



IN A Nutshell



No. 187

Newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

FALL 2019

GET INVOLVED, MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Walnut Creek City Council is inviting interested residents to consider applying to serve on a local advisory commission. Serving on a commission is a great way to get involved in your community, and provide input on the direction of many City services and programs. Walnut Creek has a variety of advisory bodies that cover such topics as the arts, planning, design review, parks/recreation/open space and transportation. Commissioners must be registered voters and for most positions, live within the City of Walnut Creek. Commissioners serve without compensation, but provide an incredibly valuable service to their community. If you've ever wondered how certain decisions are made in the City, and how recommendations from advisory bodies come to the City Council, one of these slots might be for you. Find out more by visiting the City's website and selecting the "Commissions and Committees" tab in the government section. You can also contact the City Clerk's office at 925-943-5819 for more details. Recruitments are underway now, and will close on October 9.

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Mark your calendar for Monday, November 11, as the City pays tribute to the many veterans who live in Walnut Creek. Enjoy the patriotic music provided by the Walnut Creek Concert Band, and be inspired by our keynote speaker. The free ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m., and will be held at the Leshner Center for the Arts.

IN YOUR WINTER NUTSHELL

Look for a special insert in your December Nutshell that will highlight all the ways you can get information from the City in the event of an emergency.

You'll also find out what you can do in advance to prepare for

an emergency, and how you can ensure your family and property are ready. We're rolling out our alerting system: WC ALERT. Learn how to sign up for notifications by email, text and/or phone call.



Create Musical Memories in Walnut Creek!



You may have noticed beautifully hand-painted pianos popping up on City streets downtown and in Shadelands. What's the scoop? Check out WalnutCreekDowntown.com for details on the new musical public art project known as "Painted Pianos!"

Planning for City's Financial Future

The City of Walnut Creek's budget team is actively preparing for the upcoming spending plan that will cover fiscal years 2020 through 2022. Like many local governments, the City's budget operates on a two year cycle, with adjustments made along the way. The City's next budget will go into effect July 1, 2020, and cover spending and delivery of programs and services through June 30, 2022. Unlike the Federal government, cities cannot print money or approve a budget with a deficit. Legally, the City must always adopt a balanced budget.

During the recession, the City made some difficult budget cuts, and as the economy improved, slowly moved forward with restoring services. We will enter into the

next budget cycle preparing for the future, having worked hard to be able to "do more with less," as has been expected of government agencies in the post-recession era. The City's 10 year financial forecast suggests that we will have ongoing budget challenges, primarily due to two factors: mandated pension costs that will rise significantly, and major infrastructure needs that will need to be addressed.

In the meantime, we want you to be part of the City's financial discussion. Register for budget information and alerts to be received via email. Visit the City's homepage, www.Walnut-Creek.org, and select the eNotifications tab in the upper right hand corner. More information will be forthcoming over the coming months.



FALL HIGHLIGHTS

Check cable listings or walnutcreektv.org for the full schedule of shows

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

Walnut Creek Concert Band

Don't miss the Band's annual summer concert, held at the Leshner Center for the Arts in July, with featured trumpet player Bijon Watson.

Walnut Parade

It's the traditional kickoff for the Walnut Festival fun – the Twilight Parade rolled down Main Street on September 14.

Walnut Festival

The Park at Heather Farm transforms once a year into a blend of great food, live music, rides, and fun. Catch the highlights from this year's Walnut Festival.

Summer Creek Currents

WCTV's award-winning Creek Currents brings you along for the journey on a historical walk through the streets of Walnut Creek, plus check out the new Tap House restaurant at Boundary Oak.

Aquanuts Fall Show

Clarke Memorial Swim Center played host to the annual Aquanuts Fall Swim show over Labor Day weekend. You'll be amazed by the creativity, presentation and sheer talent of the dozens of synchronized swimming athletes that comprise the world-renowned Walnut Creek Aquanuts!

