

INANUTShell

No. 207

Newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

FALL 2024

Your Measure O Tax Dollars at Work

Significant work is being completed as the City moves towards a complete replacement of the aging Aquatic and Community Centers in Heather Farm Park. On September 9, the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission will review the exterior building materials of the aquatic and community center, as well as the landscape and site plans for the new building.

The next step will be at the October 15 City Council meeting for a final review. The plans for the pools have



already been approved and final design work is underway. The goal is to have the majority of the design work complete by the end of the calendar year.

The construction phase is anticipated to be a two-year process, from summer of 2025 through 2027. The existing Community Center will be demolished for the new facility to be built, while the Clarke Swim Center is expected to remain open to the public throughout the construction period. The new Aquatic and Community Center is being funded primarily through the Walnut Creek voter-approved Measure O, a ten year, halfcent sales tax measure.

Prep work is underway to install lighting at the ball field at Tice Valley Park and add two artificial turf fields at Heather Farm Park, also a result of Measure O funding.

Plan to honor our veterans on Monday, November 11

One of the City's most cherished traditions is to offer thanks to the many Walnut Creek residents who have served on behalf of our Country with a special ceremony at

the Lesher Center for the Arts. Mayor Loella Haskew will host the free event, which begins at 11:00 a.m. This year's national



theme is "A Legacy of Loyalty and Service," reflecting the pride of those who have served as well as the respect from the rest of the nation. Representatives from Joybound, previously known as ARF, will be on hand to explain the many free services the organization provides to local veterans.

LECTION 2024

CAST YOUR BALLOT THIS FALL

Voters throughout California will go to the polls on Tuesday, November 5, and for residents of Walnut Creek, there are also local candidates on the ballot for your consideration. Voters will elect three City Councilmembers.

There are key dates for voters to know prior to Election Day. Permanent vote-by-mail ballots will be mailed beginning on October 7. Between then and October 29, voters can request vote-by-mail ballots as well. The last day to register to vote is on October 21. Vote-by-mail ballots that are mailed must be postmarked on or before November 5. City Hall is home to two ballot drop-off boxes, one on North Main Street and the second in the breezeway off the parking lot across from the library. You'll be able to drop off your vote-by-mail ballots 24/7. You don't have to

be a City resident to use it, and you can skip the postage. The City and County Elections Office will collaborate again to host an early voting polling place prior to November 5. The regional polling place will be open to registered voters from the throughout the County.

To determine your registration status, register online, and track your ballot after you have voted, visit the County Elections Office website at cocovote.us. If you have questions about the election, contact the City Clerk's office at 943-5819.

Walnut Creek welcomes new Assistant City Manager

Charles Ching has joined Walnut Creek as the Assistant City Manager. Ching comes to the City from San Pablo, where he most recently served as the Director of Economic Development,



Housing and Sustainability. He was selected after a national search which resulted in more than 220 applicants and was offered the position after a thorough review process. He is part of the City's Executive Team, and is responsible for overseeing the Economic Development, Communications, City Clerk, Sustainability, Emergency Management and Risk Management divisions within the City Manager's office.

"I am deeply honored and excited to be part of the Walnut Creek Team," Ching said. "I am committed to serving our community with dedication, transparency, and integrity. I look forward to collaborating with our City Council, staff, and residents to achieve our shared vision for a thriving and inclusive City."

Trunk or Treat returns in October at Civic Park. Find out more inside.

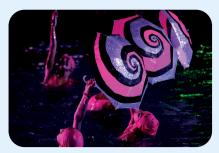




HIGHLIGHTS

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. 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.



Aquanuts

Catch the latest performance of Walnut Creek's renowned "Aquanuts," the award-winning artistic swimming club. The popular Fall Swim Show features professional-level athletes, with a show complete with lights, props and a 3-D stage.

Messages from the Mayor

Each month, the City's Mayor Loella Haskew 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 July 4 performance of the Walnut Creek Concert Band, which featured a wide variety of patriotic songs at Civic Park.

Battle of the Creek

Watch Las Lomas and Northgate high school students take on the "Battle of the Creek" in both volleyball and football. The most recent graduation ceremonies for both schools are also on WCTV and on the City's YouTube channel.

Here's what's happening

ARTS + REC

Handmade arts make the most memorable gifts

Craft Fest Returns in November Saturday, November 23 from 10 am – 5 pm

Kickstart your holiday season at Bedford Gallery, celebrate independent makers and shop their creative wares at the 15th annual BG Craft Fest on Saturday, November 23, 2024 from 10 am - 5 pm! This bustling marketplace delights with handmade jewelry, ceramics, beauty + wellness, home goods, artisanal foods, clothing, toys and more. Admission is free.

