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# CONCORD CURRENTS

News from the Town of Concord

July 28, 2025 Volume 5

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## Town Manager

### Personnel News - Fire Chief to Retire

The Town of Concord announces the retirement of Fire Chief Thomas M. Judge, effective August 7, 2025. Chief Judge's career spans over 42 years of dedicated service to the Concord community.

Chief Judge also acknowledged the strong support he received throughout his career from the community, Town Manager, and elected officials, which he stated has been instrumental in attracting qualified personnel and improving services.

"Chief Judge's unwavering commitment to public safety and his deep knowledge of firefighting operations have left an indelible mark on the department and our community," said Town Manager Kerry Lafleur. "Beyond his leadership within the Fire Department, he has served as an unofficial mentor to many newer and younger members of our Senior



**Congratulations,  
Chief Judge and  
thank you for your  
service to the Town of  
Concord!**

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the organization. His insights and observations will be greatly missed. His leadership throughout his tenure with the Town will be a lasting legacy for not only the department but town operations in general."

Plans for Chief Judge's successor will be announced in the coming weeks.

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## Sustainability

### Compost Drop Off Pilot to End July 29

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The Town of Concord operated

a **Community Compost Pilot Program** from February 2022 through July 2025 to explore interest and feasibility of a shared food waste drop-off option for residents. The program generated strong participation and helped raise awareness about food waste diversion. However, the pilot also experienced recurring challenges — including bin contamination and overflow, which limited the program’s long-term viability. Considering these concerns, the pilot program has been officially concluded as of **July 2025**.

The [Climate Action Committee](#), in collaboration with Town staff, is evaluating the outcomes of the pilot program and exploring alternative options. [Please take our survey](#) so that we can learn more about how you compost in Concord.



In the meantime, residents may choose to explore curbside composting services offered by local private vendors. These services are available for both residential and commercial properties. Participation is entirely optional, and the Town does not promote or endorse any specific provider. Currently, 9.6% of Concord households have contracts for curbside composting.

## Public Health Advisory

### Warners Pond Water Recreation Advisory

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### **Warner's Pond Recreational Use Advisory**

A public health advisory has been issued for Warner's Pond due to the presence of a bloom of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) on the Gerow Park side of the pond. These blooms may produce toxins that can make pets and people sick.

In accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health recreational guidelines, the Concord Board of Health strongly advises:

- **Avoid skin contact with the water.**
- **Do not allow your pet to swim in or drink the water.**
- **Avoid contact with areas of algae concentration- even on shore.**
- **Do not let pets play in the water where a visible shoreline algae bloom or scum is seen.**
- **Rinse pets off immediately if they come into contact with an algae bloom.**
- **Do not swallow water and be sure to rinse off after contact.**

Blue-green algae can form harmful blooms in lakes, ponds, and rivers that make the water murky, and can sometimes make the water look like pea soup or paint. The current bloom in Warner's Pond as of July 28 appears as a mixed green/blue floating scum along some areas of the pond edge. In other areas there is a visible blueish color in the water.

### **Blue-green algae blooms can produce toxins that can make pets and people sick.**

Toxins may be present within the algae cells or in the water.

**For humans**, the primary concern is ingestion of water containing blue-green algae while swimming. Of secondary concern is direct skin contact with the blue-green algae and inhalation of water droplets containing blue-green algae or toxins. Boaters are advised to avoid skin contact with algae to reduce the risk of contact dermatitis (rashes)

**For pets**, the primary concern is the ingestion of water containing blue-green algae or scum that has washed ashore or gotten onto their skin or fur.

shows symptoms such as vomiting, staggering, drooling, or convulsions. These symptoms present themselves fairly quickly after exposure. Animals of most concern are dogs. They have been known to eat the scum that washes ashore and/or lick scum out of their fur. In Massachusetts and in many other states, canine fatalities have been documented due to the ingestion of harmful algae.

### When will this advisory be lifted?

Algae blooms may last for weeks in the summer, or may disappear quite quickly. Town staff will regularly observe Warner's Pond for the presence of a visible algae bloom over the coming days. The recreational water use advisory will remain in effect at least until the visible bloom and shore line scum subsides.

### For more information:

[Understanding Cyanobacteria | Concord, MA](#)

[Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms \(CyanoHABs\) & Water | Mass.gov](#)

## Engineering

### Road Work Update



Summer is a busy time in Concord for road work. A number of projects have been underway throughout Town. Concord Public Works appreciates your patience and attention

## Main Street (West Concord) Paving

Engineering is proceeding with the paving of Main St from Baker Ave to Pond Ln which will take place over a three-week period. Work will begin with the milling of the pavement starting on Tuesday, July 22. Traffic patterns will be altered as the work proceeds. For major work within the business district, construction will begin at 5:00 am to reduce the impact to traffic on those days. Note that the intersection of MainSt/Pine St/Church St will be skipped as Engineering is developing plans for a broader intersection improvement that involves upgrading the traffic signal equipment and improving the crosswalks and making the wheel chair ramps ADA compliant.

