

HUMAN SERVICES

SENIOR SERVICES DIVISION / COUNCIL ON AGING

The mission of the Senior Service Division and the Council on Aging (COA) is to enhance the quality of life for Concord seniors (age 60 and older) by promoting dignity, self-esteem and personal independence so that they may participate fully as members of the community. The COA strives to fulfill this mission by offering comprehensive programs and services that provide opportunities for seniors to enhance their physical, emotional, intellectual, and economic well-being. This is accomplished through education, support, and advocacy.

According to the January 2022 Town Census, there are 5,107 Concord residents over the age of 60 and representing approximately 33.5% of the total population of Concord, more than double the state average of 16.2%.

The following is a sampling of service statistics for FY2022:

- 2,927 seniors were active at the COA
- 204 new seniors began participating for the first time
- 176 seniors used the van service and received 4,112 rides
- 711 seniors were assisted by Outreach/Social Services with nearly 10,000 service interactions

Coronavirus Impact

COA operations continued to be impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) during 2022. We initially reopened with a mask mandate in place, eventually making masks optional for full vaccinated individuals. The COA participated in the vaccination process by hosting vaccination clinics for Concord residents over the age of 60 in partnership with West Concord Pharmacy. We required proof of vaccination in order to be unmasked, allowing us to more safely offer congregated meals and indoor activities. Many of our popular activities and programs became hybrid, offered in-person as well as online. The COA purchased Owl technology to improve the

experience for the seniors that choose to stay home. The COA continued to offer transportation services that were slowly expanded throughout the year as vaccination rates increased.

Outreach and Social Services

Our professional staff provides advice, assessment, consultation, and referrals to seniors and their support network (family, friends, and neighbors) while adhering to strict standards of confidentiality. Their extensive and specialized knowledge of resources helps to assist seniors to live independently as long as possible. Strong working relationships with various town departments, hospitals, home health care agencies, aging service access points, housing authorities, and businesses provide the best comprehensive service.

Wellness and Fitness

The COA offers a wide diversity of fitness opportunities such as aerobics, tai chi, qigong, yoga, and strength & flexibility, that contribute to the overall health of Concord seniors. We offer regular health clinics and screenings, as well as educational programs with a variety of speakers on an assortment of health topics. We continue to offer the free loan of durable medical equipment, and 310 people borrowed over 701 pieces of equipment. Our geriatric health nurse is available for seniors who have complicated medical situations that need extra support and advice. In FY21 we started a Patient Navigator program to assist seniors with their medical appointments, and this year the program has built momentum.

Social, Recreational, and Educational Opportunities

The opportunity to interact with peers, stay intellectually active, and feel valued and needed by the community is key to emotional and physical health. We offer day trips, speaker's series, movies, parties, computer tutoring, discussion groups, craft workshops, book groups, cooking classes, games, and music classes, just to name a few. We continue to produce a 12-page monthly newsletter that details the many choices of activities to engage in and explains the services that we offer. Seniors who opt to receive the newsletter may do so by e-mail or postal mail delivery.

Transportation

Our vans provide local transportation Monday through Friday for seniors who no longer drive or who have temporary limitations. In addition to providing transportation around town to medical appointments, banks, pharmacies, grocery stores, hospitals, etc. we continue to provide transportation to the Annual Town meeting and for voting on Election Day. We typically have two vans on the road daily in order to meet demand.

Lockboxes and File of Life

The COA continues to offer the installation of a lock box on the residence of any senior who requests it. This box allows the resident to place a key to their home outside their residence in case of emergencies. Only the Fire/Ambulance Service and the COA have master keys. In the case of any emergency, the locked home can be entered without breaking a door or window. The COA also continues to encourage the use of "File of Life", which is a red plastic folder for the refrigerator and the wallet with important medical information in case of emergency. The COA provides these free of charge to all Concord seniors.

Additional Support Services

Working with community partners we are able to offer additional support services including; Ask a Lawyer, SHINE (Serving the Health and Information Needs of Everyone), Ask a Pharmacist, AARP tax return assistance program, fall clean up days, flowers for homebound seniors, and the delivery of buckets of sand for winter. We continue to offer a Caregiver Support group and have added a series of support groups on relevant issues such as anxiety, loneliness and isolation, and the social emotional effects of the pandemic.

Social Media

The COA Facebook page provides an opportunity for seniors to follow the activities of the COA and to read important and relevant tips for successful aging. We encourage readers to Like our page and share our story with their family and friends.

Volunteers and Public Relations

Volunteers greatly enhance and support the work of the staff and, thanks to their efforts and talents, we are able to offer a rich mixture of programming. We

are always looking for new volunteers for a variety of opportunities, and encourage residents to step forward and see where they may help.

Financial Support

In addition to receiving funding from the Town's General Fund, the COA is grateful to the following funding sources for their commitment to Concord seniors and the financial support of our work: Concord-Carlisle Community Chest: Grant allocations provide partial funding for the following positions: Volunteer Coordinator, Social Service Supervisor, and Outreach Coordinator Executive Office of Elder Affairs: The Formula Grant, based on the number of seniors in our community, provides full or partial funding for the following positions: Geriatric Health Nurse, Outreach Coordinator, and Activity Coordinator.

Harvey Wheeler Treasure Chest Gift Shop: Thanks to the many residents who donate quality goods for re-sale, the patrons who shop there, and the many dedicated volunteers, proceeds are used to support many COA programs.

COA Gift Account: We are grateful to the many people who choose to donate to the COA gift account. Most offerings at the COA are free of charge, but with the assistance of the gift account, we are able to provide scholarships for the cost of an event or trip to seniors who could not otherwise afford to attend. The gift account also helps with program and building expenses that are not otherwise covered with in the budget.

COA Board

The COA Board, which acts in an advisory capacity to the Director, consists of nine full members appointed for three-year terms and two associate members appointed for one-year terms by the Town Manager. Members of the COA Board serve as liaisons to the following committees: Disability Commission, Housing, Board of Health, Concord After Sixty, Public Works, PEG Access and Minuteman Senior Services. Board members for Fiscal Year 2022 were: Carol Ann Hannan (Chair), Gerard Riedel, Kristin Nelson, Christina Kendrick, Patty Keane, Michael Rudd, Teresa Stokes, Grazia de la Cruz-Bardenheuer, and Carole Cushing.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Bonny Wilbur,
Community Services Coordinator

The Community Services Coordinator provides information and resource referrals to residents seeking financial and social service supports. She assists residents in accessing a broad range of local, state, and federal support related to parenting, food insecurity, finances and budgeting, housing, legal assistance, and physical and mental health. She also manages programs throughout the year in support of low-income families in town. Services are confidential and open to all Concord families and residents under the age of 60.

The position was established in 2005 by the Town of Concord in collaboration with the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest. Originally funded entirely by a grant from the Community Chest, in 2021 the town committed to funding the position in full.

