



IN A

Nutshell

No. 101

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

JULY/AUGUST 2002

Parness takes helm as WC's city manager

Michael W. Parness arrived at City Hall on June 24 to assume his new post as Walnut Creek's sixth city manager.



Michael Parness

Parness, who had been San Clemente's city manager since October 1989, succeeded Donald A. Blubaugh, who retired June 17 after 14 years in the post.

Parness was chosen in April from a field of 67 candidates for the

position.

In San Clemente, Parness oversaw a wide variety of municipal services, including police, fire, beaches, parks and recreation, water distribution, and sewage treatment.

He served in a city manager capacity from 1979 to 1989 as executive assistant to three directly elected mayors in the city of Renton, Washington. He earned a Master's degree in public administration from Cal State Hayward in 1978 and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Santa Clara in 1976.

Parness graduated from Granada High School in Livermore, where his father, Bill Parness, was city manager from 1957 to 1978.

"I'm excited about the opportunity and really looking forward to becoming a part of the community," said Parness. "Walnut Creek represents an ideal situation for me professionally. It's a city that's in good shape and it's well managed."

Parness and his wife, Deanna, have two sons, Danny, 7, and Robbie, 10.



Traffic going to and from nearby Northgate High School maneuvers through the roundabout at Oak Grove Road and Walnut Avenue.

New traffic roundabout near Northgate High gets tested

Motorists in the Northgate area are getting used to Walnut Creek's first "roundabout" and City transportation staff is monitoring its use through September to see if it is actually easing traffic congestion on Castle Rock Road.

The roundabout — a circular intersection at Walnut Avenue and Oak Grove Road — allows motorists to enter without having to stop, unless there is already a

vehicle in the roundabout.

The idea is to reduce the traffic back-up to and from Northgate High School in the morning and mid-afternoon.

After it was installed in early April, City staff reported initial confusion for motorists who didn't know how to use it.

In only a few weeks, however, the complaints eased along with the traffic

ROUNDBABOUT, see page 6

City seeks state funds to build new library

Following months of preparation, City officials in June filed an application with the state to secure voter-approved construction funding to build a new downtown public library.

The City is seeking approximately \$16 million in construction funds for the 40,000-square-foot facility to be built on

the site of the current, 9,300-square-foot library at 1644 North Broadway.

The City Council has already earmarked \$4 million towards the project.

The new library will be two levels, with a public plaza and a 370-space parking garage to be built on the site of the

LIBRARY, see back page

Visit the official City website at www.walnut-creek.org

City Event Calendar

July

4

1st annual Chili Cookoff
(See *What's Happening*)
City offices closed for
holiday observance

14

**WC Farmers' Market
20th anniversary celebration**
(See *What's Happening*)

August

1

Summer POPs Concert
WC Concert Band
(See *What's Happening*)

City Meeting Calendar

City Council*

July 2, 16; Aug. 6
7 p.m.
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

Planning Commission

July 11, 25; Aug. 15, 29
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Arts Commission

July 15, Aug. 19
4:30 p.m.
Leshner Center for the Arts

Transportation Commission

July 18, Aug. 15
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Design Review Commission

July 17, Aug. 7, 21
7 p.m., City Council chamber

Park, Rec & Open Space Commission

July 1, Aug. (no meeting)
7 p.m., City Council chamber

*City Council meetings are
televised live on AT&T
Channels 6 and 99 (Ch. 1
on a cable box). Repeated
the following Saturday at 1
p.m.

Must-see TV

Walnut Creek Currents, a
City-produced 10-minute
video digest on City activities
and services, can be seen
seven days a week on AT&T
Channels 6 and 99 (Ch. 1 on
cable box) and Channel 11 in
Rossmoor at 6 a.m., 9 a.m.,
noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m.

Wendy Sussman artwork featured in Bedford Gallery exhibition

In the last 10 years of her life, Wendy Sussman created large, poignant, and powerful paintings that underscore the remarkable talent of this gifted art teacher.

In its next exhibition, Bedford Gallery will present *Paintings by Wendy Sussman, 1949-2001: A Memorial Exhibition* beginning June 26 and running through Aug. 18.

"Wendy Sussman devoted her life to art. She was an artistic leader, a visionary, and an inspiring teacher, as well as a wonderful artists," said Curator Carrie Lederer, who organized the exhibition of 25 paintings.

