

Concord City News

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF CONCORD

Summer 2008

News Corner

Reuse Plan Workshops

Workshops for the Concord Community Reuse Plan for the Concord Naval Weapons Station have been scheduled for three Saturdays this summer: June 14, August 2 and Sept. 13. All three workshops will be held at the Concord Senior Center, 2727 Parkside Circle, from 9 a.m. to noon. More information will soon be coming to residents by mail and is available on the project Web site, www.concordreuseproject.org.

Televised graduations

Most Mt. Diablo School District high school graduations June 8 to 14 will be televised live from the Sleep Train Pavilion on the City's cable TV channels 28 (Comcast) and 29 (Astound). For a rebroadcast schedule, select "TV Listings" from the lower right corner of the City's home page at www.cityofconcord.org.

Business Licenses

Everyone doing business in Concord needs a business license. For more information, call the Business License Center, 671-3313, visit the Finance Office at Civic Center, 1950 Parkside Dr. or select "Business License" from the Quick Links on the City's home page, www.cityofconcord.org.



Volunteers and City staff prepare for Concord's annual creek cleanup day. Litter discarded on city sidewalks and streets can be washed down storm drains which empty untreated into local creeks, the delta, and the ocean, where it is a major source of pollution. Volunteers typically remove 500 to 600 pounds of litter on creek cleanup day.

Concord recognized as one of '50 Greenest Cities in America'

Concord residents and business owners should give themselves a pat on the back. In March, Popular Science magazine named Concord one of 'America's 50 Greenest Cities.' The authors of the article compared the 259 U.S. cities with populations of more than 100,000 and used data collected from the U.S. Census Bureau and the National Geographic Society's Green Guide.

Cities were rated on electricity, transportation, recycling and green living. Concord scored its highest points in the category of recycling, which reflects the efforts of local households and businesses to increase recycling rates over the last several years.

Portland, San Francisco and Boston ranked one, two and three respectively. Concord ranked number 43. The complete article is available at www.popsoci.com.

Even better recycling program

The City will help residents recycle even more efficiently when Concord Disposal rolls out single stream recycling over the next year. "Single stream" means all recyclable materials (paper, cardboard, glass, metal, plastic, etc.) are placed in a single recycling toter. Some areas of Concord have already

Green from page 1

received the new lidded and wheeled toters with additional neighborhoods added as the year progresses. The new toters are expected to reduce recycling theft of aluminum cans and redemption-eligible bottles.

In addition to the recycling toter, each single-family household will receive a toter for garbage and a 96-gallon toter for weekly yard waste recycling, replacing the need to bag yard waste for pickup. This more convenient method of recycling yard waste is expected to remove many additional tons of natural material from the landfill.

For more information, call Concord Disposal at 692-2229 or visit www.concorddisposal.com. Residents are reminded that the toters must be stored out of public view 24 hours before or after pickup.

Concord's green initiatives

Concord has launched a number of green initiatives in the last few years. A Green Ribbon Task Force was convened in 2007 to take a comprehensive look at ways the City could be more "green." Many of the Task Force suggestions have been

implemented and others will be considered as resources become available.

At the end of last year, the City took delivery of its first all-electric utility vehicle, which replaced a gas-powered vehicle. This summer, 80 gas-powered golf carts at the City's Diablo Creek Golf Course will be replaced with electric carts.

The City's litter-reduction program, which includes public education, partnering with neighborhood associations and putting additional receptacles in litter-prone areas, received a 2007 Distinguished Project Award from the Northern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

During the holidays, the City gave away 500 strings of energy efficient LED lights to residents who traded in strings of incandescent lights.

In March, Concord's Civic Center received a Bay Area Green Business Award. The Bay Area Green Business Program is a partnership of environmental agencies and utilities that assists, recognizes and promotes businesses and government agencies that volunteer to operate in a more environmentally responsible way. To be certified "green," participants must be in

compliance with all regulations and meet program standards for conserving resources, preventing pollution and minimizing waste. The City's Fleet Management Program, Parks Division and Printing Services Division have all received Bay Area Green Business Awards.

