



## Operational Status Reports & Departmental Updates

*For the Week Ending January 27, 2023*

### General Administration

#### **Financial Administration**

On January 12, 2023, we were notified by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) that it has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Town of Concord for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. As part of the award process, our report was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

**Special Town Meeting** was held on **January 19, 2023**, at 7p.m. Over 1,000 registered voters attended and voted affirmatively for all five articles. Appreciation goes to Moderator Carmin Reiss, the Town Clerks Office, Facilities, CPD, Minuteman Media and all who contributed to another successful exercise of the democratic process.

A special election will be held on February 16, 2023, to exempt from the provision of Proposition 2 ½ the amounts to pay for the additional \$7.2 M in bonds needed for the middle school building project. More information on Special Town Meeting can be at the [link](#).

#### **Legislative Delegation Office Hours**

State Representative Simon Cataldo will hold office hours at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center on Wednesday, February 1 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. [Update 1/30/23: Rep. Cataldo's office updated office hours to Friday, Feb. 3, 2023 from 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.] Congresswoman Trahan will host office hours on April 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Town House in the Select Board meeting room.

#### **Waste Site Cleanup Technical Assistance Grant**

The town was selected for funding under the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Technical Assistance Grant program. The \$20,000 in reimbursable TAG funding will support outside expert advice and public education and outreach related to the cleanup activities at the 229 Main Street superfund site.

### Police Department

#### **Activity Log January 12-25 (Two Weeks)**

Log items

1,566

Traffic Enforcement	135
Motor Vehicle Stops	196
MV Crashes and/or Paper Exchanges	25
Arrests	1

### **Training/Professional Development**

- Sergeant Landers and Sergeant Manchuso completed a weeklong Supervisory Leadership training class sponsored by the FBI’s Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (LEEDA) Supervisor Leadership Institute (LEEDA).
- The department conducted training for all its officers on Integrated Communications and Tactics (ICAT) which is designed to improve officer’s skills in deescalating volatile situations.
- Department staff members attended Crisis Intervention training (CIT 1/12-1/18/2023).
- Supervisory staff attended FBI LEEDA (Law Enforcement Executive Development Association) training.
- The department sponsored Commonwealth Police Legacy’s “Testifying in Court” class held at the department. Officers attended the day long training.
- Department staff attended an open public forum with other Town departments and site visit to discuss safety improvements in the area of Main Street and Walden Street.

### **Traffic Safety**

- Officers assisted with the Special Town Meeting both outside directing traffic and inside the high school.

### **Community**

- Officers saved a person using the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) when the individual went unconscious after working out at the Thoreau Club gym.
- Detectives assisted the Council on Aging with their prescription medication takeback day.
- Detectives conducted lockdown drills with the school staff at all Concord elementary schools.
- Families stopped by the department to honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day and thank staff by leaving fresh baked cookies.

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## **Fire Department**

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### **Personnel**

On Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, Captain David Curran retired effective at 8:00am. Dave has been a member of the department for 46 years. Starting as an auxiliary firefighter when he was still a senior in high school and ultimately rising through the ranks to Captain. In addition to his duties as the Shift Commander of Group 1, Dave has managed our cache of equipment. He made sure that equipment was in good repair, maintained and replaced as needed. Dave is a longtime instructor at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, and one of the original Hazardous Materials Technicians in the State of Massachusetts. In the late 1980’s the State adopted a regional haz mat model comprised of local firefighters. Dave has been an instrumental part of that program, and a huge asset to the town. The department thanks Dave for his many years of dedicated service to the Fire Department

and the Town. We wish Dave many happy years as he moves on to other endeavors.



### **Promotions:**

- Lieutenant Keith Cotoni was promoted to the rank of Captain effective on Sunday, January 22, 2023.
- Firefighter Todd Niemi was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant effective Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

Congratulations to Captain Cotoni and Lieutenant Niemi

### **Calls for Service**

The Fire Department responded to 150 calls for service over the past two weeks. Mutual aid was provided to other communities on eight occasions and received twice.

