

Concord City News

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF CONCORD

Winter 2007

News Corner

Annual Survey

In January and February, 600 randomly selected Concord residents will receive phone calls as the 2008 Citizen Satisfaction Survey is conducted. If you are called, please take the time to answer the survey questions. The survey measures how well the City is doing in delivering services to residents, and what changes or enhancements in services residents would like to see. The results are used by the City Council to decide how the City's resources can best be used.

Find events

Visit www.concordfirst.org to learn about the many community events happening in Concord.

Sandbags available

To prevent flooding, residents are reminded that free, filled sandbags (up to 25) are available from the City Corporation Yard, 1455 Gasoline Alley, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 671-3050 to make arrangements for pickup.

Mayor's Luncheon

On January 29, the City will partner with the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce to host the Mayor's Luncheon. At the event, the mayor will deliver the state-of-the-city address and talk about upcoming plans and projects. For ticket information, call the Chamber at 685-1181.

New automated garbage and recycling service coming in 2008

Providing greater convenience and choice, Concord Disposal Service will roll out expanded levels of garbage and recycling service in mid-2008.

Every single-family household will receive a new 64-gallon wheeled, lidded container for weekly recycling. The new recycling system will be "single stream" which means all recyclable materials will go into the single recycling container. The blue and white recycling crates will be gone.

The number of materials accepted in the recycling program will also be expanded. It is expected that residents will recycle 35 to 40 percent more items as a result of this more convenient service. This new updated collection system is expected to also cut down on litter and the theft of recyclables, such as aluminum cans.

Each single-family household will also receive two additional wheeled, lidded containers – one for garbage and one for yard waste. Residents will have a choice of a 32-gallon, 64-gallon or 96-gallon container for garbage at the rates listed on the chart at right. Each household will receive a 96-gallon container for weekly yard waste recycling.

The new rates include recycling and yard waste service and will not go into effect until the new services are delivered in mid-2008. Educational materials and a survey are being mailed to all homes providing more information and asking residents to select a level of garbage service. The new service will be rolled out to one-third of the city at a time. By September 2008, it is expected that all residences will be enjoying the new service.



Wheeled containers will be provided to residents for garbage, recycling and green waste in 2008.

New Service Rates	
32-gallon weekly service	\$22 per month
64-gallon weekly service	\$27 per month
96-gallon weekly service	\$31 per month

Concord Disposal Service will also be using quieter and more efficient trucks for this service. Additional information on the new system can be found at www.concorddisposal.com or call Concord Disposal at 692-2229. ♦

Concord is first East Bay city to launch art sculpture project

This spring, Concord will celebrate 20 years of music programs at Todos Santos Plaza in downtown Concord. To mark the occasion, the City and the Todos Santos Business Association are launching a public art project, "Concordstock." The name alludes to the 1969 music festival Woodstock, where many of the most influential musical groups of the era performed.

By the May 2008 opening concert at Todos Santos Plaza, organizers will have several dozen three-foot tall, beautifully painted guitar sculptures on display in businesses around the plaza. "Concordstock" guitar sculptures will each be sponsored by a local business and painted by a local artist. At the end of the summer, the guitars will be auctioned off for charity.

Similar programs in other cities around the country have featured painted cows, carousel horses, pigs, antique cars and dozens of other figures. Painted hearts were the focus of San Francisco's project, conveying the theme "I Left My Heart in San Francisco."

Concord is the first city in the East Bay to offer the community this type of public art project. Sponsors for the art project are now being sought. Sponsors located in downtown Concord contribute \$600 to the program and will display the finished art piece in their stores from May 1 until the sculptures are auctioned off for charity at the California Symphony pops concert in Todos Santos Plaza in September. Sponsors outside the downtown Concord area pay an additional fee to participate.

Concord launched the Music at Noon program on the Todos Santos stage in 1988,

and it has been a favorite lunchtime activity for residents and downtown employees ever since. The series runs from May to July on Tuesdays from noon to 1:30 p.m. The Farmer's Market is also in the Plaza Tuesday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



In 1997, the City launched the Music & Market series on Thursday evenings in conjunction with the Farmer's Market. The music series runs from May through September from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The Farmer's Market in is the Plaza from 4 to 8 p.m. Car shows and themed movie nights have been added to the Thursday night event over the past few years, making it a family favorite.