For many years the City has sponsored annual creek clean-up days, and has encouraged employees to participate in Bike to Work Day.

For more information about Concord's green initiatives, contact Stormwater Program Manager Jeff Roubal, 671-3394. ♦

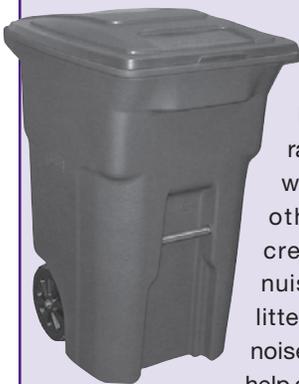
Find more environmental information online

A wealth of information about environmental issues can be found on the City's Web site.

The site includes information about a variety of topics, including battery recycling, reducing junk mail, solar power, composting and pollution prevention.

For more information, visit: www.cityofconcord.org/living/recycle/env-main.htm.

What residents can do to reduce recycling theft



Recycling theft is illegal, contributes to higher garbage rates, is associated with the theft of other items, and creates unnerving nuisances such as litter and late-night noise. Residents can help combat this crime.

To report a theft in progress, call the Concord Police Department at 671-3220 or report the theft online at www.cityofconcord.org. Select "Report Recycling Theft" from the

Quick Links menu at the top of the page.

This information is sent immediately to the Police District Commanders and the Crimes Analysis Bureau. Please do not confront suspects directly as your safety may be at risk.

The new automated garbage and recycling collection system that Concord Disposal is rolling out citywide will assist with reducing both litter and curbside recycling theft. Each single-family residence in Concord will receive the new lidded and wheeled toters between now and September (visit www.concorddisposal.com for more information). Based on the experience of other cities that have converted to these

enclosed toters, litter control will be enhanced, recycling rates will increase and recycling theft will be reduced.

To further prevent recycling theft, consider placing valuable recyclables such as aluminum and California Redemption Value (CRV) containers at the bottom of the toter. This can be done by setting aside these items from the prior week and placing them in the bottom of the empty recycling toter after the recycling truck has emptied the toter.

To submit any additional comments about how to address the problem of recycling theft, contact Peter Dragovich, City of Concord Franchise Manager, at peter@ci.concord.ca.us or 671-3085.

Concord is the place for youth and teens to learn new skills at summer day camps

Parents looking for a new and exciting day camp for their child or teen will find that the Community & Recreation Services Department has much to offer. The perennial favorite, Camp Concord at South Lake Tahoe, offers both youth and teens the opportunity to experience fun-filled days and star-filled nights with the freedom of the wilderness and many of the same comforts as home. Majestic Lake Tahoe is the backdrop for this memorable camp experience. Now parents can register their child or teen online for Camp Concord by visiting www.concordreg.org. For more information about camp, visit www.campconcord.org.

Day camps offer programs for every age

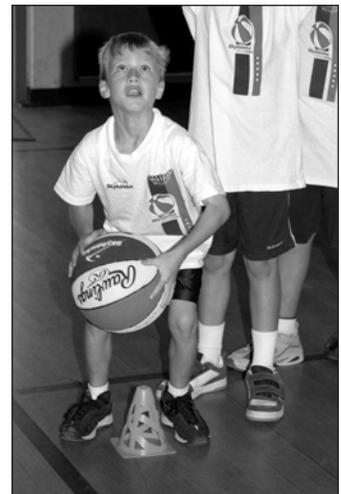
Parents looking for a local day camp experience for their youth or teen need

look no further than what Concord has to offer. Concord has a day camp for every age; Camp Littlefoot (ages 2 ½ to 5), Backyard Explorers (ages 6 to 11), All That and Then Some (ages 11 to 14), and do SOMETHing (ages 13-15). These fun-packed day camps offer convenient hours for parents, quality supervision, and trips and activities to please any child.

Parents can also choose from an assortment of specialty camps to complement their child or teen's summer experience. Cultural arts and music are featured topics in the Art & Soul Music Day Camps, Exploring Rock and Roll and Band Foundry, and Young People Performing Arts class.

