

IN A

Nutshell

No. 129

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

MARCH/APRIL 2007

Italian sister city delegation to visit Walnut Creek

A delegation of citizens from Walnut Creek's Italian sister city of Noceto will be welcomed at City Hall during a visit to the Bay Area in April.

A group of 25-30 Noceto residents, including Mayor Fabio Secci, will visit Walnut Creek during a whirlwind trip from April 12 to 22 that will include sidetrips to Yosemite Valley, Sequoia National Park, and Las Vegas.

Karen Cassano, president of Walnut Creek Sister Cities International, said the City and her organization will co-host a dinner in Noceto's honor on Friday, April 13 at the Shadelands Arts Center. The dinner will be open to the public. For details, call Cassano at 925-944-1238.

Walnut Creek and Noceto became sister cities in September 1987 to promote a cultural relationship.



City officials plan on opening the new Walnut Creek Library in spring 2010.

Council OK's library building plans

Emphasizing that it is making a major investment in the community, the City Council on Jan. 16 approved a construction plan for the new Walnut Creek Library and parking garage.

The action marked a major milestone in the project, as the Council and City staff laid out a strategy for financing the construction of both the 42,000-square-foot library in Civic Park and an

underground garage that will increase parking on the site by 50 percent.

A temporary library will be set up this November in the City's Park Place building at Civic Drive and North Broadway. The City will break ground on the new library in April 2008 following the demolition of the current library.

The popular Walnut Creek on Ice rink, which has used the tennis courts in Civic Park, will return to the same site this November but will be relocated the following two years to an as-yet-undetermined site during the library construction. City staff is also exploring a new location for the Walnut Creek Farmer's Market, which uses the existing library lot on Sundays.

To assure the new library includes sustainable, or "green," building strategies, the Council approved an additional \$248,000 in the budget to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) requirements.

Tinfow addressed a recurring suggestion by some citizens that the new library be established in the vacant Andronico's building in Plaza Escuela. She noted that because the City does not

City's cable TV to go from Ch. 6 to 28

After nearly 35 years in one of the most enviable spots on the Bay Area television dial, Walnut Creek's community access channel will be moving in March.

Channel 6, which airs Walnut Creek City Council meetings, local programming, and community calendar information, will shift to Channel 28 the week of March 12.

The change was triggered by the new, 15-year cable franchise agreement between the City and Comcast Cable that took effect on Dec. 7.

KICU Channel 36 will move to Channel 6 from the Channel 3 spot.

City Attorney Paul Valle-Riestra, who helped negotiate the new franchise

agreement between Comcast and a consortium of central Contra Costa County cities and the County, said Walnut Creek will be allowed a total of 4-5 channels to broadcast local government, public access, and educational programming.

The franchise agreement provides a two-year transition period to allow the City to develop the means to take over the programming of its channels.

Walnut Creek programming was inaugurated on Channel 6 in May 1972 by General Electric Cable at a time when there were only 12 channel locations on the TV dial. Because Channel 6 was not used by a Bay Area station, it was used for

CHANNEL 6, see back page

LIBRARY, see back page

City Event Calendar

March

23-24

WC Seniors' Second Hand Sale

(See *What's Happening*)

April

7

Spring Egg Hunts

(See *What's Happening*)

9-12

Spring Art Days

(See *What's Happening*)

18

Live' From the Library

(See *What's Happening*)

City Meeting Calendar

City Council

March 6, 20; April 3, 17
7 p.m.

City Council chamber
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.

Planning Commission

March 15, 29; April 12, 26
7 p.m.

City Council chamber

Arts Commission

March 19, April 16
4:30 p.m.

City Council chamber

Transportation Commission

March 22, April 19
7 p.m.

City Council chamber

Design Review Commission

March 7, 21; April 4, 18
7 p.m.

City Council chamber

Park, Rec & Open Space Commission

March 5, April 2
7 p.m.

