

IN A

Nutshell

OUR 20TH
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

No. 121

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

Library plans clarified as City moves forward

The City is moving forward with revised plans for a new downtown library that increases green space in Civic Park and eliminates the need for private property the City had once sought to purchase for the project.

In an effort to clear up misinformation in the community that had clouded the library issue, the City Council clarified on Aug. 12 that it would not use — and had never indicated they would use — eminent domain to purchase the privately-owned parcel for the library project.

At the end of August, the City announced it had withdrawn its offer to purchase the private property for the library project and would build the new facility on adjacent city-owned land.

The City Council has sought for 10 years to replace the aging, undersized existing library, which was opened in March 1961 when Walnut Creek's population was under 10,000. The 9,234-square foot library is inadequate to meet the needs of a community with a population over 66,000, said City Manager Mike Parness.

LIBRARY, see back page



The new Walnut Creek Skate Park will feature unique features, including elements for street skaters and vertical skaters, with rails, spines and bowls.

Skate park grand opening Nov. 12

After years of planning and months of building, the new Walnut Creek Skate Park will have its grand opening on Saturday, Nov. 12.

Festivities will begin at 10 a.m. at the corner of Heather Drive and Marchbanks Drive in Heather Farm Park. Local skaters will participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony and pro skater Holly Lyons, formerly of Walnut Creek, will make a special appearance.

All in-line skaters and boarders must

wear a helmet and knee and elbow pads to use the park. **(For skate park rules, see back page.)**

Mayor Gary Skrel and the rest of the City Council will be on hand to christen the skate park, which has been under construction since a groundbreaking ceremony on April 9. In the event of rain, the opening will take place on Nov. 19.

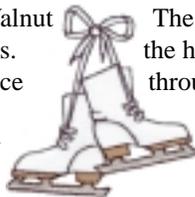
The 12,250-square-foot skate park was designed by the renowned design firm of Purkiss•Rose•RSI of Fullerton with the input of area skaters.

The Friends of the Skate Park, in partnership with the Walnut Creek Fountain for Youth Foundation, is still raising funds for skate park amenities such as lighting, benches, and a water fountain.

The organization has received donations from Sunrise Rotary Club of Walnut Creek (\$10,000), the Walnut Creek Soccer Club (\$5,000), and Copeland Sports (\$5,000).

Walnut Creek on Ice comes to Civic Park

The Ice Age is returning to Walnut Creek. Ice for skating, that is. After a 36-year absence, public ice skating will reappear at the new Longs Drugs' Downtown Walnut Creek on Ice rink that will debut in Civic Park on Nov. 20 (see related story, page 5).



The ice rink will be open in time for the holiday season and operate through Jan. 16, 2006. *Walnut Creek on Ice* is being presented by Longs Drugs under the auspices of the City of Walnut Creek, the Walnut Creek Downtown

ICE RINK, see page 5

City Event Calendar

November

11
Veterans Day Ceremony
11 a.m., Civic Park
(City offices closed)

24-25
Thanksgiving Observance
(City offices closed)

December

24
Christmas Observance
(City offices closed)

31
New Year's Eve Observance
(City offices closed)

City Meeting Calendar

City Council 
Nov. 1, 15; Dec. 6, 20
7 p.m.
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

Planning Commission 
Nov. 3, 10, 17; Dec. 1, 8, 15
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Arts Commission
Nov. 21, Dec. 19
4:30 p.m.
Leshner Center for the Arts

Transportation Commission
Nov. 17, Dec. 15
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Design Review Commission
Nov. 2, 16; Dec. 7, 21
7 p.m., City Council chamber

Park, Rec & Open Space Commission
Nov. 7, Dec. 5
7 p.m., City Council chamber

 **City Council meetings are televised live on Comcast Channels 6 and 26 (unincorporated), and on Astound Channel 29. They are repeated the following Saturday at 1 p.m. on all.**

 **Walnut Creek Currents, a City-produced 10-minute video digest on City activities and services: Comcast Channels 6 and 26 — Daily at 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., and Wed. at 7:30 p.m. Astound Ch. 29 — Daily at noon, 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.**

City Tree lighting, other holiday festivities slated for Civic Park, Broadway Plaza

Yuletide and Hanukkah season festivities this year will include the City's Holiday Tree Lighting at Civic Park and the Holiday Parade and Grand Menorah Lighting at Broadway Plaza.

