

IN A

Nutshell

No. 138

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

September/October 2008



Hands up for Sippy Cups

A member of the Sippy Cups musical group assists a young audience member on stage in the Hofmann Theatre during the 2nd annual Chevron Family Theatre Festival, which drew an estimated 6,500 people to the Leshner Center for the Arts July 26. 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.

Behind the Scenes * Sept. 20

Tour city hall, Leshner Center and volunteer

Find out how your City operates and how you can be a community volunteer at *Behind the Scenes Day/Get Involved 2008* on Saturday, Sept. 20.

This dual event will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., and at City Hall 1666 N. Main St. Admission is free.

Official City pins will be given to the first 150 visitors, and a variety of other goodies will be available.

Behind the Scenes Day will offer residents a fun and unique opportunity to tour the three floors of City Hall, including portions of the Police Station, as well as backstage at the Leshner Center and the Bedford Gallery.

Staff from every department will be on hand to provide displays, demonstrations, hands-on experiences with equipment, and to answer questions. The Mayor and City Council

OPEN HOUSE, see back page

LIBRARYFEST community campaign with *LibraryFest - A Day of Discovery* on Sunday, September 14, in Civic Park, from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free. See page 3 for details.

Celebrities, live entertainment, and activities for all ages will be featured when the Walnut Creek Library Foundation kicks off its

Take a trip back to WC in the 1950s during 'WC Reads' events

Happy days are here again! That is, of course, if you're talking about Walnut Creek in the 1950s, which is the theme of a variety of community events focused on Bill Bryson's *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*, this year's selection in the popular *One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads* program.

The Walnut Creek Reads Committee has planned a wide variety of fall events



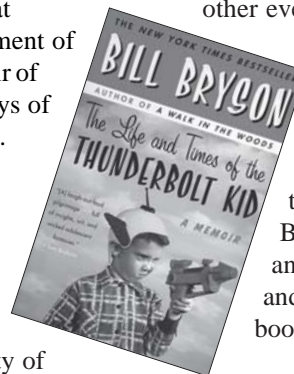
and activities aimed at enhancing the enjoyment of Bryson's funny memoir of growing up in the days of Elvis, Beaver, and Ike.

Activities planned include a tour the Eichler homes of Rancho San Miguel, exhibits about

Walnut Creek in the 1950s, book discussions, and a variety of

other events around the city.

Over the past few months, hundreds of Walnut Creek residents have read Bryson's book – a joyous read about America in the 1950s and the Baby Boomer generation. Bryson is an award-winning travel writer and the author of such noted books as *The Lost Continent* and *WC READS*, see page 5



City Event Calendar

September

14
LibraryFest
(See page 3)


20
**Behind the Scenes Day/
Get Involved 2008**
(See story, front page)

18-21
Walnut Festival
(See *What's Happening*)

October

26
Howe Harvest Festival
(See *What's Happening*)

City Meeting Calendar

City Council 
Sept. 16; Oct. 7, 14
7 p.m.
City Council chamber
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

Planning Commission
Sept. 11, 25; Oct. 9, 23
7 p.m.
City Council chamber

Arts Commission
Sept. (no meeting), Oct. 20
4:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

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

Design Review Commission
Sept. 3, 17; Oct. 1, 15
7 p.m.
City Council chamber

**Park, Rec & Open Space
Commission**
Sept. 8, Oct. 6
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

Viva Arts! Civic Arts Ed fundraiser set Sept. 27

Viva Arts!, an evening-long celebration of the arts to raise funds for Civic Arts Education scholarships and programs, will be Sept. 27 at the Shadelands Arts Center, 111 No. Wiget Ln.

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

The nonprofit Friends of Civic Arts Education Foundation hopes to surpass the \$22,000 raised last year when Viva Arts! attracted a sellout audience. Proceeds will underwrite scholarships for financially needy students and Civic Arts Education programs.

In 2007, 14,000 students of all ages — from pre-school children through senior citizens — participated in classes offered through the Civic Arts Education program, which was established in 1963.

