



IN A

# Nutshell

No. 103

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2002



Assistant Public Services Director Dan Richardson inspects the new public entrance to City Hall on the North Broadway side of the building.

## New public entry to City Hall opened on North Broadway

The new City Hall/Police Department is now officially open and the public can enter from a new lobby on the North Broadway side of the building.

On Oct. 21, City employees moved into their new work surroundings in the City Hall addition, which is adjacent to the older complex. The mailing address for City Hall will continue to be 1666 North Main Street.

The relocation of 125 employees brought to a close the first phase of a three-year project that will ultimately include the refurbishment of the older City Hall/Police Department complex by next summer.

Besides the new City Hall entrance, visitors to City Council meetings must now enter the Council Chamber from a door in the plaza on the Civic Drive side of the older building. The Council

Chamber will remain in the older building.

The public can now obtain business licenses and building permits on the third floor of the new building.

The Police Department offices are on the second floor. After 5 p.m. on weekdays and on weekends and holidays, persons coming to City Hall for police information or assistance can use the police contact phone in the new lobby.

Public parking will not be available at City Hall until Phase II is completed next summer. In the meantime, the public is encouraged to park in Civic Park or at the library parking lot at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and North Broadway. On-street parking around City Hall will continue to be extremely limited until the work is completed.

During the second phase of the project,  
**CITY HALL, see back page**

## Growth metering to continue until General Plan is updated by City

When its 10-year Growth Limitation Plan comes to an end next summer, the City will continue metering commercial development while planning staff undertakes the first major update of the General Plan since 1989.

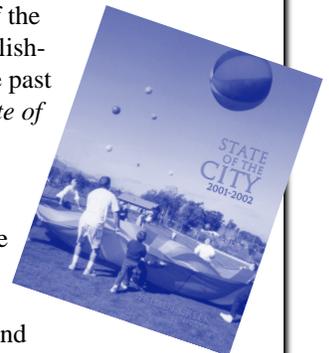
That was the City Council's decision on Aug. 21 after it weighed a host of options on how to follow-up the Growth Limitation Plan, which capped commercial development at a total of 750,000 square feet (metered in two-year increments) from 1993 through 2003.

The next growth management plan will be based on land use and economic development studies that will be done to prepare the General Plan update. In the meantime, planning staff will bring back to the Council a proposed interim method

**GROWTH PLAN, see page 3**

### Special Issue: State of the City report for 2001-2002

Inside you will find a 16-page overview of the City's accomplishments over the past two years. *State of the City 2001-2002* is a snapshot of activities in the arts, planning, transportation, police, parks and recreation, and public services.



Visit the official City website at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org)

## City Holiday Calendar

### November

**11**  
**Veterans Day Observance**  
(City offices closed; ceremony at 11 a.m.— see story, page 3)

**28-29**  
**Thanksgiving observance**  
(City offices closed)

### December

**24-25**  
**Christmas observance**  
(City offices closed)

**31-Jan. 1**  
**New Year's observance**  
(City offices closed)

## City Meeting Calendar

**City Council\***  
Nov. 19; Dec. 3, 17  
7 p.m.  
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

**Planning Commission**  
Nov. 14, 28; Dec. 12  
7:30 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Arts Commission**  
Nov. 18, Dec. 16  
4:30 p.m.  
Leshner Center for the Arts

**Transportation Commission**  
Nov. 21, Dec. 19  
7:30 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Design Review Commission**  
Nov. 6; Dec. 4, 18  
7 p.m., City Council chamber

**Park, Rec & Open Space Commission**  
Nov. 4, Dec. 2  
7 p.m., City Council chamber

\*City Council meetings are televised live on AT&T Channel 6. The broadcast is repeated the following Saturday at 1 p.m. on At&T Channel 6 and on Astound Broadband Channel 29.

**Must-see TV: Walnut Creek Currents, a City-produced 10-minute video digest on City activities and services, can be seen seven days a week on AT&T Channel 6 at 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m., and 10:30 p.m.**

## All aboard!

The intricately-detailed HO-scale model trains of the Diablo Valley Lines will be showcased at the Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society's annual Fall Show scheduled Nov. 22, 23, 24, 29 and 30, and Dec. 1. Diablo Valley Lines is located next to Larkey Park at 2751 Buena Vista Ave. Admission is \$2, ages 13 and up; \$1, seniors and ages 6-12; free, under 6. For hours, call 937-1888.



## Holiday festivities set in Civic Park, Broadway Plaza

Holiday season festivities this year will include the annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Friday, Nov. 29 at Civic Park and the Holiday Parade at Broadway Plaza on Thursday, Dec. 5.

