



# IN A Nutshell



No. 202

Newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

SUMMER 2023

## Coffee with a Cop returns



A Walnut Creek Police Department tradition is back, bringing community members and police officers together for informal conversation. The Police Department hosted two "Coffee with a Cop" dates in March and April, and officers enjoyed having the chance to get to know our residents and answer questions. Check the Walnut Creek Police Department's social media pages for information on the next opportunity.

## Memorial Day Ceremony

Mark your calendar for a very special event to be held in Civic Park on Monday, May 29. The City will once again host its annual Memorial Day ceremony, complete with speakers and of course patriotic music from the Walnut Creek Concert Band. This year, the City will be marking the 70th anniversary of the end of the Korean War. Eleven Walnut Creek residents were killed during the war. The free ceremony takes place in Civic Park at 10:00 a.m. on Memorial Day. All are welcome.



## EXPLORE PUBLIC ART WALKING TOURS IN DOWNTOWN WALNUT CREEK

Join us for scenic strolls around downtown Walnut Creek and uncover the beauty of public art in your community. Details on page 2

David "Hyde" Cho, of Local Edition Creative, Jiko-jitsugen, 2020, aerosol



## Diversity Task Force reports to City Council

After more than a year and a half of collaboration, the Community-based Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force has presented a series of recommendations to the Walnut Creek City Council. Fifty-five Walnut Creek residents applied for the 13 open spots on the Task Force, which began meeting in 2021. While the pandemic forced early monthly meetings to be virtual, members worked collaboratively and creatively with a goal of making Walnut Creek a community where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

At the April City Council meeting, several

Task Force members presented their recommendations for next steps for the City, asking Walnut Creek to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to DEI work, including continued staff training. They also suggested establishing a welcoming ordinance, hosting community listening and learning events, bringing more awareness to the countywide mental health crisis response program, and more. The City Council established DEI work as one of its five Council priorities for the coming two years. City staff will return with workplans and quarterly progress reports to support the recommendations.

## Capacity expands for countywide mobile crisis mental health response

Considerable progress is being made on the countywide mobile crisis response program known as "A3." The goal of the program is to ensure that anyone who lives anywhere in Contra Costa County can have timely and appropriate crisis mental health response 7 days a week, 24 hours per day. Although one of the



challenges has been hiring enough behavioral health workers to staff

the response teams, the number of teams has increased from 2 to 15, with an average response time of one to two hours. The hours of operation have also increased, with teams available from 8:00 a.m. until 12:30 a.m. There were nearly 3,000 calls for help in 2022, and though most issues are resolved by speaking with

someone by phone, mobile teams were dispatched more than 500 times last year.

If you or a family member needs help, you can call the Miles Hall Crisis Call Center directly at 844-844-5544 during the 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. hours, or 988 anytime. Find out more about how A3 works at [cchealth.org/A3](https://cchealth.org/A3).

## HIGHLIGHTS

Check cable listings or [walnutcreektv.org](http://walnutcreektv.org) for the full schedule of shows.

For original programming, community events and more, visit the City's YouTube channel at [YouTube.com/CityofWalnutCreek](https://www.youtube.com/CityofWalnutCreek).

### Memorial Day Commemoration

Following the May 29th Memorial Day ceremony, the full event will be available on Walnut Creek TV, as well as on the City's YouTube channel.

### High School Graduation Ceremonies

It's that time of year! If you can't attend in person, catch the high school graduation ceremonies for students from Las Lomas, Northgate, and Carondelet High Schools.

### Conversation with Virginia Johnson

Legendary dancer and choreographer Virginia Johnson brought Dance Theatre of Harlem to the Leshar Center for the



Arts, and also stopped in for a conversation about her illustrious career, which you can watch on the City's platforms.

### Messages from the Mayor

Mayor Cindy Silva provides a video community update each month. Find out the latest news and information for Walnut Creek residents by checking out the Mayor's Report.

### East Bay Women's Conference

The Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau hosted the East Bay Women's Conference in March, and for the first time, it was held at the Leshar Center for the Arts. Watch selected programs from the day's events.

