

IN A

Nutshell

No. 108

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2003

New state budget 'balanced' but WC to be impacted

When legislators passed a \$99 billion state budget on July 28, it included a \$1.4 billion hit to local governments.

As a result, the City of Walnut Creek expects to lose an estimated \$870,000 to \$950,000 in revenues in 2003-04, primarily unpaid vehicle license fee revenues that were due this summer and an estimated \$95,000 in lost redevelopment funds.

"The City will have to absorb significant dollars," said City Manager Mike Parness. "These are funds that could have been earmarked for critical services."

Through its prudent budget practices, the City had set aside funds to cover the
STATE BUDGET, see back page



Hungarian hello

Peg Kovar, former Walnut Creek mayor and current president of Walnut Creek Sister Cities International, on July 15 welcomed a group of 25 teen-aged soccer players from sister city Siófok, Hungary, who had just arrived for a two-week visit. The youths, who are members of the Siófok Junior Soccer Club, competed with local boys' and girls' teams, toured City Hall and the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, had a barbecue at Borges Ranch and did some Bay Area sightseeing. For more pictures of their visit, see page 5.



Shoppers stroll past storefronts on wide sidewalks along Locust Street in Plaza Escuela.

How WC put the 'friendly' into its pedestrian-friendly downtown

What is it that makes Walnut Creek's automobile-oriented downtown so appealing to pedestrians? Is it the wide sidewalks? The handsome street furniture? The abundant off-street parking?

Actually, it's a combination of all these traits that has made the downtown area "pedestrian-friendly."

"It means that, as a pedestrian, you enjoy your walking experience," said Planning Manager Sandi Meyer. "You can't make every area pedestrian-oriented, but you can make it pedestrian-friendly."

Walnut Creek has been fostering a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere downtown since the earliest days of the Broadway Shopping Center in 1951, when post-World War II consumers delighted in having a one-stop shopping mall to visit.

In recent years, City planners have worked closely with developers to create interesting and active streetscapes that will make people want to stroll rather than drive to every shop and restaurant.

The increased efforts to nurture a pedestrian-friendly downtown in the last eight years have resulted in the success of such shopping areas as Broadway Pointe, Plaza Escuela, Olympia Place, and The Corners, which all have much in common.

"From a storefront perspective you have large windows — clear glass, no shades — so you can see into the store and it engages you," said Meyer.

Keeping the store fronts to under 40 feet also helps break up the monotony and keep people from losing interest, she said.

PEDESTRIAN, see back page

City Event Calendar

September

1
Labor Day Concert
6 p.m., Civic Park, free

13, 18-21
Parade, Walnut Festival
(See article, page 3)

October

4
Movies Under the Stars
(See *What's Happening*)

26
Howe Harvest Festival
Noon-5 p.m., free
Howe Homestead Park
2950 Walnut Blvd.

City Meeting Calendar

City Council 
Sept. 16; Oct. 7, 21
7 p.m.
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

Planning Commission
Sept. 11, 25; Oct. 9, 23
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Arts Commission
Sept. 15, Oct. 20
4:30 p.m.
Leshner Center for the Arts

**Transportation
Commission**
Sept. 18, Oct. 16
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Design Review Commission
Sept. 3, 17; Oct. 1, 15
7 p.m., City Council chamber

**Park, Rec & Open Space
Commission**
Sept. 8, Oct. 6
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.

City's Bedford Gallery seeking new docents this fall

Bedford Gallery invites contemporary art lovers to its annual Volunteer Recruitment Day on Monday, Sept. 29 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Bedford Gallery, a program of the City of Walnut Creek, is located in the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr.

Gallery docents lead tours of exhibitions and receive special training in art history and effective touring techniques. They also lead hands-on workshops for school children.

No prior knowledge of art is required. For more information, call 295-1423.



Bedford Gallery docent Pat Hines leads a tour.

Photo by Susan Newkirk

What's Happening

Labor Day concert at Civic Park

The public is invited to the City's Labor Day Concert on Monday, Sept. 1 at 6 p.m. in Civic Park. The Walnut Creek Concert Band will perform under the direction of Harvey Benstein.

