

IN A Nutshell



No. 181

Newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

SPRING 2018

SIGN UP FOR THE MARCH 29 FORUM ON HOMELESSNESS

If you want to know more about homelessness in Walnut Creek, or have thoughts or concerns to share, register for the free forum on this important issue to be held on March 29 at 7:00 p.m., hosted by the Walnut Creek Community Homeless Task Force. Get the details and the registration information inside on page 6.



JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER DISASTER TEAM

Community Emergency Response Team members play a vital role in the City's ability to respond during emergencies. New members are needed! CERT training begins April 10. Go to walnut-creek.org/cert.



MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

The City will honor those who died in service to our country with a Memorial Day observance on Monday, May 28, at 10 a.m. 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 walnut-creek.org.



LOOK INSIDE FOR SUMMER CAMP GUIDE
Summer camp registration is underway! Check out the Summer Camp Guide for an array of options.



Rachel Capil, Rachel Capil Photography

LIMEBIKE MAKES ITS DEBUT IN SHADELANDS – LimeBike Bay Area general manager Megan Colford and Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer Jay Hoyer mark the launch of a new bike sharing service. Bikes can be rented on an app on your phone, and dropped off without needing a docking station. The service is run by the startup and available for all to use. See page 5 for more details on LimeBike and other bike sharing news.

Local impact of new state housing laws

The start of the new year brought 15 new housing laws into effect in California, and City staff is reviewing them closely to determine the impacts to Walnut Creek. The laws are geared towards easing the housing shortage and helping remedy the lack of affordable housing, problems which are serious in Walnut Creek, but not unique to our community. Additional new legislation has already been proposed at the Capitol this year that would further encourage housing near transit centers. Stay on top of news about affordable

housing and development in the City by signing up for email updates; visit walnut-creek.org and select eNotifications in the upper right corner.

Video presentation on housing laws

The City Council heard a special presentation on new housing laws on February 13.

Watch the video at walnut-creek.org/meetings.

Spring highlights

Check cable listings or walnutcreektv.org for full schedule

Public Meetings

City Council and all Commission meetings are televised live and available on demand at walnut-creek.org/meetings.

State of the City

What's in store for Walnut Creek in the year ahead? Watch the 2018 State of the City report featuring Walnut Creek's mayor and become an informed citizen.

Science and Art at the Bedford

If you missed Bay Area sculptor Ned Kahn's unique Seed Vortex exhibit, take a virtual tour on the City's YouTube channel and on Walnut Creek TV.

Creek Currents

What's new in the City? Catch the latest Creek Currents with host Brendan Moran.

Channel info

Comcast Channel 28 (incorporated WC only), Rossmoor 26, Astound Channel 29, and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99. Or, watch the channel online at walnutcreektv.org.

Find us on Youtube

Go to youtube.com/cityofwalnutcreek for original programs.

First Wednesday street fests return!

The arrival of spring in March means outdoor events are just around the corner. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 2, for the return of the popular "First Wednesday" street festivals. Walnut Creek Downtown brings live entertainment, arts & crafts, activities for kids, and incredible food and shopping experiences the first Wednesday of each month from May through September. Make your way to Cypress Street between Main Street and Locust Street for all the fun from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Admission is free, and so is the parking in City garages after 5:00 p.m. on First Wednesdays. Check walnutcreekdowntown.com for the 2018 season's exciting lineup.



Summer recreational swim passes are now available for purchase for unlimited use during recreational swim hours at both the Clarke and Larkey Swim Centers. Valid June 9th -- September 4th, you can save \$10 by purchasing them early. After June 11th, the cost is \$70. Stop by either swim center for details.

Here's what's happening

BEDFORD GALLERY

Personal to Political: Celebrating the African American Artists of Paulson Fontaine Press

April 15 – June 24

Opening Reception: Sunday, April 15, 3-5pm

The artists of Personal to Political capture the personal narratives and political battles of African American artists across the country, reflecting a collective experience expressed in uniquely individual ways. Paulson Fontaine Press is a fine art printmaker based in Berkeley with a long tradition of supporting both established and under-represented artists who, in their studio practice, work in a broad reach of media and conceptual approaches.



David Huffman, Basketball Pyramid, 2007

submit original artwork with Frida as the subject or suggested themes of Mexican culture and fashion, gardens, vibrant colors, surrealism, and more. Open to all artists 18+ in all media. Visit www.bedfordgallery.org/frida for entry details and how to submit.