City Council chamber

City Council meetings

are televised live on Comcast Channels 6 (28 beginning March 14) and 26 (unincorporated), and on Astound Channel 29. They are repeated the following Sunday at 1 p.m. on all. Video of the meetings is also available online at walnut-creek.org

'Space Is the Place' launches at Bedford Gallery

Space exploration — its infinite potential as well as its historical successes and failures — is the focus of *Space Is the Place*, which runs March 4 to May 27 at the Bedford Gallery.

Space Is the Place will feature installations, paintings, works on paper, and sound and video works made during the last 10 years by an international group of contemporary artists.

The Bedford Gallery is the exclusive West Coast venue for this traveling exhibition.

Located in the Leshner Center for the Arts, the Bedford Gallery is open Tuesday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 6-8 p.m. General admission is \$3 (free on Tuesdays). For information, call 925-295-1417.



Lisa Halloran, 'The Irreversible Downfall of Intercostal Six', 2005, Oil and Flashe. Collection of Rosette Delug, courtesy of Sandroni Rey

What's Happening

WC Seniors' Second Hand Sale

The Walnut Creek Seniors' Club's annual Second Hand Sale will be Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days, at the Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr. A wide variety of items will be available for purchase, including clothing, toys, books, collectibles, and jewelry (Note: Donations of these items will be accepted at the Community Center weekdays through March 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please, no furniture, computers, TVs, office equipment, or telephones.) All proceeds benefit the Seniors' Club. Call 925-943-5852.

Children invited to Spring Art Days

The popular *Spring Art Days* program will be offered to preschoolers as well as grade schoolers April 9-12, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Ln. Sponsored by the City's Civic Arts Education, the program groups children ages 5 to 10 by age with activities appropriate to each age group. Fee: \$25/session. The preschoolers' fee is \$120 for the entire session. To register, call 925-943-5846 or go online at www.arts-ed.org

Assistance League to celebrate 40th

The Assistance League of Diablo Valley will celebrate its 40th anniversary of serving the Contra Costa community with a reception on March 7, 5-7 p.m., at its Community Resource Center, 2711 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek. Sheriff Warren Rupf will be a featured speaker. The chapter is one of 114 chapters of National Assistance League, a non-profit, philanthropic, volunteer organization dedicated to serving the Contra Costa community through hands-on projects. For more information, call 925-934-0901.

Spring Egg Hunts planned April 7

Children can participate in Walnut Creek's annual Spring Egg Hunts on Saturday, April 7 at Heather Farm Park or Larkey Park. The activity begins promptly at 10:15 a.m. at both parks for preschoolers through 5th graders; Heather Farm is accessible for disabled children. A pancake-and-sausage Bunny Breakfast will also be offered before the egg hunt at Heather Farm Community Center from 8 to 9:45 a.m.; cost is \$5 per person.

Free home composting workshops

Residents can again sign up for free home composting workshops on March 6, 7-8:30 p.m., at Heather Farm Community Center, 301 N. San Carlos Dr.; and March 24, 1-2:30 p.m., Lindsay Wildlife Center, 1931 First Ave. Reservations are required; call 925-906-1806 to sign up.

East Bay Women's Conference March 5

Author Gail Sheehy will speak at the 2007 East Bay Women's Conference on March 5, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the San Ramon Marriott. Registration is \$145; call the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce at 925-934-2007 to reserve a seat.

Host families needed

The International Education Center at Diablo Valley College is seeking local families to host international students on a temporary basis while they improve their English skills. All types of families are welcome — single adults, couples, families with or without children. Short- and long-term placements are available, and all students already speak a good level of English. Host families will receive a monthly stipend of \$650 per student and must provide a bedroom and two meals per day for the student(s). Call Fia Parker at 925-876-0080 or email: fparker@dvc.edu

Ground broken on senior housing project on Geary Rd.

City officials joined with developers to break ground Jan. 19 on Villa Vasconcellos, an affordable senior housing project on Geary Road.