Gardens at HF Fall Plant Sale

The Gardens at Heather Farm will hold its Fall Plant Sale on Saturday, Sept. 27, 9 a.m. to noon, at 600 North Carlos Drive. Proceeds support the nonprofit organization that developed and maintains the Gardens. The Gardens at Heather Farm is also seeking new members — a members-only plant sale will be on Friday, Sept. 26, 5 to 7 p.m. You can join on the spot for the best selection and other membership benefits. The Gardens are enjoyed by many thousands but supported by fewer than 700 members. For more information, call 947-1678 or visit www.gardenshf.org.

Harvest Holidays returns to downtown

The Downtown Business Association will hold its 4th Annual Harvest Holidays in downtown Walnut Creek the weekend of Oct. 18-19, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., on Locust Street between Civic & Mt. Diablo. This free event will feature fun festivities for the entire family with live music, holiday arts and craft booths, children's activities, food provided by downtown restaurants, brews and wine, and an Oktoberfest area. The Women's Health Fair, organized by the Women's Health Center, will also be part of the weekend activities at the north end of Locust Street between Civic Drive and Giammona Street. Both Locust Street public garages will be open for the event. For details, call 933-6778.

Dressage benefit for open space, trails

A gala equestrian event, Dressage for Diablo, will be held Saturday, Oct. 4, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Equestrian Center of Walnut Creek at Heather Farm Park. The Mt. Diablo Gateway Alliance will co-host the event to help raise funds for the acquisition

of a conservation easement for 35 acres at the foot of Mt. Diablo for open space and trails. The equestrian events and the exhibitions will feature top dressage riders from throughout northern California. Prior to the event, there will be an art show and sale featuring views of Mt. Diablo. Tickets are priced \$5 to \$25. For more information, e-mail Nuetzel_vr@yahoo.com.

Movies Under the Stars: 'E.T.'

The third and final feature in the City's popular "Movies Under the Stars" series at Heather Farm Park this year will be Steven Spielberg's *E.T.: The Extraterrestrial* on Saturday, Oct. 4. Admission is free. The movie will be shown on the front ballfield; gates open at 7:30 p.m. Come early to get a good spot on the lawn and enjoy the show.

Shadelands Antiques Show

The fall edition of the Shadelands Antiques Show will be Sunday, Sept. 14, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Admission is free. More than 100 dealers are expected. Parking is available off No. Via Monte. Call 935-7871 for information.

Home composting workshops this fall

Free "Home Composting for Busy People" workshops will be offered Sept. 9 and Oct. 7, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., and on Oct. 18, 9-10:30 a.m., at Navlet's, 2895 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Registration is required; call 906-1806.

Ruth Bancroft Garden fall events Oct. 11

The Ruth Bancroft Garden will hold its Fall Garden & Ruth Bancroft's Iris Plant Sale and its first Birding Tour on Saturday, Oct. 11. The Birding Tour is 8-9 a.m. and costs \$10 (12 and under free); reservations are required by calling 210-9663. The plant sale is 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free to the sale. A dry gardening workshop will also be held throughout the event.

City Hall facelift to be completed later this autumn

After three years of demolition, construction, and refurbishment, the City Hall project will finally be completed this fall as workers put the finishing touches on the older side of the complex at North Main and Civic Drive.

City employees in planning, transportation, police, and human resources are expected to be moved back by late October into the refurbished older portion of City Hall at 1666 North Main Street.

Also, administrative staff from the City Attorney's office and the Arts, Recreation & Community Services Department will be relocated out of rented space across the street into the newer portion of City Hall that opened last October.

The parking lot at City Hall will be open to the public later this fall.

Work began on the new City Hall addition in September 2000. Refurbishment of the 23-year-old portion of the complex began last October after all employees were moved out of it and into the newer portion.

Following is an update on other projects in Walnut Creek:

Veterans Memorial Plaza

Excavation began in August on the new Veterans Memorial Plaza next to City Hall, which is to be officially dedicated on Memorial Day 2004.

The plaza, designed by architect Cliff Garten, will feature a reflecting pool surrounded by birch trees and five, 14-foot granite columns with cascading water



A new roof was put on the 23-year-old portion of City Hall in July as part of the refurbishment of the three-story complex at North Main Street and Civic Drive.

representing each branch of the U.S. armed services.