### Public Meetings

Catch recent City Council meetings, as well as those of our many commissions, including the Design Review, Arts, Transportation, and Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commissions. Our public meetings are also broadcast live on YouTube, Walnut Creek TV, the City's website, and Zoom.

## Here's what's happening .....



PHOTO BY SHAUN ROBERTS

## BEDFORD GALLERY GOES FREE JULY 1

The Bedford Gallery is thrilled to move to a Pay What You Can Community Model beginning July 1. This new admission structure allows everyone to experience the visual arts at a price they can afford. We're counting on you to tell us what price is right for you. If you can afford to, please pay a little extra to support those who can't.

Visit Bedford Gallery at the Leshar Center for the Arts Wed.-Sun., 12-5 PM [BedfordGallery.org](http://BedfordGallery.org)

### Explore Public Art Walking Tours!

Upcoming Walking Tours: April 15, May 20, June 17, Aug 19, Sept 16, Oct 21

Step into a world of art and culture with our 2023 Public Art Walking Tours! Join us for scenic strolls around downtown Walnut Creek and uncover the beauty of public art in your community. Tours begin at 10 am and last approximately 1 hour. Bring your friends and family and \$5 cash for admission. Attendees 18 and younger are FREE!

### Sight Unseen: International Photography by Blind Artists

July 8-September 17, 2023

This exhibition presents work by 13 of the world's most accomplished blind photographers. Each artist uses a camera to bring their inner visions into the seeing world, revealing a rich visual and emotionally complex blend of physical and conceptual artworks.

## SUMMER SOUNDS IS BACK!



The popular outdoor concert series returns to the Rudney Plaza at the Leshar Center! Concerts are free and begin at 5:30 PM. Visit [LesharArtsCenter.org](http://LesharArtsCenter.org) for updated info.

**Anthony Paule Soul Orchestra featuring Terrie Odabi** Thursday, June 29

**Tom Rigney and Flambeau** Thursday, July 13

Announced soon: Thursday, July 6 and Thursday, July 20

## UPCOMING HEADLINERS AT THE LESHER CENTER

### Delfeayo Marsalis and the Uptown Jazz Orchestra

Friday, June 2 7:30 PM  
Featuring up to 18 accomplished musicians, the UJO sets the global standard for celebrating jazz.



### Dianne Reeves

Friday, July 28 7:30 PM  
Five-time Grammy Award jazz vocalist.





# Celebrate Latin American arts and culture during Fiesta Cultural June 20-25

This week of vibrant events and performances at the Leshar Center for the Arts will include four world-class Headliners performances, a Newsmakers Leshar Speaker Series program, Center Repertory Company's production of *In the Heights*, Bedford Gallery's exhibition titled *About Face*, and a free street fair on Saturday with music and dance from the diverse cultures of Latin America.

## NEWSMAKERS LESHAR SPEAKER

**Ana Navarro** June 20 7:30 PM  
GOP Strategist, Political Contributor, and Co-Host of ABC's *The View*.



## Mariachi Herencia de México

June 25 3:00 PM  
Energetic, virtuosic Latin Grammy-nominated group with chart-topping albums. \$15 balcony tickets available!



## About Face now through June 25

This juried and invitational exhibition at Bedford Gallery explores the timeless art of portraiture and its role in reflecting cultural values for future generations.

Learn more and purchase tickets at [LesharArtsCenter.org](http://LesharArtsCenter.org) or call 925-943-7469

*Fiesta Cultural* is sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, Leshar Foundation, and NBC Bay Area/Telemundo 48

*Fiesta Cultural Street Fair* is sponsored by Chevron

*Fiesta Cultural* is presented by Diablo Regional Arts Association and Leshar Center for the Arts

## CENTER REP PRESENTS

### *In the Heights*

June 21 7:30 PM  
(runs May 27-June 24)

This Tony Award-winning musical represents the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York using hip-hop, salsa, merengue, and soul music with lyrics about love, life, community, and the American dream.



