

IN A

Nutshell

No. 123

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

MARCH/APRIL 2006

City extends its listening on library project

City officials are close to wrapping up a series of “listening meetings” held over the last several weeks to determine how to move forward on the new downtown library project.

The proposed library project includes a 42,000-square-foot library, additional parking, and new plaza areas all at the site of the current old downtown library and library parking lot on North Broadway.

In the November election, the City’s library bond measure was supported by more than 61 percent of voters but failed to get the necessary two-thirds majority needed for passage.

In recent weeks, City staff have met with various stakeholder groups — including library supporters, opponents of the library bond measure, the business community, students, Rossmoor residents, and schools representatives — to listen to their viewpoints and suggestions about the size and cost of the project.

This listening process will culminate in a special public meeting on Monday, Feb. 27 when the public is invited to hear from library experts, comment on the library project, and learn what the other stakeholder groups told the City.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Las Lomas High School Theater, 1460 So. Main St.

Meanwhile, City officials have made a concerted effort to whittle down the costs of the project, which was originally estimated to be about \$50 million. Among the options being considered is eliminating the parking structure, which would reduce costs by \$7 million. The elimination of the **LIBRARY, see back page**



Helping hands for the City

Bedford Gallery volunteer Bonnie Young, left, assists visitor DonnaMarie Wasilewski of Walnut Creek during a recent gallery visit. Hundreds of community volunteers each year contribute their time and talents to help provide City services in a number of programs. For a summary of the volunteering opportunities available with the City, see page 5.

General Plan process winding up with review before City Council

The City’s ambitious effort to completely revise its blueprint for the future is entering the final phase as the draft 2025 General Plan goes to the City Council for adoption this spring.

The General Plan, a roadmap for future growth and development, has not been completely updated since 1989. The new version has been discussed, debated, drafted, tweaked, and finalized by a steering committee comprising members of all the City’s advisory commissions.

The Planning Commission approved the final draft on Jan. 12 and sent it off to the City Council for its consideration.



The Council will hold its first meeting on the draft plan on Tuesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 1666 No. Main St. All Council meetings are televised live on Comcast Ch. 6 and Astound Ch. 29.

If necessary, the Council will continue its deliberations into April.

The final version of the draft General Plan can be downloaded on the City’s website at www.walnut-creek.org and clicking on the General Plan logo.

A special mailer will be sent to all Walnut Creek residents in March that summarizes the changes in the draft General Plan. Watch for it in your mail.

City Event Calendar

March

9
Teen Jobs Fair
(See photo, page 6)

24-25
**Seniors Club
Second Hand Sale**
(See *What's Happening*)

April

15
Spring Egg Hunts
(See *What's Happening*)

21, 22, 23
Sidewalk Fine Arts Festival
Main, Locust, Cypress streets

City Meeting Calendar

City Council 
March 7, 21; April 4, 18
7 p.m.
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

Planning Commission
March 9, 23; April 13, 27
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Arts Commission
March 20, April 17
4:30 p.m.
Leshner Center for the Arts

**Transportation
Commission**
March 16, April 20
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Design Review Commission
March 1, 15; April 5, 19
7 p.m., City Council chamber

**Park, Rec & Open Space
Commission**
March 6, April 3
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.

City's Center REP earns eight top Shellie awards

The City's Center Repertory Company brought home eight coveted Shellie Awards for outstanding achievement in regional performing arts at the 27th annual ceremony held Jan. 14 at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts.



Center REP took top honors for *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (best play), Mark Farrell (actor, musical), Jeffrey Draper (supporting actor, play), Kelly Tighe (scenic design, play), Eric Sinkkonen (scenic design, musical), Mark Hanson (musical direction, musical), Michael Butler (direction, play) and Kurt Landisman (lighting design, play).

WC Concert Band to present 'Marche Madness'

The Walnut Creek Concert Band will present a "Marche Madness" concert on Tuesday, March 28 at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive.

The 8:30 p.m. concert will feature a retrospective of the march, from the music of Beethoven's time through the funeral marches of Grieg and on to John Philip Sousa's works.

Tickets can be purchased for \$12-\$15 from the Center Ticket Office at 1601 Civic Dr. or by calling 925-943-SHOW (7469).

