



IN A

Nutshell

No. 100

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

MAY/JUNE 2002



The "Open" sign will be out more often at Walnut Creek's two branch libraries starting July 1 as a result of voter approval of Measure Q in March.

Longer library hours begin July 1

Both of Walnut Creek's branch libraries are scheduled to be open with consistent and increased hours beginning July 1 thanks to voters who passed Measure Q.

The library tax measure, which was placed on the March 5 ballot by the City Council, passed with a 69.7 percent approval rate, more than the two-thirds

majority required. Out of 19,501 votes cast, 13,586 were in favor of the measure, which will generate \$790,000 a year for the next eight years to keep the Walnut LIBRARIES, see back page

Happy 100th, Nutshell!

It was only a matter of time before it appeared, and now here it is: the 100th edition of *In a Nutshell*.

When the first issue of the City's official community newsletter was mailed in November 1985, it marked the beginning of the City's renewed commitment to public outreach and involvement.

Since then that commitment has blossomed to include public bus tours, a City website, a cable TV program, the Citizen's Academy, and last year's "Community Conversations" program.

Over the last 17 years, *In a Nutshell* has chronicled the life and times of Walnut Creek six times a year for every resident and business in town.

We hope to make the next 100 issues of the *Nutshell* as informative and illuminating as we tried to make the first 100.

Thanks and goodbye

City Manager Don Blubaugh, who will retire June 17 after 14 years with Walnut Creek, penned the following farewell to the community:

As my retirement date draws near I wanted to thank the people of Walnut Creek for the opportunity to serve as your city manager for the past 14 years. The City organization has grown modestly and matured during this time. My time here has been exciting and rewarding. We continue the commit-



Don Blubaugh

ment to measured growth in response to community values articulated in the mid-80's and reaffirmed last year in a series of community meetings known as Community Conversations.

Many things have happened since my arrival here. The list is awesome and is made possible by you, the public, the many fine community organizations that exist here, the fortunes of a very successful regional sales

GOODBYE, see page 4



Celebrate at Heritage Day

Discover the beauty and history of Walnut Creek's open space during the City's Heritage Day at Borges Ranch on Saturday, June 8. For details, see story on page 5.

City Event Calendar

May

4
Creek Cleanup Day
(See story this page)

18-19
Art on the Main street fair
Main Street; 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

27
Memorial Day observance
Noon, Civic Park gazebo
(See *What's Happening*)

June

8
Heritage Day at Borges
(See story, page 5)

20-23
Civic Arts sales events
(See *What's Happening*)

City Meeting Calendar

City Council*
May 7, 21; June 4, 18
7 p.m.
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

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

Arts Commission
May 20, June 17
4:30 p.m.
Leshner Center for the Arts

Transportation Commission
May 16, June 20
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

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

Park, Rec & Open Space Commission
May 6, June 3
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 next Saturday at 1 p.m.

Walnut Creek Currents, a 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 Ch. 11 in Rossmoor) at 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m.

Volunteers needed for Creek Cleanup Day

Volunteers are needed to help clear debris from the downtown creeks during the 13th annual Creek Cleanup Day on Saturday, May 4.

Activities will begin at 9 a.m. and wrap up around 12:30 p.m. Sign up at Civic Park by 9:30 a.m. A free barbecue lunch for all participants will follow the activity.

Be sure to wear old sneakers and gloves and plan to get wet. Plastic trash bags will be provided.

This event is co-sponsored by the City and Friends of the Creek. For details, call Dave Wallace, 943-5829.

WALNUT CREEK
OPEN SPACE



New map of WC open space

A brand new, full-color "Walnut Creek Open Space" map is now available, free of charge, from the City. The two-sided map shows trails and other features in the City's four open space recreation areas as well as rules and regulations to follow when you visit the open space. To get your copy, visit City Hall, 1666 No. Main Street, or call 943-5800. (Note: Check out the article on Shell Ridge Open Space and Borges Ranch on page 5.)

