



IN A

Nutshell

No. 112

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

MAY/JUNE 2004

Celebrating 30 years of Walnut Creek open space



Hikers enjoy the tranquil atmosphere of Walnut Creek's Shell Ridge Open Space near Indian Valley Elementary School. It was 30 years ago this June that Walnut Creek voters approved a landmark \$6.75 million bond measure to purchase 1,800 acres of open space to keep it from being developed. For more about this historic milestone, see page 4.

Break out the popcorn and soda — 'Movies Under the Stars' is back!

Booyed by the phenomenal success of the City's free "Movies Under the Stars" series last year, the City will host a new slate of family films at the front ballfield at Heather Farm Park this year.

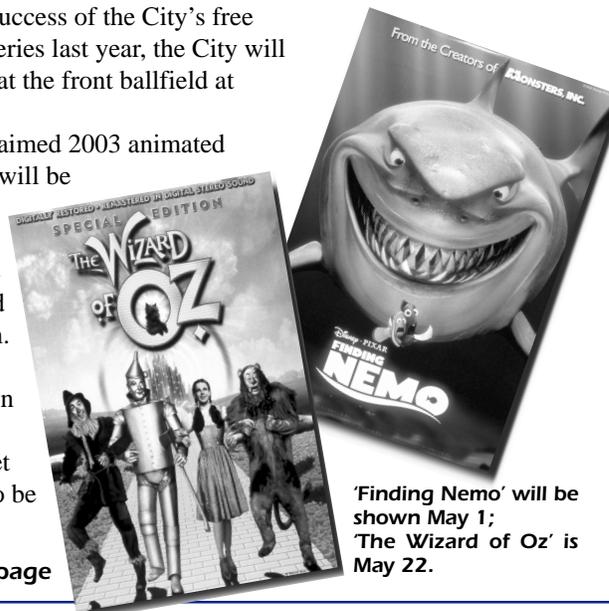
First up is Pixar's highly-acclaimed 2003 animated feature "Finding Nemo," which will be shown Saturday, May 1 beginning at 8:30 p.m.

The 1939 MGM classic, "The Wizard of Oz," will be presented on Saturday, May 22 at 8:30 p.m.

The Claymation feature, "Chicken Run," will be shown on Saturday, Aug. 21 at 8:30 p.m.

The final film for this year, yet to be determined, is scheduled to be shown Saturday, Sept. 18.

MOVIES, see back page



'Finding Nemo' will be shown May 1; 'The Wizard of Oz' is May 22.

Memorial Day events Veterans Plaza, new City Hall dedications set

Pomp, circumstance and tours will be the order of the day when City officials dedicate the new Veterans Memorial Plaza and City Hall in separate ceremonies on Memorial Day.

The Memorial Day Observance will begin at noon on Monday, May 31 at the plaza at Civic Drive and North Broadway.

Scheduled to speak are Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, decorated World War II Army veteran Bob Tharratt, and plaza designer Cliff Garten (see picture, page 3).

The Walnut Creek Concert Band, under the direction of Harvey Benstein, will perform, as will the Song Sir singers. In addition, the Travis Air Force Base colorguard will participate in the dedication and provide a 21-gun salute.

Immediately following the Memorial Day festivities, City officials will dedicate the new City Hall/Police Department in a brief ceremony that will include the burial of a 50-year time capsule. The public will be allowed to tour the new and refurbished portions of civic center from 1 to 3 p.m.

City Council members and staff will be on hand to answer questions and give out free City pins to the first 300 visitors.

Memorial Day (May 31) Schedule

Noon	Veterans Memorial Plaza dedication
1 p.m.	City Hall/PD dedication
1-3 p.m.	Open house

City Event Calendar

May

8
Annual Creek Clean Up Day
(See article, this page)

1, 22
Movies Under the Stars
(See article, front page)

June

13
Flag Day Concert
6 p.m.
Civic Park, corner of Civic
Drive and No. Broadway
WC Concert Band
Admission free

City Meeting Calendar

City Council 
May 4, 18; June 1, 15
7 p.m.
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

Planning Commission
May 13, 27; June 10, 24
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Arts Commission
May 17, June 21
4:30 p.m.
Lesher Center for the Arts

**Transportation
Commission**
May 20, June 17
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Design Review Commission
May 5, 19; June 2, 16
7 p.m., City Council chamber

**Park, Rec & Open Space
Commission**
May 3, June 7
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.**

Modernist works at Bedford

Sixty American paintings from the postwar period, including works by Willem de Kooning and Franz Kline, are featured in the exhibition *The Most Difficult Journey: The Poindexter Collections of American Modernist Painting*, now through May 23 at the Bedford Gallery in the Dean Leshar Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr.

