



IN A Nutshell



No. 183

Newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

FALL 2018

NEW PARKING EQUIPMENT COMING TO DOWNTOWN

Look for new parking meters and new pay station equipment in the parking garages this fall in Downtown Walnut Creek. The City is replacing old outdated equipment with state of the art technology to improve the parking experience. The new meters will be bigger, brighter and more readable. The parking garage equipment will feature contactless and pay by phone payments, illuminated gate arms, and improved special event parking at the Leshar Center Parking Garage. All of these improvements are paid for out of the City's Downtown Parking Enterprise and Enhancement Fund. This fund collects all parking revenue and reinvests it back into Downtown Walnut Creek.



SENIORS GET A LYFT

Partnership Expands Transportation Program for Seniors

Walnut Creek Recreation is teaming up with the ride sharing app Lyft to expand its transportation services. In addition to the Senior Mini Bus program, the Lyft pilot program will provide rides outside of regular mini bus hours, allowing members the freedom to get where they need to be within the borders of Walnut Creek.



Lyft rides are free of charge for qualifying Walnut Creek Senior Club members, made possible by a generous two-year grant from TRANSPAC, the Transportation Partnership and Cooperation for Contra Costa County. For more information and to sign up, call (925) 943-5852 or visit the Civic Park Community Center front desk.



See the playful inflatable sculpture from Los Angeles-based art collective "Friends-WithYou" – part of the exciting 2018-19 Bedford Gallery exhibition lineup. Read more on page 2.

Roads Improvements Underway

With the 2017 adoption of the Road Repair & Accountability Act of 2017, also known as SB1, the City of Walnut Creek expects to receive approximately \$1,200,000 from new tax and fee revenues annually for basic road maintenance, rehabilitation, and critical safety projects. This new funding, combined with existing roadway funding from other sources (California Highway Use Transportation Act, Countywide Measure J Local Street Maintenance, and the City General Fund,) will begin to approach the \$3.4 million needed each year to maintain the condition of Walnut Creek's roadways, and begin to address a backlog of deferred pavement maintenance.

In fiscal year that ended June 30, 2018, the City received approximately \$400,000 in SB1 funding. This additional money was allocated to expand the scope of the recently completed Oak Grove Road Rehabilitation Project. Originally scheduled to occur in multiple projects over two years, the Oak Grove Project repaved Oak Grove Road from the City Limits at the Canal Trail to Cedro Lane, repaired damaged sidewalks, installs ADA upgrades at curb ramps, and installed a Class II bike lane.



Road projects scheduled over the next two years to be funded by SB1 funds include:

- The 2019 North Main Street Rehabilitation Project, which will repave North Main Street from Interstate 680 to California Boulevard;
- The 2020 Ygnacio Valley Road Rehabilitation Project, which will repave Ygnacio Valley Road (YVR) from Civic Drive to San Carlos Drive; and
- The 2020 Broadway & Parkside Rehabilitation Project, which will repave Broadway from Parkside Drive to Ygnacio Valley Road, and Parkside Drive from Civic Drive to San Juan Avenue.

These projects are expected to cost more than \$6.5 million.

LIVE! FROM THE LIBRARY

**Gregory Crouch, author of
"The Bonanza King"**

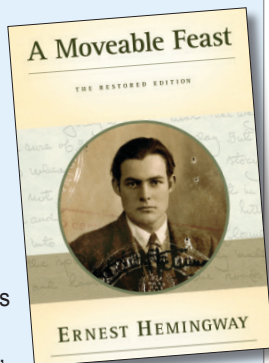
Oct. 10, 7:00 p.m., Walnut Creek Library
Author Gregory Crouch will share the amazing rags-to-riches story of John W. Mackay, an Irish immigrant who outwitted, outworked, and outmaneuvered thousands of rivals to take control of Nevada's Comstock Lode—the rich body of gold and silver so immensely valuable that it changed the destiny of the United States. The Bonanza King is a riveting history of Virginia City, Nevada, the Comstock Lode, and America itself.

The WWI Armistice Centennial – A Commemoration in Poetry and Song
Nov. 7, 7:00 p.m., Walnut Creek Library
World War I sparked an unprecedented outpouring of literature. This presentation will include, within an overview of the conflict, performance of poetry written by soldiers from the British Empire, Ireland, France, Germany, Eastern Europe and America. The words of those at home and songs relating to the war will also be represented. Walnut Creek resident Mark Jordan, an actor, teacher, and avid history and literature buff, will lead the presentation.

Get details on both of these events at wclibrary.org, or by calling 935-5395

Join us for "One City, One Book"

Ernest Hemingway's **A Moveable Feast** has been selected as Walnut Creek's 2018 "One City, One Book" selection. Hemingway kept the manuscript for this book in a vault as a financial legacy for his family. When it was published after his death, it became an instant classic, with unflinching descriptions of his life in 1920's Paris. Find out more at wclibrary.org.



