

Concord City News

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF CONCORD

Spring 2008

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.

Free WiFi

Concord is first city in the San Francisco Bay Area to offer free wireless Internet service at no cost to residents or to the city's General Fund. Two-thirds of the city has now been connected through Metro-Fi. For a network map, visit www.MetroFiBayArea.com.

Video on Demand

Comcast subscribers can now view "Street Smart," the Police Department's crime prevention program, from anywhere in the Bay Area through the company's Video On Demand service. From the On Demand main menu, select Bay On Demand, scroll to the last page and select Public Affairs, then select Street Smart.

Find events

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



Construction on a permanent repair for the Ygnacio Valley Road landslide is scheduled to begin this spring. At left, crews work on the construction of a temporary auxiliary lane.

Permanent repair work on Ygnacio Valley Road begins

Residents who frequently travel Ygnacio Valley Road in Concord will be pleased to learn that the City has received a \$2.7 million grant to permanently repair the damage done to one lane of the road in March 2006.

In December, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) awarded the City a grant for the \$2.7 million for permanent restoration of Ygnacio Valley Road.

A 1,000 foot section of an eastbound lane of Ygnacio Valley Road west of Cowell Road was damaged by a landslide in March 2006. With Caltrans' assistance, the City was quickly awarded \$1.4 million in federal emergency relief funds, allowing the City to implement a temporary repair, which was completed in June 2006. The temporary repair included the construction of an auxiliary lane to restore two eastbound lanes.

Construction of the permanent restoration, funded by the \$2.7 million grant,

is scheduled to begin this spring with completion of the work scheduled for fall. The work includes repairing the damaged pavement (traffic lane and shoulder) and constructing an underground structure to protect the roadway from future landslides. This protective structure consists of a 420-foot wall system, extending about 60 feet underground.

Construction will be conducted in two phases:

- Phase 1 will include the construction of the underground wall system. During this phase there will be no lane closures.
- Phase 2 will include the repair and repaving of the eastbound traffic lane and shoulder. Lane closures will be minimal, and will occur only during non-peak hours or on weekends.

Additional information is available from the Engineering Department by calling 671-3361. ♦

Todos Santos music season preview

The May opening of the summer music season in Todos Santos Plaza is just around the corner. A huge celebration is in store for the opening of the Thursday Night Music and Market series on May 8. As in past years, the Farmer's Market will be in the park from 4 to 8 p.m. with music on the Todos Santos stage from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The season opener will feature the unveiling of Concordstock, the public art project celebrating 20 years of music in Todos Santos Plaza and featuring two dozen three-foot tall guitars sculptures painted by local artists. Concordstock celebrates 20 years of music programs in Todos Santos Plaza.

A 'Concord on the Green' environmental fair will also take place that night with booths and displays encouraging attendees to educate themselves about environmental issues.

For race car lovers, Infineon Raceway at Sears Point will be bringing some NASCAR surprises to spice up the evening. The Farmers' Market will give away its traditional overflowing basket of fresh produce to one lucky attendee.

A few days later, on Sunday May 11, MomDay in the park will make a return appearance from 2 to 4 p.m. The highlight of the event is a free concert with Rick Ellis and his tribute to Frank Sinatra.



Circus performers are part of Bay Area Kidfest, returning to Todos Santos Plaza on Memorial Day weekend.

The popular Music at Noon concert series is back May 6 from noon to 1:30 p.m. along with the Tuesday Farmers' Market which is in the park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Families can also look forward to Bay Area Kidfest returning to Todos Santos Plaza on Memorial Day Weekend, May 24 to 26 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. The annual

event features family-friendly entertainment and educational activity zones including: Arts & Sciences, Environmental Awareness, Health & Safety, Sports & Adventure and Citizenship & Community. The KidFest Web site is www.kidfestconcord.com.

For information about all the events, visit www.concordfirst.org or call the hotline at 671-3464. ♦



The Recycle Garden was popular at last year's Concord on the Green.

New City Park Signs



Outdated park signs, like the one pictured at left, are now a thing of the past. New signs, like the one at right, were recently installed at the entrance to all City parks. The signs make the entrance to City parks more visible and welcoming.

Doing our part for the environment

Public Works recently took delivery of the City's first 100 percent electric vehicle, an Ez-Go® ST-350 utility vehicle for use in Newhall Park. In addition to being environmentally friendly, staff has found that the vehicle has the power to climb anywhere in the park and provides excellent stability going up or down hills.

