

Summer jazz coming to the Lesher

Walnut Creek will be swinging when “Jazz at the Lesher Center” debuts this summer. The lineup of exceptional jazz artists for the inaugural season includes legendary trumpet player Arturo Sandoval, winner of four Grammys and an Emmy, who kicks off the series on July 7.

Other headliners in the four-concert series, produced by the Diablo Regional Arts Association, are guitarist and vocalist John Pizzarelli (July 28), trombonist Wycliffe Gordon (August 4), and acclaimed vocalist Jane Monheit (August 11).

Subscriptions to all four concerts are available at a special inaugural price of \$99.



Legendary trumpet player Arturo Sandoval kicks off “Jazz at the Lesher Center” on July 7.

Go to www.lesherjazz.org, call 925-943-7469, or visit the Lesher Center box office.

Downtown vacancy rates decline

By Ron Gerber

Economic Development Manager

Editor's note: This is the first of what will be ongoing updates about important economic trends and issues.

To paraphrase Charles Dickens: “It is the best of times and the not-so-best of times.”

Downtown commercial trends are positive. Retail vacancy had shrunk to 2.5 percent (out of 2.4 million square feet) at the end of 2011. According to a retail report prepared by John Cumbelich & Associates, there was a 5.7 percent retail vacancy rate in the fall of 2010.

Occupancy rates for office space downtown also improved. At the end of 2010, the vacancy rate was 21.6 percent.

By the end of 2011, the vacancy rate dropped to 15.6 percent.

While the downtown numbers are going in the right direction, the Shadelands business park, with 2.4 million square feet of space, is a different story.

At the end of 2010, the business park had a vacancy rate of 21.6 percent. That increased to 28.2 percent by the end of 2011, according to the Grubb and Ellis Office Trends Report.

The Council has directed staff to develop a focused strategy to address the negative trends at the Shadelands business park.

Look for progress reports on efforts to revitalize this major employment center.

City takes action against alcohol-related violence

By Ken Nordhoff
City Manager

The City is committed to maintaining a vibrant and safe community, including our downtown. The late-night fights that occurred early this year are unacceptable. We are taking a three-pronged approach to address this issue:

1. Enforcement. Effective February 2, we have significantly increased the number of police on the streets from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

2. New regulations. At the direction of the City Council, staff is drafting an ordinance that will apply to all businesses serving alcohol. (The existing Conditional Use Permit ordinance applies only to liquor licenses issued after 2004.) The Council is expected to consider the new ordinance this spring.

The new regulations will have no impact on the vast majority of businesses that operate responsibly. But if a business violates the rules, the City will have a tool to hold them accountable.

3. Taking action. We will continue to take action against irresponsible businesses on a case-by-case basis.

We cannot revoke existing alcohol licenses; that is the role of the State. But the new regulations will give Walnut Creek additional local control.

We have 103 businesses licensed to serve alcohol in Walnut Creek, and fewer than a dozen that create ongoing problems. We commend those bar and restaurant owners who recognize they have a role in keeping our downtown safe, and we look forward to collaborating with them for the good of Walnut Creek.

Spring highlights

(check cable listings for showtimes or go to walnutcreektv.org)

State of the City

Learn what lies ahead for Walnut Creek during the 2012 State of the City address by the Mayor.

High School sports

While we can't cover every game, WCTV will be airing high school sporting events throughout the season. Check listings to see what's new.

Creek Currents

Every month, hosts Ruby Lopez and Brendan Moran check out what's happening in Walnut Creek.

Public Meetings

City Council, Planning, Transportation, PROS (Parks, Recreation & Open Space) and Design Review meetings are televised live and available on demand.

Find us on YouTube

Watch and share original programs.

www.youtube.com/cityofwalnutcreek

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.

Walnut Creek Sister Cities announces exchange program

7th graders invited to apply this spring for 2012-13 trip

Walnut Creek Sister Cities wants to increase international understanding one student at a time, and has created YAE!!, the Youth Ambassador Exchange, to do just that.

