



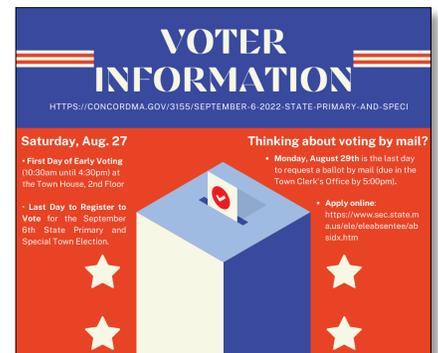
# TOWN OF CONCORD

Office of the Town Manager

## Operational Status Reports & Departmental Updates

For the Week Ending August 26, 2022

- TMO staff attended a webinar by the National League of Cities on preparing grant applications for federal dollars under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act. This is a substantial grant training program devoted to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act. Town staff are busy learning more about the federal application requirements and reporting and compliance requirements.
- Concord was mentioned in the Boston Globe as one of ten possible communities eligible to participate in the Department of Energy Resources Fossil Fuel Ban “demonstration project.” <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/08/14/science/ten-cities-towns-are-poised-ban-fossil-fuels-new-buildings/?p1=BGSearch Overlay Results> The Town Manager has issued a request letter to the Commissioner of the Department of Energy Resources to obtain an application to participate in the “demonstration project.”
- TMO Staff are working with various committee volunteers to prepare a MA Department of Environmental Protection Technical Assistant Grant application submission for the 2229 Main Street site regarding environmental remediation.
- The Clerk’s Office and Elections team have been preparing for the September 6 State Primary and Special Town Election. Early voting will start on Saturday, August 27, 2022 at the Town House, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. More information can be found [here](#).



## Public Safety

### Police Department

#### Activity Log Aug 18 – Aug 24

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Log items           | 864 |
| Traffic Enforcement | 69  |
| Motor Vehicle Stops | 132 |
| Arrests             | 1   |

- The schools will be opening next week, and the Police Department reminds people to drive carefully and expect increased pedestrian and bicycle activity before and after school hours. Extra patrols will be added for traffic enforcement near schools and along bus routes. Anyone with safety concerns can contact the department’s Safety Officer Ron Holsinger at [rholsinger@concordma.gov](mailto:rholsinger@concordma.gov) or 978-318-3445. 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.

- On August 21 a dog went missing from a yard on Border Road and it is presumed it may have been taken by a coyote. The Police Department recognizes that many residents want to let their dogs run freely but we are sharing the following from Mass Wildlife; “Although free roaming pets are more likely to be killed by automobiles than by wild animals, coyotes do view cats and small dogs as potential food, and larger dogs as competition. For the safety of your pets, keep them leashed at all times. Additionally, feed your pets indoors. Outdoor feeding can attract many wild animals.” More information regarding coyotes can be located by using the [following link](#).

### Fire Department

- Calls for service:** The fire department responded to 94 calls for service during the week. Engine 5 responded with a District Brush Fire Strike Team to the City of Marlborough on 8/19/22. This fire is one of several large fires occurring at the same time around the state.
- Training:** Fire Prevention Inspector, Lt. Dave Nichols arranged for the department to host a training session about the hazards of firefighting around solar equipment and energy storage systems. The speaker was provided by the solar equipment manufacturer, Enphase. The training was well attended with staff from the Building Department, CMLP, and area fire departments.

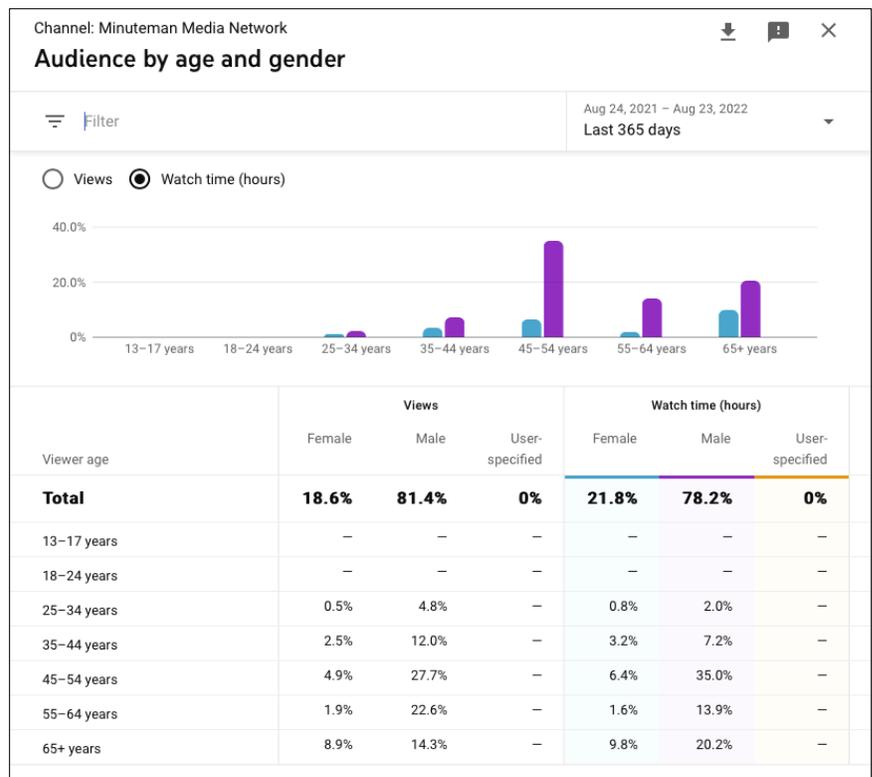
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## Minuteman Media Network

