

IN A Nutshell



No. 171

Newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

FALL 2015



Photo by Chris Gill

CELEBRATING A SILVER ANNIVERSARY. October 4 marks the 25th anniversary of the Leshner Center for the Arts. The performing and visual arts center is credited with transforming downtown Walnut Creek from a “roll up the sidewalks after 5 p.m.” place to today’s entertainment and dining hub. Learn more about the Center’s past, its future and the many ways it enriches the community through the arts on Page 6 and 7.



Police introduce “e-desk.” Available 24/7 in the City Hall lobby, e-desk users can file police reports, pay a citation, take out a bicycle license, give anonymous crime tips, and more.

Walnut Creek works. Join friends, family and neighbors on October 10 for the 5th annual Community Service Day. Turn to Page 9 for a list of projects and registration details.



City Manager’s Update makes its debut. The monthly e-newsletter from City Manager Ken Nordhoff highlights key issues, programs and events, as well as links to online surveys and video clips. To subscribe, email community@walnut-creek.org.

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

Walnut Festival Twilight Parade
 Catch the Walnut Festival Twilight Parade live on WCTV at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19 with host Brendan Moran.

Battle of the Creek Football
 The Las Lomas Knights take on the Northgate Broncos in Battle of the Creek in this varsity football fight for supremacy.

This fall on 'Creek Currents'
 Ruby and Brendan get physical this fall! Ruby visits the Clarke Swim Center and learns all about its many classes, programs and the fun new obstacle course. Brendon ventures into the Open Space, where rangers explain how to enjoy bicycling while protecting the environment.

Public Meetings
 City Council and all Commission meetings are televised live and archived on the City website at www.walnut-creek.org/meetings.

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.



Marching for Music
 Northgate High School's award-winning Marching Band will enliven the community with its annual March-A-Thon on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9 a.m. to noon. Uniformed musicians and auxiliary entertainers will parade from Northgate High School, along Castle Rock Road, to Arbolado Drive and surrounding neighborhoods, ending with a celebration for the performers at Arbolado Park. Come on out and show your support.

Tax-deductible donations are accepted at www.northgatehs-pfc.com/nimb.html.

Here's what's happening

Labor Day concert
 The Walnut Creek Concert Band will perform a free concert in Civic Park on Monday, Sept. 7. The music begins at 6 p.m. Bring a picnic and blanket, and enjoy!

Lindsay Wildlife festival, open house
 Come from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11 for Lindsay Wildlife's 60th Anniversary Celebration and Community Open House. Join Lindsay for a free day at the exhibit hall and a community festival in Larkey Park complete with live animals, crafts, face painting, food and fun! Visit lindsaywildlife.org/open-house or call 925-935-1978.

Walnut Festival parade, events
 The Walnut Festival fun begins at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19 with the Twilight Parade on North Main Street. The four-day Festival runs Sept. 24-27, and offers family-friendly entertainment, two stages with live music, a large carnival with more than 30 rides, artisan booths, a beer garden, food and more. Call 925-935-6766 or visit www.thewalnutfestival.org



Reservations open Oct. 1 for holiday teas
 Reservations for the popular 3-course holiday tea luncheons at the historic Shadelands Ranch Museum will be taken beginning Oct. 1. *Holidays at Shadelands* runs Nov. 28 through Dec. 13. The luncheon is \$35; sittings are at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. For reservations, call 925-935-7871 starting October 1.

Oktoberfest comes to downtown
 Oktoberfest 2015 will be on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Locust Street between Cypress and Civic Drive. There will be live music, beer gardens, good and vendor booths and a kids zone. For details, go to walnutcreekdowntown.com.



Downtown history tours
 The Walnut Creek Historical Society's Downtown History Tours continue this fall on the 2nd Saturday of each month. The easy 90-minute guided walk into history on city sidewalks brings to life the early times of downtown Walnut Creek. The free tours depart at 9:30 a.m. from the fountain at Liberty Bell Plaza (corner of Broadway and Mt. Diablo Blvd.). A booklet with historic photos of the sites visited may be purchased at the tour for \$5. For details, call 925-935-7871 or visit www.wchistory.com

Seniors Club Holiday Boutique
 The Walnut Creek Seniors Club will host its Annual Holiday Boutique on from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 6 and 7 at Heather Farm Community Center. There will be hundreds of hand-crafted items to choose from. Lunch will be available for purchase and there will be hourly raffle prizes. Call 925-943-5851.



Veterans Day ceremony
 The City of Walnut Creek invites the community to honor our veterans on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts. Music will be provided by the Walnut Creek Concert Band.

