

# IN A Nutshell



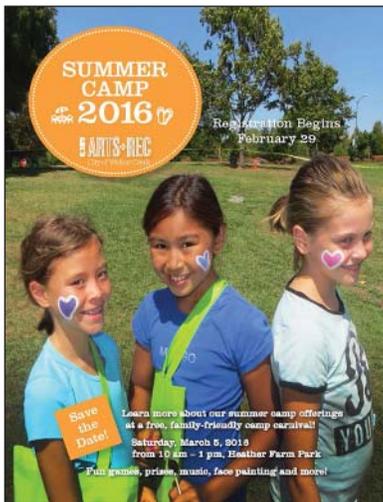
No. 173

Newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

SPRING 2016

## PERSONAL PREPAREDNESS CLASS

April is Earthquake Preparedness month, and we're offering an interactive 90-minute workshop that focuses on what you and your family can do to be prepared. **Details on Page 6.**

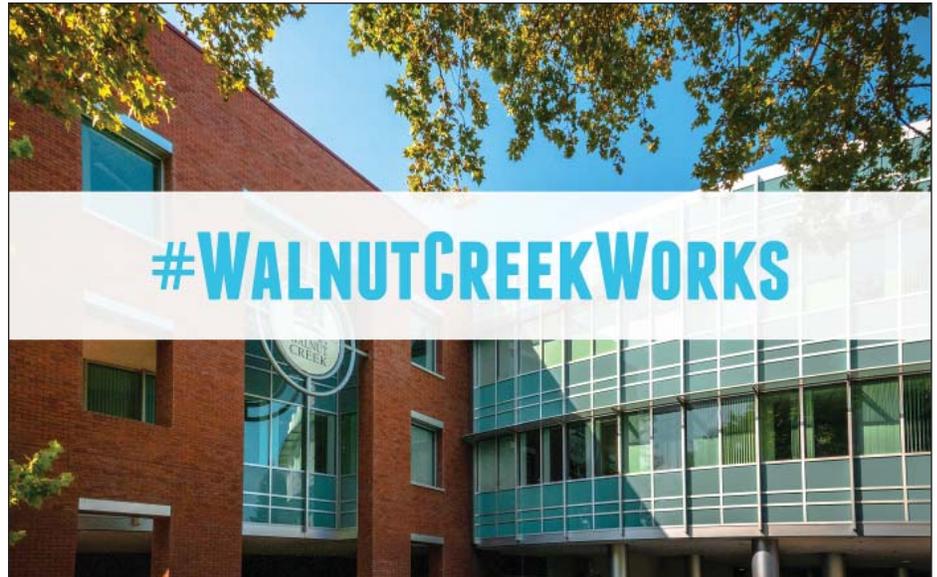


## LOOK INSIDE FOR SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

Summer camp registration opens February 26! Check out the Summer Camp Guide for an array of options.

## MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

The City will honor those who serve at its traditional Memorial Day observance at 10 a.m. Monday, May 30 in Civic Park. The ceremony will include patriotic music by the Walnut Creek Concert Band. More information will be available closer to the event at [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org).



2016 is the year for celebrating all that makes Walnut Creek work — committed volunteers and nonprofits, innovative businesses, and dedicated City employees. Walnut Creek Works was introduced by the Mayor at the 2016 State of the City address. Learn more on **Page 7.**

## New PD program keeps kids accountable

The Walnut Creek Police Department launched a new program in February designed to keep young people who commit lesser crimes out of the juvenile justice system while still holding them accountable.

“We know juveniles make mistakes – it’s part of growing up,” said Officer Raquel Cantillon, who worked with fellow School Resource Officer Drew Olson to create WCPD’s Juvenile Diversion Program.

“Often once a person is in the justice system, they stay there,” she said. “We want everyone to come out as a good citizen and someone who is going to contribute to society.”

Juveniles who are eligible for the Diversion Program are usually first-time, non-violent offenders. The young person and his or her parents will meet with a three-person Juvenile Diversion Panel consisting of a retired judge and



School Resource Officers Drew Olson and Raquel Cantillon introduced the juvenile diversion program in Walnut Creek.

WCPD representatives. All panel members are volunteering their time, said Cantillon.

