

IN A

# Nutshell

No. 158

Community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

SUMMER 2012

## A tale of two soldiers for Memorial Day

**W**hen Bob Tharratt and Dick Ingraham met for the first time during a dinner meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, they began exchanging personal stories the way new acquaintances often do.

Soon, the subject of World War II came up. Both men were veterans.

"I told Bob I was 104th Infantry, and he said 'Holy Cow, that was the outfit that liberated me!'" says Dick.

The two struck up a friendship that remains to this day. On Monday, May 28, Bob and Dick will share their stories as keynote speakers at the City's Memorial Day Ceremony. The event begins at 10 a.m. at the Civic Park gazebo.

Bob was an Army Air Force Technical Sergeant flying over Nuremberg, Germany when his plane was hit by enemy fire in September 1944.

The crew prepared to bail out when Bob saw that the top turret gunner was wounded. He made his way back to the injured crewmember, got him out of the turret and into a parachute, and helped him

See **KEYNOTE**, Page 7



Bob Tharratt, left, and Dick Ingraham will be the Memorial Day keynote speakers.

## Budget balanced, fiscal problems still looming

**T**he City is on track to adopt a balanced operating budget for 2012-14, but with the caveat that serious shortfalls continue to lie ahead. Projected revenues can do little to address significant needs for maintaining roads, parks and other infrastructure or provide for adequate investment in information technology.

The Council met May 15 (after the Nutshell went to press) to consider a proposed budget. They will meet again on June 5 and are expected to adopt a 2012-14 Operating and Capital Budgets on June 19.

### Closing the gap

Entering the budget development cycle, the City was looking at a two-year \$2.1 million shortfall.

That was before the recommendation to unfreeze a police lieutenant and a police officer position, and increase funding for Information Technology needs and emergency preparedness.

To close the gap, options included in the proposed budget presented to Council on May 15 follow:

- ◆ Fee increases aligned to recover a greater portion of service costs;
- ◆ Service cuts, such as closing City Hall public counters one day a week; and
- ◆ New revenue, such as advertising in parking garages and placing mobile retail kiosks in Liberty Bell Plaza.

Those steps are expected to achieve a balanced operating budget for 2012-14, but do not address the City's full capital needs.

See **BUDGET**, Back Page

## Plastic or metal? New meters accept both

**P**arking in Walnut Creek got a little easier this spring with the installation of 1,000 solar-powered meters that accept credit cards in addition to coins. The new meters are among the first steps in implementing an integrated Parking Management Plan.

The goal of the plan is to make downtown parking easier to find, whether at the curb or in parking garages, and to meet the needs of residents, downtown businesses and employees, and visitors.



**PARKING MADE EASY**

Also in the works this summer is installation of on-street vehicle detection sensors. These sensors will provide occupancy data that will help guide parking management decisions; in addition, the sensors are capable of providing real-time data that could be pushed out to smart phones and the City's website in the future.

See **PARKING**, Back Page

**Summer  
highlights**

(check cable listings  
for showtimes or go  
to [walnutcreektv.org](http://walnutcreektv.org))

**May 28 -  
Memorial Day**

*Living History* programs featuring Walnut Creek veterans who served in WWII and the Korean War will be aired repeatedly throughout the day.

**Creek Currents**

Coming up in June, Ruby Lopez gets a roller skating lesson, from the cast of *Xanadu*. Plus, Brendan Moran joins the annual Creek Clean-Up, hosted by Friends of the Creeks.

**White House  
Chronicle**

A weekly news and public affairs program airing nationwide on PBS. Host Llewellyn King and a rotating panel of experts offer insightful news analysis with a dash of dry humor.

**Public Meetings**

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

**Channel information**

Walnut Creek TV is on Comcast Channel 28 (incorporated WC only), Rossmoor 26, Astound Channel 29, and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99. For streaming video and programs on demand, [www.walnutcreektv.org](http://www.walnutcreektv.org).

