

IN A

# Nutshell

No. 126

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006



City Engineer Rachel Lenci, left, looks over a conceptual rendering of the new downtown library with project manager Dawn Merkes of Group 4 Architecture.

## Council reviews design concept for new library

City Council members got a fresh look Aug. 1 at the final conceptual design for the new downtown library and clearly liked what they saw.

As a result, the Council directed the architectural firm Group 4 to proceed with a schematic design that the Council will review on Nov. 21.

Group 4's conceptual design for the library included a lot of windows, appealing open areas inside and out, a curved roof line, and a glass tower. The exterior is a mix of glass, wood, plaster and brick. Balcony decks at the north and south ends of the building will provide users a pleasant setting for reading or contemplating the park.

The 42,000-square-foot library will provide a marked improvement over its 45-year-old, 9,234-square-foot predecessor. The new facility will be built on the same piece of earth, but with an underground parking garage and a smaller surface parking lot behind it that will accommodate a total of 170 vehicles.

The new library will be made up of

LIBRARY, see page 5

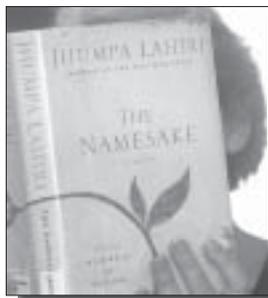
## 'Walnut Creek Reads' events planned

Hundreds of Walnut Creek residents are spending their summer engrossed in *The Namesake: A Novel*, learning that the joys of reading are, indeed, immeasurable.

Since June 6 close to 500 residents have been flipping the pages of *The Namesake*, the first entry in the *One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads* program. Written by Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri in 2003, the tale revolves around a couple from Calcutta who emigrate to the United States and how that experience shapes their lives and affects family ties.

The program has been enthusiastically embraced by scores of Walnut Creek residents who will be able to further enhance their reading experience in a series of community-wide activities and special events in September and October.

"It has exceeded my expectations in



that so many talented people in the community have come forward and gotten involved and become so enthusiastic," said Ann Shelton, former Walnut Creek librarian and *Walnut Creek Reads* steering committee member. "It is a way for the community to

WC READS, see page 4

## Change made in city manager post

The City Council has appointed Arts, Recreation and Community Services Director Gary Pokorny to be interim city manager following City Manager Mike Parness's resignation on Aug. 3.

The Council sought the change after it was mutually agreed by them and Parness that it was time to seek a

different management style to lead the City.

"The Council appreciates the leadership and integrity that Mr. Parness has provided to the City," said Mayor Kathy Hicks. "His strategic planning and financial skills have brought many positive results to Walnut Creek. The

CITY MANAGER, see page 6

## City Event Calendar

### September

4

**Labor Day Concert**  
(See *What's Happening*)  
City offices are closed.

22, 23, 24

**Pacific Fine Arts Fair**  
Main and Locust streets  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### October

7

**Movies Under the Stars**  
"Oliver!" (1968)  
Heather Farm Park; free  
(See article, back page)

## City Meeting Calendar

**City Council**   
Sept. 19; Oct. 3, 17  
7 p.m.

City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

**Planning Commission**  
Sept. 14, 28; Oct. 12, 26  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Arts Commission**  
Sept. 18, Oct. 16  
4:30 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Transportation  
Commission**  
Sept. 21, Oct. 19  
7 p.m.  
City Council chamber

**Design Review Commission**  
Sept. 6, 20; Oct. 4, 18  
7 p.m., City Council chamber

**Park, Rec & Open Space  
Commission**  
Sept. 11, Oct. 9  
7 p.m., City Council chamber

 **City Council meetings**  
are televised live on  
Comcast Channels 6 and 26  
(unincorporated), and on  
Astound Channel 29. They  
are repeated the following  
Saturday at 1 p.m. on all.

 **Walnut Creek Currents**,  
a City-produced 10-minute  
video digest on City  
activities and services:  
**Comcast Channels 6 and 26**  
— Daily at 6 a.m., 9 a.m.,  
noon, 3 p.m., and Wed. at  
7:30 p.m.  
**Astound Ch. 29** — Daily at  
noon and 7 p.m.