The panel will review the juvenile’s WCPD report and school record and come up with an appropriate consequence and a due-by date. Each consequence will be different depending on the crime; for instance, a young person who painted

See **DIVERT**, back page

**Spring highlights**

Check cable listings or [walnutcreektv.org](http://walnutcreektv.org) for full schedule

**State of the City**

What were the highlights of 2015? More important, what's in store for Walnut Creek in the year ahead? Watch the 2016 State of the City report featuring Walnut Creek's mayor and become an informed citizen.

**My Hero! at the Bedford Gallery**

Artist Robert Xavier Burden shares his inspiration for his superhero-themed works of art, now on display as part of the "My Hero!" exhibition at the Bedford Gallery.

**High School sports**

Las Lomas and Northgate basketball teams compete in the "Battle of the Creek."

**Public Meetings**

City Council and all Commission meetings are televised live and available on demand at [walnut-creek.org/meetings](http://walnut-creek.org/meetings).

**Channel info**

Walnut Creek TV is on Comcast Channel 28 (incorporated WC only), Rossmoor 26, Astound Channel 29, and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99; and [walnutcreektv.org](http://walnutcreektv.org).

**Find us on Youtube**

All original WCTV programs are available on Youtube at [youtube.com/cityofwalnutcreek](http://youtube.com/cityofwalnutcreek).



**SUPER BOWL SPIRIT.** The Super Bowl came to Cypress Street on Feb. 3 as part of the Walnut Creek Downtown Association's "Walnut Creek 1st Wednesdays" program. The free street fest offers live entertainment, food trucks, arts and crafts and more the first Wednesday of each month on Cypress Street from 5 to 8 p.m. March 2 will parlay off St. Patrick's Day with "Lucky Local Charms," April's theme is "Wednesday Night Fever," and May brings back the popular "Cinco de Mayo on Cypress." Learn more at [walnutcreekdowntown.com](http://walnutcreekdowntown.com).

**Here's what's happening**

**Spring Plant Sale**

The Gardens at Heather Farm's Spring Plant Sale takes place Saturday, April 9 from 8 a.m. to noon. More than 300 unique plant species and varieties will be available for purchase in 4-inch pots and gallon containers. Garden Manager Brian Larsen will be on hand to answer gardening questions. The sale takes place in the parking lot at The Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr. For more information, visit [gardenshf.org](http://gardenshf.org) or call 925-947-1678.

**Las Lomas Rummage Sale**

The Las Lomas Rummage Sale will be held at the high school on Saturday, March 12 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Early bird entrance starts at 7 a.m. Entrance fee is \$3, or \$6 for early bird entrance. The event features a mix of high quality items; local delivery service is available. All proceeds benefit the Class of 2018 and their All Knighter event. For more information, visit [www.laslomasrummagesale.com](http://www.laslomasrummagesale.com).

**Walnut Creek Concert Band**

The Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein will present a program featuring *Tales of Fantasy and Adventure* on Tuesday, March 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts. Tickets are available from the Leshner Arts Center Box Office, by calling 925-943-7469, or online at [lesherartscenter.org](http://lesherartscenter.org). This season the band is providing free admission to students in support of area music programs.

**Egg-stravaganza**

Bring the kids to Heather Farm Park on Saturday, March 26 for the 2016 Egg-Stravaganza. The fun begins at 9 a.m. with egg hunts, photos with the Easter Bunny, face painting and crafts hosted by the Bedford Gallery, and music by Civic Arts Education. The 2016 Egg-Stravaganza is hosted by the Walnut Creek Interact Youth Council (a program of the Rotary Club) in partnership with Walnut Creek Recreation.

