

Concord City News

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITY OF CONCORD

Winter 2001

News Corner

New Look

Concord City News has a new look. Your comments are welcome. Please contact Community Relations Manager Leslye Asera, 671-3272, lasera@ci.concord.ca.us. www.ci.concord.ca.us

Family-friendly

The City adopted the slogan 'Concord, Where Families Come First' to raise awareness about the wealth of family-friendly activities, events, stores and restaurants that can be found in Concord. This information is available on a special website. A new feature allows residents to submit event information for posting on the site. www.concordfirst.org

Mayor's Breakfast

At the end of every calendar year, the five-member City Council elects one of its members to serve as mayor for the coming year. In January, the City partners with the Chamber of Commerce to present the Mayor's Breakfast. At this event, the new mayor delivers the State-of-the-City address. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 685-1181 for information. www.concordchamber.com

Community comes together for the holiday season

The tragic events of September 11 and their aftermath have brought the people of the United States together. As Concord prepares for the holiday season, it's a time for residents to come together as a community and remember what makes the United States a great nation. Neighbors, friends and family will light Concord's holiday tree, collect toys for needy

children and perform hundreds of other small acts that demonstrate a commitment to country and community. As we enjoy our many freedoms – of religion, of speech, of the press, of assembly – we celebrate a nation that practices tolerance and embraces diversity. The City of Concord wishes you and yours a meaningful holiday season. ♦

Downtown lights up for the holidays



The annual Mayor's Sing Along is always a popular event with Concord families.

Concord's official Holiday Tree lights up on Saturday evening, December 1, in Todos Santos Plaza as part of the annual Mayor's Sing Along. The free event begins at 5 p.m. with festive entertainment on the Todos

Santos stage. The Mayor will lead the singing of traditional carols before the grand finale, when Concord's official holiday tree lights up with hundreds of sparkling bulbs. ♦

More holiday stories on page 2

Continued from page 1

Monumental Toy Drive

The fifth annual Monumental Holiday Toy Drive, sponsored by the Concord Police Department, is accepting donations through December 17. Last year, 1,500 Concord children, ages 2 to 12, received toys through the program. New toys or monetary contributions are welcome.

Collection bins can be found at police headquarters, 1350 Galindo St., Southern Field Office, 1955 Monument - 4F, Northern Field Office, 2166 Solano Way, Valley Field Office, 5400 Ygnacio Valley Blvd. - A8B, City Hall, 1950 Parkside Dr. and at many local businesses.

Volunteers are needed to wrap the toys. For more information, call Heather Weston, 671-3485. ♦



The Monumental Holiday Toy Drive makes the season bright for approximately 1,500 children every year.

Santa sightings

On Saturday, December 8, children have two opportunities to visit with Santa. From 8:30 to 10 a.m., Breakfast with Santa is served at Willow Pass Center, Salvio St. and East Olivera Rd. in Willow Pass Park. After breakfast, children talk with Santa about their special holiday wishes. The cost is \$7 per person for Concord residents, \$8 for non-residents. Advance registration is required by calling 671-3404.

Santa comes to downtown Concord from noon to 3 p.m. for Santa's Grand Arrival. After making a colorful entrance on a bright red fire truck, Santa and his elves hear children's holiday wishes on the Todos Santos Plaza stage. The event is free. Optional photos are available for a fee. ♦



Santa will be in town Saturday, December 8 for Breakfast with Santa and Santa's Grand Arrival.

Todos Santos Parking Center

The Todos Santos Parking Center at Concord Ave. and Pacheco St. is scheduled for completion by the end of the year, weather permitting.

The 162,000-sq. ft., three-level parking center will bring 432 parking spaces to the downtown. A landscaped 'paseo' will provide a pedestrian-friendly area between the parking structure and the Old Bank Building. For more information, call the Parking Center Hotline, 671-3388. ♦



The Todos Santos Parking Center adds 432 parking spaces to the downtown.

