thursday, Dec. 23 and reopen Monday, Jan. 3.

Also closed during that period will be the Bedford Gallery, Civic Arts Education’s Shadelands Center, the Civic Park Clay Studios, Clarke Swim Center, Heather Farm Community Center, and the Leshner Center administrative offices.

Public safety services will remain available.

### Follow us on Twitter!

Get quick updates on City activities, events and issues, from street closures to Council decisions.

Go to <http://twitter.com/WalnutCreekGov> to sign up.



## Reflections from retiring city manager

*Editor’s note: City Manager Gary Pokorny will retire at the end of November, after 40 years in public service, the past 10 in Walnut Creek.*



I am the luckiest person in the world. I got to spend the last ten years of my civic career in Walnut Creek.

Walnut Creek is a special place, where people put down deep roots and develop an enduring fondness for the community and for each other. This creates a wonderful environment for everyone who lives and works here.

I have been fortunate to work with many caring people throughout the community, including City Council members past and present. To a person, the Council members have the best interests of the community at heart; they have taken their turn at being stewards of our city with thoughtfulness and commitment.

The City staff is equally strong and dedicated to serving the public good. I am proud to have played a part in leading them. On a day-to-day basis, they work smarter and harder than any I have worked with in my 40-year public service career. The next time you meet any of our

staff members, please take a moment to thank them for what they do for all of us every day.

Together, community and staff, we have had successes – among them, opening our new library, acquisition of additional open space, and joining together to fight outside interests by passing Measure I to support

construction of the Neiman Marcus store by more than 71 percent.

Certainly there have been challenges, in particular the difficulty in developing the current budget. Walnut Creek is not immune to the economic challenges facing our nation and state, from rising health care and pension costs to the recession’s impact on jobs and the economy generally.

Still, we worked together to pass a balanced budget that builds a foundation for the future and works to preserve the excellent quality of life that characterizes Walnut Creek.

And now, Jean and I are moving on to the next phase. We look forward to continuing to strengthen the many friendships forged during our 10 years in Walnut Creek.

Thanks for a great decade.

— Gary

### Sidewalk widening under way along Ygnacio Valley Rd.

The sidewalk widening project along Ygnacio Valley Road from Marchbanks Drive to Ygnacio Court is expected to be complete in early December. The project will improve the connection from the Ygnacio Valley to the downtown and BART by making the sidewalk wide enough (10 feet) for safe sharing by

pedestrians and bicyclists. The project will slope back the hillside and a retaining wall will be built to keep rocks from sliding down the hill onto the sidewalk and road.

No general fund money has been spent on this project. It is paid for through a combination of federal funding and traffic impact fees.

### City’s cable channel accepting public service announcements

Non-profits, schools and other community groups are encouraged to submit information about their events for broadcast on the City’s cable channel bulletin board.

Public service announcements should include the name of the event and sponsoring organization,



time, date and location. Commercial content or announcements advertising a political candidate or issue cannot be accepted.

PSAs should be emailed to [community@walnut-creek.org](mailto:community@walnut-creek.org). For questions, call (925) 943-5895.

Walnut Creek TV is a government access channel that can be seen on Comcast Channels 28 and 26 (Rossmore), Astound Channel 29 and AT&T U-Verse 99, or online at [www.walnutcreektv.org](http://www.walnutcreektv.org).



## Holiday shopping tips

Shopping during the holiday season can present unique danger. People become busy and sometimes careless, which can lead to being a victim of theft and other crimes.

Here are a few tips to help keep you safely in the holiday spirit!

- Shop during daylight hours if possible. If you must shop at night, park close to the building and near a light.
- Take advantage of shuttles or escorts if the shopping center provides them.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Don't carry a purse. Carrying items like a checkbook, ID and credit cards in front pockets will make it more difficult for someone to take them.
- If you must carry a purse, carry it under your coat. Or carry a cross-body style bag and keep the bag in front.
- Stay alert to your surroundings even when you are rushed and thinking about a thousand different things. Be aware of the people around you, especially strangers who appear to be approaching for no reason.
- Avoid carrying a lot of cash; pay for purchases with a check or credit card.
- Keep cash and credit cards in your front pocket.
- Avoid overloading yourself with bags and boxes.
- NEVER leave purchases in public view in your car while you continue to shop. While it might be inconvenient to drive home and then come back, think about what it would be like to return to your car and have a window smashed and everything you just bought gone.
- Consider shopping in pairs or groups. "The more, the merrier" as the saying goes!

For crime prevention questions, please contact Crime Prevention Coordinator Alicia White at [white@walnutcreekpd.com](mailto:white@walnutcreekpd.com) or 925-943-5885.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!



