WC’s housing plan OK’d by State officials

State officials have given Walnut Creek a “thumbs up” on its long-range strategy for meeting its share of the regional affordable housing need.

Walnut Creek is one of only two cities in Contra Costa County to receive approval on its revised housing element from the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

The state’s approval came in a letter on July 18 which said it had determined that the City’s housing element will be in full compliance with state law once it is adopted by the City Council in September.

“We’re pleased that our work and the City’s efforts in facilitating affordable housing has been recognized by the state,” said Senior Planner Janice Stern, who spent the last year revising the housing element of the City’s General Plan for state approval.

Besides Walnut Creek, the Town of Danville is the only other city in the county to receive state approval on its housing plan. Contra Costa County’s housing strategy has also been approved.

To win state approval, Walnut Creek’s housing element had to demonstrate that the City will provide sufficient land that is zoned appropriately to allow for housing for a variety of income levels, including very low and low-income persons.

The housing element calls for the majority of this housing to be built in the downtown area.

The State is requiring Walnut Creek to increase its inventory of 31,251 housing units by 1,653 units by 2006. Of these, about 902 units must be earmarked for affordable housing.

(For related stories, see pages 4 and 6.)

Celebrating 20 years of Arts, Adventures & Academics

A chorus of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders serenaded a crowd of parents, staff, and well-wishers with a hearty rendition of “God Bless America” at the 20th anniversary celebration for the City’s Arts, Adventures & Academics summer school program on July 25 at Walnut Creek Intermediate School. The popular program was started by the City in 1982 at the urging of Walnut Creek School District officials after the state cut funding for summer school programs. In its first two decades, the program has provided approximately 5,000 children more than 19,250 hours of instruction in painting, acting, singing, and dancing.

Employees get ready to move into new City Hall/ PD addition

After two years of construction, the new City Hall/Police Department addition will finally be ready for occupancy by early October.

More than 125 employees are making plans to move into their new quarters tentatively by mid-October.

The 35,000-square-foot expansion, which began in September 2000, is the first of a two-phase project. Phase 2 calls for doing a seismic retrofit in the 22-year-old police headquarters and to upgrade and refurbish the older City Hall building.

This second phase is expected to last a year. Public access to the older buildings from North Main Street will be prohibited during the construction. Visitors to the City Council meetings may enter the City Council Chamber from Civic Drive.

The new public entrance to City Hall and the Police Department will be on the North Broadway side.

However, the public parking lot at City Hall will remain closed during the second phase of the refurbishment project. Police cars and motorcycles will be moved into a parking lot beneath the new building.
The 36th season of the City’s own Center REPertory Company will open Sept. 12 with the first of six productions that will include the premiere of a never-before-seen work by playwright Tennessee Williams.

The Tennessee Williams’ Project will be presented next spring under the direction of Center REP Artistic Director Lee Sankowich and produced cooperatively with Marin Theatre Company.

The new season will feature the following productions:

**Labor Day Concert in Civic Park** Sept. 2
Celebrate the end of summer by attending the Walnut Creek Concert Band’s Labor Day Concert on Monday, Sept. 2 at 6 p.m. in Civic Park. The official City band will be under the direction of Harvey Benstein. Admission is free.

**Sept. 11 memorial anniversary events**
Two public events to mark the one year anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. will be held at the gazebo in Civic Park. A candlelight vigil is scheduled for Sept. 10 at 7:30 p.m., and on Sept. 11 an interfaith service will be held at noon. Both memorials are being co-sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County and the Mt. Diablo Peace Center. For more details, call 933-7850.

**Ruth Bancroft Garden fall events**
The Ruth Bancroft Garden at 1500 Bancroft Road in Walnut Creek will offer a variety of activities in September and October. Docent-led tours will be offered on weekends by reservation, and the annual Dinner in the Garden is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 22. The Garden will hold its Iris and Fall Plant Sale on Saturday, Oct. 12. For more information on these events, call 925-210-9663.

**Harvest Holidays in downtown Oct. 19-20**
The Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association will present its 3rd annual Harvest Holidays in Walnut Creek on Oct. 19 and 20 along Locust Street. Hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Live music, holiday crafts and gift booths, brews and wine, and an Oktoberfest area. Call 933-6778 for details.