One Stop Permit Center

Major home improvement projects generally require a permit from the City. Residents can now get a permit over the counter in most cases at the newly remodeled One Stop Permit Center, located at Civic Center, 1950 Parkside Dr.

The days when residents had to visit multiple City departments for a permit are over. The new center houses staff from several departments. Building Inspection, Current Development, Neighborhood Preservation, Planning and the Multi-Family Inspection Program are all housed in the center. A resident comes in, tells the receptionist what he or she needs and takes a seat at the expansive counter. The receptionist contacts the appropriate staff person, who comes out to help the resident.

“We are proud of the fact that 90 percent of city permits are now issued over the counter on the same day,” said Hamid Pouya, Director of Building and Neighborhood Services.



Staff members from four City departments are ready to assist residents at the newly remodeled One Stop Permit Center.

For a list of projects that require permits, visit the City’s website at www.ci.concord.ca.us / Living in Concord / Building Permits or call 671-3454. ♦

Construction begins on new Senior Center

Construction will soon begin on the new Concord Senior Citizens Center, adjacent to the existing building at 2727 Parkside Circle. The existing building will be demolished upon completion of the new building.

The new Senior Center will have 16,100 square feet of space, more than double the size of the existing building, at an estimated construction cost of \$6.6 million. Construction begins in early December with completion anticipated in October 2002. The facility will feature a large main meeting room, consultation room, classrooms, a game room, improved storage and new landscaping as well as new furniture, fixtures and office equipment.

The Concord Senior Citizens Club, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, has launched the first phase of a \$500,000



An artist’s rendering of the new Concord Senior Citizens Center.

fundraising drive to provide a supplemental package of audio/visual and technology equipment. For more information call 687-2585. ♦

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility

4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez
 Call **1-800-646-1431** or visit our web site, www.centrialsan.org for more information



Residents: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Businesses: Tuesday through Saturday by appointment only
Closed: Sunday & Monday

Sponsored by Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD) and Mt. View Sanitary District.

Metroplex Office Centre, a landmark project

A groundbreaking ceremony was held September 25 for the Metroplex Office Centre at 1401 Willow Pass Rd. The \$96 million project is the largest office development in the North I 680 corridor in the past 12 years. The landmark twin-tower, ten-story complex features distinctive arctic blue glass and a granite exterior with imported Italian marble lobbies.

“Concord was selected by Sierra Pacific Properties as the site for the project because of its central location, freeway access and skilled, well-educated workforce,” said Helen Bean, Economic Development/Redevelopment Manager.

The first tower will be completed in 2002 and will provide approximately 1,400 jobs. Each structure will contain 237,250-sq. ft. of office space and will feature two-story entry lobbies with marble walls and floors. The same Italian marble was used by ancient Romans in the construction of the interior of the Pantheon.

State-of-the-art Internet connections and power capabili-



The first tower of the Metroplex Office Center, under construction at 1401 Willow Pass Rd., is slated for completion in 2002.

ties are incorporated into the design of the towers, so tenants will enjoy ‘plug and play’ connectivity and redundant power capabilities. ♦

Legacy luxury apartments under construction

Legacy Partners has broken ground on 260 luxury apartments on Galindo St. between Clayton Rd. and Laguna St., across from Police Headquarters. Residents of the \$40 million complex will be within walking distance of BART, downtown office buildings, downtown retail and Todos Santos Plaza. The complex features a clubhouse and exercise facility, swimming pool, spa, sun decks and its own parking structure.

“This is the first high quality, high-density residential project to be built downtown in a number of years,” says Planning and Economic Development Director Jim Forsberg. “The expectation is that these residents will patronize downtown restaurants and businesses, adding to the economic vitality of the area.” ♦



Artist's rendering of Legacy Partners' luxury apartment project.



California Materials Exchange (CalMAX)

CalMAX is a free service sponsored by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, a part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. It puts businesses in touch with other businesses and organizations that might have a use for materials they have traditionally discarded. Since 1992, more than 650,000 tons of materials have been diverted from landfills through the program.

