In a Nutshell

No. 162 Community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek FALL 2013

Walnut Creek works!

Community Service Day is set for Saturday, September 28, and it’s bigger than ever! Choose from more than 60 half-day projects. A list of projects and sign-up information starts on Page 8.

Disaster team training

Join Walnut Creek’s robust Community Emergency Response Team. This vital group of volunteer disaster service workers are trained to help the community in the critical hours and days following a major disaster. The 20-hour training will be Wednesday evenings, September 11 - October 16. Cost is $25. For details and registration, www.walnut-creek.org/cert.

Share your memories with Walnut Creek TV

Be part of a mini documentary celebrating Walnut Creek. Walnut Creek TV invites community members to send a photograph of their favorite Walnut Creek memory or event - recent or historic - along with short description (1 or 2 sentences) and the names of the people and places in the photo. Email to centennial@walnut-creek.org or mail to Walnut Creek TV, 1666 North Main Street, Walnut Creek CA 94596. Share in the celebration of the century!

Meet the Chief! Walnut Creek welcomed new Chief of Police Tom Chaplin on July 8. Chaplin, a 23-year law enforcement veteran, most recently was a Commander with the Citrus Heights Police Department. Joining him at his swearing in ceremony were, from left, daughter Taylor, wife Julie, son Justin and daughter Stephanie. For more, turn to Page 7.

Share your memories with Walnut Creek TV

Citizen phone survey coming soon

As part of the City Council’s ongoing work to improve the financial health of the City, the City Council recently hired EMC Research, an experienced public opinion research firm, to help with community engagement and outreach efforts.

Specifically, EMC will be conducting a research poll to measure the community’s awareness of the City’s fiscal challenges and collect information around the community’s values, priorities and needs.

The research will be conducted via a telephone survey of 400 residents over the next couple of months, with survey results presented to the City Council in October.

In addition to the phone survey, the public will be able to weigh in via the online forum Open Town Hall. Stay tuned!

Did you know?

Beginning with the 2014 budget, the City does not have the resources to continue to provide services, program and facilities at existing levels.

www.walnut-creek.org
Internet Cat Video Festival arrives in Walnut Creek

The Internet Cat Video Festival comes to Walnut Creek on Sept. 7 at Heather Farm Park. The Walker Art Center in Minneapolis launched the Internet Cat Video Festival in 2012.

Internet cat videos were nominated from around the world; 79 were chosen and edited to a 75-minute feature. Community Concern 4 Cats successfully applied to be one of a handful of organizations from across the country to host the Internet Cat Video Festival.

The film will be shown at sunset on a big screen; bring a picnic and blanket to enjoy the outdoor movie. In addition to the sunset movie, there will be music, art, children’s activities and more from 3 to 10 p.m.

Food, beer and wine will be available for purchase. Admission is $10 for adults and $5 for ages 3-12. Children 3 and under are free.

WHERE DREAMS CAME TRUE — The Lesher Center for the Arts welcomed princes, princesses, and more than 7,500 kids of all ages to experience a magical experience at the Chevron Family Theatre Festival on July 20.

Las Lomas Car Classic
The Las Lomas High School senior class will host the Las Lomas Car Classic from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7 in the main high school parking lot, 1460 S. Main Street. Anyone with a show car, truck, motorcycle, boat or bicycle is encouraged to register at www.llhscarclassic.org.

Shred Day at ARF
Bring documents in need of shredding to Tony La Russa’s Animal Rescue Foundation on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. - noon. For $5 a box, Shred Works Mobile Document Shredding will securely destroy documents in their shredding truck. All proceeds benefit ARF; no oversized boxes. ARF is at 2890 Mitchell Drive. Contact Kathleen Huls at 925-296-3118 or visit www.arf.net.

Lose a Lawn, Get a Garden
The Gardens at Heather Farm sponsors a workshop for homeowners interested in replacing existing water-thirsty lawns with beautiful water efficient landscaping. 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 21 at Contra Costa Water District Center, 1331 Concord Ave., Concord. $20. For this and other Gardens at Heather Farm classes, go to www.gardenshf.org.

Veterans Day
The City will honor veterans, with a special emphasis on the bond that develops between those who serve, at a ceremony on 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 11 at the Lesher Center for the Arts. The ceremony will include a short original video featuring the Third Thursday Veterans’ Lunch Group.

