



IN A

# Nutshell

No. 145

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek November/December 2009

## Get PD news fast with Nixle service

The Walnut Creek Police Department has launched a free service for people who want to receive timely information about public safety activities via text messages or e-mails.

The service is provided through a partnership with Nixle, a San Francisco-based technology company.

Messages may include missing person alerts or announcements to be on the lookout for vehicles wanted in various crimes. Information on situations such as road closures or other events may also be periodically distributed.

To subscribe, go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com). Registration is free; however, text messaging fees will apply.

## Think rink! Ice rink returns to Civic Park

Dust off your ice skates and glide into winter with Walnut Creek on Ice. The ice rink returns to Civic Park with a Grand Opening Ceremony at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 12 and will remain through Jan. 18.

Special programs include "Learn to Skate" Saturday mornings, Tuesday morning parent-tot classes and Thursday evening adult classes.

Have fun, but please don't park in Civic Park! A variety of parking options are available for ice rink guests. First Bank, 1700 Broadway, First Republic Bank, 1400 Civic, and Fremont Bank, 1735 Broadway, have generously offered parking during their non-business hours. And check out the "Holiday Parking Guide" on Page 7.

For more, call (925) 935-7669 or go to [www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com](http://www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com).



Residents Sandra Jacobsen, left, and Ellen Osmundson read ideas posted by participants during a Community Conversations workshop to define community goals.

## Keep the 'Conversation' going

### Next step: Spending symbolic \$500 where it matters most

Thanks to all of you who shared your ideas about what is important to Walnut Creek during the first step of our "Community Conversation on Balancing for the Future." The interactive workshops resulted in scores of great ideas that will help the City make budget decisions for 2010-12.

The second part of the Conversation begins Nov. 30. Everyone who lives or works in Walnut Creek is encouraged to weigh in by "spending" an imaginary \$500 on the goals they think are most important. More on this later ...

### What's at stake

Like most cities in California, Walnut Creek's budget development process for 2010-12 promises to be especially challenging. Current revenue projections show a substantial shortfall of \$20 million (or 14 percent) from an expected \$144

million budget for 2010-12, even after having reduced the current budget by \$13 million.

Going forward, everyone's help is needed to make sure that limited resources are allocated to those goals the community values most.

To that end, the City launched a "Community Conversation on Balancing for the Future."

### Defining what's important

Folks who live or work in Walnut Creek were invited to help define six Council-identified goals in workshops offered in September and October. We received hundreds of suggestions about what the goals mean to the community! All the ideas are being reviewed to see what common themes might emerge.

On Nov. 10, the Council will hold a study session to confirm the workshop results and establish subgoals.

**BALANCING**, see page 4

## City Event Calendar

### November

**11**  
**Veterans Day ceremony**  
(See story, page 3)


**27**  
**City Tree Lighting Event**  
(See story, back page)

### December

**12**  
**City's Holiday Breakfast**  
(See *What's Happening*)

**24-31**  
**City offices closed for winter holidays and unpaid furlough**  
(See story, page 5)

## City Meeting Calendar

**City Council**   
Nov. 17; Dec. 1, 15  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber  
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

**Planning Commission**  
Nov. 12; Dec. 10  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Arts Commission**  
Nov. 16; Dec. (no meeting)  
4:30 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Transportation Commission**  
Nov. 19; Dec. 17  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Design Review Commission**  
Nov. 4, 18; Dec. 2, 16  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Park, Rec & Open Space Commission**  
Nov. 2; Dec. 7  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

 **City Council meetings are televised live on Comcast Channels 28 and 26 (unincorporated), and on Astound Channel 29. They are repeated the following Sunday at 1 p.m. on all. Video of the meetings online at [walnut-creek.org](http://walnut-creek.org)**

## What's Happening

### Seniors Holiday Boutique Nov. 13-14

Start your holiday shopping at the Walnut Creek Seniors Club Holiday Boutique on Nov. 13-14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr. Admission is free. Lunch is \$3 and will be served 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Items include handcrafted holiday decorations, baby gifts, quilts, toys, wreaths, home accents, baked goods, and more. A drawing for a free turkey will be held each hour. Call (925) 943-5851.

