



IN A

Nutshell

No. 114

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004



New fountains grace Heather Farm Park

Walkers and bicyclists now enjoy the beauty of new water fountains installed earlier this spring in the duck pond adjacent to the community center at Heather Farm Park.

Older adults want library, parking, transit

As Walnut Creek braces itself for the so-called “silver tsunami” — the unprecedented growth in the number of older residents that is expected in the next 20 years as baby boomers reach retirement age — it is seeking to better meet the various recreation and social services needs of its senior citizens, which may include a new downtown library and more parking and transportation options.

In a new survey of 1,700 seniors commissioned by the City, 94 percent rated their quality of life as “good” or better. The results reaffirm the City’s goals, which include enriching the lives of seniors in the community by encouraging them to stay healthy and participate in

OLDER ADULTS’ NEEDS, see page 4

City clerk status to be decided by WC voters in November

Walnut Creek voters will get to decide in November whether the city clerk should be an appointed position.

The City Council decided on July 6 to place the issue on the Nov. 2 ballot.

The city clerk’s duties, as defined in State law, includes records management, municipal elections, and as the filing officer for campaign reports and statements of economic interest. If voters decide the position should be appointive, the clerk’s duties would not change.

In Walnut Creek’s 90-year history, the city clerk position has been an elective post held by 10 individuals. Cathleen McKay was appointed in May to complete Barbara Rivara’s unexpired term.

City Council takes next step to speed up Comcast negotiations

In an effort to jump start stalled negotiations over a new cable TV franchise agreement, the City Council in July agreed to ask Comcast Cable to submit a formal proposal to provide cable and high speed Internet services in Walnut Creek.

The action is intended to hasten a final resolution with Comcast, which provides cable TV service to a majority of Walnut Creek residents.

City staff have been in informal negotiations with Comcast and its predecessor, AT&T Cable, since the company’s previous 15-year franchise agreements expired in 2001 and 2003. Comcast has requested that the City renew the cable franchises, but has balked at agreeing to

the same terms to which Seren Innovations agreed in September 1999 when it was granted a competing franchise under the Astound Broadband name.

Seren’s franchise required the company to meet upgraded technical standards and to provide channels and funding for public, educational, and government access programming. State law requires the City to include the same requirements in any new franchise granted to Comcast.

Walnut Creek has been working on the renewal process with the County and the cities of Concord, Clayton, Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Danville, and Moraga. This consortium has expressed frustration over

COMCAST, see back page

City Event Calendar

September

6

Labor Day concert
6 p.m., Civic Park
City offices will be closed

10, 11, 12
Fine Arts Sidewalk Festival
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
North Main, Locust and
Cypress streets

October

23-24
Harvest Holidays downtown
(See *What's Happening*)

City Meeting Calendar

City Council 
Sept. 21; Oct. 5, 19
7 p.m.
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

Planning Commission
Sept. 9, 23; Oct. 14, 18
7 p.m.
City Council chamber

Arts Commission
Sept. 20, Oct. 18
4:30 p.m.
Lesher Center for the Arts

**Transportation
Commission**
Sept. 16, Oct. 21
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Design Review Commission
Sept. 1; Oct. 6, 20
7 p.m., City Council chamber

**Park, Rec & Open Space
Commission**
Sept. 13, Oct. 4
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.

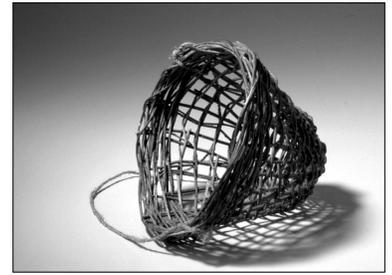
Tribal baskets weave artful reactions in Bedford exhibit

The *Past in Present Tense: Four Decades of Baskets* by Julia Parker is a rich exhibition highlighting the masterful work and cultural legacy of the renowned Native American basket weaver at Bedford Gallery Aug. 31 to Oct. 31.

Combining various tribal traditions, including those of the Kashaya Pomo and Coast Miwok tribes, Parker creates baskets using a unique hybrid of weaving techniques. Her work is included in the permanent collections of the National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. and in California at the Yosemite Museum.

