

Public role big in update of General Plan

As the City embarks on the first major update of its General Plan in 14 years, the public will have numerous opportunities to influence the direction the City takes in the future.

The General Plan is the blueprint the City uses to guide its growth. The first General Plan was adopted in 1971 and updated the first time in 1989.

The update is necessary because the current General Plan vision extends to 2005 and the 10-year Growth Limitation Plan, which was to expire on Aug. 31, 2003, has been extended until 2005.

The City planning staff has begun the two-to-three-year task to complete the General Plan update.

In January, the City Council approved a broad scope of work for the plan update that calls for several opportunities for the general public to provide input at strategic points in the development of the plan, including at least three town hall meetings.

On March 4 the Council approved the formation of a steering committee comprising members of each City commission that will begin meeting later this spring to shepherd the update of the

GENERAL PLAN, see back page

Council moves forward on new library, vets plaza plans

Determined City Council pledged in March to move forward with plans to build a new downtown library and a veterans memorial plaza.

The Council on March 18 approved a new application for \$17.5 million in state library construction grant funds that would pay for two-thirds of the cost of a larger, state-of-the-art library that would replace



Canadian geese run away as City park maintenance worker Russ Fletcher approaches at Heather Farm Park's duck pond.

Chasing away Canadian geese new strategy at Heather Farm

Beleaguered City park maintenance workers will be using a new strategy to rid Heather Farm Park of its bothersome gaggle of Canadian geese: chasing them.

These fowl continue to foul the walkway encircling the duck pond, making it messy and dangerous for human visitors year-round.

"They never leave," said Park Maintenance

Worker Russ Fletcher. "These are no longer migratory birds. These Canadian honkers live here 12 months a year, and it presents a problem."

The geese not only soil the public walkways but they tear up the turf. The City spends \$150 a week just to clean the goose poop. The feces also made the new

GEESE, see back page

the 42-year-old facility next to Civic Park.

The new grant application was prepared after the City's first attempt to secure voter-approved library construction funds failed in December. Walnut Creek will be competing with 66 other requests for a total of \$550 million in the second round of the state grant program.

The state library construction board is

expected to make its decisions on the second round of grants in September.

The grant's terms require Walnut Creek to provide up to 35 percent of the cost of the building. The City Council has earmarked \$9.4 million toward the construction of a 41,800-square-foot library — four times larger than the

LIBRARY, see page 6

City Event Calendar

May

3
Annual Creek Clean-Up Day
9:30 a.m., Civic Park

10
Movies Under the Stars
"Shrek"; free admission
7:30 p.m.; Heather Farm Park
Front ballfield
Call 943-5899, x. 420

June

14
Heritage Day
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Borges Ranch; free admission
(See article, back page)

City Meeting Calendar

City Council 
May 6, 20; June 3, 17
7 p.m.
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

Planning Commission
May 15, 29; June 12, 26
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Arts Commission
May 19, June 16
4:30 p.m.
Lesher Center for the Arts

Transportation Commission
May 15, June 19
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Design Review Commission
May 7, 21; June 4, 18
7 p.m., City Council chamber

Park, Rec & Open Space Commission
May 5, June 2
7 p.m., City Council chamber

 **City Council meetings are televised live on Comcast Channels 6 and 26 (unincorporated), and on Astound Channel 29 the following day at 7 p.m. It is repeated the following Saturday at 1 p.m. on all.**

 **Walnut Creek Currents, a City-produced 10-minute video digest on City activities and services, can be seen seven days a week on Comcast Channels 6 and 26 at 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m., 10:30 p.m.**

Vrrroom! Racing bikes on display

Marlon Brando should see this. The Bedford Gallery is featuring 30 historic racing bikes through June 1 in its exhibition, *Wild Ones: A Short History of Racing Motorcycles*.

The exhibition, sponsored by Merrill Lynch, explores the design and art of these magnificent motorcycles. From the shape of their fuel tanks to the shine of their spokes, these two-wheel racers run the gamut from a vintage 1914 Cyclone to a 2002 Honda RC51 Superbike.