### WC Concert Band Holiday Concert

The Walnut Creek Concert Band, under the direction of Harvey Benstein, will perform their annual Holiday Concert on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$15 at the Center Ticket Office, 1601 Civic Drive, or call (925) 943-7469.

### Teddy Bear Teas at the Gardens

A magical holiday event awaits children and adults at the Teddy Bear Teas at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540

Marchbanks Dr. on Saturday, Dec. 5 and Sunday, Dec. 6. Multiple seatings are available for both days. Bring your favorite teddy bear for a photo and share teatime delights and story time in a festive setting



decorated for the holidays. There will also be a gift boutique and special raffles. Reservations are required; cost is \$15 for children, \$25 for adults. Proceeds benefit the Gardens at Heather Farm ([www.gardenshf.org](http://www.gardenshf.org)). all (925) 947-1678.

### Fine Art Sale on Dec. 3

The Friends of Civic Arts Education Foundation introduces the "Collectors Circle," a fine art sale from 3 - 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3 at Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Lane. Featured professional artists were by invitation only, and include many of the Civic Arts Education instructors. There will be champagne and hors d'oeuvres at the opening.

### Parade of Lights and Menorah Lighting

The Holiday Parade of Lights and Open House at Broadway Plaza will be on Dec. 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. The Grand Menorah Lighting will be Sunday, Dec. 13 from 4 to 6 p.m. For details, call 925-933-6589.

### Center REP brings back 'Christmas Carol'

The ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future return to Walnut Creek when Center REPeritory Co.

presents Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," at the Leshner Center for the Arts Dec. 10-20. (925) 943-7469 or [www.centerREP.org](http://www.centerREP.org)



**Jack Powell as Ebenezer Scrooge and Michael Ray Wiseley as the Ghost of Christmas Present.**

### Holiday Studio Art Sale Dec. 4-6

The Clay Arts Guild and Civic Arts Education will hold their joint Civic Arts Holiday Studio Art Sale at two locations Dec. 4-6. On sale at Civic Park will be a large selection of handcrafted pottery and ceramic sculpture by students and faculty in the studios. At Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Lane, jewelry, paintings, and other arts will be available for purchase. Hours for both locations are: Friday, Dec. 4, 5-9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free. Call (925) 943-5846.

### City's Holiday Breakfast set for Dec. 12

Enjoy griddle cakes and pictures with Santa at the annual Holiday Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 12, 9 to 11 a.m., at Heather Farm Park Community Center, 301 No. San Carlos Dr. Seasonal music, arts and crafts and holiday videos will be part of the fun. Admission is \$6 per person at the door (free to children under 12 months). This event is cosponsored by the City's Recreation Division and the Walnut Festival Association.

### Holiday events at historic Shadelands

The Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum at 2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd. will host its 27th annual Holidays at Shadelands Nov. 28 to Dec. 13. The beautifully decorated house will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and feature an arts and crafts sale. Admission is free. Three-course tea luncheons will be served at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$28 per person. Call (925) 935-7871 for reservations. Proceeds benefit the Historical Society.

### WC Police sponsor Holiday Toy Drive

The Walnut Creek Police Department will be accepting new, unwrapped toys from Nov. 17 through Dec. 17. Toys may be dropped off in the lobby of City Hall, 1666 N. Main Street, and will be distributed to the Marines 'Toys for Tots' program and to local organizations or individuals in need. For more information, call Officer David Rangel of the Community Policing Team, (925) 256-3523.

# Boundary Oak blossoms

Change is coming to Boundary Oak Golf Course. In July, CourseCo, which specializes in municipal golf course management, took over both the golf course operation and food and beverage operation.