# Family Theatre Festival returns July 21

The 6th annual Chevron Family Theatre Festival takes place Saturday, July 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This exciting event will feature more than two dozen professional family performances in the Leshler Center for the Arts' three theaters, lobbies and outside areas. Free activities and events will surround the Center, transforming the LCA and the plaza out front into a day-long festival of fun, arts and entertainment for local families and visitors.

Performances inside the Leshler Center's three theaters are just \$5 per person, run 45-60 minutes and are appropriate for all ages. Among the perennial favorites will be Leslie Carrara and her best friend Abby Cadabby from *Sesame Street*, right. For tickets, [www.lesherartscenter.org](http://www.lesherartscenter.org) or 925-943-SHOW.



From *Sesame Street* to Walnut Creek: Leslie Carrara and her best friend Abby Cadabby at the LCA.

## Here's what's happening

### Art & Wine Festival June 2 & 3

On June 2 and 3, the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau presents the 31st annual Art & Wine Festival, *Flavors of the Creek*, at Heather Farm Park. Admission is free, and so is parking at the Shadelands office park with continuous free shuttles (on-site parking is \$8). Visit [www.walnut-creek.com](http://www.walnut-creek.com) or call 925-934-2007.



### Antiques show at Shadelands

The Walnut Creek Historical Society hosts the popular Antiques and Collectibles Sale & Show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 10. Admission and parking are free; food and beverages will be sold. Shadelands Ranch Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road. Call 925-935-7871.

### Free learn-to-swim lessons for adults

Team members and coaches from Walnut Creek Masters, a local chapter of United States Masters Swimming, are offering free swim lessons to non-swimming or novice adults who want to learn to swim.

The goal of the new program, *Swimming Saves Lives*, is to help adults enhance their water safety with a unique approach developed by renowned WCM Head Coach Kerry O'Brien.

The series of three, one-hour sessions will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. on August 27, 28 and 29. Contact Dave Skvarna at [skvardc@yahoo.com](mailto:skvardc@yahoo.com) for registration information.

### Second Saturday Walks with Mayor

Join other community members the second Saturday of each month for a walk through Walnut Creek led by the Mayor.

Walks start at 10 a.m. and are usually done before noon. Planned for this summer are:

June 9, Shell Ridge Open Space; July 14, Lindsay Wildlife Museum to Acalanes Open Space; August 11, Rossmoor (open to all).

Guides to each walk, along with instructions on where to meet, are available at [www.walnut-creek.org/walks](http://www.walnut-creek.org/walks) or call 925-943-5895.



### Gardens at Heather Farm workshops

- *Succulent Terrariums – A Miniature Oasis* 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 16. Learn how to construct and maintain different types of terrariums, and leave with a completed terrarium to enjoy. \$35.
- *A Flower Garden in a Jiffy* 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 23. Learn to draw up plans for a flower garden that attracts beneficial insects and provides beautiful bouquets. \$20.
- *In the Fold – Recycled Paper Art*, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 30. Use old magazines and greeting cards to make gifts, mobiles and decorated boxes. \$15 adults, \$5 for children over 10.

### Opera in the Park on June 24

Free Festival Opera performance and family-friendly fair on Sunday, June 24 at Civic Park. Opera character mask-making for children, and local arts and crafts booths. Open seating on the lawn; bring a blanket and a picnic, but leave Fido and glass containers at home. The Fair and seating open at 4 p.m., performance begins at 5 p.m.

## Center REP's lively 2012-13 season

Center REP displays its breadth of talent with a wildly entertaining season of performances for 2012-13.

Kicking off the year is the off-Broadway hit *Lucky Stiff*, a musical murder-mystery farce, running Aug. 31- Oct. 7.

Other productions are: *Steve Martin's The Underpants*, a wild and crazy satire, Oct. 19 - Nov. 17.

*Status Update*, the World Premiere of a comedy with music, Nov. 1 - 18.

