

# HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



*Spirits – of all kinds – soar at Center REP's beloved rendition of "A Christmas Carol," coming December 10-20 at the Leshner Center for the Arts.*

**DOROTHY SAID IT BEST – THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME.** As we wind our way through the final weeks of 2015, there is much to appreciate right here in Walnut Creek. Take a peaceful hike in the open space, lace up those skates at Walnut Creek on Ice, or treat yourself to a holiday tea at the historic Shadelands Ranch Museum or the Gardens at Heather Farm.

Over the next three pages, you'll find a wide array of events and activities to enjoy this holiday season, both downtown and around town, plus an Insider's Guide to Holiday Parking.

As a starter, here are three things guaranteed to make spirits bright:

- ❄️ Hundreds of new parking spaces at Broadway Plaza near Macy's beginning Nov. 20 (with hundreds more to come by May)
- ❄️ The return of Broadway Plaza's Holiday Parade of Lights on December 3
- ❄️ Extended evening hours on the Free Downtown Trolley through December

## DOWNTOWN WALNUT CREEK

### JINGLE BELL ROCK!

*5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2*

The First Wednesdays Street Festival takes on a holiday flair with "Jingle Bell Rock." Dance the night away (or at least from 5 to 8 p.m.) with live music on Cypress St. between Locust and Main. Enjoy food trucks, beer and wine, family-friendly activities – plus free parking in City garages Wednesdays starting at 5 p.m. For more information, visit [www.walnutcreekdowntown.com](http://www.walnutcreekdowntown.com) or call 925-933-6778.

### HOLIDAY PARADE OF LIGHTS, RETAILER OPEN HOUSE AND TREE LIGHTING

*6-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3*

It's back! The Parade of Lights returns to newly reopened Broadway Plaza St. on Thursday, December 3 at 7 p.m. When the parade ends, Santa Claus will light the center's Promenade Christmas Tree and make it snow! This fun evening includes a Retailer Open House from 6 to 9 p.m.

### WALNUT CREEK ON ICE

*Through January 18 at Civic Park*

Civic Park becomes a Winter Wonderland with the return of Walnut Creek on Ice. Learn to skate at the Ice Skating Academy, schedule a special birthday party, or just enjoy special skate time. A family of four can skate for \$30. For more information visit [www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com](http://www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com) or call 925-935-7699.

### PHOTOS WITH SANTA

*November 27 through December 24*

Santa is ready for his close-up at Broadway Plaza during most shopping center hours with the exception of breaks. All children visiting Santa will receive a free gift.



# WALNUT CREEK

## FIRST WEDNESDAYS

### STREET FEST

5-8 PM  
CYPRESS STREET

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT,  
OUTDOOR EATS, ART  
& MUCH MORE!

---

## WALNUT CREEK FIRST WEDNESDAYS

walnut creek  
MAGAZINE

WALNUT CREEK  
downtown

VISIT [WALNUTCREEKDOWNTOWN.COM](http://WALNUTCREEKDOWNTOWN.COM) FOR MORE INFO!

# LESHER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Lesher Center for the Arts offers holiday performances for every age and interest. Here are a few suggestions! For the full array, visit [www.lesherartscenter.org](http://www.lesherartscenter.org) or stop by the Box Office, 1601 Civic Drive.

**WALNUT CREEK CONCERT BAND HOLIDAY CONCERT**  
Tuesday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m.

Featuring a new Holiday Program and a special gift to the Walnut Creek Community, the West Coast Premiere of James Beckel's Concerto for Trombone with the composer as soloist.

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL PRESENTED BY CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY**  
December 10 – 20

Brimming with music and dance, love and laughter, spectacular special effects and scary ghosts, it's no wonder the critics have called it "THE Christmas Carol to see in the Bay Area." Join the thousands who make this theatrical event a part of their annual holiday traditions.

# TAKE THE TROLLEY AND LEAVE TRAFFIC BEHIND



Thanks to funding provided by Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek's Free Ride Trolley offers extended evening hours from the day after Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve.

The Trolley (also known as County Connection Route 4) will be available until 10 p.m. Nov. 27 through Dec. 12, and also Dec. 26 through Dec. 31.

From Dec. 14 through Dec. 23, trolley hours extend to 11 p.m. (Note: Extended hours are not offered on Sundays; the last trolley leaves Walnut Creek BART at 6:20 p.m. Sundays)

The Free Trolley loops between Walnut Creek BART and Broadway Plaza, traveling along Locust and North Main Street. For a detailed route map, visit [countyconnection.com/schedule/4](http://countyconnection.com/schedule/4).

**THE BIGGEST GIFT PRESENTED BY FANTASY FORUM ACTORS ENSEMBLE**  
*Multiple performances, December 17 – 20*

Did you send your letter to Santa? Then why has he not received it? No letters – no Christmas. Join the fun and laughter as Tucker the elf and the toys set out to save Christmas. Fantasy Forum is the perfect venue for introducing young children to the fun and magic of live theater.