Holidays at Shadelands
Reservations for the Shadelands Ranch Museum “Holidays at Shadelands” Victorian Tea Lunches will be accepted beginning Oct. 1. The historic house, located at 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road, will be decorated in a grand holiday manner and open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 30 – Dec 15. The three-course Victorian Tea lunch is $30 and offered at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Call 925-935-7871.

Holiday Boutique
The Walnut Creek Seniors Club Annual Holiday Boutique will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 8 and 9 at Civic Park Community Center. During the year, Bazaar Group members meet once a week to create handcrafted gifts for sale. Highlights include holiday ornaments and wreaths, afghans and quilts, and everything for baby. All proceeds from the sale benefit the Walnut Creek Seniors Club.
“Reading – Why Bother?” will be the evening’s theme on Wednesday, Sept. 18 when author Kevin Smokler kicks off this year’s community events for One City One Book: Walnut Creek Reads.

Smokler’s program ties directly to the underlying themes of this year’s book, Fahrenheit 451, the Ray Bradbury classic about censorship and the burning of books. Smokler is the author of Practical Classics: 50 Reasons to Reread 50 Books You Haven’t Touched Since High School.

The free program will be at the Walnut Creek Library at 7 p.m.

Two other community events will help to celebrate the book this fall: a discussion on “The Metaphor of Book Burning” and a presentation on creating a graphic novel. Both also will be held at the Walnut Creek Library and are free to the public.

Seating is limited; make reservations online at www.WCLibrary.org.

Head for the Harvest Festival!
The Howe Harvest Festival is Sunday, Oct. 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festival combines a celebration of the life of James Pomeroy Howe with a variety of old fashioned harvest and Halloween activities for families. Planned activities include pumpkin carving, carnival games, crafts and scarecrow making, above. Visitors can also venture onto the “Spooky Trail” or take a stroll in the Butterfly Garden. Admission is free and fees for crafts are low to cover the cost of materials. Howe Homestead is located at 2950 Walnut Blvd. Contact Ranger Art Janke at janke@walnut-creek.org.

Citywide book club explores censorship with ‘Fahrenheit 451’

“The Metaphor of Book Burning”
7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2
St. Mary’s Professor Robert Gorsch
Lecture & Discussion
Walnut Creek Library
1644 N. Broadway

“Create a Graphic Novel”
6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10
Novelist Oliver Chin
Walnut Creek Library
1644 N. Broadway

Book Discussion: “Which Book Would You Save?”
11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 27
Rossmoor - Creekside Clubhouse
(Rossmoor residents only)

7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7
Ygnacio Valley Library
2661 Oak Grove Road
Contra Costa County AARP Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers to become members of a team providing free tax preparation for individuals of all ages. Volunteer positions include Tax Counselors who are trained by Tax-Aide and certified by IRS, and Client Facilitators who schedule appointments and assist clients at tax sites. Orientation is in November. Call LaVerne Gordon, District Coordinator, at 925-726-3199 for information.
Innovation Station

And a few of the innovators that call Shadelands home

Tony La Russa’s Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF)

Year Founded: 1991
Located in Shadelands since: 2003
Number of employees: 81
Mission: ARF’s core mission is to rescue and rehome dogs and cats who have run out of time at high-kill shelters. Our programs also bring the unconditional love of animals to children, the elderly, veterans, and others to fulfill our mission of “People Rescuing Animals... Animals Rescuing People…”

What makes your business unique?

Although we have a celebrity co-founder, our organization runs entirely on the support of our incredible community. We are 100 percent privately funded by supporters who believe in our mission, and have more than 500 volunteers. Why locate in the Shadelands Business Park?

Shadelands offers the perfect environment for our campus-like facility; the beautiful park-like setting attracts families to visit and experience all that animals bring to our lives.

— Elena Bicker, Executive Director

Quick Mount PV

Year Founded: 2006
Located in Shadelands since: 2012
Number of employees: 75
Mission: Quick Mount PV is dedicated to bringing cost-effective, code-compliant, waterproof rooftop mounting systems to the solar industry. We pioneered the use of roofing best practices in the solar trade.

What makes your business unique?

We make all our products at our Walnut Creek facility, which became ISO 9001:2008 certified in January, 2013. We follow sustainable business principles in our materials sourcing, packaging and environmental practices.

Why locate in the Shadelands Business Park?

We have plenty of room to accommodate our rapid growth in an area that offers our employees a high quality of life: walking trails, nearby shopping and restaurants, great neighborhoods, and top colleges and universities within a short drive. We can draw on a wide range of talent here, from skilled workers to professionals and executives.