For exhibition details, go on-line at www.bedfordgallery.org.



**Willem de Kooning
Woman, 1948
(detail)**

Volunteers needed May 8 for annual Creek Clean Up

For the 15th year, volunteers can help remove a year's worth of debris from Walnut Creek's three downtown creeks during the annual Creek Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 8.

Volunteers should sign up by 9:30 a.m. at Civic Park, where they can also pick up plastic trash bags. A free barbecue lunch for all participants will follow the activity.

Be sure to wear old sneakers and gloves and plan to get wet.

This event is co-sponsored by the City and Friends of the Creek. For details, call Pam Romo at 939-8979.

What's Happening

Access Program, is a self-guided walking tour through five private gardens in Blackhawk. Tickets are \$35; reservations are strongly encouraged.

Shadelands Antiques Show set June 13
Over 100 dealers will be selling their antiques and collectibles at the popular Shadelands Antiques Show on Sunday, June 13, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road. The event benefits the Walnut Creek Historical Society. Admission is free. Call 925-935-7871 for details.

Sculpture show at Ruth Bancroft Garden
Internationally acclaimed sculptor Bruce Beasley will headline the 2004 Pacific Rim Sculpture show June 19-20 at the Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1500 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. both days. Admission is \$7; reservations are not required. For details, call 925-210-9663.

Miniature Horse Show at Heather Farm
The popular Miniature Horse Show returns to the Equestrian Center of Walnut Creek at the north end of Heather Farm Park on June 19-20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Call 925-939-2929.

Art & Wine Festival at Heather Farm
The 23rd annual Art & Wine Festival returns to Heather Farm Park June 5-6 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Music, arts and crafts booths, food and wine. Hosted by the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce. Admission is free. Call 925-934-2007.

Northgate High spring concert at DLRC
The Northgate High School Instrumental Music Spring Concert will be Monday, May 17, 7 p.m. at the Dean Leshar Regional Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$15, adults; \$5, students at the door.

Civic Arts Ed sale event June 24-27
Civic Arts Education will sponsor an art sale June 24-27 at Shadelands Art Center, 111 Wiget Lane. Sale items will include paintings, jewelry, furniture, and a large selection of hand-crafted ceramics. The sale will be Thursday, June 24, 5-9 p.m. (opening receptions); Friday, June 25, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, June 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, June 27, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For details, call 943-5846.

Young Rep's summer workshop
The City's Young Repertory Theatre Training Program, now in its 30th season, will be offering an intensive summer acting workshop for students ages 13 to 23. Classes will be June 21-Aug. 3 at the Dean Leshar Regional Center for the Arts. The morning workshop will offer classes in acting, voice, movement, directing, improvisation, and writing. For more information or to make an audition appointment, call 925-295-1400.

Walkabout Downtown WC on June 24
The Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association will hold its 6th Annual Walkabout Downtown Walnut Creek on Thursday, June 24, 4:30-8 p.m. Walkabout showcases unique stores, gourmet restaurants, specialty shops and service businesses throughout Downtown. Tickets are \$15 and will be available downtown after June 5. Call 933-6778 or go to www.WalnutCreekDowntown.com

Art in the Garden raffle for DRAA
The Diablo Regional Arts Association will hold its Art in the Garden Raffle on May 7. The prize is a \$1,000 Shop Till You Drop Spree provided by Broadway Plaza. Tickets are \$20 each or 3 for \$50 and can be purchased by calling 925-932-1731. The winner need not be present. Art in the Garden, a unique garden tour benefiting the DRAA Arts

Skate park design approved; work to begin this summer

Construction of the new skate park at Heather Farm Park is expected to begin this summer following the final design approval by the Design Review Commission on March 3.

The 14,000-square-foot facility, which will be built across from Clarke Swim



Center at the corner of Heather and Marchbanks drives, is scheduled to be finished before the end of the year.

