

IN A

# Nutshell

No. 142

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

MAY/JUNE 2009

## Topping out



A crowd of 100 eager onlookers watched as the final beam, signed by everyone in attendance, was hoisted into place atop the Walnut Creek Library on March 4. The library project is scheduled to be completed in summer 2010. For details, go online to [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org) and click on "Library" under "Quick Links."

### City manager's message

## City and partners talk budget reality

By Gary Pokorny, City Manager

As part of our ongoing efforts to meet the challenges of a downturn in the local economy, the City this spring is conducting an important dialogue with the various non-profit partners that have depended on City contributions to help sustain their programs and services over the years.



Gary Pokorny

The City is facing a \$3.5 million shortfall in 2009-10 and worse in later years. We must make difficult spending cuts that will affect our valued community partners.

Walnut Creek wants to share timely

**BUDGET NEWS, see page 6**

## City to remember fallen patriots on Memorial Day

A remembrance of the two Walnut Creek soldiers who died in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars will be the highlight of the City's Memorial Day Observance on Monday, May 25.

The public ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. in Civic Park, corner of North Broadway and Civic Drive.

Mayor Gary Skrel will speak in memory of U.S. Army Corporal Sean K.A. Langevin and Spc. James Coon, both of Walnut Creek, who were killed in action in 2007 in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The keynote speaker will be Mike

**MEMORIAL DAY, see back page**

## City launches new, improved website

The City in March launched a totally redesigned and improved website that features easier navigation and search capabilities.

The website address is the same: [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org)

More than a year in the making, the new website was built by Pixelpushers, Inc., whose popular Civica website software is used by cities across California.

The colorful homepage now includes easier links for residents, visitors, and businesses, a community calendar, and



The new website offers more features for easier navigation.

new links to help people find what they're looking for faster and easier.

Users can access streaming video of City Council meetings and information about every City program and service.

## City Event Calendar

### May

16-17

#### Art on the Main

10 a.m.-6 p.m.; free  
Main Street

25

#### Memorial Day Ceremony

10 a.m., Civic Park, free  
(see story, page 1)

### June

6-7

#### Art & Wine Festival

11 a.m. both days; free  
Heather Farm Park  
Call 925-934-2007

29

#### Opera in the Park

Festival Opera Company  
6 p.m., free  
Civic Park gazebo

## City Meeting Calendar

#### City Council

May 5, 19; June 2, 16  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber  
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

#### Planning Commission

May 14, 28; June 11, 25  
7 p.m.; Council chamber

#### Arts Commission

May 18  
4:30 p.m.; Council chamber

#### Transportation Commission

May 21, June 18  
7 p.m.; Council chamber

#### Design Review Commission

May 6, 20; June 3, 17  
7 p.m.; Council chamber

#### Park, Rec & Open Space Commission

May 4, June 1  
7 p.m.; Council chamber

 City Council meetings are televised live on Comcast Channels 28 and 26 (unincorporated), and on Astound Channel 29. They are repeated the following Sunday at 1 p.m. on all. Video of the meetings is also available online at [walnut-creek.org](http://walnut-creek.org)

## Wax portraits to be featured at Bedford Gallery

Hot wax painting, an ancient technique used thousands of years ago to create Egyptian mummy portraits, will be showcased in the next exhibition at the City's Bedford Gallery.

*Working in Wax*, which runs May 3 – June 21, will feature a variety of examples of hot wax painting, also known as encaustic painting, which involves using heated beeswax to which colored pigments are added.

This national juried exhibition will feature some of the most renowned artists working in this



Maria Porges, *Wax Screamers*, 2008

medium today and will provide an arena for educating other artists and students about the past and possibilities of working in wax.

In conjunction with the juried show, Bedford Gallery will also be presenting the work of Bay Area wax artist Maria Porges, known for her evocative sculpture in a range of different media.

Located in the Leshner Center for the Arts, the Bedford Gallery is open Tuesday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 6-8 p.m. General admission is \$3 (free on Tuesdays).

