



# TOWN OF CONCORD

## Town Manager's Report

Week of: January 18, 2016

### Parking Fines/Meter Fees Increasing

Contact: (978) 318-3290

Effective January 11, 2016, the Town of Concord will increase parking violation fines and parking meter rates. Fines are generally increasing by \$5.00 per violation, with the exception of parking violations associated with handicapped parking spaces or cars parked at curb ramps, which will increase by \$50 per violation. Fines and rates were last increased in July 2006.

### Board/Committee Vacancies

Ever consider becoming a part of a board/commission/committee in your local government? The Town is looking for residents to fill positions on a variety of boards/commissions/committees.

If interested, please call (978) 318-3000, or find info online: [www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA\\_BOS/vacancies](http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_BOS/vacancies)

### Police Logs Available Online

Contact: (978) 318-3400

The Concord Police Dept. (CPD) has made their police log available on their webpage, as well as on social media. You can access the log on the CPD webpage on the [www.concordma.gov](http://www.concordma.gov) website, or you can like them on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/ConcordMAPD](http://www.facebook.com/ConcordMAPD)

### Concord Public Works (CPW)

Contact: (978) 318-3206

#### CPW Winter Storm Response

The CPW Highway Division crews responded to three winter events recently. On Saturday, January 9, 2016, Highway Division crews responded to treat icy spots on side roads and parking lots; this was caused by light rain that fell overnight and froze as the temperatures fell in the early hours of the morning. On Tuesday, January 12, 2016, Highway Division crews were busy preparing for a 1"- 2" snow storm that was predicted to arrive during the evening commute. Salt brine applications were made to main roads throughout the day to help prevent the bond of snow and ice to the roads. The effectiveness of the salt brine applications was demonstrated very clearly as snow began to fall around 4:30PM and the main roads did not need to be retreated until after 6:00PM. As the storm ended at 8:30PM, CPW plow operators were called in to clear all roads, parking lots, and sidewalks. Roads needed to be retreated before the morning commute due to snow blowing and drifting from the strong winds. Roads continued to be monitored throughout the day and snow drifts were addressed as needed.

### MBTA Public Meeting January 28th, 6pm

In response to concerns regarding changes to the MBTA Commuter Rail schedule, the MBTA has scheduled a series of public meetings to address community concerns about the commuter rail schedule and MBTA fare increases. The public meeting with the MBTA will be held on Thursday January 28th from 6-8pm at the Concord Town House located at 22 Monument Square.

### Open Walk at Hunt

Contact: (978) 369-6460

Concord Recreation will have gym time available for walkers on Mondays and Fridays from 1:15-2:45 starting December 14 and ending March 18.

January 15, 22, 25, 29  
February 1, 5, 8, 12, 22, 26, 29  
March 7, 11, 14, 18

*\*Closed January 18, February 15, 19*

Please go to the front desk of the Hunt Building and sign-in. Proper footwear is required-sneakers only.

CPW Highway Division crews responded to a third winter event on January 17, 2016. Steady snow was falling in the Concord area by 7:30PM causing the roads to quickly become snow covered. Highway Division crews were again prepared and responded immediately to treat roads to ensure the safety of all motorists. Treatment crews remained on duty all night to continue to plow and retreat roads as needed and CPW plow operators were called in around 7:00AM to assist with the final clean-up of all roads, parking lots, and sidewalks. The total accumulation from this winter event was 5" of snow.



## **HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **RECREATION \* SENIOR SERVICES \* SOCIAL SERVICES**

#### **Veterans News**

Contact (978) 318-3038

The Office of Veterans' Services opened a new Chapter 115 case for a resident veteran who qualified for a "medical only" benefit. The veteran's income was over budget but the medical bills of the veteran fell in line for payment via Chapter 115.

The son of a deceased veteran called the Office requesting information on forms needed for his mother (also a veteran) to apply for a "surviving spouse" benefit from her deceased husband's "100% service connected" disability.

Bids were sent out for the purchase of veteran grave flags. Flags are purchased annually through a bid process. When the Town receives the flags from the vendor, they notify the State and receive a 75% reimbursement on the purchase.

