CITIZENS INSTITUTE. After a yearlong Centennial hiatus, the Walnut Creek Citizens Institute returns. Participants learn first-hand how their City works through tours, lectures and hands-on activities. Classes will be Wednesdays, 6:30 to 9 p.m., Feb. 25 through April 8, with graduation on Saturday, April 11. There is a $25 fee, and space is limited. Email community@walnut-creek.org for details.

The All Abilities Playground at Heather Farm Park opened on October 25. The project was a partnership between the City, the county, the East Bay Regional Park District, and the Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation, which raised more than $370,000 in donations.

City Manager’s update

Stay in the know as downtown evolves

Our downtown is going through a tremendous time of change. Ten major housing and retail projects are either under construction, approved, or in the planning pipeline, bringing slightly more than 1,500 new apartments or condominiums to our community over the next 3-5 years.

This is a reflection of the health and desirability of Walnut Creek. People want to live here, and developers want to invest here. And, it fits the long-term vision spelled out in our General Plan: concentrating higher density new housing in the downtown, while protecting our open space and neighborhoods.

While it may seem to be happening all at once, many of these projects were approved years ago, but were put on hold by property owners during the economic downturn. Now, with the economy recovering and financial institutions lending money, developers are moving forward with their plans.

Long-term, these additions will strengthen and enrich our community, providing housing for people of all ages, ranging from young professionals to empty nesters, in a downtown environment close to public transit.

Short-term, this time of intense construction can be disruptive, particularly if one doesn’t know what to expect.

See UPDATE, page 11

HOLIDAY CLOSURES. Most City facilities, except for public safety, will be closed from 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23 until 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 5. A detailed list will be posted on the City’s website, www.walnut-creek.org.
Art wraps make utility boxes less utilitarian

Eleven dull gray utility boxes were transformed into colorful works of art as part of a Community Service Day project sponsored by Walnut Creek Downtown (WCD). Volunteers cleaned and prepped the utility boxes the morning of Sept. 27 before the eye-catching vinyl wraps were installed that afternoon.

This first-of-its-kind art exhibit in Walnut Creek is a temporary project that will be evaluated to determine its impact on the downtown. WCD has been looking for public art opportunities for a few years and presented this project in their annual report to the City Council last January, said Kathy Hemmenway, Interim Executive Director, WCD. “We hope to include these in the City’s monthly public artwork walking tours. This is the first of many exciting art projects planned to beautify downtown.”

Here’s what’s happening

Holiday Toy Drive
Spread the magic of the season by donating toys for underprivileged children. The Walnut Creek Police Department is accepting donations of new, unwrapped toys through Wednesday, Dec. 17. The toys will be distributed through the Marines’ Toys for Tots program. For more information, call Sgt. David Rangel, 925-943-5899, ext. 7678 or WCD Professional Staff member Lauren Gehring, 925-943-5890.

Hug a Tree Hiking Safety Program
Geared for the entire family, we’ll share hiking safety tips to assist in your enjoyment and safety while exploring Open Space trails, including what to know before you go, what to do to keep safe when hiking, and what to do if you become lost. Sunday, Feb. 1 at 2 p.m. at the Carriage Barn at Borges Ranch. $2 donation; reservations are necessary. Call Supervising Ranger Nancy Dollard, 925-943-5899 ext. 2135.

Comedy Night, Stars to the Rescue for Tony La Russa’s Animal Rescue Fund.
Always a howling good time, ARF’s Comedy Night will be Friday, Jan. 9 at the Lesher Center for the Arts. Then on Jan. 10, get ready for a star-studded evening at “Stars to the Rescue XXIV” at the Lesher Center. ARF’s signature talent showcase features outstanding performers, united under ARF’s message of “People Rescuing Animals ... Animals Rescuing People.” Tickets available to both events in early December; visit arf.net.

Kiss & Tail at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum
Just in time for Valentine’s Day! Enjoy “tails” of wild animal romance, along with beverages and sweet treats at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum on Thursday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. Must be 21 or older. Visit wildlife-museum.org or call 925-935-1978.