The Community Services Coordinator works collaboratively with many local, state, and federal agencies and organizations. Locally, she partners with Concord Recreation (financial aid for children and camps), the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest (supports residents in numerous ways, including through their When In Need fund, as well as a camp scholarship program), Concord's Hugh Cargill Trust (provides financial support), Concord's Silent Fund (offers camp scholarships as well as holiday support), Open Table (combating food insecurity), Gaining Ground's Food For Families (provides fresh produce), the Freemasons of Corinthian Lodge (significant financial support during the holidays and year-round assistance to children through their Masonic Angel Fund), and Concord Cares (help with heating costs). She also works in close collaboration with Concord's houses of worship as well as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Other nearby agencies working in collaboration with this office include First Connections, Household Goods, Minute Man Arc for Human Services, Domestic Violence Services Network, Eliot Community Services Jail Diversion Program, Advocates, Inc., Beacon Santa, and the Salvation Army.

At the state and federal level, the Community Services Coordinator collaborates with the South Middlesex Opportunity Council, MA Department of Transitional Assistance, the Statewide Head Injury Program, the Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness, MA Department of Developmental Services, National Alliance on Mental Illness, MA Women, Infants and Children Program, MassHealth, MA Rehab Commission, and MassHire.

The Community Services Coordinator manages camp scholarship programs offered by Concord's Silent Fund and the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest. In the summer of 2022, over \$11,200 was awarded in camp scholarships, allowing 19 children from low-income Concord families to attend camp.

A Back-to-School Backpack Program, providing donated school supplies and backpacks to students in need, is also managed by this office. Concord's McWalter Volunteer Insurance Agency once again donated generously to the program. A total of 40 students received a brand-new backpack and school supplies for the start of the school year.

During the holiday season, the Community Services Coordinator collaborated with the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest on the annual Holiday Gift Card Program. Town employees, local merchants, and Concord residents donated well over \$9,000 in gift cards to their low-income neighbors. As in past years, the Freemasons of the Corinthian Lodge provided over \$5,000 in gift cards for Concord's children in need. In addition, Concord's Holiday Silent Fund provided a cash gift to over 100 low-income households comprised of children and the elderly.

Meetings and trainings continued to be held via Zoom well into 2022. The Community Services Coordinator was invited to speak to Concord's Disability Commission about her role in the community. She continued her work on the Household Goods Agency Advisory Group, providing support to needy residents of Concord and neighboring communities. In addition, she was invited to join the Mental Health Team for Concord Public Schools and Concord-Carlisle High School.

She attended meetings with Open Table on food

insecurity, the Salvation Army on Camp Wonderland, and Minute Man Arc on housing. She attended the annual training for intake workers offered by the South Middlesex Opportunity Council on applying for fuel assistance. She attended, via Zoom, the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health, as well as a training on Inclusive Evidence-Based Practices in Gender Non-Binary Mental Health Services. She also attended a training on The Intersection Between Trauma and Addiction, offered by the National Association of Social Workers.

The Town of Concord Social Services Resource Guide, produced by this office, is available on the Town's website at <http://www.concordma.gov/> community and hard copies are available in various locations throughout the town.

The Community Services Coordinator's office is located at 55 Church Street. Residents are welcome to contact Bonny Wilbur, Community Services Coordinator, via email at bwilbur@concordma.gov or by phone at 978-318-3034 for assistance.

HUGH CARGILL TRUST COMMITTEE

Robert Abraham - Co Chair
Elisabeth Elden - Co Chair
Katharine Berger
Lucy Rosborough
Deena Whitfield

In 2022, the Hugh Cargill Trust Committee (HCTC) continued to implement the mission of the Trust, established over 213 years ago by Concordian Hugh Cargill. The Trust's purpose is to provide short-term emergency financial assistance to residents of the town. The Committee acts on behalf of the Select Board in receiving and reviewing requests for assistance and in distributing funds in accordance with the provisions of the Trust. Concord residents request aid by leaving a phone message at the Town House: 978-318-3100, ext. 2030. Calls are returned promptly. The Committee can also be contacted through email at hctc@concordma.gov. All requests are confidential.

In 2022 the HCTC was responsible for distributing financial support from the following funds: Hugh Cargill Trust (HCT), the Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP), Concord Cares, Tax Relief Fund, and Silent Fund. The HCTC met monthly in 2022. A total of \$211,209 was received in 2022 for these funds and a total of \$121,296 was distributed from them in 2022. These generous contributions were crucial to the Committee's efforts to meet the ever-increasing needs of Concord's residents. The breakdown for each fund follows:

Hugh Cargill Trust: \$101,354 was received as a result of annual appeals. The Committee approved 80 grants in 2022 totaling \$31,380. Grants were typically made for the payment of rent, medical expenses, water, telephone, and car insurance.

CMLP Fund: The Concord Municipal Light Plant donated \$11,147 to the CMLP Fund. The Committee approved 7 grants in 2022 totaling \$4,969.

Concord Cares: A total of \$1,868 was granted to 5 Concord citizens in need of emergency fuel assistance. Requests are granted by the Committee and other Concord services such as the Community

Services Coordinator, the Police Department, the Fire Department, and the COA.

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Tax Relief Fund: The Committee is designated by the Select Board to administer the Tax Relief Fund from monies raised in response to the Tax Relief Committee's annual appeal. Donations to this fund totaled \$81,617 in 2022. Of this amount, \$19,015 was from the 2021 appeal and \$62,602 from the 2022 appeal. 48 Concord residents received a reduction in their real estate tax bills, for a total tax relief granted in 2022 of \$67,176.

Members
Lindsay Howard
Laura Klein
Krysten Morganti
Sara Pacelle
Kathleen Reidy
Farhanah Sheets
Mary-Wren vanderWilden

Silent Fund: In 2017 the Select Board designated the HCTC to administer the Silent Fund. This fund supports summer camp tuition for Concord children as well as gifts during the winter holiday season. In 2022, \$17,770 was distributed to 101 families by the Silent Fund.

The Committee continues to make known its existence and its mission through local communications such as the Concord Bridge, Concord Journal, Adult & Continuing Education publications, contacts with the Community Services Coordinator, the Concord Housing Authority, the Council on Aging, the Recreation Department, the Community Chest, Open Table, the libraries, local clergy, and other local groups.

In light of the current economic conditions, the Committee anticipates 2023 to be another difficult year for many residents. We welcome private donations to continue the mission of providing short-term, emergency assistance to Concord residents. Donations may be sent to: The Hugh Cargill Trust at the Town House, P.O. Box 535, Concord, MA 01742. All contributions are tax-deductible.

The Library Committee is appointed by the Select Board. Committee members serve for staggered three-year terms and work with the Library Director to help maintain the Library's financial stability and well-being, provide short-term and long-range planning support, support policy development and update existing policies, as needed. The Library Committee also works to enhance patrons' experience using the Library, consider and implement new technologies to enhance services, and facilitate the work of the Library staff. The Committee promotes the Library's leadership in organizing active programming for all ages and supports community sustainability efforts through education and organizational practice.