Bedford Gallery is located in the Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr. Hours

are Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. and Thursday, Friday and Saturdays, 6 to 8 p.m.



Indian racer, 1000 cc, 1921, U.S.

Admission is \$3, general; \$2, youth 17 and under; free, 12 and under. Free admission on Tuesdays from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, call 295-1417.

What's Happening

Memorial Day observance at Civic Park

The public is invited to the City's Memorial Day Observance on Monday, May 26 at noon in Civic Park. The Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein will perform.

Civic Arts Ed sale events in June

Civic Arts Education and the Clay Arts Guild will sponsor art sales in two locations June 19-22. 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 19, 5-9 p.m. (opening receptions); Friday, June 20, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, June 22, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 943-5846.

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 Lesher 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 943-5846.

Walkabout Downtown WC on June 26

The 5th annual Walkabout Downtown Walnut Creek will be held Thursday, June 26, 4:30 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 \$15 and will be available after June 5 throughout downtown. For more information, call 933-6778.

Shadelands Antiques Show set June 8

Over 100 dealers will be selling their antiques and collectibles at the popular Shadelands Antiques

Show on Sunday, June 8, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road. The event benefits the Walnut Creek Historical Society. Admission is free. Call 935-7871 for details.

2003 Summer Tennis Leagues forming

The Walnut Creek Racquet Club and Contra Costa Tennis Association are organizing Men's and Women's Singles Leagues for 2003, including 12 matches (June 2-Sept. 14), and a tournament. Fees are \$20 for WCRC members; \$30 for non-members. Register by May 15. Visit www.wcrc.net for details or contact Kent Lindeman, 943-5745.

Northgate High spring concert May 19

The Northgate High School Instrumental Music Spring Concert will be Monday, May 19, 7 p.m. at the Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr. The Concert and Symphonic Bands, Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, and Jazz Band will perform. Tickets are \$15, adults; \$5, students. Call the Center Ticket Office at 943-SHOW.

WC Sister Cities seeks host families

The Walnut Creek Sister Cities International and the Walnut Creek Soccer Club will jointly sponsor a two-week visit by a youth soccer team from our Hungarian sister city Siófok. The visit is July 14 - 28. Families are needed to host the team members (22 boys, 1 girl) and four adult males who will accompany the team. The team members are 15-17 years of age. Families with soccer playing boys will get preference in hosting. For details, go online to: www.medlist.com/soccer/hosting

Civic Arts' Jr. Theatre to present 'Annie Jr.'

Civic Arts Education's Junior Theatre will present "Annie Jr." May 21-22 at 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. at Del Valle Theatre, 1965 Tice Valley Blvd. The group of 10-15-year-old thespians will perform under the direction of Drama Coordinator Rachel Hauser Pergamit. For tickets, call 943-SHOW.

Olympic Place, new 14-screen cinema to open this spring

Construction of the new Olympic Place retail/cinema project has continued at a brisk pace as plans were being made to open the first shops by the end of May.

Workers are racing to complete the 14-screen Century Theaters complex at the northwest corner of Olympic Boulevard and Locust Street for a June premiere.

As if to punctuate the near-completion of the 117,000-square-foot retail center, workers on March 6 carefully raised into place a 7,000-pound spherical art piece called the *Olympic Orb* (for more on this new artwork, see "Urban Art" on page 4).

Olympic Place will include a 604-space parking garage with entrances from Locust, Olympic, and California.

Following is an update on other projects in Walnut Creek:

The Corners

The new Tiffany jewelry store in The Corners project at Main Street and Mt. Diablo Boulevard is tentatively scheduled to open by mid-May, according to the developer, Lamorinda Development and



The new copper-and-steel "Olympic Orb" sculpture was placed March 6 on the roof of the Olympic Place retail project at the corner of Mt. Diablo and California boulevards.



Investment of Orinda.

The 33,000-square-foot retail/office project will also include The Apple Store and Pottery

Barn Kids. Both are scheduled to open by the end of July.

