



TOWN OF CONCORD

Office of the Town Manager

Operational Status Reports and Departmental Updates
For the week ending July 14, 2023

Council on Aging

It felt like 100 degrees so 100 Concord senior residents came in to feel the cool at HWCC and enjoy the scoops from Bedford Farms at the COA's Annual Ice Cream Social on June 29. Live piano music topped off the afternoon just like the cherries on top of the sundaes. Pictured L to R First Row of pictures: COA Outreach coordinator Valerie Bertsch with resident Stephan Bader; residents Chris Randall and Bob Andrews; HWCC full auditorium; Second Row: ice cream; the talented volunteer team from Harvey's Treasure Chest Gift Shop.



Police Department

Activity log:

- Log items: 596
- Traffic enforcements: 44
- Motor vehicle stops: 39
- Motor vehicle crashes and/or paper exchanges: 11
- Arrests: 3

Community

- Sergeant Manchuso, Officer McGonagle, Detective Paladino, and other officers from the dayshift investigated multiple calls involving an individual starting fires in town. Fire Department staff, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and the ATF assisted police with the incidents. An involved party was identified and subsequently located by police.
- Student Officers Michael Burman and Wolfgang Angulo attended their recruit academy orientation at the MPTC Academy in Lynnfield. Their first day of the academy will be July 17th, with an anticipated graduation date of January 5th, 2024.
- Officers Olansky and Fitzgerald began a five day course in Carver, MA in order to become certified field training officers (FTO).
- Sergeant Rennie attended a one day SWAT leader training class in Pembroke, NH.
- Chief Mulcahy and other town staff assisted the Fire Department with Assistant Fire Chief interviews.

Fire Department

Calls for Service

Over the week, CFD responded to 96 calls for service. On Sunday, July 9th, Concord Fire responded to a series of suspicious fires which included small fires at the Beede Center, the Walden Street Post Office, and a structure on Lexington Road. A person of interest was quickly identified by Concord Police and later taken into custody. Fortunately, there were no injuries associated with any of the incidents.

Vermont Flood Aid

Concord Fire and Concord Public Works currently have members deployed in Vermont to assist with the rescue of flooding victims. Assistant Fire Chief Walter Latta along with Highway & Grounds Superintendent Aaron Miklosko, both members of the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Team, MA Task Force 1, have been deployed since Sunday and have been involved in missions to search for and rescue victims trapped by flood waters. In the photo, Aaron (r) and Walter (l) are staged at the Berlin VT airport waiting for an assignment.





Personnel

We are pleased to welcome Firefighter Justin Chaires to the department. FF Chaires is a native of Woburn, a graduate of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, and a recent graduate of PRO EMS's Paramedic Program.

Public Works

Stephane Cherduville, Senior Public Works Engineer

CPW has bid Stephane farewell as he moves on to his new position at MassDOT. Stephane has worked for the Engineering Division for the past 4 ½ years. He played an important role in managing the completion of the construction of the Cambridge Turnpike Improvements as well as developing and implementing the annual roads paving program in the past couple of years. Stephane was instrumental in the piloting of pavement preservation techniques that include fog sealing, microsurfacing, and rubber asphalt chip sealing.

Commonwealth Ave Reconstruction

Newport Construction has been installing new catch basins and drain manholes as the first step in the road and sidewalk reconstruction on Commonwealth Ave between Church St and Laws Brook Rd. The drainage work is expected to continue for the next two weeks, after which the road pavement will be reclaimed and repaved with the first pavement course. One lane of traffic is being maintained in the work zone and at times, detours are set up when one-way traffic in the work corridor becomes necessary.

Concord Carlisle High School Access Road

A contract with UEL Contractors, Inc. has been executed for the reconstruction of the CCHS access road between Walden St and Thoreau St as well as the main entrance to the Beede Center. Work has begun and it is anticipated that the majority of the work will be completed during the school summer vacation.

