



IN A

Nutshell

No. 104

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2003

Citizen's Institute sign-ups now being accepted

For a real insider's look at how things get done in Walnut Creek, the City is again offering its popular Citizen's Institute in February.

The Walnut Creek Citizen's Institute, first offered in spring 2000, is an eight-week series of sessions open to any resident with an interest in Walnut Creek city government. There is no cost but space is limited to 30 participants and fills up quickly. Sign-ups are being accepted through Jan. 31.

Participation requires attendance at all eight sessions that will be held from Feb. 22 to April 5. The first and last sessions will be on Saturdays; the rest will be held on consecutive Thursday evenings.

Participants will get to interact with City Manager Mike Parness, City Council members, community leaders, and City management staff. Sessions will include an informative bus tour of Walnut Creek and discussions on growth, economic development, traffic, quality of life, regional issues, and police.

To sign up for the Walnut Creek Citizen's Institute, you may e-mail Deputy City Manager Dolores Lendrum at dlendrum@walnut-creek.org or call 943-5899, ext. 116.



The City failed in its first bid for a state construction grant to replace its aging downtown library, which has the original furniture used when it opened in March 1961.

WC suffers setback in 1st round of state library grant process

A state panel on Dec. 2 turned down the City's request for \$16.5 million in voter-approved construction grant funds to build a new downtown library.

City leaders, though, immediately vowed to reapply for another state grant in the spring when the second round of applications are due.

Walnut Creek was among 61 cities that were vying for Proposition 14 library

construction funds that California voters approved in 2000. A total of \$350 million in state grants are available on a 65 percent state to 35 percent local matching fund basis.

Following more than one hour of public comment, the California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board decided to award \$130 million to 13

LIBRARY, see page 6

High school students honored for veterans appreciation essays

Five local high school students were awarded prizes in the City's Veterans Day essay contest on Nov. 11.

The students submitted essays on the theme, "What We Can Learn From Our Veterans." All five students received gift certificates contributed by Broadway

Plaza.

The grand prize of a \$50 gift certificate was awarded to Northgate High School junior Jacob Siegel, whose essay appears on page 5.

Gift certificates of \$25 were presented to freshmen Michelle Nicola and Tori

Anderson of Las Lomas High; sophomore Tatiana Ramage, Las Lomas; and senior Tina Chou, Northgate.

The City Council also contributed \$200 and \$100, respectively, to Northgate and Las Lomas to purchase library books.

City Event Calendar

January

1
New Year's Day
City offices closed

20
Martin Luther King Day observance
City offices closed
Ceremony at noon
Civic Park Community Center assembly hall
(See *What's Happening*)

February

17
President's Day observance
City offices closed

City Meeting Calendar

*City Council**
Jan. 7, 14; Feb. 4, 18
7 p.m.
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

Planning Commission
Jan. 19, 23; Feb. 13, 27
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Arts Commission
Jan. 21, Feb. 18
4:30 p.m.
Leshner Center for the Arts

Transportation Commission
Jan. 16, Feb. 20
7:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Design Review Commission
Jan. 15; Feb. 5, 19
7 p.m., City Council chamber

Park, Rec & Open Space Commission
Jan. 6, Feb. 3
7 p.m., City Council chamber

*City Council meetings are televised live on AT&T Channels 6 and 26 (unincorporated), and on Astound Channel 29 the following day at 7 p.m. It is 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, can be seen seven days a week on AT&T Channel 6 and 26 at 6 a.m., 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m., 10:30 p.m.

Large wood contraptions in Bedford Gallery exhibition

Large-scale machines made of wood are the focus of "Conceptual Contraptions: The Art of Bernie Lubell and Sheri Simons," which will be featured at the Bedford Gallery from January 26 to March 9.

The artists will have several of their pieces on display, many of which will be interactive and all of which are entertaining.

A public reception will take place on Sunday, Feb. 2 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Bedford Gallery is in the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts at 1601 Civic Dr. Admission is \$3, general; \$2, ages 12-17; free, under 12. For hours, call 295-1417.



