

IN A

# Nutshell



## Task force on fiscal health ready to work

The Community Blue Ribbon Task Force on Fiscal Health met for the first time Feb. 28 and plans to meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month for its duration. The City Council reviewed more than 110 applications before appointing 15 members. From left, seated, are Laura Simpson, Lloyd Silver, John Kopchik, Leslie Dawson and Jerrold Kaplan. Standing, from left, are Jason Cooke, Bob Pickett, Tom Terrill, Jim Pezzaglia, Loella Haskew, Ethan Friedman, Dan Walden, Karen Majors and Michael Garmon. Not shown: Bill Hunt. The purpose of the task force is to recommend financial strategies that could be implemented to meet future operational and capital budget needs. Task force meetings are open to the public. For agendas and other information, go to [www.walnut-creek.org/fiscal\\_health](http://www.walnut-creek.org/fiscal_health).

## City invests in economic development

Walnut Creek is boosting its economic development efforts in response to a series of challenges: the lingering recession; increased competition ranging from other cities to the international market; and global economic changes such as the creation of new industries and changes in buying patterns due to the internet.

On March 1, the City Council approved the creation of an economic development division. Recruitment for an experienced economic development manager to coordinate the City's efforts is under way.

The division will work to achieve three broad goals: retention of the existing

See ECONOMIC, back page

## Special plans to remember veterans

Memorial Day in Walnut Creek will include the traditional morning observance as well as a screening of a documentary featuring several local World War II veterans.

The day begins at 10 a.m. on May 30 at the gazebo in Civic Park with a keynote speech, music by the Walnut Creek Concert Band, and the laying of wreaths at Veterans Memorial Plaza.

At 1 p.m., the film "Lives Beyond the War," which features several area WWII veterans, will be shown in the Walnut Creek Library. The film will be followed by an opportunity to meet director Neil Looker.

For more information, contact City Clerk Patrice Olds, 925-943-5819.

## Downtown parking plan moves forward

A series of principles for managing parking downtown got the thumbs up from the Transportation Commission and City Council during a joint study session on Feb. 17.

The six strategies developed by the Downtown Parking Task Force seek to realign parking supply with demand. An example is developing ways to motivate those who work downtown to use underutilized parking spots — such as top floors of public garages — thereby freeing up high-demand street parking for customers.

Based on Council and Commission feedback at the study session, staff is developing a workplan to outline the next steps in implementing an integrated parking management plan. Some of the strategies, such as better promotion of



Effective signage, such as this new sign that lets drivers know the number of open spaces on each garage level, is among the Downtown Parking Task Force suggestions.

public garages, can be easily implemented. Others, such as changes to meter hours, will require additional study and public outreach. Periodic progress reports, as well as notices of public meetings regarding parking, will be posted on the City's website.

**April and May highlights**  
(check cable listings for showtimes or go to [walnutcreektv.org](http://walnutcreektv.org))

**Living History: Stories of Walnut Creek**  
Local World War II veterans are featured in new episodes of *Living History: Stories of Walnut Creek*.

**Live! from the Library: Student Poetry Reading**  
Readings from the 2011 Student Poetry Contest winners. Be inspired by the creative works of Walnut Creek's talented youth. (Broadcast after April 16 event)

**TED TV**  
This nonprofit organization brings together fascinating thinkers and doers in technology, entertainment and design. Hear engaging talks from prominent speakers.

**Public Meetings**  
City Council, Planning and Design Review meetings are televised live and available on demand.

**Channel information**  
Walnut Creek TV is on Comcast Channel 28 (incorporated WC only), Rossmoor 26, Astound Channel 29, and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99. For streaming video and programs on demand, [www.walnutcreektv.org](http://www.walnutcreektv.org).

# Open house to celebrate new John Muir tower

John Muir Health invites the community to an Open House celebrating the new Tom & Billie Long Patient Care Tower on Saturday, April 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be tours of the new building, food, activities for kids, a health fair and more.

The \$600 million addition opens April 10 and will double the size of the campus, with 242 new patient beds, of which 230 are in private rooms large enough to accommodate family members.

In addition to the latest in technology, the Tom & Billie Long Patient Care Tower has a rooftop heliport and an emphasis on a welcoming



The Tom & Billie Long Patient Care Tower at John Muir Health opens April 10. A community celebration will be April 2.

environment that includes rooftop gardens and ample natural light to help reduce anxiety and enhance healing.