Designed by renowned skate park creators Purkis-Rose/RSI of Fullerton, the concrete skate area will feature elements for street skaters and vertical skaters, including rails, spines, bowls, and a pool featuring actual pool coping and tile.

To see the final design, go online to www.walnut-creek.org.

Following is an update on other projects in Walnut Creek:

Ygnacio Valley branch library

Major interior renovations at the Thurman G. Casey (Ygnacio Valley)



Veterans Memorial Plaza takes root

Workers place one of 90 birch trees in the new Veterans Memorial Plaza, designed by Cliff Garten (right). The plaza, located next to City Hall at the corner of Civic Drive and North Broadway, will be dedicated on May 31 (for details, see story on front page).

branch library will require its closure for three weeks in June, following the end of school for summer. The refurbishment will include seismic reinforcement, interior remodeling, and wiring for computers.

EBMUD pipeline project

The installation of a new underground

water transmission pipeline through Walnut Creek is now expected to be completed this October, according to East Bay Municipal Utility District officials. The project, which included tunneling from Newell Avenue northward to the Civic Park ballfield, has been underway since early 2003.

Center Rep offers potpourri in 2004-05 season

From Tennessee Williams to Steve Martin, there's something for everybody during the 2004-05 Center Repertory Company season at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts.

Center Rep, the City of Walnut Creek's own theater company, will present five new productions as well as the perennial Charles Dickens classic, *A Christmas Carol*. For tickets, call 943-SHOW.

The following shows are scheduled:

- *I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It on the Road*. Sept. 9 – Oct. 9, 2004. Book and lyrics by Gretchen Cryer; music by Nancy Ford. In this hit musical, soap star and pop singer Heather Jones is fed up. Divorced and pushing 40, she takes the reins of her new act, struggling against her manager to sing out in a new voice.

- *Summer and Smoke*, Oct. 21 – Nov. 20, 2004. Play by Tennessee Williams; directed by Lee Sankowich. The stage crackles with this tale of the clashing

desires of Alma and John, who burn for each other with heat as strong as the Mississippi summer.

- *A Christmas Carol*, Dec. 9 – 19, 2004. By Charles Dickens; directed by Scott Denison. Hailed by critics as "*The Christmas Carol* to see in the Bay Area."

- *Noël & Gertie*, Feb. 3 – Mar. 5, 2005. By Sheridan Morley; words and music by Noël Coward. In Coward's own witty lyrics, this dazzling musical revue traces his 40-year friendship with Gertrude

Lawrence.

- *Becoming Memories*, Mar. 24 – Apr. 23, 2005. By Arthur Giron; created in collaboration with Illusion Theatre Ensemble and directed by Lee Sankowich. A compelling and imaginative story that reminds us all of the strong foundations of familial love.

- *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, May 19 – June 18, 2005. Playwright Steve Martin's zany farce on a meeting between Pablo Picasso and Albert Einstein.

More What's Happening

Garden Faire event on May 2

The Gardens at Heather Farm will hold its annual Garden Faire on Sunday, May 2, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 1540 Marchbanks Dr. Activities will include Maypole dancers, fames, exhibits, gardener's market, and plant sale. For details, call 925-947-1678 or go on-line to www.gardenshf.org.

Human Race at Heather Farm Park

The public is invited to participate in The Human Race on Saturday, May 8, 8 a.m. to noon at Heather Farm Park. This event, which benefits 75 non-profit agencies, is sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Contra Costa. One- and three-mile courses are available. Call 925-472-5760.

Celebrating WC's open space heritage

Thirty years ago, local voters grabbed a fleeting opportunity to embrace their natural open space, Walnut Creek's final frontier. It was a defining moment for the City as property owners overwhelmingly agreed to put their money where their hearts were and tax themselves to buy up the precious acreage surrounding their booming community and preserve it for future generations to enjoy.

It began, naturally enough, with a resident rebellion in 1972 over a City Council-approved, 500-home subdivision on 175 acres of Shell Ridge. A voter referendum subsequently overturned that project, and at the urging of Councilman Bob Schroder, a campaign was started to put a bond measure on the June 4, 1974 ballot. By the required two-thirds majority, Walnut Creek voters agreed to pony up \$6.75 million through their property taxes to acquire 1,800 acres of undeveloped hillsides, ridgelines, and park sites.

