

IN A

# Nutshell

No. 133

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek November/December 2007

## City takes next step in moving to new library

After nearly 47 years of service to the community, Walnut Creek's venerable downtown library will close its doors to the public for the last time on Nov. 30 to make way for the construction of a new, information-age library that is scheduled to open in spring 2010.

In January 2008, after *Longs Drugs' Walnut Creek on Ice* closes, the aged building will be demolished to make way for the new, 42,000-square-foot, two-story library.

During the two-year construction period, limited library services will be provided beginning Jan. 2 at Park Place, located at the corner of North Broadway and Civic Drive.

Books and other items requested for pickup at the Walnut Creek Library will be transferred to the Ygnacio Valley Library on Dec. 1 and will be available there through the month of December.

Senior Librarian Cindy Brittain said library staff will spend the month of



Walnut Creek Librarian Cindy Brittain stands in front of the City's Park Place building in Civic Park, which will become the interim downtown library on Jan. 2.

December packing most of the library collection for storage and moving a small collection of books, DVDs and CDs into Park Place.

The interim Walnut Creek Park Place Library will have the same open hours as the current library (Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; closed Sunday) and will primarily offer downtown library users a place to

pick up their requests.

The collection of new books, children's and teen books, and Russian-language books will offer limited browsing opportunities at Park Place, said Brittain.

In addition, there will be four public computers for Internet access and several free 30-minute parking spots dedicated to library customers at Park Place.

During library construction, the

LIBRARY, see page 3

## Veterans Day tribute for Gene Wolfe

Former Mayor and highly decorated World War II veteran Gene Wolfe, who died in July, will be honored by the City at its Veterans Day Observance on Sunday, Nov. 11.

The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. in the Civic Park Community Center Assembly Hall, located in Civic Park.

Wolfe, who died July 7 at the age of 83, served with the 69th Infantry Division



Gene Wolfe

in Europe during World War II.

The longtime Rossmoor resident served on the City Council from 1991 to 2000 and served as mayor in 1992-93 and 1997-98. After leaving office, Wolfe was instrumental in getting the Veterans Memorial Plaza built.

The Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein will also perform several patriotic numbers.

## Walnut Creek on Ice returns November 8

The Ice Age returneth. Ice for skating, that is. For the third season, the *Longs Drugs' Downtown Walnut Creek on Ice* will be back in Civic Park from Nov. 8 through Jan. 21.



For more details, go online to [www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com](http://www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com)

## City Event Calendar

### November

**11**  
**Veterans Day ceremony**  
(See story, page 1)


**23**  
**City Tree Lighting Event**  
(See story, back page)

### December

**8**  
**City's Holiday Breakfast**  
(See *What's Happening*)

**24-25**  
**Christmas holiday observance**  
(City offices closed)

## City Meeting Calendar

**City Council**   
Nov. 6, 20; Dec. 4, 18  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber  
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

**Planning Commission**  
Nov. 15; Dec. 13  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Arts Commission**  
Nov. 19, Dec. 17  
4:30 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Transportation Commission**  
No November meet; Dec. 20  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Design Review Commission**  
Nov. 7, 28; Dec. 5, 19  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Park, Rec & Open Space Commission**  
Nov. 5; Dec. 3  
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)**

## 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 annual Holiday Show, which is scheduled:

- Friday, Nov. 16 (8-10 p.m.)
- Sat.-Sun., Nov. 17, 18 (11 a.m.-6 p.m.)
- Friday, Nov. 23 (2-10 p.m.)
- Sat.-Sun., Nov. 24, 25 (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. The Diablo Valley



**Model Railroad club member Ed Chambers**

Lines is modeled after typical sections of the Sierra Nevada railroads and composite towns and countrysides in the western states.

## What's Happening

ceramic sculpture by students and faculty in the studios. At Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Lane, jewelry, paintings, and other arts will be available for purchase. Hours for both locations are: Dec. 6, 5-9 p.m.; Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Dec. 9, 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. will again present its heart-warming production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" at the Dean Leshar Center for the Arts Dec. 6-16. Tickets are \$33-\$31; call 925-943-7469.



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

### 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. 23. New and unwrapped toys for children up to 15 years of age will be accepted through Dec. 14 in the lobby of City Hall, 1666 N. Main Street.

