

# IN A Nutshell



## Talk to the hand

Popular Muppets puppeteer and Walnut Creek native Leslie Carrara dazzled audiences with her funny voices and whimsical performance at the 3rd annual Chevron Family Theatre Festival, which drew an estimated 6,700 people to the Leshner Center for the Arts July 25. The event, sponsored by Chevron, featured a variety of family-oriented performances in all three theatres throughout the day, as well as shows and activities outdoors.

## Downtown Parking Task Force gears up

The City Council on Aug. 4 appointed citizens to the Downtown Parking Task Force.

Monica Daigle-Kleisath, Luke Lucas, Tony Phillips and Melissa Ward, as well as alternate Jim House, were selected in part because they live in different sections of the city and can bring unique perspectives to the downtown parking and traffic experience, said Councilman Kish Rajan, who co-chairs the Task Force with Mayor Pro Tem Sue Rainey.

The goal of the Task Force is to create a comprehensive parking management plan that reflects the diverse needs of residents, businesses and visitors.

In addition to the citizen representatives, the Task Force includes representatives from the Planning and Transportation commissions and the business community.

Public input is vital to the success of the Task Force, said Rajan. There will be a number of community outreach meetings throughout the Fall. All Task Force meetings are open to the public.

The Task Force is expected to make recommendations to the City Council in early 2010.

For updated information on the Downtown Parking Task Force, go to [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org).

## Community invited to define City's goals for the future

Developing a budget is more than just matching revenues and expenditures. A successful City budget reflects the goals and values of its community, and allocates resources accordingly.

With that in mind, the Council identified six "big picture" Goals at a special meeting on Aug. 7. The Goals are:

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

All who live or work in Walnut Creek

**GOALS**, see page 5

## Compensation cuts, staffing changes close 2009-10 gap

The City Council overcame a \$5.6 million budget gap and millions more in State take-aways to balance the 2009-10 budget, primarily through a combination of employee compensation cuts and staff reductions.

Twenty-six positions will remain vacant. Three positions are being converted from full- to half-time, and four employees will be laid off.

**BUDGET**, see page 5

## City Event Calendar

### September

7  
**Labor Day Concert**  
(See *What's Happening*)

13  
**Shadelands Antiques Show**  
(See *What's Happening*)

24-27  
**Walnut Festival**  
(See story, page 3)

### October

25  
**Howe Harvest Festival**  
(See *What's Happening*)

## City Meeting Calendar

**City Council**   
Sept. 15; Oct. 6, 27  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber  
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

**Planning Commission**  
Sept. 10, 24; Oct. 15, 29  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Arts Commission**  
Sept. 21, Oct. (no meeting)  
4:30 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Transportation Commission**  
Sept. 18, Oct. 16  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Design Review Commission**  
Sept. 2, 16; Oct. 7, 21  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Park, Rec & Open Space Commission**  
Sept. 14, Oct. 5  
7 p.m.  
City 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)**

## Viva Arts! Arts Ed fundraiser coming Sept. 26

**V**iva Arts!, a celebration of the arts to raise funds for Civic Arts Education scholarships and programs, will be Sept. 26 at the Shadelands Arts Center, 111 No. Wiget Ln.

The event, from 6:30 to 11 p.m., features gourmet foods and beverages from nearly 20 restaurants and caterers, and a live auction.

Viva Arts! will be emceed by KCBS newscaster Jeff Bell and feature dance music and performances by students who have received scholarships.



Photo by Gene Farley

Viva Arts! returns Sept. 26.

The nonprofit Friends of Civic Arts Education Foundation hopes to surpass the \$20,000 raised last year. Proceeds will underwrite scholarships for financially needy students and Civic Arts Education programs.

In 2008, more than 9,600 students — from pre-school children through seniors — participated in classes and programs offered through the Civic Arts Education program. Tickets are \$65 in advance; \$75 at the door. Go to [www.friendsartsed.org](http://www.friendsartsed.org) or call (925) 939-2787.

## 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. 7 at 6 p.m. at the Civic Park gazebo as part of the City's popular PARKconcert series. Admission is free. Bring a blanket, a picnic supper, and friends and family.

