



IN A

# Nutshell

No. 113

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

JULY/AUGUST 2004

## City's 2004-06 spending plan: lean but healthy

The City Council was poised on June 15 to adopt a new operating budget for 2004-06 that is lean but healthy in an era of financial uncertainty.

In fact, Walnut Creek continues to be in better shape than most California cities. The new two-year budget, which takes effect July 1, is balanced, maintains service levels and long-term financial stability, and includes all the priorities established by the City Council without any staff layoffs, program cuts, or major increases in fees.

The spending plan calls for nearly \$98 million in expenditures, which is a 16 percent increase over 2002-04. Personnel services alone account for 72 percent of the new budget, and those costs have increased dramatically due to skyrocketing health care and pension costs.

However, the good news is that the City's coffers will be buoyed by \$103.5 million in revenues, a 17 percent increase over the previous budget period.

"Our revenues are growing fast enough to keep up with our expenditures," City Manager Mike Parness told the Council during a special meeting on May 25.

The City won't have the large surpluses of the 1990s that financed many civic projects such as parks, gymnasiums, arts centers, etc. However, the City has already earmarked \$16.5 million for a new downtown library and is setting aside \$2.5 million for contingencies and another \$8.8 million for capital improvement projects.

Key to Walnut Creek's economic well-being are the myriad retail stores, restaurants, and automobile dealerships that generate most of the sales tax revenue that will account for nearly 39 percent of the

**BUDGET, page 5**



**"Dedicated to the veterans . . ."**

Members of the Travis Air Force Base Honor Guard raise the U.S. flag at the dedication of the Veterans Memorial Plaza in a ceremony attended by over 1,500 people on Memorial Day. The City Council also dedicated the expanded City Hall/Police complex. The plaza, designed by Cliff Garten Studio, is also a public artwork. For more photos, see pages 7 and 8.

## WC backs initiative to stop takeaways

Walnut Creek has joined a coalition of cities, counties, and other governmental agencies in placing an initiative before California voters this November that would halt the State's practice of raiding local governments' coffers to balance its budget.

Called the Local Taxpayers and Public

Safety Protection Act, the measure qualified for the ballot this spring after more than one million signatures were submitted on petitions.

The City Council endorsed the initiative in March.

If passed by voters, the initiative would

**INITIATIVE, page 7**

## Try City's July 4th with chili & music

Celebrate an old fashioned Fourth with the City of Walnut Creek at its 3rd annual 4th of July Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, July 4 in Civic Park.

Cooking begins at 11 a.m., tasting begins at 1 p.m., and live entertainment will be provided at the gazebo. The Tice Valley Jazz Band will perform and the City will provide a variety of family activities.

The Walnut Creek Concert Band will cap off the day with a concert at 6 p.m.

Admission is free. Chili tasting books will be sold for

\$10. The event will benefit the Lion's Center for the Visually Impaired and the Walnut Creek Library Foundation.

The event is co-sponsored by the City and the Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association. For details, call 933-6778.



## City Event Calendar

### July

4

**Annual 4th of July Chili Cook-off; Band concert**  
11 a.m.-7 p.m., Civic Park  
(See page 1 story for details)  
City offices will be closed

31

**Summer Pops concert**  
(See *What's Happening*)

### August

22

**Movies Under the Stars**  
(See *What's Happening*)

## City Meeting Calendar

### City Council

July 6, 20; Aug. 3  
7 p.m.  
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

### Planning Commission

July 15, 19; Aug. 12, 26  
7:30 p.m.  
City Council chamber

### Arts Commission

July 19, August 16  
4:30 p.m.  
Leshner Center for the Arts

### Transportation

**Commission**  
July 15, August 19  
7:30 p.m.  
City Council chamber

### Design Review Commission

July 7, 21; Aug. 4, 18  
7 p.m., City Council chamber

### Park, Rec & Open Space Commission

July 12, August 2  
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 and 7 p.m.

## Vintage war exhibition at Shadelands Museum

Military uniforms and memorabilia spanning from World War I to Vietnam can be seen one last time through July 4 in a special exhibition at the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum.