Director/Assistant Director

In December 2021, we welcomed Emily Smith as the new Library Director. We appreciated Emily's enthusiasm and expertise throughout 2022, particularly as the Library moved back to full programming and staffing after pandemic-related reductions, and expanded into its new and renovated spaces. In June 2022, we also welcomed Ricky Sirois as the Library's new Assistant Director and recognize the experience and depth he brings to the administration of the Library.

Expansion/Construction

After a brief closure early in 2022 to allow for project completion, patrons were welcomed into the Library's new and improved spaces. The Library Committee has been proud to collaborate with the Library Corporation and Library staff in this effort, which will allow the Library to serve its patrons more fully through expanded resources and programming options.

Library Hours

In December, the Library reopened on Sundays. This returns the Library fully to pre-Covid operating hours. The Library Committee congratulates all Library staff on the tremendous job everyone has done supporting the community during this difficult time.

Library Policies

In our role as an advisory board to the Library Director, the Library Committee reviewed and approved revisions to several Library policies in 2022. Policies were updated in order to reflect current best practices and to ensure that policies evolve with the changing physical space of the Library space, emerging technologies, and the Concord community.

In 2022, the Committee supported the Library's efforts to go fine-free permanently. We also approved updates to policies related to behavior in the Library, usage of the Library's bulletin boards, and the posting of signs outside on Library property. We also collaborated with Library staff on the development of a new Collection Development policy. This serves as the basis for Library decisions related to selecting, curating, and weeding items from the Library's collection.

All Library policies are published on the Library's website.

Strategic Plan

The Library Committee plans to begin work on a new Strategic Plan for the Library in 2023. This will allow time for the Committee and Library staff to gather feedback from the community on programming and services available in the new Library space.

Committee Members

In 2022, Sue Curtin and Tara Edelman rolled off the Library Committee after completing one term and two terms respectively. We extend our deepest gratitude to Sue and Tara for their work with the Committee and their dedication to the Library and the town of Concord. Mary-Wren vanderWilden became a full Committee member, after serving as an associate member, and in September, we welcomed new Committee member Farhanah Sheets.

We are grateful to the Library Corporation for continuing to participate in our monthly meetings through a Trustee representative. This collaboration between the Corporation and Committee ensures that the Library is best positioned to meet the needs of our community, which was especially important throughout the expansion project. They are welcome guests and valued partners.

We are also grateful to the community members, observers, and speakers who have attended our meetings this year to ensure that the Library continues to meet the needs of our patrons and our Town. Open meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 by Zoom or in the Trustees Room at the Main Library when possible. We welcome and encourage interested members of the community to attend.

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

Emily Smith, Library Director

Overview

This year saw the opening of an entirely new and exciting chapter in the Concord Free Public Library's (CFPL) 149 year history. The Main Library's expansion project was completed, providing a 30% increase in square footage. The former Children's Room was extended to become the Goodwin Forum, which provides a dedicated large meeting room space that can accommodate an audience of 144 people and contains state of the art audiovisual technology. The brand new 3700 square foot Children's Library features an outdoor garden, an indoor activity room, and many spaces to read, play, and socialize. The renovated Library House was outfitted to include The Workshop makerspace, opening in 2023, as well as additional office and meeting spaces.

Every department in the Library accomplished so much during the past year as we completed a major construction project, continued to restore in-person services and Library hours, hired many new staff to fill vacancies, and launched a new administrative team including Library Director Emily Smith and Assistant Library Director Ricky Sirois. The following report highlights some of the key achievements in each department in 2022.

Circulation

The bustling Circulation Department had a wonderful 2022 full of creativity, development, and of course, circulation! At the Main Library, over 155,000 items were checked out and enjoyed by patrons of all ages. The Circulation Team developed a variety of displays to highlight collections and services, and thought outside the box with exciting initiatives like the puzzle swap and community puzzle table, the magazine exchange, and summertime theme weeks.

Reference Services

The Reference Department continued to deliver valuable services to patrons of all ages in 2022, offering research assistance, in-person and virtual programming, technology assistance, and more.

Reference staff answered 3825 reference questions, booked 1207 meeting room reservations for patrons, and assisted 877 patrons with technology questions. The Reference Department offered 114 in-person and virtual programs, which were attended by 2829 participants. The Reference Department was very excited to partner with the Ashland Public Library in September to offer the Library's first ever romance convention, "Rom"Concord. The event was attended by 150 enthusiastic romance readers. In addition, Reference staff members played a leading role in the planning and execution of the 30th annual Concord Festival of Authors. Finally, Reference staff deepened their commitment to the Library's sustainability efforts, as one staff member became the chair of the Library Corporation's Sustainability Implementation Committee and led Climate Prep Week programs alongside other libraries and community partners.

Innovation and Communication

Upon the hire of Makerspace Coordinator Christiana Urbano in October, the brand new Innovation and Communication team was excited to begin work on their first big project - The Workshop. Set to open in Spring 2023, The Workshop is a makerspace designed to let Concord residents get hands-on experience with 3D printing, laser cutting, sublimation printing, sewing, embroidering, A/V editing, and more.

Youth Services Teen Lounge

Since its opening in April, the Teen Lounge was defined by excitement and creative use, serving youth from ages 11 to 18. High school students consistently used the Lounge as a quiet place to study, decompress, or just hang out after school. Weekly programming dedicated to teens expanded to include a variety of opportunities like Bullet Journaling, College Essay Prep, and Cyanotype Photographs with artist Becky Behar. Over all, 102 teens attended programs during the summer.

In the fall, daily attendance averaged 25 as the Teen Lounge became study central. Students could be found working steadily from the time school ended to dinner time. A wildly successful weekly Dungeons and Dragons program, launched in the fall, currently has over 15 dedicated members and two high school mentors.

Children's Library

The new Children's Library opened on March 4. In March 2021, 294 patrons attended programs; in only the first two weeks of the opening in 2022, 581 patrons attended Children's programs. The pattern continued in April, with 277 patrons attending programs in 2021, whereas 1272 patrons attended programs in 2022. In June 2022, a whopping 2213 patrons attended Children's programs. One of the most popular uses of the Children's Library continues to be the use of the Children's Activity Room, where families and little ones color, draw, and craft.

The annual Summer Reading Program was extremely popular, with 770 child participants. The 2022 theme was "Read Beyond the Beaten Path," and included a "Read to Bead" incentive program for children to track their reading using beads - which was a big hit. Children's staff also said goodbye to beloved Children's Supervisor Royce McGrath, who relocated to Vermont.

Fowler Branch Library

In 2022, Fowler staff threw themselves into fulfilling the Branch's role as a community space for West Concord, creating opportunities for people of all ages, needs, and interests. Working with West Concord businesses, local organizations, and the Concord Visitor Center, staff participated in new and time-honored seasonal events, including "Discover West Concord Day."

To complement this community engagement, Fowler staff offered a range of new and continuing programs. Conscious of a range of comfort levels regarding program attendance, programs gathered outdoors when possible, including meeting in the newly improved Fowler Backyard, doing storytimes at the West Concord Union Church, and discussing books while walking along the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

Focusing on the Library's commitment to sustainability, Fowler staff collaborated with others doing similar work locally. With support from other organizations, Fowler strengthened the Seed Lending Library and planted a pollinator garden. Fowler staff also introduced an ongoing houseplant cuttings swap, similar to the puzzle and magazine swaps.