To pave the way, Foothill Intermediate science teacher Margaret Elliott was selected to be the first teacher emissary to Siofok, Hungary, one of Walnut Creek's two sister cities. She traveled to Budapest and then Siofok in February; a teacher from Siofok is expected to visit Walnut Creek for a homestay program later this spring.

The first student exchange is planned for the 2012-13 school year. Five eighth grade students from both Walnut Creek and Siofok will spend one week in each city. The students will shadow a host student through their local classes and participate in field trips to learn about their host's country.



From left, Karen Cassano of Walnut Creek Sister Cities, teacher emissary Margaret Elliott, Foothill Intermediate Principal April Bush, and Walter Schick, YAE!! Committee Chair.

Applications from seventh graders will be accepted in late March, with final selection occurring in April. There will be several cultural meetings during the summer to prepare for the exchange. The program cost is primarily air fare and insurance, and estimated to be less than \$2,000. The students will stay in host homes.

For more information concerning YAE!!, the Youth Ambassador Exchange, call Walter Schick at 925-934-0656 or Karen Cassano at 925-944-1238.

Here's what's happening

Antiques Appraisal Event

In its own version of "Antiques Roadshow," The Gardens at Heather Farm will help locals discover the monetary value of their jewelry, antiques and other collectibles at the annual Antique and Collectibles Appraisal Event, Sunday, March 11 from noon to 5 p.m. at 1540 Marchbanks Drive. The cost for entry and appraisal of the first three items is \$15, plus \$5 for each additional item. Professional appraisers donate their time. All proceeds benefit The Gardens at Heather Farm. Call 925-947-1678 or visit www.gardenshf.org

Ruth Bancroft Garden celebrates

The Ruth Bancroft Garden celebrates its 40th anniversary with a year of special events. Highlights this spring include free succulents to the first 50 visitors on Earth Day, April 22; free admission on National Public Gardens Day, May 11; and Mother's Day specials including free admission for moms, family photos, refreshments and theme tours on May 13.



The Ruth Bancroft Garden is known as one of the finest dry gardens in the world. The garden is at 1552 Bancroft Road. For hours and special events, call 925-944-9352 or visit www.ruthbancroftgarden.org.

Horse Faire 2012

Gallop on over to Horse Faire 2012 for free family entertainment, including horse riding demonstrations and activities for kids. The Horse Fair will be Saturday, April 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the back of Heather Farm Park, and is sponsored by the Equestrian Center.



Wine Walk Returns

The first Wine Walk of 2012 will be Wednesday, March 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. Participants will stroll through unique shops and restaurants downtown while enjoying fine wines from local wineries.

Tickets are \$30 per person in advance and \$35 per person the day of the event; participants must be 21 or older. Tickets will be available through March 18 at www.walnutcreekdowntown.com; final details, including starting point, will also be posted on that site. The Wine Walks are sponsored by the Downtown Business Association.

Spring Fine Arts Festival

The Spring Pacific Fine Arts Festival will be held April 28 and 29 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The semi-annual event extends along the sidewalks of North Main Street and on Locust between Mount Diablo and Civic Drive.

Restaurant Week comes to the Creek

Tasty news — the first Walnut Creek Restaurant Week will be Monday, April 16 to Sunday, April 22.

Sponsored by the Downtown Business Association, the event will bring the city's exciting food scene to life for one delicious week, showcasing the variety of cuisine that Walnut Creek has to offer.

An estimated 30 restaurants will be offering 3-course, prix-fixe menus; \$20,

\$30 and \$40 for dinner and \$10 and \$20 for lunch, in addition to the restaurants' regular menus.

Restaurant Week has been a popular culinary draw in major cities around the United States since 2002.

As Walnut Creek Restaurant Week draws closer, look for updates on participating restaurants at www.walnutcreekdowntown.com.



"A New Dress for Spring" by Rose Sellery is among the artworks in the new Bedford Gallery exhibit "Outfitters."

Civic Arts students perform at Carnegie Hall

Each year, thousands of high school music students enter the national competition to perform at Carnegie Hall as part of the American High School Honors Performance Series. A very small percentage of students actually make the cut.