## Bedford Gallery knits fine embroidery exhibition

**E**mbroidered Stories /  
*Knitted Tales* opens  
with a reception at Bedford  
Gallery on Sunday, Sept. 24,  
3-5 p.m. and will remain on  
view through Nov. 5.

Knitting and embroidery  
as means of expression in  
fine art have become a  
global phenomenon,  
appearing in galleries all  
over the world.

Contemporary artists have fully embraced  
"Yarn Art" creating works that collapse the  
presumption that these traditional practices are for



Elaine Bradford, *Locked Antlers*, 2005,  
mounted deer heads, yarn, buttons

conventional use only. This  
medium-specific exhibition  
demonstrates the rich cross-  
fertilization between crafts and  
contemporary art. The work—  
abstract, surreal and conceptual  
— focuses on the multifaceted  
connotations of domesticity,  
handicraft, social statement and  
machine-produced art.

The Bedford Gallery, located  
in the Dean Leshner Regional

Center for the Arts, is open Tuesday-Sunday,  
noon-5 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 6-8 p.m. General  
admission is \$3. Call 925-295-1417.

## What's Happening

### Labor Day concert at Civic Park

The Walnut Creek Concert Band under the  
direction of Harvey Benstein returns to the Civic  
Park gazebo to present its Labor Day Concert on  
Monday, Sept. 4 at 6 p.m. as part of the City's  
PARKconcert series. Bring a picnic and a blanket  
and enjoy the end-of-summer sounds.

### Halloween at Howe Homestead

The City's annual Harvest Festival will be a  
Halloween activity for families on Sunday, Oct. 29  
from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Howe Homestead  
Park, 2950 Walnut Blvd. Featured will be scare-  
crow making, pumpkin carving, storytelling, and a  
haunted maze. Tours of the historic grounds will  
also be given. Refreshments will be available for  
purchase. For more details, call 925-930-7731.

### Correction



The caption of this photograph of the Police  
Department's *Character Counts* program graduation  
ceremony that appeared in the July/August  
issue of *In a Nutshell* misidentified those pictured.  
Walnut Creek Police Officer Jeff Slater stands on  
stage with fifth grade students from Contra Costa  
Christian School at the ceremony, which was held  
in the Hofmann Theatre at the Dean Leshner Center  
for the Arts on May 15.

### Shadelands Antiques Show Sept. 10

The fall edition of the popular Shadelands An-  
tiques Show will be on Sunday, Sept. 10, 8 a.m. to  
4 p.m., at the Shadelands Ranch Historical  
Museum grounds, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd.  
Admission is free. More than 100 dealers are  
expected. Parking is available off North Via  
Monte. Call 925-935-7871 for details.

### Gardens at HF Fall Plant Sale on Sept. 16

The Gardens at Heather Farm will hold its Fall  
Plant Sale on Saturday, Sept. 16 from 9 a.m. to  
noon at 600 No. San Carlos Drive (not at the  
Gardens location on Marchbanks Drive). Members  
earn a 10% discount on all plant purchases. To  
view the list of plants for sale, go online to  
[www.gardenshf.org](http://www.gardenshf.org) or call 925-947-1678. All  
proceeds benefit The Gardens at Heather Farm.

### Walnut Creek on Ice to return to Civic Park

The hugely popular Walnut Creek on Ice will  
return to Civic Park on Friday, Nov. 17 for its  
second season, which will end Monday, Jan. 15,  
2007. For more information, call 925-938-2653.

### Harvest Holidays Oct. 14-15 on Locust

A celebration of autumn will again be the theme of  
the Downtown Business Association's 7th annual  
Harvest Holidays in downtown Walnut Creek the  
weekend of Oct. 14-15. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
and the event will take place on Locust Street  
between Civic Drive and Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

### Free composting workshops this fall

Residents can sign up for free home composting  
workshops on Saturday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,  
Ruth Bancroft Garden and on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 7-  
8:30 p.m., Heather Farm Community Center.  
Reservations are required; call 906-1806.

