



TOWN OF CONCORD

Office of the Interim Town Manager

Operational Status Reports & Departmental Updates

For the Week Ending April 1, 2022

Town Manager & General Government

Town Clerk

VOTING BEFORE ELECTION DAY – [Absentee Ballots](#) are now available!

Absentee Voting by mail

Mail, email, or fax your [absentee ballot application](#) to the Town Clerk's Office

The Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot by mail is 5:00pm on Wed., April 6, 2022

Absentee Voting in Person

Apply in person and vote at the Town Clerk's Office

The Deadline to apply in person for an absentee ballot is 12pm on Monday, April 11, 2022

Absentee ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office before 8:00pm on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 in order to be counted

VOTING IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY

Polls are open from 7:00am until 8:00pm

Precinct 1: 141 Keyes Rd

Precinct 2: 1276 Main Street, Harvey Wheeler Community Center

Precinct 3: 1276 Main Street, Harvey Wheeler Community Center

Precinct 4: 90 Stow Street, Hunt Gym, 2nd floor * NEW POLLING LOCATION *

Precinct 5: 90 Stow Street, Hunt Gym, 1st floor

Find your precinct information: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/bal/myelectioninfo.aspx>

Emergency Services

Police Department:

802 Log entries which included 211 Traffic enforcement/Motor vehicle stops.

The Department will be promoting Autism Awareness Month and acceptance during the month of April in several ways:

- Uniformed officers will be wearing the autism acceptance patch on Fridays during April. The Concord Police Relief Association has once again purchased these patches.
- The Department will place blue lights in a station window, as blue is the color associated with autism.
- The Department will participate in "Light It Up Blue" on Saturday, April 2, which is World Autism Awareness Day. At 7:30 p.m., a Public Safety Dispatcher will announce to all patrols who are not handling an active call to pull over and activate their cruiser's blue lights to increase awareness of autism.

- Officers will receive annual training on how to recognize and interact with community members who are on the autism spectrum.
- Parents and their children who are on the autism spectrum are invited to tour the station. Appointments may be made by contacting Sergeant Landers tlanders@concordma.gov
- Special patches are available for purchase from the Relief Association. Patches cost \$15 and may be obtained by contacting Sgt. Timothy Landers at tlanders@concordma.gov. or stopping by the front desk at the Police Station. Proceeds from the sale of patches will be donated by the Relief Association to MinuteMan ARC.

Public Works

Road Projects:

- Engineering is reviewing Newport Construction’s schedule for resuming work on Hubbard St. in April.
- The route for the parade is planned for restriping prior to Patriot’s Day.
- A contract for crack sealing has been awarded and is being executed.
- The Roads Improvements Phase 1 contract for pavement preservation has been awarded and is also being executed. Bids for Phase 2 for other pavement preservation methods are due at the end of March and bids for Phase 3 for road reconstruction are due April 22. The Phase 3 Roads Improvements project include the work planned for Commonwealth Ave.

Compost Site Opening:

- The Highway & Grounds Division will be opening the Compost Site, located at 755 Walden Street, for the spring season on Saturday April 2, 2022 The facility will be open Wednesdays from 3:00PM-6:00PM and Saturdays from 9:00AM-3:00PM through the season. The facility is available to all Concord residents (non-commercial) for the disposal of yard waste, brush and invasive species. Residents may also pick-up screened compost and woodchips.

Water & Sewer:

- The Water and Sewer Division will perform seasonal water main flushing activities starting the week of April 4, 2022 from 9 A.M. – 3 P.M. Routine flushing is required to maintain and improve water quality throughout the distribution system. Most importantly, it allows sediment built up in the water mains, especially dead-ends and low flow areas, to work its way out of the system. This reduces the potential for discoloration and sediment in customer’s homes.

Concord Municipal Light Plant

- CMLP is now offering \$10,000 whole home and \$1,250/ton partial home air source heat pump rebates to Concord households that switch from oil, propane, electric resistance or ETS heating to heat pumps on or after January 1, 2022. Go to CMLP's [website](#) for more information.
- Mass Save is now offering rebates for Concord households and businesses that currently heat with natural gas if they switch to heat pumps between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022. Mass Save provides rebates of \$10,000 for air-source heat pumps used as a home’s sole source of heating, \$15,000 for ground-source heat pumps used as a home's sole source of heating, and \$1,250 per ton of capacity for air source heat pumps used for partial home heating. Generous rebates for businesses switching from gas heating to heat pumps are also available. Go to Mass Save's [website](#) for more information.

- CMLP will soon be offering residential ground source heat pump rebates and heat pump rebates for businesses that are similar to Mass Save's.

Department of Planning & Land Management

Economic Vitality & Tourism

- **Visitor Center:** Beginning Friday April 1, the Visitor Center will resume 7-day/week operations. Hours will be Monday-Sunday 10am to 4pm with a daily Concord History Walking tours at 1pm
- **Bike Share Program:** On Saturday April 2, the new Bike Share program has its soft launch, bike install and testing. We are very excited to have a new contract with Tandem Bikes with 2 locations of 5 bikes each in Concord Center at the Visitor Center and in West Concord by the entrance to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail at the MBTA commuter parking lot. A later date will be set for a launch event that will tie in Recreation, Concord Bikes, Sustainability, etc. Stay tuned for a date in May.

