

IN A

# Nutshell

No. 143

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

July/August 2009

## City, community brace for major budget shortfalls

A staggering budget shortfall anticipated to exceed \$7.3 million in 2009-10 and projections for even greater deficits in the next budget cycle will bring big changes in the way the City operates and the types of services and programs it offers citizens.

“Things look pretty bleak for the coming years,” said City Manager Gary Pokorny. “We’ll be having structured conversations with the community about our financial status and asking for help with setting priorities and delivering service.”

To start, this spring the City hosted three “Community Partner” meetings at which over 125 people came to hear Mayor Gary Skrel and other City officials talk about the City’s need to make dramatic changes and sacrifices in order to balance its budget in coming years.

**BUDGET**, see page 5

## City convenes task force to seek downtown parking improvements

We hear you! The City and downtown businesses are expanding their efforts to “get parking right in downtown Walnut Creek” by forming a Parking Task Force this summer to address the needs and unique challenges of this special retail environment.

Building on Mayor Gary Skrel’s identification of parking as a top priority earlier this year, Council members Kish Rajan and Sue Rainey are heading up the task force, which comprises members of the Planning and Transportation commissions, business owners, the Downtown Business Association, the



## Spring cleaning in the creeks

Thirteen-year-old David Morgan, left, and Victor Jurado of Walnut Creek pulled a small bed frame from the Walnut Creek channel in the first minutes of Creek Clean Up Day on May 9. More than 235 volunteers turned out for the 20th annual event, during which more than 20 cubic yards of debris were cleaned out of the three downtown creeks. The activity was hosted by the City and the Friends of the Creeks.

Chamber of Commerce, and the public.

At a special workshop June 1, over 50 people met at City Hall to learn about the challenges facing the City in terms of managing parking downtown and to brainstorm ideas on how to do just that.

“What we’ve constructed downtown is a tremendous thing,” said Rajan. “Sales tax revenues are the dollars that fund the core services that are at the heart of the quality of life in Walnut Creek. We need a strong local economy in Walnut Creek. But there is a by-product of the strong local economy — it’s parking — and we

**PARKING**, see page 6

## Council approves improved Neiman Marcus project

The City Council’s unanimous approval on May 19 of a significantly smaller proposal for a Neiman Marcus store at Broadway Plaza underscored its unwavering support for a project that will contribute to the vibrancy of the downtown.

It is the second time within a year that the Council has approved a plan to bring the high-end retailer to Walnut Creek.

Last fall, a petition drive conducted by rival shopping mall operator Taubman Centers, Inc. stirred community dissent

**NEIMAN MARCUS**, see page 3

## City Event Calendar

### July

4

#### 4th of July Concert

(See *What's Happening*)

22

#### "Summer Pops" Concert

(See *What's Happening*)

25

#### Chevron Family Theatre Festival

(see story, page 6)

### August

15

#### Movies Under the Stars

(See *What's Happening*)

## City Meeting Calendar

#### City Council

July 7, 21; Aug. 4

7 p.m.

City Council chamber  
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

#### Planning Commission

July 9, 23; Aug. 13, 27

7 p.m.

City Council chamber

#### Arts Commission

July 20; no August meeting

4:30 p.m.

City Council chamber

#### Transportation Commission

July 16, Aug. 20

7 p.m.

City Council chamber

#### Design Review Commission

July 1, 15; Aug. 5, 19

7 p.m.


City Council chamber

#### Park, Rec & Open Space Commission

July 6; no August meeting

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 is also available online at [walnut-creek.org](http://walnut-creek.org)

## Skate art exhibition coming to Bedford Gallery

Always searching for art in unexpected places, Bedford Gallery curator Carrie Lederer culls together some of the most radical skateboard art in the state for *Full Deck: A Short History of Skate Art*, which will be on display July 5 through Sept. 13.

The culture of skateboarding has grown hand in hand with the visual arts. Stickers, films, magazines, clothing are just some of the creative by-products stemming from this alternative and popular mode of transportation.

The Bedford Gallery is in the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr. Admission is \$3, adults; \$2, ages 12-17. For more information, call (925) 295-1417.