## Council to start over on redevelopment plans for Block C

Voicing to “start over with a clean slate,” the City Council pulled the plug on a plan to redevelop the downtown block across from the Century 14 Theatre.

The Council voted 4-1 on July 18 to end an exclusive agreement with Blake Hunt after determining that the developer could not meet the City’s guiding principles for developing several parcels on Block C.

The block, bordered by Locust Street, Olympic Boulevard, and Mt. Diablo Boulevard, has been the focus of a redevelopment plan that called for removal of the 81-year-old, deteriorating Veterans Memorial Building and replacing it with condominiums, parking, and ground floor retail.

The majority of the Council said they believed the City’s goals for the block were unattainable, partly due to a lack of cooperation among neighboring property owners.

“We can all succeed when all interested parties work together,” said Mayor Kathy Hicks.

The Council subcommittee on Block C will be considering options for the future development of the block in the next several weeks.

Following are updates on other current projects:



The outlined area in this aerial view of Block C shows which parcels were to have been redeveloped.

### Arts education classrooms to move

The relocation of the remaining four Civic Arts Education studio classrooms from the east side of the creek in Civic Park to the Shadelands Arts Center is scheduled to occur in September.

Most of the fall quarter classes (except for ceramics, jewelry, and selected dance courses) will be offered at the Shadelands facility at 111 N. Wiget Ln.

For more information, call 925-943-5846.

### EBMUD pipeline project

Construction of the new East Bay Municipal Utility District water transmission pipeline in Walnut Creek will continue through 2006. Work on the section along South Broadway between Newell Avenue and Rudgear Road is expected to be completed in October.

Work inside the main tunnel at Newell

at South Broadway and at the National Guard Armory off Carmel Drive will continue through 2006. The contractor expects to conduct night and/or weekend work in the main tunnel. Night and weekend work will be limited to quieter activities below the surface. Ventilation systems and generators will be on during work hours.

The tunnel and pipeline in Walnut Creek are part of the Walnut Creek San Ramon Valley Improvement Project which included an upgrade to the Walnut Creek Water Treatment Plant, a new pumping plant in Alamo and four miles of transmission pipeline in Walnut Creek and Alamo.

For more information about the pipeline project, go to [www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com) and click on Current Events and Walnut Creek San Ramon Valley Improvement Project.

## Walnut Festival ‘Carnivale’ on tap Sept. 21-24 at Heather Farm Park

The 69th edition of the venerable Walnut Festival, featuring King Walnut and carnival rides for the whole family, returns for its four-day fundraising run at Heather Farm Park Sept. 21-24.

The perennial **Walnut Festival Twilight Parade** will kick off festivities on Saturday, Sept. 16 beginning at 6:15 p.m. on North Main Street between Olympic Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue. The City has again donated \$7,000 to defray parade costs.

Carnival rides will be moving back to the parking lot in the front of Heather Farm Park.

This year’s parade theme is Mardi Gras, and the Walnut Festival organizers

are calling their event “Walnut Festival Presents Carnivale.”

The Walnut Festival Association will again offer free admission to everyone, although there will still be charges for rides and parking. Free live entertainment will be offered all four days of the festival.

Paid parking will be available within the park and free parking will be located in the Shadelands Business Park with a free shuttle service to the park.

Festival hours will be Thursday, Sept. 21, 5-10 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 22, 5-11 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 23, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 24, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

For more information or to become a Festival sponsor, call 925-935-6766.



## Rediscover WC on fall City Bus Tour

Learn about Walnut Creek the easy way and leave the driving to us. Join Public Information Officer Brad Rovanner on the fall City Bus Tour scheduled Saturday, Oct. 28.

This 3½-hour morning excursion will include stops at Borges Ranch, the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, the Gardens at Heather Farm, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, the Diablo Valley Lines Model Railroad, and the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts.

First-come, first-served tickets are \$10 per person and must be reserved in advance by phone by calling 925-256-3505. Seating is limited to 23.

## WC Reads

### From page one

have a shared experience. And it encourages reading.”

The Walnut Creek Downtown and Ygnacio Valley libraries have 100 copies of *The Namesake* available for checkout, made possible through donations from the Walnut Creek Library Foundation and the Library Friends groups.