*A Christmas Carol*, an inspiring holiday tradition, Dec. 6 - 16.

*Old Wicked Songs*, about the power and bond of music, Feb. 1 - March 2.



**Xanadu is on stage at the Leshner Center through June 23. Don't miss this hilarious show on skates! Call 943-SHOW or visit [www.centerrep.org](http://www.centerrep.org) for individual or season tickets.**

*Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps*, a fast-paced whodunit, March 29 - April 27.

*Pilgrims Musa and Sheri in the New World*, winner of the Steinberg 2012 New Play award, April 25 - May 12.

*Sweet Charity*, the multi-Tony award-winning musical, May 17 - June 22.

## Gallery transformed into summer speedway

### Bonus! Library teams up with Bedford on kids' workshop

Bedford Gallery presents *Cardbug 2012: The Super Track* from June 10 to Aug. 12, featuring artist-designed remote-controlled cars and a custom built racetrack made entirely out of recycled and repurposed materials.

Gallery visitors will be able to race their own cars, compete against friends, and experience the thrill of racing.

On Wednesday, June 20, Bedford Gallery docents will offer a racecar building workshop at the Gallery in conjunction with the Walnut Creek Library. First, kids can start with an hour of related activities at 2 p.m. in the library, including a hands-on workshop helping the library build a window cityscape.

### Arts, Adventures and Academics celebrates 30 years

"At first my daughter Sophie was a bit apprehensive," recalls Denise Santoro when asked about Arts, Adventures and Academics (AAA) summer camp. "It was something new so she was timid, but she found out that she really loved it."

Now in its 30th year, AAA is a unique arts-based program for K-9 grade. This popular program offers half- and full-day options with financial aid available.

Children choose from a variety of classes in the morning, led by



**Cardbug 2012: The Super Track**

Afterwards, parents and children can walk over to the gallery for a free racecar building workshop from 3 to 4 p.m. and free same-day admission to the Gallery.

Space is limited for the racecar building workshop to 25 children. To register, call the Bedford Gallery, 925-295-1417.

enthusiastic professionals and the afternoon offers outdoor adventures.

Sophie, now a third grader, found lots to choose from.

"She even took a cooking class," says Denise. "I think having such a large selection of activities to pick and choose from was a good thing for her."

The program culminates with an open house on Thursday, July 19 at 6:30 p.m.

For more information about the AAA summer camp, go to [www.arts-ed.org](http://www.arts-ed.org).

## Civil War novel is 2012 'Walnut Creek Reads' selection

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the Walnut Creek Library Foundation has

selected Michael Shaara's novel *The Killer Angels* for the 2012 *One City One Book: Walnut Creek Reads* program.

The winner of the 1975 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, *The Killer Angels* tells the story of the three days of the Battle of Gettysburg through the eyes and thoughts of the various commanders of both armies.

The book was selected in anticipation of the Walnut Creek Library's hosting of a distinctive national traveling exhibit, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*, opening in Walnut Creek on Dec. 12.

Read the book this summer and then participate in various *Walnut Creek Reads* events in September and October.

Significantly, the community events will kick off on Tuesday, Sept. 11 with the exclusive West Coast appearance of Jeff Shaara, Michael Shaara's son, who has written both a prequel (*Gods and Generals*) and sequel (*The Last Full Measure*) to the book. Tickets go on sale June 4.

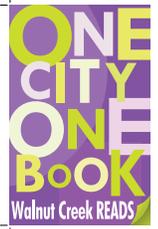
Copies of *The Killer Angels* will be available at the public libraries, Rossmoor library, or local bookstores starting June 4. More information is available on the Walnut Creek Library Foundation website, [www.WCLibrary.org](http://www.WCLibrary.org), or at the libraries.

## Summer recipe: camps and swimming and fun!

There is still time to register for Recreation summer camps. With weekly sessions and over 30 summer camps to choose from, there's something for everyone. Try Lego Camp, Crazy Chemistry or Carpentry.

