



TOWN OF CONCORD

Office of the Town Manager

Operational Status Reports and Departmental Updates
For the week ending July 21, 2023

General Administration

Council on Aging

Not only do they nobly fight fires and rescue the distressed, but the Concord Fire Department also grills up a tasty barbeque! They served over 110 Concord senior residents at a Grab & Go Wednesday Lunch at the COA last week. Thank you to Chief Tom Judge and organizer Capt. Sean Murphy for their time, generosity, enthusiasm, and care for Concord's seniors. First image below: Chris Choate and Tina Close, COA custodian and activities coordinator, helping with the car line and doling out clam boxes with a burger, hot dog, chips, and cookie.



Police Department

Activity log:

- Log items: 640
- Traffic enforcements: 33
- Motor vehicle stops: 29



- Motor vehicle crashes and/or paper exchanges: 13
- Arrests: 1

Community

- Acting Sergeant John O'Connor was sworn in as Sergeant, thereby making him permanent in his position.
- Officer Mailloux and the NEMLEC Motorcycle Unit provided an escort for the Las Vegas Golden Knights player Jack Eichel who is a Chelmsford, MA native, along with the Stanley Cup.
- Officers assisted with pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic in Monument Square for the "Glory for George" event.
- Det. Rodriguez conducted a seminar with Concord Housing Authority on scam prevention.
- Det. Paladino and Jail Diversion Clinician Emily Black met with the Director from KIWI Recovery on Baker Avenue to discuss the services they are able to provide to that center.
- Det. Harrington is attending Technology Search Warrants in Grafton. This training was put on by MPI and instructed by Det. Sgt. Kevin Connolly.

Fire Department

Calls for Service

There were 101 calls for service this week including a response to Walden Pond for a swimmer in trouble. Crew arrived and learned that the swimmer had experienced difficulty while swimming and needed the assistance of a friend to get back to shore. He was located on the back side of the pond. Fire crews launched the department boat and responded to the victim's location. The victim was transported back to the boat landing where he was evaluated by paramedics.



Training

New Firefighter Justin Chaires is shown operating a handline at live fire training at Hanscom Field. CFD Captain Sean Murphy and Lieutenant Peter Ostroskey spent a day this week working with FF Chaires on basic initial fire attack skills which included advancing handlines, proper hose stream placement, and situational awareness; all basic skills but crucial to a safely executed successful attack.

Other training during the week for FF Chaires included a day at Carroll Auto Parts in Lexington with Lieutenants Nelson and

Ostroskey. Auto extrication skills were the topic, and a variety of skills were taught.

We are grateful for the support of our partners at Hanscom Fire for allowing us to use their training facility. Auto extrication is not possible without vehicles to practice with; Carroll Auto Parts generously donates their facility, the vehicles, and their time moving the vehicles for us with heavy equipment. They simulate serious accidents with vehicles on top of one another and create challenging situations. This level of training is not possible without their generosity, and we can't thank them enough for their help.

Community

The Council on Aging was the site of a drive-thru cookout hosted by the Concord Professional Firefighters Local 1942. Current firefighters, retired firefighters, as well as family and friends worked together to serve over 120 meals to seniors. When asked, why a drive-thru cookout, one of the organizers Captain Sean Murphy said “pre covid we would serve about 30 to 40 people inside, but the drive-thru which we started during covid attracts 120 – 150 people and they really seem to enjoy it, so we've stayed with it.”



Lieutenant Pelkey and Chief Judge attended a ceremony at Hanscom Field this week for Air Force Technical Sergeant Jacob McCloud. He was presented with the Air and Space Commendation Medal by Colonel Taona Enriques, Hanscom AFB Base Commander, and a letter of commendation from the Concord Fire Department for his action assisting at a serious accident on Lowell Road on May 1st of this year.

Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention had a busy week with inspections, along with construction site visits at Concord Academy and the Concord Children's Center on Old Bedford Road. Lieutenant Nichols has also been following up with property owners of fire alarm systems damaged by recent thunderstorms to ensure that their systems are getting back on line as soon as possible.