The Walnut Creek Concert Band will perform under the direction of Harvey Benstein.

What's Happening

WC Seniors' Second Hand Sale

The Walnut Creek Seniors' Club's annual Second Hand Sale will be Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days, at the Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr. A wide variety of items will be available for purchase, including clothing, toys, books, collectibles, and jewelry. (Note: Donations of these items will be accepted at the community center weekdays through March 24, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please, no furniture, computers, TVs, office equipment, or telephones.) All proceeds benefit the Seniors' Club. For more information, call 925-943-5852.

Spring Egg Hunts planned April 15

Children can participate in Walnut Creek's annual Spring Egg Hunts on Saturday, April 15 at Heather Farm Park or Larkey Park. The activity begins promptly at 10:15 a.m. at both parks for preschoolers through 5th graders; Heather Farm is accessible for disabled children. A pancake-and-sausage breakfast will also be offered before the egg hunt at Heather Farm Community Center from 8 to 9:45 a.m.; cost is \$5 per person.

Children invited to Spring Art Days

Spring Art Days will be held April 17-21 at Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Ln. The program, sponsored by Civic Arts Education, groups children ages 5 to 10 by age with activities appropriate to each group. Sessions will be 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The fee is \$25 per child per session. To register, call 925-943-5846 or go online at walnut-creek.org

Constitutional expert to speak

The political and intellectual history of the U.S. Constitution will be the topic when former Walnut Creek resident and Yale Law School scholar Akhil

Reed Amar speaks at the Walnut Creek Downtown Library on Thursday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. His talk is part "Civic Engagement," the County Library Lecture Series for 2006.

Girls golf sign-ups at Boundary Oak

LPGA-USGA Girls Golf of Walnut Creek invites girls to learn to play golf through 20 hands-on clinics and on-course play days throughout the year, mainly at Boundary Oak Golf Course. Membership is \$95. Scholarships are available. For details, call Bill Schmech, 925-524-8900. For applications/schedules, go to boundaryoak.com

Spring Plant Sale for Gardens at HF

For a great selection of plants suited to our Mediterranean climate, come to the Gardens at Heather Farm Plant Sale on Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to noon, 600 North San Carlos Drive. For a 10% discount, bring your membership card if you are already a member of the Gardens at Heather Farm or become a member on the spot. For more information call 925-947-1678 or visit gardenshf.org. All proceeds benefit the gardens.

Host an international student

The International Education Center at Diablo Valley College is looking for local families to host international students on a temporary basis while they improve their English skills. All types of families are welcome — single adults, couples, families with or without children. Short and long term placements are available, and all students already speak a good level of English. Host families will receive a monthly stipend of \$650 per student, and must provide a bedroom and two meals per day for the student(s). For more information, contact Fia Parker, at 925-676-4600, x. 103 or email: fparker@dvc.edu

City repairs exterior of 103-year-old Shadelands house

The City recently completed major exterior repairs at the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, which had been a victim of dry rot damage.

The museum, built in 1903 by Hiram Penniman as a family home on his Shadelands Fruit Farm, underwent significant rebuilding of the front exterior to remove excessive dry rot damage to the windows and front stairs.

The project is following best practices for the renovation of historic buildings, according to Priscilla Couden, the museum's director.

The building was given to the City by the Gospel Foundation of California in 1970 and has been operated as a historical museum since 1972. The structure was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places on Aug. 29, 1985.



A worker removes dry rot from the exterior of the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum in January as part of a major reconstruction of the 103-year-old house that was done in January and February.

City launches effort to draft historic preservation rules

In an effort to protect Walnut Creek's heritage, the City has embarked on a process to develop guidelines for historic preservation of buildings.

Walnut Creek's history dates back to 1849, but only a handful of structures in the city date to the 19th century. Several downtown commercial buildings were constructed in the early 1900s, but few look today as they did when first built.

Although a lengthy list of potentially historic structures is in the General Plan, there is no ordinance to describe how changes to these buildings should be regulated, if at all. Further, State law requires the City to evaluate building demolitions and new projects for potential impact on historic resources before

approving a project.

The City Council on Jan. 17 approved the establishment of a committee to draft a new historic preservation ordinance. The committee would comprise two members of the Walnut Creek Historical Society, two members of the Downtown Business Association, and three at-large members.