The two- and three-story complex will offer 69 one-bedroom units at affordable rates to extremely-low and very-low income seniors.

The City provided funding of \$2.6 million to help make the \$19 million project possible.



Rae Vasconcellos

The complex is named in honor of Rae Vasconcellos, who served 14 years as chair of the board of directors of Resources for Community Development, the project sponsor that is a well-respected developer of affordable housing throughout the Bay Area.

Meanwhile, work continues on the Mercer, a 181-condominium complex at California Boulevard and Trinity Avenue. The developer paid the City \$1.4 million in affordable housing in-lieu fees that went in large part to the Villa Vasconcellos project. It is expected to be completed this fall.

Also, the 125-unit Windsor Apartments being built next to the Marriott Hotel are expected to open later this year.



Goodbye to Civic Arts studios

After more than 40 years of service, the last remaining Civic Arts Education studio classrooms on the east side of Civic Park were removed in December. Permanent facilities for the program had opened last summer at the Shadelands Arts Center on Wiget Lane.

Photo by Steve Waymire

WC Aquanuts off to world championships

Four members of the Walnut Creek Aquanuts synchronized swimming team are part of the 12-member 2007 World Championship squad that will represent the U.S. March 17-24 at the FINA World Aquatic Championships in Melbourne, Australia.

Eight Aquanuts were among 35 athletes who traveled to Ohio in December to compete for a spot on the world team.

The four swimmers earning a place on the team were Becky Kim, Annabelle

Orme, Jillian Penner, and Kim Probst.

Following the Australia competition, the four local swimmers will vie for spots on the U.S. team that will compete at the 2007 Pan American Games and at the 2008 Olympic Games.

The Walnut Creek Aquanuts practice at the City's Clarke Swim Center in Heather Farm Park. Several of their past members have won Olympic gold medals.

Spring City Bus Tour to visit landmarks throughout WC

Ever wonder what Walnut Creek was like 100 years ago? You can see for yourself on the next City Bus Tour, set for Saturday, April 28.

City Public Information Officer Brad Rovanner will be the guide on this fun and educational 3 1/2-hour excursion, which runs from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Stops along the way will include historic Borges Ranch, Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, The Gardens at Heather Farm, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, the Diablo Valley Lines Model Railroad, and the Leshner Center for the Arts.

Tickets are \$10 per person and must be reserved in advance by phone on a first-come basis. Seating is limited. To reserve up to four tickets, call 925-256-3505 and leave your name, address, phone, and number of tickets desired.

Walnut Creek Concert Band celebrates 20th anniversary with Spring Concert

The venerable Walnut Creek Concert Band will kick off its 20th anniversary celebration as the City's official town band with a special Spring Concert on Tuesday, March 20 at the Leshner Center for the Arts.

The concert will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Hofmann Theatre. Tickets are \$12-\$15 and may be purchased by calling 925-943-SHOW (7469).

Music Director Harvey Benstein has led the 65-piece band of professional and amateur musicians since May 1998. The Walnut Creek City Council formally adopted the ensemble as its official City band in October 1987, and



Harvey Benstein will conduct the Concert Band at its Spring Concert on March 20.

ever since it has performed at all civic celebrations, including every annual Holiday Tree Lighting event and Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances.

Resident survey to gauge satisfaction with City's direction

In its latest effort to gauge the satisfaction of Walnut Creek residents, the City will be mailing a new citizens' survey to 1,200 homes this spring.

The mail-in survey will be prepared by the National Research Center in Colorado, which conducted the City's Senior Needs Assessment Study in 2004.

The results will be used to prepare for the next round of Community Conversations this fall, when residents will be invited to come and talk about their experience of living in Walnut Creek and how it can be improved.

Although the City has conducted various resident polls in recent years related to the new General Plan, senior needs, and funding for the new library, a wide-reaching citizens' survey has not been done since November 1999.

The questionnaire, which was being prepared at press time, should take 10-15 minutes to complete. Pre-paid postage will be on the return envelope.

