



TOWN OF CONCORD

Office of the Town Manager

Operational Status Reports & Departmental Updates

For the Week Ending April 28, 2023

General Administration

Town Manager Kerry Lafleur presented Lead Dispatcher Rich Landers a proclamation for CPD's public safety dispatchers recognizing their efforts as part of National Telecommunicators Week.



Police Department

Activity Log

- Log items: **625**
- Traffic enforcement: **55**
- Motor vehicle stops: **85**.
- Motor vehicle crashes and/or paper exchanges: **11**
- Arrests: **0**

Community

- Chief Mulcahy and LTs Goldman and Landers worked with Fire Department staff and public safety working group officials in preparation for the 250TH celebration.
- Officers Nathaniel Brady and Brendan Fitzgerald began their two-week police motorcycle operator school.
- Chief Mulcahy and Lieutenant Monahan attended a one-day class on Firearms Licensing Legal Updates.
- Detective Paladino and Detective Rodriguez attended a two-day School Resource Officer class on adolescent mental health.

Fire Department

Calls for Service

The department responded to 101 calls for service during the period. Mutual aid was provided for six incidents including a response to the Town of Milford by Lt. Todd Niemi (Hazmat team member) for a hazardous materials spill; mutual aid was received for four incidents.

Training

Lieutenant William Nelson, Lieutenant Peter Ostroskey, and Firefighter Jesse Caney participated in a day long technical rescue training exercise at a training site at Devens. Tech Rescue teams from Fire Districts 7, 8, and 14 worked together in the exercise; a primary goal of the exercise was to practice interoperability between teams that may have to work together at large scale incidents. The exercise was successful with a lot of interaction between crews that have not worked together before.

Fire Prevention

Fire prevention had a busy week with inspections. Home smoke detector inspections which are required when a home is sold are picking up. The annual inspection of Middlesex School buildings was conducted along with the building department. This coming weekend will be the end of open burning season; the department issued 307 open burning permits through this week.



Planning & Land Management

Health

The Health Division sponsored the Concord Behavioral Health Collaborative on Wednesday to discuss mental health needs in our community. Emily Black from the Police department presented data on calls and procedures for residents with mental health and substance use crisis. School Superintendent Dr. Hunter discussed the significant need of families facing mental health challenges and the need for more support in the community. The Health Division staff is going to work with Eliot services about a grant for a mental health clinician. The Concord Free Public Library is reviewing options to be a vetted resource in our community for those seeking mental health or substance use knowledge. A working group will be designated to decide how/what the display and information will include.

White Pond water testing procedures review: This week staff from the Health and Natural Resources Divisions met with consultants to discuss and review the procedures for water testing at White Pond. An update will be reported to the Select Board once our summer protocols are in place.

Updated Tobacco Regulations Approved: The Concord Board of Health passed an updated tobacco regulation at their meeting on Monday, April 24th. Details about the updated regulations are posted on the Division website. Additionally, a draft body art regulation was discussed and continued to next month's meeting for further information. This regulation seeks to define the practice of semi-permanent make up as a practice that has evolved in the body art community.

Economic Vitality & Tourism

On Thursday April 27th, the Visitor Center and other Town of Concord staff are honored to be invited to a working session with Sandra Harbert Petrulionis, author of *To Set This World Right, the antislavery movement in Thoreau's Concord*. Organized by Town Guide Joe Palumbo and hosted at the Concord Museum, this workshop will offer Interpretive staff at many of Concord's historic sites and venues the opportunity to hear from the author and develop strategies as an interpretive group on how best to celebrate, educate, and inform our visitors on topics that are often difficult to discuss.

The Concord Public Schools and the Visitor Center will again be partnering to offer complimentary historic walking tours to the 46 new staff and faculty coming on board in the Concord Schools this fall.

During the month of June, the Visitor Center will be hosting a Concord Academy student-volunteer to help us create better ways to attract and connect younger audiences to Concord and its history. Natalie will shadow tour guides, desk staff, help with social media and technology, and assist with the Concord Academy Reunion weekend tours. We are thrilled to have this opportunity to learn from each other.

Planning

West Concord Junction Cultural District Committee meeting of April 25th: The Committee reviewed the latest information from the Mass Cultural Council concerning delays in distributing grant funds (due to the large number of grants awarded this spring) and how it would/could impact current projects. The latest West Concord mural, a tribute to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, will be unveiled at 3:00 p.m. on May 20th, which coincides with the "Spring into West Concord Day" being celebrated by businesses and artists (and sponsored by the Chamber and West Concord businesses). The Committee also discussed a Poetry Project that is in development.

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee meeting of April 27th: Included in the monthly update memo are two items – 1) Annual Town Meeting begins Sunday, April 30th at 1:00 p.m. with no new business to be taken up after 5:30 p.m. Article 26 is the Community Preservation Committee recommendation for CPA grant funds, which includes the request of \$50,000 for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail improvements/enhancements.

No proposals were received by the due date of April 6th in response to the RFP for Engineering and Design Services to design a contemplative space adjacent to the BFRT and near the Concord Prison Cemetery. Follow up is needed.

Council on Aging

Over eighty fans arrived for lunch and to salute **Berni Jenkins** at the COA on April 26th. Bernie was the very first director of the COA and was the genesis of many current programs and activities, not to mention the COA digs in the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. January-appointed COA director Lauren Barretta was on hand to thank Bernie for making Lauren's job possible 😊 and for laying the groundwork of Concord's commitment to its senior residents.



Picture #1:

Bernie Jenkins (L) and spouse, Bob Andrews (R).

Picture #2

In the background standing L to R: Bernie Jenkins, Tina Close, COA activities coordinator, Lauren Barretta, COA director.

Department of Public Works

Todd Manchuso Retirement: After 40 years of dedicated service to the Town of Concord, Todd Manchuso, Public Works Supervisor for the Water/Sewer Division, will be handing the reins over to the next generation of operators. Todd has been a valued and respected member of Public Works, leading the Water/Sewer operations group for the past 27 years, while providing a level of customer service that has been second to none. His institutional knowledge of Town Water and Sewer Systems and unique understanding and connection to broader community values will be missed.



Arbor Day Celebration: Highway & Grounds Division staff, Aaron Miklosko, Sean, O'Connor and Doug Lenox, gave a presentation about Arbor Day to the students at the Milldam Nursery School. CPW staff demonstrated the use of the aerial bucket truck and distributed seedling trees, posters, and Arbor Day coloring books to the students. Students learned about the importance of tree planting, how a bucket truck works and what safety equipment is used, and how to plant the seedlings at their home.

Water Distribution Flushing: Concord Public Works will perform seasonal water main flushing activities starting the week of May 1st, 2023, from 9am-3pm, subject to water availability. Routine flushing is required to maintain and improve water quality throughout the distribution system. If flushing occurs within your neighborhood, you should refrain from using unnecessary water during this time to reduce your chance of drawing sediment into your property. The actual flushing schedule and specific areas targeted for flushing can be viewed on our website www.concordma.gov/flushing.
