



IN A Nutshell



No. 206

Newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

SUMMER 2024

Memorial Day May 27



Plan to join family and friends as the City recognizes Memorial Day. Each year, Walnut Creek honors those who have given their lives in service to our country. Along with remarks from the Mayor and others, the Walnut Creek Concert Band will also share special music. The ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m. and will take place in Civic Park.



Get data on A3 program

A new data dashboard is giving some clarity to the impacts of countywide behavioral health program known as A3, which aims to provide timely and appropriate mental health services to "anyone, anywhere, anytime" in Contra Costa County. The City of Walnut Creek has been involved in the development of the A3 program since its beginnings. The new resource centralizes A3's reporting call volume, mobile response details, client demographics and other key metrics. Users have the ability to filter data by city, number of people served, total calls, or mobile responses. The dashboard can be found in the A3 section of the Health Department's website at cchealth.org.

www.cchealth.org/get-care/a3-crisis-response/a3-dashboard

FIESTA CULTURAL RETURNS



PHOTOS BY BEN KRANTZ STUDIO

Celebrate Latin American art and culture at the Leshner Center July 17-20.

See Page 3 for more info.

YOUR MEASURE O TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

The City has taken major steps forward in the effort to replace the aging facilities located in Heather Farm Park with the approval of schematic designs for two new pools and an updated community center. Community members provided significant input on the design and layout of the facilities, and the City Council has approved plans that will guide further refinement of the project. The City worked hard to develop a plan that can balance the many users of both facilities. The design work is expected to be complete next spring, and construction



will last through 2027. The new facility will continue to support the varied programming needs of the community. The majority of the funding for this project will be through the voter-approved Measure O. Meanwhile, the Citizens' Oversight Committee formed to review financial documents related to Measure O spending has begun meeting. The five member committee was created by the City Council to review and report on the receipt and expenditure of funds from the sales tax increase.

Charges filed in connection with Louis Vuitton theft

Three people are facing charges in connection with the theft at the Louis Vuitton store in Broadway Plaza last fall. In the 4:00 a.m. hour on October 3, a stolen Range Rover was driven through the front window of the store. Walnut Creek Police officers were on the scene within a minute of receiving the 911 call. More than \$246,000 in merchandise was stolen, leading to an investigation that has been tied to similar cases throughout the Bay Area. Detectives Jenna Kolmeister and Matt Smith began investigating the case which broadened to include Concord



Police staff working jointly and resulting in more than 400 hours of detective work and 3 arrests on multiple felony charges. The Contra Costa FBI Safe Streets Task Force and officers from other local agencies also took part in the complex investigation. The suspects were linked to more than two dozen commercial burglaries committed throughout the state, with more than 90 warrants authorized and eleven search warrants served at various locations in the Bay Area. The detectives continue to follow leads, and the California Attorney General's office has taken on the case due to so many jurisdictions involved.



HIGHLIGHTS

Check cable listings or 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). You can now also watch City programming on demand. WCTV is on Roku, Amazon Firestick and Apple TV. Search Walnut Creek TV on each site for a full list of programming from the City of Walnut Creek.



Earth Day events

See how Walnut Creek staff and residents supported Earth Day at an event in Civic Park on April 20 with information and activities for people of all ages.

"The Future of Walnut Creek"

Catch an event from the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce which offered a wide-ranging look into the future of our City. Mayor Loella Haskew and City Manager Dan Buckshi sat on a panel answering questions on topics from economic development to affordable housing. Police Chief Jamie Knox also presented on public safety.

Messages from the Mayor

Each month, the City's Mayor provides a video community update, sharing the latest news and information. Find out what's happening in Walnut Creek by checking out the Mayor's Report.

Public Meetings

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

Walnut Creek Concert Band

Watch the March performance of the Walnut Creek Concert Band, with a special first half performance of BDWinds, comprised of local students ages 14-22. The Concert Band concluded with an array of compositions that span the changing seasons of life.

Here's what's happening

ARTS + REC

A MESSAGE FROM ARTS + REC DIRECTOR, KEVIN SAFINE



Summer at Walnut Creek's Arts + Rec Department is packed with fun for everyone, including camps, classes, and swimming at Clarke and Larkey pools. Plus, big plans are underway for the new aquatic and community center at Heather Farm Park, thanks to support from the Walnut Creek community and City Council. Construction starts Winter 2024, wrapping up in 2027.