Sussman and her husband, Juan Rodriguez, worked as house painters to support themselves while living in New York. After she received the prestigious Rome Prize Fellowship in Painting in 1989, she was appointed Assistant Professor of Art Practice at U.C. Berkeley. She died of cancer in

March 2001.

Bedford Gallery, a program of the City of Walnut Creek, also receives substantial funding from the Diablo Regional Arts Association. It is located in the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts at 1601 Civic Dr.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., and Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. when there are theater performances in the Regional Center. The gallery is closed on July 4 and all Mondays.

For more information, call 295-1417.



Wendy Sussman, *Self Portrait*,
1981, oil on canvas

What's Happening

Celebrate the 4th at City's chili cook-off

Celebrate Independence Day at Civic Park by attending the 1st Annual 4th of July Walnut Creek Chili Cook-Off with Walnut Creek Police challenging other local police departments.

Festivities will be from 2 to 5:30 p.m. Admission is free; a tasting booklet costs \$20 for 10 tickets.

Along with chili tasting there will be children's activities, live music, face painting, a cakewalk, and more. The event, cosponsored by the Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association and Walnut Creek Host Lions Club, will benefit the Lions Center for the Visually Impaired and the Walnut Creek Library Foundation. At 6 p.m., following the judging and awards, the Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein will present an hour-long program of patriotic music at the gazebo. Admission to the concert is free.

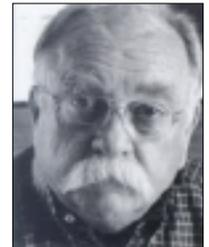


Free PARKconcerts scheduled this summer

Grab a blanket and a picnic supper and head to Civic Park this summer for another series of free PARKconcerts at the gazebo. The following PARKconcerts are scheduled: **July 4** (see above); **Sunday, July 14**, 6 p.m., Devil Mountain Chorus Barbershop Quartets; **Sunday, Aug. 11**, 6 p.m., Old Goodies with Mike Fender (Music of the 50s, 60s, and 70s); **Monday, Sept. 2**, 6 p.m., Labor Day Concert, Walnut Creek Concert Band. PARKconcerts are sponsored by the City's Arts, Recreation & Community Services Department.

POPs Concert at the Regional Center

Noted film character actor Wilford Brimley ("Absence of Malice," "The Natural") will narrate Aaron Copland's "A Lincoln Portrait" during the Walnut Creek Concert Band's Summer POPs Concert on Aug. 1, 8 p.m., at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr. Tickets are \$10 and will be available July 1.



Wilford Brimley

Jazz Festival on Bonanza

Come enjoy great jazz at the Jazz Festival on Bonanza presented by the Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association. The free Thursday evening concerts will be Aug. 1 (featuring Greg Adams), Aug. 15 (Lloyd Gregory), and Aug. 29 (Ray Obiedo). All concerts will be from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Bonanza Street between Locust and California. Call 933-6778 for more information.

20th anniversary for Farmers' Market

The Walnut Creek Farmers' Market will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a party on Sunday, July 14 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the library parking lot at Broadway and Lincoln. Call (925) 431-8361 or visit the website at www.cocofarmer.org.

Opera in the Park July 28

Festival Opera Company will present its popular "Opera in the Park" on Sunday, July 28 at 6 p.m. in Civic Park. This is a free event.

Work begins on The Corners retail project on Main

Before Walnut Creek adopted its name in 1862, the little hamlet was known simply as "The Corners." For the first time since those early pioneer days, the name "The Corners" is being resurrected for a new office/retail project under construction at the southwest corner of Main Street and Mount Diablo Boulevard.

Demolition of the former Great Western Savings building (see photos, page 4) took place in early May to clear the site for the 33,000-square-foot development.

Pottery Barn for Kids will be a tenant, according to developer Brian Hirahara, and a new public courtyard will be built around the 200-year-old oak that the City required to be preserved in the rear of the site.

The architect for the project, Hans Baldouf, also designed the Broadway

PROJECT
Update



A new artist's rendering of The Corners office/retail project shows the 200-year-old oak tree in the rear of the site, which will be the focal point of a new public courtyard.

Point project (which includes Pottery Barn, Restoration Hardware, the Bank of America) directly across the intersection from The Corners.