### Downtown fall festivities planned

The following events are planned this fall by the Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association:

- **Sounds Around Town** — Friday, Sept. 11, 4:30-8:30 p.m. — Free music throughout the downtown
- **Fall Wine Walk** — Wednesday, Sept. 16, 6-9 p.m. — Tastings of different types of wines at each participating downtown business
- **Pacific Fine Arts Sidewalk Festival** — Sept. 25-27, starting at 10 a.m. — Main & Locust streets
- **3rd annual OktoberCreekFest** — Oct. 2 (5-10 p.m.) and Oct. 3 (1-10 p.m.) — Live music, local comics, food & beer

### Movies Under the Stars: 'Marley & Me'

The 2008 comedy hit *Marley & Me* will be the final installment of the City's popular open-air *Movies Under the Stars* series on Saturday, Sept. 12. The movie will be shown at dusk (approximately 9 p.m.) on Heather Farm Park's front ballfield. Admission is free; best to arrive one hour early.

### WC Aquanuts go Bollywood Sept. 3-6

The Walnut Creek Aquanuts will present a Bollywood-themed synchronized swimming show at 8 p.m. Sept. 3-6 at the Clark Swim Center at Heather Farm Park. Tickets are \$20, adults; \$10, youths and are available at Sports Basement in Walnut Creek. For more information visit [www.aquanuts.org](http://www.aquanuts.org) or call (925) 934-4792.

### Shadelands Antiques Show Sept. 13

Over 100 dealers will be selling their wares at the Shadelands Antique & Collectible Sale and Show on Sunday, Sept. 13, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd. Admission is free and refreshments will be available. Call (925) 935-7871.

### Fall Plant Sale at Gardens Sept. 19

The Gardens at Heather Farm will hold its annual Fall Plant Sale on Saturday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m. - noon, 600 North San Carlos, in Heather Farm Park. Call (925) 947-1678 or visit [www.gardenshf.org](http://www.gardenshf.org).

### Culture + Cocktails at Bedford Gallery

In conjunction with the *Skate Art* exhibition at the Bedford Gallery, a special event, *Culture + Cocktails*, will be held Sept. 10, 6 - 8 p.m. and feature skate films and live music. Admission: \$7. Open only to ages 21 and over. RSVP required.

### Groundbreaking Kiosk Posters at Bedford

The Opening Party for the Bedford's new exhibition, *Art on Market Street: San Francisco Arts Commission Kiosk Poster Project*, is Thursday, Sept. 24 from 6-8 p.m. Bedford Gallery is hosting a groundbreaking exhibition of SF's most successful public art program. Come see a variety of Bay Area artists take on life along Market Street, portrayed on giant kiosk posters.

### Howe Harvest Festival Oct. 25

The Howe Harvest Festival will be Sunday, Oct. 25, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Howe Homestead Park, 2950 Walnut Blvd. Harvest and Halloween activities for families, including pumpkin carving, crafts, games, scarecrow making, and the "Wicked Maze." Call (925) 930-7731.

## Author on tap for 'WC Reads' opener

The broad appeal of this year's *One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads* selection has inspired a series of not-to-be-missed special events.

For the first time, *Walnut Creek Reads* welcomes its selection's author with the Sept. 24 appearance of Annie Barrows, who co-wrote the New York Times' best-seller *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*.

The novel tells the story of an English author living in the shadow of World War II and what she learns about the power of friendship, books and the human spirit when she is befriended by a resilient and colorful group of Guernsey Islanders who survived the Nazi occupation.

### Personal stories of WWII life

On Sept. 29, three local women will share their personal, and very different, experiences of World War II.

Susan Hochschild was shuttled to safety from her native Vienna to England via Kindertransport, which rescued some 10,000 predominantly Jewish children from Nazi occupied territory. Paula Boswell lived in occupied Holland and was a teenager during the liberation. And Doreen Ainscough was a child living in Lancashire, England during the war.

The book's characters will spring to life at the Leshner Center on Oct. 12 with a dramatic reading under the direction of Center REP Artistic Director Michael Butler. This one-time-only reading is made possible through special permission of the children of co-author Mary Ann Shaffer.