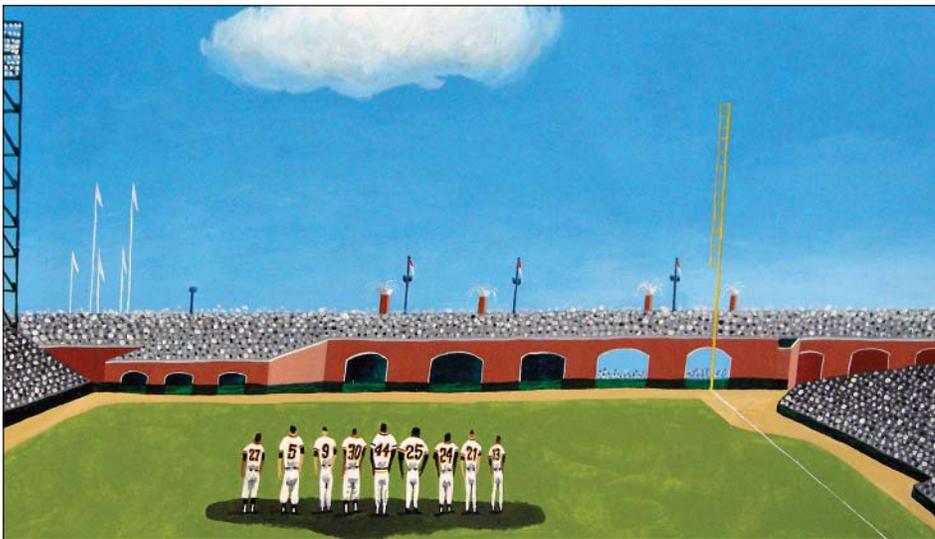
**Family Art Festival**

Civic Arts Education hosts a Family Art Festival on Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to noon. The free outdoor event features activities for all ages, including live demos, art-marking stations, vendors and music. The Festival takes place at Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget.



**Take a walk back in time**

The Walnut Creek Historical Society offers a free 90-minute guided tour of the downtown area the second Saturday of the month through October. This easy walk on city sidewalks brings to life the early times of downtown Walnut Creek. The next tours will be on March 12, April 9 and May 14. The tours depart at 9:30 a.m. from the fountain at Liberty Bell Plaza, corner of Broadway and Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Advanced registration is not required. For more details, call 925-935-7871 or visit [www.wchistory.com](http://www.wchistory.com).



Mark Ulriksen's "Cursed", is one of the artworks in the upcoming exhibition "Safe at Home: A Survey of Baseball Art." The show will be at the Bedford Gallery April 3 - June 12.

## Bedford Gallery highlights



Fresh off the record-breaking success of the LEGO-centric "The Art of the Brick," the Bedford Gallery continues its 2016 theme of Art + Play with two innovative exhibitions.

"My Hero! Contemporary Art and Superhero Action" celebrates and re-visions the possibilities that exist when one has a magic cape, lasso or some superhero power that changes everything. It's on view through March 20.

Next at bat is "Safe at Home: A Survey of Baseball Art." Opening April 3 through June 12, "Safe at Home" celebrates America's pastime by bringing the sights, sounds and excitement of the stadium into the Bedford Gallery.

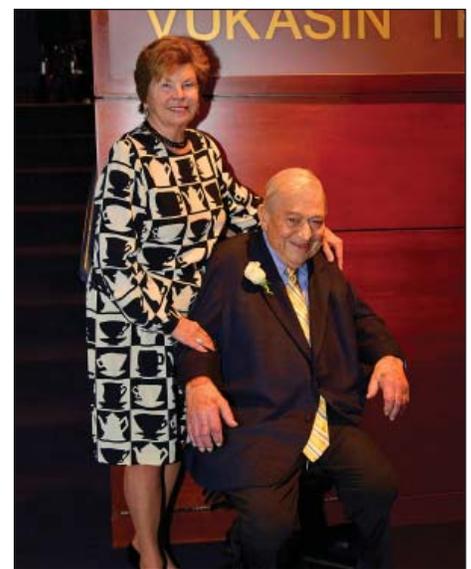
The exhibition includes a mix of contemporary and historic artworks, as well as memorabilia. Come enjoy the opening reception on Sunday, April 3 from 3 to 5 p.m.



Laurina Paperina, "Be Proud"

The Bedford Gallery is on the first floor of the Leshner Center for the Arts. Admission is \$5; \$3 for youth ages 13-17; and free for children 12 and under. First Tuesdays are free! Ticket holders to Leshner Center for the Arts events also enjoy free admission to the Bedford on the ticketed date.

For more on the Bedford Gallery, visit [bedfordgallery.org](http://bedfordgallery.org).



Sonja and George Vukasin

## Theatre renamed for generous donors

January 30 was a milestone moment in the history of the Leshner Center for the Arts as the Diablo Regional Arts Association (DRAA) and the City of Walnut Creek renamed the Stage 3 Theatre in honor of George and Sonja Vukasin, founders of Peerless Coffee and Tea.

Long committed to philanthropic endeavors that increase quality of life, the Vukasins donated \$400,000 to honor the role the arts play in the community.