Specialized Rec Community

See how community, activities and sports open up a new world for the participants in Walnut Creek's Specialized Recreation Program. Meet the participants and share their joy!

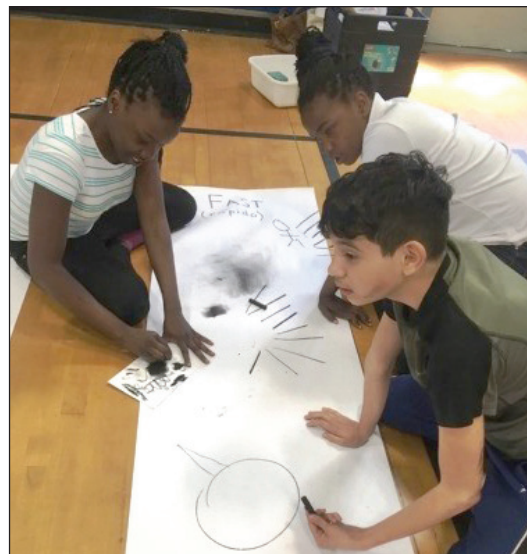
CHANNEL INFORMATION

Walnut Creek TV is found on Comcast Channel 28 in incorporated Walnut Creek, Channel 26 in Rossmoor, and Channel 99 on U-Verse.

Not a cable subscriber? Watch the channel live online at walnutcreektv.org.

COMMUNITY ARTS RECEIVES GRANTS FOR ARTS PROGRAMMING IN SCHOOLS

Center for Community Arts has received three grants from the California Arts Council to support arts programming and teacher professional development in local public schools. In-school programs at Walnut Creek Intermediate and Ygnacio Valley High School will enable Community Arts to work with classroom teachers and students to support arts learning for students with special needs. Additionally, Community Arts will provide a series of three arts integration workshops for teachers across schools in Walnut Creek and deepen arts-learning in its after school programs at Oak Grove Middle, Meadow Homes Elementary, and Buena Vista Elementary.



Here's what's happening

BEDFORD GALLERY

Feast your eyes on Off Menu: Contemporary Art About Food

Opening Reception: Sunday, October 6, 3-5pm
Exhibition Dates: October 6 – December 15

Fill your cultural appetite with Off Menu, an exhibition of more than one hundred works of art that explore and celebrate the visual expressions of food. Featuring an international roster of artists who work in a range of media to depict the objects of our culinary desire, the exhibition contains a healthy portion of aesthetic sustenance! Off Menu is anchored by a traveling exhibition titled Les Diners de Gala, comprised of twelve fine art prints by Salvador Dalí. Adult \$5, Youth 13-17 \$3, Children 12 & under free.



Volunteer at Bedford Gallery

Fall 2019 Docent Training Dates: September 25, & October 2, 9, 16, 1-3:30 pm

Through Bedford Gallery's many volunteer opportunities, you can participate in the gallery's behind-the-scenes operations, learn about trends in contemporary art, make friends, and contribute to a thriving art scene in your community. Bedford Gallery is currently seeking Guild Members and Docent volunteers. Guild Members staff the gallery's front desk and welcome visitors into the space,

and docents lead tours of gallery exhibitions and teach Art in a Suitcase workshops (no prior art history knowledge needed to sign up). To sign up or learn more information, visit bedfordgallery.org/volunteer.

Public Art Walking Tours

October 19, November 16, 11am-12pm

Bedford Gallery offers one hour docent-led walking tours of Walnut Creek's wonderful downtown public art collection every third Saturday, April through November. Tours start at 11 am and meet in front of the Leshner Center for the Arts on the plaza. More information can be found at bedfordgallery.org/public-art/public-art-tours. Adults \$5, 18 years or younger are free (cash only). Includes Admission to the Gallery.

Bedford Craft Fest!