Viva Arts! will feature Generations in Jazz



Viva Arts! will be at the Shadelands Arts Center.
Photo by Dave Hanney

performing danceable music and performances by students who have received scholarships.

Tickets are \$65 in advance; \$75 at the door. For more information, go to www.friendsartsed.org or call 925-939-2737.

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. 1 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.



Movies Under the Stars: 'Ferris' & 'Potter'

The last two installments of the City's popular open-air film series, *Movies Under the Stars*, in 2008 will feature *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* on Friday, Sept. 5 (Teen Event), and *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* on Saturday, Sept. 6. Both movies 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.

Fall Plant Sale at Gardens Sept. 13

The Gardens at Heather Farm will hold its annual Fall Plant Sale on Saturday, Sept. 13, 9 a.m. -noon, 600 North San Carlos, in Heather Farm Park. For more information call (925) 947-1678 or visit www.gardenshf.org.

Shadelands Antique Show Sept. 14

Over 100 dealers will be selling their wares at the Shadelands Antique & Collectible Sale and Show on Sunday, Sept. 14, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., at the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd. Food, beer available. Admission free, as well as free admission to the museum. Proceeds benefit the Walnut Creek Historical Society. Call 925-935-7871.

Walnut Festival returns to Heather Farm

The Walnut Festival Association will celebrate the 71st edition of its venerable **Walnut Festival**, featuring King Walnut and carnival rides for the whole family, Sept. 18-21 at Heather Farm Park, Ygnacio Valley Road and N. San Carlos Drive. The 66th **Walnut Festival Parade** will be Saturday, Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. The theme is "Field of Dreams." For details, go online to www.thewalnutfestival.org

Aquanuts' 40th anniversary show Sept. 5-7

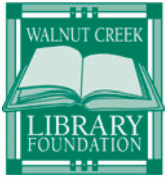
The Walnut Creek Aquanuts synchronized swimming team will present their 40th Anniversary Swim Show Sept. 5-7 at Clarke Swim Center in Heather Farm Park. Tickets (\$10-\$20) and show times are available at aquanuts.org

Howe Harvest Festival Oct. 26

The Howe Harvest Festival will be Sunday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Howe Homestead Park, 2950 Walnut Blvd. The festival celebrates the life of Associated Press correspondent James P. Howe, namesake of Howe Homestead Park, with old-fashioned Harvest and Halloween activities for families, including pumpkin carving, crafts, games, scarecrow making, and the "Wicked Maze." For details, call (925) 930-7731.

Pacific Fine Arts Sidewalk Festival

The next Pacific Fine Arts Sidewalk Festival on Main and Locust streets will be Sept. 26-28. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri-Sat.; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. For details, go to walnutcreekdowntown.com



LIBRARYFEST

A DAY OF DISCOVERY

Sunday, Sept. 14
1 to 5 p.m.
Civic Park
Free

Join the Walnut Creek Library Foundation on Sunday, September 14, in Civic Park, 1-5 p.m., as it kicks off its community campaign with **LibraryFest - A Day of Discovery**. Authors, artists, and performers will mix it up with community organizations, civic leaders, and celebrities in a full schedule of activities for all ages. This event represents the dynamic range of services that will be available at the new downtown Walnut Creek Library, set to open in 2010.

LibraryFest will feature celebrity readings, multi-cultural performances, Shakespearean sword fights, gardening demonstrations, and workshops in going green, tracing genealogy, and living healthy, to name a few. An expansive children's area will delight kids with loads of age-appropriate activities. Local food vendors, free prize drawings, and big-name headliners will add to the day of fun. This event is co-sponsored by the *Contra Costa Times*, Kaiser Permanente, and Minuteman Press of Lafayette. For a complete day's schedule, visit www.newwclibrary.org

Headliners

- * **Gail Tsukiyama**, author, *The Samurai's Garden* and *Women of the Silk*
- * **Brian Copeland**, comedian, entertainer, playwright, *Not a Genuine Black Man*



Tsukiyama Copeland

Celebrity Voices

Bay Area celebrities will read short excerpts from their favorite books:

- * **Brian Copeland**
- * **Gail Tsukiyama**
- * **Gwen Regalia**, Mayor of Walnut Creek
- * **Mary Piepho**, Contra Costa County Supervisor
- * **Michael Butler**, Artistic Director, Center REP
- * **Al Hart**, "The Voice of KCBS Radio"
- * **Rosalie Howarth**, KFOG deejay
- * **Simon Vance**, audiobook voice/actor

Live Entertainment

- * **Russian Barvinok Ensemble singers/dancers**
- * **Irish music & folklore with Celtic harpist Patrick Ball**
- * **California Shakespeare Theatre Sword Fights**
- * **Diablo Light Opera Stars 2000**

For Kids and Teens

- * **Baby Literacy**, storytime for infants presented by the Walnut Creek Library
- * **Animals of Mt. Diablo**, presented by the Lindsay Wildlife Museum
- * **Fratello Marionettes** performs *Peter and the Wolf*
- * **ARF** presents **Read to Your Pet**
- * **Graphic novelist Gene Yang** discusses his award-winning book *American Born Chinese*
- * **California Symphony** presents *Play the Drums*
- * **Arts & crafts activities, games, and more**

For Adults

- * **"Whodunit?" Mystery Writers Panel**, facilitated by Lynn Carey, *Contra Costa Times* Book Club, with Priscilla Royal (*Sorrow Without End*) and Cornelia Read (*A Field of Darkness*)
- * **Greening Your Home**, Trine Gallegos, *Contra Costa Times* columnist, "The Green Scene"
- * **Sports Medicine & Fitness**, Al Loosli, MD, Center for Sports Medicine Walnut Creek
- * **Travel on a Budget**, Ann Tatko-Peterson, *Contra Costa Times* Travel Editor
- * **Wearable Art**, Natasha Fouko, Russian clothing designer/silk painter

Booths and exhibits: Friends of the Walnut Creek Library • Friends of the Creeks • Walnut Creek Library • City of Walnut Creek • Walnut Creek Open Space • Mt. Diablo Audubon Society • Boy Scout Troop 1811 • Lawrence Hall of Science • Diablo Valley Chinese Cultural Association • Save Mt. Diablo • and many more

City Council allocates 2008-09 Civic Pride Grants

The City Council has allocated \$59,775 in Civic Pride Grants to nine organizations that requested funding for a variety of community projects in 2008-09.

The Council made the the following disbursements on July 1: Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, \$4,500; Friends of the Civic Arts Education Foundation,

\$4,750; The Gardens at Heather Farm, \$10,000; Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay, \$5,000; Walnut Creek Aquanauts, \$5,000; Walnut Creek Historical Society, \$11,400; Walnut Creek on Ice, \$4,125; Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation, \$10,000; The Wellness Community, \$5,000.

The City received 17 applications totalling \$224,535 in requested funding. The total amount available was \$75,000.

The City Council has given Civic Pride Grants since 1989 to fund a wide variety of community activities and projects that enhance the amenities and quality of life in Walnut Creek.

Council to consider Neiman Marcus plans Sept. 16

Neiman Marcus' plans to build a new store in Broadway Plaza will go before the City Council on Sept. 16.

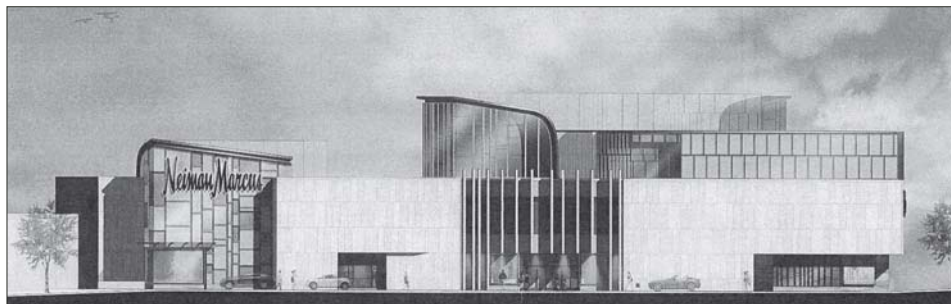
The upscale store will be built on the site of the current David M. Brian store, which is scheduled to be demolished in October. David M. Brian will be relocating into the former Gap store.