Gallery Tours

Grab some friends and learn more about the art and artists in any of the Bedford Gallery exhibitions on a private docent-led tour, an enriching and unique experience for youth and social groups of all sizes. Visit www.bedfordgallery.org/education-tours for rates and booking.



Dan Dykes, Wings, 1986

Public Art Walking Tours

Every third Saturday of the month,

April – November, 11:00am – 12:00pm
Join the Bedford Gallery Docents on a guided walking tour of Walnut Creek's wonderful Public Art collection. Admission is \$5 and includes a free pass to the Bedford Gallery. Tours meet in front of the Leshner Center at 11:00am and are appropriate for all ages. *For more information on any of these programs, please visit www.bedfordgallery.org or email gallerinfo@bedfordgallery.org. Bedford Gallery receives generous funding from the Leshner Foundation, JP Morgan Chase, and DRAA.*

Call for Artists! The World of Frida

Deadline to apply: April 21

This summer, Bedford Gallery brings to life the world of visionary Mexican painter Frida Kahlo! The exhibition will weave juried and invitational shows with a nationally traveling exhibition of Frida photographs by Nickolas Muray. The gallery is looking for artists to



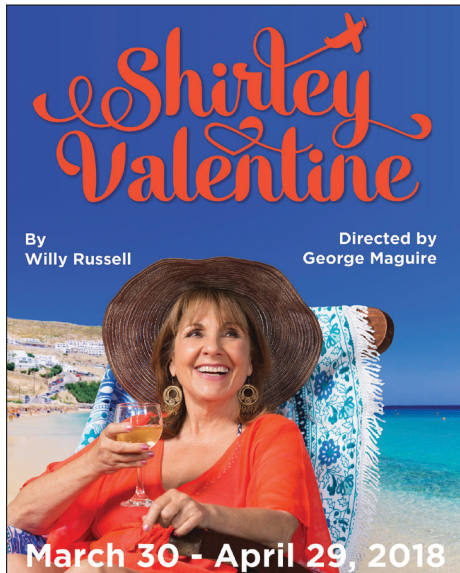
Nickolas Muray, Frida leaning on a sculpture by Mardonio Magaña, Coyoacán, 1940 (detail)

CENTER REP PERFORMANCES

Shirley Valentine

March 30 - April 29, 2018

Kerri Shawn stars as Shirley Valentine, a housewife from Liverpool England who is feeling trapped in a world of domesticity and needs a change in her life before she has another conversation with the walls. When her friend invites her on a trip to a Greek island, Shirley jumps at the chance. Tickets available at lesherartscenter.org or 925-943-7469.



Also showing at the Leshar Center for the Arts:

March 30-April 29: Contra Costa Musical Theatre presents West Side Story

May 6: California Symphony presents Season Finale: Something Old, Something New

May 7: Leshar Speaker Series presents Newsmakers: Laura Linney, actress

May 11-12: Smuin Ballet presents Dance Series 02

And so much more! Visit lesherartscenter.org for the full list of events in theater, dance, music, and comedy.

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ARTS



Spring Family Art Day

May 19, 10am - 2pm

Shadelands Art Center, 111 N. Wiget Lane

Join Center for Community Arts for a day of art-making, music, giveaways and more! Kids of all ages are invited - free, open to the public and fun for everyone!

Clay Arts Guild Spring Sale

May 4 - 6

Civic Park Studios, 1365 Civic Drive

Shop handmade, one of a kind ceramics including sculpture, garden decoration, pottery, kitchenware and much more! Sale hours: Friday, May 4th from 5:00pm to 9:00pm; Saturday, May 5th from 10:00am to 6:00pm; Sunday, May 6th from 10:00am to 4:00pm.



Beryl Snyder

Community Arts Preschool registration now open!

At Community Arts Preschool, we believe that a child's work is play. Our highly experienced teachers provide child-centered, play-based, and arts-integrated activities inspired by Reggio Emilia practices. Your child will have their first school experience in a program that has nurtured and educated generations of children in our community. Registration is now open for summer 2018 and School Year 2018-19. Call 925-943-5846 to schedule a tour at one of our three program sites (Shadelands, Heather Farm and Civic Park) or visit www.communityarts.org/preschool.

Community Arts Preschool Family Yoga

May 5, 10:30am - 1pm, Shadelands Art Center Auditorium, 111 N. Wiget Lane

Dance, stretch, breathe and play with your children in a special family yoga class to benefit Community Arts Preschool. Then stay for a picnic - bring your lunch and blankets and get to know local families while the kids play! \$20 suggested donation per family.

