

IN A

# Nutshell

No. 117

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

MARCH/APRIL 2005

## Council to ask voters to OK library bond

Calling it the community's "highest priority," the City Council on Jan. 31 agreed to put before Walnut Creek voters later this year a bond measure for building a new downtown library.

In a special session, the Council acknowledged that there is a lot of work to do in the coming months to come up with a new conceptual design for the library that will meet the community's high expectations and secure voter support for a general obligation bond measure on the November 2005 ballot.

If the bond measure passes, construction on the 42,000-square-foot library could begin as early as spring 2007.

"This is going to be a major effort," said City Manager Mike Parness. "We're going to have to do whatever it takes to get the (bond campaign) done on time."

The new library would replace the 44-year-old facility at 1644 No. Broadway — an undersized, 9,234-square-foot building operated by the County.

For several years, Walnut Creek residents have rated a new downtown library as a top priority for the community.

The current library was built when Walnut Creek's population was about 10,000, and is woefully inadequate in size and services to meet the needs of the current population of 66,000.

This spring the City will choose three or four architectural firms to participate in a design competition in which the public will have a role. The Council expects to approve a final conceptual design in June.

Council members agreed that public participation is paramount in choosing a **LIBRARY, see back page**



## Planting oaks for the open space

Longtime open space volunteer Dick Daniel prepares to plant two acorns in the Shell Ridge Open Space in a symbolic ceremony on Dec. 11 to observe the City's retirement of the 1974 Open Space bond. The historic bond measure raised \$6.75 million to purchase the Shell Ridge territory (previously targeted for housing), which led to the City's eventual accumulation of 2,704 acres of public open space over the last 30 years.

## Skate park groundbreaking Apr. 9

City Council members will break ground on the Walnut Creek Skate Park on Saturday, April 9 at 10 a.m. in a festive public event that will begin at the corner of Heather and Marchbanks drives in Heather Farm Park.

The 12,250-square-foot skate park is expected to be opened later this summer. It was designed by Purkiss-Rose-RSI of Fullerton with the input of area skaters.

Following the brief groundbreaking ceremony, local skaters will demonstrate their skills in a temporary skate park to be set up in the front ballfield parking lot at North San Carlos and Heather drives.

The Friends of the Skate Park, in partnership with the Walnut Creek Fountain for Youth Foundation, has launched several fundraising opportunities to pay for skate park amenities such as lighting, benches, and a water fountain.

To date the organization has raised \$25,000 and a pledge for \$5,000 through its fundraising efforts. Donations have been received from Sunrise Rotary Club in Walnut Creek (\$10,000), the Walnut Creek Soccer Club (\$5,000), and Copeland Sports has pledged \$5,000 for lighting.

For details on how to contribute, go online at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org).

## City Event Calendar

### March

**18-19**  
**Seniors Club**  
**Second Hand Sale**  
(See *What's Happening*)

**26**  
**Spring Egg Hunts**  
Heather Farm & Larkey parks  
(See *What's Happening*)

### April

**16**  
**Trail Day**  
Borges Ranch, 1035 Castle  
Rock Rd., 8 a.m.  
For details, call Ranger Art  
Janke at 930-7731

## City Meeting Calendar

**City Council**   
March 1, 15; April 5, 19  
7 p.m.  
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

**Planning Commission**  
March 10, 21; April 11, 28  
7:30 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Arts Commission**  
March 7, April 4  
4:30 p.m.  
Leshner Center for the Arts

**Transportation Commission**  
March 17, April 21  
7:30 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Design Review Commission**  
March 2, 16; April 6, 20  
7 p.m., City Council chamber

**Park, Rec & Open Space Commission**  
March 7, April 4  
7 p.m., City Council chamber

 **City Council meetings are televised live on Comcast Channels 6 and 26 (unincorporated), and on Astound Channel 29. They are repeated the following Saturday at 1 p.m. on all.**

 **Walnut Creek Currents, a City-produced 10-minute video digest on City activities and services: Comcast Channels 6 and 26 — Daily at 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., and Wed. at 7:30 p.m. Astound Ch. 29 — Daily at noon and 7 p.m.**

## City's Center REP earns eight top Shellie awards

The City's Center Repertory Company brought home eight coveted Shellie Awards for outstanding achievement in regional performing arts at the 26th annual ceremony held Jan. 15 at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts.