**TRADITIONS NEW AND OLD PRESENTED BY THE CALIFORNIA SYMPHONY**  
*Tuesday, Dec. 22 and Wednesday, Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m.*

Watch the classic film "The Snowman" on the big screen as the California Symphony and Pacific Boychoir perform the soundtrack live! Holiday classics such as selections from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite" and "Sleigh Ride," and an audience Christmas carol sing-along will round out the concert.

**BIG FAT YEAR END KISS OFF COMEDY SHOW XXIII PRESENTED BY WORST OF DURST**  
*Saturday, December 26, 8 p.m.*

Will Durst and company poke fun at major news stories of 2015 using standup comedy, improv, and loosely written sketches.

**Tickets available at**  
[lesherartscenter.org](http://lesherartscenter.org) or 925-943-7469.



Fantasy Forum's "The Biggest Gift" at the Lesher Center for the Arts is a holiday treat for all ages.

# CIVIC ARTS EDUCATION PERFORMANCES

**WINTER BALLET GALA**  
*Friday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.*  
*Saturday, Dec. 12, 2 p.m.*  
*Del Valle Theatre, 1963 Tice Valley Boulevard*

Enjoy performances by advanced Civic Arts ballet students and professional dancers. The program offers an array of music and dance that embraces the celebrations of all people and many countries, along with a performance of "The Nutcracker." Tickets: \$16.75 General Admission, \$12 (groups 10 or more). Call 925-943-SHOW

**JAZZ BAND AND FLOCK OF FLUTES**  
*Sunday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m.*  
*Civic Arts Auditorium, 111 North Wiget Lane*

Catch some of Civic Arts Education's finest musicians at the Annual Holiday Concert by the Jazz Band and Flock of Flutes. The Jazz Band, directed by Max Pricco, will play everything from a medley of holiday favorites to contemporary jazz arrangements from composers like Dizzy Gillespie, Burt Bacharach, John Lennon and Paul McCartney. The concert kicks off with the fabulous Flock of Flutes, the East Bay's premiere flute choir, directed by Monica Williams. Tickets: \$10 at the door.

FREE PARKING IN ALL CITY GARAGES

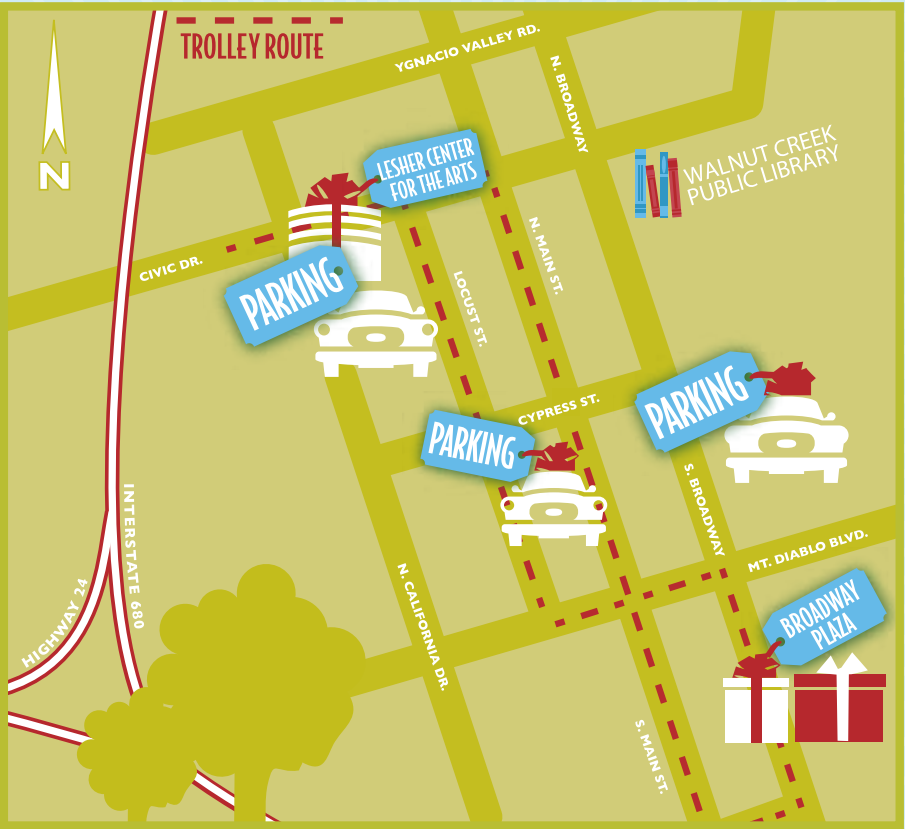
Wednesdays after 5pm

FIRST HOUR IS ALWAYS FREE

7 days a week in all city garages

50¢-\$1 every additional hour

No time limits!



- LOCUST STREET GARAGE**  
1625 Locust St., Adjacent to the Dean Lesher/Regional Center for the Arts
  - SOUTH LOCUST GARAGE**  
1350 Locust St., Between Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Cypress St.
  - BROADWAY GARAGE**  
1390 Broadway, One Block South of the Public Library
- PLUS! SOUTH SECTION OF BROADWAY PLAZA GARAGE REOPENS NOV. 26**  
Hundreds of additional free spaces!