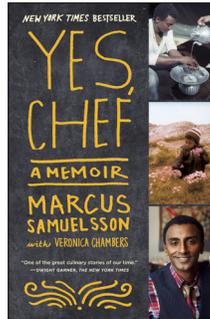


WASTE NOT. Gina Eicher, left, of Public Works, checks out one of the tri-purpose disposal stations just installed at City Hall with Kimberly Lam, recycling coordinator for Republic Services. The goal is to reduce the amount of items going to the landfill. Walnut Creek is the first public agency in Central Contra Costa County to offer employees food scrap recycling.

Delicious choice for citywide book club

Walnut Creek's *One City One Book* program celebrates its 10th anniversary with a tasty selection: *Yes, Chef, A Memoir*, a 2012 *New York Times* bestseller written by world-renowned chef Marcus Samuelsson, with Veronica Chambers. *One City One Book* encourages community members to read the same book during the summer and attend literary events and workshops related to the book in the fall.

In *Yes, Chef: A Memoir*, Samuelsson, who was born into poverty in Ethiopia, tells the extraordinary story of being adopted by a Swedish family, growing up in Scandinavia, and achieving worldwide



acclaim at the forefront of the New York culinary scene.

Copies of *Yes, Chef: A Memoir* will be available as hardcovers, paperbacks, e-books, and audiobooks at the Walnut Creek, Ygnacio Valley, and Rossmoor libraries.

Additionally, a limited number of free "Read & Share" copies will be available for pickup at all three library help desks starting July 27. These "giveaway" books are intended to be read and passed on to friends, family, and neighbors.

To learn more about the many *One City One Book* events offered this fall, go to www.WCLibrary.org.

Walnut Creek Concert Band celebrates 28 years

The Walnut Creek Concert Band, the official band of the City of Walnut Creek since 1987, is dedicated to excellence in performance, artistic development, civic pride and patriotic service in the American tradition of the concert band. The primary objectives of the band are: to present free and low cost concerts to the public, to educate the public in the wide variety of concert music, to establish an environment for musicians to maintain and improve their skills, and to provide an official band for

the city of Walnut Creek.

The band always welcomes new community members. The volunteer members of the Walnut Creek Band include professional and amateur musicians, music educators and people from every walk of life.

If you play a wind, brass or percussion instrument, you are invited to join the band. Learn more at www.walnutcreekband.org. The band rehearses weekly at Stanley Middle School in Lafayette.

Walnut Creek wins awards for best pool, playground

Diablo Magazine readers named Heather Farm Park the Best Playground/Park, and Clarke Swim

Center's heated Olympic size, 20-lane lap pool as Best Lap Pool in the *Best of the East Bay* awards.

Walks with the Mayor conclude in October

The final Saturday Walks with the Mayor will be Sept. 12 and Oct. 17. Join other community members in exploring Walnut Creek on foot. Learn more at www.walnut-creek.org/walks.



Vote for favorite restaurant make-over

As part of its annual awards for superior design, the Action for Beauty Council has nominated five recently renovated restaurants for its People's Choice Award. The People's Choice Award recipient will be announced at the Action for Beauty Council's annual awards luncheon on Friday, Oct. 23 at Scott's Seafood Restaurant.

The list of nominees for the People's Choice Award is available at www.WalnutCreekMagazine.com. Online voting is open through Oct. 10.

Tickets to the luncheon are \$55 and may be purchased by contacting Janet Abrams at 925-932-2746 or www.WCActionforBeauty.org.



Introducing new 'Pop-UP Playdate'

Pop-UP Playdate is Walnut Creek Recreation's new indoor playspace at Heather Farm Community Center. Pop-UP Playdate offers a safe, clean play space for children ages 0-5. With an art station, dress-up, play kitchen, blocks, trains, magnetic cars, magna tiles, puppet theater and more, there is plenty to keep little ones entertained. For the adults, free wi-fi!

Admission is \$7 per child, adults are free. Operating hours vary and are available at www.walnutcreekrec.org or through our Twitter feed @wcpopup.



Mike DiCarlo, courtesy of the Rossmoor News

Walnut Creek hosted the California Youth Energy Services (CYES) program this summer to provide energy and water conservation assessments and services at no cost to residents. CYES trained and employed 8 local youth to become 'Energy Specialists' conducting Green House Calls. Services included installing energy efficient light bulbs, high efficiency shower heads, pipe wrap insulation for the water heater, and more. In this photo, Natasha Soesanpo and Omar Morales of CYES conduct an assessment for Rossmoor resident Aase Popper.