A reception for the artist will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 5-7 p.m. and is free to the public.

Acorn
Gathering,
c. 1998
Basket of
willow,
dogbane
Collection of
Deborah
Valoma



Bedford Gallery is located in the Dean Leshler Regional Center for the Arts at 1601 Civic Dr. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 6-8 p.m. and other evenings when there are theater performance in the Regional Center.

Call 925/295-1417 for information about specific evenings.

What's Happening

Labor Day concert at Civic Park

Enjoy free summer sounds at the City's Labor Day Concert on Monday, Sept. 6, 6 p.m. in Civic Park. The Walnut Creek Concert Band will perform under the direction of Harvey Benstein.

Movies Under the Stars: 'Wizard of Oz'

The City's popular "Movies Under the Stars" series at Heather Farm Park will continue with a rescheduled showing of MGM's 1939 classic, *The Wizard of Oz*, on Saturday, Sept. 11 and the 2003 film version of *Peter Pan* on Saturday, Sept. 18. Admission is free. The movies will be shown on the front ballfield at 8:30 p.m.; gates open at 7:30 p.m. Popcorn and beverages will be for sale.

Harvest Holidays returns to downtown

The Downtown Business Association will hold its 5th Annual Harvest Holidays in downtown Walnut Creek the weekend of Oct. 23-24, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., on Locust Street between Civic Drive and Mt. Diablo Boulevard. This free event will feature fun festivities for the entire family with live music, holiday arts and craft booths, children's activities, food provided by downtown restaurants, brews and wine, and an Oktoberfest area.

Shadelands Antiques Show on Sept. 11

The fall edition of the Shadelands Antiques Show will be Saturday, Sept. 11, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Admission is free. More than 100 dealers are expected. Parking is available off North Via Monte. Call 935-7871 for information.

Gardens at HF Fall Plant Sale Oct. 2

The Gardens at Heather Farm fall plant sale will

be held Saturday, Oct. 2, 9 a.m. to noon at 600 No. Carlos Drive. Members—including those who join on the spot—are invited to the members-only sale (for best selection) on Oct. 1, 5 to 7 p.m. Call 947-1678 or visit www.gardenshf.org.

Home composting workshops this fall

Free "Home Composting for Busy People" workshops will be offered Sept. 7 and Oct. 5, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr. Registration is required; call 906-1806.

Buy a tribute bench, tree at Boundary Oak

City-approved memorial benches or trees at Boundary Oak Golf Course may now be purchased as a tribute to a loved one. A brass name plaque can be installed with the bench or tree. For details, contact Wes Allnut at 943-5899, ext. 426.

Leadership Contra Costa

Leadership Contra Costa, an eight-month program designed to motivate and identify potential leaders and prepare them for community leadership, is accepting applications for enrollment in the 2004-05 session. Participants meet monthly to learn prevailing issues in the community. For details and an application, call Marcie Hochhauser at the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce at 934-2007.

WC librarian to retire

Senior Librarian Ann Shelton, who has overseen the Ygnacio Valley and downtown branch libraries in Walnut Creek since 1993, will retire Sept. 30 after 24 years with the Contra Costa County Library system.



Ann Shelton

YV library upgrade finished; Main St. work continues

A thoroughly refurbished Ygnacio Valley branch library reopened to the public on July 19 after four weeks of renovation that was financed with donations to the Walnut Creek Library Foundation.

The facility, which opened in 1975 as the Thurman G. Casey Memorial Library, is located at 2661 Oak Grove Rd.

The fundraising campaign raised \$165,000 (including a \$20,000 pledge from the Friends of the Ygnacio Valley Library) to pay for seismic reinforcement, interior remodeling (including new carpeting and chair upholstery), and wiring for computers.

"It exceeded all my expectations," said Senior Librarian Ann Shelton.

"We have these very functional things — like more space for children's books and programs — and we created more separate spaces for different uses for teens, preschoolers, and adults."

Following is an update on other projects in Walnut Creek:

North Main streetscape

Work is on-going to make several street

Time to sign up for fall City Bus Tour scheduled Oct. 23

Learn about Walnut Creek the easy way and leave the driving to us. Join Public Information Officer Brad Rovanpera on the fall City Bus Tour scheduled Saturday, Oct. 23.