For those who haven't read *The*

## One City, One Book fall calendar of activities

### Opening Event:

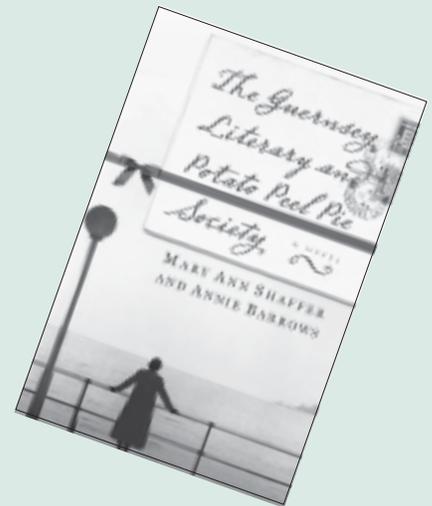
"Meet the Author: An Evening with Annie Barrows"  
Thursday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.  
Shadelands Arts Center  
111 N. Wiget Lane

This is the first time the "Walnut Creek READS" author has appeared at an event. Tickets are \$5, or \$22 for the event and an autographed copy of the book. Tickets are available online after Sept. 1 or by sending a check payable to the Walnut Creek Library Foundation, PO Box 4979, Walnut Creek, 94596.

### Special Events:

"Remembering Times of War"  
Panel Discussion: Personal Experiences during WWII  
Tuesday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m.  
Walnut Creek Senior Center Social Hall  
1375 Civic Drive (Civic Park)

"Letters from the Guernsey Literary Society"  
World premiere! Dramatic Reading produced by Michael Butler  
Monday, Oct. 12, 7:15 p.m.  
Leshner Center for the Arts  
Tickets: \$10  
Purchase tickets after Sept. 1 at the Leshner Center box office



### Book Discussions:

Thursday, Oct. 1, 10 a.m.  
Fireside Room, Rossmoor  
(Rossmoor residents only)

Thursday, Oct. 8, 7 p.m.  
Moderator: Anne Cain, County Librarian  
Ygnacio Valley Library  
2661 Oak Grove Road

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.  
Moderator: Simon Vance, Audiobook narrator  
Barnes & Noble, 1149 S. Main St.

Visit [www.WalnutCreekReads.org](http://www.WalnutCreekReads.org) for the latest Events Calendar. Unless otherwise noted, all events are free.

*Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* yet, not to worry. It is a quick read. Copies are available at the Park Place and Ygnacio Valley Libraries, the Rossmoor Library and at local bookstores.

Now in its fourth year, *One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads* is a citywide reading event that encourages community

members to read the same book at the same time. It is presented by the Contra Costa Library, Walnut Creek Library Foundation, American Association of University Women, Walnut Creek branch, Walnut Creek and Ygnacio Valley Friends of the Library groups, the Rossmoor Library and the City of Walnut Creek.

## Walnut Festival celebrates with 'Hometown Heroes'

The Walnut Festival Association will celebrate the 72nd edition of its popular Walnut Festival, featuring King Walnut, carnival rides for the whole family, live music and a variety of other activities for all ages Sept. 24-27

at Heather Farm Park. The theme of this year's Walnut Festival is "Hometown Heroes."

Floats, marching bands, and vintage cars will be featured at the **Walnut Festival Twilight Parade**, Saturday, Sept. 19, 6 p.m.



on North Main Street, between Botelho Avenue and Civic Drive.

Back by popular demand is the **Walnut Festival 5k run** on Sunday, Sept. 20. Go to [www.thewalnutfestival.org](http://www.thewalnutfestival.org) for details on the run.

A **fishing tournament** for children up to 15 years old will be at the lake in front of the Heather Farm Park Community Center on Saturday and Sunday from 7-11 a.m.

Festival hours will be Thursday,

Sept. 24, 5-10 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 25, 5-11 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 26, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 27, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Please note that the commercial vendors and Arts & Crafts booths will be displayed Saturday and Sunday only.

Admission is \$3; children under 2 are free.

A discount of \$1 per paid ticket will be given with a can of food donated to the Contra Costa Food Bank.

For more information on all the various activities, call (925) 935-6766 or go to [www.thewalnutfestival.org](http://www.thewalnutfestival.org).

## Code enforcement mission: A safe WC

The City's Code Enforcement team is made up of retired WC Police officers, so it's no wonder they have expert problem solving skills.