The Office was contacted by the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requesting financial information on a resident veteran receiving housing benefits via HUD. All information was supplied to HUD.

#### **Community Services**

Contact: (978) 318-3034

During the week of January 11th-15th, 2016 the Community Services Coordinator received 61 emails, 30 phone calls and had 4 home/office visits all related to assistance requests from Concord residents. The requests focused on needing assistance with housing issues, paying utility bills, paying mortgage payments, looking for affordable housing, food assistance, fuel assistance and transportation assistance.

**SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)** –assists individuals and families with funds to purchase food. You can apply in person, online or by mail to this program. Anyone interested in determining eligibility or applying for SNAP benefits, is a Concord or Carlisle resident, and is under the age of 60, please contact Aileen Buford, MSW in the Community Services Division at 978.318.3034 or [abuford@concordma.gov](mailto:abuford@concordma.gov)

**SMOC Fuel Assistance** – Any Concord resident under the age of 60 who is interested in applying for SMOC Fuel Assistance, please contact Aileen Buford, MSW for an informational packet and eligibility requirements. Eligibility is based on household size and income.

#### **Senior Services/Council on Aging (COA)**

Contact: (978) 318-3020

Stop by the Harvey Wheeler Community Center this next month to see the wonderful works of watercolor painter Nancy Wheeler. Nancy has always had an interest in art and painting, but finally found the time to pursue her passion after retirement. We have a nice sampling of her work in the hallway exhibit space and we are sure you will enjoy seeing it!

The COA reminds senior residents (those aged 60 and older) that we offer free individual computer tutoring by appointment with qualified high school students. Please call to sign up if you would find this helpful!

The COA continues to process applications for fuel assistance for the South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC). Please call the COA and ask for Bonny Wilbur if you would like to find out if you qualify for this program.

The COA will be offering transportation to both the Special Town Meeting scheduled for the evening of February 4<sup>th</sup> and to the polls to vote on March 1<sup>st</sup>. If you need a ride to either of those two events, please call the COA to make arrangements.



**Department of Planning & Land Management (DPLM)**  
**BUILDING INSPECTION • PLANNING • NATURAL RESOURCES • BOARD OF HEALTH • ZONING**

### **Health Division**

Contact: 978-318-3275

**Septic system permitting:** 2 septic plan designs reviewed, 2 septic permits issued; 2 Certificates of Compliance issued. 3 Deep test holes witnessed; 2 septic field inspections. 1 building review and 1 sewer review completed.

**Food Service:** 7 food service inspections and 2 re-inspections; 1 food service inspection for compliance with HACCP plan for specialized food processes; and review of HACCP plan with food service consultant. Plan review for proposed West Concord Beef House; application was incomplete and letter of deficiencies was mailed to the applicant. 1 catering permit issued.

**Other:** 2 housing inspections completed.

### **Natural Resources Division**

Contact: 978-318-3285

**Natural Resources Commission:** Staff reviewed the following applications for the January 20<sup>th</sup> NRC meeting: the continued Notice of Intent (NOI) for 140 Commerford Road for a 22-lot Planned Residential Development; the continued Amendment Request for 310 Lexington Road for site modifications; and, a new NOI for the demolition and reconstruction of a single family house at 874 Elm Street.

**A Call to Artists:** The Division of Natural Resources is working with the Emerson Umbrella to hold the first Concord Art Ramble, a juried outdoor exhibition, at the Hapgood Wright Town Forest from June 1 through September 15. Artists are invited to apply with The Umbrella by February 29<sup>th</sup> to take part in this ephemeral exposition.