The music programs have played a critical role in the revitalization of downtown Concord, bringing people downtown and providing the community with a central meeting place.

For more information about the "Concordstock" public art program, contact Todos Santos Business Association President Virginia Thomas at 521-9922. ♦

Gift certificates can provide memorable experiences

Tired of giving the same birthday gifts year after year? Many gifts that people receive are soon forgotten, but memorable experiences will last a lifetime.

Community & Recreation Services offers gift certificates for a wide variety of classes and trips. Recipients will remember the experience long after their favorite class, trip or program is over.

Children can learn a new skill in dance, gymnastics, karate, guitar, or one of the many art classes the department has to offer. Adults can get help with their New Year's health and fitness resolutions with dance, Jazzercise, Pilates, or yoga classes.

Gift certificates for popular day trips such as those to Sonoma, San Francisco Chinatown or Tomales Bay always make welcome gifts.

For more information about purchasing gift certificates, contact the Community & Recreation Services Department at 671-3404 or visit www.cityofconcord.org/recreation.



www.ConcordReg.org

CONCORD 2030 URBAN AREA

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE



Introduction

The City has reached a major milestone with the General Plan Update project. The City Council adopted the new Concord 2030 Urban Area General Plan in October. This article provides a brief background on the purpose of the General Plan, a description of past participation opportunities and a sampling of policy principles that guide implementation.

The future reuse of the Inland Area of the Concord Naval Weapons Station is not addressed in this General Plan because the City is conducting a separate base reuse planning program.

Purpose of the Plan

The Concord 2030 Urban Area General Plan articulates a vision for the City over the next 22 years, one that draws its ideas from the many citizens, business owners,

elected officials, and City staff who participated in the various meetings and workshops during the update process, which began in 2003. The plan has been designed to provide the framework for the urban area of the City and reflects current planning and economic development efforts. The plan envisions Concord as a modern and vibrant urban place, infused with a sense of its heritage, a vision that preserves the desirable qualities of the City that makes it an ideal place to live, work, and raise a family.

The plan establishes a long-range vision that reflects the aspirations of the community, and outlines steps to achieve this vision. It provides a basis for judging whether specific development proposals and public projects are in harmony with community priorities. It allows City departments, other public agencies, and

private developers to design projects that will enhance the character of the community, preserve environmental resources, and minimize hazards. Finally, it helps establish priorities for more specialized documents such as the Zoning Ordinance and subdivision regulations that are currently being updated.

Public Participation Process

Over the course of several years, the General Plan update has utilized many methods to ensure the community's full participation:

Community Workshops. The first Community Visioning Workshop on Issues and Opportunities was held in April 2003; subsequent workshops on sketch plan concepts were held in April and May 2004. Small group discussions allowed for all workshop participants to be heard.





Community Outreach. City staff provided presentations on the General Plan Update project to community service organizations including the Concord Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, and Parent Teacher Associations for five public schools in Concord.

Planning Commission Tour and Workshops. The Planning Commission conducted a tour of the opportunity areas and held a workshop in September 2003 to provide direction on key policy issues. The tour and workshops were open to the public. Subsequent Planning Commission Study Sessions on plan policies were held in April–June, 2005.

Joint City Council/Planning Commission Study Sessions. The City Council and Planning Commission met several times to hear community comments, discuss issues and opportunities, sketch plan alternatives, and a preferred land use concept and provide direction on the General Plan update. The study sessions were open to the public.

Newsletter updates and mailings. The City published newsletters to provide updates on the planning process and mailed meeting and workshop notices to over 2,000 organizations and individuals, including City residents and property owners, business owners, developers, service organizations, and other interested agencies.

City Web site. Many of the documents and maps created during the update process as well as meeting agendas and staff reports were posted on the City's Web site: www.cityofconcord.org.

Public Service Announcements. The City provided Public Service Announcements regarding the Community Workshops, Planning Commission, and City Council Study Sessions on the City's cable television station.

General Plan update mailing list. Those interested in receiving information and notices were placed on the General Plan update mailing list.

Availability of all documents and results. The results of all City Council and Planning Commission meetings, workshops, and presentations were summarized and made available to the public; hard copies of documents also were available in the Permit Center, the City Clerk's Office, and the Concord Library.