For more information, go online to [www.bedfordgallery.org](http://www.bedfordgallery.org)

## What's Happening

### Arts, Adventures & Academics for kids

Arts, Adventures & Academics is a unique summer school provided by the Walnut Creek School District and Civic Arts Education, a program of the City of Walnut Creek. Classes for boys and girls entering grades K-9 will be held June 22-July 24 at Walnut Creek Intermediate School, 2425 Walnut Blvd. Full-day and half-day programs are available. Call 925-943-5846 or visit [www.walnut-creek.org/thingstodo/cae/aaa](http://www.walnut-creek.org/thingstodo/cae/aaa)

### Shadelands Antiques Show slated June 14

Over 80 dealers will be selling their antiques and collectibles at the Shadelands Antiques Show on Sunday, June 14, 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.

### Mother's Day Buffet at Boundary Oak

A delicious Mother's Day Buffet will be served at The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak on Sunday, May 10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 925-934-3600 for details.

### Mark Twain's 'ghost' at Civic Park May 4

McAvoy Layne will perform as "The Ghost of Mark Twain" in a free program on May 4, 2:30 p.m., in the Civic Park Assembly Hall, 1375 Civic Dr. Presented by the Walnut Creek Library Foundation and the Contra Costa County Library. Call 925-646-6773 for more information.

### Aquanuts' 'Night of Champions' May 30

The Walnut Creek Aquanuts synchronized swim team will present its annual "Night of Champions" show May 30, 2-6 p.m., at Heather Farm Park. The event will feature dining and a silent auction. Call 925-934-4792 for details.

### DLOC's 50th birthday celebration May 31

Diablo Light Opera Company will celebrate its 50th birthday with a free concert at Civic Park gazebo on Sunday, May 31, 5 p.m. featuring performances from *Hello Dolly* and *Guys and Dolls*.

### Gardens at HF seeking tour guides

The Gardens at Heather Farm is seeking individuals interested in being garden docents. Training is required and will be offered in June. Call 925-947-1678 or go to [www.gardenshf.org](http://www.gardenshf.org)

### Downtown WC Flower Stroll, Wine Walk

The Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association is planning two upcoming events:

- **Walnut Creek Downtown Flower Stroll** on Saturday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Check in at City Hall, 1666 No. Main St. Stroll and receive a flower at all participating downtown stores. No need to pre-register; the event is free.
- **Downtown Wine Walk** on Wednesday, June 24, 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets for the Wine Walk are \$25. For details on both activities, go to [www.walnutcreekdowntown.com](http://www.walnutcreekdowntown.com) or call the Downtown Business Association at 925-933-6778.

### WC Swim Club inviting new members

The City-sponsored Walnut Creek Swim Club invites youths ages 4 to 18 to join the team this summer. The 48-year-old club offers excellent coaching, supervised social activities, and swim meets. Visit [www.walnutcreekswimclub.org](http://www.walnutcreekswimclub.org)

### Cake and Sugar Art Show May 16

The third annual Cake and Sugar Art Show, in support of the City's Recreation Division, will be Saturday, May 16, noon-4 p.m., at Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr. Admission \$3-\$5. For details, call 925-932-0436.

## Council to decide latest proposal for Neiman Marcus

The City Council is scheduled to make its final decision May 5 on the latest proposal to open a Neiman Marcus store in Broadway Plaza.

The action will follow on the heels of a public study session and hearing scheduled before the Council April 21.

The Macerich Company, owners of Broadway Plaza, is seeking approval to build the new, smaller store on the site of the former David M Brian store at South Main Street and Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

The new proposal calls for reducing the height of the building from 50 to 35 feet and creating 175 more public parking spaces by using auto lifts and attendant parking for Broadway Plaza employees only on the first and fifth floors of the existing five-level parking garage.

The Planning Commission held hearings on Feb. 26, Mar. 12, and April 2.

The Council on May 5 will act on a general plan amendment, zoning change, and a development agreement.