Natural Resources

Punkatasset Preserve

Natural Resources staff and 4 volunteers worked together at Punkatasset Preserve to remove a roughly 300-foot long old barbed wire fence along the main yellow trail that leads to Hutchins Pond. Staff and volunteers strategically removed the fence in sections to safely dismantle

and roll each section for loading into a trailer. This fence removal will facilitate better mowing access and invasive plant management, along with removal of a safety concern for trail users along the main trail.



Energy Management Division

Massachusetts Vehicle Census

According to the [Massachusetts Vehicle Census](#), there are 930 plug-in electric cars in Concord which accounts for 6.4% of all vehicles registered in Town. Among all MA communities, we're edged out only by Lexington and Weston, where 6.5% of vehicles are plug-in electric in each town. However, we are out in front of the state as a whole, where plug-in vehicles make up only 1.3% of total cars driven.

Heat Pump Rebates

CMLP is now offering rebates to businesses and larger multi-unit residential properties switching from oil, propane or electric heating to heat pumps. The rebates range from \$2,500 to \$4,500 per ton of cooling capacity, depending on the type of heat pump equipment installed. Customers are eligible for up to \$50,000 in heat pump rebates in a 3-year period. Information is available at our "[Heat Pump Rebates for Your Business](#)" webpage. Mass Save offers the same rebate amounts to gas-heating businesses that switch to heat pumps, although they don't appear to cap the total rebate.

Recreation Department

Beede Center Pool

The biggest news to share is that the Beede Center reopened pools on July 5th after a two-month closure. Over the last ten weeks, Beede Swim & Fitness along with Concord Recreation staff have tackled multiple projects and addressed several mechanical issues, including:

- Installation of a new Prominent chemical feeder system
- Inspection and upgrades of VFDs for all four pool motors
- A tune-up of our air handler units and review of our air quality
- Installation of a new main drain valve
- Inspection of our CO2 and air-compression tanks
- Complete drain, disinfection & sanitization, and refill of all four pools.



Multiple pool and facility experts collaborated to complete this volume of work, including Weston & Sampson, PurAqua, Infra-Red Building & Power services, Viking Controls, Middlesex Gas, HTS New England, Streamline Aquatics, and Compass Cleaning Services. We also received tremendous support and guidance from multiple Town departments, including Facilities, Buildings & Inspections, the Board of Health, the Water & Sewer Division, and the Town Manager’s Office. Our final and biggest shout-out goes to our dedicated, tireless, resilient, and WONDERFUL staff! The entire Recreation department, both full-time and part-time, has Beede’s deepest gratitude!

Fitness in Nature

The Beede Center is running a fitness in nature series this summer! In addition to the free yoga classes below, we are excited to be running a Paddle Board Yoga class at White Pond Beach on Sunday mornings. Registration is still ongoing if others would like to join in this rejuvenating, outdoor water-based yoga program.



Upcoming Recreation Events

- **7/15 10 am:** FREE yoga class at Emerson Park! Chair Yoga for All with Melinda, sponsored by juju.
- **7/20, 6 pm:** Concert in the Park at Rideout featuring Beantown Swing.
- **7/22, 10 am:** FREE yoga class at Emerson Park! Stretch and Strengthen Yoga with Lisa, sponsored by Edward Feather Photography.
- **7/27, 6 pm:** Concert in the Park at Rideout featuring The Reminisants

- **7/29, 10 am:** FREE yoga class at Emerson Park! Yoga for Stiff People with Kelly, sponsored by Elaine Freitas Photography.
- **8/3, 6 pm:** Concert in the Park at Rideout featuring Ben Rudnick and Friends (Kids Show).
- **8/10, 6 pm:** Concert in the Park at Rideout featuring The Band Brandy.

Summer Camp

When an emergency family shelter opened at the Best Western in April, the Concord community started thinking about ways to help. Recreation Department leadership and staff committed to provide the children with the simple opportunity to enjoy summer camp. However, there were challenges to be addressed to make this happen, including language differences, out of date physicals/immunizations, and transportation. The Concord health and recreation departments, public health division, and school department came together to support the effort to provide nineteen children with a summer camp experience. Nurses in Malden and doctors at Emerson Hospital provided the kids with vaccinations and physicals at no cost to the families. Transportation was coordinated by the school department from the family shelter to the summer camp sites. Kerem Shalom temple donated necessary camp supplies, including sneakers, lunch boxes, and bathing suits. The Open Table food pantry provided daily snacks and lunches. The children are enjoying their fourth week of camp, with two working as camp counselors. Town employees and the Concord community came together to make this summer a time for a special group of kids to just be kids; to make friends, learn to swim, play games, and have fun.