## Here's what's happening

**Vegetable gardening workshop - April 9**  
The Contra Costa Master Gardeners Association presents a free workshop on creating a garden full of seasonal vegetables. Topics include soil preparation, selecting appropriate crops and how to start with seeds and transplants. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 9 in the Oak View Room of the Walnut Creek Library.

**Poetry Live! - April 12**  
The Oak View Room at the Walnut Creek Library will be transformed into a coffee house for a poetry reading with award-winning poets Kim Addonizio and Susan Browne in celebration of National Poetry Month. Coffee and tea will be served. The program is part of the Walnut Creek Library Foundation's *Live! from the Library* series. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 12. [www.wclibrary.org](http://www.wclibrary.org) or call 925-935-5395.



**Spring plant sale - April 16**  
The Gardens at Heather Farm's fund-raising plant sale features water-wise plants suited to our area's climate. Members receive a 10% discount; bring your membership card or join that day. Proceeds support the Gardens at Heather Farm's educational gardens and programs. Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m. to noon. 600 North San Carlos Dr. Visit [www.gardenshf.org](http://www.gardenshf.org), or call 925- 947-1678.

**Earth Day project at Mt. Diablo - April 16**  
The California State Parks Foundation's 14th Annual Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup is on April 16. Volunteers are needed at Mt. Diablo State Park to help with trail maintenance, painting of buildings, installing split rail fencing and

rehabilitation of campgrounds. Register at [www.calparks.org/program/earth-day](http://www.calparks.org/program/earth-day).

**Eggstravaganza egg hunt - April 23**  
The Walnut Creek Youth Council, now operating as the Rotary Sunrise Interact/ Youth Council, will hold an Eggstravaganza Hunt on April 23 at Heather Farm Community Center, 301 North San Carlos Drive. Kids can have their pictures taken with the Bunny from 10 to 11 a.m. The hunt begins promptly at 10:15 a.m. The Youth Council is raising funds to pay for the egg hunt. To donate, contact Council president Katie Lanfranki, 925-935-2067.

**Horse Faire - April 23**  
Bring the entire family for a fun-filled horse adventure at Heather Farm Equestrian Center, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 23. Children will love taking pictures with their favorite miniature horse, going for a pony ride and the petting zoo. Booths offer equine arts, crafts, activities for the kids and western apparel, and delicious food, drinks and snacks. Sponsored by the Equestrian Center of Walnut Creek. Visit [www.ECWC.org](http://www.ECWC.org).



**Annual creek cleanup - May 14**  
Volunteers can help remove a year's worth of debris from Walnut Creek's three downtown creeks during the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Creek Cleanup on Saturday, May 14. Sign up by 9:30 a.m. at Civic Park. Free continental breakfast will be available at 8:45 a.m. Be sure to wear old sneakers, bring gloves and plan to get wet. For more details and required waiver forms, go to [www.FriendsoftheCreeks.org](http://www.FriendsoftheCreeks.org).

## Brunches, BBQ and more at Boundary Oak

Did you know that the Clubhouse at Boundary Oak offers unique "Fourth Friday" dinners as well as special holiday brunches?

Easter and Mother's Day brunches will be held 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. on April 24 and May 8. Cost is \$29.99 for adults and \$14.99 for kids under 12.

The Fourth Friday dinners are themed meals. April 22 is "Southern Comfort Night," May 27 features northern Italian food, and June 24 is barbecue night. The dinners are 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$14.99 for adults and \$9.99 for kids under 12.

Reservations are required for both brunches and Fourth Friday dinners. 925-934-3600 ext. 20.



## Picnic season is here!

Walnut Creek Recreation is taking reservations for group picnic areas at Heather Farm (above) and Larkey Park. With small, medium and large picnic areas that accommodate 30-300 people, and prices that range from \$55 - \$275, group picnic areas are the ideal, wallet-friendly place to hold birthday parties, family reunions, company picnics or other special gatherings. Call 925-943-5858.

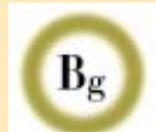
## Summer camps have something for everyone

Are you wondering how you'll keep your kids busy this summer? Walnut Creek Recreation and Civic Arts Education have a wide variety of summer day camps for kids ages 3-17. From art camps to traditional day camps, Lego camps to Sports Camps, there is something to fit everyone's interests. Want a fun alternative to summer school? Try a Spanish or science camp.