Solar bulk buy program available through Nov. 6

Thinking about installing solar but don't know where to start? East Bay SunShares is here to help! The City of Walnut Creek has partnered with neighboring communities throughout the East Bay and local nonprofit Vote Solar to launch a solar group-purchasing (bulk buy) program for homeowners.

East Bay SunShares pools the power of individual participants to get more competitive pricing from solar companies. Homeowners can sign up to receive a no cost, no obligation site evaluation. The deadline to join the bulk buy is Nov. 6.

For more information visit: www.mygroupenergy.com/eastbaysunshares.

A free East Bay SunShares workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 19 in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 1666 N. Main St. To RSVP, and for additional details, go to goinggreenWC.eventbrite.com.

Employers or community groups interested in outreach materials or on-site presentations can also contact Vote Solar through the East Bay SunShares website.

Energy champion rebates help business owners

The "Walnut Creek Energy Champion" rebate program offers rebates of up to \$2,500 to help commercial property and business owners become more energy efficient.

The rebate program is part of the City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent from 2005 levels according to its Climate Action Plan.

The City's rebate is available on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. The program is funded from money received from the Broadway Plaza Development Agreement and the sale of City property at 1500 Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

To be eligible for the Walnut Creek Energy Champion rebate, businesses must first complete the Business Energy Services Team (BEST) Program, which offers its own rebate. To get started, contact the BEST Program at bestprogram@dnvgl.com or 1-800-576-6405, or visit www.californiabestprogram.com.

The low-down on parking downtown

Editor's note: We sent the following information in response to a resident's email. He said we should print it in the Nutshell so everyone could read it. Here it is!

Downtown housing & parking

All of the residential projects downtown have provided the required on-site parking based on the number of bedrooms. Here are the requirements for multi-family residential:

- Studio: 1.25 parking spaces
- 1 Bedroom: 1.5 parking spaces
- 2 Bedrooms: 2 parking spaces
- 3+ Bedrooms: 2.25 parking spaces

If the project is within a half-mile of BART, the requirements are reduced to 1 parking space for a studio; 1.25 spaces for a 1 bedroom; 1.5 spaces for 2 bedrooms; and, 2 spaces for 3 bedrooms. Note that not all projects take advantage of the lower parking requirement.

What about the changes in meter rates, hours and days?

The changes in pricing were intended to better manage the existing parking inventory: garages were under-utilized while people were circling the block looking for limited street parking. By raising rates on the street spaces, and making the first hour free in the garages, the goal is to encourage more people to

choose to park in the garages (which also means that there would be street parking for those who would rather pay a bit more for the convenience).

Meter hours were shifted from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. to 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The reason was that restaurant employees on the evening shift would park at 4, feed the meter for the allowed 2 hours, and then stay in the spot for the rest of the night. That meant the highly desired street parking space was not available for customers.

The change in days of operations was made because Sunday is the second busiest day of the week in the downtown. When meters were not in effect, retail employees would park on the street Sunday mornings and remain there all day, again taking the desirable street parking away from customers and residents.

But the garages are full!

Admittedly, parking is tight everywhere right now, including in the garages during weekdays. Much of this can be attributed to the loss of Broadway Plaza parking during its renovation; the good news is that when Broadway Plaza's renovation is done in Spring 2016, there will be 700 more parking places than there were prior to reconstruction.

We do need another downtown parking garage; the City has identified two potential locations and is exploring the feasibility of each.



Contra Costa Bus Route 7 is now free and even more commuter-friendly, making getting to and from Shadelands and Pleasant Hill BART easier. These new buses, wrapped in Shadelands' fresh logo, are funded by the Shadelands' property owners and fueled with natural gas. Route 7 runs every 16 minutes, Monday through Friday during commute hours, making multiple stops along the way. And, the "Shadelands shuttle" comes equipped with bike racks and WiFi.

Shadelands zoning changes to be considered

The Planning Commission in September will consider changes to zoning rules for the Shadelands Business Park that could open the door to a range of new and expanded business types, such as restaurants, wineries, urban agriculture, high-tech, artists and artisans, medical uses, and incubator businesses.

Revitalizing the 240-acre business park as a jobs center is a key goal of the City Council. The intent of the proposed Business Park Zone text amendments is to make Shadelands more attractive to businesses by streamlining the process for opening new businesses, as well as for expanding existing businesses.

The proposed amendments are the result of several years' worth of discussions and workshops by City

Council, property and business owners, and surrounding residential neighborhoods centered on the economic health of the business park.

