



# TOWN OF CONCORD

Office of the Town Manager

## Operational Status Reports & Departmental Updates

For the Week Ending August 19, 2022

### Public Safety

#### Police Department

##### Activity Log Aug 12 – Aug 17

Log items	711
Traffic Enforcement	48
Motor Vehicle Stops	132
Arrests	3

- The Concord Police Department is participating the **“Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over”** campaign this month. The campaign runs from Friday, Aug. 12, to Thursday, Sept. 15. The Department will be using grant funding from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security’s Office of Grants and Research to increase the number of patrols. During the campaign, Concord Police will have targeted patrols to watch for impaired and reckless drivers, especially during times when most impaired-driving crashes occur.
- The Department has begun assigning officers to **traffic enforcement** around schools in order remind people to obey speed limits as children will soon be returning to the schools.
- Lieutenant Brian Goldman and our Central Middlesex Police Partnership, Jail Diversion Coordinator/Clinician Emily Black LCSW recently appeared on **“Local Look”** to discuss **“988 the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline”**. Thank you, Karlen Reed and Minuteman Media Network for the invitation and for helping to bring awareness to this important new resource.



Lt. Brian Goldman, Emily Black and Karlen Reed

## Fire Department

- **Calls for service:** The fire department responded to 72 calls for service during the week.
- **Fire Prevention:** Fire Prevention was on hand for the acceptance testing of a residential 40kw electrical storage system in a residential property this week. This is the largest residential system in town to this point. Any system greater than 20kw requires permitting from the fire department in addition to any other requirements. We have upcoming training on the topic of electrical storage systems and how the fire department can respond to emergencies involving them.
- **Training:** All uniformed staff completed the hands-on portion of our driver training program this week. The hands-on portion was taught by [Lieutenant Keith Cotoni](#) and [Firefighter Brendan Lyons](#) who did a great job teaching. The course is based on curriculum from Volunteer Fire Insurance and is not only for new drivers but also a good refresher. Many thanks to the School Transportation Department for allowing us to set up the course at their facility and leave it in place all week so each group could get through it.

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## Minuteman Media Network

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- MMN was part of a live **State Representative Candidate Forum** event at the Harvey Wheeler building Thursday night. It went off without any issues. Matt and Sean did a great job!
- MMN is also working on a bike share promo and Ag day promos. We also were at the Habitat for Humanity this past Tuesday which will air on an upcoming show of "Local Look" with Karlen Reed. Matt and Tory are working on these, and other projects.
- The school conference room 4 is about to have replacement equipment installed which will allow MMN to finally record and stream from the site using in-place equipment. MMN has been bringing equipment for the past 4 years, as the installed devices have never fully worked.
- Carlisle is moving ahead on its replacement of MMN video recording and streaming equipment. The order was placed, and equipment has started to be assembled. The room used at the town hall is about to undergo a renovation, floors, and furniture, so we will need to work around multiple schedules.
- The team at MMN wish to thank the town of Concord and Carlisle for their support over the few years. New hires and equipment are exciting to have and will allow us to use modern video techniques to create content. We are thrilled to bring the best of Concord and Carlisle to the public.



*Mark Pauley, Matt Beren and Tory Wesnofske*

### Program Highlights

Mark your calendar! There are several large events coming up at the library in September, including:



- The Trustees of the Concord Free Public Library Corporation are proud to host a **Dedication of the Goodwin Forum** on September 7 at 5pm with an address given by Doris Kearns Goodwin (photograph on right). The Goodwin Forum, named in honor of Doris Kearns Goodwin and Richard Goodwin, is a multi-use programming space that will foster civic engagement, historical scholarship, intellectual growth, and a love of learning. This new venue honors the Goodwins' contributions to American political and historical thought, and their love for the Town of Concord. Registration is required for this event and is available on the [library's website](#).
- In partnership with the Ashland Public Library, the library will host **Rom "Con", a Romance Festival** at the "Con"cord Free Public Library on Saturday, September 24 from 10am to 3pm (flyer below). The event features dedicated book sales and book signing, author panels, discussions and more, featuring 12 Romance authors.
- The Main Library successfully hosted 150 campers every Tuesday this summer as part of our annual partnership with the **ConcordRec Summer camp program**, providing books, craft programs and storytime for over 1,350 youth. ConcordRec's Carousel Preschool has also been visiting the Library, with classes stopping by the Fowler Library on a weekly basis.
- The Library's **Summer Reading program** had astounding participation this year with a record breaking 770 youth and more than 272 adults participating.

