

Concord Council on Aging  
**HIGH SPIRITS**  
Mid-Month Notes from Your COA

January 2023

Volume 4 No. 1

January is the Monday of the months! Some individuals love January because they welcome the lull that follows the hectic holiday season. Others dislike the effort it takes to begin again or to get back to routine. January comes around every year like a train on schedule—whether it makes us want to sigh with relief or get revved up for a fresh start, we'd better get on board before it leaves the station. Speaking of revved up below are some pictures from our Dec. 30 New Year's Party!



**Passport Club - A Live Virtual Travel Experience! On Zoom at the COA Wednesday, January 25th at 10:30 AM. Galway, Ireland - the City of Tribes.**

Galway City is the Ireland most tourists think of. It's modern yet Galway retains a distinct character. Come stroll around Ireland's Western capital starting at Lynch's Castle, cover the city's rich history from ancient times, its cultural and architectural links with Spain, and you'll learn a little Gaelic, too! This is a live, hour-long, on-location walking tour with a professional guide. The tour takes place on Zoom and is projected onto a large screen at the COA. Thanks to the funds generated by the Harvey's Treasure Chest Gift Shop, this program is offered at no charge. Call 978-318-3020 to book your seat!

### TV Corner Celestial Side

Forget TV - the best shows are up above!

**Jan. 23** Mercury will be at its morning peak. You should be able to see it just above the southwestern horizon.

**Jan. 28** Lunar occultation of Uranus - the Moon and Uranus become "besties" when they are closest together.

**Feb. 5** Snow 'Micro' Moon.

**Feb. 20** Super New Moon.



## Your Top 3 Ways to Keep Your Windshield Clean So You Can See!

**3. You must restore the hot/cold balance.** If your car has been in the cold, the outside surface of the windshield and windows is colder than the inside of the car, and the difference is more pronounced as soon as you get in and start breathing. The warmer air inside will start to condense on the windshield, and the hot/cold battle commences. Don't wipe the windshield with your hand! Whatever condensation you remove will be replaced immediately by your huffing and puffing. Instead, do this:

**2. To reduce condensation:** Let the engine warm a little, so it can help your heater do its job better. (outside, not in a closed garage, of course.) Turn on the heat with the vents directed toward the windshield and windows. If you have a defroster setting – use the button with the three squiggly lines. Some vehicles have defrosters for both front and back windshields. If you have a button with a U-shaped arrow, make sure it's not on. Otherwise, you're just recirculating the moist air inside that wants to condense.

**1. Next summer,** the outside surface of your windshield will be warmer than the inside, so the condensation will be on the outside and you can use your wipers to clear it. Further, you can turn down the A/C and open the windows which will also get rid of condensation faster in summer.

### A few prevention tips:

Keep your windshield and windows clean, inside, and out. This prevents **nucleation** – water molecules adhering to particles of dirt. A microfiber cloth works well for buffing.

Apply a product such as Rain-X, to provide a thin, transparent film on the outside of your windshield. It helps prevent condensation, and makes rain bead up so it isn't fighting with your wipers for primacy.

To keep moisture down inside your vehicle, consider a silica dehumidifier to keep in your car. They're about \$20. Or you can make your own dehumidifier by filling an old pair of tights with cat litter.

## Tech Corner

On Wednesday Microsoft announced 10,000 employees will be laid off. While last year's labor market was strong, the tech industry was an exception. After a massive hiring spree in the first two years of the pandemic, industry giants like Amazon and Meta (Facebook) reversed course in 2022. There were at least 154,000 layoffs from more than 1,000 tech companies last year. Tallies have continued at a fast clip in 2023, with more than 26,000 layoffs recorded so far this year. The U.S. tech companies that trimmed the most jobs last year include:

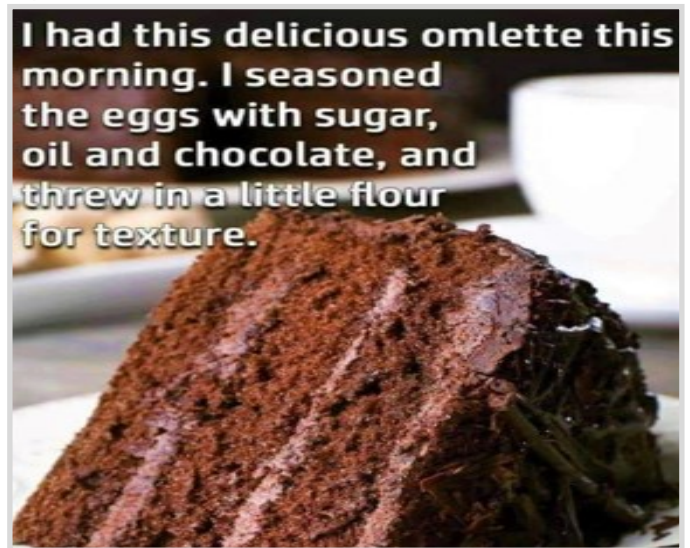
Meta	11,000	Amazon	10,000
Cisco	4,100	Carvana	4,000
Twitter	3,700		

Job openings for tech jobs dropped 30% from Jan. – Dec. 2022. Pandemic lockdowns still had a major effect on consumer spending. Experiences like travel or restaurants were largely off the table, so people began to shift their discretionary spending to products from tech companies like Amazon and Peloton. But quickly consumers started reverting to their pre-pandemic spending patterns and what's happening now is a sort of renormalization. Higher interest rates also play a role in layoffs.

**Isn't it nice to be retired?!**



## Comedy Corner



To unsubscribe, please email Vikki at [vjacobson@concordma.gov](mailto:vjacobson@concordma.gov) or call 978 318 3023  
 Concord COA - 1276 Main St. - Concord, MA 01742