**Comedian Gina Brillon** June 22 7:30 PM  
Gracie Award-winning standup comedian



**Arturo Sandoval** June 23 7:30 PM  
Four-time Grammy winner, legend of Latin jazz

## Fiesta Cultural Street Fair

June 24 12:00-7:00 PM

*Appropriate for all ages!* This free outdoor fair will feature dance, activities, and outdoor performances from Cabanijazz Project, Chika Di, and more. Visit [LesharArtsCenter.org](http://LesharArtsCenter.org) for full event schedule.

## Las Cafeteras

June 24 7:30 PM  
Chicano band fusing spoken word and folk music with traditional Son Jarocho and zapateado dancing. \$15 balcony tickets available!



## DOWNTOWN STREETS UPDATE

One of the most unique features about Broadway Plaza is the fact it's an open-air regional shopping center with 80 world-class shopping destinations and eateries, all intricately lining the streets of Walnut Creek. Soon, the City will be re-opening Broadway Plaza Street once again to vehicular traffic, and ask our patrons to be sure to watch out for pedestrians crossing the street. The street is a public street, and Broadway Plaza will work in partnership with the City when it is appropriate to close the street from time to time for events. Broadway Plaza continues to work very closely with the City of Walnut Creek, including the Police Department, to continually monitor and address traffic and safety concerns.

Meanwhile, work continues along Locust Street and several side streets to replace dated water mains, followed by plans to update sewer lines. For questions about the work currently underway, you can call the East Bay Municipal Water District at 510-287-2053.



## SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Community Arts Foundation (<https://commartsfoundation.org/>) is actively seeking new board members. Consider joining as they work to raise funds for their countywide scholarship program, which serves students of all ages who want to pursue their passion in the arts at the Center for Community Arts. The mission at the Community Arts Foundation is "Arts For All." As a board member, you will not only help raise scholarship funds, but you will join in bringing arts awareness, advocacy, and arts accessibility to the entire county.

The Foundation is currently looking for individuals with experience in social media marketing and fundraising. If you are passionate about the arts and arts education, consider joining the Board of Directors. For more information and to apply, please contact the Foundation at [colep.caf@gmail.com](mailto:colep.caf@gmail.com).

## ARTS AROUND AUGUST

# A Celebration of the Arts in Downtown Walnut Creek

The City of Walnut Creek and eleven of its community organizations are collaborating to present the third annual Arts Around August, a month-long program in downtown Walnut Creek to celebrate the performing, visual, and culinary arts.

Special events and activities are planned throughout the month of August.

You'll find that there is something for everyone.

Beginning August 9th, Wednesday evenings will feature Moveable Feasts—a unique tour that includes sampling of gourmet food and hand-crafted beverages from some of Walnut Creek's best restaurants. Let loose and dance to live music on four Thursday evenings during this year's Broadway Plaza Summer Concert Series. Enjoy pop-up street performances during Festival Opera Fridays each Friday evening.

Families won't want to miss First Wednesday Street Faire, Family Music Day at the Leshner Center and Family Fun Day at the Leshner Center. Stroll through downtown for a Family Mural Walk showcasing community art murals or take part in a Public Art Walking Tour.

Ongoing activities include Downtown

Stages and impromptu opportunities to play or hear music from nine Painted Pianos located throughout downtown. Enjoy weekly performances by California Symphony musicians. Discover hidden treasures

throughout downtown in weekly Art & History Scavenger Hunts.

Get involved and support Arts Around August by sponsoring a lamppost banner featuring your business, organization, or family name. Banners will be mounted throughout downtown leading up to and during the month of August.



**VISIT [WALNUTCREEKDOWNTOWN.COM](http://WALNUTCREEKDOWNTOWN.COM) FOR MORE DETAILS.**



CITY OF  
WALNUT  
CREEK



## We're Hiring!

Join the Walnut Creek team and  
make a direct and positive impact  
on your community!

**Career opportunities include:**

- Competitive salary and benefit packages;
- Robust health and wellness programs for work-life balance;
- Flexible or hybrid work schedules.