2023 Water System Improvements

Gravity Construction Inc. from Plainville MA, will be performing water main replacement activities in the Butternut/Minot Road neighborhood during the week of July 17th, 2023. The Project is expected to be substantially completed in early Fall.

Library

Updates from the Main Library Circulation Team

In June, we signed up 106 new patrons for library cards. Our museum passes were used a total of 122 times, with the most popular destination being the New England Aquarium. In the corridor, we had a display of LGBTQ+ memoirs for Pride and a display of cookbooks and homesteading books that we called "Farm Fresh Living." In the large print section we did a display of rainbow colored covers and a display of books about sports.

Program Highlights

Honoring Concord's native son George Washington Dugan

Join the DEI Commission and the Concord Free Public Library as we host *GLORY for George! Understanding the Massachusetts 54th* on Thursday, July 13th from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Goodwin Forum at the Main Library. This event kicks off the weekend of honoring Concord's native son George Washington Dugan on the 160th anniversary of his heroic sacrifice with the Massachusetts 54th during the assault of Fort Wagner. Marvin Alonso Greer, a noted historical interpreter, will trace the connections made between these two conflicts and the growing struggle to expand the rights of life, liberty, and dignity to all people of our nation. A particular focus of the night's discussion will be the sacrifice of George Washington Dugan and how his participation as a Black Concordian was and was not remembered, and now honored. The discussion will focus on how, as a community, we can and must use our skills of historical interpretation and cultural markers to celebrate and highlight all those often left out of the historical narrative. This event is co-sponsored by the Town of Concord DEI Commission and the Concord Free Public Library.

Films at Fowler Summer 2023

Virtual Films at Fowler continues in summer 2023 with the theme of Finding Family. [These selected movies](#) are in some way about the varied pleasures, problems, and pitfalls of belonging to a family, whether conventional or unconventional. Please watch the films on Kanopy and participate in discussions on Zoom. The next film discussion on zoom will be *Cinema Paradiso* (1988) on Wednesday, July 19th at 7:00 p.m. This film is about a lonely young boy growing up in a war-torn Sicily village who develops a deep love of cinema when he is befriended by a local movie-house projectionist. Please [watch the film on Kanopy](#) before the discussion. To register for the discussion and receive a Zoom link, send an email to the Coordinator of the program Randall Warniers at FilmsatFowler@concordlibrary.org. This series is sponsored by the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library.

New StoryWalk at the Main Library

For the month of July, the Library's StoryWalk presents *Lobstah Gahden: Speak Out Against Pollution with a Wicked Awesome Boston Accent* with words by Alli Brydon and illustrations by EG Keller. This delightfully punny story about ocean life, conservation, and cooperation is perfect for sparking conversations in the classroom and at home. Walk down Main Street towards the new Children's entrance and read this book as you stroll.

For many other programs and events for all ages, or to learn more about our adult and youth Summer Reading Programs or the library's new Workshop makerspace, go to www.concordlibrary.org.

Recreation Department

TJ Liakos

We want to give thanks to TJ Liakos for his 20+ years of service as a valued member of the Concord Recreation team. For the last six years, TJ worked at the Beede Center as the Assistant to the General Manager. In that role, he wore many hats and supported the team with a consistent 'can do' attitude. We wish TJ the best of luck in his future endeavors!

Division of Planning and Land Management

Natural Resources Commission

Four applications will be heard at the July 19th Natural Resources Commission meeting including a Notice of Intent (NOI) for construction of an addition and patio at 154 Southfield Road, a NOI for aquatic vegetation management at 1024 Main Street (Concord Greene), a NOI for construction of a boat launch at Walden Pond, and a NOI for tree removal and landscaping at 88 Hugh Cargill Road.

Warner's Pond Dam Removal Preliminary Design

The Division will issue a Request for Proposals next Monday to perform engineering and design services as well as prepare a preliminary design for dam removal at Warner's Pond. The selected firm will advance the design, consult with regulatory agencies on required permits, and assist with community engagement. Responses to the RFP are due by August 9, 2023.