But despite the odds, four Civic Arts Education music students were accepted into the prestigious group. Ami Yuen, Bianca Pratte, Adah Forer and Allison Nai performed on the stage of Carnegie Hall on February 12.

The four girls have been members of CAE's youth orchestras and ensembles. They are also involved in Northgate High School's band programs.

CAE musical instructor and director of Flock of Flutes Monica Williams couldn't



From left, Civic Arts Education students Adah Forer, Ami Yuen, Allison Nai and Bianca Pratte.

be prouder. "The selection of these four students is a direct result of their hard work and dedication to music," she says. "The opportunity for them to perform at Carnegie with distinguished conductors was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Projects sought for 2012 Community Service Day

It's not too soon to begin thinking about sponsoring a project for the 2012 Community Service Day, set for Saturday, October 6. Last year, more than 1,000 volunteers worked on one of 42 projects as part of the first Service Day.

Project sponsors must be non-profits or government agencies (including schools). Projects should take no more than four hours to accomplish, and



should be able to accommodate a range of ages and skill levels. For more information, email community@walnut-creek.org.

Register now for recreation and art summer camps!

Walnut Creek has a wide variety of summer day camps for kids ages 3-17. From art camps to traditional day camps, Lego camps to Sports Camps, there is something to fit everyone's interests. Want a fun alternative to summer school? Try a Spanish or science

camp. We also provide one of the area's best Specialized Recreation day camps for children, teens and young adults with special needs.

Look for the summer camp insert in the new *Guide to Arts + Rec*, or visit www.walnutcreekrec.org.

Wrap yourself in art

Easing into springtime, the Bedford Gallery artfully embraces visitors with the exhibit *Outfitters: The Contemporary Art of Clothing*. Nineteen artists from around the world use the armature of clothing, or actual clothing, to explore concepts of memory, identity and human nature. Their artworks address our deep-seated attachment to what we wear.

This dynamic show runs from March 4 – May 13. Join us at the opening reception, 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 4. Tours are available for school classes and adult groups. Call 925-295-1423.

Volunteer at the gallery

Mark your calendar for Volunteer Recruitment Day, 10 a.m. to noon, Monday April 30. Learn more about the great volunteer opportunities available at the Bedford Gallery. Can't make the date? Check out www.bedfordgallery.org.

Public Art Tours

Bedford Gallery docents offer ongoing public art walking tours downtown and at the Downtown library. Walkers hear the stories behind the development of Walnut Creek's Public Art Program, and learn about the variety of media used to create these pieces that must withstand traffic, weather and human contact.

Public Art Walking tours take place every second Saturday through mid-November. Tours run about one hour. Meet at 11 a.m. outside of the Leshner Center for the Arts. Cost is \$5 and includes a pass to the Gallery.

Library art tours are available year-round by appointment only. Call 925-295-1423 or email mchang@bedfordgallery.org.

Community news

Free tax preparation offered

Free tax preparation for the 2012 tax season is available from AARP's Tax-Aide and United Way's "Earn It, Keep It, Save It" (EKS) programs. All tax preparers are certified by the IRS. Both programs serve taxpayers of any age. Tax-Aide does not have an income limit; EKS can only serve individuals whose incomes do not exceed \$50,000.

To make an appointment for the Tax-Aide sites serving the Walnut Creek area, call 925-943-5851 (Walnut Creek Senior Club site); 925-405-6278 (Walnut Creek Grace Presbyterian Church site); 925-979-5013 (St. Paul's Episcopal Church site). For general information, call 925-726-3199. For information on EKS call 2-1-1 or visit www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org.

Become a volunteer English tutor through Literacy Council

The Diablo Valley Literacy Council is seeking volunteers interested in becoming trained to be English tutors.

For some who cannot effectively speak English, simple tasks like reading product labels, following street signs or talking to a child's teacher can be intimidating. This limits their roles as employees, as parents and as members of the community. Tutors can make the difference.

The next three-part workshop will be held on Saturday, March 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday, March 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; and Saturday, March 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers must attend all three sessions. There is a nominal fee.