For one week, participants have the opportunity to be a top chef at cooking camps, to build and create in the Kids' Carpentry Camp, to soar like an astronaut with Mad

Science or to attend a class to design their own video game. A session of particular interest to teens is Video Camp, where teens learn to produce their own videos to share with friends on the Web.



Skyhawks Basketball camper.



Youngsters hone their skills at Computer Game Camp.

Sports camps enhance physical fitness

Young sports enthusiasts are sure to find a camp that is just right for them. Concord's popular tennis and skateboarding camps are back again this year and include an option for a full day of fun at the Concord Community Pool. Other full day camp options include Skyhawks Basketball Camp, or a sports and swimming combination of flag football, soccer, or lacrosse.

The FAST Training Fitness Speed Camp will prepare children for life-long participation in any sport.

Register online

For more information about these and other exciting summer camps or to register, visit www.ConcordReg.org or www.cityofconcord.org/recreation.

Registration and the Summer Activity Guide are also available by calling the Concord Community & Recreation Services Department at 671-3404. ♦

The Community & Recreation Services Department is committed to being Concord's Health and Wellness Partner.

Striking a chord in Concord – Downtown music program celebrates 20th anniversary with expanded season, new events

Residents have been coming to Downtown Concord for 20 years to listen to an eclectic and energizing variety of music that has become a city trademark. The small program launched in 1988 has blossomed into one of the Bay Area's most well-attended and highly anticipated summertime community events.



To mark the 20th anniversary of live music in the plaza, the season has been dubbed "Concordstock," a summer-long extravaganza that combines concerts, movies, special events, the farmers' market and a public art display co-sponsored by the Todos Santos Business Association and the City.

The public art project features over two dozen guitar sculptures, custom painted by local artists. The sculptures are on display at businesses near Todos Santos Plaza. A guitar locator map is available at the City's information booth during any of the events in Todos Santos Plaza



Todos Santos Business Association President Virginia Thomas (left) of Sonoma Bank and Downtown Manager Florence Weiss look over three of the 27 guitar sculptures created to celebrate 20 years of music programs in downtown Concord.

and online at www.concordfirst.org or www.concordtsba.org. The sculptures will be auctioned off for charity at the California Symphony Pops in the Plaza concert

September 20.

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

Help break a Guinness Book world record

This summer will be one to remember in downtown Concord. The City is inviting all comers to make history on Tuesday, July 1 with an attempt to break an existing Guinness Book world record for largest guitar ensemble. The goal is to register 2,008 (in honor of the twenty-year anniversary of music in the downtown) people who will simultaneously play "This Land is Your Land" led by '60s singer Country Joe McDonald from the Todos Santos Plaza stage.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. Guitarists can pre-register and down-

load the music to the song at www.concordfirst.org or through the Todos Santos Business Association Web site at www.concordtsba.org. Registration will also be taken the night of the event beginning at 5 p.m.

The July 1 concert kicks off a new series of Tuesday evening acoustic concerts on the Todos Santos stage from 6:30 to 8 p.m. A mini-Farmers' Market will also be in the park.

For a concert listing, visit www.concordfirst.org or call the downtown hotline, 671-3464.



Todos Santos Plaza Summer Calendar of Events

Willow Pass Road at Grant Street

Free Parking: Todos Santos Parking Center and Grant Street Garage
 The Tuesday and Thursday music events include a Farmer's Market on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m.

