



IN A Nutshell

No. 150

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek September/October 2010

Floating ideas for aquatics improvements

Walnut Creek's aquatics facilities are reaching the end of their useful lifespan and need to be replaced if the City is to maintain even the most basic learn-to-swim programs, according to a needs assessment presented to the City Council in August.

Both the Clarke Swim Center at Heather Farm Park and the Larkey Park pool are four decades old. Their mechanical systems require high levels of maintenance, they are too shallow to meet current competitive swim standards, and they lack contemporary features such as water slides, spraygrounds and social space that attract families and non-competitive swimmers.

After reviewing the needs assessment, the City Council on Aug. 3 gave the go-ahead to proceed with preliminary design work for new pools, construction cost estimates, and development of a funding plan in the event the pools are ultimately built.

This "phase two" work is paid for by special park and recreation funding that cannot be used for general purposes. This phase could take up to one year, and will include opportunities for public input.

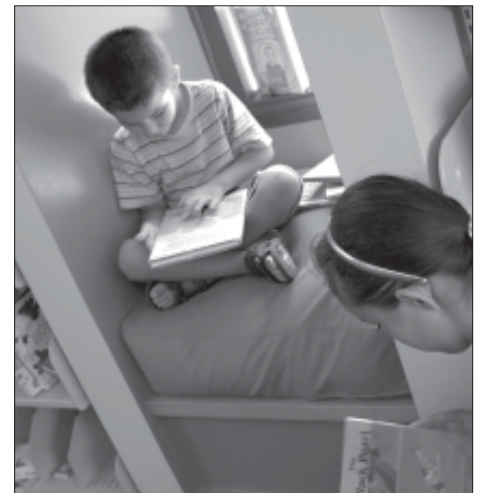


Photos by Liz Payne

Book lovers were everywhere on opening day – upstairs, downstairs – but there were still plenty of quiet nooks perfect for curling up with a good book, below right.

Now open! Crowds flock to new library

Some 8,500 people visited the new Walnut Creek Library when it opened July 17, checking out slightly more than 6,000 items. Since then, an average of 2,900 people per day have come to read, use the Internet, listen to stories or simply enjoy the public art and peaceful location in Civic Park. In the first two weeks, the library issued 2,500 new library cards. The library is open Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.



Walnut Festival returns with fun run, parade and carnival



September is Walnut Festival Month, and what better way to kick off the fall? This year's

theme is "Reach for the Stars." Activities include:

- ◆ **Walnut Festival Run for Education.** 8 a.m. Sept. 12. Walk or run for the Walnut Creek school of your choice. www.walnutfestivalrun.com.
- ◆ **Twilight Parade.** 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18 on Main Street. Marching bands, floats, schools, and community groups.

- ◆ **Walnut Festival.** Thursday, Sept. 23 through Sunday, Sept. 26, Heather Farm Park. Times vary; call 925-935-6766 or go to www.thewalnutfestival.org.
- ◆ **Fishing on the Pond.** 7:30-11:30 a.m. Sept. 25 and 26 at the lake at Heather Farm Park. Entry fee is \$5.

Quick Picks

September

2
Savor Walnut Creek
(story on page 3)

14
Author Gail Tsukiyama at Walnut Creek Library
(story on page 3)

23-26
Walnut Festival
(story on page 1)

October

5
Bedford Gallery reception "The American Scene"
(story on page 3)

24
Howe Harvest Festival
(story on page 4)

City Meetings

City Council
Sept. 21; Oct. 5, 19
7 p.m.
City Council chamber
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

Planning Commission
Sept. 9, 23; Oct. 14, 28
7 p.m.
City Council chamber

Arts Commission
Sept. 20
4:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Transportation Commission
Sept. 16, Oct. 21
7 p.m.
City Council chamber

Design Review Commission
Sept. 1, 15; Oct. 6, 20
7 p.m.
City Council chamber

Park, Rec & Open Space Commission
Sept. 13, Oct. 4
7 p.m.
City Council chamber

TV City Council, Planning and Design Review meetings are televised live on Comcast 28 (26 in Rossmoor), Astound 29 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99. Video of the meetings is streamed live and available on demand at walnutcreektv.org.