They even get thank-you letters from time to time.

"People who have been the target of our code enforcement actions get in touch to say thank you for handling the situation professionally and working to find a solution. I think that speaks well of the entire team," said Senior Planner Andrew Smith, who managed the program until recently

Until last year, there were two Code Enforcement Officers on duty at any time. As a cost savings measure, that has been reduced by half.

To meet the challenge, Code Enforcement took a look at the kinds of calls they receive, and set up a method to prioritize cases.

Code Enforcement cases include basic life safety issues such as unsafe buildings; quality of life concerns such as light or noise nuisances; neighborhood quality issues such as abandoned



Code Enforcement officer Tom Nichols on the job.

vehicles, dumped garbage, and illegal signs; revenue collection through the enforcement of business license regulations; and consumer protection through the administration of the City's private parking lot regulations.

But contrary to popular opinion, the job of Code Enforcement is **not** mediating neighborhood disputes. They help when they can, and as time allows, but the Code Enforcement officers have to stay out of neighborhood skirmishes, said Smith.

Residents seeking help in solving a neighborhood dispute can contact the Center for Human Development's conflict resolution program for advice and support. The number is (925) 687-8844 x. 301 or visit [www.chd-prevention.org](http://www.chd-prevention.org).

## City to co-publish new history of WC

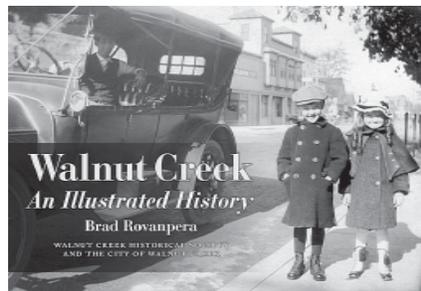
The City is joining forces with the Walnut Creek Historical Society to publish a new pictorial history of Walnut Creek this fall.

*Walnut Creek: An Illustrated History* was written by Brad Rovnpera, who retired in August after 24 years as the City's public information officer.

The 170-page coffee table book will feature over 260 black-and-white and color images that chronicle the changes in Walnut Creek over the last 160 years.

Many recently discovered vintage photos, such as portraits of early pioneers Antonio Botelho and John Larkey, will be included in the book.

More than a year in the making, *Walnut Creek: An Illustrated History* provides a thorough and fact-filled



A new history book will be out this fall with recently discovered vintage photographs as well as old favorites such as the one adorning the book's cover.

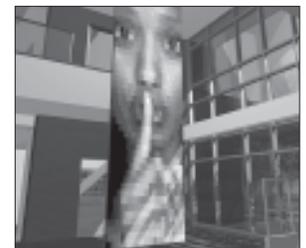
retelling of Walnut Creek's emergence from a quiet country crossroads to one of the premier cities in California.

The hardbound, dust-jacketed book will be available for \$45 at Barnes & Noble on Main Street in late September. Proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the Walnut Creek Historical Society.

For details, call (925) 935-7871.



## Big book drop



A large crane on July 15 carefully lowered into place a 26-foot-tall bookshelf — the major element of the new public artwork for the Walnut Creek Library under construction on North Broadway. The bookshelf will hold 4,400 sketchbooks that, when seen by the spines, depicts a person holding a finger to her lips in the timeless and universal gesture associated with librarians. Artist Christian Moeller's piece, entitled "Portrait in 12 Volumes of Grey," will be in the lobby of the library.

# Goals

## From front page

are invited to help define exactly what those goals mean to Walnut Creek and whether some of those goals are more important than others during a two-step *Community Conversation on Balancing for the Future*.

The information gathered will help determine how tax dollars and other resources are allocated in the 2010-12 budget and beyond.

## Step 1: Define the Goals

Participants are asked to define what the Goals mean to them during facilitated workshops in September and October. Pre-registration is required (see *Sign me up!* below, for registration information).

After an overview of the process and the six Goals, participants will work in small groups, each focusing on a specific Goal, and describe what achieving that goal might look like. Everyone will have a chance to review the definitions for all Goals before the workshop concludes, and to add additional input.