To enhance the reading experience, a variety of *One City, One Book* activities are planned this fall (see box at right). The community events include several book discussions, a lecture by a UC Berkeley professor, a film festival featuring three movies, dance performances, and a fashion show.

Book discussion guides and background information will be available at [www.wclibrary.org](http://www.wclibrary.org).

The *One City, One Book: Walnut Creek Reads* program is co-sponsored by the City of Walnut Creek, Walnut Creek Downtown and Ygnacio Valley libraries, Walnut Creek Branch of the American Association of University Women, Walnut Creek Library Foundation, Walnut Creek Friends of the Library, Ygnacio Valley Friends of the Library, the Rossmoor Library, and the *Contra Costa Times*.

## 'Walnut Creek Reads' community activities scheduled in September and October

### Book Discussions:

Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7 p.m.  
Ygnacio Valley Library  
2661 Oak Grove Rd.

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 10 a.m.  
Rossmoor (Rossmoor only)

Wednesday, Oct. 4, noon  
Downtown Library  
1644 No. Broadway  
(Brown bag lunch discussion)

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.  
Dinner and a Book discussion  
Sargam Restaurant, 140 N. Civic Dr.

### Lecture:

"Coming to America"  
UC Professor Bill Hing  
Thursday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Downtown Library

### Film Festival:

7 p.m., Ygnacio Valley Library

- "Bend It Like Beckham" Sept. 20
- "Monsoon Wedding" Sept. 27
- "Bride and Prejudice" Oct. 11



### Cultural Celebrations:

"The Dance of the Spices"  
Monday, Sept. 25  
7:30 p.m.  
Downtown Library

"An Evening of Tradition"  
Music, dance and fashion  
of India  
Monday, Oct. 16  
7 p.m.  
Las Lomas High School  
Theatre, 1460 So. Main St.

### Featuring:

- Pandit Habibkhan performing "Saraswati Temple and Gurukul"
- South Indian Classical Dance by the Kalanjali School of Dance
- North Indian Classical Dance by the Tarangini School of Dance
- A fashion show and Bollywood Dances by Shana Dhillon and Richa Shukla

## City working on Ygnacio/San Carlos intersection fixes

City staff is working to address resident concerns over pedestrian safety at the intersection of Ygnacio Valley Road and San Carlos Drive.

Transportation Division staff met with a group of residents in July to discuss their concerns, which were focused more on pedestrian safety following a September 2005 auto/pedestrian collision in which a resident was injured.

Staff is working with John Muir Medical Center to expedite the re-striping of the northbound approach on San Carlos. In the meantime, the City will keep all interested parties informed about the progress of this work.

City staff has set in motion all steps to improve the intersection and will continue to monitor the intersection, both before and after implementation of the improvements.

## WC Concert Band recruiting new members

Want to make some beautiful music and do something for your community at the same time?

The Walnut Creek Concert Band, the official Band of the City of Walnut Creek since 1988, is looking for new members.

The 80-piece ensemble is one of the leading community bands in the East Bay, comprised of professional and amateur musicians who volunteer their time and talent to perform throughout the year.

"This is a great way to share your talents with others and to perform great music for enthusiastic audiences," said conductor Harvey Benstein.

The concert schedule includes three



The Concert Band performs at the City's annual Holiday Tree Lighting event.

formal concerts at the Dean Leshner Center for the Arts, and performances at civic events (Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Holiday Tree Lighting), Rossmoor and various other venues.

The band rehearses on Tuesday evenings at the Walnut Creek Intermediate School.

Interested adult woodwind, brass and percussion instrumentalists should contact Benstein at [hbenstein@gmail.com](mailto:hbenstein@gmail.com) or (925) 284-1583 to set up an audition.

The organization is co-sponsored by the City of Walnut Creek and there is no charge for participation by Walnut Creek residents.

# Library design

## From page one

two sections connected by an entry lobby, which can be accessed from a new civic plaza at the corner of Broadway and Lincoln Avenue and from the parking lot.