What's Happening

Labor Day Concert at Civic Park

Music Director Harvey Benstein will conduct the Walnut Creek Concert Band at its annual Labor Day Concert on Monday, Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. at the Civic Park gazebo. Admission is free.

Groovy Aquanuts swim through the 70s

The Walnut Creek Aquanuts presents a 1970s-themed synchronized swimming show at 8 p.m. Sept. 3-5 at the Clarar Swim Center at Heather Farm Park. A Sept. 2 preview show begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$20, adults; \$15, seniors; \$10, youths. Children five and under are free. Tickets are available at www.aquanuts.org or at Sports Basement in Walnut Creek. For more information visit www.aquanuts.org or call 925-934-4792.

Join a musical March-A-Thon on Sept. 11

Northgate High School's March-A-Thon steps off at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11 on Hutchinson Road. Walk, bike or dance with the band as it serenades along Las Lomas Way and Walnut Avenue, finishing up at the Northgate High School parking lot at noon. The March-A-Thon raises money for the school instrumental music programs. For information, call 925-768-3048.

Shadelands antiques show Sept. 12

Dozens of dealers offer a variety of collectibles and antiques for sale on Sunday, Sept. 12, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd. Tours of the museum will be given, and the Ygnacio Valley Commuter Lions' Club will sell food and beverages. Admission is free. Call 925-935-7871.

Gardens at Heather Farm fall plant sale

If you love gardening and want to support a great cause (horticultural therapy and teaching



Surrounded by storybook characters and fairytale princesses, Chevron Family Theatre Festival co-chair Gary Fisher prepares to cut the ribbon and launch the day's fun. The July 24 festival at the Leshar Center for the Arts drew more than 8,500 happy people. Fisher, a Chevron executive, is on the board of the Diablo Regional Arts Association.

gardens), then come to the Gardens at Heather Farm's plant sale, featuring healthy, water-wise plants suited to the Diablo Valley climate. Saturday, Sept. 18 from 9 a.m. - noon, 600 N. San Carlos Dr., behind the baseball fields in Heather Farm Park. To view the lists of plants available for sale, visit www.gardenshf.org. Call 925-947-1678.

Sept. 9 mobile shredding to benefit ARF

If excess paperwork is piling up, Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) can help. Box the documents and bring them to ARF on Thursday, Sep. 9, from 1-3 p.m. for safe, secure shredding — and not by cats! Shred Works will bring its mobile van to ARF's parking lot, 2890 Mitchell Dr. \$5 per box, with \$1 benefiting ARF. Regular-sized file storage boxes only, no oversize boxes. Contact Judy Bentley, 925-296-3154.

Become an advocate for a child in need

CASA of Contra Costa County recruits volunteers throughout the year to become advocates for children who, due to no fault of their own, are under the care of the Juvenile Court because of abuse, neglect or abandonment. CASA conducts prospective volunteer orientations in advance of training sessions that occur in the fall, winter and spring. To attend an orientation, call 925-256-7284 ext. 5 or go to www.cccocasa.org.

Tax-Aide seeking volunteers

Contra Costa County AARP Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers to become members of a team providing free tax preparation for individuals of all ages. Volunteers are trained by Tax-Aide and become IRS certified tax counselors. Other volunteer positions are available. Call LaVerne Gordon, District Coordinator, 925-405-5135. Orientation is in November and classes for tax counselors start in January 2011.



Author kicks off citywide 'book club' fall events

A special presentation by popular novelist Gail Tsukiyama will kick off the community events for *One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads 2010*. This year's book selection is Tsukiyama's *The Street of a Thousand Blossoms*, set in Japan both during and after World War II.

Tsukiyama's appearance is set for Tues., Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the new Walnut Creek Library. Seating is limited. Tickets are \$5 and will go on sale Sept. 1.

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

For more information or tickets to events, visit www.WalnutCreekReads.org or call 925-938-1481.

Downtown fall festivities planned

Enjoy the crisp days of fall with the following events sponsored by the Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association:

- **Savor Walnut Creek** — Thursday, Sept. 2, 7-11 p.m. — Enjoy dinner and dancing under the stars. A culinary celebration featuring samplings from local restaurants. \$25, includes two tasting tickets. Additional tasting tickets will be sold at the event.

