

Concord

NORTH CAROLINA

CITY CIRCULAR

SUMMER 2011



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David W. Phillips
District 1



James E. Ramseur
District 2



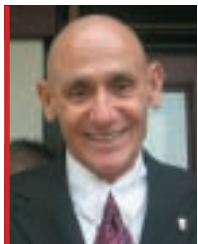
Ella Mae Small
District 3



Alfred M. Brown, Jr.
District 4
Mayor Pro-Tem



W. Lamar Barrier
District 5



Hector H. Henry II
District 6



John A. Sweat, Jr.
District 7

Mark Your Calendar for the Mayor's Golf Tournament

The 14th annual Mayor's Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, September 30, 2011, at Rocky River Golf Club. Proceeds from the tournament benefit youth programs in our community, and the deadline to enter is September 23, 2011. Please visit rockyrivergolf.com for more information. □



The Concord City Circular is produced quarterly by the City Manager's Office to provide Concord citizens with information about current activities of the City of Concord. It contains items that will help make it easier for you to do business with the City. Your comments and questions are welcomed. Please send them to Concord City Circular, P.O. Box 308, Concord, NC 28026 or call 704-920-5210 or e-mail franzese@concordnc.gov.

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J. Scott Padgett



Focused on the Future, Honoring the Past

On June 9, Concord City Council approved its 2011-2012 budget. The direction for this budget actually began mid-year 2008-2009 when we cut \$9 million from the adopted budget. During each successive year, the Manager and Council have continued to trim expenditures while trying to make sure we could continue to provide a high level of service.

This year's budget keeps the 42 cent per \$100 of valuation tax rate; water, wastewater and stormwater rates also remain the same. The City Manager's column on the next page provides a detailed explanation of the budget, and the process Concord uses to plan each year's activities. Concord continues to have one of the lowest tax rates of any North Carolina city with a population greater than 35,000 (see graph). Keeping taxes low while providing good service is a team effort of frontline employees, department heads, management and the City Council.

On Saturday, April 30, the City of Concord joined its neighbors in Kannapolis as we honored Sergeant First Class Donnie Shue. Donnie grew up in Concord, and then moved to Kannapolis before he joined the Army to serve in Vietnam. He was missing in action for 42 years before his remains were found and returned home for burial. The nine-mile procession and ceremonies were a

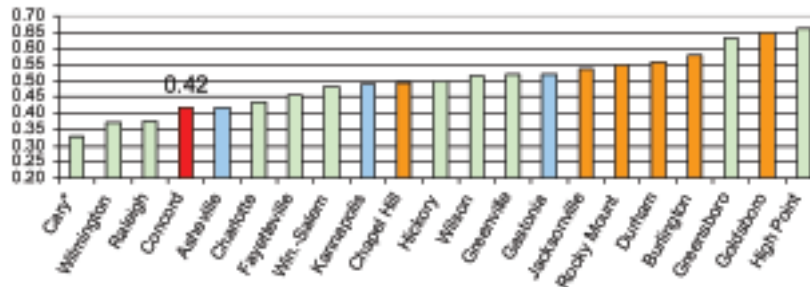
spring edition of the *City Circular*, I wrote about the expansion of Celgard. Even before production began, the company decided to add a \$64-million expansion to the original \$58-million investment. They also propose to add an additional 100 employees to the original 200 employees.

April brought more good news for Concord and the region.

Connexions, located in the International Business Park, is a call center that provides services for the health care industry. Workers help health care insurance buyers find suitable plans, benefits and prices. They also provide customer service on

benefits claims and other matters. The company serves six of the nation's seven largest insurance carriers. Connexions recently announced a new facility in Charlotte with approximately 800 employees and an additional 400 employees for the Concord location. Connexions jobs will pay \$35,000 to \$45,000 annually. Cabarrus County

FY 2011-12 Proposed Property Tax Rates for
NC Full-Service Cities Over 35,000 Pop.
(Cents per \$100 Valuation)



*City - extensive use of impact fees.
 †Cities in green apply fee for solid waste (for some or all services) in addition to property tax.
 ‡Note that cities in blue (Asheville, Kannapolis and Gastonia) charge a nominal recycling fee, but not for residential garbage (19¢/lb/week).
 §Charlotte residents are assessed an annual solid waste fee for disposal of \$45 or \$37 (for multi-family) through Mecklenburg C.A. tax bills.

tribute to Donnie, his family, and all past and present who have served our country. Those who stood along the route with flags and those of us who watched or participated in the ceremony experienced a moment in history like no other. See page 6 for photos of this memorable tribute.