EBMUD water treatment plant

The East Bay Municipal Utility District has been removing large amounts of soil to make way for a new chemical building and chlorine contact tank at its water treatment plant at the end of Larkey Lane.

Most of the soil has been removed, so neighbors near the plant and on San Luis Road can expect reduced truck traffic this summer. Additionally, the Briones-Mt.

Diablo Trail that cut through the EBMUD site was rerouted and directional signs have been installed to guide trail users.

For more information, e-mail EBMUD Community Liaison Michelle Blackwell at mblackwe@ebmud.com or call the Project Hotline at 935-6049.

Police/City Hall addition

Due to a variety of unexpected construction delays, City staff won't be moving into the new 35,000-square-foot addition to the Police Department/City Hall until mid-September.

The older side of the building, opened in 1980, will then undergo a seismic retrofit that should take nine months to complete.

Get in the swim at City's two pools

Take a dip this summer at Clarke Swim Center in Heather Farm Park or at Larkey Swim Center in Larkey Park, corner of First Avenue and Buena Vista Avenue. Now through September 2, pool hours at both locations are:

- Mon-Fri, 1-4:45 p.m. (Mon-Thurs, 7:15-9 p.m.—Larkey only)
- Sat-Sun, noon-4:45 p.m. (these weekend hours also apply on July 4-5 and Labor Day)

Daily admission fees are: Children 6 & under, \$2.25; Youth 7-15, \$3; Adults 16 & up, \$3.50. All children 6 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Discount Passes and Family Passes are also available.

Note: Clarke Swim Center will be closed July 20-21 (All-City meet); Aug. 10-12 (Scottsdale Invitational); and Aug. 17-18 (Jr. County Meet).

For more information, call 943-5856.

New director takes over Community Development Dept.

Valerie Barone started work May 1 as the new director of the City's

Community Development Department.

Barone previously was the Planning, Recreation & Neighborhood Service Director for the City of Milpitas. She had been with Milpitas since 1995 in various roles, including planning director and planning & neighborhood preservation director.

In her new post, she is overseeing a staff of 28 in the City's planning and building divisions.



Valerie Barone



Hope Keung

Sparkling seniors

Past president Catherine Nitz, left, and current president Dorothy Carver admire the sparklers on the cake at the Walnut Creek Seniors Club's 50th anniversary celebration May 31 at the Shadelands Arts Center. The 2,476-member organization, whose members must be 55 years of age, was formed in 1952.



The old Great Western Savings building at the corner of Main Street and Mt. Diablo Boulevard was demolished on May 2 to make room for a new retail project called The Corners. The concrete and bricks were to be recycled under the City's construction/demolition regulations.

Construction work challenges WC's recycling goals

Ever wonder what happens to the construction debris — all those broken chunks of concrete and brick — that is generated when buildings are demolished in Walnut Creek?

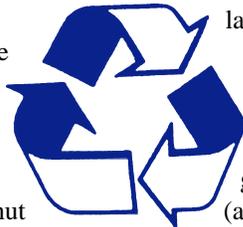
To meet its state-required recycling goal, the City of Walnut Creek requires all commercial builders of large projects to recycle 50 percent of their recyclable debris to keep it out of landfills.

Unfortunately, that rule wasn't in effect until October 2000. As a result, the City fell short of its state-mandated recycling goal of diverting 50 percent of all wastes in year 2000.

Walnut Creek residents have certainly done their part to recycle everything from newspaper to grass clippings since the City started its curbside recycling program 14 years ago.

In 2000, single family residences left at the curb 20,000 tons of recyclable wastes. That's more than one-third of the total amount — 61,000 tons — recycled in Walnut Creek during that year (see box).

However, commercial demolition in the downtown area resulted in 70,000 tons



of waste that ended up going to landfills.

The bottom line was that Walnut Creek only recycled 47 percent of its waste in 2000, thus missing the required 50 percent goal set by the state under AB 939 (although the City did meet the goal in 1998 and 1999).

The City's Construction Recycling Ordinance is seeking to remedy this problem. All commercial projects that cost \$50,000 or more OR which are 5,000 square feet or more in size must divert 50 percent of their recyclable debris. Developers and builders must submit to the City staff a waste management plan that describes how the recyclable waste will be recycled. Such a plan must be approved before a permit is issued.