Residents observing the vehicle in the park have said that they really like the fact that it is silent and much less intrusive in the tranquil park setting than a gasoline-powered vehicle. Other advantages include the fact that the vehicle generates no air pollution from combustion and creates no gasoline fumes to pollute the air. There is also no danger of spillage of gasoline to pollute the groundwater.

The vehicle has an 800-pound payload capacity, with automatic transmission, heavy-duty cargo dump bed, 22-inch tires and a welded tubular steel frame. The Ez-Go® was purchased when a gasoline-powered utility vehicle had to be replaced.

City's first all-electric vehicle is music to ears of park users



Parks crews inspect the City's first electric vehicle.

A larger replacement project is coming in July to the Diablo Creek Golf Course where 80 gas-powered golf carts will be replaced with electric carts. The City is also considering the future replacement

of gasoline-powered cars and trucks with alternative fuel vehicles for its fleet as the gas-powered vehicles come up for replacement. ♦

Free emergency response classes offered

Sign-ups are now being taken for free emergency preparedness classes, offered by the City in partnership with the Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services and the Contra Costa Fire District.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training involves six evening sessions from 6 to 9:30 p.m. for a total of 20 hours and concludes with a hands-on training exercise. Participants must be at least 16 years of age.

Sessions are scheduled for May 14 through June 12, and September 24 through October 30.

CERT participants are taught by emergency personnel in basic fire safety, disaster preparedness and terrorism, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, CERT organization, and disaster psychology. Through training, CERT members become valuable resources to their families and neighbors in the event of an emergency.



**For more information or to sign up for
CERT training, call 603-5933.**

Camp Concord experiences last a lifetime

Registration is now open for Camp Concord at South Lake Tahoe. Campers can choose from youth and teen programs, or can reserve space for the entire clan at Family Camp.

Camp Concord has been offering youth and teens traditional outdoor activities and adventures for over 40 years. These include arts and crafts, archery, and hiking as well as rafting, horse-back riding, swimming, canoeing and crawdad fishing.

Youth between the ages of 8 and 14 (entering third through ninth grade) board a bus in Concord on Saturday morning and spend a week making friends, experiencing new adventures and enjoying the outdoors. Camp Concord offers six one-week sessions beginning June 21 and running through August 2.

Training young leaders

Teens 14 to 17 are challenged to take their camp experience to a new level with two special teen camp programs. These programs, held in a two-week format, are designed to develop leadership potential and teach basic job skills in a fun, safe outdoor environment.

The Leaders In Training (LIT) and Counselors In Training (CIT) programs include interactive workshops, overnight outdoor camping, organized camp activities and environmental service projects. Under the guidance of trained staff, teens learn how to lead small group activities, work with campers of all ages and develop friendships. Camp Concord offers three two-week sessions beginning June 21 and running through August 2.

It's all about the family

Family Camp is an experience that allows parents and children to play together in a fun and supportive environment while mingling with other families. This program offers an affordable Lake Tahoe getaway for the entire family and is the perfect setting for a relaxing or an adventurous vacation. Families can



Family Camp is popular with parents and children alike. Above, the Giadone family is ready to participate in one of the numerous activities offered at Camp Concord.

elect to stay any number of days as Family Camp's flexible schedule is not structured on a weekly format like children's camp. Fees are on a per person, per night basis.



Many campers enjoy learning new skills at camp, such as archery.

With something of interest for every age group, family members can choose from Camp Concord's daily calendar of activities or independently explore the Tahoe Basin. Highlights of the Family Camp schedule include campfires, hiking, crawdad fishing, canoeing, sports and rafting. Off-site activities such as golf, horseback riding, water sports, and bicycle trails are easily accessible.

Concord residents are not alone in singing the praises of Family Camp. The local favorite has been listed in "Budget Travel"

magazine's "50 All-Star Family Camps" for the last 10 years.

Families are accommodated in one of 18 rustic cabins with convenient access to restrooms, hot showers, laundry facilities, and the main lodge. All cabins have electricity and will sleep five to eight individuals. Meals are provided as part of the registration fee.

Brochures and registration forms are available at all City offices and on the Web site at www.campconcord.org or by calling 671-3273. ♦

Register for classes online

Register for classes and programs online through ConcordReg.org. Users can search for programs or view program availability, receive confirmation of paid registration and view recent registration history information.