Concord at Work

Members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Concord were sent to Vermont to aid with a historical flooding event through evacuations of multiple towns. The team started in Barre to ready the equipment, and from there broke off into two squads: Squad A was sent to Montpelier to help local residents as well as retrieving a car that was stuck in the water. Squad B was assigned to Cambridge along with help from North Carolina and the Army to evacuate citizens. The team has been working night operations and is currently awaiting their next assignment, still in good spirits and eager to help who they can.



Tourism

Website Update

Our tourism website, www.visitconcord.org is getting a refresh after 3 years since its launch. Visitation to the site went from 0 to over 60k annually so we are adding content to highlight more of Concord: retail, culture, and more will be showcased, as well as the inclusion of special sections geared to certain users like wedding planning, private groups, and slow travel. A reveal will happen in early August.

Economic Vitality

Cultural Council Visit

On Monday, July 17th, a group of 40+ people are gathering in West Concord for a day-long meeting with Michael Bobbit, the Executive Director of the Mass Cultural Council, and Representative Simon Cataldo. Participants include key representatives active in arts, culture, and the creative economy in Concord as well as nearby communities. After a coffee reception, guides from the Concord Visitor Center will take a walking tour through the West Concord cultural district in the morning, followed by lunch and roundtable discussion in the afternoon at the Fowler Library. The town team working on this effort includes Beth Williams, Tourism Manager, Mimi Graney, Economic Vitality Manager, and the West Concord Junction Cultural District Committee chaired by Carolyn Bottum.

Building Division

Permit and Inspection Updates

Since July 1st, the Building Inspections Divisions issued 36 building permits, 41 electrical permits, 20 plumbing permits, 19 gas permits, and conducted 55 building inspections, 56 electrical inspections, 48 plumbing, and 7 gas inspections. Fiscal 23 was a busy year for the Building Inspections Divisions with a 2% increase in permits issued and a 22% increase in permit fee revenue in FY23 over FY22. It is exciting to report that the permit for full build of the new Concord Middle School was issued this week.

Sustainability Division

Prohibiting Fossil Fuels

Eric Simms, the Sustainability Director, provided oral testimony on June 20th to the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to express support and encourage passage of H.2038, An Act To Prohibit The Expansion Of Fossil Fuel Infrastructure For New Construction In The Town Of Concord, sponsored by Rep. Simon Cataldo. This act will formalize Concord's home rule petition to prohibit the use of fossil fuels in new residential and commercial construction, creating the opportunity for Concord to be one of ten MA municipalities to participate in the Fossil Fuel Free Building Demonstration Program managed by the Dept. Of

Energy Resources. Efforts are currently underway to complete the application process for the program.

2023 Resilient Cities Summit

Eric, along with CPW Director Alan Cathcart, attended the 2023 Resilient Cities Summit in Falmouth, MA on June 7-8. Co-hosted by the National League of Cities, the Urban Land Institute, ULI Boston/New England, and the MMA, the event brought together municipal officials, advocates, and nationally recognized experts in urban development, design, finance and infrastructure to discuss how cities and towns can better prepare for climate risks and work toward a more resilient future. In the spirit of sustainability, Eric and Alan carpooled to/from Falmouth using the all-electric CPW Mustang Mach-E, with a need for only one 20-minute Level 3 charging stop en route.

University of New Hampshire Sustainability Fellow

The Sustainability Division is once again supporting a University of New Hampshire Sustainability Fellow for the summer. Our 2023 Fellow, Julie Babyock, is currently working under the primary guidance of Melissa Simoncini on a combination of data analysis and community engagement/outreach efforts in support of Concord Public Works' integrated water resource planning. This includes the topics of stormwater management, drought/water restrictions, and lead water service replacement. In support of the program, Eric also attended the annual Launch Event in Kensington, NH along with other participating mentors and fellows.