The Civic Park Tree Lighting event, sponsored by the Downtown Business Association and the City of Walnut Creek, will be Friday, Nov. 25 at 6 p.m., featuring holiday

music performed by the Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein. Mayor Gary Skrel will be on hand to light the City tree. Santa will make an appearance to pass out candy canes to all children.

The Holiday Parade of Lights and Open House at Broadway Plaza will be on Dec. 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. The Grand Menorah Lighting will be Monday, Dec. 26 at 4 p.m. For details on those events, call 933-6589.



Last year's Tree Lighting event attracted several hundred to Civic Park.

All aboard for railroad fall show

The intricately detailed HO-scale model trains of the Diablo Valley Lines will be showcased at the Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society's annual Fall Show scheduled Nov. 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27. Diablo Valley Lines is located next to Larkey Park at 2751 Buena Vista Ave. Admission is \$2, ages 13 and up; \$1, seniors and ages 6-12; free, under 6. For hours, call 937-1888.

What's Happening

Seniors' Holiday Boutique Nov. 18-19

Start your holiday shopping at the Walnut Creek Seniors' Club Holiday Boutique on Nov. 18-19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr. Admission is free. Lunch is \$2.50 and will be served 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Items for sale will include handcrafted holiday decorations, baby gifts, quilts, toys, wreaths, home accents, baked goods, and more. A free turkey drawing will be held every hour. Call 943-5851.

City's Holiday Breakfast set for Dec. 10

Enjoy an old-fashioned family good time this yuletide season at the annual Holiday Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 10, 9 to 11 a.m., at Heather Farm Park Community Center, 301 No. San Carlos Dr. "Reindeer pancakes" will be served, and seasonal music, arts and crafts, holiday videos and pictures with Santa will be part of the fun. Admission is \$5 per person at the door (free to children under 12 months). This event is cosponsored by the City's Recreation Division and the Walnut Festival Association. For details: www.WalnutCreekRec.org.

Holiday Studio Art Sale Dec. 8-11

The Clay Arts Guild and Civic Arts Education will hold their joint Civic Arts Holiday Studio Art Sale at two locations Dec. 8-11. On sale at Civic Park will be a large selection of handcrafted pottery and ceramic sculpture by students and faculty in the studios. At Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Lane, jewelry, paintings, and other arts will be available for purchase. Hours for both locations are: Dec. 8, 5-9 p.m.; Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Dec. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call 925-943-5846.

WC Band's Holiday Concert on Nov. 29

Festive music will be performed at the Annual Holiday Concert by the Walnut Creek Concert Band on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m. in the Hofmann Theatre at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts. Under the direction of Harvey Benstein, the band will perform Leroy Anderson's *Christmas Festival* and *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. Tickets are \$12 and \$15; contact the Center Ticket Office at 925-943-SHOW.

WC Police again to run Holiday Toy Drive

For the sixth year, the Walnut Creek Police Department will again be accepting donations of toys for underprivileged children this holiday season. Donations of new and unwrapped toys for children up to 15 years of age will be accepted through Friday, Dec. 16 in the downstairs lobby of City Hall, 1666 N. Main Street. For more details, contact Officer David Rangel at 943-5899, x. 7678.

Center REP to present 'Christmas Carol'

Hailed by critics as "THE *Christmas Carol* to see in the Bay Area," Center REP will again present the venerable Charles Dickens classic Dec. 8-18 in the Hofmann Theatre at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts. For tickets, call 943-SHOW.

