

# Concord City News

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF CONCORD

Winter 2008

## News Corner

### Reuse Project updates

For the latest information about upcoming meetings related to the Reuse Project for the Concord Naval Weapons Station, visit [www.concordreuseproject.org](http://www.concordreuseproject.org) or call 671-3001.

### Sandbags available

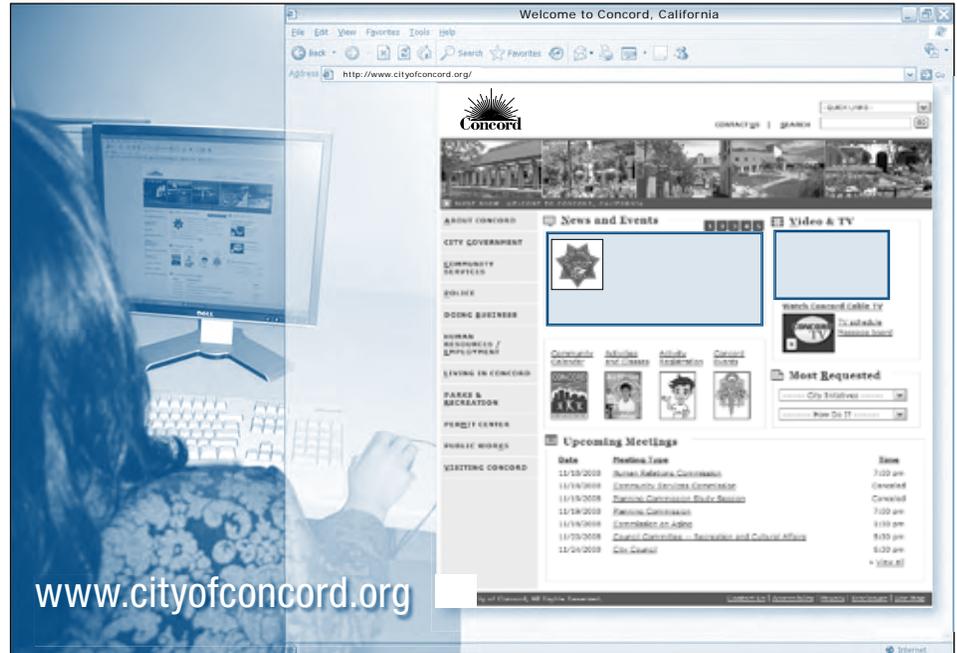
Free, filled sandbags (up to 25) are available from the City Corporation Yard, 1455 Gasoline Alley, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 671-3050 to make arrangements for pickup.

### Mayor's Luncheon

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

### Video Interns

The City is seeking a part-time video intern interested in filming and edited short segments for the City's cable TV channel. College-level experience preferred. Contact Video Services Coordinator Mark Chaney at [mchaney@ci.concord.ca.us](mailto:mchaney@ci.concord.ca.us).



*New video streaming and crime reporting features can be accessed from the City's website home page.*

## New video and online crime report features added to City website

Two convenient new features have recently been added to the City's website. Concord cable TV broadcasts may now be viewed from the home page thanks to the addition of streaming video, and residents can now file a police report online for minor, non-emergency crimes.

### Streaming video

The new streaming video feature allows viewers to watch Concord cable TV from any computer or laptop that has access to the Internet. By streaming the cable channel broadcast, users can now watch City Council and Boards and Commission meetings in real time online, as well as the crime prevention program "Street Smart"

and live broadcasts of City music programs and events from Todos Santos Plaza.

Concord's government cable TV is viewed only in Concord on channels 28 for Comcast subscribers and 29 for Astound subscribers. The new web streaming feature allows residents who do not subscribe to Comcast or Astound and anyone with Internet access outside of the city to view the broadcasts. The service appears to be very popular with 1,881 page views reported in the first month.

Another new feature on the site allows users to view videos of previous City Council meetings. City Council meetings are available online the morning following



*Crews work to complete the permanent restoration project on Ygnacio Valley road.*

## Ygnacio Valley Road restoration project on target

Construction of the Ygnacio Valley Road permanent restoration project, to repair damage to the road from a 2006 landslide, began in September. The construction of a 420-foot underground wall system, which is designed to protect the roadside from future landslides, is nearing completion.

The wall system consists of 52 steel-reinforced concrete piers placed every seven feet that extend 55 feet into the ground. The piers are connected by a five-foot deep concrete cap wall and are supported at the top by cables embedded in the rock.

