

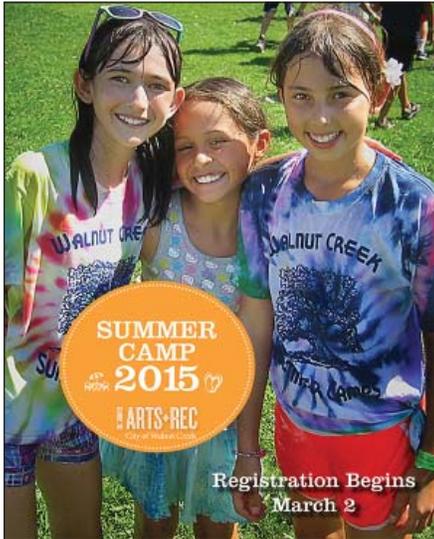
IN A Nutshell



No. 169

Newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

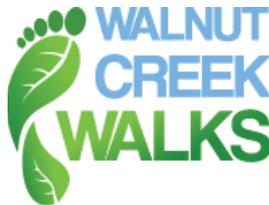
SPRING 2015



Registration Begins March 2

LOOK INSIDE FOR SUMMER CAMP GUIDE. Summer camp registration opens March 2! Check out the Summer Camp Guide for an array of options.

WALNUT CREEK WALKS, 2015 Discover Walnut Creek on foot by joining one or any of eight walks covering different areas of Walnut Creek. Led by the mayor, the walks will take place the second Saturday of each month through September, and on the third Saturday of October. Visit www.walnut-creek.org/walks.



PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS CLASS

April is Earthquake Preparedness month, and we're offering an interactive 90-minute workshop that focuses on what you and your family can do to be prepared. Details on Page 6.



Brrr! Brave swimmers get ready for the "Super Cold Plunge" held at Larkey Pool on Jan. 31, followed by hot cocoa and cider provided by the Walnut Creek Aquanuts. The pool will be closed for 12-18 months after Labor Day to allow for construction of a new pool and splash pad.

Deeper water means expanded uses for pool

Larkey Pool is getting a complete makeover with help from the Walnut Creek Aquanuts and the Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation.

The new pool will be deeper, bigger, and even more fun, thanks to a kid-friendly Splash Pad.

The benefits of including deeper water are many. The Aquanuts will be able to practice their more acrobatic routines there, and will move their swim shows from the Clarke Swim Center to Larkey Pool.

Competitive swimmers will be able to safely perform starts from diving blocks during swim meets, and the Walnut Creek Swim Club will now have 10 swim lanes, rather than the current six lanes.

And the community at large will see expanded learn-to-swim and lifeguard training classes, as well as some creative aquatics programming – think scuba lessons, paddle board yoga, or kayaking classes.

See **POOL**, back page

Chat with the mayor in a neighborhood near you

The community is invited to meet the mayor and talk about current issues in Walnut Creek during a series of informal "Conversations with the Mayor" to be held once a month through June at different locations throughout Walnut Creek.

The goal of the "Conversations with the Mayor" is to provide an opportunity for residents to interact with the mayor in a low-key setting.

The "Conversations" will be held

on March 10 at the downtown library; on April 14 at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge #1811, 1475 Creekside Drive; on May 12 at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum; and on June 9 at the Shadelands Arts Center.

The evening "Conversations" will run from 7 to 8:30 p.m. In addition, a daytime "Conversation" will be held in Rossmoor on May 4 at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact Communications & Outreach Manager Gayle Vassar, 925-943-5895.

Spring highlights

Check cable listings or walnutcreektv.org for full schedule

State of the City

What were the highlights of 2014? More important, what's in store for Walnut Creek in the year ahead? Watch the 2015 State of the City report featuring Walnut Creek's mayor and become an informed citizen.

CERT Speakers Series

Beginning in late March, don't miss this CERT Speaker Series presentation on helping kids with autism during emergencies. While this presentation focuses on first responders, all are welcome.

Diablo Ballet: Hamlet & Ophelia

Beginning in April, take time to watch Diablo Ballet's Special 21st Anniversary Performance featuring Hamlet & Ophelia, originally choreographed for the San Francisco Ballet.

