

Concord City News

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF CONCORD

Fall 2010

News Corner

Field Office closed

The Police Department's Southern Field Office at 1500 Monument Blvd., the last of three field offices, closed Sept. 13 due to budget constraints. Officers are operating out of the main headquarters building at 1350 Galindo Street.

Fall Activity Guide

All family members can find a class or program to fit their needs. Class gift certificates make great holiday gifts. Visit www.concordreg.org

Safe Disposal

Prescriptions: Turn in expired or unused prescription medications at Concord Police Department, 1350 Galindo Street, weekdays during business hours.

Sharps: Drop syringes and needles at Concord Disposal Service, 4080 Mallard Drive.

Batteries: Concord Disposal Service now collects household batteries on garbage day. Place in separate marked container and call to arrange pick-up, 682-9113.

Offices closed

City of Concord offices will be closed for unpaid furlough days and holidays November 22-26 and December 23-31.

Measure Q voter information for the November election

Measure Q is the only local measure on Concord's November ballot. The City is providing factual information about Measure Q so that voters can make an informed decision when they vote November 2. If adopted by voters, Measure Q provides temporary local funding for local Concord services. The revenue from Measure Q cannot be taken by Sacramento.

With \$33 million in State takeaways over the last 10 years and a decline in revenues due to the current recession, Concord has had to cut \$18 million in funding to City services, eliminating 25% of the workforce, including police officers, parks, recreation and maintenance staff. If adopted by voters, Measure Q prevents another \$5 million in deeper cuts to local services for residents.

At the Council's direction, the City Manager has recommended \$5 million in additional budget cuts, which the Council has considered as options for making up the



shortfall without Measure Q, including:

- Eliminating police officers and reducing neighborhood police patrols
- Eliminating police officers in local high schools and all crossing guards at local schools
- Reducing street and park maintenance
- Reducing after-school and summer programs for youth and teens
- Reducing senior services, including recreation and nutrition programs

By law, all funds from Measure Q must stay in Concord to protect and maintain

Official Measure Q Ballot Language

To provide funding that cannot be taken by the State and help protect/maintain Concord's city services, including 911 emergency response times, police officers, gang prevention, crime investigation, neighborhood police patrols, city streets/pothole repair, senior services and nutrition programs, youth/teen programs, and other general city services shall the City of Concord enact a half-cent sales tax for 5 years, with citizens oversight, mandatory financial audits, reports to the community, and all funds staying local?

YES

NO

Measure Q from page 1

local services. Measure Q requires independent citizen oversight, mandatory financial audits, yearly reports to the community, and a five-year sunset to ensure funds are used efficiently and effectively for community priorities for local services.

To learn more, visit www.CityofConcord.org and click on "About Measure Q" under "News and Events" or contact the City Manager's office at (925) 671-3150 for additional information. ♦



A City crew works on a residential street. Without Measure Q, street maintenance could be reduced.

Remember to Vote!

- ★ Election Day is Tuesday, November 2.
 - ★ Polls are open from 7 a.m.–8 p.m.
 - ★ Remember to find Measure Q at the bottom of your ballot.
 - ★ Absentee ballots may be dropped off at any polling place in the County on Election Day
 - ★ Find your polling place online at: www.cocovote.us/PrecinctFinder.aspx
- For more information about voting, please call the Contra Costa County Elections Department at (925) 335-7800 or visit www.cocovote.us.

Projects go forward without General Fund support thanks to grants and bond funding

Traditional services provided to residents by the City are paid for from the General Fund. These chiefly include public safety, maintenance of parks, streets, roads, sewer and storm drain systems and recreation programs. With the General Fund operating at a deficit, residents may wonder how street and park construction projects that they see in town can go forward. The answer is that the projects are paid for from a variety of grant and voter-approved bond funds available specifically for these types of projects. The funds can't be used to support the everyday operations of the City paid for from the General Fund.

For example, in fiscal year 2010-11, the City will see almost \$21.5 million in capital improvement and transportation projects go forward. None of the money will come from the General Fund. In 2009-10, project grants and bond measure financing totaled more than \$25.3 million. In order to attract the project funding, the City's match was about \$500,000, or 2 percent of the total.

Concord aggressively seeks out and competes for grants to leverage limited General Fund monies. Here are some examples of grant and bond-financed projects that have enhanced the community.

