GET INVOLVED, MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Walnut Creek City Council is inviting interested residents to consider applying to serve on a local advisory commission. Serving on a commission is a great way to get involved in your community, and provide input on the direction of many City services and programs. Walnut Creek has a variety of advisory bodies that cover such topics as the arts, planning, design review, parks/recreation/open space and transportation. Commissioners must be registered voters and for most positions, live within the City of Walnut Creek. Commissioners serve without compensation, but provide an incredibly valuable service to their community. If you’ve ever wondered how certain decisions are made in the City, and how recommendations from advisory bodies come to the City Council, one of these slots might be for you. Find out more by visiting the City’s website and selecting the “Commissions and Committees” tab in the government section. You can also contact the City Clerk’s office at 925-943-5819 for more details. Recruitments are underway now, and will close on October 9.

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Mark your calendar for Monday, November 11, as the City pays tribute to the many veterans who live in Walnut Creek. Enjoy the patriotic music provided by the Walnut Creek Concert Band, and be inspired by our keynote speaker. The free ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m., and will be held at the Lesher Center for the Arts.

IN YOUR WINTER NUTSHELL

Look for a special insert in your December Nutshell that will highlight all the ways you can get information from the City in the event of an emergency. You’ll also find out what you can do in advance to prepare for an emergency, and how you can ensure your family and property are ready. We’re rolling out our alerting system: WC ALERT. Learn how to sign up for notifications by email, text and/or phone call.

Create Musical Memories in Walnut Creek!

You may have noticed beautifully hand-painted pianos popping up on City streets downtown and in Shadelands. What’s the scoop? Check out WalnutCreekDowntown.com for details on the new musical public art project known as “Painted Pianos!”

Planning for City’s Financial Future

The City of Walnut Creek’s budget team is actively preparing for the upcoming spending plan that will cover fiscal years 2020 through 2022. Like many local governments, the City’s budget operates on a two year cycle, with adjustments made along the way. The City’s next budget will go into effect July 1, 2020, and cover spending and delivery of programs and services through June 30, 2022. Unlike the Federal government, cities cannot print money or approve a budget with a deficit. Legally, the City must always adopt a balanced budget.

During the recession, the City made some difficult budget cuts, and as the economy improved, slowly moved forward with restoring services. We will enter into the next budget cycle preparing for the future, having worked hard to be able to “do more with less,” as has been expected of government agencies in the post-recession era. The City’s 10 year financial forecast suggests that we will have ongoing budget challenges, primarily due to two factors: mandated pension costs that will rise significantly, and major infrastructure needs that will need to be addressed.

In the meantime, we want you to be part of the City’s financial discussion. Register for budget information and alerts to be received via email. Visit the City’s homepage, www.Walnut-Creek.org, and select the eNotifications tab in the upper right hand corner. More information will be forthcoming over the coming months.
COMMUNITY ARTS RECEIVES GRANTS FOR ARTS PROGRAMMING IN SCHOOLS

Center for Community Arts has received three grants from the California Arts Council to support arts programming and teacher professional development in local public schools. In-school programs at Walnut Creek Intermediate and Ygnacio Valley High School will enable Community Arts to work with classroom teachers and students to support arts learning for students with special needs. Additionally, Community Arts will provide a series of three arts integration workshops for teachers across schools in Walnut Creek and deepen arts-learning in its After School programs at Oak Grove Middle, Meadow Homes Elementary, and Buena Vista Elementary.

Here’s what’s happening

BEDFORD GALLERY

Feast your eyes on Off Menu: Contemporary Art About Food
Opening Reception: Saturday, October 6, 3-5pm
Exhibition Dates: October 6 – December 15
Fill your cultural plate with Off Menu, an exhibition of more than one hundred works of art that explore and celebrate the visual expressions of food. Featuring an international roster of artists who work in a range of media to depict the objects of our culinary desire, the exhibition contains a healthy portion of aesthetic sustenance! Off Menu is curated by a traveling exhibition titled Les Diners des Galas, comprised of twelve fine art prints by Salvador Dali. Adult $5, Youth 13-17 $3, Children 12 & under free.

