

IN A

Nutshell

No. 139

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek November/December 2008

Balancing WC's future is focus of Council plan

The City Council and staff have come up with a more proactive approach to "restructuring" City operations that will make it easier to balance the City's needs and resources in the future.

Last spring, the Council and staff successfully bridged an unexpectedly large \$18 million gap to balance the 2008-2010 operating budget.

After the Council approved that spending plan, it asked staff to prepare a 10-year capital investment plan (CIP) and begin "restructuring" City operations so that future budget shortfalls could be anticipated and addressed in advance.

At a special study session Sept. 30, Assistant City Manager Lorie Tinfow shared with the Council an action plan for bridging future budget gaps that would have a role for community members, the Council, and City staff.

The shortfall will echo the previous two budget cycles, where expenses over which the City has limited or no control (such as employee health coverage costs) outpaced lower-than-typical revenues

BALANCING, see back page



Going 'behind the scenes...'

Paige Lane of Walnut Creek (above right) takes in a fascinating historical retrospective on Walnut Creek while Katie Whitcomb, 7, (left), stands at the podium in the City Council Chamber as they and hundreds of others toured City Hall and other facilities on "Behind the Scenes Day." See page 5 for more pictures of the September 20 event.

WWII vet to speak at Veterans Day event

Rossmoor resident Lou Satz, who as an Army sergeant served in Europe during the U.S. occupation following World War II, will share his memories of those times at the City's



Lou Satz in 1946, left, and today



Veterans Day Observance on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

The public ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. in the Civic Park Community Center Assembly Hall, located in Civic Park, corner of Civic Drive and North Broadway.

Satz, 81, will relate some of his experiences as a 19-year-old GI serving his country in wartorn Europe, in the months immediately following the war.

Mayor Gwen Regalia and the City Council will also honor Army 1st Sgt. William Harlan of Walnut Creek, who has been named the *Army Times' Soldier of the Year* for 2008.

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

Think Rink: Walnut Creek on Ice returns

Strap a pillow to your fanny, grab a loved one, and head on back to Civic Park for the 2008-09 holiday season of the popular *Longs Drugs' Downtown Walnut Creek on Ice*, which opens its fourth season on November 13.



Walnut Creek's very own winter wonderland, which will be open through Jan. 21, will be found in a new location in

the parking lot on the north side of Civic Park, between the Park Place Library and the City's Clay Arts studio.

Walnut Creek on Ice is co-sponsored by Longs Drugs and other Walnut Creek businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Business Association, and the City.

For times and admission prices, visit www.IceSkateWalnutCreek.com

City Event Calendar

November

11
Veterans Day ceremony
(See story, page 1)


28
City Tree Lighting Event
(See story, back page)

December

6
City's Holiday Breakfast
(See *What's Happening*)

24-25
Christmas holiday observance
(City offices closed)

City Meeting Calendar

City Council 
Nov. 18; Dec. 2, 16
7 p.m.
City Council chamber
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

Planning Commission
Nov. 13; Dec. 11
7 p.m.
City Council chamber

Arts Commission
Nov. 17; Dec. (no meeting)
4:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Transportation Commission
Nov. 20; Dec. 18
7 p.m.
City Council chamber

Design Review Commission
Nov. 5, 19; Dec. 3, 17
7 p.m.
City Council chamber

Park, Rec & Open Space Commission
Nov. 3; Dec. 1
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**

All aboard for WC Model Railroad Holiday Show

The intricately detailed HO-scale model trains of the Diablo Valley Lines will be showcased at the Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society's 2008 Holiday Show, which is scheduled:

- Friday, Nov. 21 (8-10 p.m.)
- Sat.-Sun., Nov. 22, 23 (11 a.m.-6 p.m.)
- Friday, Nov. 28 (2-10 p.m.)
- Sat.-Sun., Nov. 29, 30 (11 a.m.-6 p.m.)

Admission is \$3, ages 13 and up; \$2, seniors and ages 6-12; free, under 6. Call 925-937-1888.

Diablo Valley Lines is located next to Larkey Park at 2751 Buena Vista Ave.

WC Concert Band Holiday Concert

The Walnut Creek Concert Band, under the direction of Harvey Benstein, will perform their annual Holiday Concert on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts. The concert will feature traditional holiday favorites. Tickets are \$12/\$15 at the Center Ticket Office, 1601 Civic Drive, or call 925-943-7469.