How do YOU use the library? The Walnut Creek Library Foundation wants to know! The Walnut Creek Library Foundation raises money to support programs and activities at both the downtown and Ygnacio Valley libraries. To better serve the community, the Foundation is surveying residents on how they use the library. The survey is available online through September at wclibrary.org; paper copies are also available at both libraries.



Portia Munson, Pink Project Bedroom



Faig Ahmed, Hal, 2016

BEDFORD GALLERY INVITES CONVERSATION WITH ART

Bedford Gallery continues to encourage dialogue through contemporary art in its visually stunning and thought-provoking 2018-19 exhibitions. These upcoming shows explore current themes important to our communities from recycling and local weather to tradition and pop culture.

Pioneering visual artist Portia Munson opens the season in late September 2018 with Her World/Her Room. Her prints, video, paintings, and colorful installations approach environmental and cultural themes from a feminist perspective.

Altered States will kick off January 2019 and feature coastal California artists who harness natural elements like wind, sun, and rain to create their artwork. This exhibition highlights the cycles of our complex environment and offers an opportunity for visitors to slow down and reflect.

The artists in Tradition Interrupted (April 2019) merge culturally historic customs and ideas around the world with innovation. Their hybrid works redefine traditional art and craft practices for contemporary audiences.

Capping off the season in July 2019, BLOW UP II expands on the Bedford's popular 2015 show with more perspective-bending inflatable art by a new roster of artists. The show creates a spectacular, immersive environment and taps into our fascination with inflatables that are surreal, humorous, and poetic.

Docent-led tours are free for all Contra Costa County schools and include a fun art project related to the exhibition. Each show focuses on issues and themes that can be taken back to the classroom for further study. Learn more about tours for youth and adults and when to see these shows at bedfordgallery.org.

Here's what's happening

BEDFORD GALLERY

Last chance to see The World of Frida

See over 200 historic and contemporary artworks in this knockout exhibition celebrating visionary Mexican painter Frida Kahlo. Exhibit closes September 16.



Public Art Walking Tours

11:00am – noon, 3rd Saturdays (April – November)

Discover Walnut Creek's incredible, growing public art collection on a monthly walking tour with Bedford Gallery docents. Admission is \$5 and includes a free pass to the gallery. Tours meet in front of the Leshner Center at 11:00am and are appropriate for all ages.

Don't miss a stop at the city's newest public artwork by Patrick Dougherty in Civic Park.

Buy local at Bedford Gallery's indie pop-up shop

The gallery's annual Craft Fest is back on November 17 from 10:00am – 5:00pm. Shop a curated selection of fine goods by dozens of Bay Area makers or craft your own in a DIY workshop. This one-day event will be held inside Bedford Gallery and admission is free to shop; ticket purchase is required for workshops. Preview all of this year's vendors at bedfordgallery.org/craftfest.



MUSIC & MOVIES UNDER THE STARS 2018

We hope you have enjoyed a summer of free Music & Movies Under the Stars in Walnut Creek parks!

Our series wraps up on Friday, September 28, with “The Jungle Book” at Civic Park.



We encourage you to bring a picnic or enjoy dinner at one of the many local restaurants prior to the movie. “The Jungle Book” will begin around sunset, following an hour and a half of live music to set the stage for a fun evening for all.

Movies Under the Stars are brought to you by the City of Walnut Creek, Walnut Creek Recreation and Walnut Creek Downtown. No pets, please.

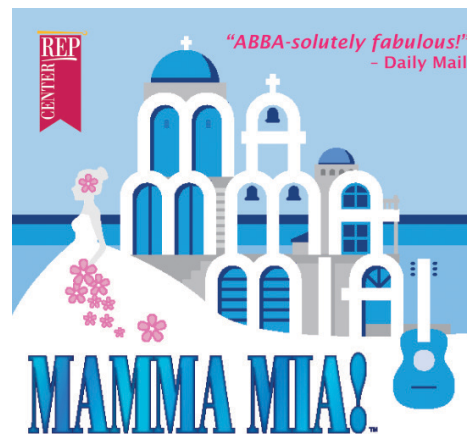
For further information, visit WalnutCreekRec.org, or call 925-943-5858.

LESHER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Center REP’s season kicks off with Mamma Mia!

The City’s resident professional theatre company, Center REP, launches the 2018-2019 season with Mamma Mia!, playing now through October 7. This fabulous musical features music by ABBA and a trip down the aisle you’ll never forget!

Also this fall, Center REP presents the hilarious and heartwarming romantic comedy Dancing Lessons. A young man with Asperger’s Syndrome seeks the instruction of a Broadway dancer to learn enough dancing to survive an awards dinner. As their relationship unfolds, they’re both caught off-guard by the discoveries - both hilarious and heartwarming - that they make about each other and themselves. Dancing Lessons runs from October 19 to November 17.