Volunteer at Bedford Gallery

Fall 2019: Thursday, October 25, 9-10:30am
Through Bedford Gallery’s many volunteer opportunities, you can participate in the gallery’s behind-the-scenes operations, learn about trends in contemporary art, make friends, and contribute to a thriving art scene in your community. Bedford Gallery is currently seeking Guild Members and Docent Volunteers. Guild Members staff the gallery’s front desk and welcome visitors into the space, and docents lead tours of gallery exhibitions and teach Art in a Suitcase workshops (no prior art history knowledge needed to sign up). To sign up or learn more information, visit bedfordgallery.org/volunteer.

Public Art Walking Tours

October 19, November 16, 11am-12pm
Bedford Gallery offers one hour docent-led walking tours of Walnut Creek’s wonderful downtown public art collection every third Saturday, April through November. Tours start at 11 am and meet at front of the Lesher Center for the Arts on the Plaza. More information can be found at bedfordgallery.org/public-art/public-art-tours. Adults $5, 18 years or younger are free (cash only). Includes Admission to the Gallery.

Bedford Craft Fest!

Saturday, November 16, 10am-5pm
Shop till you drop this year at Bedford Gallery’s Craft Fest, an annual tradition celebrating the finest handmade goods of Bay Area’s local, independent makers and designers. Now in its twentieth year, Craft Fest has become an annual tradition for shoppers looking to find unique items and gifts. Shop for the best jewelry, ceramics, textiles, home goods, artisanal foods, and clothing the Bay has to offer. View the lineup of vendors at bedfordgallery.org/craftfest. Free Admission.

MUSIC & MOVIES UNDER THE STARS

Music & Movies Under the Stars
Friday, September 20, Civic Park
Music by Sunny and the Black Pack starts at 5:30pm, with a showing of Jumanji at sunset (approx. 7pm). Bring a picnic and enjoy!

WALNUT CREEK RECREATION & OPEN SPACE EVENTS

Market Day

Market Day 2nd Tuesday of the month, October 8, November 12, December 10, 10:30am-12pm, Civic Park
Community Center Plaza
Interested in purchasing fresh produce at wholesale prices? Our monthly market, hosted by Walnut Creek Rec and Civia, promotes community wellness every second Tuesday of the month! Open rain or shine at Civic Park plaza in between the community center and Hand of Peace statue. Product can be purchased by cash only! Any questions? Call us at 925-943-5552.

Financial Abuse Prevention

Sponsored by the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA) Thursday, October 10, 10:11am | FREE Social Hall, Civic Park Community Center
Do you want to become educated on how to identify the warning signs of financial abuse or how to protect yourself against fraud? Join the Contra Costa County ACOA for a presentation to highlight ways to prevent financial abuse. Call 925-943-5851 to register.

Trunk-or-Treat at Civic Park!

Friday, October 25, 4:30pm | FREE, Civic Park Parking Lot
Calling all ghouls, vampires and princesses, Walnut Creek Recreation is hosting their first ever “Trunk-or-Treat” in downtown Civic Park! Bring your trunks or cars and walk through “candy lane” where decorative trunks are filled with Halloween spirit and sweet-to-sweet treats are given out. Stop by our entertaining booths filled with fun activities! Visit our food trucks and beverage areas for a tasty treat or drink. Make sure to bring a bag for your kids’ treats! No registration required. Fall weather conditions will cancel the event. Call 901.254-8399 ext. 2311 for more information.

Howe Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 27, Howe Homestead Park, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
The Howe Harvest Festival combines a celebration of the life of James Pomeroy Howe with a variety of old fashioned harvest activities for the whole family. Pumpkin carving, carnival games, crafts and more. Make your own scarecrow, and venture into the Harvest Maze that winds through the Community Garden. Find all the details on the Walnut Creek Open Space Facebook page.

Giving in Gratitude: Food Bank

Thursday, November 21, 12:30-3:30 pm
Meeting Location: Civic Park Community Center
Do you want to support people in need at the Food Bank, but do not have time to commit long-term? Giving in Gratitude is a service group that offers individuals 4-6 hours of opportunity to give back to their community without a long-term commitment. We will be collaborating with the Contra Costa County Food Bank by helping them sort and distribute food items for community members in need. To register, call (925) 943-5552. Cost is $10.

Holiday Puppet Show, Fun with Santa!