Center REP took top honors for *Anna Christie* (best play), Diana Torres Koss (actress, musical), Jessa Brie Berkner (actress, play), Aldo Billingslea (supporting actor, play), Lee Sankowich (director, play), Eric Sinkkonen (scenic design, play), Kurt Landisman (lighting design, play), and Toni Kilcoyne (outstanding service).

## WC Band to present Spring Concert April 12

The Walnut Creek Concert Band will present its annual Spring Concert on Tuesday, April 12 at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive.

The 8 p.m. concert will feature the *Second Suite in F for Band* by Gustav Holst, *Irish Tune from County Derry* by Percy Grainger, and William Schuman's *New England Triptych*.

Tickets can be purchased for \$8 from the Center Ticket Office at 1601 Civic Dr. or by calling 925-943-SHOW(7469).

The Walnut Creek Concert Band will perform under the direction of Harvey Benstein.

## What's Happening

ship. For information on the nearest Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Center, call 1-800-358-8832.

### Free home composting workshops

Free "Home Composting for Busy People" workshops will be held in Walnut Creek on March 8 and April 5, 7-8:30 p.m., at The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr. Registration is required; call 906-1806.

### Spring Plant Sale for Gardens at HF

The Gardens at Heather Farm will hold its benefit Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 600 North San Carlos Drive. Call (925) 947-1678 or visit [www.gardenshf.org](http://www.gardenshf.org).

### Host an international student

Diablo Valley College is again seeking host families to house international students on a temporary basis while they improve their English skills. Host families receive a \$650 monthly stipend per student. Contact Fia Parker at (925) 676-4600, x. 103 or e-mail: [fparker@dvc.edu](mailto:fparker@dvc.edu)

### New Building Division info line

The City's Building Division has a new information line for the public: (925) 256-3549.

### Youth orchestras to perform March 22

The 96 talented youngsters of Civic Arts Education's Young Performers String Orchestra and the Diablo Regional Youth Orchestra will perform in concert on March 22 at the Hofmann Theatre in the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr. The 7 p.m. concert will be conducted by professional musician Rem Djemilev. Tickets are \$7 and \$10 and can be purchased by calling (925) 943-SHOW(7469).

### WC Seniors' Second Hand Sale

The Walnut Creek Seniors' Club's annual Second Hand Sale will be Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days, at the Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr. A wide variety of items will be available for purchase, including clothing, toys, books, collectibles, and jewelry. (Note: Donations of these items will be accepted at the community center weekdays through March 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please, no furniture, computers, TVs, office equipment, or telephones.) All proceeds benefit the Seniors' Club. For more information, call 943-5852.

### Spring Egg Hunts planned March 26

Children can participate in Walnut Creek's annual Spring Egg Hunts on Saturday, March 26 at Heather Farm Park or Larkey Park. The activity begins promptly at 10:15 a.m. at both parks for preschoolers through 5th graders; Heather Farm is accessible for disabled children. A pancake-and-sausage breakfast will also be offered before the egg hunt at Heather Farm Community Center from 8 to 9:45 a.m.; cost is \$5 per person.

### Children invited to Spring Art Days

*Spring Art Days* will be held March 28-April 1 at Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Ln. The program, sponsored by Civic Arts Education, groups children ages 5 to 10 by age with activities appropriate to each group. Sessions will be 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The fee is \$25 per child per session. To register, call 943-5846 or go on-line at <http://ezreg.arts-ed.org/>

### Free tax prep help for low income earners

Low income families can get free tax preparation assistance through April 15 in a program sponsored by the Family Economic Security Partner-

## General Plan ready for consideration by Planning Commission

After nearly two years of study, discussion and analysis, the proposed General Plan update is shifting to the Planning Commission this spring for its consideration.



The 21-member General Plan Steering Committee, which has been meeting since June 2003, held its final sessions in February before passing off the ambitious project to the commission. The committee, comprising representatives from all five City commissions and the City treasurer, has met 29 times to oversee the preparation of the first new General Plan since 1989. Adoption is expected in 2006.