Volunteers typically give about two hours per week. Visit www.dvlc.tripod.com or call the hotline at 925-685-3881 and leave a message for Maureen.

DVC seeking host families

The International Education Center at Diablo Valley College is looking for local families to host international students on a temporary basis while they improve their English skills. All types of families are welcome - single adults, couples, or families with or without children. Short- and long-term placements are available. Host families will receive a monthly stipend of \$750 per student, and must provide a private bedroom and two meals per day. Contact Fia Parker, at 925-876-0080 or email: fparker@dvc.edu.



Coming soon

Nieman Marcus opens to the public on March 9, a day after hosting a Grand Opening benefit in support of the Diablo Regional Arts Association, the Junior League of the East Bay, the Monument Crisis Center, and the Taylor Family Foundation.

Crime rates decline in Walnut Creek

Serious crime in Walnut Creek dropped in 2011, according to statistics reported by the Walnut Creek Police Department to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Overall, Part I crimes declined by 16 percent from 2010; Part I crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft, auto theft and arson. It's the second year in a row that saw a double-digit decline in Part I crimes, as 2010 marked a 10 percent drop from 2009.

"There were significant reductions in robbery, felony assault and felony theft, including car burglaries," said Police Chief Joel Bryden.

Still, he added "too many residences and cars are getting broken into, even though those numbers are down." There were 200 residential burglaries in 2011.

While the overall trend is positive, there are areas of concern, Bryden noted. Illegal possession of weapons charges increased from 42 in 2010 to 55 in 2011. In addition, drunk driving accidents continue to rise, from 41 in 2010 to 54 in 2011.

"Walnut Creek is a safe city, but our personnel are busier and the downtown nightlife continues to cause us concern," Bryden said.

"The overall trend is that crime is down, but it is still significant enough to need our attention."

PART I CRIME	2010	2011
Homicide	1	1
Rape	5	2
Robbery	40	14
Aggr. Assault	71	52
Burglary	439	422
Theft/Larceny	1791	1470
Auto Theft	158	138
Arson	5	6

** Statistics reported by Walnut Creek Police Department to the U.S. Department of Justice*

Bryden offered these tips to avoid being a victim of property crimes:

- Lock your car at all times.
- Never leave anything of value within plain sight in your vehicle. Place all items in the trunk or completely underneath a seat.
- Join a neighborhood watch group or start one in your neighborhood.
- Report suspicious activity whenever you see it.

For more information, please go to www.walnutcreekpd.com.



Walnut Creek BART Transit Village Update

The proposed Walnut Creek BART Transit Village continues to work its way through the planning process. The Design Review Commission reviewed the project's draft Design Review Guidelines at hearings in November, December and January. The Guidelines will be revised by the development team in response to the Design Review Commission's direction, and are tentatively scheduled to go before the Planning Commission on March 29. In addition, the draft Environmental Impact Report has a tentative release date of March 12. The Walnut Creek BART Transit Village proposal includes 596 apartments, approximately 22,000 square feet of commercial floor area, replacement parking of 885 BART spaces, and 845 new below-grade parking stalls for residents and retail customers.

Committee looking at options for corner of Oak Grove and Ygnacio Valley Road

Options for developing a key piece of property at the corner of Ygnacio Valley and Oak Grove are being explored by the Shadelands Gateway Advisory Committee.

Safeway Stores, Inc. owns the 25-acre site, which is zoned as Business Park Use under the City's General Plan.

In May 2011, Safeway asked the City Council to consider amending the General Plan land use designation from Business Park to General Retail.

Because the property serves as a gateway into Walnut Creek, the Council opted to process the General Plan Amendment request through creation of a specific plan crafted by an appointed advisory committee.

The advisory committee's role is to gather information, seek public input, and develop recommendations on appropriate land use alternatives for the site.

The 11-member committee includes three members of the general public, a local business owner, a business park representative, the property developer, two Council members and one member from each of the Planning, Transportation and Design Review commissions.

The committee meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at City Hall (the March meeting will be Tuesday, March 27). The meetings are open to the public; agendas and related documents are posted online the Friday before each meeting at www.walnut-creek.org/SGAC.