The committee will determine what elements of an ordinance are most appropriate for Walnut Creek. It may consider such elements as the area (historic districts such as the Almond/Shuey neighborhood), the type of structure (e.g. commercial, residential, historic site), and protection measures (e.g. review process for any changes to the exterior of a building).

The committee is to draft the ordinance over several meetings and submit its proposed recommendations to the Design Review Commission, Planning Commission, and City Council for review and approval later this summer.

Arts advisory council openings in 2006

The Walnut Creek Arts Commission is seeking to fill seats on the Bedford Gallery Advisory Council and the Civic Arts Education Advisory Council.

The deadline for submitting an application is March 15 at 4:30 p.m. The Arts Commission expects to fill these vacancies for terms that end in June 2009.

The seven-member Civic Arts Education Advisory Council and nine-member Bedford Gallery Advisory Council assist

the Arts Commission in the performance of its duties. Members are normally appointed for three-year terms. Walnut Creek residency is not a requirement. The advisory councils normally meet monthly to consider gallery and arts education program policy, to evaluate programs, and to recommend appropriate services.

Applications are available online at www.walnut-creek.org or by calling 925-943-5848.

Learn WC history on City Bus Tour

Visit some historic landmarks and learn more about Walnut Creek on the next City Bus Tour set for Saturday, April 29.

City Public Information Officer Brad Rovanpera will lead this 3½-hour excursion, which starts at 8:30 a.m.

Stops along the way will include historic Borges Ranch, Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, The Gardens at Heather Farm, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, and the Diablo Valley Lines Model Railroad.

Tickets are \$10 per person and must be reserved in advance by phone on a first-come basis. Seating is limited. To reserve up to four tickets, call 925-256-3505 and leave your name, address, phone, and number of tickets.

S

an Francisco was devastated by an earthquake on April 18, 1906 that killed 3,000 people, injured more than

220,000, and caused over \$400 million in damage in 1906 dollars. A lot has changed in the 100 years since that calamity, but one thing hasn't: We live in earthquake country and it will happen again. This brief guide will help you prepare. The ground rules for survival are important to know BEFORE a quake occurs. Please read this and save it for future reference.

How to plan for and survive the next major

EARTHQUAKE



Photographer Ralph O. Hotz captured San Francisco in flames on April 18, 1906 with residents gathered on a hill with their belongings to assess the damage to their city.

Photo: U.S. Geological Survey

Emergency plan for those at home

Considering the major part of our time is spent at home, a viable emergency home plan is essential. The number of homes needing emergency help may vastly outnumber the capabilities of City resources. Some people may have to be self-sufficient for seven days or more in the event of a major disaster.

Evacuation

Discuss these following points, noting specifics on the worksheet as needed:

- Identify all main exits and alternate escape routes from your house or apartment and keep them clear.
- Establish a safe meeting place outside of the house where all family members will meet. Have an out-of-state contact that all household members can call to check in following the emergency (as local phone lines may not be operating).
- Maintain one-half tank of gas in your car at all times and identify an evacuation route that is most likely to remain open and passable following a disaster. Avoid bridges, freeways, underpasses, and overpasses.

If you must evacuate your home:

- Take vital documents and emergency supplies and equipment, including medications with you.
- Post a message indicating where you have gone.

Convert your old trash can into a survival kit

That old trash can you have in your backyard can be put to further good use as an earthquake survival kit.

Here's what you do:

- Clean out the can and (if necessary) line it with plastic.
- Make a list of the things you and your family will need if you had to survive for at least seven days without water, gas, and electricity (see box at right for ideas).
- Store the heaviest items (canned foods, water bottles) on the bottom, then lighter items (medication) on top.
- Have a flashlight, battery-operated radio, fresh batteries, and a first aid kit on the very top where they are easy to get.
- Keep the can covered and stored in your garage. Check on perishable items every 6-8 months.



