

IN A

# Nutshell

No. 131

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

JULY/AUGUST 2007

## Citizens give City highest marks in latest survey

Compared with other cities across the U.S., Walnut Creek is right up there with the best of them.

At least that's what Walnut Creek citizens think, based on the results of the City's latest Citizen Survey conducted in April by the National Research Center of Boulder, Colorado.

In fact, Walnut Creek is ranked 10th among 211 jurisdictions in citizens' satisfaction with the community's overall quality of life. Further, it ranks ninth as a place to live.

"It's good to know that the folks at home feel we are doing a good job for them," said City Manager Gary Pokorny. "Council and staff are doing good work, and it feels good to hear it from the public."

The survey results are based on mailed-SURVEY, see page 4



## Visiting Walnut Creek, *Italian-style*

Mauro Rivaldi tried on a bird hat in the costume room at the Leshner Center for the Arts during a day-long visit to the community by a delegation from Walnut Creek's sister City of Noceto Italy on April 13. Noceto Mayor Fabio Fecci and 14 fellow citizens of Noceto were wine and dined by the Walnut Creek Sister Cities International group and City officials. For the story and more photos, see page 5.

## Day of fun at Family Theatre Festival Saturday, July 28 at Leshner Arts Center

A unique and fun day of affordable, world-class family entertainment will be offered at the inaugural *Chevron Family Theatre Festival* on Saturday, July 28 at the Leshner Center for the Arts.



'Muppets' puppeteer Leslie Carrara

Festivities, which run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., will allow children and their parents to share a special theatre experience all day at the Leshner Center.

The Leshner Center's three theatres and lobbies, as well as surrounding outdoor areas and streets, will be used to showcase professional, high-quality family theatre activities and performances. Tickets for performances are \$5/each, sold in

advance online at [LeshnerARTSCenter.org](http://LeshnerARTSCenter.org), or by calling 925-943-SHOW (7469), or

FESTIVAL, see page 6

## One City, One Book features novel by Wallace Stegner

The popular *One City, One Book* program returns for its second season to offer Walnut Creek residents the joy of reading Pulitzer prize-winning author Wallace Stegner's *All the Little Live Things*.

The Stegner novel, published in 1967, is the story of Joe Allston, a ONE BOOK, see back page



## City Event Calendar

### July

4

**4th of July Concert**  
(See *What's Happening*)

28

**Chevron Family Theatre Festival**  
(see story, page 1)

15

**Farmers Market 25th**  
(See *What's Happening*)

### August

12

**Movies Under the Stars**  
(See *What's Happening*)

## City Meeting Calendar

### City Council

July 17; Aug. 7

7 p.m.

City Council chamber  
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

### Planning Commission

July 12, 26; Aug. 23

7 p.m.

City Council chamber

### Arts Commission

Aug. 20

4:30 p.m.

City Council chamber

### Transportation Commission

July 19, Aug. 16

7 p.m.

City Council chamber

### Design Review Commission

July 18; Aug. 1, 15

7 p.m.


City Council chamber

### Park, Rec & Open Space Commission

July 2

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)

## Bedford Gallery offers public art walking tours

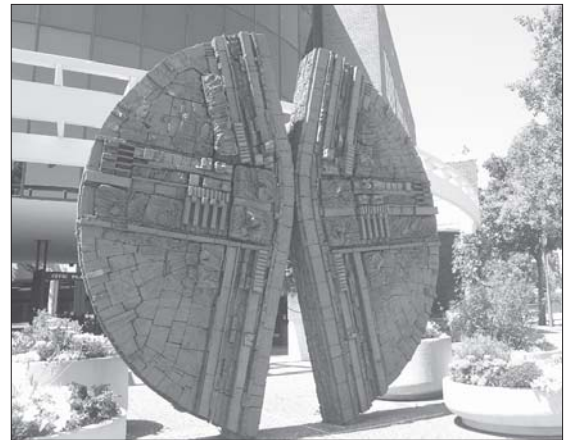
Bedford Gallery is now offering guided walking tours of Walnut Creek's outstanding public art works in the vicinity of City Hall.

Tours will be offered this year on the second Saturday of the month on July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, and Oct. 13. Tours start at 11 a.m.

The 45-minute, docent-led tour departs from the front of the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr. The tour will include seven to 10 pieces located between Leshner Center and City Hall.

Admission is \$5 and includes a free pass to the Bedford Gallery, which is located in the Leshner Center.

