



IN A Nutshell



No. 165

Newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

SPRING 2014

Inside this issue!

What are your kids doing this summer? Check out the Summer Camp guide for a bevy of options for every age and interest.

Registration begins March 3!



Walnut Creek a great place to raise kids

NerdWallet, a consumer-based website dedicated to saving people money, ranked Walnut Creek the 10th best city in California for raising young families. Researchers considered public school ratings, median home value, ongoing cost of home ownership, median income and economic growth in making its determination. Walnut Creek was the only Bay Area city to make the top 10.

No-smoking rules now in effect

It's official – cigarette smoking is no longer allowed in Walnut Creek in the core downtown, apartments and condominiums, parks and open space, outdoor dining areas, ATM or ticket lines, or within 25 feet of enclosed areas. The City's Second-Hand Smoke Ordinance went into effect January 29.

Questions and reports of violations can be directed to the City's No Smoking Hotline, 925-256-3535 or via email at NoSmoking@walnut-creek.org.



Now arriving - the future

The arrival of the train in Walnut Creek in 1891 launched an economic boom. By 1912, when this photograph was taken, cars were becoming more common, and the dirt roads in the downtown were sources of frustration; dusty in the summer, muddy in the winter. Realizing it would take a major investment to pave the road, the Business Men's Association of Walnut Creek led the movement to incorporate, thus "paving the way" for the new city to levy taxes for road construction. Walnut Creek incorporated on October 21, 1914 on a 127-67 vote. This year, in honor of the 100th anniversary of incorporation, a community-led Centennial Steering Committee is offering a year's worth of ways to celebrate all that is Walnut Creek. For more, turn to pages 10 and 11.



City may consider plastic bag ban



The City is considering new rules to prohibit distribution of single-use plastic bags in grocery and retail stores (restaurants and charitable thrift stores would be exempt). Protective plastic bags for items such as meat, fresh produce and dry cleaning would still be allowed, and stores would have the option of selling paper bags for a minimum of 10 cents.

As a first step, the City is reaching out to the community to provide information and get input. Share your thoughts by February 28 at walnut-creek.org/opentownhall. The Council is expected to consider next steps at its March 4 meeting; to learn more about the proposed plastic bag ordinance, go to walnut-creek.org/BringYourBag.

Spring highlights
(check cable listings
for showtimes or go
to walnutcreektv.org)

State of the City

Mayor Kristina Lawson sits down with Creek Currents host Brendan Moran to talk about Walnut Creek's accomplishments and what's ahead for this Centennial year.

Live! from the Library

San Francisco Bay and the Delta: The Big Picture

The Bay Institute's Bay Restoration Program Director Marc Holmes gives an inspiring and timely lecture on the importance of protecting the Bay and watershed.

"The Real Housewives of Walnut Creek: The Musical"

Center REP Artistic Director Michael Butler goes behind the scenes with writer/director/actor Molly Bell to talk about her latest creation in this Live! From the Library edition. *(airing begins in April)*

Public Meetings

City Council and all Commission meetings are televised live and available on demand.

Channel info

Walnut Creek TV is on Comcast Channel 28 (incorporated WC only), Rossmore 26, Astound Channel 29, and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99; and walnutcreektv.org.

Sky's the limit at Bedford exhibition

Artists and philosophers have long meditated on the theme of sky. The Bedford Gallery's exhibition "Sky" asks artists to explore how the sky, both atmospheric and conceptual, can be represented in a diverse reach of media. "Sky" will be at the Bedford Gallery March 9 through May 25, was juried by DeWitt Cheng, San Francisco-based writer and critic, and Elizabeth Ferrer, Director of Contemporary Art, BRIC in Brooklyn, NYC, and features a group of over 80 artists.

An opening reception will be held Sunday, March 9 from 3 to 5 p.m., with wine and hors d'oeuvres hosted by the Bedford Gallery Guild.

In conjunction with "Sky," the Bedford will offer gallery tours to local schools. Thanks to generous support, tours for all Contra Costa County schools are free this school year. Trained volunteer docents conduct group tours for grades K-12, completing each visit with a hands-on art project. Tours are \$85 for all other groups and schools outside of Contra Costa County.

For more information, call 925-295-1416 or visit www.bedfordgallery.org/programs.



Dalia Alekna, *Untitled*, 2011, pastel, 17.5 x 22 inches

Here's what's happening

Walnut Creek Concert Band

The Walnut Creek Concert Band celebrates the City's Centennial at its spring concert on Tuesday, March 11 at the Leshner Center for the Arts. Highlights include a composition commissioned by the Walnut Creek Band for the City's Centennial. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available through the Leshner Center for the Arts ticket office, by calling 925-943-7469, or by visiting www.LeshnerArtsCenter.org.

