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November 10, 2025

News and Updates from the Town of Concord

This issue includes key highlights from our Town Departments, keeping you informed about their latest work. Check out the Halloween Happenings for a recap of the weekends chills and thrills. We're especially excited to share details about our upcoming community events, featuring the debut of Jingle and Mingle—a festive new event happening throughout Concord Center. Keep reading so you don't miss out!

Please send your comments and feedback to publicinfo@concordma.gov.

Message from the Town Manager

Civic Concord - Have you heard?

I want to take a moment to recognize and thank Deputy Town Manager Megan Zammuto, Tory Wesnofske, Producer, the Minuteman Media Network team, and

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everyone who has contributed to our new podcast series, Civic Concord

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Since its launch in June, the podcast has featured thoughtful conversations about many of the topics we're working on together every day, from Town Meeting and cell service improvements to community wellness, time-of-day electric rates, and the redevelopment of MCI-Concord.

Each episode offers a closer look at how Town departments are serving the community, while also helping residents better understand the people and purpose behind our work. It's an engaging, informative resource for residents, and community stakeholders.

Civic Concord Podcast



civic concord



Listen for all things Concord



If you haven't already listened, I encourage you to take a few minutes this week to check it out:

Listen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@MinutemanMediaNetwork/podcasts>

Civic Concord reflects the very best of our teamwork and commitment to transparent, community-centered service.

Public Works

Roadway and Traffic Safety Forum

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Aaron Miklosko, Highway & Grounds Superintendent, presents a workflow for tracking roadway improvement and traffic safety requests.

The Select Board, Public Works Commission, and Transportation Advisory Committee hosted a Roadway and Traffic Safety Forum on October 28 to update the community on plans for long-overdue investments in roadway improvements and integrated traffic safety efforts.

This public forum was attended by over fifty community members (in-person and on-line) as well as leadership from the Police Department, Office of the Town Manager, Public Works, and the Health Department. Do you have a comment, suggestion, or feedback regarding the Roadway Traffic Safety Forum? Drop an email to the [Roadway Traffic Safety Group Forum](#)

Facilities



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Facilities in Focus: Improving Our Town Spaces!

The Facilities Department has been hard at work this fall, completing critical projects across town to enhance public spaces, maintain key buildings, and improve accessibility.

Check out these improvements:

- **Sustainable Repurpose:** An existing bike rack from the Peabody School was successfully re-purposed and installed in the public space near Tea Cakes bakery—a win for sustainability and public convenience!
- **Rideout Restroom Refresh:** The Rideout bathrooms received a major facelift, including a new roof, repair of rotted materials, new flooring, and fresh paint. These facilities are on track to reopen next year, better than ever!
- **Town House Reliability:** To ensure continuous comfort and operation, a new chiller was swiftly installed to service the Town House following the failure of the old unit.
- **COA Accessibility Upgrade:** Demolition is complete at the COA building! This clears the way for a brand-new, ADA-compliant entry and walkways, expected to be completed by early December (weather permitting).
- **COA Parking Lot Lights:** Facilities has just completed re-lamping of the parking lot lighting devices and reset timers to better coincide with fall / winter activities.

Thank you to the Facilities team for their dedication to keeping our community facilities

safe, functional, and welcoming!

Community Development

Public Workshop: Comprehensive Transportation Strategy

The Town of Concord invites you to participate in a workshop to review preliminary recommendations and strategies for the Town’s Transportation Strategy.

The public will have a chance to view maps, charts, and graphics illustrating transportation data, share concerns and ideas, and help provide input on which strategies would best address the transportation issues facing Concord.

Strategies may include the implementation of a low-stress bicycle network, safety improvements to key intersections, locations to improve or build sidewalks, expanding public transportation options, increased transparency and accountability, and more.

Visitors can come and go at any time to provide feedback to the Town and its consultants from Stantec.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

CONCORD COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

Wednesday, November 19th

- **Morning Session:** 7:30-9:00 AM at 141 Keyes Rd, 1st Floor
- **Evening Session:** 6:00-8:00 PM at Harvey Wheeler Community Center

Drop by and chat with the project team anytime during the posted sessions to share your thoughts during our public workshop!

- Identify actionable transportation improvements
- Adopt a framework to guide future investments
- Develop Concord specific transportation policies

For more information: concordma.gov/transitstudy

Your valuable feedback will directly inform the future of transportation in Concord. Each member of the community can help improve the transportation experience of the town by participating in this planning process.

We look forward to seeing you on November 19th. If you have any questions regarding this meeting please contact Alyssa Sandoval, Community Development Director at asandoval@concordma.gov.