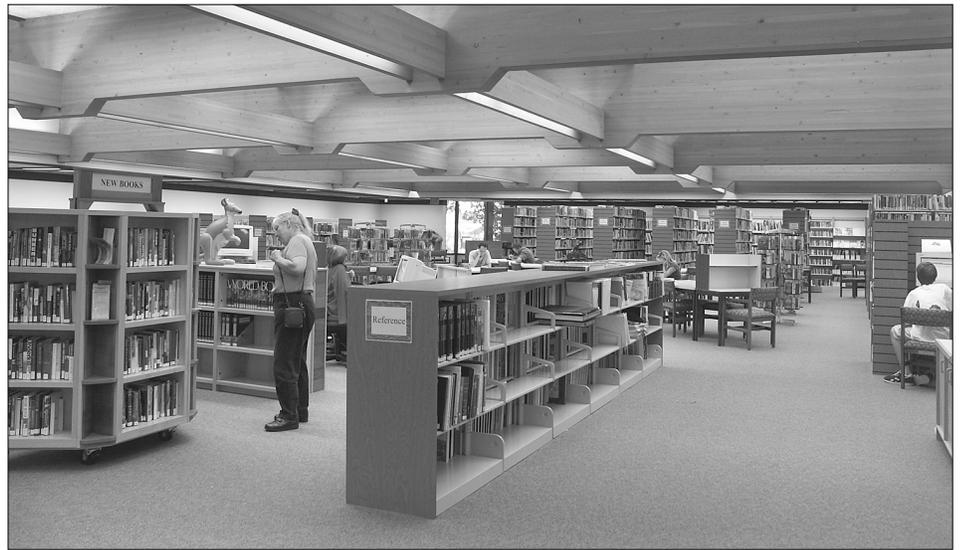
This 3½-hour morning excursion will include stops at Borges Ranch, the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, the Gardens at Heather Farm, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, the Diablo Valley Lines Model Railroad, and the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts.

First-come, first-served tickets are \$10 per person and must be reserved in advance by phone by calling 256-3505. Seating is limited to 23.



improvements on North Main Street between Civic Drive and Ygnacio Valley Road as part of the City's plans to beautify the stretch and to make it more pedestrian friendly.

The improvements include widening sidewalks, undergrounding utility lines, new street lighting. All street work is scheduled to be finished by Thanksgiving.



The newly renovated interior of the Ygnacio Valley branch library on Oak Grove Road

Skate park

The City Council voted Aug. 3 to award a \$639,500 contract to AJ Vasconi to build the new skate park in Heather Farm Park.

The 12,250-square-foot, concrete skate park will be built at the southeast corner of Marchbanks Drive and Heather Drive and include a drop-off zone and entry plaza.

Construction is to begin in spring 2005 and be completed by next summer.

Change of scenery, free admission awaits visitors to the Walnut Festival

King Walnut has some big changes in store for visitors to his 67th Walnut Festival this year. After 28 years of being anchored at the north end ballfields at Heather Farm Park, the venerable community fundraising event will move its popular carnival to the front parking lot for its four-day run beginning Sept. 23.

The Walnut Festival Association will also offer free admission to everyone for the first time, although there will still be charges for rides and live entertainment.

Paid parking will be available at the rear of the park and free parking will be at off-site areas that offer shuttle service.

Festival hours will be Thursday, Sept. 23, 5-10 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 24, 5-midnight; Saturday, Sept. 25, 11 a.m.-midnight; Sunday, Sept. 26, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Big name entertainment will also be featured as rocker Eddie Money will perform his hits Sept. 24 at 9 p.m. On Sept. 25, Jorge Santana will take center stage at 9 p.m. Admission to both shows is

\$10. For tickets call 935-6766.

Walnut Festival activities will actually kick off on Sunday, Sept. 12 with the 60th annual 5k/10k Run/Walk for families, co-sponsored by the Walnut Creek Lions Club.

Registration begins at 7 a.m. at Clarke Swim Center in Heather Farm Park. Entry fee is \$25. To register, call 935-6766 or go online at www.active.com.