**Apply online today!**



[www.walnut-creek.org/jobs](http://www.walnut-creek.org/jobs)



# SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN TO BE PRESENTED TO CITY

The City of Walnut Creek has been a leader on environmental action, going back to the 1970s when the community passed a bond measure to preserve its open space. In 2012, the City adopted its first Climate Action Plan to outline how the City and community will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the community. The Climate Action Plan successfully helped the City meet its goal to reduce community-wide emissions by 15% from 2012 to 2020. In recent years, Walnut Creek's City Council has repeated reaffirmed its commitment to sustainability and directed staff to prepare an updated Sustainability Action Plan.

The Sustainability Action Plan addresses greenhouse gas emissions and provides a more comprehensive



approach to encompass environmental sustainability and climate resilience. In coordination with the community, the City has been developing the Plan over the last several years. In April, the City released the draft Sustainability Action Plan and sought feedback through a community workshop, online survey, and pop-up events in order to inform next steps for adoption and

implementation.

At the June 20 City Council meeting, the City Council will review the draft Sustainability Action Plan and feedback from the community. The final version of the Sustainability Action Plan will be presented for adoption at the July 18 City Council meeting. Following adoption, the City and community will begin implementing the Plan's strategies and actions. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings to learn more about the Plan and provide feedback.

If you would like to learn more about the Sustainability Action and actions you can take to be more sustainable, please visit our Sustainability webpage at [walnut-creek.org/eco](http://walnut-creek.org/eco).



## SAVE THE DATE!

# Community Service Day

**Get Out. Give Back. Feel Great.**

Join with friends and family for  
a morning of celebration and service  
**Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**

**2023 WALNUT CREEK Community Service Day**

Registration opens  
**August 15<sup>th</sup>**  
[www.walnut-creek.org/service](http://www.walnut-creek.org/service)

**Projects for All Ages**  
Parks  
Gardens  
Community Centers  
Schools



## SUPPORT MEALS ON WHEELS

Join Meals on Wheels Diablo Region for an unforgettable night of dining, dancing, and fun at the "Dining to Deliver Gala" on June 10th at 6:00 PM at the Blackhawk Museum. This event will help the organization continue providing lifesaving services to vulnerable seniors in our community. There will be live music, dancing, and more, all for a good cause. KPIX Chief Meteorologist Paul Heggen will be the event's Master of Ceremonies, and the NBA Warriors' "Hype Man" Franco Finn will keep the energy high at the live auction. For more information, visit [www.mowdiableregion.org](http://www.mowdiableregion.org).

## JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

Be the first to know about ARTS + REC programs for individuals with adaptive needs. Sign up at [walnutcreekrec.org](http://walnutcreekrec.org)



## Mountain Shadow Film Society

### Enjoy great summer movies

Mountain Shadow Film Society is celebrating a decade of bringing the best in international and independent filmmaking to Walnut Creek. Monthly shows are held in the Walnut Creek downtown public library. These films are festival pre-theatrical or new theatrical releases, otherwise unavailable in our locale.

Pro-rated memberships are available for both matinee and evening Series, held over one weekend each month. Because some shows do sell out, annual memberships guarantee a seat will be available; along with overall cost savings and other unique member benefits. For more information, visit [mountainshadow.org](http://mountainshadow.org), or call Mountain Shadow's Director, John Bennison at 925-787-6965.

## ARTS AND RECREATION

### Movies Under the Stars

**July 7 - Top Gun: Maverick - Tice Valley Park**

**August 4 - McFarland USA - Civic Park**

**September 8 - Shrek - Civic Park**

### "Made in the Shade" festival

The Shadelands business and lifestyle center is hosting the community-wide summer festival, "Made in the Shade" on Sunday, June 25, 2023. The event runs from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Shadelands SportsMall, 2640 Shadelands Drive. Free and family-friendly, "Made in the Shade" will feature live music, food trucks, craft beer, vendor booths, sports activities, demonstrations, and giveaways.

Local taprooms will bring their best microbrews to the table and food trucks will be serving up fan favorite fare, including Mr. Softee ice cream. Branded "Made in the Shade" sunglasses will go to the first 1,000 festival attendees.

Shadelands businesses and nonprofits are encouraged to showcase their organizations with a table at the festival, which last year attracted close to 5,000 attendees. For details, contact the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce at 925-934-2007. "Made in the Shade" is sponsored by the Shadelands Steering Committee, with information at [Shadelands.org](http://Shadelands.org).