What's Happening

Memorial Day observance at Civic Park

The public is invited to the City's Memorial Day Observance on Monday, May 27 at noon in Civic Park. The Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein will perform a concert immediately following the ceremony.

Civic Arts sale events in June

Civic Arts Education and the Clay Arts Guild will sponsor art sales in two locations June 20-23. On sale in Civic Park (located at Civic & Broadway) will be a large selection of hand-crafted ceramics and ceramic sculpture. At Shadelands Art Center, 111 Wiget Lane, paintings, jewelry, furniture, and other media will be on sale. Times and dates are the same for both sales: Thursday, June 20, 5-9 p.m. (opening parties); Friday, June 21, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Saturday, June 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, June 23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call Civic Arts Education at 943-5846.

Thursday eve Farmers' Market to reopen

The Downtown Business Association and the Contra Costa Farmers' Market are again bringing the Thursday Evening Summer Farmers' Market to downtown Walnut Creek. This special summer market will open June 6 and run every Thursday evening through August along Bonanza Street between Main St. & Locust. Market hours are 4 to 8 p.m. For details, call 933-6778.

Walkabout Downtown WC on June 26

The 4th annual Walkabout Downtown Walnut Creek will be held Wednesday, June 26, 4 to 8 p.m. The Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association invites the public to stroll through the businesses of Downtown Walnut Creek and discover all the unique stores, gourmet restaurants, and service businesses. Tickets are \$16 and will be available after June 3 at several downtown locations. For more information, call 933-6778.

Not In Our Town II event May 19

A screening of an award-winning PBS program, "Not In Our Town II," and a public dialogue about diversity issues and how they affect residents of Walnut Creek will be the focus of a special community event on Sunday, May 19. The program will be from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Ln., Walnut Creek. Admission is free and everyone is welcome. The film, produced by Rhian Miller and Patrice O'Neill, portrays ordinary citizens across the country responding to hate, bigotry, homophobia, and anti-Semitism by gathering together to make their communities more open, more accepting, and less-prejudiced places where diversity is honored and respected. The event is cosponsored by the Mt. Diablo Peace Center and the City of Walnut Creek. For more information, call 933-7850.

Host an international student

The International Education Center at Diablo Valley College is seeking host families to house international students on a temporary basis while they improve their English skills. Host families receive a stipend of \$600 a month per student and must provide a bedroom and two meals per day for the student(s). Families are not required to consist of the traditional family unit (two parents and children). For more information, contact Fia Parker at 676-4600, ext. 103 or e-mail her at fparker@dvc.edu

Shadelands Antiques Show set June 9

Over 100 dealers will be selling their antiques and collectibles at the popular Shadelands Antiques Show on Sunday, June 9, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. The event benefits the Walnut Creek Historical Society. Admission is free. Refreshments and museum tours available. Call 935-7871 for details.

Work nearing end on first phase of PD/City Hall addition

Construction of the new Police/City Hall additions is nearly completed, and City staff is gearing up for a major move from the older facility into the new one perhaps as early as mid-June.

The first phase of the project, which began in fall 1999, adds 35,000 square feet of office and meeting space to the 22-year-old civic center.

Once employees are moved into their new quarters, the older buildings will be the focus of the second phase, which calls for seismic retrofitting, new flooring, and technological updating.

When Phase 2 is completed sometime in spring 2003, some City employees will move back to renovated offices in the older buildings.

EBMUD water treatment plant

The East Bay Municipal Utility District has begun making improvements to its water treatment plant on Larkey Lane in northwest Walnut Creek.

Construction is expected to be completed in fall 2005. As a result, the hiking trail that runs through the treatment plant property is being moved around the northwest edge of the site to connect with the Mt. Diablo/Briones Trail.



The expansion of City Hall and the Police Department is expected to be completed in June.



The work hours will be generally from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. The City has made certain that EBMUD notify residents in the

neighborhood in advance of any nighttime or weekend work to make up for weather delays.