The perennial **Walnut Festival Twilight Parade** will be on Saturday, Sept. 18 beginning at 6:15 p.m. on North Main Street between Olympic Boulevard and Bonanza Street. This year's theme is a celebration of children's animated characters.

Fest helpers still needed

The Walnut Festival Association is still seeking volunteers to assist at the run, parade and festival. For information, visit www.walnutfestival.org or call the association at 935-6766.



Volunteers for Art

Band of helpers make Bedford Gallery tick

There's one volunteer opportunity in Walnut Creek that is a feast for the eyes as well as the soul: leading tours and assisting the public at the City's Bedford Gallery.

Nestled on the ground floor of the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, the Bedford has offered some of the most intriguing and stunning art exhibitions in the Bay Area since its opening in October 1990. More than 50,000 visitors a year visit the acclaimed gallery, where the staff annually organizes and presents five varied and informative exhibitions that feature the highest quality of works by modern and contemporary artists.

But what really makes the Bedford tick is its band of dedicated volunteers who each year devote thousands of hours to making the Gallery experience something special for young and old alike.

The 59-member Bedford Gallery Docents annually donate over 3,500 hours to lead more than 110 tours for over 2,800



Bedford Gallery docent Pat Hines leads a tour of 'Conceptual Contraptions' in 2002.

people, most of whom are children.

"Children approach art in a totally open way," said Jane Emanuel, a four-year veteran of the Gallery Docents and current president. "Their engaging responses teach me more than I teach them."

Another volunteer group, the 54-member Bedford Gallery Guild, provides vital staff support at the front desk, answering phone calls and assisting the walk-in public. In 2002-03, Guild members contributed 3,000 hours to the City.

Docents receive special training in art history and effective touring techniques. Tours are by appointment and most are

Volunteer recruitment

When: Monday, Sept. 27

Time: 10 a.m. to noon

Where: Bedford Gallery

**Info: 925/295-1423 or visit
www.bedfordgallery.org**

scheduled weekday mornings.

Guild members work weekday afternoons and some evenings greeting visitors, providing information, and monitoring activities in the Gallery. They also host gallery receptions.

For more information, call 295-1423.

Older adults' needs

From front page

civic and community activities.

It was also found that Walnut Creek's social services will need to be expanded and re-calibrated to suit the "older-old" (age 75 and up) and the "younger-old" (age 55-74).

Further, the National Research Center of Boulder, CO, is recommending that Walnut Creek improve parking and transit options to better accommodate the needs of its older residents.

The findings are based on interviews, focus groups, and surveys mailed to households with residents age 60 or older. The results indicate that by 2020 the older adult population (65 and older) in Walnut Creek is expected to grow by nearly 50 percent as baby boomers continue to retire, creating "significant new pressure" on recreation services.

The study's findings identified the

following issues and opportunities:

- **Renovating and increasing the use of the Civic Park Community Center and centralizing services** —

The study recommends concentrating services for older residents in the downtown area. This might be achieved by building a new downtown library next to the Civic Park Community Center, which might also be renovated and expanded to better serve residents. Also, centralizing services would provide more opportunities for those reluctant to participate in "seniors only" programs.

- **Parking and transportation** —

Almost two-thirds of the survey respondents reported having difficulty parking in Walnut Creek. It's recommended the City add new parking spaces downtown and reserve spaces within existing facilities for older adults, improve signage and marketing of parking availability, increase parking at the Civic Park Community Center, and expand public transportation.

- **Programs and services** — The City should work to expand programming to target the "younger-old," and to expand fitness offerings.

- **Social & community services** — There is a need for services to help meet the caregiving needs of older adults, and the City should increase awareness and plan with other agencies for the social and community service needs of older adults, particularly in the areas of caregiving, affordable housing, and home care.

- **Funding services** — The City should evaluate its fees so public subsidy of the programs is no more than 50 percent.

- **Marketing & publicity** — The City needs to increase public awareness of programs and services offered to older adults and develop a marketing strategy to target various segments of the population.

- **Collaboration with other adult service providers** — The City should continue to foster partnerships to provide services to older adults.