After completion of the wall system, construction will begin to repair and repave the eastbound traffic lane and shoulder.

In 2009, a second project will be implemented that will extend the 420-foot wall by an additional 580-feet. This second project will complete the needed work to fully protect the roadway from the unstable hillside.

The first project was funded with Federal Emergency Relief funds, which could only be used to repair the damaged roadway. The second project will be funded with local funds from Measure J, a local ½-cent sales tax paid by Contra Costa County residents. The second project is in the design phase, with construction scheduled to begin in the summer of 2009. ♦

### Think Green

The City of Concord encourages residents to "Think Green" in 2009. Visit [www.cityofconcord.org](http://www.cityofconcord.org) and select "Recycling" from the Quick Links drop down menu to find tips on recycling household hazardous waste, used motor oil and much more.

### Website from page 1

the meeting through this video-on-demand feature. Viewers can access the meeting agenda and staff reports, and skip to any point in the meeting video. Council meetings from July 14, 2008 forward are available through this feature.

A convenient link to the Concord Cable TV schedule can also be found on the home page. In addition to live programming, rebroadcasts of previous meetings and events as well as a bulletin board feature with announcements about City projects and programs can be viewed on the channel.

To access this new feature, visit [www.cityofconcord.org](http://www.cityofconcord.org) and look for the "Video & TV" box in the right column.

### Online crime reports

The Concord Police Department recently joined police departments throughout the state that have added online crime reporting to their arsenal of victim reporting options.

The new system makes reporting a crime more convenient. Reports eligible for online reporting include lost property, thefts under \$400 with no suspects/witnesses, theft under \$400 from an unlocked vehicle with no suspects/witnesses, tampering with a vehicle, vandalism under \$400, and harassing phone calls of a non-threatening nature.

The online system does not replace crime reports taken by officers if that is the preference of the victim, but is offered as a convenient option for busy residents. Residents are likely to find this service particularly convenient when a police report is needed in order to document a loss for insurance purposes.

To submit a crime report online, visit [www.cityofconcord.org](http://www.cityofconcord.org), type "crime report" in the search window and select the first option on the search results page.

For questions regarding the online crime reporting system, contact Lt. Tim Runyon at 603-5902. ♦

# Keeping sidewalks in good repair takes effort by City and property owners

Like most cities, Concord follows state law regarding the maintenance and construction of public sidewalks. Under state law, maintenance of the sidewalk is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner, even if the sidewalk is in the City's right-of-way.

Residents should be aware that they are responsible for repairing or reconstructing sidewalks adjacent to their property if the sidewalk becomes cracked or if there is a tripping hazard. Failure to keep sidewalks in good repair means residents are liable if someone trips on that part of the sidewalk.

While the City doesn't have the resources to construct and maintain all residential sidewalks, it does fund the following programs:

1. **Citywide Sidewalk Program** – Funded with local funds, this program is used to address accessibility problems for people with disabilities in sidewalks throughout the city.
2. **Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk Repair Program** – This program is funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies, and can only be used to repair sidewalks, curbs and gutters in federally designated CDBG areas. These areas are typically residential areas with high concentrations of families designated as low income.
3. **Removal of Barriers to the Mobility Impaired** – Also funded with CDBG monies, this program provides for the construction of curb ramps and removal of other barriers in CDBG areas.
4. **Tripping Hazard Removal Program** – When the City learns of a sidewalk tripping hazard, funds from this program are used to apply asphalt "ramps" to uneven, cracked sidewalks or to grind the sidewalk to eliminate the tripping hazard. Repairs are generally completed in 24 to 48 hours. To report a tripping hazard, call 671-3050.

Because resources are limited, sidewalk repairs must be prioritized each year. Starting next year, the City's Disability Access Advisory Committee (DAAC), comprised of members of the community who serve on either the Human Relations Commission or the Community Services Commission, will recommend which projects should be undertaken in a given year. The DAAC will use the following prioritization standards:

1. Barrier removal requests made by a disabled individual
2. Barriers in sidewalks leading to state and local government offices and facilities
3. Barriers in sidewalks along important transportation corridors (for example, leading to schools)
4. Barriers in sidewalks leading to places of public accommodation (business or commercial)
5. Barriers in sidewalks leading to facilities containing employers
6. All other areas

