

Concord City News

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF CONCORD

Spring 2007

News Corner

Military Recognition Program

The City Council's Military Recognition Program honors Concord military personnel returning from service in Iraq, Afghanistan and other areas of conflict. A program nomination form is available on the Web at www.cityofconcord.org/about/highlights or contact Leslye Asera, Community Relations Manager, 671-3272, lasera@ci.concord.ca.us.

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.

Video intern

The City is seeking to hire a part-time video intern interested in filming and editing short film segments and learning to broadcast programming on the City's cable TV channels. College-level experience preferred. Contact Video Services Coordinator Mark Chaney, 671-3311, extension 8021.

List events on-line

Residents are invited to post Concord events to the www.concordfirst.org Web site by selecting "Add New Event" on the home page. A monthly events calendar makes it easy for families to find activities any time of year.



Residents challenged to join Mayor's 100 Mile Club

Run, Walk or Roll 100 Miles in 2007

Mayor Mark Peterson invites everyone living or working in Concord to join the Mayor's 100 Mile Club by running, walking or rolling 100 miles in 2007.

The Mayor was inspired to develop this program after reading many articles about the increase in adult and childhood obesity in this country. He noted that obesity is the second leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. and that 65 percent of adults 20 years and older are overweight and 30 percent of adults – over 60 million people – are obese.

A brochure about the Mayor's 100 Mile Club is available and includes a registration form and mileage log. After logging 100 miles by running, walking or rolling, participants are in the Mayor's 100 Mile Club. They can then mail the log sheet to the City to get a free, members-only T-shirt. Brochures are

available at the Civic Center and on the City's Web site at www.cityofconcord.org. See the scrolling text box on the home page.

Although 100 miles may seem like a lot of ground to cover, consider that by logging one mile, three days a week, the 100-mile goal can be reached in about 34 weeks. By logging one mile five days a week, the 100-mile goal is attained in only 20 weeks.

See 100 Mile Club page 5

Information on Reuse Plan for weapons station

Current information about upcoming meetings and public workshops on the Reuse Plan for the Concord Naval Weapons Station can be found at www.concordreuseproject.org.

MetroFi plans to activate the first phase of the Concord WiFi network by March 31. The green shaded area denoted on the map of Concord at right shows coverage area for the first phase, with circles representing the specific access points from which the wireless signals originate.



Free WiFi service expanding to residential neighborhoods

MetroFi expects to activate the first phase of the Concord WiFi network by March 31. After a successful test pilot project in the downtown area, the company is now expanding free wireless Internet service to residential neighborhoods.

The map above shows the area to be covered in the first phase. The dark circles designate specific “access points” from which the wireless signals originate. Most residents within the coverage area should be able to use the Internet with MetroFi’s network when outdoors, and indoors if within about 300 feet of an access point, which is generally located on a lighting pole or traffic light. If an indoor signal is weak due to distance, interference or other factors, the use of a wireless booster is recommended.

Residents wishing to connect to the MetroFi service need a WiFi-enabled computer. Most desktops and laptops

sold today have this capability, and it is a relatively inexpensive add-on for older computers, available from most computer-related retail stores.

To connect to the MetroFi network, users will select the “MetroFi-Free” network ID when searching available wireless networks on their computers. Once connected, users will open their browser and see a MetroFi registration page where they are asked to register. Users will only need to register once, the first time they log on. On subsequent visits, users will be instantly connected to the Internet. When surfing the web, users will see an ad banner at the top of their browser page with local and regional advertising sponsors who help support the network and allow MetroFi to offer its WiFi service for free to the residents of Concord.

In general, most outdoor users within the coverage area should be able to access

the MetroFi WiFi network. To use MetroFi inside the home or business, users need to first see if the MetroFi network ID appears when searching available wireless networks. Most homes within 300 feet of an access point should be able to connect, but other factors can hamper or inhibit connectivity: the thickness of building materials, tinted double paned glass, other device interference, or no direct “line of sight”.

It is recommended that those having difficulty connecting should use of a “wireless booster” which strengthens the WiFi signal and allows it to extend through walls and inside the building. For more details and advice on boosters, visit www.MetroFi.com/support and click on the “Wireless Modem FAQs” section.

After turning on the first phase of the Concord WiFi March 31, MetroFi expects to complete the remaining network this summer. ♦

Help build a playground for children of all abilities

Volunteers are needed to help build the new Playground for Children of All Abilities next month at Hillcrest Community Park, 2050 Olivera Rd. This unique structure has been specifically designed as a space where children who cannot walk, hear or see can play alongside those who can. When complete, it will be the only playground of its kind in the state.

