



TOWN OF CONCORD

Town Manager's Report

Week of July 29th, 2019

BACKPACKS/SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Back to school donations appreciated!

Concord-Carlisle Community Services has over 50 children from modest and low income families signed up to receive a brand new backpack and school supplies for the 2019-2020 school year.

Donations of pencils, glue sticks, rulers, pencil cases, pens, pencil sharpeners, loose-leaf paper, folders, and notebooks are also welcome. Donated backpacks and supplies must be new and unused.

To donate a backpack and/or school supplies, please contact Bonny Wilbur, Community Services Coordinator at bwilbur@concordma.gov, 978-318-3034 or use the drop boxes located at 55 Church Street, the Harvey Wheeler Community Center at 1276 Main Street, the Beede Center at 498 Walden Street, or Town Hall at 22 Monument Square.



This summer marks the 5th year that Concord's Community Services will be distributing backpacks filled with school supplies to children from lower-income families in town. Last year close to 50 backpacks were distributed. Donations of backpacks and school supplies would be greatly appreciated again this year! If you would like to donate a backpack and/or school supplies, please contact Bonny Wilbur, Community Services Coordinator, for more information (978-318-3034 or bwilbur@concordma.gov) or you may place your donations in the boxes located in West Concord at the Human Services Building at 55 Church Street, or the Harvey Wheeler Community Center at 1276 Main Street, or in Concord at the Beede Center at 498 Walden Street, or the Town House at 22 Monument Square.

POSSIBLE PEAK ELECTRICITY DEMAND



CONSERVE POWER 1-7PM



Help us keep energy costs lower for everyone - watch your energy use during peak times



Watch the weather. Hot day? Try some cooling tips like keeping blinds and curtains closed and cooling your home at night



Unplug items you aren't using, they still draw power costing you money and can heat up your home!

PEAK ELECTRIC DEMAND POSSIBLE

Recycling Market Update

The recycling market continues to be the focus of news stories and articles since China's "National Sword" policy went into effect last year. Prior to China's National Sword Policy, approximately 40% of US paper, plastics and other recyclables were shipped to China. This is no longer the case and it has adversely affected the recycling market.

On a positive note, Waste Management informs Concord Public Works that they continue to secure markets for the recyclables collected on Concord's curbside program. To learn about what happens to the recyclables collected on the Town's curbside program, check here: <https://www.concordma.gov/Faq.aspx?QID=461>

The Town's current contract with Waste Management for the curbside collection program, which includes dual stream recycling, runs through June 30, 2021. Paper collected on Concord's curbside program continues to be processed separately from other recyclables, which ensures a high quality recyclable stream with minimal contamination. Waste Management has indicated, that should the recycling market continue to be depressed, there may be occasions however, when the Town's source separated paper could be combined with other single stream recyclables at their central Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and processed together with other recycling streams, for logistical efficiency, cost savings and savings in transportation costs. If this were to occur Waste Management has provided assurances that all Concord's recyclable materials will continue to be recycled and there would be no change in Concord's recycling diversion rates.

Concord Public Works will be staying in close touch with Waste Management and monitoring the status of the Town's recyclables in the months ahead and will continue to keep an eye on the recycling market as we begin preliminary research on options for a new contract that will best fit the needs of curbside program subscribers, effective July 1, 2021. For questions pertaining to the Town's curbside collection program, contact Concord Public Works at (978) 318-3240.

Public Shade Tree Planting Program

CPW recently concluded its public shade tree planting program for the spring 2019 planting season. In total, over 65 public shade trees were planted as both Right of Way trees, located adjacent to the roadway and Setback trees. Over the past year, significant effort has been invested in streamlining the setback planting program making it easier for residents to request a setback tree. Through this program, residents can get a tree planted at no cost in the area on their property that is within 20 feet of the Town's right of way. The resident is then responsible for caring for this tree, which includes watering during its establishment phase. Utilizing the setback area allows trees to be planted away from utility lines and roads which could impact the health of the tree as it grows.

CPW is currently developing the list of trees available for the upcoming fall 2019 planting season and encourages anyone who is interesting in learning more to contact the the Highway and Grounds Division at (978) 318-3220.

Lowell and Assabet Sewer Pump Station Reconstruction

The Lowell Road and Assabet Sewer pumping stations were last upgraded in the mid-1980s. As most of the mechanical, electrical, plumbing and instrumentation and control systems associated with these two facilities have served well beyond their useful life, planning efforts were initiated towards the replacement or reconditioning of these facilities. Kleinfelder, a water and wastewater design engineering firm, is nearing completion of final design plans and specifications for the rehabilitation of these facilities. The rehabilitation project is expected to go out to bid within the next few months with construction slated to begin in the Fall of 2019 with completion by late Spring/early Summer of 2020.