Residents with damaged sidewalks can contact the City to see if the damage is going to be repaired as part of one of these programs. If this is not the case, residents can also inquire about including their sidewalk repair job in the Citywide Sidewalk Program, which greatly reduces the cost of the repair. Under this program, the needed sidewalk work is performed as a part of a larger project coordinated by the City, with the resident paying only for their share of the cost. This option has several benefits:

- The cost can be as much as five to ten times less than hiring a private contractor to fix the sidewalk due to the economies of scale; the City's construction contract is based on a large number of projects

- Residents joining this program will not be required to obtain and pay for an encroachment permit and the related inspection fees
- The improvements will be inspected by City inspectors at City's cost
- The City contractor is bonded/insured (not true of all private contractors)
- The City contractor provides a one-year warranty, during which period the contractor will repair any defects (not all private contractors provide this warranty)

Residents who would like to have someone look at the sidewalk adjacent to their property can call Concord's ADA Coordinator, Laurel Purewal, at 671-3063. To discuss having a sidewalk repair included in the Citywide Sidewalk Project, contact Associate Engineer Daniel Sequeira at 671-3031. ♦



## Accommodations for disabled residents

Disabled residents who receive a citation for a violation of a City code, rule or regulation and are unable to comply because of their disability may be entitled to an accommodation.

For more information, contact the City's ADA Coordinator Laurel Purewal at 671-3063 or [laurel.purewal@ci.concord.ca.us](mailto:laurel.purewal@ci.concord.ca.us).

Doing our part  
for the environment



*A highly sophisticated system at Mt. Diablo Recycling separates materials for increased efficiency.*

## State-of-the-art recycling center is modern marvel

Nothing about the new Mt. Diablo Recycling Center, which held its grand opening last November, even remotely resembles recycling facilities of the past. The center, at 1300 Loveridge Rd. in Pittsburg, serves Concord as well as Pittsburg, Oakley and Discovery Bay. All of the debris collected from Concord recycling totes is transported to the new recycling center for processing.

Owned and operated by Mary Garaventa and the Garaventa family, the center is the largest state-of-the-art recycling center in California at 90,000 square feet. The recycling equipment has a space-age look that would be right at home in a scene from “The Jetsons”.

Gone are the days of manual separation of recyclable materials. The center features a series of belts, filters and slides, operated completely by high-tech computers, that automatically separate paper, metal, plastic, glass and cardboard. One machine even uses heavy-duty magnets to remove recy-

clable tin cans and metals as if by magic from the piles of mixed recyclables.

What does this kind of state-of-the-art recycling center mean to residents? Because recyclables are automatically separated, Concord residents no longer need to separate recyclables into individual bins. Households now have large, blue recycling totes with wheels where all recyclables can be disposed of in one container, making recycling easy and convenient.

The amount of items recycled by residents has increased, helping the City meet its state-mandated recycling goals and reducing the amount of trash that ends up in the landfill. Recycling is good for the environment, allowing the base materials in a bottle or can to be transformed into new containers.

For more information about recycling, visit the City’s website, [www.cityofconcord.org](http://www.cityofconcord.org) and type the word “recycling” in the search window. ♦



1300 Loveridge Road in Pittsburg  
Open to the Public  
Monday–Friday  
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
(925) 692-2224

For tours or school field trips contact  
Nicole Adler at (925) 692-2224  
or email [Nicole@GaraventaEnt.com](mailto:Nicole@GaraventaEnt.com)

### **What does Mt. Diablo Recycling Center buy back from the public?**

Cardboard  
Newspaper  
Aluminum Cans  
Plastic Bottles – PET #1  
Plastic Milk/Water Jugs – HDPE #2  
Glass Bottles  
Colored Plastics – HDPE #2

## Older residents invited to visit multi-service Senior Center

The Concord Senior Center, located in Baldwin Park at 2727 Parkside Circle, is a gathering place for older residents who wish to broaden their horizons and stimulate their minds, bodies, and spirits.

The center provides more than a hundred recreational, social, medical, educational, nutritional and cultural services and programs.

By offering essential services, beneficial activities and special functions, the center has become a multi-service location providing one-stop shopping for seniors.

Several publications that help seniors stay active are available at the center including Seniority, a quarterly publication full of activities, Seniors on the Go, a Senior Citizens Club monthly newsletter, and the City's Activity Guide.

Information is available at the main desk, by calling 671-3320 and on the City's website at [www.cityofconcord.org/community/seniors](http://www.cityofconcord.org/community/seniors).