Key Initiatives

The Concord 2030 Urban Area General Plan is intended to carry out the following key initiatives:

- *Integrating economic development into the General Plan.* The new Economic Vitality Element brings the City’s Economic Vitality Strategy into the General Plan and underscores the City’s goals for fiscal health, a strong regional center, a vibrant downtown, retail strength, and responsible reuse of the Concord Naval Weapons Station.
- *Protecting community assets.* The plan renews the City’s commitment to protect and enhance its community assets, including quiet communities with distinctive character, a strong sense of community, a diverse population, high quality building design, convenient shopping, broad choice in employment and entertainment, a family atmosphere with excellent recreational activities, and job opportunities close to where people live.
- *Supporting mixed use development and transit-supportive land uses around the BART station and in commercial corridors with bus service.* The plan promotes mixed use development around the downtown BART station and along arterial streets on under-used or abandoned retail sites to create more vitality in these commercial corridors. Adjacent neighborhoods will be protected by buffering standards to avoid adverse impacts.
- *Protecting ridgelines, visible hillsides and significant environmental resources.* With the extended planning area, plan policies are intended to protect ridgelines, visible hillsides and other significant natural resource areas from development that would have adverse environmental or visual impacts.
- *Creating a safe and efficient multi-modal transportation system.* The plan establishes a comprehensive set of principles and policies to enhance the existing system and promote a well-integrated and coordinated transit network and safe and convenient pedestrian and bicycle circulation.
- *Preserving and enhancing environmental resources.* Plan policies call for an interconnected open space system, restoration of degraded resources, protection of creeks and wetlands, and water conservation.
- *Providing effective disaster response and planning.* A Local Hazards Mitigation Plan was adopted, consistent with the guidelines for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Disaster Act of 2000.
- *Planning for environmental justice.* The City will plan for the equitable distribution of community facilities and services to meet the needs of all segments of the population and provide services for special needs that increase and enhance the community’s quality of life while avoiding over-concentration in any one area.

Policy Principles

Below is a sample of principles contained in the Concord 2030 Urban Area General Plan. The partial list of principles provides a good sense of the spirit of the document and the kinds of strategies that are being put forward to achieve the vision of the plan. The principles are organized by Plan Element.

Economic Vitality

- Make Concord an ideal, fiscally stable place to live and work.
- Establish Concord as the major regional business and employment center of Contra Costa County.
- Ensure that downtown is a vibrant city center.
- Maintain retail vitality.
- Improve the economy in the Monument Boulevard and Clayton Road corridors.

Land Use

- Preserve and enhance neighborhood character.
- Encourage infill residential development.
- Foster viable, neighborhood-oriented commercial centers.
- Foster strong region-serving commercial centers.
- Capitalize on downtown’s sense of place.
- Foster the viability and expansion of Buchanan Field Airport.
- Provide for a premier medical center.
- Promote higher education in Concord.
- Require high quality building design and site planning.



- Create attractive, inviting public spaces and streets that enhance the image and character of the city.
- Protect ridgelines and visible hillsides.

Growth Management

- Ensure that new development pays its fair share of costs for transportation facilities.
- Establish performance standards for facilities.
- Strive to attain a balance between resident workers and jobs in Concord.
- Strive to ensure the availability of affordable housing.
- Promote efficient and orderly growth and protect open space by establishing an Urban Limit Line.

Transportation and Circulation

- Ensure that transportation and circulation projects are adequately funded.
- Foster practical parking solutions.
- Promote a well-integrated and coordinated transit network.
- Provide safe and convenient pedestrian circulation.
- Provide a safe and comprehensive bicycle network.
- Support the preservation and expansion of region-serving aviation facilities.
- Promote the development of port and rail service.

Parks, Open Space and Conservation

- Provide and maintain park and recreation facilities for the entire community.
- Provide a city-wide, interconnected, multi-use trails system.
- Facilitate community recreational opportunities at public school sites.
- Preserve and protect water quality and wetlands.
- Facilitate water conservation.
- Conserve natural resources.
- Protect historic sites and structures and prehistoric cultural resources.

Safety and Noise

- Support regional air quality strategies through land use planning, site design and development review.
- Encourage land use compatibility for community noise environments.
- Minimize the effects of landslides, ground failure and seismic hazards.
- Protect the community from risks to lives and property posed by flooding and stormwater runoff.
- Promote inter-agency coordination.
- Promote effective fire protection measures for homes adjacent to open space.
- Provide the highest standard of police protection services.
- Coordinate with agencies to plan disaster response.