# Crosswalk improvements

Pedestrian safety improvements at several crosswalks are coming soon, with construction anticipated to begin in late spring/early summer. Six crosswalks are slated for upgrades:

- N. Main Street at Lesnick Lane, 3rd Avenue, and SOS Drive
- Bancroft Road at Stratton Road and at Gill Port Lane
- Mt. Diablo Boulevard at Bont Lane

Many of the City's crosswalks are located at stop signs or traffic signals that help slow drivers.

These locations were selected because they are in areas where drivers must yield to pedestrians when they're present. The goal is to slow drivers down and make pedestrians more visible. All of the above crosswalks require people to cross five lanes of traffic on busy streets with fast-moving cars, with speed limits ranging from 30 to 40 mph. At higher speeds, drivers need more time to react to a pedestrian in the street. This can result in a lower likelihood that drivers will yield in time for pedestrians. Additionally,



faster moving vehicles cause more harm to pedestrians if a collision occurs, resulting in higher chances for pedestrians to be seriously or fatally injured.

Hardened lane lines (solid white stripes) and vertical posts will be added to each crosswalk approach. The combination of hardened lane lines and posts will serve to narrow travel lanes, which in turn reduces speeds. They also serve as an additional visual signal to drivers that there may be people walking in the street.

These safety improvements align with the City's Local Roadway Safety Plan, available on the City's website. The Local Roadway Safety Plan is a framework that guides decision-making and priorities for improving traffic safety on Walnut Creek's streets.

## Discover Walnut Creek Parks Scavenger hunt



## Discover your Parks Scavenger Hunt

Summer is a perfect time to enjoy our Walnut Creek parks, and you can do so as a family with our Parks Passport program. Register your kids for our scavenger hunt, and they'll get clues directing them to 6 local parks. Answer a few questions based on what's learned at the park for prizes. Register on the Arts and Recreation website, or get details by calling 925-295-1490.

WALNUT CREEK ARTS + REC

# SAVE the DATE

# TRUNK OR TREAT

Vendor Applications Open  
Apply Early - Booth Spaces Will Sell Out  
Sponsor Opportunities Available  
[www.walnutcreekrec.com](http://www.walnutcreekrec.com)

# 27

October, 2023

# CIVIC PARK

Downtown Walnut Creek

3:00PM  
6:00PM

ARTS + REC

925-295-1490 | [artsrec@walnut-creek.org](http://artsrec@walnut-creek.org)





# Make plans to visit the 2023 Art and Wine Festival June 3 and 4

**T**HE WALNUT CREEK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & Visitors Bureau, in conjunction with Visit Walnut Creek, will celebrate kicking off the summer of 2023 with its milestone 40th anniversary Walnut Creek Art & Wine Festival. This popular event will return to Heather Farm Park on Saturday, June 3, from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, June 4, from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. The festival will feature top-quality, non-stop Bay Area entertainment, award-winning local and regional wines and microbrews, a Craft Beer Garden, distinctive hand-made crafts and works of art, ethnic and traditional foods, the family favorite Festival Train, and a Kids Zone. Admission is free, and so is the parking at the Shadelands Office Park with continuous free shuttles from BART. Visit [ArtWineFestivalWC.com](https://ArtWineFestivalWC.com) or call 925-934-2007 for details.

## Apply for Youth Leadership today!

Youth voices have been represented within the City since the 15-member Youth Leadership Commission was created in 2017 to engage the future leaders of Walnut Creek by encouraging youth to take an active leadership role in the community.

Youth Leadership Commissioners attend regular commission meetings, advise staff and the City Council on the youth perspective as part of program and policy development, learn about the City government and operations, and develop and implement their own projects.

Beginning in the fall of 2021, the Youth Leadership Commission worked to develop a policy project that aimed to expand youth engagement in Walnut Creek and provide additional opportunities for youth voices to be heard in local government. The Walnut Creek City Council approved “A Seat at the Table”, a proposal from the Commission that

is currently piloting inclusion of youth members on City Commissions. The one-year pilot program added youth members to the Park, Recreation and Open Space Commission, the Arts Commission and the Transportation Commission. Additionally, youth membership has been added to some of the City’s other boards and task forces, including the Police Chief’s Community Advisory Board and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force.