**Home Composting workshops**
Free Tuesday workshops in the on-going “Home Composting for Busy People” series will be held on Sept. 3 and Oct. 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive. Reservations are required; call the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority at 906-1806.

**WC Historical Society looking for members**
The Walnut Creek Historical Society is seeking new members. Formed in 1968, the Society has operated the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum for the City-owned structure since it opened in 1972 and coordinates projects to promote and enhance Walnut Creek’s heritage. It also holds several public events, including antiques shows and holiday teas, and rents the museum and grounds for weddings and receptions. Members get a free quarterly newsletter, free museum admission, and discounts on purchases at the museum. Annual dues are: $15, Sustaining; $20, Family; and $200, Life. To become a member, call 934-4703.

**DRAA to hold ‘On Broadway’ fundraiser**
Diablo Regional Arts Association, the funding arm of the Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, will hold its annual gala, On Broadway Visit Venus and Mars, on Saturday, Oct. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Diablo Country Club in Diablo. Tickets are $175 per person and can be reserved by calling 932-1731 or e-mail info@draa.org. In conjunction with McGuire Harley-Davidson, DRAA will be holding a drawing at the gala for a 100th anniversary edition 2003 Harley-Davidson Fat Boy motorcycle valued at $21,000. Tickets are $100 each.
Geary road work nearly completed; skate park location still under study

Work is progressing rapidly on the Geary Road improvements, and City staff expect to have the project finished far ahead of its December completion deadline.

As of the end of July, construction was 70 percent complete on the road between North Main Street and Buena Vista Avenue. A majority of the work, including concrete driveways, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, relocation of utilities, and street lights, is done.

Paving from the new concrete driveways to the private driveways is expected to continue into September.

Roadway striping, traffic signs, landscaping, and restoration of landscaping on private properties will take place this fall.

Skate park site
A City task force studying options for building a new skate park has been directed by the Park, Recreation & Open Space Commission to take a look at various locations within Heather Farm Park as well as other parks in Walnut Creek and to visit and evaluate skate parks in other communities.

On July 1 the task force — which includes members of the community, police and City staff, and the Youth Council — gave an update to the commission on its work in evaluating potential sites and reported that it had identified Heather Farm Park as its preferred choice for the skate park.

However, a specific location for the skate park has yet to be decided.

A 14,000-square-foot facility is envisioned with low-maintenance ramps.

For more information, contact Leo Harrod at 943-5899, ext. 257.

EBMUD water treatment plant
Construction continues on the new East Bay Municipal Utility District water treatment plant at the end of Larkey Lane.

Construction will continue on the chemical building, pipelines, and the 4 million gallon water tank. Work will soon begin on new water filtering bays, the operations building, and a building that will provide power to the site.

The water treatment plant project is expected to be completed in fall 2005.

Tickets now available for fall City Bus Tour on Saturday, Nov. 2
Learn about Walnut Creek the easy way and leave the driving to us! Join Public Information Officer Brad Rovanpera on the fall City Bus Tour scheduled Saturday, Nov. 2.

This 3 1/2-hour morning excursion will include stops at Old Borges Ranch, the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, the Gardens at Heather Farm, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, the Diablo Valley Lines Model Railroad, and the Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts.

First-come, first-served tickets are $10 per person and must be reserved in advance by phone by calling 256-3505. Seating is limited to 24.

65th annual Walnut Festival returns to Heather Farm Park
The 65th Walnut Festival will get underway at Heather Farm Park for a four-day run beginning Sept. 19, highlighted by carnival rides and live entertainment. Festival hours are: Thursday, Sept. 19, 5-10 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 20, 5-midnight; Saturday, Sept. 21, 10 a.m.-midnight; Sunday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Gate admission is $6, general; $4, ages 6-12. Bring a can of food for the Contra Costa Food Bank and get $1 off your admission at the gate.

Walnut Festival activities will actually kick off on Sunday, Sept. 8 with the 58th annual 5k/10k Run/Walk for families, co-sponsored by the Walnut Creek Lions Club. The event will be at 8 a.m. at Clarke Swim Center in Heather Farm Park. To register, call 935-6766.

The Walnut Festival Twilight Round-Up Parade will be on Saturday, Sept. 14 beginning at 6:15 p.m. on North Main Street between Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Civic Drive. The theme this year is “Spirit of America,” and more than 100 entrants, including local high school marching bands, will be featured. Come early for the best curbside seating.