Dawn Merkes, project manager for Group 4, said the library would also meet environmental standards such as energy efficient heating and cooling and would use natural lighting as much as possible.

Merkes said her firm would continue to refine the design before a final schematic presentation to the Council.

The \$43.5 million cost of the project is very achievable, according to Group 4. The Council asked that staff carefully monitor escalating construction costs and make every effort to expedite construction.

The City is scheduled to break ground in early 2008 and the library should be ready for move-in by early 2010.

Several residents expressed their appreciation to the Council for moving forward with the library project.

Barry Slavin, a former Park, Recreation & Open Space commissioner, told the Council the library plan will actually provide more green space in Civic Park and that it will be a project other cities will want to emulate.

"I don't think there are a lot of frills here," he said.

Resident Hardy Miller reiterated his suggestion that the City consider other locations for the library, such as the BART station and the veterans' building site on Locust Street.

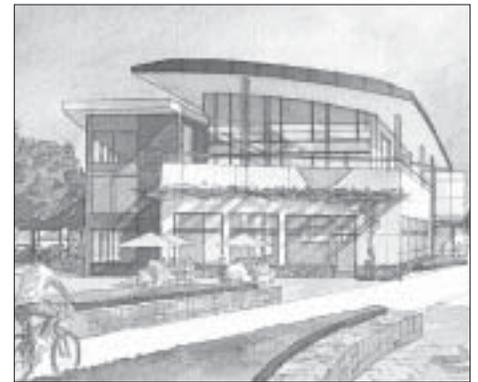
However, Council member Gwen Regalia pointed out that over the last 10 years the City had looked at several locations, none of which met the City's criteria: the BART station (too expensive to lease), office buildings (impossible to convert effectively), school district property at Ygnacio Valley Road and Walnut Boulevard (unacceptable mixed use of public and school uses), and the veterans' building site (inadequate parking).

"This is an investment in the community," said Mayor Kathy Hicks, noting that the City made the right decision in 1988 to build the Leshner Center for the Arts despite rising costs.

(To view an online 3-D animation of the conceptual design, go to [walnut-creek.org](http://walnut-creek.org) and click on "Library Update.")



Final conceptual artwork of the north entry to the library from Civic Park.



The south end will have a cafe and outdoor seating areas and a second floor meeting space.



The east entry into the library as seen from the parking lot.



The west entry into the library as seen from North Broadway showcases a glass tower and the curved roof.

## City Council Update

### City OKs funding for youth center

The City Council on Aug. 1 agreed to provide another \$10,000 to help fund an additional modular building at The Creek, a youth center at Foothill Middle School.

The Creek provides an after-school program for all sixth through eighth grade youths in the area. Since opening last September, the youth center has enrolled 83 students, but with a capacity of only 54 per day, the high demand requires an additional classroom to house a computer lab and homework area, according to directors Donna Perham and Tricia Carella.

The Council last year allocated \$20,000 toward the project through its Community Outreach program.

The Creek in its first year was recognized by the state for its contributions to the Walnut Creek community.

### Downtown road project proceeds

The City Council on July 18 awarded a contract for \$718,640 to Top Grade Construction, Inc. to carry out the 2006 Downtown Roadway Reconstruction Project.

The work, which will begin in September and take three months to complete, includes the overlay and reconstruction of Mount Diablo Boulevard from Oakland Boulevard to Bonanza Avenue, and Alpine Avenue between Mt. Diablo and Olympic boulevards.

The reconstruction project will also include California Boulevard.

Due to the deteriorated condition of the pavement on Alpine Avenue, the roadway will be completely reconstructed as a part of this project.

## City Manager

From page one

Council thanks Mr. Parness for the four years of hard work and dedication and wishes him the best as he leaves the City organization."

Parness had previously been city manager of San Clemente for 12 years.

Pokorny, formerly a city manager with El Cerrito (1989-2000), Corvallis, Oregon (1978-1988), and Sioux City, Iowa (1975-78) has been with the City since 2000.

A native of Howells, Nebraska, he has bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Nebraska and additional



## Summer interns help out City

Hilary Harwood, 16, found herself immersed in historical files she was organizing this summer as an intern in the City Clerks office. The Las Lomas High School junior was one of 24 teens who worked as summer interns for various City departments from June through mid-August.