Saturday, November 16, 10am-5pm

Shop till you drop this year at Bedford Gallery's Craft Fest, an annual tradition celebrating the finest handmade goods of Bay Area's local, independent makers and designers. Now in its twelfth year, Craft Fest has become an annual tradition for shoppers looking to find unique items and gifts. Shop for the best jewelry, ceramics, textiles, home goods, artisanal foods, and clothing the Bay has to offer. View the lineup of vendors at bedfordgallery.org/craftfest. Free Admission.



MUSIC & MOVIES UNDER THE STARS

Music & Movies Under the Stars

Friday, September 20, Civic Park

Music by Sunny and the Black Pack starts at 5:30pm, with a showing of Jumanji at sunset (approx. 7pm). Bring a picnic and enjoy!



CENTER REP EVENTS

Murder For Two presented by Center REPeratory Company

Open Now through – October 6, 2019
Leshner Center for the Arts

Murder for Two is the perfect blend of music, mayhem and murder! In this hilarious 90-minute show, two performers play 13 roles—not to mention the piano—in a witty and winking homage to old-fashioned murder mysteries. You won't want to miss this killer musical comedy!



Native Gardens

October 18 - November 16, 2019
Leshner Center for the Arts

From the outrageous mind of playwright Karen Zacarias (The Book Club Play) comes this hot new comedy where gardens and cultures clash, turning friendly neighbors into feuding enemies in this hilarious comedy of good intentions and bad manners.

Tickets available at lesherartscenter.org or call 925-943-7469.

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ARTS



WALNUT CREEK RECREATION & OPEN SPACE EVENTS

Market Day

2nd Tuesday of the month, (October 8, November 12 and December 10) 10:30am-12pm, Civic Park
Community Center Plaza



Interested in purchasing fresh produce at wholesale prices? Our monthly market, hosted by Walnut Creek Recreation and Covia, promotes community wellness every second Tuesday of the month! Open rain or shine at Civic Park plaza in between the community center and Hand of Peace statue. Produce can be purchased by cash only! Any questions? Call us at 925-943-5852.

Financial Abuse Prevention

Sponsored by the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA)
Thursday, October 10, 2019, 10-11am || FREE
Social Hall, Civic Park Community Center

Do you want to become educated on how to identify the warning signs of financial abuse or how to protect yourself against fraud? Join the Contra Costa County ACOA for a presentation to highlight ways to prevent financial abuse. Call 925-943-5851 to register.

Trunk-or-Treat at Civic Park!

Friday, October 25, 4:30-6pm || FREE, Civic Park
Parking Lot

Calling all ghouls, vampires and princesses, Walnut Creek Recreation is hosting their first ever "Trunk-or-Treat" in downtown Civic Park! Bring your little ones to walk through "candy lane" where decorative trunks are filled with Halloween



spirit and sweet/non-sweet treats are given out. Stop by our entertaining booths filled with fun activities! Visit our food trucks and beverage areas for a tasty treat or drink. Make sure to bring a bag for your child's treats! No registration required. Full rain conditions will cancel the event. Call (925) 943-5899 ext. 2311 for more information.

Howe Harvest Festival

Sunday, October 27, Howe Homestead Park, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Howe Harvest Festival combines a celebration of the life of James Pomeroy Howe with a variety of old fashioned harvest and Halloween activities for the whole family. Pumpkin carving, carnival games, crafts and more. Make your own scarecrow, and venture into the Harvest Maze that winds through the Community Garden. Find all the details on the Walnut Creek Open Space Facebook page.

Giving in Gratitude: Food Bank

Thursday, November 21, 12:30-3:30 pm
Meeting Location: Civic Park Community Center

Do you want to support people in need at the Food Bank, but do not have time to commit long-term? Giving in Gratitude is a service group that offers individuals 50+ an opportunity to give back to their community without a long-term commitment. We will be collaborating with the Contra Costa County Food Bank by helping them sort and distribute food items for community members in need. To register, call (925) 943-5852. Cost is \$10.

Holiday Puppet Show, Fun with Santa!