CERT Crab Feed
The Community Emergency Response Team Crab Feed will be Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Heather Farm Community Center Lakeside Room. CERT volunteers use the proceeds to purchase emergency supplies so they may respond quickly and safely to help their neighborhoods in event of disaster. For details, visit www.walnut-creek.org/cert.

How to Create Fire Defensible Spaces
Each year, the Open Space Division spends more than $35,000 to create firebreaks around Open Space sites to protect neighbors from grassland fires. Come hear about the Division’s actions and share ideas on what adjacent homeowners can do to help protect their property. Reservations are required. Call 925-943-5899 ext. 2135.

Live! from the Library offers a sneak peek at “The Book Club” play
Director Michael Butler and members of the Center REP cast offer a sneak peek at “The Book Club Play” at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14 in the downtown library as part of the “Live! from the Library” series produced by the Walnut Creek Library Foundation. The series features free public lectures, literary events and cultural programs. Learn more at www.wclibrary.org.
Mix and mingle with noted Bay Area authors on March 14 when the Walnut Creek Library Foundation hosts its annual fund-raising gala. The 2015 event promises distinctive elegance with a few surprises.

The evening will begin with a first-floor cocktail reception and silent auction filled with one-of-a-kind items. The featured authors will be on hand to autograph their books. This year, discount tickets will be available for those who wish to attend the cocktail reception only.

After the reception, guests and authors will move upstairs and enjoy a catered dinner in the library stacks.

Proceeds from the Authors Gala benefit programs and collections for the Walnut Creek and the Ygnacio Valley libraries.

Tickets go on sale in January; check www.wclibrary.org/authors for details, or call 925-935-5395 to reserve tickets now. This event sells out early.

**Free tax preparation**

Free tax preparation for the 2015 tax season is available starting February 2015 from AARP’s Tax-Aide and United Way’s Earn It, Keep It, Save It (EKS) programs. All tax preparers are trained and certified by the IRS. Both programs serve taxpayers of any age. EKS can only serve those whose incomes do not exceed $50,000; Tax-Aide can serve all incomes.

Beginning Jan. 5, for information or to make an appointment for the Tax-Aide sites serving the Walnut Creek area, please call: 925-943-5851 for the Walnut Creek Senior Club site; 925-405-6278 for the Walnut Creek Grace Presbyterian Church site; 925-979-5013 for the Walnut Creek St. Paul’s Episcopal Church site. For general information and other site locations, call 925-726-3199. For information on EKS sites call 2-1-1 or visit www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org.

Mountain Shadow Film Society

Mountain Shadow, a non-profit film society that brings foreign and independent filmmaking to the Walnut Creek area, is taking membership applications for its 2015 subscription season. Monthly screenings are held in the Oak View Room of the downtown library. Memberships sold out in just a few months last year, resulting in a second screening being added.

Mountain Shadow’s goal is to bring great films that are otherwise unavailable in local commercial theaters. Typically, there is a feature film, preceded by an award-winning short.

The weekend of Nov. 21 showcased “Three Still Standing,” which premiered in October at the Mill Valley Film Festival. “Three Still Standing” follows the ups and downs of three stand-up comics from the golden era of comedy clubs in San Francisco in the eighties to the present. Included in the film are early clips of Robin Williams, and an interview with him shortly before his death.

The 2015 subscription season offers two screening options: the second Friday or third Saturday of each month. Due to space limitations, a maximum number of 120 memberships will be available for each choice; returning subscribers are given first priority. The annual membership fee is $120, and includes 12 shows and an Oscar Night Party.

More information about the films and Mountain Shadow Film Society is available at http://mountainshadow.org, or by contacting Mountain Shadow director, John Bennison, jb@mountainshadow.org or 925-787-6965.

Host families sought for international college students

The International Education Center at Diablo Valley College is looking for people to host international students on a temporary basis while they improve their English skills.

All types of people are welcome to host – single or married adults, with or without children. Students already speak a good level of English. Hosts will receive a monthly stipend of $850 per student, and must provide a private bedroom and two meals per day.