Schools and Community Facilities

- Provide a safe and reliable water supply.
- Ensure public health and safety through effective wastewater collection and treatment.
- Ensure access to utility systems.
- Facilitate the development of educational programs and facilities that meet the needs of the community.
- Support the provision of library and childcare services.
- Foster arts and entertainment.
- Ensure environmental justice in providing public facilities and services.

To review the Concord 2030 Urban Area General Plan, download a copy at www.cityofconcord.org (from Quick Links, select General Plan and Zoning Ordinance Update Project) or to read a hard copy, visit the Permit Center, 1950 Parkside Drive or the Concord Library, 2900 Salvio Street.

The Concord 2030 Urban Area General Plan is available for purchase. The cost for the document is \$65 plus \$5 shipping and handling, or \$5 for a CD by contacting Principal Planner Phillip Woods, at 671-3284.

Adoption of the General Plan will now allow the City to move forward with several other major initiatives, including the update of the Subdivision and Zoning Ordinances. It is estimated that public hearings regarding the Subdivision Ordinance will begin in January 2008 and workshops with the Planning Commission to begin its review of the Zoning Ordinance will occur in late winter. Information regarding these projects can also be found on the City's Web site. ♦

Concord 2030 Urban Area General Plan

- Download a copy at www.cityofconcord.org
- To purchase a copy, contact Philip Woods, 671-3284
- Review a hard copy in the Permit Center at Civic Center, 1950 Parkside Dr. or at the Concord Library

Regional Communication Plan enhances emergency preparedness

Concord has officially joined the East Bay Regional Communication System. Developing the system is a joint effort involving Alameda County, Contra Costa County, and the municipalities and special districts within the two counties. The Bay Area is no stranger to disasters, and the need for a coordinated radio communications system is the key to the successful response to any type of disaster that could impact the East Bay.

The counties of Contra Costa and Alameda face the same challenges as other metropolitan areas with communications systems that have developed over time utilizing different spectrum and proprietary

technologies. The differences in the systems make seamless communication difficult. The situation is compounded by the fact that most of the systems in use today are nearing the end of their useful lives and need to be replaced.

Currently the City maintains two radio systems supporting the Police Department and Public Works Department. These two radio systems operate in Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licensed radio frequencies assigned to and licensed by the City of Concord. Other emergency response agencies in Contra Costa County also own and operate their own radio systems over licensed radio fre-

quencies licensed by the respective agencies individually. This is common practice in California and across the nation.

Under the new system, a Joint Powers Authority will own, operate, and maintain a new back-bone infrastructure providing radio coverage to all agencies within both counties, facilitating regional inter-agency communications for both emergency and routine communications. Each participating agency will remain responsible for individual radio units and dispatch radio consoles. The dispatch function also remains the responsibility of each individual agency. The new infrastructure is scheduled to be completed in approximately two years. ♦

ORDINANCE REVIEW:

Questions about fences

The City's fence, wall and shrub regulations for neighborhoods are intended to encourage variety and flexibility in design, development and maintenance, permit increased use of yard areas, establish the heights of such barriers in order to maintain clear sight distances, and reduce crime.

Height is regulated depending on where the barrier is located on the property. Generally, barriers in the front yard at the property line are limited to three feet in height. In general, no barrier should exceed six feet in height without first obtaining Zoning and Building Permits. Barbed wire, razor wire, ultra barrier, electrified and other hazardous fences are not permitted contiguous to, or along any public street or sidewalk.

For information about barrier heights and placement, contact the Planning Division at 671-3152. For information about obtaining a building permit, contact the Building Division at 671-3107. For enforcement of heights and locations,

contact Neighborhood Services at 671-3075.

Clarification

In the last edition of City News, this column noted that burning of trash or garbage was prohibited unless a permit had been obtained. We subsequently learned that the burning of trash or garbage is strictly prohibited in the Bay Area Air Quality Management District jurisdiction, which includes Concord. Open burning is prohibited throughout the Bay Area, with the exception of 17 types of fires, primarily for agricultural or natural resource management purposes. For more information about open burning, call (415) 749-4600. Regulation 5 is available on the Air District's Web site at www.baaqmd.gov.