Las Lomas High Rummage Sale

The Annual Las Lomas High School Rummage Sale will take place on Saturday, March 22 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Early Bird entry begins at 7 a.m. The rummage sale offers great bargains on furniture, electronics, jewelry, tools, linens, toys, clothing, sporting goods and more. Admission is \$2 (\$5 for early birds; free for children 12 and under). Cash only!

CraftFest at the Bedford Gallery

The Bg Craft Fest will return to the Bedford Gallery on Sunday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bg Craft Fest brings together the best of Bay Area crafters and artists offering handmade goods including jewelry, home goods, artisanal food, prints, ceramics, and more. Come discover unique, one-of-a-kind gifts for friends and family. Visit www.bedfordgallery.org/craftfest.

Annual Creek Clean-Up

Help remove trash and improve wildlife habitat in downtown creeks at the annual Friends of the Creeks clean-up, Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. Wear old sneakers, bring gloves and plan to get wet! Meet at the Civic Park gazebo; free continental breakfast will be served at 8:45 a.m. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. For waivers and additional information, visit www.FriendsoftheCreeks.org.

Memorial Day

The City will honor those who serve at its traditional Memorial Day observance at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 31 in Civic Park. More information will be available in early May at www.walnut-creek.org.

Composting Classes

"Composting and Vermicompost" will be offered from March 16 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, and May 28 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Contra Costa Master Gardeners' garden at the corner of Wiget and Shadelands. There is no charge for these workshops sponsored by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority. Or, learn about vermicomposting and bin building at Heather Farm Community Center on April 5 from 10 a.m. to noon. \$20 per household. Advance registration is required; call 925-906-1801.

Parking changes to go into effect

A number of changes to downtown parking are set to go into effect this spring. Meter rates in the core downtown will increase from \$1 to \$2 an hour, and operating hours will shift from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. to 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., including Sundays.

While no one enjoys paying more for parking, the goal is to better manage overall parking inventory by creating clearer parking choices. While short-term visitors may choose to park on the street, those who work downtown, or who plan to be downtown for more than two hours, are encouraged to use one of the City's parking garages.

To sweeten that option, City parking garages will be free for the first hour. Plus, downtown employees can take advantage of a new \$25 per month employee parking program for the South Broadway and North Locust streets garages.

The additional parking revenues will be reinvested in the downtown, including enhanced police services, landscaping and street and sidewalk cleaning.

Everyone into the pool!

Youth water polo, Aqua Zumba coming to Clarke Swim Center

A new Youth Water Polo class is being offered for the beginner and those who may have an interest in joining a competitive polo team but are not quite ready for the full commitment of a year-round program.

Instructors will teach youth basic skills needed like ball handling, dribbling, passing/receiving, shooting and goalie drills. A swim test may be required.

Classes will be held Saturdays, April 5 through May 24, from 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. \$71 for 8 classes.

Also new is Aqua Zumba, a fun, energizing and exhilarating water exercise course that incorporates the Zumba formula, Latin and world-wide songs with traditional water exercise discipline.

The course is great for any level and no swimming skills are required.

Classes meet at 4:30 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Saturday, March 7 through May 24 at Clarke Memorial Swim Center at Heather Farm Park. Cost is \$10 per class, or \$96 for 12 classes.



Above, the future: Broadway Plaza as it will look in two years following renovation. Below, the past: Broadway Shopping Center sign points the way in the late 1950s.

Major renovation starts soon at Broadway Plaza

After 60 years, Broadway Plaza is undergoing a major renovation. Construction begins in March and will continue through spring 2017. The final result? An additional 700 parking places, new stores and restaurants, and enhanced outdoor and pedestrian spaces.

Plans include demolishing and rebuilding parking garages on South Broadway, expanding Macy's, and remodeling the stores between Macy's and Nordstrom.

Throughout construction, Macy's and Nordstrom will remain open, as will more than 45 percent of the other stores already at Broadway Plaza (note: some stores have been relocated to other areas within Broadway Plaza).

Broadway Plaza Street will also remain open throughout construction.

Recognizing that parking is a major concern, Broadway Plaza will offer



complimentary valet parking seven days a week during construction; just look for the valet podium near the fountain on Broadway Plaza Street. Parking will continue to be available in Broadway Plaza's Main Street parking garage, on the Macy's side of the parking garage along Broadway and Newell, and in the Stanford Restaurant lot.

To see an updated list of what's open as well as store locations, visit broadwayplaza.com. Or, look for one of the Roving Ambassadors available throughout Broadway Plaza to assist visitors.

Center stage with Civic Arts Ed Youth Theatre



CAE's Youth Theatre previously produced "Alice."

Civic Arts Education's Youth Theatre Company will produce "The Wizard of Oz." Young people ages 5 to 17 are invited to be part of this dynamic program, which kicks off March 13. For more information, visit www.arts-ed.org.

