



TOWN OF CONCORD

Office of the Town Manager

Operational Status Reports & Departmental Updates

For the Week Ending June 16th, 2023.

General Administration

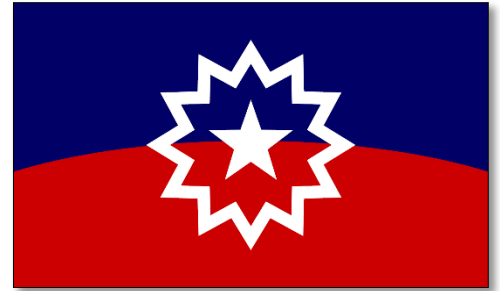
Boards and Committees Volunteer Appreciation

The annual boards and committees volunteer appreciation reception was held on Thursday, June 15. Select Board Chair Henry Dane thanked the attendees for their dedicated service on over fifty boards and committees. He also recognized the contributions of those who are cycling off committees, with a certificate and Town of Concord pin.

Juneteenth

The Select Board voted to amend the flag policy to allow for an additional flag to be flown with the American Flag on certain occasions with advance Select Board approval. The first flag to be flown will be the Juneteenth flag in recognition of Juneteenth Day on Monday, June 19, 2023. The day will kick off with the flag raising followed by events throughout the day at the Concord Museum, Robbins House and Visitor Center African Americans in Concord tours. Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day news of the Emancipation Proclamation reached Texas, two years after the it was enacted.

The Juneteenth flag was designed by activist Ben Haith, the founder of the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation (NJCF) in 1997. The design was later refined to its current form by illustrator Lisa Jeanne Grafe. The intentional call back to the Texas Lone Star in the middle represents the Lone Star State and all Black Americans in the US. The red, white, and blue color scheme is a reminder that enslaved people and their descendants were and are, Americans. The arc shape represents a new horizon of hope and promise for Black American with the nova surrounding the star representing a new beginning for all. (Green, 2022)



Police Department:

Activity Log:

- Log items: 616
- Traffic enforcement: 54
- Motor vehicle stops: 44
- Motor vehicle crashes and/or paper exchanges: 10
- Arrests: 1

Community:

- The Department conducted a Sergeant's written examination, proctored by Law Enforcement Dimensions, LLC.

- Officer Lordan and Officer Sellards completed Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training.
- Lieutenant Landers, Officer Sellards, and Department Mental Clinician Emily Black took part in the annual Massachusetts Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Cruiser Convoy.
- Lieutenant Landers attended an Active Shooter/Hostile Event Leadership Seminar put on by EOPS and the ALERRT Center at Texas State University.

Library:

Reference Services

Reference Services led a number of exciting programs in May, including a lecture with Donna Gordon, author of *What Ben Franklin Would Have Told Me*. York Lo of the Chinese Historical Society of New England presented a talk entitled “From Exclusion to Inclusion? History of Chinese in New England: 1798 – Present” in celebration of Asian American



and Pacific Islander

Heritage Month (below, right). The Wordsmove Theater performed Dylan Thomas’ *Under Milkwood: a Play for Voices* to 55 enthusiastic audience members (below, left).



Tuesday Book Group discussed *Gilead*, by Marilynne Robinson, and Cookbook Club made brunch recipes. The Thursday morning meditation series, led by Lara Wilson, continues to attract over 25 meditators each week.

Youth Services:

Teen Lounge

The Dungeons and Dragons crew celebrated their last session before the summer hiatus with a pizza party, and teens enjoyed the brand-new Nintendo Switch in the Teen Lounge with a competitive Mario Kart tournament.

Children’s Library:

The Children’s Library kicked off May by celebrating Comic Book Day. Kids participated in an all-day comic book read-a-thon, a comic writing workshop, and dressed up as superheroes so that they could take photos as they “flew” over a city backdrop. Staff partnered with Littleton’s Legends Comix and Games to provide fun giveaways all day long!

Kids bid a fond farewell to the Children Library’s Blanding’s turtles, Louisa, and May, before they were released back into the wild with help from Zoo New England. The going away party included a turtle storytime, crafts, snacks, favors, and even “pond water” to drink! The following week, the Children’s Library welcomed new Blanding’s turtles, Pickles, and Hope, who spent their first year at Alcott Elementary School and will be residing at the Library until May 2024.

Circulation

In the previous month, Circulation Staff...