Sayonara, a wooden train on a circular track created by Sheri Simons

What's Happening

Martin Luther King Day observance

"Moving On Together" will be the theme of the City's annual Martin Luther King Day Service on Monday, Jan. 20 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 weeks of Jan. 6-10 and Jan. 20-25. Simply leave your tree at the curbside on your regular trash collection day. 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.



Dinosaurs! show extended at Lindsay

The special "Dinosaurs!" exhibit at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum has been extended to Feb. 9 due to popular demand. The exhibit features a lifesize casting of the carnivorous Giganotosaurus, a 46-foot-long skeleton that is on display in the main exhibit hall. The lower level exhibit hall includes displays of Velociraptor, Stegosaurus, Protoceratops, Pteranodon, and Allosaurus. The museum is at 1931 First Ave. in Larkey Park. Admission is Tuesday-Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

New planning manager named

Sandra Meyer was promoted to Planning Manager in November by Community Development Director Valerie Barone. Meyer had been a Principal Planner for the City since 2000 and has been with the Planning Division since November 1989. She succeeds Paul Richardson, who left the post in July.



Sandra Meyer



Employees of the Year Kathy Wilkie and Chris Erdle

2002 City Employees of the Year named

City Manager Mike Parness announced Kathy Wilkie and Chris Erdle as co-recipients of the 2002 Employee of the Year Award at the annual City Employee Awards Banquet on Oct. 16. The Employee of the Year Award, created in 1989, honors those staff members who exemplify excellence in the organization. Kathy, an assistant traffic engineer, helped coordinate several traffic calming workshops in the Northgate and Carriage Square areas. Chris, the City architect, has overseen the City Hall/Police expansion project.

Appraisal event at Gardens at HF

Find out the value of your antiques and collectibles at the Annual Appraisal Event on Feb. 23 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive. The cost for having up to 3 items appraised is \$15; there's a \$5 charge for each additional item. Fees benefit The Gardens at Heather Farm, a nonprofit organization that promotes an understanding of ecology and horticulture. For more information, call 947-1678.

Commendation for police chief

Chief of Police Tom Soberanes received a commendation in November recognizing the professional assistance members of the Police Department have given the Brothers of the Apostles of Christ organization.

PROS commission to consider 2 sites for new skate park

The Park, Recreation & Open Space Commission voted Dec. 2 to consider sites in Heather Farm Park and Civic Park for a new City skate park.

Following a report from the Skate Park Task Force, the commission agreed to study the feasibility of building a skate park at either the northern end of Heather Farm Park (where a temporary skate park was located in 1997-99) or the site of the softball field in Civic Park.

No funding has yet been appropriated for a skate park.

Over the last several months the task force examined 33 potential locations, including parks, schools, and private land.

Following is an update on other projects in Walnut Creek:

Festival Cinema razed

The Festival Cinema building, a Walnut Creek landmark since 1969, was razed Nov. 26 to make room for a McCovey's 44 restaurant and a Thomasville Furniture store.

The project's developer, Dudum Properties of Walnut Creek, is planning to begin construction on the 22,500-square-foot project by mid-January. The furniture store is expected to open in late June, while the restaurant portion should open in late July, according to the developer.

The Festival Cinema, which closed on Aug. 31, 2001, was a five-screen moviehouse that opened on May 29, 1969. The building it occupied for 32 years was originally a Fuller Paints store and auto glass installer shop (see historic photo on page 6).

The Corners

Developer Brian Hirahara expects the new Tiffany jewelry store to open in the spring in The Corners project at the southwest corner of Main Street and Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Also planned is a Pottery Barn Kids and a café.

Alma Avenue housing, park

Work has yet to begin on the new Alma Park, which will be located between the new Ivy Hill Apartments and The Regent on the Park condominiums off Alma Avenue. Ivy Hill Apartments are ready for



The Festival Cinema building was razed Nov. 26 to make room for McCovey's 44 restaurant, which is shown in an artist's rendering (right).



occupancy, including 47 units reserved for low and moderate income renters.

The developer for both housing projects is expected to complete the condominiums and the 2-acre public park by summer.

Olympic Place

The Olympic Place retail shops and a 600-plus space public garage, bounded by Mt. Diablo, California and Olympic boulevards and Locust Street, are expected to be opened by the end of February.

Meanwhile, the 14-screen Century Theaters complex is scheduled for its

debut at the end of May.

