



Town of Concord

Weekly Operations Report

2025 Volume 5/February 28, 2025

General Administration

Town Meeting

The deadline for submitting Warrant articles for the 2025 Annual Town Meeting was February 19, 2025. The warrant will be posted to the town website this week and is expected to include five citizen petitions. In a recommendation from the Town Meeting Study Committee, a condensed version of the warrant will be printed as an insert in the March 28 edition of the Concord Bridge and online at https://concordma.gov/3835/_2025.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2025
JUNE 2, 2025 AT 7 PM

NEW
For
Town Meeting
2025

<http://www.concordma.gov/TM25>

**TOWN MEETING WARRANT TO BE PUBLISHED
IN MARCH 28 EDITION OF THE CONCORD BRIDGE**

Go to Town Meeting 2025 webpage for digital version of Warrant
<https://www.concordma.gov/TM25>

The Annual Town Meeting Briefing Book, which will be mailed to all households similarly to previous versions of the Warrant and Finance Committee Report, is an initiative introduced by the Town Meeting Study Committee to produce an all-encompassing Briefing Book for Town Meeting, which will include:

- The full Annual Town Meeting Warrant
 - Warrant Article
 - Warrant Article Motion
 - Warrant Article Explanations
 - Town Board and Committee Recommendations on Warrant Articles

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- Proposed Form of Action - Borrowing, Spending, Bylaw Amendment, Advisory/Recommendation
 - A link and QR Code to the Warrant Article webpage
 - The Finance Committee Report
 - Supplemental Information from Town Boards and Committees (e.g. charts, maps)

MCI Concord Redevelopment

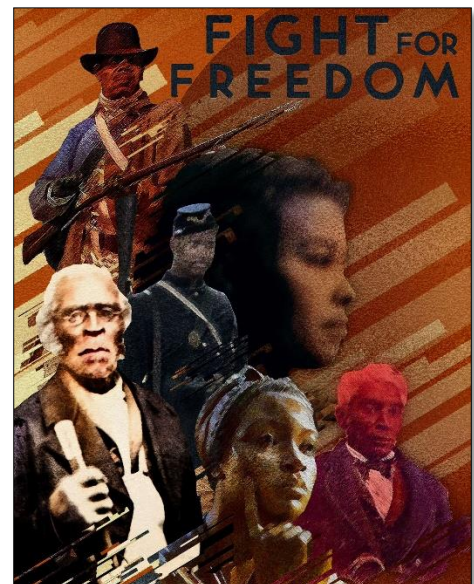
On Monday, February 24, 2025, Agency Landscape & Planning, the consultants for the MCI Concord Redevelopment, began their work with a kick-off meeting. They engaged the MCI Concord Advisory Board, town staff, and the public, introducing their team and soliciting input on key opportunities and constraints. Following the meeting, the Advisory Board and Agency team conducted a site tour of MCI Concord. The public will be notified of future engagement opportunities.

Black History Month

Joe Palumbo, presented "*Hidden History: 10 things to know about Black History in Concord*" as part of a lunch and learn opportunity for town staff in recognition of Black History Month. It was an inspiring and meaningful gathering highlighted by powerful stories and a celebration of Concord Black history and culture. Find a link to the recording [here](#).



Take advantage of a free series of tours hosted by the Concord Visitor Center. "[A Fight for Freedom: Patriots of Color Walking Tour](#)" begins on March 22 and runs through June 30, 2025. Tours meet at the North Bridge Lower Lot at 1 PM. All ages are welcome. This walking tour is co-sponsored by Minuteman National Park, The Robbins House, and the Concord Visitors Center as a Concord250 Event and is funded by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.



Human Resources

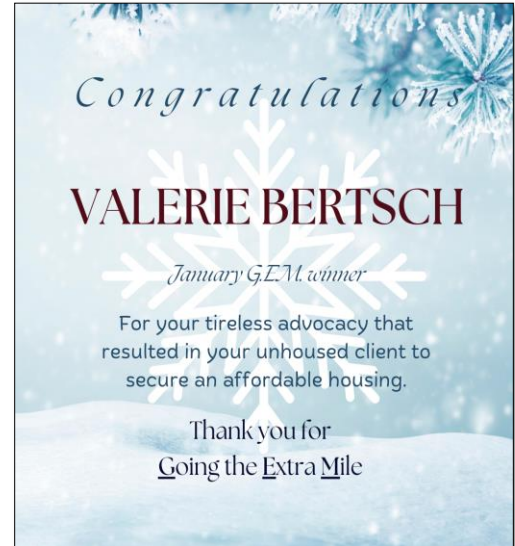
January GEM Winner

Congratulations to our January GEM Lottery Award winner Valerie Bertsch from the Council on Aging!

For **G**oing the **E**xtra **M**ile in tirelessly working to secure affordable housing for an unhoused client, Valerie will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to a local business to enjoy.