— Ron Jones, Dir. of Communications

Energy Joint Genome Institute (JGI)

Year Founded: 1997
Located in Shadelands since: 1999
Number of employees: 250
Mission: The JGI was founded to advance the Human Genome Project and once that was completed, established itself as a national resource devoted to characterizing the DNA code (genomes) of plants, fungi, algae and microbes to help solve some of our challenges related to sustainable transportation fuel production and environmental cleanup.

What makes your business unique?

The JGI is the only research institution in the world dedicated to understanding “microbial dark matter.” Microbes influence the most significant environmental processes from plant growth and health, to nutrient cycles on land and in marine environments, the global carbon cycle, and possibly even climate processes.

Why locate in the Shadelands Business Park?

As we originally drew our workforce from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the Shadelands represented an ideal location roughly equidistant between the Laboratories.

— David Gilbert, Public Affairs Manager

The Shadelands Business Park is getting ready for a renaissance as long-time property owners and new businesses work in tandem with the City on ways to invigorate, diversify and expand the role of the 240-acre business park.

The City and the Chamber of Commerce have convened several round table meetings attended by major Shadelands Business Park employers who own their properties. These businesses represent more than 2,000 employees.

Ideas are many, from offering an express BART-to-Business park shuttle to adding amenities such as more restaurants and a gym.

In addition, business park stakeholders suggest:

• Better signage both within the 240 acre business park and from the freeway
• Better branding and marketing of Shadelands
• Greater flexibility of commercial uses to make it easier to attract employers who can locate in Shadelands
• Formation of an organized group to implement/fund these priorities

As the park flourishes, residents can expect more high-value jobs to locate in Walnut Creek, especially in the science and technology fields, says Economic Development Manager Ron Gerber.

But don’t rule out the “softer” side of Shadelands ventures; over the past 10 years, Tony La Russa’s Animal Rescue Foundation has hosted thousands of puppies and kittens in its Shadelands location, while the KLA (Kids Learning Adventure) School of Walnut Creek is ready to nurture and inspire little ones.
It's the end-of-summer tradition for Walnut Creek Summer Camps - each camp creates a boat made of nothing but cardboard and glue, then compete in a race at Clarke Swim Center. Many boats disintegrate before reaching the finish line, but not this one.

Vote for favorite local design

The Walnut Creek Action for Beauty Council invites the community to vote for their favorite local architectural design project. The five People’s Choice Award nominees represent the full range of design -- from new buildings to significant remodels -- and encompass residential, retail, and community facility projects.

The People’s Choice winner will be among the Action for Beauty’s 2013 Community Award honorees. The awards recognize projects that have improved the community through superior design.

The list of nominees for the People’s Choice Award is available at www.WalnutCreekMagazine.com. Online voting is open through Oct. 1.

The People’s Choice Award recipient will be announced at the Action for Beauty Council’s awards luncheon on Friday, Oct. 11 at Scott’s Seafood Restaurant. Tickets are $50; contact Janet Abrams at 925-932-2746.

Historical walking tour guides sought

The Walnut Creek Historical Society is seeking interested adults to lead historical 90-minute walking tours of downtown Walnut Creek. Applicants who have an interest in history and an aptitude for people will enjoy this lively activity.

The walking tours are currently provided to Walnut Creek third graders on weekday mornings. Tours for the general public are now being introduced.

Email wchstours@sbcglobal.net or call 925-935-7871 for an application.

Emeritus College class on Walnut Creek history

Explore Walnut Creek history this fall with a 5-week course at DVC Emeritus College. Classes will discuss the native people; arrival of the Spanish; Mexican rule; and the settlers of 1849-1950s. Anecdotes about the early residents include the story of Hiram Penniman, a rancher, entrepreneur, city developer whose 1903 Colonial-Revival home is now the Shadelands Museum. The last class will be a tour of the museum.

Classes are 1:30 – 3 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 10 – 31 at John F. Kennedy University, 100 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill. Cost is $50. Call 925-969-3300.

Young ambassadors build life-long understanding

Twenty-one young “ambassadors” from Walnut Creek will be heading to Europe in October as part of the Walnut Creek Sister Cities Youth Exchange Ambassador (YEA) Program.

Eleven of the youngsters will head to Siofok, Hungary, while the other 10 will visit Noceto, Italy. Both cities are Sister Cities of Walnut Creek.

In the spring, eighth graders from Siofok and Noceto will come to Walnut Creek, completing the exchange cycle. It’s the second exchange with Siofok, and the first with Noceto, noted Karen Cassano of Walnut Creek Sister Cities.