### **Fire Prevention**

- Fire Prevention had a busy week with a variety of commercial and residential inspections. Quarterly inspections were conducted at the Colonial Inn and the Marriot Residence Inn. Several construction site inspections were conducted.
- Several code enforcement actions were taken this week to mitigate violations of the fire code regarding occupancies and failing to clear fire lanes after a snowstorm

### **Training**

- Seizures, diabetic emergencies, immunology, and crew resource management were some of the EMS topics this week. Firefighters Lefebvre and Harries participated in a monthly drill with the District 14 dive rescue team at the Mass. State Police facility in Framingham. Lieutenant Nichols participated in training with the regional fire investigation team. In addition to regular training, group training included a review of fighting fires involving electric vehicles, and the hazards of the battery packs when they become involved in fire.

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## **Library**

### **Reference Services**

The Reference Department assisted 194 patrons with reference questions in December 2022. In addition, staff booked 117 room reservations and helped 84 patrons with technology issues.

The Department hosted several popular programs in December. Highlights included a holiday cookie swap for Cookbook Club, the weekly meditation series with Lara Wilson, and a performance of A

*Christmas Carol* with Stephen Collins and Poornima Kirby, which was attended by 103 people and generously sponsored by the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library. Staff also created a popular display featuring Nobel Prize winners in the field of literature over the last 25 years.

### Youth Services

Youth Services distributed 175 gingerbread kits to eager families in December 2022, donated by the Concord Free Public Library Corporation. In the last week of December, Blanding's turtles Juan and Vlad moved to the Stone Zoo and Children's received 2 smaller turtles from the Franklin Park Zoo. Children's also installed the storywalk *The Farmhouse* by Sophie Blackall along Main Street. Finally, all Library staff bid farewell to Children's Supervisor Royce McGrath, who relocated to Vermont.

### Fowler Library



Fowler hosted long-time West Concord resident and author of *From Calcutta to Concord: The Journey of an Independent Woman*, Radha Jalan, in conversation with staff librarian Laura Mills to a full house. Ricardo Rosales led his largest group to date at his bilingual music class in Spanish and English. Later in December, Fowler staff participated in the first ever, very successful West Concord Holiday Stroll. Community members stopped by the Library to receive henna designs, make citrus garlands, and enjoy the "Flowers and Flow" art show, a collaboration with ArtScape at Bradford Mill and the West Concord Green Thumbs. Staff provided Take and Make Kits for the Town's second annual Chanukah Celebration and Menorah Lighting and celebrated New Year's with a Noon Year's Eve party that included crafts, music, and sparkling cider for all ages. In addition to seasonal displays, staff created a "Best of 2022" display, encouraging patrons to share their favorite books of the year for a chance to win a gift card to the Concord Bookshop.

### Innovation and Communications



The Innovation and Communications Department installed The Workshop’s two new Robo E3 Pro 3D printers, pictured beside the Library’s original Ultimaker machine. Staff also ordered a fleet of Macbook Pro laptops for public use and a variety of hand and power tools. The Department anticipates expending the remainder of the capital renovation funding by early January 2023 and the team looks forward to launching the space later in the new year!

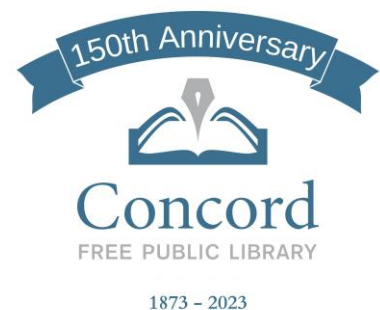
### Special Collections

In December 2022, Special Collections staff answered over 50 reference questions through a variety of methods including on-site, email, and phone. The Gallery on the second floor of the Main Library featured a selection of portraits from the art collection, including some that have not been on public view for some time, including works by Ethan Allen Greenwood, Charles Hovey Pepper, Stacy Tolman, and Mary Colman Wheeler.

Preparations continue for the exhibit “Art & Enterprise: Daniel Chester French in Concord,” opening in the Gallery at the Main Library on February 2, 2023,, as well as the exhibit “A Perpetual Invitation: 150 Years of Art at the Concord Free Public Library,” featuring highlights from the Library’s art collection, opening at the Concord Museum on March 24, 2023.