Summer also means time for water safety. The City's aquatics program offers swim lessons at Clarke Memorial Swim Center and Larkey Swim Center. A new open water swimming session for ages 15 and over will be at Clarke on Aug. 18. Both pools offer recreational swimming.

Visit [www.WalnutCreekRec.org](http://www.WalnutCreekRec.org).



# And the survey says: Life in Walnut Creek is good

**W**alnut Creek residents are overwhelmingly satisfied with the quality of life in their home town, and give high marks to nearly all City services, according to a citizen survey conducted in January.

The survey was sent to 2,000 households selected at random by the National Citizen Survey; 37 percent responded. The City also used the National Citizen Survey in 2007, which gives the advantage of being able to compare how residents feel today with how they felt during the economic boom years.

And how do they feel? According to the survey responses, pretty darned good:

- ◆ 96 percent rated the quality of life in Walnut Creek as excellent or good.
- ◆ 97 percent would recommend living in Walnut Creek to someone who asked.
- ◆ 93 percent plan to stay in Walnut Creek for the next 5 years.

## A safe, clean community

Safety ratings were virtually unchanged from 2007; with 97 percent reporting feeling “very” or “somewhat” safe in their neighborhoods and in the downtown during the daytime.

Only 8 percent reported feeling “somewhat” or “very” unsafe after dark in their neighborhood and in the downtown.

Among the characteristics receiving the most favorable ratings were the overall image or reputation of Walnut Creek, the cleanliness of Walnut Creek and shopping opportunities.

The two characteristics receiving the least positive ratings were traffic flow on major streets and the availability of affordable quality housing.

## Rating services and those who provide them

Libraries, parks and police services were among those services receiving “excellent” or “good” ratings of 90 percent or better.

City employees continue to excel in the eyes of the public, receiving a 90 percent “excellent” or “good” rating for knowledge and an 89 percent “excellent” or “good” rating for courtesy.

The survey also asked residents how important it was that the City direct resources toward each of the six Council Goals used as part of the City’s Priority Based Budgeting process.

The goals are: A Safe Community; Arts, Recreation and Learning Opportunities; Economic Vitality; Effective Transportation and Mobility Options; Stewardship of the Natural

## New City Clerk for Walnut Creek

Deputy City Clerk Suzie Martinez, right, was promoted to City Clerk on April 13 following a competitive recruitment process. Martinez joined the City of Walnut Creek in 2008. Previously, she worked for the town of St. Helena.

She has a bachelors’ degree in Business Administration from California State University, Sacramento. In addition, she earned her Certified Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.



Suzie Martinez



Citizens participating in the 2012 Citizen Survey rated Walnut Creek as an excellent place to raise children and to retire, a community for all ages. Proving that point (and enjoying one of the City’s highly ranked parks) is Harriet Chamberlain (standing, left) with grand-daughter Diane, and great-grandchildren Kyla and Liam.

and Built Environment; and Strong Neighborhoods and a Sense of Community.

All of the goals were rated as “essential” or “very important” by more than three-quarters of respondents, confirming the validity of the Council goals to the community. Conversely, none of the goals was rated as “not at all important” by more than 1 percent, considered statistically insignificant.

Survey results are available on the City website, [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org).

Become an Open Space Adventurer

Do you want to learn more about your environment and the wildlife around you?

If the answer is yes, and you are 12 years of age or under, you can become an Open Space Adventurer!

Visit [www.walnut-creek.org/Walks](http://www.walnut-creek.org/Walks) to download your Open Space Adventurer Passport. It will have all the instructions you'll need to get started.

Complete the Passport to earn a certificate signed by the Mayor, and a commemorative Walnut Creek Walks whistle and lanyard!

For more information go to [www.walnut-creek.org/Walks](http://www.walnut-creek.org/Walks) or call (925) 943-5895.