The project, called “Matteo’s Dream – A Playground for Children of All Abilities,” is a partnership between the City of Concord and Lions Clubs of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The playground project is being spearheaded by Liz Lamach, whose son, Matteo, uses a wheelchair and is blind. As a member of both the Concord Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission and the Lions Club, Lamach brought people together to make Matteo’s dream a reality. The City is donating the land at Hillcrest Park and \$232,000 in park funds. The Lions Club members have raised an additional \$475,000 and are soliciting in-kind donations and volunteers for the upcoming build days.

The playground design was developed by Dennis Wille, a New York engineer, whose company, Leather’s & Associates, specialize in community-designed and built playgrounds. Wille visited several local schools to gather information from children about what makes a “dream playground.” He also met with a special needs group to determine how to maximize accessibility while maintaining maximum playability for all users.

The final design features castles, slides, rock walls, a tree house, a swaying boat and many other features to delight children of all abilities. Absent will be the sand and bark groundcovers found on many playgrounds that make wheelchair access impossible.

The playground needs an army of volunteers on April 20-22 and April 25-29. No special skills are necessary.

“There is something for everyone to do. Even if you think you may not have



This playground in Manitowoc, WI is a typical example of a playground developed by the community and Dennis Wille, of Leather’s & Associates, the firm working with residents to create Concord’s Playground for Children of All Abilities.

anything to offer, we need help in all areas from check-in, to child-care and food service, to “go-fers” to skilled and unskilled builders. You name it, we will need it

done and you too can help,” says Lamach.

To volunteer time or materials, call 671-3255. For more information, visit www.childrensplayground4all.com. ♦

Markham Nature Park blooming

With the help of nearly 200 volunteers, the China/Japan and Southeast Asia Garden is nearing completion in the International Garden at Markham Nature Park, 1202 La Vista Ave. Volunteers from Chevron and Wells Fargo worked with Markham Arboretum Society members to plant plants, build pathways, and construct a bamboo fence in the garden. The City’s Public Works/Parks Division contributed by installing large decorative rocks, supplying pathway gravel, and bamboo that was harvested from the Civic Center.

The Public Works/Parks Division’s partnership with the Arboretum Society has resulted in the planting of seven garden areas in the International Garden. Along with plants from China/Japan and Southeast Asia, visitors can see plants

from Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Eastern and Central U.S., California, and the Southwest U.S.



The China/Japan and Southeast Asia garden at Markham Nature Park.

The Markham Arboretum Society invites the public to view the gardens and attend its upcoming plant sales March 10, April 7, May 5 and June 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 681-2968.

Emergency preparedness: Are you ready?

The need to be prepared is real; disasters disrupt thousands of lives every year. Each disaster has a lasting effect, both on people and property. Being prepared at home and at work can reduce fear, anxiety, and many losses that accompany disasters.

In the Bay Area, earthquakes have a history of causing great damage. Unlike other natural disasters, there is no warning before an earthquake. The Hayward fault, which passes through western Contra Costa County, causes the greatest concern. The county has five active faults and Concord is in the vicinity of two major earthquake zones.

In the case of a major earthquake or other natural disaster, communication, transportation and utilities will be severely impacted. Emergency service personnel may be cut off from many areas of the county and will likely be overwhelmed by calls for assistance. This means families should have a plan to be on their own for the first 72 hours (3 days) of the disaster. The ability for individuals, families and neighbors to help themselves and each other cope during this time will be crucial to recovery and survival.

In the event of a disaster, the first thought is for family safety. Depending on what the emergency situation is, the reality is that some people may be out of contact with their families for some period of time. Preparedness activities that are undertaken now will provide individuals with greater security and self sufficiency when an earthquake or other disaster occurs.

The City's emergency preparedness plan

The City has a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan that addresses a wide range of potential disasters, including earthquakes, floods and acts of terrorism. The plan details roles and responsibilities



CERT volunteers participate in a drill.

of City staff, City departments, volunteers and staff from Contra Costa County and state agencies. Concord is underway with a comprehensive review of its plan for updates and improvements by a professional firm that has been developing emergency management programs and projects for local governments, businesses and universities since 1987.

Working with Concord's existing procedures and following the guidelines used by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Emergency



The proper use of a fire extinguisher is part of CERT training.

Management Agency (FEMA), and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), the City will review and streamline its system to ensure that all the necessary components are in top form.

Preplanning is the key

Families can prepare for an evacuation or home confinement by preplanning for such an event and gathering some basic survival supplies in advance. Prepare an emergency plan, rehearse or walk through the plan with family members at least twice a year, and post the plan where everyone can see it – on the refrigerator or bulletin board.