Public Meetings

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

Channel info

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

Shake off winter's chill with Walnut Creek Wednesdays

Terrell Harris, right, of Lafayette dances to the R&B music of The Last Minute Band with his daughter Eleanor at the first Walnut Creek 1st Wednesday.

Walnut Creek 1st Wednesdays will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month through May. Look for live music, street performers, food trucks, and more on Cypress Street between N. Main and Locust streets. Parking is free in City garages after 5 p.m.



Here's what's happening

Las Lomas High rummage sale

Donate your spring cleaning items to the Las Lomas Rummage Sale! Drop off items at Las Lomas High School, back entrance behind Whole Foods, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays through March 21. Pick-up can be arranged for large items. Visit www.laslomasrummagesale.com for more information, including acceptable donation items. The rummage sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 11. All proceeds benefit the Class of 2017.

Zumba for CERT

Try out a fast-paced Zumba class and help raise money for CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). This March 21 event is being sponsored by Renaissance ClubSport, 2805 Jones Road. Suggested donation is \$20, which includes the 10:30 to noon Zumba class. Raffle tickets will be sold for prizes donated by Renaissance ClubSport such as R-Spa services, dinner for two at the C-Blue Restaurant, and an overnight stay at the hotel.

Restaurant Week comes to the Creek

Walnut Creek Downtown serves up Restaurant Week, celebrating the city's deliciously diverse food culture. More than two dozen restaurants will offer specially priced lunch and dinner menus showcasing their finest fare. Eat your heart out from April 19 to 26; visit www.walnutcreekdowntown.com for more info.

Annual Creek Clean-Up

Help remove trash and improve wildlife habitat in downtown creeks at the annual Friends of the Creeks clean-up, Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to noon. Wear old sneakers, bring gloves and plan to get wet! Meet at the Civic Park gazebo; free continental breakfast for all participants will be served at 8:45 a.m. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult, and all

participants must have a signed waiver. For waivers, visit www.FriendsoftheCreeks.org.

Memorial Day

The City will honor those who serve at its traditional Memorial Day observance at 10 a.m. Monday, May 25 in Civic Park. The ceremony will include patriotic music by the Walnut Creek Concert Band. More information will be available closer to the event on the City's website, www.walnut-creek.org.

Gardens at Heather Farm lecture series

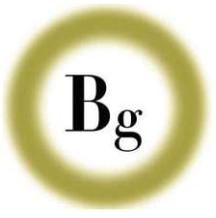
Discovering a Sense of Place is a free lecture series co-sponsored by The Gardens at Heather Farm and the City of Walnut Creek. Topics include *Living in California's Greatest Watershed – The Delta* (March 18); *The Secrets of Composting* (March 25); *Field Trip to Big Break Regional Shoreline* (April 3); *The Secrets of Composting* (April 22); *It Takes a City* (May 14); and, *The Future of Solid Waste* (May 27). Start times vary, and pre-registration is required. Visit gardenshf.org or call 925-947-1678. The Gardens at Heather Farm is at 1504 Marchbanks Drive.

Contra Costa Master Gardeners' plant sale

Get your garden growing with tomato starts, eggplants, peppers and tomatillos at a fund-raising plant sale benefitting the Contra Costa Master Gardener Program. The sale will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 4 and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 11 at "Our Garden," the Contra Costa Master Gardeners' demonstration garden at N. Wiget Lane and Shadelands Drive.

Art & Wine Festival

Enjoy wine, beer gardens, food and arts and crafts booth spread throughout beautiful Heather Farm Park at the Art & Wine Festival from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 30, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 31. Visit www.gowalnutcreek.com for more information.