The popular Children’s Costume Parade is Saturday, Sept. 21, beginning promptly at 10:45 a.m. at Clarke Swim Center and ending at the festival grounds. Children in preschool through 5th grade are invited to participate and will receive a blue ribbon and immediate free admission into the festival. For details, call Leo Harrod at 943-5899, ext. 257.

W C’s planning chief leaves for Roseville
Paul Richardson, who as Walnut Creek’s planning manager helped guide Walnut Creek through its most ambitious period of development over the last decade, became the planning director for the City of Roseville July 15.

Richardson, who left June 28 after more than 10 years at the helm of the City’s planning division, came to work for the City as a senior planner in 1987. He took over as chief of planning in September 1991.

He and his staff oversaw the plans for several major downtown commercial projects, including Broadway Pointe, Plaza Escuela, Olympic Place, and The Corners.

In Roseville, a suburb located 16 miles northeast of Sacramento, he is overseeing a staff of about 20.
Council approves visionary plan for North Main Street

An ambitious plan that establishes a vision to revitalize North Main Street south of Ygnacio Valley Road to give it a more pedestrian-friendly atmosphere was approved by the City Council on July 16.

The North Main Street/Ygnacio Valley Road Specific Plan is the blueprint for an estimated $3.2 million project that would include a widened and landscaped sidewalk, newly configured streets, and parallel parking.

The City’s share of the cost of the project would be $1.7 million for street resurfacing. The balance of the funding would be paid by affected property owners through improvement fees.

The scope of the specific plan involves the section of North Main Street from Civic Drive to Ygnacio Valley Road — a stretch that is largely occupied by a Target store and several automobile dealerships. There are no civic or residential uses.

As outlined in the plan, the project area is envisioned to be a thriving, mixed-use commercial district that provides an inviting link between Walnut Creek BART and the traditional downtown.

To create a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere, the City will enhance the streetscape with trees, new streetlights, and reconfigured sidewalks and traffic lanes to make the area more attractive.

Although there are no proposals to change the current uses in the area, the City recognizes that some of these uses may change over time. And although no changes are anticipated in the near future, the specific plan provides four long-range development scenarios for this stretch of North Main: Revitalization, Office, Mixed Use, and Transit Village.

In the Revitalization Focus scenario, current businesses would be encouraged to renovate existing buildings and construct new buildings on their site in keeping with design guidelines. In the Office Focus scenario, several sites are identified for private redevelopment with offices while others would be redeveloped with retail mixed uses.

Envisioned in the Mixed Use scenario is a variety of land uses, combining retail, office, residential, and civic uses.

In the Transit Village scenario, the area would be transformed over time into a lively, urban residential mixed-use district.

A major challenge facing the City is to provide improvements to North Main Street to beautify the area, provide an appealing walking environment, and still meet the needs of the three auto dealers.

Affordable housing programs available through the City

In an on-going effort to assist individuals in purchasing or fixing up a home in Walnut Creek, the City offers a range of special affordable housing programs:

• First-Time Homebuyer Program: This program provides up to $45,000 in mortgage assistance to first-time homebuyer households with an income of no more than $81,950 for a family of four.

• Homeowner Rehabilitation Loan and Emergency Grant Program: Provides rehabilitation loans for health and safety improvements of up to $60,000 at 3 percent interest for a 20-year term to households earning no more than $89,400 for a family of four.

• Homeowner Rehabilitation Grants: Provides grants to very-low income households

There are also loan programs for building owners to rehabilitate rental housing and provide affordable units.

For more information, contact Housing Specialist Laura Simpson at 943-5834.
Sugarloaf

A different slice of open space

Of the four open space preserves in Walnut Creek, Sugarloaf offers perhaps the most breathtaking views of the entire region, only minutes from downtown.

From its lofty, tree-studded hills, visitors can feast on a breathtaking, 360-degree panorama that includes Mount Diablo to the east, Suisun Bay to the north, Alamo to the south, and Lafayette to the west.

“It’s basically a walk-in nature preserve,” said resident Ranger Bruce Weidman, who has managed Sugarloaf since 1995. “It’s a little island pocket.”

Despite its relatively small (177-acre) amount of territory, Sugarloaf seems bigger. Maybe it’s because of the expansive views, or perhaps because of its adventurous variety of hills and dales.