We also provide one of the area's best Specialized Recreation Day Camp for children, teens and young adults with special needs. [www.walnutcreekrec.org](http://www.walnutcreekrec.org).

## Curator's Corner

Carrie J. Lederer  
Bedford Gallery curator



### Spring is in the air!

Our 2011 Bedford Gallery season theme "our history, our land" continues with *Land of Magic: Artists Explore Make Believe*, a whimsical exhibition where artists leave conventional reality behind to create alternate universes using a wide range of media from painting and printmaking to photography. *Land of Magic* opens with a reception on Thursday, April 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. hosted by the Bedford Gallery Guild and sponsored by the Diablo Regional Arts Association. Please join us!

*Land of Magic* is supported with funding from Diablo Regional Arts Association and the Leshner Foundation. Tours of this show are available for school classes and adult groups. Call 925-295-1423 for reservations.



David Huffman, *Dig It!*  
2008, oil, acrylic and  
glitter on panel (Detail)

### Walk this way

Bedford Gallery docents are offering guided art tours of the new downtown Walnut Creek Library on the second Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. and the third Thursday at 1 p.m. The library houses 39 works of art that were purchased or commissioned through the City's public art program. Visit [www.bedfordgallery.org](http://www.bedfordgallery.org) for more information about all of the walking tours.

### Calling all artists!

Bg Artist Workshops offers special opportunities to work side-by-side with the talented artists listed in this column. All workshops are 1 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$75 per session (only \$60 for DRAA members and Friends of the Bedford.) Space is very limited, so please subscribe to our Bg E-news.

■ **April 29** Join Lori Goldman, textile sculptor in her workshop *Knitting Off the Edge*, where all "rules" go out the window. Lori has created sculptural objects by

knitting with practically everything from socks to electrical wire.



Emily Sevier  
Flower Magic workshop

■ **May 13** Mixed media artist Emily Sevier (*artwork shown above*) is coming up to the Bedford Gallery from Los Angeles for *Flower Magic*, where participants will create sculpture with an unusual array of media including pom-poms, pipe cleaners and felt!

■ **June 10** Nationally renowned sculptor Ann Weber presents a workshop called *The Four S's: Strips, Stacks, Slots and Sewing* where participants will use material as banal as cardboard and weave a fascinating sculpture.

### Pass the word and join in

Our summer exhibit *Outlandish: Contemporary Depictions of Nature* is a national juried exhibition open to artists working in all media from sculpture and painting to dioramas and video. The deadline to apply is May 18. Applications can be found on our website, [www.bedfordgallery.org](http://www.bedfordgallery.org).

### Join our email list

Visit [www.bedfordgallery.org](http://www.bedfordgallery.org) to stay informed.

And remember, if you're attending a theater performance, your ticket buys you free entrance to the gallery that same day.

I hope to see you at the Bedford Gallery soon!

Carrie J. Lederer  
Curator of Exhibitions and Programs

# Special Report: 2011 State of the City

Mayor Cindy Silva delivered an upbeat State of the City to a packed auditorium on Feb. 9 at the Chamber of Commerce's installation luncheon. The overall message: While 2010 was a tough year due to the recession, it was also one of positive accomplishments, and 2011 looks to be even better. Here are the 10 top topics from the 2011 State of the City.

## 1 Money matters

Walnut Creek was not immune to the economic downturn of 2008-10, but the City managed to balance its budget, and 2009-10 ended better than expected. The General Fund has no debt and the City has solid reserves and fiscal policies. A key initiative for 2011 is the Community Blue Ribbon Task Force on Fiscal Health. *(For more on the task force, see Page 1)*

## 2 Safe and secure

Serious crime is down by 10 percent from 2009. The Walnut Creek Police



Department continues to expand its volunteer base with three programs: Volunteers in Police Services, Police Reserves, and the Police Cadets for ages 16-22 *(see article on Page 7)*.

In addition, Walnut Creek has a robust Community Emergency Response Team program, with nearly 1,200 residents trained since 2004.