Bedford Gallery highlights

Open Call for Artwork:

Botanica: All Things Plant Life

All artists are invited to enter artworks for national juried exhibition at Bedford Artwork Submission Deadline: May 8
Exhibition Dates: July 12 – Sept. 6

For our annual juried exhibition, we ask artists to create artwork that explores how plant life can be represented by a diverse range of media. The Bedford only accepts online submissions via SlideRoom. Details at www.bedfordgallery.org/botanica

The Object & the Void: West Coast Metal Sculpture

Feb. 17 – April 12

Don't miss this exhibition of sculpture and installations

by renowned Bay Area artists. These sculptors work with metal media ranging from cast bronze to cut steel to explore weight and balance,



revealing how both the sculpture and the void that surrounds it are essential to the experience of each piece. *Image above, Linda Felming, Planetesimal.*

Volunteer Information Day

Monday, May 4

10 a.m to noon at the Bedford

Learn about the fun and rewarding volunteer opportunities at the Bedford Gallery. Talk to current volunteers, enjoy coffee and pastries and browse the current exhibit, and enter for a chance to win fabulous door prizes.

Public Art Walking Tours

11 a.m. to noon, third Saturdays

The Bedford Gallery offers docent-led walking tours of Walnut Creek's prime public artworks located around downtown on the third Saturday of each month, from April – November. Admission is \$5 and includes a free pass to the Bedford Gallery. Meet in front of the Leshner Center.



Momoyo Torimitsu, *Somehow I Don't Feel Comfortable*, 2000, nylon, 4.8 x 2 x 2 meters each, photo by Kioku Keizo, Courtesy of Misa Shin Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

New exhibition popping up at Bedford

BLOW UP explores the imaginative ways that artists use air as a tool for creating large-scale sculpture and includes imagery that is both figurative and abstract. These pieces use perception of space and unexpected materials to open a dialogue about pop culture and social norms.

The exhibition will be at the Bedford

Gallery April 26 through June 21.

The public is invited to an opening reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 26. Admission is \$5, wine and hors d'oeuvres are hosted by the Bedford Gallery Guild and supported by JP Morgan Chase. This exhibition was funded with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Swinging good time with Civic Arts Jazz Band

The East Bay's premier community jazz band — the **Walnut Creek Civic Arts Jazz Band** — is bringing their swinging sounds to more jazz fans than ever before this spring with two concerts of jazz favorites.

The Lafayette Library (www.lafayettelib.org) hosts the Jazz Band for an evening of jazz standards and contemporary jazz tunes on Thursday, March 26. Tickets are available through the Lafayette library. On Sunday, April 19 the Jazz Band travels to Napa for a winery concert at one of the wine country's most beautiful settings: V. Sattui Winery in St. Helena.

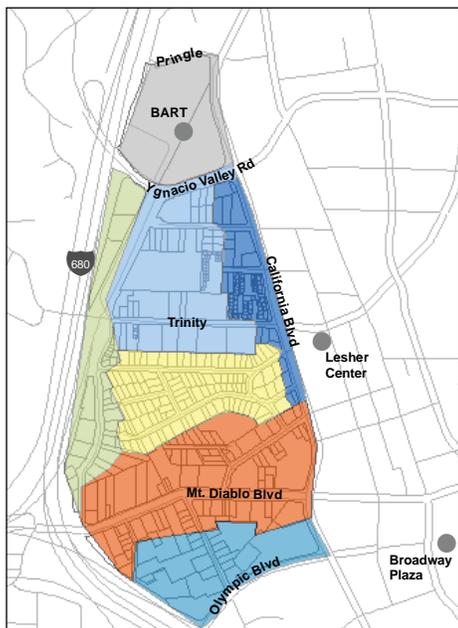
The Civic Arts Jazz Band is comprised of 20 local adult and student musicians who share a passion for jazz in all its varieties. Concerts always feature a wide variety of jazz styles, from big band



to vocal jazz to pop/funk tunes. Jazz Band Director Max Pricco puts together high-energy programs with an emphasis on fun, danceable arrangements.

For more information about upcoming concerts, contact Jeff Paull at saxkat@msn.com.

100 years of growth in the WC School District



Plans for the West Downtown envision seven distinct districts, each with its own character.

West Downtown Specific Plan review process extended

The West Downtown Specific Plan will go through a lengthened review process at the direction of the City Council.

The ambitious plan outlines a 25-year vision for the 172-acre area stretching from the Walnut Creek BART station to Olympic Boulevard. It proposes creation or preservation of seven small districts, each with its own character.

Under the draft plan, Mt. Diablo Boulevard will be transformed into a thriving extension of downtown, the Almond-Shuey neighborhood will be preserved for existing and future generations, while the Trinity/Lacassie area will mature into a vibrant urban residential neighborhood.