## New jump house permits required in City parks

Families using jump houses at City parks will now need a \$40/day permit.

Jump houses are popular, inflatable bounce enclosures that are currently

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

Join the City of Walnut Creek for a fun family celebration of its frontier days at the annual Heritage Day event on Saturday, June 13 at Borges Ranch in the Shell Ridge Open Space.

The event is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Parking will be available at Northgate High School for \$5 per family for a quick shuttle ride up to Old Borges Ranch. Among the many activities planned are games, crafts, farm animals, music, and more.

The carriage barn will show movies from the Niles Essanay Silent Movie Museum and Andreas Koch's video presentations on how the western way of life is being preserved in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Inside the historic 1899 Borges Ranch house, home crafts will be demonstrated by the Treadles to Thread spinning group



Historic Borges Ranch house

and quilting will be featured by the Contra Costa Quilter's Guild.

Other activities will include storytelling by the Delta Word Weavers, dancing demonstrations by the Diablo Mountain Cloggers, and the folk

and children's music of Big Foot will also be featured.

Pleasant Hill 4-H members will provide demonstrations of the animals that live at Borges Ranch.

Open Space Ranger Bruce Weidman will demonstrate the art of blacksmithing. Children's pony rides will be provided by Castle Rock Arabians.

Food will be available for purchase or bring a picnic basket for a family picnic at the adjacent Hanna Grove picnic area.

Old Borges Ranch is part of the City's Open Space Division and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information on Heritage Day, contact Open Space Ranger Dan Bylin at [bylin@walnut-creek.org](mailto:bylin@walnut-creek.org) or by phone at 925/943-5899 ext. 2162.

## Center REP's 43rd season announced

Walnut Creek's Center REPeritory Co., the City's professional theatre company, has announced an ambitious schedule for its 43rd subscription season at the Leshner Center for the Arts.

Running from September 3, 2009 through June 26, 2010, the season will be expanding Center REP's programming to include eight productions to be performed in all three theatres of the Leshner Center for the Arts. From the music of Elvis Presley to the suspense of Agatha Christie, Center REP's 2009-10 season will delight audiences while featuring the works of Caryl Churchill, Noël Coward, Reduced Shakespeare Company, Michael Frayn, and five-time Emmy Award nominee Harold Gould.

"The 09-10 lineup is a big, adventurous season for us," says Artistic Director

permitted at Heather Farm, Arbolado, Walden, and Tice Valley parks.

For details, contact the Recreation Division at 925-943-5858.

Michael Butler. "We've got Elvis and Agatha. We're continuing a great holiday tradition and inaugurating a new idea with our *Off Center* season. We've got two extraordinary teams of artists returning to Center REP – one to present something brand new and the other to revive the hit that made them an international sensation. And we've got one of the funniest plays ever, and one very moving piece starring the wonderful Harold Gould."

A variety of subscription packages, ranging from \$128 to \$522, can be purchased by calling 925-943-7469.

For more information go to [CenterREP.org](http://CenterREP.org) or call 925-943-7469, or visit the LCA Ticket Office at 1601 Civic Drive or the Ticket Office Outlet at Barnes & Noble in Walnut Creek.



### Center REP 2009-10 season:

- ◆ *All Shook Up*  
September 3 – October 10, 2009
- ◆ *Agatha Christie's Witness for the Prosecution*  
October 22 – November 21, 2009
- ◆ *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*  
December 10 - 20, 2009
- ◆ *Trying* (starring Harold Gould)  
January 28 – February 27, 2010
- ◆ *Noises Off*  
April 1 – May 1, 2010
- ◆ *A Marvelous Party: The Noël Coward Celebration*  
May 20 – June 26, 2010

### Off Center season:

- ◆ *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*  
November 12 - 14, 2009  
Reduced Shakespeare Company
- ◆ *A Number*  
January 21 – February 7, 2010

# TEEN FRIENDLY

## WC Youth Council making a difference

**T**hese are the teens you want to read about in the newspaper — the unsung youths who are doing good deeds for their community and helping the grown-ups better understand what teens really want.

