



TOWN OF CONCORD

Office of the Town Manager

Operational Status Reports & Departmental Updates

For the Week Ending April 21, 2023

General Administration

Town leaders, board and committee members and Town employees are preparing for the Annual Town Meeting, which is just over a week away. You can find more information including the warrants, supplemental information for Warrant Articles and more by visiting the Town's Town Meeting webpage. The Town Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 1 pm at Concord Carlisle High School and is anticipated to carry over to Monday, May 1, 2023.



It's important to work on your mental health just as you do your physical health. Below are some tips for taking action to reduce stress and anxiety.



Get personal diabetes care support

If you or a family member enrolled in our health plan have pre-diabetes or any type of diabetes, join the **Good Health Gateway®** Diabetes Care Rewards Program at no cost.

We'll help ease some of the stress caused by managing diabetes and lessen your financial burden by giving you \$0 copays on diabetes medications and supplies.



Relax your mind

- Write for 10 to 15 minutes a day about stressful events and how they made you feel.
- Talk, laugh, cry, and express anger when you need to.
- Breathing exercises. Take three deep breaths: inhale through your nose, close your eyes and hold it for two seconds, and then exhale through your mouth. Exhale as fully as you can, and feel the stress melt.



Move your body

- Do some form of exercise at least 30 minutes a day.
- Go for a walk.
- Housecleaning and yard work can be exercise.
- Stretch and loosen up your body.
- Try yoga, tai chi, or qi gong.



Join Today!

800.643.8028 | *Hablamos Español.*
GoodHealthGateway.com

Police Department

Activity Log

- Log items: 673
- Traffic enforcement: 45
- Motor vehicle stops: 56
- Motor vehicle crashes and/or paper exchanges: 10
- Arrests: 2

Community

- Officer John O'Connor was temporarily promoted to Acting Sergeant
- The Department and our Public Safety partners from Concord Fire and NEMLEC, assisted with the 2023 Patriot's Day Parade. It was another successful town event.
- Members of the US Secret Service came to the department to officially thank the officers who assisted with a large "skimming" case that was successfully prosecuted. The Chief and the officers were presented with plaques recognizing their work on the case. Town Manager Kerry Lafleur and Communications Manager Donna McIntosh joined CPD staff.

Fire Department

Calls for Service:

The department responded to 102 calls for service during the period. Mutual aid was provided for eight incidents including a response to the Town of Northborough for a brush fire of approximately 110 acres. Mutual aid was received for seven incidents.

Community:

Firefighter Samantha McChesney completed her eighth Tough Ruck last weekend. This 26-mile course is an event affiliated with the Boston Marathon. The ruck starts in Concord at the Fenn School and proceeds through Lincoln, Lexington (near the Arlington line), and back through Bedford, then returning to the Fenn School. Shown below from L-R is FF McChesney in full turnout gear on the route, making the final turn into the Fenn School, and with the on-duty shift waiting for her at the finish line. Congratulations Samantha!



Training:

Chief Judge attended a weekend seminar at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Fire Prevention:

Assistant Chief Latta and Lieutenant Nichols did a site visit at 2229 Main Street. They met with the cleanup contractor to get an update on the site work taking place.

Safety Tip - We have been seeing quite a few mulch fires recently, including a mutual aid response to Maynard two weeks ago for a 2-alarm structure fire that originated from bark mulch. Please keep mulch at least 18 inches away from any combustible part of a structure .

Planning & Land Management

Building Inspections

- **Permit and Inspection Updates:** Since April 6th, the Building Inspections division issued 62 building permits, 51 electrical permits and 21 plumbing and gas permits. Inspectors conducted 62 building inspections, 51 electrical inspections and 37 plumbing & gas inspections.
- **Airbnb -permits required:** The Building Commissioner recently completed a review of unapproved Bed & Breakfast (via Airbnb) in town. Violation letters were sent to 5 property owners. So far, 2 have responded to begin the process of applying for a special permit to operate a Bed & Breakfast.

Economic Vitality & Tourism

- The new Translated Visitor maps are now posted online <https://visitconcord.org/visit/visitor-map/>. Paper copies will also be available as needed in the Visitor Center. Along with this update, the www.visitconcord.org site is undergoing some minor updates including adding a page of the Town's accessible options, new homepage video and improved navigation and events pages. We have also incorporated www.concord250.org into the Visit Concord web page.

- The EVT Tour guides are working with Concord Academy for their upcoming Reunion weekend, offering a twilight tour, Women of Concord, and Indigenous Peoples tours for their expected alumni June 9 and 10.

Planning

- **League of Women Voters (LWV) meeting of April 13th:** Planning Board Chair Nathan Bosdet and Town Planner Elizabeth Hughes attended the LWV virtual meeting to present 2023 Annual Town Meeting Zoning Bylaw Amendment Article 33 Fast Food Restaurants and Article 34 Mobile Food Establishments. The Chair informed those attending that the Planning Board had voted to not move Zoning Bylaw Amendment Article 35 Combined Business/Residence Bylaw based on the comments received at the public hearing regarding the Article language. He noted that while it may be possible to address these issues and concerns with changes to the language, the Board did not feel there was sufficient time to go through a public process before Town Meeting and added that the Planning Board still supports the intended changes and will continue to pursue an amendment for a future Town Meeting. He also noted that broader changes may be required as the community moves forward with Zoning to comply with the MBTA Communities requirements.

Natural Resources

- **Conservation Crew:** The hiring process is underway for the Division's summertime 2-person Conservation Crew. Each year the Crew is responsible for mowing and general upkeep of conservation lands, including the regular mowing of over 5 miles of trails and 8 parking areas, invasive plant species removal, upkeep of conservation land infrastructure including kiosks, foot bridges, and signs, and a variety of other conservation land maintenance tasks and projects. Although the Crew members often change each year, the Conservation Crew has been serving the Town for over 20 years in maintaining the Town's 1500-acres of conservation lands. The Crew typically starts mid-May and ends in late-August.

Concord Municipal Light Plant

Concord's heating/cooling coaching program was mentioned in an [article](#) in Canary Media about the growing demand for heat pump coaching in Massachusetts, and coaching programs arising to meet the demand. The article underreports our coaching-assisted heat pump installations in 2022, which were over 100, meaning the heat pump installation rate quadrupled from 2021 to 2022.

Senior Center



Over seventy senior residents sat down for a nostalgic forum about “Enterprise, Dreams, and Small Town Joys ”on Friday, April 14, at the Council on Aging. The program was presented by the West Concord Junction Cultural District Committee and funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Five, long-time Concord residents were on stage to share their memories and hidden gem anecdotes about West Concord life over the past eighty years.