The Specific Plan pays special attention to how people will get around, with new bicycle and pedestrian amenities and improved access to public transit. New development will provide funding for parks, schools and workforce housing.

The upcoming review process will involve all five of the City's commissions – Arts, Design Review, Planning, Parks, Recreation & Open Space, and Transportation – with some joint meetings, and will last at a minimum throughout the fall.

For meeting schedules and other information, visit www.walnut-creek.org/westdowntown.

Editor's note: Increased enrollment in the Walnut Creek School District, and the resulting school attendance boundary changes, is a topic on the minds of many in Walnut Creek. To better inform our community, we invited school district Superintendent Patricia Wool and the district's Chief Business Official Kevin Collins to write a column for the Nutshell.

A historical perspective

In 1912, the Walnut Creek School District built its first school in the area of what is now Plaza Escuela. As the district experienced modest growth, additions were made to the school.

The post-World-War-II era saw rapid growth in the area, and in student enrollment. The district's enrollment in 1939 was just under 500 students. By 1947, enrollment had more than doubled. By 1951, enrollment had more than doubled again to over 2,000 students.

By the end of the 1950s, the district had acquired land to build schools on seven new sites, while the original downtown school was closed and sold. District enrollment peaked in the 1960s near 4,500 students. Enrollment then began a long period of decline as families matured and new construction slowed.

Declining enrollment in the 1970s

Declining enrollment played a large factor in the district decision to close Parkmead and Tice Valley schools in 1978. The Tice Valley site was sold, while the Parkmead site remained district property. A portion of the Parkmead campus was then leased to a private school, Dorris-Eaton. By the late 1980s, enrollment began to grow again, which allowed the district to eventually reopen the unoccupied portions of Parkmead.

Enrollment rebounds in late 2000s

Enrollment remained above 3000 students for much of the 1990's, and declined somewhat in the mid-2000's. However, by the late 2000's, enrollment began to steadily increase to our current enrollment of more than 3,600 students. This growth has primarily come from existing, rather than new, housing.

Need for additional space

In 2014, the WCSD Governing Board voted to reoccupy the portion of the Parkmead campus that is leased to Dorris-Eaton. The district will open a new

By the numbers:
Walnut Creek School District enrollment

- 4,500 - peak enrollment (1960s)
- 3,600 - current enrollment
- 42 - average number of K-8 students resulting from 845 housing units built within the district since 2007
- <100 - Projected number of K-8 students resulting from 1,500 new condos & apartments opening within City limits between 2014 - 2020

school in August 2015. For the first year, the school will serve kindergarten through sixth grade, adding a seventh grade in 2016, and an eighth grade in 2017. This school will be open for all students of the district on an application basis.

Minimal impact of new development on enrollment

As Walnut Creek finds itself in a new era of building, our district has been studying the impact of residential construction on our enrollment to ensure that we have adequate space. Much of the new growth consists of multifamily units. The best tool we have to anticipate the number of new students that will come from a project is to look at how many students we have received from similar projects in the past.

Based on our experience with multi-unit projects such as 555 YVR, The Mercer, The Windsor and Avalon, we anticipate that we will receive about 1 student for every 20 new apartment units. Hence, 1,500 new apartments would generate less than 100 students for our district.

Attendance boundary changes

Since boundaries were last drawn in the early 1990s, enrollment trends have changed so that Buena Vista and Indian Valley schools are overcrowded, while Parkmead and Walnut Heights schools have fewer students than their capacity. New school boundaries should be finalized in February, after the *Nutshell* deadline.

With our enrollment growth, the opening of a new school, and boundary changes, we are busy. However, we see growth as an opportunity, and as a chance to enhance the vision for the Walnut Creek School District.

Kevin Collins, EdD, Chief Business Official
Patricia Wool, EdD, Superintendent

City to sweep Lafayette streets

The City of Walnut Creek will be keeping Lafayette streets free from debris under a new agreement approved by the City Council on Feb. 3.

As a budget-saving measure, Walnut Creek Public Works staff reached to several cities to measure interest in providing or sharing various maintenance activities. At the same time, Lafayette received a notice of termination from their street sweeping contractor.

