



IN A Nutshell



No. 175

Newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

FALL 2016

New energy service to begin in September

Starting in September, households and businesses in incorporated Walnut Creek will be automatically enrolled in MCE for their electric energy unless they choose to opt out and remain with PG&E.

After the switch to MCE in September, customers can still opt out at no cost within the first 60 days of service. After 60 days of service, there is a one-time fee of \$5 for residents and a one-time fee of \$25 for commercial customers to opt out.

From a customer experience, little will change. PG&E will continue to handle billing, deliver electricity, maintain the wires and provide gas service. MCE customers will see two fees on their bills, one for PG&E electric delivery, and one for MCE electric generation. The MCE electric generation fee simply replaces the PG&E electric generation fee.

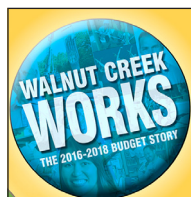
The difference is that by default MCE provides 50 percent of its electricity from renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and hydroelectricity.

See ENERGY, back page

Inside this Nutshell: The 2016-18 Budget Story

What's in store for Walnut Creek over the next two years?

"Walnut Creek Works: The 2016-18 Budget" tells the story of how the City uses taxpayer dollars to meet community priorities. Find it inside this issue of the Nutshell.



GET READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Community Service Day is Saturday, Oct. 8. With nearly 60 different projects to choose from, there is something for every age and interest. A complete list of projects begins on Page 5 of this Nutshell. Registration is now open. Don't delay, as many projects fill up fast!

Center for Community Arts debuts

Walnut Creek's center for creativity and discovery is getting a new name and a colorful new look: Center for Community Arts. Formerly known as Civic Arts Education, Center for Community Arts is launching this summer – look for the Community Arts brand on banners, signage, and social media.

The goal? A name and brand that embody the qualities that make thousands of people so passionate about Walnut Creek's community arts programs.

Program leaders conducted focus groups with dozens of participants and reviewed hundreds of surveys to find out what people love about making art.

"Our program means so much to so many because it's a place to belong at



all stages of the life journey. Whether you are just starting out, or deep into your craft, Center for Community Arts is a place to thrive," said Program Manager Linda Johnson.

There are programs for all ages, from toddlers to seniors.

Choose from more than 200

options, including hip-hop dance, digital media, ceramic sculpture, hands-on art for all ages, and more. Take a class, or come to a one-day "Makers Series" workshop!

Fall registration starts August 15. Stop by the Shadelands location at 111 N. Wiget Lane to pick up a free bumper sticker and be entered to win a class at Center for Community Arts.

The bumper stickers are available through Sept. 15. Learn more at www.communityarts.org.

www.walnut-creek.org

Fall programs

Walnut Festival Parade

Catch the beloved Walnut Festival Parade live at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17, or tune in later on our YouTube channel to see it one demand.

Battle of the Creek

Northgate High and Las Lomas clash in the annual fight for varsity football supremacy.

Coming up on 'Creek Currents'

Ruby Lopez checks out 1500 Mt. Diablo, the stunning new building that is home to three restaurants, while Brendan has fun at the Art & Wine Festival at Heather Farm Park.

Public meeting coverage

All Council and Commission meetings are recorded. For past meetings, go to www.walnut-creek.org/meetings.

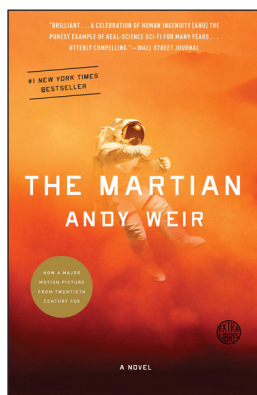
Find Walnut Creek TV on air & online

Watch Walnut Creek TV on Comcast Channel 28 (incorporated WC only), Rossmoor 26, Astound Channel 29, and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99.

Walnut Creek TV is also available at walnutcreektv.org.

For original programs, community events, etc., go to youtube.com/cityofwalnutcreek or check local cable guide listings.

Science fiction fave selected for citywide book club



The Walnut Creek Library Foundation has announced the city's 2016 One City, One Book selection - "The Martian," by Andy Weir. "The Martian" dovetails with the Contra Costa Library system's 2016 Year of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) and is a good read for teenagers and adults alike.

