

IN A Nutshell



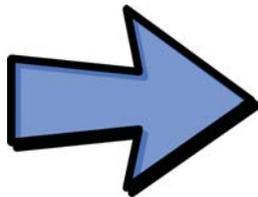
No. 167

Newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

FALL 2014



MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Community Service Day is Saturday, Sept. 27. Last year, more than 1,500 people contributed their time and talents to help Walnut Creek shine. This year, there are 50 projects to choose from. Don't delay, as many projects fill up fast! For a complete list of projects, **turn to page 13.**



LOOKING FORWARD. What's in store for Walnut Creek going forward? To preserve the services the community expects, the City will be placing renewed emphasis on partnerships, economic development and environmental sustainability. Check out the special insert "Looking Forward, Forward Thinking," stapled in the middle of this edition of the Nutshell.



HISTORY ALERT! Walnut Creek turns 100 on October 21. Learn about the early days of Walnut Creek, and find out new things about our history. Plus, then and now photos! It all starts on **page 9.**



WCPD goes back to school!

With the start of the school year, look for School Resource Officers Raquel Cantillon and Drew Olson to be a regular part of campus life. Officer Cantillon is assigned to the Northgate High School campus, and will also work closely with Foothill Middle School and the elementary schools that feed into Foothill. Officer Olson will be a regular presence at Las Lomas High School, and will also work with Walnut Creek Intermediate School and Walnut Creek School District elementary schools. Both officers are looking forward to building relationships with the students, parents and teachers and being positive role models for the youngsters. The School Resource Officer is a new and important venture, said Chief Tom Chaplin. **Back-to-school safety tips, page 8.**

Council sets priorities for next two years

Fiscal Sustainability, Strong Local Economy, Community Health and Well-Being, and Inclusive Governance are the City Council's top priorities for the next two years, according to its draft Work Program.

The Council is expected to formally adopt the Work Program at the Sept. 16 City Council meeting. In addition to setting these priorities, the City Council identified several new activities for each of the priorities. These include:

Urban Agriculture

Community gardens and urban agriculture are widely recognized for their many contributions to a

community's social and physical health and well-being. This activity will involve a review of the City's current programs with the aim of expanding urban agriculture and community gardening opportunities throughout the City.

Traffic Safety/Courteous Driving

Walnut Creek serves as a regional destination for shopping, dining, and recreation. As with many successful cities, traffic safety and driving behavior are sometimes a challenge. This activity will develop a courteous driving campaign to promote safer driving behavior.

See **PRIORITIES, page 8**

Fall highlights
(check cable listings for showtimes or go to walnutcreektv.com.)

Walnut Festival Twilight Parade

Catch the Walnut Festival Twilight Parade live on WCTV at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13. This year celebrates Walnut Creek's Centennial with a special parade filled with marching bands, floats and heroes.

Hand of Peace

The fascinating story of how Walnut Creek acquired the sculpture *Hand of Peace*, by one of America's most famous sculptors, Benny Bufano. While Bufano advocated for peace in much of his work, creating and finding a home for this sculpture was anything but peaceful.

Battle of the Creek Football

The Las Lomas Knights take on the Northgate Broncos in Battle of the Creek in this varsity football fight for supremacy.

Public Meetings

City Council and all Commission meetings are televised live and available on demand.

Channel info

Walnut Creek TV is on Comcast Channel 28 (incorporated WC only), Rossmoor 26, Astound Channel 29, and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99; and walnutcreektv.org.

Fall exhibition celebrates the City through art

To honor Walnut Creek's centennial, the Bedford Gallery will host an exhibition that reflects the many aspects of our community both past and present, from its natural beauty to rich culture to vibrant commerce. This exhibition features artwork made by our community members. Join us as we celebrate our heritage and history.

The public is invited to an opening reception on Sunday, September 21, from 3 to 5 p.m. Wine and hors d'oeuvres are hosted by the Bedford Gallery Guild. There is no cost to attend the reception.

Walnut Creek Turns 100: Celebrating the City Through Art will be at the Bedford



Ben Butcher, *Commuter Paradise*, 2011, paper collage, 48 x 48 inches.

Gallery Sept. 21 through Nov. 16. Admission for this exhibition is free thanks to a generous grant from the Leshner Foundation.

Here's what's happening

Northgate March-A-Thon

Northgate High School's award-winning Marching Band will host its annual March-A-Thon on Saturday, Sept. 6 from 9 a.m. to noon, parading from Northgate High School to Quiet Place Drive, Springfield and Meander, and streets in between. Come out and support the NHS music program with your tax-deductible donations at www.northgatehs-pfc.com/nimb.html.



Learn to make your garden grow

A Sustainability Fair sponsored by the Contra Costa Master Gardeners will take place Saturday, Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at "Our Garden," North Wiget Lane and Shadelands Dr. Enjoy presentations and hands-on demonstrations on how to make your garden and the environment flourish. Native and drought tolerant plants, and winter veggie starts will be available for purchase. For more information, visit ccmg.ucanr.edu.

Walnut Run for Education

Help raise money for local schools and get a little exercise at the same time! The Walnut Run 5K/10K is a run/walk downtown that raises money for local schools. The race begins at 8 a.m. at 1201 N. Main Street. Day-of event registration opens at 6 a.m. at the same location. To learn more, visit www.TheWalnutRun.com.

Wine and Roses

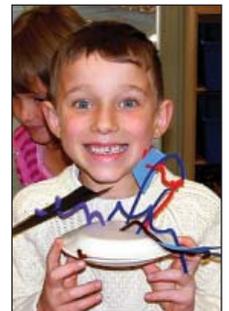
Enjoy wine tasting, food sampling, live music, and a silent auction at the annual *Wine and Roses* fund raiser on Sunday, Oct. 5 from 4 to 7 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Gardens at Heather Farm. 1540 Marchbanks Drive. Call 925-947-1678 or visit www.gardenshf.org.

Reservations open Oct. 1 for holiday teas

Reservations for the popular 3-course holiday tea luncheons at the historic Shadelands Ranch Museum will be taken beginning Oct. 1. *Holidays at Shadelands* runs Nov. 29 through Dec. 14. The luncheon is \$30; sittings are at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. For reservations, call 925-935-7871.