For online information, go to walnut-creek.org and select "Emergency Preparedness" under "Quick Links"

Survival kit checklist:

- Water - 2 quarts to 1 gallon/person/day
- First aid kit - freshly stocked
- First aid book
- Food (packaged, canned, no-cook, baby food, and for special diets)
- Can opener (non-electric)
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Portable radio, flashlight, spare batteries
- Essential medication and extra set of glasses
- Fire extinguisher - A-B-C type
- Food and water for pets
- Cash (ATMs may not be working)

Additional supplies:

- Keep a pair of walking shoes under your bed, in your car, and at your workplace
- Toiletries (toilet paper, toothbrush/paste)
- Large plastic trash bags
- Change of clothing, gloves
- Tools (axe, shovel, broom, screwdriver, pliers, hammer, crescent wrench)
- Children's toys, books

HELPING HANDS

How volunteers help the City provide important services to the community

Volunteers are the backbone of Walnut Creek activities. The City offers a wide range of volunteer opportunities to people who wish to contribute their valuable time and skills to their community. Following is a summary of volunteer opportunities that are available through the City. You can also visit the City's website at walnut-creek.org and click on "Volunteer Opportunities" under "Services>Citizen."

Bedford Gallery

Contact: Alesha Colberg, 925-295-1423

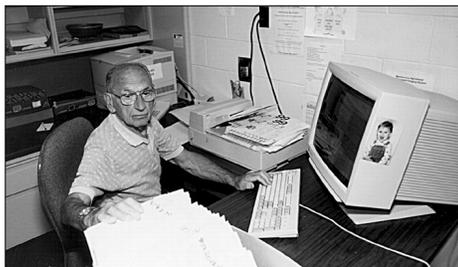
Guild Members: Bedford Gallery Guild members staff the gallery's front desk, greet visitors, provide visitors with information and monitor activities in the gallery, host gallery receptions, and participate in fund-raising activities. Guild members work weekday afternoons and some evenings during receptions.

Docents: Docents lead tours of gallery exhibitions for groups of children and adults. Docents receive special training in art history and effective touring techniques. Docents provide students with the art education that many schools can no longer afford. Most tours are scheduled for weekday mornings.

Interns: Gallery interns receive hands-on experience in such areas as exhibition research and preparation, public relations, fund-raising and gallery administration. Interns use their skills with PCs and Macintosh computers, graphic design, writing and phone reception to help organize exhibitions, publicize events, and meet administrative needs. Interns are asked to make a full semester and/or a three-to-six month commitment. College student interns sometimes receive school credit.

Civic Arts Education

Contact: Kathy Nelson, 925-943-5800 ext. 405 or Melissa Ridenour, 925-943-5800 ext. 465



VIPS member Walter Stern has helped out in the Police Department over 20 years.

There are a number of opportunities for both teens and adults. Teens can assist in children's classes and the preschool, as well as in the Arts, Adventures and Academics program. Adults can help with the Fine Arts Preschool, Diablo Regional Youth and Young Performers String Orchestras, Junior Theater, Young Repertory Summer Theater, End of Summer Theater Camp, School Services programs, Arts Sales and special events and performances.

Volunteers are also welcome in the office to help with organizing and labeling photo materials, mailings and other tasks.

Open Space

Contact: Open Space Supervisor Nancy Dollard at 925-943-5899, ext. 135.

Open Space Patrol and Trails Maintenance: These are new opportunities for volunteers being developed by the Open Space Rangers.

Police Department Reserves

Contact: Lt. Mark Covington, 925-945-5886

There are currently 30 reserve officers who donated a combined 8,000 hours last year alone. Being a reserve requires training, an application and screening process, and a commitment of 16 hours a month minimum of patrol or other assignments as well as mandatory training meetings.

VIPS (Volunteers in Police Services)

Contact: Maria Zablah, 925-943-5890

VIPS work a number of different areas of the Police Department and perform a wide variety of tasks. Some of the assignments include: Community Policing projects, scanning and processing police reports, reception duties, handicapped parking enforcement, and maintenance of police vehicles and equipment. They are truly an appreciated and integral part of our busy Police



Bedford Gallery volunteer Bonnie Young, left, provides information with visitor DonnaMarie Wasilewski of Walnut Creek during a recent gallery visit.

Department. Interested people are encouraged to apply. There is a background check before being brought on board.

Leshner Regional Center for the Arts

Security Team for Plays — Contact: Toni Kilcoyne, 925-295-1400. Work as extra person on security team for an event.

Stage Crews for Center Rep — Contact: Jeff Collister, 925-295-1400. Work backstage during productions on tasks such as moving scenery, helping actors with quick costume changes between scenes. Volunteers can also paint scenery at the scene shop before production begins. Stage crews must be willing to work the entire five-week run of the play, five performances a week.