'XX Utopia', 2007  
litho print, 18" x 10"  
Jenny Schmid

## What's Happening

### Celebrate the 4th with music at Civic Park

Music Director Harvey Benstein will conduct the Walnut Creek Concert Band at its annual Fourth of July Concert beginning at 6 p.m. at the Civic Park gazebo as part of the City's popular PARKconcert series. This is a free event. Bring your blanket and a picnic supper and enjoy the 4th with music.

### "Summer Pops" Concert on July 22

The Walnut Creek Concert Band will present "Summer Pops at the Leshner" on Wednesday, July 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts. The Concert Band, under the direction of Harvey Benstein, will perform music by Gershwin, Grainger, and Sousa, as well as a variety of Broadway show tunes. Tickets are \$12/\$15 at the box office, call (925) 943-7469 (SHOW), or [www.lesherartscenter.org](http://www.lesherartscenter.org)

### Movies Under the Stars: 'Kung Fu Panda'

The next installment of the City's popular open-air film series, *Movies Under the Stars*, on Heather Farm Park's front ballfield will feature the 2008 animated comedy *Kung Fu Panda* on Saturday, Aug. 15 at dusk (approximately 9 p.m.). Admission is free; arrive at least one hour early. Low lawn chairs are allowed in designated areas only; and please, no pets.



### Walnut Festival golf tourney Aug. 10

The Walnut Festival Association "Fore Education" Golf Tournament will be Aug. 10 at Boundary Oak Golf Course. Entry fee: \$130. To register, go online at [www.thewalnutfestival.org](http://www.thewalnutfestival.org)

### Digital Art awards given to local teens

Student artists from various local high schools were honored for their work by Walnut Creek Sister



'Summer Sun'  
Rachel Powell

Cities International at a ceremony at City Hall on April 24. The High School Digital Art Contest grand prize winners were Liz Watters, Northgate High, and Rachel Powell, Berean Christian High. Other award winners were Alex Salgado and Sam Issersohn, Las Lomas; Kelly Chu and Jessica Fong, Northgate; Katie Campbell and Kelsey Leegwater, Contra Costa Christian; and Sanananna Willworth, Berean. Sister Cities president Bill Hansen said his organization plans to share the students' artwork with Walnut Creek's sister cities of Noceto, Italy and Siofok, Hungary.

### WC Masters Swim Team place first

The Walnut Creek Masters Swim Team, sponsored by the City of Walnut Creek, placed first at the United States Masters Short Course Swimming Championships held May 7-10 in Fresno. The 85-member team, comprising members ages 21 to 86, had national champions in almost every age group at the competition. Twenty-one swimmers on the team came home as national champions in individual events, including Kasey Beckman, Lisa Ward, and Jae Howell, who swept all six of their meets. In the relays competition, Beckman, Sarah Marshall, Kieko Price, and Kris Areneson set a new national standard in the Women's age 25+ 200-meter Medley Relay. The age 75+ Mixed Medley Relay team of Don Brown, Norm Stupfel, Joan Alexander, and Donna Monroe set a new record.



# Neiman Marcus

## From front page

over the original plan, which called for a 50-foot-tall building and attendant parking in the Broadway Plaza garage to compensate for the required 175 parking spaces. The Council, at the request of Macerich, agreed in December to rescind approval of that project to allow Macerich to submit a new proposal.

At its May 5 and 19 meetings, several citizens assailed the signature-gathering tactics employed last fall by Taubman and blasted out-of-town interests for trying to shape Walnut Creek's future.

The Council was enthusiastic about the changes to the project, including a reduction of the height to 35 feet, which will reduce the overall size of the building from 107,000 to 92,000 square feet.

The approved plan also creates 175 more public parking spaces by using auto lifts and attendant parking for Broadway Plaza employees only on the first and fifth floors of the garage.

"It's an excellent project," concluded Council member Bob Simmons. "It benefits Broadway Plaza and it's going to benefit our traditional downtown area."

Mayor Pro Tem Sue Rainey praised Macerich for "going back to the drawing board."

Council member Cindy Silva added that Macerich "developed a better project — it means a better downtown for all of our businesses."



A scale model (above) of the proposed Neiman Marcus store at Broadway Plaza was displayed at the City Council meeting on May 5, where staff planner Steve Buckley described the changes in the project to a packed audience (left).