## Beat the heat at a City-run facility

If your power is out and you're looking for a place to beat the heat, there are a number of City facilities that offer comfortable, air conditioned areas for a brief respite.

The Tice Valley Gymnasium and the Civic Park Community Center/Senior Center can offer residents an oasis to get out of the heat, have a drink of water, and relax. Parking is free at both facilities.

The Tice Valley Gymnasium at 2055 Tice Valley Blvd. is open every day 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Call 925-256-3572.

The Civic Park Community Center/Senior Center at 1375 Civic Dr. is open Monday through Saturday to 9 p.m. and Sundays to 5 p.m. Call 943-5252.

In addition, Walnut Creek's two libraries — the downtown branch at 1644 N. Broadway and the Ygnacio Valley branch at 2661 Oak Grove Rd. — are open until 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Both have chairs and water.

Please note, though, that none of these facilities offer overnight services.



Mike Parness



Gary Pokorny

graduate work in government and public administration from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

## City receives \$50,500 in Workforce Housing Grant funding from the state

The City of Walnut Creek has been awarded \$50,500 in state Workforce Housing Reward Grant Funds.

The funds were granted in July to the City based on the 17 affordable units nearing completion on Trinity Avenue and Oakland Boulevard (Acalanes Court, formerly Trinity Avenue Apartments) and our state certified housing element.

Awarded funds will be used towards the construction of 33 units of affordable senior housing at Casa Montego II.



## CopTalk

By Officer Chris Norlund

### Beware of the heat

The summer heat is here and with it come the dangers of hyperthermia from inside parked vehicles. Nationwide every year there are needless deaths of children left inside a vehicle.



The National Safe Kids Campaign based in Washington, D.C., estimated that a car with a white interior can heat up inside to 135 degrees on a 79-degree day, while the temperature inside a car with a black interior could go as high as 192 degrees. When the outside temperature is 83 degrees, and your window is down, the temperature inside your car can reach 109 degrees in just 15 minutes.

Here are some good rules to live by:

- Never leave your child unattended in a motor vehicle, even with the windows down.
- Teach children not to play in, on or around cars.
  - Always lock car doors and trunks, even at home, and keep keys out of reach of children. (child locks can trap a child in a hot car at home).
  - Always make sure all child passengers have left the car when you reach your destination.
  - Don't overlook sleeping infants.

**California Vehicle Code 15620.** This law, known as Kaitlyn's law, was enacted as a result of a 6-month-old child who died after being left in a car for 2 hours:

*A child who is 6 years of age or younger may not be left inside a motor vehicle without being subject to the supervision of a person who is 12 years of age or older.*

Legally, if you leave your child and nothing happens, the fine is \$100 minimum. If something happens, you can be charged under numerous child endangerment acts, up to and including manslaughter.

As for pets, don't leave them in a vehicle. Animals go into distress quickly in a hot vehicle.



### Police history on display

Vintage weapons, cameras, fingerprinting devices and other crime-fighting paraphernalia that have been used by Walnut Creek police over the last several decades have found a permanent home in display cases that have been placed throughout the police department. Retired Officer Bill Holian (above left) assembled hundreds of historic items into several display cases that were used for nearly 60 years at Rinehart's Jewelers. The department purchased the display cases from Mike Rinehart (second from left) after he shut his doors last spring. Above, Holian, Rinehart and Chief of Police Tom Soberanes inspected one of the displays located on the ground floor. Meanwhile, Police Reserve Lt. Chris Flath (at right) recently completed his year-long restoration of a 1971 Plymouth Fury I Walnut Creek police patrol car, complete with a vintage 'Speedalyzer' radar gun mounted on the door.



### Time to fall in love with your bike again

By Cindy Wells  
WC Bicycle Advisory Committee

Do you recall the thrill of your first bike? Do you recall that first taste of freedom you had as a child when you could ride to your friends' houses or to school? As children, many of us rode miles and miles every day on our bikes. It was our most prized possession, accessorized and beloved.

