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NEWS BRIEFS

Budget Workshop

The annual City of Concord Budget Workshop will be held during the Tuesday, May 12 City Council meeting with Budget Hearings in June. For more information, visit the Finance section of the City website, www.cityofconcord.org.

Mother's Day

Celebrate Mom with two events in downtown Concord on Saturday, May 9. The Mount Diablo Music Education Foundation's All Area Music Festival performs on the Todos Santos Plaza stage all day. Winners of the annual Mother's Day Essay Contest will be announced. The AAUW Art and Wine (and Beer) Walk takes place around the plaza and is a benefit for the scholarship program.

Just for the Kids

Bay Area KidFest returns on Memorial Day Weekend May 23, 24 and 25 to Mt. Diablo High School. The event features free entertainment, face painting, balloon hats, inflatables, slides, crawls and more. Enjoy the thrilling zip line, pony rides, Ferris wheel, giant slide, petting zoo and the many rides. Admission is just \$6 with a donation of canned food to the Food Bank. Babies under two years and seniors 65+ are free.

CITY NEWS

Summer 2015



An army of staff and volunteers are ready to assist at the Family Justice Center. Left to right: Amy Holmquist, Irene Van Dar Laan, Cheryl Owens, Georgina Ortega-Moran, Sgt. Jeff Krieger, Tamina Alon, Carmen Flores, Elizabeth Wilmerding, Judith Javier-Casillas, Margaret Romiti, Wendar Huang, Reina Sandoval-Beverly, Oravanh Thammassen and Director Susun Kim. The mural in the background is by Carla Winter.

Family Justice Center opens in downtown Concord

Concord's Central County Family Justice Center (FJC) is open for business. A ribbon cutting and open house were held March 19 at the FJC offices in Salvio Pacheco Square, 2152 Salvio St., Suite 201.

The FJC is a one-stop-shop where police, prosecutors, social service and community organizations come together under one roof to assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse and human trafficking. Clients are given the resources to help them report abuse and leave violent situations. The facility,

initially sponsored by the City and Contra Costa County in partnership with dozens of non-profit organizations, will eventually be fully funded through foundations and private grants.

Concord's FJC is the second site in what will be a three-center network, the first of its kind in the country. The West Contra Costa FJC is now operating in Richmond, and an East County center is in the planning stages.

Police Chief Guy Swanger sees a clear need for the combined services at

Family Justice Center
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How to drought-proof your home, reduce water use



Replacing a lawn with drought-tolerant plants can save 1,400 gallons of water a year

A message from the Contra Costa Water District

The California drought is entering its fourth consecutive year, the longest drought since the late 1970s. Water conservation is more important than ever. Drought-proofing at home is one of the best ways to beat the drought.

1. Free Water Use Evaluation:

The Contra Costa Water District will evaluate home and landscape water use for free. During the Water Conservation Survey, a CCWD technician will inspect landscape and irrigation systems, program irrigation timers, and teach residents ways to save. To schedule a water conservation survey, call (925) 688-8320 or visit www.ccwater.com/conserve/singlefamily.asp.

2. Check for Leaks:

The best way to see if there is a leak is to check the water meter. Turn off all water fixtures such as washers, dishwasher, ice maker, etc. Then read the water meter and write down the reading. Wait one hour and read it again. If the meter dial

or numbers changed, then there might be a leak. For instructions on how to read a water meter, visit www.ccwater.com/conserve/water_calculator.asp.

3. Indoor Fixtures:

■ **Toilets** installed prior to 1994 can be replaced with a new WaterSense certified, high-efficiency model. They use half the water and have a powerful flush.

■ **Clothes washers** have become very water and energy efficient. When purchasing, look for one that is "Energy Star Most Efficient" (ESME) rated and get a rebate of up to \$150. For rebate information visit www.waterenergysavings.com.

■ **Showerheads** can use more than two-and-a-half gallons of water per minute. Consider replacing with a model that uses only two gallons per minute. CCWD customers can pick one up for free at the CCWD Office at 1331 Concord Avenue.

4. Lose the Lawn, Get a Garden:

Lawns are the biggest water user at most homes. A typical front lawn will use more than 28,000 gallons in a year, enough water for 1,400 showers. Replace your existing lawn with water-wise landscaping and save up to 14,000 gallons per year. CCWD provides up to \$1,000 in rebates to replace front lawns with water-wise landscaping. For program information, visit www.ccwater.com/12g-cgi/index57.asp or call (925) 688-8320. ♦

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the center and believes the programs will have a direct benefit to the community in reducing instances of abuse and calls for service.

"Nearly 40 percent of felony aggravated assaults - which make up most of the Concord's violent crime - are domestic violence related," he said. "By offering services to potential victims, we hope to reduce the number of assaults, making a difference for many families and for the community."

An additional benefit in reducing calls for service is the impact to the Police Department. A domestic violence call costs the department on average \$1,400. Fewer calls will mean that more resource can be spent on other public safety programs.

Volunteers and local organizations interested in supporting the center should contact Executive Director Susun Kim, (925) 521-6366. ♦