Later this year, work will begin on a major water pipeline installation through downtown Walnut Creek that will involve tunneling 100 feet below the surface from Civic Park to Newell Avenue. Watch for updated information on this project in future issues of the *Nutshell*.

For more information or to be put on the mailing list for project updates, contact Andrea Pook, Community Affairs Representative, at (510) 287-0145 or e-mail her at apook@ebmud.com.

New commissioners seated; retiring members honored

Three new City commissioners took their seats March 19 as the City Council honored retiring members of three commissions at a special reception.

Sworn in were Richard A. Larsen, Planning Commission (four-year term); Brian Kilian, Design Review Commission (three-year term); and Tracy Murray, Park, Recreation & Open Space Commission (three-year term).

Honored for their years of service were Planning Commissioner Lesley Hunt, who served seven years; PROS Commissioner Lou Schrepel, five years; and Design Review Commissioner Richard Davidson, three years.

More What's Happening

High Tech art at Bedford Gallery

The Bedford Gallery is showcasing *High Tech/Low Tech Hybrids: Art in a Digital Age* through June 16. The exhibition presents works by artists who are combining digital technology with traditional handwork to create highly original works of humor, beauty, and humanity. Bedford Gallery is located in the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts at 1601 Civic Drive. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Call 925-295-1417 for information.

Miniature Horse Show June 21-23

The Walnut Creek Equestrian Center will host its annual Miniature Horse Show June 21-23 at the rear of Heather Farm Park. This free event will be from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. all three days.

2002 Summer Tennis Leagues

The Walnut Creek Racquet Club at Heather Farm Park is organizing competitive Men's and Women's Singles leagues for tennis enthusiasts. The league registration fees include 12 singles matches, a T-shirt and an end of the season tournament. Cost is \$20 for WCRC members, \$30 for non-members. Call John Bondon at 925-672-4109 or visit <http://www.wcrc.net/events/summer.htm>

Bricks for Mom

For a unique way to honor your mother this Mother's Day, have a brick inscribed for her in the brick pathways of the Rose garden at The Gardens at Heather Farm. The \$100 tax-deductible cost helps support The Gardens. Call 947-1678 for details or to order an inscribed brick.

Marauder youth football signups

Sign ups are underway now for Walnut Creek Marauders youth football and cheerleading for boys and girls ages 8 to 14. For details and sign-up forms, visit www.wcyfmarauders.com or call 925-941-4745. The first practice is August 1.

Young Rep's summer workshop

The City's Young Repertory Theatre Workshop, now in its 29th season, will be offering an intensive summer acting workshop for students ages 14 to 19. Classes will be June 17-July 26 at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts. An end of summer theater camp program (Aug. 5-23) is also available for youths ages 10 to 15. Audition appointments are required; call Civic Arts Education at 943-5846.

Goodbye

From front page

tax base, the hard work of elected officials and appointed board and commission members and a city staff whose excellence and commitment to public service is rivaled by no one.

I have been asked numerous times over the past six months what I am most proud of all the things that have been accomplished. It is hard to pick one item. So, I want to note four.

The efforts of the past seven years to build better relations and communication with residents and businesses here have been critically important to me. I have watched during my career a deepening gulf between people who serve in local government and the people of the community. The City is ALL of us.

We have attempted to build a joint effort of you and those who work for you in addressing community and neighborhood issues. The Community Connection program, Community Conversations, and the North Gate Traffic Calming Project, Eccleston Creek Cleanup, and Block Parties are a few examples of working side-by-side. I am

convinced that people want to help and be involved and the City staff needs to assist you in your endeavors, and work side-by-side with you to deal with community issues.

We have built a whole array of capital projects over the past 14 years, and most



Don as he looked when he arrived at City Hall in 1988.

were paid for with no debt. From the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, two community gymnasiums, two new city parks, the Iron Horse Trail bridge over Ygnacio, sports fields at Heather Farm Park, road improvements such as the South Broadway Extension and Lawrence Way bypass, the Shadelands Arts Center, and the soon-to-happen new downtown library.