For more information, call 906-1804.

How much WC recycled in 2000 (in tons)

Single family homes	20,000
Multi-family homes	6,000
Large commercial	11,000
Small businesses	600
City projects	11,000
Commercial green waste	1,000
Composting	1,000
Christmas trees	95
WC Recycling Center	345
Reuse Program	177
Miscellaneous	9,823
Grand Total	61,040

Council agenda reports now on web

Residents who wish to read the detailed staff reports on matters being considered by the City Council at its meetings can now find them on-line at the City's website (www.walnut-creek.org).

City Council meeting agendas can be found by clicking on the "Meeting Agendas & Minutes" link on the homepage. Staff reports are linked to the appropriate agenda item.

Agendas are posted the Friday afternoon preceding a City Council meeting.

All fall down



Civic Arts Education staffers watched April 15 as workers demolished the former children's art studio, which was located near the softball field in Civic Park. The studio building, which dated to the 1970s, had not been used since children's art classes were moved to the new Shadelands Arts Center on Wiget Lane in January 2001. The site where the old Studio C once stood is being returned to its natural state and will not be built upon. The City's Civic Park Master Plan calls for eventually eliminating all the Civic Arts Education studio and office buildings once those operations are relocated to the Arts Center.

Acalanes Ridge

The 'other' ridge in Walnut Creek's open space offers scenic views

Third in a series

Acalanes Ridge doesn't share the colorful history of Shell Ridge nor the wide-ranging territory of Lime Ridge. But Walnut Creek's most obscure open space area probably boasts the most impressive panoramic views of Walnut Creek and the Diablo Valley than any spot in the area.

Straddled along the natural border that separates Lafayette and Walnut Creek, Acalanes Ridge Open Space is a 179-acre oasis located amid subdivisions and an EBMUD water treatment plant. From its gentle slopes a visitor can take in everything from Suisun Bay to the north to Alamo.

"Acalanes Ridge gives a new perspective to familiar views," says Supervising Open Space Ranger Randy Hawley. "We're so used to looking from the flanks of Mount Diablo (that) the ability to look down on our town with Diablo in the background gives a new perspective on our place in relationship to the surround-

ing area."

Also, the fact that the hillsides of Acalanes Ridge face the east and south means that they retain moisture longer, which results in a symphony of color in the spring and summer months.

"The profusion of wildflowers is probably greater in that one small area than anywhere else in any of our other open space areas," says Hawley.

Walnut Creek Open Space: Our Local Frontier

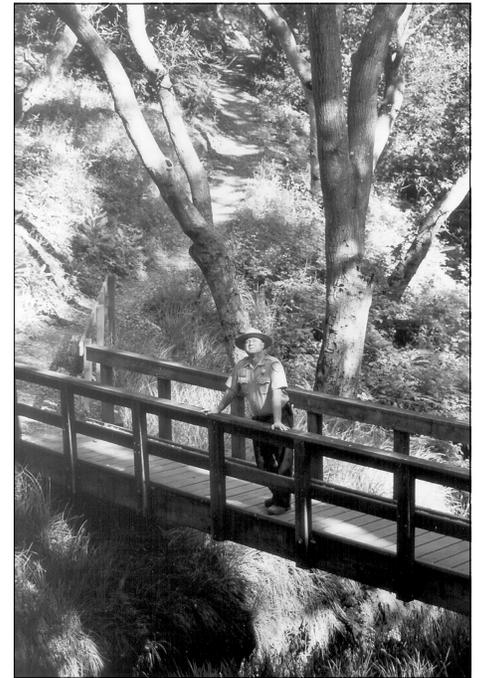


Acalanes Ridge Open Space

179 acres

Open sunrise to dusk

Entrance: Sousa Drive, Camino Verde Circle



Ranger Randy Hawley stands on the Sousa Trail bridge in Acalanes Ridge.

The flora of Acalanes Ridge includes California poppies, Al's Clover, lupine, hyacinth, and three types of oak trees.

The fauna include coyotes, redtail hawks, and grazing cattle (during the late spring/early summer).

The Briones-Mt. Diablo Trail cuts through Acalanes Ridge on its way to Mount Diablo State Park.

Dogs are permitted but it's recommended they remain on leash at all times.