Natural Resources Division

- **Tree Mitigation Policy:** Trees provide substantial public and private benefits. They filter and absorb air pollution, providing cleaner air for all. Mature trees can absorb over 200 pounds of particulate pollution each year. Trees fight climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. Trees naturally and efficiently reduce stormwater runoff. Rainfall is held in the leaves and bark and is slowly released into the soil to replenish groundwater. Wildlife use trees for food, cover, nesting sites, and shelter. Contiguous tree canopy promotes wildlife diversity and healthier ecosystems. Trees provide shade that contributes to healthy vegetation and cooler water temperatures. Even dead trees can be valuable, providing habitat for cavity-nesting birds, perching sites for raptors, insects for wildlife, and organic nutrients for healthy soil. Similarly, invasive trees provide carbon storage, nesting and cover for wildlife, and shading. At their meeting next week, the Natural Resources Commission will review a revised tree mitigation policy that requires a 50% caliper replacement for removal of healthy trees, and 25% caliper replacement for removal of invasive trees. Homeowners will be encouraged to mitigate hazard trees, and/or leave a 10-15 foot high snag for habitat, but not required to do so.
- **Mattison Field:** Land Manager Will Holden and two volunteers installed two wire gates and signage to redirect hikers away from sensitive bobolink habitat at Mattison Field. Additional educational signage will be installed at each entrance to the field noting that dogs must be leashed during the bobolink breeding season, which runs from April 1st to July 31st. Bobolinks in Massachusetts continue to be in steady decline and utilize grassland habitat for nesting such that found at Mattison Field.

Health Division

- **Wastewater Concerns at 12 White Ave.:** The Health Division was notified by the Fire Department on 3/27/22 of a potential public health nuisance/failed septic system on 12 White Avenue (water ponding in the street and running down the driveway). The Fire Department was advised there was a graywater tank for the washing machine. Public Health Inspector Gabrielle White reviewed the file and visited the site and no visual residual effects were noticed. Senior Administrative Assistant Karen Byrne reviewed the file as well and drafted a Letter of Non-Compliance and Order Letter (signed by AHPD Casey Mellin & PHI White) to the owner of record requiring her to contract with a Registered Title 5 Inspector and have the entire system inspected within 30 days.

- **White Pond testing communications:** Public Health Inspector Gabrielle White met with Natural Resource Director Delia Kay and Project Specialist Susan Rask to discuss the 2022 Water Testing initiative specific to Cyanobacteria blooms in White Pond. The team is working to develop a new website specific to the White Pond Watershed to share the data collected and will be utilizing a “Notify Me” function to disseminate information to interested parties.

Planning Division

- **Zoning Board of Appeals March 24th meeting:** The ZBA granted a special permit to demolish the existing 3,051 sq. ft. non-conforming dwelling and reconstruct a 4,260 sq. ft. non-conforming dwelling at 61 Bartlett Hill Road and to construct a 93 sq. ft. dormer which causes the site to exceed the maximum floor area ratio by 66 sq. ft. at 314 Thoreau Street. The Board also granted the Grantham Group a one-year time extension to the Comprehensive Permit to allow the construction of an 83-unit affordable assisted living facility at 6X Winthrop Street, finding that its ruling and decision for the granting of the Comprehensive Permit are still valid and there have been no modifications to the site or the project that warrant reconsideration of that approval.
- **Historical Commission update:** The Historical Commission and the Community Preservation Committee are working with the Wright Tavern folks to finalize their preservation restriction ahead of town meeting. The Historical Commission voted at their meeting March 29 to find the house and garage at 653 Main Street “Preferably Preserved” and delayed demolition for a period of one year.

Human Services

Senior Services

- The COA is pleased to announce that we are starting in-person lunches again after a two-year break during the pandemic. We will begin with ½ capacity and reservations will be limited to 48. During April, in-person lunches will be offered on April 6th and April 20th.
- John Gardella will present: A History of the Russia /Ukraine Ware on Thursday, April 7th from 1pm-2pm. Please call to sign up.
- On Tuesday, April 26th from 1- 2pm. Anke Voss from the Concord Public Library will present a program about the library’s art collection and the recent efforts to make it accessible virtually.
- Art Space at Harvey Wheeler is now exhibiting the fantastical work of Wayne Geehan. Plan to stop by and see this great display!
- The COA will offer rides to Concord seniors to vote on Tuesday, April 12th. Call the COA to sign up.
- Public Health nurse Tricia McGean will present information about tick borne illnesses on Thursday, April 14th at 11am, please call to sign up.
- The South Middlesex Opportunity Council (SMOC) will continue to accept fuel assistance applications until April 30th. Senior residents who need help applying may call the COA for assistance.
- The Passport Club will travel to Argentina on Thursday, April 14th from 2-3pm. This is a live walking tour viewed on the big screen in the Harvey Wheeler auditorium. Thanks to proceeds from the COA gift shop, this program is offered free of charge.