For more information, call (877) 520-9703 toll free or visit www.ciwm.ca.gov/CalMAX/

Neighborhood Partnership Program connects City staff with residents

The Neighborhood Partnership Program is a cooperative effort between residents and city staff, working through neighborhood associations. Seventeen associations have agreed to partner with the City through this program so far.

To participate in the program, residents with a commitment to improving the neighborhood come together through an existing or new neighborhood association. City staff assists the association in identifying issues and creating solutions.

Staff from Neighborhood Preservation, the Police Department and

special Liaison Teams play important roles. The Neighborhood Preservation staff works to eliminate blight. The police officers address issues of neighborhood safety. Liaison Teams, made up of City employees from a number of departments, bring additional resources into play in cutting through bureaucracy to find positive solutions to neighborhood problems.

Last summer, neighborhood partnerships held 21 weekend clean-ups and five neighborhood street fairs or picnics. Partnerships have worked to remove public nuisances, find solutions to traffic problems and identify



neighborhood needs such as sidewalk repair and street tree replacement. Residents have utilized the City's home rehabilitation loan program and have received assistance with permits for home remodeling projects. Such partnerships are at the center of Concord's Community Oriented Government (COG) efforts.

For more information about the Neighborhood Partnership Program, call 671-3115 or visit the City's website at www.ci.concord.ca.us / Living in Concord / Neighborhoods. ♦

Improvements continue on two major corridors

As part of its continuing effort to visually enhance major arterial streets, the City Council has adopted a Landscape and Streetscape Master Plan for two of its major corridors. The Monument Boulevard Corridor Master Plan (Cowell Rd. to the Pleasant Hill city limit) was adopted in March 1997 and the Willow Pass Road Corridor Master Plan (Port Chicago Highway to Lynnwood Dr.) in September 2001. The plans offer unifying themes and design guidelines for both private development and City capital projects along these corridors. They cover streetscape and landscape improvements in public rights of way as well as on private property.

In 1999, the City allocated \$1.4 million for the first phase of the Monument Blvd. Master Plan improvements. The City installed new landscaping along the existing medians between Cowell Rd. and Detroit Ave. and constructed new medians on

Monument Blvd. between Detroit Ave. and Virginia Ln.

The City is about to implement the second phase at the western end of the corridor, which consists of entryway and landscape improvements. The \$480,000 project includes a landscaped median along Monument Blvd. at Mohr Ln. and landscaping on the vacant county property at the southwest corner of Monument Blvd. and Mohr Ln. The project also includes an entryway feature, which will be constructed within the new median.

The improvements for the remaining segment of the Monument Blvd. corridor between Virginia Ln. and Mohr Ln. will be constructed either by developers as part of new construction projects or by the City as funds become available.

Sometime next summer, the City will implement the first phase of the Master Plan improvements for the Willow Pass Rd. corridor. The first

phase, with a \$900,000 budget, consists of landscape improvements from Landana Dr. to 440 feet east of Lynnwood Dr. at the Concord Naval Weapons Station boundary.

The project will provide two new landscaped median islands and landscape improvements along the frontage of both sides of the street. New sidewalks will be constructed along portions of the street frontage. The plan also includes a raised planter with a wood trellis entryway feature at the eastern end of the project. In addition, the existing overhead utility lines will be moved underground and new street lights will be installed.

The Master Plan improvements for the remaining segment of the Willow Pass Rd. corridor between Port Chicago Highway and Landana Dr. will also be constructed by developers as part of new construction projects or by the City as funds become available. ♦

Ask the City *by Peter Dragovich, Assistant to the City Manager*

Q: I like the low cable TV rates we have in Concord because of the companies competing for our business, but when will cable construction be complete?