## 3 No place like home

Providing housing that meets the community's needs today and long into the future continues to be a goal. Because Walnut Creek is effectively built out, most



A plan to build a 126-unit apartment complex at the former Walnut Creek Motor Lodge site (above) is among those being considered by the city.

future housing needs will be met with multi-family housing near downtown and the BART stations. A number of projects are in the proposal or planning phases. They include: BART Transit Village (596 units); North Main Apartments (site of Walnut Creek Motor Lodge - 126 units); Walden Commons (65 units); 1250 Arroyo Way (106 units); Third Avenue affordable housing (48 units); Habitat for Humanity project on Barkley Avenue (10 units).

## 4 Getting there is half the fun

Much of the capital investment dollars spent in 2010 were to maintain existing streets. A key upgrade was the San Carlos roadway and pathway improvements at Heather Farm Park.



Ygnacio Valley Road

An adaptive timing project on Ygnacio Valley Road (above) that allows for continuous monitoring and updating of traffic signals to ease congestion is to be completed this summer.

The Downtown Parking Task Force completed its work and presented its recommendations to the Transportation Commission and City Council on Feb. 17. *(see story on Page 1)*

## 5 Back to nature

The City partnered with Lafayette, East Bay Regional Parks District and the Muir Heritage Land Trust to purchase the 22-acre Acalanes Ridge Open Space. The

Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation is currently raising money to help the Muir Heritage Land Trust come up with their contribution. There will be an official opening of the open space in June.



Acalanes Ridge Open Space

Final work on landscaping the Creekwalk in east Civic Park is under way. Look for a grand opening this spring.

## 6 Let's get physical

Pools, golf, tennis ... Walnut Creek has something for every recreational outlet.

A key initiative in 2011 will be continuing preliminary design work to replace or upgrade our swim centers. The Larkey and Clarke swim centers receive a combined total of more than 400,000 visits each year, but are nearing the end of their useful lifespan. After reviewing a needs assessment in August, the City Council gave the go-ahead to proceed with preliminary design work and construction estimates in the event the pools are built. Public meetings to gather input on design proposals were held in March. The project will return to the City Council for review this summer.

Boundary Oak Golf Course completed its first full year being managed by CourseCo. Bringing food, beverage and golf operations under one operator has



Boundary Oak Golf Course

# 2011 State of the City, continued

resulted in a noticeable improvement in playing conditions and event experiences. As a result, golf tournaments at Boundary Oak are on the rise.

Tennis operations also benefitted from a new operator. Lifetime Tennis assumed management of the Heather Farm Tennis Center and the other City-owned courts in 2010, and increased tennis opportunities for all ages and skill levels.

## 7 Arts & culture alive!

The arts continue to be big business in Walnut Creek. The Leshner Center hosted 830 performances and sold 213,466 tickets in 2010; studies show that every dollar spent on tickets produces \$36 more dollars in the community. Center



'Becoming Britney'

REP – the LCA's resident theater company — expanded its offerings with Off Center, which features edgier productions, such as *Becoming Britney*, above.

In October, the Leshner Center celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the "On Broadway" gala. Presented by the Diablo Regional Arts Association, the gala raised \$225,000 for programs such as the DRAA's Arts Access School-Time Program, which served 3,600 students during the 2009-10 academic year.



The children's area in the new Walnut Creek library.

The Walnut Creek Library opened July 17, on time and under budget. There were 50,000 visitors during the library's first full

month; measured from opening day through Dec. 31, the Walnut Creek Library ranked first in the county for the number of items checked out.

The Bedford Gallery hosted five major exhibitions in 2010, bringing more than 30,000 local and regional visitors of all ages. In addition, the gallery added the new library to its public art walking tours.

The Friends of Civic Arts Education Foundation turned 5 in 2010. Since its inception, the foundation has given out more than 300 scholarships to Civic Arts Education classes. Its annual fund-raiser, Viva Arts, raised \$22,000 in scholarships in 2010 alone.

## 8 Economic signs of life

Businesses are investing in Walnut Creek. Plaza Escuela is fully re-tenanted with the



addition of Tillys, Panera Bread, Forever 21 and Elite Sports Authority. Nordstrom's remodel, which added an entrance on Mount Diablo Boulevard, will be complete in June, while work on Nieman Marcus is in full swing and will be complete in March 2012.

Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market opened in March at the Ygnacio Plaza Shopping Center. And Sprouts Market (which merged with Henry's Farmers Market) will be coming in 2012 to the co-op site at the corner of Geary and Main.