"The Vukasins' gift will allow DRAA and the Center to bring eclectic artists, intimate and ground-breaking productions and entertainment to the beautiful Vukasin Theatre," said Peggy White, Executive Director of DRAA.

DRAA launched its "Find Your Center Campaign" last year to raise an additional \$5 million in support of artistic excellence, educational outreach and technology. The Vukasins' gift helped to bring the total raised to date to \$3.3 million. Learn more at [www.draa25.org](http://www.draa25.org) or call 925-205-1470.



## Mountain Shadow film society sponsors utility box art

Mountain Shadow is the first financial sponsor of one of the artworks on the downtown utility boxes, a project recently initiated by the Walnut Creek Downtown Association. Mountain Shadow selected the utility box next to the Walnut Creek Library sign at the corner of Broadway and Lincoln, as that's where the non-profit film society hosts programs. Its name is emblazoned at the bottom of the artwork, left.

Anyone can "be part of art" by sponsoring artwork on one of 22 utility boxes throughout the downtown. Sponsorships range from \$250 to \$500. Learn more at [walnutcreekdowntown.com](http://walnutcreekdowntown.com).

This year, Mountain Shadow added a third night to its screening of foreign and independent films. While one series is fully subscribed, there are still memberships available for two different Saturday evening series. Learn more at <http://mountainshadow.org>, or call Director John Bennison at 925-787-6965.

# #WALNUTCREEKWORKS

## Volunteer opportunities

*Volunteers and community nonprofits are one of the reasons Walnut Creek Works. Here are some current volunteer opportunities.*

### Diablo Valley Literacy Council seeks English tutors

Volunteer to help adults learn to read, write and speak English well enough to function in our society. Working one-to-one, you can help people to get a better job, apply for citizenship, read to their children ... the possibilities are endless!

The next two-day workshop will be Saturday, Feb. 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturday, March 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 4000 Clayton Road, Concord. Adult volunteers typically give one or two hours per week.

More information is available at [dvlc.tripod.com](http://dvlc.tripod.com). Call the hotline and leave a message at 925-685-3881 or email [DVLC4ESL@gmail.com](mailto:DVLC4ESL@gmail.com).

### Two non-profits seek volunteer treasurers

Two local non-profits are seeking a Treasurer for their Boards of Directors. In both cases, the volunteer should have some background in accounting, finance or bookkeeping.

#### **Walnut Creek Historical Society:**

WCHS collects, preserves, and interprets the history and heritage of the Walnut Creek area. For more information or to volunteer, email Karen Majors at [karenlmajors@gmail.com](mailto:karenlmajors@gmail.com).

#### **Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation:**

WCCPF raises funds and provides support for organizations that benefit the community and the community's youth. Recently, the foundation raised \$375,000 to help build the All Abilities Playground at Heather Farm Park. For more information, email Natalie Inouye at [natalie.inouye@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.inouye@gmail.com).



### Help clean the creek on May 14

Join the Friends of the Creeks' annual downtown creek clean up on Saturday, May 14 from 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Civic Park gazebo, corner of Broadway and Civic Drive. A continental breakfast will be served at 8:45 a.m. Signed waiver forms are required for all participants. For waivers and additional details, go to [www.friendsofthecreeks.org](http://www.friendsofthecreeks.org). Wear old clothes, sneakers, and prepare to get wet!



### Community Service Day Committee

Community Service Day 2016 will be October 8, and the Community Service Day Committee is seeking one or two new committee members to help with the work to plan the annual event. The committee meets monthly from January through October. If interested, email Cindy Silva at [ceisleysilva@gmail.com](mailto:ceisleysilva@gmail.com).

### Volunteer docents for downtown history tours

The Walnut Creek Historical Society is seeking adults to lead walking tours for third grade classes that explore historic sites in downtown Walnut Creek. The 90-minute tours are offered on weekday mornings in the fall and spring. Training by an experienced volunteer docent team will be provided. Email [wchshadlands@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wchshadlands@sbcglobal.net) or call 925-935-7871.

### Host families needed

The International Education Center at Diablo Valley College is looking for local families to host international students on a temporary basis while they improve their English skills. All types of families are welcome - single adults, couples, or families with or without children. Short and long term placements are available, and all students already speak a good level of English.

