



World War II veteran Bob Tharratt and his wife, Jeane, of Walnut Creek inspected Cliff Garten's winning design for the new Veterans Memorial Plaza during a Veterans Day exhibition.

## Arts Commission gives OK to veterans memorial plaza design

A design for a new veterans memorial plaza that blends birch trees with a reflecting pool next to City Hall was approved by the Arts Commission Nov. 19.

The design by artist/landscape architect Cliff Garten was chosen from among five that were considered by a selection panel on Nov. 12. The panel, which included two City Council members, two City commissioners, and a local war veteran, recommended Garten's concept to the commission for final endorsement.

"People will really be impressed by it," said panel member Gene Wolfe, a former mayor and World War II veteran.

The design by Garten and his partner, landscape architect John Gibbs, is accented by five 14-foot granite columns



Cliff Garten

that will represent the five branches of the U.S. armed services at the corner of Civic Drive and North Broadway.

An 18-inch-deep reflecting pool with criss-crossing bridges will be surrounded by a lighted birch grove. Water will also flow down the sides of the five columns into shallow troughs. There will also be a dedicatory wall with a flag pole.

**VETERANS PLAZA, see page 4**

## Don Blubaugh to retire as city manager

Don Blubaugh, who shepherded the city through an unprecedented program of major public improvements over the past 13 years, will retire as city manager June 17.

Blubaugh, who turns 60 in March, announced his decision Nov. 20.

The City Council will begin a recruitment to select his successor before he leaves.

"This decision has been both the easiest and the most difficult I've ever made," said Blubaugh. "This is the best job I've ever had working with the finest people. However, after 37 years in city management, it is time to slow down a bit and look for other challenges and opportunities."

Blubaugh, who came to work for Walnut Creek on April 18, 1988, is only the fifth city manager Walnut Creek has had since the first, Ira Gunn, was hired in 1956.

Serving several city councils,

**BLUBAUGH, see back page**



Don Blubaugh

### Students honored for vets appreciation essays

Seven students from Foothill Middle School and Walnut Creek Intermediate were awarded prizes in the City's Veterans Day essay contest on Nov. 11.

Nearly 500 students submitted essays

on the theme, "Why We Should Thank Our Veterans." They each received gift certificates courtesy of Broadway Plaza.

For the two grand prizewinning essays and winners' names, see page 4.

## City Event Calendar

### January

1  
**New Year's Day**  
City offices closed

21  
**Martin Luther King Day observance**  
City offices closed  
Ceremony at noon, Civic Park  
(See *What's Happening*)

### February

18  
**President's Day observance**  
City offices closed

## City Meeting Calendar

**City Council\***  
Jan. 8, 15; Feb. 5, 19  
7 p.m.  
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

**Planning Commission**  
Jan. 10, 24; Feb. 14, 28  
7:30 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Arts Commission**  
Jan. 22, Feb. 19  
4:30 p.m.  
Leshner Center for the Arts

**Transportation Commission**  
Jan. 17, Feb. 21  
7:30 p.m.  
City Council chamber

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

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

\*City Council meetings are televised live on AT&T Channels 6 and 99 (Ch. 1 on a cable box). Repeated the following Saturday at 1 p.m.

**Walnut Creek Currents, a City-produced 10-minute video digest on City activities and services, can be seen seven days a week on AT&T Channels 6 and 99 (Ch. 1 on cable box) at 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m., 6:50 p.m.**

## Photos of CC cowboys in upcoming exhibition

Photographer Matt O'Brien's images of Contra Costa's cowboys and their vanishing way of life are the subject of the next exhibition at the Bedford Gallery.

*On the Land: Creatures, Cowboys and Developers* will be on display at the Gallery Jan. 16 through March 10.

The photographs also show the creatures that live on this land, and the approach of new housing developments. Seen together, the images create a dialogue about what land is used for and needed for, and the decisions people are making.

Accompanying the exhibition will be several bronze statues by Frederick Remington on loan from the Leshner Foundation, as well as exhibits of graniteware and of Western gear on loan from the City's historic Borges Ranch.

A public opening reception hosted by the



Matt O'Brien's photograph of the Rowell Ranch Rodeo.