Tour schedules are subject to change; for more information, call 925-295-1417.



*Lost in the Mail, Jacques Overhoff, Main and Civic*

## What's Happening

### Celebrate the 4th at Civic Park

Music Director Harvey Benstein will conduct the Walnut Creek Concert Band at its annual 4th of July Concert beginning at 6 p.m. at the Civic Park gazebo as part of the City's popular PARKconcert series. On Sunday, Aug. 12, music of the 50s, 60s and 70s will be performed at Civic Park, also at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

### Summer Pops Concert on July 28

"Broadway Curtain Time" will be the theme of this year's Summer Pops Concert to be presented July 28 at the Leshner Center for the Arts by the Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein. The concert will feature Broadway classics, including West Side Story, Porgy and Bess, and South Pacific, as well as music by Cole Porter and Sousa marches. Tickets are \$12-\$15 at the Center Box Office or by calling 925-943-SHOW (7469) or online at [www.dlrca.org](http://www.dlrca.org)

### Movies Under the Stars: 'Over the Hedge'

The next installment of the City's popular open-air film series, *Movies Under the Stars*, on Heather Farm Park's front ballfield will feature the Dreamworks film *Over the Hedge* on Saturday, July 21, and the original *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* (1971) on Saturday, Aug. 18. Both movies will be shown at dusk (approximately 9 p.m.). Admission is free and folks are encouraged to arrive at least one hour early. Pre-show live entertainment will be offered for both shows. Low lawn chairs are allowed in designated areas only; and please, no pets.



### 'Carny Art' coming to Bedford Gallery

In the middle of county and state fair season, Bedford Gallery celebrates the mystery and mythology of the circus and carnivals in *Carny Art: Contemporary Artists at the Circus and Carnival*, which runs Aug. 5 and through Oct. 7.



*'Mia and Anabel,' Linda Kramer, 2003*

Besides spectacular visuals, the Gallery will also display coin-operated games borrowed from Playland-Not-at-the-Beach in El Cerrito, colorful posters, and other paraphernalia. For details, go online to [www.bedfordgallery.org](http://www.bedfordgallery.org)

### Farmers Market's 25th anniversary party

The Contra Costa Farmers Market will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Sunday, July 15 at the Walnut Creek Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the downtown library parking lot, corner of North Broadway and Lincoln Avenue. Chef Nader Sharkes of the Contra Costa College Food Service Program will hold cooking demonstrations with produce from the market, and author Barbara Kobsar will sign copies of her cookbook. Entrants may bring their freshly-baked pies for a contest that will be judged at noon. Live music. For more information, call 925-431-8361.

### All City Swim Meet July 14-15

Walnut Creek Swim Club is expecting over 1,500 swimmers (ages 5-18) and 4,000 attendees to converge on Heather Farm Park when it hosts Walnut Creek's annual All City Swim Meet on July 14-15 at Clarke Memorial Swim Center. The swim center will be closed to the public during this weekend event.

## WC Aquanuts named to 2008 U.S. Olympic synchronized team

Four members of the Walnut Creek Aquanuts synchronized swimming team will be competing for the U.S. at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

U.S. Synchronized Swimming announced in May that the four — Becky Kim, 22, Walnut Creek; Annabelle Orme, 20, Walnut Creek; Jillian Penner, 19, Seattle, WA; and Kim Probst, 26, Troy, N.Y. — were among 10 athletes named to the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team.

The Walnut Creek Aquanuts, which are cosponsored by the City of Walnut Creek, practice at Clarke Swim Center in Heather Farm Park.

Aquanut head coach Tammy McGregor, a two-time Olympian and gold medalist, has coached the 10 athletes as they have competed as U.S. National Team I. Last fall, the four Aquanuts were on the team that won a gold medal at the FINA World Trophy Cup in Moscow, Russia.



Kim



Orme



Penner



Probst

## Library artwork to be done by internationally renowned artist

The City has awarded a \$200,000 commission to artist Christian Moeller to create a signature public artwork for the new library.

A panel of appointed professional and community leaders this spring chose Moeller from a field of 30 artists.

Moeller is internationally recognized artist for works considered to be innovative, dynamic, and elegant.

Born in Germany and educated as an architect, Moeller practiced architecture and founded his own office and media laboratory in Frankfurt where he also taught. In 2001, Moeller joined the senior faculty at UCLA in the Department of Design and Media Arts and established his art studio in Hollywood.