Civic Arts Education's Teen Theatre will be performing "Thoroughly Modern Millie Jr." April 25 and 26 at the Del Valle Theatre. Tickets are \$16.75 and can be purchased at www.lesherartscenter.org or by calling 925-943-SHOW.

Did you know?

New law mandates replacement of old plumbing fixtures

Walnut Creek's Building Division is ready to help property owners understand a new State law that mandates replacement of old plumbing fixtures with water conserving toilets, urinals, showerhead and faucets.

The requirements apply to structures built before 1994. Between now and 2017, the law's requirements are triggered when a property is undergoing alterations, additions or improvements.

By Jan. 1, 2017, all single-family residences built before 1994 must have water-conserving plumbing fixtures regardless of whether the property undergoes alterations or improvements.

The requirements are slightly different for multi-family residential and commercial property, but the end result is the same: at some point in the next several years, building owners need to replace old plumbing fixtures.

For a comprehensive bulletin that explains how the law works, visit the Building Division's website at walnutcreek.org/building.

City Council selects new mayor, mayor pro tem

The City Council selected Kristina Lawson to serve as mayor for 2014 at its Dec. 4 meeting. It is Lawson's first time to serve as mayor. In addition, the Council named Bob Simmons mayor pro tem.

Parks Maintenance division takes steps to be 'water wise'



Before and after: The City's Parks Maintenance team replaced water-thirsty shrubbery (left) with drought-tolerant landscaping (right).



Dynamic duos: At left, Officer Randy Dickey and Dany; at right, Officer Pat Dugan and Rex.

K-9 units make "pawsitive" contribution

You might say that two of the newest members of the Walnut Creek Police Department are particularly dogged in their pursuit of justice.

Meet Dany and Rex, of Walnut Creek's K-9 Unit. With fellow K-9 Sheyna, they provide an excellent triple threat to the bad guys.

Dany, a 1 1/2-year-old Shepherd imported from the Slovak Republic, is known for exceptional tracking skills. Rex, a 3 1/2-year-old Malinois from the Netherlands, is quite the jumper.

While the K-9s arrived already trained in sports skills, they required four weeks of specialized training before joining

their human partners on patrol, and then another four weeks of training to search out narcotics. The training was provided in house, at a savings of \$20,000, said Chief Tom Chaplin.

Having the K-9s is a boost to officer safety. They are especially helpful in searching buildings and tracking scents of hidden or missing people.

Want to learn more about our amazing K-9s? Ruby Lopez of Walnut Creek TV's "Creek Currents" visits with the K-9s and their human handlers during a training session. The video is available on the City's YouTube channel (Youtube.com/cityofwalnutcreek) and broadcast on a regular basis on Walnut Creek TV.

Long before the State started issuing drought warnings, the City Council directed Parks Maintenance to take action to reduce water use. From replacing water-thirsty plants with drought-tolerant landscaping, to making sure water pumps are delivering just the necessary amount of water, Parks is on it!

Among the changes in Walnut Creek: using drought-tolerant Bermuda grass in sports fields, and replacing 30-year-old irrigation systems. Regular water audits show how irrigation systems are currently running, and where improvements can be made.

In addition, GPS-based irrigation maps are being made that will help guide decision making if severe water cutbacks are mandated by identifying less-used, low-priority areas.

This proactive approach is part of the City Council's approved Climate Action Plan, and is particularly important in light of a 2009 water conservation bill that sets a goal of water agencies across the state reducing water distribution by 20 percent by 2020.

Walnut Creek's fiscal future

CHALLENGES and

The Cost of Technology

Technology is essential for every service, from public safety to managing traffic lights, but it comes with a hefty price tag. The surge of cybercrime requires additional, and costly, preventative solutions.

Rising Costs of Employee Benefits

67 percent of the City's operating budget is for the employees who provide services. Even with employees contributing significant amounts toward health care and pension costs, increases in these benefits outpace inflation.

Aging infrastructure

Walnut Creek blossomed in the 1960s to 1970s, and many of the facilities and other infrastructure built during that time are showing signs of age. Deferring small repairs today can lead to larger problems tomorrow.

CHOICES

Raise fees

Charge more for services and programs

Use 'one-time' money

Use one-time money or dip into reserves

Cut costs

Reduce, eliminate or alter delivery of programs and services

Perceptions

Surveys find a high degree of satisfaction with the quality of life in Walnut Creek and the programs and services provided by the City. The same surveys show little awareness of any financial challenges facing the City.

Reality

The City has been dealing with budget shortfalls since the economic downturn in 2009, and the 2012-22 Long-Term Financial Forecast shows fiscal challenges will continue. To date, cost reductions have been done in a way that has had very little impact on the public.

Bottom line

The City no longer has the resources to be able to continue to provide all the programs, services and facilities the community currently enjoys at the same level and/or in the same way.