Other highlights include the new VW Dealership under construction on the corner of North Main and Central Road, which will triple the size of the existing Dirito Brothers dealership, and a proposal to build a 24-Hour Fitness Center and Chick-fil-A restaurant on North Main Street at the site of the concrete batch plant facility.

The City approved creation of an Economic Development Division to coordinate all related activities (*see story,*



An illustration of the new VW dealership, currently under construction.

Page 1.) The City is also working with the Downtown Business Association and Chamber of Commerce on an effort to brand and promote the downtown.

## 9 Internet connect

The City began reaching out to the community through television and the internet. Walnut Creek TV expanded to highlight City programs and services, as well as special community events, in 2010. The City's new YouTube channel received more than 13,000 views in its first six months, and its Facebook page and Twitter feed fans are growing in numbers.

## 10 People Power!

2011 is the Year of the Volunteer, in honor of all the community does to benefit our collective



Lindsay Wildife volunteer Gemma Niermann

quality of life. The goal is to celebrate current volunteers, motivate others to get involved, and facilitate volunteerism with the first citywide Community Service Day to be held Saturday, Oct. 1.

### State of the City on TV

The *State of the City* presentation is playing on Walnut Creek TV; check cable listings for dates and times, or go to [www.walnutcreektv.org](http://www.walnutcreektv.org).

The presentation is also available on [www.YouTube.com/cityofwalnutcreek](http://www.YouTube.com/cityofwalnutcreek).

# Celebrate spring in the Open Space

By Nancy Dawson Dollard  
Supervising Open Space Ranger

It's shaping up to be an active spring in the Open Space. Of special note are the full days of programs celebrating Earth Day on April 23 and Migratory Bird Day on May 7.

**Earth Day** activities begin April 23 with a morning trail project in Shell Ridge Open Space.

At noon, there will be a community picnic at Hanna Grove near Borges Ranch. At 3 p.m., there will be environmental education activities for children at Howe Homestead, followed at 7 p.m. with a campfire program at Sugarloaf.

**Migratory Bird Day** on May 7 encourages everyone to "Go Wild, Go Birding." There will be a variety of activities for all ages from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Borges Ranch, including migratory bird identification, children and family crafts, presentations, walks and environmental games.

Other programs this spring include:

- **Fire-Defensible Spaces in a Grassland Neighborhood.** Learn how homeowners can protect their property from grassland fire. 6:30 p.m. March 24 at Borges Ranch, and 10 a.m. March 26 at Howe Homestead.

- **Blacksmithing at Old Borges Forge.** Try your hand at the forge with Ranger Bruce. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, April 2.

- **The Truth About Horny Toads.** Join Ranger Dan at Lime Ridge Open Space at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 9.

- **Who Pooped in the Park?** An exercise in honing nature observation skills led by Ranger Art. 1 p.m. Sunday, April 10 at Lime Ridge.

- **Frog Fanatics.** Take an evening stroll in the Borges Ranch area on Saturday, April 30 to search for resident amphibians.

- **Lime Ridge Monthly Hikes** are held at 9 a.m. April 10 and May 8

- **Old Borges Ranch Tours** are offered at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 23 and May 28.

- **Moonstalkers**, a full-moon walk in the Open Space, on April 17 and May 17

- **Bird walks** 8 a.m. April 16 at Borges Ranch and 8 a.m. May 21 at Acalanes.

Pick up a spring program brochure and a hiking map at any Open Space Ranger station, or email [dollard@walnut-creek.org](mailto:dollard@walnut-creek.org).



Boundary Oak Golf Course will host a Monday Qualifier for the Nationwide Tour's Fresh Express Classic on April 11.

## Nationwide Tour qualifier at Boundary Oak

By Lance Iwanaka  
Boundary Oak Golf Course

Boundary Oak Golf Course has been named one of two Bay Area locations to host a Monday Qualifier for the Nationwide Tour's Fresh Express Classic.

The Monday Qualifier will be held on April 11 with 120-140 touring golf professionals vying for limited qualifying entries in the Fresh Express Classic.

"The Nationwide Tour Qualifier will bring some of the best professional golfers in the world to Walnut Creek," said

Lance Iwanaka, General Manager at Boundary Oak Golf Course.

