



# TOWN OF CONCORD

## Office of the Town Manager

Operational Status Reports and Departmental Updates  
For the week ending August 11, 2023

### Council of Aging

#### **Fitness!**

Exercise is a big part of the COA – Monday thru Thursday and other days on Zoom, residents 60+ yrs. can choose from mat & chair yoga, aerobics, strength, and flex. This is the body part of our mind/body/spirit wellbeing attitude toward aging.



### Police Department

#### **Activity Log:**

- Log items: 639
- Traffic enforcements: 62
- Motor vehicle stops: 55
- Motor vehicle crashes and/or paper exchanges: 7
- Arrests: 3

#### **Community**

- Officers assisted with the Third Annual Sidewalk Sale held on Walden Street in Concord Center.
- Officer Deric Maddaleni was released from the department's Field Training Program, and has been assigned to a solo patrol officer rotation.

## **Fire Department**

### **Calls for Service**

There were 113 responses over the past week including a fire in a Southfield Circle home on Wednesday August 10th. Dispatch received a report of a dryer on fire in the home. When fire companies arrived, they found smoke coming from the front door and the homeowner reporting that the gas dryer on the second floor was on fire. The first crew to the second floor found a gas



dryer with fire extending to the laundry room. They were able to quickly

contain the fire and it did not extend beyond the room. Many thanks to our mutual aid partners for their assistance at the scene and covering our stations.



### **Training**

Assistant Chief Latta attended a class at MEMA this week. The incident command system class focused on the role of "Operations Section Chief". At a large scale incident, the operations section chief is responsible to the Incident Commander for the direct management of all incident-related operational activities.

## **Library**

### **Circulation Department**

- Staff welcomed 81 new patrons to the CFPL family!
- In July, patrons used 150 museum pass reservations, with the Museum of Fine Arts being visited the most followed closely by the Discovery Museum. In addition to these passes, there have been 39 virtual passes for the New England Aquarium.
- Circulation staff checked out 4,698 items and checked in 12,525 items in July.
- Patrons used the self-checkout for 13,356 items in July.
- Concord patrons checked out 5,423 items with OverDrive in July.

### **Circulation Supervisor**

The Library welcomed Reni Cunningham as the new Circulation Supervisor. Reni began working for the CFPL as a Library Page before working as a Specialist and helping write the Library's Sustainability Plan. She was then promoted to Reference Librarian after completing her Masters Degree before her current promotion to Department Head for Circulation.

## Reference Staff Program

The Reference staff hosted a number of exciting programs in July. On July 11th, the Tuesday book group discussed *Good in Bed*, by Jennifer Weiner. The Cookbook club made French recipes from Jacques Pepin's cookbooks on July 12th (pictured right). Barbara and Stacey (from circulation) partnered to offer a papercut workshop



with Multimedia Artist Zhonghe (Elena) Li on July 12th (pictured left). Elena Li exhibited her work in the gallery for the month of July. On July 25th, the library hosted a very interesting author talk with debut authors Jean Duffy and Bev Boisseau Stohl (pictured below, right).

Jean Duffy spoke about her book *Soccer Grannies: The South African Women Who Inspire the World*, an inspirational story of an amazing group of soccer-playing South African grannies. Bev Boisseau Stohl's book, *Chomsky and Me*, is the story of her 24 years as Noam Chomsky's assistant at MIT.



## Concord Rec Camp

Every Monday and Friday in June and July, staff welcomed the Trekkers, ConcordRec Camp Three Rivers' 7th and 8th grade



group, to the Teen Lounge! The group has particularly enjoyed using the button maker, playing board games from the collection, and, of course, blasting Taylor Swift on the sound system.



## Cyanotype Art Workshop

Artist and photographer Becky Behar returned to the Main Library for her Sunlight Photography (Cyanotype) Workshop for teens. First Becky taught them about the history and science of cyanotype art, and then they created journal covers using the technique. Finally, they hand-bound the pages and put all the pieces together to create their very own journals.



## Summer Reading Program

The Youth Services team kicked off June with the Summer Reading Program! This year, school-aged kids had the opportunity to participate in the Read to Bead program, and young children joined the Rubber Ducky Club. They each earned either beads to decorate a necklace or rubber duckies by reading and completing fun summer challenges. The program has been a huge hit this year, with one young patron reading so much that he had filled two whole necklaces with beads by the end of July and needed to move on to a third! So far, we have had 554 children participate in the program.



## More Programs

The team also hosted several amazing programs in June and July. Highlights included “Science Heroes: Saving the Earth Together,” where kids enjoyed an exciting story punctuated with science experiments; “Chain Reactions and Creative Contraptions,” where teacher Jay Mankita taught kids how to make gravity-defying Rube Goldberg Machines, and “Not Really So Scary Animals,” where kids learned how animals that may seem scary benefit the earth. They even got to meet and hold a few (not really so scary) animals, including a boa constrictor, a Madagascar hissing cockroach, and even a tarantula!



## Youth Services

The Youth Services team has also partnered with Makerspace staff to launch the Make-It Club, a weekly STEAM program where kids have created play-dough from scratch, colored their own buttons, made bird kites, built parachutes to launch laser-cut dino-nauts in a wind tunnel, and even more!

