



# TOWN OF CONCORD

## Town Manager's Report

Week Of: August 04 , 2015

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

The CFD is pleased to announce that after a very competitive process, the Town Manager has appointed LT Jay Redmond as the next Captain of the Concord Fire Department. This appointment is effective August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Captain Redmond will be assigned to Group 3. This leaves a vacant position for a Fire Lieutenant and the process for filling this vacancy should be complete in August sometime.

On Saturday Fire crews responded to a Main Street address for a car into a house. On arrival we found the vehicle had indeed hit the house causing minor structural damage. No injuries were reported.

### WHITE POND RECREATIONAL WATER USE ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT

A public health advisory continues to be in effect for White Pond due to an ongoing bloom of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae). White Pond underwent a fourth round of weekly sampling on Monday, July 27. Results of these samples indicate that algal levels are again well above MDPH guidelines for recreational water use.

According to MDPH guidelines, two samples collected a week apart with levels below MDPH's guidelines are required before the advisory should be lifted. While samples taken on July 20 were below the acceptable limit of 70,000 cells/mL, samples taken Monday July 27 were found to have 130,000 cells/ml, almost twice the acceptable limit. MDPH recommends that the current recreational water use advisory remain in place. MDPH will continue to sample the pond weekly on Mondays and results are generally received by the following Wednesday.

A notice will be posted on the town's website News and Notices section as soon as the advisory is lifted, and warning signs will be removed from the pond shore.

The algae bloom is still visible and may appear as a yellow to mustard-yellow floating scum or as an oily sheen. Scums of algal cells may be washed up on the shoreline and may appear yellow or red-brown. Avoid contact with all Cyanobacteria blooms may produce toxins that can make pets and people sick.

- ⇒ Do not allow your pet to swim in or drink the water.
- ⇒ Rinse pets and children off immediately if they come into contact with an algae bloom.
- ⇒ Avoid contact with areas of algae concentration- even on shore.
- ⇒ Do not swallow water and be sure to rinse off after contact.

### FINANCE DEPARTMENT

#### Accounting Division

Marie Almodovar has been appointed to the position of Assistant Town Accountant effective Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Marie has served since March 2013 as the Collections Assistant in the Treasury Division. She joined the Treasury Division staff in December 2011 as Senior Account Clerk after having worked in the office for about six months previous on a temporary agency assignment. Marie has a BS degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from UMass Lowell.

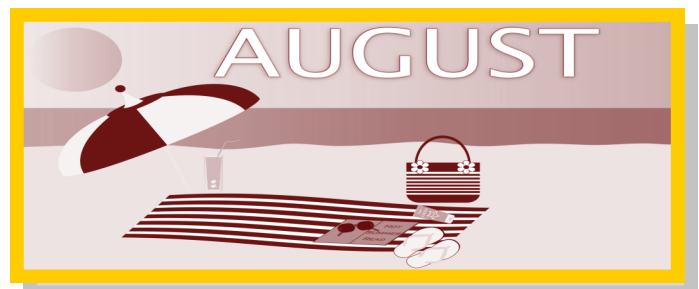
#### Treasury Division

Colleen Rhinhart has been promoted to the Collections Assistant position from her position as Senior Account Clerk. Colleen joined the Treasury Division staff in August 2014 after having worked in the office for six months on a temporary agency assignment. Colleen has a BS degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from UMass Worcester.

### Bruce Freeman Rail Trail 75% design plans

The 75% design plans have been submitted for review; a portion of those plans (the pages showing the trail layout and profile) have been posted on the BFRT

Advisory Committee's web page at [http://concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA\\_Freeman/index](http://concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_Freeman/index). A full set of plans (228 pages) is available for review in the Planning Division office at 141 Keyes Road. There was an initial meeting with staff from the MBTA, DPU and MassDOT, Town staff and the design team last week to review the proposed location where the rail trail will cross the commuter rail line (westerly of the existing mini-high platforms). The MassDOT public hearing will be scheduled for late fall - after comments have been submitted from State agencies and Town staff in late August and early September.





## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Administration \* Engineering \* Highway and Grounds \* Solid Waste and Recycling \* Water and Sewer

**Landfill Post Closure Monitoring** - As part of the Town's closed landfill post closure monitoring and maintenance requirements in accordance with 310 CMR 19.132, Concord Public Works recently obtained price quotes to continue both groundwater and landfill gas monitoring. The current landfill monitoring contract expires 8/31/15. There are nine groundwater wells and twenty-three soil gas probes associated with the 755 Walden Street closed landfill. Environmental Compliance Services (ECS) of Agawam, MA will continue to provide landfill monitoring services at an annual cost of \$11,383.00, effective 9/1/15. The former landfill, which has now been put back into productive beneficial reuse with the construction of a utility scale solar facility, received formal closure certification from MassDEP on 10/16/13.

**CCRHS Water System Improvements** - Water system improvements associated with the Concord Carlisle High School project have been scheduled during the week of August 3<sup>rd</sup> (beginning on Tuesday August 4<sup>th</sup>). Work will be performed on Walden Street between Thoreau Street and Brister's Hill Road. Work will involve water service interruption to a limited number of customers located on Brister's Hill Road between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Customers whom will be directly impacted have been notified. During construction activities, traffic will be restricted to alternating lanes (between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM). Commuters are being advised to seek alternative routes.

**Main Street and Harrington Avenue Intersection Improvements** - Following the recommendations included in the traffic safety report completed by Environmental Partner's Group, Inc., CPW's Park and Tree Division crews completed the first recommended action with the removal of plants and shrubs in front of the residence located at # 1803 Main Street on July 22. It was determined that the removal of these plants and shrubs was necessary to increase the sight distance for motorists entering Main Street from Harrington Avenue. Crews were able to relocate some of the plants closer to the home while other larger shrubs required complete removal.

**Public Shade Tree Planting Program** - CPW's Park and Tree Division crews have been busy throughout the spring and summer planting public shade trees on various Town properties and utilizing funding provided through the public shade tree planting program. To date, over 40 trees have been planted this season. Monitoring the health of the newly planted trees is ongoing and crews water them regularly to ensure the trees will survive the stress the heat of the summer.

**ROW Permits:** CPW reminds everyone that all work within the Town right of way requires a permit and must be completed prior to November 15<sup>th</sup>. This includes the repaving or installation of new driveways. For more information please contact CPW's Engineering Division at 978 318-3210.

**Main Street Sidewalk Project** - Project contractor Century Paving, has completed the majority of the concrete sidewalk and curb ramp installation along the Concord Academy side of Main Street between Keyes Road and Nashawtuc Road. Remaining work in this stretch of sidewalk includes the installation of loam and seed and two driveway aprons which were deferred to accommodate utility installations planned by project abutters. Century began removal of the existing sidewalk and resetting the curbing along the Main Street frontage of the Concord Free Public Library the week of July 27<sup>th</sup>. It is anticipated that the library portion of the sidewalk to be completed in early August. The timing to begin the replacement of the brick crosswalk at Academy Lane is anticipated to begin in late September/early October due to a delay in the brick delivery.

**97 Thoreau Street Sustainably Designed Pocket Park - Project** contractor Pecora Contracting began work in late July on the pocket park and the park is beginning to take shape. Pecora has completed the installation of the water service, tree box, granite bollards and the granite curbing for the landscape areas. Work the week of August 3<sup>rd</sup> is expected to include the installation of the porous paver area as well as the grading and forming of the sidewalk and curb ramp. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by the end of August.