Since then, CourseCo has hired several key staff members and launched a two-pronged strategy to improve course conditions and customer experience.

Lance Iwanaka leads the team as General Manager. Golfers can expect improvements to the course and driving range, a lively new clubhouse experience, and a golf shop offering a larger variety of golf apparel and equipment.

Class A Superintendent Mike Vickers has completed significant improvements to the greens, fairways, tees and rough. Landscaping around the clubhouse and on the course is also being improved.

Leading the daily golf operation is Sam Bozzo, a PGA Class A professional. Bozzo manages the golf shop and driving range, including daily play, tournaments, practice range, lessons and merchandise.

Recent enhancements in the golf shop and driving range are new carpet, updated merchandise, new range mats, balls and a ball machine.



**Boundary Oak Golf Course and its clubhouse are undergoing improvements under the guidance of a new management company hired by the City in July.**

After a round of golf, players can enjoy the revamped clubhouse. The clubhouse is open daily for breakfast and lunch in the downstairs Grille. Occasional happy hours and themed dinners such as “A Taste of Italy” are held upstairs. Banquet facilities are available for special events, said Kirsten Knauer, Food and Beverage Manager.

“The City of Walnut Creek is very excited about its new golf partner, CourseCo,” says Barry Gordon, Arts, Recreation and Community Services Director. “The feedback we’ve received from the golf community since the change has been very positive. We are looking forward to continuous improvements and achieving our goal of delivering the best golf and event experience in the Bay Area.”

Go to [www.playboundaryoak.com](http://www.playboundaryoak.com) or call (925) 934-4775 to learn more.

# Veterans Day ceremony moves to Lafayette

The cities of Walnut Creek and Lafayette are partnering for the first time to honor area veterans on Veterans Day. As is traditional, the celebration starts at 11 a.m on Nov. 11, but instead of being held in Walnut Creek’s Civic Park, it will be at the Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette.

The ceremony will include a musical salute to the Armed Forces by the Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein, welcomes from Walnut Creek Mayor Gary Skrel and Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin, and a keynote speech by Allan F.P. Cruz, USMC (Ret.) and president of the Lafayette Veterans Building Board of Directors.

All area veterans and their families and friends are encouraged to attend.

The Veterans Memorial Building was conceived and financed in collaboration with Lafayette and Contra Costa County to replace buildings in each city that had deteriorated and were not up to current access and code standards. Completed in 2005, the building earned a 2007 Honor Award from the International Interior Design Association. It takes the form of a lodge with a dramatic granite and glass exterior and cathedral-like interior featuring high-beamed ceilings.

For further information about the Nov. 11 ceremony, call City Clerk Patrice Olds, (925) 943-5819 or visit the city website.



**Master potter Julia Galloway will demonstrate working with porcelain clay at 2-5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30 at the Bedford Gallery. Galloway is chair of the School of Art at the University of Montana. Space is limited; \$30 fee. (925) 295-1423.**



## Coming to the Bedford Gallery: Crafts sale, posters and pottery

The Bedford Gallery presents an extravaganza of handmade items perfect for gift-giving! Twenty-five cool crafters from the East Bay and beyond will set up shop inside the gallery for the **Bg Craft Fest** on Saturday, Nov. 14 from noon to 5 p.m. FREE entry includes gallery admission.

“Art on Market Street: A selection of kiosk posters from the San Francisco



Arts Commission” runs through Nov. 15.

The Bedford exhibition profiles this public art project by displaying the posters, for the first time ever, as a group inside a gallery.

“Objects of Virtue” opens Dec. 1 through Jan. 31, and explores the innovative ways in which artists use clay as both sculpture material and paint to create varied and distinctive new vessels.

The Bedford Galley is located at the Leshner Center for the Arts. Call (925) 295-1417 or go to [www.bedfordgallery.org](http://www.bedfordgallery.org).