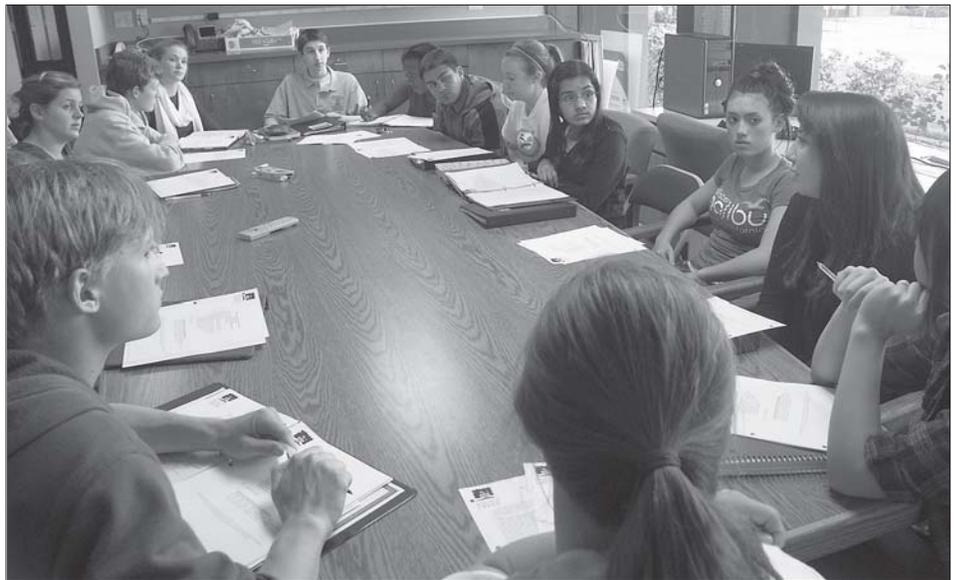
They belong to the Walnut Creek Youth Council, an energetic group of 20 teenagers (grades 7-12) who provide valuable advice on all things teen to the City Council and the Park, Recreation, and Open Space Commission.

“I want to represent the teen population and have a say in the community,” says Katie Lanfranki, 16, a sophomore at Las Lomas High School who has served on the Youth Council for four years. “I just want to make the city more teen friendly.”

Council president Daniel Weinstein, an 18-year-old senior from Northgate High School, agrees: “The City Council and commissions need teen input — we speak on behalf of the teens in Walnut Creek.”

Daniel, who has been a Youth Council member for four years, thinks it has been successful in making Walnut Creek more “teen friendly” and providing more safe and fun events for teens.

Over the years, the Youth Council has provided a teen perspective on the Heather Farm Master Plan, Downtown



Above, the Walnut Creek Youth Council holds a meeting at the Heather Farm Community Center. At right, member Katie Lanfranki listens to president Daniel Weinstein make a point.

Library Project, Heather Farm Skate Park, and General Plan 2025.

And when they’re not dispensing valuable advice, the Youth Council has a full plate of community responsibilities, including:

- Sponsoring teen events and programs such as dances, job fairs, and outdoor movies.
- Serving the local community through a variety of service programs including Adopt-a-Family, the Gift Giving Tree, the Senior Anniversary Party, Movies Under the Stars, and the Spring Egg Hunt.

Lauren Sipich, 17, a Las Lomas senior and five-year veteran of the Youth Council, says the group was instrumental in providing input during the planning of the new library.

“I think it’s really important to Walnut



Creek because we definitely stand for what the teens want,” she says.

New members will be recruited this spring to fill vacant seats in the fall. For more information, contact advisor Lisa Geerlof at 925-943-5899, ext. 2424.

## Bedford Gallery resumes Art Tours

**T**he Bedford Gallery Docents are once again offering guided walking tours of Walnut Creek’s prime public art works.

Tours will be offered at 11 a.m. the second Saturday of every month. Admission is \$5 and includes a free pass to the Bedford Gallery. The 45-minute tour departs from the Bedford inside the Leshner Center at 1601 Civic Drive.