The Tree Lighting, sponsored by the Downtown Business Association, will begin at 6 p.m. with holiday music by the Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein. The mayor will be on hand to light the City tree. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive to pass out candy canes to all children. Hospice of Contra Costa will also celebrate its Tree of Lights.

The Holiday Parade at Broadway Plaza will be on Dec. 5 from 6 to 9 p.m.



## What's Happening

### Seniors' Holiday Boutique Nov. 8-9

Start your holiday shopping at the Walnut Creek Seniors' Club Holiday Boutique on Nov. 8-9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr. Admission is free. Lunch is \$2.50 and will be served 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Items for sale will include handcrafted holiday decorations, baby gifts, quilts, toys, wreaths, home accents, baked goods, and plants. Call 943-5851.

### Borges Ranch Holiday Hoedown Dec. 7

Country holiday crafts and live bluegrass music will highlight this year's Borges Ranch Holiday Hoedown Open House on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Old Borges Ranch, 1035 Castle Rock Rd. in the City's Shell Ridge Open Space. Admission is free. Refreshments will be available for sale. Parking will be available at the ranch. Tours of the Visitors Center will also be available. Call 942-0225 for more information.

### Children's Holiday Breakfast on Dec. 8

Enjoy an old-fashioned family good time this yuletide season at the annual Holiday Breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to noon, at Heather Farm Park Community Center, 301 No. San Carlos Dr. "Reindeer pancakes" will be served, and seasonal music, arts and crafts, holiday videos and pictures with Santa will be part of the fun. Admission is \$5 per person at the door (free to children under 12 months). This event is cosponsored by the City's Recreation Division and the Walnut Festival Association. For details, call 943-5858.

### Civic Arts Holiday Sale Dec. 5-8

The Clay Arts Guild and Civic Arts Education will hold their joint Civic Arts Holiday Sale at two locations Dec. 5-8. On sale at Civic Park will be a

large selection of handcrafted pottery and ceramic sculpture by students and faculty in the studios. At Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Lane, jewelry, paintings, and other arts will be available for purchase. Hours for both locations are: Dec. 5, 5-9 p.m.; Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 943-5846.

### WC Band's Holiday Concert on Dec. 11

Seasonal music as well as pieces by Wagner, Timothy Mahr, and a salute to composer Richard Rodgers, including selections from *The Sound of Music*, will be featured at the annual Holiday Concert to be presented by the Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein on Tuesday, Dec. 11, 8 p.m. at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$7 and may be purchased beginning Nov. 12 at the Center Ticket Office or by calling 943-SHOW.

### WC Police to hold Holiday Toy Drive

For the fourth year, the Walnut Creek Police Department will again be accepting donations of toys for underprivileged children this holiday season. Donations of new and unwrapped toys for children up to 15 years of age will be accepted through Friday, Dec. 13 in the Police Department, located on the second floor of City Hall, 1666 N. Main Street (enter from the North Broadway side). Call Officer David Rangel at 943-5899, ext. 7678.

### Holiday arrangements demonstration

Get ideas for your own holiday floral arrangements at a demonstration on Friday, Nov. 22 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr. The fee for this demonstration is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Call 947-1678 to sign up.

## Growth plan

### From front page

of metering commercial development until a replacement growth plan is adopted.

The preparation of a new General Plan will involve extensive public outreach and input. Also, staff will study issues such as the economic feasibility of mixed-use downtown housing, such as allowing apartments or condominiums to be built above ground floor shops or offices.

City staff will design the new growth management plan to reflect the City's overall development goals using all the information gathered.

The current growth limitation plan was adopted in July 1993 in response to citizens' concerns over the amount of commercial development that might be permitted under the existing General Plan.

### City to honor local vets on Veterans Day

The City will honor Walnut Creek's military veterans at its annual Veterans Day Observance on Monday, Nov. 11 in Civic Park.

The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. at the gazebo, rain or shine. The Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein will perform a concert following the ceremony.

Local high school students will also be recognized for their award-winning essays on the theme: "What We Can Learn from Our Veterans."



### Walnut Creek Reserves on parade

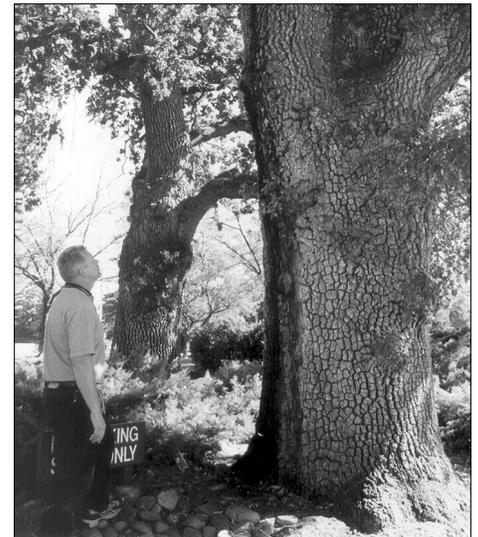
Celebrating their 50th anniversary this year are the Walnut Creek Reserve Officer Corps, shown here marching down Main Street in the Walnut Festival Parade on Sept. 14. The Reserves are a group of 31 specially trained citizens that provides thousands of hours of back-up support to regular Walnut Creek police officers.