Holiday Handcrafted Sale December 7 & 8,

10am-4pm at Shadelands Art Center Enjoy a weekend of holiday shopping with





handcrafted items made by Community Arts teaching artists and students. A portion of sales will benefit Center for Community Arts, Clay Arts Guild, and the Community Arts Foundation. December 7 & 8, 10am-4pm at Shadelands Art Center (111 N Wiget Lane) CommunityArts.org/handcrafted

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/

Trolls Band Together Sept. 20

Inside Out 2

muts for more.

Oct. 4





Spooktacular Fun Awaits at Trunk or Treat

Walnut Creek Arts + Rec proudly presents our 5th annual Trunk or Treat event on October 25, 2024, from 2pm to 6pm in Civic Park. Bring the whole family and stroll

through our "trick-or-treat" lane, where you'll encounter captivating booths brimming with activities, games, and candy galore. From bounce houses to face-painting, balloon twisters to food trucks, there's something to delight every ghost and ghoul. This year, we will celebrate the Mexican holiday, Día de los Muertos with activities



and performances. This magical day is free for the community to enjoy, so dress up and bring your biggest trick or treat bags! Learn more or sign up to volunteer at WalnutCreekArtsRec.org/Halloween.



WINTER CLASSES OPERATE 1/5-3/15

Registration opens 11/20 at 12pm View classes online 10/30!

SPRING CLASSES OPERATE 3/30-6/7

Registration opens 2/12 at 12pm View classes online 1/22!

SUMMER CAMPS START 6/9

Registration opens 1/15 at 12pm View camps online 12/26!



Contact us! WalnutCreekArtsRec.org | (925) 295-1490

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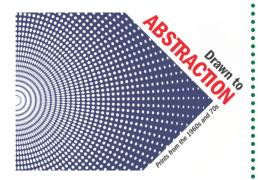
BEDFORD GALLERY



Cut Paste Create: The Art of College

Through Sep 15

Don't miss *Cut Paste Create: The Art of College*, celebrating the deft use of materials and creative spirit of collage on view through Sep 15.



Drawn to Abstraction: Prints from the 1960s and 70s

Sep 28-Dec 15

Bedford Gallery takes a trip to the 60s and 70s this fall with their latest exhibition, Drawn to Abstraction: Prints from the 1960s and 70s. The works in this exhibition capture the vibrancy of the emerging abstract movements during this time—Abstract Expressionism, Minimalism, Op Art, and Pop Art—by artists widely recognized as giants of 20th century art including Josef Albers, Max Ernst, Helen Frankenthaler, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Joan Miró, Robert Motherwell, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Rauschenberg, Ed Ruscha, Frank Philip Stella and more.

Public Art

You're invited to visit recently installed public art at the UCSF-John Muir Health Jean and Ken Hofmann Cancer Center (177 La Casa Via, Walnut Creek) with stunning new works from Talley Fisher (*Nature Experience*, located in the south lobby), Barbara Grygutis (*Regeneration*, located outside the health center), and Joseph O'Connell + Creative Machines (*Uplifting Together*, located in the outdoor lobby).

You can learn about all exhibitions and public art projects at **BedfordGallery.org**.

LESHER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

THE FALL ARTS SEASON KICKS INTO HIGH GEAR AT THE LESHER CENTER

Center REP Artistic Director Matt M. Morrow brings a deliciously campy new production of the comedy classic *Arsenic and Old Lace* to the stage (Sep 8-29, 2024), followed by the acclaimed solo musical *Dragon Lady*, featuring Broadway powerhouse Sarah Porkalob (Oct 27-Nov 24, 2024). The star-filled Headliners series kicks off with Grammy-winner Chris Botti (Sep 6, 2024), Oscar-winner Rita Moreno (Sep 18, 2024), and the internationally acclaimed 360 ALLSTARS, an electrifying event that fuses breakdancing, beatboxing and BMX acrobatics (Oct 26, 2024). Learn more about all performances and reserve your tickets today at LesherArtsCenter.org.