Concord continues to play a role in encouraging job growth. In the

Brian Hiatt, Concord City Manager



The FY 2011-12 Budget: Our Plans for the Next Year

As Mayor Padgett wrote in his article, on June 9, 2011, the City Council adopted Concord's budget for the fiscal year covering July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. The budget was based on the recommendation presented in May in compliance with the North Carolina Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. The act also requires that local government budgets must be balanced, meaning revenues and expenditures are equal.

A budget always reflects choices on the part of the governing body; however, the impact of the economy on the revenues available to fund this budget combined with City Council's mandate to maintain basic services certainly narrowed the number of choices available. As a result, the financial plan focuses on providing basic services, and funds some key capital investments that are necessary to support these same basic services for future fiscal years. It also avoids major debt issuance in the General Fund and adding other expenditures that would result in recurring costs.

The General Fund budget (where the majority of revenue is derived from property and sales taxes) for FY 2011-12 totals \$64,371,850 for City personnel, operations, capital

improvements and debt service. This reflects a \$1.8-million decline (or 2.8 percent) over the adopted budget for FY 10-11 and is the lowest General Fund budget adopted since FY 07-08.

The tax rate remains at 42 cents per \$100 of valuation, reflecting no change from the tax rate first adopted by Concord City Council for FY 2008-09. This tax rate continues to be among the lowest of full-service North Carolina municipalities with populations greater than 35,000. As in past years, the tax rate also includes restricting 2 cents of the rate for use in the Transportation Improvement Fund as directed by the City Council.

The Citywide budget totals \$207,724,003 for all funds, including utilities and various special revenue funds. The Citywide budget reflects a 6.4 percent (or \$12.5-million) increase from the adopted budget figure of FY 10-11 and is due to an expected \$4.5-million increase in the wholesale purchase cost of electricity and the appropriation of \$4.7 million in retained earnings for the Albemarle waterline connection.

Setting aside these two large expenses and a few smaller ones —

such as the impact of the price of fuel — the Citywide budget is relatively the same size as the budget adopted back in FY 08-09. There is no increase in water or wastewater rates, or stormwater fees.

The process started with all departments being asked to submit a draft budget with no operational increases, and continuing the operational expenditure cuts implemented in FY 2008-09, FY 2009-10 and FY 2010-11, including a 17 percent decline in operational expenses in FY 2009-10 alone (excluding the wholesale purchased power costs in electric).

Departmental budget requests were then evaluated to determine the impact on services and to formulate recommendations to minimize the impact on basic service levels. The City provides many essential services, such as police, fire, clean water, and street and traffic signal maintenance, among others, so staff had to be strategic in the areas impacted using the goals the City Council adopted at their planning session in January of 2011 as a guide.

The City has not been able to cut costs without impacting jobs. This budget recommends 12 positions

be eliminated (none currently filled) and 21 more remain "frozen" with no appropriated salary. The total projected savings from these positions is \$1,256,073. No sworn police positions or firefighter positions have been frozen.

While the economy is moving in a positive direction, it will be some time before local governments will begin to see significant revenues from the recovery. As of this writing, the Cabarrus County unemployment rate is 9.4 percent, down from around 12 percent a year ago, but overall sales tax revenues have lagged behind FY 2009-2010's lower levels. Sales tax revenues have now decreased for three consecutive fiscal years.

Per council's direction, the focus has been on maintaining essential services provided to our residents and businesses. To do this and to continue to make basic capital purchases, the budget uses

\$1,460,162 from the City's General Capital Reserve Funds. Reserves are not being used to fund operational line items; however, operational line items have been reduced over the last four budget years to the point that revenue declines in future fiscal years would require reductions in services.

Use of reserves across funds has enabled the City to continue capital projects such as the Albemarle waterline connection, the up-fronting of dollars for NCDOT to construct the George W. Liles Parkway extension project and the widening of Derita Road (with the matched federal funds provided through NCDOT).

Key changes in service methods began July 5 with the weekly automated collection of garbage using most of the existing garbage carts and every-other-week recycling pick-up, using new 96-gallon roll-out

carts. These changes will eventually save the City approximately \$1.7 million in annual collection costs.

We feel the public will see the solid waste changes as a true "win-win" once residents become accustomed to the new methods. At the same time, the money saved is crucial, as it partially offsets the decline in City revenues due to the economy and the reduction in the tax base on the Philip Morris property.