See you on the trail!

# Public art projects bring the excitement outdoors

Three significant pieces of public art are coming soon to Walnut Creek. First, two fountains on Main Street are being completely redone by two separate artists working independently.

Passersby may have noticed the framing already taking place in front of the Mechanics Bank fountain. The artist working on the fountain in front of Wells Fargo will be on site in late May or early June doing the installation of that piece.

Toward mid-summer, the Hand of Peace, a 32-foot tall sculpture by renowned sculptor Beniamino Bufano, will be installed at its new home in Civic Park near the north entrance of the Walnut Creek downtown library this summer.

The monumental piece, utilizing copper, mosaic and stained glass, is a preeminent example of post-war art. It was first purchased in 1967 for \$50,000 for the Quail Court Office Park.

The sculpture was removed from its original home at Quail Court in 2010 by Westlake Realty to be professionally restored by Artworks, a Berkeley foundry. The Chang family, current owners of the piece, has generously loaned it to the City for 25 years.

The projects are paid for through developer contributions to the Public Art In Lieu fund, not general tax dollars.

## Advisory Committee being formed for West Downtown Specific Plan

The City Council is looking for two residents and one business owner to serve on a Citizens Advisory Committee that will create a draft West Downtown Specific Plan.

The candidates must live or own a business within the plan area, which is generally bounded by the BART station to the north, Mt. Diablo Boulevard to the south, I-680 to the west, and California Boulevard to the east.

The purpose of the Specific Plan is to plan for new homes and businesses between Mt. Diablo Blvd and the Walnut Creek BART station, preserve the Almond-Shuey neighborhood, and plan for ways to make it easier to walk and bike between the BART station and downtown.

The first meeting of the West Downtown Specific Plan Citizens Advisory Committee will be Tuesday, June 12 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at City Hall in the 3rd Floor Conference Room.

There will be a total of seven meetings through December 2013.

Applications must be received by 5 p.m. Thursday, May. 24. The application is available at [www.walnut-creek.org/westdowntown](http://www.walnut-creek.org/westdowntown), or contact Andrew Smith in the Planning Division, 925-943-5899 ext. 2213, or via email at [asmith@walnut-creek.org](mailto:asmith@walnut-creek.org).



'Hand of Peace' by Beniamino Bufano will be installed in Civic Park.



## New Commissioners

New commissioners were welcomed, and outgoing commissioners thanked, at a reception at the Bedford Gallery. The Arts Commission has been restructured, and all five commission seats were newly appointed. Above, from left are Carol Fowler, Polly Bradbury, Joe Bologna, Glynnis Cowdery and Jane Emanuel. The Arts Commission guides implementation of the Public Art program and Public Art Master Plan.



Daphne Cothren (at left, with husband Robert) was appointed to a two-year term on the Design Review Commission. Also joining the Design Review Commission for a four-year term is Marilyn Weiss.

## Roadwork alert!

Summer means roadwork, and Walnut Creek is no exception. Several roadway projects in downtown Walnut Creek will be done between June and September to improve traffic signal operations and road infrastructure. Project areas are:

- ◆ Newell Avenue between Main Street and Maria Lane
  - ◆ South California Boulevard between Botelho and Newell
- Also, a new sidewalk will be built between 1459 and 1479 Newell Avenue to provide a continuous pedestrian path in an area heavily used by Kaiser employees, patients and visitors.



## Buena Vista sidewalk installation

The City has received a State Grant through the Safe Route to School program and will be applying this toward the Buena Vista Avenue and Parkside Intersection Safe Route to School Project.

The project includes installation of a new sidewalk to close sidewalk gaps near the intersection of Buena Vista Avenue and Parkside Drive. This will create a continuous sidewalk connecting the residential areas in northwest Walnut Creek to schools, churches, public transit and downtown Walnut Creek.

Prior to the start date of each project, message signs will be posted alerting drivers to the upcoming work.