Don't worry, Clarke Swim Center stays open during construction, and all of our camps will still be here for you throughout the city in 2025. We're not slowing down this year though – check out our new Mini Bus transportation program and new season announcements from Leshner Center Presents, Center Repertory Company, and Bedford Gallery. Join us at Summer Sounds at the Leshner, Pride Month events, or Movies Under the Stars. Chat with our friendly staff and come experience Arts + Rec for yourself! WalnutCreekArtsRec.org

Movies Under the Stars

Prepare a picnic for this community favorite! Join us at Civic Park with your blankets, low chairs, food, and beverages for the movies, which will start just after sundown. WalnutCreekArtsRec.org/muts for more.

Super Mario Brothers
Aug. 9



Trolls Band Together
Sept. 20

Inside Out 2
Oct. 4

It's not too late for Summer Camp!

You can still register for weeklong experiences and capture the excitement of Summer Camp. For information and registration, visit WalnutCreekArtsRec.org/camp

Save the Date for Family Art Day!

Saturday, August 17 at the Leshner Center
Brought to you by Center for Community Arts and Leshner Center for the Arts, all ages and family members are welcome to this music-filled, creative day!



Summer Sounds, the hottest outdoor concert series in the East Bay!

All concerts are FREE and perfect for the whole family! No tickets are required, but seating is first-come, first-served, so be sure to arrive early for best seats.
All concerts begin at 5:30 p.m.

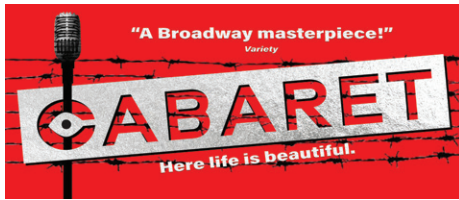
June 27 Miko Marks Trio

July 11 Tom Rigney and Flambeau

July 18 Chika Di

July 25 Kyana Fanene

CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY



Hit Broadway musical *Cabaret*

May 26 - June 23

In this provocative, multiple Tony Award-winning musical, the euphoria of free expression, new relationships, and the seedy nightclub scene slowly fades away against the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party. For tickets, visit LCArts.org/Cabaret.

Center REP 2024/25 Season

Join us for a year of joy, surprises, laughter, and drama in our 57th year of theatre in the East Bay. Visit CenterREP.org to learn more and subscribe today!

BEDFORD GALLERY



Explore *Re-Discovering Native America: Stories in Motion with The Red Road Project* through June 23

Through a captivating photographic series, *The Red Road Project* demonstrates the resilience and vitality of modern Indigenous peoples, reshaping perceptions of Native American cultures and legacies. The exhibition delves into contemporary narratives from Indigenous communities nationwide. For more info, visit BedfordGallery.org.

Uplifting Native Voices

In conjunction with Bedford Gallery's *Re-Discovering Native America: Stories in Motion with The Red Road Project* Diablo Regional Arts Association and Leshner Center Presents announce two exciting live events:

Contemporary Voices: A Native Artist Panel Discussion

June 1, 2pm at the Leshner Center for the Arts

Good Medicine: A Night of Live Native Stand-Up

June 22, 7:30pm at the Leshner Center for the Arts

LESHER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

FIESTA CULTURAL RETURNS IN JULY

A celebration of Latin American art and culture, July 17 - 20



PHOTO BY BEN KRANTZ STUDIO

The Leshner Center for the Arts will come alive with world-class performances and immersive experiences. Delight in the graceful movements of Ballet Hispanico (July 17), groove to the infectious rhythms of Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band (July 18), feel the pulsating energy of The Spanish Harlem Orchestra (July 19), and immerse yourself in the music, dance, and flavors of Latin America at the vibrant (and free!) Street Fair (July 20). For more info, visit LCArts.org/Fiesta.

CELEBRATE PRIDE MONTH



with Walnut Creek Arts + Rec

Celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride with our community this summer!

Show off your Pride throughout Walnut Creek all month long at this festive series of events celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community and allies. With activities and events for all ages, come out and join us for a month of fun. Be creative—be active—be entertained—be you! Full event details can be found at WalnutCreekArtsRec.org/pride

Pride Yoga

Sat., June 1, 9am, Civic Park
Free, pre-arrival registration is required for all participants — register today! All levels, all ages welcome. Participants under the age of 14 should be accompanied by a guardian/adult.

Drag Queen Storytime with Miss Rahni NothingMore

Sat., June 1, 11am Civic Park
Free for the entire family

Family Pride Pool Party

Friday, June 7, 4pm-7pm
Larkey Park Swim Center
\$7 for adults, \$2 for all children.
Pre-registration suggested.