Trails leading into Acalanes Ridge can be accessed at Sousa Drive, Camino Verde Circle, and Bacon Way in Walnut Creek, and at Green Valley Drive and Pleasant Hill Road in Lafayette.

Local volunteers beautify Lancaster Road Pathway along I-680

When Caltrans finished its rebuild of I-680 three years ago, it left a quarter-mile walkway known as the Lancaster Road Neighborhood Pathway in an unsightly state with overgrown weeds.

Community activist Alice Schofield took up the cause of removing the three-foot-tall weeds and beautifying the path, which connects Lilac Drive with Newell Avenue near Las Lomas High School. She enlisted the help of Lilac Drive resident Margaret Paulekas and City landscape maintenance worker Leonard Spector.

The trio undertook the restoration of the pathway as a University of California Master Garden Integrated Pest Management project. Spector rebuilt the underground irrigation system and Paulekas planted dozens of native and drought-tolerant plants suitable to the hot, sunny pathway.

The result is a colorful and fragrant public walkway highlighted by Mexican primrose (planted years ago by Caltrans), lavender, Santa Barbara daisies, and Nepetas. "It has become a pleasure as well as a convenience to use," said Schofield.



Admiring the spring flowers along the Lilac-to-Lancaster Pathway are (from left) Alice Schofield, City landscape maintenance worker Leonard Spector, and Margaret Paulekas.

City Council Update

Private parking ordinance reviewed

The City Council on May 7 considered a proposal to prevent enforcement of customer-only parking requirements in private lots when the adjacent businesses are closed for the day.

City Attorney Tom Haas recommended the change in the 1999 Private Parking Lot Ordinance in response to complaints from downtown shoppers who received \$20 to \$35 "fines" for parking in a private lot after the business had closed for the day.

The Council deferred action until the Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Business Association could study the issue in more detail.

Roundabout

From front page

back-ups, said Assistant Engineer Kathy Wilkie of the Transportation Division.

The roundabout is one of several traffic improvement strategies that emerged from an intensive series of traffic calming workshops that began in the fall of 1999 and ran through spring 2001. Nearly 50 Northgate area residents participated in the discussions, which were aimed at slowing traffic in their neighborhood and stopping through traffic on Bowling Green and Stonehaven drives.

The City has already banned right turns on to Castle Rock Road from Bowling Green during the morning hours to cut down on school traffic.

Wilkie said that when motorists and bicyclists use the roundabout they need to: 1) yield to traffic on their left when they enter, 2) enter only when there is a safe gap in the traffic, and 3) always yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

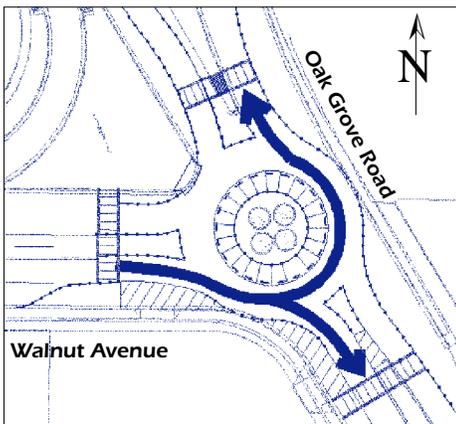


Diagram of traffic movement in roundabout at Walnut Avenue and Oak Grove Road.

Council approves \$80 million spending plan for 2002-2004

It will cost the City \$80.4 million to operate over the next two years under a spending plan approved by the City Council on June 4.

Given the tight economic times, the City's 2002-2004 operating budget reflects a modest 5 percent increase over the previous two-year period.

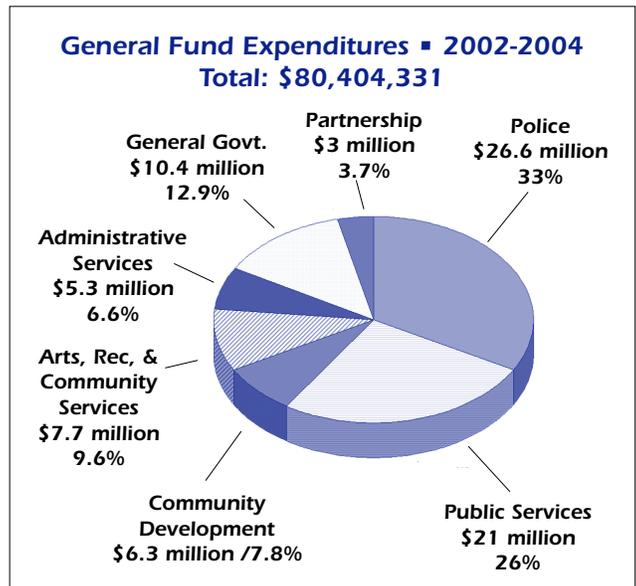
This is largely due to the fact that it contains no new programs.