For more information and an emergency checklist, visit www.cityofconcord.org/police/emergency/emrchecklist.htm

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Community and Family Preparedness Program and the American Red Cross Community Disaster Education program are nationwide efforts to help people prepare for disasters of all types. Additional information is available at www.fema.gov and www.redcross.org. ♦

100 Mile Club

from page 1

Concord offers many places to log miles. About four and a half times around Todos Santos Plaza in downtown Concord or walking five times the length of Sunvalley Shopping Center measures a mile.

Concord parks have paths and trails for all fitness levels. In fact, Newhall Park was recently voted "Best Place to Take a Walk" by readers of the Concord Transcript. Lime Ridge Open Space offers more rugged hiking opportunities. Even a walk around the block with the family can count toward the 100-mile goal.

Peterson also is concerned about the obesity epidemic in children. He announced the "No Child Left Inside" program in January as a way to lure youngsters out of the house and away from the TV or computer. Every few months, he plans to lead a free Saturday activity for children. Details about the activities will be announced in local newspapers and posted on the City's Web site at www.cityofconcord.org. ♦

Healthy Alternatives

The City offers a variety of classes and programs to improve physical fitness. Adults can get fit with one of several dance classes such as hula, line dancing, belly dance, cardio hip hop, or salsa. Other healthy choices include yoga, Pilates, Jazzercise Lite, meditation, self-hypnosis, and martial arts.

The spring Community and Recreation Services Activity Guide is now available. Visit www.cityofconcord.org to view classes or to register on-line. To receive a copy of the Activity Guide by mail, or to register for a class by phone, call 671-3404.

The Healthy Lifestyle & Resource Fair will take place Friday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Concord Senior Center, 2727 Parkside Circle. The event will include health screenings, demonstrations, booths offering



information about healthy choices, live entertainment, and information on senior services, housing and transportation. For more information, call 671-3320.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

The City, in conjunction with the County Office of Emergency Services, is sponsoring emergency preparedness classes for interested residents. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training promotes a partnership between emergency services and the people they serve. The goal is for emergency personnel to train members of neighborhoods, community organizations, or workplaces in basic response skills. CERT members are then integrated into the emergency response capability for their area.

Since 2005, Concord residents have been encouraged to take advantage of CERT emergency training classes. The training educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic



disaster response skills, such as fire safety, initial search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. CERT team members participate in drills and exercises, and respond when a disaster occurs. CERT training prepares team members to assist their own families and neighbors.

CERT members are taught by emergency personnel in basic fire suppression, utility control, light search and rescue and

triage and wound treatment. Other topics include putting together a disaster kit, disaster psychology and disaster incident management. The training involves six evening sessions for a total of 20 hours and concludes with a hands-on training exercise. Anyone who is 16 years of age or older can participate.

Upcoming sessions start April 17 (Tuesday), June 5 (Tuesday) and September 20 (Thursday). For more information or to sign up for CERT training, contact Sergeant John Nunes at the Concord Police Department, 671-3032. Those interested in attending CERT classes outside the city can visit www.cityofconcord.org/police/emergency/cert.htm for a list of additional classes offered locally.

New benches make taking the bus more comfortable for riders

Residents who ride the bus have seen new bus benches installed along Concord streets. The benches are the result of a project sponsored by the City's Commission on Aging (COA) and Monument Community Partnership (MCP).

Each group conducted studies to identify the highest priority locations for installation of bus benches. Locations identified by the COA were based primarily on the needs of seniors. Bus stops near senior housing, hospitals, medical offices and neighborhood shopping centers were top priorities.