### **Planning Division**

Contact: (978) 318-3290

**First-mile/Last-mile Grant:** Dir. Marcia Rasmussen received notification from the Central Transportation Planning Staff that Concord's proposal for first-mile/last-mile connections study was selected. The proposal suggested that the study would focus on the Town and the existing network of neighborhood streets and trails that might provide answers to ways of addressing the first-mile/last-mile commute for Concord residents in general, and linking employees of the Baker Ave. Industrial Park and future guests of a new hotel to West Concord Village. A study might consider ways to improve and expand the existing network of trails and sidewalks for bicyclists and pedestrians, ways to fund a shuttle service or participate more actively in the regional shuttle service – 'Crosstown Connect', develop a mobile app that connects Concord residents in need of a ride with other Concord residents traveling to the same or nearby location, or other options to improve the first-mile last-mile commute.

**'Pay by Phone' at the West Concord Commuter Lot and fee increase to \$5.00/day:** The Town has been working with 'PayByPhone', the MBTA's mobile parking-payment vendor, to bring this service to the West Concord commuter parking lot for the 114 spaces that are owned by the State. PayByPhone is a mobile parking payment option that allows people to pay the daily fee using a credit card or debit card via PayByPhone's mobile app, by going online, or by dialing a toll-free phone number. The daily parking fee will increase from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per day, to cover the cost of the convenience fee that is added to PayByPhone transactions for the credit card processing fee. More information about the PayByPhone mobile app will be available on the Town's website at [www.concordma.gov](http://www.concordma.gov).

**Historical Commission Meeting on January 14:** The Historical Commission met with Concord resident Paul Macone who presented information on Camp Massachusetts, a three-day encampment of all Massachusetts Militia held in West Concord in 1859. Some 6,000 Massachusetts soldiers and up to 100,000 spectators gathered in what would become the sites of MCI Concord, the Concord Rotary, and Commonwealth Avenue. The project has unearthed drawings of the event and a detailed map of the encampment, which will be used to focus future archaeological efforts. In addition, the Commission discussed their upcoming Public Hearing (2/9/2016) presentation for the Demolition Review Bylaw, reviewed the process and potential handouts, and discussed options for increasing awareness of the Bylaw and its goals.



**Department of Planning & Land Management (DPLM)**  
**BUILDING INSPECTION • PLANNING • NATURAL RESOURCES • BOARD OF HEALTH • ZONING**

**Building Inspection Division**

Contact: 978-318-3280

**Current building projects in Concord as of the 1st of the year:**

**Concord Country Club at Old Road to Nine Acre Corner:** relocating entrance driveway, removing house, adding a fourth paddle tennis court and relocating parking. Board of Appeals special permit granted.

**West Concord Beef Company + Oaktree Development at 50 Beharrell St.** is proposing to locate the West Concord Beef Company restaurant in the new 50/70/80 Beharrell Street building. Planning Board and Board of Appeals have reviewed and approved this amended special permit with relief from parking requirements. The new restaurant is proposed to have 120 seats.

- **Concord Academy:** new science building, Board of Appeals special permit has been issued. Building permit issued and project is currently under construction.
- **Black Birch PRD, Forest Ridge Road,** 25 new single and two family dwellings. Town Meeting, Planning Board and Board of Appeals approved and construction has begun.
- **Middlesex School – Music and Campus Center at 1400 Lowell Road:** renovate and expand the existing facilities building into a new Music and Campus Center, renovate walkways and driveway. Interior demolition has been permitted and has begun.
- **Middlesex School New Residence Hall - Landry House,** a new faculty/student residence hall that will include 2 small parking areas and a subsurface drainage system; a new guard house with a divided driveway along the main driveway; a series of new walkways; and replacement of existing decks and docks at the boathouse (25,000 sq. ft., 3.5 stories, 34 beds, \$5.3 million project). Under construction.
- **Ingham Lane PRD at 1888 Main Street** - currently under construction; 7 detached single family dwellings with one of the units to be deed-restricted for affordable housing purposes. The project will be accessed by a new 20-foot wide private drive that terminates with an emergency turnaround and two public parking spaces. The project includes a sidewalk from Main Street along one side of the drive to common open space at the rear of the development that includes a community garden and walking path. The sidewalk, walking path and community garden will be open to the general public. Nearing completion.
- **Marriott Hotel at 320 Baker Avenue:** 128 room extended stay hotel. Full building permit issued. \$4.8 Million construction cost. Shell of building under construction.



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