Seniors Holiday Boutique Nov. 14-15

Start your holiday shopping at the Walnut Creek Seniors Club Holiday Boutique on Nov. 14-15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr. Admission is free. Lunch is \$3 and will be served 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Items for sale will include handcrafted holiday decorations, baby gifts, quilts, toys, wreaths, home accents, baked goods, and more. A free turkey drawing will be held each hour. Call 925-943-5851.

City's Holiday Breakfast set for Dec. 6

Enjoy an old-fashioned family good time this yuletide season at the annual Holiday Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 6, 9 to 11 a.m., at Heather Farm Park Community Center, 301 No. San Carlos Dr. "Reindeer pancakes" will be served, and seasonal music, arts and crafts, holiday videos, and pictures with Santa will be part of the fun. Admission is \$5 per person at the door (free to children under 12 months). This event is cosponsored by the City's Recreation Division and the Walnut Festival Association.

Holiday Studio Art Sale Dec. 4-7

The Clay Arts Guild and Civic Arts Education will hold their joint Civic Arts Holiday Studio Art Sale at two locations Dec. 4-7. On sale at Civic Park will be a large selection of handcrafted pottery and ceramic sculpture by students and faculty in the studios. At Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Lane, jewelry, paintings, and other arts will be

Denver for the holidays

Celebrate the holidays with *Back Home Again: A John Denver Holiday Concert* Dec. 4-14 at the Leshner Center for the Arts.

Back Home Again, by Dan Wheetman and Randal Myler, the creators of *Fire on the Mountain* and *Ain't Nothin' But the Blues* features modern and traditional Christmas carols, as well as some of John Denver's most memorable hits, including "Thank God I'm a Country Boy," "Grandma's Feather Bed," and, of course, "Back Home Again." Tickets are \$36; call 925-943-SHOW.

What's Happening

available for purchase. Hours for both locations are: Dec. 4, 5-9 p.m.; Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 925-943-5846.

Center REP brings back 'Christmas Carol'

Center REPeritory Co. for the 11th season will present its heartwarming production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," at the Leshner Center for the Arts Dec. 11-21. Tickets are \$30-\$41; call 925-943-7469 or www.centerREP.org



Jack Powell as Ebenezer Scrooge and Michael Ray Wiseley as the Ghost of Christmas Present.

Early American quilts at Bedford Gallery

Untold Stories: Early American Quilts from the Collection of Susan Brooks is the current exhibition at the Bedford Gallery in the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr. Featuring 35 quilts created during the 18th and 19th centuries, the exhibition is on display through Nov. 23. The gallery is open Tues.- Sun., noon to 5 p.m., and Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 6-8 p.m. General admission is \$5, adults; \$3, ages 13-17; free, age 12 and younger.

WC Police to sponsor Holiday Toy Drive

For the eighth year, the Walnut Creek Police Department will be accepting donations of toys for underprivileged children beginning Nov. 28. New and unwrapped toys for children up to 15 years of age will be accepted through Dec. 12 in the lobby of City Hall, 1666 N. Main Street.

Correction

The *Nutshell* misspelled developer Brian Hirahara's name in the last issue.

Commission OKs parking plan for Neiman Marcus

The Planning Commission unanimously approved an attendant parking plan on Sept. 25 for the proposed Neiman Marcus store at Broadway Plaza, setting the stage for the City Council's final decision on the project.

At presstime, the Council was scheduled to deliberate on the parking portion of the plan at its Oct. 7 meeting.

The Council on Sept. 16 unanimously approved a general plan amendment and zoning changes to increase the building height

from 35 to 50 feet. The Council also certified the environmental impact report, clearing the way for final parking and design issues to be decided on the new, 107,000-square-foot store.

Neiman Marcus plans to open its



LIBRARY EXCAVATION COMPLETED — Workers finished excavating the new library's underground garage on September 26. Construction of the library is scheduled to begin in February and be completed in mid-2010.

newest store in 2010 on the site of the existing David M. Brian store at the southwest corner of South Main Street and Mt. Diablo Boulevard. David M. Brian is relocating to the former Gap store in the center.

Jewish Community Center

The City Council is scheduled to consider on Nov. 18 the Jewish Community Center's modified application for an 80-unit residential condominium project with underground parking and the rebuilding of its existing community center on Tice Valley Boulevard.

The Council rejected the original plans for a 120-unit project in July 2007 for being out of character with the neighborhood.

Co-op site

It's back to square one on the development of the long-abandoned Co-op store site on Geary Road as Silverwing Development has terminated its contract agreement with Pleasant Creek Industries to build affordable housing on the site.

The Co-op store closed in 1984.