“Personal Views of War: Stories, Uniforms, and Memorabilia,” presented by the Walnut Creek Historical Society, brings together artifacts belonging to Walnut Creek residents who served in the Armed Forces. Among the memorabilia on display includes the Nazi-issued utensils used by Army Sgt. Bob Tharratt as a POW in 1944 and a World War II Navy nurse uniform belonging to Katie Doherty.

The museum will be open 1 to 4 p.m. each Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday through July 4. The museum is located at 2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd. in Walnut Creek.



Bob Tharratt's World War II uniform is among the several vintage military artifacts on display at the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum through July 4.

## What's Happening

### Summer Pops Concert July 31

The popular Walnut Creek Concert Band will present its annual “Summer Pops Concert” on Saturday, July 31 at 8 p.m. in the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive in Walnut Creek. The official band of the City of Walnut Creek will perform easy listening music and a tribute to John Philip Sousa's 150th birthday. For tickets, call 943-SHOW.

### Movies Under the Stars: ‘Chicken Run’

The City's popular “Movies Under the Stars” series will continue on Saturday, Aug. 21 with a free presentation of the Claymation feature “Chicken Run” on the front ballfield at Heather Farm Park, corner of Ygnacio Valley Road and No. San Carlos Drive. Gates open at 7:30 p.m., movie starts at 8:30 p.m. This film is G-rated and is sponsored through the contributions of numerous local sponsors. Call 943-5899, x. 420 for details.

### Home Composting workshops offered

“Home Composting for Busy People” workshops are being offered this summer in Walnut Creek by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority. All workshops are free. The next sessions are July 13, 7-8:30 p.m. and Aug. 10, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr. Reservations are required; call 925-906-1806.

### Summer Evening Jazz returns to Bonanza

The popular “Summer Evening Jazz on Bonanza” series will return this summer to downtown Walnut Creek starting July 29 and continuing every Thursday through August, presented by the Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association. Besides live jazz performances, there will be food, beverage,

ages, and produce booths provided by local farmers. The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. at the corner of Locust and Bonanza streets, with the music starting at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 933-6778.

### Walnut Festival seeking volunteers

The Walnut Festival Association is seeking volunteers age 16 and older to assist at this year's Walnut Festival Parade on Saturday, Sept. 18 and the Walnut Festival, Sept. 23-26. Volunteers are needed as parade marshals, to work at the registration desk, answer phones, staff a booth, and respond to questions. To sign up, call 935-6766 and leave your name and phone number.

### PARKconcert series resumes this summer

Enjoy free 6 p.m. concerts in Civic Park featuring the Walnut Creek Concert Band and other performers this summer. The Concert Band will perform on July 4 and Sept. 6 (Labor Day). A concert featuring the Devil Mountain Barbershop Chorus will be Sunday, Aug. 8. For more details, call 295-1400.

### Swim Meet at Heather Farm July 17-18

The Clarke Swim Center and picnic area at Heather Farm Park will be closed the weekend of July 17-18 for the All City Swim Meet. The pool and picnic areas will also be closed Aug. 7-8 and Aug. 14-15 for other swim meets.

### Ruth Bancroft Garden activities

The Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek will offer “Dry Garden Design” as part of its Friday Seminar Series on Friday, Aug. 6 at 8:30 a.m. The Garden is at 1500 Bancroft Rd. For details, call 925-210-9663 or visit [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org).

## Traffic roundabout work completed; changes at Borges

Work was completed in mid-June on permanent landscaping and other improvements to the traffic roundabout at Oak Grove Road and Walnut Avenue.

The roundabout is designed to smooth the flow of traffic going to and from nearby Northgate High School, particularly in the mornings and afternoons.

Following are updates on other projects:

**PROJECT Update**

### Proposed off-leash dog area

A task force studying potential locations for a permanent off-leash dog area in Walnut Creek met with 42 residents in the San Miguel Park neighborhood on April 29 to discuss their concerns and ideas.

Many of the residents were opposed to keeping San Miguel Park as an off-leash dog area, citing concerns over increased street traffic and dog fights.

The task force was scheduled to meet again early in June to discuss its options.