### Technical Services

In November and December 2022, Tech Services staff added 2020 new books and audiovisual materials to the Library collection. The Library continues to purchase additional OverDrive eBooks and audiobooks to meet the needs of Concord residents. In November and December, Technical Services staff ordered a total of 22 new titles and 35 copies via the OverDrive Advantage program to fulfill Concord holds and requests.



### Administration and Staffing

- The Library welcomed Sherry Lublin to the Circulation staff as a Library page.
- The Library’s logo was updated on all social media and online accounts on January 1, 2023 to kick off a year-long celebration of the Library’s 150th anniversary. More information will be available in early 2023.

## Planning

- **Board of Appeals January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting:** The Board continued the public hearing for the Planned Residential Development application at 48Y Fitchburg Turnpike and the Special Permit application for an addition at 37 Lexington Road (Concord Center for the Visual Arts) to February 9<sup>th</sup>. The Board granted Special Permits for 160 Adams Rd. for work in the Floodplain Conservancy District for a barn addition, 350 Bedford St. for the renewal of a Special Home Occupation, 61 Black Duck Rd. to extend a nonconforming structure, 206 Thoreau St. to construct an addition to a nonconforming structure, and 399 Lowell Rd. for an additional dwelling unit. Application materials can be viewed at the Board's Past Applications webpage: <https://www.concordma.gov/2593/Past-ZBA-Applications>
- **Planning Board meeting of January 24<sup>th</sup>:** The Planning Board continued the public hearing for the 48Y Fitchburg Turnpike Definitive Subdivision Plan and the discussion on its recommendation to the Board of Appeals on the 37 Lexington Road Concord Center for Visual Arts special permit and site plan application for a proposed addition to February 21<sup>st</sup>. The Board began reviewing their March 7<sup>th</sup> public hearing presentations for their three Zoning Bylaw Amendment Warrant Articles for 2023 Annual Town Meeting (Article #33 to 35).
- **Massachusetts Dept. of Housing and Community Development approves the Housing Production Plan!** The Town received notification from the State that the December 2022 Housing Production Plan has been approved as submitted. The effective date for the HPP is December 21, 2022, the date that DHCD received a complete plan submission. The HPP has a five-year term and will expire on December 20, 2027.

## Economic Vitality & Tourism

- The ever-popular **Concord History with a Chocolate Twist** tour returns for its 3<sup>rd</sup> year after selling out in prior years. Tours will be at 1pm on Fridays and Saturdays in February and March. Repeat partners include Graem Nuts, Priscilla Candy and Concord Cheese Shop and our new partner, Nosh by Concord Market, where the tour will conclude with a hot cocoa and brownie bar.
- The Visitor Center staff welcome **Mathew Beres to our Tour Guide Team!** Mathew hails from CT and has a lot of experience researching and sharing content and context for Indigenous Peoples at Living History Farms in Iowa. A recent graduate with a BS in Parks and Forest Resources, Mathew has been a ranger and intern with the National Park Service. Mathew will start training shortly and be ready to lead tours in February.
- **New tour operator comes to Concord:** EVT Manager Beth Williams held a very successful Fam-tour (familiarization tour) for Ken Trokus, a CA-based tour operator on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 24 and 25. He toured Walden Pond, Concord Free Public Library, Barrow Bookstore, Helens, Main Street Café, Nosh, Orchard House, The Old Manse and the North Bridge/NPS. If



the tours sell, he will bring 100 visitors over the course of six 3-day trips this summer, staying at the Colonial Inn. The 2 nights/3-day stays will include visits to Orchard House, Walden Pond, and The Old Manse, plus tours of North Bridge and Sleepy Hollow and free time at the Library and Barrow Bookstore for writing. The economic impact of this one Tour operator could exceed \$50,000 over the summer to Concord businesses.

- The Visitor Center team **welcomes Richard Picarreto as our newest tour guide**. He will begin training next week. He is a Concord Historian also working at The Old Manse and loves guiding groups of visitors and sharing our engaging cultural history.

