MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE
Plan to spend part of your Memorial Day at the City’s annual ceremony on Monday, May 27. The City will honor those who gave their lives in service to our country. The event begins at 10:00 a.m. in Civic Park, and will include a musical tribute by the Walnut Creek Concert Band.

2ND SATURDAY SPOTLIGHT CONTINUES
Go behind the scenes at local non-profit organizations that provide so much value to our community in the 2nd Saturday Spotlight series. January’s visit to Tony La Russa’s Animal Rescue Foundation and February’s backstage tour of the Lesher Center for the Arts gave visitors an inside look at these important organizations. Find out what’s in store for the rest of 2019’s events by visiting walnut-creek.org/spotlight.

CERT: IS IT YOUR TIME TO JOIN THE TEAM?
What is CERT? It stands for Community Emergency Response Teams, and they are local volunteers who have been trained and are ready to step in to support first responders in the event of a disaster or emergency. CERT members go through 20 hours of basic training, and then are sworn in as volunteer Disaster Service Workers for the City. The next CERT training sessions begin in April, and following the Friday evening, April 12 kickoff, the classes will be held on Saturdays. The training culminates in a full exercise event that will showcase all the students have learned. The City of Walnut Creek values its CERT members, and appreciates the help they have provided over the past year in doing more than just standing ready for a disaster. Our CERTs have helped police search for a missing person, assisted Public Works in reducing flood hazards, and taught personal preparedness courses. If you are interested in supporting your local Walnut Creek Community Emergency Response Teams, please reach out to cert@walnut-creek.org. Donations help support CERT radio infrastructure, run classes and provide other preparedness support to the community. Many thanks to the Sunrise Rotary Club for its generous donation! Find out more by visiting walnut-creek.org/CERT.

Above: Visitors soak in “About Abstraction” by Christophe Fromy at the Bedford Gallery
Free First Tuesdays: On March 5 and May 7, enjoy free admission and family activities at the Bedford Gallery. See page 3 for details.

LOOK INSIDE FOR SUMMER CAMP GUIDE
Summer camp registration gets underway at the end of the month, but you can begin checking out your options now with the camp guide found inside your Nutshell. Classes can fill up quickly, and there is something for everyone.
For original programs, walnutcreektv.org for the SPRING HIGHLIGHTS on U-Verse Channel 99. Not a cable Channel 28 in incorporated Walnut Creek TV is found on Comcast Channel information.

For a quick intro to the project in a video of bike trips and managing parking demand while riding from the City in an in-depth discussion with Creek Currents host Brendan Moran.

State of the City The Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual “State of the City” event, including an update from the Mayor.

Livel from the Library: Eleanor Roosevelt Livel from the Library presents an imaginative “meet and greet” with one of history’s most famous women. Bay Area actress Laurie Straw Brings Eleanor’s story to life, sharing the former First Lady’s personal history along with the remarkable life and times during which Mrs. Roosevelt lived.

Mural art project comes to life Have you seen the new mural that graces the Leisher Center for the Arts? Watch how the “West Coast Barn Quilt” was created!

Rethinking Mobility The City of Walnut Creek is working on a strategic plan to reduce automobile trips and manage parking demand while enhancing access for those walking, biking, and using public transit. Get a quick intro to the project in a video.

Channel information Walnut Creek TV is found on Comcast Channel 26 in incorporated Walnut Creek, Channel 26 in Rossmoor, and on U-Verse Channel 99. Not a cable subscriber? Watch the channel live online at walnutcreektv.org.

Fresh First Tuesdays: March 5, May 7 12 – 5pm Enjoy free admission and a family-friendly art activity at the Bedford Gallery on the first Tuesday of the month! Docents will be on the floor to lead informal tours and answer questions. Join us March 5th for Altered States, and May 7th for Tradition Interrupted.

Community Art Gallery Exhibitions The Community Art Gallery located in the Downtown Walnut Creek Library is a wonderful place to view exceptional art from Bay Area artists and beyond at no cost!

On View Now: Angela Baker Solo Exhibition February 27 – April 15 Angela Baker, Home 3, 2017, watercolor on paper
Up Next: Portraits of Trinity: Photographs by Jordan Rose Jurich Weston

March 12 – 16 • DLUX Puppets’ Alice in Wonderland on May 2 – 4
Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble’s Cinderella on May 9 – 12

The Lesher Foundation continues the Newsmakers Speaker Series with authors J.D. Vance (Hillbilly Elegy) and Amy Tan (The Joy Luck Club) on April 16th.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA COMMUNITY ARTS Camp Community Arts: Spring Kids ages 3-14 are invited to spend their spring break painting, drawing, dancing, and making music at Shadelands Art Center. All classes are taught by working artists! Camp runs April 1-5 Half and full day options are available, as well as morning and after care. Visit communityarts.org or call 925-943-5846.