A CITY IS BORN

How Walnut Creek paved its way 90 years ago to become a city

In the beginning, it was all about paving Main Street. It was all about merchants fearing their customers would take their business elsewhere during the rainy season when Main Street was more like Mud Street. It was all about home rule, and Walnut Creek's denizens wanting it now.

In the end, Walnut Creek fulfilled the first of its many manifest destinies on Oct. 21, 1914 after voters approved a measure to convert the hamlet from a country crossroads to a self-governed city.

The seed was planted by a group of merchants who had organized themselves in 1912 as the Business Men's Association of Walnut Creek. They set their sights on the ambitious goal of paving the dirt streets that crisscrossed in downtown Walnut Creek. Harry Spencer, a local lumberman and association president, launched the campaign to incorporate.

The group petitioned the County Board

of Supervisors on May 4, 1914 to allow Walnut Creek voters to decide their destiny. On Oct. 16, voters endorsed cityhood 127-67, making Walnut Creek the eighth city in Contra Costa County.

Spencer and four other men were elected to the first City Council (then called a Board of Trustees), which met for

the first time on Oct. 22 in the chambers of Judge George O. Duncan on Main Street.

Frustration over the seven-year delay in paving the streets sparked three disincorporation elections in 1916, 1919, and 1921. All failed, however, and the City's Board of Trustees finally approved the \$57,000 project to pave the streets in fall 1921.



The front page of the Oct. 20, 1914 edition of the Contra Costa Courier (above) announced election results that made Walnut Creek a city. At right, Main Street as a dusty roadway in 1913.



15 years later: Are you ready for the next one?

Fifteen years after the devastating Loma Prieta earthquake, Bay Area residents may well wonder when the next Big One will strike, and whether they're ready for it.

Certainly, the impact throughout the Bay Area on Oct. 17, 1989 is still being felt today as the public has had to endure the disappearance of entire freeways and the repair and retrofitting of other major roadways and bridges.

The painful reality is that it can and will happen again, just as it did in the San Simeon region last Dec. 22. That 6.5 earthquake killed two people, injured 40, collapsed 40 buildings and left 10,000 homes and businesses without power in the Paso Robles area.

The trouble is we can't know when. That's why it is imperative that residents in "Earthquake Country" be prepared to be on their own for at least 72 hours after a major quake as the City and other emer-



Oct. 17, 1989: Oakland's Cypress freeway collapsed in the Loma Prieta earthquake.

gency agencies do their best to respond to the catastrophe.

Emergency Preparedness Fair planned

Walnut Creek will hold an Emergency Preparedness Fair on Saturday, Oct. 23 to educate residents on how to get ready for natural and manmade disasters. The event will be from 1 to 4 p.m. at Parkmead Elementary School, 1920 Magnolia Way.

For details, call Gayle Melvin, 943-5899, ext. 189 or Kathy Woofter, Contra Costa Fire District, at 941-3594.

Survival Kit Checklist

The following items may be stored in a converted 32-gallon plastic waste can:

- ✓ Water: 2 quarts-1 gallon/person/day
- ✓ First aid kit — freshly stocked
- ✓ First aid book
- ✓ Food (packaged, canned, no-cook, baby food, special diets)
- ✓ Can opener (non-electric)
- ✓ Blankets or sleeping bags
- ✓ Portable radio, flashlight, batteries
- ✓ Essential medication and extra set of eyeglasses
- ✓ Fire extinguisher (A-B-C type)
- ✓ Food and water for pets
- ✓ Cash (ATMs may not be working)
- ✓ Toiletries (toilet paper, toothbrush)
- ✓ Large plastic trash bags for waste
- ✓ Change of clothing, sturdy shoes
- ✓ Tools (axe, shovel, broom, pliers, hammer, screwdriver, wrench)

City Council Update

Civic Pride Grants allocated

The City Council on July 6 made its annual allocation of Civic Pride Grant funding to nine community organizations.