The Metropole condo/retail project

The City Council on Feb. 4 cleared the way for a rental condominium/retail complex called The Metropole, which will be built on North California Boulevard between Trinity and Cole avenues.

The developer, Urban Developments, agreed to pay the City a \$1.3 million in-lieu fee to subsidize affordable housing units. Staff estimates that sum could finance as many as 37 affordable housing units in another project.

The developer hopes to have the 181-unit project opened by late spring 2005.

Castle Rock Youth Sport Fields

Opening day festivities were held on April 13 for the Castle Rock Youth Sports Fields on Hutchinson Drive, next to Northgate High School. The City contributed \$962,000 to build the two ballfields.

EBMUD water pipeline

Work began in earnest in late March on the underground tunnel for a six-foot-diameter water pipeline to be installed by the East Bay Municipal Utility District over the next 16 months.

Workers will spend four to six weeks digging 80 feet down at the Kaiser site on Newell Drive and then begin boring a tunnel shaft northward to the National Guard Armory on Carmel Drive for the pipeline.

Shaft excavation work will be done between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily.

Call (925) 935-6049 for information.

Sign up now for Arts, Adventures summer school

Sign ups are now being taken for the popular "Arts, Adventures & Academics" summer school sponsored by the City's Civic Arts Education program and the Walnut Creek School District.

This five-week program runs June 23 to July 25 at Walnut Creek Intermediate School, 2425 Walnut Blvd. It's open to all students entering first through eighth grades. Classes will be Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration is \$340 (add \$30 after June 1).

Classes in art, music, dancing, acting, cooking, science, sports, games, and circus arts will be offered.

For details, go on-line to www.arts-ed.org or call 943-5846.

Miniature Horse Show June 21-22

The Walnut Creek Equestrian Center will host its annual Miniature Horse Show June 21-22 at the rear of Heather Farm Park. This free event will be from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both days.

Wine and Roses event at Gardens

Wine and Roses, a benefit event for the Gardens at Heather Farm, will be held and will be held Thursday, May 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the rose garden at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr.

More What's Happening

The event will feature light jazz, fine wine and hors d'oeuvres, and choice items up for bid in a silent auction. Admission is \$25 per person. Call 947-1678 to RSVP.

Marauder youth football signups

Sign ups are underway through May 7 for Walnut Creek Marauders youth football and cheerleading for boys 7 to 14 and girls ages 8 to 14. For details and sign-up forms, visit www.wcyfmarauders.com on-line or call (925) 941-4745 additional information and sign-up dates.

Urban Art

They're everywhere you look as you wander Walnut Creek's bustling downtown: copper orbs, bronze animals, concrete totems, fiberglass reliefs, stainless steel designs.

It's the new urban art — the cultural signature one finds in and around Walnut Creek's latest retail and commercial projects.

For more than 20 years, the City has encouraged developers to add public art pieces to projects over 10,000 square feet in size. In August 2000, the City Council adopted two landmark ordinances that require public art for all development that is 25,000 square feet or larger.

Since then, such major new retail centers as Plaza Escuela and Olympic Place have introduced to the downtown delightful outdoor art that helps create beauty and a sense of fun and discovery in these commercial settings.

These cultural ornaments have helped Walnut Creek earn a reputation for excellence in the visual arts, which in turn contributed towards the city's receipt of the United States Conference of Mayors' 1989 City Livability Award for its "creative use of urban arts."

There are approximately 30 perma-



Above, Tor Archer's "Olympic Orb" is raised into place on the garage roof of the Olympic Place retail project; above right, a bronze carp by Luciano Tempo of Italy decorates Broadway Plaza; right, Yoshio Taylor created sculptures of a boy and girl holding books atop ceramic pedestals at Plaza Escuela.



nently installed, large-scale public art projects in downtown Walnut Creek.

The latest addition is the *Olympic Orb*, a 17-foot-diameter, 7,000-pound copper-and-steel sphere that was raised on to its new perch March 6 at Olympic Place, corner of Mt. Diablo and California boulevards (see photo, page 3).