The City encourages those residents who receive them to return their questionnaire as soon as possible so the feedback can be evaluated for a final report to the City Council by July 1.

Jr. Theatre troupe wins prestigious award

A talented group of young performers cultivated by the City's Civic Arts Education program "rocked" the judges at a prestigious competition in January and ended up bringing home the top prize.

Their production of "Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr." earned members of Civic Arts Education's Junior Theatre company the Outstanding Production Award at the Broadway Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Junior Theatre group took 25 East Bay students, ages 10 to 15, to Atlanta on Jan. 12-15 to perform at the Broadway Junior Theatre Festival, which attracted 1,200 other performers from around the country and such countries as Germany and Panama.

In 2005 Civic Arts Education danced away with the Best Choreography Award for their production of "Dear Edwina Jr."

"This was such an incredible opportunity for our students," said Junior Theatre director Nina Meehan. "They met



Bill Hunt instructs Seven Hills School student volunteers on how to plant grasses at Heather Farm Park. Photo by Matt Shargel

Creating a natural haven at Heather Farm

Thanks to the vigilant efforts of a large army of volunteers, a portion of Heather Farm Park has been rehabilitated as a refuge for both birds and people.

In an ambitious effort orchestrated by former Park, Recreation & Open Space commissioner Bill Hunt, hundreds of volunteers spent their free time last fall planting native grasses and plants to create a nature area tucked between the

natural lake and the Equestrian Center.

It's clearly a labor of love for Hunt, a 30-year Walnut Creek resident who has already devoted five years to shepherding the project. "It will take maybe four more years before we're finished."

The purpose of the project is three-fold: 1) to create a bird habitat for more than 100 species observed in Heather Farm Park; 2) to create an educational resource for schools, the Gardens at Heather Farm, and the Lindsay Wildlife Museum; and 3) to provide enjoyment to the public.

The volunteers have come from throughout the community. Members of the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation, Audobon Society members Hugh and Rosita Harvey, and Lindsay Wildlife Museum volunteers have donated considerable time and effort, said Hunt, who also praised the efforts of the Volunteer Center of Contra Costa in directing teens to the project. Also, students from Seven Hills School in Walnut Creek and from schools in Concord, Alamo and Danville dedicated their weekends to work the soil.

Hunt and his helpers capped three months of concentrated effort in January.

"Three years ago we planted 2,000 plants," said Hunt. "We planted 5,000 last winter and 7,500 this winter. It's a lot of work."