Heather Farm Park

The Park, Recreation & Open Space Commission voted July 7 to recommend placing a 14,000-square-foot skate park in Heather

Farm Park near the Clarke Swim Center.

The commission also approved a 25-year master plan for the park that would

preclude a dog park as previously planned because of marshy conditions.

The City Council is expected to consider the recommendations later this fall. The Council has already approved \$800,000 to design and build the skate park, which could be open by winter 2004.

Meanwhile, new pool heaters will be installed in September at the swim center. The pool will remain open to the public during the replacement.

Tickets available for City Bus Tour Oct. 25

Learn about Walnut Creek the easy way and leave the driving to us. Join Public Information Officer Brad Rovanner on the fall City Bus Tour scheduled Saturday, Oct. 25.

This 3 1/2-hour morning excursion will include stops at Borges Ranch, the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum,

the Gardens at Heather Farm, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, the Diablo Valley Lines Model Railroad, and the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts.

First-come, first-served tickets are \$10 per person and must be reserved in advance by phone by calling 256-3505. Seating is limited to 23.

66th annual Walnut Festival to be held at Heather Farm Park

The 66th Walnut Festival will get underway at Heather Farm Park for its four-day run beginning Sept. 18, highlighted by carnival rides and live entertainment. Festival hours are: Thursday, Sept. 18, 5-10 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 19, 5-midnight; Saturday, Sept. 20, 11 a.m.-midnight; Sunday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Gate admission is \$6, general; \$4, ages 6-12. Bring a can of food for the Contra Costa Food Bank and get \$1 off your admission at the gate.



Walnut Festival activities will actually kick off on Sunday, Sept. 7 with the 59th annual **5k/10k Run/Walk** for families, co-sponsored by the Walnut Creek Lions Club. The event will be at 8:30 a.m. at Clarke Swim Center in Heather Farm Park. Entry fee is \$20. To register, call 935-6766.

The **Walnut Festival Twilight Round-Up Parade** will be on Saturday, Sept. 13 beginning at 6:15 p.m. on North Main Street between Mt. Diablo Boulevard and

Civic Drive. This year's theme is "Liberty and Freedom." More than 100 entrants will be featured. Come early for the best curbside seating.

The popular **Children's Costume Parade** is Saturday, Sept. 20, beginning promptly at 10:45 a.m. at Clarke Swim Center and ending at the festival grounds. Children in preschool through 5th grade are invited to participate and will receive a blue ribbon and immediate free admission into the festival. For details, call Leo Harrod at 943-5899, ext. 257.

The how and why of WC's General Plan

Walnut Creek has embarked on the ambitious task of updating its 1989 General Plan. It will take more than two years and cost over \$1 million to prepare. But this endeavor raises important questions: What IS a general plan? Why is it necessary? And why is the City preparing a new one?

It's a major undertaking to rewrite a general plan, and the City's planning staff, Council-appointed Steering Committee, and Planning Commission are leading the effort. Following is a helpful summary:

What is a General Plan?

A general plan is a legal document, consisting of text and maps. The legal basis for all land use planning is the "police power" of a city to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents. The police power is established by common law, but the California Constitution expressly gives cities and counties the power to make and enforce within their limits all local police, sanitary, and other ordinances that do not conflict with general State laws.

Under the city's police power, the general plan establishes the basis for all land use regulation in the city. The plan is thus a blueprint for the future of the city.

The general plan deals primarily with the physical and visual aspects of the city, but also covers cultural and social needs.

A general plan helps guide the city's



future by providing a comprehensive set of policy guidelines, and it provides the legal foundation for zoning and subdivision in the city.

In 1990, the California Supreme Court held the general plan to be a " 'constitution' for future development," and thus, a city's single most important planning document.

Why must we have a General Plan?

Each city must adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of both the city and any land outside the city's boundaries that relate to its planning. The State mandates that the plan contain seven elements: Land Use, Circulation (primarily Transportation), Housing, Open Space, Noise, Safety, and Conservation (of resources). Optional elements are permitted (e.g., Economic Development). All of the elements (required or optional) carry equal weight.

The plan must contain diagrams (in practice, a land use and a circulation map) and text setting forth "objectives, principles, standards, and plan proposals."