Boundary Oak to host Fresh Express Classic

For the second year in a row, Boundary Oak Golf Course was selected as one of two Bay Area locations for a Monday-Qualifier Tournament for the Nationwide Tour's Fresh Express Classic.

The Monday-Qualifier will be held on April 9 with a field of 120-140 touring golf professionals.

"We are very excited to have been selected again to host an event that is affiliated with the PGA Tour and

Nationwide Tour," said Lance Iwanaka, General Manager at Boundary Oak. "We look forward to seeing these high quality professionals at Boundary Oak."

Boundary Oak Golf Course will again host regional tournaments, such as the Golden State Pepsi Tour, along with many area non-profit fund raising tournaments during 2012. For more information, contact Mark Weise at 925-934-4775 ext. 13 or visit www.planboundaryoak.com.

Climate Action Plan goes to Council in March

Over a year in the making, the City's Climate Action plan is nearing completion.

After a final round of public workshops last September, City staff has been working closely with the Bay Area Air Quality District to ensure the plan meets the District's criteria for a 'qualified greenhouse gas reduction strategy.'

Once completed, the Climate Action Plan will serve as a blueprint for the City's future sustainability efforts and contain policies to help the City meet state requirements for greenhouse gas reductions.

The Climate Action Plan will be presented to the City Council for final consideration and approval in March.

Downtown library cafe under construction

Construction is under way on the downtown library cafe. The cafe will be open this summer, just in time for an iced latte on the library patio. The cafe operator, Cafe Pica Deli, will be serving Peets' coffee along with freshly prepared sandwiches, salads and other snacks and beverages.

Citizen survey results to be released in March

Results from the 2012 Citizen Survey are expected to be available in early March. The survey, conducted by the National Research Center, was mailed to 2,000 randomly selected households in January. The results will be shared with the City Council and posted on the City website.

Earth Day celebration

Walnut Creek's Open Space Rangers are planning a full day of activities for Sunday, April 22 in honor of Earth Day. The day will start with a morning volunteer project that will have opportunities for people of all ages to give back to the Earth, followed by a community picnic, environmental education exploration for children, and an evening campfire program.

Reservations are required. Call Supervising Ranger Nancy Dollard at 925-943-5899 ext. 2135 for details.

Budget 101

A budget is more than a list of numbers. It is the story of how priorities are set and goals achieved using expected resources. Over the next three months, the 2012-14 Budget story will unfold. Community involvement is an important part of creating the budget; here is some background to get started. Updates will be posted at www.walnut-creek.org/budget.

Prologue

At the beginning of the last budget cycle (2010-12), Walnut Creek faced a \$20 million budget gap; about 14 percent of the City's projected operating budget of \$144 million.

The City managed to cut costs to achieve an operating budget of \$124 million.

City leaders balanced the budget by:

- ◆ Eliminating 30 employee positions
- ◆ Reducing employee compensation
- ◆ Increasing some fees
- ◆ Using savings from previous years

Where we stand today

Looking ahead to the 2012-14 budget, we are projecting a \$2.3 million gap.

While the amount of the deficit is much smaller, the fact that we made significant cuts for the 2010-2012 budget cycle means that balancing the budget could involve some difficult choices.

Furthermore, dealing with deficits is something the City may be doing for years to come. Based on current revenue sources, the long term financial plan doesn't project a budget surplus until 2019-20.

Council Goals

The Council Goals were originally established in 2009, and defined during the Community Conversations workshops. City Council members reaffirmed the Goals in 2011. They are:

- ◆ A safe community
- ◆ Culture, recreation and learning opportunities
- ◆ Economic vitality
- ◆ Effective transportation and mobility options
- ◆ Stewardship of the natural and built environment
- ◆ Strong neighborhoods and a sense of community



City must close a projected \$2.3 million gap for 2012-14 budget

Making budget decisions

There are a number of factors the City Council considers during the budget process, included but not limited to:

Program rankings: Walnut Creek uses a process called Priority Based Budgeting. Every program is scored against its ability to impact the Goals set by the Council and defined by the community in 2009. (*see Council Goals box, bottom left corner*)

Community input, Part I: 2,000 households were surveyed earlier this year to gather feedback about City services as well as the importance of the six Council goals.