### E-waste collection in WC Nov. 3-4

The Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce will hold a free electronic waste collection event for businesses and residents of Walnut Creek on Nov. 3-4, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Heather Farm Park. Universal Waste Management, Inc. will take your old TVs, monitors, computers, VCRs, DVD players, fax, printing and copy machines. They will also accept cables, power cords, toner cartridges, cell phones, keyboards, mice, audio, visual and telephone equipment. For details, go to [www.unwaste.com](http://www.unwaste.com) or call 888-832-9839.

### WC Concert Band Holiday Concert

The Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein will perform their annual Holiday Concert on Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Leshar Center for the Arts. The concert will feature traditional holiday favorites, a dance suite from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, and a performance by special guest artist Mic Gillette, (recording artist and former member of Tower of Power). Tickets are \$12/\$15 at the Center Ticket Office, 1601 Civic Drive, or call 925-943-7469.

### Seniors Holiday Boutique Nov. 9-10

Start your holiday shopping at the Walnut Creek Seniors Club Holiday Boutique on Nov. 9-10 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. 8

Enjoy an old-fashioned family good time this yuletide season at the annual Holiday Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 8, 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. For details: [www.WalnutCreekRec.org](http://www.WalnutCreekRec.org).

### Holiday Studio Art Sale Dec. 6-9

The Clay Arts Guild and Civic Arts Education will hold their joint Civic Arts Holiday Studio Art Sale at two locations Dec. 6-9. On sale at Civic Park will be a large selection of handcrafted pottery and

# Leshar Center unveils stunning new logo, website

Seeking to refresh and streamline its evolving identity, the Leshar Center for the Arts has unveiled a new logo and a state-of-the-art website.

The new new-and-improved website at [www.LesharARTScenter.org](http://www.LesharARTScenter.org) was launched Sept. 24. It was created by Metaphor Interactive with support from the Diablo Regional Arts Association (DRAA), Chevron and AT&T.

The website provides up-to-date information about the Leshar Center's numerous productions, events, rental opportunities, and much more.

Featuring interactive calendars, streamlined navigation, and Flash animation, the new site vastly improves the experience of the Leshar Center's online patrons, according to General Manager Scott Denison.

"The launch of this website represents a new era for the Leshar Center for the



The Leshar Center's new logo (above) and the new website homepage.



Arts," said Denison. "The Center is embracing a contemporary, streamlined identity, which is reflected in our incredible new website. The user experience will be vastly improved from the moment the site is loaded through the entire ticket purchase."

To tie it all together, a new logo was also created as the cornerstone of the Leshar Center's refreshed identity.

## Library

### From front page

closest full-service libraries for Walnut Creek residents will be the Ygnacio Valley, Pleasant Hill, Danville and Lafayette libraries. Free delivery service to Rossmore residents will continue during construction and is expected to increase.

The Friends of the Walnut Creek Library hope to open the Friends bookstore in a new location in December. Updated information will be listed on the Friends web page at [ccclib.org/friends/wcl.html](http://ccclib.org/friends/wcl.html) as it is available.

The Walnut Creek Library Foundation is also planning a celebration of the old Downtown Library in January just before demolition. The public, library volunteers, and longtime library supporters will be invited to say farewell. Watch the next issue of the *Nutshell* for more information about the farewell event.

The Farmers Market, which has made its home in the library parking lot for 25 years, will relocate on Jan. 6 to Locust Street between Giamonna Way and the Target store. More details will be in the next issue of the *Nutshell*.

For more information on the new library, contact Assistant City Manager Lorie Tinfow at [tinfow@walnut-creek.org](mailto:tinfow@walnut-creek.org) or 925-943-5810. For information on current library services, contact Brittain at [cbrittain@ccclib.org](mailto:cbrittain@ccclib.org) or 925-646-6085.

## New off-leash dog area to open Nov. 17

Dog owners rejoice! The City will inaugurate its new off-leash dog area with a special opening day event on Saturday Nov. 17 in Heather Farm Park.

Opening day festivities will begin at 10 a.m. at the new, one-acre area located at the north end of North San Carlos

Drive, near the canal.

The off-leash dog area will provide pet owners a new, wide-open space to let their dogs run free. It has separated sections for small/senior dogs and larger dogs, as well as nearby parking and restrooms.

## More What's Happening

### Broadway Plaza Parade of Lights

The Holiday Parade of Lights and Open House at Broadway Plaza will be on Dec. 6 from 6 to 9 p.m. The Grand Menorah Lighting will be Sunday, Dec. 9 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. 1 at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 2 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](http://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 25th annual Holidays at Shadelands Nov. 24 to Dec. 9. 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.