Concord Boulevard Pavement Rehabilitation (Sixth Street to Glazier Drive): The project was awarded a \$2,146,872 federal Congestion Management Block Grant – Local Streets and Roads Shortfall for Pavement Rehabilitation. This project will rehabilitate approximately 870,000 square feet of pavement to address the pavement distress on Concord Boulevard from Sixth Street to Glazier Drive.

Citywide Accessibility Improvements: \$341,835 in Community Development Block Grant funds were awarded for both fiscal years 2010-11 and 2011-12. The project will construct curb ramps and other accessibility improvements to serve the mobility-impaired.

Monument Corridor Pedestrian and Bikeway Network Improvements: A \$110,000 Transportation Development Act (TDA) grant and a \$944,000 State Transportation Improvement Program –Transportation Enhancements (STIP-TE) grant will fund construction of a 1.1-mile long trail that will serve pedestrians and bicyclists starting at Monument Boulevard near Carey Drive and ending at Mayette Avenue.

Measure WW Projects: Measure WW is the \$500 million Park Bond Extension Proposition passed by Alameda and Contra Costa voters in November 2008. Concord's share is \$5.6 million. Below is a listing of Measure WW projects for fiscal year 2009-10 totaling over \$2 million. ♦

Measure WW Project Funding 2009-10	
\$945,600	Meadow Homes Spray Park and Restroom Improvements
\$232,033	Back-up Pump at Concord Community Pool
\$225,000	Playground Equipment at Cambridge Park
\$169,500	Shade Structure at Hillcrest Park
\$150,000	Playground Equipment at Ygnacio Valley Park
\$127,385	Willow Pass Community Park - Sports Field Improvements
\$108,400	Construct Equipment Shelter at Newhall Park
\$100,000	Resurface Tennis Courts at Willow Pass Park, Concord, Community Park and Pine Hollow Park
\$30,000	Replace irrigation main line, valves and irrigation controller at Sun Terrace Park

John Muir Medical Center, Concord: Growing to meet the community's health care needs

For 80 years, what is now John Muir Medical Center, Concord has served the community. What started in a small house on East Street is now ranked among the top five percent of hospitals nationally for quality of care.

This November, John Muir Health will open a new, \$212 million addition to John Muir Medical Center, Concord at 2540 East Street. The Hofmann Family Patient Care Tower will house 120 new private rooms (61 open with 59 shelled for future use), a premier Cardiovascular Institute and a larger, relocated Emergency Department. As part of the expansion project, other areas of the medical center have also been remodeled to make more private patient rooms available.

"We are making a substantial investment in our medical center and the community as part of our continuing commitment to provide the best possible care and experience for patients and their families," said Mike Thomas, president and CAO, John Muir Medical Center, Concord. "This new addition combines the latest in technology with an emphasis on a welcoming environment that reduces anxiety and enhances healing."



John Muir's new Emergency Department

The Hofmann Family Patient Care Tower will feature private rooms with dedicated zones for patients, family members and staff



The new John Muir Hofmann Family Patient Care tower opens November 6 with a community celebration

to increase patient and visitor comfort, as well as outdoor views and maximum natural light to aid in the healing process. To enhance privacy, it will have separate patient and public elevators and hallways. Careful attention has also been paid to smaller details, such as indirect ceiling lighting to reduce glare for patients being transported on beds through hallways. Plans also allow the flexibility necessary to accommodate future patient care needs and rapidly changing technology. The building will also be fully equipped for access to electronic medical records and in-room charting for physicians and medical staff.

The new Emergency Room will have significant advantages for patients—everything from advanced medical imaging technology to all-private treatment rooms plus nearly three times its former capacity. Key differences from the current Emergency Department include 28,000 square feet in floor space, a quieter environment, fully electronic patient tracking and documentation for enhanced patient safety, and a more patient-friendly environment with

Free community celebration Nov. 6

John Muir Health invites the community to come see The Hofmann Family Patient Care Tower as part of a community celebration and open house on Saturday, November 6 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The facility is located at 2540 East Street. There will be tours of the new building, a health fair, community vendors, activities for kids, music and more.

an emphasis on natural light. Registration, patient education and discharge will all be in one easy-to-find location. Outside, a dedicated parking lot will also ease patient access. The technological upgrades include a medical imaging suite with a state-of-the-art CT scanner, digital X-ray machine and ultrasound devices to aid in patient diagnosis and care.