Bedford Gallery Guild will be Jan. 16, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Bedford Gallery, a program of the City, is located in the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., and Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings 6 to 8 p.m. Closed Mondays.

Call 295-1417 for more information.

## What's Happening

### Martin Luther King Day observance

"Overcoming Fear with Unity" will be the theme of the City's annual Martin Luther King Day Service on Monday, Jan. 21 at noon in the Civic Park Community Center assembly hall, 1375 Civic Dr. This public event is presented by the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, in cooperation with the City of Walnut Creek. For more information, contact Rev. David Sammons at 934-3135.

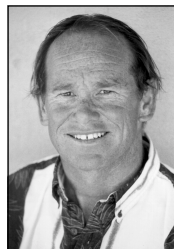
### Time to recycle your Christmas tree

Pleasant Hill Bayshore Disposal will collect your unwanted Christmas tree for composting the week of Jan. 14-18. Simply leave your tree at the curbside on your regular trash collection day. Make sure to remove ornaments, tinsel, and other trimmings. Don't leave stands — metal or wood — on the tree; it will not be taken otherwise. Also, don't leave artificial or flocked trees. Call 603-1144.



### National honor for City aquatics coach

Kerry O'Brien, a City recreation program specialist who coaches the Walnut Creek Masters Swim Team, received the Lifetime Achievement Award in November from the United States Masters Swim Association. Since O'Brien became head coach of the Walnut Creek team in 1980, it has won 32 national team championships and set 20 world records and 81 national records.



Kerry O'Brien



Michelle Stoffregen and Paul Valle-Riestra

### City Employees of the Year announced

City Manager Don Blubaugh announced Michelle Stoffregen and Paul Valle-Riestra as co-recipients of the 2001 Employee of the Year Award at the annual City Employee Awards Banquet on Nov. 2. The Employee of the Year Award, created in 1989, honors those staff members who exemplify excellence in the organization. Michelle, a police assistant since 1995, works in the dispatch/communication center. Paul, who is assistant city attorney, has been with the City since 1990.

### Gardens at HF docents needed

The Gardens at Heather Farm is seeking persons to be Natural Science Classroom docents to present a variety of hands-on lessons in the Gardens and in classrooms to children. A 15-week training program will be held Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon from Feb. 5 through May 21. An Orientation Meeting will be Jan. 29, 10 a.m. For details, call the Education Department at 947-6712.

## Architects, City refining design of downtown library

Architects are refining the design of the proposed downtown library following a recent review of their conceptual drawings with the City Council and Design Review Commission.

As a result of the feedback received at the Oct. 16 meeting, Ed Rubin and Duncan Ballash of the San Francisco architectural firm Esherick Homsey Dodge & Davis have prepared a handful of new design concepts that were to be discussed at a workshop with the Design Review Commission on Dec. 19.

"We have consensus on the functional layout (of the library)," said Gary Pokorny, director of Cultural and Community Services. "Now we're trying to find the aesthetic design that responds to Walnut Creek's wishes."

The new library is proposed to be 39,000 square feet — more than four times the size of the existing downtown branch that was opened in March 1961. It would be built on and north of the current library site and be supported by a parking garage at the corner of No. Broadway and Lincoln Avenue.

The City Council has earmarked \$4 million for the library, which is estimated to cost \$16-\$18 million.

The City intends to apply this June for a state library construction grant to build the facility.



City Council members in October said they liked this design concept for the interior entry of the proposed downtown library. However, different exterior designs are being studied.

### Cable TV installation work

Officials at Astound Broadband (Seren) report that progress is slow on the installation of underground cable to provide its new service in Walnut Creek. Since the company was granted a franchise by the City Council in September

1999, by December only 10 percent of the undergrounding work had been completed.

However, the company plans to begin offering its service by March to neighborhoods in the northeast area of Walnut Creek, bounded by Ygnacio Valley Road, Oak Grove Road and Bancroft Road, where cable has been laid. For details, call Astound Broadband at 1-800-427-8686.

### The Corners retail development

The City Council will consider in January in-lieu parking plans for The Corners, a 20,000-square-foot retail development to be built at the southwest corner of Main Street and Mt. Diablo Boulevard. A 200-year-old oak on the property will be preserved.