Christian Moeller

Moeller will collaborate with the library design team of Group 4 Architecture, Research + Planning, Inc. and landscape architects, Royston, Hanamoto, Alley, and Abey to create a work that will be an integral part of the overall library experience for years to come.

For further information on the public art program for the Walnut Creek Library and Public Art Program contact Regina Almaguer, Walnut Creek Public Art Coordinator, at 925-295-1447, or email her at [almaguer@bedfordgallery.org](mailto:almaguer@bedfordgallery.org)

## Sign-ups still available for disaster training this summer and fall

Make this your “summer of safety” and sign up for Community Emergency Response Team training.

Free CERT classes meet once a week for six weeks, 6-7:30 p.m., at the Contra Costa Fire District Training Center, 2945 Treat Blvd., Concord. The summer session will be Tuesdays, July 24-Aug. 28 and the fall session will be Wednesdays, Sept. 19-Oct. 24.

CERT participants learn to work

together in the wake of an emergency to shut off utilities, extinguish small fires, perform light search and rescue, and respond to basic disaster medical needs.

To register, contact Gayle Vassar, 925-943-5899, ext. 189, or email her at [vassar@walnut-creek.org](mailto:vassar@walnut-creek.org)

## Civic Pride Grant applications due September 10

To increase participation in the Civic Pride Grant program, the City is soliciting applications from local organizations for a second round of grants this year.

The deadline for submitting applications is Sept. 10 at 5 p.m.

Applications will be available Aug. 13 and will automatically be mailed to those already on the mailing list. Applications and criteria will also be available online at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org) on Aug. 13.

Since 1989, the Civic Pride Grant program annually has provided funding for community projects that promote cultural diversity, provide a long-term community benefit, or are new or expanded programs and services that involve public/private partnerships.

For more information, contact Sandi Kendle at 925-943-5899, ext. 240.

## A Look Back: Remembering the El Rey movie house

In an age when multiplex movie houses seem ancient if there aren't at least 14 screens, it's difficult to appreciate the wonder Walnut Creek residents felt at the opening, 70 years ago, of the iconic El Rey Theatre, the city's second cinema.

The city's first movie theater, the Ramona, opened in 1920 at Main and Cypress streets. Owner Elwood Laws renamed it the Walnut Creek Theatre but decided to build a modern Art Deco cinema two blocks north on Main Street.

The El Rey Theatre opened on July 30, 1937. The \$75,000 movie house, with



Walnut Creek's second cinema, the El Rey Theatre, opened July 30, 1937.

its air conditioning, plush seating, and hearing devices, was packed on opening night when it showed the Jean Arthur feature, *Easy Living*.

Double features were common in the 1930s when tickets were a dime for kids.

However, progress caught up with the El Rey when the five-screen Festival Cinema opened on May 29, 1969. Profits fell, forcing the El Rey's closure and subsequent razing in December 1983.



# Culture still BIG business in WC

Culture continues to be very good business in Walnut Creek.

A newly released national study indicates that non-profit arts and culture in 2005 was a burgeoning \$56.2 million industry in Walnut Creek — one that supports nearly 1,500 full-time equivalent jobs and generates \$5.83 million in local and state government revenue every year.

Further, volunteers helped account for more than \$3 million in estimated value to the community. The study showed that in 2005, 1,918 volunteers donated 174,467 hours to the City's nonprofit arts and culture organizations.

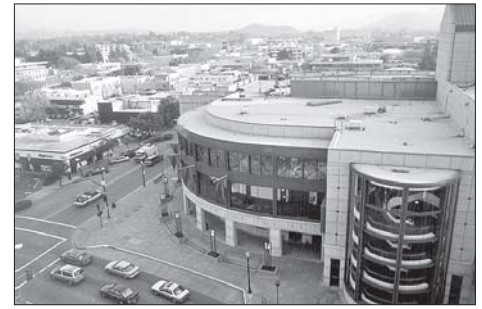
These are the findings of the latest survey conducted by the City in partnership with Americans for the Arts, a nonprofit organization that surveyed 156

communities across the U.S. in the most comprehensive study of its kind ever done.

The *Arts and Economic Prosperity III* study concluded that the City's investment in its arts programs, particularly at the Leshner Center for the Arts, reaps remarkable economic rewards for the community at large.