The Council will consider applications for a general plan amendment and rezoning for the project, which calls for a 107,000-square-foot building varying in height between 35 and 50 feet. The MaceRich Company, which owns Broadway Plaza, is seeking permission to use valet parking in its parking structure to meet the parking requirements on peak shopping days, and a parking reduction of 20 percent on non-peak days.

The Planning Commission is scheduled to make a final decision on the valet parking plan on Oct. 9.

Crepes a Go Go

The vintage Walnut Creek Meat Market building, currently occupied by Crepes a Go Go, will be converted into a sushi restaurant called Sasa by local



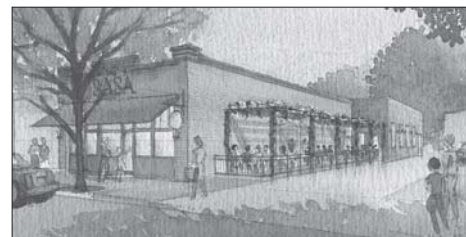
Architect's rendering of proposed Neiman Marcus store in Broadway Plaza.



The original 1910 Walnut Creek Meat Market will be transformed into Sasa, a sushi eatery.

developer Brian Hirara.

The brick structure (see photo above), built in 1910 by Fred Lawrence, will be preserved, with outdoor dining added to the south side. Later additions to the former meat market, which left in 1986, will be removed, according to Hirara.



Windsor Apartments

City staff was recently notified that the 125-unit Windsor Apartment project under construction next to the Marriott Hotel on North Main Street will not be completed for at least a year because there has been a change in contractors on the job.

Walnut Creek wages on-going battle against graffiti

Taggers, those lawless individuals armed with spray paint and a penchant for defacing public and private property, are on Walnut Creek's "Most Wanted" list.

There have been 209 cases of graffiti vandalism in 2007-08 — a 151 percent increase over 2006-07. So far this year police have made 12 arrests, including nine juveniles.

"This has been my worst year," said the City worker assigned full-time to removing graffiti throughout Walnut Creek. "I really don't know why this year is the worst. Somebody's paying an awful

lot of money for this stuff (paint)."

The City cleans 30-40 graffiti-damaged surfaces daily using a high-pressure blaster that shoots biodegradable materials, sand, or water to eradicate paint and other substances.

If the graffiti is on City-owned property, it will be removed immediately. If it is on private property, call the Code Enforcement Division at 925-943-5863 and the City will notify the property owner to either remove it himself or sign a release allowing the City to remove it.

The public can help fight graffiti by reporting any public property damage to



A City worker inspects graffiti along a wall on the Iron Horse Trail.

the Public Services Department at 925-943-5864. Citizens who witness an act of graffiti vandalism on either public or private property should contact the Police Department at 925-943-5844.

WC Reads

From front page

A Walk in the Woods.

The community events will kick off on Monday evening, Sept. 22 with “Happy Days in Walnut Creek,” a nostalgic presentation by local historian Brad Rovanpera, featuring over 220 vintage photos and songs, as well as an exhibit of Walnut Creek 50s memorabilia.

Also scheduled is an evening with former *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist and memoir-author Adair Lara; book discussions – including a “dinner and a book” event at a local 1950s diner; and an afternoon tour of the Rancho San Miguel Eichler homes, built in the 1950s. Also, a group of students from Las Lomas and Northgate high schools are planning special events for teens (see box at right for a partial list of events).

Updates on the community events are available at the libraries or local bookstores, by going online at www.WalnutCreekReads.org, or by calling 925-938-1481. Copies of the book are available at the public libraries, the Rossmoor Library, and local book sellers.