Subscription packages are still available for the Center REP season and give you access to premium seats, easy ticket exchanges, and even free ice cream at performances. Single tickets also available for purchase. Visit lesherartscenter.org or call 925-943-7469 for more information.



CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ARTS

Handcrafted Holiday Sale

A weekend of holiday shopping, live entertainment, raffles and festive craft-making!

Held at Shadelands Art Center November 30 through December 2. Our much anticipated annual event features handcrafted art by Center for Community Arts teaching artists and students. Shop ceramics, jewelry, prints, glass, paintings and more!

BOUNDARY OAK GOLF COURSE

Fall family fun at the Harvest Block Party

Walnut Creek residents receive free admission on November 16 for Boundary Oak Golf Course’s Harvest Block Party. Live music, arts and crafts, and children’s activities will be available along with food and drink. For more information, visit playboundaryoak.com or call 925-934-4775.



Arts program builds community with clay

This summer, Center for Community Arts hosted a three day ceramics workshop for 18 students at Ygnacio Valley High School with a range of developmental and physical disabilities including Autism, Downs Syndrome, and Cerebral Palsy. The partnership focused around the central question – how can we build community with clay? Students had the opportunity to create one large “community” bowl together and an individual cup and bowl.

All pieces created were used in a culminating event with a meal prepared onsite by the students and shared with one another and their families. The group reflected on how creating and eating together builds relationships within families and communities. The workshop complemented the life-skills curriculum taught at the school, which includes cooking and social/emotional learning, and was enthusiastically received by both the Ygnacio High staff and students. In the words of the teaching artist, “they can’t wait for us to come back!”

Ygnacio Canal Trail Crossing Improvements at Walnut Avenue

Included in the City's 2016-2018 Capital Budget, the Ygnacio Canal Trail Crossing Improvements at Walnut Avenue will improve pedestrian and bicycle safety at the location where the heavily used Ygnacio Canal Trail crosses Walnut Avenue. The project will realign the trail crossing, deliberately creating a short jog to slow cyclists before they enter the crossing. A bulb-out on the southern side of Walnut Avenue will reduce the crossing length, and improve the visibility of pedestrians and cyclists. The project will also install new pedestrian push-button-activated warning lights on both sides of the crosswalk.

The Ygnacio Canal Trail crossing at Walnut Avenue will be closed for the duration of the project, which began in August, and is expected to be completed later in the fall. Parking will be prohibited at locations adjacent to the work, and traffic delays may be experienced over the course of the work.

The project is funded in part by a grant provided by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission through Transportation Development Act funds. The project local matching funds have been previously appropriated in the Pedestrian Improvements project through the Traffic Impact Mitigation Fee.

Apply Now for Walnut Creek Civic Pride Grants

The Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2018 Community Grant Program. Ranging from \$500 to \$2,500, the grants will be for community-based recreation, cultural or educational programs and services provided by Walnut Creek non-profits. The online grant application system is available through the Civic Pride website at WCCivicPride.org. The application deadline is October 9, 2018.



Your Parks, Your Future

Walnut Creek has begun a two-year process to update the long-term plans for both Heather Farm Park and Civic Park, the community centers located at each site, Clarke Swim Center and Shadelands Arts Center.

This ambitious project will succeed best with strong community input, and we will offer many opportunities for engagement and participation. An Advisory Committee has been formed for this project, and began meeting last month. And mark your calendar for our first big event -- our Community Open House and Pizza Party. Join us on Wednesday, October 3, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in Civic Park for an overview to the planning process. This is a family friendly event, where you can participate in activities and discussions to help set a 15-year vision for Heather Farm Park and Civic Park. There will be opportunities



to provide input on Arts and Recreation programming as well. We want to ensure that our parks, programs and buildings best serve the community; you can help inform our planning for the future.

We encourage residents to register online to receive updates about events and progress made along the way; visit walnut-creek.org/yourparks for details.



Community Service Day

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



Painting map at Walnut Acres

2018 WALNUT CREEK
Community Service Day

Saturday, October 13

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

*Free Community Service Day T-shirts are distributed at the morning check-in at Heather Farm Community Center.

With more than 50 projects to choose from, Community Service day 2018, offers something for everyone. For details on these projects, go to www.walnut-creek.org/service.

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 13 and build a better Walnut Creek!

Don't have Internet access?

Call the Community Service day hotline: 925-256-3505.

ANIMALS (PETS & WILDLIFE)

ARF Landscaping Transformation

Freshen up the exterior grounds at ARF.

Ages: Adults only

Community Concern for Cats:

Thrift Shop Capers

Organize the store for the holiday season.

Ages: 16+

Equestrian Center Refresh

Paint and do general clean-up work.

Ages: All ages

Lindsay Wildlife Decorating Party

Create and help hang Halloween decorations.