Cost cutting

To balance recent budgets, the City has:

- Cut staff by 13 percent (51 positions total)
- Required employees pay full employee portion of pension cost
- Required employees contribute more toward health care
- Implemented a "second tier" pension benefit for new employees
- Contracted out services

Eliminated programs & services, including:

- Master's Swim Program
- Youth Council & Summer Interns
- Character Counts

Reduced programs & services, including:

- Code enforcement
- Open hours at City Hall (public counters are closed on Fridays)
- Median maintenance
- Year-round swimming at Larkey Pool

CHALLENGES

Walnut Creek's fiscal reality

Long-term financial forecast

Fiscal Years 2014-2022



Expenses with additional unfunded needs

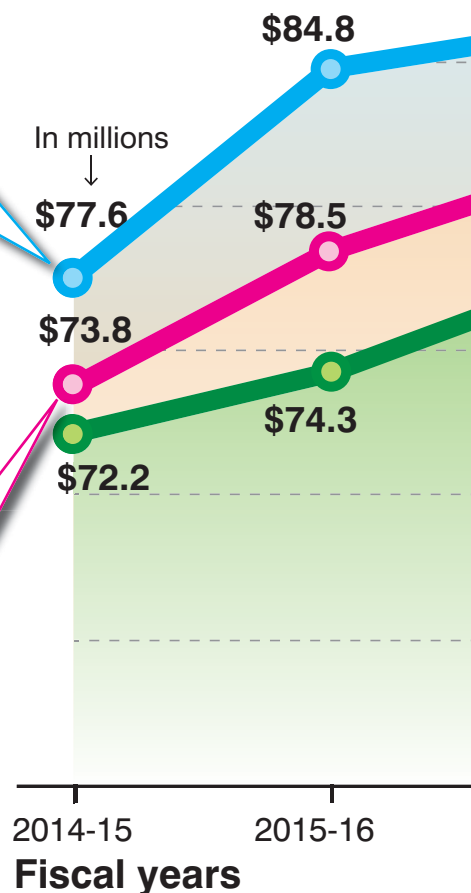
- \$3 million per year to fully meet maintenance needs of aging infrastructure: roads, storm drains, trails, parks, sidewalks and buildings
- \$1.5 million per year to fully meet Information Technology needs
- \$600,000 per year to continue providing an additional 21 hours a week of library services at both branches (current funding from the Measure Q parcel tax will run out in 2014-15).



Expenses

Continue current service and staffing levels, plus:

- Estimated salaries keep up with inflation
- Pay employee benefit obligations
- \$600,000 per year for library building and equipment maintenance
- \$500,000 per year for building maintenance
- \$500,000 per year for IT projects



Rising Employee Benefit Costs

Health care: Rising health care costs are a national problem. From 2000 to 2013, the City's premiums for a family Kaiser plan increased 400 percent.

Pensions: Walnut Creek participates in the California Public Retirement System (CalPERS), which has suffered significant losses due to low investment returns and outdated assumptions about life expectancy. Those losses must be covered by participating agencies; Walnut Creek's tab? An additional \$1½ to \$2 million a year.

Good to know:

Unlike many public agencies, Walnut Creek does not provide medical insurance after retirement.

The average monthly pension for a retired Walnut Creek employee is \$2,869 per month.

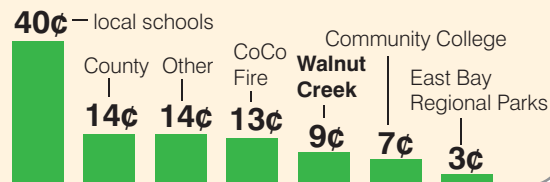
City employees do not receive Social Security.