We have continued the City's long-standing tradition of planning for the future. Having served in four California communities, I can tell you how important this is. Strong future planning has allowed us to keep order to what happens here and to tell those who wish to build and redevelop what it is that the community wants and values. Broadway Pointe, Plaza Escuela, Olympic Place, and Ygnacio Center add

value to the community. They were conceived long before a shovel of earth was turned.

The community has been blessed with strong elective leadership. Before my arrival and during the past 14 years, dedicated people who care deeply about the community and who work many hours to help steward it have served on the City Council. The City staff is the finest I have known in my career. People here enjoy serving the community, are happy at their work, and give their all to perform for you.

Betty and I have decided to stay in Walnut Creek. We love this community for all that it is and for the people who work hard to keep it that way and strive to make it better.

Thanks for everything,



Don, left, received a standing ovation from participants of Community Conversations last fall.

Come to Don's retirement dinner on Saturday, June 15 at Marriott

An entertaining evening is being planned for City Manager Don Blubaugh's retirement dinner, which will be Saturday, June 15 at the Walnut Creek Marriott in the California Ballroom.

The Walnut Creek Marriott is at the corner of North Main Street and Parkside Drive.

The cost is \$65 per person, which includes the meal and live entertainment. The event begins at 6 p.m.

There is a choice of two entrees: filet mignon or grilled filet of salmon, or a vegetarian dish (butternut squash and goat cheese ravioli). Included with the meal is wine, salad, and dessert.

To reserve a seat, make a check for \$65 per person out to: "Don Blubaugh Retirement Dinner" and mail it with your dinner choice before June 1 to Joan Foudy, 1666 No. Main St., Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

For more information, call 943-5812.

WC Seniors Club to celebrate its 50th anniversary

The Walnut Creek Seniors Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary on May 31 with a dinner/dance at the Shadelands Arts Center.

The 2,476-member organization, whose members must be at least 55 years of age, holds its activities at the Civic Park Community Center.

The club was formed in 1952 with 35 founding members, who held their first meetings in a storefront at the then-new Broadway Shopping Center.

Shell Ridge

Historic Ranch heart of activity

Second of a series

Frank Borges knew. When he and his wife, Mary, found the pristine foothills of what today is part of the Shell Ridge Open Space, with a spectacular view of Suisun Bay and oak-studded hillsides in all directions, they knew it was the right spot to establish their new home and a new cattle ranching operation.

That was in 1899. Now, more than a century later, the Borges Ranch remains what it was then: a working cattle ranch still surrounded by oak-studded hillsides and a spectacular view of Suisun Bay.

Borges Ranch is in the heart of Shell Ridge Open Space, a 1,460-acre territory on the eastern edge of Walnut Creek that represents more than half of the City's total 2,700-acre open space inventory.

The original redwood structure that Frank Borges converted from a shed into family ranchhouse still stands, having been converted into a turn-of-the-century museum by resident Senior Open Space Ranger Ron White and his wife, Marnie.

"It's all original," White said of the exterior of the Borges house — the first



Senior Open Space Ranger Ron White in front of the original Borges ranchhouse.

Walnut Creek Open Space: Our Local Frontier



Shell Ridge Open Space/Borges Ranch
1,460 acres
Open sunrise to dusk
Entrance: 1035 Castle Rock Road

Walnut Creek site listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.

Each year tens of thousands of visitors — mostly school-aged children — visit Borges Ranch and receive hands-on demonstrations of what life was like on a circa-1900 cattle ranch.

Shell Ridge, so named for the fossil shells that can still be found there, connects Walnut Creek with Mount Diablo State Park.

"This is our big backyard," said White.