Free copies of the book to "Read and Share!" are available at both the Walnut Creek and Ygnacio Valley libraries while supplies last. Many copies of the book will also be available for check out at the libraries.

The Walnut Creek Library Foundation is planning a series of free public programs in September and October celebrating major themes in the book. Look for details at www.wclibrary.org/one-city-one-book/.

Here's what's happening this fall

Music and Movies under the Stars

Enjoy live music and outdoor movies at Civic Park. Music begins at 7 p.m., with movies beginning at dusk. On Friday, Aug. 19, the movie is "Aladdin," while on Saturday, Sept. 10, "Toy Story" will be on the big screen. Please do not bring pets. Call 925-943-5858 or visit WalnutCreekRec.org.



Broadway Plaza opening events

Broadway Plaza celebrates its grand opening with "Party in the Plaza" from 4 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1. The event includes food trucks, a kids' corner, and a concert featuring Mark McGrath. On Friday, Sept. 9 from 6-9 p.m., the community is invited to "A Night of Thanks" for its patience and support during construction. The evening will include in-store events, musical performances, food and wine tastings and more!

Labor Day Concert

The Walnut Creek Concert Band will perform a free concert in Civic Park at 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 5 in honor of Labor Day.

Northgate March-A-Thon

Northgate High School's Marching Band's annual March-A-Thon takes place Saturday, Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. The uniformed musicians and auxiliary entertainers will parade from Northgate High School to Snyder Lane, Quiet Place, Natchez, Springfield and Meander drives, and surrounding streets. Come on out and enjoy the fun! To support the marching band, go to www.northgatehs-pfc.com/donateall.html.



Walnut Festival parade, events

The Walnut Festival fun begins at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 17 with the Twilight Parade on North Main Street. The four-day Festival runs Sept. 22- 25 at Heather Farm Park, and offers family-friendly entertainment, live music, carnival rides, and more. Visit www.thewalnutfestival.org.



"It Shoulda Been You" presented by Center REP

This hilarious musical is a culture clash for the ages as two families from wildly different backgrounds come together to celebrate a wedding. Then the bride's ex-boyfriend arrives, bringing the wedding to a screeching halt and throwing both families into hysterical chaos. Plots are hatched, promises broken, secrets exposed - it's enough to make the most experienced wedding planner throw up his hands and say "Holy Matrimony!" From Sept. 2 to Oct. 8 at the Leshar Center for the Arts. Get tickets at lesherartscenter.org.

OktoberFest

OktoberFest returns on Saturday, Oct. 15, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Walnut Creek Downtown Association, the fun takes place on Locust Street. Live music, great food, and of course, beer!



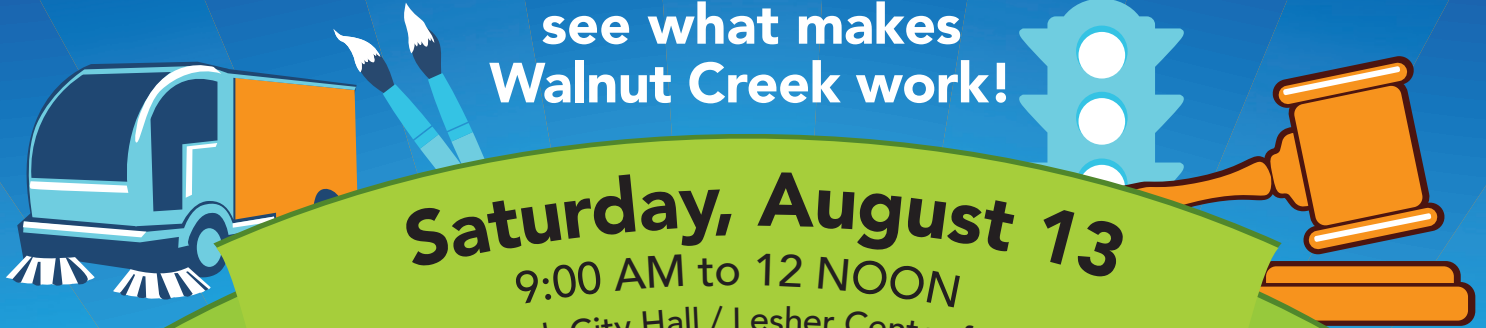
BG Craft Fest

Bedford Gallery's upcoming 9th annual Craft Fest offers the best handcrafted, high-quality, and affordable items by Bay Area artists, crafters, and food vendors, along with demos by selected vendors. The free event takes place from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Nov. 5 and 6.