Ushers — Contact: Kendra Oberhauser, 925-295-1405. There is a commitment of ushering at least once a month and a dress code of a white top/black bottom. There is an annual orientation session usually in August.

Seniors Club

Contact: Cathie Ramey, 925-943-5852

Areas of opportunities include, but are not limited to: Special Events, Transportation Program, Clerical/receptionist, Trip programs. Hours vary from program to program but are generally set up in morning and afternoon shifts (9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 12:30-4 p.m.) All positions include training and are available on a permanent or substitute basis.

Sports Programs

Contact: Wes Allnutt, 925-256-3539

After-School Sports Program: Coaches and scorekeepers

Volunteer to work with day campers

Volunteers should have experience in sports and some experience working with children.

Summer Day Camp for Special Needs Children

Contact: Preston Jones, 925-943-5800 ext. 531

Volunteers work with campers with special needs. The camp begins in late June and runs through the middle of August from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. The time commitment is flexible and can be adapted to any time or day that meets the volunteer's schedule. Volunteers should be at least 14.

City Council Update

Commissioners named

The City Council in January reappointed members of three City advisory commissions who had asked to serve a second term.

The Council reappointed **Mark Lopez** to the Design Review Commission, **Emily Chang** to the Transportation Commission, and **Ed Montgomery** to the Park, Recreation & Open Space Commission (PROS). All will serve three-year terms.

Also, the Council made three appointments to the Planning Commission. **Neil Gerstner**, who has served on the PROS Commission since 2001, was appointed to replace **Richard Larsen** (2002-2006); **Barry Slavin**, also a recent PROS commissioner, is replacing **Allan Moore** (2001-2006); and newcomer **Jon Malkovich** was appointed to succeed **Jerry Kaplan** (1997-2006). Both Moore and Kaplan served an additional year on the Planning Commission to provide continuity during the 2025 General Plan deliberations.

Other commission appointments were pending in February.

The new commissioners will be sworn in at the first council meeting in March.

How to best surf City's new website

Surfing the City's new and improved website is a fun and entertaining exercise for anyone who needs basic information, wants to buy a theatre ticket, or register for a class.

In order to maximize your surfing pleasure, the following are some friendly tips on how to best view the site.

For starters, the site was designed to be viewed on monitors set for 1024 x 768 pixels. This is an easy procedure. For PC users, simply right click on the desktop, which opens a window that shows "Properties." Left click on "Properties" and select the "Settings" tab. Then drag the screen resolution bar to 1024 x 768 pixels, click on "Apply," then on "OK." That's all there is to it. For Mac users, under the Apple menu, open "Control Panels>Monitors" and click on the 1024 x 768 setting.

Because the photos on the homepage



The best way to view the City's new website is to set your monitor screen setting to 1024 x 768 pixels.

are intended to rotate like a slide show, your computer should have Flash, a free downloadable software available from macromedia.com

Also, be sure to save the City's site under "Favorites" or "Bookmark" for quick reference.

The website, which went live Jan. 5, was designed by Internet University of America in Walnut Creek.

New state law bans batteries, VCRs, cell phones from landfills

Californians can no longer throw household batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, or consumer electronics into the garbage under a new state law that took effect Feb. 9.