Special Collections

Special Collections staff served over 850 patrons on-site and answered over 750 total reference questions. Staff presented at the Thoreau Society's 80th Annual Gathering, Kerem Shalom's "Food-for-Thought" series, and more. In honor of Women's History Month, Concord's Visitor's Bureau featured a tour celebrating "Concord's Art Legacy: Women in Art Revealed." Special Collections was one of the stops along the tour, and staff introduced visitors to art pieces and manuscripts about Concord's women artists. Special Collections also hosted numerous research visits from participants in the Thoreau Society and academics.

Special Collections announced that the entire Library Corporation's Art Collection is available to view online after a two-year effort to improve the accessibility and documentation of the pieces and a thorough cleaning of our busts. Throughout 2022, Special Collections staff met weekly with the Concord Museum's curatorial team to develop and design a joint 2023 exhibit featuring highlights from the Library's art collection, and to prepare for the Daniel Chester French exhibit, also planned for 2023. On view in the Main Library Gallery in December were selected portraits from the Special Collections' Art Collection.

Special Collections received several noteworthy donations, including scrapbooks of the Bicentennial Celebration. Special Collections also received \$22,841 of Community Preservation Act funds for the Concord Oral History Preservation and Access project. Finally, the CFPL Corporation and the Town approved a formal agreement to store Town Archives in the Special Collections vault.

Technical Services

The Main Library and the Fowler Branch Library received a major public printing and PC access management system upgrade. The new system includes a user-friendly flatbed and high-speed duplex scanner, a ScanEz touchscreen station, a credit card/cash/Paypal print payment kiosk, a fax function, and a mobile printing feature. Patrons found the new system easy to use.

Technical Services staff continued to work hard to order, receive, catalog, add, and process print and

non-print materials. A total of 10,597 new items were added to the Library collections for patrons to enjoy. In addition, the Library continued to invest in streaming and downloadable subscriptions to meet the needs of Concord residents, seeing a steady increase in the use of OverDrive, Hoopla, and Kanopy by patrons.

Conclusion

On a more personal note, as I reflect on my first year as Library Director, I would like to extend my gratitude for the generous support of the Concord community, as well as our Library partner organizations and many volunteers including the Concord Free Public Library Corporation, the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library, and the Library Committee. I also want to acknowledge the patience, talent, creativity, and persistence of the dedicated group of Library staff that kept this organization moving during all of the challenges and changes this year. As we look forward to the Library's 150th year in 2023, I am filled with optimism and gratitude for all that we have accomplished and all that we plan to achieve together. It is a very exciting time to be in the place "where ideas develop."

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CORPORATION

Sherry F. Litwack, President
Richard D. Briggs, Jr., Treasurer
Pamela Gannon, Clerk
Jeffrey W. Adams
Cristina Coletta Blau
John W. Boynton IV
Diana W. Clymer
Theodore Hanselman
Erika Prahl

The Concord Free Public Library Corporation is a Massachusetts charitable corporation created by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1873 for the purpose of forming and maintaining a public library in Concord, which it undertakes to do in collaboration with the Town and the Library Committee. For more information on how the Library works, go to the Library's website: <https://concordlibrary.org/about/how-we-work>

The primary responsibility of the Library Corporation is to preserve, maintain, protect, improve, and enhance the buildings and grounds of the Main Library in Concord Center and the Fowler Branch in West Concord as well as to preserve, protect, develop, interpret, and share its Special Collections. In FY 2021-2022 the Corporation contributed over \$600,000 to the Library, including more than \$117,000 to supplement the Town Budget for library books and materials. The majority of these funds come from the Annual Fund and income from the Corporation's Endowment. Funding for large projects, such as a major expansion, are raised through a capital campaign.

One of the most significant activities for the Library Corporation has been the Library Expansion project. In the fall of 2021 many of the new spaces opened, including the new Children's Library, Children's Garden, Commons, and Teen Lounge, and they have been enthusiastically embraced by the community. In 2022 we dedicated and opened the Goodwin Forum, named after distinguished Concord authors Richard and Doris Kearns Goodwin. This meeting room can seat 144 people and enables us to host programs and meetings for large groups. It can also be divided

into two smaller spaces for meetings, programs, and studying, and collaborative work. A special feature of the room is the personal research book collection of the Goodwins, including extensive volumes on Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, the Civil War, and leadership which were generously donated by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Doris was able to join us for the dedication of Goodwin Forum and spoke eloquently about how important the town of Concord and the Library were to both her and her late husband. Next year, we look forward to the opening of the Makerspace – an innovative space for hands-on learning.

Our Sustainability Implementation Committee has been working on the initiatives in the Library's Sustainability Plan. We are proud to be a member of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative. You can view the 10-year plan and the progress being made on the Library website: <https://concordlibrary.org/news-events/library-news/the-library-corporations-sustainability-plan>

The William Munroe Special Collections continues to be an outstanding resource not only for the community but for researchers from around the world. To increase accessibility of the collections, an inventory of the Corporation's extensive art collection is now available on-line. The Corporation's collection of busts displayed around the Main Library were cleaned and conserved this year. We received several notable gifts, including materials relating to the history of Belknap House; a collection about Jean Hill, who led Concord's plastic bottle ban effort; and papers from the Munroe, Damon, Macone, and Ballou families.

As Trustees of the Williams Scholarship Fund, made possible by a bequest from Charles H. S. Williams in the 1800s, we continue to award grants to several college students pursuing studies in the arts. This year's recipients included scholarships for Ruby Massengale (Visual Arts), Samara Reid (Visual Arts), and Honorable Mention to Samuel Lyczkowski (Music) as well as continuing scholarships for Thomas Kim (Visual Arts), Rebecca Pasley (Music), Kincaid DeBell (Visual Arts), and Laurel Sharakan (Music). We were thrilled to be able to resume our annual salon in person to highlight and celebrate the talents of these arts scholars.

The annual Leslie Riedel Lecture for Young People featured Newbery-award winning author and Concord resident, Rajani LaRocca.

It is wonderful to see people using the Library again in person and enjoying both the traditional and new spaces. We are able to be flexible and offer programs in person, virtually, and a hybrid of both. The Library is thriving as a democratic community resource -- free and open to all.

Next year, we look forward to celebrating the Library's 150th Anniversary.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry F. Litwack
President, CFPL Corporation



CFPL Corporation Trustees

*Left to Right – Back: John Boynton, Di Clymer, Jeff Adams,
Rick Briggs, Ted Hanselman*

*Left to Right – Front: Pam Gannon, Sherry Litwack,
Erika Prahl, Cristina Blau*

THE FRIENDS OF THE CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Concord Free Public Library is a nonprofit, charitable organization that supports the library's vital role in our community. For over 50 years and through the generosity of our community, the Friends have helped the library offer a variety of enhanced services and creative programs for all ages.