Civic Arts Education open house

Civic Arts Education will celebrate its 50th anniversary with an open house on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Lane. Experience Civic Arts classes up close, win prizes, make art, and learn about all that Civic Arts has to offer. Come find out why Civic Arts Ed. is the leader in arts learning, with high-quality visual and performing arts instruction for all ages. www.walnut-creek.org/cae.



Veterans Day ceremony

The City of Walnut Creek invites the community to honor our veterans on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts. Music will be provided by the Walnut Creek Concert Band.

You're Invited to the CELEBRATION OF THE CENTURY!

Join Walnut Creek
Friends & Neighbors as
We Celebrate Our
City's 100th Birthday!

**A Free, Fun,
Family-Friendly Event**

Saturday, October 18, 2014

11:00^{AM} to 4:00^{PM}

Shadelands Ranch

2660 Ygnacio Valley Road

Get Your Walnut Creek Centennial Collectibles

Just like the Centennial, once
they're gone, they're gone!

Get your Centennial keepsakes –
mugs, caps, magnets,
sports bottles, pins, frisbees, books
and more – before they run out!

Walnut Creek Centennial Store

Downtown Business

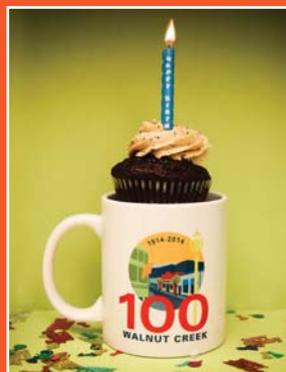
Association Office

First Floor of City Hall

1666 N. Main Street

Open Monday-Friday, 10am to 4pm

925.933.6778



See these keepsakes and other Centennial
logowear on the website

WalnutCreek100.com



**CENTENNIAL
BIRTHDAY
FESTIVAL**

**100
WALNUT CREEK**

**Live Music
Food Trucks
Local Artisans
Crafts & Activities
for Kids of All Ages
And of course...
Birthday Cake!**

**The Walnut Creek Centennial Steering Committee
thanks the following sponsors:**

SPONSOR OF THE CENTURY

BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL SPONSOR

Mechanics Bank

Broadway Plaza

City of Walnut Creek • Contra Costa Times
CSAA of Northern California • Diablo Magazine
Hall Equities Group • Pacific Gas & Electric • ParkSmart
Republic Services • Robert Anthony Strategic Marketing & Design
Safeway • Shadowbrook Winery
Walnut Creek Historical Society • Walnut Creek Magazine

Bedford Gallery News

Craft Fest

The Bedford Gallery's 7th annual Craft Fest will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2 at the gallery. This one day event features handmade local crafts, including jewelry, home goods, textiles, ceramics, prints, artisanal food, and more.



Public Art Walking Tours

The Bedford Gallery offers docent-led 60-minute walking tours of Walnut Creek's downtown public artworks the third Saturday of the month, April through November. Hear the stories behind Walnut Creek's Public Art Program, which includes works by Stephen DeStaebler, Bruce Beasley, Christian Moeller and Josh Keyes, and the newly restored *Hand of Peace* by Beniamino Bufano, now in its new location in Civic Park.

Meet at 11 a.m. in front of the Leshner Center for the Arts. Admission is \$5 and includes entry to the Bedford Gallery.

Rent the Bedford Gallery for your holiday event

Host an event in the spacious gallery and offer guests the opportunity to view engaging artwork while mixing and mingling. Located in the Leshner Center for the Arts, the gallery's 3,500 square feet make it the largest community-based visual arts facility in the region. Book early to reserve this unique space! Visit www.bedfordgallery.org/rentals or email galleryinfo@bedfordgallery.org.



Ben Krantz Studio

A show of their own

The Chevron Family Theatre Festival at the Leshner Center of the Arts drew more than 6,500 theater lovers of all ages, including this group of creative young puppeteers. The event offered 13 affordable ticketed live performances throughout the day, as well as plenty of free activities in the Leshner Center, the Bedford Gallery and the outside plaza.

Walnut Festival continues to charm

September is Walnut Festival month in Walnut Creek, starting with the much-loved Twilight Parade down Main Street on Saturday, Sept. 13.

In keeping with Walnut Creek's 100th anniversary of incorporation, this year's parade will have a Centennial theme. The parade begins at 6 p.m., and runs along Main Street from Mt. Diablo Boulevard to Civic Park.

The festival itself kicks off on Thursday, Sept. 18 at Heather Farm Park and will last through the weekend, with music, rides, games, food and more.

The popular "Fishing on the Pond" is back on Saturday, Sept. 20 and Sunday, Sept. 21 from 7 to 11 a.m. at the pond at Heather Farm Park. Bait, hooks and fishing rods are supplied. The event is open to all ages; those 16 and older must have a fishing license.

History alert!

Walnut Creek's first festival was held in 1911 to celebrate the grape harvest, and was called the Grape Festival. During prohibition, vineyards were replaced with walnut groves, and in 1936, the harvest celebration became known as "the Walnut Festival."

The first Walnut Festival was organized by the Business and Professional Women's Club of Walnut Creek, and held on Locust Street. The Walnut Festival Association



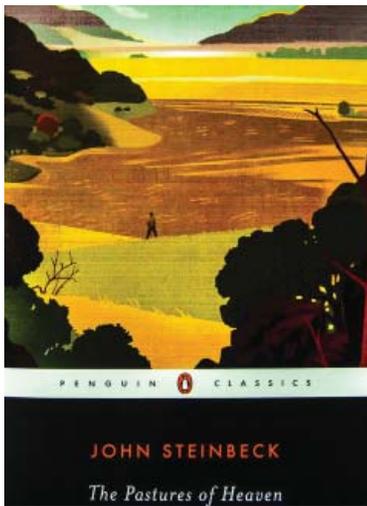
The Walnut Festival in 1952 at Civic Park.

was officially incorporated in 1938 and except for a suspended period during World War II, has been celebrated as the popular annual community event it remains today.

Locations for the event have changed over the years from the center of town to Civic Park. In 1976, the Walnut Festival relocated to Heather Farm Park. The nonprofit organization had given the City \$105,000 to purchase land for two softball fields at the new park. Those fields are, now home to the festival.

Over the years, the Walnut Festival Association has raised more than \$1 million for nonprofit organizations.

2014 'Walnut Creek Reads' focuses on ranching heritage



Six events this fall will honor Walnut Creek's farming and ranching heritage and help celebrate our Centennial.