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- Training on the new equipment continues by Matt, Tory, and Mark. The new Sony cameras are a game changer for the creative part of our productions. Being able to film in low light (think candlelight vigils) will enable other high-quality town promotions and paid commercial work. The team is very excited to have these high-quality cameras.
- Working on the replacement equipment for Carlisle Town Hall meeting room. Mark as a meeting with the new Carlisle Town Administrator, Ryan McLane, next week to go over the plan.
- MMN YouTube Channel is at 910 subscribers (+8 in the last 28 days). We should do something special when we break 1k!

- Interesting metrics from YouTube:
  - The largest age group of our viewers is 45-54 years old, with 55 – 64 coming in second.
  - Over the last 365 days the top 25 watched videos, 8 were of public interest, 7 were school committee meetings, 6 were school events and 4 were town committee meeting.





Channel

Minuteman Media Network

COMPARE TO...

Videos

Aug 24, 2021 - Aug 23, 2022

Last 365 days

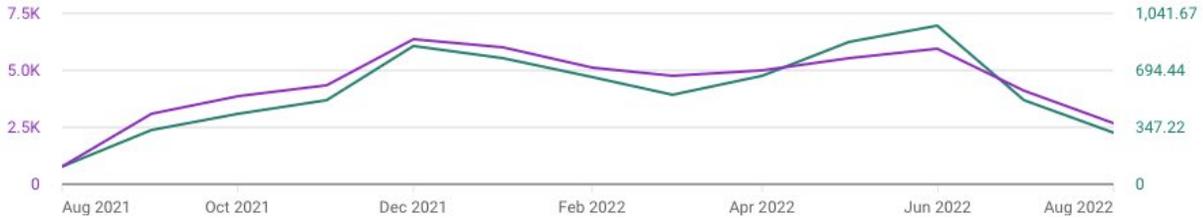
Content Traffic source Geography Cities Viewer age Viewer gender More

Views by: Content

Watch time (hours) by: Content

Line chart

Monthly



| Content                                  | Views ↓       | Average view duration | Watch time (hours) |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>57,634</b> | <b>7:49</b>           | <b>7,517.5</b>     |
| Concord COA Presents - The Majest...     | 8,200 14.2%   | 15:45                 | 2,154.3 28.7%      |
| Carlisle Board of Selectmen Septem...    | 1,384 2.4%    | 1:26                  | 33.3 0.4%          |
| Concord Carlisle Joint School Com...     | 1,116 1.9%    | 2:28                  | 46.0 0.6%          |
| A community reading of Frederick D...    | 982 1.7%      | 1:02                  | 16.9 0.2%          |
| League of Women Voters Concord C...      | 951 1.7%      | 8:35                  | 136.2 1.8%         |
| Concord Middle School Building Co...     | 902 1.6%      | 2:49                  | 42.4 0.6%          |
| Concord-Carlisle Joint School Com...     | 889 1.5%      | 0:42                  | 10.6 0.1%          |
| Concord Zoning Board of Appeals - ...    | 760 1.3%      | 0:47                  | 10.0 0.1%          |
| Concord-Carlisle High School Choru...    | 711 1.2%      | 3:08                  | 37.1 0.5%          |
| LWVCC 1st Friday Concord ATM War...      | 645 1.1%      | 16:53                 | 181.5 2.4%         |
| Concord-Carlisle High School Fall Ch...  | 572 1.0%      | 5:32                  | 52.9 0.7%          |
| Reading of Paul Revere's Ride April 1... | 502 0.9%      | 1:29                  | 12.5 0.2%          |
| Concord-Carlisle High School Gradu...    | 495 0.9%      | 5:45                  | 47.6 0.6%          |
| CCHS Boys Varsity Lacrosse CHAM...       | 486 0.8%      | 11:04                 | 89.7 1.2%          |
| Concord-Carlisle Joint School Com...     | 466 0.8%      | 10:39                 | 82.8 1.1%          |
| Concord-Carlisle Joint School and C...   | 463 0.8%      | 10:34                 | 81.6 1.1%          |
| Concord-Carlisle High School Choru...    | 442 0.8%      | 1:41                  | 12.4 0.2%          |
| Honor Your Hometown - Concord M...       | 432 0.8%      | 1:00                  | 7.3 0.1%           |
| Concord School Committee - 2019-0...     | 427 0.7%      | 1:51                  | 13.2 0.2%          |
| Concord Carlisle High School Gradu...    | 362 0.6%      | 3:12                  | 19.3 0.3%          |
| Concord Carlisle Joint School Com...     | 357 0.6%      | 13:49                 | 82.3 1.1%          |
| West Concord Open Doors                  | 343 0.6%      | 2:39                  | 15.2 0.2%          |
| Concord-Carlisle Joint School Com...     | 342 0.6%      | 4:55                  | 28.1 0.4%          |
| Updates In Lyme Disease March 2017       | 335 0.6%      | 14:11                 | 79.2 1.1%          |
| Concord-Carlisle High School - Pris...   | 320 0.6%      | 2:45                  | 14.7 0.2%          |