- Welcomed 52 new patrons to the CFPL.
- Trained volunteer drivers and spread the word about the return of the Direct-to-You home delivery service for homebound patrons.
- Processed 138 museum pass reservations, the New England Aquarium being the top requested pass.
- Curated displays about medical field fiction and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month.
- Participated in webinars about collection development, DEI initiatives, and sustainability.



Fowler Branch Library

Concord Village Community to execute the third annual Spring into West Concord. Staff helped coordinate the scavenger hunt, which ended up having 121 participants and over 50 donated prizes. The same day, Fowler hosted Art for All's opening of *Art from the Trail*, paintings created in community workshops as part of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail mural that was unveiled.

- Girls Who Code completed their year with a Trashion Show, presenting a website they built and outfits with wearable technology that they designed and sewed in the Workshop.
- Art for All hosted an end-of-the-year party in the Fowler Backyard for their Arts & Crafts Club, which has been meeting weekly since January. They plan to continue meeting over the summer.
- Ongoing programs attracted large audiences. Children's preschool programs in particular experienced a boost at the end of May during the programming break leading up to summer reading.
- The Fowler Branch Library worked with the West Concord Village Community to execute the third annual Spring into West Concord. Staff helped coordinate the scavenger hunt, which ended up having 121 participants and over 50 donated prizes. The same day, Fowler hosted Art for All's opening of *Art from the Trail*, paintings created in community workshops as part of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail mural that was unveiled.
- Girls Who Code completed their year with a Trashion Show, presenting a website they built and outfits with wearable technology that they designed and sewed in the Workshop.
- Art for All hosted an end-of-the-year party in the Fowler Backyard for their Arts & Crafts Club, which has been meeting weekly since January. They plan to continue meeting over the summer.
- Ongoing programs attracted large audiences. Children's preschool programs in particular experienced a boost at the end of May during the programming break leading up to summer reading.

Innovation & Communication



The Innovation & Communications staff are excited to open the workshop makerspace to the public beginning Saturday, June 10. This space was made possible by the generous support of the Concord Free Public Library Corporation. The library partnered with the Concord Bookshop to advertise the makerspace's opening in a window display, featuring wooden garland and vinyl decals manufactured by staff on the Workshop's equipment. The Workshop's summer series will run June to August and feature weekly classes and drop-in projects:

- a weekly K-5 program, Make-It Club
- a weekly knitting group, Knitters' Workshop
- a Sustainable Makes series in partnership with the Library's Green Team
- Laser cutting, embroidery, and glass-etching workshops.

Technical Services

- In February, March, April, and May, Technical Services staff cataloged and processed a total of 768, 678, 677, and 575 new titles respectively.
- The library acquired board games for the Library of Things collection; Technical Services processed and added this new format to the collection.
- Tech Services staff are currently weeding the CD and DVD collection and replacing vinyl cases in poor condition for items staying in the collection.
- Tech Services staff are actively participating in the Library Sustainability Committee meetings to take action to make the library greener.

Special Collections

- In honor of the Concord Free Public Library's 150th Anniversary, the Concord Museum, the CFPL, and the CFPL Corporation's William Munroe Special Collections collaborated on a special exhibition, [*A Perpetual Invitation*](#), featuring the Library's art collection at the Concord Museum until September 4, 2023.
- On May 10, Skylight Studios sculptor/conservator Lisa Benson completed cleaning the seated Emerson statue and several marble busts.
- On May 17, 80 patrons attended [a lecture](#) presented by Professor Daniel Shealy entitled "May Alcott and the Town of Concord: The Making of an Artist."
- Special Collections served 53 on-site researchers and answered 80 reference requests received via phone and email.
- Special Collections Curator Anke Voss continues to serve on the 250th Art, Literature, and Music Subcommittee, the Concord Reformatory Prison Taskforce, and the Miller Committee.
- On May 6, Special Collections Assistant Curator Jessie presented at the CFPL Corporation's Next Chapter event. Jessie also chairs the library's 150th Anniversary Committee.
- 20 attended a program presented by Special Collections on May 23 and 50 attended a program presented by Special Collections at the American Literature Association Conference on May 25.

- There will be “Gallery Tours with the Curators” at the Concord Museum on June 16, July 14, and August 18 at 12:00 pm.
- On June 22 at 7:00 pm, Special Collections will host a program titled “Celebrating Ralph Waldo Emerson: Filmmaker Michael Maglaras and Writer James Marcus in Conversation” in the Goodwin Forum at the Main Library.