Home composting workshops offered

Composting is a quick, easy and inexpensive way to significantly reduce your garbage. To learn how to do it, free "Home Composting for Busy People" workshops will be offered Nov. 8 and Dec. 6, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr. Reservations are required; call 925-906-1806.

Work resumes on Mercer condos after sulphur water stall

Work has resumed on The Mercer, a 181-unit condominium complex on North California Boulevard across from the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, after the developer and the City worked out a plan for discharging odoriferous sulphur spring water that was discovered underground at the site earlier this summer.



City officials will allow sulphur water to be drained into the storm drain system after being treated by a system installed by the project developer.

The Central Contra Costa Sanitary District is temporarily allowing the developer to discharge the sulphur water into its sewer drains.

EBMUD pipeline

For the first time since a fatal fuel line explosion last fall, work was scheduled to resume in late October on the new East



Scaling new heights at Civic Park

Alex Mangoba, 4, of Walnut Creek sits atop one of four new climbing rocks designed for older children at the play area in Civic Park under the watchful eye of mom Cecilia Mangoba, holding 2-year-old Natalie. The climbing rocks are part of an improvement program that will include a new tot lot (new swings, play structure, sand lot, tot train) at Larkey Park in the next few weeks.

Bay Municipal Utility District water pipeline along South Broadway,

EBMUD officials aren't certain when the work will be completed.

Five workers were killed Nov. 9, 2004 when a Kinder Morgan fuel line was accidentally punctured while they working on the pipeline.

New city clerk appointed in changeover

Patrice Olds has been named city clerk effective Oct. 28, succeeding Cathleen McKay in the post she has held since last year.

Olds, a resident of Pleasanton, has been assistant clerk of council since July 2004. She originally joined the City staff in August 2002 as an accountant.

McKay was appointed city clerk in May 2004 to finish Barbara Rivara's

unexpired term.

As city clerk, Olds will oversee records management, municipal elections, campaign reports, and statements of economic interest.



Patrice Olds

Cathleen McKay

KCBS radio's Al Hart to speak at City's Veterans Day event

KCBS radio commentator and Walnut Creek resident Al Hart



Al Hart

will be the keynote speaker at the City's Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 11.

The ceremony will be at 11 a.m. at the gazebo in Civic Park. In the event of

rain, it will be moved inside the Community Center Assembly Hall.

Mayor Gary Skrel will play host at the ceremony, which will include honors for local servicemen Mike Ergo and Brad Porter, who have returned from military duty in Iraq.

The Walnut Creek Concert Band, under the direction of Harvey Benstein, will perform, and Chaplain Dwane Michael of John Muir Medical Center will participate.

More What's Happening

Shadelands Museum holiday events

The annual Holiday Faire and Victorian Teas are returning to the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd. The Holiday Faire will be Nov. 26 through Dec. 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed Nov. 24-25 for Thanksgiving). Admission is free. Arts and crafts, holiday decor, toys, and jewelry will be for sale to benefit the Walnut Creek Historical Society. The Victorian Teas will be Nov. 26 to Dec. 11, at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. (reservations required). Cost is \$25/person. Call 935-7871 for reservations.

Teddy Bear Tea at the Gardens

The Gardens at Heather Farm's Teddy Bear Tea returns Dec. 3-4 with storytime, party favors, and gifts for sale. Three seatings for tea will be on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 10 a.m., 1 and 4 p.m., and two on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Admission to the tea and associated festivities is \$20 for adults and \$15 for children (children must be accompanied by an adult); reservations are required by calling 925-947-1678. All proceeds benefit the Gardens at Heather Farm. For more info visit www.gardenshf.org.

Council clarifies growth limit for commercial uses

In an effort to clear up public confusion over how much commercial development the City was considering for the next several years, the City Council on Sept. 6 stipulated that growth limits would remain at the same rate for the immediate future.



Thus, the Council directed the Planning Commission to maintain the growth limitation program for commercial/retail development at the current 75,000 square feet per year limit for General Plan 2025.