When Walnut Creek voters passed the milestone open space bond measure in 1974, Shell Ridge was the first area to be acquired. White was hired as the City's first open space ranger on Feb. 1, 1978, and today the program employs four full-time rangers to tell nature's story.

"What makes it special?" asked White. "When we're all dead and gone, it'll still be here."

For more information on Borges Ranch and Shell Ridge Open Space, visit www.walnut-creek.org or call 943-5860.



Children get hands-on learning at Borges Ranch through its interpretive programs.

Enjoy WC open space at Heritage Day

Discover the beauty and history of Walnut Creek's open space during the City's Heritage Day at Borges Ranch on Saturday, June 8.

This free event will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Walnut Creek Open Space Division staff is planning a wide range of fun activities for the entire family, including food, live entertainment, a children's art show, a historical pageant, demonstra-



tions of early ranching skills such as roping and blacksmithing, and more.

Parking will be available at Northgate High School, 425 Castle Rock Rd., and a shuttle will run continuously throughout the day between the school and Borges Ranch.

For more information, check out the website at www.walnut-creek.org/openspace/openspace.htm or call 943-5899, ext. 135.

City Council Update

City funds Castle Rock sports fields

The City Council on March 19 agreed to appropriate an additional \$462,000 plus a loan of up to \$175,000 to build new sports fields at the former Castle Rock Elementary School on Hutchinson Road.

A coalition of community groups — Northgate Bronco Boosters, Walnut Creek Little League, and Walnut Creek Soccer Club — hopes to raise \$1.2 million to restore the abandoned playfields owned by the Mt. Diablo Unified School District.

In response to a request from the coalition, the Council originally committed \$500,000 to the project.

When a state grant fell through in March, the Council agreed to allocate another \$337,000 from state Proposition 12 funds, plus an additional \$125,000 from future capital improvement program funds to pay for restrooms at the fields. The Council further authorized a loan not to exceed \$175,000 to the project.

Traffic signal OK'd at Plaza Escuela

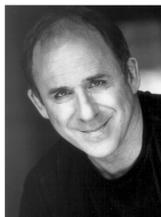
A traffic signal will be installed at the intersection of Olympic Boulevard and Locust Street to replace a four-way stop at the entrance to the Plaza Escuela retail center.

Transportation planners say a signal will better manage traffic flows at the intersection and decrease the backup on Olympic Boulevard.

The cost of the signal will be paid with traffic impact fees collected from Plaza Escuela and the Olympic Place project.

New Center REP director in wings

Lee Sankowich will take over as Artistic Director of the City's Center REPeritory Company July 1 to oversee the 2002-2003 season.



He will succeed David Lee Sankowich Hay, Center REP's director since 1994, who plans to teach at San Diego University and spend more time with his family.

Along with overseeing Center REP, Sankowich will continue to be Artistic Director of the Marin Theatre Company, which he has done since 1990.



City installs 'new' 11-year-old oaks

City workers transplanted an 11-year-old valley oak tree on March 26 next to the City's Shadelands Arts Center at North Wiget Lane and Ygnacio Valley Road. The new specimen replaces a 300-year-old oak tree that the City was forced to remove in October 2001 due to disease and rot. Another new valley oak was also planted in Civic Park near the corner of North Broadway and Civic Drive to replace a mature oak that died last year.

Council to review lean 2002-04 budget

The City Council will be reviewing later this spring a new, two-year operating budget that is expected to be relatively lean given the recent recession.

The City expects to end the current budget period in June with an estimated \$4.8 million in revenues over expenditures. However, the proposed 2002-2004 budget will only maintain existing service levels and not include any new programs

or services, according to Administrative Services Director Rosie Coan.

The Council is scheduled to hold its first hearing on the new budget on May 7 and is tentatively planning to adopt it on June 4.

The operating budget pays for all City operations, including police, public services, community development, arts, recreation, and general government.

Student internships available with the City

Applications are now being accepted for City internships available to teens looking to earn some money this summer.