## Step 2: Weight the Goals

Participants weight the Goals based on whether some are more important to them at this time than others. Step 2 will take place in November. Look for details on Step 2 in the next issue of the *Nutshell*.

## Sign me up!

Preregistration is required for Step 1 of the *Community Conversation on Balancing for the Future*.

Call 925-256-3505 or email [community@walnut-creek.org](mailto:community@walnut-creek.org).

Please indicate if there is a particular Goal you would like to work on, and we will do our best to accommodate you. Workshops will be:

- 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21
- 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29
- 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10
- 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22

In addition, there will a workshop for **Rossmoor residents only** at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13 in Rossmoor.

Ongoing information about the *Community Conversation on Balancing for the Future* will be posted on the City website, [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org).



## Summer of learning and assistance to the City

Elaina Tan, 18, a recent graduate of Northgate High School, spent the better part of her summer as an intern in the City Clerk's office at City Hall, assisting City Clerk Patrice Olds, right, and Deputy City Clerk Suzie Guijosa. Elaina was one of 33 teens hired as interns for the summer.

## Budget

### From front page

It is the first time since the 1970s that the City has had to implement lay-offs.

The Council tapped into the City's Emergency Reserve fund to cover the \$1.7 million taken by the State from property taxes.

A combination of declining revenues and increasing expenses are at the root of the budget shortfall.

Due to the economic downturn, Walnut Creek's three largest sources of revenues – property tax, sales tax and fees and charges — dropped sharply.

At the same time, expenses continue to grow. As a service organization, the major

expense is related to employee salaries and benefits, and the City is not immune to steadily increasing insurance premiums.

Compared to many other public agencies, Walnut Creek is somewhat better positioned. The City provides one of the most modest pension programs available and does not provide medical insurance for retired employees.

Most of the reductions achieved in balancing the 2009-10 budget will carry forward into future years.

Still, the City is projecting significant shortfalls for 2010-12 and will be working with the community this fall to define priorities as a next step to ongoing fiscal balance.

## How we closed the budget gap ...

▪ Council Compensation Reduction (Represents 24 percent of combined Council compensation)	\$17,500
▪ Executive Staff Compensation Reduction (Represents voluntary 6.5 percent reduction in salary and benefits for 2009-10)	\$200,000
▪ Compensation Reduction for Employee Groups	\$3 million*
▪ Staffing Changes Includes four layoffs; conversion of three positions from full-time to half-time; freezing 26 vacant positions	\$1.35 million
▪ Other Includes reductions in operating expenses	\$733,000

\* Note: At time of publication, compensation discussions with some employee bargaining groups were still in progress.

## City Council Update

### Council calls for special election on proposed Broadway Plaza expansion

Walnut Creek voters will have their chance to say yes or no to a proposed 2-story retail store at Broadway Plaza – most likely Neiman Marcus — by voting on Measure I on Nov. 3.

The City Council on Aug. 4 unanimously called for a special municipal election for the purposes of placing the “Broadway Plaza Initiative” on the ballot.

The ballot language reads:

“Shall the ordinance allowing a new two-story retail anchor building, such as a Neiman Marcus store, of approximately half the square footage of the Nordstrom building, in Broadway Plaza at South Main St. and Mt. Diablo Blvd., increasing the site’s floor-to-area ratio limit and addressing parking and transportation issues by amending the Walnut Creek General Plan and Zoning Ordinance and approving a Development Agreement, be adopted?”

Because more than 15 percent of registered voters signed the “Broadway Plaza Initiative,” the Council was required by law to either adopt the Initiative or place it on the ballot within 88 days of the ballot signature verification.

In a related matter, the Council agreed not to take action at this time on two referenda regarding the Broadway Plaza Development approvals. The Council is legally required to take action on the referenda prior to the November 2010 election by either repealing the approvals or placing them on the ballot.

Both referenda were certified as having the requirement number of signatures to be placed on the ballot. Under state law, the Council’s approval of the Broadway Plaza development agreement that made way for Neiman Marcus is suspended due to the number of signatures on the referenda.

### Council allocates Civic Pride grants

The City Council allocated \$18,100 in Civic Pride grants to four organizations that requested funding for community projects in 2009-10.

