



TOWN OF CONCORD

Office of the Town Manager

Operational Status Reports & Departmental Updates

For the Week Ending March 3, 2023

General Administration

DHCD Family Shelter Update

On Friday, March 3, a second meeting was held with DHCD representatives regarding the family shelter. In addition to Town staff and Dr. Hunter and Representative Cataldo were also in attendance. Going forward, weekly meetings are scheduled with DHCD as needed.

Timeline

DHCD provided a timeline with the expected transition from Devens to the Best Western as follows:

March 8	Confirm the number of school aged children at Devens and share information with the Concord superintendent and DHCD
March 9-10	No new placements at Devens
March 13-April 10	Place up to 25 families in long term shelter rooms
March 14	Place up to 5 families (total) in 5-day transfer rooms
March 15	Place up to 10 families (total) in 5-day transfer rooms
March 16-April 10	Place up to 25 families maximum in 5-day transfer
April 10	Reassess BW site and shelter provider's needs
After April 10	Increase BW to 30 families in each category

Outstanding issues

- Building Code: the facility was built to R-1 standards under the International Building Code (IBC). R-1 is the standard for transient housing for stays of up to 30 days. Transient housing occupied for more than 30 days must meet R-2 requirements. In order for the Best Western to be used as an emergency shelter for stays exceeding 30 days, it must meet R-2 requirements. The Building Commissioner has required a code review before a Certificate of Occupancy for R-2 use can be granted. Under certain circumstances, the Building Commissioner may grant a temporary Certificate of Occupancy.
- MOC (Making Opportunities Count) continues to negotiate with the DHCD on the service provider contract. Once the contract is in place, there will be an onsite contact provided to the town.

CMS Solar Project

Last week, the Light Board hosted a forum on the CMS Solar project, which was well attended, both in person and online. In short, the project will be a combined (rooftop/ canopy) approx. 1.3MW array with battery storage. The estimated cost to ratepayers is approximately \$1.05 - \$2.10 per month (average residential) depending upon total credits.



More information here: <https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40893/MS-Solar--Storage-financial-model-Revision-20>

And here: <https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40378/2022-1005-Concord-Middle-School-Solar---60-Percent-Draft-Design>

Police Department

Activity Log February 23 – March 1, 2023

Log items	744
Traffic Enforcement	67
Motor Vehicle Stops	116
MV Crashes and/or Paper Exchanges	5
Arrests	0

Community

- Det. Harrington and Det Rodriguez went to all banks in town and advised branch managers to be aware of grandparent scams.

Training/Professional Development

- LT Monahan attended Managing Background Investigations and operation of the evidence room training.
- Det. Harrington attended Firearms Dealer Inspection training.

Personnel News

- Dispatcher Brandon Burns was released from training.

Natural Resources

- **Warner's Pond Community Meeting on March 2nd:** Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye is preparing for a community meeting on Thursday night where Concord residents have been invited to learn about and provide feedback on Warner's Pond restoration alternatives that will restore the ecological health and recreational opportunities at the pond.

Economic Vitality & Tourism

- Concord Tour Guide Amy Cole is featured on the PBS documentary series, *The World's Greatest Cemeteries*. Watch the link free till April 18 at: <https://www.worldsgreatestcemeteries.com/season-23>. This project was filmed in the fall of 2022 and features many of Concord's cultural and historical locations.
- Concord's food history will be featured in the Spring and Summer issues of *Food and Travel Magazine*, a national publication serving an upscale travel audience. Image of the first spread is shown, right, and there will also be a 2-page editorial in each issue.
- There are 8 remaining Concord History with a Chocolate Twist tours and 4 are fully sold out with a few slots available in the remaining four. Daily tours return on April 1st and there are April and May dates already filling up.



Planning

- **Community Preservation Committee at the March 1st Finance Committee hearing:** CPC Chair Diane Proctor presented this year's projects recommended for Community Preservation funds at the Wednesday Finance Committee hearing. Director Marcia Rasmussen and Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye attended the hearing to provide additional information regarding projects submitted by the Department of Planning & Land Management.
- **Central Transportation Planning Staff to work with Concord:** Senior Planner Erin Stevens met with the team from CTPS to do an initial site visit at the Route 2 crossings at ORNAC and Main Street. This kicks off the study of potential short term safety solutions to assist vulnerable users such as pedestrians and bicyclists safely cross over Route 2 at this intersection. Community outreach will likely begin in the next several weeks as well as vehicle and pedestrian counts.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a transportation consultant for the Comprehensive Transportation Study has been issued. The selected consultant will help the Town examine the current transportation networks, connectivity, and the ability to expand multi-modal opportunities. Proposals are due at the end of March.

Building Inspections

- **Permit and Inspection updates:** Since February 15, the Building Inspections Division issued 48 building permits, 34 electrical permits, 13 plumbing permits, 15 gas permits. The Building

Inspections staff also completed 45 building inspections, 61 electrical inspections, and 20 plumbing and gas inspections.

- **Water damage at Papa Razzi:** On Sunday February 26, at 7:30am, the Concord Fire Department contacted Building Commissioner Paul Creedon to inform him that a sprinkler pipe had burst overnight at Papa Razzi restaurant, 768 Elm Street. When he arrived on the scene at 9am with the Electrical Inspector, they found that the kitchen area had sustained heavy water damage and the basement had approximately 3 inches of water. Papa Razzi staff and contractors worked continuously over the next few days to clean up and repair damage. The restaurant reopened Wednesday for lunch.

Health

- **White Pond Task Force meeting of March 1st:** Public Health Director Melanie Dineen attended the WPTF meeting on Wednesday night to hear guest speakers Jon Higgins and Nancy Leland discuss APOD data summary and a water quality summary from their respective work done in the summer of 2022.