Friends members enjoy year-round benefits, including booksale pre-sales, highlights of library happenings, special program announcements, invitations to member events, and voting at our annual meeting. The Friends welcome new volunteers to help carry on our traditions.

Our year-round book shelves - The Friends Book Shop - are open at both our Main & Fowler branch libraries. Self check-out your choice of both children's and adult assortment of gently used books for sale year-round.

The Friends Holiday Sale will take place in the new Library Forum on December 2-4th, 2022.

The Friends' Holiday and June book sales are our biggest sources of revenue as well as being much loved community events. The heart and soul of this year-round operation is a team of over a dozen enthusiastic volunteers who sort the many volumes donated to the Friends each year and prepare them for the book sales.

The Sorters select books for our sales based on many criteria including condition, demand, and quantity. Books not chosen for the sales are further donated to other community organizations in Concord and surrounding towns.

As a library patron, please enjoy some of what the Friends make possible, watch a movie in the comfort of your home via Kanopy followed by a lively discussion; enjoy a cup of tea and a cookie on a winter afternoon while listening to established and up and coming poets; enter a new perspective by listening to thought provoking authors year-round and during the Concord Festival of Authors each October; immerse yourself

in worldly music on our lawn or inside the rotunda; or step outside of Concord into New England museums with a discounted pass.

To learn more, or to join the Friends, please pick up a brochure at the Library or visit us online at: <http://www.cfplfriends.org/>

Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/concordlibraryfriend

E-mail us at: friends@concordlibrary.or

RECREATION COMMISSION

Casey Atkins (chair)
Jennifer Lutz
James Howard
Peter Funkhouser
Paul Boehm

The Recreation Commission is a Town Manager-appointed, volunteer Committee of Concord residents that support the Recreation Department by providing advice and guidance on topics relevant to the town's recreational pursuits. Currently, the committee consists of five volunteers: Phil Griffiths (chair), James Howard, Peter Funkhouser, Paul Boehm and Matt Boger. This year, the Commission played a critical role in supporting the Department as it navigated a variety of opportunities and challenges.

Recognition of Service

We want to thank Casey Atkins for her six years of service as a Commission member. During Casey's time on the Commission, she played a critical role in supporting the Department as it navigated a variety of opportunities and challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, a department leadership change, development of inclusion programs, and more. Casey provided the Commission with invaluable input that propelled and strengthened the Recreation Department's operations. We thank Casey for her years of service to the Concord community.

New Concord Recreation Team Members

The Recreation Commission would like to congratulate the Town on hiring a new Recreation Clerk, Aquatics Program Manager, and Beede Center General Manager this year amongst various part time positions.

Jodie Surprenant joined the Beede Center team as a full time Recreation Clerk in May of 2022. In her prior administrative roles she was responsible for many office duties including reception, telephones, mail, copying, word processing and database and spreadsheet management. Jodie directly supervised more than 20 employees and volunteers while overseeing their daily assignments. In these leadership roles, Jodie often served as the supervisor on duty handling customer service issues, observing associate engagement, and leading by example. Jodie is known for her exemplary customer service skills and an ability to creatively problem solve any issues that arise.

Mary Holland joined the Beede team in August of 2022 with nearly a decade of experience in aquatics and recreation planning as well as membership sales, recruitment, and retention. A marathon runner, avid swimmer, and collegiate athlete, Mary's diverse background of professional and personal experiences has brought a fresh perspective to Beede Center Aquatics Programs. Her past work experiences offered her the opportunity to work with diverse students and staff while also providing the administrative oversight of budgets, staff scheduling, and customer relations.

After a nationwide search, Cathi Ellis relocated from Oregon to lead the Beede Center team in September 2022. Cathi is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional and Certified Pool Operator with over 15 years of experience in the recreation, fitness and aquatics industry. In her most recent role, she managed a Recreation and Aquatics Center with a \$3M budget, 9 full time employees and over 40 FTEs. A leader that focuses on innovation and creativity, Cathi has a proven track record of successfully running high quality recreation programs supported by data-driven decision making. Cathi's professional and personal mission in parks and recreation is to work towards a community that is a better place to work, live and visit.

Recreation Commission Subcommittees

Beede Center Financial Health Subcommittee
The Commission voted to create a subcommittee that will focus on the future financial health of the Beede Swim and Fitness Center. The subcommittee is proud to announce that the Beede Center emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger than anticipated with memberships increasing, programming thriving, and rentals growing in FY22.

Financially, the Beede Center ended FY22 in the black and anticipate FY23 to end strong as well. As the Center continues to evaluate ways to be more efficient and reduce expenses, the Commission has encouraged the Recreation Department to explore the installation of solar panels on the roof and/or parking lot to offset growing electricity costs. The Recreation Department hopes to have a solar feasibility study done in FY24, a new roof installed to support the solar panels in FY25 and solar panels installed in FY26. The Commission will work with the Recreation Department to explore grant opportunities to offset installation costs and will continue to encourage the Department to explore other mechanisms for reducing the Center's utility costs.

Recreation Facilities Strategic Planning Subcommittee

The Recreation Department was awarded \$75,000 from the Community Preservation Committee at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. These funds will be used to pay for a consulting team to update the Town's 2014 Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan. In October of 2022, the Recreation Department awarded the contract to Weston and Sampson who will oversee the project. Maintenance and upkeep of the Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan is imperative in assuring the Town is not only aware of the lands and spaces available for active and passive recreational use but the steps and costs that must be prioritized to ensure ongoing accessibility and functionality of such spaces. The selected consultant will work with recreation staff, Recreation Commission members, Town Departments, and other community stakeholders to plan and execute a robust assessment of needs while engaging in a hands on, collaborative, inclusive, and holistic public participation process. The result of the planning effort and the Plan that will be produced by the

consultant will provide the Town with a roadmap that prioritizes and guides annual capital project planning through a lens of strategic, purposeful, and prioritized (high, medium, low) needs and actions. The Commission is excited to aid in the development of the Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan and anticipate it being completed in the Fall of 2023.

Community Service Awards

Since 1985, the Maureen Taggart Community Service Award has been presented annually to a high school student, public or private, who is a resident of Concord or Carlisle that has demonstrated a loving and giving spirit through voluntary service in the community. Maureen Taggart was a dedicated Concord Recreation Department employee for many years. She was passionate about giving back to the local community and volunteered frequently.

The 2022 Maureen Taggart Community Service Award was presented to Madeline “Maddie” Pitas. Maddie is a standout student, loyal Concord Recreation employee, and Carousel Preschool graduate (15 years ago). Maddie has provided the Concord community with hours of volunteer service, many of which have been done here at Concord Recreation. Most notably, Maddie was an outstanding member of our summer Workreation Program for two years supporting campers grades K-6 as she navigated the camp day. Maddie always went above and beyond and often was the person we would find cleaning up camp rooms, organizing supplies, and sorting lost and found at the end of a long, hot camp day. Maddie has shown us that Concord and its community is an important part of her life and she is willing to give back to it.