Time running out to convert to digital TV

This is another reminder to consumers without cable who have a traditional analog TV that they have until Feb. 17, 2009 to convert their televisions to digital.

Digital TV provides crystal clear pictures and higher quality sound, as well as the capacity for more channels. This technology also offers other features such as enhanced closed captioning ability

Consumers have several options:

- Purchase a DTV converter box that connects to analog TVs and over-the-air antennas to convert the digital signal to analog. Cost is about \$50-\$70.
- Purchase a digital TV
- Subscribe to a cable, satellite, or telephone company service provider.

For more, go to www.dtvanswers.com

More What's Happening

Broadway Plaza Parade of Lights

The Holiday Parade of Lights and Open House at Broadway Plaza will be on Dec. 4 from 6 to 9 p.m. The Grand Menorah Lighting will be Sunday, Dec. 28 at 4 p.m. For details, call 925-933-6589.

Teddy Bear Teas at the Gardens

A magical holiday event awaits children and adults at the Teddy Bear Teas at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr. on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Reservations are required and children must be accompanied by an adult. The cost (which includes a souvenir photo) is \$15 for children, \$25 for adults, and no

charge for the favorite teddy bear in tow. All proceeds benefit the Gardens at Heather Farm (www.gardenshf.org). For reservations, call 925-947-1678.

Holiday events at Shadelands

The Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum at 2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd. will host its 26th annual Holidays at Shadelands Nov. 29 to Dec. 14. The event will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring arts and crafts, holiday decor, toys, and jewelry for sale; admission is free. Three-course tea luncheons will be at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. (reservations are required; call 925-935-7871). Cost is \$28/person. Proceeds benefit the Walnut Creek Historical Society.

Sister Cities group planning Noceto visit in spring 2009

Walnut Creek Sister Cities International has confirmed plans for a visit to Noceto, Italy next May.

Planners say the trip would be from May 13 to 21 and include a two-day visit to Walnut Creek's first sister city on May 15-16. Other planned stops include Milan, Parma, and Bologna.

A delegation from Noceto, led by Mayor Fabio Fecci, visited Walnut Creek on April 13, 2007.

For more information, contact president Bill Hansen at 925-939-4951.

Survey results

Older adults 'flourishing' in Walnut Creek

Walnut Creek scores high marks with its older residents, who indicated in a recent survey that it's a great community for retirement because of its health and wellness opportunities.

The study found, overall, that Walnut Creek was rated positively by its older residents and that most seniors are "flourishing" in Walnut Creek. Many rated the city as a great place to live.

The survey, conducted for the City by National Research Center in Boulder, Colo. in August 2007, provides a fascinating glimpse at what the nearly 19,000 older adults (age 65 or older) living in Walnut Creek think about their community.

"With more than one-half of the Baby Boom generation at age 50 and older, the flow of older adults is beginning to gush into the demographic pipeline," according to the final report.

To better prepare for this aging population, or "silver tsunami," as it has been called, the City contracted for the study to assess the strengths and needs of its older residents.

The study showed that the greatest needs of older residents were civic engagement, information, housing, and physical health.

For instance, one in four older residents in Walnut Creek said they had



SENIOR VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED — Freda Rose, a 25-year Walnut Creek resident, chats with Uncle Sam (Preston Jones) at the Walnut Creek Seniors Club annual volunteer recognition luncheon on Sept. 5.

problems in the areas of social engagement, social support, and financial needs.

The mail-in survey was returned by 539 older adult households, representing an overall response rate of 46 percent.

Following are some of the more interesting results:

- 79% rated local services as excellent or good
- 88% rated the quality of shopping opportunities as excellent or good
- 93% voted in the last election
- 78% rated the ease of walking as the most favorable form of travel
- 92% said fitness opportunities are excellent or good

The bottom line, according to the study's findings, is that, by and large,

older residents are mobile, healthy, and engaged in a variety of productive activities.

"Older residents experience a good quality of life in Walnut Creek and most plan to stay in the community," the report concluded.



Walnut Creek seniors can get a lift from the City in one of its minivans.

National magazine rates WC among 10 healthy places to retire in America

Walnut Creek was selected as one of America's 10 best healthy places to retire in the Sept. 29 issue of U.S. News and World Report.

The City's Sugarloaf Open Space was featured on the cover of the magazine, which also selected Bella Vista, Ark.; Boulder, Colo.; Eden Prairie, Minn.; Green Valley, Az.; Issaquah, Wa.; Longmeadow, Mass.; Portland, Maine; Punta Gorda, Fl.; and Reston, Va.