Special group tours are also available for 15 or more by reservation only.

For details, call 925-295-1417.

## New library story panels go up



Colorful new story panels that provide a self-guided tour and other information about the new Walnut Creek Library and its community spaces have been placed along the fence outside the construction site near Lincoln Avenue by the Walnut Creek Library Foundation.



# Park it here

**P**arking in downtown Walnut Creek is easier than you think, with more than 7,000 parking spaces located both on and off the street.

Besides the free private parking lots that operate at Broadway Plaza, Plaza Escuela, Broadway Pointe, The Corners, Olympia Place, and at numerous other stores and restaurants, the City operates three public garages (see map below for locations).

The City's garages may be the most convenient deal in town, as they still only cost 50 cents/hour, up to a maximum of \$3 a day. Compare that to downtown on-street parking meter rates of \$1/hour, or most private lots, which have a time limit.

There is usually parking available on the upper floors at the City parking structures, and the City's Free Ride Trolley stops at or near both Locust Street garages.

## New electric charge stations in City garages

**T**he City has installed electric charge stations in each of its downtown parking garages for the use of owners of plug-in electric cars.

Walnut Creek, the first city in Contra Costa County to do so, joins the cities of San Jose and San Francisco to offer Coulomb Technologies public network charging stations for electric vehicles (EV).

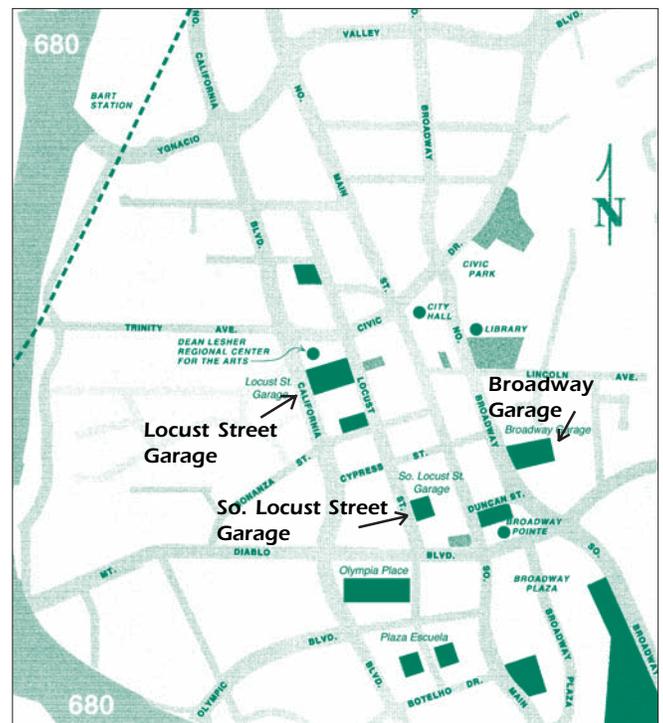
The charging stations are available to drivers who subscribe to the ChargePoint Network, which makes it possible for drivers to find unoccupied charging stations via web-enabled cell phones.

"We're on the forefront of this technology," said City business manager Matt Huffaker.

There is a \$3 fee for each charging session, and stations offer both 110 and 220 voltage, Huffaker said.

"Our goal is to find out how great the demand is for this service," he said. "We hope to expand it. As more and more electric cars come into the market, the City will have the infrastructure to accommodate these vehicles."

**7,000  
parking  
spaces await  
eager  
shoppers in  
downtown  
WC**



## For off-street parking, try a City garage

### Locust Street Parking Garage (664 spaces)

1625 Locust Street (next to the Lesher Center for the Arts)

**Hours:** Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-3 a.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m.-3 a.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 a.m. (in January, it will open at 8 a.m. on Sundays)

### Broadway Parking Garage (464 spaces)

1390 No. Broadway (at Cypress Street)

**Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 6 a.m.-12 a.m.; Friday-Saturday, 5 a.m.-12 a.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

### South Locust Street Parking Garage (250 spaces)

1350 Locust Street (between Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Cypress Street)

**Hours:** Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-3 a.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m.-3 a.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 a.m.