"It was the largest bond for buying open space in California," recalled Audrey Bramhall, chair of the 17-person Citizens Action Committee that put the bond on the



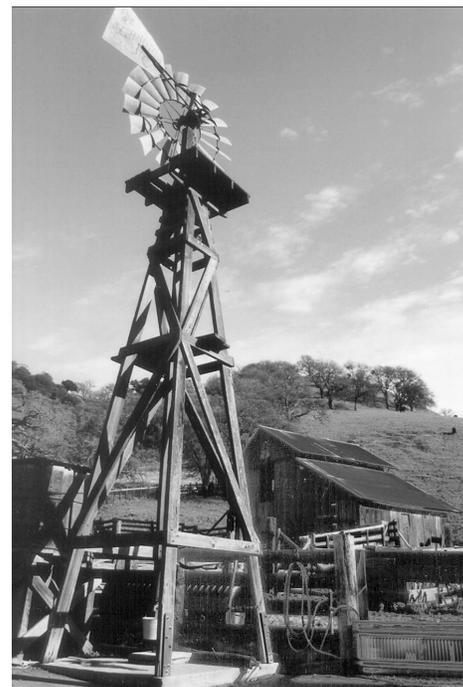
Supervising Open Space Ranger Tracey Walker overlooks Lime Ridge Open Space. At right, the circa 1901 water tower and barn at the Borges Ranch in Shell Ridge Open Space.

ballot. "There were a lot of people who were interested in seeing an identity for Walnut Creek."

Gary Ginder, another leader of the campaign, said the open space bond measure was a visionary moment.

"The proof that we were right is established by the importance and use of the open space today," he said.

The Contra Costa County Service Area R-8 was established in March 1974 to



implement Walnut Creek's open space, park, trail, and conservation plan. The R-8 district was dissolved in June 1983 as an unnecessary layer of government, but every two years the City continues to collect \$500,000 in funds collected by the county for open space maintenance and operations.

Over the years, the City Council has added considerably to its open space inventory, including a \$6 million purchase of 221 acres in the Lime Ridge territory in 1993. Today, Walnut Creek owns 2,704 acres of publicly-owned open space.

The 1974 bond campaign leaders credit much of the success of Walnut Creek's open space program to two individuals: the late Bob Pond, who was hired by the City to assemble the various parcels in Shell Ridge, Sugarloaf, Lime Ridge and Acalanes Ridge; and Ron White, the City's first open space ranger, whose 26 years of service and folksy demeanor put an important public relations face on the new frontier.

"What they contributed was incredible," said Bramhall.

Three decades later, everyone agrees that the open space bond election was a golden moment for Walnut Creek.

"I think it was a signature for what Walnut Creek is," said Bramhall, "and it defined Walnut Creek."

"From the perspective of the last 30 years, I can't think of anything that even comes close to it," noted Ginder.

Added campaign co-leader JoAnn Hanna: "I still thank God for it every day."

WC's open space at a glance:

Acalanes Ridge Open Space:

179 acres

Open sunrise to dusk

Entrance: Sousa Drive, Camino Verde Circle

Shell Ridge Open Space/Borges Ranch

1,460 acres

Open sunrise to dusk

Entrance: 1035 Castle Rock Road

Lime Ridge Open Space

980 acres

Open sunrise to dusk

Entrance: End of Valley Vista Road

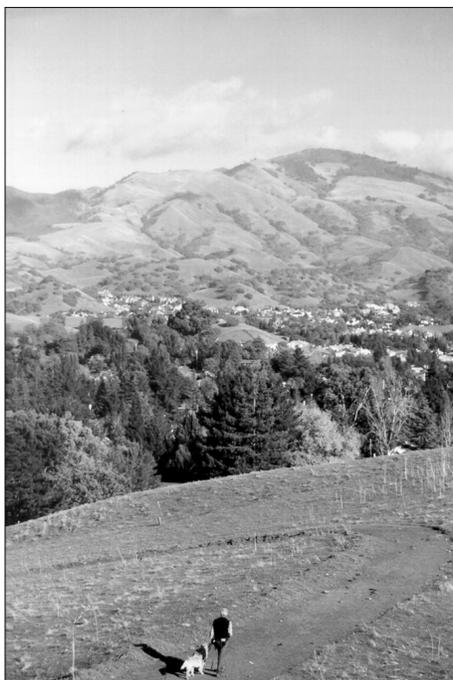
Sugarloaf Open Space

177 acres

Open sunrise to dusk

Entrance: Youngs Valley Road, off Rudgear Road

Information/trail maps: 925-930-7731



A hiker and his dogs traverse a trail in the Sugarloaf Open Space Area.