# Balancing

## From front page

That's where the next step in the Community Conversation comes in.

### **Allocating scarce resources**

We know what the goals mean to the community, thanks to all the workshop participants.

Now we need to know: are some more important than others at this time?

So we're inviting everyone who lives or works in Walnut Creek to "spend \$500" on the goals and subgoals they value most. It's not necessary to have participated in the earlier workshops.

City Hall's first floor training room will be set up with computers programmed with an electronic tally sheet and a "virtual bank account" of \$500. You can put all your money on one Goal, spread funds evenly among all the Goals and subgoals, or spend on the areas most important to you.

To get as much participation as possible, we'll open the training room during a variety of times and days from Nov. 30 – Dec. 6.

### **How to weigh in**

Interested? Drop in at City Hall, 1666 N. Main St., during one of these times:

- 4 – 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30
- 7:30 – 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1
- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2
- 4 – 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3
- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6

**Please bring a driver's license, household bill or business card to demonstrate living or working in Walnut Creek.** Staff will be on hand to answer questions.

## Teach kids WC history

Like history? Interested in taking third-grade students back 100 years in Walnut Creek? Are you willing to give 2-4 hours once a week on a Monday or Thursday? If so, the "Turn of the Century" program at the Shadelands Museum needs you! Third-grade class sizes have increased 50 percent and the museum needs more volunteers if they are to continue giving local youngsters this opportunity to step back in time. Call (925) 935-7871.



**GROWING A GREEN LIBRARY** — Walnut Creek Library Foundation Steering Committee Member Bob Brittain explains the "daylight harvesting" feature of the new downtown library to a group of library staff. "Daylight harvesting" means the lights automatically dim when bright sunshine comes through the window, reducing energy use. Green practices such as this are among the reasons the new library will be LEED certified, the recognized standard for building sustainability. Construction of the new Walnut Creek Library continues on time and on budget with a planned opening in mid-2010.

## Sustainable Contra Costa honors City

The City of Walnut Creek received the only Honorable Mention Award at the inaugural Sustainable Contra Costa Awards reception at the Gardens at Heather Farm on Sept. 30.

Sustainable Contra Costa founders Bob Joe and Tina King met for the first time while participating in the Walnut Creek Citizens Institute; discovering a shared passion for sustainability, they launched Sustainable Contra Costa with several others, including Sheila Hill, development manager at the Gardens at Heather Farm,



Marsha Golangco and James Kalin.

Walnut Creek was recognized for its commitment to community engagement and for having embraced sustainability long before the concept became popular.

The City's vision statement: "A balanced community meeting tomorrow's needs while protecting the quality and

character we value today," mirrors the definition of *sustainable development* used by the World Commission on Environment and Development, noted King in presenting the award.

## Free resources for small businesses facing layoffs

Contra Costa's Rapid Response team provides free outplacement resources and services to small business owners and their employees facing layoffs. The team will conduct on-site presentations about job search, job training, academic and career assessment, career planning and other services available at EASTBAY Works One Stop Career Centers. Information about

obtaining unemployment insurance and other organizations and agencies that can help workers smoothly transition back into the workforce is also provided.

Contact Susie O'Bryant at (925) 671-4542 or [Sobryant@ehsd.cccounty.us](mailto:Sobryant@ehsd.cccounty.us).

For further information about EASTBAY Works One-Stop Business and Career Centers, go to [www.eastbayworks.com](http://www.eastbayworks.com).

## City Update

### Employee furloughs scheduled Dec. 28-30; City Hall to be closed

In light of the current economic challenges, most City employees will be on unpaid furlough Dec. 28-30. In combination with the winter holidays, City Hall will be closed beginning Thursday, Dec. 24 and reopen Monday, Jan. 4.