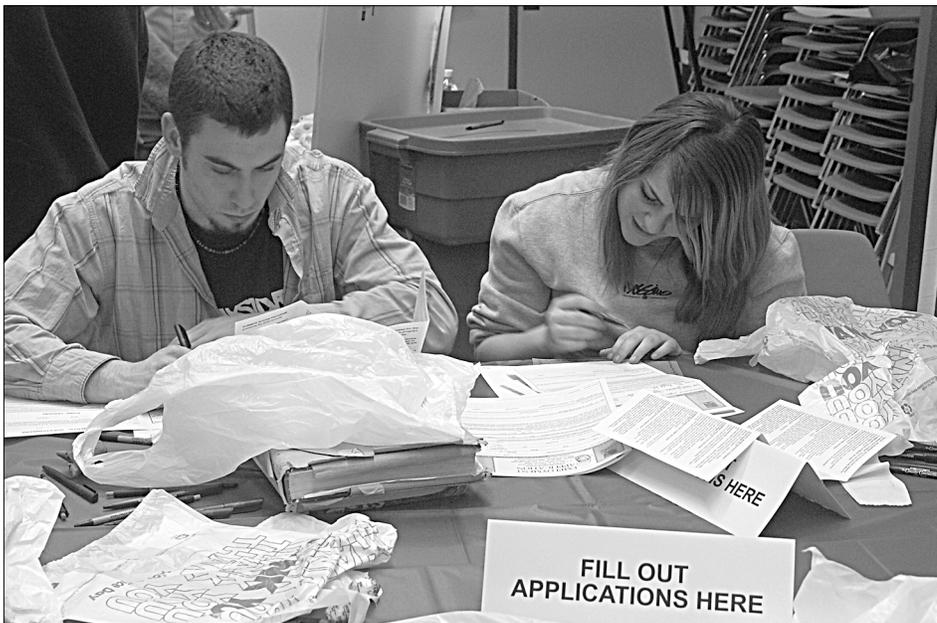
In an effort to prevent the dumping of hazardous household waste into landfills, the new law bans common batteries and all fluorescent bulbs, as well as all items that contain any amount of mercury.

Electronic equipment such as VCRs, TV sets, radios, and cell phones are also banned. All of these items (except electronics) should be taken to the county's household hazardous waste facility at 4797 Imhoff Pl., Martinez.

Electronic devices are accepted on your curbside on special reuse collection days; the next one in Walnut Creek will be in April.

For more information about the new law, go online to www.dtsc.ca.gov/hazardouswaste/universalwaste or call 925-906-1807.

Teen job fair set March 9



Local teens will again have an opportunity to fill out applications for summer employment when the City holds its annual Summer Job Recruitment Fair for teens on Thursday, March 9 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Civic Park Community Center Assembly Hall at North Broadway and Civic Drive to recruit teen workers for upwards of 100 jobs (including lifeguards, summer camp counselors, and interns). The City will be accepting applications through May for the summer jobs. For more information, log on to realwc.org or call 925-943-5848.



By Officer Chris Norlund

New traffic laws for 2006

The first of the year brought several new traffic laws:



Pocket Bikes

Those pesky, noisy little motorcycles you see all over the place, and you think, "That's a death waiting to happen." New laws prohibit the operation of a pocket bike on a sidewalk, roadway, or any other part of a highway, or on a bikeway, bicycle path or trail, equestrian trail, hiking or recreational trail, or on public lands open to off highway motor vehicle use. Whew! Does that leave any place left to ride the things? Sure. In your own back yard, or maybe a private lot with the permission of the owner. But if you still want to ride one on any of the forbidden places, police can now impound your bike.

Provisional License

The provisional licensing restriction on nighttime driving will begin at 11 p.m. instead of midnight. Also extended is the current six-month passenger restriction to one year from date of license issuance.

Under the new law, any provisional drivers (those between 15 1/2 and 18) who haven't had their license a year cannot carry passengers until the one year anniversary.

DUI Vehicle Impoundment

Anyone required to have an ignition interlocking device (which is governed by an in-car breath test that measures a person's blood alcohol), and drives without one, will have his car impounded.

A person with a prior DUI conviction within 10 years, who has a blood alcohol content of .10% or higher, or who refuses to take a chemical test, will have their vehicle impounded.

In summary:

1. Watch where you ride your pocket bike if you want to keep it.
2. Check the date of issue on your provisional license. No passengers for a year.
3. Don't drink and drive.

Police chronicle WC crimes for 2005

A 77-year-old Danville woman who was shot on July 6 while laying in her hospital bed by her despondent husband was the second homicide in Walnut Creek in 2005, according to police.

The first murder of the year, on Feb. 16, involved another elderly couple: the 85-year-old husband was allegedly battered by his wife of 63 years in their home and died at the scene.

A preliminary summary of criminal offenses in 2005 compiled by the Police Department (see box at right) shows that the two homicides were among 33,588 calls for service to the police, of which 10,371 were cases requiring follow-up. Crimes against property (e.g. burglaries, shoplifting, auto theft, vandalism) accounted for 3,655 incidents.