The commission is wrapping up its deliberations on the new draft General Plan, which is a blueprint for community development for the next 20 years.

However, in July an erroneous newspaper article said the commission would be recommending to the Council that the commercial growth limits be increased to 125,000 square feet per year, or a potential increase of 1.25 million square feet over the next 10 years.

In fact, it was the General Plan



Large audiences consistently attended most of the eight Planning Commission meetings that were held this summer to deal with draft General Plan issues.

Steering Committee (which had met 29 times from August 2003 to February 2005) that had originally recommended the higher limits to the Planning Commission for its consideration.

In declaring their intent, Council members noted that the existing 75,000 s.f./year rate had proved to be adequate and had easily accommodated business growth in Walnut Creek since the growth limitation plan was established in 1993.

The Planning Commission is scheduled to make its final recommendations on the draft General Plan to the City Council at its Dec. 8 meeting. It will be at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 1666 No. Main St.

All commission meetings dealing with the draft General Plan are televised live on Comcast Ch. 6 and Astound Ch. 29. For a meeting schedule, click on the General Plan link at www.walnut-creek.org.

CC Crisis Center volunteers are poised to listen, assist

When an individual is on the brink of suicide, often what they really want is simply for somebody to *listen*.

At that decisive moment, the volunteer at the other end of the suicide hotline at the Contra Costa Crisis Center may be the difference between life and death.

In 2004-05, the center's various crisis hotline volunteers handled 42,218 calls, and prevented 540 persons from committing suicide.

"Part of them wants to die and part of them wants to live," said John Bateson, executive director of the Crisis Center. "We talk to the part that wants to live."

The backbone of the Crisis Center, which is headquartered in Walnut Creek, is its army of 250 community volunteers who staff various hotline programs that deal with a wide variety of personal crises.

Founded in 1963 as the Contra Costa Suicide Prevention Service, the Crisis

Center expanded its services beyond suicide prevention as it grew, said Bateson, now in his 10th year as director.

The center's grief counseling program is one of the largest of its kind in California, with over 80 volunteers doing in-home counseling with individuals who have experienced a death. The center also operates a child abuse hotline, homeless services line, and an elder abuse line.

Finding the right person to volunteer for these types of crisis communication is key to the center's success, said Bateson.

"We really look for somebody who can set aside their own problems and focus on another person's needs," he said. "All they really need is a desire to help others and a willingness to listen."

Training to be a Crisis Center volunteer is a 10-week process. To learn how to become a volunteer, call 939-1916 or go online at www.crisis-center.org



Executive Director John Bateson with volunteer Patty Owens of Walnut Creek at the Contra Costa Crisis Center hotline center.

CC Crisis Center benefit Nov. 12 at Boundary Oak

Tickets are still available for the Contra Costa Crisis Center's annual benefit on Nov. 12 at Blake's at Boundary Oak.

"Evening of Magic" will incorporate a Monte Carlo night theme with a dinner, silent auction and live auction beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$125 per person; call 939-1916 for more information.

SKATING *the Creek*

Memories of Walnut Creek's first ice rink

Neil Rose liked to teach kids how to ice skate, so he opened the Walnut Creek Ice Skating Studio on Mt. Diablo Boulevard in 1952.