In January 2015, City staff began the zoning ordinance amendment project in partnership with the Shadelands Property and Business Improvement District (PBID). In February, City staff, PBID Members and members of the public participated in a public meeting hosted by the PBID to discuss Shadelands' advantages, amenities, and future prospects.

Planning Commission agendas are posted at www.walnut-creek.org/meetings.

For information, email Senior Planner Pierce Macdonald-Powell at powell@walnut-creek.org.

Broadway Plaza Street temporarily closed

Broadway Plaza's free valet parking has been moved to its garage on Main Street due to the temporary closing of Broadway Plaza Street to vehicular traffic. The street is expected to reopen to cars in November as part of a two-phase "Reveal" or opening of the renovated shopping mecca. Sidewalks and crosswalks remain open during this time, as do Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, Macy's and more than 35 other stores.

Additional stores and parking are expected to open before Thanksgiving. When the renovation is complete in spring 2016, Broadway Plaza will have 700 more parking places than it had prior to the reconstruction of the 64-year-old shopping center.



A poster from the 1951 opening of Broadway Shopping Center. Phase 1 of the center's "Reveal" is planned for November.

Council to evaluate tax measure options

The City Council will begin evaluating possible tax measures this fall. If the Council decides to pursue a tax measure, such a tax would require approval by the voters, and could not appear on the ballot until 2016.

At their Aug. 4 meeting, four of the five Council members expressed interest in exploring a tax measure as a way to solve the long-term shortfall, with one Council member disagreeing. All agreed that such an option should be decided by the voters.

While the economy has recovered to the point that there is enough funding to be able to continue providing programs and services at the current level, the Long Term Financial Forecast approved by the Council earlier this summer shows that there is not enough funding to meet current and future infrastructure needs or to provide for new programs and services desired by the community.

The Council directed the City Manager to work with the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem, and return with additional information about tax measure alternatives in September.

How to stay informed

The City is committed to providing information to the public about this important issue. We encourage residents to attend (or watch) Council meetings and to read the information provided to the Council in the agenda packets. Agendas with background materials are posted at walnut-creek.org/meetings at least 72 hours in advance.

To subscribe to receive notices of Council meetings, email community@walnut-creek.org.

Council meetings are aired live on Walnut Creek TV, streamed at walnut-creek.org/meetings, and archived for "on demand" viewing at walnut-creek.org/meetings.

Interesting fact alert!

Why aren't we using Council members' names in this Nutshell article? Here's the scoop: Under Fair Political Practices law, names of individual council members may not be published in publicly funded printed materials mailed to more than 400 households (the list of Council names on the back of the Nutshell is an exception).



Bob Hope, Joel Grey and Vic Damone headlined the Center for the Arts' opening night on October 4, 1990.

Celebrating Leshner Center

Broadway star returns

A dramatic opening night

Before the Leshner Center for the Arts dominated the corner of Civic and Locust, there was the “Nuthouse” – an abandoned walnut warehouse fixed up to house the 449-seat Civic Arts Theatre and Gallery.

By the mid-70s, Walnut Creek’s theater scene was burgeoning, and it became clear a bigger venue was needed.

“It was like a pot with a bunch of plants growing in it,” says Leshner Center Manager Scott Denison. “They were becoming root-bound because there wasn’t enough room to grow, to do big productions.”

In 1980, the City Council allocated \$500,000 in start-up money, and the nonprofit Regional Center for the Arts, Inc. kicked off a fund-raising campaign. Some 2,000 individuals and businesses contributed to the cause. All told, private donations provided about one-third of the center’s \$21 million price tag.

In October 1988, the Nuthouse was demolished to make way for construction of what would later become known as the Leshner Center for the Arts. Two years later, on October 4, 1990, the world premiere of the Regional Center for the Arts arrived.

Appropriately, for an arts center, there was plenty of drama that day. More than 50 workers labored on finishing touches just hours before doors were to open. Carpets were being installed, brass was being polished, and the sound and light system was still being tested. As tuxedo- and ballgown-clad patrons came in the front door for the opening reception, workers were being whisked out the back. “The main question for me and my staff was ‘would everything get done on time?’” recalls Denison. “We didn’t have houselights control for the 7:30 show until 7 p.m. It was ‘fasten your seatbelts - here we go!’”

And go they did, to a sell-out crowd of 800 people who had paid \$1,000 each for the privilege of being a member of the very first audience. Headliners Bob Hope, Joel Grey, Vic Damone and Diahann Carroll dazzled the crowd, setting the tone for the next 25 years to come.



Gabriel Marin and Michael Butler in Center REP’s production of ‘Mirandolina.’



The Clayton Brothers perform at Jazz at the Leshner.