The main feature of this award is that the recipient has the privilege of designating a deserving organization to receive a financial grant in Maureen’s name. Maddie has chosen South Sudanese Enrichment for Families Inc., an organization committed to enhancing strengths, building self-sufficiency, and promoting community. SSEF assists with navigating systems, accessing resources, building skills, and creating opportunities to share South Sudan's history and distinct cultural heritage. Congratulations, Maddie!

Community Support

A large thank you to our community sponsors and supporters that join in assuring our events, programs and initiatives continued to thrive in 2022. Concord-Carlisle Community Chest and the Alcott School Turkey Trot both continued to support Concord Recreation with funding allocations that provide financial assistance to residents in need. Additionally, the Recreation Commission and Recreation Department would like to thank other Town Departments and Committees (Facilities, Public Works, Fire, Police, Town Manager’s Office, Finance, Health, etc.) that have supported our operation this year.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Recreation Commission is a Town Manager-appointed, volunteer Committee of Concord residents that support the Recreation Department by providing advice and guidance on topics relevant to the town's recreational pursuits. Currently, the committee consists of five volunteers: Phil Griffiths (chair), James Howard, Peter Funkhouser, Paul Boehm and Matt Boger. This year, the Commission played a critical role in supporting the Department as it navigated a variety of opportunities and challenges.

Recognition of Service

We want to thank Casey Atkins for her six years of service as a Commission member. During Casey's time on the Commission, she played a critical role in supporting the Department as it navigated a variety of opportunities and challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, a Department leadership change, development of inclusion programs, and more. Casey provided the Commission with invaluable input that propelled and strengthened the Recreation Department's operations. We thank Casey for her years of service to the Concord community.

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RECREATION COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEES

Beede Center Subcommittee

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BEEDE SWIM & FITNESS CENTER

The Beede Swim & Fitness Center, located on the campus of the Concord-Carlisle Regional High School, hosts an 8-lane lap pool, a warm water pool, a children's pool, a diving well, and plentiful poolside spectator seating. There are two 1,600-square-foot fitness rooms; one for weight training and one for cardiovascular exercise. In addition, the facility includes men's and women's locker/shower rooms, family changing rooms, and staff office space. The facility is open approximately 100 hours each week throughout the year welcoming an average of 250 members per day. The Beede Center strives to balance the recreational needs of the community with its obligation to be financially self-supporting.

Membership

The Beede Center's varied membership plans offer unlimited access to state-of-the-art aquatic and fitness facilities. Annual, monthly, 3-month and 10-visit options let users create the perfect membership to fit their individual or family needs. Additionally, members receive up to a 40% discount on aquatics and fitness programs, year-round. As of December 31, 2022, the Beede Center has 1570 monthly recurring memberships along with 1251 3-month sales, 312 10-punch pass sales, and 2295 guest pass sales.

New Employees

As noted in the Concord Recreation Annual Report, the Beede Swim and Fitness Center welcomed three new full-time employees in 2022.

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Lifeguard Shortage

2022 was dramatically impacted by a shortage of lifeguards. In the fall of 2022, the Beede Center was able to staff 30% of the standard quantity of lifeguards required to support programs and rentals. Beede management made the decision to alter facility hours, cut programs, and reduce pool capacities when necessary to ensure the activities in the natatorium remained safely guarded. In an effort to solve this problem, the Beede Center offered three FREE lifeguard classes between October- December 2022 and worked with Town management to adjust the pay rates. Regionally, the Beede Center feels a responsibility to offer training classes to certify more lifeguards and took pride in successfully teaching 31 participants the lifesaving skills to become an American Red Cross certified lifeguard. By the end of December 2022, the Beede Center was proud to announce that we were able to staff 60% of the standard quantity of lifeguards required to support programs and rentals

in the natatorium and had hired 24 new lifeguards to join the Beede team.

Beede Swim and Fitness Center Highlights 2022:

- Beede introduced a new pricing structure for personal training programs, encouraging users to have small group training and 25- or 55-minute sessions. (January 2022)
- All monthly recurring rates we increased by \$2.00/month with approval from the Recreation Commission. (February 2022)
- Beede transitioned from a manually created pool schedule to an online pool schedule maximizing use of our Recreation software, MyRec, while streamlining the schedule processes and enhancing the member experience. (March 2022)
- The Recreation Department worked with the Select Board to approve a formal parking restriction for the Beede Swim and Fitness Center parking lot. The new restriction allows lot use by Beede customers, staff, and certain school department vehicles, only. Concord Police are now able to ticket vehicles that should not be parked in the lot. (March 2022)
- The Beede Swim and Fitness Center celebrated its 16th birthday by offering a month of promotions and raffles, including a reduced joining fee. (April 2022)
- The Beede Center implemented digital ID cards for use at all Town aquatics sites including Beede, White Pond, and Emerson Pool reducing the need for plastic ID cards. This change aligns with the Town's goals to be more sustainable in our practices. (May 2022)
- Optima Synchro, a group that specializes in synchronized swimming for all ages, joined the Beede Center as a new, recurring pool rental. (June 2022)
- In an effort to reduce paper use, the Beede team implemented a digital sign-in process for all programs. This change aligns with the Town's goals

to be more sustainable in our practices and allows the front desk to function more efficiently. (July 2022)

- Successfully completed the annual maintenance shutdown week focusing on various large projects including but not limited to pool cleaning, replacing locker room drywall, revitalizing outdoor garden beds, installation of a water bottle filling station, and new paint in lower lobby and family changing rooms. (August 2022)
- The Beede Center hosted the 21st annual Nick Ressler Blood Drive. 70 donors participated in the drive on 9/17/22 contributing 53 units of blood. In the 21 years that the drive has been happening, over 3000 individuals have been helped by the blood donated in Nick's name. The Beede Center is proud to continue supporting the Ressler family and this community event. (September 2022)
- The Beede fitness team offered its first yoga classes at White Pond. The classes were well received with nearly 30 participants participating and enjoying the newly renovated outdoor space. (October 2022)
- With approval from Town Management, the Beede Center aligned its holiday closure schedule with the rest of the Town to promote better employee work-life balance. (November 2022)
- The Beede Center rolled out three, FREE lifeguard training classes to combat the nationwide lifeguard shortage. (November-December 2022)
- Beede hosted a popular Winter Break Vacation Program, offering a fun experience for 70 children over the school break. (December 2022)
- Installation of a new Smith Press machine in the strength room. (December 2022)

Facility Updates

Throughout 2022, the Beede Center continued to focus on ways to be more sustainable and efficient in its practices. Most notably, 2022 was a year of various large maintenance projects including the replacement of all filter sand in the pools; new pumps and motors in the kiddie pool; a new heat exchanger in the warm water pool; new main drain covers in the lap pool, warm water pool, and kiddie pool to be Virginia Graeme Baker compliant; a new CO2 tank to hold sufficient quantities of gas to sustain the needs of all four pools PH levels inclusive of a remote telemetry system; installation of a new air compressor that supports the filtration process in the lap pool and dive well; revitalization of various HVAC components including locker room ventilation; and new water-saving shower heads in the women's locker rooms that produce 2 gallons of water per minute as compared to 4 gallons of water per minute. Lastly, the Center was proud to complete a project with Viking Systems that will allow the Beede Center to recirculate the hot water coming from the roof top units into the pool heat exchangers to save on the energy and electricity that is required to heat the water to temperature. We expect to see significant cost savings over time with this new system in place.