Also closed during that period will be the Bedford Gallery, Civic Arts Education's Shadelands Center, the Civic Park Clay Studios, Heather Farm Community Center, and the Leshner Center administrative offices. Other City facilities may be open on a limited basis; go to [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org) for details.

Public safety services will remain available.

### Catch the Downtown Parking Task Force online

Streaming video of Downtown Parking Task Force meetings, as well as meeting notices, agendas, and informational materials, may be found on the City's website, [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org), listed under the Quick Links.

Public involvement is essential in coming up with suggestions for managing parking and traffic, said Councilman Kish Rajan, who co-chairs the Task Force with Mayor Pro Tem Sue Rainey.

As the Task Force progresses, information about public participation opportunities will be posted on the webpage.

### Home rehabilitation loans for low- and moderate-income households

The City of Walnut Creek offers Home Rehabilitation Program loans and grants to low- and moderate-income households. The program is designed to help homeowners improve the health, safety, and energy efficiency of homes through repairs such as new roofs, insulation, central heating, bathroom and kitchen remodels, electrical and plumbing upgrades, and accessibility items.

Loans are available up to \$60,000 per household, and payments, including 3 percent annual simple interest, may be deferred until the time the home is sold or transferred. Call Pat Corum for an application at (925) 335-1137. Emergency grants of up to \$10,000 are also available.



At your service — Permit Technician Denis Brown-Bouvier, left, assists permit-seeker Richard Worster. The City is working to improve customer service for construction permits.

## Permit counter creates 'one-stop shop'

For most people, getting a construction permit ranks right up there with doing taxes or having a root canal — necessary but time-consuming, and often downright frustrating.

The folks behind Walnut Creek's permit counter are out to change that.

Since 2008, they've been working to improve customer service by creating a "one stop shop" for the majority of permit seekers.

They did this by taking a look at the development review process.

In most cases, people had to get permits from more than one department. In the past, the permit seeker would speak with multiple department staff members for review and approval, and the process would come to a halt if someone was out.

"Staff members were pigeon-holed into one position; everyone did their own thing, and no one knew how to fill in for someone else," explained Chief Building Official Robert Woods.

Today, the Development Review

Counter is staffed by cross-trained paraprofessional permit technicians able to process the majority of construction-related permits on their own. That's no small feat — so far this year, the City has issued more than 2,300 such permits.

In addition, the City's permit technicians have been certified by the International Code Council as plan examiners, reducing the need to use outside plan reviewers, said supervisor Fran Duffy.

The technicians can also assist permit holders in scheduling a specific time for field inspection. For those who want to get information online, a more user-friendly development review website is expected to be launched by mid-February.

These changes mean faster turnaround time for the public and cost savings for the City, said Woods. "Doing business with the City has gotten easier," he said.

The Development Review Counter is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of City Hall. Permit technicians may be reached at 925-943-5834.

## City's cable channel accepting public service announcements

Non-profits, schools and other community groups are encouraged to submit information about their events for broadcast on the City's cable channel bulletin board.

Public service announcements should include the name of the event and sponsoring organization, time, date and location. Commercial content or

announcements advertising a political candidate or issue cannot be accepted.

PSAs should be emailed to [community@walnut-creek.org](mailto:community@walnut-creek.org). For questions, call (925) 943-5895.

The City assumed responsibility for its government access channel in October. It is on Comcast Channels 28 and 26 (unincorporated) and Astound Channel 29.



## Holiday safety tips

The last thing anyone needs during the holidays is to be a crime victim. Here are some tips to keep you safe.

### While shopping:

- Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash.
- If possible, carry only your driver's license, necessary credit or debit cards and minimal cash.
- If you must carry a purse, do not wrap the straps around your arms or shoulders. Carry a clutch purse tightly under your arm or wear a fanny pack.
- Do not carry a wallet in a back pocket.
- Watch purchases while eating; bags can be switched or taken.
- Educate your children about what to do if they are lost.
- Don't overburden yourself with too many packages.
- Have your car keys ready in hand before leaving the store.
- If you return to your vehicle to unload purchases, place them in the trunk.