MAKING IT AFFORDABLE

How inclusionary zoning will bring more affordable housing to pricey Walnut Creek

Creating affordable housing is a formidable challenge in Walnut Creek, where home prices have skyrocketed and the housing stock is fairly small.

But affordable housing — and more of it — is the goal of a new City ordinance that requires developers of housing projects to earmark a certain number of lower-priced or lower-rent units within the development.

It's a concept called inclusionary zoning, and the City Council in March adopted new rules that it hopes will get Walnut Creek to its lofty affordable housing goals quicker.

Basically, inclusionary zoning requires that a certain percentage of the units in any new housing development are reserved for buyers or renters who meet certain low income requirements. For example, if a

project is proposed to have 100 condominiums, the developer must provide a certain number of affordable units. But the developer has options:

Ownership projects, may provide 10 percent affordable units to moderate-income buyers, or 6 percent to low-income, or 4.5 percent to very low-income. Rental projects may provide 10 percent of its units to low-income or 6 percent to very low-income.

Walnut Creek Housing Manager Laura Simpson believes the new ordinance will create an average of about eight new affordable units each year.

The State has mandated that Walnut Creek create 750 affordable housing units by 2007.

The City is at 25 percent of the goal. But



The recently-approved Windsor Apartments project will include 13 affordable units under the new ordinance.

with the new ordinance, it can attain 65 percent of the goal, said Simpson.

Already in the mix are three recently-approved housing projects that will create 17 new affordable units.

The ordinance gives developers the option of paying an in-lieu fee instead of including affordable units in their projects.

“We will end up with . . . an average of \$200,000 a year in in-lieu fees,” Simpson estimated.

The bottom line, she said, is that around 15 families will benefit from the new ordinance each year.

“Over time it will start to make an impact on how many affordable units we get,” she said.

WC's Volunteer Center: Helping seniors in need

Reva Glich's 300-watt smile was all the reward 19-year-old volunteer Chris Styles needed as he installed a new electric radiator heater in her Casa Montego apartment in Walnut Creek in March.

Volunteering can be done at any age, and Chris is something of a living legend to the staff at the Volunteer Center of Contra Costa — he was recently honored with a President's Volunteer Service Award for his

4,000 (!) hours of volunteering since he was 11 years old.

The Volunteer Center, a non-profit agency based in Walnut Creek, has been using Chris's services a lot lately in its “Home Safety for Seniors” program. The City of Walnut Creek provided \$3,125 this year to the popular service, which paid for a variety of safety items for 20 households.

Tracy Murray, executive director of the Volunteer Center, said the Home Safety program has benefitted 100 senior citizens in central and eastern Contra Costa County since it was launched on July 1, 2003.

“We have a pretty far reach for such a small office,” said Murray, whose paid staff of two and a volunteer registered nearly 4,000 volunteers in 2003.

“We work with 200 organizations throughout the county,” said Murray, who is also a member of the City's Park, Recreation & Open Space Commission. “There are 700 volunteer opportunities on any



Volunteer Chris Styles, 19, installs an electric radiator heater for Casa Montego resident Reva Glich.

given day.”

Lauren Rau, 22, a Volunteer Center staffer, was an original volunteer in the Home Safety program and checked homes for faulty furnaces and bad light bulbs last year. She finds the experience of helping others to be a “kind of high.”

“Sometimes I think I get a better feeling than the people I'm helping,” she said.

To learn more about the Volunteer Center and the wide variety of volunteer opportunities available, call 925-472-5771.



Volunteer Center staff (from left): Lauren Rau, Betty Flaherty, Joan Tomasini, Executive Director Tracy Murray

City Council Update

Council OKs new shingle sign rules

New zoning rules that encourage businesses to put up decorative “shingle” signs were approved by the City Council on March 16.