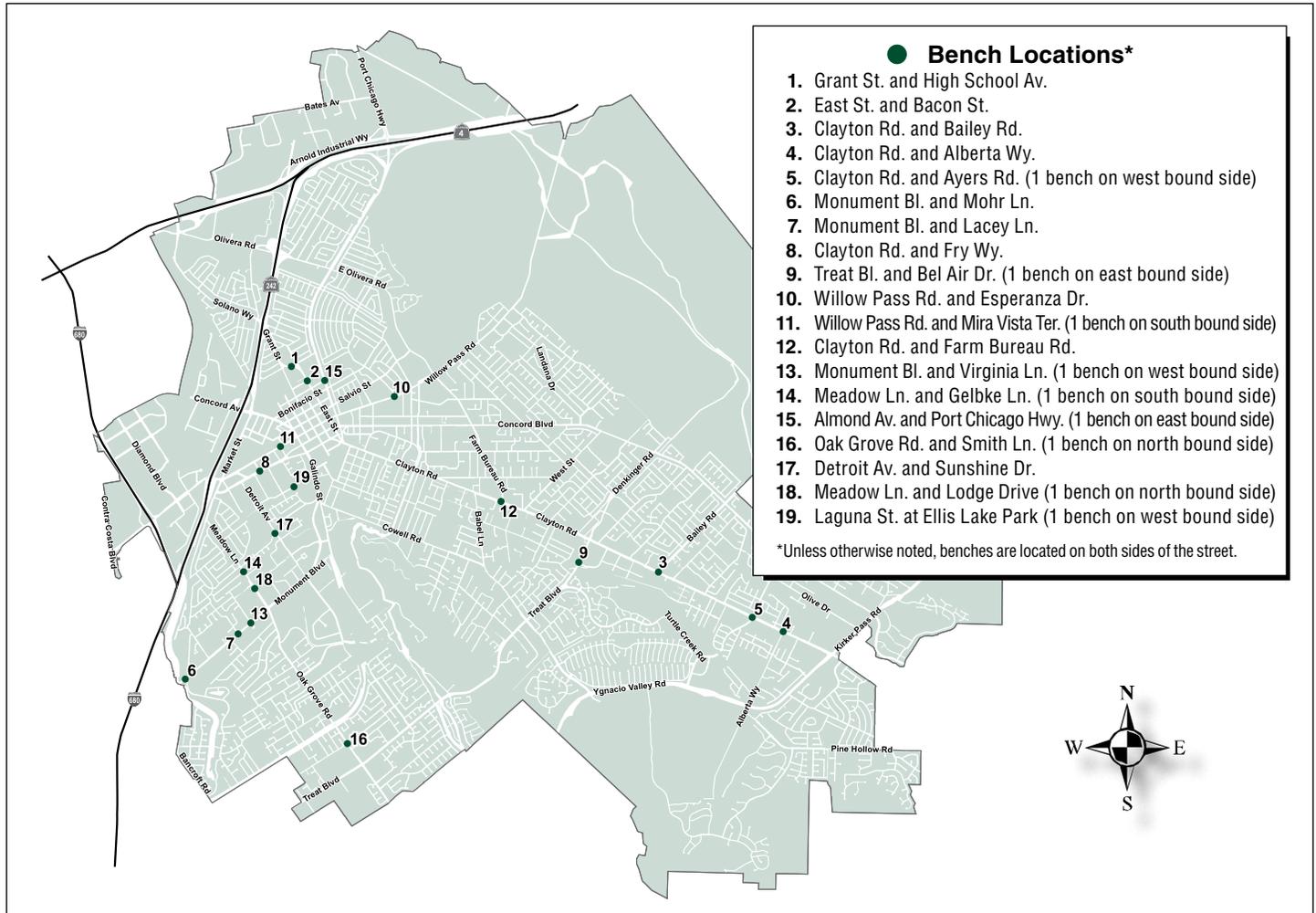
The MCP, on the other hand, identified the need for bus stops that serve County Connection routes within the Monument Community, regional shopping centers and social service agencies. Between both studies, a total of 30 high priority bus stops were identified for the installation of benches.

The concrete benches were especially designed with features favored by older bus riders, are graffiti-resistant and will stand up to severe weather conditions. ♦



Sturdy new bus benches have been installed at bus stops around Concord.

New City of Concord Bus Stop Bench Locations



City's re-designed Web site easier to use

The City Web site (www.cityofconcord.org) has a new look and increased functionality. The new design makes it easier for site visitors to find information and an on-line registration function allows the public to register for classes and programs at their convenience.

The primary focus of the redesign project was to improve site navigation, page content and ease of access for all users. The new design features drop-down menus that allow site visitors to see a list of pages associated with major Web site categories. Usability testing studies were conducted before the redesign was initiated to identify site design issues most important to local residents.

The new site conforms to U.S. Rehabilitation Act (USRA) Section 508 accessibility guidelines (www.section508.gov)



www.ConcordReg.org

as well as accessibility and usability guidelines established by the World Wide Web Consortium (www.w3.org) and the U.S. Health and Human Services Department (www.usability.gov). The USRA is companion legislation to the more widely known Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Both pieces of legislation apply to accommodating people with disabilities.

One of the most popular improvements is ConcordReg, the on-line class and activity registration function. In addition to registering for city classes and programs, users can now search for programs or view program availability, receive confirmation of paid registration, and view recent registration history information. More than 35 percent of registrations are now completed on-line instead of by phone or in person.

Web site user comments are always welcome and maybe submitted at www.cityofconcord.org/about/comments.asp. For more information, contact Community Relations Manager Leslye Asera, (925) 671-3272 or lasera@ci.concord.ca.us. ♦

Signal re-timing helps improve traffic flow

While there is no single answer to reducing traffic in Concord, the City recently completed a project to improve traffic flow on many main thoroughfares by re-timing traffic signals. The 2001 city-wide major re-timing project resulted in significant improvement in traffic flow. The most recent project has gone a step further and taken into account portions of the Pleasant Hill and Caltrans interchanges in order to improve continuity and seamless transitions along Willow Pass Road and Monument Boulevard.