Contact Fia Parker at 925-876-0080, or fparker@dvc.edu for more information.
Thank you to our sponsors

The yearlong Centennial Celebration would not have been possible without the support of the community and these generous sponsors:

**Sponsor of the Century**
Mechanics Bank

**Legacy Sponsor**
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

**Festival Sponsor**
Broadway Plaza

**Heritage Sponsor**
CSAA Insurance Group, a AAA Insurer

**Signature Sponsors**
City of Walnut Creek
Hall Equities Group
The Lesher Foundation
ParkSmart
Robert Anthony Strategic Marketing & Design
Shadowbrook Winery

**Celebration Sponsors**
Republic Services
Safeway

**Fiscal Sponsor**
The Walnut Creek Historical Society

**Media Sponsors**
Contra Costa Times
Diablo Magazine
Walnut Creek Magazine

The Centennial Year is drawing to a close.

The October 18 Centennial Birthday Festival drew more than 5,000 people to this historic Shadelands Ranch Museum for live music, food trucks, activities and, of course, birthday cake!

The final event will be the December 6 dedication of the Centennial Grove at Heather Farm Park at 11 a.m.

Other events throughout the year included the opening “Flappers and Flasks” event at the Lesher Center for the Arts, the “Centennial Heritage Day” at Old Borges Ranch, a special Fourth of July Ice Cream Social hosted by former mayor, and 100 and more ways to celebrate, offered by dozens of community partners.

Photos from these special events are available at walnutcreek100.com.

Thank you to the Centennial Steering Committee, led by Steve and Mackenzie Lesher, for a yearlong tribute to our home town.

More than 100 items filled the time capsule, on display at the October 21 City Council meeting. Among the highlights: birthday cards made at the Birthday Festival, a swimsuit worn by the Aquanuts on America’s Got Talent; a parking meter; a CERT helmet; a Murwood Elementary School mascot; and the October 21, 2014 edition of the Contra Costa Times! The time capsule will be stored in the City Hall vault for the next 50 years. Thanks to everyone who suggested ideas or contributed items. The complete list is at www.walnutcreek100.com.
In a Nutshell  Winter 2014-15

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Dorothy said it best – there’s no place like home. As we wind our way through the final weeks of 2014, there is much to appreciate right here in Walnut Creek. Take a peaceful hike in the open space, lace up those skates at Walnut Creek on Ice, or treat yourself to a holiday tea at the historic Shadelands Ranch Museum or the Gardens at Heather Farm.

Over the next three pages, you’ll find a wide array of events and activities to enjoy this holiday season, both downtown and around town, plus a colorful Guide to Holiday Parking.

As a starter, here are three things guaranteed to make spirits bright:

- 600 new parking spaces at Broadway Plaza with the Nov. 22 opening of the new South Broadway parking garage
- Return of the Holiday Tree Lighting at Civic Park from 5-6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29
- Extended evening hours on the Free Downtown Trolley through December 31

Broadway Plaza

ALL DECKED OUT FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

Broadway Plaza’s new South Broadway parking garage opens November 22 and the entire shopping center is getting All Decked Out for the occasion! Join the fun on Black Friday, November 28, and celebrate this opening with exclusive shopper giveaways, amazing retailer offers, live entertainment and one very special celebrity guest – Santa Claus! With ample parking, free valet and more than 30 stores open, plus Macy’s, Nordstrom and Neiman Marcus, say hello to hassle-free holiday shopping!

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AND TREE LIGHTING:

Music and festivity will fill Broadway Plaza on December 4th from 6 – 9 p.m. with a Retailer Open House, live entertainment and activities for children of all ages! And, Santa Claus will be making a very special appearance to help light Broadway Plaza’s magical Christmas Tree and make it snow!

Civic Park Sparkles

TREE LIGHTING

5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29

Join emcee Dan Ashley for caroling, hot cocoa and holiday happiness. Meet at the Ice Rink, and walk together as a group to the gazebo, where the Mayor will be on hand to light the holiday tree.

Walnut Creek on Ice

Through January 11, 2015 at Civic Park

Get your skate on at Walnut Creek on Ice! Learn to skate at the Ice Skating Academy, schedule a special birthday party, or just enjoy open skate times. Visit iceskatewalnutcreek.com or call 925-935-7699 for details.
LESHER CENTER

The Lesher Center for the Arts offers holiday performances for every age and interest. Here are some picks; visit www.lesherartscenter.org or stop by the Box Office for additional details and a complete calendar of events.