Creekwalk extension

The City is planning to begin work in the spring on two more segments of its Creekwalk trail along San Ramon Creek, from Maria Lane to Broadway Plaza and from the corner of Creekside Drive to South Main Street.

Work underway on major EBMUD pipeline

The East Bay Municipal Utility District has begun the process of constructing a new pipeline through downtown Walnut Creek as part of its Walnut Creek-San Ramon Improvement Project.

Workers in the fall moved an existing pipeline that crosses North California Boulevard and runs along Lacassie and

Carlback avenues.

EBMUD will build a one-mile tunnel from Newell Avenue north to the National Guard Armory near Civic Park's ballfield. A boring machine will be used to dig the tunnel 80 feet below the ground.

The work will take about two years. For more information, call 935-6049.

More What's Happening

WC Aquanuts to attempt record

To kick off their 35th year anniversary, the Walnut Creek Aquanuts synchronized swim team will attempt to set a Guinness Book world record for the greatest distance swum by a 20-woman relay team in a 24-hour period. The relay will begin Jan. 25 at 1 p.m. at Clarke Memorial Swim Center in Heather Farm Park. The public is invited to witness the event and be on hand for the finish on Jan. 26 from

noon to 3 p.m. Admission is free. Following the relay, elite swimmers will perform synchronized swimming routines.

Correction

There was an inadvertent error in the "Criminal Offenses" box on page 13 of the 2001-2002 *State of the City* report that was in the last issue of the *Nutshell*. The statistics indicated for 2000 are actually for 2001, and vice versa.

Applications due Jan. 24 for two City grant fund programs

The City Council is currently soliciting applications for two grant programs: the Community Development Block Grant and Community Services Grant programs.

(Note: The Civic Pride Grant application process has been postponed until later in 2003.)

Community Development Block Grants

The City of Walnut Creek receives funds from the federal government through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The City then allocates these funds to support housing, community service, and economic development projects and programs that serve Walnut Creek residents. These funds must be used primarily for the benefit of low and moderate-income persons. In 2003, the City expects to receive approximately \$407,000 in federal grant funds through the CDBG program.

Community Service Grants

To supplement the federal CDBG funds, the City is making 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 used to subsidize public services that do not meet the stringent requirements of the CDBG program.

Applications for both grant programs are now available. The deadline for submittal is Jan. 17. Final decisions on which projects are funded will be made by the City Council in the spring.

For details or to obtain an application, contact Laura Simpson at 943-5899 x. 236 or via e-mail at simpson@walnut-creek.org. Applications are also available on-line at the City's website: www.walnut-creek.org.

City offers low interest loans for home rehabilitation

Qualifying homeowners in Walnut Creek may apply for a low-interest home rehabilitation loan of up to \$60,000 through the City.

The City's Home Rehabilitation Loan Program will provide loans and emergency grants to low and moderate income Walnut Creek property owners to improve



New carpeting installed at arts center

Center Manager Scott Denison, standing, watches as a worker lays new carpeting at the Dean Leshler Regional Center for the Arts in November. The \$170,000 project replaced the original carpeting that was installed for the opening of the center in 1990. The new, blue and burgundy carpeting has a similar design to the original woolen carpeting and is made of a synthetic fabric that should wear longer.

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%. 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 International 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 943-5854 for details.

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 (enter from North Broadway).

WC congratulates Italian sister city

The City of Walnut Creek presented a proclamation to its sister city of Noceto, Italy on Nov. 9 to congratulate the community on its being awarded The Honour Flag by the Council of Europe.

Noceto, Walnut Creek's sister city since 1987, was one of three cities in Italy to receive the prestigious award, which honors cities that have fostered cultural exchanges with other communities.

Councilmember Kathy Hicks, representing the City, also presented Noceto officials with a framed aerial photograph of Walnut Creek and a gift of \$1,000 from the Walnut Creek Sister Cities International organization to preserve the town's collection of opera records on tape.

Foundation seeks funds to improve 27-year-old Ygnacio Valley Library

The Walnut Creek Library Foundation has begun a fundraising campaign to raise \$200,000 to pay for interior improvements at the 27-year-old Thurman G. Casey/Ygnacio Valley Library on Oak Grove Road.