If these changes were not made, it would have been very difficult to balance this budget without a tax increase unless the council was prepared to make significant cuts in services. For example, because of the economy and changes in the apportionment formula allocating sales taxes to Cabarrus County local governments, Concord has

continued on page 7

News & Updates

Have Fun at Free Events All Summer Long

Want entertainment without breaking the bank? Several free events are continuing throughout the summer here in Concord!

Come downtown for Concord Downtown Development Corporation's *Union Street Live!*, the third Thursday of each month through September. The free

concerts are from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. on the Historic Courthouse lawn (Union and Means). Remaining acts include the **Atlantic Groove Band** on **July 21**, **Craig Woolard Band** on **August 18** and **SuperGlide** on **September 15!**

Bring your blanket or lawn chairs to the soccer field at Dorton Park (5790 Polar Tent Road) for Concord

Parks and Recreation's free *Stars in the Park* movie series on the fourth Friday of the month through August. Amusements and activities begin at 7:30 p.m., and the movie begins at dusk. Bring family and friends to see **The Goonies** on **July 22**; and a more recent blockbuster, **Toy Story 3**, on **August 26**. Refreshments will be available. □



Atlantic Groove Band

Concord Welcomes Home Donnie Shue After 42 Years Missing

Sergeant First Class Donald (Donnie) Shue, U.S. Army Special Forces, went missing in Laos in November 1969. Shue grew up in Concord and moved to Kannapolis before entering the Army in 1967 to serve in Vietnam. His remains were recently located in Laos, and arrived in Charlotte on April 29.

On Saturday, April 30, there was a procession from Charlotte to Whitley's Funeral Home in Kannapolis, with a stop in downtown Concord for a presentation from the City, other government entities and veterans groups. Mayor Scott Padgett and the Concord City Council presented Shue's sisters — Peggy Hinson and Betty Jones — with Keys to the City.

The procession was escorted by the Concord Police Department, Kannapolis Police Department and Cabarrus County Sheriff's Office, with support from the Charlotte-Mecklenberg Police Department and the North Carolina Highway Patrol. It is estimated that more than 3,000 members of Rolling Thunder, Patriot Guard Riders and other groups participated in the procession on motorcycles. In addition, two U.S. Army North Carolina National Guard AH-64D "Apache" helicopters joined the procession convoy from the air. The ceremony included musical performances from Laura Raynor and Robert Nipper, and special presentations from government and veterans groups. □

For more photos, a video produced by Cabarrus County Channel 22, and links to news stories about Shue, visit <http://bit.ly/donnieshue>.



STAY CONNECTED

Stay connected to City news and events 24/7 via Facebook. Join the thousands of others who subscribe to the City of Concord's updates by visiting [facebook.com/concordnc](https://www.facebook.com/concordnc) and clicking "like."

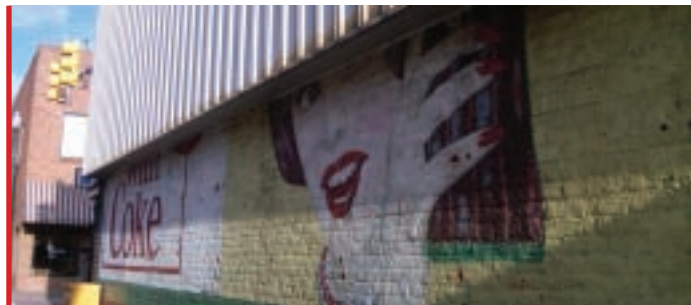
continued from page 3

Commission Chair Jay White and I joined our Charlotte neighbors and State officials for this announcement.

Finally, I am happy to report that the restoration of the 1960s-era hand-painted Coca-Cola mural at

Cabarrus and Union is complete! With financial support from Coca-Cola Consolidated, and the cooperation of Concord Downtown Development Corporation and building owner Marion Bost, this landmark will add nostalgic appeal

to Historic Downtown Concord. The historical photo, and photos during the project, show the dramatic transformation, but you should make a point to visit downtown to see the completed project. □



continued from page 5

lost more than \$2 million in sales tax revenue as compared to 2007. When you add that to the more than \$2 million already lost from personal property removed from Philip Morris facilities with more to come, it is essential to implement new methods to save money while trying to maintain services.

The Cabarrus County revaluation that will be implemented in FY 2012-13 will result in lower tax valuations for perhaps the first time since the Great Depression. The recession has led to a drop in residential and some commercial values. The closure of Philip Morris and the vacating of the property will add to this challenge as real property values will likely follow

the decline in personal property.