A Fascinating, Free Community Event!

City Showcase

**Take a peek behind the scenes to
see what makes
Walnut Creek work!**



Saturday, August 13
9:00 AM to 12 NOON

Walnut Creek City Hall / Leshner Center for the Arts

Pick up a passport at City Hall or the
Leshner Center – get all 4 stamps and turn
it in for a #WalnutCreekWorks water bottle!
(while supplies last)



Sirens & Lights

Sit in a WCPD squad car, check out our
bomb truck and meet our cool K9s!



Red Light, Green Light

Learn how the Traffic Signal Master keeps
cars moving along city streets.



Art, Art and More Art

Art projects for kids, Bedford Gallery
tours and treats.



Big, BIG Trucks

Street sweepers, dump trucks and more!



Be a Star!

Be in a commercial for Walnut Creek TV.



Meet the Mayor

Maybe she'll let you pound the gavel!



Backstage Pass

Take a backstage tour of the Leshner Center
and stick around for ice cream!



Plus... Explore City Hall

Learn about our city's major projects,
upcoming technology, elections,
emergency planning and more from the
people who make it all happen.

Don't Miss this Fun & Fascinating Family-Friendly Event!

For More Information: (925) 943-5895 or community@walnut-creek.org

#WALNUTCREEKWORKS





CERT students and mentors carry a volunteer victim to safety during a drill at Larkey Park.

Get ready to help your neighbors in disaster

Be trained to make a difference in a disaster! Registration is under way for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) basic training. CERT teaches everyday people how to safely and effectively respond to the needs of the community during emergencies. Graduates become volunteer Disaster Service Workers for the City. In event of emergency, CERTs gather at pre-set staging areas to help the neighborhoods.

Walnut Creek CERTs have also assisted police and public works officials with everything from searching for missing people to clearing out storm drains during heavy rains to prevent flooding.

The Fall 2016 CERT training will be held Tuesday evenings, Sept. 6 – Oct. 11, at the downtown library, with a final drill the morning of Saturday, Oct. 22. There is a \$25 fee. Call 925-256-3556 or visit www.walnut-creek.org/cert.

Civic Pride Foundation grants for non-profits

Walnut Creek non-profits that offer programs and services that enhance recreation, culture or education are invited to apply for a community grant from the Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation. Grant applications will be available beginning Sept. 15 on the Civic Pride website: www.WCCivicPride.org. Grants will range from \$500 to \$2,000.

Literacy tutor training

Project Second Chance (PSC), the Contra Costa County Library adult literacy program, announces training for volunteer one-on-one literacy tutors. Training starts on Wednesday, Sept. 14 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. and continues Sept. 17 and 24 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. All 14 hours are required. No previous teaching experience is necessary, but registration is required. Go to www.cclib.org/psc or call 925-927-3250.

Free passes for students in grades 6-12

The 2016 SchoolPool Transit Ticket Program returns this fall with free County Connection bus passes for Walnut Creek students in grades 6-12. Apply at www.schoolpool.org by Sept. 9.

The offer is available for up to three students per household. Funding for SchoolPool is provided by TRANSPAC, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District on behalf of the City of Walnut Creek.

Walk to end Alzheimer's

The Walk to End Alzheimer's will take place on Saturday, Oct. 1 at Heather Farm Park. Funds raised go towards finding a cure for Alzheimer's and for providing support programs for families impacted by the disease. For more information, visit alz.org/walk.



Going Green Together

Homeowner workshop on energy efficiency

A free workshop on how to reduce energy use through efficiency improvements will be held at City Hall on Thursday, Aug. 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. Learn how homeowners can get rebates of up to \$6,500 for making energy efficiency improvements such as air sealing, insulation, high-efficiency furnaces and air-conditioners. RSVP at walnutcreekhomeownerworkshop.eventbrite.com.

"Home Upgrade" is administered by the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN), a collaboration of public agencies working together for a sustainable energy future. Call 866-878-6008 or visit BayAreaEnergyUpgrade.org to contact a Home Upgrade Advisor today.