These 10 cities were selected by the magazine's editors as the healthiest spots in the nation to retire. Walnut Creek was lauded for its abundant open space, recreational opportunities, the Leshner Center for the Arts, and its "walkable downtown."

Among those quoted in the article were Mayor Gwen Regalia and Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission chair Ed Montgomery, a Rossmoor resident.

Mini-bus service available to seniors

If you're a senior citizen needing a ride someplace, just call the City and leave the driving to us.

For nearly 35 years the Walnut Creek Seniors Club has offered mini-bus service to any senior living within the Walnut Creek city limit. Drivers are friendly and reliable volunteers who take seniors to shopping destinations, medical appointments, Civic Park Community Center, and other locations within the city.

Rides are only \$1. To reserve a ride, call 933-1434 between 9 and 11 a.m. the day before your ride. For details, call 943-5852 weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Hundreds attend City open house and 'Get Involved'

An estimated 300 persons explored the hallways and byways of City Hall, the Police Station, and the Lesher Center for the Arts during the *Behind the Scenes Day* open house on Sept. 20 and learned how they can "get involved" in the community as a volunteer.

It was a unique and fun opportunity to see and do things you normally couldn't, like walking into a jail cell, sitting in a police car, meeting the mayor, learning about the history of Walnut Creek, and watching street traffic on a big screen TV monitor.

More than 60 employees participated in the event, providing tours, hands-on demonstrations, and general information.

At the same time, the City held its *Get Involved 2008* volunteer fair in front of the Lesher Center for the Arts, with 34 non-profit organizations providing information to the public on how to become a volunteer.

Volunteers are the backbone of Walnut Creek activities. When an important social service needs to be done, or an activity funded, or an event planned, volunteers are the engine that makes the machine go. Often, however, people who would like to volunteer their time or services simply don't know where to turn.

Following is a listing of all the non-profit volunteer organizations that participated in *Get Involved 2008*. To find out more about these and other volunteer agencies, contact The Volunteer Center of the East Bay at 925-472-5760, or go online to www.helpnow.org.

American Cancer Society Discovery Shop
www.cancer.org/discovery 925-944-1991

Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF)
www.arf.net 925-256-1273

Assistance League of Diablo Valley
www.diablovalley.assistanceleague.org
925-934-0901

Bay Area Crisis Nursery
www.bacn.info 925-685-6633

Bedford Gallery Docent Council
www.bedfordgallery.org
925-295-1418

Bedford Gallery Guild
www.bedfordgallery.org 925-295-1418

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
www.walnut-creek.org 925-256-3556



David Myers lifts his son, Kevin, up to look inside a City street sweeper, left, while visitors to the Lesher Center for the Arts got to peek into a backstage dressing and costume room.



Cornucopia/Wellness Community
cornucopiawc@gmail.com 925-256-4486

Lesher Arts Center Usher Program
www.lesherartscenter.org 925-295-1400

Caring Hands Volunteer Caregivers Program
www.johnmuirhealth.com 925-952-2999

CASA of Contra Costa County
www.cccocasa.org 925-256-7284

Contra Costa Crisis Center
www.crisis-center.org 925-939-1916

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano
www.foodbankcccs.org 925-676-7543

Friends of the Creeks
contact@FriendsoftheCreeks.org
925-937-6791

Friends of the Walnut Creek Library
www.contra-costa.lib.ca.us/friends/wcl.html 925-933-7354

The Gardens at Heather Farm
www.gardenshf.org 925-947-6712

John Muir Medical Center Auxiliary
www.johnmuirhealth.com 925-947-5358

Kaiser Permanente Volunteer Services
www.kaiserpermanente.org 925-295-4486

LifeGarden
www.lifegarden.org 925-937-3044



Karla McCormick of the Volunteer Center, left, speaks with Susana Gardner of Walnut Creek at the City's Get Involved 2008 event.

Lindsay Wildlife Museum
www.wildlife-museum.org 925-935-1978

Monument Crisis Center
www.monumentcrisiscenter.org
925-825-7751 x105

Mount Diablo Interpretive Association
www.mdia.org 925-927-7222

Movies Under the Stars
www.walnutcreekrec.org/muts.htm
925-943-5899 x420

Walnut Creek Open Space Division
dollard@walnut-creek.org
925-943-5899 x135

VOLUNTEER, see page 6

City Council Update

Two council members to step down

Two veteran members of the City Council — Gwen Regalia and Charlie Abrams — will end their public service Dec. 2.

