

No. 184

Newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

NOVEMBER ELECTION USHERS IN CITY COUNCIL CHANGES

The Walnut Creek City Council has welcomed a new member with the election of Matt Francois to an open seat on the Council. Francois was administered the Oath of Office on December 4, along with newly re-elected Councilmember Cindy Silva.

The Council elected Silva to serve as the new Mayor as well, with Councilmember Loella Haskew taking over as Mayor Pro Tem. Councilmembers said thank you to retiring Councilmember Rich Carlston, who decided not to run for re-election this year. City Treasurer Ron Cassano was also elected to his post for another term in office.

SPOTLIGHT SHINES AGAIN ON WALNUT CREEK

As you set up your 2019 calendar, consider making time to join in the fun of the 2nd Saturday Spotlight. Each month, the City will shine a

spotlight on a local non-profit, and community members will be invited to



join for a morning tour, and gain insights into the work of the organization. The tour will continue through the surrounding neighborhoods, where community connections are made in Walnut Creek.

Stay tuned as 2nd Saturday Spotlight locations are announced later this month for January and February tours, and find out how you can be a part of this re-boot of a Walnut Creek tradition.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Most City offices will be closed for the winter holidays beginning on Monday, December 24, and reopening on Wednesday, January 2. City Hall public counters will be closed on December 21. Public safety services will continue to be available. For a comprehensive list of what is open or closed, visit the City's website at walnut-creek.org.



WINTER 2018

Look up the next time you're towards the Lesher Center for the Arts and experience the City's newest public art project!

Get details inside on page 2 about this unique downtown mural.

Kristin Farr, West Coast Barn Quilt, 2018, acrylic paint on DiBond panels, 28x16 feet

Text to 911: Another way to reach us in an emergency

Call if you can, text if you can't!

Walnut Creek Police Department's Communications Center is now able to receive text messages to the 911 emergency system. While this is an important

enhancement, it is critical to note that this should not be your first approach for reaching



our dispatchers. A voice call to 911 in an emergency is always the best way to reach the Department. However, if you are in a situation where it is unsafe to speak, or if you cannot call because of a hearing or speech impairment, this is an important new tool.

To send a text message to our 911 team, enter the numbers 911 in the "To" field of a new text message. The body of the text should include the exact location of the emergency, and if you need police, fire or an ambulance to respond. Please do not send photos, videos or any other information unless prompted, and keep your texts short and simple.

It is also important to keep in mind that 911 is for true emergencies only. Many Bay Area law enforcement agencies are noticing an increase in the number of callers using the 911 system for a variety of customer service issues. Every time a 911 line is tied-up with a non-emergency call, a dispatcher's attention is being diverted away from someone who may be calling with a life or death scenario. If you do call 911 by mistake, do not hang up; stay on the line and let the dispatcher know so that an officer is not dispatched to your location.

Take time to program other important nonemergency numbers into your phone. The Police Department non-emergency number is 925-935-6400, and the Police Records number is 925-943-5890.

www.walnut-creek.org



WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

Check cable listings or walnutcreektv.org for the full schedule

For original programs, community events and more, visit the City's YouTube channel.

Winter edition of **Creek Currents**



Join host Ruby Lopez as she gets schooled on the Pickleball craze in Walnut Creek; co-host Brendan Moran gets down and dirty in the creek removing arundo with Friends of the Creek. And catch the latest Bedford Gallery exhibit in all its colorful glory!

Veterans Day from the Lesher Center

Filmed live on Veterans Day, November 11, 2018, with entertainment from the Walnut Creek Concert Band, and featuring keynote speaker Navy Captain Jeffrey Miller.

Battle of the Creek Parts 1 & 2

Catch Las Lomas at Northgate for Girls Soccer, and Northgate at Las Lomas for Boys Basketball.

Walnut Creek Concert **Band Holiday Show from** the Lesher Center

Filmed live as the band ushers in the holiday season on November 27, 2018.

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.

WALNUT CREEK DEBUTS NEW MURAL



Kristin Farr, West Coast Barn Quilt, 2018, acrylic paint on DiBond panels, 28 x 16 ft



The City of Walnut Creek is pleased to announce the completion of a major work of public art by Bay Area artist Kristin Farr. Prominently located on an exterior wall of the Lesher Center for the Arts, overlooking the plaza at the intersection of Locust Street and Civic Drive in downtown Walnut Creek, this vividly hued mural is titled West Coast Barn Quilt.

The mural was hand-painted on site by Farr using no masking tape or straight-edge tools. With Farr's mural, the City of Walnut Creek is inaugurating a program to create murals on publicly visible walls throughout the downtown area. Farr's mural will be displayed for up to five years before a new mural concept is solicited from artists.