The study found that nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, which spend \$18.6 million annually in Walnut Creek, leverage an astonishing \$37.5 million in additional spending by arts and culture audiences at local restaurants, hotels, retail stores, parking garages, and other businesses in Walnut Creek.

"We're very pleased with these findings as they reconfirm for us that the City's arts and cultural programs continue



The Leshner Center for the Arts

to have a huge, positive impact on Walnut Creek's robust economy," said City Manager Gary Pokorny.

The 2005 findings support similar results from a 2000 study that showed nonprofit arts organizations in Walnut Creek generated \$34.2 in sales — of which \$21.3 million was spent by audiences on meals and merchandise in the downtown area.

## Survey results

### From front page

in questionnaires from 443 out of 1,200 randomly chosen homes in Walnut Creek — a relatively high response rate of 38 percent.

The survey results showed an impressively high percentage of citizens rated Walnut Creek either "good" or "excellent" in a variety of categories:

- As a place to live — 97%
- As a place to raise kids — 94%
- As a place to work — 87%
- As a place to retire — 82%

Similarly, 95 percent of respondents said they felt the overall image or reputation of Walnut Creek was good or excellent, and 95 percent said the overall appearance of the city was good or excellent.

Perhaps not surprisingly, 95 percent rated Walnut Creek's shopping opportunities as good or excellent.

So, how do these ratings compare with the rest of the country?

- As a place to live — WC ranked 9th among 210 jurisdictions
- As a place to raise kids — 20th out of 177
- As a place to work — 2nd out of 95
- As a place to retire — 4th out of 162
- Overall quality of life — 10th out of 211

The findings showed that Walnut Creek ranked above the norm in a majority of

categories, the highest being a 1st place ranking among 97 jurisdictions for "overall image/reputation of Walnut Creek."

"Walnut Creek has scored, hands down, higher than almost everybody else," said Heather Locke, Director of the National Citizen Survey Program. "There are a few communities up there with (Walnut Creek), but not very many."

The survey results also showed that:

- 77% feel they receive good value for the taxes they pay

- 70% are pleased with the overall direction the City is taking

- 65% feel the City government welcomes citizen involvement

- 54% feel the City government listens to citizens

- 87% rated the quality of City services as being good or excellent

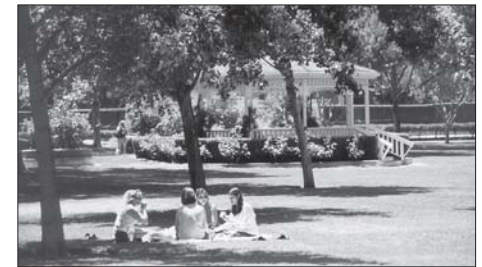
- 88% rated police services as being good or excellent

- 76% rated economic development as being good or excellent

- 78% rated services to seniors as being good or excellent

Locke said the survey findings indicate Walnut Creek citizens know they have a good thing going.

"They're very lucky to live where they're living," she said. "Things are going really well with city government and people seem to know that."



Walnut Creek rated high with residents for its quality of life, as reflected in this picnic scene in Civic Park.

Along those lines, survey findings showed that 85% citizens have a good or excellent impression of City employees, and 90% rated staff's knowledge good to excellent.

For complete results, go online to [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org)

### Seniors to be polled in July in follow-up survey on needs

As a follow-up to the Walnut Creek Senior Needs Assessment survey done in 2003, local senior citizens (age 60 and older) will be randomly chosen to participate in a new survey by National Research Center in July.

The new survey will assess how well Walnut Creek is serving older adults compared with other cities across the U.S.

# Visiting WC, Italian- style

There's a perfect Italian word for what happened on April 13 in Walnut Creek when a group from its sister city of Noceto, Italy paid a visit.

It's *gemellaggio* — or “town twinning.”

In truth, Walnut Creek celebrated its 20-year “twinship” with Noceto when a delegation of 15 citizens led by Mayor Fabio Fecci spent the day touring, tasting, and toasting.

Mayor Fecci presented the City with a sculpture of a lyre as a gift for the new Walnut Creek Library during a 2 1/2-hour ceremony at City Hall.

On behalf of Walnut Creek, Mayor Sue Rainey presented a photograph of Mount Diablo to Mayor Fecci, and officials from both cities exchanged a host of gifts.

The Walnut Creek Rotary Club feted the Nocetans at a wine-and-cheese reception at the Bedford Gallery, which was followed by a tour of the Lesher Center for the Arts and a dinner in their honor attended by 96 people from throughout the area at the Shadelands Arts Center.