Parking is 50 cents/hour (up to a maximum of \$3) before 6 p.m. Users entering any City garage after 6 p.m. will pay a \$2 flat fee (unless parked for less than one hour, then the rate remains 50 cents/hour). Holiday hours for all three garages are the same as Sundays.

## City Council Update

### New commissioners named

The City Council on March 3 officially appointed five new commissioners and reappointed four veteran commissioners:

#### Appointments:

##### Park, Recreation & Open Space

- Tom Worthy (replacing Dave Osorio)
- Carla Zambon-Ludwig (to a 3-year term replacing Ed Montgomery)

##### Transportation

- Danny Yost Jr. (to a 1-year term to fill Councilmember Kish Rajan's unexpired term)
- Thomas O'Toole (to a 3-year term replacing Emily Chang).

##### Planning

- Kristina Lawson (to a 3-year term to fill Council member Bob Simmons' unexpired term)

#### Reappointments:

##### Design Review Commission

- Mark Lopez (to a second 3-year term)

##### Park, Recreation and Open Space

- Dan Lawrence (to a second 3-year term)

##### Planning

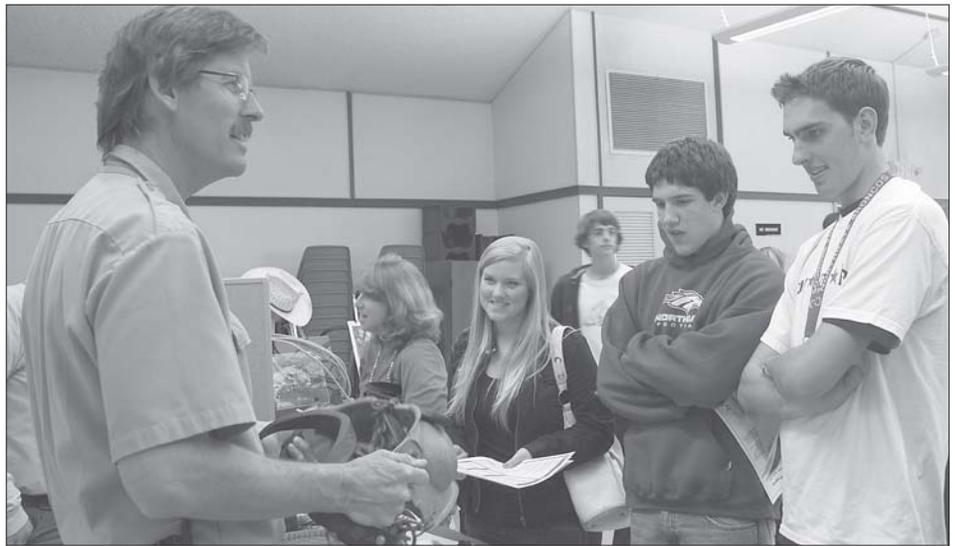
- Jon Malkovich (to a second 4-year term)
- Matt Francois (to his first 4-year term following his appointment in 2007 to fill the unexpired term of Barry Slavin)

##### Transportation

- Kevin Wilk (to his first 3-year term following his appointment in 2008 to fill the unexpired term of Laurie Kozisek)

##### Contra Costa County Mosquito and Vector Control District

- Nancy Brownfield (to a fourth 4-year term as Walnut Creek's representative)



## Searching for summer jobs

Borges Ranch Open Space Ranger Dan Bylin, left, talks to high school students interested in a summer job with the City at the annual Teen Jobs Fair on March 12. More than 500 students and their parents attended the event, hoping to learn more about the 100 paid summer jobs (including lifeguards, camp counselors, and interns) that are available to qualified Walnut Creek residents this year.