The events are part of this year's *One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads* program, which features John Steinbeck's *The Pastures of Heaven* -- a short story cycle about a small agrarian valley similar to Walnut Creek in the early 1900s.

One City, One Book is essentially a citywide book group, with a new book selected each year. Multiple copies are available at Walnut Creek libraries.

The events are:

A Journey into Steinbeck's California.

7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17 at the Walnut Creek Library. A presentation by Steinbeck Center Scholar-in-Residence Susan Shillinglaw at the Walnut Creek Library. Free, but seating is limited; make reservations at www.WCLibrary.org.

Shadelands Ranch Living History Day. Noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21 (see related story, above, right).

Pastures of Heaven – Live: Scenes from the Octavio Solis play. 7:15 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22 at the Leshner Center for the arts. \$14.

A Day in Steinbeck Country. A day-long trip to the Steinbeck Center and Steinbeck House on Wednesday, Oct. 1. Seating is very limited; cost is \$70. Call 925-935-5395 or www.WCLibrary.org.

Book discussion. 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 29, Rossmoor Stanley Dollar House (Rossmoor residents)

Book discussion. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30, Ygnacio Valley Library.

For more information, visit www.WCLibrary.org or call 925-935-5395.



Workers in the drying yards at the Shadelands Ranch, 1910.

Go back in time at special Living History program

The Walnut Creek Historical Society is partnering with the *One City, One Book* project to present *Ranching in the Valley* on Sunday, Sept. 21 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Shadelands Ranch Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road.

Visitors will meet the Pennimans (the original owners of the Shadelands Fruit Farm, who moved into the two-story home in 1903), learn about the daily challenges of life on a Northern California ranch, tour the main house and the Japanese workers' cabin, and participate in chores and games.

This free event is a family friendly version of the Historical Society's successful Living History program for 3rd grade students. Light refreshments will be for sale.

Docents needed!

Help make history come alive! Volunteers are needed for the Sept. 21 event to help with house tours and Living History presentations. Contact the Historical Society office at 925-935-7871.



The Shadelands Ranch house today.

Historian keynotes Action for Beauty awards lunch

Brad Rovnpera – former Walnut Creek public information officer and community historian – will share his list of “10 Greatest Old Buildings” at the Walnut Creek Action for Beauty Council Awards luncheon, Friday, Oct. 17 at Scott's Garden.

Rovnpera is the author of numerous books on Walnut Creek's history, including *Walnut Creek: An Illustrated History*. He currently lives in Virginia.

Since 1966, the Action for Beauty Council has recognized superior design and high-quality development projects through its Community Awards. In honor of the Centennial, the Council's 2014 awards will include recognition

Cast a vote for the best historic building

Which downtown historic building is your favorite? Check out the list of nominees on Walnut Creek Magazine's website and cast your vote through Oct. 10. Go to www.WalnutCreekMagazine.com.

of a number of heritage homes and the People's Choice for Favorite Historic Building.

The community is invited to attend the luncheon and to celebrate our heritage buildings. Luncheon tickets are \$55 and may be purchased by contacting Janet Abrams at 925-932-2746.

Energy efficiency and solar programs for homes and businesses



Going Green Together

The City of Walnut Creek is participating in innovative programs to help residents and business save energy and go solar. Walnut Creek is a member of East Bay Energy Watch, a collaboration between Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) and East Bay governments, nonprofit, and for-profit energy service providers.

Funding for these programs is limited, so get started today!

Energy efficiency rebates for homeowners

Through Energy Upgrade California™ Home Upgrade, homeowners can get rebates from \$1,000 to \$4,500 for making energy-efficient home improvements. Eligible improvements include air sealing, insulation, high-efficiency furnaces and air conditioners, and more.

Free Home Upgrade Advisors are available to provide one-to-one assistance to help homeowners through every step of the upgrade. The website also features a list of participating contractors.

Home Upgrade is administered by the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN), a collaboration of public agencies in all nine Bay Area counties working together for a sustainable energy future. Call 866-878-6008 or visit BayAreaEnergyUpgrade.org to contact a Home Upgrade Advisor today.

Helping small businesses reduce energy costs

The Business Energy Services Team (BEST) Program helps small businesses in Contra Costa County reduce energy use and costs by offering free energy assessments and incentives for energy efficient lighting, refrigeration, and more. The BEST Program will make project recommendations, estimate costs, and connect businesses with pre-qualified contractors. On average, incentives cover 50 percent of the project's costs. The program is offered by PG&E, the East



County Connection Route 5 is one of two routes changed August 18 to make it easier for commuters to get to and from BART. Route 5 connects the Creekside area with WC BART; Route 7 now travels Treat Boulevard to connect the Woodlands and the Shadelands Business Park with the Pleasant Hill BART station.

Bus changes make it easier to get around

Getting to and from BART just got easier for those who live or work in the Woodlands neighborhood; the Shadelands Business Park; the Creekside neighborhood in south Walnut Creek; or Kaiser Permanente on Newell, to name a few.

The route enhancements were introduced by County Connection on Aug. 18.

Route 5 runs between the Walnut Creek BART Station and the Creekside neighborhood with stops on Newell, California, Main Street and Creekside. The Route 5 will operate weekdays every 20 minutes during the peak morning and evening commute hours, and every 45 minutes during the mid-day non-peak hours. Route 5 will be free for all riders during the first year of service.

Route 7 runs express service between the Pleasant Hill/Contra Costa Centre BART station and the Shadelands Business Park using Treat Boulevard and Oak Grove Road.

Route 7 buses will leave the Pleasant Hill BART station approximately every 15 minutes on weekdays between 7 and 10 a.m. and from 3 to 7 p.m. Two new stops have been added; one on Oak Grove Road near Peachwillow, serving the Woodlands neighborhood, and the other on Treat Boulevard near Oak Grove, by the Fire District training center.

To obtain a route map or for more information about any of the bus routes serving Walnut Creek and Contra Costa County, visit www.countyconnection.com, or call customer service at 925-676-7500.

Bay Energy Watch, and KEMA Services, Inc. Contact the BEST Program at 800-576-6405 or best@kema.com. Visit californiabestprogram.com.

Go solar with free assistance for homeowners and small businesses

SmartSolar is a free solar education and advising program for Bay Area residents and businesses run by Community Energy Services Corporation (CESC), a non-profit organization.