## Longtime City director leaves

Kevin Roberts, who served as the City's Community Development Director for 15 years before becoming deputy city manager in October, has left to become Livermore's new economic development director.



Kevin Roberts

Roberts, a 15-year resident of Walnut Creek, oversaw planning, engineering, transportation, and building activities for the City. He also was instrumental in creating many downtown improvements and establishing new relationships with the business community.

He was initially Walnut Creek's transportation administrator in 1986.

## Applications due January 25 for three City grant programs

The City Council is currently soliciting applications for its three grant programs: the Community Development Block Grant, Community Services Grant, and Civic Pride Grant programs.

### Community Development Block Grants

The City receives funds from the federal government through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The City allocates these funds to support housing, community service, and economic development projects and programs that serve Walnut Creek residents. The funds must be used primarily for the benefit of low and moderate-income persons. This year, the City

expects to receive approximately \$389,000 in CDBG funds.

### Community Service Grants

To supplement the CDBG funds, the City makes an additional \$100,000 in Community Services grants available to fund projects that benefit the community in the areas of social and human services. These funds are typically given to public services that do not meet all the stringent requirements of the CDBG program.

### Civic Pride Grants

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. This year, the City is making approximately \$95,000 available for Civic Pride grants. To qualify for a grant, projects should directly benefit a large number of Walnut Creek residents, be located or occur within Walnut Creek city limits, and have a long-term community benefit (especially capital improvement projects).

Applications for all of three grant programs are now available. The deadline for submittal is Jan. 25. The City Council will make final decisions on which projects to fund in the spring.

For details or to obtain an application, contact Sandi Kendle at 943-5834 or via e-mail at [kendle@walnut-creek.org](mailto:kendle@walnut-creek.org), or visit the City's website: [www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org).

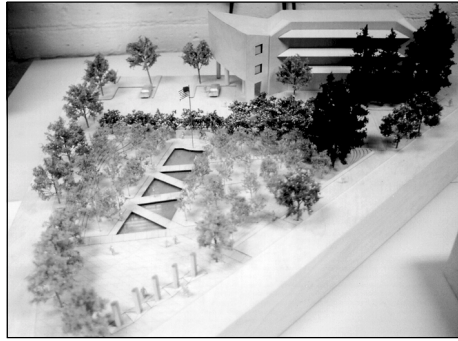
# Veterans Plaza

## From front page

Besides the selection panel, a majority of the 109 members of the public who viewed the five designs over the Veterans Day weekend preferred Garten's concept.

"I think it gives us a reverence . . . and a memorial feeling," said Arts Commissioner James Pezzaglia. "It integrates well with City Hall and it will further enhance the quality of life in Walnut Creek."

The plaza is expected to be opened by March 2003.



A model of Cliff Garten's winning design for the new Veterans Memorial Plaza (left), and the site (right) next to City Hall at Civic Drive and North Broadway where it will be created. The new plaza will feature a grove of birch trees surrounding a reflecting pool. Five granite columns featuring each of the branches of the armed services will also be erected.

## Students' grand prizewinning essays

# 'Why We Should Thank Our Veterans'

By Siddharth Ramakrishnan  
8th grade, Foothill Middle School

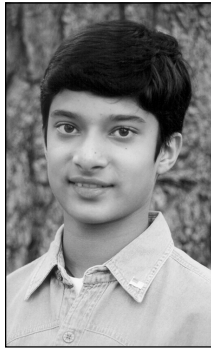
Can you imagine America as a country where war is a part of everyday life and people are afraid to come out of their own houses because they fear being killed? Of course not, because this is a scenario that we consider unthinkable and would never happen in America. Are you glad that your life is as peaceful and easy as it is today? However, do not forget that somebody had to make this possible. These people were our veterans, people who served in the armed forces.

Since World War I, the United States has been involved in many of the world's affairs. They have sent soldiers onto the battlefield to protect the rights of the American people. In the national anthem "The Star Spangled Banner," America is known as the "home of the brave." The valiant soldiers who fought in the numerous wars showed ultimate bravery by risking their lives to make sure America would still stand as a role model of freedom, power and political balance. They deserve to be thanked with the utmost gratitude.