## City continues water conservation

As the region braces for its third consecutive drought year, the City of Walnut Creek is continuing its ongoing efforts to conserve water in parks, streets, and buildings.

The East Bay Municipal Utility District, which serves approximately 60 percent of Walnut Creek, has asked the City to comply with a 15 percent voluntary reduction in water use this year in response to another dry winter.

Public Services Manager Dan Cather said the City is continuing its long-standing water conservation policies by swapping out water-needy plants with drought-tolerant plants in parks, medians,

and downtown.

He said more efficient water sprinkler heads have been installed in parks and sports fields, and computer-controlled irrigation systems are in place to fine tune the timing and targeting of watering.

## Budget news

### From front page

information with them about what is happening to us. We want everyone to be aware of what's going on.

For example, the City Council last year decided to reduce City subsidies by 25% to a number of our non-profit partners in 2009-10. We made this announcement a year in advance to give these groups an opportunity to adjust their budget expectations accordingly.

However, since then we have experienced a major economic downturn in auto sales, housing values, and employment that has had a dramatic impact on the local economy, and as a result, City revenues.

The unfortunate reality is that the City is simply no longer able to do "business as usual." The new state of the City requires major changes in how we financially assist our non-profit partners, even as we acknowledge their invaluable contributions to the community.

## Creating downtown vision, 10-year CIP plan top goals for City Council

City Council members want to formulate a 10-year plan for new capital projects, create a downtown vision, and restructure how the City does business.

Those were the top three priorities for 2009 that emerged out of the Council's day-long strategic planning workshop on Feb. 27.

During the special meeting, which was also attended by City Manager Gary Pokorny and all City Department Directors, the Council identified the following five

priorities:

1. 10-year Capital Investment Plan (establishing priorities for facility renovation and new facilities)
2. Create a downtown vision (transportation, parking management)
3. Restructuring how the City does business in the long-term (e.g., increase efficiency, assess programs and services, explore new revenue sources)
4. Public involvement in shaping a vision for Walnut Creek's future
5. Economic development

## Foreclosures & crime: How to be on guard

By Amy Doyle  
Crime Prevention Coordinator

The nationwide crisis in home foreclosures and bankruptcies has everyone on their toes. As foreclosure rates skyrocket and residents move out of neighborhoods, crime moves in. A 2006 study showed that for each percentage point that this rate increases, neighborhood crime rises 2.33 percent. Of the approximately 700 homes for sale in Walnut Creek this spring, 124 are foreclosures and 33 are bankruptcies.

When a neighborhood experiences numerous foreclosures, thefts often occur. Burglars loot abandoned houses, taking electrical appliances and copper wiring or scrap metal. Squatters move in to escape the weather, some even starting fires inside to keep warm. Occasionally, even criminals begin to live or conduct business in the vacant homes.

There are several things you can do to help prevent this from occurring in your neighborhood. One is to engage your neighbors about joining the City's Neighborhood Watch program. A growing number of Walnut Creek residents are actively involved in Neighborhood Watch programs.

Also, keep an eye on any vacant properties in your neighborhood. If you notice that one of them is illegally occupied, contact the Police Department.

If the home begins to become an eyesore, alert the listing agent about its deteriorating condition. A new state law requires the legal owner to maintain a vacant residential property purchased through foreclosure. The owner must also take action to prevent trespassers or squatters from remaining on the property.

To join Neighborhood Watch, please call (925) 943-5885.

## Free vacation house checks available

Beginning May 1, the Walnut Creek Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) will begin taking requests for vacation house checks.

To sign up for a free house check, go online to [www.walnutcreekpd.com](http://www.walnutcreekpd.com) to download a request form or call 925-256-3525 to have a form mailed to you.