SKATE ON! Walnut Creek On Ice is back for its 14th year in Civic Park. Sponsored by the Walnut Creek Chamber of **Commerce & Visitors** Bureau and Walnut Creek Downtown, the rink hosts a number of special events. as well as birthday

parties and skating lessons.

For more, go to walnutcreekonice. com or call 925-935-7669.

Holiday Events

BOUNDARY OAK GOLF COURSE

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

Sip – Savor – Shop Fundraiser December 20, 6 pm – 9 pm

This year's community fundraiser will benefit the Bay Area Crisis Nursery. The event includes live music, buffet dinner. local vendors for your last minute shopping needs, and ends with a live auction with proceeds going directly to the Bay Area Crisis Nursery. The cost is \$50 per person. For more information contact Mike Ash at 925-934-3600 X12.

New Year's Eve Strolling Dinner Partv

Monday, December 31

Watch the ball drop two times at Boundary Oak and ring in the New Year! Enjoy a fantastic buffet from 7-9pm and two DJ's for dancing the night away. Cost is \$75 per person plus tax and 20% gratuity includes wine, beer, and soft drinks. Cash bar for cocktails. For reservations, please call Rob at 925-934-4775 x20.

Here's what's happening

CENTER REP PERFORMANCES

Communicating Doors

By Alan Ayckbourn Directed by Michael Butler January 25 - February 23, 2019

A London dominatrix from the future stumbles into a murder plot that sends her, compliments of a unique set of doors, traveling back in time. Joining forces with two other women, the race is on to change the future for all three. Both an

effervescent comedy and a stunningly twisty timetravel thriller, Communicating Doors is an utterly unique adventure by the



author Time Magazine called "the greatest living English-language playwright." Tickets available at lesherartscenter.org or 925-943-7469.

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ARTS

Winter Mini-Camp II

January 2-4, Half and full-day options Shadelands Art Center

Campers will participate in a range of arts experiences throughout the day including drawing, painting, dance, music, and more!

Wake up and Dance

January 12, 9:00-10:00am Shadelands Auditorium

Wake Up and Dance with Community Arts and Diablo Ballet! We'll be learning basic dance steps and creative movement from Diablo Ballet dancers. This event is open to families (children under 10 years). This event is free with a suggested donation of \$20 per family. Donations benefit student scholarships through the Community Arts Foundation.

Family Yoga

February 2, 10:00am Shadelands Auditorium

Dance, stretch, breath and play with your children in a special family yoga class with Ms. Lauren! Families are welcome to stick around after to play and eat lunch together in the backyard. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring yoga mats for each participant. \$20 suggested donation per family or pay what you can.



BEDFORD GALLERY

Altered States January 13 – March 24 2019 **Opening Reception:** Sunday, January 13, 3 – 5 pm

Guest curated by Heather Marx, Altered States features artists across generations living and working along the California coast who harness natural elements or the environment to create their artwork. The

artists work in a wide range of media and share a passion for creating art that is about process and reclamation. This exhibition highlights the natural cycles of our complex

environment and offers patrons an

opportunity to slow down and reflect on how we are all interconnected by the sun, mood, air, and tides. Heads-up to parents and teachers: school tours are almost sold out!

Become a gallery volunteer today!

There are so many ways to get involved with Bedford Gallery! Gallery Docents are



page 2

WALNUT CREEK RECREATION EVENTS



The Bubble Lady

February 9, 1pm & 3pm shows Civic Park Assembly Hall

Parents and children alike will enjoy this fun, interactive, bubble-filled adventured accompanied by music, laughter and artistry. \$10. Register for Class #10808 or #10810 online at WalnutCreekRec.org or call 925-943-5858.



Victoria Wagner, Woodrock: Night Country, 2016, redwood burl and oil paint on polished

trained to lead tour groups; Guild Members provide hospitality and information to visitors; and Gallery Interns serve as administrative or curatorial aides. Volunteering at the Bedford is fun and provides an opportunity to make friends, learn about art, and help foster love of the arts in our community.

To learn more visit bedfordgallery.org/ support/volunteer

Calling all teachers and parents: check out Bedford Gallery's **School Tours!**

Over 3,000 students visit Bedford Gallery each year. The gallery's talented volunteer Docents lead Gallery school tours that are completed with a stimulating art project pertaining to the current exhibit. Bedford Gallery welcomes school groups from grades K-12, as well as scout troops, camps, clubs and other youth groups. Tours for adult groups are available too. Many thanks the Diablo Regional Arts Association for generously funding school tours for all schools in Contra Costa County!