- **Fall Wine Walk** — Wednesday, Sept. 15, 6-9 p.m. — Enjoy wine tasting while strolling through downtown Walnut Creek. Proceeds benefit the Walnut Creek Education Foundation and Northgate Pride Foundation.

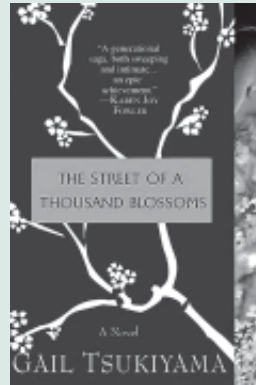
- **Pacific Fine Arts Sidewalk Festival** — Sept 24-26, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. North Main, Cypress & Locust streets

- **OktoberCreekFest 2010** — Friday, Oct. 1, 5-10 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 2, noon-10 p.m. Live music, beer, wine and German fare. Locust Street at Cypress and Mt. Diablo.

- **Downtown Trick-or-Treat** — Friday, Oct. 29, 2-6 p.m. at participating shops.

One City, One Book 2010 activities

Opening Event:
An Evening with Gail Tsukiyama
 Tuesday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m.
 Walnut Creek Library
 1644 N. Broadway
 Admission: \$5
 Tickets on sale Sept. 1



Special Events:
"Sumo East and West"
Documentary film on Sumo wrestling
 Thursday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.
 Walnut Creek Library
 1644 N. Broadway

"Theatre of Yugen"
Noh drama and Kyogen comedy
 Wednesday, Sept. 22, 7:15 p.m.
 Leshner Center for the Arts
 Admission: \$10

"Exploring Japanese Cuisine"
Dinner and Social Book Discussion
 Monday, Oct. 4, 6-8 p.m.
 Sasa Restaurant
 1432 N. Main St.
 Paid event. For reservations, 925-210-0188 after Sept. 1

Book Discussions:

Thursday, Sept. 16, 10 a.m.
 Fireside Room, Rossmoor
 (Rossmoor residents only)

Monday, Sept. 20, 7 p.m.
 Ygnacio Valley Library
 2661 Oak Grove Road

Thursday, Sept. 30, 12 noon
 Walnut Creek Library
 1644 N. Broadway

Visit www.WalnutCreekReads.org for tickets and the latest Events Calendar. Unless otherwise noted, all events are free.

Stunning works of the Great Depression



The Bedford Gallery presents *The American Scene: New Deal Art 1935-1943*, a stunning collection of work created during the Great

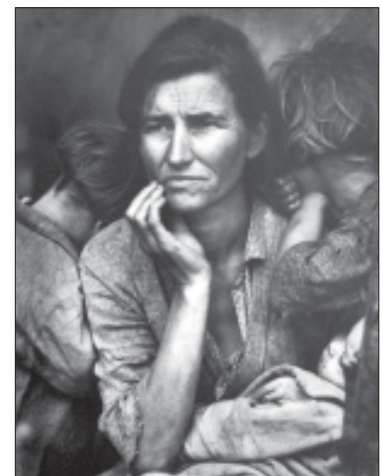
Depression as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA)'s Federal Art Project. The exhibition opens Oct. 3.

Developed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the WPA was the largest New Deal agency, employing millions to carry out public works projects. The Federal Art Project (FAP) put thousands of artists to work.

"During Roosevelt's presidency, America was grappling with an economic situation that feels all too familiar today," said Bedford Gallery Curator Carrie Lederer.

"Even in the midst of the Great Depression, Roosevelt's administration understood how essential art was to sustaining America's spirit. The FAP not only employed struggling artists but also provided them with a sense of pride in serving their country," said Lederer.

The exhibition includes photographs by American documentary photographer



Dorothea Lange
 Migrant Mother, 1936

Dorothea Lange (1895 – 1965). Lange's photographs humanized the tragic consequences of the Great Depression.

The American Scene: New Deal Art 1935-1943 was organized by Bedford Gallery Curator Carrie Lederer in collaboration with Harvey Smith, board president of the National New Deal Preservation Association.

A free public reception will be held Tuesday, Oct. 5 from 6-8 p.m. For more, go to www.bedfordgallery.org.