A: Two cable companies have significant projects underway. Astound Broadband (Seren Innovations, Inc.) is 85 percent complete with the construction of its new cable system. AT&T Broadband is upgrading its system and will be 60 percent complete by the end of this year. Both systems will provide advanced services including high-speed Internet access, local

and long-distance telephone services, and a variety of cable television programming choices. Astound will finish construction by early 2002. AT&T has not announced their capital project funding schedule for 2002 but anticipates all upgrade activity will be completed next year.

For more information call Astound Broadband Community Relations Manager Patty Friesen at 459-1086 or AT&T Broadband Government Affairs Manager Philip Arndt at 349-3335.

Kirker Pass metering project makes for smoother traffic flow

The metering lights on Kirker Pass Road, near the Chronicle Pavilion at Myrtle Drive, have been operating since the end of August. Traffic is held at this intersection to improve traffic flow through the Kirker Pass Rd./Ygnacio Valley Rd. corridor.

The program went into effect August 28. Concord residents experience smoother traffic flow and less delay from side streets. The number of drivers cutting through neighborhoods has decreased. The program appears to have caused residents from other cities

to use Highways 4 and 242 more frequently, instead of Kirker Pass Rd.

Residents are reminded that the maximum speed limit in the metered area of Kirker Pass Rd. with good visibility and dry conditions is 50 miles per hour. With wet weather on the horizon, it's even more important for drivers to be alert and keep a safe distance between cars.

For more information, call the hot line number at 671-3406 or e-mail cityinfo@ci.concord.ca.us. ♦

'Clean sweep' important for clean streets

Concord residents enjoy the benefits of having their streets swept every two weeks. Residents who rake leaves and other yard debris into the street make it difficult for crews to complete their appointed routes in a timely fashion.

Please recycle leaves and other green waste material by leaving them in bags or cans on the curb on garbage day. Green waste includes yard trimmings, grass clippings, leaves, weeds, brush and tree prunings up to a maximum of four feet in length. The weekly limit is five plastic leaf bags or the equivalent 32-gallon garbage cans or bundles of prunings not heavier than 50 pounds.

To help drivers make a 'clean sweep' on street cleaning day, please move vehicles, basketball backboards and trashcans off the street.

If you don't know the street sweeping day for your street, visit the City's website at www.ci.concord.ca.us or call 671-3147 to receive a schedule. ♦

Non-profit organization supports commission-related projects, programs

The purpose of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission, as described on the next page, is to advise the City Council on matters pertaining to public parks, recreation programs and open space. The Friends of Parks, Recreation and Open Space is a non-profit organization founded in June 1991 to raise funds for related programs and projects.

The organization sponsors scholar-

ships for children whose parents can't afford to send them to camp, swim lessons or other summer activities. The group supported the development of the Rick Seers Neighborhood Park, raised funds for Brazil Quarry Park and helped build a trail in the Lime Ridge Open Space.

To join this hard-working organization, contact co-president Craig Fletcher, 686-8396; cmfletcher1@home.net. ♦

Council relies on input from boards and commissions

Residents appointed by the City Council to its 11 voluntary boards and commissions have an important job to do. The 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.

Residents are often surprised at how easy it is to apply to serve on a board or commission. Listed at right is information about what each body does, when it meets and any special requirements for members. If any spark your interest, please consider making an application.

To receive an application and information packet, visit the City's website at www.ci.concord.ca.us, send an e-mail request to cityinfo@ci.concord.ca.us or call the Administrative Services office at 671-3295 and a packet will be mailed to you.

All meetings are held at Civic Center, 1950 Parkside Dr. Unless otherwise noted, members must be residents of Concord.