## Meyer named new CDD director

City Manager Gary Pokorny on June 2 named Sandra Meyer to be the new director of the City's Community Development Department.

Meyer, a 20-year veteran of the City's



Sandra Meyer

planning division, has been interim CDD director since Valerie Barone left the post in December.

Previously, Meyer was planning manager from 2005 to 2008.

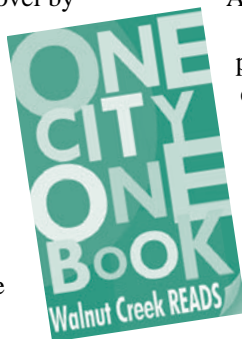
She oversees a staff of 30 in the planning, building, housing, economic development, and transportation planning divisions.

## Enchanting tale is latest 'One City, One Book' offering this summer

The latest offering in the popular *One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads* program is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, a novel by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows.

The story, which unfolds in a series of letters, is the enchanting tale of an English author living in the shadow of World War II and what she learns from the Guernsey Islanders about the power of friendship, books, love, and the human spirit.

Book lovers and occasional readers are invited to join the community read this summer and participate in a variety of citywide *One City, One Book* events in September and October.



Event highlights include:

- "Meet the Author — An Evening with Annie Barrows," at the Shadelands Arts Center on Sept. 24
- "Remembering Times of War," a panel discussion on the civilian experience at the Civic Park Community Center on Thursday, Oct. 8
- "Letters from the Guernsey Literary Society," a dramatic reading under the direction of Michael Butler at the Leshner Center for the Arts on Oct. 12

• Book discussions in Rossmoor, downtown Walnut Creek, and at the Ygnacio Valley Library

The complete calendar of events and the book discussion guide for the *One City, One Book* program are available at

[www.walnutcreekreads.org](http://www.walnutcreekreads.org), and at local libraries.

Copies of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* are available at the Walnut Creek Park Place and Ygnacio Valley libraries, at the Rossmoor Library, and at local bookstores.

The libraries also have a colorful and handy *Walnut Creek Reads 2009* bookmark with the complete calendar of special events and book discussions.

*One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads* is presented by the following organizations: Contra Costa Library, Walnut Creek Library Foundation, American Association of University Women, Walnut Creek branch, Walnut Creek and Ygnacio Valley Friends of the Library groups, the Rossmoor Library, and City of Walnut Creek.

## New EV charging stations available at three City garages

Driving an all-electric vehicle in Walnut Creek just got easier with the addition of new electrical vehicle (EV) charging stations at the City's three downtown parking garages.

Walnut Creek is one of the first cities in the Bay Area, along with San Francisco and San Jose, to make EV charging stations available to the public.

The charging stations, manufactured by Coulomb Technologies, were installed this spring at the North Locust Street, South Locust Street, and Broadway parking garages.

The innovative project provides opportunities for owners of hybrid-electric vehicles and all-electric vehicles to have them recharged while visiting or working downtown.

"We're on the forefront of this technology," said Matt Huffaker, Public Services business manager. "As more and more electric cars come into the market, the City will have the infrastructure to accommodate those vehicles."

Cost of the charge is free in 2009, Huffaker said, and users must furnish their



Vehicle Maintenance Supervisor Joe Jorgensen charges an all-electric City vehicle at the new charging station on the ground floor of the North Locust Street parking structure.

own three-pronged electrical cord. The charging stations offer both 110 and 220 voltage.

Drivers of plug-in vehicles must subscribe to the ChargePoint Network to gain access and use of the charging stations. Users have access to the Network through the subscriber portal called [www.mychargepoint.net](http://www.mychargepoint.net) that

eliminates energy theft. Starting Jan. 1, 2010 the cost will be \$3 per charge.

The EV charging station project was made possible through a partnership with 511 Contra Costa and the Contra Costa County Transportation Authority, which paid \$12,000 to provide the equipment. The City covered the costs of installation and maintenance.

## FEMA releases new 100-yr. floodplain maps

The City of Walnut Creek participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program that provides

federally subsidized flood insurance to any property owner within the community.

FEMA has prepared new floodplain maps for the City of Walnut Creek that became effective on June 16. The flood maps identify the 100-year or "high-risk" flood zone within the City.