### Military Recognition Program available

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](http://www.cityofconcord.org/about/highlights) or contact Leslye Asera, Community Relations Manager, 671-3272, [lasera@ci.concord.ca.us](mailto:lasera@ci.concord.ca.us).



*A Zumba class benefits from the combination of aerobics and Latin dance..*

## Dedicate this winter to achieving lifelong health and fitness goals

The kids are back in school and the holidays are over, so there is no better time for residents to work on health and fitness goals.

Whether it's a New Year's resolution or a desire to try something new that sparks interest, Community and Recreation Services offers a wide range of classes to choose from as an alternative to paying for an expensive gym membership.

Getting back into a work-out routine or starting one for the very first time can be a challenge. The key is finding a class that motivates students to stick with it and encourages them to pursue their fitness goals. Some of the specialty fitness classes offered for the new year include:

- **Weight Training for Women** – a new class that uses the innovative Diodatics weight and strength training system designed especially for women
- **Zumba** – the latest fitness craze combines aerobic exercise and various dance rhythms of salsa, cumbia, meringue and others
- **Beginning Fitness Training** – this class is for people who want to get the most out of a workout without hiring a personal trainer

Both conventional and non-conventional fitness classes are offered. Some of the most popular classes include cardio hip hop dancing, salsa, Pilates, yoga, Jazzercise Lite and karate.



*Pilates participants work hard to stay in shape.*

To find out more about the many health and fitness choices, visit [www.ConcordReg.org](http://www.ConcordReg.org) to view the latest Concord Activity Guide and to register online, or call the Community and Recreation Services Department at 671-3404 during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Charge-by-Phone hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ♦



*Left: Construction is underway on the facade improvement project at the Estates Shopping Center. Right: The Bronze Buddha is one of several new restaurants to open in the Clayton Valley Shopping Center.*

## Business report – some high points in challenging economic environment

Even in this era of economic uncertainty, Concord is seeing the opening of several new businesses and the planned construction of others. The variety of different types of businesses, a prime location at the intersection of three major regional thoroughfares and the high number and diversity of employers have been assets for the City in weathering previous tough economic times.

The City supports the business community through its business attraction and retention programs. Residents can do their part by welcoming new businesses to the community and supporting them whenever possible. Some of the bright new lights in these challenging times include:

- Sport Chalet opened in November 2008 as the anchor tenant in the shopping center at Willow Pass Road and Diamond Boulevard
- Fiore, a new Italian restaurant at 5100 Clayton Road in the Vineyard Shopping Center, opened in summer 2008
- Facade and entry way improvements are being developed for Sunvalley Shopping Center, with construction to occur in 2009
- Godiva Chocolates opened in fall 2008 and Andersen Bakery will open soon in Sunvalley Shopping Center
- Pacific Sales, a kitchen, bath and electronics store featuring premium, brand-name products, opened in November 2008 at 1150 Concord Ave. in the Heritage Square Shopping Center
- Bronze Buddha, a Thai fusion restaurant, and Burger Road, a casual burger restaurant, opened in Clayton Valley Shopping Center at Clayton Road and Ygnacio Valley Road, in summer 2008. Bella, an upscale Italian Restaurant, opened in October 2008
- Fresh and Easy, a neighborhood grocery store, Ross, a popular clothing retailer are slated to open in the Clayton Valley Shopping Center in 2009
- The Estates Shopping Center at Solano Way and Broadmoor is currently undergoing facade improvements that are scheduled to be complete in spring 2009
- 99 Ranch, an Asian market, is planning to open in the former Office Max location in the Park and Shop Center on Willow Pass Road, and plans for a Chuck E. Cheese's restaurant are under development for the corner of Willow Pass Road and Market Street
- Julian's Baby Boutique at 1838 Colfax Street opened in summer 2008
- Fin's on the Square, a new seafood restaurant, is scheduled to open at 1950 Grant Street in 2009
- Plans are currently underway for a Lowe's Shopping Center to open in 2010 on Arnold Industrial Way and Highway 4. ♦

### Permit Center online

Concord's online permit center assists residents and contractors with information needed to ensure a successfully completed project. Some of the items available on the site include:

- Information about which jobs need a permit
- Permit history for any property within the City
- Applications for a simple building permit (contractors only)
- General plan designation and zoning of a parcel

Visit [www.cityofconcord.org](http://www.cityofconcord.org) and select "Permit Center" from the Quick Links drop down menu. For more information, call 671-3454.

# Free coupons from local businesses available online from Buy Concord

The online Buy Concord program was created to encourage residents to purchase products and services in Concord.