Administration and Staffing

- At the Main Library, Danielle Arana joined the Children’s Library staff as a part-time Library Assistant and Eve Bourbeau-Allard joined the Circulation staff as a full time Library Assistant.
- The library staff welcomed Doug Meagher, the Library Corporation’s new Facilities Manager. Doug worked as the Deputy Town Manager in Concord several years ago, overseeing large renovation projects including the Town House and Harvey Wheeler. As the Library Corporation’s Facilities Manager, he will work with the Library Director, Custodial staff, and the Trustees to oversee the maintenance of the library buildings and grounds.
- The staff wished Cary Stough well as he left in early June to pursue his PhD in Iowa. He will be sorely missed by many parents, children, and teens in the community, as well as his library colleagues.
- The library is currently accepting applications to fill the Teen Librarian position.

Division of Planning and Land Management

Planning:

The kick-off community meeting for the MBTA Communities Zoning here in Concord will be on Wednesday June 28th at 6:30-8:30PM, hosted at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. The hybrid meeting will also be recorded. We will be joined by a representative of CHAPA (Citizens' Housing and Planning Association) for an introductory overview of the MBTA zoning law, including why it was passed, what it involves, and what it could look like in Concord. We will also get an overview from our GIS mapping and zoning consultants from Horsley Witten who will provide information about how the compliance modeling is done to provide background on our starting place and prepare people for the overlay zoning district mapping sessions we will be hosting beginning in July and continuing through September. A Q&A session will allow the community to ask questions. Learn more about this opportunity to meet Concord’s housing goals on our website. MBTA Communities | Concord, MA (concordma.gov)

A promotional poster for an MBTA Communities information session. The top half features a purple rounded rectangle with the text "MBTA Communities" in large white font, and "Information Session and Q&A" in a smaller white font below it. Below this, in black text on a white background, it says "LEARN ABOUT THE MBTA COMMUNITIES ZONING REQUIREMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING OVERLAY ZONING FOR MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING". A central blue rounded rectangle contains the event details: "JUNE 28TH 6:30-8:30PM HYBRID MEETING HARVEY WHEELER COMMUNITY CENTER" in white text. To the left of this blue box is a QR code with a purple arrow pointing to it and the text "scan me!". At the bottom, a purple bar contains the website "INFO AT CONCORDMA.GOV/MBTACOMMUNITIES" in white. The background of the poster is a faded aerial view of a residential area with houses and trees. There are small icons of houses at the bottom left and right corners.

MBTA Communities
Information Session and Q&A

LEARN ABOUT THE MBTA COMMUNITIES ZONING REQUIREMENTS FOR ESTABLISHING OVERLAY ZONING FOR MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING

JUNE 28TH
6:30-8:30PM
HYBRID MEETING
HARVEY WHEELER
COMMUNITY CENTER

scan me!

INFO AT CONCORDMA.GOV/MBTACOMMUNITIES

Natural Resources

Natural Resources Commission: Six new applications were received for the June 28th Natural Resources Commission meeting including a Notice of Intent (NOI) for redevelopment of a commercial site at 166 Commonwealth Ave; a NOI for construction of a boat launch at 90B Walden Street (Walden Pond); a NOI for tree removal, invasive species removal and installation of a fence at 88 Hugh Cargill Road; a NOI for construction of a new home at 76 Bruce Road; a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for replacement of a shed at 36 Laws Brook Road; and a RDA for construction of a temporary construction access road at 311 Garfield Road.

Assabet River Bluff: The Natural Resources Division hosted a workshop on June 13th at the Harvey Wheeler Center to gather initial community input for planning and design of an All Persons Trail at the Assabet River Bluff Conservation Land. Jennifer Brooke, founding partner of Lemon Brooke and a member of the Commission on Disability, facilitated the workshop and approximately thirty residents were in attendance. Topics discussed included trail surfacing and layout, interpretive signage, potential parking locations, and connection to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

Tourism

On Wednesday June 14th, Visitor Center tour guide Amy Cole assisted with a film shoot for Fox Nation on Haunted Hotels. In partnership with the Colonial Inn, the show requested an historian to interview as part of a larger episode on the Inn and its supposed ghost stories.