The floodplain is largely unchanged from the original 1988 FEMA floodplain maps. However, some homeowners may not be aware of the potential flood risks within the City or the program requirement for properties in high-risk flood zones to purchase flood insurance if their mortgage lender is federally regulated or insured.

To review a copy of the floodplain maps please visit the FEMA map service center at [msc.fema.gov](http://msc.fema.gov) or contact the City's Engineering Department at 925-943-5839.

For more information on the NFIP and flood insurance options, go online to [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or call 1-888-379-9531.

## City beefs up water conservation efforts

Due to stricter water rationing implemented May 1 by the Contra Costa Water District and in order to save money, the City is beefing up its efforts to reduce water usage.

The City's landscape maintenance crews have cut off water to mature shrubs and trees and have begun reducing irrigation for turf areas in response to the water rationing. Additionally, planting of annuals is being cut back and new landscape projects are temporarily on hold until water budget issues can be reviewed.

The spring turf renovation program ended early with Tice Valley Park's field in May. El Divisadero Park field, which was

due for renovation in May, was skipped this year.

The City's parks, medians, and maintained landscapes get their water in a variety of forms and from different water companies. For instance, at Heather Farm Park water comes from EBMUD, CCWD potable, and CCWD raw canal water.

## Fluorescent bulb recycling

Got some old fluorescent light bulbs you want to get rid of? Walnut Creek residents can dispose of them at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at 4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez, Tues.-Sat., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 1-800-646-1431.



# Budget

## From front page

“It’s clear to me that while this shortfall is made worse by the economic downturn, our problem is structural and we’re going to have to make fundamental changes in our expectations and focus on the essentials,” said Pokorny.

During the Community Partner meetings held April 28, May 11 and 18, attendees — who included representatives from various non-profit organizations as well as other groups in Walnut Creek — expressed an appreciation for the support they have received from the City over the years.

“Participants showed an understanding of the problems we’re facing,” said Pokorny. “On the whole, the spirit and willingness to help was very encouraging.”

Last year the Council adopted a balanced two-year budget. However, projections showed looming deficits beyond June 2010. Over the last year, revenues dropped precipitously and the City is now facing a projected shortfall for 2009-10 of \$7.3 million — \$5.6 million plus the State “borrowing” \$1.7 million in property tax revenue.

The City over the last year has been addressing the shortfall in a variety of ways. It has already frozen 22 positions and will continue to leave vacant jobs unfilled in the future.

## City gets grant to buy creek plants

The City has received a \$15,525 grant from the County to purchase native plants for one of the riparian buffer areas along the Creek Walk within Civic Park.

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors recently awarded the Contra



Ralph Hoffmann and Jane Church were among 24 residents listening to City Manager Gary Pokorny make a point during the first of three “Community Partner” meetings on April 28 at the Civic Park Community Center. Around 100 citizens participated in the series of discussions that were held at different locations in Walnut Creek.

“We are currently in negotiations with our employees about salaries and benefits, which have been rising at a fast rate,” said Pokorny. “As a result, we are asking employees to accept changes that offset a portion of the shortfall.”

The City has also made reductions in non-personnel costs, Pokorny said.

This fall City officials will look to Walnut Creek citizens for guidance in

making further reductions in services and programs when the City hosts a series of Community Conversations throughout Walnut Creek. Folks will be asked to help prioritize programs and services in order to balance the City’s operating budget in 2010-12.

Details on the Community Conversations sessions will be in the next issue of the *Nutshell*.

## Street work begins in Almond/Shuey

Work will begin in July on a street overlay in the Almond/Shuey neighborhood.

The \$357,000 project, which should be completed in August, will consist of milling the existing asphalt concrete surface and placing a new, 2-inch overlay of asphalt concrete.

The following streets are included in this project: Almond Avenue - Oakland Blvd. to California Blvd.; Almond Court - Almond Avenue to Shuey Avenue.; Brooks Street - Almond Avenue to Shuey Avenue; Dora Avenue - Brooks Street to end; Shuey Avenue - Bonanza St. to end; Stow Avenue - Shuey Ave. to end; Parrot Court - Vallecito Lane to end.