Saturday, December 7, 10am-12pm
Lakeside Room, Heather Farm Community Center

Walnut Creek Recreation presents a ventriloquist puppet show by Jungle Joe, holiday crafts and treat, and a chance for photos with Santa. Pre-registration required; register for Class #15166 under your child's name at WalnutCreekRec.org or call 925-943-5858. Tickets are \$15.



Community Arts Dance Program is Expanding!

Dancers of all levels are invited to try one of our new dance classes for youth or adults! You'll find new classes in ballet, jazz, hip hop, tap, contemporary, choreography, dance conditioning, and more. Try out a quarterly class or take your skills to the next level in our school year ballet program or Adult Dance Ensemble. Classes are underway, with more

new fall dates available now.

Handcrafted Holiday Sale

December 6-8, 2019, Shadelands Art Center
Join us for this much-anticipated annual weekend of holiday shopping, live entertainment and festive craft-making! Shop ceramics, jewelry, prints, glass, paintings and more, all handcrafted by Center for Community Arts teaching artists and students. Visit <http://www.communityarts.org/> for more details.

Community Service Day



2019 WALNUT CREEK Community Service Day

Saturday, October 12

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

Help Wanted: Volunteers are needed to help organize and manage the breakfast and other activities at Heather Farm Community Center on October 12. Sign up and be part of our team!

*Free Community Service Day T-shirts are only distributed at the morning check-in and breakfast.

With more than 50 projects, Community Service Day offers something for everyone.

For project details, visit www.walnut-creek.org/service.

ANIMALS

- ARF Landscape Transformation
- Equestrian Center Spiff Up
- Giving Tree Ornaments (Community Concern for Cats)
- Thrift Shop Capers (Community Concern for Cats)

ARTS

- Arts Classroom in a Suitcase (Bedford Gallery)
- Arts Greeting Cards (Community Arts Preschool)
- Ceramic Kiln Patio Clean-up
- Leshner Center Painting
- Leshner Costume Shop Spiff-up
- Violin Kits for Kids (California Symphony)

CREEKS

- Creek Habitat Restoration (Civic Park)
- Family Creek Cleanup (Heather Farm)
- Invasive Plant Removal (Pine Creek)
- Pine Creek Cleanup

DOWNTOWN

- Paint Downtown Meter Poles

EMERGENCY PREP

- Emergency Alert Outreach (CERT)

Give a half-day... Help a favorite cause



FOOD DRIVES, ETC.

- Community Food Drive
- Food Warehouse Spiff-up (White Pony Express)
- Rossmoor Food Drive (Rossmoor Rotary)

LIBRARIES

If libraries are your passion, you can help at Walnut Acres school library or a public library.

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 12 and build a better Walnut Creek!

Don't have Internet access? Call the Community Service day hotline: 925-256-3505.

PARKS & GARDENING

- Bancroft Garden Spruce-up
- Civic Park Fence Painting
- Gardens @Heather Farm Beautification
- Hanna Grove Fence Building
- Heather Farm Park Landscaping
- Lar Rieu Park Tree Planting
- San Miguel Park Landscaping
- Shadelands Museum Gardening (Historical Society)

RECREATION

- HF Softball Infield Work
- Rudgear Pickleball Courts Spruce-up

SCHOOLS

All Walnut Creek public schools are sponsoring projects. Come out and help your neighborhood school!

SENIORS & TOTS

- All Abilities Playground Spruce-up (Civic Pride Fdn.)
- Senior Volunteer Thank You Packets

SUSTAINABILITY

- Iron Horse Trail Spruce-up (Sustainable WC & Sunrise Rotary)

2019 WALNUT CREEK Community Service Day

THANK YOU, 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 Clubs (Diablo Valley, Rossmoor, Walnut Creek, Ygnacio Valley)
- Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation

Supporters

- Clif Bar
- Peet's Coffee
- Safeway

START WITH BREAKFAST!