During the project, pedestrian “walk/don’t walk” times were studied to make sure that they were consistent with the current standards. The major arterial streets re-timed were:

- Kirker Pass Road/Ygnacio Valley Road
- Concord Boulevard
- Monument Boulevard

- Port Chicago Highway
- Diamond Boulevard
- Oak Grove Road
- Willow Pass Road
- Clayton Road
- East Street/Grant Street
- Concord Avenue/Galindo Street
- Treat Boulevard

The final results comparing before and after studies concludes that there were reductions in average travel time of 11.2 percent, reductions in average stopped delay of 37.2 percent, and reductions in number of stops by 18.7 percent along the major arterials listed. The reductions in stops resulted in a fuel consumption savings of about 253,332 gallons of fuel. Through more efficient traffic flow, harmful pollutants, such as carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide, are also reduced. The net results from the study determined that there is a significant benefit of a



Re-timed traffic lights on Willow Pass Road improve traffic flow.

\$40 return (fuel cost and time savings of drivers) for every \$1 spent over the life of the project.

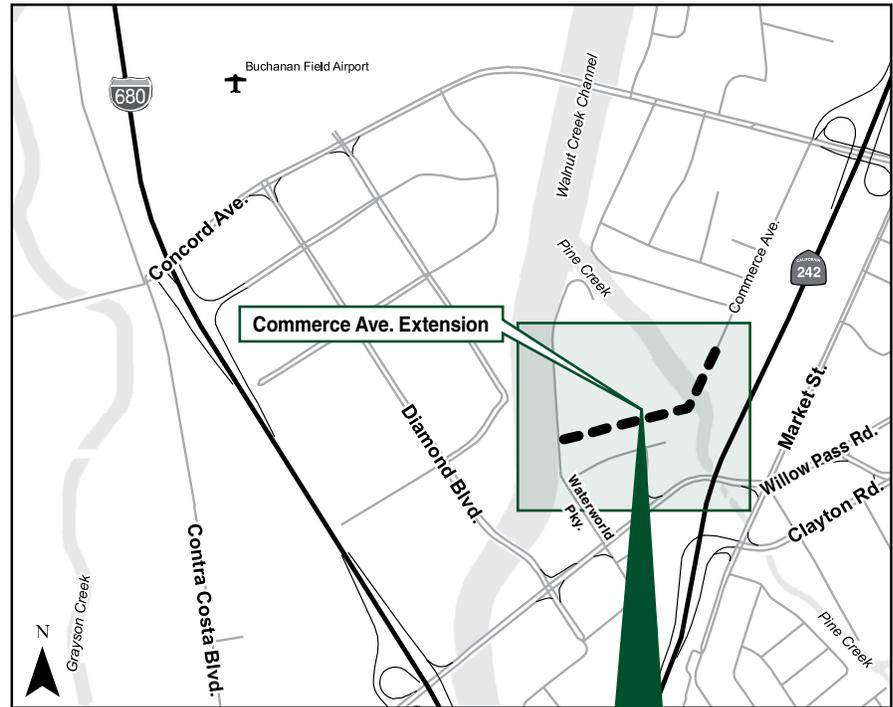
The project was funded through a \$183,000 State Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) grant administered by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and an additional \$24,000 from City funds. ♦

Commerce Avenue Bridge to enhance access to business districts

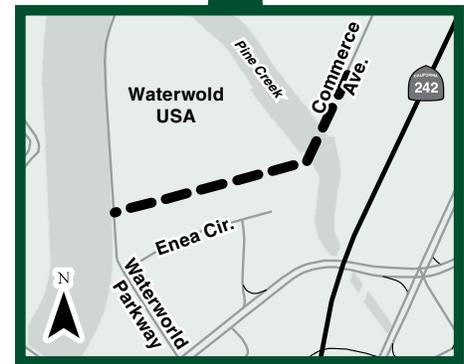
A project to build a bridge over Pine Creek and connect Commerce Avenue with Waterworld Parkway is anticipated to begin next fall. The project will continue the south end of Commerce Avenue across the new bridge over Pine Creek, and will extend the roadway to the west to connect to Waterworld Parkway. The project will also widen Waterworld Parkway at its northern end, and install a multi-use trail and pedestrian bridge south of the roadway extension.

The construction of the bridge will enhance access to key business districts, improving traffic flow and reducing traffic congestion on Willow Pass Road and Concord Avenue. The roadway extension will provide a critical transportation link over Pine Creek to connect currently vacant or underutilized parcels with an access route to I-680 and SR 242. The project was identified as a critical transportation link in the City of Concord Redevelopment Strategic Plan.