The public will get more opportunities to provide feedback on proposed land use change areas and General Plan policies at Planning Commission meetings scheduled March 17, 21, 24 and April 11. All will begin at 7 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 1666 No. Main St.

For more information, visit the City website at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org).

## Plan expert to get top national honor

Naphtali H. Knox, who is guiding the General Plan update, will receive the Distinguished Leadership Award for a Professional Planner on March 22 from the American Planning Association.

Knox, a 48-year planning veteran who was hired by the City in 2003 to assist in rewriting Walnut Creek's General Plan, is being recognized for his commitment and dedication to advancing the planning profession.

## Civic Pride Grants to be available again

Since 1989, the City Council has been providing Civic Pride Grants to help underwrite the costs of community projects that improve the quality of life in Walnut Creek.

For 2005-06, the City is making approximately \$75,000 available for Civic Pride Grants. Preference will be given to projects or programs that promote cultural diversity, provide a long-term community benefit, or are new or expanded programs



## Planning for happier customers

Customers of the new Development Review Counter for the Planning, Building, Engineering, and Transportation divisions on the second floor of City Hall can now find such user-friendly features as a water station, children's activity table, chairs, and reading materials.

## Civic Arts Ed offices to move to City Hall

After making their home in Civic Park for over 40 years, the administrative offices of Civic Arts Education will finally move into City Hall this spring.



Beginning April 18, the public will be able to visit the new offices, which will be located off the main lobby and next to the City Council Chamber.

Civic Arts Education, established in 1963 in Quonset huts in Civic Park, is the largest community-supported arts education program in Northern California. The current offices and studios are housed in portable buildings that were originally used on the U.C. Berkeley campus following World War II. The City acquired them in 1966 to house Civic Arts Education's offices, three studios, a music studio, and a darkroom.

"What will be nice is we'll be in a real building," said Arts Education manager Kathy Nelson. "We've always been in

temporaries."

The City is exploring options to remove two of the existing studio buildings on the east side of the bridge later this year and perhaps

move the affected classes into the Park Place building at the corner of Civic Drive and No. Broadway or into another facility.

Office hours at City Hall will be Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed 12:30-1:30 p.m.).

## Learn WC history on City Bus Tour

Visit some historic landmarks and learn more about Walnut Creek on the next City Bus Tour set for Saturday, April 30.

City Public Information Officer Brad Rovanner will lead this 3½-hour excursion, which starts at 8:30 a.m.

Stops along the way will include historic Borges Ranch, Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, The Gardens at Heather Farm, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, and the Diablo Valley Lines Model Railroad.

Tickets are \$10 per person and must be reserved in advance by phone on a first-come basis. Seating is limited. To reserve up to four tickets, call (925) 256-3505 and leave your name, address, phone, and number of tickets.

## Specialized Recreation

# Kicking up their heels is part of fun in City program

When Vicky Case thrusts her left foot in a classic karate kick, she's doing more than practicing a defensive move. She's one of hundreds of local residents with special needs who has learned how to eliminate obstacles through Walnut Creek's popular Specialized Recreation program.

The City has been offering unique opportunities to developmentally disabled persons for more than 25 years, and its program is one of the largest in the Bay Area.

The program, which attracts around 200 participants throughout the year, is based at Civic Park Community Center and is available to everyone from age 5 to adult. Participants are individuals with special needs who suffer from such conditions as autism, Down's syndrome, cerebral palsy, and attention deficit disorder. These individuals require special interaction, which is provided in the person of Preston Jones, the City's specialized recreation program coordinator since 1998.



Recreation Leader Jenny Perham joins Mike Platter in stretching.

“Working with the special needs population has been the most rewarding experience of my life thus far,” said Jones. “Knowing them has made me a better father, husband, friend, and teacher.”

Martial arts classes are especially popular with all ages, allowing them to try their hand (and feet) at



Recreation Leader Debbie Landesman, center, supervises a karate sparring match at Civic Park Community Center between Vicky Case and Cheryl Johnson.

such disciplines as karate, tae kwondo, aikido, and judo. Most special needs participants would not be able to enroll in a regular karate academy, so Jones (a 5th degree black belt) provides an adaptive martial arts program that focuses on coordination activities and works at an individual's ability level. He's proud of the fact that one of his specialized recreation students has gone on to higher rankings.