Solar and electric car purchasing program

This fall, the City will host free informational workshops on the SunShares program, which uses group purchasing to secure more competitive pricing for electric vehicles and rooftop solar. Learn more, and subscribe to receive updates and workshop notices, at walnut-creek.org/goinggreen.

AARP Tax-Aide ready to train volunteers

Contra Costa County AARP Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers to become members of a team providing free tax preparation for individuals of all ages. Tax-Aide volunteer positions include Tax Counselors who are trained by Tax-Aide and certified by the IRS, and Client Facilitators, who schedule appointments and assist clients at tax sites.

Orientation is in November 2016, classes for tax counselors start in January 2017. Service is from February through April 15, 2017. Apply online at www.aarp.org/taxvolunteer or call LaVerne Gordon at 925-726-3199 for additional information.

Community Service Day

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

With so many projects to choose from, Community Service Day 2016 offers something for everyone. For details on these projects, go to www.walnut-creek.org/service.

ANIMALS (PETS & WILDLIFE)

ARF FoodShare: "Lend a Paw"

Be a helping hand for this program.
Ages: Adults only.

Community Concern for Cats:

Thrift Shop Capers

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

Dog Park Obstacle Course

Assemble an obstacle course for the dog park. Ages: 14+

Equestrian Center Rejuvenation

Paint, repair and do general fix-up work.
All ages.

Lindsay Wildlife Landscape Spruce-up

Help prep our grounds for the fall.
Ages: 10+

ARTS

Bedford Gallery - Craft Fest Poster Distribution

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

Bedford Gallery School Tour Project Prep

Prepare materials for school gallery tours and art projects. Ages: 16+

California Symphony Musical Paint Day

Enjoy music while you paint the symphony office. Ages: 10+

Leshner Center Costume Shop

Clean and organize theater costumes.
Ages: 12+



Cleaning library books.



Saturday
October 8

7:30 a.m. Check-in & free pancake breakfast
Heather Farm Community Center
8:45 a.m. Meet at project sites
9 a.m. Work begins

Some projects offer afternoon shifts!

See next page for more projects

Community Service Day

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

How to volunteer

1. Go to www.walnut-creek.org/service to get detailed project information and the link to the registration system.
2. Use the online volunteer registration system to sign up. You can register as an individual or on behalf of a family or group. (Please, only one project!)
3. Mark your calendar for October 8 and build a better Walnut Creek!

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

AFTERNOON SHIFTS!

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

Bedford Gallery
California Symphony
Indian Valley School

SCHOOLS

Most of Walnut Creek's public schools are sponsoring campus beautification projects involving gardening, clean-up and organizing. This is a great chance to help your neighborhood school! Check the Community Service Day website for the complete list.

PUBLIC AND LOCAL SCHOOL LIBRARIES

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



Planting at the Gardens at Heather Farm.

GARDENS, PARKS & NATURE

Borges Ranch Amphitheater Renovation (with WC Rotary)

Refurbish the amphitheater and spruce up the landscaping. Ages: 12+

Butterfly Garden Fence Painting

Refresh the paint on the fence surrounding Civic Park's native garden. Ages: 8+

Civic Park Fence Painting

Paint the fence that divides the park from the creek. Ages: 14+

Diablo Shadows Park Spruce-up (with Cornerstone Fellowship)

Refresh the landscaping and playground area at the park. Ages: 8+

Heather Farm Ballfield TLC

Give the softball outfield areas some care. Ages: 10+

HF Gardens Patio Spruce-up

Clean patio and event furnishings. Ages: 14+

Lime Ridge Habitat Improvements (with WC Open Space)

Remove and replace fencing to improve habitat corridors. Ages: 16+

Pine Creek Cleanup – Woodlands & Oak Grove

Clean two stretches of Pine Creek. Ages: 8+

Rudgear Park Spruce-up

Refresh the park landscape areas and protect young oak trees. Ages: 10+

San Miguel & El Divisadero Park Spruce-ups (with RSM Neighborhood)

Refresh the landscaping and playground area at the two parks. Ages: 10+

San Ramon Creek Ivy Removal

Remove ivy in rarely seen areas of San Ramon Creek. Ages: 14+

Community Service Day

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



Family fun cleaning equipment at the All-Abilities Playground.