### Decay forces removal of oak tree

Concern over a rapidly decaying 200-year-old valley oak at its Shadelands Arts Center prompted the City to remove the tree in on Oct. 8.

City arborist John Davis said the recent removal was deemed necessary because the heavy, gnarled branches that stretched over the facility's parking lot at North Wiget Lane and Ygnacio Valley Road posed an imminent danger to life and property. Several branches of a companion oak were also pruned back to prevent them from breaking off.

Davis said the tree removal was recommended after tests were done on both oaks this summer. The removed tree was found to have rampant decay, perhaps caused by organisms that got into the trunk after a limb breakage years ago.



City arborist John Davis inspects a 200-year-old valley oak that had to be removed.

## More What's Happening

### Teddy Bear Tea and Boutique

The annual Teddy Bear Tea and Boutique to benefit The Gardens at Heather Farm will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at The Gardens, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., next to Heather Farm Park. The boutique is free. There will be three seatings for tea on Dec. 7 (at 10:30 a.m., 1 and 3:30 p.m.) and two seatings on Dec. 8 (at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.). Reservations are required for the Teddy Bear Tea. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. For reservations or information, call 947-1678.

### Shadelands Museum holiday events

The annual Holiday Faire and Victorian Teas will be back this yuletide season at Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd. The Holiday Faire will be Nov. 23 through Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed Nov. 28-29 for Thanksgiving). Admission is free. Arts and crafts, holiday decor, toys, and jewelry will be for sale to benefit the Walnut Creek Historical Society. The Victorian Teas will be Nov. 30-Dec. 8, 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. (reservations required). Cost is \$20/person. The teas are immensely

popular, so call early at 935-7871 for reservations.

### Farmers' Market Harvest Festival

The Walnut Creek Farmers' Market will hold its own Harvest Festival on Sunday, Nov. 17, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the library parking lot, corner of Lincoln Avenue and North Broadway. The festival will feature games, a clown, autumn cooking demonstrations, a vegetable sculpting contest, beading for children, live music, and seasonal crafters. Admission is free. For more information, call 925-431-8361.

# City Hall

## From front page

the 22-year-old portions of the building will be refurbished with new carpeting and technological upgrades. Further, the Police Department side will be seismically retrofitted to meet more stringent earthquake standards than those in effect when the building was completed in 1980.

The construction project, which was begun in September 2000, makes it possible for the City to house more of its administrative staff under one roof. Because of overcrowding in the 35,000-square-foot City Hall, which was first occupied in fall 1980, management employees in the Arts, Recreation & Community Services Department and City Attorney's office have been sharing rented office space since 1987.

Eventually those off-site staffers will be moved into the newer portion of City Hall, thus saving the City thousands of dollars in office rent. At the same time, employees in the Planning, Building, and Transportation divisions will be relocated into refurbished work spaces on the second floor of the older building.

The third floor of the older City Hall will eventually house a new, 1,600-square-foot meeting room that can be separated into smaller rooms for public use.



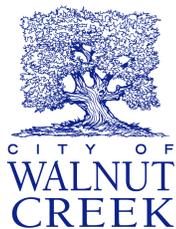
The third floor of the new City Hall addition features an energy-saving skylight.

A public open house of the new City Hall and Police additions will be scheduled later next year after the Phase II work is completed.



## 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     | 943-5899       |
| 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            | 943-5812       |
| Open Space information    | 943-5854       |
| Old Borges Ranch          | 943-5860       |
| Planning matters          | 943-5834       |
| 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.

**CITY MANAGER**  
**Mike Parness**  
**CITY ATTORNEY**  
**Thomas Haas**  
**CITY CLERK**  
**Barbara Rivara**  
**CITY TREASURER**  
**Ronald Cassano**

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**  
 Rosie Coan, Director  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
 Valerie Barone, Director  
**ARTS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
 Gary Pokorny, Director  
**POLICE**  
 Tom Soberanes, Chief of Police  
**PUBLIC SERVICES**  
 Arlene Hildebrand, Director/Asst. City Manager

## IN A Nutshell

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Editor:  
 Brad Rovanpera

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



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Visit our web site at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org)



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