It is certainly one of the most accessible open space areas, with four different entrances. The main entrance is off Youngs Valley Road, which is near the fork of Rudgear Road and San Miguel Drive. The other entrances are off Hackamore Lane, Lariat Lane, Bridle Lane.

Like its counterparts (Shell Ridge, Lime Ridge, and Acalanes Ridge), Sugarloaf serves as grazing land for cattle and its four miles of trails connect with Mount Diablo and the East Bay Regional parks.

Native trees include the usual variety of oaks and a 15-acre walnut grove — one of the few remaining in Walnut Creek. Sugarloaf is also inhabited by deer, coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats, wild pigs, raccoons, and oppossums.

Visitors can reserve the group picnic areas (complete with horseshoe pits) and group camping is also permitted by reservation. Flush toilets and sinks are available, along with ample parking.

A new, 80-seat amphitheater built in 2001 by the Rotary Club of Walnut Creek is also available to groups for programs.

For more information, call 944-5766 or visit the website at www.walnut-creek.org.

Harvest Festival at Howe Park

Harvest Festival returns to Howe Homestead Park on Sunday, Oct. 27 from noon to 5 p.m.

A variety of fun fall family activities is planned, including pumpkin carving, a historical photo display of the late Jim Howe, displays of Howe’s famous pigeon flutes, storytelling by Ranger Bruce Weidman, and a short play based on Shelley’s “Frankenstein” at 3 p.m.

Howe Homestead Park is operated by the City of Walnut Creek at 2950 Walnut Blvd. Call 930-7731 for more information.
Public urination outlawed

The City Council on June 4 established a regulation that makes it unlawful to urinate or defecate in public.

The Council amended the Municipal Code relating to temporary or portable toilets to make it either a misdemeanor or an infraction for a person to urinate or defecate in or on any street, sidewalk, alley, plaza, park, or any place open to the public. The penalty for breaking this law may either be up to six months in jail and/or up to a $1,000 fine.

Affordable housing funds OK’d

The City Council on July 2 approved a spending plan that provides $2.6 million for housing in 2002-03.

The budget includes funds for several City-sponsored housing assistance programs, including the First-Time Homebuyer Program, the City Homeowner Rehabilitation Grant/Loan Program, and rental rehabilitation.

The majority of the funds, $1.5 million, was set aside for new construction of affordable housing projects. This funding will assist the City in becoming a partner with developers to construct new mixed-income, apartment, or condominium complexes or to substantially rehabilitate existing multi-family developments, primarily in the downtown area.

For more information on the City’s housing programs, see story on page 4.

Bedford Gallery seeks volunteers

The City’s Bedford Gallery will hold a Volunteer Recruitment Day on Monday, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Volunteers at the Bedford Gallery include tour guides (docents) who lead groups of children and adults through the exhibitions and help children with exhibition-related art projects. Bedford Gallery Guild members welcome the public to the gallery and provide information services, host public receptions, and conduct fundraising events.

The Gallery is located on the ground floor of the Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr.

No prior knowledge of art required. Call 295-1417.

Checking out longer library hours

On July 1, Walnut Creek library supporters and patrons celebrated the beginning of a new era of service as operating hours were increased to 56 hours a week at the two branch libraries in town. The new hours at both branches are: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The expanded hours were made possible by voter-approved Measure Q, a special parcel tax expressly for improved library services that passed in March. Here, Diane Longshore (left), leader of the Yes on Q campaign, and Walnut Creek Head Librarian Ann Shelton check out the informational banner on the front of the downtown library.

City’s Fresh Start program offers homeless opportunities

When a socially-conscious Rossmoor resident in 1998 bequeathed $250,000 to the City of Walnut Creek to serve homeless persons, it created a small dilemma. The City didn’t then have any program to deal with the homeless, but the bequest expressly directed that the money be used to assist Walnut Creek’s homeless.

City officials turned to Susan Prather, a long-time activist for homeless people, who designed and implemented the Fresh Start program in order to meet immediate needs and to assist in solving long-term problems, such as finding permanent housing and jobs.

In its three years of existence, Fresh Start has provided permanent housing or rental assistance to more than 100 individuals.