This austerity reflects the limited revenue growth Walnut Creek is experiencing in light of the downturn in the economy, according to Rosie Coan, Administrative Services director.

The City expects revenues over the next two years to total an estimated \$88.4 million, which represents a 6.2 percent increase over the prior period.

As usual, the biggest single revenue source is sales tax, which will account for more than one-third of Walnut Creek's total income in 2002-2004 with estimated revenues of \$30.9 million. The next biggest category is property tax, which should generate an estimated \$14 million, or 16 percent of the total budget.

On the spending side, the Police



Department will have the largest spending plan of all the City departments, with \$26.6 million allocated for services.

The next biggest allotment will go to the Public Services Department, which is responsible for maintaining the streets, public buildings, parks, and open space. Its share of the pie will total \$21 million.

The reconfigured Arts, Recreation and Community Services Department, which oversees cultural and recreational services, will have a \$7.7 million budget.

The City Council also allocated \$3.6 million for maintenance of existing City facilities, including street repairs.

Tips on trees and parked vehicles

During the spring and summer months the City's Community Enhancement Officers respond to an unusually high number of complaints pertaining to trees and illegally parked/stored vehicles.

Following are some tips for property owners to follow:

- Dead trees, shrubbery, dry weeds and grasses should be cut down or back as they create fire hazards, especially during the spring and summer months.

The City's definition of tree is, in part, any live, woody plant having a single perennial stem of 28 inches or more in circumference or multistemmed perennial plant having an aggregate circumference of 40 inches or more measured four and a

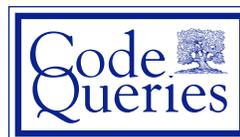
half feet above natural grade. A tree shall also include one of any size which is part of a grove.

Please note: Property owners must first obtain a permit from the City's Public Services Department to cut down trees, whether alive or dead. Call 943-5854.

- The City also enforces setback regulations, meaning no motorhomes, travel trailers, boats, or trailers can be parked in a setback requirement.

Further, vehicles cannot be parked in the front yard. Vehicles must be parked in driveways or other paved areas designated for parking.

For more information, call 943-5863.





By Officer Mitchell Rebello

Which way is the "right" way to go?

Have you ever been in a situation where an emergency vehicle (police, fire or ambulance) is coming up from behind you in traffic, and they are sounding their siren and displaying their emergency lights?



As a motorist, you must decide where to move your car in the road so the emergency vehicle can pass through traffic safely.

Many motorists seem to get confused during this brief moment of anxiety. As a traffic officer, I have witnessed motorists come to a complete stop blocking the lane, drive through red lights to get out of the way, cut off other cars trying to make room in the road, or turn to the left in front of the emergency vehicle.

The drivers of emergency vehicles are trying to respond to an emergency as soon as they can with the safety of the other motorists in mind. That's why it is very important not to panic. Once you recognize that an emergency vehicle is coming up from behind you, take a second and plan a safe way to move out of their way.

The California Vehicle Code states, "Upon the approach of an emergency vehicle sounding a siren and exhibiting a red light, the driver of every other vehicle shall drive to the right-hand edge or curb of the highway and shall stop and remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed."

So, in the future, don't panic...move safely to the right side of the road.

City's Human Resources relocated during work

Due to on-going construction at City Hall, the Human Resources Division has been temporarily relocated to Park Place, 1395 Civic Dr. For information on job opportunities with the City, call the Employment Hotline at 943-5817.

'Every 15 Minutes' effort honored by CC supervisors

Supervisor Donna Gerber, left, on May 14 presented a "People Who Make a Difference" Award on behalf of the County Board of Supervisors to Sue Garcia, Walnut Creek Police Operations Manager, who coordinated the "Every 15 Minutes" drunk driving awareness program at Las Lomas High School April 10-11. Sue accepted the award on behalf of a team of City employees, parents, school officials, emergency workers and AT&T Channel 6 staff who worked on the program.