John Muir from page 3

The new emergency facility will also house an accredited Chest Pain Center and be in close proximity to the new Cardiovascular Institute allowing patients who come into the Emergency Department with the symptoms of a heart attack to receive time- and life-saving care. National studies have shown that prompt and appropriate care can increase heart attack survival rates and reduce hospital stays for low-risk patients. These treatments, as well as other cardiovascular procedures, often take place in catheterization labs.

The new Cardiovascular Institute features five catheterization labs (with expansion capacity to six), 12 pre-operative and recovery beds, 4 pre-operative and recovery lounge chairs, a dedicated 12-bed cardiovascular ICU (with around-the-clock, real-time audio and video monitoring of patients for enhanced safety), 49 telemetry-monitored private rooms, and a separate entrance and waiting area. Many of John Muir Health's cardiovascular services will be concentrated at the Cardiovascular Institute in Concord.

John Muir Medical Center, Concord is ranked among the top five hospitals in California and the top 10 percent of hospitals in the United States for cardiac surgery by HealthGrades. In addition, John Muir Medical Center, Concord received the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Blue Distinction Centers for Cardiac Care® designation and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's prestigious "Get With The Guidelines" Triple Gold Performance Achievement Award for treatment and discharge of patients with coronary artery disease, stroke and heart failure.

"We have a community hospital with care equal to any of the larger, academic medical centers," said Thomas. "We want local residents to be able to receive their care close to home at a hospital that has been part of the community for 80 years. This new addition allows us to care for patients for generations to come." ♦

Todos Santos Plaza attracts residents for farmers' market and holiday events

Todos Santos Plaza, the City's community gathering place, has seen a record summer in terms of events and attendance. During fall and winter months, special events slow down, but the year-round Tuesday Farmers' Market continues to supply residents with seasonal fruits, vegetables and specialty foods from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine. The popular Thursday market from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. completes its 2010 season on Oct. 28.

In advance of Thanksgiving, the Tuesday market carries a selection of items to enhance family celebrations. Decorative gourds and pumpkin pie can be found along with a wide variety of apples and winter vegetables.

Downtown Concord's traditional holiday event in Todos Santos Plaza will

take place this year on Saturday, Dec. 4 beginning at 4 p.m. with Santa's Grand Arrival. Entertainment provided by local choirs and children's organizations will be followed by the Mayor's Sing-Along and Concord's Official Holiday Tree Lighting.

The Todos Santos Business Association is working with sponsors to provide a holiday tree that will be placed near the Todos Santos stage. TSBA will also sponsor old-fashioned carriage rides through the downtown.

Todos Santos Plaza is located in downtown Concord on Willow Pass Road between Mt. Diablo and Grant streets. Free parking is available in two municipal garages.

For more information about downtown events, visit www.concordfirst.org or call the hotline at (925) 671-3464.



Colorful flowers can be found at the year-round Tuesday Farmers' Market, along with seasonal produce, baked goods and specialty items

Walk-in class registration offered at two community centers

While many residents take advantage of online registration for Community and Recreation Services classes, some residents still prefer to register in person. Due to reduction in personnel, CRS will no longer be able to provide registration services at its office on Salvio Street.

Residents may register at either of the City's two community centers. Willow Pass Center is located at 2748 East Olivera Road at Salvio Street. Centre Concord's address is 5298 Clayton Road

in the Clayton Fair Shopping Center. Registration hours are 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m.

Registration is available online any time at www.ConcordReg.org. Fax registrations can be submitted to (925) 689-8169. Resident may also mail in registrations. Payment is accepted by check, MasterCard, Visa or American Express. The address is Concord Community & Recreation Services Registration, 1950 Parkside Drive, MS/11, Concord, CA 94519-2578. ♦

City attracts new businesses and helps existing businesses expand

The City is consistently working to bring new businesses to Concord as the recession shows some signs of slowing. Economic conditions generally determine when a business can open or expand in Concord, and the recession has caused a drop in new ventures in the last few years. However, some businesses look at the economic downturn as the perfect time to take advantage of less expensive rents and attractive lease rates. The City's business attraction and expansion programs support business owners trying to bring their businesses to Concord or existing businesses who are ready to expand within the City.

New and expanding businesses are a hopeful sign because the City relies heavily on sales tax revenue generated by its businesses. The City's portion of sales tax goes into the General Fund to provide services to residents, including public safety, infrastructure maintenance and recreation programs.

Concord is looking forward to the opening of several new businesses in the near future, and has recently celebrated openings of several others.

At Sunvalley Shopping Center, fashion is the big news. A 23,000 sq. ft. XXI store will feature a new two-story exterior entrance next to Macy's west entrance. XXI is an expansion of the popular Forever 21 and Heritage 1981 stores in the mall.