Pride Night at Center REP's *Cabaret*

Wed., June 12, 7:30pm Leshner Center for the Arts
Tickets required—on sale now at CenterREP.org.

Print Making, Block Stamping and Flag Making—Oh, My!

Sat., June 15, 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Bedford Gallery & Rudney Plaza, Leshner Center for the Arts
Free admission—all ages are welcome!

Pet Pride Parade

Sat., June 15, 9:00am – 11:00 am
Heather Farm Dog Park
Pre-registration is required. Participants will receive a bandana.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE RESOURCES IN WALNUT CREEK



Marin Clean Energy (MCE) has a rebate program underway for electric vehicles, making it a good time to enjoy savings when you buy or lease. With up to \$3,500 off new electric vehicles or plug-in hybrids, and \$2,000 off pre-owned ones, MCE makes the switch to eco-friendly transportation easier than ever. Visit MCEcleanenergy.org/ev-rebate for details. And keep in mind the City offers chargers at many locations: City Hall, the City parking garages, and the Community Arts Center at Shadelands. You can find a map on the City's website for locations.

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Walnut Creek has been in a good position in terms of retail sales and vacancies. While people often talk about businesses leaving a community, Walnut Creek has seen steady action of new businesses arriving.

In April, Handel's Homemade Ice Cream opened on Locust Street. The owners explained that they chose Walnut Creek because they wanted to give exposure to the entire East Bay, and that Walnut Creek is a place where people come in and meet up.



Meanwhile, the City values its longstanding businesses. Also in April, Deliciouz celebrated its 20th anniversary of operating in the City. Deliciouz is a high-end women's boutique offering a mix of contemporary merchandise from emerging designers. Walnut Creek celebrates new businesses as well as those that have continued to bring value to the City and residents.

RecycleSmart Survey

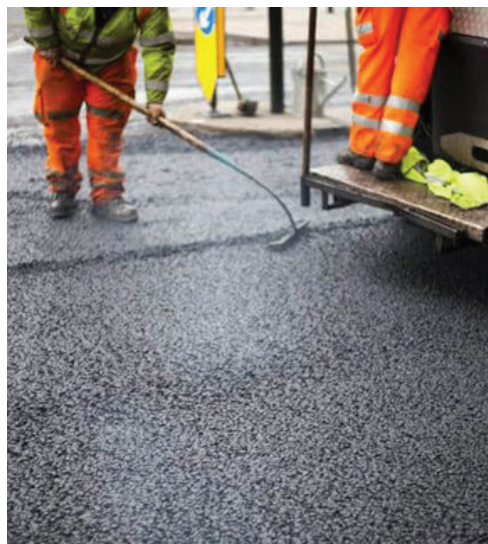
RecycleSmart, the Solid Waste Authority for central Contra Costa County, is in the process of soliciting bids for garbage, recycling, and organics services beginning in 2027.

As part of this process, RecycleSmart is seeking community input. Residents and businesses can participate by completing a short survey:

www.RecycleSmart.org/Sur



Paving projects planned for Walnut Creek this summer



This summer will be a busy one for City Public Works crews, with a variety of projects planned to improve City streets. The City's Pavement Management Program aims to maintain City roads in a cost-effective manner. Rehabilitation and repaving projects will take place soon in 4 areas: Locust Street between Civic Drive and Mt. Diablo Blvd., Mt. Diablo Blvd. west of California Blvd., and Wiget Lane between Ygnacio Valley Road and Lennon Lane. Bicycle lane improvements will be included in the work on Wiget. Additionally, slurry seal will be applied in the Livorna Estates and Castle Hill neighborhoods. These critical infrastructure projects represent a substantial \$5 million investment in the City's road network, with funding coming from Measure J and gas tax revenues.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP COMMISSION



Applications being accepted for the City's Youth Leadership Commission

The City's Youth Leadership Commission has become a valuable voice for local students to take an active role in their community. Commission members interact with and learn about City government, tackle policy or service projects, and provide a youth perspective to the City Council. Students entering 9th through 12th grades are eligible to apply. Visit the City's website for application details.