A total of \$57,568 will be distributed in 2004-05 to the following: **Contra Costa Certified Farmers** for promotion activities, \$6,400; **Contra Costa County Library** for a website database training workshop, \$4,368; the **Downtown Business Association** for printing of a downtown Walnut Creek map, \$5,500; **Life Garden** for design and printing of creek guides, \$5,500; **Lindsay Wildlife Museum** for oral history exhibit and audiovisual equipment, \$8,800; **Volunteer Center of Contra Costa County** to develop and manage an agency fair, \$2,000; **Walnut Creek Aquanuts** for the Fall Swim Show, \$10,000; **Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce** for Internet security and safety information, \$10,000; **Walnut Creek Historical Society** for preservation of historical photos and maps, \$5,000.

New commissioner appointed

Architect Mark Lopez was officially sworn in Aug. 2 to complete Daphne Cothren's unfinished term on the Design Review Commission, which will expire in 2006. Lopez is a Walnut Creek resident.

City wants to know of returning troops from Middle East

The City Council wants to honor all Walnut Creek military personnel who have served a tour of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan or other area of conflict around the world.

The Council will present an official commendation to those residents who served their country as a member of the U.S. armed services.

If you know a returning veteran who should be recognized, please send an e-mail to manager@walnut-creek.org or call 943-5812, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please include the person's name, address, phone number, branch of service, and date he or she returned to the area.



Summer interns helped City

An army of 20 energetic local teens provided a variety of valuable services to the community as City summer interns from June 14 to Aug. 4. The interns, ages 16 to 19, not only earned a paycheck but learned about how the City is run and even provided feedback on the City's future through the General Plan update process. Above, interns (from left) Kevin Cather, 16, a Northgate High junior, and Roman Mikulinsky, 16, an Acalanes High junior, spent part of their summer clearing non-native shrubs from the Lime Ridge Open Space near Boundary Oak Golf Course. At left, Margeaux Pelusi, 17, a senior at College Park High, helped out in the Fine Arts Preschool at the Shadelands Arts Center.

Public invited to GP workshop Oct. 30

There will be more opportunities this fall for the public to share their views on a variety of land use concepts that will help guide the first major revision of the City's General Plan in 15 years.

A public workshop is scheduled Saturday, Oct. 30, 10 a.m. to noon at the Lakeside Room in Heather Farm Park.

The General Plan Steering Committee,



which has been meeting since June 2003 to craft a new Walnut Creek General Plan for the next 20 years, will ask the public to comment on proposals for areas where changes in land use or development regulations might be considered.

For further details about the workshop, check the City website at www.walnut-creek.org

Shadelands traffic diversion plan hits roadblock

Heavy opposition from residents in the Winton Drive-Stratton Road neighborhood prompted the General Plan Steering Committee on July 27 to reject consideration of any new roadways in that area from the Shadelands Business Park

and reiterate its commitment to discouraging cut-through traffic in residential neighborhoods.

At the meeting, 35 residents said they opposed any plan to divert business traffic through their area.



By Officer Mike Adams

Making Walnut Creek a safer place to drive

It's a sobering reality that statewide, motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of death for persons ages 4 to 34. Studies show that about 40 percent of those collisions involved alcohol. During the 1980s and early 1990s, there was a significant decrease in DUI (driving under the influence) related deaths. The year 2000 brought the first increase in DUI related fatalities since 1987. For 2002, DUI statistics indicate a 32 percent increase in DUI-related fatalities since 1998.



The Walnut Creek Police Department recently received a grant from the State of California Office of Traffic Safety to form a "DUI and Traffic Collision Reduction Safety Team." As a result, on Oct. 1 we will kick off a two-year campaign to reduce the number of fatal and injury collisions on City streets and make Walnut Creek a safer place to drive.

Over the next two years, a team of officers and supervisors will be out on the streets enforcing the State's traffic laws and providing education to community groups. Walnut Creek police will conduct sobriety checkpoints and high visibility DUI/Seatbelt saturation patrols to accomplish our goals.

We will continue efforts on a daily basis to reduce traffic collisions and arrest DUI drivers through daily enforcement patrol. Further, we will maintain existing programs such as the "Every 15 Minutes" events in our local high schools and spread the word on the dangers of drinking and driving.

The Walnut Creek Police Department is committed to making Walnut Creek a fun and safe place to live, dine and shop. We will do our share to enforce the laws and identify problems in an effort to keep our streets safe. We would like to extend the same opportunity to you as a member of this community to obey the traffic laws and remember not to drink and drive.