After evaluating current needs and making some adjustments to work schedules, Walnut Creek Public Works determined staff could take on the additional duties. Lafayette will pay \$69,000 a year for the service.

Free home energy checks

The California Youth Energy Services (CYES) program will provide energy and water conservation assessments and services at no cost to residents this summer. CYES is run by the non-profit Rising Sun Energy Center, which has partnered with the City of Walnut Creek, PG&E, EBMUD and Contra Costa Water District on this program.

CYES trains and employs local youth to become Energy Specialists who serve their local communities with Green House Calls. At each Green House Call, Energy Specialists install energy- and water-saving devices and provide personalized recommendations and education for further savings in the home – all at no cost to residents. Devices include energy efficient light bulbs, high efficiency shower heads, kitchen and bathroom sink aerators and more.

Renters and homeowners can sign up today for a free Green House Call this June-August by calling 510-665-1501 ext. 5 or online at www.RisingSunEnergy.org.

Youth ages 15-22 interested in working as an Energy Specialist can contact Rising Sun and submit an application by March 10.

No-cost tax preparation

Free tax preparation is available from AARP's Tax-Aide. All tax preparers are trained and certified by the IRS. To make an appointment, call: 925-943-5851 for the Walnut Creek Senior Club site; 925-405-6278 for the Grace Presbyterian Church site; or 925-979-5013 for the St. Paul's Episcopal Church site. For general information, call 925-726-3199.



Ruby Lopez, host of Walnut Creek TV's Creek Currents, shows off the hook she made with the help of Open Space Ranger Bruce Weidman during a blacksmithing demo at Borges Ranch. The Open Space has a wealth of activities for all ages. For the Winter-Spring 2015 guide, visit www.walnut-creek.org/openspace. Did you know all Creek Currents episodes are on YouTube? Check it out at youtube.com/cityofwalnutcreek.

New carts, colors and services soon

Those emptied pizza boxes will soon have a fresh place to go – the organics cart being delivered as part of a new contract with Republic Services (formerly Allied Waste).

Republic Services will be replacing all carts – recycling, organics and solid waste – between April and July. The new carts will have a different color scheme and clearer signage explaining what to put in each, with the goal of reducing what goes into the landfill.

Food and food-soiled paper such as napkins, paper plates and pizza boxes will go into the green organics cart, along with green waste. These items will end up in a compost facility.

Many more types of plastic, including hard plastic toys, will go into the blue recycling cart, along with the usual paper, cardboard, metal, and glass, and on to a recycling facility.

For most residents, the new recycle, organics and landfill carts will be delivered the day before their regular collection day. The old carts will be removed the following day after they are emptied. About 6 percent of Walnut Creek residents will have a service day change.

Look for details in the mail, or call Republic Services at 925-685-4711.

As for those old carts? If they are in good shape, they will be reused in cities that still use the 'old' color scheme. And if they are not in good shape, they will be recycled, of course!



Learn how to be prepared at free workshop

April is Earthquake Preparedness Month, and the City's Emergency Preparedness team is offering an interactive, 90-minute workshop that focuses on what you and your family can do to be better prepared for disaster. Join us at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 9. Location details are being finalized and will be emailed to all who pre-register. During this workshop, you will learn:



- What to do before, during and after an earthquake.
- How to prepare your home for an emergency.
- How to make a family plan.
- How to build an emergency kit -- what items should be included and the proper way to store it.
- How and when to shut off gas and other utilities after an earthquake.

Space is limited to 40 people. Pre-registration is required. Visit www.walnut-creek.org to sign up. Questions? Call Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Nick Zubel at 925-943-5899 ext. 2911.

Autism awareness for emergency responders

Danielle Bell of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District is the featured speaker at a special presentation on "Autism Awareness for Emergency Responders" at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11 at City Hall.

Bell will address how to recognize the signs and symptoms of autism; the role of emergency responders in responding effectively to people with autism; and, community resources for people with autism.

The free program is open to the general public, and is hosted by Walnut Creek's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

To sign up, visit www.walnut-creek.org/cert or call 925-943-5899 ext. 2911.