Spring Jazz & Flock of Flutes Concert

May 24, 7:30pm - 9pm, Shadelands Art Center Auditorium, 111 N. Wiget Lane

For a swinging concert with lots of variety, join the Walnut Creek Center for Community Arts Jazz Band and Flock of Flutes for a fun spring concert! Tickets \$10 at the door.



Spring Ballet Concert

May 31, 7 - 8:30pm, Del Valle Theater, 1963 Tice Valley Blvd

Join us for a spring celebration of dance! Featuring Ballet Students, ages 6 - 18, and the Professional Training Program.

BOUNDARY OAK GOLF COURSE

For reservations or specific details for the following Boundary Oak events, please call 925-934-4775 x 20.

Easter Brunch

April 1, 2018

Reservations available 10:30am - 2pm

A lavish array of food will include carved prime rib, honey glazed ham, an omelet station and much more! Cost: \$40 per person; \$20 for children 12 and under; children 5 and under eat free (plus tax and 20% gratuity).

Mother's Day Brunch

May 13, 2018

Reservations available 10:30am - 1:30pm

Celebrate Mom with a special menu including New York Strip, Eggs Benedict, fresh salads and other specialities Cost: \$40 per person; \$20 for children 12 and under; children 5 and under eat free (plus tax and 20% gratuity).

Fourth Friday Dinners

April 27 and May 25, 2018, 5pm - 7pm

Join us for a casual dinner buffet in the clubhouse from 5pm to 7pm. The menu theme rotates each month! Cost: \$25 per person plus tax.

Facility Improvements at Community Centers

Multiple projects undertaken in January and early February at facilities throughout Walnut Creek enhanced the accessibility and usability of our community center spaces. These projects were partially funded by a Community Development Block Grant.

In Civic Park, the concrete area between Civic Park Community Center and the Assembly Hall was leveled and redesigned to improve accessibility and provide additional amenities to both facilities, which are heavily used by the senior community.

At Heather Farm Community Center, the ramp and entry doors to the Lakeside Room were upgraded to increase safety and ADA accessibility. Shadelands Art Center's courtyard atrium was completely redesigned to allow for more flat space and updated landscaping. These changes, along with increased accessibility from upgrades to entry doors and walkways, make the center safer for students of all ages and more useable for community gathering.

Shadelands Ranch Museum open for tours

Take a walk back in time for a docent-led tour of the Shadelands Ranch Museum. Construction of this Colonial Revival house began in 1902 and was completed in 1903 for Hiram Penniman, one of Walnut Creek's early settlers, his wife Carrie, and daughter Mary. Much of the furniture and household items on display belonged to the Penniman family. The tours are \$3.00 for adults, \$1.00 for students, and children under 6 are free. Admission is free for anyone with a Discover and Go pass available at the Walnut Creek Library. Come and learn the fascinating story of the Penniman family and experience life in Walnut Creek in the early 1900's. The house is administered by the Walnut Creek Historical Society. For more information, to volunteer, or to schedule a group tour call (925) 935-7871 or visit our website at walnutcreekhistory.info.



The portal walkway isn't the only upgrade this year outside of the Lesher Center. Coming later in 2018 will be construction for a new plaza out front, enhancing the theater-going experience.



Improvements to City parking garages

Brighter lights are coming this spring to three of the City's downtown parking garages. The City will be replacing the existing light fixtures in the Lesher Center Garage, the South Locust Garage and the Broadway Garage. Not only will the parking experience for customers be brighter and safer, but the new LED light fixtures will save \$55,000 in energy costs each year.

The installation will take place over April and May, and will require two days of full closures at each garage, and some limited floor closures from time to time. Here's the timeline for each:

- **The Lesher Center Garage will be closed on April 9 and 10.** Parking will be limited

throughout the garage through mid-April as another enhancement gets underway. A Lesher Center Portal Project will create a walkway from the parking garage to the Lesher Center, so that patrons can travel between the two structures without having to exit on Locust Street.

- **South Locust Garage will be closed on April 23 and 24.** Parking will be limited throughout the garage through the end of April.

- **Broadway Garage will be closed on May 7 and 8.** Parking will be limited throughout the garage through mid-May.

You can stay informed about all of the parking improvements by visiting the City's website at walnut-creek.org/parking.

9th Annual Authors Gala at the WC Library



Make plans to visit "Wonderland" to mix and mingle with notable Bay Area authors on April 28 when the Walnut Creek Library Foundation hosts its 9th annual Authors Gala. Enjoy food and drink, a silent auction, and meet the authors at the Mad Hatter Cocktail Party. After the reception, guests and authors will move upstairs and enjoy a

catered "Dinner in Wonderland." Proceeds benefit programs and collections for the Walnut Creek and the Ygnacio Valley libraries.