Open Space group raising funds for Acalanes Ridge

The Open Space Foundation is raising money to preserve 22 acres of open space on Acalanes Ridge adjacent to Walnut Creek's Open Space.

With 360 degree views of central county from the Carquinez Strait to Mt. Diablo and around to the Berkeley hills, the land offers respite for hikers and wildlife.

Earlier this year, the cities of Walnut Creek and Lafayette and the East Bay Regional Park District tapped into dedicated funds provided by Measure WW to contribute \$400,000 each toward the purchase of the land, with the proviso that Muir Heritage Land Trust raise the remaining \$450,000 and provide for future management of the property.

The Open Space Foundation is determined to help Muir Heritage Land Trust achieve that goal. A fund-raising campaign is under way.

Checks may be mailed to WCOSF, P. O. Box 309, Walnut Creek, CA 94597. For photos and more information, go to www.wcosf.org

Sustainable Contra Costa to hold Awards Gala

Sustainable Contra Costa - or SCOCO - will hold its second annual Awards Gala on Wednesday, Sept. 29 from 6-8:30 p.m. to recognize individuals and organizations that contribute to the well-being of the economy, environment and society in Contra Costa County.

The City of Walnut Creek received an award in 2009 for its leadership in sustainability and citizen engagement.

Jerry Hart, host of Smart Green Travel on Green 960AM radio will be the emcee. The reception will feature local wines and food from Sunrise Bistro and Nibblers.

The gala will be at the Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill. Go to www.sustainablecoco.org.



Photo by Bob Brittain

Volunteers help in the Open Space on a foggy morning.

Volunteers help out in the open space

By Nancy Dollard Dawson
Open Space Ranger

Thomas Jefferson is quoted as saying, "Too old to plant trees for my own gratification, I shall do it for my posterity."

For the benefit of the citizens of Walnut Creek, a group of very dedicated volunteers is doing just that. Since the purchase of the Open Space in the mid-1970s, Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation members have been planting trees, removing non-native and invasive plants, and rehabilitating the natural environment to benefit wildlife and those who enjoy spending time in the outdoors.

Volunteer opportunities through the Open Space Foundation can accommodate a wide range of talents, interests and schedules.

The Tuesday Group works primarily at the habitat restoration area at Bayberry Pond in Lime Ridge and at the native plant nursery in Walnut Creek. The First and Third Wednesday Group does a variety of habitat rehabilitation tasks throughout the Open Space as well as work at the Nature Area at Heather Farm.

On weekends, you will find the Oak Restoration Team out gathering, preparing

and planting acorns or watering and tending to the trees planted over the past 30 years. The Quail Habitat Restoration Team work can be seen in the wildlife corridor heading out of Borges Ranch into Shell Ridge and at the cattle enclosures in the drainage at North Lime Ridge.

More information can be found on the Foundation website, www.wcosf.org.

City recruiting volunteers for open space programs

The City of Walnut Creek Open Space Division is recruiting volunteers to work with city staff on projects throughout the Open Space and at the historic Borges Ranch in Shell Ridge. Volunteers are needed to help with maintenance projects to insure the safety of Open Space visitors and protection of the natural resources.

History Volunteers will be trained to conduct tours and serve as hosts at Old Borges Ranch, the early 1900s cattle ranch located in Shell Ridge.

Call Open Space Ranger Nancy Dawson Dollard at 925-943-5899 ext. 2135 or e-mail dollard@walnut-creek.org.

Howe Harvest Festival to be held October 24

The Howe Harvest Festival will be Sunday, Oct. 24, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Howe Homestead Park, 2950 Walnut Blvd. The festival celebrates the life of James P. Howe. Enjoy old-fashioned Harvest and Halloween activities for families, including

pumpkin carving, crafts, games, scarecrow making, a mysterious maze and professional storytellers.

Call 925-943-5899 ext. 3521 or e-mail Ranger Art Janke at Janke@walnut-creek.org for more information.