Ages: 12+

Lindsay Wildlife Hospital Spruce-Up

Clean and organize hospital supplies.

Ages: Adults only

Community Service Day

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

ARTS

Community Arts Studio

Spruce-Up

Organize and clean the art studios. Ages: 10+

Bedford Gallery Art

Pedestal Painting

Paint new art display pedestals. Ages: 16+

Bedford Gallery School

Tour Prep

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

Community Arts

Preschool Greeting Cards

Create greeting cards from student artwork. Ages: 13+

Craft Instructional Musical Instruments (California Symphony)

“Build” cardboard violins and cellos for music education program for underserved elementary schools. Ages: 14+

Foothill School Band Shine-Up

Make the Foothill band instruments and music room shine! Ages: 11+

Leshner Center Costume

Shop Spruce-Up

Dust, mop and vacuum the costume shop. Ages: 14+

Leshner Center Painting

Paint areas inside the Arts Center. Ages: 16+

Utility Box Artwork Check

Inspect art-wrapped utility boxes. Ages: All ages

WCI Music Library Organizing

Do data-entry to create a digital music library. Ages: 16+

CREEKS

Creek Wildlife

Habitat Protection

Remove non-native, invasive



Planting olive trees at Lar Rieu Park

plants that damage wildlife habitat. Ages: 14+

Pine Creek Clean-up @ Oak Grove

Clean two parts of Pine Creek (Woodlands and Oak Grove). Ages: 8+

Pine Creek Clean-Up @ Woodlands

Clean two parts of Pine Creek (Woodlands and Oak Grove). Ages: 8+

EMERGENCY & SUPPORT SERVICES

Emergency Planning Outreach for Care Facilities (CERT organized)

Deliver emergency planning materials to licensed care facilities to improve resident safety. Ages: 16+

Trinity Center-Alma Park Spruce-Up

Do general outdoor clean-up at Alma Park and Trinity Center. Ages: 10+

White Pony Express Food Rescue

Work at food donation warehouse. Ages: 14+

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.

PARKS, GARDENS & OPEN SPACE

Bancroft Garden Spruce-Up
Help maintain the beauty of the Garden. Ages: All ages

Civic Park Fence Painting
Paint a fence at Civic Park. Ages: 14+

Clarke Swim Center Landscaping
Plant the landscape areas. Ages: All ages

Heather Farm Fenced Enclosure Rebuild

Rebuild and enlarge a fenced enclosure. Ages: 16+

HF Gardens Beautification

Help beautify the 6.5-acre Gardens. Ages: 14+

Lar Rieu Park Tree Planting

Plant native oaks and install deer protection. Ages: All ages

Larkey Swim Center Landscaping

Plant the landscape areas. Ages: All ages

Plant Nursery Mulching (WC Open Space Fd)

Clear weeds, lay weed barrier, and spread mulch. Ages: 16+

Old Borges Ranch Work Day (w/ WC Rotary)

Help spruce up our historic Borges Ranch. Ages: 14+

San Miguel Neighborhood Park Beautification

Beautify areas near the park entrance. Ages: All ages

Community Service Day

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



Cleaning books and shelves at the Walnut Creek Library

SCHOOLS

Nearly all Walnut Creek public schools are sponsoring projects involving gardening, clean-up, outdoor painting or library cleaning and sorting. This is a great chance to help your neighborhood school! Check the Community Service Day website for the complete list.

SPORTS

HF Baseball Infield Renovation
Groom the infields. Ages: Adults only

**Pickleball Court
New Picnic Tables**
Add amenities for new pickleball courts at Rudgear Park. Ages: All ages

SUSTAINABILITY

**Decorate Downtown
Recycling Containers**
Install “recycle more” artwork on downtown trash and recycling containers. Ages: All ages

**Iron Horse Trail Clean-Up
(Sustainable Walnut Creek)**



Volunteers collected 10,000 pounds of food for the Food Bank

Pick up litter and remove graffiti along trail. Ages: All ages

**Recycling Information
Distribution in Rossmoor**
Distribute recycling/composting information to Rossmoor residences. Ages: Rossmoor residents only

TOTS & SENIORS

**All Abilities Playground
Spruce-Up**
Clean the play equipment for our kids. Ages: All ages

**Senior Program Volunteer
Appreciation (Senior Center
& Meals on Wheels)**
Assemble appreciation packs

for Senior Center and Meals on Wheels volunteers. Ages: 12+

FOOD DRIVES

Support the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano by collecting food in your neighborhood. During the week before Oct. 13, you will distribute food bags (provided by the Food Bank) to neighborhood homes. Then, you will collect the bags of food and bring them to Heather Farm Community Center on Oct. 13.