Construction on the \$7 million project will take eight to ten months. The project is funded by regional transportation funds generated by voter approval of a one-quarter percent sales tax, federal transportation funds and traffic mitigation fees paid by developers of nearby office and residential projects. ♦



The Commerce Avenue Extension will connect Commerce Avenue and Waterworld Parkway.



Ygnacio Valley Road slide area stabilized

One lane of eastbound Ygnacio Valley Road, a major route for commuters between Walnut Creek, Concord and Clayton, has been closed since March 28, 2006. Heavy rains triggered a landslide on a hill several hundred feet east of Ygnacio Valley Road. The landslide caused the soil under Ygnacio Valley Road to shift and the roadway to buckle. City crews closed that segment of the eastbound lane to ensure the safety of the motorists. A temporary auxiliary lane was added in June to maintain traffic flow.

Work has been completed to further stabilize the hillside. Dirt at the top of the slide has been removed and was used to construct a buttress adjacent to the roadway to temporarily stabilize the slide while design and other preparation for the permanent repair are completed. This temporary stabilization work cost approximately \$1.3 million and was funded through the city's request to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as part of the Disaster Assistance Program administered by Caltrans.

An additional \$3.5 million in FHWA funds requested by the City is expected to pay for the permanent repair, which will reopen the number two lane and further stabilize the hillside to prevent future slides. The permanent repair is expected to be completed during the summer of 2007.

Information and updates are available on the City's Web site, www.cityofconcord.org, or from the City's Engineering Division, 671-3361. ♦

Follow the rules for temporary signs

Want to advertise a business, sell a home, or advertise a garage sale using a temporary sign? Be careful where the sign is placed. The City's Municipal Code (CMC) places restrictions on when, where, and what type of temporary sign is legal. The following information refers to limited sections of Section 122 of the Municipal Code and is not intended to provide all of the rights and restrictions of sign placement in various locations throughout the city. For a full understanding of various sign rules and regulations, consult Section 122 of the CMC, available on-line at www.cityofconcord.org/citygov/municode/municodeindex.htm, or call Neighborhood Services at 671-3075 during business hours or the 24-hour hotline at 671-3282.

Temporary Business Sign Permits

In general, to promote a business opening or a special promotion with a temporary banner, pennant, streamer, or flags, a temporary sign permit is required. There is no cost for the permit, which can be obtained from the Permit Center at the Civic Center or by calling 671-3075 and requesting a Neighborhood Specialist come to your business and issue the permit. Specialists are in the field every day, and can usually respond to this type of request within two working days. The temporary promotional material and signage must be removed within 30 days. Specifics are found in CMC 122-1029.

Sign Placement

No sign of any type is allowed within a public right-of-way or where it will obstruct the view of pedestrians or drivers or conflict with any authorized traffic sign, signal, or device. This restriction is found in CMC 122-1013. Many people place signs on traffic boxes, tape them to traffic signs, and put them in other places where they conflict with other public signs. Others place them

in the landscaping on center street medians next to the turn signals. This is not only illegal, but it is dangerous for vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Real Estate Signs

Sale, rental, or lease signs for property are regulated under CMC 122-1029. While the regulations differ depending on the type of sign and whether the sign is in a residential, industrial, or commercial district, most complaints received by the City are about real estate signs. These signs are only to be placed on private property with the permission of the property owner, and may not be placed in the public right-of-way. Complaints have been received about real estate signs blocking sidewalks, in planted center medians, and blocking handicapped ramps.

These placements cause undue hardship, especially for people who are mobility-impaired, or those pushing strollers. Because so many real estate signs are put out to advertise open house functions on weekends, many pose a danger, and result in visual clutter.

Garage, Yard or Moving Sale Signs

Signs advertising garage, yard or moving sales should be taken down immediately after the sale ends. They should not be posted in the public right of way or on public traffic signal or light poles, transformer boxes, pedestrian signs, or any other street furniture. These signs may be posted on private property with the permission of the property owner, and should be attached in such a way as to make removal easy after the sale ends.

Celebration planned for completion of Galindo House Gardens

A gala event is being planned in May to celebrate the completion of the Galindo House Gardens. The Galindo House, on Clayton Road near Galindo Street, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was built by Francisco Galindo, one of the founders of the city of Concord in 1856, and was occupied by family members until 1999. Ruth Galindo, the last direct descendant, deeded the house and the surrounding 1.5 acres to the City to be preserved for public use upon her death.

The May celebration will take place on the newly landscaped grounds where the public can enjoy the spring-flowering plants in a setting of mature trees and meandering pedestrian paths. The exterior of the house was also repaired and painted as part of the landscaping project.



The Gardens of the Galindo House are now open for daytime use as a public park.