## Silver Hill road Improvements Phase 1 Paving

Binder paving on Turning Mill Rd, Cress Brook Rd, and a portion of Silver Hill Rd was installed. Utility castings and curb work has been completed to prepare these streets for final paving starting the week of July 21. The paving of the intersections with Monument St is included.

## Laws Brook Road Paving

This street from the intersection with Commonwealth Ave to 300 feet past Wright Rd was milled and the paving completed on July 15. Pavement markings will be installed in the coming weeks.

## Barret's Mill Road Paving

The section of Barrett's Mill Rd from the Concord Rotary to the intersection with College Rd was milled and overlaid in the week of July 7.

## Ripley Hill Road Paving

Upon the completion of drainage improvements, the pavement was reclaimed and paved with the binder layer. Utility frames, covers and grates are being raised, and asphalt curbing installed in preparation for final paving.

## Baker Avenue Collapsed Culvert

National Grid performed its relocation of its gas main in the area of the collapsed culvert in the week of July 7. This work was necessary to provide the Town the working space to

completed by fall. CPW Engineering obtained a permit from the Natural Resources Commission for the work.

## Police Department

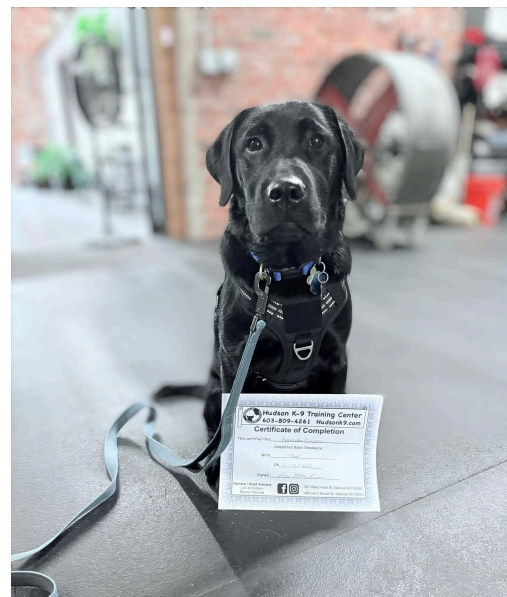
### Reminder: Lock Up!

It's a good time to remind residents to lock their car doors and remove valuable items every night. The Concord Police Department reports that several cars in the Laws Brook Road area and in Acton were rummaged through last week. All of the cars were unlocked and some had items taken from the vehicles. Please contact the Public Safety non-emergency number if you have information regarding these thefts at 978-318-3400.



### Smart Pup!

Congratulations to Officer Thor! Thor completed his first training course in basic obedience this month. He will continue his studies at Hudson K-9. Thor joined the department this winter as a comfort dog in training under the direction of Officer Samantha Simpson.



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## Civic Concord Podcast

Taking the dog for a walk? Long commute? Boring treadmill run? Spice up your routine with the **Civic Concord podcast**.

Each episode, Deputy Town Manager Megan Zammuto is joined by guests to talk about municipal issues, projects, and initiatives.

The latest episode with Alan Cathcart, Concord Public Works Director, Steve Dookran, Town Engineer, and Alyssa Sandoval, Community Development Director explore the roads program and talk about Article 8: Debt Exclusion for Road Maintenance.

Be the first to know about new episodes by subscribing to the podcast.



- [Listen and subscribe on Spotify](#)
- [Listen and subscribe on Apple podcasts](#)

## Recreation

### Summer Programs

Summer programming is in full swing at Concord Recreation. From the summer camp programs to the summer concert series in West Concord, recreation is bringing the fun all summer.

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The waterfront program is going well, with members and guests consistent all summer. Half-price season memberships went on sale on July 16, 2025.