At [www.buyconcord.net](http://www.buyconcord.net), residents will find appealing coupons from local businesses as well as listings for many of the retail, service and restaurant businesses in Concord.

In tough economic times, local businesses rely on support from local customers. At the same time, residents save time and gas by shopping at local stores and can feel good knowing that they are supporting the local economy.

The Buy Concord business listings assist residents in finding stores they may not have realized were 'in their own backyard' and offers coupons from select businesses to encourage local shopping. Business owners may post coupons to the site at no cost to the business.

When residents spend their hard-earned dollars at retail stores in the city, a portion of the sales tax comes back to the community to help fund City programs and services. Dollars spent in Concord also help support Concord businesses that, in turn, employ people who then spend their wages in the community. This creates a strong ripple effect that fuels Concord's economic engine.



About 40 percent of the City's budget comes from sales tax revenue. In these difficult economic times, the more Concord residents use their buying power to purchase goods and services within the community, the more likely that the City will be able to fund services such as police, parks and public works that directly benefit residents.

Concord offers a diverse assortment of large retailers, shopping centers, restaurants, auto dealers, and smaller mom-and-pop businesses. Any make or model of car can be found at Concord's variety of automotive dealers. Major shopping centers such as Sunvalley, the Willows and Park & Shop offer shopping choices that range from small, family-owned shops to large national retailers. The newly renovated downtown area around Todos Santos Plaza is humming with new restaurants and one-of-a-kind stores. Everyone wins when the local business community is strong. Discover all the local options Concord has to offer.

For more information about the Buy Concord program, visit [www.buyconcord.net](http://www.buyconcord.net), email [info@buyconcord.net](mailto:info@buyconcord.net) or contact Joelle Fockler at 671-3432. ♦

## Join Concord's Police Volunteers

No police department is large enough to keep a community safe on its own. Effective crime prevention requires the active support of citizens.

Volunteers in Police Service (V.I.P.S.) was formed to provide citizen support to the Police Department. Every year, the department experiences an increase in requests for services. Many of the requests deal with matters that are non-criminal in nature. The department's ability to respond to these requests, using sworn officers as the responders, is limited. Sworn officers are primarily directed towards emergency response, investigation of major crimes, and calls for services that require powers of arrest. As a result, the need for volunteers continues to grow so that sworn officers may be available for higher priority tasks.

Members of the V.I.P.S. perform nearly two dozen different tasks for the department, including vacation house checks, clerical duties, support for the Neighborhood Watch program, assistance with neighborhood and community events and disaster training.

For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Margaret Romiti, 671-3184 or visit [www.cityofconcord.org](http://www.cityofconcord.org) and type VIPS in the search window.

### Check before burning

This winter, for the first time in the Bay Area, it is illegal to burn wood, firelogs, or pellets in a fire-place, woodstove, or outdoor firepit on days for which the Air District issues a winter Spare the Air Alert.

Winter Spare the Air Alerts are posted on the Spare the Air home page at [www.sparetheair.org](http://www.sparetheair.org) and are available by phone at 1-877-4NO-BURN.

The winter Spare the Air season runs through February 28.

# Be flood ready: Tips to help residents protect property from flood hazards

Concord has a number of creeks and drainage channels susceptible to flooding that pose threats to public safety and have the potential to cause significant property damage.

These waterways include Walnut Creek, Galindo Creek, Pine Creek, Ditch No. 2, Farm Bureau Drain, Hollbrook Channel, Clayton Valley Drain, and Mt. Diablo Creek.

Flooding can be caused by strong rains, clogged catch basins or storm drains, or poor site drainage.

Certain areas in Concord have been designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA), or 100-year flood zones. A 100-year flood zone refers to the area with a one percent chance of being flooded in any given year. There are currently more than 1,500 homes that are partially or entirely located in the SFHA within the city.

Even homes not located in the SFHA can be subject to smaller floods. The risk of flooding due to storms of any size means that it is important that residents protect their families and property against flooding.

While there is the potential for seasonal flood-related damage nearly every year, the flooding caused by a major storm in December 2005 and the Ygnacio Valley Road landslide in March of 2006 represent the most recent significant flooding and storm-related damage in Concord.

Residents can call the City Engineering Division at 671-3425 to find out about the potential flood hazard for their area or for information on flood-related questions.

## Flood insurance

Standard homeowner and renter insurance policies do not cover losses due to flooding. Residents are encouraged to consider buying

flood insurance whether or not their homes are located within the Special Flood Hazard Area. Renters can purchase flood insurance to cover their possessions.