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

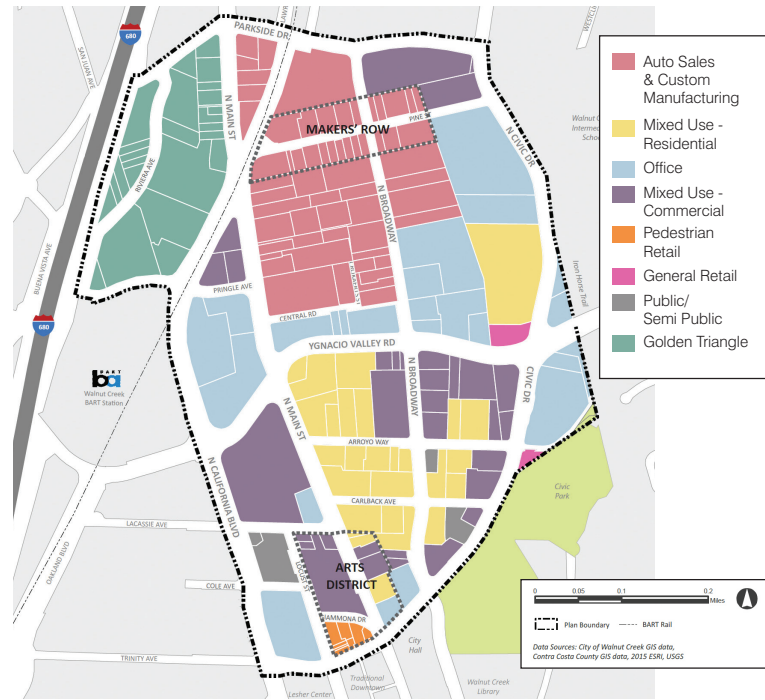


NORTH DOWNTOWN SPECIFIC PLAN UPDATE

The final draft North Downtown Specific Plan and Final EIR were released in April 2019. These documents and the associated General Plan and Zoning Ordinance amendments were brought to the Planning Commission in May, receiving a positive recommendation to City Council to certify the Final EIR, adopt the North Downtown Specific Plan and proposed amendments. During an August study session, the City Council provided direction on a number of key policy issues in the Specific Plan. The project team will go back to City Council for final adoption in October.

This plan is the culmination of a 3-year planning process involving the community and a 15-member Advisory Committee. The Specific Plan is a 20-30 year vision for the North Downtown area, which extends from Civic Drive to Parkside Drive and from Highway 680 to the Iron Horse Trail.

For details or to join the North Downtown Specific Plan email list, visit walnut-creek.org/northdowntown.



School Resource Officers Back on Campus

School is back underway, and if you drop by a local campus, there's no need for concern if you see a police car onsite. That means School Resource Officers Nicole Rosenbusch and Shane Blatz are probably on the job.

Walnut Creek Police Department began its school resource officer (SRO) program in 2014, having two School Resource Officers assigned to Northgate and Las Lomas High School and their respective feeder schools, as well as private and charter schools within Walnut Creek. Every year, our SROs handle hundreds of calls for service at their assigned schools, allowing Patrol to concentrate on reducing crime elsewhere. SROs also focus on providing education to students, faculty, and parents on topics including the responsible use of social media, school safety, bullying, and alcohol and drug awareness. The SROs also operate a juvenile diversion program that allows qualifying teens an alternative to entering the court system, and provide faculty and staff with active shooter training. SRO Rosenbusch is assigned to Las Lomas High School (her Alma Mater!), WCI, Indian Valley, Walnut Heights, and Buena Vista Elementary School.



