



# TOWN OF CONCORD

*Office of the Town Manager*

## Operational Status Reports & Departmental Updates

*For the Week Ending March 10, 2023*

### General Administration

#### DHCD Family Shelter Update

- Families will begin arriving for medium and long-term stays at the Best Western on Monday, March 13th. Most of the school-aged children who will be staying at the Best Western will be transported to their home school districts outside of Concord for the duration of their stay. A minority of the students will be enrolled at Concord schools. The school district is coordinating with the on-site service provider to ensure that every student's educational needs are met as quickly as possible.
- Some of the rooms at the Best Western will be used for transitional stays of a maximum of 5 days. School-aged children in this group will not be enrolled in Concord schools or transported to their home districts.
- The health director is working with the on-site service organization MOC to understand how food will be provided to the family shelter residents and work with the Best Western and the caterer to resolve any issues related to health code pertaining to food service.

#### Class and Compensation Study

Since September, GovHR (consultants hired by the Town) have been conducting a comprehensive review of 185 non-union positions. This study will result in a proposed new classification and compensation plan for Personnel Board and Town Meeting consideration. An initial draft plan was presented to employees in February for feedback. GovHR has been evaluating feedback received updating the proposal.

On Wednesday, GovHR provided the Personnel Board with an overview of the process and preliminary recommendations. This week, a new link on the Personnel Board's webpage will be added so citizens and employees can find project materials in a centralized location. The new page will provide information about the project, including presentation materials and backup documents used throughout the project schedule. GovHR's final report will be presented to the Personnel Board at its next meeting on March 22nd. The Board will then consider what to recommend to Town Meeting relative to [Articles 5 and 6 of the Warrant](#). On March 27th, the Personnel Board will present its recommendations on Articles 5 and 6 at a continued Public Hearing. Ultimately, Town Meeting action will vote whether to adopt a new plan for FY24. For more information, please visit: [www.concordma.gov/personnelboard](http://www.concordma.gov/personnelboard)

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## Police Department

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### Activity Log March 2, 2023 – March 08, 2023

Log items	679
Traffic Enforcement	65
Motor Vehicle Stops	91
MV Crashes and/or Paper Exchanges	13
Arrests	2

### Community

- Police department and fire department staff assisted the Lincoln police and fire and MA State Police in searching the area around Walden Pond for a missing party who got separated from her husband. She was safely located.

### Training/Professional Development

- Chief Mulcahy and Sgt. Burgess attended NEMLEC (Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council) Chief's meeting in Wilmington.
- Sgt. Young, Sgt. Manchuso Det. Paladino, and Det. Rodriguez attended training on "Missing and Unidentified Persons."
- Officers utilized the Middlesex County Sheriff's shoot trailer this week to train in de-escalation drills.

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## Planning & Land Management

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### Economic Vitality & Tourism

- On Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup>, Tour Guides Joe Palumbo and Amy Cole provided a custom tour to **Irish Travel Writer, Storyteller and Teacher Mary Kate O'Flanagan**. She writes weekly for an Irish weekend publication with over 65,000 readers. She is sponsored by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism and while in the US, visited Boston, Concord, and Lexington, MA; Mystic and New Haven, CT; and Newport, RI. She had an introductory meeting with Tourism Manager Beth Williams and shared that visiting Concord is a 'dream come true'. From Concord Center she is meeting with Jan Turnquist at the Orchard House and spending the night at Concord's Colonial Inn.
- The **Concord History with a Chocolate Twist** tour has been honored to host 3 classes from the Guild for Human Services in Concord and all have really enjoyed the treats and the history.
- The new **VisitConcord brochure** will be arriving in Concord within 2 weeks and is a showcase of the range of Concord's historic and natural resources. The next step is to translate all points of



interest into several languages, which will be available on the *VisitConcord* website and easily printed when needed.

## Natural Resources

- **Mattison Field:** Land Manager Will Holden and Trails Committee Chair Bob White, continued parking lot improvements at Mattison



Field with specific focus on filling dips and potholes (photo right).

Will also continued collaboration with GIS staff to update the town's master trails layer, which is resulting in trail consistency between the public Webmap, master trails layer, and individual property trail maps (excerpt left).



## Planning

- **Transportation Advisory Committee attends Select Board meeting of Monday March 6<sup>th</sup>.** TAC Chair Laura Davis and Senior Planner Erin Stevens met with the Select Board to provide an update on the work of the Transportation Advisory Committee, including notice that the RFP for a comprehensive transportation study has been issued (proposals due back at the end of March), the recommendation for this year's Bike Share Program has been submitted, and coordination underway with the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) to study pedestrian crossing improvements on Route 2 at Old Road to Nine Acre Corner.
- **West Concord Advisory Committee meeting of March 6<sup>th</sup>:** The WCAC heard a proposal for redevelopment of 166 Commonwealth Ave. from a gas station to a combined business/residential use, suggesting a small restaurant space and commercial business space on the first floor and ten residential housing units on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors (see GIS map, right). WCAC members also voted 4 in favor and 2 abstaining in support of family housing at the CHDC-owned Junction Village site at the end of Winthrop Street.
- **Proposed major modifications to the Wright Tavern** and its landscape as a part of the Preservation Restriction that is underway are being reviewed by the Historical Commission, with a site visit conducted on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Exterior changes will also be reviewed by the HDC.
- **Pre-construction site visit at Concord Academy:** On Tuesday March 7<sup>th</sup>, Town staff from Fire, CPW Engineering, CPW Water/Sewer, CMLP Engineering, Natural Resources, Planning, and Building Inspections met with representatives from Concord Academy, the consultant team, and the contractor for a pre-construction meeting at the site of the approved Centennial Arts Center. Town staff reviewed the project Construction Safety and Sequencing Plan and the conditions of approval for the Special Permit so that the contractor can start with the first phase of the site work on Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.