Noceto Mayor Fabio Fecci, above, admires the framed photograph of Mount Diablo that was presented to the City of Noceto by Mayor Sue Rainey on behalf of the citizens of Walnut Creek during a special City Council meeting on April 13.



At right, Mayor Fecci presents the City Council with a special art work created by Noceto sculptor Maurizio Catellani as a gift for the new Walnut Creek Library. The sculpture of a lyre will remain on display in the foyer outside the Council Chamber at City Hall until the library is opened in 2010.



The 15-member Noceto delegation toured the Ruth Bancroft Garden (above), the Old Borges Ranch (upper right), and Heather Farm Park (right) during a morning bus tour of Walnut Creek.





## City Council Update

### Historic preservation ordinance

The City Council is tentatively scheduled to hold a public hearing on the proposed historic preservation ordinance at its meeting on Aug. 7.

The draft ordinance establishes standards for determining which structures, sites, and districts may be of historic value, and also sets the rules for preserving those historic resources.

## Doing a Block Party? City Hall can help with the details

**B**lock parties are a great way to meet your neighbors, build community, and have fun.

If you want to close a public street for your party, you will need to obtain a free Block Party Street Closure Permit from the City and show proof of insurance.

To encourage neighborhoods to hold their first block party, the City will pay the cost of insurance for the first 10 "first-time" block parties scheduled each year. These go fast, so don't delay.

To find out more, go to [www.walnutcreek.org](http://www.walnutcreek.org), then choose "Services," then "Neighborhood." You'll find a link to the City's Block Party kit there, along with information about permit and insurance requirements. Questions? Call Community Relations Manager Gayle Vassar, 943-5899 ext. 189.

## Festival

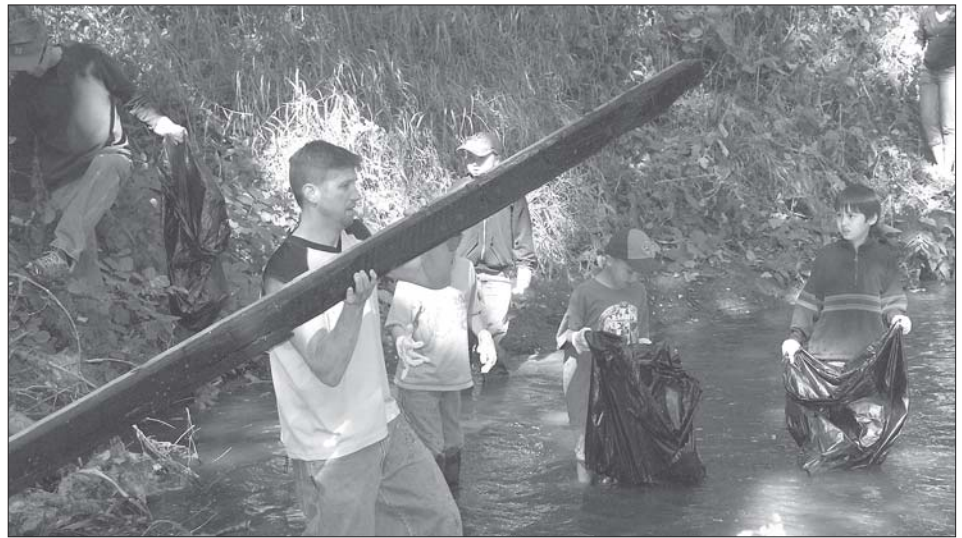
### From front page

in-person at the Leshler Center Box Office.

In addition, an array of free activities, booths, and entertainment will also surround the outside of the Leshler Center at Locust Street and Civic Drive.

Mayor Sue Rainey and Chevron General Manager of Corporate Public Policy Gary Fisher are honorary co-chairs of the event.

"Ashland has Shakespeare, Sundance has films, Walnut Creek has the Family Theatre Festival," said Leshler Center General Manager Scott Denison. "This one-of-a-kind event promises to become a staple of Bay Area family theatre for years to come."



## Creeks get spring cleaning

Tiger Cub dad David Lingle of Pack 248, Buena Vista Elementary School, hoisted a long four-by-four out of Walnut Creek in Civic Park as his scouts got ready to clean up other debris at the start of the 18th annual Creek Clean-Up Day on May 12. Over 300 volunteers lent a hand to clear two dumpsters-full of debris from the downtown creeks. The activity was sponsored by the City and the Friends of the Creeks and ended with a barbecue lunch for all volunteers.