DOWNTOWN

Decorate the Town with (Sidewalk) Chalk

Paint downtown sidewalks to mark historic and public art sites. All ages.

Downtown Streetscape Art

Get utility boxes ready for more artwork. All ages.

Make Walnut Creek's Downtown History Shine (with Walnut Creek Historical Society)

"Test drive" and spruce up the downtown history tour. Ages: 14+

Parking Meter Pole-Painting Extravaganza

Help the Boy Scouts repaint the meters. Ages: Adults only

RECREATION

Paint the Softball Backstops

Strip and repaint the Heather Farm backstops. Ages: 14+

TOTS OR SENIORS

All-Abilities Playground Spruce-up (with Walnut Creek Civic Pride)

Clean the play equipment for our kids. All ages.

Civic Park Preschool Garden & Mural

Create a garden for preschool children. All ages.

Fall Cleaning at the Senior Center

Clean and organize the kitchen cabinets. Ages: 8+

Senior Center Patio Spruce Up (with Girl Scouts)

Beautify the back patio for local seniors. Ages: 8+

Rudgear Park Court Upgrades (with Pickleball Club)

Add new picnic tables next to the courts. Ages: 14+

Thank you to our sponsors

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Mt. Diablo Recycling

Kaiser Permanente, Diablo Area
Mechanics Bank

Major Sponsors

Lions Clubs

(Diablo Valley, Rossmore,

Walnut Creek, Ygnacio Valley)

Republic Services

Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation

Major Support

Peet's Coffee

Safeway

Start with pancakes!



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

FOOD DRIVES

Food drives are ideal for families, neighbors, church groups and Scout troops. You can help in one of two ways.

Neighborhood Food Drive

Collect food in your neighborhood. During the week before October 8, you will distribute food bags (provided by the Food Bank) to neighborhood homes. Then, collect the bags of food and bring them to Heather Farm Community Center on Oct. 8.

Drive-up Collection Stations

Staff one of the drive-up food collection stations in our neighborhoods.

Bedford Gallery news



ReTooled: Highlights from the Hechinger Collection *Sept. 18 – Nov. 27*

“ReTooled” delves into the engaging and unexpected world of tools through more than 40 inspired paintings, sculptures, works on paper and photographs. “ReTooled” profiles 28 visionary artists from the Hechinger Collection.

“ReTooled” was curated by Jared Packard-Winkler and organized for a US tour by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C. The Bedford Gallery is the only California stop for this show.



Jacob Lawrence, *Carpenters*, 1977, lithograph

Blade Runner: ReTooling the Saw as Art

The Bedford Gallery organized this invitational that features 20 artists from the Greater Bay Area who use blades as a surface for painting, or as 3D objects. Blade Runner will be exhibited in the Alcove Gallery as an adjunct show to “ReTooled.”

Vote for your favorite piece of public art

The Walnut Creek Action for Beauty Council invites the community to help pick the “People’s Choice for Best New Public Art.” Online voting is open through Oct. 10 at www.WCActionforBeauty.org.

Founded in 1966, the Action for Beauty Council encourages superior

design in the community through its annual Community Awards.

This year’s awards will be announced at a luncheon on Friday, Oct. 23 at Scott’s Seafood Restaurant. Tickets are \$55 and may be purchased through the Council’s website, www.WCActionforBeauty.org.

Energy

From page 1

Customers may also opt for MCE’s “Deep Green” program with 100 percent renewable energy.

The City Council voted to join MCE because using renewable energy will make a significant impact in achieving Walnut Creek’s Climate Action Plan goals.

Rates for MCE electricity are competitive with PG&E generated electricity.

To opt-out or choose 100 percent renewable energy, and for additional information about MCE, call 1-888-632-3674 or visit www.mceCleanEnergy.org/WalnutCreek.



BUILD A COMMUNITY MURAL. Community members of all ages and skill levels are invited to help team up on ceramic tiles for two wall murals that will be installed later at the Ruth Bancroft Garden. Come to the Civic Park Ceramics Studio between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Aug. 20 or 21. The mural, above, was designed by Donna Billick and Amanda Larson, who will host the community mural build.

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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