When Alysha Umphress headlines at a fund-raising gala on October 3, it will be a homecoming of sorts.

The Broadway star was 8 years old when she performed on the Leshner stage in “Show Boat.” “I played ‘Type casting!’” she recalls.

Today, she is starring as Hildy in the Broadway production of *Our Town*. Back when she was a little girl, she would save her allowance to buy records from Tower Records.

“I would memorize them start to finish. I thought I wished I could be in a Broadway show so that I could have a cast album,” she says.

Her wish came true. So far, Alysha is on the Broadway stage in *On the Town*, *American Idiot*, and *Bring it On*.

Looking back, Alysha says performing at the Leshner was a key role in her development as an actor. “The Leshner is a place of professionalism,” she recalls. “It felt like you were really going to perform there.”

She continues to be a passionate supporter of the theater community. “The Leshner Center is extremely important because it brings people together. It’s an epicenter of community. So many memories are inside that building. Whenever I go back, it’s on.”

Being invited to headline the 25th anniversary gala says, “It’s always cool to get to play an iconic place like the Apollo or the Hollywood Bowl. But the Leshner has so much more emotional weight to it. It’s a homecoming.”



The Bedford Gallery produces exhibitions that travel nationally. BLOW UP hit the road in August. It received an NEA grant, a first for the Bedford.

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Alysha Umphress



Arts Access brings 6,000 children each year to the Lesher Center.



Joe Montana is on the line-up for the 2015-16 Lesher Speaker Series.



The Chevron Family Theatre Festival, now entering its 10th year, has become a family tradition.



Since 2010, the ‘On Broadway’ fund-raising gala has been a festive indoor-outdoor event at the Lesher Center for the Arts.

Setting the stage for the future

The celebration of the Lesher Center of the Arts’ 25th anniversary is about more than the past — it is about the future.

“The Lesher Center is a jewel in Walnut Creek’s crown and I expect the future to be bigger, better and brighter,” says the Center’s General Manager, Scott Denison.

The Lesher Center will host new programming, add more musical acts, expand programming at the outdoor plaza, and celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Chevron Family Theater Festival; and that’s all just in the coming year. The Bedford Gallery will also embark on a new series of exhibitions themed around Art + Play, featuring creative and engaging

inspiration, and free school tours of the exhibitions.

“This is the time to reach farther, dream bigger, to ensure the next great 25 years of our Center,” says Peggy White, Executive Director of the Diablo Regional Arts Association, the Lesher Center’s non-profit partner.

To that end, the Diablo Regional Arts Association (DRAA) has launched the *Find Your Center* campaign, focusing on three pillars: Educational Outreach, Artistic Excellence, and Technology. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$5 million to support these goals:

Educational Outreach: The Educational Outreach pillar seeks to ensure that all children have access to the performing and visual arts found at the Lesher Center. Currently, DRAA’s Arts Access Program brings 6,000 low-income children to the Center yearly.

Artistic Excellence: A robust Artistic Excellence program will increase the Center’s ability to create and hire the best talent.

Technology: The City and DRAA are committed to bringing the best and the latest technology to the stage, including new digital marquees and computerized effects.

How YOU can invest in the arts

Visit the DRAA webpage at draa.org where you can Name Your Seat, sponsor a production, or make a gift of cash or stock. For more about the Lesher Center, visit lesherartscenter.org.

Party patrol targets underage drinking

Adults providing alcohol to minors will be cited

The Walnut Creek Police Department and the Center for Human Development (CHD) are teaming up to reduce underage drinking with “Party Patrol Operations.” The special enforcement effort is funded through a State Incentive Grant.



Police will be cracking down on “social host environments,” places where parents, older siblings or friends provide alcohol to minors.

Adults who hold parties and provide alcohol to minors will be held responsible and may face criminal and civil penalties. Officers will not hesitate to confiscate the alcohol at a party and will also issue citations or arrests to all those involved.

In addition, police will be patrolling neighborhoods and parks in search of minors consuming alcohol.

A Party Patrol Operation in June resulted in six citations stemming from a traffic stop, a suspicious vehicle check and a pedestrian stop. Police confiscated alcohol, marijuana and tobacco products, and contacted the parents of the minors. An adult who was with several minors in a parked car was arrested on a marijuana violation.