## New Public Services director starts

**H**eather Ballenger became Walnut Creek's new Public Services Director on June 11, succeeding Dan Richard, who retired after five years at the helm of the City's largest department.

Ballenger comes to the City with 23 years of experience with Contra Costa County, most recently as Deputy Director of the Public Works Department. A Martinez resident, she holds a Bachelor



Ballenger

of Science degree in Civil Engineering from California State University, Fresno and is a registered civil engineer.

The Public Services Department has 132 employees who provide engineering services and maintain buildings, streets,

22 parks and 2,700 acres of public open space.



### Wellness breakfast idea

For a breakfast that is high in calcium, antioxidants, and whole grain, try this:

- **1 cup fruit** — blueberries, blackberries, or strawberries (fresh or frozen, no sugar added)
- **1 cup nonfat plain yogurt**
- **1/2 cup Uncle Sam All Natural Cereal, Grape Nuts, or oats** — sprinkled on top

Have you got a wellness tip to share? If so, submit it online at [www.wellnesscitychallenge.com](http://www.wellnesscitychallenge.com). If it is selected and printed in the *Nutshell*, you may win a fun and exciting prize.



## CopTalk

By Officer Chris Norlund

### Beware of the heat

The summer heat is here and with it come the dangers of hyperthermia from inside parked vehicles. Nationwide every year there are needless deaths of children left inside a vehicle.



The National Safe Kids Campaign based in Washington, D.C., estimated that a car with a white interior can heat up inside to 135 degrees on a 79-degree day, while the temperature inside a car with a black interior could go as high as 192 degrees. When the outside temperature is 83 degrees, and your window is up, the temperature inside your car can reach 109 degrees in just 15 minutes.

Here are some good rules to live by:

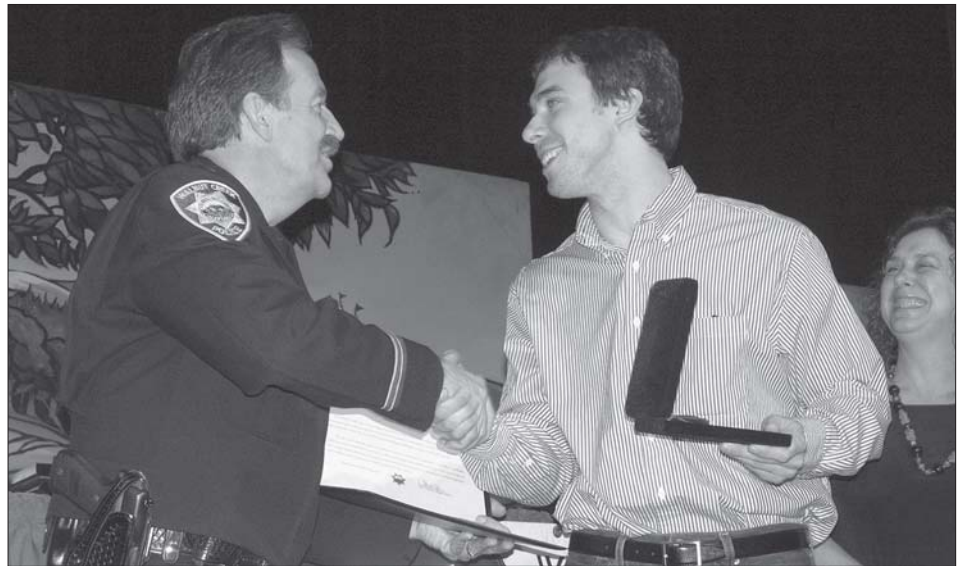
- Never leave your child unattended in a motor vehicle, even with the windows down.
- Teach children not to play in, on, or around cars.
- Always lock car doors and trunks, even at home, and keep keys out of reach of children. (child locks can trap a child in a hot car at home).
- Always make sure all child passengers have left the car when you reach your destination.
- Don't overlook sleeping infants.

**California Vehicle Code 15620.** This law, known as Kaitlyn's law, was enacted as a result of a 6-month-old child who died after being left in a car for 2 hours:

*A child who is 6 years of age or younger may not be left inside a motor vehicle without being subject to the supervision of a person who is 12 years of age or older.*

Legally, if you leave your child and nothing happens, the fine is \$100 minimum. If something happens, you can be charged under numerous child endangerment acts, up to and including manslaughter.