“We are extremely excited to expand our program this year,” Cassano said. “This is such a great opportunity to spread good will, understanding and friendship between our countries.”

To learn more about Walnut Creek Sister Cities International, visit the website: www.wc-sister-cities.org or email Karen Cassano, kbcassa@astound.net.

County library system to host town hall meeting in Walnut Creek

The Contra Costa County Library is creating a new strategic plan and it’s your turn to tell them what you’d like to see and experience in your local libraries.

Come to a Town Hall Meeting and share what you think should continue, as well as ways in which the library can serve the community better.

The Walnut Creek and Ygnacio Valley Libraries’ Town Hall Meeting begins at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23 in Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget. RSVP at cclib.org (events calendar link) or by calling 925-977-3340.

Registration is not mandatory, but encouraged, so the library has an idea of how many will be attending.

Volunteer tutors sought to teach others English

The Diablo Valley Literacy Council is seeking volunteers to help others learn English. No teaching experience is necessary; a 3-session workshop provides all the training needed to help someone else learn English and become a fully immersed member of the community.

Workshop sessions are 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28; 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1; and 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 5. All three sessions are required. There is a $15 fee to cover the training & material costs.

Volunteers typically give one or two hours per week.

For more information, call 925-685-3881 or e-mail DVLC4ESL@gmail.com; or visit www.dvlc.tripod.com.
New Police Chief outlines vision

Walnut Creek’s new Chief of Police, Tom Chaplin, traces his interest in law enforcement back to a frightening incident in his childhood.

“I was 10 or 11, home alone watching ‘Marcus Welby’ on TV when I saw a strange man walking into the room,” he recalls.

It was a time when a serial rapist was breaking into homes, leaving the area on heightened alert. When the man saw young Tom, he began backing out of the house. Tom ran out another door and down the street, yelling for help.

“When the police came to my home, I felt such a sense of relief and safety. I think that’s when I decided that I wanted to be a policeman, and to give other people that sense of safety,” he says.

Top priority: safety

Safety is a top priority for the 23-year law enforcement veteran, who was a Commander with the Citrus Heights Police Department before coming to Walnut Creek on July 8.

One of his first priorities now that he’s Chief is working with Walnut Creek Police members to develop a Crime Reduction Model to strategically address crime concerns and quality of life issues in the community. The model will incorporate the use of real-time crime information to respond to crime trends.

“The Walnut Creek Police Department is committed to making certain that criminals know their behavior will not be tolerated in Walnut Creek and that they will be held accountable for their actions,” said Chaplin. “We will be aggressive in fighting crime.”

A collaborative approach

Chaplin says he is excited about working with the police department, the organization as a whole, the City Council and the community at large. It is this collaborative approach, along with a wealth of law enforcement experience, that made him ideal for the Chief of Police position, said City Manager Ken Nordhoff.

“Tom has extensive background in all aspects of police work and law enforcement,” said Nordhoff.

“He is an open-minded, energetic leader whose collaborative approach will ensure the continued safety and well-being of our community.”

In Citrus Heights, Chaplin served as a lieutenant and as commander for both the Patrol Services Division and for the Investigative Services Division. He joined the Department in 2006 as a member of the start-up team, and helped establish the department’s Juvenile Diversion and Education Program and the Youth and Family Services Unit. In addition, he founded the Citrus Heights Police Activities League.

Prior to joining the Citrus Heights Police Department, Chaplin was a special agent in charge for the California Department of Justice and served 11 years with the Sacramento Police Department.

Chaplin has a Master’s degree in Emergency Services Administration and a Bachelor’s degree in occupational studies, both from California State University, Long Beach. In addition to his extensive background in law enforcement, he has been an instructor at the Sacramento Police academy.

‘Let’s make a difference’

At his July 16 swearing-in ceremony, Chaplin praised the men and women of the Walnut Creek Police Department and encouraged each member to remember the importance of their work to the community.

“You matter,” he told them. “In whatever capacity you serve… as a sergeant or a police records technician, a police services officer or a dispatcher, whether a reserve officer of police chief, as a member of the management team, a confidential employee, a police volunteer, or a police officer, you can make a difference. You can impact someone’s life in a positive and meaningful way.

“Whether it is helping someone feel safe in their home again, finding a lost child, or providing an act of kindness, you can make a difference!”