Walnut Creek's specialized recreation program offers a wide variety of activities, including plays at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, baseball games, bowling, white water rafting, horseback riding, and visits to Monterey Bay. A summer day camp is also available to persons age 5 to 21.

For more information or to sign up for an activity, call (925) 256-3531 or go on-line at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org)

## Got a beef with your neighbor? Conflict Resolution Programs can help sort it out

Robert Frost once mused that good fences make good neighbors. But when your fence falls down, and you and your neighbor disagree over who should rebuild it and how, that's when you might want to contact Conflict Resolution Programs.

This countywide service, which receives annual support from the City, offers mediation services using a neutral third party to ease the way to a solution.

In 2004, 320 Walnut Creek residents took advantage of the program, which ultimately served 1,234 individuals.

The Conflict Resolution Programs

process is faster than court, with mediation meetings usually held as quickly as two to three weeks. The services are provided at a low cost, with nominal fees charged based on each party's income. Further, the sessions are guaranteed to be confidential.

The bottom line is that it works.

“In the overwhelming majority of cases that come to mediation, the parties are able to agree on something that will make their lives easier going forward,” said Mady Shumofsky, case coordinator for Conflict Resolution Programs.

Here's how it works: 1) a case developer listens to your problem and asks for

details; 2) with your permission, the case developer contacts the other party and encourages participation in a panel hearing; 3) a hearing is scheduled at a time and place convenient to all; 4) the impartial panel will assist the parties in reaching a mutually satisfactory agreement; and 5) when an agreement is reached, the specifics are noted by a panelist and signed by all parties.

Your voluntary signature on the agreement signifies your commitment to uphold the resolution.

For more information, call 925-798-6132 or 925-687-8844, ext. 301.

# LINDSAY AT 50

## Museum holds year-long celebration to observe its Golden Anniversary

**I**t all began in 1955 at Alexander “Sandy” Lindsay’s home (today’s Seven Hills Ranch School), where the young dad taught his own and neighborhood children how to care for animals and care about nature. Shortly thereafter, Lindsay opened the Diablo Junior Museum in a classroom at Walnut Creek Intermediate School. Today, 50 years later, his namesake wildlife center and refuge in Larkey Park continues Lindsay’s mission and passion for all the wild things as it observes its golden anniversary with a year-long celebration, beginning with a new retrospective exhibit on the museum’s history and culminating in a community festival on Oct. 8 in Larkey Park.

“The mission of the museum is connecting people to wildlife,” said Executive Director Eunice Valentine. “It’s that connection that is so powerful. It changes you.”

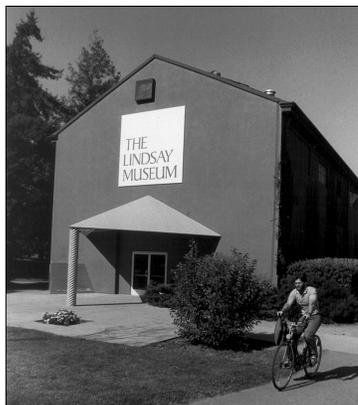
The museum adopted Lindsay’s name after his untimely passing in 1962, and with the assistance of the City, the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum moved into an abandoned East Bay Municipal Utility District pump house at Larkey Park in 1965. Five years later, the museum established its innovative wildlife rehabilitation hospital, which today remains one of the largest in the nation, caring for nearly 6,000 injured and orphaned animals annually. In 1987, the name was shortened to The Lindsay Museum and officials made plans to move it into a new home a few yards away in the park.

On Dec. 1, 1993, the \$4.5 million Lindsay Wildlife Museum opened its doors, offering visitors a variety of face-to-face experiences with wild birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and mammals. The City contributed \$2.3 million plus \$750,000 in loans to get it completed. Today, the City continues to provide \$100,000 annually to the museum’s \$2.4 million budget, as well as \$24,500 in Civic Pride Grants since 1997.