### In parking lots:

- Park in a high-visibility area; check for lighting in case you return after dark.
- Do not park next to a vehicle with dark tinted windows.
- Take no valuables. If you must, lock them in your trunk *before* leaving home.
- Leave the store with others. Ask security to escort you to your vehicle if you feel uncomfortable.
- Walk briskly, confidently, and directly through the parking lot. Be cautious of people handing out fliers or asking questions in the parking area.

### At home:

- Keep the outside of your home well lit with doors locked and curtains closed.
- Don't display gifts that can be seen from outside.
- Don't advertise gifts received by leaving empty boxes out for garbage collection. Break down large boxes and place them in a recycling bin.

# Free vacation home checks offered

## Service provided by Volunteers in Policing

City residents can request free vacation home checks from the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS).

Trained volunteers perform a thorough inspection of your property while you are away, including a perimeter check, check of all doors and windows, verification of vehicles left on the property and verification of any people found on the property.

They act as an 'extra set of eyes and ears' on patrol to decrease property crimes, improve neighborhood safety and support community policing.

This service is provided to vacationers who are gone for at least 3 days, up to a maximum of 30 days. Vacant properties are not eligible for vacation checks.

To request a vacation house check, go to [www.walnutcreekpd.com](http://www.walnutcreekpd.com) and click the vacation house check link. Or call (925) 256-3525 to have an application sent to your home.

Please return the request form at least 72 hours prior to your departure.



Volunteer in Police Services (VIPS) member Joan From helps with paperwork as part of her duties. VIPS make an important contribution to the PD, handling vacation home checks, helping in the records department, staffing the first-floor information desk, assisting with community policing projects and in other areas as needed. Reception, word processing and general office skills are particularly useful. To find out more, call Volunteer Coordinator John Haithcock, (925) 943-5879 or go to [www.walnutcreekpd.org](http://www.walnutcreekpd.org). (Note: There is a background check before being brought on board for this program.)

## Paper or plastic? How about neither?

Do you know that plastic bags are among the most commonly found trash in our creeks? Not only does this material take a long time to disintegrate, it poses strangling threats to wildlife in the creek.

Many California grocers and retailers sell inexpensive reusable bags; leave yours in your vehicle for easy access. Reusable bags only serve their intended purpose if you remember to bring them with you on your shopping trips! And if you are buying a few items that you can easily hold, why get a bag at all?

### Reuse or repurpose!

- There are many ways to reuse plastic bags throughout your home:
- Hand protectors. Place them over your hands to handle messes.
  - Kitchen clean-up. Place them under

the cutting board for quick scrap removal.

- Trash-can liners. Use them in bathrooms and other waste baskets.
  - Doggie duty. Bring them on dog walks to collect and dispose of pet waste.
- You can recycle bags if they are clean and dry in these ways:
- Wet umbrella covers. Keep other items in your tote bag dry when your umbrella is wet.
  - Dirty clothes or shoes.



Tuck bags in your suitcases as dirty clothes bags or wrap around shoes to protect your suitcase and clothes.

Remember, using and recycling plastic bags allows them to have a second life as new products. Everyone can play an important role in reducing trash, preventing litter and putting the three R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) into practice.

# Taming the holiday traffic Grinch

The holidays are hectic enough without searching for a parking place. Relax – help is on the way.

The City, Downtown Business Association, Chamber of Commerce and property managers for the major retail and private parking garages have teamed up to create stress-free parking for the season.

The goal is to get cars off downtown streets as quickly as possible by making parking easy to find and encouraging shoppers to “park once” and walk or use other means of getting around.

Among their ideas:

- New signs leading drivers to parking facilities;
- Police Services Officers managing the

flow of traffic and pedestrians at the mid-Mt. Diablo Boulevard crosswalk during peak shopping hours on Thanksgiving weekend and the week before and after Christmas; and

- Extended hours for the free downtown Trolley (*see story, right*).