So far, \$40,000 has been pledged. To raise the remaining \$160,000, the foundation is seeking donations ranging from \$100 to \$50,000. To learn how you can help, contact Marion Goodman, executive director of the foundation, at 283-1791.



Above is a view of tree-lined Bonanza Street last fall as seen from California Boulevard, with the vacant Festival Cinema on the right. Thirty-five years ago (below), it was a very different Bonanza Street, with a vegetable stand on the left, a Shell gas station at the corner of Locust Street (gasoline was 30.5 cents/gal.), and an auto glass shop and Fuller Paints store in the cinema building. In the foreground, the rough state of the road indicates the construction of California Boulevard on the former Sacramento Northern railway right-of-way.

Walnut Creek Now... & Then



Prize-winning Veterans Day essay

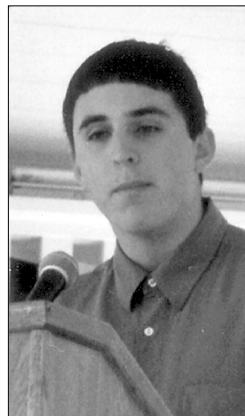
'What we can learn from our veterans'

By Jacob Siegel
Junior, Northgate High School

For many Americans, Veterans Day has become just another holiday, a welcome respite from work and school during the long stretch between the end of summer and Thanksgiving. Yet, when we as Americans forget the actions of our veterans, we both do a disservice to them and miss out on a valuable opportunity to appreciate how lucky we are to live in such a great and free nation.

Americans today could learn a lesson about the value of humility from the men and women who fought so bravely on our

behalf. They were ordinary people who rose up to do heroic things in the service of our nation. Yet, when our servicemen and servicewomen came back home, they once again became merely ordinary people. They never demanded the limelight. They didn't ask for parades celebrating their valor. Our veterans felt that having been able to protect the free world from despotism was enough of a tribute in and of itself.



Jacob Siegel

Even more importantly, we should learn from our veterans something about the great cost of maintaining our freedom. Our veterans gave years of their lives to fight for our nation. They saw many of their friends lose their lives for the cause of liberty. Those veterans who made it back were forever changed by the horrors of the wars that were fought to protect our rights. By examining their sacrifices, we can truly understand the great price that is required to preserve liberty.

City Council Update

Interim growth limitation rules set

The City Council has extended its growth limitation regulations for another two years while City staff drafts a revised General Plan. A new growth limitation plan will be incorporated into the updated General Plan. The current growth limitation program will end in August 2003. Because it is based on two-year commercial development cycles, the interim growth limitation regulations will be extended to August 2005 with a total allocation of 183,000 square feet of commercial development.

Casa Montego housing funds OK'd

The City Council on Oct. 15 authorized \$75,000 in grant funds to provide preliminary design work for an additional 32 units of very-low income senior citizen housing at the Casa Montego facility at Montego and La Casa Via. Currently, 92 residents live in the 79-unit development that opened in 1989. The grant allocation helps the City meet a projected need of 289 very-low income units through 2006.

Private parking enforcement

The City Council on Oct. 1 agreed to postpone until February a discussion on whether to change the rules for enforcement of parking in private downtown lots.

Library

From front page

communities that rated highest among the 61 applications. Of those, three have no library; the rest have inadequate facilities.

Walnut Creek's downtown library was opened in 1961 when only 10,000 people lived in the city. Today, with a population of 65,000, Walnut Creek needs a facility four times larger and better equipped technologically to meet its needs.

Walnut Creek's application was among 33 that were rated "Very Good" by a state library staff review panel. The City is seeking to replace the 9,234-square-foot downtown library, which is operated by Contra Costa County, with a 40,380-square-foot facility to serve patrons of all ages.

"I'm so impressed with all the applicants and I'm only sorry we don't have enough money to fund them all," said board member Senator Dede Alpert.