After 21 years, Regalia will be completing her unprecedented fifth term on the Council, as well as her historic fifth term as mayor.

Abrams, a local traffic engineer, is ending 12 years as a Council member (during which he served twice as mayor). He was formerly a member of the City's Planning and Transportation commissions.

See 'WC in the '50s' show on City's website

If you missed the *One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads* presentation of "Happy Days in Walnut Creek: Coming of Age in the 1950s" on Sept. 22, you can watch the multimedia program by Brad Rovanner on the City's website, www.walnut-creek.org. You'll find the link at the bottom of the homepage.

The 35-minute show includes 220 vintage photos and 40 tunes from the '50s.



Happy 100th, Ruth

More than 200 well-wishers turned out for a special Chamber of Commerce mixer at the Ruth Bancroft Garden on Aug. 28 to celebrate Ruth's 100th birthday, which was Sept. 2. Mayor Gwen Regalia presented the centenarian with a walnut bowl as a gift from the City Council and proclaimed Sept. 2 as "Ruth Bancroft Day" in Walnut Creek. Ruth's renowned cactus and succulent garden, which she started in 1972, is part of the Garden Conservancy.



City moves forward on variety of energy efficiency measures

The City is continuing its efforts to "go green" with a variety of energy efficiency projects that will save money.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company has begun installing energy saving thermostats in the City's municipal buildings under its SmartAC program.

Walnut Creek is the first city in northern and central California to participate in this important program that helps PG&E and the State of



California avoid power interruptions without sacrificing customers' comfort or control.

The City's Public Services Department is also working with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Energy Watch Partnership on a host of energy-efficient lighting upgrades at several City facilities. Over 65 percent of the \$68,041 project costs will be paid for by the California Public Utilities Commission and PG&E. The

lighting upgrades will save the City an estimated \$36,000 a year in energy costs. By the end of 2008, ABAG Energy Watch will have helped Walnut Creek secure more than \$139,000 in incentives for projects that will save the City 862,000 kWh and eliminate close to 512,000 pounds of CO₂ emissions each year.

Meanwhile, the City's recent green efforts have grabbed the attention of area photo-voltaic solar providers, who want to partner with the City on solar installations at select municipal buildings.

Volunteer

From page 5

RSVP of Contra Costa

www.helpnow.org 925-472-5771

Save Mount Diablo

www.savemountdiablo.org 925-947-0642

Senior Outreach Services

www.mowsos.org

SHELTER, Inc. of Contra Costa County

www.shelterincofccc.org 925-335-0698

STAND! Against Domestic Violence

www.standagainstdv.org 925-676-2845

Walnut Creek Education Foundation K-12

www.wcefk12.org 925-933-9233

Walnut Creek Historical Society

weshadeland@sbcglobal.net

925-935-7871

Walnut Creek Little League

www.wcbaseball.org 925-806-8242

Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation

www.wcosf.org 925-939-6610

Walnut Creek Sister Cities International

sanhan@astound.net 925-939-4951

Walnut Creek Soccer Club

www.wcsc.org 925-930-0210

Youth Homes & Youth Homes Auxiliary

www.youthhomes.org

925-933-2627



Holiday safety tips

It's that time of year again when weather gets cold, the decorations go up, and everything gets busier.



It is easy to get distracted amongst all the holiday shopping. Keep your personal belongings such as your purse on you at all times. Setting things down for just a minute can invite an opportunistic thief. Take a second to securely close your purse to prevent someone from grabbing something inside as you're busy shopping. With the rapid increase of identity theft, losing your wallet can become a real nightmare. For more information on identity theft, you can go to the Walnut Creek PD website: www.walnutcreekpd.com.

If you have to leave packages in your car, stash them in the trunk or somewhere out of sight. Cell phones, laptops, GPS devices, and holiday shopping bags are a big target for theft. Most importantly, remember to lock your car, especially after getting in it.

Be aware of your surroundings. Walk in well-lit areas with other pedestrian traffic. Don't make yourself a vulnerable target by carrying too many bags at once.

Don't leave your car running unattended on those cold mornings. Take the extra few minutes to stay in the car when you are warming it up. While it doesn't happen everyday, cars have been stolen while warming up in the driveway.

Don't allow packages to sit on your front porch all day. Aside from the potential of being stolen, it lets people know that no one is home. Check to be sure you've closed your garage door at night.

This time of year can be stressful enough without becoming the victim of crime. Enjoy the holidays knowing you are being smart and safe.