## Toss out unwanted medications at City Hall drop-off bin

Unwanted or outdated medications may now be safely dropped off in a new Pharmaceutical Disposal Collection Box in the lobby of City Hall on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Medications may be bagged (pills may be placed in a sealed baggie). Liquid containers should be sealed in a plastic bag to prevent spills. Items NOT accepted include needles, lancets, pen needles or any other "sharps," aerosol cans, bloody or infectious wastes, hydrogen peroxide, thermometers, and IV bags. For more information, call 1-800-646-1431.



Cindy Milano of Walnut Creek uses the Pharmaceutical Disposal Collection Box



Sgt. Joe Donleavy with Kar

Photo by Tammy Keagy

## Donations help to add new member to WC Police K-9 unit

The Police Department welcomed a second German shepherd to its K-9 unit in April when Kar joined Orfas on the duty roster to assist in sniffing out narcotics and people.

Kar, who lives with his handler, Sgt. Joe Donleavy, was made available to the City through generous donations from WCDog (Walnut Creek Dog Owners Group), \$9,000; and Safeway and Milk-Bone, \$5,000.

To make a donation to WCDog for the K-9 program, visit their website at [www.wcdog.org](http://www.wcdog.org) or send a check to WCDog/K9, P.O. Box 120, 1839B Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

## Time to 'Bike to Work' on May 14

Bike-To-Work Day is Thursday, May 14. All residents are encouraged to ride their bike to work or school. Stop by one of the Energizer Stations in Walnut Creek during commute hours and pick up a tote bag full of goodies.

Walnut Creek has unveiled a pilot program that offers City staff the use of bicycles for site inspections or other local City business. An initial fleet of two bicycles has been assembled in a grass-roots effort by City

staff to support alternative transportation modes instead of using city vehicles for close-by field inspections.

A new Bicycle Safety Brochure has been developed by the Transportation Planning Division and is ready for public circulation. Stop

by City Hall or call 943-5899, ext. 2251 to get your free copy.

New bike racks and two new lockers have been added at Plaza Escuela as part of the recent improvements. Stop by and enjoy!



## 2008 Employees of the Year honored for outstanding service

They exemplify the highest standards of public service, and for that, Gayle Vassar and Karlan Larson were recognized Feb. 24 as the 2008 recipients of The Rosie Coan Award, honoring them as the City's Employees of the Year.

Each received a plaque and recognition from City Manager Gary Pokorny.

Vassar, who joined the City staff in 2000, is the community relations manager who coordinates the CERT and Citizens' Institute programs, as well as organizes community events such as "Going Green



**Gayle Vassar and Karlan Larson**

Together" in October 2007. She was cited for her energy, work ethic, and style.

Larson, a six-year veteran, is a senior traffic maintenance worker. He was lauded for leadership skills that helped his crew achieve high productivity.

**Volunteer Max Mataraso, 10, pulled debris out of the Walnut Creek channel in 2008.**



## Helpers needed for Creek Clean Up Day

Volunteers are again being asked to help remove a year's worth of debris from Walnut Creek's three downtown creeks during the 20th annual Creek Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 9.

Volunteers should sign up by 9:30 a.m. at Civic Park, corner of Civic Drive and North Broadway, where they can also pick up plastic trash bags. A free barbecue lunch for all participants will follow the activity.

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

## Memorial Day

### From front page

Conklin of the Sentinels of Freedom. The Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein will perform.

The United States Marine Corps color guard will lay a wreath at the flagpole in the Veterans Memorial Plaza to conclude the ceremony.

## Go green: renew business licenses online

For the second year, most Walnut Creek businesses will be able to renew their City business licenses online at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org).

For fiscal year 2009-10, business

licenses can again be renewed on the City's website by clicking on "Quick Links" and then "Business Licenses." Instructions on how to fill out the license application can be found there.



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

\* 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**  
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 Sandra Meyer, Interim Director  
**ARTS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
 Barry Gordon, Director  
**POLICE**  
 Joel Bryden, Chief of Police  
**PUBLIC SERVICES**  
 Heather Ballenger, Director

INA **Nutshell**

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 Brad Rovanpera

We welcome your comments and questions.  
 Please call 943-5895 or 943-5800  
 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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