Saturday, December 7, 10:30am-12pm
Lakeview Room, Heather Farm Community Center
Walnut Creek Recreation presents a ventriloquist puppet show by Bizarro, a local ventriloquist at Christmas crafts and treat, and a chance for photos with Santa. Preregistration required. Register for Class #15166 under your child’s name at WalnutCreekRec.org or call 925-943-5588. Tickets are $15.

In a Nutshell
With more than 50 projects, Community Service Day offers something for everyone.
For project details, visit www.walnut-creek.org/service.

ANIMALS
- ARF Landscape Transformation
- Equestrian Center Spiff Up
- Giving Tree Ornaments (Community Concern for Cats)
- Thrift Shop Capers (Community Concern for Cats)

ARTS
- Arts Classroom in a Suitcase (Bedford Gallery)
- Arts Greeting Cards (Community Arts Preschool)
- Ceramic Kiln Patio Clean-up
- Lesher Center Painting
- Lesher Costume Shop Spiff-up
- Violin Kits for Kids (California Symphony)

CREEKS
- Creek Habitat Restoration (Civic Park)
- Family Creek Cleanup (Heather Farm)
- Invasive Plant Removal (Pine Creek)
- Pine Creek Cleanup

DOWNTOWN
- Paint Downtown Meter Poles

EMERGENCY PREP
- Emergency Alert Outreach (CERT)

FOOD DRIVES, ETC.
- Community Food Drive
- Food Warehouse Spiff-up
  (White Pony Express)
- Rossmoor Food Drive (Rossmoor Rotary)

LIBRARIES
If libraries are your passion, you can help at Walnut Acres school library or a public library.

PARKS & GARDENING
- Bancroft Garden Spruce-up
- Civic Park Fence Painting
- Gardens @Heather Farm Beautification
- Hanna Grove Fence Building
- Heather Farm Park Landscaping
- Lar Rieu Park Tree Planting
- San Miguel Park Landscaping
- Shadelands Museum Gardening (Historical Society)

RECREATION
- HF Softball Infield Work
- Rodgear Pickleball Courts Spruce-up

SCHOOLS
All Walnut Creek public schools are sponsoring projects. Come out and help your neighborhood school!

SENIORS & TOTS
- All Abilities Playground Spruce-up (Civic Pride Fdn.)
- Senior Volunteer Thank You Packets

SUSTAINABILITY
- Iron Horse Trail Spruce-up (Sustainable WC & Sunrise Rotary)

How to volunteer
1. Go to www.walnut-creek.org/service to get detailed project information and the link to the registration system.

2. Use the online volunteer registration system to sign up. You can register as an individual or on behalf of a family or group. (Please, only one project!)

3. Mark your calendar for October 12 and build a better Walnut Creek!

Don't have Internet access?
Call the Community Service day hotline: 925-256-3505.

Help Wanted: Volunteers are needed to help organize and manage the breakfast and other activities at Heather Farm Community Center on October 12. Sign up and be part of our team!

*Free Community Service Day T-shirts are only distributed at the morning check-in and breakfast.
In a Nutshell: Fall 2019

School Resource Officers Back on Campus

School is back underway, and if you drop by a local campus, there’s no need for concern if you see a police car onsite. That means School Resource Officers Nicole Rosenbusch and Shane Blatz are probably on the job.

Walnut Creek Police Department began its school resource officer (SRO) program in 2014, having two School Resource Officers assigned to Northgate and Las Lomas High School and their respective feeder schools, as well as private and charter schools within Walnut Creek. Every year, our SROs handle hundreds of calls for service at their assigned schools, allowing Patrol to concentrate on reducing crime elsewhere. SROs also focus on providing education to students, faculty, and parents on topics including the responsible use of social media, school safety, bullying, and alcohol and drug awareness. The SROs also operate a juvenile diversion program that allows qualifying teens an alternative to entering the juvenile justice system, and provide faculty and staff with active shooter training.

SRO Rosenbusch is assigned to Las Lomas High School (former Alma Mater), WCI, Indian Valley, Walnut Heights, and Buena Vista Elementary School. The most senior Patrol Officer at WCPD, Rosenbusch began her WCPD career in 1996, working in Patrol, Investigations (Juvenile Crimes - Crimes Against Children, Community Policing Team), and has been a SRO since 2016. She is also a member of the Recruiting Team, a Crisis Intervention Training Instructor, and the Team Leader for both the Rosenbusch and Master Officer Committee.