Community Arts Foundation Seeking Board Members

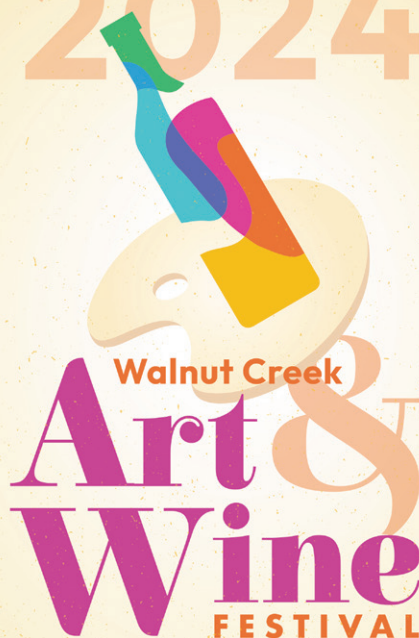
The Community Arts Foundation is actively seeking new board members. The Foundation

is dedicated to the belief that art should be inclusive, championing arts education for everyone, irrespective

of their financial capacity. Joining the board would allow you to become an integral part of a mission that aims to break barriers and make the wonders of art accessible to all. Find out more at commartsfoundation.org, or email Development Director, Cole Portocarrero at colep.caf@gmail.com



2024



PRESENTED BY
WALNUT CREEK
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE &
VISITORS BUREAU
AND
VISIT WALNUT CREEK

JUNE 1 & 2
HEATHER FARM PARK
— — — — —
ARTWINEFESTIVALWC.COM

Plan to visit the Art & Wine Festival

The 41st annual Walnut Creek Art & Wine Festival return on Saturday, June 1, and Sunday, June 2. Presented by the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce in association with Visit Walnut Creek, the event kicks off at 11:00 both days in Heather Farm Park. The festival is free to attend and has a variety of family friendly activities. There will be entertainment from Bay Area performers, award winning local and regional wines and microbrews, an extensive offering of foods, and handmade crafts and works of art. Find out more at ArtWineFestivalWC.com or call 925-934-2007 for more details.

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 12th



**Registration opens
August 15th**

www.walnut-creek.org/service

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

Uncorked Wine Stroll downtown June 20

Get ready to sip, savor and stroll at Walnut Creek Downtown Association's Summertime Uncorked from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. on June 20. Enjoy a night downtown and taste from more than 30 wines, beers, and spirits from local varietals to international producers. Starting outside the Leshner Center for the Arts, attendees will hear live music as they stroll through downtown's unique shops, enjoying small bites along the way. Walnut Creek's Uncorked event is not only an occasion to sample some fine food and drink, but also a celebration of community, culture, and creativity. Buy tickets at walnutcreekdowntown.com.

Walnut Creek Historical Society's Summer Market

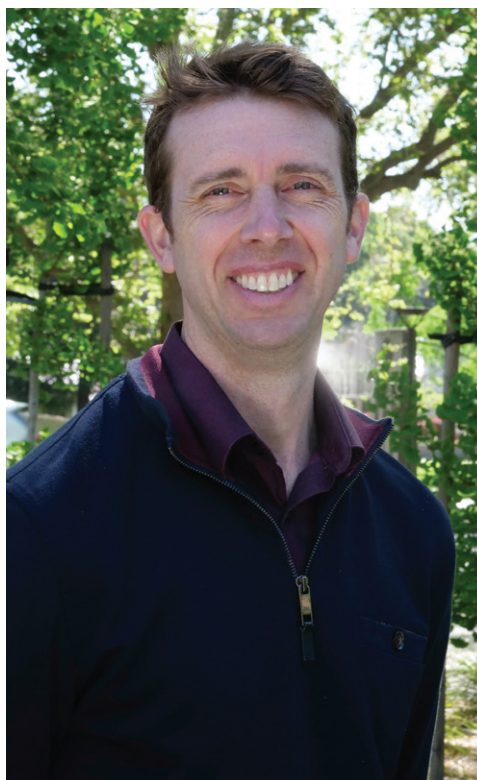


Mark your calendar for an expansive open-air market at the Shadelands Ranch Museum on August 11. More than 40 unique vendors will be selling a variety of items in what is a fundraiser for the museum. The event itself is free, and the museum will be open for tours as well. Stop by to shop and grab a bite at various food trucks between 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. For more information, call the Historical Society at 925-935-7871. Other summer events include a classic car show on June 9, details on the history of Open Space on June 20, and much more. Visit wchistory.org for details.