In addition to boards and commissions, the City Council also appoints representatives to 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 and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority Citizens' Advisory Committee. For information about these appointments, call 671-3295. ♦

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

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, Permit Center Conference Room

Community Services Commission

11 members, two-year terms
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, Permit Center Conference Room

Design Review Board

5 members, two-year terms
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, Council Chamber

Human Relations Commission*

7 members, two-year terms
Provides a community forum to foster equal opportunity and understanding, and to eliminate discrimination prohibited by local, state and federal law.
Meets: 7 p.m. first Monday, Council Chamber

Mobilehome Rent Review Board

3 members, two-year terms
Provides mediation between mobilehome owners and mobilehome park owners.
Meets: As needed

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission*

5 members, two-year terms
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 terms
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 terms
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

Status of Women Commission*

7 members, two-year terms
Fosters opportunities for women and develops programs to educate the community regarding challenges faced by women.
Meets: 6:30 p.m., fourth Wednesday, Council Chamber

Youth Council*

11 members, one-year terms
Advises on matters pertaining to youth and youth activities. Members, ages 13 to 21, are not appointed by Council, but selected by special Task Force. For information, call 671-3288.
Meets: 7 p.m., second and fourth Monday, Council Chamber

*Televised lived on the City's government cable TV channel 24/25 (AT&T) or 29 (Seren/Astound!). Planning Commission is broadcast the evening following the meeting.

City News en Español

Si usted desea recibir una copia de *City News* en español, por favor llámenos al 671-3490.

Calendar of City Meetings

All meetings are held at Civic Center, 1950 Parkside Drive. Dates are subject to change. For information, check the meeting notices section of the *Contra Costa Times* or call 671-3000.

December

3	Human Relations Commission	7:00 p.m.*
5, 19	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.**
10	Youth Council	7:00 p.m.*
11	City Council	6:30 p.m.*
12	Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission	7:00 p.m.*
13, 27	Design Review Board	7:00 p.m.
19	Commission on Aging	1:30 p.m.
19	Community Services Commission	6:30 p.m.

January

2, 16	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.**
7	Human Relations Commission	7:00 p.m.*
8, 22	City Council	6:30 p.m.*
9	Parks, Recreation and Open Space	7:00 p.m.*
10, 24	Design Review Board	7:00 p.m.
14, 28	Youth Council	7:00 p.m.*
16	Commission on Aging	1:30 p.m.
16	Community Services Commission	6:30 p.m.
23	Status of Women Commission	6:30 p.m.*

February

4	Human Relations Commission	7:00 p.m.*
5, 12, 26	City Council	6:30 p.m.*
6, 20	Planning Commission	7:00 p.m.**
11, 25	Youth Council	7:00 p.m.*
13	Parks, Recreation and Open Space	7:00 p.m.*
20	Commission on Aging	1:30 p.m.
20	Community Services Commission	6:30 p.m.
27	Status of Women Commission	6:30 p.m.*

* Broadcast live on AT&T channels 24/25 and Astound Broadband channel 29

** Broadcast live on channel 29, rebroadcast the following evening at 8 p.m. on channels 24/25.

Need an Answer?

website: www.ci.concord.ca.us

e-mail: cityinfo@ci.concord.ca.us

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator	671-3025
Cable TV	
AT&T	800-945-2288
Seren/Astound!	459-1000
Council Meeting Info.	671-3000
Emergencies	911
Flood Zone Inquiries	671-3425
Garbage Collection	682-9113
Graffiti Hotline	671-3080
Leisure Services	
Class Registration	671-3404
One-Stop Shop/	
Building Permits	671-3454
Chronicle Pavilion	676-8742
Hotline	363-5701
Tickets	685-8497
Police:	
Information	671-3232
Northern Field Office	671-3322
Southern Field Office	671-3483
Valley Field Office	671-3377
Potholes	671-3228
Recycling	671-3394
Sewer Problems	671-3099
Street Light Outages:	
PG&E	1-800-743-5000
Public Works	671-3367
Street Sweeping	671-3147
Street Trees	671-3230
Traffic	671-3132

Concord City News

City of Concord
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Bill McManigal	Vice Mayor
Helen M. Allen	Councilmember
Michael A. Pastrick	Councilmember
Mark A. Peterson	Councilmember

Lynnet Keihl	City Clerk
Thomas Wentling	City Treasurer

Edward R. James	City Manager
Leslye Asera	Community Relations Manager and Editor

Postal Customer