This column provides information for residents about City ordinances. For more information, visit www.cityofconcord.org/living/resord.htm.



Get a jump on the rest—register early online

Customers can now view and register for a favorite class or program earlier by registering online with www.ConcordReg.org. Early internet registration for the classes and programs offered in the spring Activity Guide will begin January 22. All other forms of registration will start on January 29.

For more information, contact the Concord Community & Recreation Services Department at 671-3404 or by email at ConcordReg@ci.concord.ca.us.

City Meetings

All meetings are held at Civic Center, 1950 Parkside Dr., unless otherwise noted and are open to the public. Dates are subject to change. For information, visit the Web site at www.cityofconcord.org (see Civic Center Meetings on the home page), check the meeting notices in the *Contra Costa Times* or call 671-3000.

City Council	First, second, fourth Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.*
Commission on Aging	Third Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. Concord Senior Center, 2727 Parkside Circle
Community Advisory Committee Reuse Project	Third Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Concord Senior Center, 2727 Parkside Circle
Community Services Commission	Third Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. City Manager's Conference Room
Design Review Board	Second, fourth Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.
Human Relations Commission	First Monday, 7 p.m.*
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission	Second Wednesday, 7 p.m.*
Planning Commission	First, third Wednesday, 7 p.m.*

*Broadcast live on cable TV channel 28 (Comcast) and 29 (Astound).

Boards, Commissions & Committee

For detailed information about the City's Boards, Commissions and Committee, visit www.cityofconcord.org or call one of the contact numbers below.

Board of Appeals	671-3119
Commission on Aging	671-3419
Community Advisory Committee – Reuse Project	671-3019
Community Services Commission	671-3283
Design Review Board	671-3152
Human Relations Commission	671-3327
Mobilehome Park Rent Review Board	671-3455
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission	671-3440
Personnel Board	671-3310
Planning Commission	671-3152



Need an Answer?

Web site:.....www.cityofconcord.org
 Events:.....www.concordfirst.org
 Classes:.....www.concordreg.org
 E-mail:.....cityinfo@ci.concord.ca.us

Americans with Disabilities Act
 (ADA) Coordinator 671-3063
 Animal Control..... 335-8300
 BART 676-2278
 Building, Engineering &
 Neighborhood Services..... 671-3361
 Business Licenses 671-3313
 Cable TV
 Astound Broadband..... 459-1000
 Comcast 1-800-945-2288
 Camp Concord 671-3273
 Centre Concord 671-3466
 City Council 671-3158
 Community and Recreation Services
 Class registration..... 671-3404
 Concord Community Pool..... 671-3474
 Concord Naval Weapons Station
 Reuse Project 671-3001
 Contra Costa Water District..... 688-8044
 County Connection (bus info) 676-7500
 Day Labor Program
 Monument Futures..... 680-2844
 Economic Development 671-3355
 Flood Zone Inquiries 671-3425
 Garbage Collection 682-9113
 Graffiti Hotline..... 671-3080
 Housing..... 671-3364
 Mayor 671-3158
 Neighborhood Services Hotline..... 671-3282
 Park Reservations..... 671-3404
 Permit Center 671-3454
 Planning & Economic Development 671-3152
 Police and Fire Emergencies..... 911
 Police Field Offices
 Northern Office 671-3322
 Southern Office..... 671-3483
 Valley Office..... 671-3377
 Police /Information 671-3220
 Pothole Hotline 671-3228
 Public Works 671-3448
 Park Maintenance 671-3444
 Recreation/Registration 671-3404
 Recycling 671-3385
 Senior Center 671-3320
 Sewer Problems 671-3099
 Shopping Cart Hotline..... 671-5080
 Sleep Train Pavilion
 Hotline 363-5701
 Information 676-8742
 Street Light Outages Hotline..... 671-3213
 Street Sweeping 671-3394
 Street Trees 671-3444
 Traffic Court 646-5404
 Traffic Signal Malfunctions 671-3132
 Willow Pass Center 671-3423

Concord City News

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Guy S. Bjerke	Councilmember
Laura M. Hoffmeister	Councilmember
Mark A. Peterson	Councilmember
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Thomas Wentling	City Treasurer
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Leslye Asera	Community Relations Manager and Editor

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