Because the City was recently accepted into FEMA's Community Rating System, residents in the SFHA are eligible to receive a 10% discount on flood insurance policies issued or renewed on or after October 1, 2008.

## Protecting Property

Residents located in flood-prone areas are encouraged to have the necessary supplies and materials, such as sandbags and plastic sheeting, on hand to protect property and belongings during the rainy season. Free sandbags are available at the City Corporation Yard, located at 1455 Gasoline Alley, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 671-3948 to arrange for pickup.

## Be a good neighbor, keep leaves out of the street

Residents now have convenient greenwaste toters for the recycling of leaves and other yard debris. Raking leaves and other material into the street creates a problem for the City's street crews. Street cleaning equipment used by the City is specially engineered to capture dirt, dust and sand. Unfortunately, piles of leaves are too big to be removed by the street sweepers.

City crews employ the latest sweeping technology. Regenerative air system sweepers are designed to clean the dirt, dust, and fine silt out of pavement crevices and cracks. The suction created by the sweeper's floating pickup head creates an air-tight seal with the pavement, adjusting to the curvatures

and irregularities of paved surfaces for pick-up effectiveness.



The EPA has determined particles only one-seventh the diameter of a human hair are the source of a large amount of pavement-based stormwater runoff pollution. Research shows particles smaller than 10-microns have the highest level of pollution attachment, including

phosphorus, lead, copper, zinc, and other heavy metals.

Residents should have leaves and other yard debris recycled. Concord Disposal offers weekly pick-up of yard debris on the same day as the regular garbage and recycling collection. Be sure to put all yard waste recycling in the green yard waste container.

In addition to a yearly Spring Clean-Up Day in April, all Concord homeowners with regular garbage service may schedule one free-of-charge pick up of as much as to 10 bags or 10 boxes of household items or yard debris. (The weight limit is 50 pounds per box or bag).

To schedule an extra pick up, call Concord Disposal at 682-9113.



*Although much of Concord is dry during winter rains, some areas are still prone to flooding.*

Other proactive steps taken before a flood can help residents protect their property. Some of these include knowing how to divert floodwater around structures, elevating or relocating electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters, and appliances to an area that is less likely to be flooded, and, in some cases, elevating the house above the flood hazard. Measures to protect property from flood damage can also include retrofitting, grading a yard, correcting local drainage problems, and such immediate emergency measures as moving furniture and sandbagging.

The City Engineering Division provides individual consultations to assist residents in securing their property. A staff member visits the property to assist with developing ideas on how to help protect the property from drainage problems and can offer advice on retro-fitting issues. In addition, flood protection references including retrofitting techniques are available in the City's Permit Center, 1950 Parkside Dr., and at the Concord Public Library, 2900 Salvio St.

### **Floodplain information**

Maintaining the flow capacity in streams that cross City properties requires cooperation and assistance to prevent flooding and bank erosion. Following are some suggestions and information for understanding the ways that floodplains

function and how the City regulates the floodplain in order to protect property and lives, while supporting residents in obtaining floodplain insurance.

### **Keep ditches and streams clean**

A plugged channel cannot carry water, and when it rains, the excess water must go somewhere. Trash and vegetation dumped into a stream degrades water quality of both the stream itself and its receiving waters, and every piece of trash contributes to flooding. The City has adopted and enforces regulations that prohibit the dumping of material into any natural or man-made component of the drainage system. To report illegal dumping of debris or other objects into creeks or drainage ways, call 1-800 NO DUMPING (1-800-663-8674).

### **Drainage System Maintenance**

The City regularly inspects and performs maintenance on the storm drainage system, including creeks, drainage ditches, catch basins and storm drain pipes. Additionally, the City requests that residents maintain privately-owned sections of creeks by keeping banks clear of debris to help maintain an unobstructed flow of water in stream channels. Do not, however, remove vegetation that is actively growing on a stream bank. Streamside vegetation is tightly regulated by local, state and federal regulations.

The City provides expert advice and assistance through the Urban Creeks Council SMPL (Streamside Management Program for Landowners) program. For information visit [www.urbancreeks.org](http://www.urbancreeks.org) or call (510) 540-6669. The Watershed Nursery, located in Berkeley, provides a wide selection of quality native plants and select habitat enhancement services as well as free consultation upon request.

Please report any observations of the clearing of vegetation or trees on stream banks to the City of Concord Public Works Department-Creek Maintenance at 671-3050.