Learn more about Bedford Gallery tours at www.bedfordgallery.org/education-tours.





A vision for the Iron **Horse Trail**

Contra Costa County wants to know what you think about the Iron Horse Trail! The County is studying this 18-mile bicycle and pedestrian backbone that runs from Concord to Dublin, travelling right through the heart of Walnut Creek.

The goals of this study are to:

1. Improve trail safety;

2. Evaluate different forms of transportation allowed on the trail;

3. Improve access to the trail and its intersections with streets; and

4. Build a shared vision with the community to guide future decisions regarding trail infrastructure.

Visit www.cccounty.us/IHCStudy to get involved and have your voice heard.

CORE: A SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION IN ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS



ecognizing that traditional approaches to ending homelessness only work for some individuals, a recent effort to target the most high-risk, hard-to-reach, chronically homeless people is paying off. The City of Walnut Creek is a partner in the program. The Coordinated Outreach Referral, Engagement (CORE) program addresses homeless individuals, youth, and families living outside who typically don't access services, or don't know how to access services. CORE uses a client-centered, "whatever it takes" approach to build rapport, engage consumers into services that aims to get them off the streets and stabilized.

Launched in 2017, CORE serves as one of three entry points into Contra Costa's Coordinated Entry System bringing services and resources directly to individuals living outside. Utilizing evidence-based practices in their work, CORE teams employ a social case management model to progressively engage individuals and families sleeping on the streets, in vehicles, and in encampments. Each CORE team is comprised of two people trained in motivational interviewing, non-violent crisis intervention, CPR, and the administration of Narcan. Walnut Creek will continue to update residents on the CORE team efforts.

The need for affordable housing in Walnut is not waiting for those in need to come find us. Market. For more information about housing The City has undertaken a very active outreach programs and policies, please visit the City's and education campaign, and you'll often see representatives from the Housing Division at community events. Information booths have



HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR ONE, July 2017 – June 2018

•The CORE Team holds a seat on the Walnut Creek Homeless Taskforce to keep on top of homeless issues that arise in the City.

•CORE communicates with WC police dispatch on a daily basis and responds to calls involving homelessness. This frees up law enforcement to work on criminal issues the city may be experiencing.

•CORE meets monthly with Lieutenant Conley of the Walnut Creek PD to discuss hotspots and provide a coordinated approach to city issues.

•CORE works in collaboration with the Trinity Center to provide comprehensive case management services to people experiencing homelessness.

•CORE took part in a community forum to answer any questions the residents of the city may have had surrounding homelessness and the steps the city was taking to combat the issues.

CORE BY THE NUMBERS

247 Unduplicated people served with 646 contacts made

90% Living in places not meant for habitation

67% Reported to having disabling conditions

21% Over the age of 60

15% Survivors of domestic violence

38% Homeless over 5 years

13% People placed in a shelter

52% Placed in the warming center

BRINGING AFFORDABLE HOUSING INFO ON THE ROAD

been on hand at August's First Wednesday,

Oktoberfest, the Diablo Valley Farmers' Creek continues to be significant, and City Hall Market at Shadelands and the Locust Farmers' website and search "housing." One of the City Council's priorities is to increase the availability and affordability of housing, and our outreach efforts will continue in 2019.

Artwork gives BigBelly bins a new look

Among the dozens of successful projects completed during October's Community Service Day was a facelift for many of the BigBelly solar compacting trash and recycling bins located downtown. Volunteers installed recycling-themed artwork on the bins.

The designs had been selected by Walnut Creek Downtown through a call for artists and a selection panel. In addition, Public Works staff replaced the front sticker on the bins with new recycling signs that make it easier to know what can go into the recycling bins.





Mountain Shadow Film Society

Applications are now being accepted for new members in the Mountain Shadow Film Society, the Walnut Creek non-profit entity that brings in the best in awardwinning foreign and independent films otherwise unavailable in our area.

The Society launches its sixth season in January, with weekend evening screenings held four times each month in the Walnut Creek Library. The society has grown to more than 500 members; for information visit http://mountainshadow.org.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR HOLIDAYS GREEN

Making sustainable choices when decorating, entertaining, and giving gifts to family and friends helps the environment and can save money during the holiday season. American household waste increases sharply between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve as much as a 25 percent increase by some estimates. Here are some easy tips to make your holidays green!

DECORATIONS

•Use LED light strings, such as ENERGY STAR brands that can use 70% less energy than traditional bulbs, or consider using few or no lights.

• Put indoor and outdoor decorative lights on a timer.

 Think before you "flock." Flocked holiday trees are treated and can't be composted; they will go to the landfill.