Rossmoor residents: Watch for details in the Rossmoor News about how you can donate to the food drive sponsored by Rossmoor Rotary.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Premier Sponsors

- F&M Bank
- John Muir Health
- Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery
- Republic Services

Major Sponsors

- Kaiser Permanente, Diablo Area
- Mechanics Bank

Standard Sponsors

- Lions Club (Diablo Valley, Rossmoor, Walnut Creek, Ygnacio Valley)
- Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation

Supportors

- Clif Bar
- Rooted Coffee
- Safeway



START WITH BREAKFAST!

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

Easy, No Cost, Customized Home Energy Savings Program

Do you want to save energy and money on your energy bill? Now is the time to sign up for a free service called "HomeIntel," which is now available to Walnut Creek residents.

You'll receive a custom analysis of your home energy use, a personal Energy Coach to help you with identifying where you can save, and monthly reports to maximize savings and keep your plan on track. The online analysis of your home or apartment draws data from smart meters, and the program keeps you up to date on energy saving tactics with email updates. Previous programs have saved residents money through recommended low or no cost actions.

This program is funded through PG&E, and all City of Walnut Creek residents who have lived in their homes or apartments for at least one year, and do not have solar panels, are eligible to apply. Apply online or get more details by visiting LowerEnergyBills.heac.com

Home Rehabilitation & Emergency Repair Program

Sometimes, homeowners need quick help to manage an unexpected repair or necessary rehabilitation project. For some homeowners, there may be financial help available. The City of Walnut Creek contracts with Habitat for Humanity East Bay/ Silicon Valley to administer our home rehabilitation loan and emergency repair grant program. Low- and moderate- income homeowners can apply for loans up to \$65,000 with 1% simple interest and a 20-year term. Loans can be used to make your home more energy efficient or install solar, helping to reduce utility bills. In addition, funds are often used to address issues like reroofing, dry rot damage, and plumbing repair.

Emergency grants of up to \$20,000 are available to address health and safety problems in your home. For example, grants can be used to make your home more ADA accessible with grab bars or ramps, replace water heaters, or make minor electrical repairs.

Visit <https://www.habitatetsv.org/services/home-repair> or call (510) 803-3388 for more information and to view eligibility requirements.

Looking to buy your first home in Walnut Creek?

Buying your first home can be challenging and intimidating, no matter where you decide to put down roots. Making that first purchase in the bay area can be even more difficult, where prices make it hard to get a foot in the door. The City of Walnut Creek's First-Time Homebuyer (FTHB) Assistance Program aims to assist low- and moderate-income families and individuals who live or work in Walnut Creek to become homeowners. The FTHB

Assistance Program provides deferred second mortgage interest-free and equity share loans of up to either \$65,000 or 17% of the sales price of the home, whichever is the lesser amount. The City currently has funding available to assist eligible first-time homebuyers purchase a home in Walnut Creek.

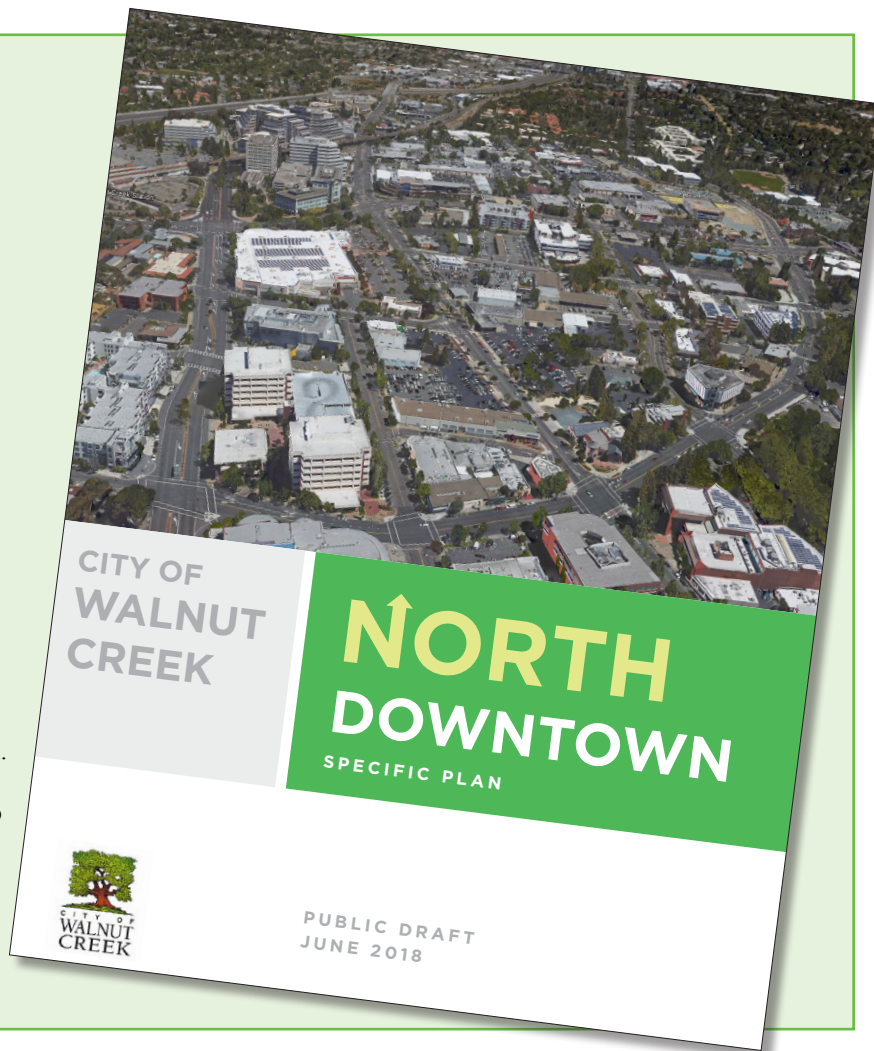
Visit walnut-creek.org/FTHB to learn more about the program's eligibility requirements and application process, and to access the FTHB brochure.