Host families will receive a monthly stipend of \$875 per student, and must provide a private bedroom and two meals per day for the student(s). For more information, please contact Fia Parker, at 925-876-0080 or email [fparker@dvc.edu](mailto:fparker@dvc.edu).

### Summer jobs for teens

Walnut Creek Recreation is seeking teens to work as summer camp recreation leaders. Leaders direct games, arts and crafts, songs and trips. Experience is not necessary, but applicants must display a good work ethic and sense of teamwork. Applications are due by March 25, or until all positions are filled. Visit [WalnutCreekRec.org](http://WalnutCreekRec.org) to apply.



Youth Energy Specialists tighten a faucet during a Green House Call last summer.

## Registration open for Green House Calls

**W**alnut Creek residents are eligible for free home energy and water efficiency assessments through the California Youth Energy Services' Green House Calls program.

During the Green House Call, a team of trained youth Energy Specialists will assess water and energy use, offer personalized energy saving tips, and install energy efficient light bulbs, shower heads and faucet aerators as needed, all at no cost.

The program is provided by the City of Walnut Creek, East Bay Municipal

## City considers renewable energy program

**T**he Walnut Creek City Council was to consider taking the first steps to join MCE, a Community Choice Energy program, at its Feb. 16 meeting (after the Nutshell went to the printer).

Community Choice Energy programs such as MCE allow the City to partner with other local governments to purchase renewable energy for residents and businesses. PG&E would continue to deliver the energy, maintain the grid infrastructure, and handle billing.

Customers who want to continue to

## Congress extends solar tax credit through 2019

**I**n December, Congress approved extending the Solar Investment Tax Credit through 2019. The program provides a 30 percent federal tax credit for solar systems installed on residential and commercial properties. After 2019, the



Utility District, Contra Costa Water District, PG&E and the non-profit Rising Sun Energy Center. Both renters and owners are eligible.

The program runs from July 6 through August 11. Spaces are limited!

Call 510-665-1501 ext. 5 or register online at <http://risingsunenergy.org/programs/green-house-call-residents>.

have PG&E purchase their electricity can opt out of the Community Choice Energy program.

If the Council voted on Feb. 16 to move forward with MCE, they will have to take additional actions at their March 15 meeting to finalize the decision. An alternative action may be to work with Contra Costa County to establish a county Community Choice Energy program.

Learn more about Community Choice Energy at [www.walnut-creek.org/goinggreen](http://www.walnut-creek.org/goinggreen).

tax credits have different expiration dates and values by year for residential and commercial projects.

Interested in going solar? Visit the City's Going Green webpage at [www.walnut-creek.org/goinggreen](http://www.walnut-creek.org/goinggreen).

## Tackling litter from the ground up

**A**fter significantly reducing litter on City-owned property, Walnut Creek's Clean

Water Program is focusing on three major sources of trash that have been identified for improvement - commercial dumpsters, private parking lots and high school campuses.



Clean Water Program manager Rinta Perkins

The new emphasis is the result of the state's Clean Water permit requirements. Every 5 years, the City must apply for a new clean water permit, and prove that it has met litter reduction mandates from the previous 5-year period. If the City fails to meet those quotas, it could face fines up to \$10,000 a day.

The City's new permit requirements went into effect on January 1, said Clean Water Program Manager Rinta Perkins of the Public Works Department.

"We have exhausted our efforts to deal with litter in City-owned areas, such as the parks and community centers," she said, "so now we are identifying other areas that present significant problems."

Walnut Creek's Clean Water Program will work with the Solid Waste Authority to reduce litter around commercial dumpsters and in private parking lots through a combination of education and enforcement.

Since the City has little enforcement authority on school campuses, staff will reach out to high school officials to encourage them to address high volumes of trash.

Litter left on the ground can find its way into storm drains, and from there, into creeks and the Bay, Perkins explained.

In addition to trash, pet waste left on the ground poses significant problems.

To report significant litter, contact the City's Code Enforcement Officer at 925-943-5863 or submit the information via [seeclickfix.com](http://seeclickfix.com).

Please visit the Clean Water website at [www.walnut-creek.org/cleanwater](http://www.walnut-creek.org/cleanwater) for additional information about stormwater issues, our watershed and how to prevent pollution.