On Thursday June 15th we welcome the New England Association of History Educators to Concord for the first of 2-day long visits. They are taking a 2-hour guided walking \tour, followed by lunch in Concord Center and the afternoon at the Concord Museum. Another group will visit next week.

Over the weekend of June 9 and 10th, we provided tours to Concord Academy 100th anniversary guests. We took 60 visitors over 2 days on 3 separate tours. 3 Guides plus our June intern were on hand to make

sure everything went smoothly. On Thursday June 15th, our Presentation *Between us Sisters* will be the feature for Concord Council on Aging at 2pm

Public Health

White Pond is safe for all recreational uses. Read this week's monitoring report [here](#).

Economic Vitality Management

Parking Meter De-Activation: Parking Meters now provide up to 3-hours free parking.

The Economic Vitality Manager conducted door-to-door outreach to businesses in the areas impacted by the de-activation of parking meters to inform them of the change and to hear feedback. In addition, a virtual listening session was held for business owners to share their feedback with town representatives including members of the Select Board, Concord Police officer overseeing parking enforcement Ron Holsinger, Senior Planning for Transportation and Mobility Erin Stevens, and Deputy Town Manager Megan Zammuto. In general business owners were supportive of the change. There are concerns about how to ensure turn-over at the meters to provide convenient parking for customers. Stickers will soon be placed on individual meters to alert the public that they no longer require payment and signage for the phone app are being removed. Over the coming weeks town staff are investigating cost effective ways to assess parking over the coming year to inform future decisions on parking control measures.

Tourism Manager Beth Williams and Economic Vitality Manager Mimi Graney attended the first conference convened by the Greater Merrimack Valley Tourism Conference in Lowell. At the well-attended gathering Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll announced the new director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism Kate Fox. Featured speakers also included Senator Paul Mark, Senator Ed Kennedy and Representative Mindy Domb of the State's Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development Committee. Having such who leaders understand the value of tourism and culture as key economic drivers for communities like Concord offers promise for greater support for local initiatives.

Social Services

- The Community Services Coordinator, Bonny Wilbur, attended the opening of Concord's newly renovated, state-funded, 3-bedroom accessible unit at 284 Thoreau Street. The apartment was in need of an update to ADA requirements, in addition to repair to other significant damage. The Concord Housing Authority Board of Commissioners voted the Final Completion of the project at their May meeting – nearly two years since the start of the project, and at a total cost of \$256,478. Local legislators, Select Board members, town staff and interested constituents attended the ribbon cutting, followed by a tour of the home. The spacious, accessible unit will house a low-income family.
- A total of 23 Concord children will be attending camp this summer with the help of a “campership” from the town's Silent Fund and the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest. This financial support allows low-income parents, who must work during the summer when schools are closed, to send their kids to camp or a summer program.
- Kiwi Recovery, an agency dedicated to providing individualized outpatient treatment to adolescents and young adults who struggle with mental health challenges and/or addiction, opened a new facility located on Baker Avenue. The grand opening was attended by the Community Services Coordinator.
- Kiwi offers a partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient program to young people in need. This new facility brings much-needed mental health care to the area.

- Gaining Ground Farm's annual Food for Families Program begins this month. Freshly harvested vegetables are distributed to Concord's low-income families and seniors each Saturday morning throughout the summer. Residents can pick up their veggies at Gaining Ground Farm on Virginia Road, or at the Concord Housing Authority on Everett Street. Home delivery is available for those residents who are unable to get to one of the distribution sites.

Broadband Update:

Concord Broadband is pleased to share the following updates and information from the past month. Please do not hesitate to contact them at broadband@concordma.gov should you have any questions, concerns, or feedback.

Operations:

The search is progressing for the vacant Network Engineer position, with 2nd-round interviews scheduled later this week. A new recruitment tool that should increase the ability to get qualified candidates was used in the search. Lately we have been working with our mapping and GIS consultants to improve the documentation of our fiber network. These databases serve as the business foundation and allow a response to new customer requests, perform troubleshooting, or determine if fiber is available between two points in Concord. These new tools will allow for export documentation that can be stored inside pole-mounted cabinets, allowing for faster response times during incidents and quicker connections when customers request new service. This report also includes updates on: New Advanced Metering Gateways, the Affordable Connectivity Program, Monthly Metrics and Business Data. For more in-depth information please visit: [2023-06-14 Broadband updates.pdf](#)