Receiving grants were the Diablo Light Opera Company, \$1,700; the Ruth Bancroft Garden, \$10,000; the Walnut Creek Concert Band, \$1,900; and Walnut Creek on Ice, \$4,500.

The City Council has given Civic Pride grants since 1989 to fund a wide variety of



### Peg Kovar honored

Peg Kovar, the first female mayor in Walnut Creek’s history and longtime president of the Walnut Creek Action for Beauty Council, was honored for all her contributions to the community at the organization’s annual luncheon held June 19 at Boundary Oak. She became the first woman to sit as Walnut Creek’s mayor in 1975 and helped found the Action for Beauty Council, which annually recognizes excellence in architecture, landscaping and other aesthetics of projects built in Walnut Creek.

## Help identify affordable housing needs

Identifying priority needs for low income persons is the subject of a community meeting hosted by the Contra Costa Consortium at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15 at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Avenue.

The Consortium is a partnership of Walnut Creek, Antioch, Concord, Pittsburg, Richmond, and Contra Costa County charged with meeting locally identified priority needs for lower income residents.

To receive federal funding, the consortium must submit a strategic plan

every five years to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Stakeholders and residents are invited to give input on the following priority needs for low income persons: affordable housing, economic development, homeless services, senior services, child, family and youth services, domestic violence services and services for persons with special needs.

Persons may submit input via an online survey at [www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/cd/housing](http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/cd/housing).

For questions, call (925) 943-5899 x2208.

community activities and projects that enhance quality of life in Walnut Creek.

### Council beefs up skate park rules

Bicycles are no longer allowed inside the fenced area of the skate park at Heather Farm, according to an ordinance approved by the City Council on June 16.

The tightened regulation is in response to a number of bike riders violating existing rules restricting use of the skate park to skateboards, in-line and roller skates, and non-motorized scooters. Bikes inside the skate park create a safety

hazard and are excluded in the City’s liability coverage for the skate park.

To accommodate the needs of skate park users who ride their bikes to the park, the City installed bike racks immediately outside the entrance to the skate park.

### Coming to a computer screen near you ....

Did you know that City Council meetings are available “on demand” on the City website? Go to [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org) and look for the Public Meetings link under Online Services.



## 'Alarming' information

**F**alse alarms cost all of us time and money, and account for a staggering number of police response hours every year. As more consumers choose to protect their homes and businesses with burglar alarm systems, the impact on local law enforcement continues to grow.

To ease that impact, the Walnut Creek City Council adopted an ordinance in May 2004 regulating the installation and use of security alarm systems.

The purpose of the Alarm Ordinance is to implement a reliable permit tracking system and reduce or eliminate false alarms by encouraging alarm users to maintain and use alarm systems properly.

All alarm users whose systems, when activated, generate a response from the Walnut Creek Police Department are required to have an alarm permit.

Since the ordinance went into effect, the number of false alarms has gone down significantly. In 2004, WCPD responded to over 2,445 false alarm calls. In 2008, police responded to 1,198 false alarms.

Here is how the alarm ordinance works:

- ◆ All alarm users must obtain and file an alarm use permit from the police department. Fill it out in its entirety and return within 10 days to our department.
- ◆ Cost to businesses for an annual permit is \$25. Residential permits are free and do not expire unless there is a change in home ownership.
- ◆ If your premise has had false alarms, you will be contacted by police. If the premise has three or more false alarms, fees are incurred in \$25 increments.
- ◆ Alarm owners who do not want police to respond to alarms or do not pay fines associated with false alarm dispatches are placed on a "non-response" status for alarm activations.

Permit applications are available online at [www.walnutcreekpd.com](http://www.walnutcreekpd.com). In addition, you may request a permit application at the Police Department, 1666 N. Main St.

Call (925) 943-5885, or [alarm\\_manager@walnutcreekpd.com](mailto:alarm_manager@walnutcreekpd.com) for additional information.

## Caring for Kar

**Walnut Creek Police Officer Joe Donleavy helps Kar, the City's second police dog, show off a bulletproof vest given him July 17 by Susie Jean (right), president of Vest 'N P.D.P. (Police Dog Protection), a non-profit from New Mexico that has supplied 394 bulletproof vests to police dogs in 39 states.**



## Emergency Response Team training offered

**L**earn how to help your community prevail during disaster by becoming a Community Emergency Response Team member.

CERT training classes will be Thursdays, 6:30-10 p.m. Sept. 17 – Oct. 15 at the Animal Rescue Foundation, 2890 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek. There will be a final graduation drill the morning of Saturday, Nov. 7 at Larkey Park.