Property tax

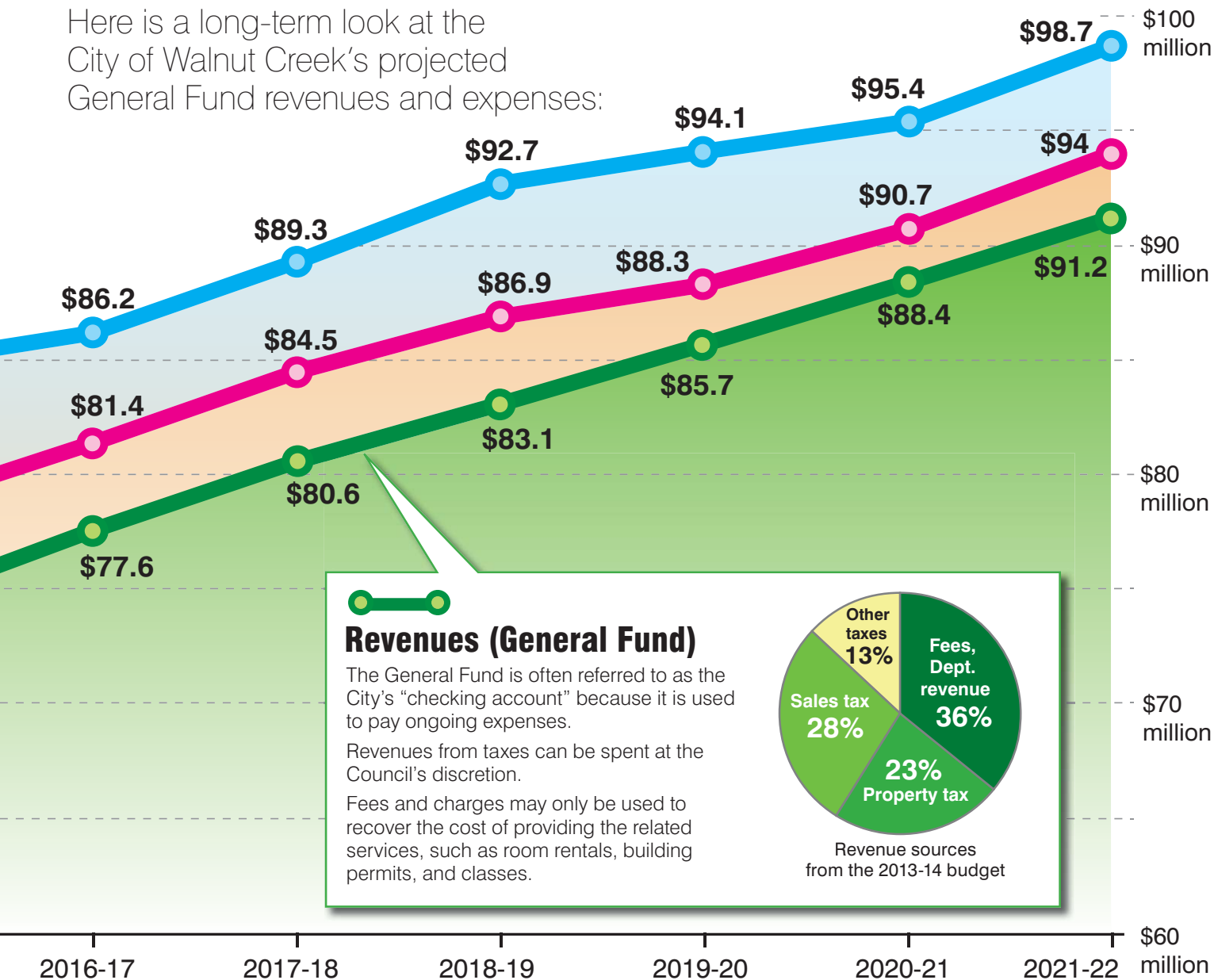
We can't build our way out of budget deficits:

Walnut Creek receives 9.4 cents per dollar of property tax. Of the average resident's \$3,912 property tax bill, only \$368 goes to the City. A \$100 million project will bring in \$90,400 to Walnut Creek.

Where does your property tax dollar go?



Here is a long-term look at the City of Walnut Creek's projected General Fund revenues and expenses:

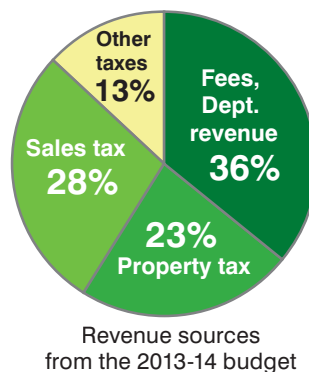


Revenues (General Fund)

The General Fund is often referred to as the City's "checking account" because it is used to pay ongoing expenses.

Revenues from taxes can be spent at the Council's discretion.

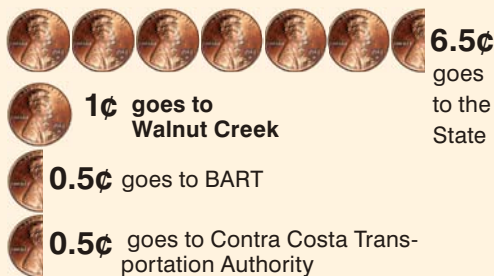
Fees and charges may only be used to recover the cost of providing the related services, such as room rentals, building permits, and classes.



Revenue sources from the 2013-14 budget

Sales tax

While the total sales tax rate in Walnut Creek is **8.5 cents per dollar**, the City receives a single penny. Bought a \$40,000 car? Walnut Creek will get \$400 in sales tax. **Of that 8.5 cents:**

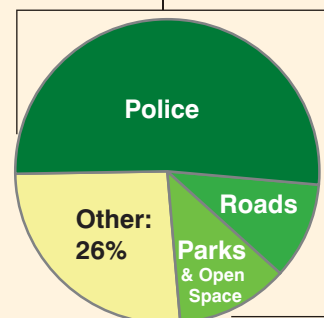


Where your tax dollars go

City Services

City Services	Cost paid through tax dollars
Police	\$21.5 million
Road Maintenance	\$4.2 million
City Parks and Open Space	\$4.9 million
Total for these services	\$30.6 million
Total tax dollars used for General Fund	\$41.4 million

74% Percentage of tax dollars dedicated to top 3 priorities



CHALLENGES AND CHOICES:

Tools the Council has...