**Natural Resources**

- **Garden Club Grant:** The Division received a \$523 Garden Club grant to fund two types of pollinator plant kits to be distributed to the public around Earth Day. The Division will purchase six flats of 50 pollinator plugs (three species that do well in sunny conditions with dry soils, and three species that do well in sunny conditions with moist soils). Volunteers will assist in transplanting these to pollinator kits containing a variety of plants. Species include wild columbine, New England aster, wild bergamot, slender mountain mint, silverrod, and heartleaf Alexander’s. Approximately 30 kits will be developed for distribution.



**Health**

- On Monday January 23 the Health Division is hosting a Town staff stakeholder meeting on the current **needs and programs supporting mental health, behavioral health and substance use** in Concord. This meeting is being conducted in collaboration with Board of Health Chair, Jill Block, and will include partners from the Concord Public School, Council on Aging, the Town Manager’s Office, and Police Department.
- The Board of Health (BOH) met on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> and deliberated on the next steps for the **Concord BOH Tobacco Regulations**. The Health Division is working with Cheryl Sbarra at MHAB to incorporate the BOH 2014 Tobacco regulations with the 2020 state regulations and fine schedule.
- Work continues to finalize the **building and sewer review applications on Permiteyes** with a go-live now targeted for February 1.
- The Health Division participated in the future of the water works workshop with town staff under the direction of the Director of DPW.

The Wayland and Weston Health Departments are partnering with Transformative Healthcare to offer a series of **Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics**

Wednesdays: January 25 & February 1, 8 & 15, 2023  
Wayland Town Building, 41 Cochituate Road Wayland  
12 noon - 2PM | Pre-registration Kindly Requested

<b>PRIMARY COVID-19 VACCINE:</b> -Moderna 6 months to 4 years -Pfizer 5+ years	<b>REGISTER IN ADVANCE:</b> 	<b>BIVALENT COVID-19 BOOSTERS:</b> -Moderna 6 months to 4 years -Pfizer 5 to 11 years -Pfizer 12+ years
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For more information on the right vaccine schedule for your child visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and search for "COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Information" or call your pediatrician

These public clinics are open to children ages 6 months-12 years, accompanied by a parent/guardian/caring adult, from any town  
Next dose and scheduling consultations provided

Questions? Ask your public health nurse: call 781-786-5033 or email [MSchuckel@Wayland.MA.US](mailto:MSchuckel@Wayland.MA.US)

- Our **public health collaborative** is offering vaccines for all, with specific availability for pediatric vaccine. Please see the attached flyer to register.
- **Transportation and Mobility:** After meeting with the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS), we are excited to report a work plan by CTPS to study and find short term solutions such as signal retiming, improved signage and pedestrian signaling, improved paint lines, improved crossing islands, or other solutions for crossing Route 2 at ORNAC and at Main Street/Rt 62 while a longer-term solution is discussed. This is an initial step to create safer pedestrian and bicycle crossing opportunities that will increase multi-modal transportation options in Concord.
- **Community Preservation Committee:** This week, the CPC approved a new Procedures Manual to supplement the Community Preservation Plan.

### Economic Vitality & Tourism

- During the final week of December, over 50 people took the Concord Family History Walking Tour – a tour specifically designed to be a 45-minute, family-friendly overview of Concord.
- The Visitor Center is now closed to the public, but assistance is always available online, at the brochure rack, and by ringing the Visitor Center doorbell when the Tourism Manager is 'IN'.
- The first bus tour group of 2023 arrived from Alabama on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, which was led by Tour Guide Joe Palumbo.

### Building Inspections

- **Permits and Inspections update:** Since December 15th, Building Inspections staff has issued 42 building permits, 53 electrical permits, 20 plumbing permits and 23 gas permits. During the same period, 75 building inspections, 77 electrical inspections and 57 plumbing and gas inspections were conducted.
- **Update of Permit and Inspection tallies:** Since January 5th, the Building Inspections staff has issued 53 building permits, 42 electrical permits, 31 plumbing permits and 23 gas permits. The division's staff has also conducted 85 building inspections, 72 electrical inspections and 93 plumbing and gas inspections.
- **Energy Conservation update:** On January 1<sup>st</sup>, Massachusetts transitioned to the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code, requiring new homes, new commercial buildings and large additions and renovations to be more energy efficient than what was required in the previous code cycle.