The most senior Patrol Officer at WCPD, Rosenbusch began her WCPD career in 1996, working in Patrol, Investigations (Juvenile Crimes - Crimes Against Children), the Community Policing Team, and has been a SRO since 2016. She is also a member of the Recruiting Team, a Crisis Intervention Training Instructor, and the Team Leader for both the Rossmoor Committee and Master Officer Committee. Having a passion for teaching and working with youth in the community, Rosenbusch has taught DARE and Character Counts in the elementary schools for several years, the Awareness Program at the middle schools, and ROP (Regional Occupational

Program) Law Enforcement at LLHS. Rosenbusch believes an SRO's main job is the safety and welfare of their students. SROs counsel, educate, mediate, situations involving students, and when appropriate enforce the law, as well as being a resource for the parents, school admin, faculty, and staff. Rosenbusch adds, "I love my job. To be able to connect with students of all ages and be a positive role model and support for whatever situation they may be experiencing is very gratifying. And to also connect, support and be a resource for school admin, faculty, and staff is absolutely the best."

An SRO since 2017, Officer Blatz is assigned to Northgate High School, Foothill Middle, Bancroft, Valle Verde and Walnut Acres Elementary. Previously working for San Diego and San Francisco Police Departments, Officer Blatz has nearly 10 years of law enforcement experience. In addition to being an SRO, Blatz is also a Defensive Tactics Instructor, Peer Support Team member and a Terrorism Liaison Officer.



SRO Blatz

Blatz's favorite aspect of being an SRO is the interaction shared with students in a more informal setting rather than in an official police contact. Blatz notes, "I believe students see how I am not much different than them and they feel more comfortable to interact with me. I also enjoy the teaching/mentoring to children and parents as an aspect of my role as a SRO." Our SROs work tirelessly to ensure that all Walnut Creek students and faculty have a safe school day, and that students and their parents have the resources they need to feel safe both in and outside of school.

AARP Tax-Aide™

Volunteer with AARP "Tax-Aide" for the 2020 Tax Season

AARP Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers to become members of a team providing free tax preparation for individuals of all ages residing in Contra Costa County. Tax-Aide volunteer positions include Tax Counselors who are trained by Tax-Aide and certified by IRS, and Client Facilitators, who schedule appointments and assist clients at tax sites. Orientation is in November, and classes for tax counselors start in January 2020. Service is from February through April 15, 2020. Apply online at www.aarp.org/taxvolunteer or call (925) 726-3199 for additional information.

CREATING A CLEANER COMMUNITY

Join the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge today to create a cleaner, healthier community and save money! The Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge is a new online sustainable action platform that makes it easy and fun to take action by giving you helpful tips and resources. The Challenge helps participants measure their household's carbon footprint, commit to taking sustainable actions, track progress, and save money. Our team can help set up a meetup where you can invite a few friends to join you to learn more about the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge and how to get involved. Contact Sustainability Coordinator Cara Bautista-Rao at bautista-rao@walnut-creek.org if you're interested in a meetup. Get started by choosing our featured action "Choose Green Electricity" this fall to see how you can receive 100 percent of your electricity from renewable sources like solar and wind, or see how you can save by going solar with the "Install Solar Panels" action. Sign up today at www.CleanerContraCosta.org.

CIVIC PRIDE GRANTS AVAILABLE



The Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2019 Community Grant Program. Ranging from \$500 to \$2,500, the grants support Walnut Creek non-profit recreation, cultural or educational programs or services. To apply, visit the foundation's website at WCCivicPride.org. Application deadline is Monday, October 7, 2019.

What's New with Design Review?