"I wanted a form that would integrate with the building and have the building contain or present the sculpture as a precious object," said sculptor Tor Archer, who spent five months in his San Francisco studio creating the *Orb*.

Archer complimented the City on its commitment to culture for the masses: "Walnut Creek seems to be way ahead of the game in terms of public art."

The City will add to the art inventory in spring 2004 when it dedicates the new Veterans Memorial Plaza next to City Hall at the corner of Civic and Broadway.

Also, the City is seeking an artist to create a signature piece to be installed in front of the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts.

To learn more about the City's *Art in Public Places* program, call 295-1447.

Tips on how to prepare and cope with disasters

Since September 11, 2001, the threat of random acts of terrorism on U.S. soil has risen dramatically. The war in Iraq has understandably concerned many citizens about the potential for more terrorism occurring here at home.

For its part, the City of Walnut Creek has for many years trained its staff to be ready for any disaster, whether natural or man-made, so they can assist citizens in the event of a crisis situation.

The Police Department has no information that there are potential targets for terrorism within the City of Walnut Creek. However, citizens can do their part to prepare for *any* disaster by following these

common sense steps:

- Remain calm. Stay informed. Identify credible sources of information, such as local law enforcement agencies or the County Office of Emergency Services

- Have an emergency preparedness kit, such as for earthquakes. Keep kits up-to-date and stocked for at least 72 hours of self-sufficiency. Include items such as: bottled water, flashlight and extra batteries, food and snacks, a portable radio, an emergency plan to get your family together should they become separated, and an updated emergency phone list.

- Choose an out-of-state friend or relative who you and your family mem-

bers can call after an emergency to report your whereabouts and conditions.

- Expect delays for local government services.
- Expect delays due to bags and vehicles being searched.
- Expect traffic delays and traffic restrictions, including parking restrictions near government buildings.
- Avoid crowded public areas.
- Be prepared to evacuate if ordered.
- Do not pass on unsubstantiated information.
- Report all suspicious packages, persons, vehicles, activities, etc.
- Be aware of your surroundings.

MAKING PLANS

How 1950s growth prompted a 'Little Master Plan' for downtown

The more things change, the more they stay the same. That time-honored axiom could very well apply to Walnut Creek, which has seen its fair share of change in the downtown over the last 50 years while dealing with the same problems those changes have brought.

This spring the City planning staff began the major task of updating the City's General Plan to address changes that will occur in the next 20 years. Last revised in 1989, the General Plan is the blueprint by which the City determines how and where change should occur.

In the mid-1950s, no master plan for the community existed when Walnut Creek found itself struggling with its first major growth explosion as a result of the opening of the Broadway Shopping Center and the first residential subdivision in the Ygnacio Valley. The City had no planning staff, nor even a city manager, to weigh the needs of this suddenly burgeoning suburban community.

So in 1956 it fell to City Attorney John Nejedly, a bookish lawyer who was the City's primary salaried official, to draft what was called "The Little Master Plan" to address the small town's desperate need for improved traffic circulation in the downtown area.

Besides the onslaught of cars streaming into the heart of Walnut Creek to shop at Broadway, there was the other matter of what to do with the creeks that converged just a few yards north of the center and which had a tendency to cause flooding throughout the retail district.

Nejedly, who was born one day after Walnut Creek became a city on Oct. 21, 1914, has lived in his hilltop home near Tice Valley Boulevard since 1946. As Walnut Creek's second city attorney (the first was Gordon Turner), Nejedly acted as a surrogate city manager in the early 1950s. He led the drive to build the first city hall in 1951 and lobbied the State in 1949 to build a freeway to relieve traffic

flowing down Main Street, which was also state Highway 24.

"Walnut Creek largely grew out of circumstances beyond its control," he recalled, sitting in his vast living room with its panoramic view of Mount Diablo and Walnut Creek. "I'm talking about traffic."

Nejedly noted that the emergence of the 38-store Broadway Shopping Center in October 1951 had its opponents.