# AROUND WALNUT CREEK

## ARTISTS MARKET

Shadelands Art Center, 111 North Wiget Lane, Saturday, Dec. 5 & Sunday, Dec. 7 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Come to the Artists Market and choose from affordable, handcrafted art for everyone on your list! The sale will feature 100 artists affiliated with Civic Arts Education, as well as a Friday night reception, entertainment and events throughout the weekend. Browse beautiful ceramics, photography and painting, jewelry, glass, textiles and more. Proceeds benefit local artists and programs at Civic Arts Education.

## TEDDY BEAR TEA

The Gardens at Heather Farm  
1540 Marchbanks Drive  
Saturday, Dec. 5 and Sunday, Dec. 6  
11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. seatings

A magical holiday event awaits children and adults alike at the 20th annual Teddy Bear Tea at The Gardens at Heather Farm. Guests will enjoy a variety of teatime savories and sandwiches, plenty of sweet treats, story time and a take-home souvenir photo. Adults can check a few things off their shopping lists at the holiday gift boutique. \$20 for children, \$25 for adults. Register at [gardenshf.org](http://gardenshf.org) or call 925-947-1678.

## HOLIDAYS AT SHADELANDS THREE-COURSE TEA LUNCHEON, HOLIDAY FAIRE

Nov. 28 through Dec. 13  
11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. seatings

The holidays come to the historic Shadelands Ranch Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Road, with a three-course tea luncheon. Cost is \$35. Advance reservations are required. Call 925-935-7871.

## WILDLIFE OF WINTER

Lindsay Wildlife Experience  
1931 First Avenue  
12 noon, Saturday, Dec. 5

Get up close to winter wildlife, from an arctic fox to a snowy owl, during the December edition of the monthly "Live.



Meet an arctic fox at the Lindsay Wildlife Experience

Wild. Animals!" program. The noon show is open to the general public on a first come, first serve basis; there is also a 10 a.m. members-only show (pre-registration required). Call 925-935-1978 or visit [www.lindsaywildlife.org](http://www.lindsaywildlife.org).

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Boundary Oak Clubhouse  
3800 Valley Vista Road  
Sunday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to noon

Every year, Santa swings by Boundary Oak from the North Pole, delighting children of all ages. Enjoy a fabulous breakfast buffet and get those last minute requests in to Santa. Call 925-934-4775 ext. 20 or go to [www.playboundaryoak.com](http://www.playboundaryoak.com)

## SENIOR HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 11 a.m.  
The Clubhouse at Boundary Oak  
3800 Valley Vista Road

Join us for a delicious lunch, complete with holiday entertainment and dancing, and share the magic of the holiday season! Tickets are \$30 for Walnut Creek Senior Club members, \$35 for non-members, and are available at the Civic Park Community Center. Call 925-943-5851.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE STROLLING DINNER PARTY

Boundary Oak Clubhouse  
Thursday, Dec. 31, 6 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.

Watch the ball drop 2 times at the Clubhouse at Boundary Oak and ring in the New Year! Numerous culinary delights and an evening of dancing await you and your friends. Our most popular event will sell out, so please reserve your table early. Call 925-934-4775 ext. 20 or visit [www.playboundaryoak.com](http://www.playboundaryoak.com)

# DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

## PARENT & CHILD (AGES 6-17) COOKING CLASS:

Peruvian Chocolate Christmas Torte  
Saturday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m. to noon

Build a delicious chocolate torte in layers with your child and be as creative as you like! Shape the torte like a star, and/or decorate it as you wish. Please register under the child's name. The class will be in the kitchen at Civic Park Community Center. \$55 for the class covers parent and child; \$25 for an additional sibling. There is a \$20 supply fee due at class. To register, go to [www.WalnutCreekRec.org](http://www.WalnutCreekRec.org) or call 925-943-5858. Class number is 29932.

## DECEMBER BIRD WALK

Shell Ridge Open Space  
Sat, Dec. 12, 9 to 11 a.m.

Join Ranger Dan Bylin on a walk through the grasslands above Borges Ranch in search of wintering sparrows and raptors. You may even catch a glimpse of our resident golden eagle! Meet at the Ranger Station at the Old Borges Ranch parking lot, 1035 Castle Rock Road.

## WINTER BREAK CAMPS WITH WALNUT CREEK RECREATION

December 28 – 31

Stay busy this Winter Break with exciting new camps from Walnut Creek Recreation for kids ages 4-10. Camps include Jedi Engineering Using Lego, Jedi Master Engineering Using Lego and Crazy Chemistry Camp. All take place at Heather Farm Community Center from December 28-31. Learn more and register at [www.WalnutCreekRec.org](http://www.WalnutCreekRec.org).

## FAMILY SWIMMING AT THE CLARKE SWIM CENTER

The Clarke Swim Center at Heather Farm Park is open from noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays for both recreational and lap swimming.



Walnut Creek on Ice is open through January 18 at Civic Park