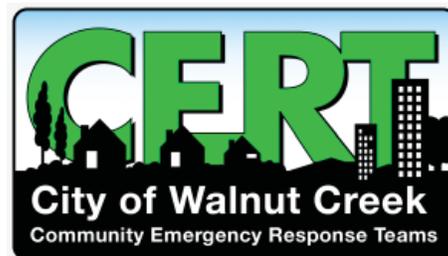


Northgate CERT Area Coordinator Genny Drake, right, uses a variety of supplies to create fake bruises and cuts on a volunteer victim for a CERT graduation drill held in Rossmoor.

Join Walnut Creek's volunteer disaster team

Registration is under way for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) basic training, to be held April 14 through May 30. The spring training will take place at the Civic Park Community Center, with a final drill at Civic Park.

CERT teaches everyday people how to safely and effectively respond to the needs of the community in the critical hours following a disaster. CERT graduates are sworn in as volunteer Disaster Service Workers for the City of Walnut Creek. Training topics include disaster preparedness, how to shut off utilities and



use a fire extinguisher, light search and rescue techniques, disaster first aid, radio communications and how to lead a team using the Incident Command System.

Classes will be held on Wednesday evenings, 6:30-9:30 p.m., April 9 through May 21, with a final class drill the morning of Saturday, May 31. There is a \$25 class fee. Registration information is available at www.walnut-creek.org/cert or by calling the CERT registration line, 925-256-3556.

Volunteers sought for parks and open space

The City of Walnut Creek's dedicated volunteers make our parks and open-spaces a beautiful place to visit.

Whether you are looking for a one-time special event or a year-round volunteer program for you, your family and friends or your school or civic group, there are many great opportunities to give back to the community.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact Patrice Hanlon, Volunteer Coordinator at phpatrice@gmail.com

Be a Youth Ambassador with Sister Cities

Sister Cities is taking applications for the 4th year of the YAE!! exchange program.

The program is open to all 7th graders who live in Walnut Creek. Students may apply for the nine-day homestay cultural and educational exchange with Noceto, Italy or Siofok, Hungary.

Applications are due March 7. For further information, email Walter Schick at walterschick@astound.net.

Learn more about Walnut Creek Sister Cities at www.wc-sister-cities.org.

Go 'next door' with Walnut Creek Police

The Walnut Creek Police Department has adopted the Nextdoor platform to connect with residents to improve safety and strengthen virtual neighborhood watch efforts.

On Nextdoor, neighbors create private websites to get to know one another, ask questions, and exchange local advice and recommendations. The Police will share important safety information and emergency notifications to residents on a neighborhood level through Nextdoor.

Nextdoor was specifically designed to make neighbors feel comfortable sharing information with one another. All members must verify that they live within the neighborhood. Information shared on Nextdoor is password-protected and cannot be accessed by those outside the neighborhood, including the police.

Join your neighbors and the Walnut Creek Police Department in building a stronger, safer Walnut Creek at www.nextdoor.com.

Staying safe on foot

Walnut Creek Police tackled pedestrian safety during the holidays with a strategic public education campaign.

"We took a proactive approach to handling what we knew was coming," said Lt. Bryan Hill, who organized the effort.

Social media proved invaluable as the department issued safety tips several times each week. The department also provided crossing guards for the busy Mt. Diablo at Broadway intersection during three December weekends.

While the primary campaign tool was education, enforcement helped as well. Over the three-week campaign, police stopped 505 drivers. Most received a warning; only 50 received a traffic citation.

Although the campaign took place during the holidays, its lessons are good yearlong. Here are a few:

For pedestrians: Be predictable! Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections whenever possible. That's where drivers will expect you to be.

For drivers: When stopping for pedestrians, leave ample space between your car and the crosswalk. This gives other drivers an opportunity to see the crossing pedestrian.



Bruce Lester, left, talks with WCPD volunteer Bill Herbert at the new Rossmoor Field Office.

Police open field office near Rossmoor

Walnut Creek residents living in and near Rossmoor now have an easy way to get information about everything from crime prevention to home security, thanks to the new Rossmoor field office at 1965 Tice Valley Boulevard, next to the Safeway store in the Rossmoor Shopping Center.