"There were a lot of people downtown who wanted to keep a little downtown community," he recalled. "But a bigger community was going to come no matter what they did. It was obvious that we had to adjust the community to reality."

The Little Master Plan was conceived in 1953 at a meeting of community and business leaders. In 1955, the State Legislature passed a special law permitting Walnut Creek to use its growing sales tax revenues to secure bonds to overhaul its downtown street system with new routes, including Broadway and the extension of Cypress Street.

"We had all that money coming in from the Broadway Shopping Center," said Nejedly. "We could do anything."

Walnut Creek voters seemed to agree. In April 1956, more than two-thirds of them approved a ballot measure authorizing the City to sell \$2 million in obligation bonds to pay for the Little Master Plan.

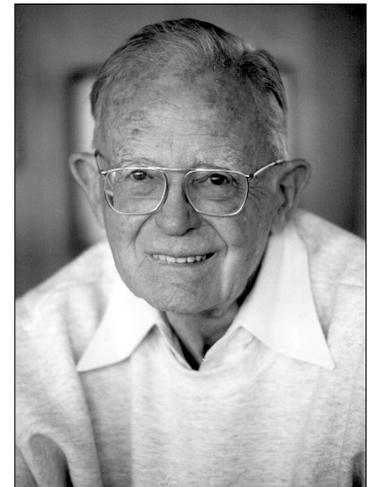
Working with state Senator George Miller, Nejedly helped frame another state law tailored to Walnut Creek that allowed



The opening of the Broadway Shopping Center in October 1951 prompted the need for major traffic improvements.



City Attorney John Nejedly in 1956, when he drafted the City's Little Master Plan, and as he looks today at 88.



the City to place the convergence of Walnut, San Ramon and Las Trampas creeks in underground culverts atop which a new boulevard called Broadway would be built. The culverting project would be financed through parking meter revenues.

As a whole, the Little Master Plan represented a novel approach to dealing with the city's confounding new problems, said Nejedly.

"What we were doing was more than planning — it was stating the problem and stating the need," he said. "It takes a great deal of political integrity to manage self-interests and protect community integrity."

Nejedly, who left the city attorney's post in 1959 after 11 years to become Contra Costa's district attorney, later served as state senator from 1969 to 1981.

A half century later, he still regards his work on the Little Master Plan with pride:

"The central core of Walnut Creek moved from Main and Locust to the Broadway Shopping Center, now the core of financial security for the City. (It was) a collection of ideas, enthusiasm, and ingenuity bordering upon the impossible."

City Council Update

Council supports troops in Iraq

Mayor Gwen Regalia issued a proclamation on April 1 declaring that "Walnut Creek Cares" about the American troops stationed in the Persian Gulf and hopes that the service men and women serving there will return safely and quickly. The proclamation was presented to Rich and Linda Ergo, the parents of Marine Lance Cpl. Michael Ergo, a 2001 graduate of Northgate High School, who was serving in the Mediterranean at the time of the presentation. The Ergos accepted the proclamation on behalf of all Walnut Creek residents who have family or friends serving in the war.

New commissioners appointed

The City Council in March appointed the following citizens to seats on City commissions: Sheila Scanlon Wilkins, **Arts Commission**; Emily Chang and Ronald Chesney, **Transportation Commission**; Robert Jorgensen, **Planning Commission**; and Daphne Cothren, **Design Review Commission**.

Library

From front page

existing facility at 1644 North Broadway.

The new library, which is estimated to cost \$18 million to build, will be constructed on a site just to the north of the current facility. In addition, a 374-space parking garage is also planned at the corner of Lincoln and Broadway. The total project cost is estimated to be \$40 million, which will include a plaza between the library and garage.

On the same evening, the Council said it would approve an additional \$430,000 to build the veterans memorial plaza after the designer reported that costs for the \$1.25 million project had risen.

Former mayor and World War II veteran Gene Wolfe urged the Council to "bite the bullet" and go forward with the project.