Community input, Part II: There will be a number of public meetings throughout the budget process. Plus, look for other opportunities to be involved. Updates will be posted online.

Economic Development: an investment in the future

In 2011 the City Council made a strategic decision to emphasize economic development. Many communities throughout the State had established economic development departments with support staff.

In the fall of 2011 a full time Economic Development Manager was hired.



DATES TO REMEMBER

The City Council will meet many times as the budget is being developed. All meetings are open to the public. For updated information, go to www.walnut-creek.org/budget.

February 28:

Council Budget Workshop #2

March 6

18-month update on 2010-12 budget

March 27

Council Budget Workshop #3

April 24

Council Budget Workshop #4

April 27

Council Quarterly Workshop

2012-14 priorities discussion

May 15

Preliminary budget presentation to Council (meeting date may change)

June 5

Preliminary budget presentation to Council (meeting date may change)

June 19

Council adopts the 2012-14 budget

Are you a member of a group that would like a presentation on the City's budget? Call Kim Coles, Executive Assistant to the City Manager, at 925-943-5812.

Blue Ribbon Task Force on Fiscal Health recommendations: The task force spent most of 2011 evaluating the City's finances, and produced 38 recommendations, some of which may be implemented as part of the budget process.

Program. This is an important step, and the City should vigorously support efforts to ensure its success"



PRESCHOOL IN THE PARK. Smiling faces are the norm at the Civic Park Preschool, one of three preschools offered by the City of Walnut Creek. The Civic Park Preschool moved into its new home in the park this year, and is featured on the February edition of Walnut Creek TV's "Creek Currents." To learn more about the preschools, visit www.walnutcreekrec.org.



Emergency Preparedness Team training this April

Help your community during disaster while staying safe yourself by becoming a Community Emergency Response Team member.

CERT training classes will be Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. April 18 - May 23, at Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation. There will be a final drill the morning of Saturday, June 9.

Training topics include disaster preparedness, how to shut off utilities and use a fire extinguisher, light search and rescue techniques, and disaster First Aid.

CERT graduates are sworn in as volunteer Disaster Service Workers for the City of Walnut Creek. In the event of an earthquake or other disaster, CERTs gather at pre-designated staging areas and work as a team in responding to the community.

Cost is \$25 and pre-registration is required. Email cert@walnut-creek.org or call 925-256-3556. More information may be found at www.walnut-creek.org/cert.

Brunches and buffets! Discover the Clubhouse at Boundary Oak

The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak offers unique dining events open to the public.

On the Fourth Friday of each month, themed buffet dinners are held at the Clubhouse. April 27 is "Fiesta Night" and features a Mexican themed menu, and May 25 will be a Hawaiian Luau with live music. Dinner hours are 5 to 8 p.m. Prices begin at \$19.95 per person depending on menu and entertainment.

Easter Brunch will be held on April 8, and Mother's Day, May 13. Cost is \$45 per person and \$22 for kids under the age of 12.

Reservations are required for the holiday brunches and Fourth Friday dinners. For more information and menu details call The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak at 925-934-3600 ext. 20, or visit www.playboundaryoak.com.

Clean water initiative up for vote

Walnut Creek property owners will soon have the opportunity to vote on the 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative. The Initiative is sponsored by the Contra Costa Clean Water Program, a joint effort of all 19 of the incorporated cities and towns in the County of Contra Costa.

According to the Initiative, each year, tons of harmful and dangerous pollutants are carried through neighborhoods and enter local creeks, reservoirs, lakes, the Delta and Bays. As water drains from streets, parking lots, and lawns, pollutants are carried through the drainage system into the Delta and Bay. To protect people and wildlife from the harmful effects of water pollution deliberate steps must be taken to protect our local water quality.

The Clean Water Initiative's goal. If approved, this measure will authorize public funding to protect local water quality, keep trash and other pollutants

away from Contra Costa waterways, and meet mandated requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act and State clean water regulations.