In addition, a marketing plan urges people to “Stop, Hop and Shop” — by parking or using a public valet (Stop); riding the free Trolley around downtown and to and from BART (Hop), and taking advantage of the many shops, restaurants and activities in the downtown (Shop).

And don’t forget! Many shops and restaurants offer free validation for City-owned garages.

# Free Trolley rings in the season with extra hours

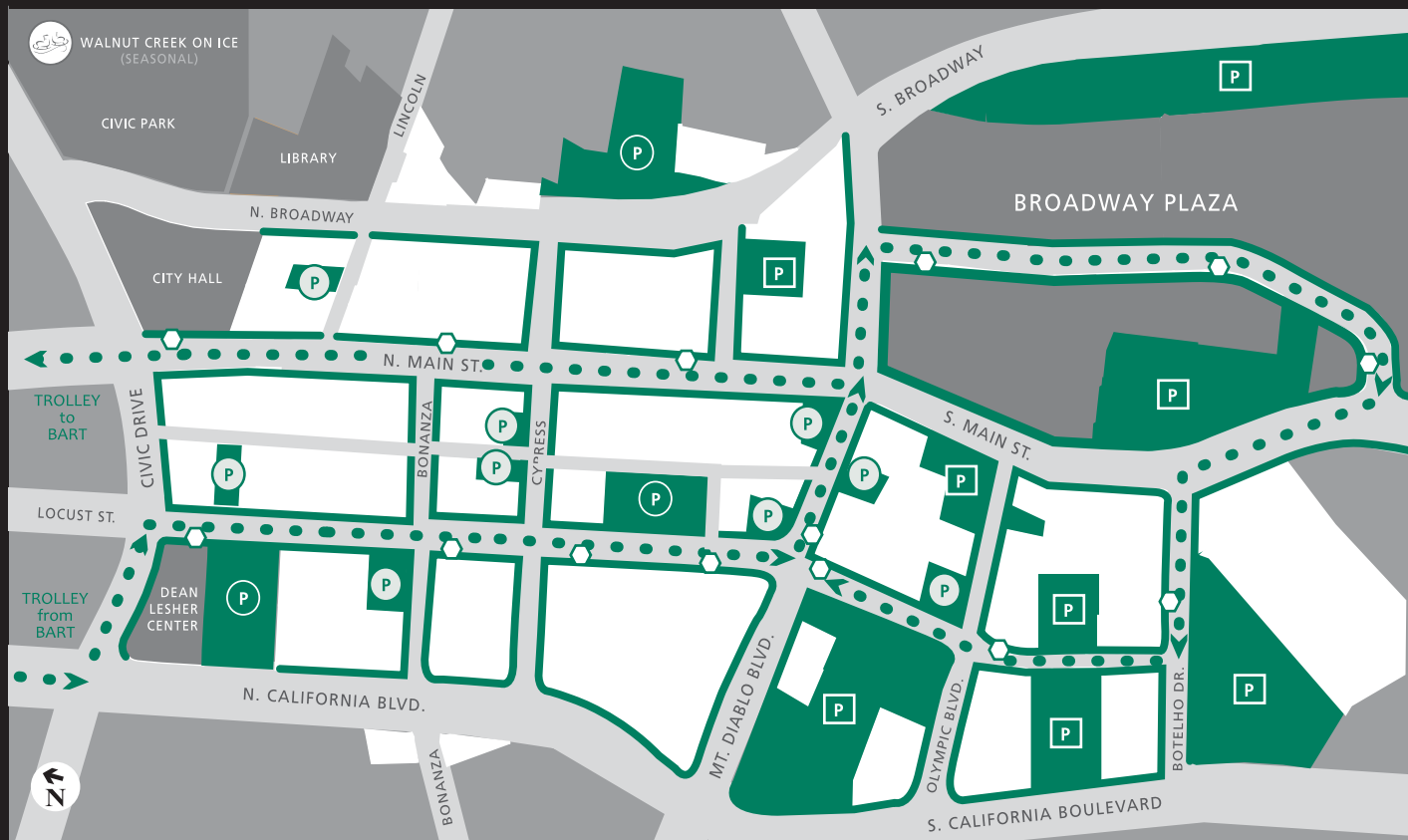
The Free Downtown Trolley (Route 4, formerly 104), which runs from Walnut Creek BART through the downtown and Broadway Plaza, will have extra evening hours every day but Sunday starting the day after Thanksgiving.