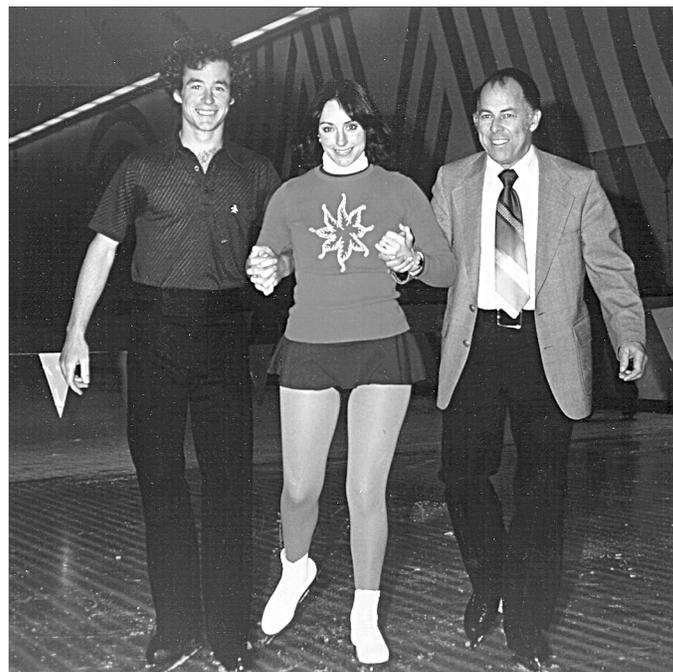
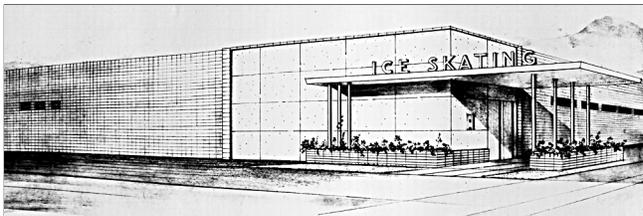
When plans for the new freeway displaced his studio in 1954, he moved to Crokaerts Road and opened the Walnut Creek Ice Rink, the city's first public ice arena.

"I still get people who say, 'Didn't you used to run the ice rink in Walnut Creek?'" said Rose, the congenial former professional skater who performed with skating legend Sonja Henie at New York's Rockefeller Center in the early 1940s.

He and partner Skippy Baxter opened the Walnut Creek Ice Rink on Oct. 8, 1954. Built for \$30,000, the 10,000-square-foot arena was the first of its kind in Contra Costa County.

Over the years, Rose enhanced his reputation by maintaining the ice rinks at the 1960 Winter Olympic Games at Squaw Valley. He also trained future Olympic bronze medalist and world champion

The rink as it looked on Crokaerts Road (today Central Road), and (far right) Charlene McLaren, a pupil of Neil Rose's, holding his daughter, Wendy, in 1959 in front of the ice rink.



Neil Rose (at right) with Olympic champions Charlie Tickner of Moraga and Peggy Fleming in the early 1970s.

Charlie Tickner of Moraga and taught 35,000 children to ice skate.

The Walnut Creek rink attracted 600 skaters a day during the winter months but stocked 1,000 rental skates.

Rose, 84, a Walnut Creek resident off-and-on since 1952, closed the rink in 1969 when he was asked to manage the new rink at Sunvalley Mall in Concord. He retired in 1985, and the Sunvalley rink closed three years later, but he still contends Walnut Creek was the best place for his rink: "I think it was the ideal spot."



Ice rink

From front page

Business Association, and the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce.

Other key sponsors of *Walnut Creek on Ice* include the Contra Costa Times, Stead Motors, Broadway Plaza, John Muir/Mt. Diablo Health Systems, KB Homes, BH Development, Chevron, Diablo & Shadowbrook Vineyards, Diablo Magazine, Pleasant Hill Bayshore Disposal, Wells Fargo Bank, NBC-11, and Embassy Suites Pleasant Hill-Walnut Creek.

The City has contributed \$20,000 to

the outdoor seasonal performance rink, which organizer Mary Ellen Dudum hopes will become an annual event.

The rink will be open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission will be \$10/person plus \$5 for skate rental. Special discounts will be available for larger groups and during special sessions such as Family Night, Adult Only, Parent & Me, and others.

Tickets may be purchased at the park or online at iceskatewalnutcreek.com.

Ice rink parking will be available at the

downtown public garages as well as in several nearby private lots. No rink parking will be available in Civic Park. However, organizers are working on providing a free shuttle service and paid valet parking during peak hours.