As in past years, the budget reflects conservative revenue projections across funds. This certainly proved to be very important in the past fiscal year as sales tax revenues continued to decline and property taxes were more difficult to collect. Usages in the utility funds have been relatively flat and development-related fees continue to be a very small portion of what they were three years ago. Of course, the reduction in property tax valuation attributed to Philip Morris has also impacted Concord sales tax revenues due to the distribution formula used among local governments in Cabarrus County.

While our operations are lean,

the planning and conservative budgetary practices have enabled the City to avoid entering into a crisis mode since the onset of the recession and its frustrating aftermath. The city council is to be commended for continuing its sound financial practices in projecting revenues and holding down expenditures, maintaining adequate fund balances and for having reserves to use to help offset a need for a property tax increase to fund costs of essential capital. We are certainly realistic in planning for a very slow and gradual recovery, but are very optimistic and believe Concord is the place to be for a bright future. □



Improved Solid Waste Program Rolls Out Across Concord



Recycling in Concord became easier on July 5, as the City of Concord began its new automated roll-out recycling collection service. Automated garbage and recycling collection protects our environment and saves money, with trucks that are operated by one person, pick up more items and pollute the air less.

More materials are now accepted in the black recycling carts, such as: empty aerosol cans (no spray paint); all plastics numbered 1 through 7, including wide-mouthed plastic containers, rigid plastic containers and small plastic toys (no styrofoam, wrap, bags or bottle caps); milk and juice cartons, and juice boxes; and shredded paper (in

a tied clear plastic bag).

While garbage is still collected every week on the same day as before the improvements, recycling is now collected every other week. To find out your recycling schedule, consult the magnetic calendar that was mailed to you in June

or visit concordnc.gov/whatsmyday.

Remember, it is important that you keep a distance of two feet between your garbage and recycling carts (and any other objects). The carts' wheels should point towards your house (away from the street).

Residents must call the Customer Care Center at 704-920-5555 to schedule collection of anything too big to fit in the cart, including bulky items, old appliances, bulk metal, used tires and e-waste.

Anything with a circuit board in it

is considered e-waste and prohibited in landfills. Scheduled collection and recycling of these items is a new service provided by the City of Concord. Please call 704-920-5555 to schedule collection of items such as televisions, computers, radios, VCRs, etc.

Weekly collection of yard waste continues without program changes.

While Concord is one of the few cities in North Carolina that does not charge an extra fee for residential solid waste, these improvements to Concord's

program save \$1.7 million per year during hard,

economic times. The City is proud to offer these enhanced services while being good stewards of our limited environmental and financial resources. For

more information, check out the comprehensive Solid Waste Resource Guide that was delivered with your new recycling cart, or visit concordnc.gov. □



HAVE A QUESTION?

Visit the City of Concord's Web site at concordnc.gov or call 704-920-5555.

by Cameron Watson, 2011 Concord Youth Council President



City of Concord Youth Council Awards Banquet

Adorned by a red carpet that cascaded its way up the marble steps of the Concord Hotel, the City of Concord Youth Council celebrated its ninth annual Awards Banquet with a Hollywood Stars theme on May 23. Appropriately, the seniors walked the red carpet as the stars of the night to honor their membership to the Youth Council.

Mayor Scott Padgett and City Manager Brian Hiatt directed their appreciation to the 61 members in attendance for the 1,200 volunteer hours they logged this year from community service projects and events throughout the Concord community.

In reflection of the most rewarding youth council-sponsored projects over the duration of this past year, project chairs elaborated on events such as the Bunny Bash, Rock-A-Thon, Cops and Kids, Dogs' Day Out and the Community Free Clinic.

While all members were recognized for their dedication to the City of Concord Youth Council, Outstanding New Member awards went to Alex Johnson and Danielle Aguiar (pictured above) for their

enthusiasm and eagerness to volunteer for service opportunities.

As well as acknowledging outstanding new members, Onyema Nwanaji-Enwerem (below right) was voted by his fellow members as the Outstanding Member of the Year. Onyema illustrated his three-year membership to the youth council as he prepares to enter the

their support of the youth council's commitment of giving back to the community. The evening was concluded by the swearing-in of executive board officers conducted by advisor, Ron Ferrell, of the Concord Police Department.

The Concord Youth Council was established in 2001 to allow high school students attending a public, private or home school within the



University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as a Morehead-Cain Scholar.

Seniors Shelby Willis, Chekaira Holit and Kayli Rideout were awarded \$500 scholarships that will be applied towards their college tuition this fall.