### Health

- This week in the Health Division there has been **one food borne illness complaint**, which is under investigation.
- The Division has signed off on the last of the standard paper applications to complete the **Health Division's transition in Permit-eyes**. Stakeholders will be notified as soon as Forms A, C, and S are live.

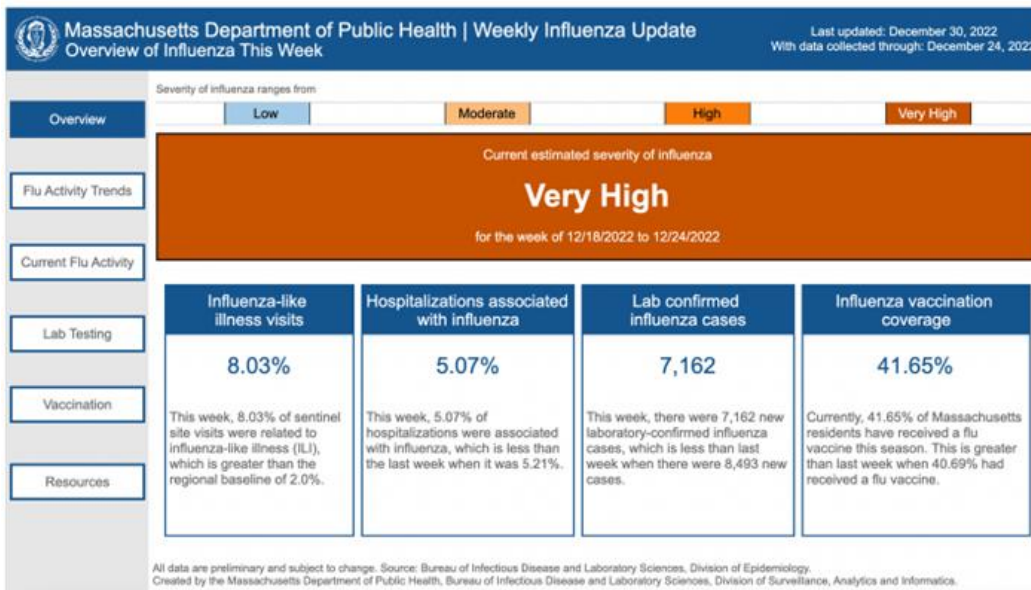
- **Concord Middle School:** The Middle School Kitchen food plan review has been received and is under review. The Middle School Septic system design plan, version 2, had been reviewed and comments were provided to the design engineer.
- **Public Health Issues:** On Monday, the Health Division hosted a stake holder meeting with Town divisions to discuss the mental health and substance use needs in the community. Discussions revolved around current programs, additional needs, and ideas where opportunities for collaboration would best serve the community. Next steps include a logistical organization of subgroups to tackle mental health, substance use, at-risk housing, and use of opioid settlement funds.

**Concord Covid-19 Data:**

- % of Positive Cases (Past 14 days):
  - Concord: 6.87%
  - Middlesex County: 9.77%
  - MA: 9.92%
- 14- Day Incidence Rate (per 100,000) in Concord: 11.6
- Total Molecular Tests (past 14 days): 451
- Case Counts (7 days) Confirmed and Probable: 16
  - Community: 16
  - Long-Term/Health Care Facilities: 0
- NOTE: Most Long-term care facilities do not have the ability to report into MAVEN for a home antigen test, and most residents are testing via home antigen tests, and are NOT reported into MAVEN.

**Concord Influenza Data:**

- # Of Flu cases in past 30 days: 24



The facilities department is involved in several projects including:

- Fabrication of ductwork and HVAC equipment installation continued at 37 Knox Trail.
- Patched and painted wall at Town House.
- Cleared Drains at 133 Keyes Road.
- Installed shelving in Town Clerk's office.