# Going Tales of how citizens did it

In the last issue of the *Nutshell* we asked Walnut Creek citizens and business owners who have already embraced a green lifestyle to tell us their stories so we could share them with the rest of the community.

On this page are a few of the many responses we received from folks who have embraced a sustainable lifestyle detailing how they've gone green. They were among those lauded at the City's *Sustainable Walnut Creek: Going Green Together* event on Oct. 20. For more stories, check the Going Green page at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org)



Kirsten Melton, right, and her daughter Laura with Gail Wadsworth (left).

## Buy fruit & veggies from local farmers

Kirsten Melton and her family have focused on two green "commandments" this year:

1. Thou shalt buy reusable Nalgene bottles, to fill with water from the tap.
2. Thou shalt join a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) group with your neighbors, buy vegetables and fruit from local farmers in the East Bay, and enjoy seasonal eating. Join Walnut Creek's Eat Outside the Box, founded by local resident Gail Wadsworth, and enjoy membership in three farms in Brentwood. The other 10-acre local farms are Knoll Farms and Brookside Farm. For more information, call Gail at 925-952-9643.

# Green



Sue Bleakley opens the skylight in her energy-efficient home.

Photos by Grant Hochstein

## Family goes green in energy-efficient home

Sue Bleakley's family on Grant Avenue turned their home into a "green house":

"We moved to Walnut Creek 20 years ago and we've been 'going green' since day one. We have always participated in the usual 'green' activities — organic gardening, composting, recycling, reuse, and conscientious consumption — but those activities alone are not going to make a real difference for global warming. They are a start, but not the solution.

"When we added on to our home 14 years ago we opted for PISE (pneumatically installed stabilized earth) walls, which is an earthquake-proof version of rammed earth. Our south and east facing walls are 18"-24" thick and the roof and windows are steel with 50-year guarantees.

"There are operable skylights in all the upstairs bedrooms to create air flows, along with properly placed ceiling fans that let the rising warm air escape and let the cooler air inside."



Jane Church cleans her carpet with baking soda, vinegar and water.

## Cleaning tips that are green & economical

Jane Church has some green tips for cleaning: "All you need is baking soda, vinegar and water for most all cleaning of home and office.

"One vital tip to pass on to everyone, everywhere is this: When spraying from a spray bottle, spray directly into a cloth or sponge, with the nozzle against the cleaning object. This way you do not waste the cleaning product and just as importantly, the air is not filled with the product so we do not inhale it.

"Folex is a carpet cleaning product that I got at Safeway. It's been around for 30 years, is nontoxic and works well even on white carpets. Effective Microbes is more effective than bleach after disasters (in dealing with mold)."



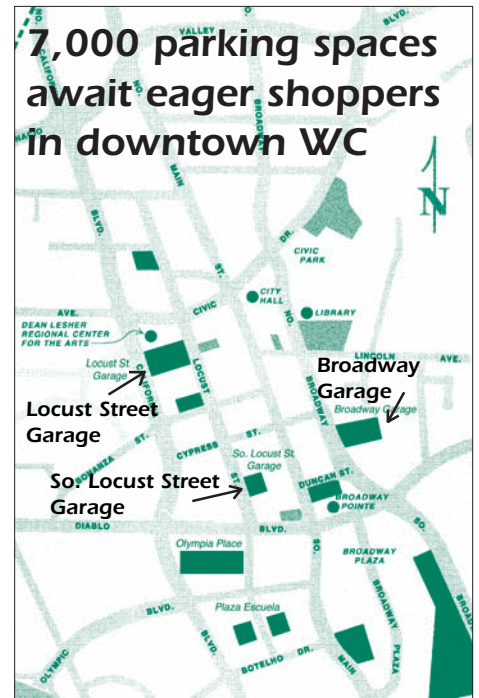
# Park it here

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

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

The City's garages may be the best deal in town, as they still only cost 50 cents/hour, up to a maximum of \$3 a day. Downtown on-street parking meter rates are \$1/hour, and most privately-owned lots have a time limit.

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



## Pay stations make debut in downtown

**B**y the time you read this, six new multi-space parking pay stations will have taken the place of downtown parking meters on North Main Street between Civic Drive and Bonanza Street.

Walnut Creek is the first city in Contra Costa County to introduce parking pay stations, which are a relatively new technology based on a European system. They are also solar-powered, which makes them more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.