For more information, visit the City's website, or contact Engineer Alex Wong, 925-943-5899 ext 2239.



clavlanca.com

The City's Boundary Oak Golf Course is a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

## Boundary Oak Golf Course recognized for environmental excellence

Boundary Oak Golf Course has been recognized by Audubon International as a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses provides information and guidance to help courses preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resources.

To get such a certification, the course had to show a high degree of environmen-

tal quality in a number of areas, including wildlife and habitat management, chemical use reduction and water conservation.

Boundary Oak is the 38th course in California and the 969th in the world to receive the designation.

Boundary Oak Golf Course is owned by the City of Walnut Creek. To learn more, visit [www.playboundaryoak.com](http://www.playboundaryoak.com).

## Flood map information for Walnut Creek

Floods are one of the most common and widespread of all natural disasters. Walnut Creek is no exception. Floods in 2002 and 2005 resulted in thousands of dollars of flood damage to properties. The National Flood Insurance Program has mapped the 100-year floodplain or Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) within Walnut Creek. Over 500 Walnut Creek properties are in the floodplain.

The City maintains the floodplain maps and will determine whether a property is within or outside of the SFHA and provide the base flood elevation, if shown on the

map. This free service is provided to homeowners, lending institutions, real estate agents, and insurance agents.

To find out if a property is in the SFHA contact the Engineering Division at 925-943-5839. Additional information about the requirements for purchasing flood insurance will also be provided.

The City also maintains copies of Elevation Certificates for new and substantially improved buildings constructed since 1991. Elevation Certificates may be reviewed at City Hall.

## Free protection from insects and animals

Insects and animals can make us sick. That's why the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District has been protecting the people of Contra Costa County from insects and animals, also known as vectors, since 1927.

CCMVCD's services have grown from working to prevent mosquito-borne illness alone, to working to prevent discomfort and diseases that rats, mice, skunks,

ground-nesting yellowjackets, and ticks can inflict on people as well.

The District provides inspections and advice for controlling these vectors at no cost to residents - your tax dollars at work.

For more information or to request service for an issue involving the vectors listed above, call 925-771-6184 or visit [www.ContraCostaMosquito.com](http://www.ContraCostaMosquito.com).

## Open Space events and adventures

### Heritage Day at Borges Ranch

Walnut Creek history comes alive from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 16 as the City celebrates Heritage Day at Old Borges Ranch. Step into the Carriage Barn for movies from the Niles Essanay Silent Movie Museum and meet Borges family members in the historic 1901 Ranch House. Local organizations will be on hand to share information on gardening, beekeeping, quilting, and spinning. There will be music and dancing and free pony rides for children. Food will be available for purchase or bring your own picnic basket. Park at Northgate High School; \$5 per family charge for the shuttle. No parking is available on site except for vehicles with a placard. Contact Ranger Dan Bylin at 925-943-5899 ext. 2162.



### Volunteer in the Open Space

The Walnut Creek Open Space is recruiting volunteers to assist Rangers. Volunteers are needed to work at Open Space sites, patrol trails, staff the historic site and help to maintain trails. For more information, contact Open Space Supervising Ranger Nancy Dollard, 925-943-5899 ext. 2135 or [dollard@walnut-creek.org](mailto:dollard@walnut-creek.org).

### Ancient Ways event for the primitive in all of us

The 4th annual Ancient Ways will be Saturday, Aug. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sugarloaf Open Space. Learn to toss the atlatl and rabbit stick, and take part in games and native crafts designed for the whole family. The event is free. No food is available, so bring a picnic basket. Questions? Call 925-943-5899 ext. 2665 or email [Weidman@walnut-creek.org](mailto>Weidman@walnut-creek.org).

# 2012 WALNUT CREEK Community Service Day

## Community Service Day now accepting projects

Community non-profits, public schools and libraries, and other public agencies are invited to submit a volunteer project for the 2012 Community Service Day, to be held Saturday, Oct. 6.