Public invited to participate in GP discussion meetings

The public is invited to attend the regular monthly meetings of the General Plan Steering Committee, which is now drafting a vision statement and key principles for General Plan 2025.

The committee's next meetings will be Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, and Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Civic Park Community Center lounge, 1650 No. Broadway (in Civic Park).

The Steering Committee members are City Treasurer **Ron Cassano**, Design Review Commissioner **Rob Becker**, Planning Commissioners **Jim Daisa** and **Bob Pickett**, Park, Recreation & Open Space Commissioner **Bill Hunt**, Transportation Commissioner **Dan Lawrence**, and Arts Commissioner **Sheila Wilkins**.

Why is the City preparing a new one?

The general plan must be kept current. Cities must review and revise their general plans as circumstances warrant (except the housing element must be reviewed and revised approximately every five years — with the next revision due in 2006).

Reuse & Cleanup Days return to Walnut Creek

For the fourth straight year, Walnut Creek residents this October will be encouraged to leave at the curb reusable items from around their home that might otherwise end up in a landfill.

During last year's Reuse and Cleanup Days program, local residents donated 104 tons of reusable items at the curb.

Once again, citizens are asked to leave a wide variety of reusable articles, which are donated to charitable organizations for distribution to families or to thrift organizations for resale.

A yellow flyer that lists all acceptable items and other details of the program will be mailed to homes two weeks prior to the pick-up date, which will be listed in the mailer. Multi-family areas, including Rossmoor, are excluded from the program.

Reusable items will be collected by a Pacific Rim Recycling truck and delivered to the non-profit East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse for redistribution. All reuse donations are tax deductible.

Items not taken for reuse will be tagged and left at the curb for collection on your cleanup day, which is on the following business day.

This year residents may also leave old athletic shoes (without metal, lights or cleats) that will be made into new athletic surfaces by Nike.

This program is provided by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority in collaboration with the East Bay Depot, Pacific Rim Recycling, and Pleasant Hill Bayshore Disposal.

For details, call 1-800-999-6067.

Acceptable items:

- Bicycles, sports equipment
- Computers in working order
- Cell phones
- Musical instruments, books
- Household items, clocks
- Wood and tin toys
- Wrought iron & metal items
- Decorations, fabrics
- Clothing, costume jewelry

Not acceptable:

- Children's car seats
- Plastic toys/furniture
- Computer monitors
- Big furniture/appliances/TVs
- Items more than 100 pounds

Hungarian HOOPLA

WC opens homes, sports fields to visiting teen soccer players from sister city of Siófok

For the 25 visiting teen soccer players from Walnut Creek's sister city of Siófok, Hungary, their 14-day stay (July 14-28) was filled with off-field awe and on-field glory.

The boys of the Siófok (pronounced she-oh-foke) Junior Soccer Club and their adult chaperones, including Siófok city council member István Ejevári, toured City Hall and the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts. They also received City caps and pins, and \$10 gift certificates donated by Broadway Plaza.

The guest soccer players competed in blistering hot weather at Arbolado Park with boys' and girls' teams of the Walnut Creek and Diablo Valley soccer clubs. Although the visitors (who are considered collegiate level in Hungary) beat most of the local teams handily, the Walnut Creek boys squeaked out a victory in the final game on July 24.

The visit wrapped up with horseback riding and a barbecue for the guests and their host families at Borges Ranch on July 27, followed by their departure home on July 28.

Before the team left, it extended an unexpected invitation to Northgate High School senior Neil Hannan, 17, to join the Siófok soccer players in Hungary during the month of August.