Carousel Preschool Summer Camp

The Carousel Preschool is running its first, full day summer camp program this year. Enrollment has been strong and the staff have done an excellent job adapting to the new camp day. We are excited to see the full-day preschool program running during the school year as well.

Facilities Strategic Plan

The Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan continues to move forward. The consultant team will be at the 7/20 Concert at Rideout Park to collect more feedback and information from community members. At this event, we will be sharing conceptual ideas for each of the four priority sites folks voted most highly at the Block Party (2229 Main Street, Baker Ave Boat Launch, the CCHS Skate Park site, and Cousins Field). We encourage residents to visit the table and vote for their preference of amenities and updates to each site and to vote for the project they would like to see first prioritized.

Training Programs

The Recreation Team continues to participate in training programs that strengthen our ability to support the community. Most recently, about a dozen Recreation employees participated in Mental Health First Aid offered by the Town.

CPR/First Aid/AED classes

The Assistant Recreation Director is now an American Red Cross CPR/First Aid/AED class instructor. We plan to soon offer free classes to Recreation employees as well as other Town employees that need/want the training. Please reach out to Adam Lapointe if you are interested in participating at ALapointe@concordma.gov

Lifeguard Training

The Beede Center will be offering an *incredibly* affordable American Red Cross Lifeguard Training program from July 19th-21st costing only \$42 when typically, these classes cost over \$300. The Beede Center continues to combat the lifeguard shortage that is affecting our operation and the operation of other pools in the area. These reduced-price classes are being offered to help bolster the applicant pool and certify more people regionally that can support many facilities that are struggling. Registration is still available online, and anyone is welcome to attend.



Employee of the Month

Join us in congratulating Meggi Johnstone, Recreation Clerk at the Hunt Recreation Center, for being the Recreation Department's June employee of the month! Meggi has been with the Recreation team since September of 2021 and has used her background in graphic design to support various departmental needs while also serving as our lead customer service representative at Hunt. Meggi is an incredible multitasker who is able to support the front desk while also preparing the seasonal brochure, professionalizing published class schedules, designing new marketing materials, and quickly acting when projects are brought to her attention. Over the past few months, Meggi has supported the Beede Center by processing refunds, reviewing program cancellations, and preparing class notifications; she is always thinking two steps ahead. We appreciate that Meggi finds ways to join the fun of camp by socializing with campers and staff, and we all appreciate that she never misses a themed

dress-up day! Meggi has proven herself as a generous team player and we feel incredibly lucky to have her on our team.

Economic Vitality

MCC Visit to West Concord

On Monday, July 17th, West Concord hosted local leaders in the creative economy to meet from the Massachusetts Cultural Council with Executive Director and Cultural Districts Program Officer Carolyn Cole. The convening

was initiated by Representative Simon Cataldo and attended by Representative Carmen Gentile. They and more than 40 leaders active in arts, music, and culture in Acton, Carlisle, Chelmsford, and Concord met at Wheelhouse before participating in a walking tour through West Concord. After a lunch at the Fowler Library, the group discussed how to bolster support for the arts at the state level. Special thanks to the Wheelhouse of Bradford Mill,

Concord Visitor Center tour guides Joe and Victor, the Fowler Branch Library, Debra's Natural Gourmet, Concord Teacakes, Nashoba Brook Bakery, photographer Ed Feather, and Carolyn Bottum of the West Concord Junction Cultural District. Concord's Tourism Manager Beth Williams and Economic Vitality Manager Mimi Graney coordinated this event.



Tourism

Walking Tour at Concord Park Assisted Living

On Tuesday July 18th VC tour guides launched a new program at Concord Park Assisted Living. Mary and Stefanie brought our Concord walking tour to the residents via an interactive Trivia game. The crowd and staff were engaged and loved it. This project launch will hopefully be picked up by other Nursing and Senior living facilities.