Customers can use coins or a credit or ATM card to pay for their allotted parking time. The pay-per-space system allows customers to pay at the pay station by entering their space number without having to return to their vehicle. The two-hour time limit will still be enforced for the on-street spaces and the meter fee will remain \$1/hour.

The City expects to install more pay stations throughout the downtown core area next year.

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

### Locust Street Parking Garage (664 spaces)

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

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

### Broadway Parking Garage (464 spaces)

1390 No. Broadway (at Cypress Street)

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

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

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

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

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

## City Council Update

### Historic preservation rules delayed

The City Council on Oct. 2 postponed a decision on approving a new historic preservation ordinance to allow an architectural historian to review properties within the City and determine if they meet draft criteria for historic significance.

The proposed ordinance would establish a procedure to create a list of designated historic sites, historic structures, and historic districts and provide for additional design review regulations and restrictions on demolition.

### Open space public workshop Nov. 10

The City invites residents to participate in a public workshop on Saturday, Nov. 10 to help determine the future of the Walnut Creek open space areas.

The workshop will be 9-11 a.m. at the Lakeside Room at the Heather Farm Community Center, 301 N. San Carlos Dr.

The workshop is the first of three being hosted by the Walnut Creek Open Space Visioning Task Force to find out how residents feel about the open space and to develop a vision for the future.

For details, contact Dan Cather, Public Services Manager, at 925-943-5854.



### New footbridge at Heather Farm Park

Rotary Club of Walnut Creek members Jack Fischer, front, Tom Noble, right, and Bob Romero try out the new, 11-foot-long redwood footbridge the club built over the creek in Heather Farm Park. Twenty-four of the club's 86 members worked on the \$3,900 project over the last two years.



### All the little wild things

Popular Contra Costa Times animal columnist Gary Bogue delighted an audience of over 100 at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum on Sept. 19 with his humorous stories of the wildlife that lives around us in the kick-off event for this year's "One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads" program. Hundreds of residents participated in book discussions, programs and musical events this fall centered around this year's book selection, Wallace Stegner's "All the Little Live Things."

### Restaurant change due at Boundary Oak

The City was taking steps in October to retain Sunrise Bistro/Catering to operate food and beverage services on an interim basis at the Boundary Oak Golf Course when Blake's Restaurant leaves before the end of the year.

The City Council was scheduled on Oct. 16 to engage Sunrise Bistro/Catering as the food and beverage provider beginning Jan. 1 (or as soon as Blake's leaves) through June 30, 2009, providing food and beverage services, special event services (including weddings, receptions, and banquets), and the golfer's grill service (which includes



Boundary Oak

the snack cart).

Individuals who have an interest in holding an event at Boundary Oak in 2008 should contact Sunrise Bistro/Catering at 925-930-6323 if they wish to continue their event at Boundary Oak.



### If you see it, you'll eat it

Unhealthy snacking adds inches to your waistline and subtracts years from life. We suggest keeping:

- a small bowl of whole fruit on the counter
- cut vegetables in a clear container in the refrigerator at eye level
- cookies and cake in the freezer wrapped in foil
- chips and candy in the cabinet in opaque containers

And remember to read labels. "Transfat free" does not mean zero transfats. Watch for the terms "hydrogenated oil" and "partially hydrogenated oil." They have been chemically altered for longer shelf life but may shorten your life.



By Officers Beth Hopkins and Mark Kan

## WC police work to reduce alcohol-related violations at local businesses

The Walnut Creek Police Department Community Policing Team has been busy with two separate grants from the State



Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC). The goal is to reduce alcohol-related violations throughout the city. Thanks to the grant funding, several operations are underway.

I.M.P.A.C.T. (Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol-Related Crime Tendencies) is an educational operation for local businesses. Walnut Creek police officers, in conjunction with agents from the ABC, visit businesses with licenses to sell alcohol. These inspections are done to uncover areas where education is needed to bring the businesses into compliance with ABC regulations. Officers also discuss crime prevention tips and answer merchants' questions.

L.E.A.D. (Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs) is offered as a voluntary educational program for all licensed merchants. The goal of the operation is to provide practical information on serving alcoholic beverages safely, responsibly, and legally, and to prevent illicit drug activity at the establishments.

Along with these two educational programs, officers are participating in under-cover enforcement operations. These operations target businesses selling alcohol to minors, adults purchasing alcohol for minors, and minors purchasing alcohol with false identification.

For more information about the Walnut Creek Police Department's efforts to reduce alcohol-related violations, contact Officer Beth Hopkins at 925-943-5844 or Officer Mark Kan at 925-943-5899, ext. 523.