Additionally, non-member volunteers were recognized for



Cabarrus County School district or residing in the City of Concord to interact with government, serve the community and develop leadership skills. Advisors are City coworkers Ron Ferrell, Police; Ryan Jones, Parks and Recreation; and Debbie Littlefield, Parks and Recreation. □

by Gary Fritz, Systems Compliance Officer

Wastewater Resources Partners with Property Owners to Protect Infrastructure

One aspect of managing a wastewater collection system's assets is verifying or securing easement rights, while maintaining the accessibility of the easements.

The City of Concord maintains approximately 534 miles of gravity sewer lines. If these lines were placed end to end, they would extend from the Cabarrus County Courthouse to the gates of Disneyworld.

The majority of the sewer lines are located within the street right-of-ways; however, there are occasions where it is necessary to place the sewer line in an easement on private property in order to maintain the slope required for gravity flow. Some property owners are unaware that these lines or easements are on their property. As a result, many sewer easements are built upon, landscaped over or fenced in, which inhibits the City's ability to properly access these sewer lines for necessary maintenance.

Rapid development coupled with smaller parcel sizes has created an accessibility problem for the Wastewater Resource Department crews. Understanding the issue confronting us, and preferring to be

pro-active rather than reactive, Concord developed a program in 2006 to reduce this potential problem. Verifying easement rights on a system of Concord's size was a daunting task, but one that will reap benefits to the City and property owners for years to come.

Concord's program systematically locates sewer lines and easement documents in three parts. Once the sewer lines and documents are located, property owners are notified of their existence and the easements are flagged in the City's utility billing system and GIS. If the flagged parcel changes ownership, a tickler in the billing system alerts the Wastewater System Compliance Officer and a notification letter is sent to the new property owner. The notification letter includes information about the City's property rights along with the corresponding deed book and map book reference.

The program's three phases are:

Phase I: Location of the easement, along with notifying and educating the property owner as to what they can and cannot do within an easement.

Phase II: Identify any easement encroachment and notify the

property owner in writing of the finding.

Phase III: Correction of the encroachment issue.

Properties in Cabarrus County, within and outside of the City of Concord, are identified in two ways: either with the parcel's address point or the use of the PIN (parcel identification number). Within the area covered by the City's wastewater system, there are 34,574 PINs. Of this amount, 3,653 parcels have a sanitary sewer line on some portion of the property.

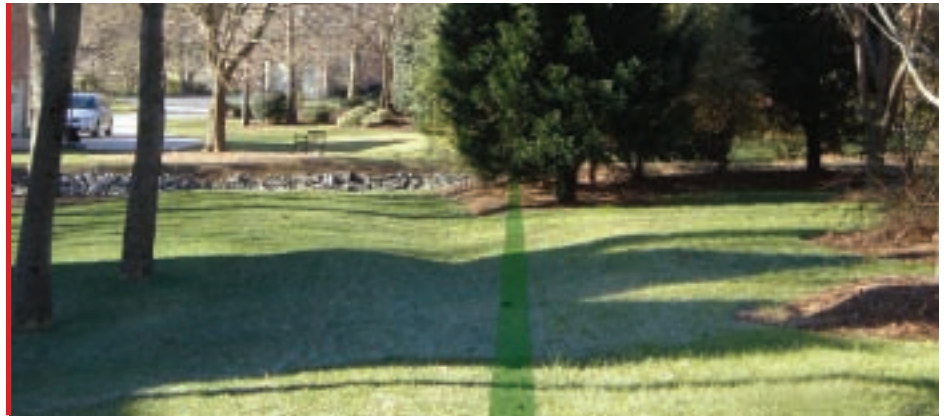
The owner is encouraged to call for assistance when considering constructing fences, gates, sheds, swimming pools, swing sets, irrigation wells, detached garages, planting trees and landscape plantings. All these potential lot improvements, coupled with a sewer line, are a recipe for future problems. Doing nothing and ignoring the sewer line is **NOT** the answer.

Through the easement program, staff discovered that a large number of parcels changed hands annually. We needed a way to remain current on ownership changes, especially for properties with sewer lines crossing them. To address this, the entire list



of address points that have sewer lines crossing the property is revisited every three months using a computer search procedure. Any change in residency is noted and the new resident is sent a movement letter containing the easement information. To date, 1,320 movement letters have been generated.

Most encroachments can be corrected very easily. Fences require a gate, sheds need to be on skids and relocated and landscape plantings can be adjusted to incorporate the easement. Swimming pools, trees and



detached buildings create a bigger challenge and require more thought and resident cooperation to arrive at a solution.

The overall goal of Concord's program is easement identification,

resident notification and homeowner education. By working with our city's residents, providing accessibility for our crews will come through communication and cooperation. □

City of Concord Important Phone Numbers

Fire, Police, Medical Emergencies911

ONE NUMBER DOES IT ALL

For service requests and inquiries about any of the following listed below, call the Customer Call Center at **704-920-5555**.