### Veterans memorial building

City, county and veterans organization officials broke ground April 22 on a new veterans memorial building in Lafayette that will replace two aging veterans buildings in Walnut Creek and Lafayette.



**THE ONE THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY** — Over 50 Buena Vista School 3rd graders took part in the "Fishing in the City" program at Heather Farm Park on April 17. The program is offered by Walnut Creek Rotary, the City, and California Department of Fish and Game.



**NOW THEY'RE COOKIN'** — Primo Facchini, president of the Walnut Creek Historical Society, surveys the newly-renovated kitchen at the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum. The project was underwritten partly with \$25,000 in Civic Pride Grant funds from the City.

In a collaborative agreement with the County and Lafayette, the City of Walnut Creek is purchasing the site of the 79-year-old veterans memorial building at 1250 Locust St. and will contribute an additional \$800,000 for relocating veterans to the new, \$7.8 million facility at the northeast corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Risa Road in Lafayette.

The 9,100-square-foot building is expected to be opened next Memorial Day.

### EBMUD pipeline project

Scheduling delays continue to plague the installation of the East Bay Municipal Utility District's water pipeline through downtown Walnut Creek. EBMUD hopes to finish the work at Civic Park by the

next rainy season and the work on South Broadway before summer 2005.

### Borges Ranch water tower removed

The picturesque water tower at Borges Ranch in the Shell Ridge Open Space was removed in May so it can be replaced with a more secure version yet to be acquired.

The wooden tower was erected in the late 1970s by Dan Borges, grandson of Frank Borges (who built the ranch in 1899) and Open Space Ranger Ron White.



**The water tower at Borges Ranch**

## Citizens Institute seeks new recruits

Registration for the Fall 2004 Citizens Institute is under way.

The Institute is an ideal way to learn how the City works and to meet the people who make that happen. Classes include presentations by City Council members and Department heads, interactive exercises and tours of the City facilities. There's even an opening-day bus tour of the highlights of the City, past, present and future.

The Fall 2004 Institute will begin Saturday morning, Sept. 11 and meet for seven consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 15

and ending Oct. 27. There will be a graduation celebration on Saturday, Oct. 30.

The Citizens Institute is sponsored by the City's Community Connection program. The program is free and open to all Walnut Creek residents and business owners. Class size is limited to 30.

Applications are available online at the Community Connection website, [www.walnut-creek.org/community](http://www.walnut-creek.org/community), or by calling Community Relations Officer Gayle Melvin, 943-5899 ext. 189.

## City honored for its 'Green Business' practices, efforts

The City's environmentally-friendly work practices have been recognized by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the County.

The City's Fleet Services Division — which maintains all the vehicles and equipment used by City employees — was recently certified by the County's Green Business Program. ABAG President Scott Haggerty presented a certificate of recognition to Joe Jorgensen, vehicle & equipment maintenance supervisor, on March 18 to honor Walnut Creek efforts.

The program is a partnership between environmental agencies and utilities that help businesses and government agencies operate in a more environmentally responsible way.

To earn the certification, the City went beyond normal compliance by adjusting work practices, reducing water and energy use, and reducing the amount of solid and hazardous waste it produces.

Among the City's "green business" practices are use of recyclable lubricants, recycling of antifreeze and motor oil, and use of natural gas instead of electricity for heating.



Walnut Creek seniors can get a lift from the City in one of its minivans.

## Mini-bus service available to seniors

If you're a Walnut Creek senior citizen needing a ride someplace, just call the City and leave the driving to us.

For more than 30 years, the Walnut Creek Seniors' Club has offered mini-bus service to any senior living within the Walnut Creek city limit. Drivers are friendly and reliable volunteers who take seniors to shopping destinations, medical appointments, Civic Park Community Center, and other locations within the city.

Rides are only 50 cents, and Seniors' Club members can purchase a bus card for

\$10 that's good for 24 rides.

To reserve a ride, call 933-1434 between 9 and 11 a.m. the day before your ride. For Monday rides, call on Friday.