This is an excellent way to showcase your organization to a new audience of volunteers.

Last year, more than 1,000 volunteers turned out to build, paint and plant at various locations around Walnut Creek, benefitting non-profits, schools, arts organizations and open space.

Two-thirds of the 1,000-plus people who volunteered had no prior involvement with their project sponsor.

All of the 42 project sponsors said they would definitely host a Community Service Day project again, based on their positive experience.

Projects must be appropriate for a range of ages and abilities, and be accomplished in about four hours.

For guidelines and submittal form, go to [www.walnut-creek.org/service](http://www.walnut-creek.org/service).

Projects must be submitted by Friday, June 29. Projects submitted early may be used in the initial volunteer publicity, so submit as soon as possible. Questions? Email [ServiceDay@walnut-creek.org](mailto:ServiceDay@walnut-creek.org).

## First Tee youth program at Boundary Oak Golf Course

The First Tee 12-week summer session will begin on Monday, June 4, at 4 p.m. Four-day summer camps will be offered from 8 a.m. to noon the weeks of June 26-29, July 17-20 and August 14-17.

The First Tee programs teach young people life skills that allow them to face challenges at home, school and play in a constructive manner. For information, visit [www.thefirstteecontracosta.org](http://www.thefirstteecontracosta.org) or call 925-686-6262 ext. 0 and ask to speak to Angela.

Adult volunteers are always welcome. Contact Jerry Hicks ([jhicks@astound.net](mailto:jhicks@astound.net)) if you would like to volunteer.

## Homegrown Olympians head for London

Two Walnut Creek Aquanuts alumni are headed to London this summer for the 2012 Olympic Games.

Maria Koroleva will compete in the Olympic Duet competition with Mary Killman, a former Santa Clara Aquamaid. Koroleva trained with the Walnut Creek Aquanuts from 1999-2008. Fellow Aquanut alumni Caitlin Stewart is the duet team alternate. The Olympics begin Aug. 5.



Former Walnut Creek Aquanut Maria Koroleva

Since 1968, Aquanuts swimmers have earned hundreds of National and International titles, as well as numerous Olympic medals. Currently under the direction of former Olympian and Head Coach Kim Probst, the team has won 90 gold medals in National, Regional and Association competitions combined in the first four months of 2012.

The 2012 Walnut Creek Aquanuts team includes 77 athletes ranging in age from 6-



The Walnut Creek Aquanuts perform.

### 'Celebration of Champions'

The Aquanuts present "Celebration of Champions," an exhibition of all 2012 competitive team routines, at the Clarke Memorial Swim Center from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 16. Tickets are \$15 at the door. [www.aquanuts.org](http://www.aquanuts.org).

24, novices to Olympians. They train year-round, primarily at Clarke Memorial Swim Center at Heather Farm Park, but also at Larkey Pool and Diablo Valley College.

## Memorial Day from page 1

bail out. Only then did he retrieve his own parachute and jump from the crippled plane.

Bob and the rest of the crew were captured and held for eight months. During his last four months as a POW, Bob was force-marched through Germany. He was liberated on April 26, 1945, and moved to Walnut Creek in 1949 with his wife Jeane.

Bob was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and POW Medal in 2000.

Dick joined the Army in February 1943 and was selected for the Army Specialized Training Program, which offered a commission and accelerated college education. But that plan went by the wayside with the impending D-Day invasion. The Army discontinued the specialized training program and dispersed the bulk of the cadets, including Dick, to Infantry units to support the invasion.

Dick was assigned to the 104th Infantry Division, and landed in Cherbourg, France in September 1944. The Division pushed

into Belgium and Holland before entering Germany. They met elements of the Russian Army on the Elbe River. It was there that Bob Tharratt was liberated by the 415th Regiment of the 104th Infantry Division.