ENTERTAINING

· Give your table an elegant look by using reusable cloth napkins and tableware that can be washed. When using disposable items, make sure they can be recycled or composted.

• Encourage guests to bring containers to take home leftovers and reduce food waste

 Compost any uneaten food in your green organics cart.

•Plan meals that have a low carbon footprint. Buy food that is local and in season. Recipes that replace beef, which has the highest carbon footprint per serving, with chicken or vegetables will have a lower carbon footprint.



Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra at Lesher Center

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 17, when internationally-acclaimed pianist Jeffrey LaDuer joins the Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra as part of its production "Let's Dance." He will perform Franz Liszt's exhilarating Totentanz with the orchestra. The orchestra's new conductor,



· Decorate with items that are reusable year after year, or can be composted or recycled.

GIFTS

· Look for holiday cards made from recycled paper, and cards that can be easily recycled after being read. Or, send electronic cards to help cut down on postage and transportation.

· Wrapping paper is often used once and then thrown away. Get creative with wrapping by re-using paper your already have from magazines or newspapers, cloth, or reusable boxes or baskets. Gift bags, cloth ribbons, and bows can be saved and reused.

• Give gifts that are durable, recyclable, made of natural materials, or are energy efficient.

· Give the gift of an experience, like tickets to a show or a cooking class, to reduce waste and packaging.

Chad Goodman, has been hailed by Forbes as an "entrepreneur bringing innovation to classical music." Throughout the program, he will engage the audience by sharing fascinating background information on the composers and their work. Find out more at ContraCostaChamberOrchestra.org.



Lime Ridge Fire Recovery

Last summer's fire in the Central Lime Ridge Open Space has given way to work encouraging regrowth and restoration. The best practice after a fire is to allow the land to restore itself using soil nutrients and seed base that is present onsite. In order to allow that to happen, the soil has to be kept in place, without people walking on it. Over the winter, you will see sloped areas of the fire-scored land in Central Lime Ridge covered with a green substance; this is hydro-mulching, which helps hold the soil in place. The green dye helps crews see where it has already been spread. There is no seed in the mix; it is a slurry made of water, wood fiber mulch and a natural solution to help it adhere to the ground and protect the soil from wind and water erosion. Check back in Central Lime Ridge in the spring to see what progress has been made!

Winter shelter for homeless begins 2nd year at Walnut Creek Armory

A \$100,000 City grant has enabled a winter shelter program to begin operating at the Walnut Creek Armory, where 25 Trinity Center members will have a warm place to sleep through March 29, 2019. The temporary shelter program does more than provide a place to sleep during the coldest months. Participants must apply and work in collaboration with Trinity Center staff towards a goal. Community support is also vital; volunteers provide much-needed supplies for the program, and plan to serve a holiday dinner to the shelter residents on Christmas Day. Republic Services is providing containers for members to store personal items overnight. The Walnut Creek Police Department will also have established, regular visits. Additional community support is always welcome. For questions or comments, contact Pam McGrath, Evening Program Manager, at pamm@trinitycenterwc.org.

IN THE AFTERMATH OF **TRAGEDY: HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS TO THE NORTH**

UST A YEAR AGO, Walnut Creek residents were opening their hearts

to victims of the North Bay fires, and finding ways to help. This year, the devastation from Butte County's Camp Fire is almost impossible to imagine. The smoke from the deadly and destructive fire blanketed most of the bay area for days, causing inconvenience and daily routine disruption. Dozens of lives were lost and thousands permanently changed in the areas impacted by fire, though. To find out how you can best help those affected, visit the Butte County website established to help victims, provide information and resources, and guide those who want to contribute to the rebuilding of lives and property. Visit ButteCountyRecovers.org to see how you can help.

As always, it is important to make sure you can get emergency information if disaster strikes close to home. The City of Walnut Creek utilizes social media, including Twitter, Facebook and Nextdoor to communicate with residents. To



ensure you are notified in the event of an emergency in Walnut Creek, sign up for Nixle alerts through the City and City Police Department. You can text your zip code to 888777 to opt-in for alerts, or visit Nixle. com to find out more about how you can receive information from local agencies.

8th Graders Visit Italy and Hungary



Walnut Creek Sister Cities International opens doors for local vouth in ways they can never imagine. The Youth Ambassador Exchange program sends students to visit one of our sister cities: Noceto, in Italy, and Siófok, in Hungary.

Last fall, 26 eighth graders and chaperones left for a ten-day adventure of a lifetime. They experienced day to day life in their assigned cities, soaking up the rich culture and sights, gaining travel experience and a sense of independence. The students brought back tales of their journey to

the City Council, impressing members with their knowledge and stories. In April, ambassadors and families will host delegations of students from Noceto and Siófok, conveying the program's motto of promoting peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation - one individual, one community at a time.