# Learn how to be prepared at free workshop

**A**pril is Earthquake Preparedness Month, and the City's Emergency

Preparedness team is offering an interactive, 90-minute workshop that focuses on what you and your family can do to be better prepared for disaster. Join us at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5 at Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Drive, in the Lounge. During this workshop, you will learn:



- How to prepare your home for an emergency.
- How to make a family plan.
- How to build an emergency kit.
- How and when to shut off gas and other utilities after an earthquake.

Space is limited to 40 people. Pre-registration is required. Visit [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org) to sign up. Questions? Call Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Nick Zubel at 925-943-5899 ext. 2911.

## Free tax preparation offered

**F**ree tax preparation for the 2016 tax season is available from AARP's Tax-Aide and United Way's Earn It, Keep It, Save It (EKS) programs. All tax preparers are trained and certified by the IRS.

While both programs serve taxpayers of any age, Tax-Aide does not have an income limit in whom they can serve, but EKS can only serve individuals whose incomes do not exceed \$50,000.

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

To complete a tax return, Tax-Aide will need the following: Social Security Card or ITIN letter for all individuals to be listed on the return; copies of all W-2s; 1098s and 1099s; other income and deductions; and, 2014 Tax Return.



Walnut Creek Police Officer Joe Njoroge takes the opportunity to greet a pedestrian while on patrol in the downtown. A pilot program to increase foot and bicycle patrols in the downtown resulted in significant reductions in theft-related crime over the holiday season.

## Foot patrol cuts crime, builds relationships

**A** pilot program to patrol downtown on foot and by bicycle paid off with a significant decrease in crime over the busy holiday season.

Downtown thefts dropped more than 44 percent, from a combined 25 in November and December 2014 to 14 total in November and December 2015.

"The collective approach by our Downtown Foot Patrol made a measurable impact on theft-related crimes," said Lt. Sean Conley.

In addition to deterring crime, the three Downtown Patrol officers' on-street presence gave them the opportunity to chat with shoppers, offering everything from crime prevention tips to the location of the nearest coffee shop.

"Our Downtown Foot Patrol literally puts boots on the ground so we are present and engaged with the community," said Chief Tom Chaplin. Based on the success of the program, the Police Department will continue it through 2016, Chaplin added.

## WCPD Party Patrol prepares for prom season

**S**pring means high school prom season is here. For high school teens, it means dress and tuxedo shopping, but for the Walnut Creek Police Department, it means something entirely different.

The Walnut Creek Police Department and the Center for Human Development continue to partner to reduce underage drinking within the city through ongoing Party Patrol Enforcement Operations, funded by a State Incentive Grant. They will be on high alert during prom season looking for after-parties and minors participating in underage drinking.

In addition to patrolling neighborhoods and parks in search of minors consuming alcohol, police will be visiting "social host households" or places where parents, older siblings or friends provide alcohol to minors. Adults who open their homes to parties and provide alcohol to minors

will be held responsible and may face criminal and civil penalties. Officers will not hesitate to confiscate the alcohol at a party and will also issue citations to the adults involved.

"The Walnut Creek Police Department would like everyone to enjoy such memorable events like the prom," Sergeant David Rangel said. "Our 'Party Patrol' Officers will cite/arrest those they encounter that are in violation of alcohol related laws. There is no need for a bad decision. Do your part and don't drink if you are underage."

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

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



Matt Cabral, left, and Nate Hovland brave the rain to vacuum debris from storm drain inlets.

## Working to weather the El Nino storms

Long before the first raindrop fell, the City's Public Works maintenance division was out in force preparing for the predicted storms.

Workers inspected and cleaned all 4,172 catch basins; in flood-prone areas, crews flushed out storm drains and pipes so they could handle heavy rains. Streetsweepers did extra sweeps of areas with mature trees in advance of storms to make sure gutters were clear.

Staff set up five sandbag stations, and trained Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers to help with

### BY THE NUMBERS

To prevent flooding, Public Works:

cleaned **4,172** catch basins

swept **213** miles of street

stocked and replenished **5** sandbag stations

storm response if needed.

Thanks to these combined efforts, Walnut Creek neighborhoods were able to "weather the storms."

## Library garage now closed overnight

The Walnut Creek Library garage hours have changed. The garage, at 1644 N. Broadway, will be closed from midnight until 6 a.m. seven days a week.

Customers who leave their car in the garage after midnight will not be able to access it until 6 a.m.