Details about the celebration event will be posted on the City's Web site and will be published in the local newspaper.

With completion of these improvements, the Gardens of the Galindo House are open for daytime use as a public park. At some time in the future, as funding allows, the City's Master Plan for the site includes establishing a museum program at the site.

Concord Civic Center celebrates 40th Anniversary

In December, the Concord Civic Center at 1950 Parkside Drive celebrated its fortieth birthday. The campus was designed by Ernest J. Kump and Associates and was completed in 1966 at a cost of \$1.2 million, which represented quite a large investment of City funds for the time.

Ernest Kump (1911-1999) was a highly regarded architect who combined modern design philosophy with California wood-frame architecture and Asian principles in site and space planning. He often designed projects as groups of free-standing buildings surrounded by minimally landscaped courtyards. His use of natural materials included dark stained wood siding and shingled roofs with generous overhangs.

Kump and his partner C. H. Franklin gained national prominence when their design for the Fresno City Hall (1941) was selected by the Museum of Modern Art in New York as "one of the most significant American structures built between 1932 and 1944." Among his notable projects are Foothill Community College in Los Altos Hills, and DeAnza Community College in Cupertino. Locally, he designed buildings for Acalanes High School in Lafayette, Miramonte High School in Orinda and Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek. Today, Ernest Kump's buildings are valued for the tranquil environments created by their timeless, functional designs.

The design for Concord's Civic Center features four wings forming a quadrangle around the City Council Chamber. The Council Chamber is placed at the heart of the campus and surrounded by a water feature with fountains, and a peaceful courtyard. The buildings were constructed of natural materials including dark woods and unpainted cement. Kump gave them his signature overhangs and single story profile.

Construction techniques employed to build the complex included a pre-cast concrete pylon and spandrel system. In the 1960s,



The City Council Chamber at the Civic Center features architect Ernest J. Kump's signature roofline and natural materials.

this was recognized as a new and innovative approach. The structural system for each of the buildings is located on the exterior of the walls, which allows for more interior space and a flexible floor plan. A pneumatic tube system was installed to send paper documents from one building to another. Water from the fountain surrounding the Council Chamber was recirculated and used in the building's cooling system. The pneumatic tube system is no longer in use, but the water from the fountain still cools the Council Chamber.

The City hired the firm of Carl James to design the interior of the Civic Center. The interior design concept incorporated office furnishings from Knoll, a company well known for innovative modern furniture design. The furniture collection included noted designer pieces from Mies van der Rohe and Florence Knoll.

In addition to the interior furnishings, the City acquired a large collection of Ansel Adam photographs. At the time the Civic Center was constructed, Adams was not as well known as he is today. His large-format, black and white photographs still hang in

Civic Center hallways and offices.

The complex was designated the Farrell A. Stewart Civic Center in 1994, upon the retirement of long-time City Manager Farrell (Bud) Stewart. Stewart was City Manager from 1960 to 1986, and again from 1992 to 1994.

Three wings of the quadrangle were occupied by City offices, with the fourth leased to Contra Costa County as a courthouse. In 1995, an early morning fire in the courthouse destroyed that wing and caused extensive damage to the adjacent wings. Replacement of the fourth wing is a future project.

In 2000, work began to expand a portion of one wing to serve as the One Stop Permit Center. The building houses staff from planning, engineering, building, and neighborhood services divisions, which allows applicants seeking a development or home improvement permit to consult with appropriate staff at one location instead of having to visit multiple offices. The new Permit Center opened in fall 2001.

To view a slide show of Civic Center images, visit www.cityofconcord.org/news/buildingtheciviccenter.ppt. ♦

Community safety a top priority



By
Sgt. John Nunes

Recent statistics from the FBI Uniform Crime Report (UCR) show that Concord is a safe city. When compared to national averages, crime rates in Concord are generally below the rates experienced in other communities. Population data for comparison is taken from the U. S. Census Bureau.

Crime statistics are reported in seven categories. Part 1 crimes include murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, general theft and auto theft. Part 2 crimes include non-violent felonies and misdemeanor crimes. Part 2 crimes are not tracked as part of the UCR.

The FBI's report shows that Part 1 crimes in Concord are significantly below the national average. In the category of burglary, for example, Concord is far below the national average with approximately 3.99 burglaries per 1,000 population while the national average is 7.27 per 1,000 population. Nationally there are approximately .32 reported sexual assaults per 1,000 population. In Concord, that number is lower at .08 per thousand population. Similarly, Concord is also below the national average in robbery, aggravated assaults and thefts.