Recreation Program

- The next Recreation Commission meeting will be on 4/4/23 at 7:00P at the Beede Swim and Fitness Center.
- Upcoming Recreation Events:
 - 3/10/23 [Symphony Swim](#) @ Beede
 - 3/11/23 [Shamrock Ball](#)
 - 4/1/23 [Underwater Egg Hunt](#) @ Beede
 - 4/7/23 [Egg Hunt](#)
 - 5/6/23 [Mermaid Swim](#) @ Beede
- The Department hosted a great Winter Wonderland Event in February attracting around 500 participants for a day of carriage rides, indoor fun and a campfire!



Winter Festival snow globe

- The Recreation Department will be transitioning to registration dates residents and non-residents. piloted this change with our spring pickleball program and it was well received by all. We plan to roll this



Horse and Carriage Ride

- change out for all programs starting this fall.
- Our team continually strives to educate ourselves on ways to open and inclusive to any and all participants.

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- To assure we have the tools to effectively communicate with participants with disabilities in our programs, the Department has purchased Boardmaker software. Boardmaker is a complete special education cloud-based platform that supports education, communication, access, and social and emotional learning tools. This software can benefit our work in a variety of ways and will prove to be a great asset as we work to assure our classes, events and programs are accessible. Our team will be getting trained on this software in the coming weeks.
- Over 30 Recreation staff attended *All the Letters: Understanding LGBTQIA+ Identities & Experiences* with Robyn Ochs, hosted by CPS. Robyn Ochs has been an advocate for and a member of the LGBTQIA+ community her entire life and has been among the founding members of several social justice groups over her career as an activist and an academic.
- A big thank you to the Alcott School students for the hard work they put into their annual Turkey Trot. The students walked laps around Emerson Park Track earning donations with each lap they made. In total, the students donated \$1,181 to support Concord Recreation scholarships.
- Beede hosted a Kid's Night Out on 2/18/2023. Twenty-three participants enjoyed 4-hours of swimming, arts & crafts, a movie, and dinner while their guardians enjoyed a night out. This is the start of series of events that Beede will offer for members and their children.
- Memberships for Summer White Pond, Emerson, and Triple Play are open for registration. However, priority sign-up was given to 2022 pass holders. Current 2023 summer options include individual, and couple passes for all three memberships.
- The Beede Center is partnering with Emerson Hospital to offer free one-day passes for cardiac patients with a doctor's recommendation to increase their fitness routine. Emerson staff will hand out passes to patients as part of their care.
- 40+ Beede members participated in a FREE Blood Pressure Screening offered by Emerson Hospital 2/10/23 for heart healthy month.
- For the first time ever, Beede Center memberships can be [purchased online](#) without needing to contact Beede customer service staff! This new option went live on 3/1/23.
- The Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan will host it's first **public meeting on 3/8/23 at the Hunt Recreation Center from 5:00P-7:30**. Childcare will be available for those that need it to assure residents can participate in the conversation. To learn more about the event and project, please visit our website by [clicking this link](#). We ask all users of Concord Recreation facilities to participate in the conversation by taking our brief, online survey which can be found [here](#).



Employee of the Month

The February employee of the month is DJ Fimiani

Location

Hunt Recreation Center

Position Title

Recreation Supervisor

Time with Concord

2 years

Programs

Youth and Adult Sports, White Pond Beach operation



If you've worked with DJ, you know that he is a levelheaded, hardworking, team player that always keeps his cool. DJ's professional flexibility continues to shine as he steps up to help team members in times of need while also committing the time and energy necessary to assure his own programs run smoothly. During most winter weekends, you will find DJ in Concord supporting the Department's youth basketball pro-grams and in the summer months, you will find him checking in on his weekend guard team at White Pond Beach. DJ has been a full-time member of the Recreation team for over two years now but it feels like he has been a member of our recreation family forever. His kindness and calmness are attributes that strengthen (and ground) our entire team and we look forward to all the great things he will do for the Concord community in the years ahead. Congratulations, DJ!

Minuteman Media Network

Public Hearings

MMN has had a very busy week covering the public forums leading up to Annual Town Meeting. MMN will be/have covered public forums in the Hearing Room at the town house, every night except Friday this week. MMN is looking for feedback on the sound quality of the hearing room. Complaints are down which is a move in the right direction.

Events

- 1) Once again, MMN will be assisting other PEG access studios, with recording the Concord Band at 51 Walden. MMN has a long history of recording these musical events. We will be providing cameras and related equipment for student videographers, while another town provides a video switcher/recorder, and another town provides the live video equipment, and another oversees the audio. Matt, Tory and Arkadiy will be assisting.
- 2) On Sunday the townhouse will be the location for a Candidate Forum for Concord's town election, sponsored by the League of Women Voters Concord Carlisle. MMN will be there providing support to live stream and record.

Concord Municipal Light Plant

- An article describing CMLP's [heating/cooling coaching service](#) was featured on the American Public Power Association's (APPA's) [website](#), and published in APPA's e-newsletter, Public Power Current, on February 14, 2022. CMLP received a grant from the APPA to pilot the service in 2021 and 2022. CMLP's trained heating/cooling coaches help homeowners figure out if heat pumps are the right heating and cooling solution for them. If so, the coaches help CMLP's customers navigate the process of getting a heat pump installed, and help them get the substantial [rebates](#) and tax credits on offer, both for heat pumps and for weatherization improvements such as insulation. Heat pumps can improve indoor comfort and may reduce heating and cooling costs while reducing household carbon emissions.
- The annual number of heat pumps installed in Concord homes went up from 71 in 2021 to 178 in 2022, an increase of 151%. The percentage of heat pump adopters taking advantage of the [coaching service](#) is growing too, from 35% in 2021 to 61% in 2022.