The City Council must approve a balanced budget by June 30.

As the Council considers budget options in April through June, it has a limited number of tools at hand.

Increase Fees

The City could choose to increase fees, but cannot charge more than the cost of providing the particular service.

In 2006, fees represented 15 percent of the City's General Fund revenue. Today, fees make up 36 percent.

Some services, such as building permits, cover the entire direct cost of the service provided. However, other fees do not recover the entire cost.

One-Time Money

Examples of one-time money include money raised through the sale of City property.

A City Council policy states that one-time money should not be used for operating expenses.

The City will receive up to \$3 million over the next 5 years in one-time money as part of the Broadway Plaza Development Agreement. (In addition, the agreement provides for two 5-year extensions, which would include \$1 million in one-time money at the end of year 10 and year 15.)

Dipping into Reserves

Reserves are the City's savings account.

While most of the City's reserves are restricted, General Fund reserves can be used at the Council's discretion in accordance with approved policies. These include:

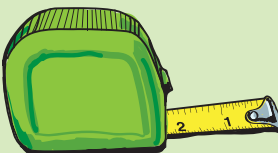
\$10 million in reserves for fiscal and catastrophic emergencies.

\$10.5 million in reserves for legal obligations, pensions, worker's compensation insurance.

Eliminating or Reducing Programs and Services

Eliminating programs is the most direct way to cut expenses. The challenge is where to cut, and how would that impact the quality of life and community expectations in Walnut Creek?

Reducing programs softens the immediate impact on the public, yet services are still rolled back.



Find Other Ways

The Council could choose to find other ways to deliver services, such as contracting out, partnering with community groups or sharing with other agencies the cost and provision of services.

What you can do

Come to one of the "Fiscal Future" presentations offered in March*

*Schedule available on our Budget website

Attend Council meetings or share ideas via Open Town Hall

Check out our online budget FAQs

Stay informed!

Your Budget One-Stop Shop

Whether you want to join our budget e-mail list, get meeting dates, or dig into details about operating expenses, you'll find links and resources on our Budget website.

Check it out at
www.walnut-creek.org/budget



Young reader Michelle Thomas with the books she received through the Buena Vista Tutorial Program.

Auxiliary gives the gift of literacy

Helping struggling students learn to read is a passion for the members of the Buena Vista Auxiliary of Assistance League of Diablo Valley.

Since 1993, Auxiliary members have raised more than \$1.4 million to help more than 4,000 local youngsters through the Buena Vista Tutorial Program, an early-intervention literacy program for elementary school children in Mt. Diablo and Walnut Creek school districts.

Local children reading below grade level are provided with a customized curriculum and a credentialed teacher as tutor. The children receive 16 hour-long tutoring sessions; at "graduation," the students are given the gift of new books at their improved reading level.

All of this is provided at no cost to either the school or the families, thanks to the Auxiliary. Ninety-seven percent of participating children show significant improvement in reading skills.

Auxiliary members are preparing to celebrate the organization's 25th year at the annual "A Toast to Tutoring" wine tasting and dinner auction on March 14.

To learn more, visit www.diablovalley.assistanceleague.org.

Public Art walking tours return in April

Take a Docent-led walking tour of Walnut Creek's wonderful public art collection. These hour-long tours explore the city's prime public artworks located around downtown.

Tours take place every third Saturday



CERT students practicing disaster medical operations skills under the watchful eyes of trained proctors at the final class drill.

Join the CERT team and make a difference

Registration is currently under way for the Spring 2014 Community Emergency Response Team training. CERT members learn how to work safely as a team in providing life-saving support following a disaster.

Class topics include personal preparedness; use of fire extinguishers; how to safely search buildings; and disaster medical operations.

Seminar for first-time homebuyers

The City's Housing Division is partnering with the Asian Real Estate Association of America and the Contra Costa Association of Realtors to provide a workshop for homebuyers in Walnut Creek at the Civic Park Community Center Assembly Hall. The event will be held on Saturday, March 22 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Speakers will talk about real estate trends and the benefits of homeownership. The City's down payment assistance program and HOA Helper Grant program will also be discussed. Look forward to some helpful information about making an investment in Walnut Creek.

from April through November. All tours meet in front of the Leshner Center for the Arts at 11 a.m. Admission is \$5 and includes a free pass to the Bedford Gallery.