**Commonwealth Avenue Construction** – National Grid completed work on the gas service lines to businesses. The schedule for tying over the gas main to the side streets has not been finalized. Work on providing water and sewer connections for a future development at 13B Com Avenue was completed during the night of Wednesday 8/25. CMLP is scheduling the replacement of an underground concrete vault and the remaining street lights. Road reconstruction by the Town’s contractor, Newport is scheduled to begin in mid-September.

**Stow Street Parking Lot Reconstruction** – The contractor, Newport has performed the pavement reclamation and the paving of the asphalt binder layer. Work will continue on the construction of curbing, handicap access ramps and walkways.

**Hubbard Street Reconstruction** – The sidewalks and road are being prepared for final paving in the week of 8/28/2022.

**BFRT Crossing Lights at Old Marlborough Rd** – CPW’s contractor for traffic signal maintenance continues to troubleshoot the operational issues of the malfunctioning of the flashing beacons. They have indicated that tree growth and cover may be impacting the operations of the system.

**Soccer Field Preparation:** CPW has started prepping the grass turf athletic fields for fall sports use. Highway & Grounds staff work closely with Concord Recreation staff and Concord-Carlisle Youth Soccer volunteers to coordinate field use. CPW staff have started marking soccer fields and installing soccer goals on the fields for use by the youth sports organizations. CPW will continue to paint fields weekly throughout the fall sports season.

**Drought and Water Supply Management Update:** With the risk of wildland fires increasing due to below average precipitation across the state, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Beth Card has recently reaffirmed that “Massachusetts continues to experience drought conditions in all regions of the state, which is not only depleting public water supplies, but is also elevating the risk of wildland fires,” “It is critical that we all practice water conservation methods and adhere to local requirements to decrease the stress on our water systems and ensure essential needs, such as drinking water, habitats and fire suppression, are being met.” Concord Water is pleased to report that local and regional conservation messaging has resulted in a noted reduction in seasonal water demand.

|                              | Seasonal Water Demand Management Plan                             |   |   | Emergency Response Plan  |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
|                              | Seasonal Water Conservation Advisory                              | Lawn Watering Restriction   | Lawn Watering Ban   |  |
|                              | Best Management Practices   | State of Water Supply Conservation<br>Enacted by the Public Works Commission  |   | Water Supply Emergency   |
|                              |   | Statewide Restrictions by Use ID  |   | Water Supply Emergency declared by the Department of Environmental Protection under MGL Chapter 263B § 12A |
| Outdoor Water Use Activities | Lawn & Turf Watering  | Restrictive **<br>1 Day per Week<br>1 Day per Week<br>Water Before 10AM or After 5PM<br>https://www.concordma.gov/2022/08/22/water-conservation-tips/   | Restrictive **<br>1 Day per Week<br>Water Before 10AM or After 5PM<br>https://www.concordma.gov/2022/08/22/water-conservation-tips/ | Prohibited **  |
|                              | In-ground Irrigation Systems & Sprinklers                         | Restrictive **  | Prohibited **   | Prohibited **  |
|                              | Lawn & Turf Watering Hand Held Watering & Drip Irrigation Systems | OK  | Restrictive **<br>Water Before 10AM or After 5PM<br>Handheld watering only<br>with an automatic shut-off device                     | Prohibited **  |
|                              | Flower Beds, Shrubs, Trees & Veg. Gardens                         | OK  | OK  | Prohibited **  |
|                              | Private Residential Swimming Pools                                | OK<br>Filling or Topping off  | Restrictive **<br>Topping Off Only  | Prohibited **<br>No Filling or Topping off   |
|                              | Washing Vehicle/Boat at home                                      | OK<br>Washing Vehicle/Boat at home with an automatic shut-off hose or bucket  | Restrictive **<br>Washing Vehicles at home with an automatic shut-off hose or bucket  | Prohibited **<br>Bring to Commercial Car Wash  |
|                              | Ornamental Fountains  | OK  | Restrictive **<br>Restricting Water Only  | Prohibited **  |
| Pressure Washing             | OK  | Restrictive **<br>Prohibit spraying. Spray nozzles should not be used. Use 1.5 gallons per minute.<br>Note: The number of gallons of clean, filtered, chlorine-free water is not included in the calculation of water conservation. | Prohibited **   |  |