The trolley will run until 10 p.m. Nov. 27 - Dec. 12; until 11 p.m. Dec. 14 - Dec. 23, and until 10 p.m. Dec. 26 - Dec. 31. Sunday service ends around 7 p.m.

Walnut Creek spends about \$200,000 a year to support the trolley. The additional hours are paid for by Broadway Plaza to help ease holiday parking and traffic congestion. For more, [www.cccta.org](http://www.cccta.org).

# HOLIDAY PARKING GUIDE



## FREE TROLLEY

FREE TROLLEY (ROUTE 4)

FREE TROLLEY STOPS



## PARKING

CITY PARKING GARAGE

PRIVATE PARKING GARAGE

METERED PARKING LOT

\$1/HR PARKING METER ZONE

## Get in on the glow: Holiday Tree Lighting Nov. 27 at Civic Park

Get the season off to a sparkling start at the Holiday Tree Lighting, Friday, Nov. 27 in Civic Park.

Festivities include holiday music performed by the Walnut Creek Concert band under the direction of Harvey Benstein, carols with the Walnut Creek Children's Chorus, hot cocoa and a visit from Santa.

Mayor Gary Skrel will perform the tree-lighting honors. The free event is sponsored by the Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association. The fun begins at 6 p.m. sharp so please arrive early.



Glowing with promise for the season is the Holiday Tree at Civic Park.

## New below-market-rate condominiums for sale

Five below-market-rate condominiums are available at 555 YVR, a new residential development at 555 Ygnacio Valley Road.

The affordable units are made possible through the City's Below Market Rate program. There are three 1-bedroom units for \$133,000; one 2-bedroom unit for \$148,000; and one live/work unit for \$135,000.

Buyers must be income-qualified, first-time homebuyers and will be selected through an application process. Call (925) 280-8888 to request an application. Applications must be returned to the sales center at 555 Ygnacio Valley Road, by 5 p.m. Nov. 10.

## All aboard for Model Railroad Open House

Train buffs of all ages will delight in the intricately detailed HO-scale model trains showcased at the Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society's Open House the weekends before and after Thanksgiving. Open House days and times are:

- 8 - 10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20
- 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sat.-Sun., Nov. 21, 22



- 2 - 10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27
  - 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat.-Sun., Nov. 28 and 29
- "Fare" is \$3, ages 13 and up; \$2, seniors and ages 6-12; free, under 6. The Walnut Creek

Model Railroad is located next to Larkey Park at 2751 Buena Vista Ave. Call (925) 937-1888 for more information.



### City Directory

Business licenses	943-5821
City Clerk's Office	943-5818
City Hall main number	943-5800
City Manager's office	943-5812
Crime prevention	943-5885
Employment hotline	943-5817
Police (non-emergency)	943-5844
Senior citizen activities	943-5851
Street light outages	256-3529



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

\* For appointment: Call 925-256-3504

#### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**CITY MANAGER**  
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**CITY ATTORNEY**  
Paul Valle-Riestra  
**CITY CLERK**  
Patrice Olds  
**CITY TREASURER**  
Ronald Cassano

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**  
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**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
Sandra Meyer, Director  
**ARTS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
Barry Gordon, Director  
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INA **Nutshell**

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