Featured Productions:

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
Center REPertory Company
December 11 – 21

HOLIDAY CONCERT
Walnut Creek Concert Band
December 2

THE BIGGEST GIFT
Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble
December 18-21

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
California Symphony
December 23

Walnut Creek Winter Wednesdays

Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m.
Through Nov. 17

NOV 19
SUGAR SPUN FAIRIES
Cotton Candy Bar

NOV 26
DOWNTOWN’S HOLIDAY SOUNDS
Acoustic Musicians
Northgate Madrigals

DEC 3
TREAT STREET
Visit with Santa @
The Candy Counter
Face Painting & Carolers

DEC 10
SANTA’S JOLLY TROLLEY
Trolley rides with Santa
Northgate Madrigals

DEC 17
OH! WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE
Horse & Carriage Rides - $5/per person
Carolers

Visit wcwednesdays.com to learn more

TAKE THE TROLLEY AND LEAVE TRAFFIC BEHIND

Thanks to funding provided by Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek’s Free Ride Trolley offers extended evening hours from the day after Thanksgiving through New Year’s Eve.

The Trolley (also known as County Connection Route 4) will be available until 10 p.m. Nov. 28 through Dec. 13, and also Dec. 26 through Dec. 31.

From Dec. 15 through Dec. 23, trolley hours extend to 11 p.m. (Note: Extended hours are not offered on Sundays; the last trolley leaves Walnut Creek BART at 6:20 p.m. Sundays)

The Free Trolley loops between Walnut Creek BART and Broadway Plaza, traveling along Locust and North Main Street. For a detailed route map, visit countyconnection.com/schedule/4.

Visit wcwednesdays.com for details and locations.

LESTER CENTER

The Lesher Center for the Arts offers holiday performances for every age and interest. Here are some picks; visit www.lesherartscenter.org or stop by the Box Office for additional details and a complete calendar of events.

Featured Productions:

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
Center REPertory Company
December 11 – 21

HOLIDAY CONCERT
Walnut Creek Concert Band
December 2

THE BIGGEST GIFT
Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble
December 18-21

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
California Symphony
December 23

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Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m.
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Cotton Candy Bar

NOV 26
DOWNTOWN’S HOLIDAY SOUNDS
Acoustic Musicians
Northgate Madrigals

DEC 3
TREAT STREET
Visit with Santa @
The Candy Counter
Face Painting & Carolers

DEC 10
SANTA’S JOLLY TROLLEY
Trolley rides with Santa
Northgate Madrigals

DEC 17
OH! WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE
Horse & Carriage Rides - $5/per person
Carolers

Visit wcwednesdays.com to learn more

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The Free Trolley loops between Walnut Creek BART and Broadway Plaza, traveling along Locust and North Main Street. For a detailed route map, visit countyconnection.com/schedule/4.

Visit wcwednesdays.com for details and locations.
**Model Railroad Holiday Shows**

Friday, Nov. 28 at 2 p.m.  
Saturday, Nov. 29 and  
Sunday, Nov. 30 at 11 a.m.

One of Walnut Creek’s secret treasures, the Diablo Valley Lines model railroad will thrill kids of all ages during the special Thanksgiving Weekend holiday shows. The railroad is operated by the Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society. 2751 Buena Vista Avenue. Call 925-937-1888 or visit www.wcmrs.org.

**Holidays at Shadelands**

THREE-COURSE TEA LUNCHEON, HOLIDAY FAIRE  
Nov. 29 through Dec. 14

The holidays come to the historic Shadelands Ranch Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road! A three-course tea luncheon is served at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., while more than 40 vendors will be on hand from 10 a.m to 4 p.m. with handcrafted items for sale.

Advance reservations for the tea are required; sittings fill up fast! Call 925-935-7871.