## Police Chief Tom Soberanes retires

Tom Soberanes, who rose from a cadet to Chief of Police during his 35-year career with the Walnut Creek Police Department, retired from the City on Sept. 30 to take a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

He started his new job Oct. 1 in the department's Office of Enforcement and Investigative Services.

Police captains Dennis Bell and Craig Zamolo will alternate as acting Chief of Police while the City conducts a nationwide search for a new chief.

Soberanes, a 21-year Walnut Creek resident, began his career as an 18-year-old police cadet in June 1972 while attending criminal justice classes at Chabot College in Hayward. He earned his A.A. degree in 1975 and went on to get a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Sacramento State in 1980. He received his master's in public adminis-

tration in 1991 from Cal State Hayward.

Soberanes became a sworn officer with the City in 1974 and became a sergeant in 1986. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1994, and two years later was named captain. In 2000, at the age of 47, Soberanes was appointed the ninth Chief of Police in the City's history, succeeding Chief Rich Gregson.

In 1990, the soft-spoken, popular police veteran was named the City's Employee of the Year.



Tom Soberanes

With his likable demeanor, easy-going manner, and strong leadership qualities, Soberanes inspired the respect and devotion of the police staff.

"I'm going to miss the relationships — there are so many friends that I have here," said Soberanes. "I think I'm most proud of creating a philosophy in the organization that people — despite their rank or position — are treated equally and that they are able to equally contribute."

## Floodplain info available to WC homeowners

Even Noah would have liked this: The City can provide property owners with site specific floodplain information.

Documents that the City can make available to residents include historical data on flooding in their area, elevation certificates that may be required to obtain flood insurance, and property protection

information such as emergency and permanent retrofitting options.

To determine whether your property lies within an identified flood hazard area, call 925-943-5839 for an engineer. For other information, go to [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org) and look for flood information under "Services."

## Landscaping the right way

Choosing the right plants and landscape design can make a big difference in the amount of water, fertilizers, and pesticides needed to keep lawns and gardens healthy. Certain native plants are more pest resistant than others and, therefore, reduce the amount of pesticides needed. Proper irrigation techniques help, too.

Avoid over-watering lawns and gardens, especially those that have been recently fertilized or have had pesticides applied as this causes the water and chemicals to overflow into streets and storm drains.

Grasscycling involves using a mulching mower which double cuts lawn clippings, thus returning valuable nutrients back to the soil, and requiring less watering.

Now is also a good time to start a compost pile. It's an excellent nitrogen source. Shred fallen leaves with your lawn mower, chipper or shredder and use them as

mulch on beds or around plants.

And remember to rake leaves away from the storm drain to prevent clogged drainage.





Walnut Creek School District Chorus Director Ron Jones will again lead the audience in caroling at the annual City Holiday Tree Lighting event on Friday, Nov. 23 in Civic Park.

## Caroling, candy canes to be highlighted at City's Holiday Tree lighting Nov. 23

Join Mayor Sue Rainey in kicking off the yuletide season this year at the City's traditional Holiday Tree Lighting on Friday, Nov. 23 in Civic Park.

This free event, sponsored by the 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, a

performance by the Walnut Creek School District Chorus with Ron Jones (who will also lead the audience in caroling), and the Diablo Women's Chorale.

After Mayor Rainey lights the Holiday Tree, Santa Claus will make a special appearance to pass out candy canes to all children. Free refreshments will be available in the Civic Park Community Center Assembly Hall.



## 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
Garbage collection	603-1144
Heather Farm rentals	943-5859
Heather Farm Pool	943-5856
LCA Ticket Office	943-7469
Leisure Service classes	943-5858
Mayor's Office	256-3504
Open Space information	943-5855
Planning/Zoning hotline	256-3558
Police Administration	943-5869
Police (non-emergency)	943-5844
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**  
**Sue Rainey, Mayor\***  
**Gwen Regalia, Mayor pro tem**  
**Charlie Abrams**  
**Cindy Silva**  
**Gary Skrel**

\* For appointment: Call 256-3504

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**  
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**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
 Valerie Barone, Director  
**ARTS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
 Barry Gordon, Director  
**POLICE**  
 Dennis Bell, Interim Chief of Police  
**PUBLIC SERVICES**  
 Heather Ballenger, Director

IN A **Nutshell**

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Editor:  
 Brad Rovanpera

We welcome your comments and questions.  
 Please call 925-943-5895  
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For past issues, go online at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org)



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