For more information on the project, go online to www.wcosf.org



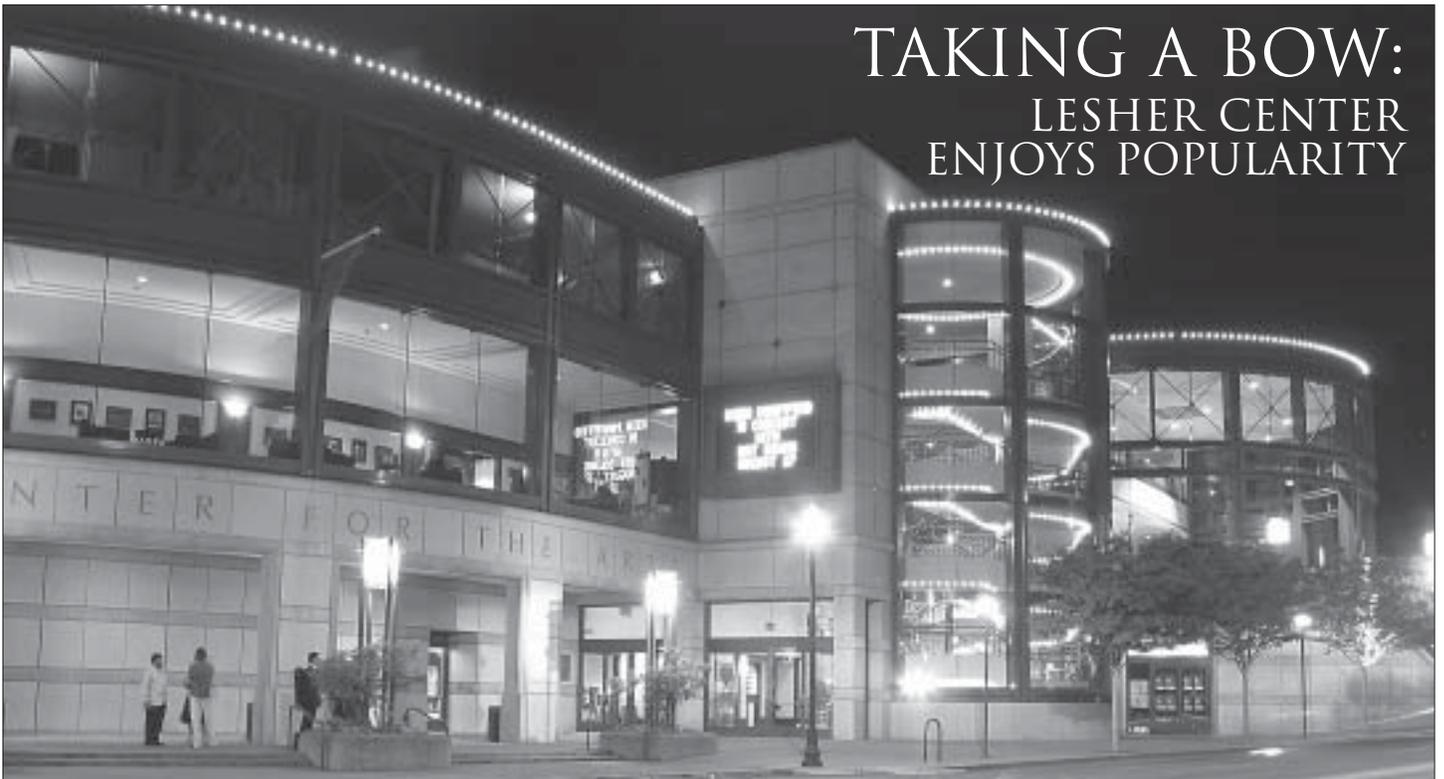
Jr. Theatre members Zoe Manoguerra, Shannon Donley, and Joe Malucchi

other young performing artists from around the world and attended some wonderful seminars in addition to performing their shows."

Junior Theatre members performed the show in Walnut Creek in February. In May, the troupe will produce "Alice in Wonderland" for local audiences. For tickets, call 925-943-SHOW.

For more information on Junior Theatre, contact the Civic Arts Education office at 925-943-5846.

TAKING A BOW: LESHER CENTER ENJOYS POPULARITY



While arts producers across the nation experienced a downward trend in attendance in 2006, Walnut Creek's Leshler Center for the Arts saw record-breaking numbers of patrons.

"It's been quite a time," said Managing Director Scott Denison. "More than 350,000 people attended events at (the Center) last year."

The Center Ticket Office logged over 50,000 phone calls during 2006, as the Leshler Center presented 900 diverse events by 85 different producers last year, including plays, musicals, orchestra and dance performances, lectures, and fundraising extravaganzas.

Center REPeritory Company, the Leshler Center's resident professional theater company, also had a record-setting year. "It's amazing to think that in this climate of nationally declining ticket sales, the most successful comedy, drama, and holiday productions in REP's 40-year history were all in 2006," said Artistic Director Michael Butler. "We've just had a banner year."

Center REP's *Tuesdays With*

Morrie became the company's most successful drama in its 40-year history. In addition, the company's perennial yuletide favorite, *A Christmas Carol*, increased box office gross by 25 percent, making it the highest grossing holiday show in REP's history.