For more information, contact Engineer Ryan Cook at 925-943-5899, x. 2364.

Costa County’s Fish and Wildlife Propagation grant for the Civic Park Creek Walk riparian habitat restoration project.

Friends of the Creek will remove exotic and invasive plants in preparation for revegetation with native species.



## Have a seat

Teens were enlisted in May to vote for their favorite chair design from several options planned for the teen area of the new Walnut Creek Library that is under construction next to Civic Park. Among those who weighed in on their favorite chair were (from left) Jeannie Tran, 16, Las Lomas High School; Rebecca Pearl, 15, Las Lomas; Andrew Clakley, 15, De La Salle High School; and Lauren Sipich, 17, Las Lomas.

### Habitat for Humanity housing

The City Council on May 5 authorized spending \$250,000 to acquire Caltrans surplus property at the end of Barkley Avenue for eight affordable ownership units to be built by Habitat for Humanity.

Six of the new homes would target low- and very low-income, first-time homebuyers, who will have to contribute at least 500 hours of “sweat equity” for their homes.

### City receives donation for K-9 Unit

Members of the Walnut Creek Dog Owners Group (WCDOG) presented the City with a check for \$9,000 on May 5 to help pay the costs of the Police Department’s newest K-9 Unit member, Kar.

In a presentation at the City Council meeting (see photo below), WCDOG’s Sandra Nakamura-Bush and Joan McClure handed a check to Chief of Police Joel Bryden and thanked the City for its commitment to increased public safety through the K-9 program.

The Police Department welcomed Kar, its second German shepherd, to its K-9 Unit in April, joining Orfas on the duty roster to assist in sniffing out people and narcotics.

Kar lives with his handler, Sgt. Joe Donleavy. The Safeway Foundation and Milk-Bone brand joined together on April 16 to donate \$5,000 to the K-9 Unit program to help pay for Kar.

To make a donation to WCDOG for the K-9 program, go to [www.wcdog.org](http://www.wcdog.org)



Chief of Police Joel Bryden accepts from Sandra Nakamura-Bush, right, and Monica Daigle-Kleisath of WCDOG a check for \$9,000 that helped secure Kar, the newest member of the Police K-9 Corps, at the City Council meeting on May 5.

## Chevron Family Theatre Festival returns to Leshner Center on July 25

In what has become a jubilant community tradition, the *Chevron Family Theatre Festival* returns for the third year to the Leshner Center for the Arts on Saturday, July 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for another full day of entertainment for the entire family.

The *Chevron Family Theatre Festival* will feature more than two dozen professional performances in the Center’s three theatres, lobbies, and outside areas. Storytelling, costumed characters, puppet making, puppet shows, live music, and sword fighting demonstrations.

This year’s lineup includes the Sippy Cups, *Sesame Street* puppeteer Leslie Carrara, the Fantasy Forum Ensemble performing *Robin Hood*, the Platt Brothers acrobatic troupe, The Pushcart Players,



Muppets puppeteer Leslie Carrara will return with her puppets to perform at the *Chevron Family Theatre Festival*

the Rosen Family Singers, and much more.

Tickets for performances inside the Leshner Center will be \$5 for each show (shows are 45-50 minutes long).

To purchase tickets online, go to [www.lesherARTScenter.org/theatrefestival](http://www.lesherARTScenter.org/theatrefestival)

## Parking

**From front page** have to make sure we match the demand for parking.”

A 2006 City study of downtown parking concluded that, although there is ample parking in the heavily visited retail and dining district, some garages are “hard to spot” and some people don’t want to pay for parking. That means more people are competing for a limited number of on-street parking spaces while plenty of spaces sit empty in nearby City garages.

“It’s not the amount of parking you have but the perception that there’s not enough,” said consultant Jeffrey Tumlin of Nelson/Nygaard, who conducted the City’s parking study.

“You have not a parking supply problem but a parking management problem,” he told the workshop attendees.

Tumlin recommends the City set goals for managing parking, including:

- Putting customers first
- Focusing on parking availability, not supply
- Involving the business community
- Creating a “park once” environment
- Establishing a market rate for parking



City officials, business owners, and citizens met June 1 at City Hall to discuss downtown parking challenges and solutions.