A Jessica McClintock boutique, specializing in the special occasion dresses created by the famous designer, is slated to open in 2011. This will be the sole location in the East Bay. Another East Bay first is A'GACI, also opening at Sunvalley next year.

Concord's Auto Row on Market Street will welcome a new Audi dealership this year. At the same time, Lexus of Concord is undergoing a major expansion.



Direct Buy, a home improvement and furnishings club, has opened in Heritage Square

A new Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH) store recently opened in the Clayton Valley Shopping Center. Next spring, the eagerly-awaited British-backed Fresh and Easy grocery store is scheduled to open.

Heritage Square on Concord Avenue at John Glen Drive is now home to DirectBuy, the leading home improvement and furnishings club in North America. DirectBuy members can access thousands of products from over 700 brand-name manufacturers from the new location.

Construction is currently underway on a Grocery Outlet, which will open soon on Willow Pass Road (near Sutter) in the location vacated by Big 5.

A future construction project will bring a new drug store to the corner of Monument Boulevard and Oak Grove next year.

Diners can enjoy the new Bravo Bistro which opened in August at 1050 Contra Costa Boulevard or the new Burger King in the Olivera Crossings on Port Chicago Highway. In early 2011, Chipotle Mexican

Grill will open at Oak Grove Plaza (Oak Grove at Treat).

While not a retail outlet, Cerus Corporation, a biomedical products company, recently expanded its Concord presence on Stanwell Drive. Concord is home to a significant cluster of health science companies that add to the City's business diversity. ♦



Buy Concord
Your dollar matters!

Free Coupons
www.buyconcord.net

Boundless Playground debuts at Cambridge Park

In September, the Concord community cut the ribbon on a new Boundless Playground at Cambridge Park, 1135 Lacey Lane, providing a place for all children, including those with disabilities, to play together.

Funding for the playground was provided by a \$150,000 grant from East Bay

Regional Park's Measure WW bond monies and a \$75,000 grant from the CVS Caremark All Kids Can Program.

The Cambridge playground is the second all-abilities playground in Concord. Matteo's Dream opened at Hillcrest Park in 2007. The playgrounds promote inclusive,

unstructured play with ramped wheelchair access and accessible pathways made from special rubberized surfacing. Creative panels, music elements, climbers and slides help create a space where every child can develop imagination, physical fitness, and social skills. ♦



The new twirling play structure is very popular



Children make music at the playground

Donations help polish pair of veterans' memorials

Two memorials commemorating the sacrifice made by Concord military veterans received some tender loving care recently.

The Vietnam Memorial, located on top of Memorial Hill at Newhall Park, was badly vandalized a several months ago. Thanks to donations from the Concord Police Officers Association and community members, funds were raised to restore the memorial plaque. The stone was treated with three coats of an anti-graffiti protective coating to discourage future vandalism.

In Hillcrest Park, restoration of the Korean Veteran's Memorial, which had

also been badly vandalized, became part of a larger project when a shade structure/picnic area, funded partially by Measure WW monies, was approved for the adjacent Matteo's Dream playground. The Concord Lions Club donated \$60,000 to the City for the new shade gazebo/picnic area project.

The new location for the memorial provides better visibility from the street and gives the veterans easier access to the parking lot and rest rooms. The shade structure also provides a meeting place for ceremonies and gatherings. The new memorial includes the original plaque from the previous location that

has been refurbished, as well as a new plaque that rededicates the memorial in its new location.



Concord's Vietnam Memorial at Newhall Park was recently renovated

Celebrate the season with safety in mind



By
Margaret Romiti,
Volunteer and
Emergency Services
Coordinator

With the change in seasons come the brilliant reds, oranges, and golds of fall leaves, the taste of warm pumpkin pie and the crisp bite of an autumn wind. School buses pick up children, football season starts and we hear the laughter of trick-or-treaters and holiday parties. Let's take a moment to review some safety tips for this time of year.

The days will become shorter so extra driving precautions are necessary. During morning and evening commutes, be on the look out for children who may stray into traffic while waiting for or getting on or off the school bus. Be especially aware of school zones and follow posted speed limits. Respect and obey school crossing guards. Watch for pedestrians when picking up and dropping children off at the school parking lot.