Also posting impressive box office stats in 2006 was Contra Costa Musical Theatre, whose production of *Beauty and the Beast* set the all-time-high sales record in the Leshler Center's 16-year history as more than 16,000 people saw the Disney musical during its 23 performances last spring.

Diablo Light Opera Company also recorded high attendance at its two productions last year. *My Fair Lady* drew 13,927 ticket-buyers, while *Thoroughly Modern Millie* attracted 12,143 patrons.

Diablo Ballet's 2006 season began with a near 20-percent increase in subscribers and a hike in audience base by 1,000 patrons.

Adding to the Leshler Center's lustre is the prestigious Bedford Gallery, the largest community-based visual arts facility between the Bay Area and Sacramento. Under the

direction of Curator Carrie Lederer, the gallery features five to six exhibitions each year that reflect and engage the diverse audiences in Contra Costa County.

The Center's fund-raising partner, the Diablo Regional Arts Association, raised more than then \$900,000 to support the producers and outreach programs for the Center in 2006. DRAA also secured major sponsorships from Chevron, Target, Washington Mutual, and the Leshler Foundation to support Center REPeritory's 2006-07 season.

"DRAA is committed to making the Leshler Center the leading regional art center in the Bay Area," said Executive Director Peggy White. "In 2006, DRAA allocated \$250,000, triple the amount given in 2005, to support the core producers who bring professional-caliber performances to the Center."

Denison said he looks forward to an equally busy 2007: "While the amount of work for our staff can be mind-boggling at times, the diversity and quality of performing arts groups makes the Leshler Center a very exciting place to be."

City Council Update

New commissioners named

The City Council in January reappointed the following individuals to second terms on their respective City commissions:

Bob Jorgensen, Planning (4-yrs.)

Joseph Gorny, Design Review (3 yrs.)

Bob Brittain, Park, Recreation & Open Space (3 yrs.)

David Powell and **Brian Krcelic**, Transportation (3 yrs.)

Council honors longtime worker

Dave Singh, who retired as an employee of the City after a record 40 years of service, was honored Jan. 16 as Mayor Sue Rainey proclaimed his final day of work, Jan. 25, as "Dave Singh Day" in Walnut Creek.



Dave Singh

Singh came to work in 1967 in the parks division, where he remained 27 years before transferring to the transportation division. For the last 13 years, he was responsible for emptying and repairing parking meters.

The mayor commended Singh, a native of Fiji, saying his "work ethic, personal warmth, and can-do attitude has commanded the loyalty, respect, and affection of his co-workers and he has come to exemplify the highest standards of public service and teamwork."

Teen summer job fair set March 1 at Civic Park

Local teens will again be able to shop for summer employment with the City at the annual Summer Job Recruitment Fair on Thursday, March 1 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Civic Park Community Center.

Upwards of 100 summer jobs (includ-



Students raise \$\$ for new library

Ed Del Beccaro, president of the Walnut Creek Library Foundation, publicly thanked 5th grade students from Buena Vista Elementary School at the Jan. 16 City Council meeting for conducting a penny drive that raised \$500 for the new Walnut Creek Library. He also acknowledged a contribution of \$325 from Girl Scout Troop 579. To learn how to make a donation to the project, go online to www.wclibrary.org

City again providing free sandbags to residents

With the rainy season upon us, the City is again providing free sandbags at stations located at the north end of Heather Farm Park on N. San Carlos Road and at the Larkey Park parking lot, as well as on Lancaster Road near Orchard Lane.

Sand and bags will be available, although users must bring their own shovel. Call 925-943-5855 for details.

ing lifeguards, camp counselors, and interns) will be available.

The City will accept applications through May.

For more information, go online to www.realwc.org or call 925-943-5858.

Lesher Center certified as Green Business

In recognition of its environmentally friendly practices, the Lesher Center for the Arts has received a Green Business certification from the Bay Area Green Business Program of the Association of Bay Area Governments.

The City-operated performing arts center at Locust Street and Civic Drive

was recognized for its energy conservation practices.