Workshop Sessions

Attend on **Wednesday, November 19, 2025**, at one of two sessions:

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Morning Session: 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. at 141
Keyes Road

More on Transportation

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Evening Session: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center, 1276 Main St.

Strategy

Natural Resources Division

New Assistant Natural Resources Director

We are very pleased to announce that Rose Kaforski has joined the Division of Natural Resources as Concord’s Assistant Natural Resources Director. Rose has over 5 years of environmental experience, most recently with the US Fish & Wildlife Service performing reviews under the federal Endangered Species Act. She has a strong track record of partnership and collaboration and is passionate about public service and natural resources protection. Her demonstrated ability to solve complex problems and work collaboratively, as well as her commitment to public service, make her a strong fit for this role.

Chamberlin Park Bridge



Over the past few weeks, Chamberlin Park bridge has received significant upgrades. All railings have been replaced, and select posts, custom post caps, and decking have also been replaced. This project was carried out over 10 days by Division of Natural Resources staff and 4 volunteers, including Trails Committee Chair Bob White, who made all lumber cuts and the custom post caps. The bridge is aesthetically and structurally in much better condition, allowing for improved public access and safe passage over Mill Brook and the surrounding wetland. Chamberlin Park bridge sees several dozens of walkers daily, with use all year round.

Award Winning Assabet River Multi-Use Bridge and Trail

On Friday October 24th, Town Planner Elizabeth Hughes and consulting architects with LA DALLMAN Architects; Grace La, James Dallman, Oonagh Davis and Elias Bennett, attended the **American Institute of Architects Annual New England Architecture Awards** to accept a **Merit Award for Excellence** in Architecture, Unbuilt for the Assabet River Multi-use Bridge & Trail.



Permit Fee Changes

The Town of Concord's **Community Development Department** (formerly the Department of Planning & Land Management) has completed a comprehensive review of the fees for building permits, health permits, and planning and development applications.

The **Building Inspections, Health, and Planning Divisions** closely reviewed each of their permit and application fees. The divisions are announcing updates to the fee schedule to ensure the department can continue providing high-quality, efficient services that meet the community's needs.




TOWN OF CONCORD
Community Development Department

NOTICE

Effective January 1, 2026, there will be changes to some permit and review fees for the Building Inspections, Health and Planning Divisions

Please refer to each Division's fee schedule posted on their website

Community Development | Concord, MA



The fee changes will be **effective January 1, 2026.**

Building Division

October Permits



Halloween Happenings

Town-Wide Team Spirit: Halloween Pumpkin and Costume Contest



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The Human Resources Department brought town departments together for a fantastic team-building event featuring a pumpkin decorating and costume contest!

The creativity and enthusiastic commitment demonstrated by every division were truly impressive.

- **Pumpkin Decorating Champion:** Congratulations to the Council on Aging (COA) for their winning entry, "Henrietta the Pumpkin"!
- **Costume Contest Winner:** The Municipal Light Plant (MLP) delivered an electrifying effort, taking the top prize with their amazing tribute to Frankenstein!

Halloween + Ukulele Band + Food & Candy + COA = FUN!



Clockwise L-R: Witchy Ukulele Band, Dan Pettit, Maria Lamont, Bill and Kristina Joyce, Snow White, and Philip Dee



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Happy hoards of senior residents crowded the Harvey Wheeler Community Center auditorium to celebrate the spooky season with entertainment from the Witchy Ukulele Band and a scrumptious lunch.

Minuteman Media Network covers Trunk or Treat



Sponge Bob Square Pants interviewed all the spooky kids at the **Concord Recreation's Annual Trunk or Treat**. This was a great collaboration between Minuteman Media Network, the Beede Center, and the Concord Recreation Department.

Council on Aging

Medicare Open Enrollment

The Medicare Open Enrollment period is now open. The [Council on Aging does provide assistance in navigating the process through the SHINE program](#) but demand is very high.

Medicare Information & Medicare Finder

AARP Massachusetts

Executive Office of Aging & Independence

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to create an educational video that offers an overview of Medicare and the Open Enrollment process.

The video explains coverage options and demonstrates how to use the Medicare Plan Finder to compare Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D plans available in your area.

Human Resources

GEM Award

Congratulations to Donny DeMarco, September G.E.M. (Going the Extra Mile) Winner! Donny is recognized for his outstanding dedication and attention to detail in not only maintaining but enhancing the cleanliness and comfort of our Town offices. His initiative and commitment to improvement have elevated our workplace and reflect the pride we take in serving our community.



October Personnel Update

A warm welcome to the newest members of the Town of Concord team!