- New Services
- Electric Outages/Services
- Water/Sewer Emergencies
- Dead Animal Pick-up
- Drinking Water Inquiries
- Garbage/Bulk Pick-up/Recycling
- Utility Bills
- Street/Traffic Light Issues
- Right-of-Way Issues
- Storm Water/Storm Drain/Flooding Problems
- Yard Waste/Leaf Collection
- Building Material Disposal
- Bulk Metal Collection
- Old Tire Collection
- Vacant Lot Cleaning/Mowing

The primary phone numbers for the various City departments are:

Accounts Payable	704-920-5217
Accounts Receivable	704-920-5231
Buildings & Grounds	704-920-5380
City Clerk	704-920-5205
City Manager	704-920-5215
Communications	704-920-5580
Concord Regional Airport	704-920-5900
Community Development	704-920-5143

Electric Systems	704-920-5320
Engineering	704-920-5425
Finance	704-920-5220
Fire Chief	704-920-5516
Fleet Services	704-920-5430
GIS/Mapping/Addressing	704-920-5153
Housing	704-788-1139
Human Resources	704-920-5100
Meter Reading	704-920-5219
Parks & Recreation	704-920-5600
Planning & Neighborhood Development	704-920-5143
Police (non-emergency)	704-920-5000
Public Affairs	704-920-5210
Purchasing	704-920-5440
Rider Transit	704-920-7433
Rocky River Golf Club	704-455-1200
Sewer Construction & Maintenance	704-920-5351
Solid Waste	704-920-5361
Stormwater	704-920-5360
Tax Collector	704-920-5216
TDD.....	1-800-735-8262
Transportation	704-920-5362
Water Resources	704-920-5341
Zoning/Permits	704-920-5152

Main Switchboard Menu704-920-5200

concordnc.gov

UNC Charlotte MPA Students Awarded Brown-Dorton Scholarship

The City of Concord established the Alfred M. Brown - James L. Dorton Scholarship in 2004, in honor of the memory of two of its longstanding public officials — Alfred M. Brown and James L. Dorton, who combined to provide the City with more than 66 years of public service.

The Brown-Dorton Scholarship is awarded each year to a fully-enrolled UNC Charlotte MPA student with at least one semester completed in the program. The Concord City Council recognized this year's recipients — Michel Masto, Rebecca Valenstein and Curtis White — at its May City Council meeting.

Michael Masto has been in the MPA program at UNC Charlotte since January 2009 and will finish in December 2011. He is originally from New Jersey and has lived in Charlotte for the past seven years. He came to Charlotte to serve a year in AmeriCorps with Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte and was hired as a site supervisor with Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte after his year of AmeriCorps ended. He is currently the senior accountant at Habitat Charlotte and would eventually like to work

for a local government, especially in the Budget/Finance Department. He studied sociology as an undergrad at James Madison University in Virginia and minored in math and English. He and his wife, Carrie, have two children — Colin and Anna.

Rebecca Valenstein is originally from Florida and has lived in Charlotte for approximately three years. Ms. Valenstein was a history major at Clemson University and holds a law degree from the University of Florida. She has worked in post-award research administration for approximately seven years. She desires to eventually be a director and manage the research enterprise for an organization.

Curtis (Curt) White is originally from Charlotte and graduated from UNC Chapel Hill in 2008 with a BA in political science and a major in Spanish. He is currently working as the community liaison between Carolinas Medical Center and the Latin American Coalition doing research analysis and also client services. He is interested in the public finance concentration in the MPA program and would like to work in Charlotte, Mecklenburg



Alfred M. Brown



James L. Dorton

or a surrounding county.

Mr. Brown served as a Council Member from 1952 to 1969 and 1989 to 2001, and as Mayor from 1969 to 1977. Mr. Dorton began his service as a member of the Board of Education with Concord City Schools. He then served as a Concord City Council Member from 1969 to 1995, 14 years of which he was the Mayor Pro-Tem. □



Fleet Services Department Recognized as State and National Leader

Government Fleet Magazine has recognized the City of Concord's Fleet Services Department as the 48th best public sector fleet operation in North America in its 100 Best Fleets award announcement in San Diego, California. Concord was the highest-ranked fleet in North Carolina, and the only Tar Heel fleet to make the top 50.

City Manager Brian Hiatt commented, "We once again congratulate all of our coworkers at Fleet for this recognition of being a state and national leader. It demonstrates their continued work in keeping the organization moving in a customer service-focused and efficient manner, thus saving money."