Follow basic rules when stopping for a school bus. When a school bus stops and flashes its red lights, drivers approaching from either direction must stop at least 20 feet away from the bus. Drivers must stop for a school bus even if they are on the opposite side of a divided highway. Once stopped for a school bus, drivers may not proceed until the red lights stop flashing, or the bus driver or a traffic officer waves traffic on. After stopping for a school bus, drivers should watch for children along the side of the road and drive slowly until past the area.

Prepare your home for winter. Contact a professional to check your heating system, fireplace chimney, and/or wood burning

stove. Replace expired fire extinguishers in the kitchen, garage, and workshop. Test or replace smoke detector batteries and perform any maintenance according to manufacturer recommendations. Check cords on all electrical equipment for cracks or damage. Insulate water pipes running through unheated spaces. Check and repair caulking around the doors and windows to prevent the cold coming in and heat from escaping your home. Clean leaves and debris from gutters and be sure to store gas cans safely away from sources of flames and sparks.

With football season here, many will be going to games or playing in them. If you or your children are players this season, it is important to make sure safety gear is worn at practice and during games. Before beginning play, inspect outdoor courts or fields to make sure they are free of holes and debris, goal posts are padded and tripping hazards are removed from the area. Warm up and stretch before playing. If you are having a party, make sure you have a designated driver for the event so everyone gets home safely. Or if you are going to a party, plan ahead and take a taxi to and from the event. Let the games begin!

Decorating this time of year is a pastime for some and a passion for others. During the holiday decorating season, make sure all tripping hazards are cleared from porches, lawns and sidewalks. Use battery-powered light sources to illuminate and show off your decorations whenever possible. Try to choose props that are made of flexible plastic that will bend if fallen upon.

For trick-or-treaters, purchase costumes made of flame-retardant materials. Make sure costumes are bright enough to be seen at night. You can also attach reflector strips or light sticks to costumes to make your child more visible. A great alternative to masks is face paint. If masks are worn, make sure the eye holes are big enough to see out of in all directions. Have an adult

accompany children under 12. Plan a safe route and set a curfew for older children. Instruct children to stop only at familiar, well-lit houses and to stay on porches rather than going inside. Instruct your children not to eat any treats until you have inspected them. Remind children to stay on sidewalks, cross streets only at corners and crosswalks and to look both ways before crossing. Make sure to keep chocolate and candy wrappers out of your pet's reach.

By following these simple safety tips, your holiday season will be enjoyed by many and safe for all. ♦

Concord residents can now get emergency alert emails, text messages

The Concord Police Department has partnered with Nixle, a secure community notification system, to provide important public information to Concord residents.

Concord residents can now be alerted to timely events such as road closures, Amber Alerts, special events, missing children, wanted persons and other critical incidents where informing the public is critical.

Those persons wishing to receive notifications can sign up for this service by going to www.nixle.com. A link is also provided on the City website at www.cityofconcord.org. Users can choose to have messages sent by text to their cell phones, by e-mail or both.

The Concord Police Department encourages all residents to sign up for this service.

Concord City News

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William D. Shinn	Councilmember
Mary Rae Lehman	City Clerk
Thomas J. Wentling	City Treasurer
Daniel E. Keen	City Manager
Leslye Asera	Community Relations Manager and Editor

Postal Customer

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 website 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 Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.*
Commission on Aging	Third Wednesday, 1:30 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 Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Commission	Second Wednesday, 7 p.m.*
Planning Commission	First, third Wednesday, 7 p.m.*
Zoning Administrator	Second, fourth Wednesday, 9 a.m.

* Broadcast live on Concord Cable TV channel 28 (Comcast), 29 (Astound), AT&T U-verse Channel 99 and online at www.cityofconcord.org. Past City Council meetings are also available online.

Boards & Commissions

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

Board of Appeals	671-3119
Commission on Aging	671-3419
Community Services Commission	671-3327
Design Review Board	671-3152
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	671-3031
Building	671-3107
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
City Manager	671-3150
Community and Recreation Services	
Class registration.....	671-3404
Concord Community Pool.....	671-3480
Concord Naval Weapons Station	
Reuse Project	671-3001
Downtown Hotline	671-3464
Economic Development	671-3355
Engineering.....	671-3361
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	671-3152
Police and Fire Emergencies	911
Police/Information	671-3220
Pothole Hotline	671-3228
Public Works.....	671-3448
Park Maintenance.....	671-3444
Recreation/Registration	671-3404
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	671-3448
Street Trees.....	671-3444
Traffic Signal Malfunctions.....	671-3132
Willow Pass Center.....	671-3423