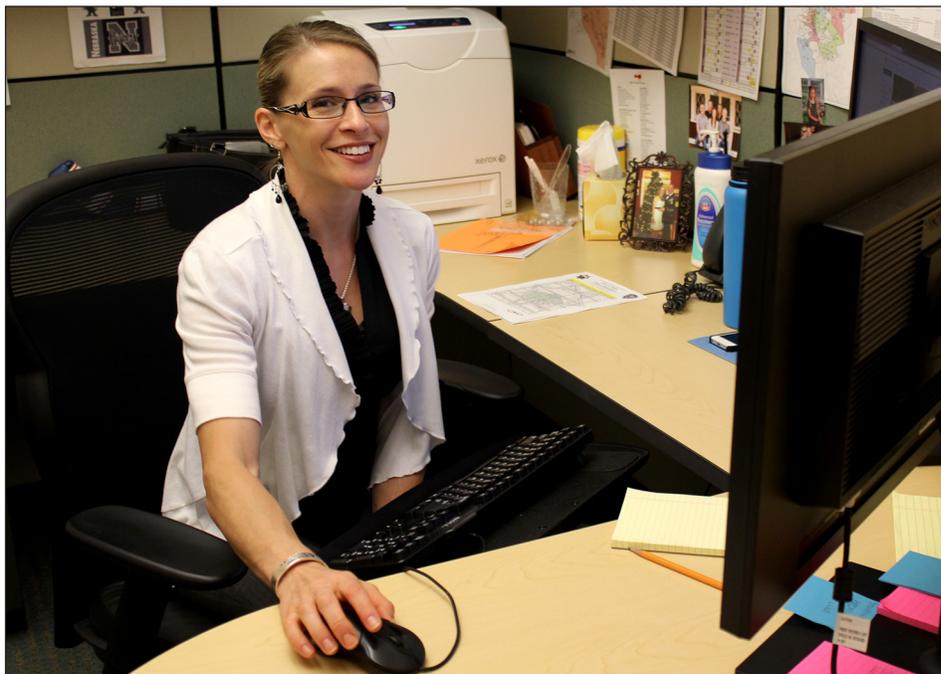
Sergeant David Rangel was one of the officers who helped conduct the June operation.

“It seems to me that due to the grant, juveniles are becoming more and more aware that Law Enforcement officials are being pro-active and taking enforcement action when applicable or necessary,” said Rangel.

“The juveniles and their parents are also being advised on consequences that may result due to underage drinking -DUIs, civil liability, fines, etc.,” Rangel added.

To report loud nuisance parties and underage drinking, call the Walnut Creek Police Department at 925-935-6400.

The Center for Human Development is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that is committed to improving the quality of lives of people throughout Contra Costa and Alameda counties.



Andrea Van Peteghem is Walnut Creek PD's first Crime and Intelligence Analyst.

Knowledge is power in fight against crime

Meet Andrea Van Peteghem, Walnut Creek's first Crime and Intelligence Analyst. With more than 10 years of experience as a crime analyst with the Oakland Police Department, Andi is excited about the opportunity to build Walnut Creek's crime analysis unit.

“I look forward to sharing as much information as I can to ensure the safety and vigilance of those residing in Walnut Creek,” she said. “The more people know, the more they can be participants in reducing crime.”

Among her responsibilities is building a crime analysis database. In the not-too-distant future, the public will be able to

access crime information online.

Her current tip? Lock your doors.

“That seems like a basic piece of advice, but right now, unlocked doors are a major contributor to our crime statistics,” she says.

For instance, 70 percent of reported thefts occurring over the July 24th weekend happened in unlocked cars.

“While Walnut Creek is a safe city, it's not immune to crime,” says Andi. “There's a reason you should lock your doors.”

Look for future crime fighting tips in the Nutshell and on Nextdoor, the neighborhood website. To join a Nextdoor neighborhood, visit www.nextdoor.com.

Police to offer parent education nights

Walnut Creek Police will host three Parent Education Nights in September at the Heather Farm Community Center, 301 N. San Carlos Drive. All sessions begin at 6 p.m.

The purpose of the education nights is to empower parents with the information they need to help their children be safe and successful, said School Resource Officers Raquel Cantillon and Drew Olson.

On Sept. 2, the topic is Social Media. On Sept. 9, the topic is marijuana, wax and vape pens. The Sept. 15 workshop will focus on alcohol and other popular drugs. For additional information, email Cantillon@walnutcreekpd.com.

CERT team training offered this fall

Registration is under way for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Graduates become volunteer Disaster Service Workers for the City. In event of emergency, CERTs gather at pre-designated staging areas to safely and quickly respond to the needs of the community. In July, CERTs assisted police in the search for a missing elderly woman with dementia.

The training will be held Tuesday evenings, Sept. 8 – Oct. 20, at Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation, 2890 Mitchell Dr., with a final drill the morning of Saturday, Oct. 31. There is a \$25 fee. Call 925-256-3556 or visit www.walnut-creek.org/cert.