Date/Time	Event
Tuesday, June 3, 12-1:30 p.m.	The Shillz (American Idol Cammy Doolittle)
Thursday, June 5, 6:30-8 p.m.	The Fundamentals (with hornsection)
Tuesday, June 10, 12-1:30 p.m.	Jeffrey Halford and the Healers (American roots folk)
Thursday, June 12, 6:30-8 p.m.	Earl Thomas (soul singer)
Sunday, June 15, 2-4 p.m.	DadDay in the Park: Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Bums featuring Carmen Getit plus NASCAR surprises
Tuesday, June 17, 12-1:30 p.m.	California Cowboys (Country)
Thursday, June 19, 6:30-8 p.m.	Salvador Santana: Son of guitarist Carlos Santana
Tuesday, June 24, 12-1:30 p.m.	In Disguise (Jazz)
Thursday, June 26, 6:30-8 p.m.	Aja Vu (Steely Dan tribute)
Tuesday, July 1, 6:30-8 p.m.	Concordstock Guinness Record Night featuring Country Joe McDonald
Thursday, July 3, 6:30-8 p.m.	Dave Crimmen ('50s music) plus Classic Car Show
Friday, July 4, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.	July 4 th Parade and Festival: Mark Russo and the Classy Cats (Swing); Dixieland by Washboard Wizards
Tuesday, July 8, 6:30-8 p.m.	The Red Hot Chachkas (Klezmer band)
Thursday, July 10, 6:30-8 p.m.	Zoo Station (U2 cover): Bandleader is Rosalee from KFOG
Tuesday, July 15, 6:30-8 p.m.	La Catrina String Quartet (Classical)
Thursday, July 17, 6:30-8 p.m.	Da Island Way (Hawaiian)
Tuesday, July 22, 6:30-8 p.m.	Duo Gadjó (Acoustic swing)
Thursday, July 24, 6:30-8 p.m.	Beaufunk (Oakland Blues)
Tuesday, July 29, 6:30-8 p.m.	Houston Jones (Bluegrass)
Thursday, July 31, 6:30-8 p.m.	Boyz Nite Out (a cappella)
Tuesday, Aug. 5, 6:30-8 p.m.	National Night Out: Tia Carroll (Blues singer)
Thursday, Aug. 7, Music 6:30-8 p.m., Movie 8:30 p.m.	Sourdough Slim and the Saddlepals (Western songs) Pictures in the Plaza: Stagecoach
Thursday, Aug 14, Music 6:30-8 p.m., Movie 8:30 p.m.	James Clark and the Jailhouse Rockers (Elvis tribute) Pictures in the Plaza: Grease (30 th Anniversary of release of the movie)
Thursday, Aug. 21, Music 6:30-8 p.m., Movie 8:30 p.m.	Stompy Jones (Jitterbug) Pictures in the Plaza: Maltese Falcon One City, One Book program night
Thursday, Sept. 4, 6:30-8 p.m.	The Del Gado Brothers (Latin blues)
Thursday, Sept. 11, 6:30-8 p.m.	Junius Courtney Big Band (Jazz and blues)
Thursday, Sept. 18, 6:30-8 p.m.	Tom Rigney and Flambeau (Cajun fiddler) Closing Night Market & Music Concord on the Green Environmental Fair
Saturday, Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m.	California Symphony Pops in the Plaza Concordstock Guitar Auction



Earl Thomas



Salvador Santana



Zoo Station



Sourdough Slim



Delgado Brothers

Proactive pavement maintenance saves money, results in well maintained streets



Slurry seal fills small cracks and provides a new surface for well-traveled streets.

Concord takes great pride in having some of the best maintained streets in the Bay Area. Each summer, crews perform an extensive street maintenance program to ensure that they stay that way. Concord's street maintenance program represents a balanced, timely approach to pavement management that has proven to be a cost-effective way to maintain Concord's street system in an optimum condition.

Annual evaluation

Each year, an independent consultant is engaged to conduct an assessment of the condition of Concord's streets and to update Concord's state-of-the-art computerized Pavement Management System. The results of the pavement condition evaluation, coupled with the maintenance history of a street, and tempered by staff's extensive knowledge of Concord's street system, dictates the street preventive maintenance, rehabilitation, and reconstruction program.

This comprehensive and proactive street maintenance program saves money over the long run, as the cost to reconstruct a street is up to ten times more than the cost of an effective preventive maintenance program.

Extending pavement life with slurry seal

One of the elements of Concord's street maintenance program is the Slurry Seal Program, performed each summer by contractors. Slurry seal fills small cracks, results in a new wearing surface, and seals the asphalt to prevent the damaging effects of water intrusion into the pavement.