More than 25 percent of registrations are now completed online instead of by phone or in person. Visit www.concordreg.org.

Boards and commissions serve important function

Nearly 80 dedicated volunteers serve on the City's 10 boards and commissions. The City Council relies on input from these bodies to get diverse points of view on a variety of matters and to increase citizen participation in the governance of the City. It only takes a few hours a month to serve, and the rewards are many.

Applications and information packets are available on the City's Web site at www.cityofconcord.org (type 'Boards and Commission' into the search field), by e-mail request to bandc@ci.concord.ca.us, or by calling 671-3495 to receive an informational packet by mail.

In addition to boards and commissions, the City Council also appoints representatives to a number of outside commissions and committees. These include the Contra Costa County Aviation Advisory Committee, the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District, the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority Accessible Services Committee and Citizens' Advisory Committee, the Contra Costa County Library Commission, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority Citizens' Advisory Committee and the Contra Costa County Iron Horse Corridor Management Program Advising Committee. For information about these appointments, call 671-3495. ♦



Many boards and commission meetings are held in the City Council Chamber at Civic Center, 1950 Parkside Drive.

Appeals Board

5 members, two-year term

Provides developers and citizens a forum for appeal of Building Official decisions. Members are required to be qualified in building and construction.

Meets: As needed

Commission on Aging

Up to 11 members, two-year term

Works to improve services and opportunities for senior citizens in Concord. At least 51 percent of the members must be over 60 years of age.

Meets: 1:30 p.m., third Wednesday, Concord Senior Center, 2727 Parkside Circle

Community Advisory Committee for the Reuse Project

Up to 21 members, two-year term, or until Reuse Plan is completed

Provides input on planning for the civilian reuse of the Concord Naval Weapon Station. Eighty percent of the members must be Concord residents.

Meets: 6:30 p.m., third Tuesday, Concord Senior Center, 2727 Parkside Circle

Community Services Commission

Up to 9 members, two-year term

Annually reviews the City's social services program priorities, evaluates funding requests for the Community Development Block Grant Program and advises the Council on the allocation of resources to programs addressing identified needs.

Meets: 6:30 p.m., third Wednesday, City Council Conference Room

Design Review Board

5 members, two-year term

Provides professional peer review of building design and landscape plans for development in Concord. Three members are design professionals who may be non-residents of Concord, one must be a Concord resident and one is a member of the Planning Commission.

Meets: 7 p.m., second and fourth Thursday, Permit Center Conference Room

Human Relations Commission

Up to 7 members, two-year term

Provides a community forum to foster equal opportunity and understanding, and to eliminate discrimination.

Meets: 7 p.m. first Monday, Council Chamber

Mobilehome Rent Review Board

3 members, two-year term

Provides mediation between mobilehome owners and mobilehome park owners.

Meets: As needed

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission

7 members: 5 adult members, two-year term; 2 youth members, 1 year term

Advises on matters pertaining to public parks, open space and recreation.

Meets: 7 p.m., second Wednesday, Council Chamber

Personnel Board

5 members, two-year term

Ensures compliance with all legal mandates, the administration of the Personnel Merit System and a variety of personnel matters.