The 100 Best Fleets award program recognizes and rewards peak performing public sector fleet operations in North America. The program also identifies and encourages ever-increasing levels of performance improvement within the fleet industry.

Fleet Services is an internal department of the City of Concord, responsible for overseeing the fueling and servicing of more than 1,000 vehicles and pieces of equipment. The department provides quality and timely maintenance for the City fleet while minimizing costs. The 13 staff members are also responsible for the acquisition and disposal of fleet assets, fuel operations and air quality initiatives in conjunction with regional partners.

Deputy City Manager Jim Greene remarked, "Although most citizens do not see them, we simply could not provide services without the Fleet Services team. This national award recognizes the great job they do each day in saving money and keeping City equipment in top running order. Not only are they among the nation's best at maintaining municipal equipment, our Fleet team is also a leader in improving the environment and reducing emissions by purchasing hybrids, transitioning to bio-diesel

and developing a no-idling policy. They are very deserving of this award."

Concord's Fleet Services Department has been a performance leader for several years. For example, in a survey covering FY 2010, Concord had the lowest costs per vehicle of all 17 participating municipalities, and was also the top performer in percentage of work orders complete within 24 hours. Concord's cost/VEU (vehicle equivalent unit) was \$652 and the average was \$986.

"I'm very pleased that our Fleet coworkers have received the recognition they deserve," said Fleet Services Director Dan Nuckolls. "But this award is also a reflection of the mayor and city council's ongoing commitment to accountability, continuous improvement and the environment. All City departments (our customers) have once again contributed to this award, and they deserve applause as well." □



City of Concord Re-opens Logan Multi-Purpose Center After Renovations

The City of Concord held an open house and neighborhood welcoming ceremony in mid-May at 60-year-old Logan Multi-Purpose Center after completing substantial renovations to improve its functionality as a recreation center, to enhance the experience of users and to preserve the building's status

and Recreation staff was ready to re-open the facility to the community so they could enjoy the transformed spaces.

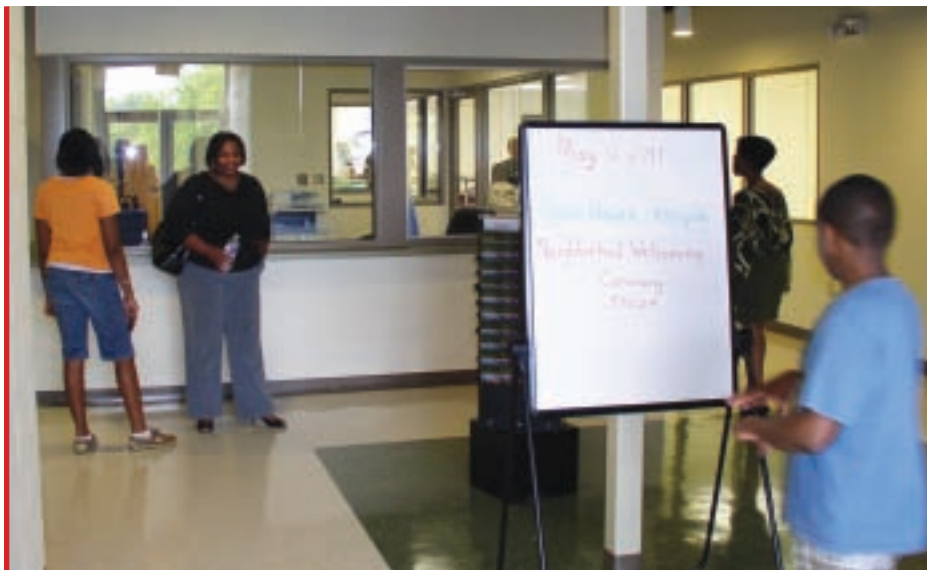
Significant improvements to the interior include a new front desk and office near the front door, which improves supervision and enhances participant safety. All of

creating a much-needed larger space with a capacity of 150. Moveable partition walls were installed to allow the space to be used as three separate rooms, now giving the Logan Multi-Purpose Center up to five activity rooms compared to the original two.

The spaced used by the Cabarrus County Department of Aging's Lunch Plus Program was also enhanced, motivated by requests for a better kitchen and more storage for events and for the Lunch Plus program. Program representatives were advised of these renovations well in advance and made plans to provide lunches at a temporary site during the renovations. The larger facilities will allow Lunch Plus to expand their services in the Logan community if needed.