This year more than 6.5 million square feet of pavement on 188 streets will be slurry sealed. Some of the major streets on this year's schedule include Cowell Road from Ygnacio Valley Road to Treat Boulevard, Concord Boulevard from Ayers Road to Bishop Drive, Market Street from Concord Avenue to Willow Pass Road, Ayers Road from Clayton Road to Ygnacio Valley Road,

and Willow Pass Road from Farm Bureau Road to Lynwood Drive. There may be others on the schedule as well.



Skin patching prepares the road for slurry seal.

Advance preparation

During the three to four months leading up to each summer's Slurry Seal Program, City crews are busy sealing pavement cracks and patching sunken or irregular pavement areas on each street that will be slurry sealed. In addition, contractors using specialized equipment remove and replace damaged pavement sections on those streets. This preparatory work will require temporary lane closures and associated minor traffic delays while that work is being done.



Crack sealing the street prevents damage.

The City appreciates the public's understanding of the temporary disruption this important maintenance work entails. For questions about Concord's street maintenance program, contact the Public Works Department at 671-3448. ♦

What should I do if my street needs to be slurry sealed?

Residents and businesses on streets to be slurry sealed have been mailed letters advising them of the upcoming work, which is scheduled to begin in early June and is to be completed in mid-July. The slurry seal application on residential streets is typically completed in one day.

On the day of the slurry seal application, no parking is allowed on that street and the street is closed to all traffic from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Multi-lane major roads are typically slurry sealed over two day periods in order to allow at least one lane of traffic to remain open in each direction at all times.

In addition to the advance letter notification, portable barricades with "No Parking" signs are placed on the street 48 to 72 hours before the slurry seal application, noting the exact day that street will be closed. Door hangers are placed on all affected homes and businesses giving that same information.

Mail service will not be affected. If garbage service is scheduled for that day, the garbage company will schedule that route for pickup before 7 a.m. Individuals on a street to be slurry sealed who need to use their vehicle during the period that the street will be closed will need to move their vehicle before 7 a.m. that day and park it on a neighboring street outside the construction area.

Due to weather conditions or material and equipment availability, it may become necessary to reschedule the slurry seal of some streets. If this should occur, the City will provide re-notification by placing barricades and posting new door hangers listing the revised date of the work.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 671-3448.



Family campers enjoy relaxing on the beach.

Camp Concord offers an affordable family vacation

With the price of travel in Europe on the rise and an anticipated summer increase in airline fares, many families are looking for more affordable summer vacation options closer to home.

Camp Concord at South Lake Tahoe may be the answer. The camp is located in the Sierras, between Lake Tahoe and Fallen Leaf Lake. For over 40 years, the City of Concord has offered families the spectacular scenery of the El Dorado National Forest and the excitement of the great outdoors. Families register for camp by the day, providing flexibility for a weekend stay or a longer visit.

Campers can choose to participate in organized camp activities or explore the Lake Tahoe Basin on their own, returning to a hot meal, hot shower and a rustic and comfortable cabin. Trained staff offers campfires, canoeing, swimming, volleyball, brunch on the beach and other activities.

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 campers. All meals are provided as part of the camp fee.

Aside from traditional camp activities, families have use of the Green Room Lounge, offering a quiet escape for reading and games. A big screen TV/VCR is also available for kids' movies. In the evenings, Camp Concord staff supply affordable babysitting for parents who are drawn to the bright lights of nearby casinos. And twice a day, camp staff provides specialized activities for children ages 4 to 12 during Kid's Hour.

Camp Concord is accredited by the American Camp Association. For more information and available dates, call the camp registration line at 671-3273. The Camp Concord brochure is available online at www.campconcord.org. ♦

Taking steps to address the challenge of homelessness in Concord

Homelessness is not unique to Concord, but it is a problem the City is actively working to address. Many factors contribute to people becoming homeless. Trends largely responsible for the rise in homelessness over the past 15 to 20 years include lack of affordable housing and affordable health care, an increase in numbers of families living in poverty, fewer work opportunities, decline in public assistance, domestic violence, and mental illness and addiction disorders.

A 2007 Concord homeless assessment counted 598 homeless individuals in shelters and 276 on the street. Of those in shelters, 224 were families with children.

What is the City's homeless policy?