### GETTING READY — ONE VOLUNTEER AT A TIME

Nearly 300 people participated in the Sept. 11 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) drill at the Contra Costa Fire District training grounds. Volunteers from Walnut Creek's CERT team played a lead role in developing the drill, in partnership with the Fire District and county Office of Emergency Services, and drew participants from throughout the county. In the photo above, CERT team members carry a "victim" on a stretcher to the medical treatment area. CERT teaches everyday people how to pull together in event of disaster and safely help their community. For more information, go to [www.walnut-creek.org/CERT](http://www.walnut-creek.org/CERT).

## Flood facts in time for the rainy season

The rainy season is fast approaching and floods are one of the most common and widespread of all natural disasters.

Walnut Creek and its tributaries drain over 146 square miles within central Contra Costa County. The primary flood hazard to residents comes from Walnut Creek through the downtown area, Homestead Creek along Walnut Boulevard, Tice Creek in the south, and tributaries to Grayson Creek in northwest Walnut Creek.

Localized flooding, however, can occur in any location and more than 30 percent of flood losses nationally occur outside of mapped flood areas.

Homeowner's insurance typically does not cover flood damage, which can be caused by as little as one inch of water. Properties located in the 100-year floodplain have a 25 percent chance of experiencing a flood during the life of a 30-year mortgage.

Flood insurance is available for purchase by all residents in Walnut Creek and unincorporated areas of the County as a result of Walnut Creek's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program

(NFIP). A policy takes 30 days after purchase to take effect, so make sure to buy insurance before the floodwaters start to rise.

Contact Walnut Creek's Engineering Division at 925-943-5839 for additional information or to determine if your property is located in a 100-year floodplain.

### Police volunteers offer vacation home checks

Winter vacations are even better when one's house is being checked by trained volunteers.

Walnut Creek's Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) offers free vacation house checks. They will conduct a perimeter check, check all doors and windows, and verify that any cars or people found on the property belong there.

You must be gone for at least 3 and no more than 30 days. Vacant or foreclosed properties are not eligible.

Call 925-256-3525 or click on the "vacation house check" link at [www.walnutcreekpd.com](http://www.walnutcreekpd.com). Submit requests at least 72 hours in advance of departure.



# Taming the holiday traffic Grinch

The holidays are hectic enough without searching for a parking place. Relax – help is on the way.

Following the success of the 2009 holiday parking plan, the City, Downtown Business Association, Chamber of Commerce and property managers for the major retail and private parking garages are teaming up again to create stress-free parking for the season.

The goal is to get cars off downtown streets as quickly as possible by making parking easy to find and encouraging shoppers to “park once” and walk or use other means of getting around.

Among the strategies:

- Valet parking at the empty lot across

from the downtown movie theater;

- Police Services Officers managing the flow of traffic and pedestrians at the mid-Mt. Diablo Boulevard crosswalk during peak shopping hours on Thanksgiving weekend and the week before and after Christmas; and

- Extended hours for the free downtown Trolley (*see story, right*).

The three City garages offer parking 24/7, so no need to hurry back before the meter runs out. The City garages are identified in the Holiday Parking Guide, below.

And don't forget! Many shops and restaurants offer free validation for City-owned garages.