Quick tips for emergency kits

Want to build an emergency kit in case of disaster, but not sure where to begin? “Get Ready, Walnut Creek” offers simple tips to get started. Hosted by CERT graduates Dee Logan and Terrie MacFarlane, above, “Get Ready, Walnut Creek” is aired on Walnut Creek TV (check cable listings for channel) and on demand at www.walnutcreektv.org. (TIP: Did you know that you can use the water in your water tank if needed? Ideally, have seven gallons of water per person stored at all times, enough to last each person a week.)

Now's the time for Neighborhood Watch

With the school year starting and the days getting shorter, it's a good time to revisit



Neighborhood Watch. Neighborhood Watch started in the 1960's with crime and vandalism prevention as its goal. It is a collective agreement between residents to keep an eye on their neighborhood and report suspicious or criminal activity.

Our society has become so dependent on computers and smart phones to communicate that we've lost the face-to-face familiarity. Getting involved in a Neighborhood Watch group can help re-establish some of those connections that have been lost during these times of change. It also provides a network of trusted people who can communicate about what's happening in their area.

For a starter pack on how to form a Neighborhood Watch, contact Crime Prevention Coordinator Alicia White at 925-943-5885 white@walnutcreekpd.com.



Lt. Steve Skinner updates the media during a rally organized by supporters of former BART police officer Johannes Mehserle on July 19. Mehserle was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the shooting death of Oscar Grant of Oakland. Upon learning of the plans for the rally, Walnut Creek police developed and executed a strategy to manage what could have been a potentially volatile situation. Although the rally attracted about 500 people on both sides of the verdict, and several blocks of Ygnacio Valley Road were temporarily shut down for safety reasons, there were no injuries or property damage, and the rally ended peacefully prior to the evening commute.

Back-to-School safety tips from WCPD

By Alicia White
Crime Prevention Coordinator



It's that time of year again! Kids and parents alike are getting ready to go back to school, or may have already started. Here are some reminders to keep kids safe:

- ◆ Pay attention to traffic around the school. Children have very little regard for their own safety and are prone to darting out to catch a friend or runaway toy.
- ◆ Stay off your cell phone while driving, ESPECIALLY in the school zone.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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 child's friends and become acquainted with their parents.
- ◆ Reinforce your family rules for talking to strangers, going somewhere after school and checking in if your child goes home alone. Children need to know what is expected of them.
- ◆ 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 they need directions or 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. It doesn't hurt to teach them your employer's name and city as well. If your child needs help, it will be that much easier for police or medical personnel to find you.
- ◆ Even if you like your home to be quiet and calm, teach them that it's OK to yell and scream if they need help or are being hurt.
- ◆ 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!
- ◆ Lastly....enjoy this new school year! Have fun meeting new parents, teachers and students and look forward to all that school has to offer your child.

Development website seeks to simplify process

A new on-line “Development Center” seeks to simplify the development review process for residents, developers and contractors.

Like the real Development Center at City Hall, this virtual Development Center is intended to be a “one-stop shop” for all development-related questions and activities.

It provides answers to frequently asked questions as well as comprehensive overviews of the development review, building permit review, and grading permit (site development) review processes to help individuals understand what is required at project conception, construction, and completion.

The site was created by a Customer Service Team from the planning, building and engineering divisions. Go to www.walnut-creek.org/developmentcenter.

Savings, anyone? WC tennis center an economical option

The City’s Tennis Center at Heather Farm Park has a new operator, a fresh look, and some very affordable options.

Lifetime Tennis is offering a one-year “All You Can Play” adult tennis pass for \$175 (\$200 for non-residents) and \$120 for youth (\$140 for non-residents), with no initiation fee or monthly dues.

Thanks to a pro shop upgrade, players now enjoy a furnished lounge with new carpet, air conditioning, flat-screen TV, ice machine, dressing room and a new stringing machine. The center is staffed from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Private and group lessons are available, as well as year-round clinics, adult leagues and junior teams.

Tennis students, league players and match planners may use the online registration and reservation service at www.lifetimetennis.com.

For more information, go to www.lifetimetennis.com or call 925-945-0105. The Tennis Center is at 1751 Heather Drive, across from the Clarke Swim Center.