The program, which is client-oriented and client-run, provides lunch, a phone for housing and job searches, and showers to the homeless. Prather assists clients in getting access to county services and federal and state entitlements.

The balance of the $250,000 bequest that funds the program will run out soon. However, Fresh Start will continue its partnership with the City of Walnut Creek, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, and all of the other organizations and businesses that have assisted the program in the past. Fresh Start has also established a partnership with Episcopal Charities, an organization that will assist the program with fundraising and planning.

Donations for Fresh Start may be sent to: Fresh Start, c/o St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Street, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Ruth Wallis, City’s first female dept. director, turns 100

Ruth B. Wallis, who made history as the first woman in California to run a municipal department when she was named Walnut Creek’s recreation director in 1952, celebrated her 100th birthday on Aug. 1.

Wallis, a native of Cleveland, Ohio who now lives in Palm Desert, became involved with Walnut Creek’s fledgling recreation program as a volunteer in 1948. As department director, she oversaw the creation of Heather Farm Park before retiring in January 1969.
Watch ‘Community Watch’

Next time you’re channel surfing, you may see members of your Walnut Creek Police Department. Not making news, but making the quality of life a little better. Community Watch, Walnut Creek Police Department’s new television show, features Walnut Creek police officers and other employees sharing advice and offering insight into community issues, as well as sharing information about upcoming community events.

So far on Community Watch, Det. Carol Burroughs has shared her expertise on ways to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft. Another show featured Traffic Officer Scott Hansen speaking about proper child seat installation and passenger safety. Officer Mangini discussed “Code Adam,” the highly effective program designed for locating children quickly when they are discovered missing within a store. The Walnut Creek Police Department offers pedestrian and bicycle diversion programs, which was explained in detail by Traffic Officer Brian McColgin.

Future programs will address burglary proofing your home, a SWAT demonstration, and a segment regarding recruitment and hiring at the Walnut Creek Police Department.

Community Watch encourages citizens to participate in keeping our community safe by being informed and involved. We invite you to view Community Watch, which airs daily on AT&T Broadband, Channel 6, at 6:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

After you watch Community Watch, log on to walnucreekpd.com and click on the “Citizen’s Input” button to share your opinion about the show. We look forward to hearing from you...

Community Watch is hosted by Crime Prevention Coordinator Deborah Bushnell and Sergeant Mark Perlite.

Avoid creating public nuisances at home

This may come as a surprise, but if you have a basketball standard sitting on the street or sidewalk in front of your house, you’ve created a public nuisance that violates the City’s Municipal Code.

Public nuisances include things like basketball standards and skateboard rails that are obstructions on streets and sidewalks. They also take the form of visual blight left in the front or side of homes such as furniture, appliances, containers, scrap metal, junk, and rubbish that is on the public right-of-way or a private street and is offensive to neighbors.

Likewise, property owners who fail to maintain the appearance of their property, or the exterior of any vacant or unoccupied building, are also in violation.

Other unlawful nuisances include weeds on sidewalks, tree branches and bushes that block streets and sidewalks, and garbage cans left at the curb more than 36 hours before or after collection day.

City rules also prohibit the keeping, storage, accumulation or depositing of dirt, sand, gravel, concrete, or similar materials for an unreasonable period.

Property owners must also maintain slopes, debris, erosion, vegetation growth (including trees, shrubs, weeds, and ornamental plants and flowers) so they don’t constrict or inhibit the flow of water in any natural stream or creek bed.

To report a public nuisance, contact the City’s Community Enhancement Office at 943-5863 during weekday hours.

Bicycle Advisory Committee needs you

Are you passionate about bicycle related issues in our community? Would you be enthusiastic about working to improve bicycling in our City?

Look no further, because the Walnut Creek Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) is looking for two new members. The BAC advises and makes recommendations to the Transportation Commission on bicycle issues related to planning, existing facilities (bike routes, trails, parking, etc.), construction projects, capital improvement projects, legislation, and education.

The only qualification for a BAC member is to either live or work within the City limit or its sphere of influence.

Participating as a committee member requires only a modest investment in time. The BAC has regularly scheduled bimonthly meetings and field trips a few times per year. A good overview of the BAC can be found on the City’s website, http://walnut-creek.org/bicyclecouncil/BAC.htm.