City makes its 'Salute to Rossmoor'

Folk singer Chris Fender entertained more than 700 Rossmoor residents at the City Council's "Salute to Rossmoor" program on Oct. 19 in the Hofmann Theatre at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts. The 90-minute show, which honored Rossmoor's volunteerism in the community, also featured the Diablo Symphony Orchestra, The Ballet Joyeux, and singer Meta Mataban. The program was made possible by contributions from John Muir/Mt. Diablo Health Systems, Kaiser Permanente, Longs Drug Stores, The Mechanic's Bank, and Pleasant Hill Bayshore.

Citizens sought to serve on commissions

As many as five vacancies on City advisory commissions will need to be filled in March, and applications for those seats will be accepted in January.

Commissioners whose second terms will be expiring are Dee West, Planning; Joseph Gorny and Stephen Harriman, Design Review; Tom Donahoe, Arts; and William Retberg, Transportation. (Ben Bryce was appointed in August to fill the unexpired term of Transportation Commissioner Kathleen Nagel.)

The City Council is scheduled in

January to interview three first-term commissioners whose terms expire in 2003. Appointments will be made in February and new commissioners will be sworn in on March 4.

Applications for remaining vacancies will be accepted from Jan. 8 to 30. Citizens may obtain an application from the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 1666 No. Main St. (enter from North Broadway), by calling 943-5818, or by going on-line to www.walnut-creek.org.

WC Municipal Code now on-line

Every regulation citizens and businesses must follow in Walnut Creek is now posted on the City's website for easy and fast reference.

The Walnut Creek Municipal Code, the rule book for the City, is easier than ever to access at www.walnut-creek.org. Every ordinance, every zoning regulation, every arcane detail that one could need or want is now easy to find with a user-friendly search engine in two different formats, frames and no frames.

The new and improved Municipal

Code on-line site replaces a cumbersome and hard-to-navigate site that proved to be too difficult and confusing for most users.

However, the new site, created for the

City by the American Legal Publishing Corporation, features easy-to-follow instructions on how to find topics, such as noise abatement and parking vehicles on private

property.

If you have any questions about using the on-line Municipal Code site, contact webmaster Gayle Melvin at 943-5899, ext. 189.





By Officer Sean Dexter

Crosswalk do's and don'ts

I could ask just about any adult what they know about crosswalk traffic control devices and most would say they understand what the “Walk” and “Don't Walk” signals mean. However, my experience has been that there are a few fine points that most folks are not aware of.



Ever see someone run across the road in a place where they know they shouldn't? I see it all the time. It would be funny if it wasn't so dangerous.

I often see pedestrians crossing the street when they face a green traffic light but the pedestrian signal says “Don't Walk.” Signal lights which cycle red, yellow, and green are for vehicles, and only govern pedestrians when no other pedestrian signals are present. Most intersections in our city have separate pedestrian signals. A pedestrian who crosses a street on a “Don't Walk” signal can not only get a ticket, they could get injured. The “Walk” signal means just that: It is OK to go as long as you check for traffic before leaving the curb.

An important distinction is whether the “Don't Walk” signal is flashing or solid. These signals can either be spelled “Don't Walk” in red, or can be a symbol of an upraised hand in red. The newest ones feature a numerical countdown which tells the pedestrian how much time remains until the light will change. The flashing signal means it is no longer safe to start from the curb if you have not yet started crossing. Bottom line: A pedestrian should never leave the curb when faced with a solid “Don't Walk,” “Wait,” or upraised hand symbol.

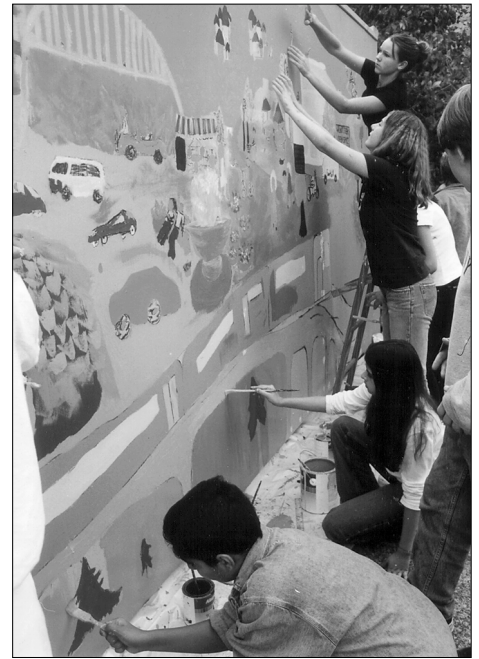
A common misconception is that a person must stop midway in the crosswalk when the “Don't Walk” signal begins to flash. If you have started legally, you may continue across. The flashing signal is just to let you know that time is running out.