### **To report a flooding problem**

Report flooding to the City Public Works Department by calling 671-3448 weekdays during regular business hours. In an emergency, contact the Police Department at 911. ♦

### **Contact Information**

#### **City of Concord**

#### **Floodplain Information:**

[www.cityofconcord.org/permits/engineering/floodzone.htm](http://www.cityofconcord.org/permits/engineering/floodzone.htm)

#### **Engineering Department:**

671-3425

#### **Building Department:**

671-3107

#### **Stormwater Program Manager:**

671-3394

#### **Public Works Department:**

641-3448

#### **Concord Public Library (Houses floodplain publications):**

2900 Salvio Street, 646-5455

#### **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** (800) 621-FEMA (3362)

#### **National Flood Insurance Program Region IX:**

(510) 627-7100

[www.fema.gov/business/nfip/](http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/)

## Downtown water pipes to be replaced

The Contra Costa Water District will replace the underground water pipes in downtown Concord this winter. The pipes are 65 to 75 years old and must be replaced to ensure the reliability of downtown's water service by preventing disruptive pipeline breaks and unplanned repairs. The new pipes will be serviceable for 75 to 100 years.

Every effort is being made to minimize disruptions to the downtown while work is underway. The project will begin in January, after the holiday season, and be completed prior to June. A significant amount of work is scheduled to be performed at night to reduce traffic and business interruptions. Streets will be swept daily, and measures will be taken to control dust and noise during construction.

The project will replace nearly 5,500 feet of pipeline on Willow Pass Road,

Concord Boulevard, Galindo Street and Grant Street. In addition, water service hookups along a 1,400-foot length of Willow Pass Road will be switched from an old pipeline to a newer, more reliable one that is already in place under the road.

Daytime work hours will be 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Concord Boulevard and most of Grant Street. Nighttime work hours will be 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. on Galindo Street, Willow Pass Road and a portion of Grant Street between Willow Pass Road and Concord Boulevard.

To access the old water pipes and install new ones, crews must dig trenches in the streets and redirect traffic around construction areas. When work is not actively occurring in a trench, it will be covered with temporary asphalt or steel plates.

As work progresses, on-street parking will be prohibited in active con-

struction zones. Signs will be posted in advance to keep motorists aware of parking restrictions. Convenient access to driveways and parking lots will be maintained as much as possible. In situations where access restrictions are necessary, property occupants will receive advance notice and access restrictions will be as brief as possible.

Occasional temporary water outages will be necessary to complete the project. These outages are usually brief, and property occupants will receive 24-hour advance notice via fliers and doorhangers.

For more information about the project or to receive project updates by e-mail, contact Gina Oltman at [goltman@ccwater.com](mailto:goltman@ccwater.com) or 688-8010. Information about the project is also available at [www.cewater.com](http://www.cewater.com).

## Housing Element gets an update

In 2008, the City initiated an update to its Housing Element. The Housing Element is part of the City's General Plan, which serves as the 'constitution' for future development in Concord. It provides a specific set of policies and programs to help developers and property owners produce high quality housing for all income levels in the city.

The Housing Element is required by state law to function as an integral part of the General Plan and be consistent with the other General Plan Elements. The deadline for adoption of the new Housing Element is June 30, 2009.

In September 2008, the City completed two major public outreach efforts on the Housing Element Update project that included a community workshop and a focus group meeting. The purpose of the public outreach was to gather information and opinions on housing issues affecting the community. This will assist the City

in understanding the community's housing needs and issues, as well as the values and priorities for meeting those needs.

On Sept. 27, a Community Workshop with Concord residents was held at the Concord Senior Center. The workshop was designed as an "open house" with three major components: information stations, a panel discussion, and a small group discussion. The information stations provided residents with facts regarding the City's existing housing programs, recently approved residential projects, the process for obtaining residential construction permits, and code enforcement programs.

The panel discussion featured experts in residential design and development. The workshop concluded with a small group discussion so participants could provide input on the issues and priorities for the Housing Element Update.

On Sept. 29, a focus group was conducted with housing developers and providers, and

special interest groups to discuss possible strategies and approaches to meeting housing challenges in Concord.

### Next Steps

A joint City Council and Planning Commission study session is planned for early 2009 to review the feedback from the workshop and focus group and present proposed housing policies, programs, and objectives for the Housing Element Update.

Based on the policy direction received from the Council and Commission, a draft Housing Element will be prepared.