Applications can be obtained through the Transportation Division by calling 256-3529. Applications are due September 20 and new committee members will start in November.
For the third straight year, Walnut Creek residents this October will be encouraged to leave at the curb reusable items from around their home that might otherwise end up in a landfill.

During last year’s Reuse and Cleanup Days program, Walnut Creek residents donated 82 tons of reusable items at the curb, which is double what was donated in 2000.

This year citizens may once again leave a wide variety of reusable articles (see box at right).

These discarded materials are:
• donated to charitable organizations for distribution to families
• used in making art and arts and crafts projects
• distributed to thrift organizations for resale

A yellow flyer that lists all acceptable items and other details of the program will be mailed to homes in September. Your precise collection day will be listed in the mailer. Multi-family areas, including Rossmoor, are excluded from the program.

Reusable items will be collected by a Pacific Rim Recycling truck and delivered to the non-profit East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse for redistribution. All reuse donations are tax deductible.

Items not taken for reuse will be tagged and left at the curb for collection on your cleanup day, which is on the following business day.

This year, donated bicycles, clothing, and soccer equipment will be sent to Afghanistan through the Afghan Center in Fremont.

“We are very pleased with the outstanding participation by the community,” said Lois Cole, waste prevention and recycling specialist for the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority. “This program helps us meet our state-mandated recycling goals to divert 50 percent of solid wastes from landfills.”

This program is provided by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority in collaboration with the East Bay Depot, Pacific Rim Recycling, and Pleasant Hill Bayshore Disposal.

For more details or to request a tax-deductible receipt, call 1-800-999-6067.

Acceptable items:
• Art and crafts supplies
• Bicycles, sports equipment
• Computers, working monitors
• Cell phones
• Musical instruments
• Shutters, moldings
• Garden furnishings
• Child size furniture (no cribs)
• Household items
• Clocks, watches, costume jewelry
• Wood and tin toys
• Wrought iron & metal items
• Decorations, fabrics, unique handcrafted items
• Books
• Clothing

Not acceptable:
• Computer peripherals (broken)
• Children’s car seats
• Plastic toys/furniture
• Stuffed animals
• Exercise machines
• Barbecues
• Ladders
• Large furniture/appliances
• Items more than 100 pounds

For the third straight year, Walnut Creek residents this October will be encouraged to leave at the curb reusable items from around their home that might otherwise end up in a landfill.

During last year’s Reuse and Cleanup Days program, Walnut Creek residents donated 82 tons of reusable items at the curb, which is double what was donated in 2000.

This year citizens may once again leave a wide variety of reusable articles (see box at right).

These discarded materials are:
• donated to charitable organizations for distribution to families
• used in making art and arts and crafts projects
• distributed to thrift organizations for resale

A yellow flyer that lists all acceptable items and other details of the program will be mailed to homes in September. Your precise collection day will be listed in the mailer. Multi-family areas, including Rossmoor, are excluded from the program.

Reusable items will be collected by a Pacific Rim Recycling truck and delivered to the non-profit East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse for redistribution. All reuse donations are tax deductible.

Items not taken for reuse will be tagged and left at the curb for collection on your cleanup day, which is on the following business day.

This year, donated bicycles, clothing, and soccer equipment will be sent to Afghanistan through the Afghan Center in Fremont.

“We are very pleased with the outstanding participation by the community,” said Lois Cole, waste prevention and recycling specialist for the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority. “This program helps us meet our state-mandated recycling goals to divert 50 percent of solid wastes from landfills.”

This program is provided by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority in collaboration with the East Bay Depot, Pacific Rim Recycling, and Pleasant Hill Bayshore Disposal.

For more details or to request a tax-deductible receipt, call 1-800-999-6067.

Acceptable items:
• Art and crafts supplies
• Bicycles, sports equipment
• Computers, working monitors
• Cell phones
• Musical instruments
• Shutters, moldings
• Garden furnishings
• Child size furniture (no cribs)
• Household items
• Clocks, watches, costume jewelry
• Wood and tin toys
• Wrought iron & metal items
• Decorations, fabrics, unique handcrafted items
• Books
• Clothing

Not acceptable:
• Computer peripherals (broken)
• Children’s car seats
• Plastic toys/furniture
• Stuffed animals
• Exercise machines
• Barbecues
• Ladders
• Large furniture/appliances
• Items more than 100 pounds