SmartSolar offers independent,

site specific analysis of a property's potential for solar opportunities and energy efficiency measures. The program also provides information about local contractors, financing options, rebates, incentives, and objective analysis of solar and energy efficiency project bids.

SmartSolar helps clients understand solar and feel confident about their future investment. Call (510) 981-8005 or visit ebenergy.org/smart-solar-program.



After 24 years, the seats at the Leshner Center for the Arts reached their final act. New seats are being installed in both the Hoffman and Margaret Leshner theaters in time for the fall season. With the seats removed, Leshner Center staff including Chris Currie, foreground, had a chance to clean and paint the floors before the new seats were installed.

New director for Arts, Recreation & Community Services

Kevin Safine has been selected to lead the City's Arts, Recreation & Community Services (ARCS) Department.



Kevin Safine

Safine has held a series of increasingly responsible positions since joining the City in 1994, and was most recently Assistant Director for Arts, Recreation & Community Services. He holds a Bachelor's degree in political science from UCLA and a Master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley. Safine lives in Walnut Creek and is active in many community activities with his family.

Plastic bag ban takes effect in September

Starting Sept. 18, retail establishments in Walnut Creek may no longer distribute single-use carryout plastic bags to consumers, and must charge at least 10 cents for a paper bag. Consumers are encouraged to bring their own reusable bags rather than pay for a paper bag.

Product bags used to carry produce, meat or bulk items to the checkout stand, or those used to protect merchandise from getting



damaged (such as dry-cleaned clothes or paper bags around individual wine bottles) may continue to be used.

The City Council adopted the ban in March to reduce the impact single-use plastic bags have on the environment. Single-use plastic bags are one of the most common litter items

found in creek and roadside cleanups.

Volunteer opportunities

Walk to end Alzheimer's

The Walk to End Alzheimer's will take place on Saturday, Oct. 18 at Heather Farm Park. The three-mile walk will raise awareness and funds to fight Alzheimer's disease. In addition, participants will learn about Alzheimer's disease, advocacy opportunities, clinical trial enrollment, and support programs and services of the Alzheimer's Association. Start or join a team today at <http://act.alz.org/WalnutCreek2014> or 1-800-272-3900.

Tax-Aide seeks volunteers

Contra Costa County AARP Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers to become members of a team providing free tax preparation for individuals of all ages. Tax-Aide volunteer positions include Tax Counselors who are trained by Tax-Aide and certified by IRS, and Client

Facilitators who schedule appointments and assist clients at tax sites. Orientation is in November and classes for tax counselors start in January. Call LaVerne Gordon at 925-726-3199 for information.

English Tutors Needed

Volunteer to help non-English speaking adults to read, write and speak English. English need not be your first language and no experience is required.

The Diablo Valley Literacy Council is offering a two-day workshop that teaches one-on-one tutoring from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 6 and 13 at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 4000 Clayton Road, Concord. There is a \$15 fee.

Volunteers typically give one or two hours per week. For more information, visit dvlc.tripod.com. To register, call and leave a message at 925-685-3881 or email DVLC4ESL@gmail.com.

Recycling center closing

The Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority is closing the recycling center on Lawrence Way on Sept. 28.

Curbside recycling will continue to be available; single-family homes can also use the current twice-a-year pick-up for recyclables by calling Valley Waste Management at 925-935-8900.

This on-call pickup will be expanded to four times a year in March 2015 when the Waste Authority's new franchise agreement with Republic Services goes into effect. In addition, residents will receive larger curbside recycling containers as part of the new franchise.

For information about other recycling options, call 925-935-8900 or visit www.wastediversion.org.

Compost workshops

Learn the basics of backyard composting, vermicomposting (worms), mulching and grasscycling this fall.

On Saturday, Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon, learn how to vermicompost and build a bin at the Civic Park Community Center. The \$20 fee includes bin materials and worms. Registration is required.

Free home composting workshops will be held 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9 at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, and 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at Heather Farm Community Center. Registration is required. Visit www.wastediversion.org or call 925-906-1801, ext. 306.

Back-to-school tips from WCPD

It's that time of year again! Here are some back-to-school reminders to help keep kids safe throughout the school year.



- Pay attention to traffic around the school. Children are prone to dart out to catch up with a friend or runaway toy.
- Stay off your cell phone while driving. Obey the crossing guards. They are there to protect the children.
- Pick a consistent spot to drop off and pick up your child.
- If your children ride their bikes to school, make sure they wear their helmets! (And be a good role model by always wearing your helmet while bicycling.)
- Familiarize yourself with the school staff. If you know who should be there, you'll have a better feel for who *shouldn't*.
- Know your child's friends and become acquainted with their parents.
- Reinforce your family rules for talking to strangers, going somewhere after school and checking in if your child goes home alone.
- Teach your children that in general, adult strangers should not ask children for help. If an adult needs directions or help finding something like a lost pet, they should ask another adult.
- Teach your children their home address and phone number including area code, as well as your employer's name and city.
- Even if you like your home to be quiet and calm, teach them it's OK to yell and scream to get attention if they need help.
- Let your kids know how you expect them to behave toward others, and what to do if they're being bullied at school.
- Teach your kids that police officers are there to help. Show them how to dial 911.
- Most of all, enjoy this new school year! Have fun meeting parents, teachers and students, and watching your child grow.

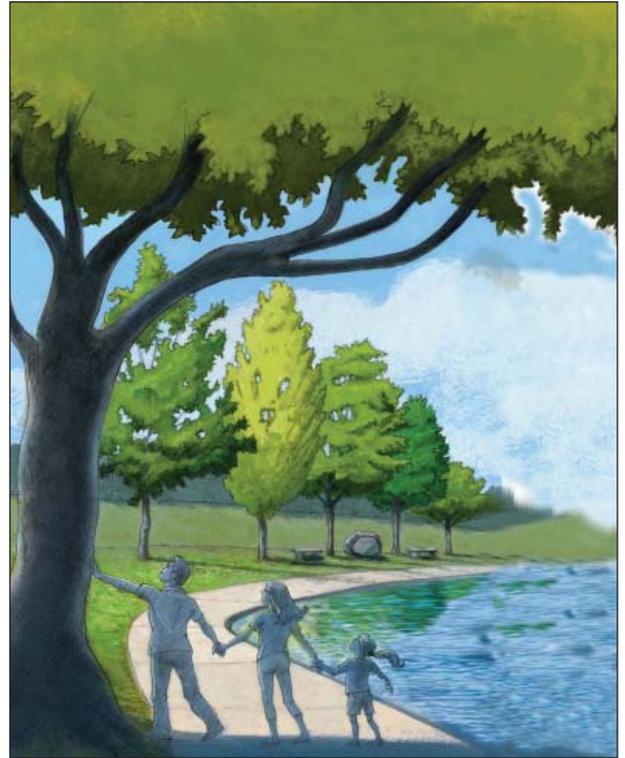
Help create the Centennial Grove

September 26 is the last chance to contribute to this living legacy gift

Contributions are being accepted through September 26 for the Centennial Grove at Heather Farm Park. The grove will be a lasting legacy to future generations in honor of this year's Centennial.