Having a passion for teaching and working with youth in the community, Rosenbusch has taught DARE and Character Education in elementary schools for several years, the Awareness Program at the middle schools, and ROOP (Regional Occupational Program) Law Enforcement at LLS.

Rosenbusch believes an SRO’s main job is the safety and welfare of their students. SROs counsel, educate, mediate, situations involving students, and when appropriate enforce the law, as well as being a resource for the parents, school admin, faculty, and staff. Rosenbusch adds, “I love my job. To be able to connect with students of all ages and be a positive role model and support for whatever situation they may be experiencing is very gratifying. And to also connect, support and be a resource for school admin, faculty, and staff is absolutely the best.”

An SRO since 2017, Officer Blatz is assigned to Northgate High School, Fonthill Middle, Bancroft, Valle Verde and Walnut Acres Elementary. Previously working for San Diego and San Francisco Police Departments, Officer Blatz has nearly 30 years of law enforcement experience in total.

In addition to being an SRO, Blatz is also a Defensive Tactics Instructor, Peer Support Team member and a Terrorism Liaison Officer. Blatz’s favorite aspect of being an SRO is the interaction shared with students in a more informal setting rather than in an official police contact. Blatz notes, “I believe students see how I am not much different than them and they feel more comfortable to talk about their problems, or anything that may make them feel unsafe both in and outside of school.”

Our SROs work tirelessly to ensure that all Walnut Creek students and faculty have a safe school day, and that students and their parents have the resources they need to feel safe both in and outside of school.

What’s New with Design Review?

CIVIC PRIDE GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2019 Community Grant Program. Ranging from $500 to $2,500, the grants support Walnut Creek non-profit recreation, cultural or educational programs or events. To apply, visit the foundation’s website at WC CivicPride.org. Application deadline is Monday, October 7, 2019.

What’s New with Design Review?

Application guidelines are available online at walnut-creek.org/flipbook. For more information or to join the North Downtown Specific Plan email list, visit walnut-creek.org/northdowntown.

Happening in our Walnut Creek Libraries

LIVE FROM THE LIBRARY will be welcoming author D. Leah Steinberg to town on October 16 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss her book, Growing Up in the Shadow of the Bomb: Children of the Manhattan Project. The story is her unique account of the impact of being brought up by parents who worked at the Manhattan Project. Following the program, books will be available for purchase and signing by the author. This free program is sponsored by the Walnut Creek Library Foundation.

For more information about this and other Walnut Creek Library Foundation programs, please visit www.wc.lib. or call 925-935-5395.

Valley Art Gallery celebrates 70 years in Walnut Creek

The Valley Art Gallery took shape and became a cornerstone of the art community in Walnut Creek. The City Council is presenting a proclamation recognizing the Gallery’s 70th anniversary this fall. You can catch the Gallery’s new show opening September 21st. Find out more by visiting valleyartgallery.org.
WORLD-CLASS ENTERTAINMENT marks this gala evening at the Lesher Center for the Arts, with unique auction items, remarkable food and drink, and a memorable time for all. The On Broadway Gala helps fulfill the Diablo Regional Arts Associations mission to bring amazing talent to the Lesher Center, and to grant local schoolchildren access to the arts. Find out more at draa.org.

Mountain Shadow Hosts its 5th Annual Short Film Competition
The best of the best will be screened September 20 and 21 as the Mountain Shadow Film Society brings you the finalists from its annual short film competition. Finalists will present their films in person for audience voting onsite Friday and Saturday at the Las Lomas High School Theater. More than 500 films were submitted for the 24 finalist from its annual short film competition. Finalists will present their films in person for audience voting onsite Friday and Saturday at the Las Lomas High School Theater. More than 500 films were submitted for the 24 finalists to preview and pare down to ten. Visit http://mountainshadow.org for details.

Oktoberfest 2019:
Civic Park, Saturday, October 19, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Break out the lederhosen and lace up the dirndl dress – it’s the 5th Annual Walnut Creek Oktoberfest celebration! The free event, presented by Walnut Creek Downtown and the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, will feature something for everyone: live entertainment, music, dancing, gourmet food booths and dozens of vendors. And of course – a biergarten! Find out more at WalnutCreekDowntown.com.