Other City operations that have already been certified as Green Businesses for their conservation practices are the vehicle maintenance division, parks division, reprographics division, and City Hall.



Clean food makeover

Read all food labels. Watch out for and avoid harmful chemical additives such as:

- Hydrogenated oils
- Partially hydrogenated oils
- High fructose corn syrup
- Corn syrup

Increase your daily activity level.

Walking for 30 minutes a day will do wonders for your physical and mental health. The Diabetes Association, the Heart association and the Wellness City Challenge believe that by illuminating Trans fats (Hydrogenated and partially hydrogenated oils,) high fructose corn syrup, and corn syrup from our diets, and by increasing daily activity levels we will greatly reduce the risks of getting heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, and obesity.

Got a wellness tip? Submit it to www.wellnesscitychallenge.com. If it is chosen and printed in the Nutshell you will win a fun and exciting prize.



By Officer Joe Donleavy

Inattentive driving

Recently the State Legislature passed SB33, which makes it an infraction to talk on a cell phone while driving. The law, which goes into effect on July 1, 2008, makes it illegal to drive while using a wireless telephone unless it is hands-free and is used in that manner while driving.



The new law is a strong reminder of the seriousness of inattentive driving. According to a 2006 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration study, nearly 80 percent of crashes and 65 percent of near-crashes involved some form of inattention, such as reading, applying makeup, and using cell phones.

A 2005 AAA survey found 82% of respondents said that using a cell phone was a major cause of distracted driving and 58% of them supported a ban on using a cell phone while driving. For anyone who thinks it's not a big deal to scroll through your cell phone directory looking for a friend's phone number while driving consider the following:

At 60 m.p.h. a vehicle travels 88 feet per second. The average perception/reaction time is 1.5 seconds. Perception/reaction time is the time it takes to perceive something and then react to it.

For example, if that car ahead of you brakes while you spend 3 seconds looking at your cell phone, you will have traveled 264 feet before you even begin your perception/reaction time. You will travel another 132 feet before you even begin to apply the brakes. In other words, you will have traveled 396 feet before you even started to slow down. Depending on how far you were behind the other car, that 3-second delay could well mean the difference between safely slowing down and colliding with the car ahead of you.

While the new law only addresses cell phone use while driving it's important to always remember that there are numerous causes of inattentive driving and regardless of the cause the outcome can be devastating.

Learn to avoid 'phishing,' identity theft

Living in the high-speed environment of the cyber age, we all must be vigilant about online thieves. They don't need a gun or knife to commit their crime. All they require is a mouse and a computer connection to take from you something far more valuable than jewels or money — your identity.

Since the Walnut Creek Police Department first teamed up with the Chamber of Commerce in 2003 to launch the timely "Think Security First!" program, most of the officers have taken identity theft training and a new investigator has been added to specifically address computer and identity theft crime.

The police department has learned that many unwary computer users are extremely vulnerable to identity theft through the notorious practice of "phishing."

Phishing, which is the use of "spoof," or fake, e-mails, is the stock-in-trade of

many cyber thieves who troll the sea of online consumers in hopes of netting unsuspecting victims. Their spoof e-mails are designed to look like they originated from legitimate Web sites or companies in

an attempt to commit identity theft or other crimes.

"No legitimate company would ever contact you and ask for your social security number, mother's maiden name, date of birth, credit card number and PIN via e-mail or over the phone," warns Detective James McMurry,

Financial Crimes Investigator for the WCPD.

Det. McMurry knows all the phishing tricks: He himself recently received a spoof e-mail purporting to be from eBay, requesting him to update his personal information. One clue of its phony nature was that it came from Milton, Australia.

The bottom line: If you receive an e-mail you're not sure is authentic, do not open it.



WC Library media panel slated April 18

The Walnut Creek Library Foundation will hold the second installment of its *Live! From The Library* speaker series on April 18 with a media panel that will address "The Changing Face of Bay Area Media."