DON'T MISS CENTER REP'
ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

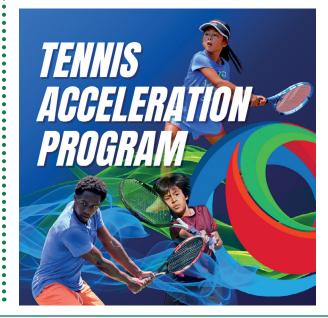


SPORTS

Tice Valley Drop-In Sports

Pickleball and Badminton return this Fall! Join us Monday through Thursdays, 10am-2pm, from September 2, 2024 through May 22, 2025. Fees are \$7 per session or \$60 for a 10-visit sports pass. Please bring your own balls, paddles, and non-marking court shoes.

Pickleball: Tuesday and Thursday Badminton: Monday and Wednesday



TAP Into Your Tennis Potential

The new Tennis Acceleration Program (TAP) at Walnut Creek Tennis Center in Heather Farm Park is the most convenient way for youth and adults to train and develop their tennis game. TAP features Director-led instruction, personalized attention, and a full-court curriculum.

View the schedule and register today:

LifetimeActivities.com or call Lifetime Activities at (925) 945-0105.

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City recognized for excellence in financial reporting

The City of Walnut Creek has been honored for its governmental accounting and financial reporting. The Government **Finance Officers Association** granted Walnut Creek a Certificate of Achievement, its highest form of recognition for government agencies. The Association also presented the City with its Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the budget covered by the fiscal years 2024 and 2025. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award reflects the City's commitment to meeting the highest principles of government budgeting. Both awards represent significant accomplishments by the City and its management.

Walnut Creek Mayor Loella Haskew notes that this is a testament to the City's careful management of taxpayer dollars. "Walnut Creek has long been known to be a good steward of finances," Haskew said. "Residents can trust that we are using their tax money to bring the best programs and services to them, and that we are transparent in how we spend the funds. That has become even more important since our residents passed Measure O, the half-cent sales tax increase. We already have established an oversight committee comprised of Walnut Creek citizens to ensure our financial reporting on Measure O spending is accurate.'

Contra Costa Legal Services available to some residents



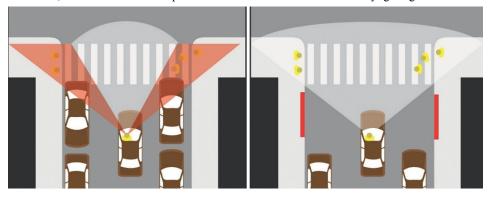
Contra Costa Senior Legal Services is a non-profit organization that has been helping protect and defend older adults throughout the County for more than 40 years. The free legal services for County residents aged 60+ cover areas including housing, elder abuse, consumer protection and more. They also offer free legal clinics at various locations across the county, such as a clinic on wills in Walnut Creek.

This clinic takes place every other month at the Civic Park Community Center. Remaining dates for 2024 are October 7 and December 12, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. To learn more about CCSLS and the services offered, visit ccls.org, or call 925-609-7900.

Learn about the new "Daylighting" law

Did you know that every intersection is a crosswalk?

When two streets intersect, there is either a marked crosswalk, or an "unmarked" crosswalk. Stemming from a recently passed law, it is now illegal to park 20 feet in advance of either type of crosswalk, even if the curb is not painted red. The law is known as the "daylighting" law.



What exactly is daylighting?

Daylighting is the concept that safety is improved by removing parked cars or other obstructions approaching a crosswalk. By keeping the area next to crosswalks clear of parked vehicles or things that can obscure visibility, drivers can better see people using or about to use the crosswalk. This traffic safety measure is another step towards the City's Vision Zero goal, which aims to reach zero serious injury or fatal collisions by the year 2034.

While the pay law is currently in effect, no citations will be given prior to Japuary 1, 2025. Until

While the new law is currently in effect, no citations will be given prior to January 1, 2025. Until then, only warnings will be issued for any violations in Walnut Creek.

Walnut Creek Police Department Enhances Recruitment Efforts



The Walnut Creek Police Department has launched an effort to increase the recruitment, retention, and promotion of

women in policing to support a more diverse workforce. This is part of the "30x30 Initiative," aiming for achieving 30% female representation by 2030. The overall goal is to improve recruiting practices and establish community partnerships so that the Department becomes truly representative of our community. In the face of an

industry-wide shortage of police officers, the Department is staying at the forefront of innovation and making Walnut Creek Police Department the most desirable place for staff and sworn officers to work. A new recruiting website, joinwalnutcreekpd.com, has launched with a focus on showcasing the reasons why Walnut Creek should be on the radar of highly-qualified candidates, both men and women, and houses videos that give a behind the scenes look at the Department's work and its people. The website also shares details about Walnut Creek PD's commitment to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all employees.