**2015 Roads Program** - Project contractor Lazaro Paving and sub-contractor Fenton and Son continued to make progress on the various streets the week of July 27<sup>th</sup>. Highlights included installing minor drainage improvements on Riverdale, raising castings on Seven Star Ln and Powder Mill Rd, installing berms and sloped granite edging on Deacon Haynes, and other minor incidental work. Work anticipated for the week of August 3<sup>rd</sup> includes paving the top course on Seven Star and Powder Mill Rd. Additionally, Fenton and Son will begin full depth reconstruction efforts on Pilgrim and Southfield Roads. The full depth reconstruction is anticipated to take two weeks prior to the reclamation commencing on other roads within the Riverdale/Southfield neighborhood. Also, the 2015 Roads Program Phase II is currently out to bid with a bid opening scheduled for Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. The project includes water main replacement and roadway reconstruction on Hunter's Ridge Road as well as minor drainage and pavement improvements to Thoreau Court.

**Westford Rd Culvert Replacement** - Plans and specifications for the culvert replacement project were finalized the week of July 27<sup>th</sup> in anticipation of an August 14<sup>th</sup> bid opening. This project scope includes the replacement of the undersized culvert for the Spencer Brook under Westford Road, installation of a new headwalls and repaving of a portion of the roadway. The project is funded in part through the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program administered by FEMA/EMMA. Work is expected to commence in late August and continue through September. It is anticipated that the road will be closed from the Spencer Brook Road to the Town line for the duration of the project to execute the work safely and efficiently.



## PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

BUILDING INSPECTION • PLANNING • NATURAL RESOURCES • BOARD OF HEALTH • ZONING

### Natural Resources Division

**Natural Resources Commission:** New applications received this week for the August 12<sup>th</sup> NRC Meeting include: a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for 80 Old Mill Road to conduct invasive species management; a Notice of Intent (NOI) for 20A Lowell Road (Old Calf Pasture) to continue the invasive species management program; an NOI to replace the septic system at 47 Old Bedford Road; an NOI for 37 Fielding Street to construct an addition and screen porch and demolish and reconstruct a garage; an NOI for Middlesex School to install a new cell tower and associated utilities; an RDA for 110 Commerford Road to construct a screen porch; and an NOI for Millbrook Tarry to construct a commercial market/office building.

**Town Forest Trail Guide:** A new trail guide is now available for the Hapgood Wright Town Forest. Guides are available at the trailhead kiosk on Walden Street, at the Division of Natural Resources Office at 141 Keyes Road and on the Division website at: [http://concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA\\_NaturalResources/Town%20Forest%20Trail%20Guide.pdf](http://concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_NaturalResources/Town%20Forest%20Trail%20Guide.pdf).

**Rogers Land Restoration:** Restoration work at the Rogers Land at 6A Harrington Avenue commenced this week. Work involves tree clearing and removal of a dilapidated retaining wall and debris followed by re-grading and stabilizing of slopes in order to return three acres of land back to agricultural productivity, including community gardens. Earth work should take about three weeks to complete.



### **Historical Commission's Archaeology Program:**

Commission Member Electa Tritsch and MassPort Summer Intern, Tyler Durniak, traveled to the Massachusetts Historical Commission this week to conduct further background research for the Commission's Archaeology program. Tyler is assisting the CHC by reviewing documented archaeological resources to insure that Concord has as complete an understanding of existing resources as possible on which to build their program.

### **Planning Board meeting of July 28<sup>th</sup>:**

The Board discussed with the DPLM Director and Town Planner possible amendments to the Planned Residential Development bylaw. The Board would like to make sure the bylaw creates projects that have a broad range of diversity in the type of housing (single-family, two-family and multi-family), the number of bedrooms and the price or rental rates of the units. The Board also discussed the new approach for updating the Comprehensive Plan which will be modeled from the American Planning Association's *Sustaining Places: Best Practices for Comprehensive Plans*. This process will allow Concord to integrate the adopted sustainability principles into the future plan by holistically problem solving, blending the best scientific understanding of existing conditions and available technologies with the public's resolve to act. The American Planning Association suggests that "Planning for sustaining places is a dynamic, democratic process through which communities plan to meet the needs of current and future generations without compromising the ecosystems upon which they depend by balancing social, economic and environmental resources, incorporating resilience, and linking local actions to regional and global concerns".