NORTH DOWNTOWN SPECIFIC PLAN UPDATE

The public draft North Downtown Specific Plan was released on June 29th. It provides a long-term vision for the future of the “North Downtown” area that lies between the Walnut Creek BART Station and Walnut Creek’s traditional downtown, with direction for a variety of topics including land use, urban design, transportation, and infrastructure. At a series of meetings over summer, the plan was reviewed by the Arts Commission, Public Open Space and Recreation Commission, Design Review Commission, Transportation Commission, Planning Commission and City Council. The project team is now reviewing all of the input received and will prepare a final draft Specific Plan to take to the Planning Commission on October 11, and then to City Council for final adoption in November.

To join the North Downtown Specific Plan email list, and for additional information, go to walnut-creek.org/northdowntown.



VOLUNTEER DOCENTS SOUGHT FOR DOWNTOWN HISTORY TOURS

The Walnut Creek Historical Society is seeking interested adults to lead 90-minute walking tours that explore historic sites in downtown Walnut Creek. No prior experience is required. Training by an experienced volunteer docent team will be provided. Time commitments are flexible, and you can either lead tours of the general public on selected Saturdays, or unleash your inner elementary school teacher and lead local 3rd graders throughout the school year. The 3rd grade class tours are on weekday mornings in the fall and spring.

Applications are available by e-mailing wshadelands@sbcglobal.net or by calling the Walnut Creek Historical Society at 925-935-7871.



The Leech house, built in the early 1870s, is the oldest residential structure on Main Street.

Take Your Own Walk Into History!

If you’ve never been on the guided walking tour of downtown Walnut Creek yourself, make time before the fall season ends. The walk along city sidewalks brings to life the early days of Walnut Creek, and reveals part of our history hiding in plain sight. The tours are on the 2nd Saturday of the month from May through October, which means the last one is coming up on October 13. No advance registration required, and the free tours meet at 9:30 in front of the fountain at Liberty Bell Plaza at the corner of Broadway and Mt. Diablo Blvd. Find out more at the Historical Society’s website at wchistory.com.



Volunteer with AARP “Tax-Aide” for the 2019 Tax Season

Do you like working with people, and are you good with numbers? AARP Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers to join a team that provides free tax preparation for residents of Walnut Creek and beyond.

Volunteer positions include Tax Counselors, trained by Tax-Aide and certified by IRS, and Client Facilitators, who schedule appointments and assist clients at tax sites. Orientation is in November, with training in January, and service from February – April 15, 2019.

Apply online at www.aarp.org/taxvolunteer or call (925) 726-3199 for additional information.

CAST YOUR BALLOT

Voters throughout California will go to the polls on Tuesday, November 6, and for residents of Walnut Creek, there are also local candidates on the ballot for your consideration. City Treasurer Ron Cassano is running unopposed for his position. Voters will elect two City Councilmembers from a slate of five candidates. Incumbent Rich Carlston decided not to run for re-election, leaving the roster of candidates to the following five people: Rebecca Byrd, Spencer Dress, Matt Francois, Iman Novin and Cindy Silva. There will be key dates for voters to know prior to Election Day. Permanent vote-by-mail ballots will be mailed beginning on October 8. Between then and October 22, voters can request vote-by-mail ballots as well. The last day to register to vote is on October 22. Voter Registration forms can be obtained at the City Clerk's office, and online at the Secretary of State's website at sos.ca.gov/elections.

Just as we did during the June Primary Election, the City will host a ballot drop off box in City Hall prior to the election. You'll be able to drop off your vote-by-mail ballots in the big red box anytime during business hours. You don't have to be a City resident to use it, and you can skip the postage. The City and County Elections Office will collaborate again to host an early voting polling place prior to and on November 6. The regional polling place will be open to registered voters from the County. If you have questions about the election, contact the City Clerk's office at 943-5819.