So, to avoid injury or meeting a police officer, be sure to cross the street properly by obeying the crosswalk signals.



Civic group honors City Hall muralists, Borges Ranch keepers

The Walnut Creek Action for Beauty Council, which annually honors efforts to enhance the beauty of Walnut Creek, bestowed its prized 2002 Chrysanthemum Award for Excellence on Nov. 1 to the students of Foothill Middle and Walnut Creek Intermediate schools for creating the mural at City Hall in November 2000 (right). The mural, created to decorate a wall that was built for the City Hall expansion work, depicts the community's 150-year history, from the Bolbones natives to the Broadway Pointe. The organization also presented it 2002 Citizens of the Year Award to City employees Marnie and Ron White (top), who were recognized for their many contributions to Walnut Creek. Ron is the City's senior open space ranger, the first hired by the City in 1978, and Marnie was instrumental in having the historic Borges Ranch in the Shell Ridge Open Space placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. The couple have also spent the last 25 years creating unique educational opportunities for children and adults at the Borges Ranch, including an environmental history program and a visitor's center.



New bike racks installed around city

City staff has installed 27 new bike racks at numerous locations throughout Walnut Creek for public use.

These locations include six spots on various downtown sidewalks as well as at the Regional Center for the Arts, Heather Farm Park, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, and Larkey Park. There is even a special rack

designed for extra security (including a storage bin) at the Mitchell Drive park-and-ride lot.

Funding for the racks was shared between the City of Walnut Creek and the Air Quality District's Transportation Fund for Clean Air program. For more information, call Michael Vecchio at 256-3529.

Go exploring and have fun!

By Lanning Bryant

We are very fortunate in Walnut Creek to have an excellent system of trails, whether along the canals or through the open space. In fact, two maps may be of help to you on your next ride. One map is titled the *Walnut Creek Trail Map* and displays the various trails and bike lanes that wind through our city. The other map is titled *Walnut Creek Open Space*, and it displays the trails that go through our open space areas such as Shell Ridge, Sugarloaf, and Lime Ridge. Both maps

area available at City offices, you can call 256-3529 for both maps, and at local bike shops. You may discover some new routes or new places to ride and explore. Enjoy and have fun!



The Bicycle Advisory Committee for Walnut Creek seeks your ideas and your input. If you would like

more information on bicycling in the City or are interested in contacting us, please visit our web page at <http://www.ci.walnut-creek.ca.us/bicyclecouncil/BAC.htm>.



FINISHING TOUCH — Workers installed the official City emblem on the North Broadway side of the new City Hall/Police addition on Nov. 15.



City Directory

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

Council selects new mayor for 2003

The City Council on Dec. 3 selected veteran member Gwen Regalia to serve an unprecedented fourth non-consecutive term as mayor of Walnut Creek, succeeding Sue Rainey.

Regalia, who has served on the Council since 1987, was previously mayor in 1990-91, 1995-96, and 1998-99.

The Council also chose Charlie

Abrams to serve as mayor pro tem. He will be in line to become mayor in 2004.

Since the city incorporated in 1914, only three other mayors besides Regalia have served three separate terms: Newell B. Case (1963-64, 1966-67, 1971-72); Robert Schroder (1965-66, 1970-71, 1976); and Peg Kovar (1975-76, 1978-79, 1982-83).



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

* Available by appointment:
 Call 943-5812.

CITY MANAGER
Michael Parness
CITY ATTORNEY
Thomas Haas
CITY CLERK
Barbara Rivara
CITY TREASURER
Ronald Cassano

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
 Rosie Coan, Director
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
 Valerie Barone, Director
ARTS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES
 Gary Pokorny, Director
POLICE
 Tom Soberanes, Chief of Police
PUBLIC SERVICES
 Arlene Hildebrand, Director/Asst. City Manager

IN A Nutshell

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Editor:
 Brad Rovanpera

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



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