**Holiday Artists Market**

SHADELANDS ARTS CENTER  
111 WIGET LANE

Fri, Dec. 5 - Opening Gala and sale – 5 to 9 p.m.  
Sat, Dec. 6 and Sunday, Dec. 7  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This year’s sale combines works from the Clay Arts Guild along with other Civic Arts disciplines for the largest market ever! Buy handmade ceramics, jewelry, art glass, paintings, prints, photography, textiles and more. Get your holiday shopping done while supporting community arts education and local artists. 25 percent of all proceeds will benefit Civic Arts Education and the Clay Arts Guild. Check out more event details at www.2014ArtistMarket.eventbrite.com

**FREE PARKING IN ALL CITY GARAGES**

**WEDNESDAYS AFTER 5PM FROM NOV. 5 – JAN. 1**

**FREE VALET THURS-SAT 5-10PM**  
First 3 hours free, $5 after 3 hours  
Locust St. in front of Kitchen Table

**BROADWAY PLAZA GARAGE REOPENS NOV. 22**  
600 additional free spaces!

**FIRST HOUR IS ALWAYS FREE**  
7 days a week in all city garages 50¢ – $1/Hr  
No time limits!

**LOCUST STREET GARAGE**  
1625 Locust St., Adjacent to the Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts

**SOUTH LOCUST GARAGE**  
1350 Locust St., Between Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Cypress Street

**BROADWAY GARAGE**  
1390 Broadway, One block South of the Public Library

**WCPARK.COM**
Teddy Bear Tea
THE GARDENS AT HEATHER FARM
1540 Marchbanks Drive
Saturday, Dec. 6 and Sunday, Dec. 7
11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. seatings
A festive holiday tea with story time, favors for children and photos to take home.
Children: $20  Adults: $25
Call 925-947-1678 or register online at www.gardenshf.org

Holiday Hors D’oeuvres
CIVIC PARK COMMUNITY CENTER KITCHEN
Wednesday, Dec. 17, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Just in time for those holiday potlucks and buffets! Chef Chat Mingkwan will teach participants how to mix and match ingredients and techniques from a variety of cuisines to prepare both sweet and savory one-bite appetizers, snacks and hors d’oeuvres. Register in advance. $57 class fee; $15 supply fee payable at class. Call 925-943-5858 or go to www.WalnutCreekRec.org to register. Class No. 26771.

Winter Animal Tales
Sponsored by Walnut Creek Open Space
Saturday, Dec. 20, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Howe Homestead, 2950 Walnut Blvd

New Year’s Eve Party
THE CLUBHOUSE AT BOUNDARY OAK GOLF COURSE
Wednesday, Dec. 31, 6 p.m to 12:30 a.m.
Reservations, call 925-934-4775 ext. 20

Garden Wreaths! workshop
RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN
1552 Bancroft Road
Saturday, Dec. 6, 1-3 p.m.
Learn how to incorporate interesting materials found in the yard into a holiday wreath. Easy design techniques will ensure that every participant will go home with a wreath they are proud of, no matter what prior experience he or she may have. Basic wreath materials are provided with registration.
$20 General Admission, $15 Garden Members.
Space is limited, pre-registration is recommended.
www.ruthbancroftgarden.org or call 925-944-9352

Breakfast with Santa
THE CLUBHOUSE AT BOUNDARY OAK GOLF COURSE
Sunday, Dec. 14 10 a.m. to noon
Reservations, call 925-934-4775 ext. 20

Civic Arts Education Performances
JACK & THE BEANSTALK
Presented by the Youth Theatre Company
Thursday, Dec. 11 and Friday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.
Shadelands Arts Center
111 Wiget Lane, $10
925.943.5846

WINTER BALLET GALA
Del Valle Theatre
Friday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m., $16.75
925.943.SHOW

WINTER JAZZ BAND CONCERT
Shadelands Arts Center
Sunday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m.
925.943.5846

YOUTH PERFORMERS ORCHESTRA WINTER CONCERT
Tuesday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m.
Shadelands Arts Center
111 Wiget Lane, $10
925.943.5846

Lindsay Wildlife Museum
WINTER BREAK HOURS
December 22 - January 4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Dec. 24 & Dec. 31 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Closed December 25 (Christmas Day) and January 1 (New Year’s Day).
Call 925-935-1978

Family Swimming at the Clarke Swim Center
The Clarke Swim Center at Heather Farm Park is open from noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays for both recreational and lap swimming. Call 925-943-5856.