Spring Family Art Day: Art Carnival! Mark your calendars for Family Art Day, Saturday, May 18th from 10am to 2pm. Join us at Shadelands Art Center for art-making stations, family dance, drumming, and more! Free and open to the public and fun for the whole family. Food available for purchase. Learn more at communityarts.org or call 925-943-5846.

Community Arts Preschool Carnival Join Community Arts Preschool Carnival on April 20th from 10am to 12pm as we celebrate the work of the Young Child with activities, light snacks, and a bounce house in the backyard of our Heath Farm location. Play, make art, and learn more about preschool programs and scholarships at Community Arts Preschool. Free and open to families with children age 2 to 5 years old. Siblings welcome! For more information call 925-943-5846.

Center for Community Arts’ Youth Art Show Next time you’re at Shadelands Art Center, be sure and check out some of the wonderful work created by students in Community Arts’ Youth Arts Program. The show runs April 9th through May 23rd. Join us for an opening reception April 12th from 5:30 to 7pm at Shadelands.

Family Yoga February 2, 10:00am Shadelands Auditorium Dance, stretch, breath and play with your children in a special family yoga class with Ms. Lauren! Families are welcome to stick around after to play and eat lunch together in the backyard. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring yoga mats for each participant. $20 suggested donation for family or pay what you can.

Easter Champagne Brunch April 20, 9:30am – 12:30pm Jazzy Brunch at the Village Commons, with a delicious array of food and drinks, children’s activities, a craft table for the kids and a special appearance by the Easter Bunny! Cost: $35 per person; $20 for children 12 and under; $17 for children 5 and under. Reservations required. Call 925-934-3600 for more information.

Up Next: Tradition Interrupted April 11 – June 23 Opening Reception Thursday, April 11, 6 – 8pm Tradition Interrupted explores the methods used by artists to conflate contemporary ideas with traditional art and craft in a range of media, from rugs and quilts to metal and ceramic. After hundreds—and sometimes thousands—of years of crafting and creating, many traditional practices continue to visually define a culture. Merging age-old customs with innovation, the artists in this show redefine or reclaim culturally historic ideas to create hybrid works for our contemporary world.

BEDFORD GALLERY Last chance to view Altered States January 13 – March 24, 2019 Run, don’t walk, to Bedford Gallery’s current 2 exhibitions Altered States, before it closes Sunday, March 24th! Altered States, guest curated by Heather Marx, features artists across generations living and working along the California coast who harness natural elements or the environment to create their artwork. The artists work in a wide range of California oil and share a passion for creating art that is about process and reclamation. This exhibition highlights the natural cycles of our complex environment and offers patrons an opportunity to slow down and reflect on how we are all interconnected by the sun, moon, air, and tides.

AT THE LESCHER CENTER Rock the CASA: An Evening of Music for Children in Need Featuring Patti Labelle Thursday, April 11, 6 – 8pm Local TV personality Dan Ashley returns to host his annual fundraising concert on March 2nd.

Fun for the whole family! • Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble’s The Emperor’s New Clothes on March 7-10 • Ken Bergmann’s Percussion Discussion on March 10, 2:00pm

Join our Walnut Creek Arts + Rec team! We’re looking for enthusiastic, creative, and community-oriented part-time employees in a wide variety of roles—summer camp leaders, lifeguards, yoga/attendants and more. Flexible schedules; night and weekend shifts available. Come by our Arts + Rec Job Fair to learn about open positions and the application process. To view current openings, visit bit.ly/citywalnutcreektrees.
D id you know that the City of Walnut Creek has prohibited retailers and restaurants from providing single-use carryout plastic bags since 2014?

There are many good reasons for cities and towns to consider plastic bag ordinances. Collectively, we are using 1 million bags per minute and less than 5% of them are being recycled. Many end up in our landfill, where scientists estimate they will take 1,000 years to biodegrade.

This is a clean water issue and an environmental problem with a simple solution. To avoid paying 10 cents per paper bag, consider bringing reusable bags to the store or decline a bag when making a purchase. Restaurants can still provide carryout bags free of charge for takeouts. For more information about the ban, visit our website at walnut-creek.org/cleanwater.