A major part of the project involved demolishing much of the interior, including load-bearing walls. New steel framework was designed, built and installed, allowing for a much more open interior. In addition, the renovated portions of the building have upgraded HVAC systems.

The exterior is being updated as well with a focus to improve energy



as a community recreation center for the future.

The renovations were possible through \$300,000 of local funding (City of Concord) for the interior and \$200,000 of EECBG stimulus funds for the exterior. While a small amount of work remains in the gymnasium and exterior, the Parks

the walls, old fixtures and plumbing have been removed in the old showers, freeing up the space to be used both for new restrooms — each with a shower — plus an additional room for the Center.

The permanent wall was removed between the former Multi-Purpose Room and Arts and Crafts Room,

efficiency. All of the existing windows and doors either have been or will be replaced with energy-efficient glass. This is allowing the City to update the look of the exterior of the building, including a new color scheme. One remaining major improvement is an automatic accordion (bi-fold) door at the main entrance. This will make it much easier for seniors to enter and exit the building.

"This facility is very important to our community," said Mayor Scott Padgett. "The City does not have many major capital projects right now due to the economy, but the City Council was dedicated to seeing this project through."

City Council Member Ella Mae

Small discussed how the Multi-Purpose Center improvements fit in with other investments made in the Logan community by both the public and private sectors. Other recent projects include improvements to Booker Drive and the adjacent Villas at Logan Gardens — a new \$5-million, 44-unit private independent senior living facility — and exterior improvements to a City-owned building leased to Logan Day Care.

The Logan Multi-Purpose Center offers several of the City's signature recreation programs. Some of the highly-popular offerings to the community at the facility include Southwest Karate Academy, treat night, cross-court basketball,

health-related programs in cooperation with Cabarrus Health Alliance (such as Diabetes prevention and management), billiards tournaments, adult day trips, youth basketball (regular season and tournaments) and the Vibe Tennis Program.

For more information about programs at the Logan Multi-Purpose Center, contact Bob Dowless, Parks and Recreation director, at dowless@concordnc.gov or 704-920-5610.

For more information about construction, contact David Ratchford, buildings and grounds director, at ratchfod@concordnc.gov or 704-920-5380. □

Central Cabarrus Students Help Construct New Welcome Sign

Students from Central Cabarrus High School's masonry program recently completed a brick structure for a new entry gateway welcome sign in Concord. The structure, located near the new CVS at Union Street and Warren Coleman Boulevard, was completed with a new sign and landscaping to welcome motorists and others into Concord.

The entry gateway welcome sign is the first in Concord to feature the branding adopted by the City in 2007. The wooden sign formerly used at the location — typical of those installed at gateways in the mid-1990s — was surrounded by heavy vegetation, as the lot was formerly wooded. When the site developer submitted plans to the

City for the new store, they agreed to fund materials for a new brick sign to complement the design of the store and enhance the entry gateway.

Buildings and Grounds Director David Ratchford contacted the school about offering the students a project that will be a source of pride for years to come. "It is a win-win, as the students get the experience and satisfaction, and the community has a beautiful new sign to welcome visitors," said Ratchford.

"We're pleased to have this enhancement to one of our city's main entry gateways at a nominal cost to citizens," said City Manager Brian Hiatt. "With the developer funding materials and the students providing labor at no cost, this may



be one of our most cost-effective improvements to-date."

Students at the site included 12th-graders Tim Britton and Josh Johnson, and 11-graders Brent Austin, Aaron Franssen, Luke Fitzwater, Justin Hartsell, Dallas McSheehan, Alex Ossowski and Bailey Tucker.

Central Cabarrus High School offers masonry classes as part of its Career and Technical Education program. Class instructor, Todd B. Hartsell, noted the students have completed several projects in the community, including a foundation for a Habitat for Humanity home. □



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Education

Learn More About Your City in *Concord 101*

The City of Concord is now accepting applications for *Concord 101*, a course designed for citizens to learn about their local government. The free 10-week course begins August 30, 2011, and culminates with a graduation ceremony in November.

Residents of Concord over the age of 18 are invited to submit an application by August 5. Class size is limited to 25 participants.

City coworkers will conduct classes from 6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday nights. Citizens will get a firsthand look at what it takes to

run City services such as garbage, water, police, fire, parks and recreation, and much more.

The course gives citizens the opportunity to interact closely with City coworkers. The City hopes that in addition to learning about Concord, participants will provide input and take a more active role in their neighborhoods and city.

More information, the application and the class schedule are available on the City's Web site: concordnc.gov. Residents may also call the City Manager's office with questions at 704-920-5215. □