The Walnut Creek Summer Internship Program is open to youth ages 16 to 19 who live or attend school in Walnut Creek.

The application is available on-line on the City's official website, www.walnut-creek.org, or call 943-5817. Please send applications to the City of Walnut Creek, 1666 North Main Street, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. The deadline is May 3.

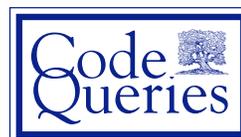
Keep shrubs, tree limbs pruned

They're called "encroachments," and if you have shrubbery or tree branches blocking or obstructing sidewalks or streets, they are in violation of the City's Municipal Code as nuisances.

Code section 1—6.301 defines such nuisances as any obstruction in the public right-of-way that impedes pedestrians or impairs motorists' view of

the street.

Property owners are reminded it is their responsibility to cut back their bushes and prune tree limbs to a height of eight feet over the sidewalk or 14 feet over the street.



If you have a question about encroachments, contact a City Community Enhancement Officer at 943-5863.

CopTalk

By Reserve Officer Neal McCarthy

Ahh, Summer

As the days start to get longer and warmer, we look forward to summer. For many of us, summer's approach brings back wonderful memories of friends and family spending our days at swimming pools and campsites. But for many of our children, the idle days of summer won't be spent outside at the pool. Many of our kids will retreat to the comfort of an air-conditioned home and a high-speed Internet connection.



The Internet remains a vast repository of information and entertainment. But like all things "new," it also brings with it a "dark side." Internet based crimes against our young people continue to be a problem. Stories of young people lured by on-line sexual predators are common in today's headlines. Because many parents did not grow up with the Internet, they are at a disadvantage in protecting their children from the negative aspects of the Internet.

Members of the Walnut Creek Police Department's High Tech Crime Task Force and the Community Oriented Policing group have been working with local school administrators to present to the various PTA's, a seminar on Internet crimes and our kids. This program introduces parents to the various capabilities of the Internet, crimes that are directed towards our kids, and the measures parents can take to protect their children.

For more information check out our website at www.walnutcreekpd.com. Also, stay tuned to this column for information regarding our upcoming public seminars on Identity Theft.

**Looking for a job
with the City?**

**Call the City's Employment
Hotline at (925) 943-5817.**

Community Policing newest strategy in Walnut Creek's war on crime

Walnut Creek may have minimal violent crime, but there are still numerous quality of life issues for citizens that pose unique challenges for police.

To address the complex issues of everyday life in a creative way, the Walnut Creek Police Department has formed a Community Policing Team. The goal of Community Policing is to prevent crime by creating partnerships with the community. The mantra of the team is "Enforcement, Education, Prevention."

"The gist of what we're trying to do is prevent crime by creating partnerships with the community," said team leader Sgt. Tim Schultz.

This philosophy of working with the community to solve problems has succeeded in different ways. In one instance, police investigated a number of complaints about two loose pit bulls in one neighborhood. They discovered there had been 26 incidents where the dogs showed aggressive behavior. The Community Policing Team scheduled a neighborhood meeting and facilitated a resolution in which the dogs were taken out of the area.

"It's an opportunity to work outside the box," said Schultz. "You're not looking for a crime — you're proactively seeking solutions to problems, whether criminal in nature or not."

The team also deals with traffic and pedestrian issues, such as kids not wearing bicycle helmets and jaywalkers. As a



The Community Policing Team members are (from left) Sgt. Tim Schultz, Tony Keeler, Tony Mangini, Brian McCoglin, Deborah Bushnell, and Scott Hansen.

result, the team created safety classes for bicyclists and pedestrians to teach citizens how to be safe.

Members of the Community Policing Team are also involved with the local high schools and intermediate schools. They meet monthly with school administrators to share information, and they also have brown bag lunches with students to talk about issues.

Businesses benefit from the team as well. Police have worked with Broadway Plaza merchants to improve security, and the effective "Code Adam" program has been introduced in several stores, such as Long's and Nordstrom, to provide immediate action to find a missing child.