Although it is not illegal to be homeless in Concord, it is illegal to break the law. The City takes a balanced approach that aims to protect the rights of the homeless while also protecting the rights of residents and business owners.

The City has developed specific strategies to identify and address homelessness. These strategies fall under three categories: prevention, training and awareness, and proactive enforcement.

Prevention

The City Council supports a multi-pronged approach designed to aid in the prevention of homelessness:

- Provide funding to various agencies that help prevent homelessness and provide services to those already homeless
- Monitor and respond to community complaints regarding homeless issues
- Reduce crime by identifying alternatives to incarceration for persons who can benefit from intervention and treatment by social services agencies

- Increase volunteer and community involvement as needs are identified
- Participate actively in county-wide collaborations of government and social services agencies working together to end homelessness
- Direct McKinney-Vento federal homeless funds to address most urgent needs of county's homeless population
- Seek other avenues of resources for funding of programs

Training and Awareness

Staff training is an important tool in dealing with the homeless:

- Increase City staff awareness of homelessness and provide staff with homeless resource list
- Provide training and monitoring of social service programs and referrals
- Develop training for community leaders and organizations

Proactive Enforcement

Officers respond to all calls for service related to the homeless as well as implementing a number of proactive measures:

- Criminal enforcement is linked to a problem-solving philosophy and directed at those homeless persons who habitually violate the law and cause a drain on City resources
- Concord Police Department works with District Attorney's Office to ensure prosecution of individuals who are habitual offenders
- Officers work in conjunction with the City Attorney to develop policy, procedures and protocol

Programs and Partnerships

In addition to law enforcement measures, the City invests Redevelopment Agency housing set-aside funds, Community

Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and monies from the General Fund to support affordable housing programs that help residents avoid homelessness.

Annually, the Redevelopment Agency housing set-aside funds of approximately \$3 million are used to provide affordable housing in the city. In the last few years, the City has added, rehabilitated or preserved approximately 800 units of affordable housing using these funds.

In the last six years, the City has provided approximately \$1.3 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and monies from the General Fund in grants to organizations that assist the homeless, such as the Contra Costa County Adult Interim Housing Program, STAND! Against Domestic Violence, SHELTER Inc.'s Emergency Housing and Homeless services, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County, Monument Crisis Center food programs, Loaves and Fishes, and New Connections Substance Abuse and HIV/AIDS services.

Last year, the City partnered with a number of organizations to host "Project Homeless Connect" that connected homeless individuals with numerous resources and provided assistance to help them find affordable housing. This homeless outreach effort rotates throughout the county each year.

On a regional level, elected officials and City staff actively serve on the Contra Costa Interagency Council on Homelessness (CCICH), helping to improve interagency communication and resource delivery, and target resources to best address homeless issues.

The City's Police Department participates in additional partnerships such as the

Homeless from page 8

Forensic Mental Health Team, a multi-disciplinary team which meets regularly to share information and discuss possible solutions to specific problem areas.

The department also organizes multi-jurisdictional camp cleanup operations, dispatches extra patrols to problem areas and distributes a comprehensive directory of services and referrals to assist in connecting homeless individuals with appropriate assistance. In addition, the City funds a Community Prosecutor position, which pursues multiple misdemeanor and nuisance complaints against individuals who are repeat offenders.

What can residents do?

Residents can assist the City by calling the Police Department non-emergency number, 671-3232, to report any suspicious activity. Residents looking for resources to assist a friend or family member can call 211, the new Contra Costa County Social Services Hotline.

Residents who wish to help end homelessness are urged to assist nonprofit agencies who provide resources to homeless persons, such as those mentioned in this article. For more information, call Concord Community Services Manager Teri House at 671-3283. ♦



Left to right, Tom Kramer, Dick Brown, Reggie Driscoll and Jay Caldis are looking for fellow ham radio operators interested in providing emergency communications during a disaster.

Amateur radio operators needed for Concord emergency operations center

Since the birth of amateur radio, often called ham radio, operators have a long tradition of providing emergency communications during disasters when cell phones, land lines and other conventional means of communication fail.