Congratulations to the City Staff Employee of the Year and Team of the Year

WALNUT CREEK'S STAFF WORKS HARD TO PROVIDE PROGRAMS AND services for the community, and once a year the City acknowledges that work at an Employee Recognition Event. From a pool comprised of many nominees, a staff team and an individual staff member received special recognition. Matt Redmond, Associate Traffic Engineer in the Public Works Department, was named Employee of the Year not only for his regular commitment to his work, but also in recognition of his selection for a prestigious Pioneer award from the Federal Highway Administration.



He received it for creating a technology that can be used by any government agency to efficiently monitor traffic safety issues that relate to required maintenance. Redmond said, "I have incredible admiration for the entire Public Works Department at Walnut Creek, an incredible team of talented and dedicated workers, who inspire me with their commitment to making our City a better place."

The Team of the Year honors went to the Human Resources Recruitment Team, which did a remarkable job in helping to restore the City's workforce following major turnover during COVID. Nearly 90 new staff members were brought on board to Walnut Creek's workforce during 2023. This has been instrumental in allowing the City to return to a normal vacancy rate and provide the quality services and programs residents deserve.

Staff members who reached milestone years of service were also recognized, including 3 who achieved 25 years of service to the City.



First Wednesday returns in August

Walnut Creek Downtown's next "First Wednesday Street Fest" is on August 7, when Locust Street will be shut down at 5:30 to accommodate a variety of activities for all ages. More than 50 artisan vendors will be on hand, along with food and drink options, craft stations and animal meet-and-greets. Find out more at walnutcreekdowntown.com.



Mountain Shadow Film Society annual competition coming in September

Mountain Shadow Film Society continues its 11th season, bringing the best in international and independent filmmaking to Walnut Creek. Monthly shows are held in the downtown library. The Society's annual short film competition is set for September 14, with finalists presenting their films in person and the audience selecting winners. Find out more at mountainshadow.org.



BORGES RANCH DAY CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF OPEN SPACE

Plan on celebrating the 50th anniversary of Walnut Creek's expanded open space at Old Borges Ranch on June 8. From 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Borges Ranch Day will be a free family-friendly event with games, activities, music, a petting zoo, pony rides, food trucks and much more. No onsite parking will be available, but shuttle service will be available from Northgate High School.



SUMMER BIKE CHALLENGE – explore Walnut Creek from the seat of your bike



Looking for free summertime activities that can include the whole family? Check out 511 Contra Costa's Summer Bike Challenge. Between June and August, you can explore the City on two wheels and pick up prizes on certain dates. 511 Contra Costa has a gamecard that lists various locations, and allows people to enter for weekly bonus challenges and for a chance to win an iPad just for participating. Download it at 511cc.org/sbc, or pick up a copy at City Hall or our libraries.

KNOW YOUR WALNUT CREEK PARKS:

TICE VALLEY PARK



NESTLED ALONG TICE CREEK NOT FAR FROM ROSSMOOR IS Tice Valley Park, which is adjacent to the Tice Valley Community Gymnasium. More than 8 acres, it includes playgrounds for kids up to age 12, and a picnic area with tables and barbecues. There is plenty of parking and a popular soccer field.

The gym offers versatile spaces for a wide variety of sport-related programs, games, tournaments and classes. The gym also features spaces for rent. A classroom, with capacity for 30 people, offers the right space and equipment for a meeting. The exercise room can accommodate up to 75 people, working well for fitness and dance-related activities. And the gymnasium itself is available for rental with three full size courts. There is capacity for more than 1,300 people on all three courts combined. The City has equipment for basketball, volleyball and badminton.



Located at 2055 Tice Valley Blvd., the Park it is open from dawn to dusk, and offers beautiful views of trees located all around the property.



Measure O funding new lighting at Tice Valley Park

Funds from Measure O are being used to install a lighting system for the soccer field at Tice Valley Park, extending its usability into evening hours. The Walnut Creek Soccer Club also made a considerable donation towards the project. Four new light poles with LED fixtures will be placed to provide illumination while minimizing the impact outside of the field. The field could be used for practices from December to February, with adult fitness programs potentially running until 10:00 p.m. By extending availability of the field into evening hours, the project will cater to a wider range of schedules among Park users. The LED fixtures reflects a commitment to environmental sensitivity, ensuring the benefits of increased field use are balanced with the preservation of the park's natural surroundings. The project is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

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**CITY OF
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CREEK**

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Matt Francois
Cindy Silva
Kevin Wilk

For an appointment, call 925-256-3504

CITY TREASURER

Ronald Cassano

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Trish Raver, *Human Resources Director*
Jamie Knox, *Chief of Police*
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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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