Thank you for helping us build a better Walnut Creek!

PAPER OR PLASTIC BAGS? HOW ABOUT NEITHER?
The Solution is reusable so Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB)!

D id you know that the Spring Valley Electric Cooperative, which serves Walnut Creek, provides a Go Solar with Federal Tax Credits. This is the last year to take advantage of the federal solar tax credit at its highest level. The Solar Investment Tax Credit provides a 30% federal tax credit for solar systems installed on residential and commercial properties by December 31, 2019. After 2019, the tax credits begin stepping down.

Choose 100% Renewable Electricity
If you are unable to install solar on your property because it is an apartment or because of shading or other issues, you can still get 100% renewable electricity from your electricity provider. MCE is the default electricity provider in Walnut Creek, and offers a “Deep Green” 100% renewable electricity option from local solar and wind. PG&E also offers a 100% renewable electricity option. Visit www.walnut-creek.org/goinggreen to learn more and sign up for 100% renewable electricity.

FLOOD RISK:
Would you be able to do repairs or rebuild?
Living in a flood zone requires flood insurance. Most standard homeowners’ and renters’ policies do not cover flood damage. Even if you do not live in a flood zone and are not required to have flood insurance, you may want to consider it. Flooding is the nation’s most common natural disaster, and as California’s wildfire risk increases, the risk of flood increases as well.

Large-scale wildfires dramatically alter the terrain and ground conditions. Normally, vegetation absorbs rainfall, reducing runoff. However, wildfires leave the ground charred, barren, and unable to absorb water, creating conditions ripe for flash flooding and mudflow. Flood risk remains significantly higher until vegetation is restored—up to 5 years after a wildfire. Flooding after a fire is often more severe, as debris and ash left from the fire can form mudflows.

Flood insurance for areas outside the high-risk flood zones may be more affordable, as the risk of flooding is significantly lower. Contact your insurance agent for information specific to your situation and review the information at Floodsmart.gov

The City flood maps were updated in March 2017. Visit https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-hazard-layers-rifle to search for your home or business.

SAVE THE DATE:
CREEK CLEANUP DAY, MAY 11
The City of Walnut Creek and Friends of the Creek invite you to the 30th Annual Creek Cleanup Day. Pull out your old sneakers and gloves, and plan to get wet! You can help clean and restore our creeks.

The event will take place from 9:00 a.m. until Noon on Saturday, May 11. Advance registration is required; get all the details at FriendsoftheCreeks.org.
City Updates its Economic Development Strategic Plan

In December, the City completed its update of its Economic Development Strategic Plan. The plan was originally created in 2004 and received a refresh using new data about the local economy as well as input from more than 60 different community members and partner organizations.

The latest data shows Walnut Creek as a regional economic hub. It contains strategies for the next five years and beyond to strengthen our presence as a regional destination; enhance the City’s quality of life, maintain and grow our fiscal vitality, and foster a diverse economy in the face of changing industry trends.

Read the updated Economic Development Strategic Plan and Market Study on the City’s Economic Development section of the website. City Council and staff look forward to working with all community members on the implementation of the plan over the next several years.

YOUR PARKS, YOUR FUTURE: Opportunities for public engagement continue in 2019

Shadelands PBID renews for 10 years

The Shadelands Business District is a collaboration between the Shadelands Steering Committee and Walnut Creek City Council, to allow for more flexible uses in the business park

● A field office for the Walnut Creek Police Department that opened in 2016

Transportation improvements, including a bike share program for employees and residents of the Shadelands area, drafted as a collaboration with local property owners in the business park worked with City Council to form the Shadelands Property & Business Improvement District (PBID). The PBID members assessed themselves and use the raised funds to improve all aspects of the business and lifestyle center.

During the first five years of its existence, the PBID’s members worked together on a series of initiatives to promote the Shadelands Business Park, attract diverse and innovative businesses, enhance property values, and enrich quality of life for businesses, customers, and visitors. The initiatives included:

- A free shuttle from Pleasant Hill BART, known as County Connection 97 and decorated with special Shadelands Branded wrap. The shuttle carries more than 105,000 riders every year

and the City Council from late February to mid-April. To receive notification of upcoming meetings, sign up for email alerts at www.walnut-creek.org/yourparks.