Be a Blacksmith
Saturday, Dec. 6, 6 p.m.
Borges Ranch
Get dirty, make noise, smash things and play with fire! Watch Ranger Bruce demonstrate the art of blacksmithing, and try it yourself by making a hook. $5 materials fee; must be at least 12 to work on the forge. Reservations are required. 925-943-5899 ext. 2665.
Meet your Walnut Creek Police Department weekend day shift Patrol Officers! With the holiday shopping season here, they would like to remind everyone not to let thieves ruin the day.

Shopping during the holiday season can present unique danger. People become busy and sometimes careless, which can lead to being a victim of theft and other crimes. Here are a few tips to help keep you safely in the holiday spirit!

- Shop during daylight hours if possible. If you must shop during hours of darkness, park close to the building and near a light.
- Take advantage of shuttles or escorts if the shopping center provides them.
- Don’t carry a purse. Carrying items like a checkbook, ID and credit cards on your person will make it more difficult for someone to take them. If you must carry a purse, carry a cross-body style bag and keep the bag part in front.
- Stay alert to your surroundings even when you are rushed and thinking about a thousand different things. Be aware of the people around you, especially strangers who appear to be approaching for no reason.
- Avoid carrying a lot of cash; pay for purchases with a check or credit card.
- Keep cash and credit cards in your front pocket.
- Avoid overloading yourself with bags and boxes.
- Never leave shopping bags in your car while you continue to shop. While it might be inconvenient to drive home and then come back, think about what it would be like to return to your car and have a window smashed and everything you just bought gone.
- Consider shopping in pairs or groups. The more the merrier, as the saying goes!

Enjoy the season! Here’s to a safe and happy New Year.

**PACE financing: coming November**

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) is an innovative way for property owners to finance energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy, and electric vehicle infrastructure upgrades.

In September, the City Council approved several PACE programs to allow Walnut Creek’s residential and commercial property owners to access PACE financing.

The CaliforniaFIRST program launched Nov. 18 and offers up to $1,000 in rebates for projects approved before the end of of 2014. Learn more at www.californiaFIRST.org.

The California HERO program and Figtree Financing will launch in early 2015. Homeowners, multi-family, and commercial property owners can choose the program that best fits their needs. To learn more about PACE, visit the Financing section of our Going Green Together website at www.walnut-creek.org/goinggreen.

**Homeowner workshop on energy efficiency**

On Oct. 2, the City partnered with Contra Costa County to hold a workshop for homeowners on the Energy Upgrade California Home Upgrade program.

More than 85 homeowners learned how to participate in the program, which offers rebates of $1,000-$6,500 to homeowners for installing multiple energy efficiency upgrades.

Homeowners were also able to connect with contractors participating in Home Upgrade, learn about environmental issues from two local non-profits, and receive information on the SmartSolar program, which offers free, independent advice and guidance to homeowners interested in going solar. If you missed the workshop and would like to learn more, contact a free, neutral Home Upgrade Advisor to walk you through the program and answer your questions at 866-878-6008 or visit www.bayareaenergyupgrade.org.

**John Muir Health to open pediatric intensive care unit**

John Muir Health will open a new pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) in its Walnut Creek medical center through a partnership with Stanford Children’s Health in January 2015. The inpatient hospital unit will be the first of its kind to serve Contra Costa County.

The PICU is designed to allow health care providers to care for sick and injured children ages 0 to 18. These experts will be able to treat a wide range of conditions, such as congenital heart and neurological disorders, scoliosis, diabetes and respiratory problems.

The new inpatient unit includes eight private rooms adjacent to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and pediatric units. Each room is structured to accommodate parents and family staying overnight. With funding from the John Muir Health Foundation, the new PICU rooms will be outfitted with equipment and furniture appropriately sized for younger patients, as well as adult-sized amenities for parents and families such as sleep chairs, a family lounge, and kitchen.
Downtown isn’t the only part of Walnut Creek that is going through a Renaissance. The Shadelands Business Park is attracting attention and investors to the tune of an estimated $200 million in 2014.

The Business Park is significant because of its size — 240 acres and 2.4 million square feet of office space — and potential as magnet for emerging and innovative businesses and industries, and the high-paying jobs that come with them, said Economic Development Manager Ron Gerber.