An estimated 110,000 visitors annually come to see the museum’s non-releasable creatures, which are all native California wildlife. The museum’s 550 volunteers and a paid staff of 35 keep the Lindsay humming, providing outreach and tours to over 30,000 children each year. “I think the volunteers are really the heart and soul of the museum,” said Valentine. “They’re why the museum has existed and thrived for 50 years.”



‘Sandy’ Lindsay



### Lindsay Museum at a glance

**Address:** 1931 First Avenue  
**Hours:** School year (noon-5 p.m., Tues-Fri;  
10 a.m.-5 p.m., weekends)  
Summer (10 a.m.-5 p.m, Tues-Sun)  
Closed Mondays  
**Admission:** Adults, \$6; seniors, \$5; children ages  
3-17, \$4; under age 3, free  
**Information:** 925-935-1978  
[www.wildlife-museum.org](http://www.wildlife-museum.org)

**KODAK MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE LINDSAY WILDLIFE MUSEUM** (clockwise from top): museum volunteer Es Anderson and wildlife supervisor Sandy Fender clean oil off a duck following a 1988 oil spill in Martinez; docents allow children to get up close and personal with owls and a snake; the former Lindsay Museum was housed in an EBMUD pump house in Larkey Park from 1965 to 1993.

## City Council Update

### Commissioners reappointed

The City Council on Jan. 4 reappointed members of two City advisory commissions who had asked to serve a second term.

The Council reappointed **Tom Bassett** and **Brian Kilian** to the Design Review Commission and **Rick Underwood** and **Tracy Murray** to the Park, Recreation & Open Space Commission. All three were appointed to three-year terms.

Also, the Council reappointed **Nancy Brownfield** to another three-year term as the City's representative to the Contra Costa County Mosquito & Vector Control District.

Other commission appointments were also pending in February.

New commissioners will be sworn in at the first council meeting in March.

### Redevelopment plan approved

The City Council — acting as the City's Redevelopment Agency — on Jan. 4 approved a five-year redevelopment implementation plan to eliminate blighted conditions and increase housing in the Mt. Diablo Boulevard/South Broadway project area.

### No business licenses to be issued Apr. 1-8

No new business licenses will be processed April 1-8 while the City installs new computer software.

However, the business license office will be open that week during its regular hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. so the public may still file applications for business licenses.

The City will issue those licenses after the software installation is completed.

For information, call (925) 943-5821.

### Single stream recycling to begin in WC

This spring, residents of single family homes in Walnut Creek will find it easier to recycle all the myriad items that they have been required to sort at the curb.

Beginning in March, residents will be able to commingle their recyclables in one cart, thereby eliminating the nuisance of having to sort newspapers and magazines from plastic bottles and aluminum cans.

Valley Waste Management will start modifying each existing burgundy cart



### Teen Job Fair set March 3

The City will hold its annual Summer Job Recruitment Fair for teens on Thursday, March 3 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Civic Park Community Center Assembly Hall at North Broadway and Civic Drive to recruit teen workers for upwards of 100 jobs (including lifeguards, summer camp counselors, and interns). At last year's event, Recreation Program Specialist Karen Heaston, right, chatted with a student and his mom about job opportunities at the City's pool centers. This year, guest speaker Nancy Beals of Walnut Creek Intermediate School will offer two half-hour sessions on "Creative Ways to Make Money" at 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. for students aged 13 to 15. The City will be accepting applications through May for the summer jobs. Check the "Jobs with the City" link on the City's website, [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org). For more information, contact Renée Zeimer at 256-3503 or Lisa Geerlof at 943-5899 ext. 424.

### Time to think about tree pruning

Nearly all trees need periodic pruning, especially when they are young. This helps to improve shape and to encourage a safe, strong structure.

If you're planning to prune a tree, remember that there is a right way and there is a wrong way. Proper pruning is important because trees can enhance property values by as much as 27 percent. Improper pruning can damage the health of a tree and mar its beauty, thus reducing property values.

Your best bet for a properly pruned tree is to hire a professional arborist certified by the Western Chapter of the Interna-

tional Society of Arboriculture. Look in the yellow pages of your phone book for a list of certified arborists.

If you're thinking of removing a tree, you'll need a permit. Call the City's Public Services office at (925) 943-5854 for details or visit [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org).