The rink will be built with the same elements used in professional ice arenas, using plastic sheeting and pipes that will freeze a layer of water. It will be about 80-by-80-feet in size and located on the tennis courts.

For more details on *Walnut Creek on Ice*, call 925-938-COLD (2653).

City Council Update

John Muir Medical Center plans

The City Council is tentatively scheduled to hold a public hearing Nov. 15 on the proposed expansion of John Muir Medical Center.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall, and will be televised live on Comcast Ch. 6 and Astound Ch. 29.

The plans call for a net 263,000-square-foot expansion of the 40-year-old hospital, including a new two-wing, five-story addition and a 757-space parking structure that would be seven levels above ground.

The portion of the expansion program to be decided is part of an eight-phase, 40-year project that will require the reconfiguration of La Casa Via at Ygnacio Valley Road.

City helps with Katrina benefit

The City donated the use of the 800-seat Hofmann Theatre in the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts for the Hurricane Katrina benefit rock concert on Sept. 22 that raised more than \$30,000 for victims of Hurricane Katrina. The sold-out event was organized by the Contra Costa Times and radio station 104.7 FM (The Bone).

Books 'n birthday cake



Jenny Zerner, 5, a Valle Verde Elementary kindergartener, and Contra Costa County Librarian Anne Cain watch as Walnut Creek Librarian Cindy Brittain slices a piece of birthday cake on Sept. 13 as part of the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Ygnacio Valley Library, located at 2661 Oak Grove Rd.



Photo by Gayle Vassar

Emergency Prep Fair success

Gretchen and Bob Trapp of American Health & Safety Training of Walnut Creek demonstrated a defibrillator for visitors to their booth at the City's Emergency Preparedness Fair in Civic Park on Sept. 11, where 20 exhibitors were on hand to demonstrate emergency equipment and provide information. More than 3,000 people turned out for the four-hour event.

In a nutshell, we're 20 this month

Many things have changed in Walnut Creek over the last 20 years, but one thing has remained constant, and in a nutshell it's, well, *In a Nutshell*.

The first edition of the City's official community newsletter (shown at right) was mailed to all homes and businesses in Walnut Creek in November 1985, and since that time 121 issues have kept the community informed and educated on everything from City Council decisions to visiting movie stars.

The *Nutshell* was the immediate offspring of the City's fledgling public information program, which was initiated in July 1985. The idea behind the bi-monthly publication was to provide valuable, accurate, and timely information in an easy-to-read format for all citizens.

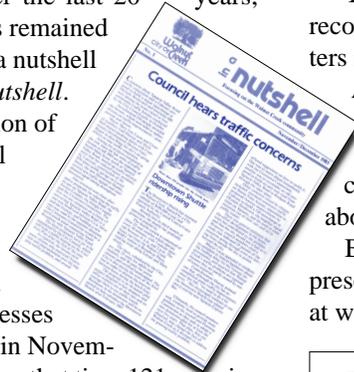
The *Nutshell* has changed and grown with the community. Issue Number One was only four pages, on goldenrod paper, and featured a *Mayor's Column* by Mayor Mary Lou Lucas. A 1988 state law prohibiting photographs of local elected officials ended that practice. After nine issues, the *Nutshell* expanded to a six-page format, and in July 1990 adopted its

current eight-page format.

This past spring the *Nutshell* earned recognition as one of the top city newsletters in the state from the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO).

The City prints and mails 45,650 copies six times a year at a cost of about 21 cents each.

Back issues from January 2002 to the present can be found on the City's website at www.walnut-creek.org.



City arborist earns highest distinction

City Arborist John Davis has been named one of the nation's top arborists after being certified in July by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

Although there are 17,000 ISA certified arborists throughout the world, there are only 80 with the Master Arborist title in the U.S. Davis, who joined the City staff in 1997, is now one of only 12 Master Arborists in California.