- Rose Kaforski , Assistant Natural Resources Director, Community Development
- Tyler O’Brien, Management Analyst, Public Works
- Lindsay Denney, Community Development and Engagement Specialist, Human Resources
- Joseph Padykula, Firefighter/EMT, Fire

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October Personnel Updates

We also want to extend our appreciation and best wishes to Bob Hill on his retirement from

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Welcome to Concord!

Please join us in welcoming our newest team members! We're excited to have them on board and look forward to their contributions. Be sure to say hello and introduce yourself as they get settled into their new roles. Welcome to the team!

			
Rose Kaforski	Tyler O'Brien	Lindsey Denney	Joseph Padykula
Assistant Natural Resources Director Community Development Natural Resources	Management Analyst Concord Public Works	Employee Development & Engagement Specialist Human Resources	Firefighter/EMT Fire

Retirements!

As we welcome new employees this month, we also extend our appreciation and best wishes to those retiring from the Town.

Robert Hill

After nearly 8 years of dedicated service, Bob Hill retired from his Business Manager role with Concord Public Works. We wish him a happy and healthy retirement!

his role as Business Manager for the Public Works Department

Coming Events!

Veterans Day Observance



Veterans Day
 Tuesday, November 11, 2025
FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY
 8 AM
 PRITCHARD GATE OF SLEEPY HOLLOW CEMETERY

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To all the veterans in our community

The Public Ceremonies and

and across the country. Thank you for your service. We are eternally grateful for the freedoms you protect.

Celebrations Committee will host the annual flag retirement ceremony.

Town Offices are closed on Tuesday, November 11 in observance of the Veterans Day holiday. The Visitor Center will be open.

Tuesday, November 11 at 8 AM

Pritchard Gate

Sleepy Hollow Cemetery

Find more information about the history of the event on [the Public Ceremonies and Celebrations page](#).

Recreation Craft Fair!



Join us for a fun-filled day at our [Craft Fair, November 15, 2025 from 9 AM - 2 PM](#), where creativity comes to life! Explore a diverse selection of handmade goods from local artisans, including unique jewelry, home décor, artwork, and more. Whether you're shopping for yourself or looking for the perfect gift, there's something for everyone. Bring the family and enjoy this exciting celebration of creativity and community!

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Oy!, Sunday, November 16, 3-5 pm

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Join Kerem Shalom and Concord-Carlisle Against Antisemitism for an afternoon of connection, laughter, and storytelling. The event will feature Moth-style true stories told live by members of our community that provide unique fragments of the Jewish experience — heartfelt, funny, and full of life.

Come for the stories, and meet new people while you're at it, as we celebrate the warmth, humor, and resilience woven through everyday Jewish life and friendship. Come and share in the spirit of connection and joy. All are welcome.

This event is made possible in part through a grant from Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP). Join us at **'More Joy, Less Oy!'** as we celebrate this milestone award! Contact info@concordagainstantisemitism.org for more information.

Jingle & Mingle on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025 10 AM - 2 PM

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It's a weekend of holiday festivities in Concord Center!

Saturday, Dec. 6, the focus is holiday shopping as the neighborhood is sparkling with holiday music, festive storefronts, and warm community spirit—making **Jingle and Mingle** the perfect way to celebrate the season while supporting local businesses.

Find all the details on the [Visit Concord site](#).

Annual Tree Light Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025 3 PM - 6 PM



The Holidays Start Now! Join Concord's Annual Celebration!

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Mark the start of the holiday season with Concord's community kick-off event on Sunday, Dec. 7. Everyone is invited to an afternoon featuring:

- **Live Music and Entertainment**
- **The Annual Holiday Parade**
- **The Tree Lighting Ceremony in Concord Center!**

Gather your friends and neighbors—we hope to see you there!

Donate to Concord's Holiday Gift Card Program



Concord's **Community Services Division** invites you to donate a gift card to a local family in need this holiday season. Last year's program provided financial support to over 115 children living in Concord. Gift card donations from any vendor are welcome! Some suggestions are local merchants, restaurants, pharmacies, or Amazon or VISA gift cards. Supermarket gift cards would be especially welcome this year.

Donations may be mailed to Bonny Wilbur, Community Services Coordinator, 55 Church Street, Concord. Or you can drop your donation at:

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Town House, 22 Monument Square - Dropbox located in the lobby to the left of the main entrance

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- **55 Church Street**, across from the Harvey Wheeler Community Center – Dropbox located to the right of the entrance, accessible any time day or night.

Donations will be accepted until December 15th. Contact Bonny Wilbur at bwilbur@concordma.gov or 978-318-3034 with any questions or for more information. Thank you on behalf of your neighbors in need! Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season!

Stay connected with us



CONCORD CURRENTS

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