The Centennial Grove will include 100 trees from six different continents encircling the pond at Heather Farm Park, and peaceful places to relax and reflect. The variety of native and exotic trees is intended to represent the diversity of people who came from around the world to create our home town.

Donations of any amount are appreciated; those who donate \$250 or more will have their names etched in stone on the Centennial Rock. Individuals, families, civic organizations, community groups, schools, churches, businesses — all are invited to be part of this gift to the future! To donate, or for more information, visit www.walnutcreek100.com or call 925-943-5895.



Priorities

From page 1

Citywide Trail Improvements

Walnut Creek has an extensive network of pedestrian and bicycle friendly trails that connect the City locally and regionally.

This activity would involve working with community stakeholders and regional agencies to identify and prioritize trail expansion and improvement projects, as well as funding opportunities.

Downtown Enhancement Initiatives

Walnut Creek's downtown has been described as the "heart" of the community where residents, employees and visitors can shop, dine, enjoy the arts and other cultural amenities.

In light of the many current and upcoming construction projects, this activity could encompass a range of programming, marketing, and improvement programs and projects to sustain and enhance the economic viability of the downtown for both the short and the long term.

North Downtown Specific Plan

This grant-funded Specific Plan would direct and facilitate new private investment in the North Downtown area, and would identify public infrastructure improvements needed to expand access to a broad range of transportation options, including walking, bicycling, and transit.

A critical component is formation of a committee representing a variety of community interests to explore long-term land use alternatives and generate ideas for this part of the City.

Open Data Policy and Platform

Throughout the world, governments are making collections of public data more easily available and consumable on the Web. Open data increases transparency, access to public information, and improves coordination and efficiencies among agencies and partner organizations.

This activity will include developing a City open data policy, and identifying and formatting datasets that would be appropriate for an open data platform.

100 Years of Walnut Creek

Walnut Creek has seen tremendous progress since it incorporated in 1914. The tiny town once known as “the Corners” is now a regional powerhouse, with excellent schools and a vibrant downtown, strong neighborhoods and more public open space per capita than any other city in the state.

The Centennial milestone — officially reached on October 21, 2014 — is a fitting time to take a look at where we’ve been. Enjoy the snapshot of Walnut Creek history!



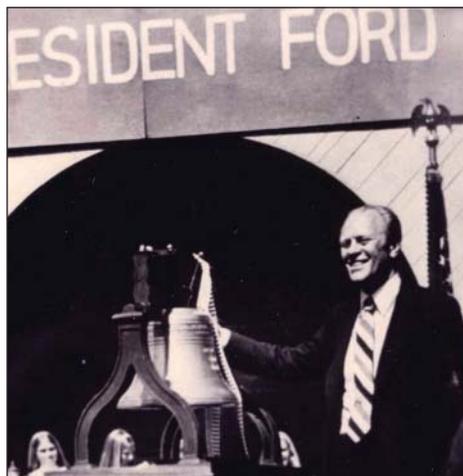
**Walnut Festival Parade celebrating
100 years of California’s statehood - 1950**

Walnut Creek Fun Facts

Did you know that the first stretch of California’s Bay Area Rapid Transit ran from Walnut Creek to Concord?

Or that President Gerald R. Ford personally dedicated the Liberty Bell replica in downtown Walnut Creek?

Or that the name Ygnacio Valley is in honor of Ygnacio Sibirian? His grandmother, Dona Juana Sanchez de Pacheco, was given 17,734 acres that extended from present-day Alamo to Clayton by the Mexican government in 1834. Dona Juana renamed her land grant Rancho San Miguel.



1976 - President Gerald Ford stops in Walnut Creek and dedicates the Liberty Bell replica.



By the decade

- 1914** Walnut Creek citizens vote to incorporate
- 1928** Original Town Hall demolished
- 1936** First Walnut Festival
- 1940** Dial telephone service begins in Walnut Creek
- 1951** Broadway Shopping Center opens
- 1965** BART line between Walnut Creek and Concord opens
- 1974** Walnut Creek purchases 1,800 acres of open space
- 1988** Curbside recycling introduced
- 1990** The Regional Center for the Arts (now the Leshner Center for the Arts) opens
- 2005** Skate park opens in Heather Farm Park, and Walnut Creek on Ice comes to Civic Park
- 2010** New Walnut Creek Library opens

A short history of Walnut Creek's early days

The pioneers

Walnut Creek's first American settler was a man named William Slusher, who built a cabin on the west bank of a creek in 1849 known as Arroyo de las Nueces ("Stream of the Walnuts") and lived there with his wife Caroline and six children.

More settlers began to arrive in the late 1850's following the United States' acquisition of California. Among them was Milo Hough, who built a hotel and store called the Walnut Creek House near where the Broadway Plaza garage is today.

Homer Stow Shuey arrived in 1869, buying 57 acres in the little hamlet. He was the first to file a subdivision map and began selling off lots in 1871. He and his brother Marcus owned a mercantile store.

Their cousin, James Stow, was 16 when he came to work for the Shuey brothers; he eventually owned his own store and helped to bring telephone service and steam trains to the village.



"The Corners" to cityhood

Locals referred to the area as "the Corners" in reference to a crossroads of dirt roads leading from Pacheco to the north and Oakland to the west. That changed in 1862, when the postmaster-general appointed local merchant James R. McDonald to be postmaster for the growing village renamed as Walnut Creek.

Residents began wanting more urban amenities, such as schools. They voted to tax themselves to pay for the city's first school, which enrolled 21 boys and 19 girls when it opened in 1871.