Shingle signs, which have become popular in shopping districts in Carmel and Santa Barbara, are suspended from an overhang, canopy, awning or wall to allow pedestrians to more easily find shops and restaurants while walking down sidewalks.

Outgoing commissioners honored

The City Council on March 2 honored the following residents for their service on City commissions: **Jean Parker** (2001-04), Transportation Commission; **Frank Bryant** (1996-2004) and **James Daisa** (2000-04), Planning Commission; **Stephen Harriman** (1997-2004), Design Review Commission; and **William Hunt** (1998-2004), **Robert Simmons** (2000-04), and **Ken Halbrecht** (2001-04), Park, Recreation & Open Space Commission.

The Council also appointed seven new commissioners: **Robert Brittain**, **Ed Montgomery**, and **Richard Underwood**, Park, Recreation & Open Space Commission; **David Powell**, Transportation Commission; **Joseph Gorny**, Design Review Commission; and **Cindy Silva** and **Robert Simmons**, Planning Commission.

Budget hearing scheduled June 15

The City Council is scheduled to adopt its 2004-06 Operating Budget and 2004-06 Capital Improvement Program Budget on Tuesday, June 15. The meeting is at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 1666 No. Main Street.

City continues talks with Comcast for new franchise

City officials frustrated with the lack of progress in their negotiations for a new franchise agreement with Comcast Broadband are hopeful that a deal can be made later this year.

Negotiations began more than three years ago on a franchise renewal for Comcast, which bought AT&T Broadband during the process. The franchise agreement expired in February 2001.

Comcast may only upgrade its system if it enters into a new franchise agreement, including such terms as customer service, community access, and construction



Among the nearly 40 participants at the General Plan public workshop on March 27 at Civic Park Community Center including Planning Manager Sandi Meyer (standing at left), and (seated from left) Walnut Creek residents Melissa Ayres, Gary Ginder and Connie Einstadter.

Residents weigh in on traffic, growth issues at latest General Plan workshops

More than 100 residents participated in the latest round of public workshops to help guide the crafting of a new General Plan for the next 25 years.

At separate sessions on March 27 and 31, residents weighed in on the hot button topics of traffic, growth, and downtown development.

Ideas generated during the discussions included:

- Providing more housing above quality retail shops
- Preserving view corridors
- Making parking garages more user-friendly with better lighting and signage
- Beautifying the streetscape and building facades at the west end of Mt. Diablo

mitigation requirements.

The negotiations with Comcast also involve six other central Contra Costa County cities as well as the county. Rossmoor in Walnut Creek is not affected.

Astound Broadband, which also provides cable, Internet, and telephony services in Walnut Creek, agreed to terms in 1999 that include funding a public/educational/government (PEG) channel so the public, schools, and local governments can have access to local cable TV channels.

“The City has offered the same terms to Comcast that Astound agreed to,” said



Boulevard.

The feedback will assist City planners and consultants in putting together a General Plan to replace the one that has been in effect since 1989.

More public workshops are planned later this year. For details, watch future issues of the *Nutshell* or go online to the City’s website at www.walnut-creek.org.

Senior Assistant City Attorney Paul Valle-Riestra, “but Comcast has refused, insisting on more favorable terms.”

Comcast upgraded its systems in surrounding cities before their respective franchise renewals had expired.

This summer the City Council is expected to require Comcast to make a proposal that meets the community’s needs, said Valle-Riestra.

“We’re still hopeful we can negotiate a deal within the next few months,” he said. “Negotiations have taken far too long and we want to see an upgrade.”



By Officer Mike Adams

Effects of impaired driving

A recent National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) study indicates that one in three Americans will be affected by impaired driving during their lifetimes. Alcohol-related motor collisions kill someone every 30 minutes and injure someone every two minutes. During 2002 17,419 people were killed in alcohol related motor vehicle collisions, representing 41 percent of all traffic fatalities. In 2001, 1.4 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of drugs and or alcohol.



If one in three people is affected, that would leave a high probability that either yourself or someone close to you has been or will be affected. You may be affected by a tragedy such as a death or serious injury of a loved one or an arrest for driving under the influence. Either way the results can be devastating to you and your family.