- Investing in all transportation modes
- Paying attention to the downtown’s own strengths

“Focusing on the customer and the customer experience is imperative if you want a successful downtown,” said Tumlin. “People will walk further distances in downtown Walnut Creek because it is a spectacular shopping environment.”

Among the ideas generated during the workshop were:

- Better marketing/increase public education of downtown parking options
- Deal better with employee parking needs
- More signage to point people to available parking
- Provide garage parking discounts to Walnut Creek residents
- Increase on-street parking meter rates
- Market the Free Ride trolley more
- Make garages more inviting



## WC offers safe place to dispose of unwanted medicines

Since setting up a safe place for citizens to dispose of unused or expired over-the-counter or prescription medications at City Hall, the City has collected nearly 1,000 pounds of unwanted pharmaceuticals.



The pharmaceutical disposal drop-off bin is in the lobby at City Hall.

The Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, and the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority.

The collection program was launched to address the problem of people disposing of pharmaceuticals in either the trash or down a toilet or drain. Those methods of disposal can allow medications to make their way into regional water sources by passing through wastewater treatment plants.

The drop-off program can alleviate some of that pollution. The program also benefits senior citizens by providing a disposal option that decreases the likelihood of anyone taking a wrong or outdated medication by mistake and gives family members a convenient place to dispose of unwanted medicines.

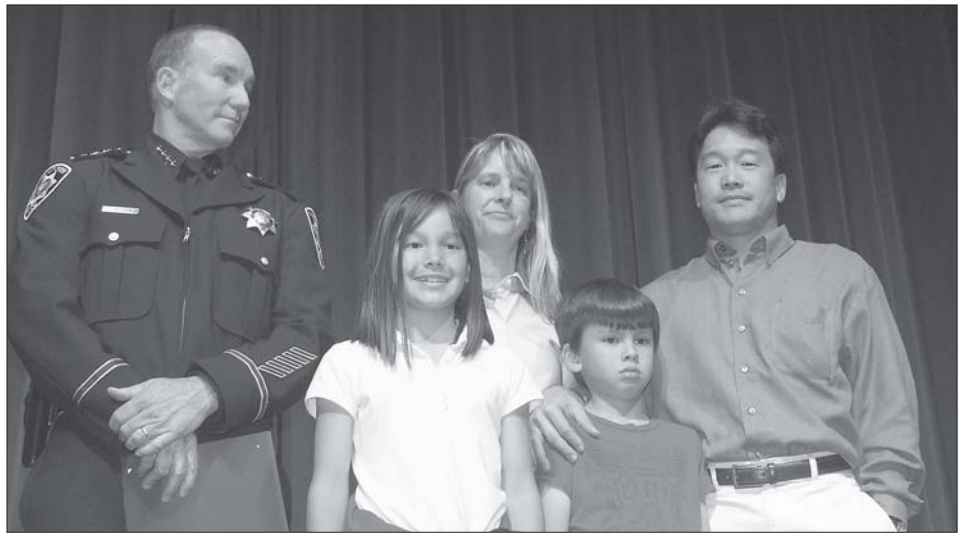
"The City of Walnut Creek is committed to this pilot program," said Walnut Creek Police Lt. Shelly James. "It's an effort to better serve the needs of our residents and curtail the misuse of prescription medication."

Anyone dropping off medicines should put pills into a sealable plastic bag; liquids should be left in their bottles, enclosed in a sealed plastic bag to prevent leakage.

**Please note that needles/syringes are not accepted.**

The City Hall collection site is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is not available on evenings, weekends, or holidays.

The collection site has averaged between 200 and 300 pounds a month of disposed medications since the bin was set up in February by Walnut Creek,



Chief of Police Joel Bryden congratulates Citizen's Commendation Award recipient Langley Choy, right, who was joined by his wife, Kirsten, daughter Mikala, and son Connor.

## City honors local heroes for service

Chief of Police Joel Bryden honored two local heroes May 12 for helping police make arrests in crimes committed in the area during the past year.

Langley Choy and Miguel Lopez received Citizen's Commendation Awards for coming forward as witnesses of crimes that resulted in two arrests.

Their willingness to get involved and be a good witness led to the arrests of a known felon responsible for committing several burglaries in the area and a hit-and-run suspect.