#### Tree pruning tips . . .

Winter is the ideal time to inspect your trees and determine if they need pruning.

Following are tips on how to prune your trees safely and correctly:

- Remove broken or dead limbs
- Thin trees; don't stub cut branches
- When cutting a limb, be sure to leave the branch collar for quick healing
- Don't use patching paste or paint to seal cuts — it can inhibit healing
- Prune fruit-bearing trees annually
- Prune ornamental or shade trees only every eight years

Free informational brochures on tree care are available at City Hall.



By Officer Lee Herrington

## New traffic laws for 2005

The new year brings us some new State traffic laws. The following information comes courtesy of the California Highway Patrol with some additional comments from your friendly neighborhood Traffic Officer.



### Child Restraints

Beginning Jan. 1, all children under the age of 6 or weighing less than 60 pounds are required to be properly restrained in the back seat of passenger vehicles.

Exceptions include vehicles with no rear seat, rear seats that are rear or side-facing, and if all rear seats are occupied by children under the age of twelve. The law also prohibits children from riding in the front seat of a vehicle with an active passenger airbag if the child is under the age of one or weighs less than 20 pounds or is riding in a rear-facing restraint system.

The Walnut Creek Police Department highly recommends all users of child seats have their seats inspected by a trained safety seat technician. The Walnut Creek Police Department, in cooperation with Nurses and Cops Caring for Kids, offers child seat inspections. Please call (925) 941-7989 to schedule and appointment.

### Motorized Scooters

This new law now requires users of motorized scooters to have a valid Class C driver's license or instruction permit. The law also prohibits operating a scooter on a highway or off highway unless it has a properly maintained muffler in constant operation. Motorized scooters such as Go-Peds are a frequent source of noise complaints and reckless driving in Walnut Creek neighborhoods.

### Traffic Signal Devices

This prohibits unauthorized purchase, possession, manufacture, installation, sale or distribution of a MIRT or other devices capable of sending a signal that interrupts or changes the sequence patterns of an official traffic control signal. Authorized emergency vehicles and public transit vehicles are excepted.

## Police track criminal offenses for 2004

The death of an 82-year-old woman in her Creekside Drive apartment in a fire on Dec. 30 was the only homicide in Walnut Creek in 2004, according to police.

A statistical summary of criminal offenses in 2004 compiled by the Police Department (see box at right) shows the biggest increase over 2003 levels for thefts, which includes shoplifting and thefts from vehicles (up 20 percent) and burglaries (up nearly 20 percent).

In 2004 police handled 33,350 events, of which 9,925 were cases requiring follow-up. Crimes against property accounted for 3,303 incidents.

Also in 2004, the department investigated 990 non-injury motor vehicle accidents, 231 injury accidents, and one fatality.

### CRIMINAL OFFENSES

CRIME	2003	2004
Homicide	0	1
Rape	8	4
Robbery	18	33
Burglary	434	520
Theft	1938	2332
Auto Theft	263	285
Vandalism	738	685
D.U.I.	323	307
Sex Offenses	35	20
Weapons	36	38

Statistics compiled by the Police Department

## Do's and don'ts of draining pools, spas

Summertime is almost here ... but before you decide to drain that "yucky" swimming pool or hot spa water, did you know that discharging chlorinated water into the street is prohibited by the City's Municipal Code?

There are 3,287 swimming pools in Walnut Creek. Imagine what the impact will be cumulatively to our environment if chlorine-saturated pool water was drained into our gutters.

Chlorine is commonly used to disinfect and remove pathogens, such as bacteria and viruses, in the water. While it's relatively safe for human, it is harmful to fish and other aquatic life, even at low concentration. Chlorinated water should not be discharged into street where it can enter storm drain and thus, flow untreated to our local creeks.

You can do your part by following these 'Best Management Practices':

1. The best option is to discharge chlorinated water from pools and hot tubs to the sanitary sewer (sewage treatment plant).
2. When discharge to a sanitary sewer is not possible, either because it is unavailable or not allowed, then chlori-

nated water from pools and hot tubs may be disposed on the ground or irrigated on your property under the following circumstances:

- Prior to disposing or irrigating the water, shut off the chlorination system if you have one, or stop adding chlorine.
- Hold the water in the pool or hot tub for at least one week to reduce the chlorine level.
- Discharge or irrigate the water in an area where the water will not flow into a stream or storm sewer.
- Discharge or irrigate the water on your property and ensure that it does not flow off your property.
- Discharge or irrigate the

water in a manner that will prevent nuisance conditions (such as creation of odors, and fly and mosquito breeding conditions). Nuisance conditions occur when water is ponded for a prolonged period.