Plaza designer Cliff Garten assured the Council the project is still on schedule to be completed by late May 2004.

The memorial, to be built next to City Hall at the corner of Civic and Broadway, will include a reflecting pool surrounded by birch trees, a memorial wall, and five granite columns to represent the branches of the U.S. armed services.



Learning first-hand at Citizen's Institute

Walnut Creek resident Mary Wong introduces herself to 29 fellow participants at the first session of the Spring 2003 Citizen's Institute, an eight-week program that give residents a first-hand look at how the City operates and the many opportunities for becoming involved with their local government. The Citizen's Institute, which was introduced in 2000, will be offered again in the fall. For more information, go on-line to www.walnut-creek.org/commconn/CitizenInstitute.html

Improved customer hours at City Hall

It just got easier to get a project plan or permit from the City.

Staff from the Building, Planning, and Engineering divisions will be available to assist customers during extended service hours, including noon to 1 p.m., beginning April 28. The City's Development Review/Permit

Counter, located on the third floor of City Hall, 1666 No. Main St., will be open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mon-Fri.

Also, a new Planning & Zoning Information phone line is now available for people who need to speak with a planner quickly and directly. The number is (925) 256-3558.

Veteran City staffers depart this spring

Assistant CM Arlene Hildebrand to retire

Assistant City Manager Arlene Hildebrand, whose expertise in fiscal issues and common sense approach to budgeting helped the City maintain its impressive financial health over the last 14 years, will retire on May 16.

Ms. Hildebrand, who joined the City staff as Administrative Services Director in September 1988, was subsequently appointed to the additional post of Assistant City Manager in 1991. In 2001, she was appointed Public Services Director/Assistant City Manager.

During her tenure with the City, she also oversaw labor relations, the Creek Walk project, the construction of City Hall, and capital improvement projects.

Her husband, Recreation Services Manager Kern Hildebrand, will be retiring April 30 after 34 years of service to the City. Among his accomplishments are the development of several new parks,



Arlene Hildebrand



Kern Hildebrand



Dolores Lendrum

including Arbolado, Walden, and Tice Valley, Foothill and Tice Valley community gymnasiums, and the master plans for Heather Farm and Civic parks.

Another retiree is Deputy City Manager Dolores Lendrum, who managed the City's senior recreation programs for 20 years before moving to the City Manager's office in 1997 to oversee new public outreach projects such as Community Conversations and the Citizen's Institute. She will retire May 30 along with her husband, Rick, who has been a Park Maintenance Supervisor since 1979.



CopTalk

By Officer Tony Mangini

Trail rules & courtesies

Now that spring is here and the weather encourages outdoor activity, we begin to receive calls regarding violations occurring on trails. The following tips are intended to remind all of us of the rules and courtesies associated with using trails in Walnut Creek.



- Be safe, considerate, and aware of your impact on the trail, as well as other trail users.
- For everyone's safety, keep to the right. Proceed single file around blind curves.
- For your safety, headphones should not be worn.
- Dogs must be on leash where posted, and under full verbal control elsewhere. Please clean up after your dog.
- Safety helmets are required by law for bicyclists under age 18, and are strongly recommended for all bicyclists and equestrians.
- Bicycles are not permitted on trails marked "No Bicycles." Bicycles shall not be ridden at an unsafe speed, or greater than the posted speed limit. Be aware of how you are perceived by other trail users. Bicycles always yield to pedestrians. Before passing, SLOW DOWN, ring bell and/or establish verbal contact. When approaching equestrians, call out and/or ring bell and STOP, whether you are seen or not. Ask for instructions on how to pass safely. On blind turns, SLOW DOWN, call out and/or ring bell and ride single file.
- Pedestrians should keep to the right when approached by others and should yield to equestrians. They should also look behind and to both sides before changing course.
- Equestrians should keep their horse to the right, or where safe when encountering other trail users. They should communicate by letting other trail users know how to pass their horse safely.
- Equestrians should clean up after their horse on paved trails.