MAKING PARKING WORK The Downtown Parking Task Force continues its evaluation of strategies to make parking work in downtown Walnut Creek. Task Force meetings are open to the public and are usually from 8:30-10:30 a.m. the third Tuesday of the month; agendas and meeting notes are posted on the City’s website. From left, task force members Shelly Dress, Bob Power and Gina DeMatteo review a map detailing parking occupancy rates with Senior Transportation Planner Jeremy Lochirco.

Attention, Civic Arts Education students!

Civic Arts Education customers may notice some changes to the online registration process. The Arts, Recreation and Community Services department is transitioning to a single client ID and PIN to improve customer service and streamline access to both Civic Arts Education and Recreation classes.

Customers will be able to sign up for both arts and recreation courses through

the same EZ Reg system, all in a single transaction.

ALL Civic Arts Education students will need to create a new account if they haven’t been assigned one already, whether they register on-line, in person or by telephone. It only takes a minute to request a new account—just visit www.arts-ed.org. Please call 925-943-5846 with questions.

What’s playing this fall on Walnut Creek TV

In addition to City Council, Planning Commission and Design Review Commission meetings, Walnut Creek TV offers original programming highlighting the special services provided by the City and its community partners.

Catch concerts by the Walnut Creek Concert Band, check out the latest Bedford Gallery exhibition, get emergency preparedness tips on “Get Ready, Walnut Creek,” or go behind the scenes with Public Services with “City at Work.” And look for video of the Walnut Festival’s Twilight parade!



To see a weekly schedule, go to walnutcreektv.org or check the on-air TV Guide listings. Also, original programs are available “on demand” on the website.

Walnut Creek TV is available on Comcast 28 (26 in Rossmoor), Astound 29 and AT&T U-Verse 99. It is also streamed 24/7 on its website.

How to submit PSAs to WCTV

Walnut Creek TV’s on-air “Community Bulletin Board” is a great way for schools and non-profits serving the Walnut Creek community to get the word out about events, volunteer needs and fund-raisers. Simply email community@walnut-creek.org or call Producer Liz Payne at 925-943-5899 ext. 2136.



Thank you **Volunteers** to our great

On Saturday, July 17, more than **8,500** community members visited our new Walnut Creek Library. Thank you to the following volunteers who helped our visitors feel welcome and comfortable during the celebration.

Pam Abad - Paul Ralph Abad - Andrew C. Abesamis - Janet Abrams - Richard Abrams - Joy Addiego - Lisa Alessi - Doug Alvey - Angela Anastasion - Kristin Anderson - Joan Anderton - Alvin Aquino - Peter Armstrong - Linda Ausplund - Amy Bair - Christie Baird - Cynthia K. Baker - Marilyn Banks - Maria Baritell - Faith Barnidge - Aaron Bartholomew - Vita Baumbach - Marcia Bender - Rosemary Bennett Lawrence de Berry - Ed Best - Lu Bible - Adriane Lee Bird - Laurie Biundo - Paula Boas - Matt Bolender - Phyllis Bolton - Carol Ann Bonfiglio - Theresa L. Boyle - Andrea Bozym - Lindsey Bozym - Toni Bozym - Beth Brannock - Marilyn Bressler - Bob Brittain - Cindy Brittain - Penny Brody - Max Burchett - William Burgess - Franklin Burroughs - Rosemary Byrne - Clarita Cardenas-Velilla - Kim A. Carroll - Robert Carroll - Karen Cassano - Ron Cassano - Alicia Castelan - Phyllis Ceasar - Nina Chalmers - Jack Chamberlain - Melanie Chang - Erin Chen - Cedric C. Cheng - Kim Chi - Jill Chin - Beverly Christie - Andrew Clakeley - Susie Clark - Margaret Clarkson - Richard Clarkston - Kim Coles - Diane Colleen - Dianne Colville - Dick Condon - Conrad Contreras - Janice Costella - Patricia Coyle Ben Cranefield - Sue Crawford - Sue Cross - Diane Crowley - Carolyn Day - Scott Denison - Montana Dewberry - Jeanne Dilworth - Dwain Dolan - Shan Katie Dong - Karen Douglas - Thomas R. Draeger - Ben Drew - Richard D. DuBey Jr. - Courtney Egg - Patricia L. Eich Mary Jo Eigelberner - Holly Eliot - Jane Emanuel - Monica English - Primo Facchini - Annie Fanelli - Marie T. Fanelli - Noni Fanfa Barbara Farrenkopf - Bill Farrenkopf - Michael