The Seniors' Club mini-bus service is operated by the City of Walnut Creek. The City is currently seeking new drivers. To volunteer, you must be 21 and older with a valid California driver's license and a good driving record. Volunteers must be able to commit to four hours a week for six months. To volunteer, contact Hope Keung at 943-5866.

## Walnut Creek: 90 Years of Cityhood

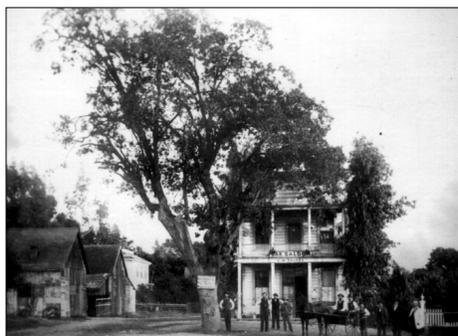
### Changes abound over decades at 'The Corners'

Much has changed in Walnut Creek since it became a city in 1914, but perhaps no place has changed more dramatically than the historic heart of the downtown, known since the 1850s as simply "The Corners."

What was once a sleepy dirt crossroads in the mid-1800s matured in the 1920s with the paving of Main Street and ripened in the 2000s with the establishment of several upscale businesses.

These photographs illustrate just how much change "The Corners" has seen in 124 years.

"The Corners" as it appeared in 1880 (right) comprised a tall oak tree, the Oak Saloon, and the Kirsch blacksmith shop on the left. In 1940 (top right), the southwest corner of Main Street and Mt. Diablo Boulevard was occupied by a Flying A service station, a nightclub called Club Diablo, and a Cottage Kitchen restaurant. Today, the new "Corners" (at far right) brings a modern, urban look to the intersection.



(Walnut Creek: 90 Years of Cityhood is an ongoing series this year in observance of the City's 90th anniversary on Oct. 21, 2004.)

# Budget

From page 1

City's income in 2004-06. In particular, car sales alone represent 28 percent of total sales tax revenue.

Indeed, Walnut Creek's ability to maintain service levels is directly a result of the downtown improvements that have brought in such successful retailers as Tiffany and The Apple Store.

The new budget also reflects the City's ability to readily adapt to often chaotic local, regional and statewide economic issues and challenges.

For instance, the Governor's budget, which the Legislature was expected to approve by June 15, asks local governments to pitch in an additional \$1.3 billion for the next two years. What that means to Walnut Creek is a loss of an additional \$1.05 million in each of the next two years, on top of the nearly \$5 million the City will lose to the state.

In exchange, Gov. Schwarzenegger has agreed to support a constitutional amendment that would prevent State raids on local government funds in the future. His plan requires a 2/3rd's vote of the Legislature to go on the November ballot.

Despite a loss of nearly \$30 million to the State over the past several years, Walnut Creek has shown a remarkable resilience principally because it is a desirable place to live and shop. With its highly rated schools, abundant open space and parks, thriving retail district, and cultural opportunities, Walnut Creek continues to see healthy growth in property tax and sales tax revenues.

As the old budget year comes to a close on June 30, the City is seeing strong revenues from both sources.

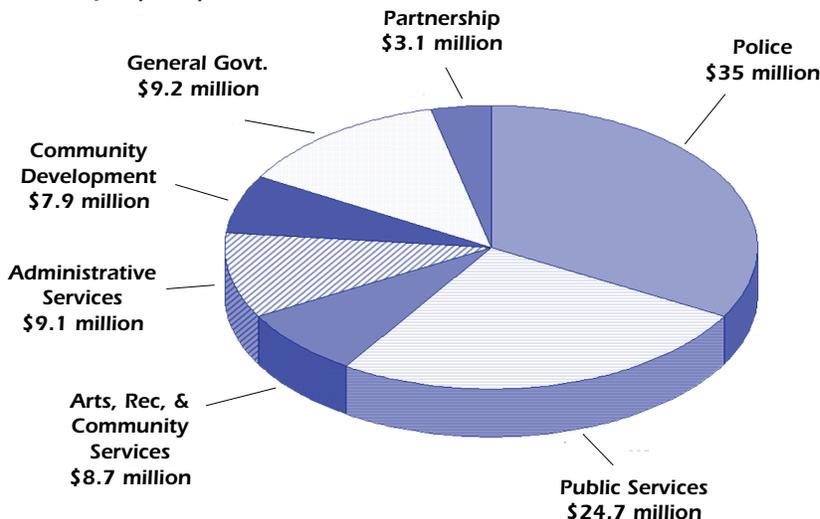
In 2004-06, the City will spend \$72.8 million on personnel and \$24.3 million on services and supplies.