Training topics include disaster preparedness, how to shut off utilities and use a fire extinguisher, light search and rescue techniques, disaster First Aid, and how to manage emergency response safely and effectively by using the Incident Command System.

CERT graduates are sworn in as volunteer Disaster Service Workers for the City of Walnut Creek. In the event of an earthquake or other disaster, CERTs

gather at pre-designated staging areas and use their training to work as a team in responding to the community. To date, more than 900 people have taken CERT in Walnut Creek.

CERT is offered by the City of Walnut Creek with support from the Contra Costa Fire District and the County Office of Emergency Services.

Special thanks to Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation for hosting the fall training in their spacious Nestle Training Pavilion.

Cost is \$20 and pre-registration is required. To register, email [cert@walnut-creek.org](mailto:cert@walnut-creek.org) or call the CERT registration line, 256-3556.

More information may be found on the City website, [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org), by choosing "Emergency Preparedness" from the Quick Links menu on the homepage.

## Coming attractions: Bicycle Plan, eLockers

**T**he draft Walnut Creek Bicycle Plan is ready for public review. The draft plan is being presented to the Bicycle Advisory Committee, as well as key Commissions and the City Council this fall. Your comments, suggestions and opinions will play an important role in plan adoption. Please come to one, or more, of the public hearings and help make Walnut Creek a better place for all cyclists. The meeting schedule and the draft Bicycle Plan are available at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org).



The City has obtained a \$12,500 grant from 511 Contra Costa and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to install four electronically controlled bike lockers as a demonstration project in front of City Hall, near the intersection of North

Main Street and Civic. Details on how to obtain an E-Locker Card are at [www.BikeLink.org](http://www.BikeLink.org).

For more information, contact Jeremy Lochirco, Senior Planner, at (925) 943-5899 ext. 2251 or email [Lochirco@walnut-creek.org](mailto:Lochirco@walnut-creek.org)



## Lesher Center volunteer ushers fed and feted

More than 200 volunteer ushers at the Lesher Center for the Arts were feted (and fed) at Volunteer Day on July 11 for their continuing service and commitment to the arts. City Manager Gary Pokorny, right, pours chocolate syrup on ice cream dished out by other City staffers.

## Chat with your council members at Farmer's Market

Now you can get fresh insights from your City Council members along with fresh fruits and vegetables at your local Farmer's Market. Council members may be found on Sunday mornings at the Farmer's Market on Locust Street between

Giammona and Cole. Just look for the sign saying "Chat with your Council"!

In addition, Council members are at the Rossmoor farmer's market on alternate Fridays from 9 - 11 a.m. at the Gateway Clubhouse parking lot.



## City Directory

Arts Education classes	943-5846
Bedford Gallery	295-1417
Bicycle registration	943-5844
Building Division, permits	256-3549
Business licenses	943-5821
City Clerk's Office	943-5818
City Hall main number	943-5800
City Manager's office	943-5812
Civic Arts Education	943-5846
Civic Park rentals	943-5853
Community Relations	943-5895
Crime prevention	943-5885
Employment hotline	943-5817
Fingerprinting	943-5844
Flood zone info	943-5839
Foothill Gym	256-3539
Garbage collection	603-1144
Heather Farm rentals	943-5859
Heather Farm Pool	943-5856
LCA Ticket Office	943-7469
Leisure Service classes	943-5858
Mayor's Office	256-3504
Open Space information	943-5855
Planning/Zoning hotline	256-3558
Police Administration	943-5869
Police (non-emergency)	943-5844
Senior citizen activities	943-5851
Street light outages	256-3529
Tice Valley Gym	256-3572



**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 F. Pokorny  
**CITY ATTORNEY**  
 Paul Valle-Riestra  
**CITY CLERK**  
 Patrice Olds  
**CITY TREASURER**  
 Ronald Cassano

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

INA **Nutshell**

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 Gayle Vassar

We welcome your comments and questions.  
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