This is my challenge to the women and men of the Walnut Creek Police Department,” he concluded. “Strive everyday to make a difference. When our community needs us, they should expect our best performance every time. Let’s make a difference.”
Community Service Day

With more than 60 projects to choose from, Community Service Day offers something for all ages, all interests, and all skill levels. For details on these projects, visit the Community Service Day webpage, www.walnut-creek.org/service.

ANIMALS (PETS & WILDLIFE)

ARF Lend a Paw for Landscaping
Help freshen our landscaping to prepare for the annual Wine and Whiskers event! Adults only

Community Concern for Cats: Thrift Shop Adventures
Help change over our Rescued Treasures Thrift Shop summer stock to winter merchandise -- and learn to re-paint furniture the “Shabby Chic” way. Ages 18+

Equestrian Center Painting & Fall Clean Up
Paint and do general clean-up. Ages 10+

Lindsay Wildlife Museum Fall Garden Clean up
Fall is the best time to prune, weed, and mulch the gardens before the fall rains. Ages 10+

WC Open Space Foundation: Nest Boxes for Wood Ducks
Hang wood duck nest boxes on trees. Ages 12+

WC Open Space Foundation: Native Bird Nest-Box Building
Build nest boxes for native birds and help increase the bird populations. Ages 12+

ARTS

Bedford Gallery Sewing Project
Wanted: Skilled sewers to create covers for Gallery display cases. Adults only.

Bedford Gallery: Paint Pedestals
Sand and paint the Gallery’s display pedestals. Adults only.

Bedford Gallery Poster Distribution
Distribute marketing materials for the Gallery at commercial and community locations. Ages 14+

Civic Arts Education: Fine Arts Preschool Landscaping
Landscape the dry creek bed in the Fine Arts Preschool play yard. 16+

Civic Arts Education: Heather Farm Preschool Landscaping
Landscape the front entry to the preschool. Ages 16+

Civic Arts Education: Paint the Heather Farm Preschool
Paint the front of the preschool building. Ages 16+

Some projects offer afternoon shifts!

Saturday
September 28

7:30 a.m.  Check-in & free pancake breakfast
Heather Farm Community Center

8:45 a.m.  Meet at project site

9 a.m.  Work begins

See next page for more projects and registration details!
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 September 28 and build a better Walnut Creek!

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

AFTERNOON SHIFTS!
The following groups offer noon - 3 p.m. shifts:
- Bedford Gallery
- Civic Arts Education
- Bancroft Elementary
- Foothill Middle School
- Murwood Elementary
- Valle Verde Elementary
- Walnut Heights Elementary

ARTS, continued

Creek Kids Care: Art Party for All Ages
Help Creek Kids Care create artwork for fund-raising stationery, benefitting Trinity Center in Walnut Creek. All ages welcome!

Lesher Center Costume Shop
Clean and organize the Lesher Center for the Arts’ theater costumes. Ages 16+

COMMUNITY RESOURCE GROUPS

Build Day for Walnut Creek Homes
Help construct the new 10-home Habitat for Humanity in Walnut Creek. Every job helps to build homes! Ages 16+

Meals on Wheels/Senior Outreach Services Window Brightening
Brighten the offices by cleaning windows, glass partitions, and blinds. All ages

Trinity Center: Homeless Respite Center Spruce-Up
Help us spruce up the windows and landscaping around the center. All ages

Volunteer Center: Volunteer Appreciation Artwork
Create thank you cards and other art projects to honor and recognize community volunteers. All ages

WC CERT: Update Maps for Emergency Responders
Help Walnut Creek’s Community Emergency Response Team update maps by walking a designated neighborhood with a specially provided map and making note of any changes. All ages

GARDENS & LANDSCAPING

Gardens at Heather Farm: Prep a New Garden
Help with the initial preparation for a new demonstration garden. Ages 16+

Rossmoor Garden Fall Prep
Help Rossmoor seniors with fall garden work. Ages 10+

Turn to next page for more projects and registration details!
GARDENS & LANDSCAPING, continued

Ruth Bancroft Garden: Expand the Entry Garden
Expand the entry garden in front of the Bancroft Garden and learn about drought tolerant plants, too. Ages 12+

Walnut Creek Downtown Landscape Beautification
Help to bring colorful plants to our downtown! All ages

NATURE & OUTDOORS (CREEKS, PARKS, OPEN SPACE, TRAILS)

Bayberry Pond Restoration
(WC Open Space Fnd. & WC Kiwanis) Rake cut weeds to prepare a site for planting. Ages 10+