During the World Trade Center and Hurricane Katrina disasters, ham radio was an essential communications asset to government agencies and the public.

The Concord Emergency Operations Center is looking for interested residents who would like to become amateur radio operators, or current licensed amateur radio operators who would be interested in joining Concord's Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS).

"If you would like to become a ham, or are a licensed amateur radio operator, a U.S. Citizen, and at least 18 years old, Concord's Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) Team needs you to help our city in an emergency," says Tom Kramer, a local volunteer with RACES.

RACES is sponsoring Amateur Radio Technician class license training. The course requires a nominal fee for a text study guide. Once trained, residents will be ready to pass the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) exam of 35 questions. The current FCC license testing fee is \$14.

To volunteer or sign up for training, call 603-5933 for details. ♦

Ygnacio Valley Road repair update

Construction of the permanent restoration of Ygnacio Valley Road, funded by a \$2.7 million grant from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is scheduled to begin this summer with completion of the work scheduled for this fall.

The project will repair a 1,000-foot segment of the eastbound lane of Ygnacio Valley Road west of Cowell Road that was closed due to a landslide in 2006. A temporary land reconfiguration is currently

allowing traffic to flow in both directions on Ygnacio Valley Road.

Caltrans has signed off on a number of supporting environmental documents. The City and Caltrans are now working with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to obtain the remaining federal environmental approval. Project design is substantially complete. Once final environmental approval is obtained, the City will advertise the project and select a contractor to complete the work.

What's blooming in the City's medians?

Every year, as Concord's beautifully planted and maintained street medians come into bloom, residents call the City to find out about the plants growing in the medians. Here is some information about the most common plants.

The pink and red Flower Carpet Roses always attract attention. The pink varieties can be found on several main thoroughfares while the red variety blooms in the downtown medians.

Daylilies, with spear-shaped leaves and trumpet blossoms, bloom in orange and yellow

in Concord medians, but this easy-to-grow bulb can be found in many different colors. Another bulb plant, Society Garlic, looks like a chive plant but produces a light purple flower.

Many residents ask about the carpet of blue groundcover found in medians on Clayton Road. The plant is called Verbena.

The shrubs found in several medians with tiny pink flowers are called Indian Hawthorne. The small trees that bloom a vibrant hot pink color are Crape Myrtles.



Crews plant new flowers in the Clayton Road street median as soon as the weather warms up.

Plant Varieties

Listed below are plants used in two popular street medians: Treat Boulevard from Oak Grove Road to the Walnut Creek city limit and Clayton Road between Babel Lane and Mendocino Drive. These plants are generally available at local nurseries.

Treat Blvd.

Trees

- London Plane Tree
- Crape Myrtle
- American Sweet Gum
- Flowering Plum

Shrubs/Groundcovers

- Lily of the Nile "Elaine"
- Lily of the Nile "Dwarf White"
- Lily of the Nile "Peter Pan"
- Dwarf Albelia
- Fortnight Lily
- Dwarf Oleander "Little Red"
- New Zealand Flax "Gold Sword"
- New Zealand Flax "Maori Queen"
- India Hawthorn "Clara"
- Society Garlic "Silver Lace"
- Compact Xylosma "Compacta"
- Gazania "Fiesta Red"
- Trailing Lantana

Clayton Road

Trees

- Purple Crape Myrtle "Catawba"
- Pink India Hawthorn "Majestic Beauty"
- Canary Island Pine
- Chinese Pistache

Shrubs/Groundcover

- Lilly of the Nile (Peter Pan)
- Compact Escalloia "Terri"
- Day Lily "Red Mond"
- Nandina "Gulf Stream"
- Pink India Hawthorn "Jack Evans"
- Pink Bush Rose "Flower Carpet"
- Purple Verbena "Tapiian Blue"

City Council meeting night change

The City Council has changed its regular meeting night from Tuesday to Monday. Effective May 5, meetings are now held the first, second and fourth Monday of the month.

Meetings continue to be held in the City Council Chamber at Civic Center, 1950 Parkside Drive and continue to be televised live on Concord government

cable TV channels 28 (Comcast) and 29 (Astound), with rebroadcasts the following week.