Walnut Creek police officer Greg Leonard carried the Special Olympics torch down Main Street on June 23, to kick off the annual sports event for disabled athletes held June 25-27 in Stockton. Walnut Creek hosted the East Bay softball event at Heather Farm Park on Aug. 21.

Carrying the torch for Special Olympics

City beefs up rules for false alarms

As more people choose to protect their homes and businesses with alarm systems, the number of false alarms has increased. This, in turn, has accounted for a staggering number of wasted police response hours every year.

It's estimated that Walnut Creek police officers respond to more than 3,000 false alarms a year, at a cost of over \$100,000 in taxpayer dollars. Further, false alarms unduly divert law enforcement from responding to criminal activity and other useful duties.

In response to this disturbing trend, the City Council in May agreed to beef up its

enforcement rules for security alarm systems to discourage false alarms.

The new False Alarm Ordinance (WC Municipal Code 3-9.00), which takes effect on Sept. 1, gives alarm system owners some new responsibilities and establishes mandatory user permits and fines for excessive numbers of false alarms. There is no fee for residents to obtain an alarm permit but businesses will be charged an annual permit fee of \$25.

For more information or for an alarm permit, residents and businesses within the City of Walnut Creek can contact the Alarm Administrator at 943-5885.

Use your head: Wear a helmet

By Emily Hopkins
WC Bicycle Advisory Committee

Often I see families with young children on our trails and bicycle paths. Most of the children wear helmets. In California, helmets are required for passengers under age five and for riders under 18.

Many times I notice the adults are not helmeted and I wonder: If the parent is injured, who cares for the child? Approximately two million people each year sustain a serious head injury; more than half a million are severe enough to require

hospitalization.

Airlines tell us to fasten our own oxygen masks first, and then attend to the child's. Although the law does not require adults to wear helmets, doesn't it make sense for all of us — especially parents — to take this simple but critical precaution any time we go for a bike ride?

Set the example for your child — to prevent head injuries, always wear your helmet!

(Editors note: Emily Hopkins's bicycle helmet saved her life in 1996.)



In Memoriam

Former WC city manager L.A. Kimball dies

Services were held July 19 for L.A. "Kim" Kimball, who served as Walnut Creek's second city manager from 1958 to 1964.

Kimball died July 11 from lung and liver cancer at his home in Los Angeles. He was 75.

Hired at the age of 28 to succeed Walnut Creek's first city manager, Ira Gunn, Kimball oversaw many major changes in the burgeoning community during its residential boom years.

Among the projects completed during his tenure were the Interstate 680-



L.A. 'Kim' Kimball
Served 1958-64

Highway 24 interchange in March 1960, the downtown library in March 1961, and Rossmoor Leisure World.

Kimball, who was born April 1, 1929 in Marysville, graduated from U.C. Berkeley at age 20. He was hired in 1956 as assistant city manager in Redwood City.

He came to Walnut Creek on March 1, 1958 and left on June 24, 1964 (succeeded by Ralph Snyder) to join BART as assistant general manager for 10 years.

Kimball had been retired since 1998.

Comcast

From front page

the lack of responsiveness from Comcast and its predecessors, according to Walnut Creek Senior Assistant City Attorney Paul Valle-Riestra.

In a report to the City Council on July 20, Valle-Riestra noted that the Comcast cable system is "antiquated" and lacking modern, state-of-the-art capacity.

Further, Valle-Riestra said that in a telephone survey, two-thirds of Walnut Creek subscribers believe it is "important"

or "very important" to have local cable channels that feature programs about local residents, organizations, events, schools, and government.

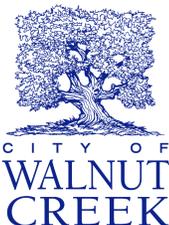
"The cable franchise renewal process will give the Council the opportunity to decide what, if any, community access operation it would like to see in this area," said Valle-Riestra in his report.

Comcast has until Oct. 5 to respond to the request for a proposal. Federal law allows the City four months to review it.



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	943-5834
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
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IN A Nutshell

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

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Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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