Bike Trails: Count Riders & Walkers
(Bike Walnut Creek) Help us count the bicyclists and walkers on our local trails. Ages 8+

Canal Trail: Repair and Repaint Posts
(Walnut Creek Rotary) Inspect, repair, and repaint/stain posts at trail gateways. Ages 16+

Downtown Creek Ivy Removal
(Friends of the Creeks) Volunteers will clear ivy along creek in Civic Park. Ages 10+

Lar Rieu Park Fall Clean Up
(Friends of Lar Rieu) Help keep the Park beautiful! Mulch and prune trees, pull weeds, plant bulbs. All

Sugarloaf Fence Building
(WC Open Space Division) Install a three-rail fence at Sugarloaf Open Space parking lot. Ages 14+

Twin Ponds Loop Trail Repair
(Heritage Trails & Amigos de Anza) Repair damage and erosion on the trail. Ages 16+

SPORTS

Basketball Court Repainting
(WC Recreation Division) Re-paint our outdoor basketball courts. Ages 14+

Disc Golf Course Installation
Install the new 9-hole disc golf course at Walden Park. Ages 16+

LIBRARIES

If libraries are your passion, you can help out at one of our two public libraries — Walnut Creek (downtown) or Ygnacio Valley — or at one of eight school libraries: Buena Vista, Indian Valley, Murwood, Parkmead, Valle Verde, Walnut Acres, Walnut Heights and Walnut Creek Intermediate.

SCHOOLS

All of our Walnut Creek public schools are sponsoring campus beautification projects involving gardening, clean-up and/or painting work.

Elementary schools involved are Bancroft, Buena Vista, Indian Valley, Murwood, Parkmead, Valle Verde, Walnut Acres and Walnut Heights.

Intermediate schools are Foothill - which is sponsoring campus beautification and interior facelift projects - and Walnut Creek Intermediate.

High schools are Las Lomas and Northgate.
Food and clothing projects are ideal for families, neighbors, church groups and Scout troops.

Neighborhood Food Drive
Support both the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and the Monument Crisis Center by collecting food in your neighborhood. During the week before Sept. 28, you will distribute food bags (provided by the Food Bank) to neighborhood homes. Then, on September 28, you will collect the bags of food and bring them to Heather Farm Community Center.

Rossmoor Winter Clothing & Food Drive for the Homeless
Rossmoor residents may donate winter outer wear (coats, jackets and sweaters) and individual-sized packaged food for distribution to the homeless and working poor. Rossmoor Community Club will collect the donations at Rossmoor’s Gateway Clubhouse between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 28. Rossmoor Rotary will collect for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

Lions Clubs Eyeglass Collection
Bring used eyeglasses to Heather Farm Community Center on the morning of Community Service Day to donate to the Lions Clubs. The eyeglasses are refurbished and sent around the world to the needy.
Bedford Gallery news

Art about Home

Don’t miss the Bedford’s fall exhibition “Home: Shelter and Habitat in Contemporary Art”, on view Sept. 5 – Nov. 17. This exhibition features a national group of artists who invite us to re-think our notions of space, place and home. From painting and sculpture to video and photography, these works investigate everything from interiors and abstract concepts of what makes a home, to scenes of devastation and abandonment.

The public is invited to an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5. Wine and hors d’oeuvres are hosted by the Bedford Gallery Guild and Diablo Regional Arts Association. $5.

Public Art Walking Tours

Public Art Walking Tours take place every third Saturday through mid-November. These hour-long docent-led tours explore Walnut Creek’s prime public artworks located around downtown. Tours begin at 11am and meet in front of the Lesher Center. The $5 admission includes a free pass to the Bedford Gallery.

Craft Fest

Mark your calendar - Bedford Gallery’s upcoming 6th annual Craft Fest is on Sunday, November 3, 11am - 5pm at the gallery.

This one day event features the best in handmade local crafts, including jewelry, home goods, textiles, ceramics, prints, artisanal food, and more. Get a head start on your holiday shopping as you discover unique, one-of-a-kind gifts for friends and family! Admission is free.

New! Shop at the Bedford

The Bedford Gallery now sells hand crafted jewelry, art, accessories, and more made by local artists. Take a piece of art home with you the next time you visit the gallery!

For more information about the Bedford Gallery exhibits, tours and programs, visit www.bedfordgallery.org.

Craft Fest offerings include, from top left, clockwise: Shimmer Jewels, Festive Home, Multi Flasking, Napa Farm, Modifyd, Blushie, Poulin