What happened? Why don't today's children have the same love affair with the bicycle?

The recent trend for children is to catch a ride either with their parents or a carpool to school and to their friends' homes. Many of these trips are less than half a mile, a mere couple of blocks, but either the children or parents insist on driving.

Why? Walnut Creek is very bike- and pedestrian-friendly. It's well-policed and

well-lit. However, have you noticed the traffic jam around schools in the early morning and afternoon?

Today, many children are already obese or heading in that direction. The obesity rate for children has sky-rocketed, tripling for high school students since the

1980s. Obesity is a serious threat to the health and well-being of all Americans, and it has its roots in habits established while young. Catching a ride

everywhere you go is one of those habits that can lead to heart disease and diabetes later in life.

How many of these children could be utilizing safe sidewalks and trails to walk or bike to school? They would get much needed exercise, the zones around the schools would be safer and less congested, and precious natural resources would be spared.

It's time to fall in love with the bicycle all over again.



# Movies Under the Stars: "Racing Stripes" and "Oliver!" to close out 4th season

To close out its fourth remarkable season, the City's award-winning "Movies Under the Stars" series at Heather Farm Park will feature two family favorites: "Racing Stripes" and the 1968 musical "Oliver!"

"Racing Stripes" will be shown on Saturday, Sept. 9 and "Oliver!" will close out the season on Saturday, Oct. 7. Both movies will be shown on the front ballfield at the park at Ygnacio Valley Road and North San Carlos Drive.

In the 2005 hit "Racing Stripes," an abandoned zebra (voice of Frankie Muniz) grows up believing he is a racehorse, and, with the help of his barnyard friends and a teenage girl (Hayden Panettiere), sets out to achieve his dream of racing with thoroughbreds.

"Oliver!," starring Ron Moody as Fagin and Mark Lester as Oliver Twist, won the Oscar for Best Picture. It is a

musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' tale about an orphan who runs away from an orphanage and hooks up with a group of boys trained to be pickpockets by an elderly mentor.

Admission is always free at "Movies Under the Stars." Come at least one hour early to reserve a lawn spot. Special pre-movie live entertainment will be offered both



nights, as will an animated short subject from the Warner Bros.' vaults.

Popcorn and beverages will be available for purchase. Low lawn chairs will be allowed in designated areas only. No pets please.

The premier sponsors for these last installments for the 2006 season are Walnut Creek Honda (Sept. 9) and Bank of Walnut Creek (Oct. 7).

# New green fees set for Boundary Oak

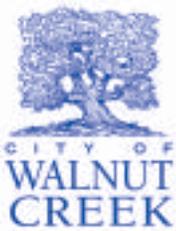
To offset increasing operating costs at Boundary Oak Golf Course, the City will raise green fees Sept. 1.

The City's Golf Course Advisory Committee and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission approved the new green fee rates to offset operating, maintenance and capital expenses associated with running the 18-hole golf course on Valley Vista Drive.

The fee adjustments, the first since 2004, will bring weekend resident fees to \$31 for 18 holes of golf and weekday fees to \$23. By comparison, the new weekend rates are less than Delta View in Pittsburg (\$35), while the new weekday rates are now the same as Diablo Creek in Concord.

Senior fees will be \$18 for residents and \$23 for non-residents.

The City will soon remodel the 37-year-old clubhouse restrooms and City staff is working on a long-range plan to identify and implement other golf course facility improvements.



### CITY COUNCIL

Kathy Hicks, Mayor\*  
Sue Rainey, Mayor pro tem  
Gwen Regalia  
Charlie Abrams  
Gary Skrel

\* For appointment: Call 256-3504.

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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CITY ATTORNEY  
Paul Valle-Riestra  
CITY CLERK  
Patrice Olds  
CITY TREASURER  
Ronald Cassano

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
Valerie Barone, Director  
ARTS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES  
Barry Gordon, Interim Director  
POLICE  
Tom Soberanes, Chief of Police  
PUBLIC SERVICES  
Dan Richardson, Director

## IN A Nutshell

Published bi-monthly and mailed to Walnut Creek residents and businesses

Editor:  
Brad Rovanpera

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