"We are very excited to have been selected to host an event that is affiliated with the PGA Tour and Nationwide Tour."

The Fresh Express Classic will be April 14-17 at TPC Stonebrae, Hayward. A number of successful Nationwide Tour professionals move up to the PGA Tour.

Hosting the qualifier at Boundary Oak is a testament to the improved course conditions since CourseCo began operating at the golf course, said the City's Golf Course liaison, Barry Slavin.

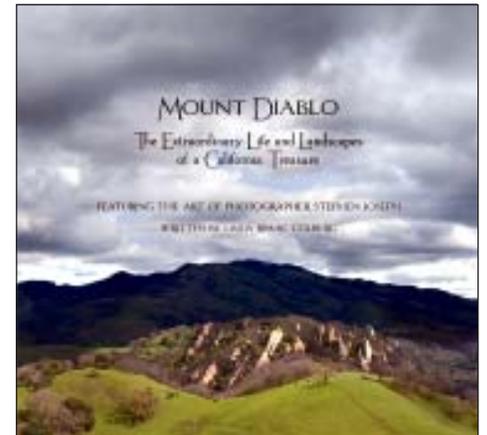
## Fine art book profiles iconic Mount Diablo

Mount Diablo Interpretive Association announces the publication of *Mount Diablo, The Extraordinary Life and Landscapes of a California Treasure*, a fine art photography book by local landscape photographer Stephen Joseph.

Supporting text by Walnut Creek writer Linda Rimac Colberg profiles the mountain, the photographer, and the mountain life of one family, the Greens of Berkeley, who had a home on Mount Diablo from 1938 to 1965.

*Mount Diablo, The Extraordinary Life and Landscapes of a California Treasure* is available at the Mount Diablo State Park Summit and Mitchell Canyon visitor centers, the Walnut Creek Barnes & Noble, and online at [mdia.org](http://mdia.org). Cost is \$40.

Mount Diablo Interpretive Association was founded in 1974 to promote public



The Mount Diablo Interpretive Society has published a new book on Mount Diablo, awareness of the natural and cultural history and significance of Mount Diablo through publications, educational programs, events and outreach.

## Host families sought for high-school students

Ayusa, a non-profit youth exchange organization, is seeking families in the area who are interested in hosting an outstanding high school student

embarking on an adventure of a lifetime. To learn how to host or be an exchange student, contact Community Representative Lauren Ross, 415-518-2596.

## Chief: serious crime PD cadets are serving while learning

### down 10 percent

#### Outlines 2011 goals during verbal 'State of the City'

Serious crime dropped 10 percent in 2010 compared to 2009, reported Chief Joel Bryden in a presentation to the City Council.

The crime statistics include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft/larceny, auto theft and arson. They do not include misdemeanors such as auto burglary and battery, said Bryden.

In addition to sharing the crime statistics, Bryden outlined the police department's goals for 2011. They are:

- ◆ increase community outreach and communication;
- ◆ increase volunteer ranks by 15 percent;
- ◆ decrease property crimes by 5 percent;
- ◆ decrease alcohol-related traffic accidents and fatalities; and
- ◆ increase employee participation in the City's wellness program.

Bryden said he hoped to introduce a new volunteer service in 2011, the "You Are Not Alone," or YANA, checks, in which trained volunteers check in on senior citizens. More than a quarter of Walnut Creek residents are over 65, and YANA checks could provide life-saving assistance, he noted.

Those interested in volunteering with the Police Department may learn more at [www.walnutcreekpd.com](http://www.walnutcreekpd.com).

Residents interested in getting regular updates from the PD are encouraged to register at [Nixle.com](http://Nixle.com). In addition, the department is reaching out to businesses that are not within the core downtown, to insure they have access to information.



Walnut Creek Police Cadets provide a valuable service to the city while gaining exposure to the various aspects of police work and what it means to have a career in law enforcement.

The program was introduced in late 2009 in Walnut Creek. Currently the Walnut Creek Police Cadet Program has 15 high school and college students who receive a variety of training including driver awareness, police ethics, radio codes and procedures, traffic control and crime scene investigation.

Cadets assist the City and the Police with projects and community events, such as staffing the police counter in the lobby at City Hall, assisting with the Walnut Festival, traffic control and everyday police tasks.

They also serve as liaisons between the police and community youth.