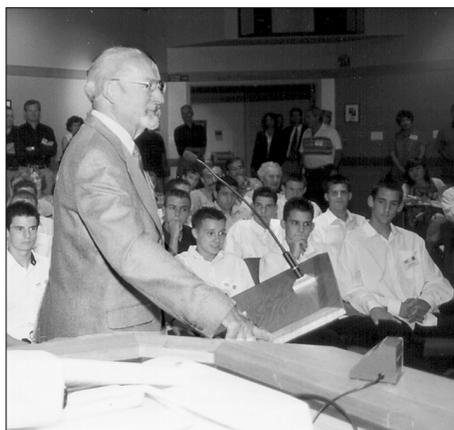
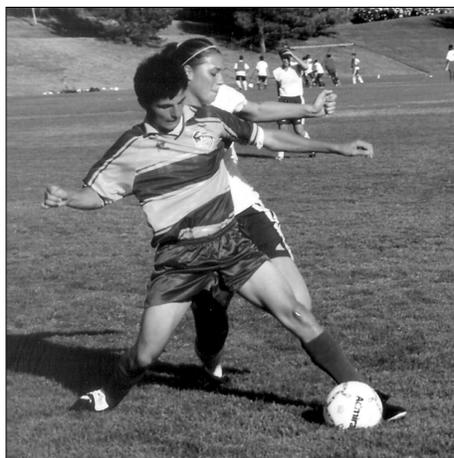
Neil, a goalie on the Diablo Valley Soccer Club's Crusaders team, stayed with István Ejevári's family in Siófok and practiced and played with the Siófok team.

Fun facts about Siófok

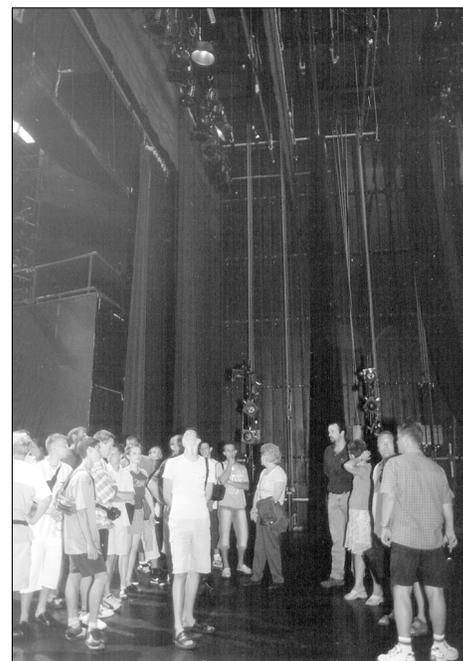
- Population: 28,000
- Location: On the shores of Lake Balaton, 65 miles south of Budapest
- During the tourist season, Siófok's population can soar to up to 120,000
- Sister City connection: Became Walnut Creek's "sister city" in 1991 (joining Noceto, Italy, which became a sister city to Walnut Creek in 1987)
- The July visit to Walnut Creek was the fourth made by Siófok citizens since 1991



Members of the Siófok Junior Soccer Club engaged in a battle for the ball with members of Walnut Creek Soccer Club's Dynamos girls team during a game in 95-degree heat at Arbolado Park on July 22. From left they are Ashley Vallis, 16; Bence Bíró, 17; Gergő Osváth, 17; and Alta Whipple, 16. Below, Zoltán Vidus, 16, beats Emma Kemp to the ball.



Sister City Scrapbook



The Hungarian visitors got a backstage tour at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts (above) on July 16. At left, Dr. István Börörcz of Orinda translated for the visitors at the July 15 City Council meeting.

City Council Update

Affordable housing budget OK'd

The City Council on July 1 approved a \$3.2 million spending plan to increase affordable housing in Walnut Creek.

The new budget provides \$2.3 million for new construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing units. Another \$400,000 is earmarked for the City's First-Time Homebuyer Program, and \$240,000 is reserved for the City's Homeowner Rehabilitation Loan/Grant Program.

Most of the budget is funded with federal and redevelopment monies.

2nd family unit process streamlined

The City has streamlined the process for approving second family units to comply with a new state law that makes it easier for residents to build such units.

The City Council on July 15 approved a change so that all applications can be approved by staff rather than go through a lengthy public hearing process.

In memoriam

Walnut Creek loses two Heather Farm pioneers

The community this summer observed with sadness the passing of two pioneers who helped develop Heather Farm Park and the Gardens at Heather Farm into popular recreational areas.

Ruth Wallis, the City's first recreation director, died June 15 at the age of 100. She was the first woman in California to run a municipal department when she was appointed to the position in 1952.

She later oversaw the the creation of Heather Farm Park before retiring in January 1969.