However, a total of 5.5 full-time equivalent positions have been shaved from the budget.

The budget also includes all of the priorities set by the City Council earlier this year, including a host of technology improvements including an upgrade of the City's website to make it easier to do City business on-line, enhancing downtown parking garages, establishing the "Character Counts" program for school children, and developing design guidelines for the west Mt. Diablo Boulevard retail area.

## General Fund Expenditures ■ 2004-06

Total: \$97,936,990



## New capital projects include park upgrades

The new City budget includes \$8.8 million for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which funds large, expensive, and relatively permanent projects.

Recent examples of CIP projects include the ballfields at Heather Farm Park, the skate park, and new sidewalks.

In 2004-06, new CIP projects will include improvements to the east side of

Civic Park, replacement and updating of the Larkey Park play area, a new Civic Park tot lot, an off-leash dog area, a nature study area at Heather Farm Park, and downtown informational kiosks.

The City Council has also set aside \$16.5 million for a new downtown library. However, the City won't know until later this year if it will receive a state grant to build the facility.

## West Nile virus threat is here

The detection earlier this spring of West Nile virus (WNV) in Los Angeles and Orange counties marks the first evidence of the virus in California this year, according to state officials.

Although West Nile virus infection has not been detected in humans this year, the state's interagency surveillance system for WNV is testing dead birds, mosquitoes and sentinel chickens.

The public is being asked to provide the state with information about birds that have been dead for less than 48 hours by calling a toll-free hotline: 1-877-WNV-BIRD.

WNV is transmitted to humans and animals through a mosquito bite. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Human-to-human transmission of WNV generally does not occur. However, human WNV infection was associated with blood transfusions and

organ transplants in 2002.

Nationwide in 2003, WNV was linked to a total of 9,389 illnesses and 246 deaths. Since it was first detected in the United States in New York in 1999, WNV has been found in 46 states and the District of Columbia.

Most individuals who are infected with

WNV will not experience any illness. Others will have mild to moderate symptoms, such as fever, headache and body aches. Less than one percent of individuals will develop serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis

and meningitis. The elderly and those with lowered immune systems are more susceptible to serious illness.

Horse owners are advised to contact their veterinarians about vaccinations.

For more information about WNV or to report dead birds, visit the website at [www.westnile.ca.gov/](http://www.westnile.ca.gov/).



## City Council Update

### New City Clerk sworn in

The City Council appointed Cathy McKay on June 1 as Walnut Creek's new city clerk. She was sworn in by her predecessor, Barbara Rivara, who retired in January after 23 years of service. McKay, a certified city clerk, will serve out the balance of Rivara's elected term, which expires in 2006. McKay has served as city clerk in Ukiah, Redwood City, Menlo Park, and Sunnyvale.

### Crackdown on false alarms

The City Council on May 18 beefed up its security alarm ordinance to address the increasing rate of false alarms responded to by police. The revised rules, which took effect June 19 and which will be implemented Sept. 1, impose a fee on the third false alarm in a 12-month period. Businesses will be charged \$25 a year if they wish to participate in the program. The property owner will receive a warning letter for the first two false alarms, then be fined for subsequent false alarms.

### City funds Geary senior housing

The City Council agreed May 18 to loan \$1.4 million in federal grant funds to a nonprofit developer, Resources for Community Development, to acquire property and develop a 73-unit senior affordable housing development at 1515 Geary Rd. The existing building will be razed and new housing for seniors will be built, which will include 26 units reserved for seniors with a disability.

### City's General Plan coordinator honored

Naphtali Knox, the coordinator of the City's new General Plan, received the Distinguished Leadership Award from the American Planning Association on May 21.