The *Walnut Creek Reads* program is now in its third year. The program is presented by the Contra Costa Library, Walnut Creek Branch of the American Association of University Women, Walnut Creek Library Foundation, Walnut Creek and Ygnacio Valley Friends of the Library groups, the Rossmoor Library and the City of Walnut Creek, with the assistance of City National Bank, Minuteman Press of Lafayette, the *Contra Costa Times* and *Walnut Creek Magazine*.

Remembering the 50s: fall calendar of activities

Opening Event:

**“Happy Days in Walnut Creek:
Coming of Age in the 1950s”**
Monday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m.
City Council Chamber
City Hall, 1666 N. Main

Walnut Creek historian Brad Rovanpera narrates a multimedia retrospective with vintage pictures of Walnut Creek and popular music from the 1950s



This photo of an early 1950s Walnut Festival Parade on Main Street is one of over 200 vintage images to be featured in “Happy Days in Walnut Creek” on Sept. 22 at City Hall.

Special Events:

**“Lingering in the Kiddie Corral:
Comics in the 1950s”** featuring
Joe Field of Flying Colors Comics
Tuesday, Sept. 23, 6:30 p.m.
Ygnacio Valley Library
2661 Oak Grove Rd.

**“1950s Living in an Eichler”
Rancho San Miguel Homes Tour**
Sunday, Oct. 5, 1-4 p.m.
Admission: \$10
Tickets by mail or online after Sept. 1

**“Diner” and a Book
Dinner and Discussion**
Monday, Oct. 6, 6:30 p.m.
Hubcaps Restaurant, Locust & Bonanza
Admission: \$15
Tickets by mail or online after Sept. 1

**“The Life & Times of a CA Kid”
An Evening with author Adair Lara**
Thursday, Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Shadelands Arts Center
111 N. Wiget Lane

Exhibit:

**“Remembering the ‘50s”
WC Photos & Memorabilia**

Sept. 22 - Oct. 17
City Hall, Ygnacio Valley Library and
other locations

Book Discussions:

Thursday, Sept. 25, Noon
Civic Park Community Center, 1375
Civic Drive

Thursday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m.
Ygnacio Valley Library
2661 Oak Grove Road

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m.
Fireside Room, Rossmoor
(Rossmoor residents only)

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

Rediscover WC on fall City Bus Tour

Learn about Walnut Creek the easy way and leave the driving to us by joining Public Information Officer Brad Rovanpera on the 21st anniversary fall City Bus Tour scheduled Saturday, Oct. 25.

This 3½-hour morning excursion will include stops at Borges Ranch, the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, the Gardens at Heather Farm, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, the Diablo Valley Lines Model Railroad, and the Leshner

Center for the Arts.

Participants will also learn about the community’s early days, including a brief tour of the historic buildings downtown.

The City Bus Tours have been conducted since fall 1987.

First-come, first-served tickets are \$10 per person (4-ticket limit) and must be reserved in advance by phone by calling (925) 256-3505. Seating is limited to 23.



The Walnut Creek Model Railroad’s Diablo Valley Lines is a stop on the City Bus Tour.

City Council Update

PH BART pathway rejected

Citing inefficiencies, the City Council on July 15 unanimously voted to not support a county plan to build a new shortcut path for pedestrians and bicyclists to the Pleasant Hill BART station from Walnut Creek and Concord neighborhoods east of the station.

Although council members acknowledged the need to encourage commute alternatives to the BART station, they said the timing was not right for spending \$2-\$2.6 million on a 10-foot-wide paved path that would get little use during the winter months. They suggested that the funds could be put to better use promoting walking and biking to BART other ways.

Council to consider parking meter hour extension proposal

The City Council is tentatively scheduled to consider a recommendation to extend parking meter hours for evenings and Sundays at its Sept. 16 meeting.

The Transportation Commission voted 3-1 on July 17 to recommend extending meter hours until 9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays to make more on-street spaces available for customers of downtown businesses.

Currently, parking meters are only enforced 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday-Saturday.

The Transportation Commission is also recommending that the City allow free parking in its Broadway garage on Sundays and that a significant amount of the revenues generated by the additional hours be earmarked for downtown improvements that promote pedestrian usage.