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Apply for Walnut Creek Civic Pride Grants

The Walnut Creek Civic Pride Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2024 Community Grant Program. Ranging from \$250 to \$3,000, the grants will be for community-based recreation, cultural or educational programs and services provided by Walnut Creek non-profits. The online grant application system is available through the Civic Pride website (www.WCCivicPride.org). The application deadline is October 4, 2024.

Shadelands bus unveils new look

For riders who use County Connection to get to, from and around Shadelands Business Park, there's a new look for the workhorse bus. In June, the Shadelands **Property Business Improvement District** celebrated the district's rebranding by unveiling the newly designed graphic wraps for the free BART shuttle, County Connection #7. The shuttle offers free rides for Shadelands employees. customers and visitors between the Pleasant Hill BART station and Shadelands every 15 minutes during the



Diablo Women's Chorale

Walnut Creek is well-known as being a major supporter of the arts, including supporting various artistic groups. One of those groups is the Diablo Women's Chorale, a secular choral ensemble with deep roots in the East Bay's cultural landscape. Established during the turmoil of World War II, the Chorale has thrived for 82 years, attracting women from the area who share a passion for music. Under Director Erin Fishler's tenure, the group has participated in many local festivals and concerts. The nonprofit Chorale welcomes new members each January and August. For more information visit diablowomenschorale org.

Community Service Day



Get Out. Give Back. Feel Great.

Join with friends and family for

a morning of celebration

and service

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12th

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





To Volunteer or Donate Visit

www.walnut-creek.org/service











KAISER PERMANENTE Thrive



F&MBANK

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Public Works crews enhancing downtown streets



It's been a busy summer for Walnut Creek's Public Works crews, with probably one of the most visible efforts focusing on Locust Street. Following months of work by East Bay Municipal Utility District and the Central Sanitary District to replace aging water and sewer lines, the street was in need of major repairs. More than just repaving, Public Works is upgrading the overall downtown experience to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety, including work on sidewalks in need of repair. Trees in poor condition are being replaced, and curb extensions will make it easier for pedestrians to be spotted by vehicle traffic.

Walnut Creek on Ice opens in November

The East Bay's largest outdoor ice rink is bringing the freeze earlier this season with a grand opening in Civic Park on November 22. The family-favorite rink will run through January 12 and offer special



family nights, little skates, ice hockey and more. Visit WalnutCreekOnlce.com for tickets and details.

EXPANDING HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Due to recent City and state laws, owners of single-family homes in Walnut Creek have more options than ever to create the following housing opportunities, without public hearings or full design review:

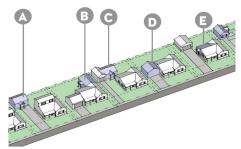
Accessory dwelling units, or ADUs (also known as "in-law" or "granny" units) are located on properties with an existing or proposed single-family home. State law allows up to three ADUs per property: one within the main home or an existing accessory structure (such as a garage,) one as a new detached structure (up to 1,000 square feet,) and one "junior" ADU (up to 500 square feet) within the main home. To reduce time and cost, the City offers prereviewed plans at no additional cost.

Two-unit developments, such as duplexes or two detached homes, are allowed under State Senate Bill (SB) 9. Unlike ADUs, these units do not have a maximum square footage, provided all other zoning requirements are met.

Two-lot subdivisions, known as urban lot splits, are also permitted under SB 9. Each lot must be at least 1,200 square feet and 40% of the lot being subdivided. Two units are allowed on each lot, including one ADU on one of the lots.

Owners considering building a rental unit should know that the state law (SB 329 and





SB222) prohibits discrimination against applicants using Section 8 vouchers or other forms of public rental assistance.

For more information:

- View the City's ADU Handbook at https://tinyurl.com/wcadus
- View the City's SB 9 Handout at https://tinyurl.com/wcsb9
- Contact a City planner at dutyplanner@ walnut-creek.org or (925) 256-3558



PASS2CLASS: AN EFFORT TO GET STUDENTS TO RIDE THE BUS TO SCHOOL

Students can take the bus to school for free with 511 Contra Costa's "Pass2Class" program. Families can apply for up to two months of free youth rides on County Connection. And if carpooling is an option, there are many benefits to sharing a ride, including saving gas and reducing school zone traffic.

Plus, families that carpool with friends and neighbors can register for 511 Contra Costa's "School Pool" program for a chance to win one of ten \$250 back-to-school shopping sprees at Target.