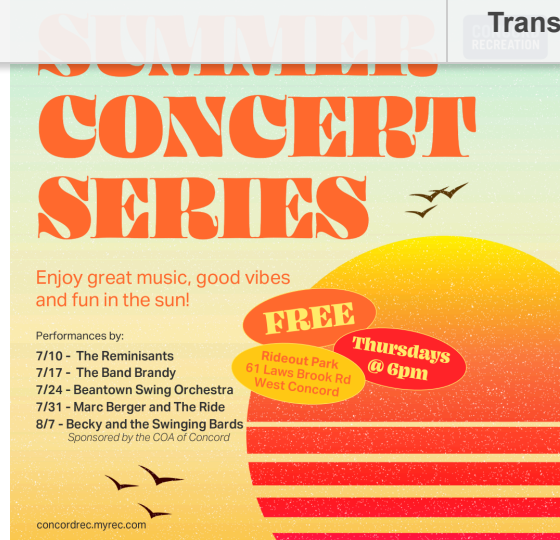
### Kaleidoscope Kids

Kaleidoscope Kids is going strong this summer, managing the hot weather and the rainy weather by enjoying the air-conditioned building when necessary but also lots of outdoor summer fun with spray pads, sprinklers and pools. The program is fortunate to have the weekly trip to the library for a story time and a craft and to have retired Concord children's librarian Fayth Chamberland come in with her fabulous and funny stories, songs and puppet shows.

### Otters Swim Club

The Otters Swim Club is in the final weeks of it's season! The club is excited to be sending 15 swimmers to Championship meets across New England! We are incredible proud of the hard work that all of our swimmers have put in this season and the progress they have all made! Thanks to the incredible coaches for such a successful season!

### Beede Swim and Fitness Center Donation Update



**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

Enjoy great music, good vibes and fun in the sun!

**FREE Thursdays @ 6pm**

Performances by:  
 7/10 - The Reminisants  
 7/17 - The Band Brandy  
 7/24 - Beantown Swing Orchestra  
 7/31 - Marc Berger and The Ride  
 8/7 - Becky and the Swinging Bards  
Sponsored by the COA of Concord

Rideout Park  
81 Laws Brook Rd  
West Concord

concordrec.myrec.com



received a \$93,000 donation from the Friends of Concord-Carlisle Swimming and Diving to support the replacement of eight starting blocks—an essential component of the competition pool that has served the community for nearly 20 years. Impressively, the group raised the full amount in just three weeks.



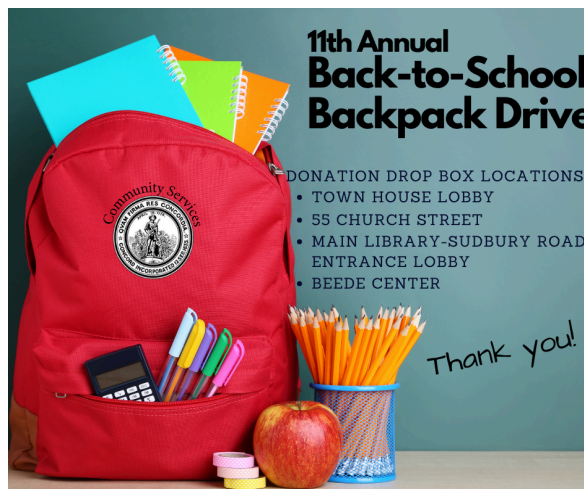
## Community Services

### Back-to-School Backpack Drive

This summer marks the 11th year that Community Services is holding a Backpack Drive to benefit low-income Concord families.

**Please consider donating to the drive** – brand new backpacks, lunch boxes, and school supplies for students of all ages are appreciated.

Donation boxes are located at Town Hall, the main Library (Sudbury Rd entrance), Beede Center, and 55 Church Street. Donations are welcome



If you have questions, or if you would like to participate in the drive with your

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distribution to families begins mid-August.

978-318-3034.

Thank you!

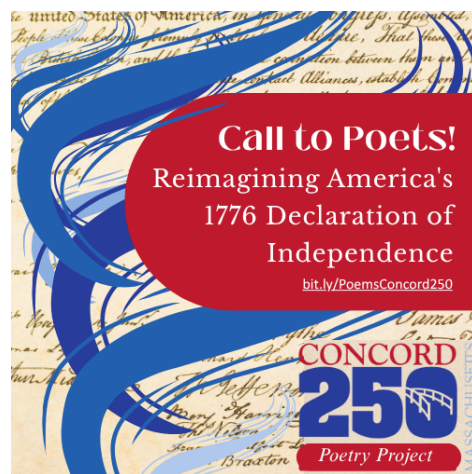
## Concord250 Poetry Project

### Call to Poets: *Reimagining America's 1776 Declaration of Independence*

A welcome to all Massachusetts poets! Each of you is invited to bring your joy of language and resourceful imagination to reflect on America's 1776 Independence and create an original poem that acknowledges America's past while addressing the continuing pursuit of justice, equity, and inclusion for all.

Author of the **First Place Poem receives \$1,000**. Authors of the Second Place poem and of three Highly Commended poems also receive monetary prizes.

See the [rules and resources](#) on the historic civil rights background that may help to guide the spirit of your poem.



The [portal to submit your poems](#) will be available beginning **June 16, 2025** and will close on **October 31, 2025**.

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