Phase II of the project, which encompasses Master Plans for Civic Park and Heather Farm Park, will continue through Fall 2020. Look for information coming in late spring on pop-up events and community workshops for the park master planning process. For more information about the project and related documentation, please visit www.walnut-creek.org/yourparks.

Crime Prevention in Your Neighborhood

How can an active neighborhood group within the community improve safety?

Let us count the ways!
The components of neighborhoods work together with the Walnut Creek Police Department to boost prevention efforts in a variety of ways.

As Neighbors –

So often, the first line of defense in our homes comes from being vigilant for your street and having good relationships with neighbors. People in shared neighborhoods have the most familiarity with the people and cars that frequent there. We make things more difficult for potential criminals when we lock our doors and windows, when we secure gates and yard, and when we’re on lookout for strange cars and unfamiliar individuals within our neighborhoods. Not to say there won’t be people passing up the woods, but if someone doesn’t appear to belong and they’re acting suspicious – don’t hesitate to call the Walnut Creek Police Department to check it things out. Reminder: programs like Crime Stoppers will provide you with a secret police number for your home today – 925-935-6400.

With Cameras –

Some residents have alarm systems with video surveillance capability. Many neighborhoods participate in Neighborhood Watch programs and share information about incidents captured on these surveillance systems with one another. Each year there’s one with the use of Nextdoor. Wouldn’t you want to know more about the on goings of your home from your nextdoor, and what people are doing there even when you aren’t? NCPD often gets asked if the utilization of cameras, both surveillance and doorbell, are helpful in solving crime. It most certainly is, and it can be a tool for you in crime prevention as well. It is an additive resource for our police officers to utilize when trying to learn more about, and potentially solve a crime. It allows for a partnership between you, your neighbors, and the police department to share information. Visit the Police Department’s webpage for more on how you can potentially register your cameras with the police department.

With Social Media –

The police department can boost engagement with the department on Twitter, Facebook, and Nextdoor. Hundreds of Walnut Creek residents follow the Police Department on Twitter, Facebook, and Nextdoor. Nextdoor is particularly useful for your neighborhood community. The conversations on Nextdoor are private and visible to the Police Department or City, just not replies and comments that you make on our posts. The police department can boost engagement with the department on Twitter, Facebook, and Nextdoor. Thousands of Walnut Creek residents follow the Police Department and Nextdoor. Nextdoor is particularly useful for your neighborhood community. The conversations on Nextdoor are private and visible to the Police Department or City, just not replies and comments that you make on our posts.

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Take a Walk into History!

Every 2nd Saturday from March through October, the Walnut Creek Historical Society offers an easy 90-minute guided walking tour of the downtown area. This walk on City sidewalks brings to life the early days of Walnut Creek and reveals parts of our history hiding in plain sight. The next tours will be on March 9. These tours are free and depart at 9:30 a.m. from the fountain at Liberty Bell Plaza (corner of Broadway and Mt. Diablo Blvd.) A booklet with historic photos of the sites visited may be purchased at the tour for $5.00. Registration in advance is not required; call 925-935-7871 for details.

Mountain Shadow Film Society 2019 Season

Mountain Shadow Film Society is accepting a limited number of pro-rated memberships for the remainder of the 2019 Season. Mountain Shadow brings the best in foreign and independent filmmaking to Walnut Creek. See the Membership tab on the website: http://mountainshadow.org.

In addition, submissions for the 5th Annual Short Film Competition will be open until July 15th. Last year, ten finalists were selected from more than 540 submissions! Winners get to present their films to a live audience, and win cash awards. This year’s competition will take place on September 21st and 22nd.

The Frankman family with their guests Momoko and Mizuki from Japan
HAVE YOU SEEN AND USED THE CITY’S NEW DOWNTOWN STREET PARKING METERS YET?

The City installed easier to use and read parking meters in January. Meters located on streets in Downtown are City-operated. The old meters had met their useful lifespan and couldn’t keep up with rapid changing parking technology. Parking customers also told the City the meters were hard to read in the sun and rain. The new meters are taller, larger and feature a large solar panel that allows for fewer battery replacements. They accept coins, credit cards and Park Mobile payments. Google/Apple payments coming soon. The rates and time limits are the same. The new meters were paid for by the City’s Downtown Parking Enterprise and Enhancement Fund which uses all parking revenue to pay for the things we love about the Downtown—landscaping, sidewalk repair and cleaning, the Free Downtown Trolley, Downtown Police and Safety and community events. Learn how to use the new meters before your next visit to Downtown by watching an online video: www.walnut-creek.org/parking