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## Concord Public Works

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- **Turtle Trail (Fairyland Pond) Parking Lot Improvement** – Staff has completed a land survey of the surrounding area and is developing plans and details to remedy drainage issues causing deterioration of the existing asphalt pavement. The project will be put out for bid, and the work will include reclamation of the existing asphalt, replacement of parking lot signage and installation of stormwater improvements to promote treatment and infiltration.
- **General Permit Annual Certification Form & Report for Composting Operations** - Municipalities with public compost sites are required to submit a General Permit Annual Certification Form & Report for Composting Operations to MassDEP. The 2022 General Permit Annual Certification Form & Report for Composting Operations was recently submitted. This permit includes information related to the Town’s composting facility, such as tonnage of yard waste (832 tons) and brush (202 tons) collected at the 755 Walden Street Compost Site for the previous calendar year.
- **2022 Water System Improvements:** The 2022 water system improvement project, slated for the Butternut/Minot Road neighborhood, is scheduled for advertising for bidding with bids to be received in early April 2023. For the Project, the Division pre-purchased the water materials, and anticipates receiving approx. 2,800 L.F. of 8-inch D.I. water main on March 14<sup>th</sup>, with the balance (approx. 1,620 L.F.) expected to be delivered in May 2023.

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## Concord Free Public Library

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- The library welcomed **Sara Dempster** as the new **Head of Youth Services** this week. Sara joins us from Chelmsford Public Library where she was most recently their Head of Youth Services. She has ten years of experience working in positions such as the Head of Teen Services, Teen Librarian, and as an early childhood teacher. With her strengths in building community partnerships and creating innovative programs, we are thrilled to have her join the Concord community.
- Fowler has dedicated followings for **ongoing programs**, which attract people of diverse ages and interests. This month, Book-a-Mystery discussed *Finlay Donovan is Killing It* by Elle Cosimano and Afternoon Tea Book Club discussed *The School of Essential Ingredients* by Erica Bauermeister. Conversation Circle for English Language Learners and Stitch Circle continue to grow. Arts and Crafts Club, offered in part through support from the Friends of CFPL and led by Art for All, and Game Time with Minute Man Arc have been excellent additions, better serving adults with developmental differences. Robust children’s programming includes Baby Time, Storytime, Saturday Studio, Messy Fun, and Preschool Play for younger audiences, and Craft Lab, Fairy Tale Storytimes, Lego Club, and Girls who Code



Sara Dempster, Head of Youth Services

for school-age children and tweens. Classes from Concord Carousel visit for a weekly story time as well led by alternating staff members.

- On 2/11, Fowler hosted the League of Women Voters for a viewing and discussion moderated by member of the DEI commission, Joe Palumbo, of the documentary *Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America*. Part of a series of community viewings, this event was the product of a collaboration with COAR (Communities Organizing Against Racism) and other DEI organizations. The Main Library will host an additional screening and discussion of the film on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 4:30PM in the Goodwin Forum.
- [\*Cleaning Daniel Chester French's Sculpture, the Seated Ralph Waldo Emerson\*](#) on Saturday, March 4, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Main Library. Conservators from Skylight Studios will be cleaning **Daniel Chester French's Seated Ralph Waldo Emerson** and will be open to questions during the process. The work will involve multiple applications of a diluted, non-corrosive acid-free soap that will clean accumulated dirt from the surface of the marble. The Studio's work includes restoring and conserving bronze, copper, stone, plaster, wood, terracotta, and resin sculpture and architectural elements. The staff has conserved antique sculpture and monuments, including the sculptural elements of the Old State House in Boston, the antique plaster cast collection at Yale University, and the Sunken Garden Fountains at the Elms in Newport. No registration required.
- The Library's upcoming exhibit, [\*A Perpetual Invitation: 150 Years of Art at the Concord Free Public Library\*](#), will be on display at the [Concord Museum](#) from March 24 - September 4, 2023. In honor of the Concord Free Public Library's 150th anniversary, the Concord Museum and the Library's William Munroe Special Collections have collaborated on a **special exhibition featuring the library's art collection**. Featured objects will include paintings by Washington Allston, N.C. Wyeth, May Alcott Nieriker, Charles Hovey Pepper, Alicia Keyes, and Elizabeth Wentworth Roberts, among other artists, as well as sculptures depicting noted Concord authors such as Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry David Thoreau, and Louisa May Alcott.
- [\*Author Talk: Ilyon Woo, Author of Master Slave Husband Wife\*](#) on Thursday, March 30, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Main Library. Join author Ilyon Woo to discuss her new book [\*Master Slave Husband Wife - An Epic Journey From Slavery to Freedom\*](#). The true story of **William and Ellen Craft**, a couple who escaped slavery through daring, determination, and disguise, with Ellen passing as a wealthy, disabled White man and William posing as "his" slave. Woo will be discussing her book, with behind-the-scenes glimpses of the archival sleuthing process, with special focus on the Crafts' sensational lecture tour, which included a stop in Concord. [[Learn More and Register](#)]

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## Senior Center

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Actress Sheryl Faye brought Ruth Bader Ginsburg to life in a one-woman show at the Council on Aging on March 8th. Over 80 senior residents came to watch then applaud the informative and spurring performance. From the impact the death of Ruth's mother had on Ruth to her remarkable tenure as a U.S. Supreme Court associate justice, the hour-long tour de force show

was free of charge to seniors thanks to the funds generated by Harvey's Treasure Chest Gift Shop.