Dick was discharged as a Sergeant on Dec. 13, 1945 and moved to Walnut Creek in 1961. His wife Sally is a Walnut Creek native.

Since meeting at St. Paul's some 15 years ago, Bob and Dick became friends. They look forward to sharing their stories at Walnut Creek's Memorial Day ceremony.

Other highlights of the Memorial Day Ceremony include music by the Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein.

Chaplain Dwane Michael of John Muir/Mt. Diablo Health System will give the invocation and blessing, and the National Guard will present the colors and close the ceremony with the traditional laying of the wreaths at the Veterans Memorial Plaza.

North Broadway between Civic Drive and Lincoln Avenue will be closed during the ceremony.

# Budget

From page one

## Continuing to reduce costs

In addition to the changes described above, the City continues to look for ways to reduce employee costs. Steps taken over the past few years include:

- ◆ Reducing staff from the equivalent of 392 full time employees in 2006-08 to 339.75.
- ◆ Contracting out for more services
- ◆ Implementing a lower "2nd tier" pension benefit for employees hired after March 2012 with the least generous plan allowed under the City's retirement system
- ◆ Negotiating agreements with all non-safety employee groups to pay the full employee portion of pension costs and contribute more toward their health care
- ◆ Increasing use of volunteers

Negotiations with the two public safety unions are in progress and any potential changes in their compensation are not reflected in the 2012-14 budget proposal. Police managers already agreed to pay 7 percent of their 9 percent employee portion of pension costs.

## An uncertain future

While the proposed operating budget is balanced, it does not begin to address significant funding shortfalls identified by the Community Blue Ribbon Task Force on Fiscal Health in the areas of

infrastructure replacement and information technology investment. The City is underfunding these needs by approximately \$4 to 5 million per year.

While the City has some reserves that could cushion the negative impacts of a second recession should one occur, or loss of funding by additional State actions, it remains vulnerable to larger or longer term fiscal uncertainties.

Other looming issues include the 2010 expiration of the parcel tax that pays for additional library hours; reserves from the parcel tax currently cover the cost of the additional hours, but will run out by mid-2014. Regional water permit regulations pose an unfunded threat to City revenues as well; a countywide Clean Water Initiative that would have provided funding was rejected by the voters May 7.

Over the past four years, the City has steadily reduced its total expenditures by shrinking the workforce, delivering services in different ways, and reducing employee compensation. Service levels have also been reduced over time but most impacts are largely invisible to the typical user of City services. As the City looks ahead, the challenges are likely to become more difficult and the impacts more obvious to the community.

*For questions or comments about the budget, contact Assistant City Manager Lorie Tinfow, [tinfow@walnut-creek.org](mailto:tinfow@walnut-creek.org).*



Karlan Larson of Traffic Operations tests a new solar-powered meters. The new meters accept credit cards in addition to coins.

# Parking

From page one

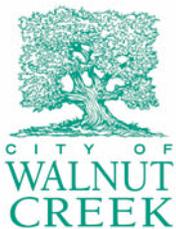
The Parking Management Plan contains more than 25 action items, including creating a single point of contact within the City to manage parking issues.

Assistant to the City Manager Matt Huffaker was selected to fill that position, and is developing an electronic newsletter to communicate with interested parties on parking progress and updates.

## Get the latest parking news!



Subscribe to the the WCpark e-newsletter by emailing [WCpark@walnut-creek.org](mailto:WCpark@walnut-creek.org).



**CITY COUNCIL**  
**Bob Simmons, Mayor\***  
**Kish Rajan, Mayor pro tem**  
**Gary Skrel**  
**Kristina Lawson**  
**Cindy Silva**

\* For appointment: Call 256-3504

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**CITY MANAGER**  
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**CITY ATTORNEY**  
 Bryan Wenter  
**CITY CLERK**  
 Suzie Martinez  
**CITY TREASURER**  
 Ronald Cassano

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**PUBLIC SERVICES**  
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