John Davis



By Officer Lee Herrington

Provisional driver's licenses

Teenagers and parents of teens are acutely aware of the restrictions placed on new drivers under 18 years old for their first year of driving. It is common knowledge that those drivers may not drive between the hours of 12 a.m. and 5 a.m. for the first year and may not transport passengers under the age of 20 years during the first six months of driving unless they are accompanied by a parent, a properly licensed adult 25 or older, or a licensed driving instructor.



There are exceptions to every rule and the legislature has provided some further exceptions to the above restrictions, including medical issues, school, and employment activities and family necessity when there is no reasonable transportation alternative. A common misconception is that a parent can merely write a note allowing their child to transport siblings. This is not entirely correct. The state vehicle code authorizes this exception only under the following conditions:

- When reasonable transportation facilities are inadequate and operation of a vehicle by a minor is necessary to transport the licensee or the licensee's immediate family member.
- The licensee shall keep in his or her possession a signed statement from a parent or legal guardian verifying the reason and containing a probable date that the necessity will have ceased.

Allowing a teen driver to transport siblings should be a parent's last resort. Even though a child has a note from a parent the transportation may not be deemed necessary and the child could still be cited.

The provisional driving law and restrictions were put in place so that young drivers will have a chance to develop good driving habits without the distractions a carload of friends or siblings provide. The law is also designed to keep young drivers off the road when intoxicated drivers are most prevalent.

City's sign crew: Keeping the public street smart on high

If you've found your way to a park, located a street, or taken care not to step out into traffic, you can thank the staff at the City's Sign Shop. These are the folks responsible for Walnut Creek's street and traffic signs, curb and on-street markings, and traffic meters.

Instead of ordering traffic and street signs from outside manufacturers, the Sign Shop crew makes the signs themselves. That means they can make a replacement the very day a sign is damaged or vandalized.

It also means that the City has the option of using a higher grade of materials for its signs. As a result, Walnut Creek's signs are more legible than those in most cities. In fact, the Federal government is in the process of upgrading its standards for traffic signs, and the new Federal standards will mirror those that Walnut Creek adopted several years ago.

Sign Shop crews check every traffic sign once a year, while residential street signs are reviewed on a rotating basis.

Even though there are over 5,000 street signs and 4,500 traffic signs in town, the Sign Shop is not all about the signs. The group also takes care of painting curbs and putting down traffic lane lines. Technol-



Traffic Maintenance Worker Kurt Larson replaces a directional sign at Carriage Drive.

ogy has come a long way from the days when they handled these jobs manually.

Today, they use a machine that paints both the top and side of a curb at the same time. Instead of using paint to make traffic lane lines, they now use a thermoplastic machine that melts plastic at extremely high temperatures to create a smooth, long-lasting line.

The crew also takes care of the City's 1,700 parking meters. Every meter is checked daily to make sure it is functioning properly.

How to be a good watershed steward

Good stewardship is essential for healthy waterways, including fish and wildlife habitat. Those who live along creeks can most easily help improve – or degrade – our creeks. But whether or not you live right next to a creek, you should be a good watershed steward. Proper landscape and home maintenance will help reduce runoff and pollutants, which will improve water quality. Follow these easy guidelines for keeping watersheds healthy:

- Compost leaves and grass clippings or use your green waste collection container. Never dump them onto creek banks or into the creek. Ask your gardener to do the same. Although they are biodegradable, adding them to a creek system depletes oxygen in the water, which can stress and even kill

fish and other aquatic life.