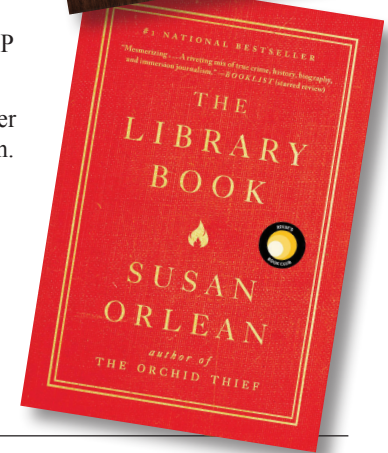
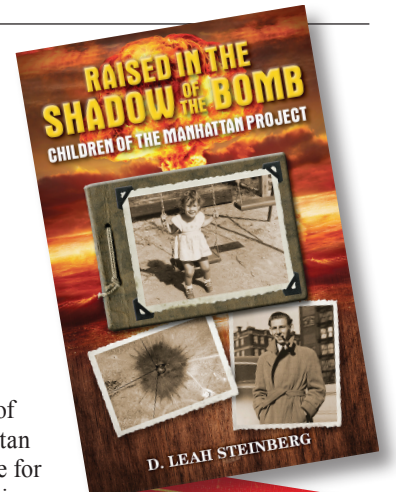
Design review guidelines are aimed at ensuring new and remodeled building projects promote quality architectural design, site planning and landscape development, while at the same time enhancing community character. The City has launched a process to update the current guidelines, which were created in 1996. Community input is a key part of the update, including a social media contest that ran over the summer inviting community members to post photos of buildings and public gathering spaces that demonstrated their design preferences for Walnut Creek. A draft of the updated guidelines will be released this winter; for details, visit walnut-creek.org/drg.

Happening in our Walnut Creek Libraries

LIVE! FROM THE LIBRARY will be welcoming author D. Leah Steinberg to town on October 16 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss her book, *Growing Up in the Shadow of the Bomb: Children of the Manhattan Project*. The story is her unique account of the impact of being brought up by parents who worked at the Manhattan Project. Following the program, books will be available for purchase and signing by the author. This free program is sponsored by the Walnut Creek Library Foundation. RSVP online at wclibrary.org/live or by calling 925-935-5395.

Walnut Creek book fans can still jump in on the September events associated with the "One City, One Book" program. Now in its 14th year, the community is invited to read a single book – in this case, a compelling story called *The Library Book* – and then come together for an array of intriguing programs and fun activities that connect to the theme of the book.

For more information about this and other Walnut Creek Library Foundation programs, please visit www.wclibrary.org or call 925.935.5395.



Valley Art Gallery celebrates 70 years in Walnut Creek

One of the hidden gems in our City is a non-profit art gallery that began as a collaboration between a rancher, an attorney, a civic leader and several artists, who formed an alliance in the 1940s to promote art exhibitions in our area. They held annual shows at the Walnut Festival, and over time the Valley Art Gallery took shape and became a cornerstone in the art community in Walnut Creek. The City Council is presenting a proclamation recognizing the Gallery's 70th anniversary this fall. You can catch the Gallery's new



show opening September 21st. Find out more by visiting valleyartgallery.org.

ON BROADWAY GALA

Saturday, October 5, 6:00 p.m.



WORLD-CLASS ENTERTAINMENT marks this gala evening at the Leshner Center for the Arts, with unique auction items, remarkable food and drink, and a memorable time for all. The On Broadway Gala helps fulfill the Diablo Regional Arts Associations mission to bring amazing talent to the Leshner Center, and to grant local schoolchildren access to the arts.

Find out more at draa.org.



Photos by Ben Krantz Studio

Mountain Shadow Hosts its 5th Annual Short Film Competition


The best of the best will be screened September 20 and 21 as the Mountain Shadow Film Society brings you the finalists from its annual short film competition. Finalists will present their films in person for audience voting onsite Friday and Saturday at the Las Lomas High School Theater. More than 500 films were submitted for the 24 volunteer jurors from Mountain Shadow's member shop to preview and pare down to ten. Visit <http://mountainshadow.org> for details.



Oktoberfest 2019:

Civic Park, Saturday, October 19, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Break out the lederhosen and lace up the dirndl dress – it's the 5th Annual Walnut Creek Oktoberfest celebration! The free event, presented by Walnut Creek Downtown and the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, will feature something for everyone: live entertainment, music, dancing, gourmet food booths and dozens of vendors. And of course – a biergarten! Find out more at WalnutCreekDowntown.com.

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Mayor Pro Tem Loella Haskew
Matt Francois
Justin Wedel
Kevin Wilk

For an appointment, call 925-256-3504

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Community & Economic Development
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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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

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