### Library-Wide Initiatives

- The library is continuing to fill staffing vacancies. Applications are being reviewed for the fulltime Makerspace Coordinator position and interviews will be conducted over the next few weeks. The library is in the process of hiring one candidate to fill a vacancy for an evening and part-time custodian. A second part-time custodian position remains vacant, and the application deadline has been extended.
- Working with the Curator of Special Collections, [Anke Voss](#), the Library Director, and the Planning Department, the Library is requesting authorization from the Community Preservation Committee to use funds for digitizing 341 cassette tapes. This digitization is part of the "**Concord Oral History Preservation and Access Project**" approved at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. The funding also includes transcription of these digitized oral histories, which will help make these stories more broadly available through the library's website.

### CPW Re-organization and staffing update:

- **Highway/Grounds Division** Since the beginning of the new year, the Highway & Grounds Division has assumed day to day management duties associated with the Town's curbside solid waste and recycling collection program. In support of this effort, [Elaini Sahtouris](#) has transferred from her supporting role within the Water/Sewer Division (where she served as a water quality and regulatory compliance coordinator) and [Kelly Mikkonen](#) has transferred from the Town's finance and collection group to help reinvigorate this very important program.
- **Water/Sewer Division** Within the past year, the management team within the Water/Sewer Division has been completely reconstituted with the hiring of [Jeff Murawski](#), Superintendent, re-instatement of [Melissa Simoncini](#), as Senior Environmental and Regulatory, and the most recent introduction of Giovanni Caceres, as Public Works Engineer - Water/Systems.
- To better accommodate and optimize staffing work-station needs within the already cramped CPW campus located on the Keyes Road, the Highway & Grounds management and administrative team has been relocated to the first floor within 133 Keyes Road. The Directors office has been relocated to 135 Keyes Road.

### Construction update

- **Commonwealth Avenue Construction** – National Grid started work on gas service lines to businesses. No significant impacts to traffic or business access have been observed. Upon completion of National Grid's work, road reconstruction by the Town's contractor, Newport is scheduled to begin in mid-September. CMLP has identified an underground concrete vault located at the edge of the street and partially under the sidewalk that has deteriorated and is now planned for replacement.
- **Stow Street Parking Lot Reconstruction** – The Town's contractor, Newport, has scheduled the pavement reclamation and the paving of the asphalt binder layer on August 22 -24. This schedule works for the Library Director and the Umbrella Arts Center.
- **Walden Street Paving** – National Grid completed the final paving of the south bound lane within which the gas line was upsized.
- **BFRT Crossing Lights at Old Marlborough Rd** – The flashing beacons at this crossing continue to malfunction. CPW's contractor for traffic signal maintenance is in the process of replacing the controlling equipment. The equipment does have a long lead time for the order.

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## Broadband and Information Technology

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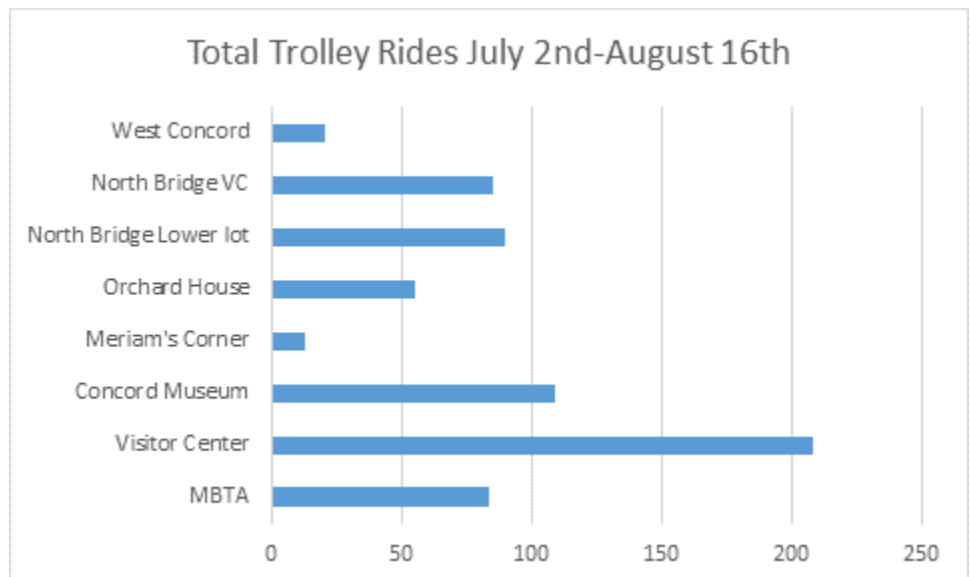
Please find the broadband report [here](#).