Dates and times for upcoming workshops and public hearings will be posted on the City's website ([www.cityofconcord.org](http://www.cityofconcord.org)) and will be published in local newspapers.

For more information, contact Principal Planner Phillip Woods in the City's Planning Division, 671-3152. ♦

# Emergencies happen every day... How well are you prepared?

By  
Margaret Romiti  
Volunteer Services  
Coordinator



This year, residents of southern states were faced with a season of punishing hurricanes, while people of other countries were hit with devastating earthquakes. These acts of nature resulted in the tragic loss of many lives, innumerable injuries and destruction of property. They serve as a reminder that disaster can strike quickly and take away what we regard as most precious.

In the Bay Area, earthquakes have a history of causing great damage. The Hayward fault, which passes through western Contra Costa County, is the greatest concern. Scientists have estimated that there is a

significant chance that a major earthquake will occur along the Hayward fault within the next 30 years.

The damage caused by a major earthquake will severely restrict communications, transportation and utilities, and will isolate many areas of the county. Emergency service response personnel will likely be overwhelmed by calls for assistance and unable to respond to many requests during the first 72 hours (3 days) or more of the disaster. The ability of individuals, families and neighbors to help themselves and each other cope during this time will be crucial to their survival.

Preparedness activities that are undertaken now will provide individuals and families with greater security and self-sufficiency when earthquakes or other disasters happen.

The City strongly urges residents to plan for what they and their families will do during an earthquake, as well as after the shaking stops.

For a copy of the Family Preparedness Resource Guide, published by the City, please call 671-3184 or visit [www.ci.concord.ca.us/safety/emergencymgmt.htm](http://www.ci.concord.ca.us/safety/emergencymgmt.htm). For additional information, visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).



## Emergency Training

In addition to being prepared at home, residents can take advantage of emergency training classes offered through the City. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) 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 training includes 20 hours of instruction over a six-week period. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an emergency event when professional responders are not immediately available.

The primary reason for CERT training is to give people the decision-making, organizational, and practical skills to offer immediate assistance to family members, neighbors, and associates while waiting for help. When help does arrive, CERT volunteers provide useful information to responders.

For more information or to sign up for CERT training, please call 671-3184. ♦



*CERT class member practices the proper use of a fire extinguisher.*

# Concord City News

### City of Concord

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

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

## Postal Customer

## City Meetings

All meetings are held at Civic Center, 1950 Parkside Dr., unless otherwise noted and are open to the public. Dates are subject to change. For information, visit the Web site at [www.cityofconcord.org](http://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 Thursday, 5:30 p.m.
Human Relations Commission	Second Tuesday, 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](http://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](http://www.cityofconcord.org)  
 Events:.....[www.concordfirst.org](http://www.concordfirst.org)  
 Classes:.....[www.concordreg.org](http://www.concordreg.org)  
 E-mail:.....[cityinfo@ci.concord.ca.us](mailto:cityinfo@ci.concord.ca.us)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator .....	671-3063
Building.....	671-3107
Business Licenses .....	671-3313
Cable TV	
Astound Broadband.....	459-1000
Comcast.....	1-800-945-2288
Camp Concord.....	671-3273
Centre Concord.....	671-3466
City Council.....	671-3158
Community and Recreation Services	
Class registration.....	671-3404
Concord Community Pool.....	671-3480
Concord Naval Weapons Station	
Reuse Project .....	671-3001
Downtown Hotline.....	671-3464
Economic Development.....	671-3355
Engineering .....	671-3361
Flood Zone Inquiries .....	671-3425
Garbage Collection .....	682-9113
Graffiti Hotline .....	671-3080
Housing .....	671-3364
Human Resources.....	671-3308
Mayor.....	671-3158
Neighborhood Services Hotline .....	671-3282
Park Reservations.....	671-3404
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 /Information.....	671-3220
Pothole Hotline.....	671-3228
Public Works .....	671-3448
Park Maintenance .....	671-3444
Recreation/Registration.....	671-3404
Recycling.....	671-3385
Senior Center .....	671-3320
Sewer Problems.....	671-3099
Shopping Cart Hotline .....	671-5080
Sleep Train Pavilion	
Hotline.....	363-5701
Information.....	676-8742
Street Light Outages Hotline.....	671-3213
Street Sweeping.....	671-3394
Street Trees .....	671-3444
Traffic Signal Malfunctions.....	671-3132
Willow Pass Center .....	671-3423