Follow this link to learn more about the GEM Program: [Town of Concord \(concordma.gov\)](https://www.concordma.gov)

If you know someone who has gone the extra mile and deserves recognition, nominate them! [GEM-Form \(concordma.gov\)](https://www.concordma.gov) Completed forms can be submitted to Magnolia Begley, Human Resources, mbegley@concordma.gov



Department of Planning and Land Management

Building Division

Inspections Report

Since January 1st of this year, the Building Inspections Division has issued 119 building permits, 110 electrical permits, 114 plumbing and gas permits. As part of this work, staff also conducted 220 building inspections, 266 electrical inspections and 196 plumbing and gas inspections.

Concord Middle School Project

On February 14th, the Building Division issued a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy to the new Concord Middle School. The auditorium will not be occupied at this time as it is only about 95%

complete.

Building inspections staff conducted over 200 inspections at the Middle School over the past 18 months.

The school opened this past Monday with

students from both Sandborn and Peabody schools occupying the building.



Also, on February 24, abatement began at the Sandborn School in preparation for its demolition.

Other Projects Under Construction

Other large projects ongoing within the Town requiring multiple inspections include a 23,000 sf Arts Center at Concord Academy and an 80,000 sf Field House at Middlesex School.

Planning Division

Trail Planning

The Planning Division is hosting a public information session for Assabet River Multi-use Bridge and Trail Project on March 10 at 141 Keyes Road, First Floor Meeting Room. There are two sessions planned on the same day to accommodate different schedules: one at 7:30 am and one at 5:30 pm. For more information see the flyer. Further information on the project is available at: <https://concordma.gov/2398/Assabet-River-Bridge-Trail>.

Health Division

The Health Division is pleased to introduce Bethany Yates as the new Public Health Inspector. Bethany joins us from Framingham, where she worked as a health inspector for over three years. She will be conducting food, pool, camp, housing, and septic inspections alongside the team.

Public Health & Behavioral Health Initiatives

Work continues on the 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), with efforts focused on finalizing the summary report. The Concord Behavioral Health Collaborative met twice in February to discuss behavioral health findings and begin planning for a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Additionally, the group's Communications Subcommittee has started work on branding, including a name, tagline, and logo.



As part of the Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative, Concord and six neighboring towns have established a Regional Substance Use Prevention Coordinator (RSUPC), a role now filled by Olivia Dufour, MPH. The region has launched evidence-based prevention initiatives, supported in part by opioid settlement funds, and is participating in the State's Community Naloxone Program (CNP), which provides free Narcan to municipalities. Narcan is available at the Concord Free Public Library and the Health Department office.

Inspectional & Environmental Health Updates

The Health Division has been actively conducting inspections and regulatory work:

- Finalized a pre-operational food inspection for the new middle school kitchen
- Completed routine food inspections at local schools
- Followed up on compliance with businesses regarding flavored tobacco product restrictions
- Reviewed and approved housing plans for upcoming projects
- Oversaw septic system work, including abandonments, installations, and plan reviews
- Handled ongoing inspections in Lincoln as part of the department's shared services

Preparing for the 250th Celebration



The Health Division is also working hard to coordinate food vendors for Concord's 250th celebration. Staff are collaborating with other town departments to ensure a smooth inspection process and compliance with health and safety regulations

Sustainability

Concord Green Home Tours

Concord Sustainability, the Climate Action Committee, and the Concord Municipal Light Plant are gearing up for a **Green Home Tours** event on Saturday, March 15, 2025 between 1 - 4 PM. Those interested in learning more about switching to clean energy and appliances are invited to sign up for a home tour to hear from their Concord neighbors on their experiences and how they made the switch. Sign up to visit one or more homes during the tour here: bit.ly/GHT-2025



Council on Aging

Local author Richard Higgins stopped in at the COA to discuss his new book "Thoreau's God". Higgins' book explores the riddle of Thoreau's spiritual life and Thoreau's eclectic, experiential incorporeality that resonates with spiritual seekers in America today. Higgins was a gifted presenter and captured the audience.

Not only do they collect eyeglasses, but they serve spaghetti, too! The Concord Lions Club dished out a full auditorium of plates to Concord senior residents last Saturday at its annual luncheon with the COA.



Recreation

Projects

The final contract for the Beede Center UV installation has been sent for signature, advancing Recreation's efforts to reduce water and sewer consumption while aligning with our sustainability goals through improved efficiency and conservation.

- Operational Benefits: The new UV system will enhance water quality and treatment efficiency, reducing chemical usage and lowering long-term maintenance costs.
- Commitment to Sustainability: This project reinforces Recreation's dedication to sustainability initiatives, ensuring responsible resource management and long-term environmental benefits.

Hiring

- We are (still) hiring Camp Staff, Lifeguards, Beede Front Desk Staff, and Carousel Teachers – *please share with friends and relatives you think may be interested*

Program Registration Update

- Carousel registration sold out in minutes on 2/12/25
- Summer Camp is filling out, added another 5th grade group due to wait lists
- After-school and before-school childcare also sold out within first few minutes on 2/26/25
- Shamrock Ball on March 15 has over 220 registrants bringing over 400 people to the ball at the Westford Regency.
- We are finalizing Tennis Summer Program