Bob Cowden passed away June 26 at the age of 87. In 1968, he was the founding chairman for the Gardens at Heather Farm, then known as the Heather Farm Garden Center, and helped develop the six-acre site at 1540 Marchbanks Dr. The Cowden Rose Garden was dedicated in 1999 to honor his many contributions.



Ruth Wallis



Bob Cowden



Street maintenance workers resurfaced dozens of residential streets this past summer.

Street repairs: Paving way for drivers

Streets are a vital thread in the fabric of our everyday lives. They physically connect us between our homes and our schools, our jobs, our parks, our stores — everything. As a direct result of our total dependence on streets to get where we want to go, they wear out. Countless vehicle trips, construction work, and nature's constant impact contribute to the deterioration of our roads.

Thus, street maintenance is a vital service provided by the City of Walnut Creek. Each year the City spends more than \$1 million to resurface or prolong the active life of these roadways.

This summer, several dozen streets were resurfaced throughout Walnut Creek. There are two types of resurfacing the City provides on an on-going basis. Residential streets are typically given a fresh coat of slurry seal every 5 to 7 years. Slurry seal is a protective coating applied to the existing asphalt. This method extends the useful life of the asphalt in a cost-effective way.

However, when asphalt is too damaged or deteriorated for slurry seal, the City does an overlay to put new asphalt on the street. An overlay will generally last 10 to 15 years. The City inspects each street every three years and uses a rating system that prioritizes when and what treatment should be applied.

For slurry sealing, City crews do all the preparation work, thereby saving the City upwards of \$300,000 on this type of maintenance. Crews also provide a wide range of other street maintenance work,

How We Do What We Do

such as filling potholes and cracks, repairing sidewalks, patching holes, and maintaining trails in parks and open space areas.

For obvious reasons, it is necessary to completely close a street to vehicular traffic during resurfacing. City workers post signs two days in advance of a closure and no parking is allowed on affected streets.

If you see a street, sidewalk, or trail that needs repair, call the City's street maintenance division at 943-5854.

Former City Attorney Dan Curtin honored

Dan Curtin, who as Walnut Creek's city attorney from 1965 to 1982 became renowned as the top land use lawyer in the state, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Bar

Association's State and Local Government Section on Aug. 8 in San Francisco.

Curtin, an attorney for 45 years, is now in private practice in Walnut Creek.



Dan Curtin



CopTalk

By Officer Tony Keeler

Tobacco abuse and teens

So...What's the big deal?

The federal government and Surgeon General's Office spend big bucks on anti-tobacco abuse education. Yet, tobacco is one of the most widely abused drugs in our society, most likely due to wide acceptance and availability. Just about every convenience store and market in town sells tobacco products. Store owners and citizens should know the law since we all bear the responsibility of maintaining a healthy community.



State law prohibits anyone under the age of 18 from possessing any tobacco products or any other instrument that is designed for the smoking of tobacco. Minors are prohibited from possessing or purchasing things such as pipes and rolling paper.

State laws go even further in requiring tobacco vendors to post the laws at every point of sale. If tobacco vendors violate these laws and fail to post such signs or repeatedly sell to minors, they could be prevented from selling tobacco and that is a big deal. Some convenience stores cover all of their operating expenses (and then some) through tobacco sales.

In the coming weeks, the Community Policing Team will be utilizing some of the young resources within the Explorer Program to help educate local merchants about these laws. It has been our experience that most merchants follow the letter of the law. However, we hope to ensure that all merchants and underage tobacco users know the rules before running into expensive problems.

Howe Harvest Fest Oct. 26

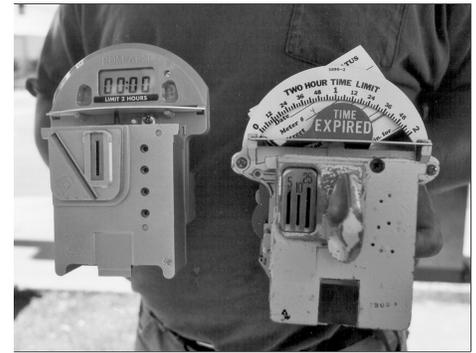
Harvest Festival returns to Howe Homestead Park on Sunday, Oct. 26 from noon to 5 p.m. A variety of fun fall family activities is planned, including pumpkin carving and scarecrow-making.