Participants and staff enjoying swim time at our Beede Winter Vacation Program. Beede gave 70 kids the ability to participate in fun, engaging activities the week between Christmas and New Year's Day 2022.

Seamus Rudolph (staff), Maddie Chagnon, Keaton Lacy, Colbi Hanson, Henry O'Donnell, Taylor Hanson, Dave Alessi (staff), Rowan Famous, Max Chagnon, Brooke O'Reilly, Clara Mcateer, Miles Oliver, Jimmy Hance, Avery Yusup, James Bandi, Olivia Feng, Ari Abramson, Jenna Rigon (staff), Lukas Kocis

PEG ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Karlen Reed, Chair
Vince Carlson, Clerk
Scott Hopkinson
Cory Atkins
Court Booth/Cynthia Rainey, School Committee
Representatives
Henry Dane/Terri Ackerman, Concord Select Board
Liaisons
Erin Stevens/Jason Bulger, MMN Liaisons
Mark Pauley, MMN Interim Station Manager

Tim Goddard, Carlisle Ex-Officio Member
Carole Cushing, Concord Council on Aging Liaison

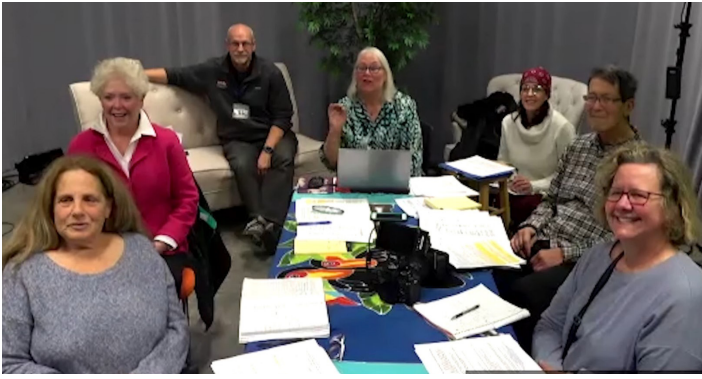
The Purpose of the PAAC

This report by the PEG Access Advisory Committee (PAAC) covers the PAAC's efforts from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. This committee's meetings were held virtually, in-person, and hybrid, and were recorded by Minuteman Median Network (MMN) as part of Governor Baker's executive orders to address COVID-19 virus precautions and the Open Meeting Law. MMN is the Town-run local public access cable TV studio and service which brings public, education, and government (PEG) local programming to Concord and Carlisle. See the related annual town report for MMN for more details.

Purpose of the PAAC

The charge of the PAAC is to:

1. Monitor the effectiveness of Concord's PEG access services, now provided by MMN;
2. Help the Select Board ensure that PEG access services conform to requirements of the Comcast / Concord franchise agreement;
3. Safeguard the public's interest in community television through policies promoting fairness, equal access, and non-discrimination;
4. Promote quality telecommunication services that reflect the interests and concerns of



*PEG Access Advisory Committee meeting,
Dec. 1, 2022, members and liaisons*

PAAC members Karlen Reed (Chair), Vince Carlson (Clerk), Cory Atkins, and Cynthia Rainey, with liaisons Terri Ackerman (Select Board), Mark Pauley (Minuteman Media Network) and Christina Kendrick (Council on Aging)

Concord residents; and

5. Assist the Select Board in adapting to new technologies – from traditional local cable TV to current telecommunication services.

2022 PAAC Updates

2022 saw a gradual return to “normal” after COVID, yet the communities of Concord and Carlisle continued to value the services of MMN and PEG programming quite highly. Town committees relied heavily on MMN to record and post Zoom-enabled committee meetings for their members’ and the public’s benefit. Committee clerks continued to rely on MMN videos to help them take meeting minutes. Concord citizens found engagement with Town government easier because they could watch and participate in Town and committee meetings from their living rooms. MMN posted the meeting videos on the Internet quickly, making committee research easier than waiting 30+ days for minutes to be approved. MMN maintained playlists for its YouTube channel organized by committee, making the search for a video relatively simple. MMN’s YouTube subscribership base rose above 950 subscribers by the end of 2022.

In 2022, the PAAC supported the Fiber Broadband Task Force, which included PAAC member Scott Hopkinson. The PAAC reviewed the MMN 2022 budget and capital plan, supported the 2022 PEG Budget Warrant Article 44 at Town Meeting, and adopted new 2022-23 goals. PAAC members

provided input to the Town on its new 5G small cell wireless installation policies, a new residential assistance program for municipal broadband services, and on the Town’s efforts to promote assisted hearing services for Town meetings. The PAAC continued to analyze Comcast subscribership and complaint data, celebrated the fourth anniversary of the founding of MMN (2018 – 2022), issued an RFP for a cable TV consultant, interviewed two applicants, awarded the contract to the Buske Group, met with Sue Buske, reviewed the needs assessment timeline / plan, and prepared this report.

2022 PEG Access Program Awards

At its June 2, 2022 meeting the PAAC presented its 2022 PEG Access Program Awards, in the form of signed certificates, to the staff of Minuteman Media Network in recognition of their fine efforts to bring public, education, and government videos to Concord and Carlisle. Community-created public access TV videos are the heart and soul of local TV programming. Watching the meetings and programs on MMN’s TV channels 8, 9, and 99, and on Concord’s YouTube web site kept people entertained and informed on local matters.

The 2022 PAPA Awards recognized the efforts by the MMN staff who worked hard to make sure the committee meetings, educational, historic, sports, artistic programs, and public events were preserved. The MMN staff were also recognized in May 2022 for their efforts to bring several significant, Town-character defining events, including Meriam’s Corner Exercise, Patriot’s Day Parade, Carlisle Town Meeting, and Concord Town Meeting. The award recipients were Mark Pauley (Production Manager), Tory Wesnofske (Lead Producer), Matthew Beren (Lead Producer), and Isabelle Germino, Arkadiy Barshteyn, Sean O’Donnell, and Andre Pohl (videographers).

MMN celebrated its fourth year of operations in October 2022 as the Town-run local television station (2018 – 2022).

For more information, visit the PAAC web page: <https://concordma.gov/2012/PEG-Access-Advisory-Committee> or the MMN web page: <https://concordma.gov/2335/Minuteman-Media-Network-MMN>

VETERANS' SERVICES

Dick Krug, Veterans Services Officer

The Veterans' Services program is mandated by Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 115 and is administered under State guidelines to provide information, advice and assistance regarding benefits to veterans and their families. Every city and town in the Commonwealth is required to have a benefits program for its resident veterans and their dependents, as well as a Veterans' Services Officer. The Veterans' Services Officer must be a war-era veteran and be available to provide assistance.