Veterans Day Event

Honor our Veterans – Sunday, November 11, 2018, 11:00 a.m.

Plan to spend part of your Veterans Day with family and friends for a very special ceremony at the Leshner Center for the Arts. The Walnut Creek Concert Band, under the direction of Harvey Benstein, will kick off the event at 11:00 a.m. and provide patriotic music throughout the ceremony. Chaplain William Herbert from John Muir Medical Center will provide the invocation, and we will hear from keynote speaker Jeffrey A. Miller, Captain, USN. The City of Walnut Creek proudly hosts this annual event to pay tribute to our honored veterans. The ceremony will take place in the Hoffman Theatre, with parking in the Leshner Center Garage for \$3.00 on the morning of the event.

“Hello, this is the IRS calling.....”

Walnut Creek Police Department Shares Tips for Dealing with Telephone Scams

There's no doubt that you or someone you know has been a recent target of a phone scam. The volume of fake calls trying to access your personal information or bank account information is on the rise. You can't always stop the calls from coming, but you can stop the caller from being successful in getting your private information. There are a magnitude of phone scams that can be used to try to get information from you; knowing what they are can help you stay out of the category of victim!

Law Enforcement Scams

Whether it's the local police, FBI, or DEA - warrant scams are designed to make you panic and give up personal information over the phone. The scammer will say something akin to - you've missed jury duty or you have unpaid parking citations, and attempt to get payment information from you. However, law enforcement does not demand money over the phone - EVER. Sometimes scammers obtain the names of real officers from the internet or newspapers and use those names to seem legitimate, but there is no reason for a law enforcement agency to ask you to wire money, drop off cash, or load a rechargeable money card.

“Can you hear me?”

This scam is successful for criminals because of how innocent it appears. The idea is to ask the victim a simple question so they respond with, “Yes.” The scammer records your response and uses it to authorize changes on credit cards, bills, and more.

Faux Family Member

If you get a call from a family member saying they're in jail or in the hospital and they need you to send money to help them out - hang up and call or text that relative. Chances are they will answer your call or text, be perfectly fine and safe, and have no idea someone called you posing as them.

IRS Scams

This is a popular and all-too-successful scam, since people seldom want to deal with the IRS. Robo-callers will call and/or leave you a message saying you owe back taxes; they may even know the last four digits of your social security number. You should know that the IRS will never request payment over the phone.

There are plenty more scams out there, from fake charity solicitations to phone lottery winnings, and there will be more to come in an effort to catch you off guard.

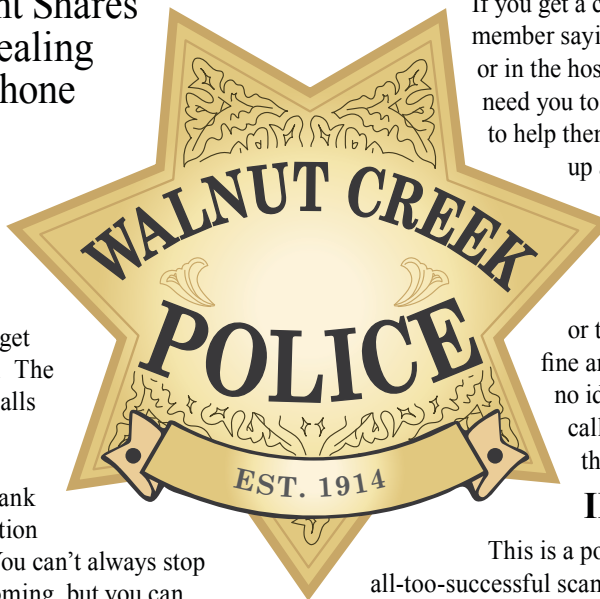
How do you protect yourself from scammers?

Hang up the phone or don't answer calls from unknown numbers.

Verify whom it is you are talking to by hanging up, looking up the phone number yourself by doing an independent internet search for that business and calling that agency or person directly.

Never give your personal information to anyone over the phone - including your full name, date of birth, driver's license number, Social Security Number, debit and/or credit card numbers, and bank account numbers.

Remember, the Walnut Creek Police Department will never demand money or threaten to arrest someone over the phone. If it doesn't sound legitimate, don't take the bait.



Seeds of Recovery: Central Lime Ridge Fire Update

On June 29 and 30, a significant section of Central Lime Ridge Open Space was lost to a grassland and woodland fire. Since the fire, City staff members have teamed with other public agencies, researched fire recovery methods, and created a plan for the restoration of this area. It should be noted that the City plans to rely upon several methods of resource protection that will allow the majority of this land to restore itself. Nature is best at restoring wildlands, but humans can help by removing roadblocks to this recovery.