Community Service Day

Give a half-day for the community, help a favorite cause

With so many projects to choose from, Community Service Day 2015 offers something for everyone. For details on these projects, go to www.walnut-creek.org/service.

ANIMALS (PETS & WILDLIFE)

ARF Giving Tree Decorations

Create wish-list ornaments for ARF's holiday giving tree. Ages: 16+

Community Concern for Cats: Thrift Shop Capers II

Help change over our Rescued Treasures Thrift Shop summer stock to winter merchandise. Ages: 16+

Equestrian Center Spruce-ups

Paint, garden and do general landscaping chores. Ages: 14+

Lindsay Wildlife Landscaping Spruce-up

Help prep the grounds for Lindsay's 60th anniversary. Ages: 8+ (under 12 with adult)

Wood Duck Nest-Box Building

Build nest boxes for wood ducks that nest in our local creeks. Ages: 12+ (under 18 with an adult partner)

ARTS

Bedford Gallery - Craft Fest Poster Distribution

Distribute posters for BG Craft Fest to local stores. Ages: 16+

Ceramics Studio Spruce-up

Spruce up and organize the Ceramics Studio. Ages: 16+

Civic Arts - Shadelands Preschool Play Area Fix-up

Restore preschool playhouse and music sound wall. Ages: 10+ (under 12 with adult)

Leshner Center Costume Shop

Clean and organize theater costumes. Ages: 12+



Cleaning up the grounds at Lindsay Wildlife Experience.

2015 WALNUT CREEK
Community
Service Day

Saturday
October 10

7:30 a.m. Check-in & free pancake breakfast
Heather Farm Community Center

8:45 a.m. Meet at project site

9 a.m. Work begins

Some projects offer afternoon shifts!

See next page for more projects

Community Service Day

Give a half-day for the community, help a favorite cause

How to volunteer

1. Go to www.walnut-creek.org/service to get detailed project information and the link to the registration system.
2. Use the online volunteer registration system to sign up. You can register as an individual or on behalf of a family or group. (Please, only one project!)
3. Mark your calendar for October 10 and build a better Walnut Creek!

Don't have Internet access?
Call the Community Service Day hotline: 925-256-3505.

AFTERNOON SHIFTS!

The following groups offer noon - 3 p.m. shifts:

Bancroft School
Bedford Gallery
Civic Arts Education
Civic Arts: Shadelands Preschool

SCHOOLS

All of Walnut Creek's public schools are sponsoring campus beautification projects involving gardening, clean-up and organizing. This is a great chance to help your neighborhood school!

Elementary schools: Bancroft, Buena Vista, Eagle Peak, Indian Valley, Murwood, Parkmead, Valle Verde, Walnut Acres and Walnut Heights.

Intermediate schools: Foothill and Walnut Creek Intermediate.

High schools: Las Lomas and Northgate.



Digging debris in the Open Space.

GARDENS, PARKS & NATURE

All Abilities Playground Spruce-up
Clean the play equipment for our kids. All ages (under 12 with adult)

HF Gardens Planting Extravaganza
Expand the Gardens at Heather Farm. All ages (under 12 with adult)

Heather Farm Park TLC
Give our park some care. All ages (under 12 with adult)

Refresh the Paint in our Parks
Paint restroom walls in our parks. Ages: 16+

Pine Creek Cleanup
Clean two stretches of Pine Creek (Woodlands neighborhood and along Oak Grove Road). Ages: 8+ (under 12 with adult)

Shell Ridge (Deer Lake) Tree Protection
Install fencing to protect seedlings from deer. Ages: 16+



Painting at the Equestrian Center.

Sugarloaf Picnic Area Spruce-up
(Walnut Creek Rotary Club sponsored)
Refurbish the amphitheater and picnic grounds at Sugarloaf. Ages: 10+ (under 12 with adult)

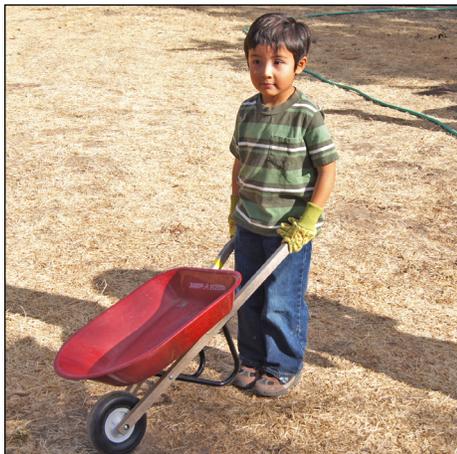
Water-Saving Turf for Our Parks
Cover turf with wood chips to reduce water use at four of our parks: Arbolado, Heather Farm, Larkey and Rudgear. All ages (under 12 with adult)

Community Service Day

Give a half-day for the community, help a favorite cause



Friendly Community Service Day project liaisons ready to get to work!