Site work is under way on the Orchards project at the corner of Ygnacio and Oak Grove roads. In addition to a new Safeway store, the Orchards will include retail and restaurants, a 4-acre park, walking trails and a fitness center.

Other signs of Shadelands’ economic resurgence include:

- Koll Company/Rialto Capital purchased the 428,000-square-foot Walnut Creek Executive Park for $48 Million and will be spending additional funds to upgrade the campus;

- Muir Orthopaedic acquired the vacant building at 2625 Shadelands Drive to accommodate a new orthopaedic center and primary care facility. This development is expected to result in 100 to 150 new jobs;

- UC Davis is going to occupy 4,500 square feet for a treatment center at 100 North Wiget;

- Public Employees Local 1 acquired 420 N Wiget and is undertaking a major renovation;

- The recently acquired 150-190 North Wiget buildings are under renovation;

- The vacant Kindercare building has been purchased and is being renovated;

- Bay Area Surgical Associates is developing two surgery centers (general ambulatory and vascular);

- And, for something really different … Cali Craft Brewing Company is harvesting their crop of heirloom hops grown on site.

Boundary Oak Clubhouse improvements to start with new year

Improvements to the Boundary Oak Golf Course Clubhouse are scheduled to being on Jan. 5. The first of two projects includes a much needed remodel of the upstairs restrooms, ADA compliant upgrades, and a new front entry door. These improvements are scheduled to be completed by April 2015 and patrons to the Clubhouse will notice the improvements right away.

The second project for 2015 will begin in May and will include upgrades to the building’s infrastructure and painting of the clubhouse. This phase is expected to conclude in July.

Additional improvements to the clubhouse are scheduled for 2016 and 2017. The entire remodel will encompass parts of three years and is projected to cost $3.5 million. The projects are funded by user fees generated through the Golf Course Enterprise Fund.

The golf course will remain open for business during all phases of the Clubhouse project.

For more information or to book your next event at the Clubhouse, contact Boundary Oak at 925-934-4775 or www.playboundaryoak.com.

Business park sees $200 million in investment

2014 was a milestone year for the Shadelands Business Park.

How diagonal crosswalks work

Making it easier - and safer - for people, bicyclists and drivers to get around is a critical piece of planning for an active downtown. That’s the goal behind Walnut Creek’s first “Scramble Intersections” being implemented in November at Olympic Boulevard and South Main Street, and Olympic Boulevard and Locust Street intersections.

1. Green lights for north/south traffic, pedestrians wait. Right turns are safer with no pedestrians using crosswalk.

2. East/west traffic gets green lights. Pedestrians continue waiting, traffic flows smoothly through the intersection.

3. All traffic stopped. Pedestrians and bicyclists are free to cross the intersection in any direction safely.
Update
From Page 1

To make sure the community is kept in the loop, we are setting up a “one stop” webpage that will include an interactive map with details about each project: when it’s scheduled to begin, what roads might be impacted during construction, what public amenities the developer is contributing, etc.

Find it after the first of the year at www.walnut-creek.org.

For those of you who prefer getting information in person, I am always willing to come out and talk to neighborhood groups and organizations about what is happening with these changes in Walnut Creek, or about anything else that is of interest to you. My office number is 925-943-5812.

— Ken Nordhoff

What’s on your mind?

What questions do you have about downtown development, or any other topic relating to Walnut Creek? Email community@walnut-creek.org.

Get the flood facts

Floods are one of the most common natural disasters. Walnut Creek and its tributaries drain over 146 square miles within central Contra Costa County. The primary flood hazard areas are in the downtown area, along Walnut Boulevard, near Tice Creek in south Walnut Creek, and portions of northwest Walnut Creek. Localized flooding, however, can occur in any location and over 30 percent of flood losses nationally occur outside of mapped flood areas.

Flood insurance is available for purchase to all residents in Walnut Creek and unincorporated portions of the County due to Walnut Creek’s participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). It takes 30 days after purchase for a policy to take effect, so it’s important to buy insurance before the floodwaters start to rise. Visit www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/pages/about/nfip_overview.jsp to learn more about flood insurance coverage. Contact the City’s Engineering Division at 925-943-5839 for additional information or to determine if your property is in a 100-year floodplain.