Also in 2005, the department

CRIMINAL OFFENSES

CRIME	2004	2005
Homicide	1	2
Rape	4	8
Robbery	33	39
Burglary	520	508
Theft	2,332	2,142
Auto Theft	285	279
Vandalism	685	726
D.U.I.	307	345
Sex Offenses	20	20
Weapons	38	45

Preliminary statistics for 2005 compiled by the Police Department

investigated 1,067 non-injury motor vehicle accidents, 271 injury accidents, and two fatalities.

Be part of the solution to pollution

Don't be part of the problem. It's easy to point a finger at business and industry for environmental pollution, but residential water pollution occurs at an astounding rate.

When leftover paint, pesticides, used oil, pool chemicals, or any other product containing potentially dangerous materials are thrown away, they become "household hazardous wastes."

When these hazardous wastes are poured or rinsed down household drains, these toxics flow through our treatment plant, possibly upsetting the treatment process and harming the delicate marine life in the Suisun Bay.

And if these chemicals are poured or rinsed into the street or storm drains, it's a guaranteed impact to our creeks. Even when waste products are poured onto or seep into the ground, groundwater used for drinking or irrigation can be contaminated.

Be part of the solution to pollution.

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Facility will help prevent this pollution through reuse,

recycling, and proper disposal of hazardous waste. The HHW Collection Facility is located adjacent to Central San's wastewater treatment plant at 4797 Imhoff Place in Martinez, south of Solano Way from Highway 4.

Hazardous waste generated from households in the central Contra Costa County area is accepted at no charge upon drop off.

Small businesses will be charged an administration fee of \$20 and a nominal disposal fee, based on the type and quantity of waste to be disposed.

Promoting reuse, residents and businesses are allowed to

take usable products such as paint, automotive products, and household cleaners at no charge. Latex paint, anti-freeze, used motor oil, and car batteries are recycled offsite.

For more information and hours of operation, call 1-800-646-1431.

NOTE: Mark your calendar now for the next annual Creek Cleanup Day, which will be Saturday, May 13. The event will again be co-hosted by the City and the Friends of the Creeks.



Library

From front page

garage would reduce the amount of on-site parking from 300 to 170 spaces, but would give the City the flexibility to build the library further from Civic Park, thereby preserving more green space.

However, the City Council reaffirmed its commitment to build a 42,000-square-foot library at its special meeting on Jan. 18. Council members have repeatedly emphasized that the proposed size is necessary to meet the community's future needs.

"The clear message from the election is that there's a significant majority in the community that want to see the library built," said City Manager Mike Parness. "We're doing everything we can to reduce costs without impacting any of the programs and services of the new library, and to do it in a way that is as sensitive as possible to the park environment."

Parness said the City expects to obtain an \$18 million state construction grant for the library if the statewide library construction bond measure passes this June. Walnut Creek's grant application was given an "outstanding" rating in 2004 by the State Public Library Construction Board, which would put the City in line for funding if the measure passes.



Required protective gear at the Skate Park includes a helmet and knee and elbow pads.

Skate park users need to wear gear, leave out bikes

Users of the new skate park in Heather Farm Park are reminded that they must wear the required protective gear when they use the facility.

Also, no bikes of any kind are allowed inside the skate park, which was officially opened in November.

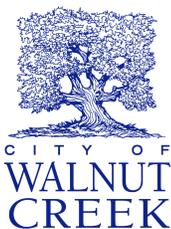
City staff and police have had to close the skate park on occasion due to skaters not following the rules.

For a list of rules, go online to walnut-creek.org and click on "Skate Park" under Quick Links.



City Directory

Arts Education classes	943-5846
Bicycle registration	943-5844
Building Division, permits	256-3549
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	943-5839
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	256-3504
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	943-5854
Tree removal permit	943-5854



CITY COUNCIL

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

* For appointment: Call 925-256-3504.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

CITY MANAGER
Michael Parness
CITY ATTORNEY
Thomas Haas
CITY CLERK
Patrice Olds
CITY TREASURER
Ronald Cassano

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
Carol Swindell, Director
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 925-943-5895 or 925-943-5800
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For past issues, go online at www.walnut-creek.org



1666 North Main Street
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WALNUT CREEK CA
PERMIT # 282

*****ECRWSS**
POSTAL CUSTOMER