After World War I, President Wilson declared November 11 a day of remembering those who fought in the war and to remind Americans of the economical and emotional strain that war has. In 1938, it was made a federal holiday. However, many Americans still take for granted what those courageous men and women did for our country. The same men and women who wanted to make sure that our country was safe and would remain prosperous. They were willing to die for that cause. Would you?

My generation has never had to deal with anything such as war in our lives and the terrorist acts of September 11th make us think, "How could this happen in America?" We begin to comprehend the true meaning of the "Pledge of Allegiance" as not just a poem that we recite to satisfy our teachers, but as an oath of loyalty to our country. We realize that our previous war veterans have kept us safe until now. Now it is our turn to "pledge our allegiance to the flag" and stand "indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

This is why I think we should thank our veterans. They have done a great service to our country by defending us on the battlefield. They risked their lives to protect America from the harm of war so that we could live our lives in peace. Now it is time for my generation to do the same.



Siddharth  
Ramakrishnan

By Nick Ma  
6th grade, Walnut Creek Intermediate

People do not realize the sacrifice a person makes when he or she pledges to serve our country, to promise to defend against all enemies foreign and domestic. When a person volunteers to serve in the military, they are giving up a large part of their personal freedom to make a positive and necessary contribution to our country's welfare. This person has to go through a very difficult training period before they can perform the duties expected of them. They have to learn many new skills along with a new attitude.

This new attitude has to do with thinking in terms "we" instead of "I."

We live in a country where we have a level of freedom that is unheard of in many other parts of our world, places where you can be killed for saying anything negative against the government. In our country, we have freedom of speech. We have many freedoms that we take for granted, freedoms that veterans fought and died for.

Because we take our freedom for granted, we oftentimes don't think of the fact that there are those who would like to end our way of life. Those that resent and envy our freedoms and what we have. What we forget is that freedom isn't always free. Maybe in a fantasy world where everyone is good, where we can always come to a peaceful resolution of problems. But, as we know from history, this is not reality. On September 11th we got a very cruel lesson that there is evil in the world.

Veterans lay their lives on the line for you and me. They know the possible cost and are willing to pay it. This is not to say that they are not afraid because they are. Even so, they show their bravery by facing frightening situations in spite of it.

So, don't take our soldiers, airmen and sailors for granted. Give them thanks and may God bless them as well as America.



Nick Ma

## First place winners

**Walnut Creek Intermediate School:** Leah Tannehill, 6th grade; Natalie Gabbard, 7th grade; Sarah Kious, 8th grade.

**Foothill Middle School:** Kelly Hoy, 6th grade; Natasha Mody, 8th grade.

*Gift certificates were graciously contributed by Broadway Plaza. The City of Walnut Creek also gave \$200 to each school for purchasing library books on American history and related topics.*

## City wins state grant for Walnut Blvd. pedestrian walkway

The City has received a Safe Routes to School grant from the state to pay for 70 percent of a pedestrian walkway on Walnut Boulevard between Ygnacio Valley Road and Homestead Avenue.

The Walnut Boulevard project is estimated to cost \$498,000 and the grant will cover \$348,000. The remaining funds are a local match of \$150,000 funded through the current Capital Improvement Program budget. It is expected to be completed by spring 2003.

The City is still awaiting word on a separate Pedestrian Safety Program state grant of \$336,000 it applied for to build sidewalks in the gaps along Buena Vista Avenue between Parkside Drive and San Luis Road.

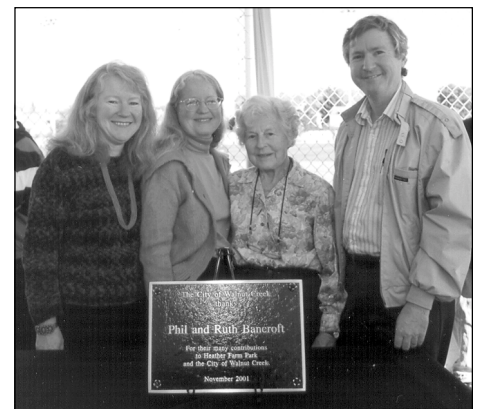
The Safe Routes to School grant, a state sponsored two-year program using federal funds, is in its second year.