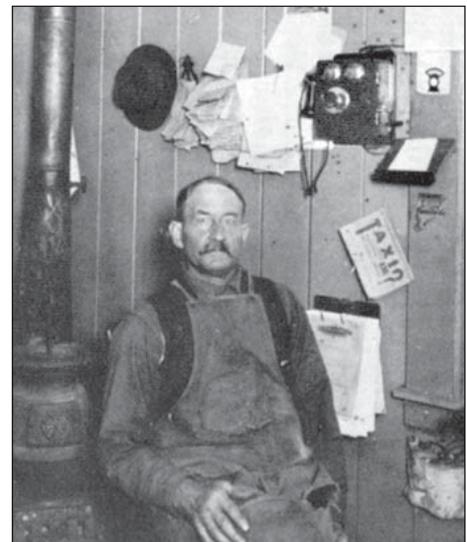
Walnut Creek became a city due to a similar effort in 1914, spurred by a desire to be able to raise taxes to pay for road paving. The discussions were heated, but incorporation advocates won 127-67 in October 1914. Elected to the first Board of Trustees: Harry Spencer, who began the first mayor, Joe Lawrence, Armand Stow, William F. Robinson and Winfield Burpee. Mary Ridgway, Grape Carnival Queen of 1911, was elected town clerk.



1921— Paving Main Street. Paving Main Street was the impetus behind Walnut Creek incorporation, although it took another 6 1/2 years for the work to begin.



Eva Leech, Walnut Creek's first female Council member, and her husband Claude, the town doctor.



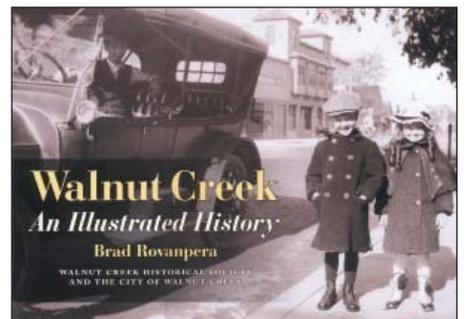
Harry Spencer, Walnut Creek's first mayor.

What else happened?

Robert Noble Burgess donated Walnut Creek's first sewer system in 1917 in a push to improve the sanitary conditions of the town. Burgess also donated the city's first fire truck, a model T Ford.

What is today Heather Farm Park was purchased in 1921 by a wealthy gambling hall owner named John W. Marchbank, who used the land to raise thoroughbreds for the Tanforan Race Track in San Bruno. The city later bought the land and opened Heather Farm as a city park officially on July 4, 1970.

In 1931, Eva Leech became the first woman to hold a seat on the City Council. The Leeches were a prominent couple. Claude Leech was the town doctor, while Eva founded the Walnut Creek Red Cross chapter. Their home was moved in 1993, and now houses Modern China restaurant.



History by the book!

Walnut Creek: an Illustrated History by former Public Information Officer Brad Rovanner is the source of much the information on these pages. The book is available at the Centennial Store (Downtown Business Association office, 1st floor, City Hall), and at Barnes & Noble in Walnut Creek. Book proceeds benefit the Walnut Creek Historical Society.

THEN AND NOW

100 YEARS OF WALNUT CREEK HISTORY



1910 - Walnut Creek Meat Market



Today - Sasa Restaurant

The Walnut Creek Meat Market opened its brick building on Main Street in 1910. The slaughterhouse was still in the back, but when neighboring merchants complained, the Lawrence family moved the slaughtering operation out to the Ygnacio Valley. Today, the building is home to Sasa Restaurant.

Fire was a serious concern for the new city. In 1921, the City's trustees approved \$3,000 to establish a volunteer fire department. In 1926, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors formed the Central Fire Protection District, with Walnut Creek as the hub, and opened the first fire station. Today, the same building houses Havana Restaurant.



1926 - Central Fire Protection District Station



Today - Havana Restaurant



1953 - Main Street and Mt. Diablo Boulevard



Main Street and Mount Diablo Boulevard today

While traffic continues to be the number one problem cited by resident in surveys and polls, streets were actually more congested in the past. Before the opening of the I-680 Junction, traffic would often be at a complete standstill in the downtown on Saturdays and Sundays.

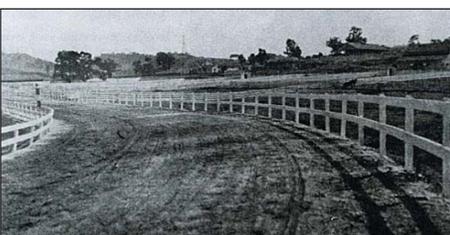
California Pizza Kitchen, far right, sits at the entrance of what was once a large U-shaped parking lot providing parking to businesses on either side. Now, Neiman Marcus stands where the original J.C. Penney was. Broadway Shopping Center was one of the earliest auto-oriented retail malls; now called Broadway Plaza, it is undergoing a \$250 million transformation.



1951 - Broadway Shopping Center



Today - same location, Broadway Plaza



1960s - Heather Farm Racetrack



Today - Heather Farm Park

Heather Farm was once owned by John Marchbank, who raised thoroughbreds and named the site after his favorite horse, King Heather. City voters passed a bond in 1965 to buy 50 acres; Phil and Ruth Bancroft donated an adjoining 5 acres. This fall, the City's first All Abilities Playground will open at Heather Farm Park.

In 1957, a group of local physicians met to come up with a plan for a hospital in the Ygnacio Valley. The \$4.5 million project was funded equally by the federal government, the state and the community. The John Muir Memorial Hospital was named by 6th grader Janet Kammerer in a contest.



1960s - John Muir Hospital being built



Today - John Muir Medical Center

100

WALNUT CREEK CENTENNIAL 1914-2014

There are 100 (and more!) ways to celebrate Walnut Creek. Here are some choices; for more ideas, visit www.walnutcreek100.com.