Knox, a planner for 47 years, was honored for his "sustained contribution to the profession through distinguished practice, teaching, or writing."



Naphtali Knox

## Shopping for debris in the creeks

Michael Lester of Walnut Creek, right, fished a shopping cart and other large debris out of Walnut Creek behind The Cantina restaurant during the City's 15th Creek Clean-Up Day on May 8. When Lester was unable to pull the heavy cart out by himself, City staff came to the rescue with a truck and a winch. Supervising Open Space Ranger Tracey Walker, bottom left, and Street Maintenance Worker Dean Paiva muscled the shopping cart up an ivy-covered slope and out of the creek channel. More than 200 volunteers removed nearly 32 cubic yards of debris from the three downtown creeks during the activity, which was co-sponsored by the City and the Friends of the Creeks.



## Emergency response training available to Walnut Creek residents this summer

What will you do when disaster strikes you, or those around you?

Experts say that residents need to be prepared to take care of themselves for 72 hours following a major catastrophe, as the demand for emergency services will likely exceed available resources.

Learn how you can help save and sustain lives following a disaster until help arrives by taking the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.

This free training is designed for any interested adult through a partnership of the Contra Costa Fire District, County Office of Emergency Services and the City of Walnut Creek.

Course topics include Disaster Pre-

paredness, Fire Safety, Disaster Medical Operations, Light Search and Rescue Operations, CERT Organization, Disaster Psychology and Terrorism.

Registration is currently being taken for a session running from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays, July 27-August 31, and a session running from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 14 - Oct. 19. Additional sessions may be offered depending on demand and availability of instructors.

To register for CERT training, call the Contra Costa Fire District, 941-3327.

For more information on class topics, go to the City of Walnut Creek's Community Connection website at [www.walnut-creek.org/community](http://www.walnut-creek.org/community).



By Officer Mike Adams

## How speeding backfires

One day a week I have the privilege of taking my son to school. I am sure my commute is fairly typical of most: I drive through a 25 mph neighborhood, cross into a 30 mph zone and then into a 35 mph zone and back again into a 25 mph school zone. There are four stop signs and three signal lights on the way with a total distance of 2.8 miles. Driving the posted speed limit, it takes an average of about 11 minutes, given an average speed of 22 mph over that distance.



Now, let's say you were to increase your speed by 10 mph across all three speed zones, something we may do when we are in a hurry. Using an average speed of 32 mph, you would only shave 3 minutes off your time. Three minutes is not a significant amount of time when you consider the down side.

During the school commute, there are small children riding bikes and walking to and from school. As drivers, we can't always predict what these children might do. When children are present on the roadways we need to be even more careful because higher speeds translate into a greater chance of serious injury. The other downside to speeding is something you might run into: a speeding ticket.

The average cost of a speeding ticket for a first time offender is around \$120, or \$40 a minute (assuming you save three minutes by speeding). This cost does not take into consideration higher insurance rates and the additional time off work you will sacrifice for court and traffic school.

Putting things into perspective, \$40 a minute does not seem like a good use of time or money. If you would like to make a sound investment into the future of Walnut Creek, leave home a few minutes earlier and obey the posted speed limit. The return on your investment will compound daily into safe streets for our children.



## A hero's welcome

Army Corporal Carl Covington II of Walnut Creek received a standing ovation from hundreds of residents on Memorial Day at the City's dedication of its Veterans Memorial Plaza, during which Mayor Charlie Abrams presented him with a special commendation from the City Council. Covington, 20, a 2001 Northgate High School graduate, suffered serious leg injuries in an April 6 attack in Iraq. After undergoing 17 operations at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., Covington returned home on May 21. He expects to make a full recovery.

## Community Policing Team is on the beat

It's tough being a cop, but it's even tougher trying to meet the increasingly complex issues of delivering quality police services in a suburban area like Walnut Creek, California.

As a result, the City created the Walnut Creek Police Community Policing Team.