Register now for fall edition of popular WC Citizen's Institute

The next edition of the popular Walnut Creek Citizen's Institute, which gives residents an opportunity to learn first-hand how the City works and how they can be involved with their local government, will be Oct. 6 to Nov. 15.

Sessions are led by management staff from various City departments as well as the City Manager, City Council members,



Student interns helped out this summer

Las Lomas High School junior Lindsey Bozym, left, spent the summer helping with clerical duties in the City's Business Licensing office. She was one of 24 Walnut Creek high school students and recent graduates who worked alongside City staffers during the 15th annual Summer Intern Program.

Council adopts lean 2008-10 City budget

An uncommonly lean City operating budget took effect July 1, reflecting "an unfamiliar combination" of decreasing revenues and increased costs.

The City Council adopted the 2008-10 operating budget on June 24 following several public study sessions and meetings that brought the current fiscal situation into sobering focus.

The \$223.4 million two-year budget reflects the City's practice of careful planning and conservative fiscal oversight, said City Manager Gary Pokorny.

The City will also spend over \$3 million for street resurfacing in residential areas, \$3.5 million to rebuild major roadways, and over \$3.6 million for other projects, such as widening sidewalks along a portion of Ygnacio Valley Road and designing

drainage improvements for the Walker/Homestead and Walnut Boulevard areas.

The new spending plan also sets aside resources for completing the downtown library as well as an emergency reserve of \$7 million to cover any potential cutbacks in revenues received from the State over the next two years.

The City met an unusual challenge of balancing its budget in the face of declining sales tax revenues and flattening property tax revenues. In order to offset climbing employee health care costs, the Council agreed to freeze 13 staff positions that have been or will become vacant and to raise fees for a variety of services.

For more details on the new budget, go online to www.walnut-creek.org and click on "Budget" under "Quick Links."

morning sessions on Sept. 27 and Nov. 15. There is no cost to participate.

For more information, call Gayle Vassar, Community Relations Manager, at 925-943-5899 ext. 189 or email her at Vassar@walnut-creek.org. The class schedule and topics, as well as the application forms, are available on the City website: www.walnut-creek.org



By Officer Michael Hurlbut

Drive safely, folks ...

With summer upon us and people hitting the road for vacations and visits to relatives, it's important to be mindful of some California driving laws that most people would not necessarily know.



I see so many drivers every day wearing headphones, listening to their MP3 players while they drive to and from work. This is a violation of the California Vehicle Code 27400, which states a driver (or cyclist) may not wear a headset or earplugs that cover both ears while driving. Not only is this a distraction to the driver, but also it can be a major hazard to emergency personnel possibly trying to pass vehicles in traffic. It's difficult to hear sirens when your ears are covered up.

You may also not have known that it is now against the law to smoke a pipe, cigar, or cigarette in a vehicle – moving or parked – if anyone in the car is under the age of 18. The penalty for this infraction can be up to \$100.

With road trips, music is almost always a necessity. However, when you're driving with the windows down and the music blaring, it becomes an annoyance to the drivers around you as well as a danger to yourself. Music must be kept at a volume in the car so that it cannot be heard outside of 50 feet.

For our younger drivers it's important to remember the curfews in Walnut Creek. The curfew for minors is 10 p.m.-6 a.m., Sunday nights through Friday mornings. Friday nights to Sunday mornings, the curfew is 12-6 a.m. If you are a driver with a provisional license, you are not allowed to drive between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. There are several exceptions to this rule, however. If the minor is accompanied by their parent, legal guardian, a driver over the age of 25, or a driving instructor, they can drive past 11 p.m.

For any further questions on California Vehicle Code, the Department of Motor Vehicles has an excellent search engine at www.dmv.ca.gov to locate your answers.

Bryden sworn in as police chief

Joel Bryden was sworn in by Deputy City Clerk Sally Rice on June 30 as Walnut Creek's ninth Chief of Police in a ceremony at the Leshner Center for the Arts. Bryden, formerly an Assistant Police Chief in San Diego, succeeded Tom Soberanes as Walnut Creek's top cop.