ARTS, LITERATURE & ENTERTAINMENT

A Journey into Steinbeck's California

WC Reads Celebrates Rural History
Wed., Sept. 17, 7-9 p.m.
Walnut Creek Library, 1644 Broadway
Pre-register: www.wclibrary.org

Comedy Corner: 100 Years of Work & Play in Walnut Creek

Fri., Sept. 19, 5:30-9 p.m.
Laptop Lounge, 1701 N. California Blvd.
www.laptoplounge.biz

Celebrating the City through Art

Bedford Gallery Exhibit
Sept. 21-Nov. 16
www.bedfordgallery.org

Steinbeck's Pastures of Heaven on Stage

WC Reads Celebrates Rural Life
Mon., Sept. 22, 7-9 p.m.
Leshner Center for the Arts
www.wclibrary.org

On Broadway Gala for the Arts

Sat., Oct. 11, 5 p.m.-midnight
Leshner Center for the Arts
www.draa.org

Civic Arts Education Open House

Sat., Nov. 15, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Ln.
www.walnut-creek.org/cae

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Walnut Run for Education

Sunday, Sept. 7, 8 a.m., 1201 Main Street
www.TheWalnutRun.com

Walnut Festival Twilight Parade

Sat., Sept. 13, 6 p.m.
Main Street from Mt. Diablo to Civic
www.thewalnutfestival.org

77th Walnut Festival

Thurs., Sept. 19-Sun., Sept. 21
Heather Farm Park; www.thewalnutfestival.org

Celebration Service @ Historic St. Paul's

Sun., Sept. 21, 9:30 a.m.
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Ave.
www.stpaulswc.org



Heritage Day Highlights - Some 800 people got a glimpse of Walnut Creek's ranching days at the Centennial Heritage Day at Borges Ranch, including this young visitor.

100 Places, 100 Faces: Community Art Project

Sat., Oct. 11, 10 a.m.-noon
Walnut Creek Library, 1644 N. Broadway
www.ccclib.org/locations/walnutcreek.html

90th Anniversary Reception

Walnut Creek Lions Club
Sun., Oct. 12, 4-7 p.m.
Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Ln.
www.walnutcreeklions.org

Action for Beauty Awards

Fri., Oct. 17, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Scott's Garden Restaurant
For reservations: Call 932-2746 (Janet)

Centennial Birthday Festival

Sat., Oct. 18, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Shadelands Ranch and Museum
www.WalnutCreek100.com

Centennial Harvest Festival

Walnut Creek Farmers' Market
Sun., Oct. 26, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Locust Street, www.cccfm.org

Veterans Day Celebration

Tues., Nov. 11, 11 a.m.
Leshner Center for the Arts
www.walnut-creek.org

HISTORY

Downtown History Walks

Walnut Creek Historical Society
Sept. 13, Oct. 11
Liberty Bell Plaza @ 9:30 a.m.
Reservations: www.walnutcreekhistory.info

Ranching in the Valley

Living History at Shadelands Ranch
Sun., Sept. 21, noon-4 p.m.
2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd.
www.wclibrary.org

Las Lomas Car Classic 2014

Sat., Sept. 27, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Las Lomas High School
1460 S. Main St.
www.llhscarclassic.org

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Walk to End Alzheimer's

Sat., Oct. 18, 8:30 a.m. - noon
Heather Farm Park
www.act.alz.org/walnutcreek2014

WILDLIFE

100 Ways to Support Wildlife

Lindsay Wildlife Museum
Live Animal Ambassadors: Sat., Sept. 13
Natural History of Contra Costa: Sept. 25
Coyotes in Our Midst: Thurs., Oct. 16
Not-So-Scary Animals: Sat., Oct. 25
www.wildlife-museum.org

YOUTH & FAMILIES

All Abilities Playground Grand Opening

Sat., Oct. 25, 10 a.m.
Heather Farm Park
www.wccivicpride.org

Walnut Tournament 2014

Walnut Creek Soccer Club
Sat., Nov. 15, all day; www.wcsc.org

Community Service Day

Give a half-day for the community, help a favorite cause

With more than 50 projects to choose from, Community Service Day 2014 offers something for everyone. For details on these projects, go to www.walnut-creek.org/service.

ANIMALS (PETS & WILDLIFE)

ARF Giving Tree Decorations

Create wish-list ornaments for ARF's holiday giving tree. Ages: 16+

CERT Disaster Prep for Animals

Help ensure the safety of animals after disaster by cleaning the animal rescue supplies storage shed.

Ages: 14+

Community Concern for Cats: Thrift Shop Capers

Help change over Rescued Treasures Thrift Shop summer stock to winter merchandise. Ages: 16+

Equestrian Center Beautification

Paint and do general landscaping chores. All ages

Lindsay Museum Fall Garden Cleanup

Mulch, prune and weed the gardens for fall. Ages: 8+

WC Open Space Foundation: Nest Boxes for Wood Ducks

Hang wood duck nest boxes on trees. Ages: 12+

Native Bird Nest-Box Building (WC Open Space Foundation)

Build nest boxes for native birds and help increase their local populations.

Ages: 12+

ARTS

Bedford Gallery Sewing Project

Wanted: Skilled sewers to create covers for Gallery display cases. Adults only.

Ceramics Studio Enhancements

Clean and reassemble a ceramic wall sculpture and other tasks. Ages: 16+



Building for the future! 2013 Community Service Day volunteers at Habitat for Humanity.

2014 WALNUT CREEK
Community
Service Day

Saturday
September 27

7:30 a.m. Check-in & free pancake breakfast
Heather Farm Community Center

8:45 a.m. Meet at project site

9 a.m. Work begins

Some projects offer afternoon shifts!

Downtown Streetscape Art

Prep utility boxes for installation of artwork. All ages

Leshner Center Costume Shop

Clean and organize theater costumes. Ages: 16+

Shadelands Arts Center Landscape Creations

Create landscaping for preschool play yard and Arts Center courtyard. Ages: 16+

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Meals on Wheels - Bookmarks for Seniors

Put your creative talents to work. Ages: 14+

Trinity Center Spruce-Up

Help spruce up the homeless respite center. All ages

See next page for more projects

Community Service Day

Give a half-day for the community, help a favorite cause

How to volunteer

1. Go to www.walnut-creek.org/service to get detailed project information and the link to the registration system.
2. Use the online volunteer registration system to sign up. You can register as an individual or on behalf of a family or group. (Please, only one project!)
3. Mark your calendar for September 27 and build a better Walnut Creek!

Don't have Internet access?

Call the Community Service Day hotline: 925-256-3505.

AFTERNOON SHIFTS!

The following groups offer noon - 3 p.m. shifts:

Ceramics Studio
Shadelands Arts Center
Walnut Heights Elementary

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES, continued

Volunteer Center Children's Book Refurbishing

Refurbish "pre-loved" books for children and youth. All ages.