Tickets are on sale now, but hurry – this event sells out each year. Visit wclibrary.org/gala, or call 925-935-5395 for all the details.

What's green and yellow and gets you from Point A to Point B?



Rachel Capil, Rachel Capil Photography

Hundreds of LimeBikes have arrived in Walnut Creek, bringing convenient, affordable, quick transportation, and a host of questions! LimeBike is a bike sharing company that has launched in Walnut Creek with 300 bikes originally deployed in the Shadelands. The bright green and yellow bikes operate off an app on your phone; no bike rack or docking station needed. After finishing a ride, the user parks and locks it in place, ready for the next user. The dockless bikes can be parked on sidewalks and near bike racks. The City requires bikes be parked safely, not blocking the public right of way. The City Council authorized the bike sharing program as a year-long pilot, and the City will be soliciting feedback from the public soon on how it's working. The City doesn't run the program and doesn't pay for the bikes to be here. It just authorizes LimeBike's use in the city.

If you see a bike that is on private property or blocking the right of way, reach out to LimeBike directly at: support@limebike.com, call 1-888-LIME-345, or text to 1-888-546-3345. LimeBike regularly deploys teams to recover bikes from stray locations and relocates them to higher trafficked areas. For additional information on LimeBike and updates on the bike share pilot visit www.walnut-creek.org/bikeshare.



Rachel Capil, Rachel Capil Photography



Steve Debenport

New recreation program gives back to community

Giving in Gratitude is a new service group hosted by Walnut Creek Recreation giving people 50 and above the opportunity to give back to their community without a long-term commitment. These purposeful service opportunities will spark reflection, civic engagement, and empower people to make a difference.

Why join? Make a difference and connect with the community while meeting new people! The event dates below are open

for registration at walnutcreekrec.org or by calling 925-943-5858. Each quarterly event runs from 8:00 a.m. until noon, costs \$10, which includes a t-shirt for first time volunteers, transportation, and end of projects refreshments.

Summer: Monument Crisis Center (#4474) – June 8

Fall: Bay Area Crisis Nursery (#4475) – September 13

Winter: Contra Costa County Food Bank (#4476) – December 7

Open your home to an international student



Japanese student Rika with her host family from June of 2017

The International Education Center at Diablo Valley College is looking for local hosts to house international students on a temporary basis while the students improve their English skills. All types of hosts are welcome - single adults or couples, with or without children. Short and long term placements

are available, and all students already speak English quite well. 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

Making a positive impact on homelessness takes a community approach

The Challenge

Homelessness has become an increasing problem, not only in Walnut Creek, but in communities throughout the Bay Area. Through cooperation among city staff, volunteers, nonprofit and private organizations to address homelessness, Walnut Creek can make positive changes in the lives of the homeless, while also respecting the rights of home and business owners.

Creating Solutions

The Walnut Creek Police Department partners with local and county homeless service centers to assist our homeless population. In addition, the Walnut Creek Police Department participates in monthly meetings with community members, business owners, the Walnut Creek Downtown Association, Trinity Center staff and City staff to network and coordinate our efforts. The Police Department's webpages highlight the innovative approaches being taken by the Homeless Outreach Team to



make a difference.

Community Partners

Trinity Center fills a unique role in the community. For an in-depth look at its operation, visit the City's YouTube channel and search "Trinity Center" for a behind the scenes view.

Ongoing community support is vital to the success of the program. If you are interested in being involved, or can provide a much-needed resource to help the homeless, please contact the Trinity Center at 925-949-8712, or the Contra Costa County homeless services division at 925-608-6700.

Sign up for the March 29 Forum on Homelessness

Join the Walnut Creek Community Homeless Task Force on Thursday, March 29, at 7:00 p.m. for an important discussion on homelessness in Walnut Creek. The forum will include a panel of speakers who will outline facts vs. myths, the causes of homelessness, and possible solutions to address the situation. The panel discussion will be followed by a breakout session in which people can voice their concerns, and make suggestions and recommendations about how the community might best proceed.

The event will be hosted by the Walnut Creek Community Homeless Task Force, whose members include local service providers, businesses, and residents, as well as City and County staff. The forum will be at the Oakview Room in the Walnut Creek Public Library at 1644 N. Broadway.