\* Encouraged where allowed by qualified landscape specialists. \*\* Enforcement activities \$35 - 1st offense, \$100 - subsequent offenses

Rev 4/15/17

Department of Planning and Land Management

**Economic Vitality & Tourism**

- **Visitor Center planning a celebration:** This week the EVT Manager, with the help of the Public Information Officer, sent out a press release announcing the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Concord Visitor Center

at its current location and the offer of free tours to all Concord Residents during the week of September 12<sup>th</sup>. Living Concord has already picked up this event and is promoting it.

- **International Travel update:** EVT Administrative Assistant Cindy Keene attended a webinar on International Travelers and reported that sales for NE travel are exceeding 2019 levels, that residents from over 107 different countries are booking New England experiences, and the top international markets are Canada, UK, Germany, Ireland, and Australia. Unlike domestic travelers, international travelers tend to stay longer, do off-peak travel, and cancel less frequently.

## Planning

- **Planning Board meeting of August 23<sup>rd</sup>:** The Planning Board reviewed and updated its designated tasks identified in the Envision Concord Action Items Implementation Chart, which will be sent to the Town Manager, Select Board and other boards and committees next week. The Board also authorized the lot release of Lot 3, 41 McCallar Lane from the Restrictive Covenant.
- **3 Housing Issues:** 1) The Planning Division has re-issued a Request for Proposals seeking an additional Senior Housing Consultant staff person for the Regional Housing Services Office; proposals are due September 27<sup>th</sup>. 2) The Housing Roundtable – a meeting coordinated with the Concord Housing Authority, Concord Housing Development Corporation, Concord Municipal Housing Trust, and Concord Housing Foundation – is scheduled for Tuesday evening, August 30<sup>th</sup>; the agenda includes a discussion of proposed goals and strategies for the Housing Production Plan, an update on current housing projects for each group and discussion of possible applications to the Community Preservation Committee due September 16<sup>th</sup>. 3) The 2nd public forum on the Housing Production Plan is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 2022; pre-registration is required.

Let us know that you are coming! Use this QR code or follow the link below to register for free:



<https://tinyurl.com/ConcordHPPForum2>

## Health

- **White Pond Update:** Phycocyanin (a measure of cyanobacterial biomass) measured at the Town Beach, Deep 2 and Thoreau Cove sites was similar to, or slightly less than, what was observed last week. Overall the cyanobacterial biomass is decreasing in the Pond. It is very likely that the density of *Dolichospermum* cells has decreased compared to earlier weeks in the summer and it is unlikely that bloom conditions will emerge at this time. We are going to move to a bi-weekly testing schedule and will communicate out bi-weekly as well. If anyone observes any other changes in the pond, please let us know through the report a bloom.
- **COVID updates:** Concord's Public Health Nurse reports there have been updates to the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/p0811-covid-guidance.html>) and MDPH guidance when exposed to COVID positive individuals or when you test positive for COVID:
  - If you were exposed to a COVID-positive case, you should mask around others for 10 days.
  - Test on day **6**. THIS IS NEW!
  - If you have an exposure to COVID, develop symptoms of illness and have tested negative on home antigen tests, PLEASE obtain a more sensitive PCR. <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test>
  - Studies have shown that the BA.5 variant **may** not be "picked up well" on antigen tests.

- If you are in an office setting where there have been a couple of exposures to positive cases, people are highly encouraged to mask up to protect themselves. You can get 3 rounds of free tests from the government and the latest shipments contain 8 tests per household. Order here: <https://www.covid.gov/tests>
- Unfortunately, recent COVID infections and up-to-date vaccination status have no bearing on the close contact guidance anymore.