Fiscal Safeguards. 100 percent of these funds will be used locally in the Contra Costa community where it is generated. (*i.e.*, 100% Return-to-Source) The measure also includes independent citizens oversight, mandatory audits and a 10-year sunset.

Election Schedule. Only property owners are eligible to vote in this election. Property owners should receive their ballots by mail the week of February 21. Completed ballots can be mailed OR hand-delivered to the Clerk of the Board of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, 651 Pine Street, 1st Floor, Room 106, Martinez, California. Completed ballots must be received by 5 p.m. April 6.

Learn More www.cccleanwater.org.

The First Tee youth golf program at Boundary Oak

Young people can have fun, learn golf, and develop their life skills with The First Tee at Boundary Oak. The 12-week spring session begins Feb. 27 at 4 p.m.

The First Tee is an international youth development program. Through the First Tee Life Skills Experience, young people discover how skills essential to success on a golf course can also help them

flourish in life. These skills include self-management, communication, goal setting and effective conflict resolution. The curriculum was developed by experts in the field of positive youth development and is delivered by coaches trained through The First Tee Coach program.

Visit www.thefirstteecontracosta.org or call 925-686-6262 ext. 0 and ask for Angela.



Make every step count with Walnut Creek Walks

Make 2012 the year to "get out and get healthy" by discovering all Walnut Creek has to offer on foot. Here are three different ways to take part in Walnut Creek Walks, including the Open Space Adventurer program just for kids.

1 Take the Walnut Creek Walks Challenge

Use our online program to set up a walking log, then watch your miles grow.

Set individual goals, or create a walking group and invite your friends.

Once a month, we'll tally all the miles to see how far we've come as a community.

Special recognition for those reaching milestones of 100, 250, 500 and 1,000 miles walked.

To start your online walking log, go to: **www.walkertracker.com.**

More information is available at www.walnut-creek.org/walks, or call Gayle Vassar, Communications & Outreach Manager, at 925-943-5895.

2 Second Saturday Walks with the Mayor

Join us the second Saturday of each month as we explore various locations throughout Walnut Creek.

Guides to each walk, along with instructions on where to meet, are available at www.walnut-creek.org/walks.

Upcoming Second Saturday Walks include:

Saturday, March 10: Discover the Woodlands neighborhood, plus learn about the Shadelands Business Park. Meet at 10 a.m. at the intersection of Shadelands Drive and Via Monte.

Saturday, April 14: Walk in the Open Space in search of wildflowers. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Bayberry Drive entrance to the north Lime Ridge Open Space.

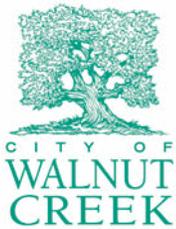
3 Kids! Become an Open Space Adventurer

This program is open to Walnut Creek children through 5th grade.

To qualify as an Open Space Adventurer, participants must visit all four Walnut Creek

Open Space areas and take a class hosted by either the Open Space division or the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, and have their parents sign off on a special "Open Space Adventurer" passport available at www.walnut-creek.org/walks.

Open Space Adventurers will receive a certificate from the Mayor as well as a Walnut Creek Walks whistle and lanyard.



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
Ken Nordhoff
CITY ATTORNEY
Bryan Wenter
CITY CLERK
Sherry Kelly, interim
CITY TREASURER
Ronald Cassano

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
Lorie Tinfow, Director/Assistant City Manager
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Sandra Meyer, Director
ARTS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES
Barry Gordon, Director
POLICE
Joel Bryden, Chief of Police
PUBLIC SERVICES
Heather Ballenger, Director

IN A **Nutshell**

Published quarterly and mailed to Walnut Creek residents and businesses

Editor:
Gayle Vassar
Communications and Outreach Manager

We welcome your comments and questions
Call 943-5895 or vassar@walnut-creek.org

For past issues, go online at www.walnut-creek.org



1666 North Main Street
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WALNUT CREEK CA
PERMIT # 282

*******ECRWSS*****
POSTAL CUSTOMER