Statewide competition for the grants is very stiff, with only \$20 million being made available each year. In 2000, of the 650 applications requesting \$130 million in grant funding, only 85 were successful. In 2001, there were approximately 550 applications and only 101 were successful.



## Bancrofts honored at HF fields opening

Children and parents used a parachute (above) to pop a giant ball into the air on Nov. 17 following the official opening of the Heather Farm Park Sports Fields. A plaque honoring the contributions of Ruth Petersson Bancroft and her late husband, Phil, was unveiled and is displayed near the picnic area between the softball and soccer fields. Attending the festivities (at right) were Mrs. Bancroft, third from left, and her children (from left) Kathy Hidalgo, Nina Dickerson, and Peter Bancroft.



## Students learn about City's new mapping system

Las Lomas High School students recently got a short course from the City's Information Systems Analyst Joan Ricard (right) on the City's new Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which has mapping data for the entire city of Walnut Creek based on aerial photographs. GIS gives City employees detailed information about properties throughout Walnut Creek. The service may be available to the public on the City's Internet website sometime in 2003.

## Shop on-line to give folks a fresh start

Now Walnut Creek residents can help the homeless while shopping on-line.

When you shop at the on-line "mall" at iGive.com, up to 27 percent of each purchase price is donated to various causes, including Walnut Creek's own Fresh Start Program that benefits local homeless adults and children.

Over 200 well known stores are available at iGive.com, including Old Navy, Barnes & Noble, Toys 'r Us, The Gap, and Eddie Bauer.

When you purchase something at iGive.com, just select Fresh Start as your "cause of choice" and a donation will be made to that program. It's that easy. It's free and it's private.

In 2001, iGive.com raised nearly \$400,000 for a 16,200 causes.

## City Council Update

### Library measure OK'd for ballot

The City Council on Nov. 20 agreed to place a measure on the March 5 ballot to let Walnut Creek voters decide whether to approve a special parcel tax to support services and increase hours of operations at Walnut Creek's two library branches.

### Northgate volunteers honored

The Mayor's Distinguished Achievement Award was presented Nov. 20 to the Make a Change group at Northgate High School for providing students opportunities for meaningful volunteer service in Contra Costa County.

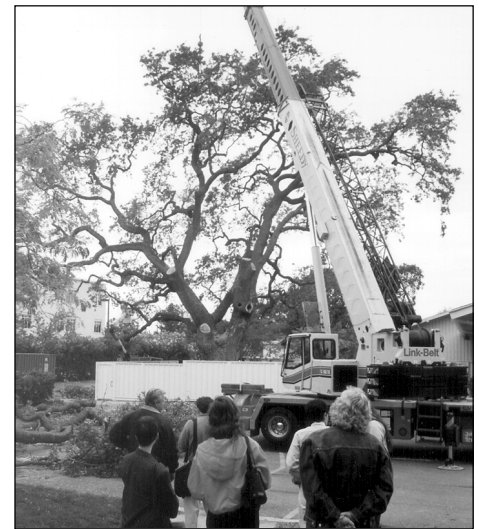
### Homeless services continued

The two-year-old Fresh Start Program, which has provided 160 homeless children and adults necessary resources to enable them to make a "fresh start," was approved for another year by the City Council on Nov. 6. The program is funded by a Rossmoor resident's \$250,000 bequest and donations from residents, local businesses, and service organizations. For 2001-2002, the program will be funded from the remaining \$84,589. The City has an agreement with Susan Prather to administer the program until funds are exhausted or until it can be continued by a viable community-based agency.



## Requiem for an oak

City arborist John Davis (above) inspects a gaping hollow in a decayed branch of a 300-year-old oak tree that had stood next to the Shadelands Arts Center at Ygnacio Valley Road and Wiget Lane. The City removed the ailing tree after an examination determined that it had been fatally damaged by microbes that had weakened the heavy branches that hung majestically over the preschool portion of the facility. At right, spectators watched on Oct. 30 as a tree cutting crew removed the 60-foot-tall specimen. The remnants of the entire tree are stored on the rear portion of the Shadelands Arts Center so that artists may use them to create artistic works that may be displayed in a future exhibition at the City's Bedford Gallery. Anyone interested in learning how they can participate may contact Gallery Curator Carrie Lederer at 295-1415.