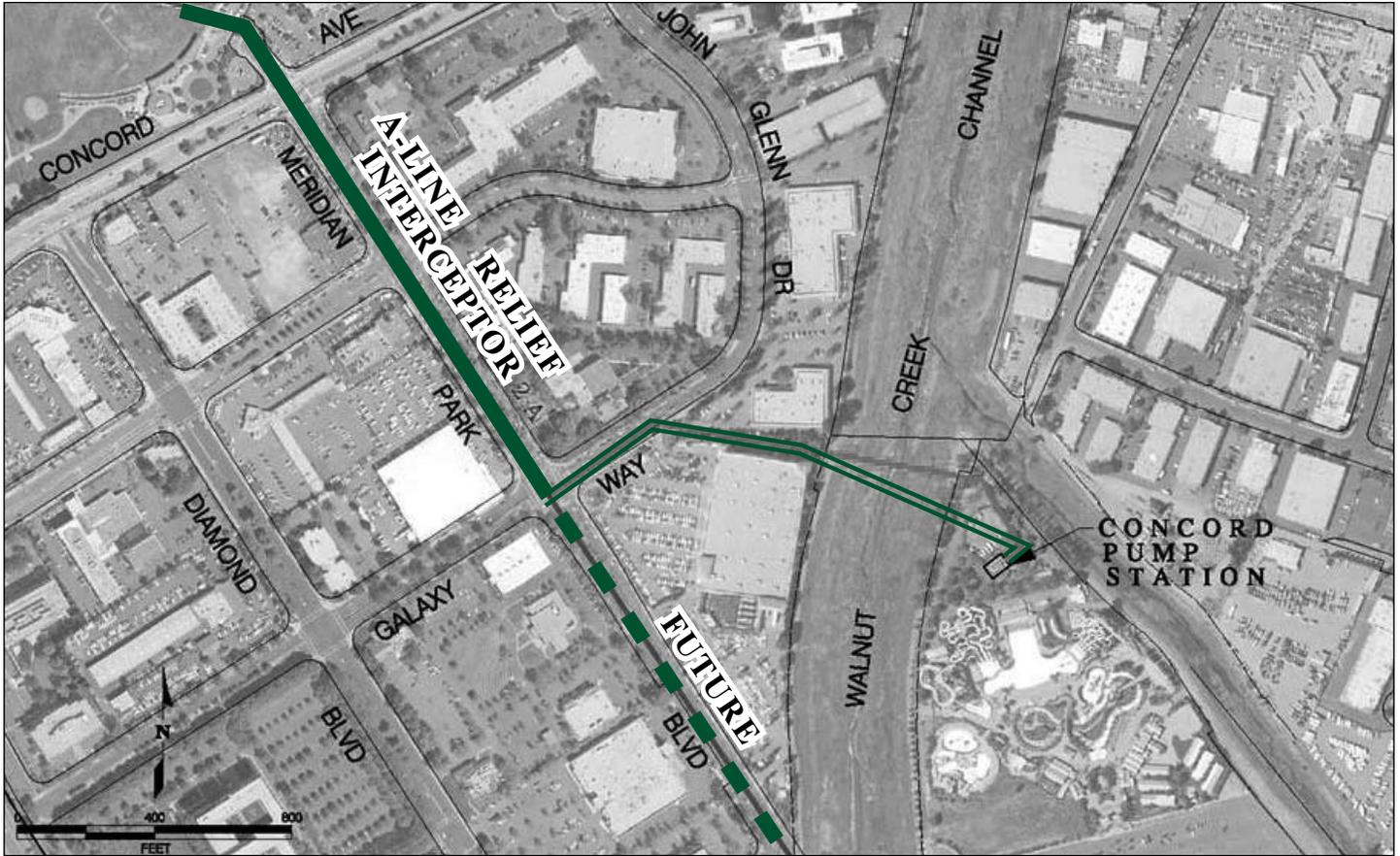
Meets: As needed

Planning Commission

5 members, two-year term

Reviews and considers sub-division requests, zoning changes, annexation and development proposals and is responsible for the implementation of the City's General Plan.

Meets: 7 p.m., first and third Wednesday, Council Chamber



Map showing the Contra Costa Sanitary District A-Line Relief Interceptor and the Concord Pump Station.

Gravity flow connection will save City \$350,000 annually

An average of 12 million gallons of sewage flows every day from Concord and Clayton to the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Central San) treatment plant located near I-680 and Hwy 4. The sewage travels through Central San's 78" diameter A-line pipe, which runs east of I-680.

More than 80 percent of Concord's sewage is first pumped through Concord's Sewage Pump Station, located at the end of Waterworld Parkway. The sewage is pumped through a pipe called a force main, under the Walnut Creek Flood Control Channel and down Galaxy Way to Central San's A-Line, which then carries the sewage to the treatment plant. The force main is more than 30 years old and cannot be inspected or maintained because

there is currently no second sewer line to pump the sewage through while the force main is out of service for inspection or maintenance.

In 2006, the City entered into a partnership with Central San to construct the next phase of their A-Line Relief Interceptor (a large diameter sewer line parallel to their A-Line) and to construct a gravity-flow connection from the Pump Station to the new line.

The first phase of Central San's A-line Relief Interceptor project was completed in 1995 and included the installation of 6,400 feet of 102" diameter pipe from their treatment plant to Buchanan Field Golf Course. This joint project will extend the larger pipe line up to the intersection of Meridian Park Boulevard and Galaxy Way. It will be deep enough

to allow a gravity-flow connection to be constructed between it and the Sewage Pump Station. This will allow Concord's Sewage Pump Station to be taken out of service, saving the City more than \$350,000 a year. The design for this massive joint project was completed last summer and a contract was awarded in October. Construction is expected to begin within the next few months and should take approximately one year to complete.