Police Cadet Brian Fidelibus helps a resident at the PD counter. Brian is one of 15 cadets between ages 16 and 22 who are providing valuable services while learning about careers in law enforcement.

Cadets are expected to maintain a good grade point average, use good judgment, and be active in the community. They must be between 16 and 22 years of age, and enrolled in high school or college.

Cadets are recruited throughout the year.

More information is available at [www.walnutcreekpd.com](http://www.walnutcreekpd.com).

## Free services fight animal-borne diseases

By Nola Woods

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District

Since 1927, the Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District has protected residents from insects and animals that can transmit disease.

At that time, Californians became sick and died due to malaria-carrying mosquitoes. Today, residents are less likely to get sick and die from mosquito-borne illness because the District's technicians and inspectors control the mosquitoes that can transmit disease. In addition, the District is constantly looking for evidence of new vector-borne illness.

The risk of plague, rabies, western equine encephalomyelitis, St. Louis encephalitis, Lyme disease, and West Nile virus is reduced due in large part to the free services the District provides to county residents.

These services include controlling rats, mice, ticks, yellowjackets, skunks and mosquitoes.

For more information or to request a free inspection, call 925-771-6184 or visit [www.ContraCostaMosquito.com](http://www.ContraCostaMosquito.com). To book a free informational presentation for a community group or school, contact Community Affairs Representative Nola Woods at 925-771-6158.

## Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training starts in April



Registration is under way for the spring CERT training, which will be Thursday evenings, April 14 through May 19, plus a hands-on drill the morning of Saturday, June 11 at Heather Farm Park.

In event of disaster, trained CERT volunteers meet at pre-designated staging areas to

work together to help their community while staying safe themselves. CERTs will provide valuable information and assistance to professional responders and the City's Emergency Operations Center. There is a \$25 program fee.

More than 1,200 residents have taken CERT. Join them by emailing [CERT@walnut-creek.org](mailto:CERT@walnut-creek.org).



Rafat Raie and Patrice Olds

## Employees of the Year

He calms traffic, and she makes sure elections, council meetings and ceremonies run smoothly — and they do it so well that Traffic Engineer Rafat Raie and City Clerk Patrice Olds have been named Walnut Creek’s Employees of the Year.

Rafat joined the City 20 years ago. He played an integral role in the Northgate roundabout, and was instrumental in obtaining grant funding to install LED lights on Ygnacio Valley Road.

Patrice joined the City in 2002. In addition to acting as the City’s elections officer and serving as the Clerk of the Council for meetings, she produces most of the City’s ceremonies, including Veterans and Memorial Day.

The Employee of the Year award is given to the person or persons who best embody the City’s values of respect, integrity, creativity, excellence and teamwork.

## Remembering our first female mayor

**P**eg Kovar, Walnut Creek’s first female mayor and an ardent supporter of the community, passed away on Feb. 18. She was 77.

Peg was first elected to the City Council in April 1972 as a proponent of preserving open space. She helped lead the successful bond campaign to raise money to buy and preserve nearly 1,800 acres on Shell Ridge, some of which had been targeted for development. Kovar Trail on Shell Ridge is named in her honor.

Peg’s legacy stretches far beyond her 15 years on the Council, as she gave her time and talents to what she believed in. She served as the first president of Save Mount Diablo, the director of the Shadelands Historical Museum, the executive director of the Contra Costa Mayors Conference, and the Diablo Valley Foundation for the Aging, to name a few.

In the late 1980s, she served on the Walnut Creek Arts Council and actively worked on the building of the Leshner



Peg Kovar was honored in 2009 by the Walnut Creek Action for Beauty Council.

Center for the Arts. More recently, she served on the campaign committee for the Walnut Creek Library.

She is survived by her husband Fred, their four children, and myriad friends and admirers.

## Economic

### From page one

business base; expansion strategies to help existing businesses grow; and attraction of new businesses that will result in the creation of jobs.

The Council also approved a detailed workplan that outlines how the division will achieve its goals. Periodic progress reports will be presented to the Council and posted on the City’s website.



**CITY COUNCIL**  
**Cindy Silva, Mayor\***  
**Bob Simmons, Mayor pro tem**  
**Kish Rajan**  
**Gary Skrel**  
**Kristina Lawson**

\* For appointment: Call 256-3504

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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

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