## Citizens can apply for 2 vacancies on City commissions

The City Council is accepting applications for vacancies that will open up on the Planning and Park, Recreation & Open space commissions in 2002.

Lesley Hunt will step off the Planning Commission after seven years of service, while Lou Schrepel will vacate his seat on the PROS Commission after five years.

The application period will be from Wednesday, Jan. 9 through 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 31.

To obtain an application, contact the City Clerk's office at (925) 943-5818 or e-mail: rivara@walnut-creek.org

## How we enforce the City's rules

Code Queries is a new column in the *Nutshell* that will address some of the more common questions citizens and business owners have about the rules that help govern the quality of life they enjoy in Walnut Creek.

Those rules are embodied by the Walnut Creek Municipal Code — a bible of all the City laws that was overhauled in 1962 and redrafted in 1969. Over the years, the Muni Code has been amended many times to reflect legal and societal changes in Walnut Creek.

Much of the Muni Code is enforced by a team of Community Enhancement Officers that responds to complaints, inquiries, and requests for investigation. These enforcers also regularly scour the community for violations of the Code,

such as zoning and nuisance issues (i.e. illegal signs, encroachments).

The Muni Code is only enforced within the incorporated areas of Walnut Creek — unincorporated areas are under the jurisdiction of the county.

The first step in enforcing the Code is the issuance of a correction notice, or sometimes just a verbal warning. If the nuisance isn't abated, the City may issue a citation. Fines ranging from \$100 and up may be imposed on a daily basis until the violation is fixed.

In future issues we'll keep you informed on your obligations as a resident or business. If you have a questions regarding the Muni Code you'd like to see addressed in this column, contact the City at 943-5863 or 256-3508.





By Sergeant Tim Schultz

## "I Resolve ..."

In 2002 I resolve to:

### • Wear a bicycle helmet

In 2001 a juvenile was cited for not wearing a bicycle helmet. His parents were sent a letter informing them of the violation, and of a free Bicycle Safety Class put on by the Police Department. When the juvenile came to the class one month later he was black and blue all over. He said that two weeks earlier he had crashed while riding his bicycle. The doctor told him the only thing that saved him, he was sure, was the fact he was wearing his bicycle helmet.

I will wear a helmet!



### • Obey all pedestrian laws and visually clear all lanes of traffic

In 2001 we investigated two automobiles versus pedestrian accidents, both of which were extremely serious. One resulted in the pedestrian losing sight in one eye, and the other resulted in a pedestrian fatality.

In both cases the driver indicated they never saw the pedestrian.

As a pedestrian (as well as a driver) I will be careful!

### • Not leave valuable items laying in my unattended car

On a regular basis we investigated automobile burglaries, wherein the victim left items of value (e.g. a purse, cell phone, laptop computer, etc.) laying in plain view.

These were "crimes of opportunity." If the opportunity hadn't been there...the crime wouldn't have occurred.

I will prevent crimes of opportunity!

### • Always wear a seat belt

In 2001 we investigated a vehicle versus tree accident. The driver, who was wearing a seatbelt, was okay. But the passenger, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was ejected through the windshield and killed.

I will wear a seatbelt!

## Kiddie cop

Five-year-old Kamar Jalil of Walnut Creek got behind the wheel of a police cruiser as Officer David Rangel smiled approvingly at the City's Behind the Scenes Day open house held Oct. 20 at the Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts.



## How well is WC prepared for disaster?

By Tom Soberanes, Chief of Police

Since the tragic events of September 11, the City of Walnut Creek has experienced an increasing number of inquiries about our ability to respond.

For many years, the City has been involved in disaster planning. We have worked with the State, Contra Costa County, and surrounding jurisdictions to develop a strategic plan and we have involved our employees in training to help them better prepare for a potential event.

As a matter of policy, the City conducts an annual training exercise, which has allowed us to test our ability to coordinate resources with neighboring police jurisdictions, private utility companies, fire, emergency medical services, hospital facilities, schools, the American Red Cross, and the business community.

The police department also has people trained to stabilize situations involving hazardous materials and a bomb unit

trained to disarm explosive devices ranging from fireworks to nuclear weapons.