### **Planning Division:**

On July 27<sup>th</sup>, Town staff met at Middlesex School with School representatives and the contractor for the construction of the new Music and Campus Center. Staff discussed the phasing of the construction and the required safety precautions since the campus is still very active during the summer. On July 30<sup>th</sup>, Town staff met with the engineers for the Concord Country Club's paddle court expansion and driveway relocation project. Staff discussed potential impacts to wetland and vernal pools, ADA and Fire access requirements, drainage issues, and the process for modifications to Town utilities.

### **Building Inspections Division**

Verizon Wireless will be issued a building permit to relocate existing equipment currently located on a smoke stack at Middlesex School to a new temporary, ballasted pole/tower adjacent to the smoke stack. This temporary relocation is necessary to allow the school to start renovations on the old maintenance building converting it to a new Student Union/Music Conservatory building. The temporary tower will be in service until Verizon submits an application to the Board of Appeals for a new special permit to install a new permanent cell tower on Middlesex School property.





## HUMAN SERVICES DIVISIONS

•CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY•

### LIBRARY NEWS

At their July 2015 meeting the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) voted to approve a \$7,500 Library Services & Technology Act (LSTA) for the Concord Free Public Library's *Full STEAM Ahead* grant proposal. The project, submitted by Youth Services Librarian, Fayth Chamberland, will commence in October 2015. A synopsis of the project is as follows:

- ⇒ The *Full STEAM Ahead* project will enable the Concord Free Public Library to partner with public and private schools to expand hands-on STEAM activities in support of the science curriculum.
- ⇒ CFPL will collaborate with other Town departments, environmental groups, arts organizations, and recreational groups in providing indoor/outdoor learning spaces that will highlight nature and art experiences for the entire family.
- ⇒ The STEAM grant activities will be influenced by the life and philosophy of Henry David Thoreau with activities based on the natural and applied sciences: building, growing, cooking, constructing, and creating.
- ⇒ The STEAM theme will be literature based with the addition of StoryWalks®, book bags, story times, and puppet shows. This dynamic, hands-on project will give preschool children and their caregivers the opportunity to play and explore together at the library.

### LIBRARY NEWS

The last summer concert on the Main Library's front lawn will take place this Wednesday, August 5 at 7:00 p.m. with *Panache Quartet*. The four fiddlers will perform music that combines the Cape Breton, Franco-American, Southern style and Quebecois backgrounds of the musicians.

Tonight 8/3 cartoonist Paul Merklein will lead children age 8+ in a cartoon drawing workshop entitled, *See Super Heroes! Be a Super Hero* at the Fowler Branch Library. During the program Merklein will draw big cartoon faces of superheroes for participants to identify as part of the *Every Hero Has a Story* summer reading program.

Approximately 200 residents attended the Concord Players performances of William Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors" over the course of two weekends on the Main Library's front lawn.

The Fowler Branch Library will host two sessions of the Museum of Science's *Rockets: There and Back Again* on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for children grade K+. In this workshop children will be able to use their imaginations to plan, build, and test their own designs while exploring the science behind rockets and space exploration. Pre-registration is required.

**This summer learn more about CFPL's digital collections, which are accessible 24/7 from any location. The Main Library will be offering two orientations on Wednesday, August 5 & 19 from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The session on 8/5 will teach participants how to stream movies, television shows, music albums and audiobooks using a tablet or smartphone via hoopla, and the session on 8/19 will teach how to download digital magazines via Zinio. These digital services are free of charge to Concord library cardholders. To register for either session please visit the library's web site at [www.concordlibrary.org](http://www.concordlibrary.org)**

 **YOUR  
LIBRARY**