The event will be at the downtown library, Wednesday, April 18 at 7:45 p.m.

The evening will feature John Armstrong, publisher of the *Contra Costa Times*, and Jessica Aguirre, evening anchor for KGO news, and Rossmoor resident and KCBS commentator Al Hart.

For details, visit the Foundation website at www.wclibrary.org

Bringing back the natives...

Do you want to learn how you can help our environment by using fewer chemicals?

Bring back the native plants to your garden!

By selecting appropriate, hardy plants that provide food, shelter and nesting areas for wildlife and eliminating the use of pesticides, you can transform your gardens into beautiful havens for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects.

Garden chemicals are among the major sources of pollutants in our creeks and the bay. Before you reach for that spray,

please consider other options and choose the least toxic pest control methods.

Plant choice makes a huge difference in a gardener's pesticide use, water use and the quality of wildlife habitat a garden provides.

California native plants are naturally adapted to local soils and climate, and thrive without amendments, fertilizers or pesticides.

Further, they need no supplemental water once established.

To learn more about the benefits of native plants, go on-line to www.BringingBackTheNatives.net



Library

From page one

own the property, the improvements and building leasing costs alone would use up the \$43.5 million earmarked for the library within 15 years, and it would seriously reduce the sales tax revenue-generating value of the site.

The City has already set aside \$25.6 million for the project. Beyond that, the City will earmark \$4 million from its parking fund and \$1.6 million in in lieu parking fees paid to the City by private businesses toward the construction of the 120-space underground garage. The City will also contribute \$2.5 million toward that portion of the project from its General Fund balance in June 2008.

Factored into the plan is the expectation of \$5 million in private funding to be raised by the Walnut Creek Library Foundation, said Assistant City Manager Lorie Tinfow.

The funding plan also calls for the

Library funding plan

Project Elements	Library	Park & Site Improvements	Garage
Estimated Project Cost	\$27,600,000	\$4,100,000	\$11,800,000
Designated Library Reserve	(\$22,600,000)	(\$2,900,000)	(\$100,000)
Private fundraising	(\$5,000,000)		
Council Contingency (\$600,000 in 2006-08 and in 2008-10)		(\$1,200,000)	
Parking Fund			(\$4,000,000)
In Lieu Parking Fees			(\$1,600,000)
Period end Balance 2006-08			(\$2,500,000)
Internal loan			(\$3,600,000)

City to borrow \$3.6 million from its reserve funds and use parking meter revenue to repay itself. Not included in the \$43.5 million project budget are costs associated with technology for the library (\$1.2 million), funding for the opening day collection (\$250,000), and parking management equipment (\$250,000). The County, which runs the library, anticipates that its

savings during the construction period will offset some, but not all, of the technology costs.

Because on-going operational costs of the new library will exceed available funding, City and County staff will be discussing funding options soon with the City Council.

For updates on the library project, go online to walnut-creek.org.

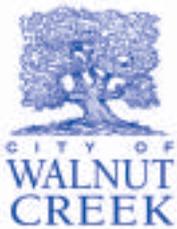
Channel 6

From page one

local programming and stayed that way even as the number of cable channels skyrocketed in the late 1990s.

In a separate change, Comcast will air the repeat broadcast of City Council meetings on the following Sunday (rather than Saturday) at 1 p.m. beginning with

the March 20 meeting (the repeat broadcast will be March 25). Astound Ch. 29 will continue to rebroadcast the meetings on Saturdays at 1 p.m. as usual.



CITY COUNCIL
Sue Rainey, Mayor*
Gwen Regalia, Mayor pro tem
Charlie Abrams
Gary Skrel
Cindy Silva

* For appointment: Call 256-3504

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CITY CLERK
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CITY TREASURER
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POLICE
 Tom Soberanes, Chief of Police
PUBLIC SERVICES
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IN A Nutshell

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Editor:
 Brad Rovanpera

We welcome your comments and questions.
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For past issues, go online at walnut-creek.org



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