### Economic Vitality & Tourism

- **Special Offer for Concord Teachers:** The Concord Visitor Center has begun offering complimentary 1:00 pm tours to all Concord Teachers (public and private) with a valid School ID. Outreach has been made and extremely well-received by CPS and Concord Academy to date. No reservations will be needed. This program is designed for both new and returning educators to give them a sense of the wonderful community where they teach.
- **Our Newest Tour,** *Concord's Autumn Twilight* premieres in September <https://visitconcord.org/visit/walking-tours/concord-autumn-twilight-monuments-memories-mortality/> and is a very exciting new tour written by our newest guide, Joe Palumbo
- **Visitor Center Celebrates!** On September 15 at 12:30 pm the Town of Concord and Economic Vitality & Tourism will host a mini-Celebration for the 20th anniversary of the Concord Visitor Center (in its current building & location). There will be a ribbon cutting, comments by the Concord Business Partnership and Concord Chamber and CAKE! This date coincides with the Town's birthday on September 12 so we will also be offering complimentary 1:00 pm tours Monday-Sunday September 12-18 to all Concord residents, with proof of residency (subject to tour capacity).

### Planning

- **Trolley Update:** The Concord Trolley is seeing a steady passenger count with numbers in the double digits every day for the past week. The number of passengers being picked up and dropped off at the MBTA Commuter Rail station shows that this service is not only being used by people who drove to Concord to enhance their visitor experience but is becoming a reliable way to travel to Concord in a more sustainable way reducing emissions and traffic impacts. Below is a graph showing the number of passengers getting off at each of the Trolley stops over the past month and a half.



- **West Concord Advisory Committee meeting of August 17<sup>th</sup>:** The WCAC welcomed two new members to the Committee then discussed a wide range of issues and updates on activities and projects in West Concord. Director [Marcia Rasmussen](#) provided updates on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail 2B construction, Gerow Park construction, Assabet River bridge and trail design, the CPW-led Commonwealth Ave. construction project (see the CPW-Engineering website for more information), and 13B Commonwealth Ave. construction delays. WCAC member Ann Sussman presented information about the West Concord Junction Cultural District signage program and will work with Ms. Rasmussen to prepare a memo, map

and presentation for the West Concord Junction Cultural District and eventually the Select Board for their authorization to install the four cultural district signs received from MCC.

### **Building Inspections**

- **Permits Issued:** Since August 4<sup>th</sup>, the Building Inspections staff have issued 51 building permits, 31 electrical permits, 16 plumbing permits and 7 gas permits.
- **Inspections Conducted:** BI staff have also conducted 72 building inspections, 42 plumbing inspections, 42 electrical inspections.
- **Interviews for Local Inspector position continue:** Acting Building Commissioner [Paul Creedon](#) and two other town staff have interviewed 5 candidates this week for the local inspector position, with one more interview scheduled for tomorrow. All candidates are either certified local building inspectors or certified building commissioners.

### **Natural Resources**

- **Assabet River Bluff:** Land acquisition successfully completed! A celebration with project partners is being planned for September.

### **Health**

- **Preparing for “Climate Preparedness Week”:** Health staff met in collaboration with Library staff, Fire Chief, Regional Nurse, and Regional Epidemiologist to prepare for Climate Preparedness week, which will be Sept. 24-30 and hosted by the Concord Public Library. Topics discussed included tick education and emergency preparedness presentations.
- Attended the Lincoln Board of Health Meeting
- **Housing complaints** continue at three locations in Concord and one location in Lincoln with follow-up and coordination with other Town agencies and resources.
- **White Pond has been taken off advisory.** White Pond is now “green” and open to all due to a shift last week in the composition of the cyanobacterial population in the bloom forming cyanobacteria (BFC) from *Microcystis* to *Dolichospermum*. This week’s samples continue to show that *Dolichospermum* comprises approximately 95-100% of the bloom forming cyanobacteria, which is much less likely to produce toxins. The cyanobacteria density has also decreased, making bloom conditions much less likely. For these reasons, the Swim at Your Own Risk and Pet Advisories have been rescinded.
- **Planning for fall Flu Clinics:** Health Staff worked with the West Concord Pharmacy to set up tentative Flu Clinic dates for the Council on Aging and Concord Employees. Dates and times should be announced by Sept. 1.
- Work continues on food inspections, permitting and inspection of onsite wastewater.

**COVID case counts for past three weeks:**

**Confirmed and probable COVID Cases July 29-August 4, 2022**

*Source: Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN)*

	<18 years	>18 years	Total
Lincoln	1	2	3
Carlisle	0	0	0
Concord	1	11	12

**Confirmed and probable COVID Cases August 5-August 11, 2022**

*Source: Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN)*

	<18 years	>18 years	Total
Lincoln	1	7	8
Carlisle	0	3	3
Concord	1	10	11

**Confirmed and probable COVID Cases August 12-August 18, 2022**

*Source: Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN)*

	<18 years	>18 years	Total
Lincoln	1	2	3
Carlisle	0	1	1
Concord	3	8	11