This year's Walnut Creek 7th graders interested in applying to be an ambassador for the 2019-2020 exchange must attend a meeting on January 6 at the Walnut Creek Library. For information, visit wesei.org.

PARKING RELIEF AT WALNUT **CREEK BART ON THE WAY**

The construction that has been a staple at the Walnut Creek BART station moves into a new phase soon, as the new South Garage will open in early 2019. The New South Garage is privately owned and operated, and will be exclusively for BART parking. Although the New South Garage is increasing parking capacity at the station overall, early next year, the north and east surface lots will be permanently closed. Approximately 600 daily fee parking spaces will be converted to monthly spaces in the New South Garage; those will not be replaced. Reservations for monthly spots are being taken now, and are expected to sell out quickly. For questions or comments, please contact SP+ parking at parkinginfo@ wcbartparking.com or 510-928-2032.



OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW: IMPROVED PARKING METERS

ity-operated parking meters are about to get an overhaul, as new, easier to use and read meters are coming in early January. Street meters in downtown Walnut Creek are City-operated meters, and the current equipment has met its useful lifespan. Customer feedback has told the City that they are hard to view in sunlight, and that they have limited capacity to work with newer technology.



Installation of new meters will begin the second week in January, and should last for about a week. The rates and time limits will remain the same. The project is funded by the City's Downtown Parking Enterprise and Enhancement Fund, which collects all parking revenue and reinvest it back into Downtown Walnut Creek.





Free Tax **Preparation** Assistance **Available Soon**

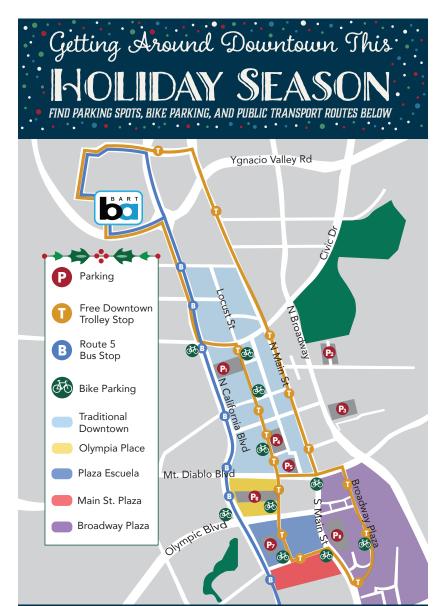
The 2019 tax season is just around the corner, and help with preparing your returns will also be readily available soon. Help from AARP's Tax-Aide and the United Way's "Earn It, Keep It, Save It" (EKS) programs will be available starting in February.

Both programs serve taxpayers of any age; EKS service is limited to those with incomes below \$54,000. AARP membership is not required for Tax-Aide, and there are no income limits. Beginning January 7, get more information by calling 925-726-3199 for Tax-Aide, or calling 2-1-1 for "Earn It, Keep It, Save It."

LEND A HAND ... BEHIND THE WHEEL OF A VAN!

Walnut Creek Recreation's Senior Transportation Program is looking for volunteers to help area seniors get where they need to go. From medical appointments to grocery shopping to events, the Senior Mini Bus provides more than 3,000 rides per year thanks to the volunteer driving team. More drivers and passenger assistants are needed for regular 4-hour weekday shifts. Substitutes are also needed for those wanting a more flexible commitment. Call 925-943-5852 if you can help.





WIFI available downtown

WiFi is now available in the downtown corridor of the City. Find it at #WalnutCreek when searching for WiFi service in the areas bounded by Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Civic Drive, & Main and Locust Streets.

Purple Poles = No Time Limits

Two-hour time limits at nearby parking meters were removed to offer more longterm parking Downtown. Look for the purple parking meter poles, park once and walk to shop and dine.



N. Locust St. Garage 1625 Locust St. \$.50 Per Hour (First Hour Free)

- 2 Library Garage 1254 Lincoln Ave. \$1 Per Hour
- Broadway Garage 1390 N. Broadway \$.50 Per Hour (First Hour Free)
- S. Locust Garage
 1350 Locust St.
 \$1 Per Hour (First Hour Free)
- 2 Gallerie Lot 1556 Mt. Diablo Blvd. \$2.50 Per Hour
- Olympia Place Garage 1261 Locust St. First 4 Hours Free
- Plaza Escuela Garage 1177 Locust St. \$2 Per Hour
- Broadway Plaza Garage 539 S. Broadway First 3 Hours Free

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For an appointment, call 925-256-3504

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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