“We are the future,” said Jerlene Chiu, Youth Leadership Commissioner, “and I just want to make a place in Walnut Creek that we are able to support youth voices and make them heard as best as possible.”

Applications for the 2023-2024 Youth Leadership Commission will be open through August 18, 2023. Passionate, engaged Walnut Creek residents in grades 9-12 are encouraged to apply. Learn more about the Youth Leadership Commission and apply on the City’s website.

## Prepare for natural emergencies

Natural emergencies come in many forms in California – earthquake, fire, and flood. With the unexpectedly wet January behind us, which hopefully will mitigate a strong fire season, it is a good time to revisit your preparedness:

- Designate a place where your family can convene in the event of a natural disaster – flooding, fire or earthquake.
- Make an emergency supply kit for your home. Supply lists are provided here for your home, work, car, and pets on the City’s website at [walnut-creek.org/emergency](https://walnut-creek.org/emergency). You can also register there for emergency alerts.
- Prepare your home. Consider seismic retrofitting and hardening your home. If you live in a flood zone, consider retrofitting your home for flooding by elevating your home and its utilities/equipment and wet proofing your garage or basement. To determine if you are in a flood zone, contact staff at [dutyengineer@walnut-creek.org](mailto:dutyengineer@walnut-creek.org) or call 943-5839.



**YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP  
COMMISSION**





KNOW YOUR WALNUT CREEK PARKS:

# SHELL RIDGE OPEN SPACE

**S**HELL RIDGE IS ONE OF THE CITY'S MOST TREASURED open spaces. In fact, Shell Ridge's beauty launched the local movement to preserve Walnut Creek's open space in the 1970s. In 1974, Walnut Creek residents secured a \$6.8 million bond, allowing Shell Ridge and other open spaces to be preserved. Thanks to the foresight of Walnut Creek's residents, the City now manages 2,700 acres of dedicated Open Space.

Shell Ridge is the largest of City's four open space areas, covering more than 1,400 acres. It features the Borges Ranch and 31 miles of multi-use trails. It serves as the gateway to Mt. Diablo State Park and East Bay Regional Park District's Diablo Foothills and Castle Rock Park. Shell Ridge receives hundreds of thousands of visitors per year. In addition to recreation opportunities, Shell Ridge provides habitat for plants and wildlife, with a variety of ecosystems such as oak woodlands and grass savannahs.

One particularly special feature of Shell Ridge is its old growth forest, which was recently recognized by the

national Old Growth Forest Network. The Old Growth Forest Network selects the oldest known forests within each county across the nation. The old growth forest within Shell Ridge plays a vital role in the ecosystem. The Fossil Hill nature trail, which was once underwater, features unique geological and ecological features. From March to September, you can witness a colorful display of native wildflowers in a variety of areas that have been carefully restored through partnerships with the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation. The park is open from sunrise to sunset. The main park entrance is at Old Borges Ranch, located at 1035 Castle Rock Road.

 **CITY OF  
WALNUT  
CREEK**  
1666 North Main Street  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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ECRWSS

## POSTAL CUSTOMER



925-943-5800  
[www.walnut-creek.org](http://www.walnut-creek.org)

## CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Cindy Silva  
Mayor Pro Tem Loella Haskew  
Cindy Darling  
Matt Francois  
Kevin Wilk

For an appointment, call 925-256-3504

## CITY TREASURER

Ronald Cassano

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

Dan Buckshi, *City Manager*  
Teri Killgore, *Assistant City Manager*  
Steve Mattas, *City Attorney*  
Suzie Martinez, *City Clerk*  
Kirsten LaCasse, *Administrative Services Director*  
Kevin Safine, *Arts and Recreation Director*  
Erika Vandenbrande, *Community Development Director*  
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## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Nutshell Newsletter is published quarterly. For questions and comments, contact editor Betsy Burkhardt, 925-943-5895 or [burkhardt@walnut-creek.org](mailto:burkhardt@walnut-creek.org)

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