There, Walnut Creek Police Department volunteers can answer basic questions and provide resource materials on a variety of topics such as senior safety and how to prevent identity theft. In addition, the volunteers can call dispatch and request that an officer respond to the field office if a report needs to be taken.

The field office also gives patrol officers assigned to the area a place to take care of business without having to return to the police station at City Hall, says Lieutenant Steve Gorski, who oversees police services in the area between Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Alamo.

The Rossmoor Field Office is proving

Beat the bike thieves! Free bike registration

Registering a bicycle is a great way to make sure the bike is returned to its rightful owner in the event of theft. And now, it's easier than ever – and free!

The City Council blessed a proposal by the Walnut Creek Police Department to do away with the annual bike registration fee as a way of encouraging bicycle owners to register their bikes. Bicycle thefts are on the rise — 257 bikes were stolen in 2014, compared to 164 in 2013.

popular with residents, says Gorski. In the short time it has been opened, several hundred people have stopped in to ask questions or simply say hello. Future plans include installing an electronic kiosk where citizens can file a police report or get additional information.

There are no emergency services provided at the field office. People should call 911 in the event of an emergency.

The field office is open varying hours Monday through Thursday. Because it is staffed entirely by Walnut Creek Police Department volunteers, there are no set hours. Phone lines are being installed, but in the meantime, one may call the Police Department's business line at 943-5844 to verify that the field office is open.

The Rossmoor field office is possible thanks to the generosity of the Shopping Center's owners, who are providing the space free of charge to the City. In the future, the police hope to open a similar field office in the Ygnacio Valley/Oak Grove area.

Bike registration can be done online at walnutcreekpd.com, or by visiting the police department Monday through Thursday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Once a bike is registered with a description and serial number, the owner would receive a license and registration sticker.

If that bike is stolen and recovered, it can be matched with the database information and returned to the owner.



A conceptual drawing of the splash pad planned for Larkey Pool

POOL

From front page

The City Council originally approved a plan to renovate the existing pool in December. That was before the Aquanuts asked the City to consider adding deeper water in half the pool.

At the Jan. 20 City Council meeting, the Aquanuts promised to raise up to \$500,000 over five years to cover the additional cost. President Jeff Langner unveiled a fund-raising strategy that includes naming opportunities, corporate sponsorships, special fund-raising projects, fee increases for the Aquanuts' competitive team members, expanded bingo, alumni outreach and donor opportunities.

"The Aquanuts are not looking for a handout," Langner told the Council. "We understand it's not a free ride. But we see deeper water as so important to the survival of the club that basically we are willing to do whatever it takes to make it happen."

The City Council unanimously agreed to move ahead with demolishing the old pool and building a new one, rather than simply

renovating the existing 40-year-old pool, increasing the project budget from \$4.33 million to \$4.83 million.

Concurrently, the Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation pledged to raise at least \$20,000 to help cover the cost of a kid-friendly splash pad. The Civic Pride Foundation has a history of successful fund-raising, having raised more than \$370,000 for the new All Abilities Playground at Heather Farm Park.

In addition to monies raised by the Aquanuts and the Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation, the Larkey Swim Center project is being paid for by developer in-lieu park fees, voter-approved Measure WW park funds from East Bay Regional Park District, and \$220,000 from one-time infrastructure funds.

Construction will begin in the fall and last 12-18 months. The current Larkey Pool will close to the public after Labor Day.

Look for more information about how to support the Aquanuts or the Civic Pride Foundation in their fund-raising efforts in the next *Nutshell*.

Downtown history tours resume in March

Join the Walnut Creek Historical Society for an easy, 90-minute guided walking tour that brings to life the early times of what has become a Bay Area destination city.

The free tours are held the second Saturday of each month starting March 14. Check in begins at 9 a.m. at Liberty Bell Plaza on the corner of Broadway and Mt. Diablo Blvd. The tour begins at 9:30 a.m. A booklet

with historic photos of the sites may be purchased at the tour for \$5.

Advance registration is not required. However, space is limited to 30, so it is advisable to arrive at the 9 a.m. check in to ensure being on the tour. No pets, please.

For more details, visit www.walnutcreekhistory.info and click on Walnut Creek Downtown History Tours.



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

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