On Sept. 20, 2008, Mr. Choy observed a subject acting suspiciously near his neighbor's garage. After watching him ride away from the residence on a bicycle, Choy immediately contacted his neighbor and confirmed that the subject had just stolen the bicycle from within the garage.

After asking his wife, Kirsten, to call the police, Mr. Choy got into his car and followed the subject to the rear of a nearby condominium complex and directed

responding police officers to the subject's location. Police contacted the subject, who Mr. Choy positively identified, and placed him under arrest for burglary.

The subject, who was on parole, was found to be in possession of property that was stolen from a vehicle in Pleasant Hill. Further investigation revealed he had also committed a residential burglary a day earlier in Concord.

On Jan. 29, 2009, Mr. Lopez was driving west on Walnut Avenue when he saw a silver Honda Civic strike and injure a bicyclist and then drive off. Mr. Lopez dialed 9-1-1 as he followed the hit-and-run vehicle down several residential streets in an effort to get the vehicle license plate.

He followed the motorist to Treat Boulevard at Bancroft Road, where he was able to summon a Concord police officer, who immediately made a traffic stop on the vehicle and detained the driver until Walnut Creek police arrived and arrested the driver for felony hit-and-run.

## Pick up your dog poop ... and thanks

Dog poop. It's a serious health problem. Why? Because it contains disease-carrying bacteria that can make people sick and can pollute our waters.

Imagine how unhealthy it would become if no one picked up after their pets. So please pick up after your pooch.

Remind your neighbors to pick up after theirs. Your dog can't help it. But you can.

With the large number of dogs in our

community, imagine how unhealthy it would become if no one picked up after their pets. If left on the ground, dog waste can wash into storm drains, polluting our community and our waters. You can do your part – pick up after your pet and throw it away in the

garbage – never wash it into the gutter or storm drain. Remind others to do the same. It's good manners and good health policy.





## Getting ready

Community members (from left) Lisa Katzki, Monica Daigle-Kleisath, and Donna Shaw treated a "victim" during a real-time emergency preparedness drill in Larkey Park on May 30. Nearly 200 citizens participated in the activity through the City's CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) program. For more information about CERT, go online to [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org) and click on "Quick Links" for Emergency Preparedness.



## City Directory

Arts Education classes	943-5846
Bicycle registration	943-5844
Boundary Oak Golf	934-4775
Building Division permits	256-3549
Business licenses	943-5821
City Clerk's Office	943-5818
City Hall main number	943-5800
City Manager's office	943-5812
Civic Park rentals	943-5853
Community relations	943-5895
Crime prevention	943-5885
Employment hotline	943-5817
Heather Farm Pool	943-5856
Leisure Service classes	943-5858
Mayor's Office	256-3504
Open Space information	943-5855
Planning/Zoning hotline	256-3558
Police (non-emergency)	943-5844
Senior citizen activities	943-5851
Street light out	943-5899, x.2432
Ticket Office (Leshler Ctr)	943-7469

## Live videocasts of Planning Commission meetings now on City's website

Walnut Creek residents can now watch Planning Commission meetings broadcast via a live video feed on the City's internet site (along with City Council meetings) at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org)

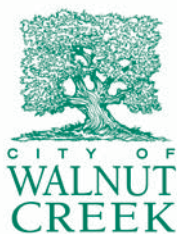
(Quick Links).

All Planning Commission meetings are now videotaped and archived in video format instead of audio.

Currently, all of the City's commission

meetings are audio-streamed and available to listen to on the City's website.

Note: Commission meetings are not televised on the local Comcast, Astound, or AT&T cable channels.



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

\* For appointment: Call 256-3504

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**CITY MANAGER**  
 Gary F. Pokorny  
**CITY ATTORNEY**  
 Paul Valle-Riestra  
**CITY CLERK**  
 Patrice Olds  
**CITY TREASURER**  
 Ronald Cassano

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**  
 Lorie Tinfo, 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

INA

## Nutshell

Published bi-monthly and mailed to Walnut Creek residents and businesses

Editor:  
 Brad Rovanpera

We welcome your comments and questions.  
 Please call 943-5895 or 943-5800  
 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For past issues, go online at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://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**