The Town is reimbursed by the State for 75% of benefits paid under this mandated program. With the support of the Commonwealth's House, Senate and Executive Office, Massachusetts is now recognized as having one of the most comprehensive veterans' programs in the nation.

The Office of Veterans' Services, currently located at 55 Church Street (second floor) advocates for and provides critical services to those who have served and their loved ones. Current benefits extend to "natural disasters" where benefits may apply to a loss resulting from a hurricane, blizzard or tornado. The Veterans' Service Officer will help Veterans complete their application for Chapter 115 benefits which offers a need-based program of financial and medical assistance for Veterans and their dependents. The mission of the Veterans' Services Officer has grown to encompass the full range of VA federal benefits, rehabilitation, employment and educational opportunities, military records, tax exemptions, housing and shelter assistance, annuities, funeral assistance and care and decoration of veterans' graves. Financial assistance to qualified veterans and their dependents is provided, in accordance with State and federal regulations.

Our veteran population in Concord has dropped dramatically from 2000 to 2021 however, Massachusetts has seen tens of thousands of new veterans.

Program Implementation

The Veterans' Services Officer responds to daily calls requesting information, advice and assistance. With so many veterans and their families facing profound challenges related to their service and the current economy due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Veterans' Services Officer has become more important than ever.

The Veterans' Services Officer often helps veterans obtain assistance from veterans' organizations as well as other local, State and federal organizations, such as Concord Community Services, Social Security, local food pantries and farmer markets. The Veterans' Services Officer also has been called upon to provide transportation to and from medical appointments for veterans when there is no other transportation available.

Currently there are seven individuals receiving financial assistance for qualifying Chapter 115 benefits. This number changes annually as the veteran may have moved, gained employment, change of assets or passed away.

The Veterans' Services Officer has been networking with local civic groups, senior citizen groups and area veterans' organizations as well as families of service members currently deployed. He has assisted at veterans' funerals, worked with students and presenters at Veterans' Day and Memorial Day exercises, served as a guest speaker in some high school and elementary school classes as well as for Rotary Club of Concord, the Lions Club of Concord, Concord Deaconess, and Concord Park Assisted Living. The Office of Veterans' Services opened during the 2021 with the practice of mask wearing and social distancing.

For information or assistance on Veterans' Services please call 978-318-3038 or e-mail dkrug@concordma.gov. For information about services, events, and other veterans' organizations please visit Concord's web page at <https://www.concordma.gov/830/Veterans-Services>

REGISTRAR OF VETERANS GRAVES

Harold Nichols, Registrar

There were 38 interments of United States Veterans in Concord cemeteries in 2022. The names of the Veterans, their respective wars, date of burials, and place of burial are as follows:

<u>VETERAN'S NAME</u>	<u>PERIOD OF DUTY</u>	<u>INTERMENT DATE</u>	<u>CEMETERY</u>
Harold B. Mueller	Vietnam	January 25, 2022	St. Bernards
Foster J. DeGiacomo	World War II	February 18, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Arvin H. Smith	Korea	February 23, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Maxwell E. Lawrence Jr.	Peacetime	February 26, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Richard W. Wright	Korea	March 12, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
James F. Wilman	Vietnam	March 23, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Charles J. Simpson	Peacetime	March 25, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
James P. McCarthy Jr.	World War II	April 13, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Joseph E. Curra Sr.	World War II	April 26, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Joseph E. Curra Jr.	Vietnam	April 26, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Francis R. Loynd Jr.	Vietnam	May 5, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
David R. Henry	Vietnam	May 12, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Richard P. Saliga	Korea	May 19, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Richard T. Hayes	Korea	May 26, 2022	St. Bernards
Richard E. O'Donoghue	Peacetime	May 27, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
John Macone	Korea	May 30, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Jay M. Hellman	Vietnam	June 5, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Joseph M. Arcidi	Korea	June 10, 2022	St. Bernards
John W. Kohl	World War II	June 17, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Bernard A. Smith	Korea	June 21, 2022	St. Bernards
John B. Buttrick	Korea	July 9, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Michael Marshman	Vietnam	July 13, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
James L. Phelps	Korea	July 19, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Thomas J. Robertson	Peacetime	July 29, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Alfred L. Bianchi	Vietnam	August 4, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
William B. Mercaldi	World War II	August 9, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Donato J. Bracco	Peacetime	September 11, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Nichloas Albanese	World War II	September 16, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Ernest Cerra	Korea	September 28, 2022	St. Bernards
George E. Megin	Vietnam	October 6, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
William J. Moran	Vietnam	October 11, 2022	St. Bernards
Carl W. Sparre Jr	World War II, Korea	October 13, 2022	St. Bernards
Phillip A. Rebillard	Peacetime	October 27, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Francis W. A'Hearn	Peacetime	November 12, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Arthur P. Charbonneau	World War II	November 17, 2022	St. Bernards
Theodore Griesinger	Korea	November 26, 2022	Sleepy Hollow
Joseph P. Lenox Jr.	World War II, Korea	December 7, 2022	St. Bernards
Carmen F. Spinelli	Korea	December 14, 2022	St. Bernards

CONCORD LOCAL CULTURAL COUNCIL

Council members:
Betsy Levinson (Chair)
Tom Martin
Arthur Rogers
Anita Tekle
Amy Beamer
Ha Richmond
Hilary Taylor

The Concord Cultural Council (CLCC), whose members are appointed by the Select Board, supports community cultural projects through its grant program. Funds are received from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) whose mission is “to promote excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in order to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and to contribute to the economic vitality of our communities.”

Individuals and organizations may apply to the CLCC for funding for projects and presentations in music, dance, visual arts, poetry, literature, drama, humanities, and scientific interpretation for all age groups. Preference is given to applicants who live or work in Concord or who offer programs, projects, or presentations that specifically benefit Concord.

Information about applying for FY 2022 grants was publicized on Facebook, in the Concord Patch and on the Massachusetts Cultural Council website (www.mass-culture.org/Concord). In future years the information will also be publicized in the Concord Bridge, Patch and the CLCC is in the process of creating a Social Media presence in order to have a wider distribution of information.

This year the CLCC received thirty-four Grant applications requesting a total of \$21,155. Four applications were denied due to the lack of additional funding and thirty grants were reviewed and approved. The CLCC received \$7,200.00 from

the MCC and \$2,000.00 from the Town of Concord bringing the total initial funds available for granting in 2023 to \$9,200.00. Due to the difficulties posed by COVID-19 during the previous two years, many of the previously approved grant recipients failed to complete their projects by the extended deadline. Therefore, the CLCC had a balance of \$3,782 which brought the total available funds to \$12,982.00. The CLCC reserved \$350.00 to fund a celebration in the Spring to honor the grantees leaving a final total of \$12,632.00.

Additional information on the CCC grant program is available at:
<https://www.mass-culture.org/Concord>