To learn more about the public art walking tours, visit bedfordgallery.org.

Trained instructors emphasize hands-on instruction to build confidence. CERT members meet on a regular basis to keep their skills fresh and to build a strong community of trained disaster volunteers.

There is a \$25 class fee. Classes will be from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 9 through May 28, plus the Saturday morning graduation drill on May 31. To register, email cert@walnut-creek.org.

Explore volunteering at the Bedford Gallery

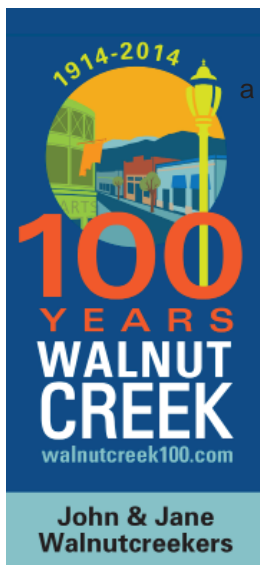
Learn about the fun and rewarding volunteer opportunities at the Bedford Gallery at 10 a.m. to noon Monday, April 21. Talk to current volunteers, enjoy coffee and pastries, browse the current exhibit "Sky" and enter for a chance to win fabulous door prizes.

The Bedford Gallery offers two great volunteer opportunities for people looking to get involved and meet a wonderful group of dedicated art lovers. The Gallery Guild volunteers welcome visitors at the reception desk, host receptions and other special events, produce fundraising events to support the Gallery's programs and offer field trips and other fun events for members. Our highly trained Bedford Docents lead tours that include hands-on art projects for 2,000 school children annually, and guide visits for adult groups. The Bedford provides Docents with professional training in art history and teaching techniques.

For more, visit bedfordgallery.org.

Last chance to buy a Centennial Flag

Show your pride in Walnut Creek with colorful, personalized Centennial Flag. These flags are “flying” in the downtown throughout 2014, and will be yours to keep after that! Cost is \$500; proceeds help pay for Centennial activities. Orders are being accepted through March 1. Go to walnutcreek100.com or email centennial@walnut-creek.org.



Open call for artwork for WC100 exhibition

In honor of Walnut Creek's centennial, the Bedford Gallery will begin the fall season with an exhibition titled “Walnut Creek Turns 100: Celebrating the City Through Art.” The exhibition opens on Sept. 21.

Everyone who loves Walnut Creek is invited to enter artwork that reflects our community's rich history, land, commerce and culture, both past and present. Help us create a portrait of our city!

The deadline for submission is Sept. 4. To find out more, visit www.bedfordgallery.org/wc100.

Share our history!

The Shadelands Ranch Museum is in need of friendly, outgoing people who love sharing local history and can give three hours per month serving as docents to help out visitors enjoy a tour of the vintage house.

Please call 925-935-7871 or email wcshadelands@sbcglobal.net to learn more. Or, visit the Historical Society website, www.walnutcreekhistory.info.

The Celebration of the Century

Walnut Creek's Centennial year has begun. While the official date of incorporation was Oct. 14, 1914, the Centennial Steering Committee invites everyone to be part of a special yearlong community-led and community-funded celebration.

Historical Society is Centennial's fiscal sponsor



DAYS GONE BY — Posing on the front porch of their Shadelands Fruit Farm house in 1906 are Hiram Penniman, Bessie Penniman Johnson, Helen Hall and Carrie Penniman. Today, the house is maintained by the Walnut Creek Historical Society as the Shadelands Ranch Museum.

When Walnut Creek's Centennial committee needed a fiscal sponsor, committee members knew they'd found the perfect partner in the Walnut Creek Historical Society.

Because the Historical Society is a registered 501(c)3, the fiscal sponsorship means Centennial donations may be tax deductible—an important factor in these lean economic times.

While the City contributed \$10,000 in seed money, all other Centennial events and activities are being paid for through sponsorships and individual donations.

“Working with the Walnut Creek Historical Society is a natural fit for the Walnut Creek 100 team,” says Mackenzie Leshner, who co-chairs the Centennial Committee with her husband Steve. “As the keepers of our city's

history, they are an invaluable partner as we spread the word about this exciting year and the many opportunities for Walnut Creek citizens to celebrate our city's past, present, and future.”

Founded in 1967 by members of the Walnut Creek Women's Club, the Walnut Creek Historical Society engages with the community

and city government to carry out its mission to preserve and interpret local history.

Among its varied activities, the Society operates and maintains the Shadelands Ranch Museum, built by Walnut Creek pioneer Hiram Penniman (1824-1907) at 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road; supports history programs for third-graders; conducts monthly downtown walking history tours; and maintains a rotating exhibit at the downtown Walnut Creek Library. Learn more at www.walnutcreekhistory.info.