As for pets, don't leave them in a vehicle. Animals go into distress quickly in a hot vehicle.



### Citizen heroes honored

Chief of Police Tom Soberanes on May 1 presented Chief's Awards to Vincent Nivolo and six other Walnut Creek citizens for exceptional bravery and wisdom that assisted police in the past year. Nivolo was honored for preventing a suicide attempt on Feb. 9 by alerting a nearby resident to dial 911 and staying with the subject until police arrived. Other citizens who received the award were Aaron Drake, Elizabeth Lowery, Matthew Hawkinsestes, Chad Maxwell, Harry Arruda, and Dwight Gentry. Chief Soberanes also presented Life Saving Medals to Police Officer Joe Donleavy and Police Sergeant Tom Cashion.

### How to prevent unwanted phone calls

Are you getting unwanted telemarketing phone calls at your home or on your cell phone?

The National Do Not Call Registry was created in 2003 to allow consumers an easy and efficient way of stopping these types of unwanted calls at home.

You can register online at [www.DONOTCALL.GOV](http://www.DONOTCALL.GOV) or call toll-free 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-

4236).

The Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, and the states are enforcing the National Do No Call Registry. Being on the registry will stop most, but not all, telemarketing calls. Most telemarketers should not call your number once it has been on the registry for 31 days. Your registration is effective for five years.

### Tips on draining pools and spas

Did you know that draining pools, spas and fountains to storm drains can pollute creeks and the Bay with copper, chlorine, sediments and other contaminants?

Storm drains flow directly into our creeks and the Bay without treatment. Copper is a pollutant that threatens aquatic life in our creeks. It is used as an algaecide in pools, spas and fountains. Copper pipes are commonly used in pool plumbing.

Here are a few helpful tips:

- Pools, spas and fountains should only be discharged to the sanitary sewer and only after obtaining their permission.

Call Central Contra Costa Sanitary District at 925-229-7288.



- Prevent algae problems and reduce the need for draining by cleaning regularly, maintaining proper chlorine levels and maintaining water filtration and circulation.

- Manage pH and water hardness to minimize copper pipe corrosion.

• Resolve persistent algae problems without using copper algaecides. Ask your pool maintenance service for help.

You can do you part by keeping pool, spa and fountain water out of storm drains, creeks and the Bay.



# One Book

## From front page

cantankerous literary agent, who retires to the Santa Cruz Mountains with his wife expecting idyllic bliss for their golden years. Their new world is no Eden, and he is challenged to rethink the values of his generation and his own past.

“With its underlying themes of maintaining the balance of nature in an urban environment, *All the Little Live Things* is a book that will resonate with Walnut Creek,” said Walnut Creek Librarian Cindy Brittain. “It will give residents from all parts of the community another way to engage in the issues of the built versus natural environment, sustainability, and preserving and protecting our open space. The book also takes place in the 1960s during the ‘summer of love,’ a memorable time for many of us.”

The *One City, One Book* program encourages community members to read the same book at the same time, thereby creating a citywide book club.

Local residents are invited to read *All the Little Live Things* this summer and then to participate in a series of community-wide literary and cultural events that celebrate the book this fall.

Last fall more than 2,000 community



## Farewell to a fallen soldier

A U.S. Army bugler plays “Taps” at the conclusion of a military funeral held on April 14 at Civic Park for Army Spc. James J. Coon, 22, of Walnut Creek, who died in combat in Iraq on April 4. More than 300 people paid their last respects to Spc. Coon, a 2003 graduate of Las Lomas High School. On Memorial Day, the City Council dedicated a bronze plaque in his memory.

members read Jhumpa Lahiri’s *The Namesake* and participated in the book discussions, lectures and other events.

The Walnut Creek Downtown and Ygnacio Valley libraries have 100 copies of the book available for checkout, made available through donations from the

Walnut Creek Library Foundation. The Rossmoor Library has copies as well. Local bookstores are also carrying the book. A book discussion guide is available at the libraries, or online at [www.WalnutCreekReads.org](http://www.WalnutCreekReads.org)

For details, call (925) 938-1481.



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

\* For appointment: Call 256-3504

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IN A **Nutshell**

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Brad Rovanpera

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*For past issues, go online at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org)*



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