# Free Trolley rings in the season with extra hours

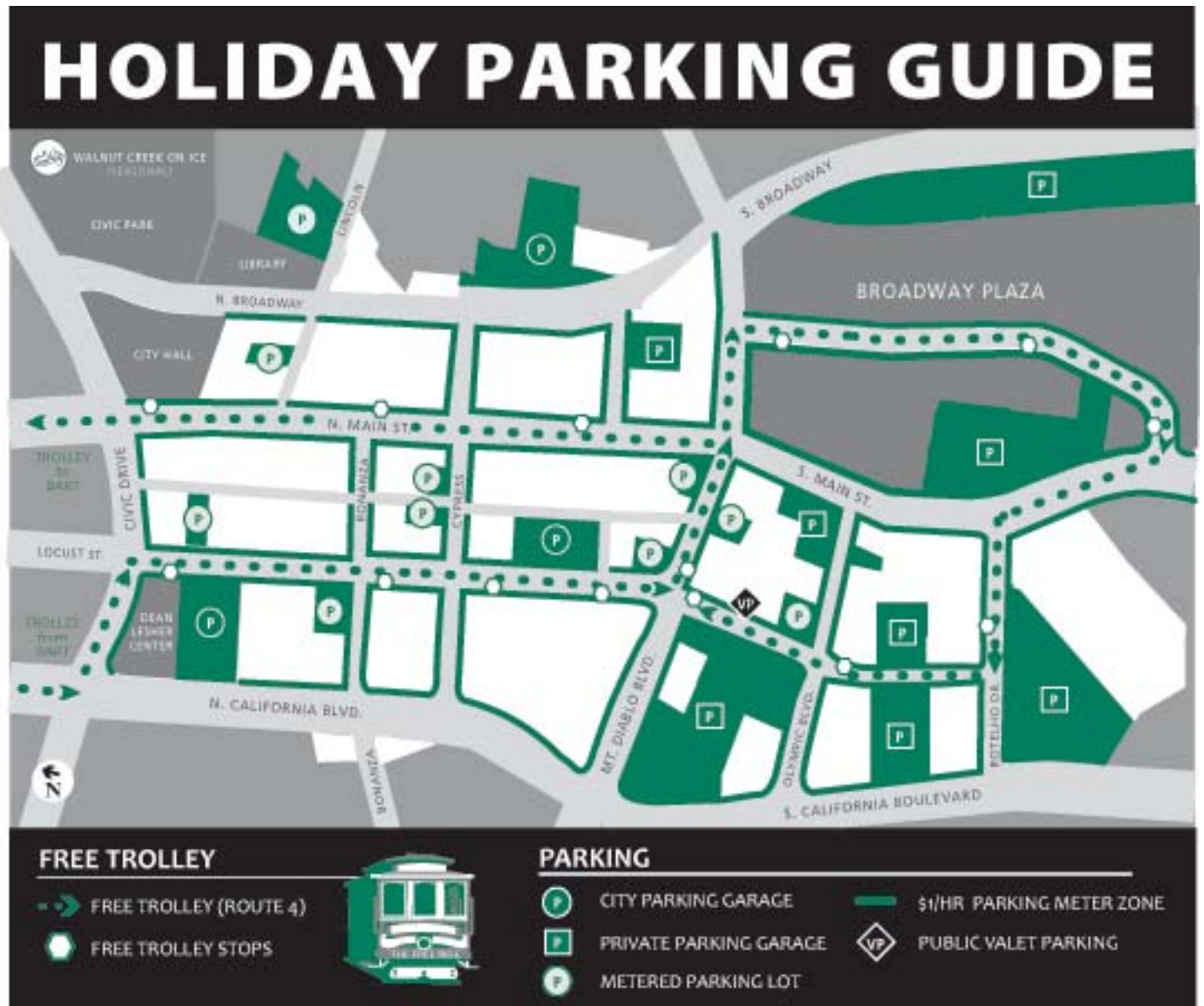
The Free Downtown Trolley (Route 4) will once again have extra evening hours this holiday season, paid for by Broadway Plaza.



Nearly 1,100 people took advantage of the extra hours last year. That's in addition to the regular ridership of 28,000 people who took the trolley during regular hours in the same time period.

The trolley will run until 10 p.m. Nov. 27 - Dec. 11; until 11 p.m. Dec. 13 - Dec. 23, and until 10 p.m. Dec. 27 - Dec. 31. Sunday service ends around 7 p.m.

NOTE: The trolley's route is included in the Holiday Parking Guide, below.



# Nordhoff

From page one

“Although the panel members came from a variety of sectors, including business, non-profits, and residents, they all spoke of a healthy, engaged and vibrant city, and their desire was these constructive relationships continue,” he says.

“I am looking forward to being a part of a team that makes every effort to provide top notch public services to the residents, businesses and visitors.”

Nordhoff holds a degree in accounting from Cal Poly – Pomona and recently graduated from the Executive Seminar at UC-Berkeley’s Goldman School of Public Policy.

He worked in the private sector as a licensed CPA before transitioning to the public sector 20 years ago.

He began working in San Rafael in 1996. As Assistant City Manager, he oversaw finance, human resources, information technology and parking.

He was named City Manager in 2005.

As Walnut Creek’s City Manager, he will earn an annual salary of \$220,000, and pay the entire “member” portion of 7 percent toward PERS retirement and contribute toward other benefits, in keeping with voluntary reductions in

# Get in on the glow: Holiday Tree Lighting

The Holiday Tree Lighting will take place on Friday, November 26 at 6 p.m. in Civic Park. Gather at the gazebo for carols and holiday music performed by the Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein, and watch the tree light up for the holiday season. We’ll also have a special visit from Santa Claus.

Afterwards, visit the Assembly Room in the Community Center where local businesses will host table displays of merchandise, food and beverage.

Kick off your holidays with friends, family and neighbors during this special event that will truly warm your heart.



Sparkling with promise for the season is the Holiday Tree at Civic Park.

compensation recently adopted by department directors.

He describes being a City Manager as a “high-wire act” in which one must find the right balance between process and product.

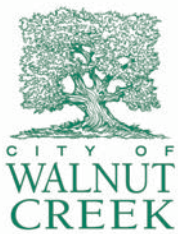
“You can do process to death, and never reach a conclusion,” he says.

Still, “I’ve learned along the way that although there is often a desire to get things done, sometimes it might be better to slow down and assess the situation;

you have to have good representation from the organization or community to ensure a first-rate outcome.”

He and his wife, Shawna, will move to Walnut Creek. They have a son and daughter, both in college. As recent empty-nesters, the thought of starting a new job in a new town holds special appeal.

“On both a personal and a professional level, it’s a good time for a change,” he said. “I hope to serve the Walnut Creek community for a long time.”



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

\* For appointment: Call 925-256-3504

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