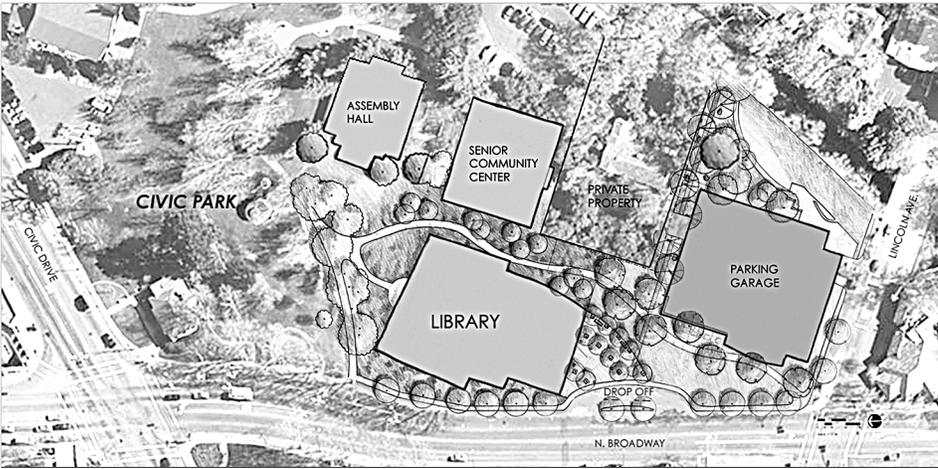
- Keep leaves and litter out of the street gutter so they won't clog storm drains.
- Avoid or minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Instead, use less-toxic gardening methods.

Excessive amounts of some nutrients are toxic to aquatic life. Call 925-943-5839 for a free "Grow It!" guide.

- Never apply fertilizers or pesticides when rain is forecast.
- Properly irrigate lawns and gardens. Over watering adds excess fertilizers and pesticides, and often soil, to the storm drain. This leads directly to the creeks.
- Pick up and dispose of animal wastes in garbage cans or toilet.

To request *A Creek Care Guide for Walnut Creek Residents*, call 943-5839.





The site plan for the new library shows it in the same location as the current tennis courts and library, while the 2 1/2-level parking structure would be built on the existing surface parking lot on Lincoln Avenue.

Library

From front page

Working with its architect, Group 4 of South San Francisco, City officials have refined the plans for the new library to create a two-story building of 42,000 square feet on the site of the existing library and tennis courts in Civic Park.

Under the revised site plan the new library would not encroach into the current green space of Civic Park, and instead create additional green areas between the library and a new, 2 1/2 story parking structure that would be built on the

existing parking lot off Lincoln Avenue (with most new parking located underground).

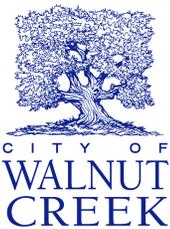
The Council has placed a general obligation bond measure on the Nov. 8 ballot that, if approved by a two-thirds majority of voters, would raise \$21 million for the \$50 million library/parking project. If passed, the tax rate to fund the bonds would be \$9.05 per \$100,000 assessed valuation in 2006-07, or about \$29 a year based on the average assessed value of a home in Walnut Creek.

Skate Park rules...

The following rules will be in effect for all users of the Walnut Creek Skate Park in Heather Farm Park:

- ✓ All users shall wear a helmet, elbow pads and knee pads.
- ✓ The park opens at 8 a.m. and closes at 9 p.m. daily.
- ✓ Skateboards, in-line skates, roller skates and non-motorized scooters only. No other sports equipment will be permitted. No bicycles are permitted.
- ✓ No glass, food or drink allowed in the skate area.
- ✓ Aggressive behavior and use of profanity are not permitted.
- ✓ Additional obstacles or other materials (ramps, jumps, etc.) are not allowed.
- ✓ No drugs, alcohol, smoking or weapons of any kind allowed.
- ✓ No animals allowed in the Skate Park.
- ✓ No audio or amplified sound equipment may be used in the Skate Park.
- ✓ All organized events or formal contests shall have prior written approval from the City.
- ✓ Violators of these rules are subject to citation and/or removal from the Skate Park. (WCMC Sec. 11-2.104).

Use of this facility is at your own risk. The City of Walnut Creek does not assume any liability or responsibility for injuries or theft. For assistance, please call 925-943-5856 or contact the staff at the Clarke Swim Center.



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 Kathy Hicks, Mayor pro tem
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* For appointment: Call 256-3504.

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IN A Nutshell

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 Brad Rovanpera

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