Learn more about the programs at 511cc.org.

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Prepare for the fall, what to do with your leaves

Fall is just around the corner, and with it will come the season of leaves falling. City streetsweepers will clear the street leaves, but can't handle piles, sticks or other debris. Put the leaves in paper or compostable bags, not thick black garbage bags. For residents doing tree trimming work, it is equally critical to put branches in the green organics bin so that they can be composted. For those who don't have enough space in the green bin, Republic Services offers an on-call service at no extra cost. The same applies to recycling. Planning to clean out outdated paperwork at home? For either recycling or organics additional service, contact 925-685-4711 in advance. Residents can also upsize their green carts to a 96 gallon size at no cost.

Oktoberfest returns September 27 and 28

Get ready for beer, brats, and Bavarian fun at Downtown Walnut Creek Association's Oktoberfest to be held in Civic Park. Live music, dancing, gourmet food and drinks, and of course a Biergarten. Free admission



to the event will include many family fun activities. Learn more at walnutcreekdowntown.com.



Mountain Shadow Film Society's annual short film competition

Mountain Shadow Film Society will hold its 10th Annual Short Film Competition on Saturday, September 14. From 489 submissions, a volunteer jury of society members has selected a handful of finalists. What makes this festival unique? Finalists come from all over the country to present their animated, live-action and outstanding documentary films in person for audience-choice awards.

There will be two identical shows at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. with filmmakers engaging the audience with Q&A after each screening. Check mountainshadow. org for details.

UPCOMING CHANGES TO THE BAYREN "HOME+" PROGRAM

The Bay Area Regional Energy Network, known as BayREN, is a coalition of the Bay Area's

nine counties promoting resource efficiency at the regional level, focusing on energy, water and greenhouse gas reduction. BayREN provides rebates that help residents keep their homes safe and comfortable with home energy improvements while saving a bundle on home energy bills. Their "Single Family Home+" program is being redesigned to better support moderate-income and hard-to-reach Bay Area residents.

The new program will launch in winter 2024, and will focus on health, comfort, safety, and energy savings. The current program will end by



October 31, 2024, or sooner if the rebate budget is used up.

The rebates are on a first come, first served basis. Check current rebate amounts and the updated list of rebates here: **bayren.org/home-rebates**.



COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP CREW MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Consider joining the Community Clean-up Crew, the all-volunteer organization made up of residents who go out of their way to keep Walnut Creek looking beautiful. During 2023, 111 neighbors participated in twenty separate clean-up events, resulting in more than 18,000 pounds of litter kept from our streams and soil. The events take place on Saturday mornings, and last less than two hours. Join the Community Clean-up Crew group on Nextdoor or visit "thecleanupcrew.org" to sign up for event announcements and learn how easy it is to become involved and help beautify Walnut Creek. All are welcome to join the Crew for even just one event.

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KNOW YOUR WALNUT CREEK PARKS:

SUGARLOAF OPEN SPACE



ITH CLOSE TO 200 ACRES AND 3 MILES OF TRAILS, Sugarloaf Open Space is a small nature area with one of the last

black walnut orchards in the City. The ridgeline provides tremendous views of Mount Diablo, Shell Ridge, and Las Trampas Ridge. Along with opportunities for several short hikes, there are picnic areas, a native plant garden and an amphitheater. The picnic areas and amphitheater can be reserved for day use and overnight camping calling (925) 943-5899, ext. 2665. Access Sugarloaf off the Rudgear exit on Interstate 680. The address is 2161 Youngs Valley Road.

The history of Walnut Creek's Open Space

Walnut Creek residents gathered at Borges Ranch in June to celebrate a milestone: 50 years of the City's unique open space, more than 3,000 acres that will forever be set aside to preserve natural resources, protect wildlife habitat and corridors, and provide recreation opportunities. During the late 1960s, many residents began to express concern over the potential development of the hills and ridgelines in Walnut Creek. A grassroots effort began not long after to find a way to preserve these areas for generations to come. The result was the formation of Contra Costa Service Area R-8, which was approved by voters in 1974. It provided \$6,750,000 to acquire open space land and parks in and around the City. Thanks to the foresight of residents decades ago, these lands will remain available for everyone to enjoy.



View of Mount Diablo from Sugarloaf Open Space







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Ronald Cassano

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Kirsten LaCasse, Administrative Services Director

Kevin Safine, Arts and Recreation Director

Erika Vandenbrande, Community Development Director

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