Our New **W**ALNUT **C**REEK **L**IBRARY

Fotheringham - Carol Fowler - Lisa Fraser Furman - Carol Galas - Norman Gee - Ulla Geifman - Robin Gigoux - Penny Givens-Berry Gonzales - Artie Goodman - Jason Goodman Gracey - James Gracey - Mary Granzotto - Andrew Guilbeau - Sue Hamill - Jacquelyn Harrod - Erika Hart - Ed Hartman - Pauline Kelsey Hayden - Judy Heckman - Phillip Henri Judy Hirabayashi - Ralph Hoffmann - Charles Horan - Many Howard - Mary Ann Hruska - Hudock - Natalie Inouye - Bernice Iwamoto Jacobsen - Fara Javaherian - Penny Johansen Mitch Kell - Johnna Kelling - Norma Kelly - Sarah Kious - Kit Koelzer - Kristin Koelzer

Vahi Koka - Fred Kovar - Roswitha M. Kress - June Krug - Nancy Kubacki - Gay Laaback - Rob Laaback - Juliana Lai - Joan Laird - Yvonne Lalane - Rajwant K. Lally - Katie Lanfranki - Nick LaSalle - Patt Lass - Jeanie Lechuga - Carrie Lederer - Brooke Lennox - Gwenn Lennox - Catherine Leutzinger - Kevin Leutzinger - Meredith Leutzinger - Charlotte Lew - Sam Lew - Beatrice Littlejohn - Jean Liu Dee Logan - Joyce Long - Antonia Lowe - Muriel Luck - Carla Ludwig - Cindy Luke - Sheri Lund - Carla Lundstrom - Rita Mackay Margaret Ann Mar - Jean Marana - Don Marini - Rosemary Mark - Denise Mathews - Rosemary Mazzetti - Judy Mcmahon - Sue McCann - Susan McCaul - Pete McCorkell - Dorothy McDonald - Loraine McDonald - Gaye McDuff - Kathy McEwen - Kelly McGinnis Michelle McInerney - Elyse McIntire - Nell McIntosh - Merle McQueen - Lynn Meisch - Patricia Merrill - Kay Merritt - Ruth Mersmann Norman J. Meshriy - Pat Mill - Charles Mitchell - Lois Mitchell - Donna Montana - Ed Montgomery - Mary Alice Montgomery - Jim Moore - Kimberly Moore - Laurie Moore - Ted Moreland - Diana Morello - Anne Morgan - Mary Lou Mull - Molly Mullikin - Brian Murphy - Kara Navolio - Kathy Nelson - Meg Newton - Jean Nobbe - Lou Nobbe - Nancy O'Hanna - Patrice Olds - Sylvia Ortlieb - Katherine Palmbaum - Lori Pang - Liz Payne - Rebecca Pearl - Margo Peckham - Amy Pennington - Wendy Peterson - Charles Pettler Ruth Pettler - Bob Pincus - Gloria Pincus - Steve Pino - Bob Podlech - Beatrice Pressley - Lynne Prins - Ward Pynn - Dick Rainey - Sue Rainey - Navaganapati Rajasegaran - Julia Rangel - Kenneth Rangel - Robin Kokemor Rangel - Ann Raymond - Dennis Reichard - Sally Rice - Ken Richard - Linda Robbins - Robert Rodriguez - Sheila Rogstad - Diana Romero - Melissa Romero - Alice Ropchan - Nancy Rothermich - Anna Rybakina - Kevin Safine - Lisa M. Salvetti - Diane Schaefer - Ada Schoch - Nancy Schultz - Mary Scott - Sandra Scott-Jones - Nancy Seligman - Richard L. Shaw - T.J. Sheridan - Stephen M. Shields - Cheryl Sibthorp - Jim Siemons - Cindy Silva - Katie Silva - Maxine Slenes - Howard Smalheiser - Catherine Smith - Ellen Smith - Niki Sohrabpour - Pat Solvick - Dina Sorth - Barney Speckman - Nancy Speckman - Evan A. Stackpole - Emily Stewart - Jean Stewart - Brittany Sullivan - Colleen Sullivan - Paula Tang - Connor Taylor - LeeAnna Teed - Linda Thaning - Benjamin Thomas - Emilia Threlkeld - Lorie Tinfow - Paula Tint - Mike Tischler - James Touri - Todd Trimble - Kathy Tuggle - Michael Underwood - Sue Underwood - Gayle Vassar - Mardi Veiluva - Audrey Veregge - Mel Veregge - Bill Wadsworth - Ginger Wadsworth - Kathaleen Waeny - Deb Wainscott - Karrie Wainscott - Zoe Kirsh Wainscott - Jennifer Wakeman - Beverly Walker - Deborah Walker - Wendy Wallis - Ann Watrous - Bernie Wolf - Evan Woo - Brian Workman - Pat Worthly - Carlyn Wright - Jane Wulff - Peggy Yamada - Jim Yoder - Darin Young - Dana Yzurkiaga - Maddie Yzurkiaga - Renee Zeimer - Yingsi Zhang