We have heard from area residents asking how they can help move this process forward, and we are happy to have the strong community support. Over the next year, the City will host work parties as time and circumstances dictate. Watch for information on how to join in, and be sure to check out the Walnut Creek Open Space Facebook page for volunteer opportunities and programs to help you learn about and enjoy our Open Space lands.



New life springing from fire-damaged Lime Ridge Open Space

Experience Lime Ridge Open Space on a guided tour:

Sunday, November 4, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Put on your hiking boots, grab some water and a snack, and venture into Lime Ridge Open

Space on a ranger-led hike into Lime Ridge. The trails pass through a variety of habitats that are home to many different animals and plants. The effects of the June fire will be discussed along the way.

EXPLORE WALNUT CREEK'S OPEN SPACE THIS FALL

The changing of the seasons brings about new looks and activities within the City's more than 3,000 acres of Open Space across four unique backdrops and miles of neighborhood trails. From the expansive recreation options at Shell Ridge to the community gardens at Howe Homestead Park, you can find open space in all parts of Walnut Creek.

To find out specific dates, times and locations for fall events, follow Walnut Creek Open Space on Facebook. Rangers will guide you through parts of our community that you won't want to miss. Among the highlights this season:

Birds of Prey: September 21 and 22

If you are fascinated by birds of prey, this two-day program will teach you how to identify raptors, their behavior, habitat needs and migration patterns. The Friday evening class will be held in the historic Carriage Barn at Old Borges Ranch, followed by a Saturday field trip session.

Night Hike: September 25 and October 24

Mark your calendars for these always-popular evening explorations of different parts of our Open Space. Locations will be determined closer to the dates, but you can be assured you'll have a one-of-a-kind opportunity to explore the nocturnal activities of our resident wildlife.

Farm Animal Fun Day: September 29, October 20, November 17

Explore your inner farmer on selected Saturdays in the fall. Old Borges Ranch is the place to bring the family for a chance to help care for our farm animals. Assist ranch staff in daily chores and feedings, and see how we care for the chickens, goats and sheep.

November Bird Walk in Lime Ridge Open Space: November 10

Lime Ridge offers bird enthusiasts a great opportunity to observe many raptor species. Your hike will take you to the crest of Lime Ridge through grasslands and chaparral habitats.

Creating Fire Defensible Spaces in a Grassland Neighborhood: November 3

Reservations are required for this important workshop led by Open Space Supervisor Ranger Nancy Dollard.

Each year, the Open Space Division spends more than \$40,000 to create firebreaks around our Open Space sites. These fire breaks help protect our neighbors from grassland fires. You'll learn what the City does to keep you safe, and also share ideas on what homeowners who live near our Open Space can do to protect their property as well.

Visit us on Facebook to get more details on times and locations, plus find many more opportunities to explore our beautiful Open Space.



Red-tailed Hawk illustration by Chuck Todd

Walnut Creek Goes Deep Green with 100% Renewable Electricity

The City of Walnut Creek has joined California's renewable energy movement by opting up all of its City-owned buildings and facilities to MCE's Deep Green 100% renewable electricity service! The decision was approved by City Council on June 19th as part of the adoption of the annual budget. Using 100% renewable electricity will help the City address climate change by reducing greenhouse emissions. By using MCE's Deep Green electricity from California solar and wind, the City is eliminating all greenhouse gas emissions associated with its facilities' electricity use.

Walnut Creek residents and businesses can reduce their own carbon footprint and contribute to the community's effort to address climate change by joining the City in choosing Deep Green for their electricity use. Deep Green costs just 1 cent more per kilowatt-

hour of electricity used, which means the average home pays about \$4.50 more per month for 100% renewable electricity. To learn more and sign up, visit www.walnut-creek.org/goinggreen.



Meanwhile, the City's environmental practices are getting attention beyond the City limits. Walnut Creek recently won the prestigious Beacon Award in three categories: Gold Level Award for 14% Community Greenhouse Gas Reductions, Silver

Level Award for 9% Agency Energy Savings, and Gold Level Award in Sustainability Best Practices. The Beacon Award program is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative, and honors voluntary efforts by local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy and adopt policies that promote sustainability.



SUNSHARES

Simple. Affordable. Together.

Limited Time Solar and Electric Vehicle Program is Open

The City of Walnut Creek is excited to announce that the SunShares program is open for registration!

SunShares is a renewable energy program making it easier and more affordable for Bay Area residents to go solar or purchase an electric vehicle. SunShares offers a 15% discount on solar installation and pre-vetted solar providers. Plus, you can still take advantage of the 30% Federal

Tax Credit for solar. The program website will show upcoming regional workshops and online webinars about the program.

Learn more about the program and sign up at www.bayareasunshares.org.

SunShares is a project of the Business Council on Climate Change (BC3), a non-profit working with Bay Area organizations to take collective action on sustainability issues.


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