**Note:** Water from backflushing pool filters should not be discharged to a stream, ditch or storm sewer. Backflush from pool filters must be discharged to the sanitary sewer, on-site septic tank and drainfield system (if properly designed and adequately sized), or a seepage pit.



# Library

## From front page

final design if the bond measure is to pass.

A two-thirds majority is required for a general obligation bond to be approved.

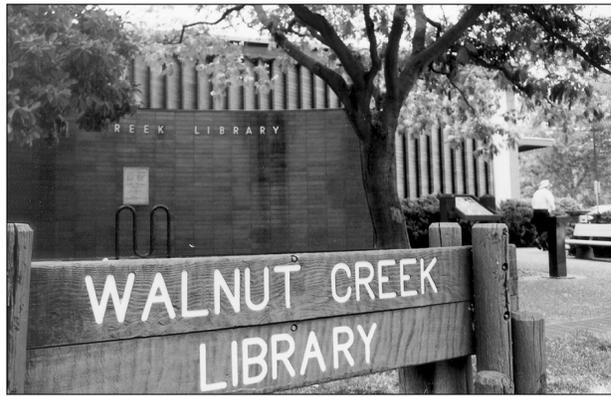
The winning design would encompass an already approved interior layout for the two-story library, which calls for a large community meeting room and larger individual areas for users of all ages.

City staff will also work on determining the size and location of a new parking structure to serve the library as well as the existing Civic Park Community Center and perhaps to enhance access to downtown parking.

The City is also looking at ways to better integrate the new library and parking facility to preserve the character of the park, which may mean acquiring more property.

The City will partner with the Walnut Creek Library Foundation, Friends of the Libraries, school districts, and the County in its public outreach efforts.

The foundation has set a goal of raising a significant endowment for the library.



The undersized and aging library would be razed to make room for the new library.

## Walnut Creek ranks in nation's top 10 of tech-savvy cities

Walnut Creek was honored in 2004 as one of the most technologically-advanced cities in America by the Center for Digital Government based on its 2004 Digital Cities Survey.

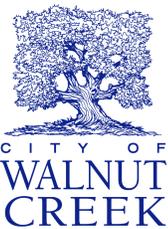
The annual study examines how city governments are utilizing digital technologies, including websites, to better serve their citizens and streamline operations.

Walnut Creek placed in the top 10 of cities with a population of 30,000-74,999, ranking eighth. Redmond, Washington was rated in first place, and Palo Alto ranked 10th.



## City Directory

Arts Education classes	943-5846
Bicycle registration	943-5844
Building Division, permits	256-3549
Business licenses	943-5821
Cable TV questions	943-5895
City Clerk's Office	943-5818
City Hall main number	943-5800
City Manager's office	943-5812
Civic Park rentals	943-5853
Crime prevention	943-5885
Employment hotline	943-5817
Fingerprinting	943-5844
Flood zone info	943-5839
Garbage collection	603-1144
Graffiti reporting	943-5834
Heather Farm Pool	943-5856
Heather Farm Park rentals	256-3575
Leisure Service classes	943-5858
Mayor's Office	943-5812
Open Space information	943-5854
Planning/Zoning hotline	256-3558
Police/Fire emergency	911
Police (non-emergency)	943-5844
Pot holes	943-5854
Public Information	943-5895
DLRCA Ticket Office	943-7469
Senior citizen activities	943-5851
Street light outages	943-5854
Tree removal permit	943-5854



### CITY COUNCIL

Gary Skrel, Mayor\*  
Kathy Hicks, Mayor pro tem  
Sue Rainey  
Gwen Regalia  
Charlie Abrams

\* For appointment: Call 943-5812.

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## IN A Nutshell

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Brad Rovanpera

We welcome your comments and questions.  
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