Concord scores slightly higher than the national average in only one area – auto thefts. Concord has 5.14 auto thefts per 1,000 population while the national average is 4.17 per 1,000 population. However, that number is still below the state-wide average of 7.13 auto thefts per 1,000 population. The Police Department is addressing this challenge through aggressive enforcement,

community education and outreach, and participation in the Regional Auto Theft Task Force. As a result, the auto theft crime rate has been declining over the past year.

Residents can assist the Police Department in reducing auto theft crimes by following a few simple practices:

- Always lock your car, even when it is parked in the driveway.
- Never leave your vehicle running and unattended, even for a few seconds.
- Park your vehicle in the area of a parking lot that is well lit, even if another area is closer to the store entry.
- If you see someone walking through a parking lot and trying to open car doors or looking in windows, report the activity to the Police Department by calling 671-3333.

Residents can also protect homes and property by following these tips.

- If you go on a trip, have a neighbor watch your house and pick up the mail. Better yet, go to your local US Post Office and call your newspaper carrier to have a vacation hold put on your mail/newspaper delivery, until you return home. Also, have your neighbor park their vehicle in your driveway from time to time.
- The Concord Police Department has a free vacation house check program. You can learn more about this valuable service at the Web site: www.cityofconcord.org/police/preventcrime/vacationhousecheck.htm or call the main police non-emergency telephone number 671-3220 for instructions on how to apply.
- If you go out for the evening, turn on lights and the television or radio so that it appears someone is at home. Consider installing light timers for your electrical appliances inside the home so that their on/off schedule varies to make thieves wary. Also, make sure to install motion sensors on your outdoor lights to help illuminate and scare off potential intruders.

- If you have a home alarm installed, make sure it is on when you are away. Also, make sure to inform your alarm company if you will be gone for any extended period of time.

For more information visit the Police Department's Web page at www.cityofconcord.org/police/index.htm. ♦

Todos Santos Plaza upcoming events

- Kidfest: Memorial Day weekend, May 26–28, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.
- Music at Noon: Free music series Tuesdays, May 8 through July 31, noon–1:30 p.m.
- Music and Market: Thursdays, May 10 through Sept. 20, 6:30–8 p.m.
- MomDay in the Park: Mother's Day, May 13.
- DadDay in the Park: Father's Day, June 16.
- Concord Farmer's Market: Tuesdays year round, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Thursday evenings, May 3 to Oct. 25, 4–8 p.m.

For details, visit www.concordfirst.org or call the downtown hotline, 671-3464.

Use handy hotlines to report problems

The City has several hotline numbers for reporting potholes, abandoned shopping carts, graffiti or burned out street lights. In many cases, the problem can be addressed within 24 hours of the report. See the "Need an Answer?" listing on the back of this newsletter for current hotline numbers.

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	Third Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. Concord Senior Center, 2727 Parkside Circle
Community Services Commission	Third Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Engineering Conference Room, 1957 Parkside Drive
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 & 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	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
 E-mail: cityinfo@ci.concord.ca.us
 Americans with Disabilities Act
 (ADA) Coordinator 671-3361
 BART 676-2278
 Building, Engineering &
 Neighborhood Services 671-3435
 Business License 671-3313
 Cable TV
 Astound Broadband 459-1000
 Comcast Broadband 1-800-945-2288
 Camp Concord 671-3273
 City Council 671-3158
 City Council Meeting Info 671-3158
 County Connection (bus info) 676-7500
 Community and Recreation Services
 Class registration 671-3404
 Concord Community Pool 671-3480
 Concord Naval Weapons Station Reuse Project
 Project Director 671-3019
 Project Manager 671-3024
 Day Labor Program
 Monument Futures 680-2844
 Flood Zone Inquiries 671-3425
 Garbage Collection 682-9113
 Graffiti Hotline 671-3080
 Mayor 671-3158
 Park Reservations 671-3413
 Permit Center 671-3454
 Police and Fire Emergencies 911
 Police Field Offices
 Northern Office 671-3322
 Southern Office 671-3483
 Valley Office 671-3377
 Police Headquarters
 General Information 671-3220
 Pothole Hotline 671-3228
 Public Works 671-3448
 Park Maintenance 671-3444
 Recreation/Registration 671-3404
 Recycling 671-3385
 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
 Swimming 671-3480
 Traffic Court 646-5404
 Traffic Operations 671-3132
 Traffic Signal Malfunctions 671-3132
 Contra Costa Water District 688-8044

Concord City News

City of Concord
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 Concord, CA 94519-2578

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Mark A. Peterson	Mayor
William D. Shinn	Vice Mayor
Helen M. Allen	Councilmember
Michael Chavez	Councilmember
Laura M. Hoffmeister	Councilmember
Mary Rae Lehman	City Clerk
Thomas Wentling	City Treasurer
Lydia E. Du Borg	City Manager
Leslye Asera	Community Relations Manager and Editor

Postal Customer