Police volunteers: making a difference

In the pantheon of City volunteers, no one stands higher than Walter Stern.

The 87-year-old Walnut Creek resident has been part of the Police Department's Volunteers in Police Service (VIPs) program since 1985, right after he retired.

Mayor Gwen Regalia presented Stern with a proclamation at the annual VIPS Appreciation Luncheon on June 26 for his 23 years of service to the City.

"Dependable is the key word for him," said Training & VIPS Coordinator John Haithcock. "Walter's one of those volunteers who takes on a project and takes it home."

Stern is one of 25 VIPs, providing a range of services such as maintaining



Walter Stern, 87, at work in the police station today, left, and as a VIPs (Volunteer in Police Service) in 1986, right.



records, assisting with equipment maintenance, and community outreach for the Community Policing program.

Other police volunteers include Explorers, four chaplains, and around 30 Reserve officers.

To learn about how to become a volunteer in the Police Department, come to the *Get Involved 2008* fair on Saturday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts (see front page story).

Changing the world one pedal at a time

By Emily Leutzinger
Class of 2008, Las Lomas High School

As an eighteen-year-old who loves everything about bikes, from riding to repairs, it's nice to see others pedaling their way to their destinations, too.

I realized years ago that cars are not the only way to get around. I have been riding my bike daily ever since. I find bikes to be so much simpler. There's no need to worry about parking spaces, gas, speeding tickets, traffic, or pollution.



During these times of high gas prices and daily messages about the decreasing polar ice caps and the increasing waistbands of Americans, there is a simple solution. Ride a bike! It's free, and most of all, fun!

When I am on my bike, I know that I am contributing to a better world by using an environmentally friendly method of transportation. Hopefully, the increasingly common sight of cyclists of all ages in Walnut Creek will encourage someone else to give bicycle riding a try!



Leshler Center volunteer ushers fed and feted

More than 200 volunteer ushers at the Leshler Center for the Arts were feted (and fed) at Volunteer Day on July 5 for their continuing service and commitment to the arts. Longtime usher Bryan Lawver of Danville, above right, gets whipped cream on his ice cream compliments of Barry Gordon, Arts, Recreation & Community Services Director, as Assistant Director Kevin Safine looks on.

Open House

From front page

members will also be greeting residents.

At the Leshler Center, guided tours of the three theaters will be given every 30 minutes, and tours of the Bedford Gallery will be offered. Free ice cream will be given to the first 200 visitors.

Outside the Leshler Center, more than 40 non-profit organizations will be stationed at tables for *Get Involved 2008* to provide information on how to become a volunteer. This event is being done in partnership with the Volunteer Center of

the East Bay.

A variety of City vehicles, ranging from a police car to a street sweeper, will be on display in the City Hall parking lot. Families are encouraged to come and let the kids climb inside the vehicles.

Inside City Hall, various displays will be available on each floor, including hands-on demonstrations on how to access information on the City's website.

As part of its Going Green Together campaign, the City will also distribute free seed packets and other recycling

Susan Prather, tireless advocate for homeless, dies

Susan Prather, who was the driving force behind Walnut Creek's Fresh Start homeless program over the last 10 years, died of cancer July 29 at age 57.



Susan Prather

Prather, a Richmond resident and longtime advocate for the homeless, became director of Fresh Start in partnership with St. Paul's Episcopal Church when the City approached her about starting a program for the homeless in 1998, prompted by a \$250,000 bequest from a Rossmoor resident.

materials and provide information on ways to go green.

The scale model of the new Walnut Creek Library will be on display and a pictorial history of Walnut Creek will run continuously in the City Council Chamber on the first floor.



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

* For appointment: Call 925-256-3504

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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CITY ATTORNEY
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CITY CLERK
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IN A **Nutshell**

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Editor:
Brad Rovanpera

We welcome your comments and questions.
Please call 925-943-5895
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For past issues, go online at www.walnut-creek.org



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