Some effective measures to prevent alcohol-related injury and fatal collisions include promptly suspending the drivers license of persons arrested for DUI, zero tolerance laws for drivers under 21, sobriety checkpoints, mandatory substance abuse classes, and community-based education programs.

The Walnut Creek Police Department participates in programs such as D.A.R.E. in our grade schools, drug and alcohol awareness in the middle schools, and *Every 15 Minutes* in our high schools. The WCPD also will establish sobriety checkpoints with the *Avoid the 25* and "You Drink and Drive, You Lose" grant programs.

You can help make our streets safe by doing something as simple as making smart choices when you drive. If you choose to drink, drink responsibly and use a designated driver. If we all do a little, we can accomplish a lot to reduce the chances we will be affected by impaired driving.



Teens flock to City's job fair

Recreation Program Specialist Karen Heaston, right, speaks to one of the 300 Walnut Creek teens who attended the City's annual Teen Job Fair on March 4 at Civic Park Community Center to learn about summer employment opportunities with the City. For more information on the 2004 Summer Intern Program for students ages 16 to 19, go online to <http://www.realwc.org/2004Internships/2004InternInfo.htm>. May 3 is the sign-up deadline.

City Council to hold public hearing on doling out nearly \$500,000 in grants

The City Council will hold a public hearing May 4 to consider disbursing \$496,000 in federal and City grant funds for housing programs and assist local non-profit agencies provide community services.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 1666 No. Main St. The meeting will be televised live on Comcast Channel 6 and Astound Channel 29.

The City proposes to earmark \$396,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds for a variety of uses, primarily

for creating more affordable housing opportunities.

The City will supplement those disbursements with \$100,000 in General Fund monies in the form of Community Service Grants, which are earmarked primarily for public services for lower income Walnut Creek residents provided by non-profit agencies.

Interested persons may also submit written comments by e-mail to simpson@walnut-creek.org no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4.

Bike to Work Day is coming

By Michael Vecchio

Thursday, May 20th. Write that day on your calendar, for it's the annual statewide Bike to Work Day event. We're shooting for over 100,000 participants in the Bay Area this year so get your bikes ready and find a healthy alternative to the automobile. One good way to feel more comfortable participating is to ride your bike to work on a weekend as a trial run to see how the muscles feel and to choose the

best route. Or stop by your local bike shop and ask for advice. Our City has a fantastic paved trail system that may help you get to where you want to go – for a



citywide bike map, call 925-256-3529. For more information on Bike to Work Day events and prizes, go to <http://bicycling.511.org/>.

City staff will be hosting an Energizer Station in Walnut Creek so look for us on Thursday morning, May 20th.



Scaling new heights at Heather Farm

Children are exercising new muscles as they scale the new climbing wall that opened at Heather Farm Park in January along with other new playground equipment.

City now offering on-line sign-ups for rec, arts classes

Signing up for any of a number of City-offered recreation and arts classes is as simple as a mouse click with the new EZReg on-line sign-up system that was launched in February.



EZReg is the easy way to register on-line for classes 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To sign up for recreation classes, go to www.walnut-creek.org/leisure/ezreg.html. For arts classes, go to www.arts-ed.org/

Persons who prefer not to register on-line may also do so in person or by phone.

Movies

From front page

Come at least one hour early to reserve a lawn spot. Popcorn and beverages will be available for purchase. Low lawn chairs will be allowed in designated areas only.

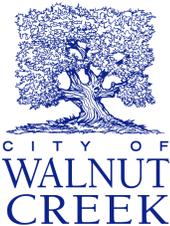
An average of 2,000 people attended each of the three "Movies Under the Stars" features in 2003: "Shrek," "Toy Story 2," and "E.T. The Extraterrestrial."

"In general, the success of the 2003 series exceeded everyone's expectation," said Todd Trimble, Senior Recreation Supervisor.

The series was created last year after it was suggested by Neil Gerstner, a member of the City's Park, Recreation & Open Space Commission.

The G-rated family movies are provided free through the contributions of numerous local sponsors. Donations are, however, gladly accepted and appreciated.

For more information or to learn how businesses can be a sponsor of "Movies Under the Stars," contact Trimble at 925-943-5899, ext. 420.



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
(Vacant)
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

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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.

Go on-line at www.walnut-creek.org



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