Concord's share of the joint project will be funded without any additional rate increases beyond those that are already projected in the Sewer Enterprise 20-Year Financial Plan.

For more information about this project, contact Manager of Infrastructure Maintenance Bruce Good at 671-3045. ♦

Budget workshop planned for May 6

Residents are encouraged to attend the Tuesday, May 6 City Council meeting when the fiscal year 2008–09 Budget Workshop will be held. The City Council will hear reports from staff and discuss budget issues. It is the policy of the City Council to approve a balanced budget each year as well as a balanced Ten-Year Financial Plan. The meeting will be held in the City Council Chamber at the Civic Center, 1950 Parkside Dr. at 5:30 p.m.

The City's budget year runs from July 2008 to June 2009. Budget hearings and adoption of the final budget will take place in June.

Concord is one of a few cities in the nation that has adopted a ten-year financial planning cycle and a Performance Based Budgeting (PBB) system. Concord's Ten-Year Financial Plan allows the City Council to anticipate future needs, prudently allocate resources and build the economic stability of the City. PBB is a budgeting system that measures how well the City is performing in the efficient and effective delivery of services to Concord residents and business owners.

For those unable to attend the meeting, the Budget Workshop will be broadcast on Concord government cable TV channel 28 for Comcast subscribers and channel 29 for Astound subscribers. The workshop will be rebroadcast the

following day at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., and on the following Saturday. Complete Concord TV listings are available through the link on the lower right side of the City's home page at www.cityofconcord.org and on the channel.

The City's current year 2007–08 budget is posted on the Web site at www.cityofconcord.org/citygov/finance/budget/index.htm. ♦

Tutors needed

The Concord Literacy Coalition (CLC) is in need of volunteer tutors. CLC membership includes a dozen organizations that have joined forces to promote literacy awareness and provide services.

Over two million native English-speakers in California are functionally illiterate.

To volunteer to train as a tutor, contact Peter Dragovich, Director of City Management, 671-3085, peter@ci.concord.ca.us.

Information is also available on the City's Web site. From the home page, select Literacy Coalition under Quick Links.

Ordinance Review

Weeds

Overgrown plant material, including grass and weeds can create a fire hazard, provide a breeding ground and hiding place for rodents and insects, and can make a neighborhood look unattractive. Regular maintenance of existing landscaping, and the removal or trimming of dry and overgrown weeds and other vegetation will help to enrich the character of the neighborhood.

Weeds or grass eight inches or taller is a violation of Concord's Municipal Code. Removing weeds in the spring when they are small and the ground is still moist will help prevent tall, dry weeds in the summer months.

Trees and Hedges

Trees, hedges or other foliage that intrude into the public right-of-way (streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters) are prohibited. If such foliage obstructs the view or any public right-of-way, the foliage should be trimmed or removed to provide adequate visibility. Trees and shrubbery that overhang onto streets and sidewalks must be kept trimmed at least 12 feet above the street and gutter, at least 8 feet above the entire sidewalk, and at least 16 feet above the street and gutter along bus routes.

In an emergency or if a hazardous condition exists, Neighborhood Services can order the trimming or removal of trees, shrubs and hedges on private property. Neighborhood Services does not, however, have authority for removal or trimming of trees, shrubs or other foliage on privately owned residential property that does not affect health and public safety.

For more information, contact the Neighborhood Services office at 671-3075.

Reuse Project update

The Reuse Project for the Concord Naval Weapons Station is moving forward. Last October, the Reuse Project Community Advisory Committee (CAC) recommended seven alternative concepts to the City Council, which have been forwarded on for further study. Environmental reports and documents are now being prepared on the alternatives. Public workshops will be scheduled when the environmental work has been completed.

The seven alternatives as well as a wealth of information about the reuse process are available on the City's Web site at www.concordreuseproject.org



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..... 671-3480
 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..... 671-3455
 Mayor 671-3158
 Neighborhood Services Hotline..... 671-3282
 Park Reservations..... 671-3404
 Permit Center 671-3454
 Planning & Economic Development 671-3355
 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 671-3394
 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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 1950 Parkside Drive MS/01
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Postal Customer