If you have a project that can positively affect the safety and quality of life in the City, please contact the Community Policing Team at 943-5844.

Cycling is healthy

By Chuck Kaplan

Many of us are aware that riding a bicycle can be good for your health. The Surgeon General, the American Heart Association and the American College of Sports Medicine emphasize the health benefits to our heart and lungs of moderate exercise for 30 minutes a day on most days of the week.

Bicycling is an activity that is ideally suited to providing these benefits. Riding a bike improves the strength and endurance of our muscles. It burns excess calories (400 to 700 calories an hour depending on

intensity). It is low-impact exercise, limiting impact loads to ankles, knees and hips while at the same time keeping them flexible and making them stronger.

It can lower blood pressure and lessen the load on the heart.

Cycling allows us to use our lower extremity muscles to aid in lifting our blood back to our heart (the "muscular

pump").

Cycling is healthy — so get out there and ride your bike!!!

Re-Cycling is prepared by the City's Bicycle Advisory Committee.



Libraries

From front page

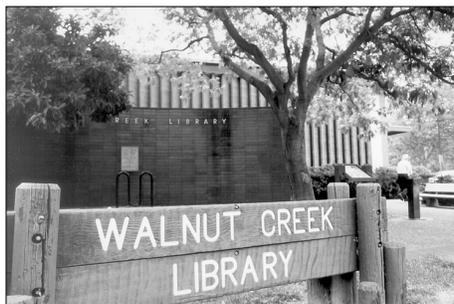
Creek branch libraries open regularly and longer, and to add more books and programs.

By opening at least 48 hours a week, each branch will be open six days a week (Monday through Saturday), rather than five.

In 1993, after the state took county property tax funds, the operation of the two libraries were reduced from 40 to 29 hours a week. The two libraries have been open 35 hours a week since 1994, due to additional funding from the City and private fund-raising by the Friends of the Libraries.

“We’re in the process of hiring more staff and planning new programs,” said Senior Branch Librarian Ann Shelton. “We have dreamed about this for years and worked towards it for years and thank the voters of Walnut Creek for making it happen.”

Arts, Recreation & Community Services Director Gary Pokorny said the revenues generated by the \$22 per parcel tax come to the City and must be used only for improved library services. The City will be contracting with the County Library System for expanded, consistent hours, additional books and materials, and



The downtown library will be replaced with a new, 39,000 s.f. facility.

improved children’s programs at both the Downtown and Ygnacio Valley libraries.

Meanwhile, the City will be submitting an application to the state in June for a library construction grant to build a new downtown library.

The City Council has earmarked \$4 million toward the construction of a 39,000-square-foot library to replace the 41-year-old, 9,300-square-foot facility at 1644 North Broadway.

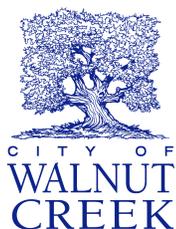
Architect Ed Rubin of the San Francisco firm Esherick Homsey Dodge & Davis is continuing work on the design for the new library with the Design Review Commission.

The new library, which is estimated to cost \$15 million, will be constructed on the site of the current facility. In addition, a 390-space parking garage is also planned at the corner of Lincoln and Broadway.



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
Community Connection	943-5899, x116
Crime prevention	943-5885
Employment hotline	943-5817
Fingerprinting	943-5844
Flood information	256-3555
Garbage collection	603-1144
Graffiti reporting	943-5834
Heather Farm Pool	943-5856
Heather Farm Park rentals	256-3575
Leisure Service classes	943-5858
Mayor’s Office	256-3504
Open Space information	943-5854
Old Borges Ranch	943-5860
Planning matters	943-5842
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	256-3555
Tree removal permit	943-5854



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

* Available by appointment:
 Call 943-5812.

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IN A Nutshell

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 Brad Rovanpera

We welcome your comments and questions.
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