Watch out for your neighbors and call the police immediately to report any suspicious activity at 925-935-6400.

LibraryFest kicks off fundraising campaign for new WC library

Having raised over \$5 million to date in private grants and major donations for the new Walnut Creek Library, the Walnut Creek Library Foundation is now seeking contributions from families, businesses, and individuals towards its goal of \$7.4 million.

The community campaign kickoff was the hugely successful *LibraryFest* on Sept. 14, which attracted more than 2,000 people to a wide variety of activities, from book readings to live musical performances, in Civic Park.

Meanwhile, excavation of the underground parking lot for the library was completed on September 26.

Gifts of \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500, and \$5,000 will garner recognition for donors at the new library. For details, call 925-935-5395 or go to www.newWCLibrary.org.



Audiobook recording artist Simon Vance reads a passage from A.A. Milne's "Winnie the Pooh" at LibraryFest.



Members of the Friends of the Walnut Creek Library had brisk sales of used books to raise funds for the new library.

Free emergency response training to be offered

Don't be a victim! Learn to help yourself and your community in the event of disaster by taking Community Emergency Response Team training.

The free, six-week CERT course includes lessons on earthquake preparedness, suppressing small fires, shutting off utilities, light search and rescue, disaster First Aid, and many other response techniques.

Nearly 800 people have taken CERT in Walnut Creek since its inception in 2004.

To be placed on the notification list for the 2009 CERT schedule, email cert@walnut-creek.org or call the CERT registration line, 925-256-3556. For online information, go to www.walnut-creek.org and choose "Emergency Preparedness" from the Quick Links menu on the homepage.

CERT is a partnership of the City, the Contra Costa Fire Protection District, and the Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services.

Creek Talk

Heed 'Don't Dump in Drains' alert

On your walk around town, you'll probably notice the little blue "No Dumping - Drains to Creek" metal decals placed on top of storm drain inlets.

This marking is part of the City's effort to make the public aware of stormwater issues. One important point to drive home is that water that rushes through the storm drains — often carrying dirt, trash and pollutants — is not treated before it ends up in local streams.

Using fertilizer, littering, and not cleaning up after pets often have

damaging effects on local streams, as pet waste, pollutants, and trash can be washed into a drain during a rainstorm.

The City has over 4,000 storm drain inlets and most, if not all, should have a "No Dumping" marking installed. Student interns and volunteers installed most of them throughout the years.

Want to get involved in your community to protect our creeks and Bay? Volunteer to stencil your local storm drains by calling 925-256-3511.



City's Holiday Tree Lighting set Nov. 28 at Civic Park gazebo

Join Mayor Gwen Regalia in kicking off the yuletide season this year at the City's traditional Holiday Tree Lighting on Friday, Nov. 28 in Civic Park.

This free event, sponsored by the Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association and the City of Walnut Creek, will begin at 6 p.m.

Featured will be holiday music performed by the Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein.

After Mayor Regalia lights the Holiday Tree, Santa Claus will make a special appearance to pass out candy canes in the gazebo.



Hundreds of people turned out to Civic Park for last year's Holiday Tree Lighting.

Balancing

From front page

(primarily sales and property taxes).

Staff recommended that the City look six years ahead over three budget cycles — through 2014-16 — and move from “restructuring” to achieving “balance” between needs and resources.

In this new approach, there will be more time — 21 months instead of only

three or four months — to find solutions to the structural problem of the budget so it can be rebalanced in a sustainable way.

Staff will look for more savings in existing operations, review fiscal policies and practices, come up with new ideas for revenues, consider additional revenues, and consider reducing or eliminating programs and activities.



City Directory

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Arts Education classes | 943-5846 |
| 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 |
| Crime prevention | 943-5885 |
| Employment hotline | 943-5817 |
| Fingerprinting | 943-5844 |
| Flood zone info | 943-5839 |
| Foothill Gym | 256-3539 |
| Graffiti reporting | 943-5854 |
| 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 |
| Public Information | 943-5895 |
| Recreation classes | 943-5858 |
| Senior citizen activities | 943-5851 |
| Street light outages | 256-3529 |
| Tice Valley Gym | 256-3572 |



CITY COUNCIL
Gwen Regalia, Mayor*
Gary Skrel, Mayor pro tem
Charlie Abrams
Cindy Silva
Sue Rainey

* For appointment: Call 925-256-3504

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
 Valerie Barone, Director
ARTS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES
 Barry Gordon, Director
POLICE
 Joel Bryden, Chief of Police
PUBLIC SERVICES
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INA **Nutshell**

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