The City's other parking garages will remain open 24 hours a day. They are located at 1390 N. Broadway; 1625 N. Locust Street, next to the Leshler Center for the Arts; and 1350 Locust Street, above Lark Creek Restaurant.



The change is the result of complaints from the public about people sleeping in the garage overnight, as well as increases in car burglaries and vandalism during the

early morning hours.

Signs announcing the new operating hours have been posted at the garage.

For questions, contact Carla Hansen at [hansen@walnut-creek.org](mailto:hansen@walnut-creek.org) or 925-943-5899 ext. 2108.

## Now hiring lifeguards, swim instructors

Walnut Creek Aquatics is looking for lifeguards and/or swim instructors. Candidates must be at least 15, enjoy the water, outdoors, and children, and possess a current lifeguarding certificate. We accept American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Certificates or Ellis & Associates International Lifeguarding Certificates.

For more information, call 925-943-5859. For an application, visit [WalnutCreekRec.org](http://WalnutCreekRec.org) or come to Clarke Swim Center. Applications will be accepted until all positions are full.

Looking for a lifeguard training class? Walnut Creek Aquatics has several spring classes available! Go to [WalnutCreekRec.org](http://WalnutCreekRec.org) for class schedules.

## #WALNUTCREEKWORKS

Walnut Creek works. We live in a safe community surrounded by open space, have myriad recreation choices, a thriving performing arts center and a healthy economy. That Walnut Creek works is no accident; City staff, local businesses, volunteers and non-profits all contribute to the success of our community.

This year, we will be highlighting some of the people behind the scenes: the guys who clean out storm drains so our streets don't flood, the inspectors who make sure new buildings are constructed safely, the rangers and landscaper workers who care for our parks and open space; the possibilities are many!

On August 13, the Mayor invites everyone to come to City Hall and the Leshler Center for the Arts to see how we work. Stay tuned for details on this free, family-friendly Open House.

In addition to showcasing City staff, we want to recognize our nonprofits and their dedicated volunteers at City Council meetings throughout the year. If you know of a group or individual who makes Walnut Creek Work, email [community@walnut-creek.org](mailto:community@walnut-creek.org) and tell us more!

## Council will not pursue revenue measure in 2016

A majority of City Council members voted against continued exploration of a tax measure at a February 2 study session. Council members noted that thanks to a strong local economy, the City's operating budget will see surpluses for 2014-15 and 2015-16.

However, the revised Long Term Financial Plan continues to show shortfalls for capital needs, such as replacing aging community facilities, over the long term.

Later this spring, the Council will discuss how to use the current surplus to address pension liabilities, long-term facility needs, and short-term community projects.

Want to receive agendas of upcoming Council meetings? Check out the back page of this Nutshell for easy-to-follow instructions on how to subscribe for updates.



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### ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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

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How can I get in the know about what's happening in the City of Walnut Creek?

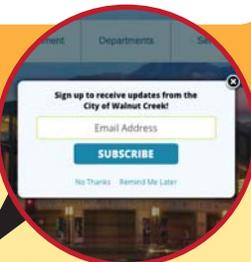


Easy!

**1 Sign up** for updates on the City of Walnut Creek website, [walnut-creek.org](http://walnut-creek.org).\*



**2 Enter your email** address and click the subscribe button. Create a password (optional).



**3 Subscribe!**

Simply select the topics that interest you.

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Now you are in the know!

\*If the sign up box does not appear on the City website homepage, go to [walnut-creek.org/subscribe](http://walnut-creek.org/subscribe)

GRAPHIC BY CHUCK TODD FOR THE CITY OF WALNUT CREEK

## Divert

From page 1

graffiti might be required to remove the graffiti and write a research paper on the impact graffiti has on community well-being. Other consequences could include apology letters, community service, drug and alcohol classes, or a juvenile driving program.

The young person and their parents will sign a Juvenile Diversion Contract agreeing to the consequence. If the young person completes the prescribed action by the due date, the case will be closed. If not, the case will be forwarded to the District Attorney.

If the Juvenile Diversion Program had been in place last year, Cantillon estimates up to 40 young people might have been eligible. So far this school year, about 10 juveniles are eligible. Cantillon attributes the significant reduction in juvenile crime to the impact of having School Resource Officers on campus.

"This program gives the juvenile the chance to make things right, and to develop a positive relationship with the Police at the same time," says Cantillon. "Everyone benefits."