There are projects for all ages!



FOOD, EYEGLOSS DRIVE

Food drives are ideal for families, neighbors, church groups and Scout troops.

Neighborhood Food Drive

Support both the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano and the Monument Crisis Center by collecting food in your neighborhood. During the week before October 10, you will distribute food bags (provided by the Food Bank) to neighborhood homes. Then, on or before October 10, collect the bags of food and bring them to Heather Farm Community Center.

Lions Clubs Eyeglass Collection

Bring used eyeglasses to Heather Farm Community Center on the morning of Community Service Day to donate to the Lions Clubs. The eyeglasses are refurbished and given to the needy.

Thank you to our sponsors

Lead Sponsor

F&M Bank

Premiere Sponsors

John Muir Health
Mt. Diablo Recycling

Major Sponsors

Kaiser Permanente, Diablo Area
Lions Clubs
(Diablo Valley,
Rossmoor, Walnut Creek,
Ygnacio Valley)
Mechanics Bank
Republic Services
Safeway
Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation

Major Support

Peet's Coffee
Scott Valley Bank
Sports Basement

Start the day with pancakes!



Join us at Heather Farm Community Center for a free pancake breakfast, courtesy of our local Lions clubs.

PUBLIC AND LOCAL SCHOOL LIBRARIES

If libraries are your passion, you can help out at one of our two public libraries — Walnut Creek (downtown) or Ygnacio Valley — or at a local school library.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

Trinity Center Spruce-Up

Help spruce up the homeless respite center. Ages: 10+ (under 12 with adult)

DOWNTOWN

Downtown Meter Labeling

Install information labels for visitors. Ages: 16+

Downtown Streetscape Art

Prep utility boxes for installation of artwork.

All ages (under 12 with adult)

Adopt a WC Heritage Walk site

To continue the celebration of Walnut Creek's heritage and commemorate the Centennial, the Walnut Creek Historical Society will launch a self-guided Downtown Heritage Walk this fall.

The Heritage Walk will feature about 50 downtown heritage sites. The cellphone-based tour will include signage on downtown lamp posts and audio recordings about the landmark sites and local legacy families.

To make the Heritage Walk come to life, the Historical Society invites businesses, individuals,



families, and community groups to Adopt a Heritage Site. More information is available online at www.WalnutCreekHistory.info/HeritageWalk or by calling 925-935-7871.

Bedford Gallery fall highlights

The Art of the Brick®

Sept. 29 – Dec. 20

New York artist Nathan Sawaya meticulously crafts awe-inspiring sculptures using thousands of LEGO® bricks, transforming the popular toy into something new and intriguing. The exhibition also features work from the series *In Pieces*, a collaboration between Sawaya and photographer Dean West that combines LEGO sculptures with large-scale photographs.



Photo courtesy of brickartist.com

Nathan Sawaya, *Yellow*, 2006



The Bedford will present an ancillary exhibition of sculpture by Jud Bergeron in the Bedford Alcove Gallery. His playful, colorful, toy-like sculptures are reflections on the experience of becoming a parent.

Admission for *The Art of the Brick* is General \$7; Youth (ages 5 - 17) \$3; Children 4 and under are free; First Tuesdays are free; Free for ticket holders to Leshner Center for the Arts events on ticketed date.

LEGO Costume Party!

The public is invited to a LEGO-themed costume party on Friday, Oct. 23, starting at 2 p.m.

BG Craft Fest

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 7 & 8

Bedford Gallery's 8th annual Craft Fest offers the best handcrafted, high-quality, and affordable items by Bay Area artists, crafters, and food vendors, along with demos by selected vendors. Get a head start on your holiday shopping! Featuring home goods, textiles, ceramics, jewelry, artisanal foods, prints, and more, our vendors are sure to have unique gifts to suit everyone on your list.

AARP Tax-Aide seeks volunteers

Contra Costa County AARP Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers to become members of a team providing free tax preparation for individuals of all ages. Tax-Aide volunteer positions include Tax Counselors and

Client Facilitators who schedule appointments and assist clients at tax sites. Orientation is in November and classes start in January 2016. Call LaVerne Gordon at 925-726-3199 for information.

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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

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