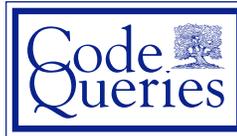
Local teens flock to City's summer job fair

More than 200 local teens turned out to learn about employment opportunities at the City's Summer Job Fair on March 13 at the downtown library. Above, Officer Tony Keeler shares information about jobs with the Police Department with a high school student. Filling out job applications at right are (from left) Marta Borzuchowski, 14, of Las Lomas High; Naz Safa, 15, of Northgate High, and Hailey Ayres, 14, of Las Lomas. For more information, go to the "Jobs with the City" link at www.walnutcreek.org.



City has rules for property upkeep

Property owners need to be aware that they are responsible for keeping their yards and surrounding property clear of weeds, tall grasses, and other debris, under City rules.



Encroachments onto the sidewalks and roadways are a problem this time of year. All branches hanging over sidewalks should be pruned

to a height of 8 feet and branches overhanging the roadway should be pruned to a height of 14 feet.

Also, parking or storage of inoperable vehicles, including motorcycles, is prohibited in residential neighborhoods when the vehicles can be seen from a public or private street or the right-of-way.

Walnut Creek, biking & your future

by Jeff Thomas

Have you ever wondered, "Why haven't they put a bike lane here?" Or "Why haven't they built a bike bridge there?" Well, now is your opportunity to provide input into the future of bicycling in Walnut Creek.



The City is updating its General Plan and setting a course for the next 10-15 years. The Bicycle Element, an important part of the General Plan, deals specifically with plans to maintain and improve

bicycle routes and facilities. Past general plans dealt with issues such as the Iron Horse Trail, new bike racks around the City, and the establishment of a bicycle network.

Bicycles need to be part of our future — and Walnut Creek needs to hear from you. Visit the General Plan Web site and place your name on the mailing list at www.walnutcreek.org/generalplan.html. Or you may attend a Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting — call (925) 256-3529 for details.

Geese

From front page

softball fields across the street hazardous for ballplayers.

Heritage Day returns June 14 to Borges Ranch

Discover the beauty and history of Walnut Creek's open space during the City's Heritage Day at Borges Ranch on Saturday, June 14.

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, demonstrations of early ranching skills such as 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. The shuttle will cost \$5 per family for a round trip.

For more information, call (925) 946-1475 or (925) 942-0225.

So the City is resorting to hiring someone with a specially trained herding dogs to chase the geese away.

Because Canadian geese are protected as migratory waterfowl by federal law, the City can't physically remove them. That's why the dogs will be brought in.

"The birds could conceivably go back to a modified migration," said Fletcher.

The City is also putting up signs advising people not to feed the birds, a practice that has conditioned the geese to stay when they should be migrating.



People are being asked to not feed the birds.

General Plan

From front page

General Plan.

Citizens have played a fundamental role in shaping Walnut Creek's future since its earliest days. Most recently, in 2001, more than 300 citizens participated in Community Conversations, a series of discussions that helped City officials gauge public concerns and interests in a variety of areas, such as traffic, growth, and quality of life.

"Public participation is a very important element of the General Plan process," said Senior Planner Janice Stern, "and we want to have continuous input from its inception."

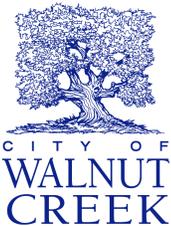
First, though, staff has to collect

mountains of information and evaluate the current General Plan to determine any new issues that need to be addressed.

A more in-depth article on the General Plan process will be included in an issue of the *Nutshell* later this year, before the first town hall meeting is held.

Later in the process, more public meetings will be held to present various development scenarios and to take comments on other issues raised by the public. The *Nutshell* will include regular updates.

The final step will be a series of public hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council before the General Plan is adopted.



CITY COUNCIL

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

* For appointment: Call 943-5812.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

CITY MANAGER
Michael Parness
ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
Arlene Hildebrand
CITY ATTORNEY
Thomas Haas
CITY CLERK
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IN A Nutshell

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Brad Rovanpera

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