A calendar of all City meetings with a link to meeting agendas and reports is available on the home page of the City's Web site, www.cityofconcord.org.

For more information, contact City Clerk Mary Rae Lehman, 671-3495.

Summer vacation security tips

By
Margaret Romiti
Volunteer Services
Coordinator



With summertime upon us, we want our citizens to have fun while keeping safety in mind. These are some crime prevention and vacation security tips that are relevant in the summer months:

On the road...

- Never carry large amounts of cash; use traveler's checks or credit cards. If you must carry cash, do not display it openly.
- Keep a record of traveler's check numbers and your credit card numbers in a safe place. Have telephone numbers to call in case your checks or credit cards are lost or stolen.
- Be aware of your surroundings and never advertise your plans to strangers; this includes travel routes and the amount of cash you are carrying.

Sightseeing...

- Ask for directions at a hotel/motel on how to get to the attractions you want to visit.
- Select your tour guides carefully.
- Ask if there are any areas in town you should avoid. Stick with well-lighted main streets and public areas.
- Looking lost (stopping and looking at addresses or staring at street signs) may make you look like an easy target for crime. If you do get lost, find an open business and ask for directions.

Hotel and Motel security...

- When occupying or leaving your room, use all auxiliary locking devices on doors and windows.
- Use the door viewer to identify anyone requesting entry. Open the door only if you are certain the person has a legitimate reason to enter your room. If in doubt, call the hotel/motel office.
- Never leave money, checks, credit cards or car keys in the room. Take them with you or make arrangements to place them in the hotel/motel safe.
- Report any suspicious movements in the corridors or rooms.

Before leaving, secure your home...

- Close and lock your doors and windows when you're not at home. Often people leave these open to let in fresh air or to cool their homes down. This is an invitation for a burglar to get into your home and steal your property.
- If you go on vacation, have your newspaper and mail stopped. Or even better, have a neighbor pick them up. A stack of newspapers or mail in front of your home alerts a would-be burglar that you are not at home.
- Make your house appear "lived in". Use timers for lights and radios.
- Leave your trip plans and emergency phone number with trusted neighbors or friends.
- Never leave your house key hidden outside under a doormat, in a flower pot or on the ledge of a door. Remember these are the first places a burglar will look.
- If you go on vacation, call the Concord Police Department volunteers and ask for a vacation house check. The volunteers can be reached by calling 671-3184 or visit www.cityofconcord.org/police/joinin/volunteers and complete the form online.

Car security...

- Remember to roll up your car window and lock the doors. Often drivers will leave windows cracked to keep their cars cool. Remember, this makes it easy for crooks to get into your car and steal your property, or maybe even your car.
- Always lock valuables out of sight, preferably in the trunk. Always carry wallets, checkbooks and purses with you.
- Do not advertise you are a tourist. Place maps and travel brochures in the glove compartment.

These are just a few safety tips to help make your vacation fun and safe. Contact the Concord Police Volunteer Coordinator at 671-3184 for more information. ♦

Tune in for "Street Smart" TV show

The Police Department's crime prevention program, "Street Smart," aims to educate and inform residents about the police department, crime-related issues, and items of civic interest.

Hosted by a pair of police officers, each show highlights a different neighborhood in the city. In the "Most Wanted" segment, residents can learn about individuals sought by the department. Viewers are encouraged to call in with questions during the phone-in segment.

"Street Smart" is televised live at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of each month on Concord government cable TV 28 (Comcast) and 29 (Astound). For more information, visit www.cityofconcord.org and search for the words "Street Smart."

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 Monday, 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	To be determined, 7 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 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
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 671-3361
 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

City of Concord
 1950 Parkside Drive MS/01
 Concord, CA 94519-2578

William D. Shinn	Mayor
Helen M. Allen	Vice Mayor
Guy S. Bjerke	Councilmember
Laura M. Hoffmeister	Councilmember
Mark A. Peterson	Councilmember
Mary Rae Lehman	City Clerk
Thomas Wentling	City Treasurer
Edward R. James	City Manager
Leslye Asera	Community Relations Manager and Editor

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