Although we hope to never have to use this training, we feel our efforts have improved our ability to coordinate major events and have prepared our employees so that they are in the best possible position to provide for the safety of the community.

We have no information that there are potential targets for terrorism within the City of Walnut Creek. However, you can help us be better prepared for any disaster by accumulating the following supplies for your home or business: bottled water, a flashlight and extra batteries, food and snacks to sustain you and your family for up to 72 hours, a portable radio, and an emergency plan to get your family together should they become separated.

For advice in handling suspicious packages and/or letters, visit the police department's website: [walnutcreekpd.com](http://walnutcreekpd.com)

## A New Year's resolution: Use your bike!

With the arrival of the New Year, many people make resolutions. Perhaps this year you might try making more of those short trips from home on foot or by bicycle instead of by car.

Making your short trips by human power will not only improve your health and help you burn off those extra calories for the holidays but will also lessen traffic congestion and air pollution. At the same time, it will save you money on your fuel costs while reducing our country's dependence on foreign oil.

If you're not sure how to start bicycling

locally, contact the Walnut Creek Transportation Department at 925/256-3529 for free local maps of bicycle trails and an excellent brochure titled "Safe Bicycling in Contra Costa." This 33-page pamphlet

for ages 12 and up covers basics on bicycle equipment, repairs, lock, helmets, laws, how to dress, and riding etiquette on streets and trails.

So this year, why not ride more, drive less, and breathe easier?

**Re-Cycling** is prepared by the Bicycle Advisory Committee of the Transportation Commission.



# Blubaugh

## From front page

Blubaugh has been the steward of the most ambitious campaign of community improvements in Walnut Creek's 87-year history. During his tenure, the City has completed more than 20 major capital projects, including the Regional Center for the Arts, two community gymnasiums, three parks, the South Locust Street Parking Garage, the construction of Lawrence Way and the South Broadway Extension, creek restoration efforts, the expansion of the Police/City Hall facility, and the Shadelands Arts Center.

Blubaugh also initiated and carried out several community and employee involvement programs. These have included citizen academies on the workings of city government, city staff working with neighborhood groups on the problems of their communities, and most recently Community Conversations, the broad-based community outreach program that involved more than 300 citizens in a series of focused discussions on how they feel about their community and what they want Walnut Creek to be in the future.

Blubaugh began his career in 1965 as assistant city manager in Riverside, followed by a similar stint in Palm Springs from 1969 to 1973. He was then promoted

to city manager there, remaining until he assumed the city manager's post in Hayward in 1979.

Besides his municipal duties, Blubaugh has been active at the state and county levels, helping to chart new directions for government during recessions. He served as president of the City Manager Department of the League of California Cities in 1990-91, and was a member of the League's board of directors in 1993-95.

From 1992 to 1996, Blubaugh was an advisor to the state's Constitutional Revision Commission with a focus on local government.

Most recently, he has been working with Contra Costa city and county officials on a visioning plan for shaping this county's future.

In 1989 Blubaugh received the ASPA Achievement Award from the American Society for Public Administration. He was a long-time member and president of the organization's Bay Area chapter.

A native of Waynesboro, Penn., Blubaugh holds a master's degree in governmental administration from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Betty, intend to stay in Walnut Creek after he retires.

## Who Do I Call?



Arts Education classes	943-5846
Bicycle registration	943-5844
Building permits	943-5834
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
Community Connection	943-5899, x116
Crime prevention	943-5885
Employment hotline	943-5817
Fingerprinting	943-5844
Flood information	256-3555
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
Old Borges Ranch	943-5860
Planning matters	943-5834
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	256-3555
Tree removal permit	943-5854



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

\* Available by appointment:  
Call 943-5812.

**CITY MANAGER**  
Donald Blubaugh  
**CITY ATTORNEY**  
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**CITY CLERK**  
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Paul Richardson, Acting Director  
**CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
Gary Pokorny, Director  
**POLICE**  
Tom Soberanes, Chief of Police  
**PUBLIC SERVICES**  
Arlene Hildebrand, Director/Asst. City Manager

## IN A Nutshell

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

Editor:  
Brad Rovanpera

We welcome your comments and questions.  
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