Downtown Development
Project Update

1 - Walnut Creek BART/200 Ygnacio Valley Road -- Approved in 2012, the first phase of construction will not begin until 2016. The Walnut Creek BART Transit Village will create 600 apartment units, a new parking structure, and 30,000 square feet of commercial space.

2 - 207-235 Ygnacio Valley Road -- The Landing at Walnut Creek will offer 178 apartment units across the street from the Walnut Creek BART station.

3 - 1500 California Blvd. -- 141 new apartment units, ground floor retail and restaurant space, and a new public courtyard are under construction next to the Lesher Center/North Locust garage.

4 - 1960 North Main Street -- The North Main Street Apartments project will add another 126 apartment units with live/work options.

5 - 141 N Civic Drive -- Tenants are moving into the 300-unit BRIO Apartment complex on Civic Drive, which celebrated its grand opening on Nov. 18.

6 - 1250 Arroyo Way -- Approved in late 2013, The Arroyo at 1250 Arroyo Way is already under construction and will be a 100-unit apartment building.

7 - Broadway Plaza is in the midst of an extensive remodel and expansion. A new 600-space garage opens Nov. 22.

8 - 1500 Newell -- Approved in 2009, the former site of the 8-story “Peace Building” will soon house a four-story building featuring retail space, 49 apartment units, and a creek promenade.

9 - 1500 Mt. Diablo -- This 12,000 square foot commercial building at the corner of Mt. Diablo and North Main will include retail space and rooftop dining.

10 - 1271 S California Blvd -- Centre Place South would include 22 residential condos, underground parking, retail and restaurant space. The project is currently under review.
From blogging to botany -
Bedford Gallery highlights

The Jealous Curator:
From Blog, to Book, to Gallery
Dec. 7 – Feb. 1

The Jealous Curator, an internationally renowned contemporary art blogger and author, has created an exhibition designed to tackle creative blocks that can inhibit us all. The show features art in a variety of art-making stations. Come make some art and make your mark!

The public is invited to an opening reception on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 3 to 5 p.m. Admission is $5; wine and hors d’oeuvres are hosted by the Bedford Gallery Guild and supported by JP Morgan Chase. The Jealous Curator will be signing her book Creative Block, on sale in the gallery as well.

Don’t miss An Evening with the Jealous Curator: Blogging 101, Tuesday, Dec. 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. Hear the history of The Jealous Curator and how she got her start. Glean tricks of the trade for creating a successful blog—how to design it, “feed it”, market it, and build your online following. The evening includes snacks, wine and an exhibition walk-through with The Jealous Curator. RSVP by calling 925-295-1423. Cost is $10.

Rent the Bedford!

Host an event in the spacious gallery and offer your guests the opportunity to view engaging artwork while mixing and mingling. The Bedford is perfect for both the artistically savvy and culturally curious. Located in the Lesher Center for the Arts, the gallery’s 3,500 square feet make it the largest community-based visual arts facility in the region. For more information, please visit www.bedfordgallery.org/rentals or email galleryinfo@bedfordgallery.org.

The Object and the Void: West Coast Metal Sculpture
Feb. 17 – April 12

The Object & the Void features four west coast sculptors who use metal to explore weight and balance. Through their sculptures, the artists express narrative, poetic, and abstract concepts.

The public is invited to an opening reception on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission is $5; wine and hors d’oeuvres are hosted by the Bedford Gallery Guild and supported by JP Morgan Chase.

Open Call for Artwork: Botanica: All Things Plant Life

Artists are invited to enter artworks for a national juried exhibition at the Bedford Gallery. The deadline for submitting artwork is May 8; the exhibition is July 12 through Sept. 6.

From 16th century Flemish painters to the Post Impressionists, the color and variety found in plant life have long served as artistic inspiration. For our annual juried exhibition, we ask artists to explore how plant life can be represented by a diverse range of media.

The Bedford only accepts online submissions via SlideRoom. To find out more about SlideRoom and how to enter artwork, visit www.bedfordgallery.org/botanica.

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