Over 200 help out at annual Creek Clean-Up

More than 200 community volunteers helped remove 30 cubic yards of debris from downtown creeks during the 13th annual Creek Cleanup Day on May 4.

Event organizer Pam Romo acknowledged the support and encouragement of the City Council and City staff for co-sponsoring this yearly event. She also expressed appreciation to the following local businesses for their generous donations:

Albertsons Food, The Cantina, Irene La Londe, Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Long's Drug Stores, Masses



Julie Jepsen-Grant, left, and Keri McAtee, 13, pulled ladies apparel out of Walnut Creek on Creek Cleanup Day.

Billiards and Sports Bar & Grill, O'Kearney's Fun House, Paragon Graphics, Starbuck's Coffee, Pleasant Hill Bayshore Disposal, Sweet Affair Bakery, Safeway Stores, Sunrise Bistro and Bakery, Trans Western Polymers, and Whole Foods.

Practice creek-friendly home maintenance

As summer fast approaches bringing good weather, many of us are eager to start (or finish) our home improvement projects like putting fresh paint on the home exterior, getting the pool ready for a summer splash, steam-clean the carpet and list goes on and on.

But before you pick that paintbrush or start the carpet steamer, please remember that even in small amounts, hazardous materials (such as paint, pool chemicals, and many cleaners) can contaminate a creek, harm fish and wildlife and spoil recreational activities if not handled properly.*

A few tips to remember:

- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter, storm drain or creek. The chemicals that are poured into storm drains flow directly to our creek untreated.
- Take excess hazardous materials to a

household hazardous waste collection facility. Call (800) 646-1431 for business hours and acceptable items.

- Dispose of wastewater from cleaning carpets and upholstery down sinks or toilets. Professional carpet and upholstery cleaners must put wastewater into the sanitary sewer.

- For more tips, log into the City's Clean Water program.

The City is asking you to help us keep our waterways clean. Please do your part. To report an illegal discharge to a storm drain or creek, please call (925) 256-3511 or do it on-line at www.walnut-creek.org/CleanWater



(*) In Contra Costa County, it is an infraction to dispose of or dump any of these items on roadways or into storm drains. Violators are liable for cleanup costs, fines and imprisonment.

Library

From front page

existing parking lot at North Broadway and Lincoln Avenue.

The aging current library, opened in March 1961, has survived the past 41 years without any structural improvements and is considered seismically unsafe for



A new architectural scheme for the proposed downtown library shows how it would look from the north in Civic Park.



Memorial ash planted

Herman Alvarado, commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5182 planted a Dwight D. Eisenhower Green Ash tree in Civic Park on May 23 to celebrate the valor of those who fought in World War II.

staff and patrons. Further, it no longer meets the needs — physically and technologically — of the Walnut Creek community, which is expected to see its population increase nearly 30 percent by

the year 2020.

The City is seeking funds under Proposition 14, a bond measure approved by state voters in 2000 that provides \$350 million for public library construction.

WC libraries to be open 56 hours/week

Beginning July 1, Walnut Creek's two libraries will open 56 hours a week as a result of the voter-approved funding from Measure Q.

The new library hours will be:

Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The expanded hours represent a 60 percent increase over the 35-hour weeks that have been in place for several years.

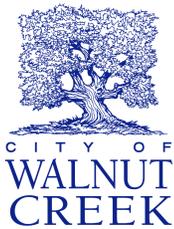
Gary Pokorny, the City's Arts, Recreation & Community Services Director, said residents have indicated they want regular, consistent hours of operation at

their libraries.

Measure Q, approved March 5 by nearly 70 percent of Walnut Creek voters, will generate \$790,000 a year for the next eight years to increase hours, purchase newer materials and books, and provide services to students and children, said Pokorny.

The City will contract with the County to also provide improved children's programs at both the downtown library at 1644 No. Broadway, and the Ygnacio Valley library at 2661 Oak Grove Rd.

For more information, call 646-6773.



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Kathy Hicks

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Call 943-5812.

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IN A Nutshell

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

Editor:
Brad Rovanpera

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



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