To register for this free event and get more information, visit <http://walnut-creek.org/forum>

**Make Your Change Count
Walnut Creek**

Please don't give in to panhandling
Most money given goes to drugs and alcohol

Join Walnut Creek in making a difference. Give instead to local charities that provide real help to the homeless. Go to www.walnutcreekpd.com Trinity Center: <http://trinitycenterwc.org>





Walnut Creek staff and residents step up to help North Bay fire victims

When wind-driven wildfires broke out in Sonoma and Napa Counties last fall, it wasn't long before first responders in the region were overwhelmed by the need for their help. They put out the call for mutual aid, and the City's public safety team jumped into action. More than a dozen Police Department staff members and a City building inspection supervisor stepped in to provide more than 300 hours of support in the community of Santa Rosa. They witnessed devastation first hand, and no doubt brought back lessons learned for our area. In recognition of their efforts, the Mayor and City Council took time in January to honor those who answered the mutual aid call.

Among those Walnut Creek Police Department members who bravely served



in the North Bay were Captain Steve Gorski, Lt. Tom Cashion, Lt. Beth Hopkins, Sgt. David Rangel, Sgt. Jeff Slater, Sgt. Holley Connors, Sgt. Drew Olson, Detective Greg Leonard, Detective Jenna Kolmeister, School Resource Officer Nicole Rosenbusch, Dispatcher Christina Ensley, and Officers John Barrientos, Dominic Clemente, Will Marre, Chris Solorio, Matt

Smith, Joe Njoroge, Patrick Dehl, and Ed Ramaiya. Building Inspection Supervisor Frank Luna also made significant contributions in the region, which is still in the recovery phase.

Members of the community were also eager to help, through direct donations and a variety of fundraising events. Among the success stories was a fundraising event, "Sip Savor Shop," hosted by Boundary Oak Golf Course and CourseCo in December. CourseCo staff felt the impact of the fires strongly; its corporate office is in Petaluma, and the company operates courses in close proximity to the fire area. Those in attendance heard from Marin County Sheriff's Lt. Doug Pittman who gave a chilling first-hand account of the devastation from the fire lines. The event raised more than \$12,000 for fire victims.

In case of emergency... What residents should know

North Bay residents had very little warning when the fires broke out last fall. The high winds quickly moved small spot fires from neighborhood to neighborhood in the middle of the night, with more than 1,000 calls to 9-1-1 logged in Sonoma County in the first 24 hours alone. One of the biggest lessons learned from the fires is how critical it is to make

sure you are registered to receive emergency alerts. For residents in Walnut Creek, there are several important ways to ensure alerts are received.

The Police Department offers emergency notification via Nixle, a platform used by many law enforcement agencies. Signing up is easy; just text your zip code to 888-777. For alerts throughout the County, register

for phone and text notifications by visiting the Community Warning System website at cwsalerts.com. Follow the City on Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor as well.

The City has a comprehensive emergency plan, and staff exercise their roles and responsibilities regularly. Nothing is more important than having a plan with your family.

SUSTAINABLE WALNUT CREEK: GOING GREEN IN 2018

Walnut Creek Saves program extended



Conservation Coaches doing outreach for Walnut Creek Saves

Save water, save energy – and save money. Those are the goals of the residential efficiency program known as Walnut Creek Saves, and the program has been such a success that the City Council has extended it into the spring of this year.

Homeowners and renters alike can benefit from the free program, which features in-home energy and water consultations to help people focus on small changes that can make big differences. Participants receive personalized reports, information on rebates and free efficiency products like LED bulbs. An ongoing benefit stems from access to an online energy-saving account called the Energy Center, where people can target and meet savings goals.

During 2017, Walnut Creek Saves provided 145 residential consultations,

with an average monthly energy savings of 7.25% -- which translated into more than 50,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity.

An innovative part of the program puts knowledge and training into the hands of Walnut Creek teens. High school students in their junior and senior years can apply for paid internships and become “Conservation Coaches.” Under the guidance of experienced energy consultants, students receive hands-on experience with in-home energy and water consultations. They’re also at the core of outreach efforts, and they can be found at events throughout the City helping spread the word and encourage residents to apply.

Find out how to sign up for the program, or where teens can apply to intern, by visiting walnutcreeksaves.org, or calling 1-800-314-5997.

New City Solar Installations Go Live



The City of Walnut Creek’s new solar installations at Boundary Oak Golf Course and Heather Farm Park are now live. Together, the two solar projects are expected to save the City \$2.8 million over 20 years and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 700 metric tons of carbon dioxide each year, which is the equivalent of taking 150 passenger vehicles off the road each year.

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Nutshell Newsletter is published quarterly. For questions and comments, contact editor Betsy Burkhart, 925-943-5895 or burkhart@walnut-creek.org

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