WONDER

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Finding a balanced solution to a challenging budget

The City Council approved a combination of nearly 125 budget recommendations – some big, some small – to close an unprecedented \$20 million — or 16 percent — gap and achieve a balanced 2010-12 budget.

The recommendations incorporated input gathered from the community during the “Community Conversation on Balancing for the Future” workshops held in 2009. Participants defined what was most important to them in achieving the overall goals set by the Council:

- ◆ A safe community
- ◆ Culture, recreation and learning opportunities
- ◆ Economic vitality
- ◆ Effective transportation and mobility options
- ◆ Stewardship of the natural and built environment
- ◆ Strong neighborhoods and a sense of community

Staff then evaluated all programs and services against their ability to meet the community’s priorities, and used the results to help develop a budget



recommendation for the City Council to consider.

The final budget used a mix of cost reductions, fee and other revenue increases, savings from the previous budget, and reserves to develop a balanced budget plan.

Among actions on the new revenue side, the Police Department plans to establish a tow yard, and a variety of fees, from room rentals to some building-related permits, will increase.

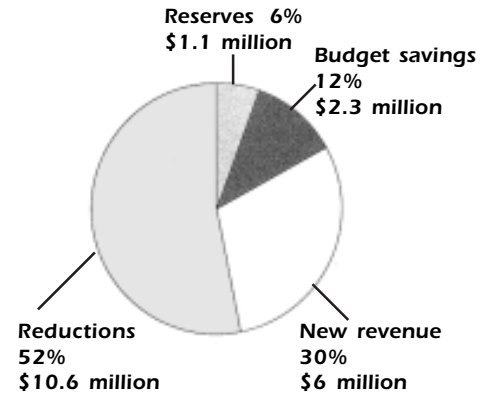
Staff was cut by the equivalent of 30 full-time employees, bringing the total number of full-time equivalent employees to 336.

Since the 2006-08 high of 391 full-time equivalent employees, staff has been reduced by 18 percent.

More reductions are likely as the City looks to contract out additional services.

The grim financial picture was the result of a “perfect storm” of declining revenues resulting from the recession, rising employee costs in health care and

HOW WE BALANCED THE 2010-12 BUDGET



other benefits, and ongoing State takeaways.

Since it passed the 1992, the State has taken more than \$36 million in property taxes from Walnut Creek alone, and the “taking” continues.

In 2009-10, the State took \$1.7 million in property taxes from the City and an additional \$1.38 million from our Redevelopment Agency.

The 2010-12 Budget is posted on the City website, www.walnut-creek.org.

	CITY COUNCIL Sue Rainey, Mayor* Cindy Silva, Mayor pro tem Bob Simmons Kish Rajan Gary Skrel	ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF CITY MANAGER Gary F. Pokorny CITY ATTORNEY Paul Valle-Riestra CITY CLERK Patrice Olds CITY TREASURER Ronald Cassano	ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES Lorie Tinfow, Director/Assistant City Manager ARTS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES Barry Gordon, Director COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Sandra Meyer, Director POLICE Joel Bryden, Chief of Police PUBLIC SERVICES Heather Ballenger, Director
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INA **Nutshell**

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