100 WALNUT CREEK CENTENNIAL 1914-2014

There are 100 (and more!) ways to celebrate Walnut Creek. Here are some choices; for more ideas, visit www.walnutcreek100.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Art in Nature Family Event

Civic Arts Education
Borges Ranch
March 22, 9-11 a.m. www.arts-ed.org

Mount Diablo Anniversary Celebration

Across Mount Diablo
April 26 & 27, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., www.mdia.org

FESTIVALS

Restaurant Week

April 21- April 27
www.walnutcreekdowntown.com

Pacific Fine Arts Festival

April 26-27, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
www.walnutcreekdowntown.com

Bocce & Bites

Renaissance Club Sport
May 8, 5-7 p.m.
www.renaissanceclubsport.com

Art & Wine Festival

Heather Farm Park
May 31 & June 1, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
www.walnut-creek.com

ANIMALS & WILDLIFE

Animals on Broadway

Animal Rescue Foundation
May 18, Heather Farm Park www.arf.net

100 Ways to Support Wildlife

Lindsay Wildlife Museum
www.wildlife-museum.org
Birds of Prey: March 1, 1 & 3:15 p.m.
Baby Birds: April 5, 11:30 a.m. & 2 p.m.
Soar Like a Hawk: May 3

CULTURE

Diablo Ballet's 20th Anniversary

March 6, 6:30 p.m.
www.lesherartscenter.org or 943-SHOW

Diablo Symphony: Celebrations!

Rossmoor: March 21, 8 p.m.
Leshner Center: March 23, 2 p.m.
www.diablosymphony.org or 943-SHOW

Contra Costa Performing Arts "Founder's Concert"

Grace Presbyterian Church
April 27, 2 p.m. www.ccpas.org

Walnut Creek International Short Film Festival

Century 14 Downtown Walnut Creek
May 2 – May 4, all day www.wcsff.com

CENTENNIAL HERITAGE DAY AT BORGES RANCH

SAT., MAY 17 | 10^{A.M.} - 4^{P.M.}
Celebrate Walnut Creek's Ranching Heritage



**Featuring Country Singer and
American Idol Finalist – Matt Rogers**

First 150 tickets purchased receive VIP event passes.

A Day of Family Fun

- Local Blue Grass/Folk Groups and Other Entertainment
- Farm Animal Petting Zoo and Pony Rides
- Children's Games and Crafts
- Open Space Walking Tours
- Historic Ranch Tours and Demonstrations

Tickets:

Children (2+) – \$5
Adults – \$7.50 (advance)
\$10 (day of event)

ADVANCE TICKETS AT
WalnutCreek100.com
OR AT CITY HALL

100 WALNUT CREEK
CENTENNIAL 1914-2014



YOUTH

Student Poetry Contest: "100"

Walnut Creek Library Foundation
For entries: www.WCLibrary.org/contest
Poetry reading: May 3, 11 a.m.

Futuristic Walnut Creek 2114

Walnut Acres Elementary Third Graders
March 25, 1:30 p.m.
www.walnutacres-elementary.org

Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt

Heather Farm Park
April 19, 9 a.m.

Earth Day Celebration

Grace Cooperative Preschool
April 27, 10:30 a.m.
www.gracecooperativepreschool.com

LOCAL HISTORY

Downtown History Walks

Walnut Creek Historical Society
March 8, April 12, May 10 9:30 a.m.
www.walnutcreekhistory.info

SENIORS

WC Seniors Pancake Breakfasts

Civic Park Assembly Hall
March 2, April 6, May 4 9-11:45 a.m.
walnutcreekseniorsclub.org

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Bike 100 Miles for the Centennial

For details: www.bikewalnutcreek.org

Wildflower Hikes in the Open Space

Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation
Shell Ridge: April 6, 9 a.m. to noon
Acalanes Ridge: April 12, 9 - 11 a.m.
Lime Ridge: April 20, 9 a.m. - noon
Sugarloaf: May 4, 9 - 11 a.m.
www.wcosf.org

Wine and Roses

Gardens at Heather Farm Fundraiser
May 30, 6 p.m. www.gardenshf.org

IN A Nutshell

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Editor:
Gayle Vassar
Communications and Outreach Manager

We welcome your comments and questions
Call 943-5895 or vassar@walnut-creek.org

For past issues, go online at www.walnut-creek.org

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A Playground for Everyone at Heather Farm Park



Make the New All Abilities Playground a Reality

Give an Inscribed Commemorative Brick

Standard 4" x 8" brick: \$100

Large 8" x 8" brick: \$250

Brick recognition is available through March 31, 2014.
All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

To donate or to see other donor opportunities,
visit our website: www.WCCivicPride.org.



WALNUT CREEK
Civic Pride
Foundation

P.O. Box 31156 Walnut Creek, CA 94598
Non-profit Tax ID #68-0276670

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