GARDENS & LANDSCAPING

All Abilities Playground

Plant landscaping at the new playground. All ages.

Bancroft Garden Fence Painting

Help paint the fence "Ruth Bancroft Green." Ages: 12+



Sorting food for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

Centennial Birthday Festival

Spruce Up

Clean up Shadelands Ranch grounds. Ages: 8+

Centennial Grove Finishing Touches

Help lay sod at new grove at Heather Farm Park. Ages: 14+

HF Gardens Planting Extravaganza

Expand the Gardens at Heather Farm. All ages

Tennis Center Water-Conserving Landscaping

Help save water with new landscaping. All ages

Valle Verde Neighborhood Park Makeover

Help us give the park some needed TLC. All ages

LIBRARIES

If libraries are your passion, you can help out at one of our two public libraries — Walnut Creek (downtown) or Ygnacio Valley — or at one of five school libraries: Buena Vista, Indian Valley, Murwood, Walnut Heights and Walnut Creek Intermediate.

NATURE & OUTDOORS (CREEKS, PARKS & OPEN SPACE)

Arbolado Park Fence Re-Painting

Re-paint perimeter fence. Ages: 12+

Borges Ranch Amphitheater Refurbishing

Restore Hanna Grove amphitheater at Borges Ranch. Ages: 14+

Civic Park Native Plant Pollinator Garden

Create paths and mulch garden beds. Ages: 16+

Indian Valley Pond Restoration

Remove non-native plants. Ages: 14+

Lar Rieu Park Fall Projects

Help keep the park beautiful: weed, prune, plant daffodils. All ages

Pine Creek Cleanup

Clean two stretches of Pine Creek (Woodlands neighborhood and along Oak Grove Road). Ages: 7+

Community Service Day

Give a half-day for the community, help a favorite cause



FOOD, EYEGLOSS DRIVES

Food drives are ideal for families, neighbors, church groups and Scout troops.

Neighborhood Food Drive

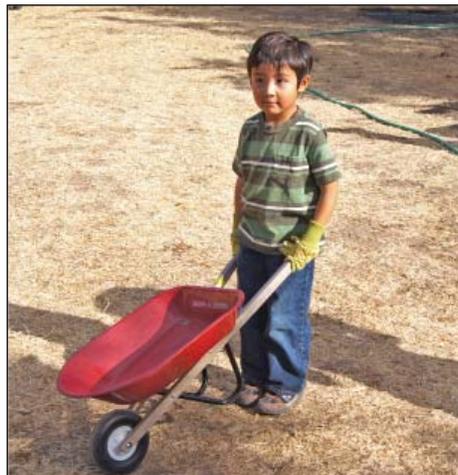
Support both the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and the Monument Crisis Center by collecting food in your neighborhood. During the week before Sept. 27, you will distribute food bags (provided by the Food Bank) to neighborhood homes. Then, on or before Sept. 27, you will collect the bags of food and bring them to Heather Farm Community Center.

Rossmoor Food Drive

Rossmoor residents can bring bags of food to Rossmoor's Gateway Clubhouse between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27. Rossmoor Rotary will collect the donations for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

Lions Clubs Eyeglass Collection

Bring used eyeglasses to Heather Farm Community Center on the morning of Community Service Day to donate to the Lions Clubs. The eyeglasses are refurbished and given to the needy.



SPORTS

Basketball Court Re-Painting -- Arbolado and Walden Park

Re-paint outdoor basketball courts at Walden and Arbolado Parks, Ages: 16+

Clarke Swim Center Lane Rope Re-stringing

Help WC Aquabears re-string lane ropes. Ages: 10+

Volleyball Court Landscaping at Larkey Park

Add the landscape touches to new sand courts. Ages: 8+

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Lions Clubs
(Diablo Valley,
Rossmoor, Walnut Creek,
Ygnacio Valley)
Safeway
Sports Basement

Major Support

Allied Waste
Peet's Coffee
Scott Valley Bank

SCHOOLS

Most Walnut Creek public schools are sponsoring campus beautification projects involving gardening, cleanup and organizing. Elementary schools involved are Bancroft, Buena Vista, Indian Valley, Murwood, Walnut Acres and Walnut Heights.

Foothill Intermediate and Walnut Creek Intermediate schools and Northgate High School are also sponsoring campus projects.

Start the day with pancakes!



Join us at Heather Farm Community Center for a free pancake breakfast, courtesy of our local Lions clubs.



David M. Allen

CENTER REP KICKS OFF 2014-15 SEASON — Tim Homsley, Ryan Drummond, Jerry Lee, Derek Keeling and Sharon Rietkerk Higgins star in Center REP's season opener, "Life Could Be a Dream," a '60s doo-wop musical. Other Center REP offerings for 2014-15 are "Deathtrap"; "A Christmas Carol"; "The Book Club Play"; "Mistress of the Inn"; and "Anything Goes." For ticket information, call 925-943-7469 or visit www.lesherartscenter.org.

Disaster team training offered this fall

Become a volunteer Disaster Service Worker for the City of Walnut Creek by taking the upcoming Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.

Classes will be held on seven consecutive Monday evenings from Sept. 8 – Oct. 20, with a graduation drill the morning of Saturday, Oct. 25.

The purpose of CERT is to teach people how to safely respond to the needs of the community in the event of a major disaster. CERT graduates are sworn in as volunteer Disaster Service Workers for the City of Walnut Creek.

If disaster strikes, CERT team members check on their own families and homes first, and then assemble at a pre-designated site to work together to respond to the needs of the neighborhood and gather information for the City's Emergency Operations Center.

CERT classes are a combination of lecture and hands-on training, and include light search and rescue, disaster medical operations, and CERT



CERT team members Evan DaBreo and Mark Clar at the Spring 2014 graduation drill.

team organization. Skills students learn include use of hand-held radios, when and how to shut off gas and how to properly operate a fire extinguisher.

The Sept. 8 class will be at City Hall; the remaining classes will be at Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation, 2890 Mitchell Drive.

There is a \$25 program fee, payable the first day of class. Register online at www.walnut-creek.org/CERT or call the CERT registration line, 925-256-3556.



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Justin Wedel
Cindy Silva

* For appointment, call 925-256-3504

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Nutshell Newsletter is published quarterly. For questions and comments, contact editor Gayle Vassar, 925-943-5895 or vassar@walnut-creek.org

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