Although Walnut Creek has minimal violent, personal crime, its citizens nonetheless have numerous quality of life issues which pose challenges to its police force. Created in May 1997, the Community Policing Team attempts to meet those challenges with its two patrol officers, two motor officers, a civilian crime prevention specialist, a sergeant, and a motor officer whose sole purpose is to educate parents on child seat safety.

Some of the team's projects have included coordinating Conflict Resolution Panels for ongoing neighborhood disputes; designing crime prevention strategies for local businesses, banks, and private



Walnut Creek's Community Policing Team (from left): Sgt. Tim Barrett, Officer Stewart Lehman, Officer Mike Adams, Crime Prevention Coordinator Deborah Bushnell, Acting Sgt. Tony Mangini and Lt. Mark Covington.

citizens; establishment of a school liaison officer team with each middle and high school in the City; assisting the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children by introducing child safety programs to local stores; and maintenance of the Police Department's website.

For more information, call 256-3517.

## Initiative

From page 1  
amend the State constitution to prohibit the State from further reducing local government revenues without voter approval. The initiative would also beef up existing law by requiring the State to reimburse local governments in a timely manner whenever the State mandates that

cities or counties provide a new program or service. or when it shifts responsibility or costs to local governments.

Since 1992, the State has taken more than \$40 billion in property taxes from local governments. The City of Walnut Creek alone has lost nearly \$30 million to the State in the last 12 years.



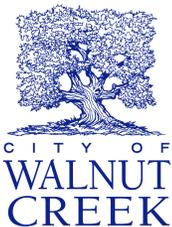
## It's about time . . .

A 50-year time capsule dangles above its 6-foot-deep tomb at City Hall while (from left) Andrew Morris, 9, his sister Katie, 4, and brother Brian, 6, of Walnut Creek contemplate how long 50 years actually is. The 100-pound time capsule, which was originally sealed in 1999 as part of Walnut Creek's 150th anniversary celebration, was finally lowered into the ground by the City Council before over 100 spectators attending the City Hall dedication and open house on May 31. The time capsule is to be opened in October 2049 for Walnut Creek's bicentennial. Several hundred people toured the 70,000-square-foot civic center, including (at right) Zach McLean, 9, of Lafayette, who tries on Sgt. Tim Schultz's police gear.



## City Directory

Arts Education classes	943-5846
Bicycle registration	943-5844
Building permits	943-5834
Business licenses	943-5821
Cable TV questions	943-5895
City Clerk's Office	943-5818
City Hall main number	943-5800
City Manager's office	943-5812
Civic Park rentals	943-5853
Crime prevention	943-5885
Employment hotline	943-5817
Fingerprinting	943-5844
Flood zone info	943-5899, x215
Garbage collection	603-1144
Graffiti reporting	943-5834
Heather Farm Pool	943-5856
Heather Farm Park rentals	256-3575
Leisure Service classes	943-5858
Mayor's Office	943-5812
Open Space information	943-5854
Planning/Zoning hotline	256-3558
Police/Fire emergency	911
Police (non-emergency)	943-5844
Pot holes	943-5854
Public Information	943-5895
DLRCA Ticket Office	943-7469
Senior citizen activities	943-5851
Street light outages	943-5827
Tree removal permit	943-5854



### CITY COUNCIL

Charlie Abrams, Mayor\*  
 Gary Skrel, Mayor pro tem  
 Kathy Hicks  
 Sue Rainey  
 Gwen Regalia

\* For Thursday appointments between 10 a.m. and noon, call 943-5812

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

CITY MANAGER  
 Michael Parness  
 CITY ATTORNEY  
 Thomas Haas

CITY CLERK  
 Cathleen McKay  
 CITY TREASURER  
 Ronald Cassano

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Valerie Barone, Director  
 ARTS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES  
 Gary Pokorny, Director

### POLICE

Tom Soberanes, Chief of Police

### PUBLIC SERVICES

Dan Richardson, Director

## IN A Nutshell

Published bi-monthly and mailed to Walnut Creek residents and businesses

Editor:  
 Brad Rovanpera

We welcome your comments and questions.  
 Please call 943-5895 or 943-5800  
 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For past issues, go on-line at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org)



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