Howe Homestead Park is operated by the City of Walnut Creek at 2950 Walnut Blvd. Call 930-7731 for more information.



Modern meters go in

Traffic Maintenance Worker Karlan Larson replaced an old, mechanical parking meter on July 9 with a new, state-of-the-art digital meter as part of the City's program to update 336 two-hour devices throughout the downtown. The new meter, shown on the left in the photo at right, is more accurate, easier for users to see for time status, won't accept foreign coins or counterfeits, and won't jam, thus reducing the City's maintenance costs. The older meter, shown at far right, has over 100 mechanical parts, three of which aren't available anymore.



Use your head when wearing a helmet

By Peter Cartwright
Bicycle Advisory Committee

Bike lanes and bike trails make Walnut Creek a great place for cycling. And everybody knows that it's a good idea to wear a helmet

when you are out on a bike. In California it's the law for kids under 18, and most adult riders wear helmets, too. But some parents and adult riders overlook an important factor in helmet safety — fitting the helmet so that it gives the protection it is designed to provide. If the helmet isn't on your head correctly, and the straps aren't secure, it can't work the way it is supposed to.

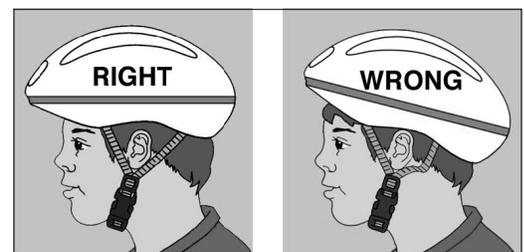
The most common mistake is to wear the helmet tipped back on the head. With the helmet back like this, it is too loose and it can't protect the forehead.

What can you do?

- Look at the instructions that came with your helmet and follow them carefully. Work with your child to get the right fit.

- Be sure the helmet is the right size. If it isn't, get a new one.

- Check out the Consumer Product Safety Commission's web site for more information. www.cpsc.gov/kids/kidsafety/correct.html



These illustrations show the right way and the wrong way for children to wear a bicycle helmet for ultimate protection.



Thanks for the memory, Mr. Hope

Legendary entertainer Bob Hope, who died at the age of 100 on July 27, was being remembered in Walnut Creek for headlining the gala opening at the Regional Center for the Arts on Oct. 4, 1990. Hope did a 45-minute set to end the memorable evening (left) before going backstage to share the spotlight with then-Mayor Gail Murray (left), singer/actress Diahann Carroll, and Oscar-winning actor Joel Grey.

Photos by Brad Rovanpera



Pedestrian

From front page

Another key element is eliminating large seas of parking stalls, she added.

“What we’re trying to do downtown is provide centralized parking in strategic locations that will encourage people to park once and walk to their various shopping destinations,” said Meyer.

Narrowing Locust Street and widening the sidewalks helped give Plaza Escuela a more pedestrian-friendly air, she noted.

The outdoor dining throughout the downtown has helped to make it very interactive, and the large window walls on stores and at the new cineplex make them



Wide walks are popular at Plaza Escuela.

more engaging to patrons, Meyer said.

“It’s great,” said Cheri Sprenger of the Downtown Business Association. “It just continues what we’ve worked so hard to accomplish — getting people out of their cars and strolling the streets.”

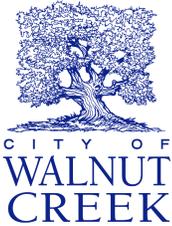
State budget

From front page

loss of revenue.

However, said Parness, “once again the state budget has been ‘balanced’ using significant debt. Thus, absent a major economic turnaround, the state will face another fiscal crisis next year. There is a limit to how long and how often local government can subsidize state operations.”

Walnut Creek has joined a coalition of 500 public and private sector organizations to protect local revenues from future state takeaways as state fiscal problems continue.



CITY COUNCIL

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

* For appointment: Call 943-5812.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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CITY ATTORNEY
Thomas Haas
CITY CLERK
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Tom Soberanes, Chief of Police
PUBLIC SERVICES
Dan Richardson, Director

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.

Go on-line at www.walnut-creek.org



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