## Fowler Library

### Fowler Chickens

Fowler staff saw in summer with chicks! Hundreds of patrons of all ages visited to first watch them hatch and then to hold the hatchlings over their first week of life. Zinnia, one of the chicks from last year, paid a special visit with her West Concord family, and patrons had a chance to meet a one-year-old chicken and ask her owners all their



chicken-raising questions. Fowler became even *fowl-er* with a special visit from Nuala the Great-Horned owl.



### Summer Reading

The chicks gave a welcome boost to the beginning of Summer Reading, which Fowler patrons of all ages have enthusiastically embraced, signing up for the Rubber Ducky Club, Read to Bead, and participating in the adult raffle. The adult bingo and related display of bestsellers from the past 150 years has generated discussion and interest in the countdown to the 150th anniversary. Of the 286 people who have checked in for Bike for Books, 168 have started at Fowler.



### Pollinator Garden

Pollinator week in June provided an opportunity to offer more programming with the pollinator garden and native plants and to strengthen partnerships with community organizations including the Natural Resources Division, the CCHS Green Team, the Concord Land Conservation Trust, and the Pollinator Health Advisory Committee. Programs included a self-guided pollinator garden tour, a native plant transplant, crafts, and storytimes.



### Library Display

The West Concord Green Thumbs adapted their Family Tree display based on the book *Rooftop Garden* by Danna Smith, published by Barefoot Books, creating a library display to



educate and delight patrons. They worked with Fowler staff to offer two well-received programs, a storytime and a craft.

### ArtScape Show

To celebrate CFPL’s 150 years, ArtScape curated a new show called “Every Picture Tells a Story,” which includes art by 25 local artists, aged 14 to 85.

### Fowler Programs

Ongoing programs, including storytimes, free play, book club, and crafts had robust attendance over June and July. In addition, Concord Conservatory of Music did two “storytime takeovers” with their Family Notes early childhood music program. Fowler After Hours in July had patrons test their powers of acting and

detection for “Get-a-Clue.” Thanks to the Pets and People

Foundation, Fowler has welcomed the golden retriever Samantha for a monthly Read to a Dog program. With new weekly volunteers, Fowler staff have reintroduced weekly Take-and-Makes. Afternoon Tea Book Club read *Shad Hadid and the Alchemists of Alexandria* in preparation for a special visit from Writer-in-Residence George Jreije. All staff had an opportunity to practice offering storytimes during weekly visits from the Carousel summer program.



### Fowler Local Love Campaign

Due to construction in West Concord, the Visitor Center has worked with the Chamber of Commerce to offer a “Local Love” campaign. Fowler has embraced the opportunity to support the local business community by being the drop-off site for completed passports and helping facilitate the weekly drawings for “The Gift of Concord.”

## Library Innovations and Communications

### Workshop Updates

The Workshop has had an amazing first few months in operation! So far this summer, more than 650 patrons have attended hands-on programs in the Workshop, including classes on laser cutting, embroidery, glass-etching, soap-making, and more!



Patrons have completed more than 150 tool sessions during the Workshop's Open Maker Hours.



### **Online Library Resource**

The Workshop Team collaborated with Reference and Technical Services to launch Creativebug - a new eLibrary resource for Concord makers that provides on-demand, full-length video courses taught by nationally recognized professional artists and makers.



## **Risk and Compliance**

### **2024 Budget**

The State House News Service reported on August 9th, 2023 that Governor Healey signed into law a \$56 billion state budget for fiscal year 2024. The Legislature sent the budget to the Governor on July 31st, making it the second latest state budget to arrive on the Governor's desk in 22 years. The Governor amended eight budget items and vetoed one. The spending plan makes permanent a pandemic-era program providing amongst other things:

- Free school meals to all students
- Clears the way for high school graduates without legal immigration status to access in-state tuition and financial aid at public colleges and universities
- Offers assistance to help Bay Staters ages 25 and older attend community college for free
- Sets aside \$580 million to cover the anticipated impact of a tax relief package (this tax relief bill is still being debated on Beacon Hill)
- Increase of 3.2% in unrestricted general government aid

The Governor held a news conference on August 8, 2023 to announce a state emergency on the homeless shelter capacity issues and this FY24 budget includes a 48% increase in the Emergency Assistance Family Shelter Program.

## **Tourism**

### **Beyond 1775: Concord and the Massachusetts National Guard**

*Explore Concord's 1915 armory and learn about the near 400-year history of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, the oldest component of the United States Armed Forces.*

*Hear stories of remarkable service and view the objects that witnessed war. The tour will also offer participants a special glimpse into the Massachusetts National Guard Museum while it prepares to open to the public. Concord may be famous for April 19, 1775, but its service to the Commonwealth and Nation continues to this very day.*

Tour Guide Joe is the leader on this tour, running Sept 2, 8, 15 as well as October 7, 13 and 18.

### **'In Thoreau's footsteps' Tour**

In Connection with the Barnstable Land Trust celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special Readathon, a new specialty tour tentatively titled 'In Thoreau's footsteps' will launch in October. Tour Guides Richard and Bonnie are designing this new tour with a focus on Thoreau. Walking in many of the places that he did, this very unique tour will end at the Barrow bookstore. Many other Concord attractions are also working with BLT on programs that span the 2 locations Thoreau loved.



## **Community Services**

### **Backpack Drive**

This summer marks the 9<sup>th</sup> year that Concord's Community Services will be running a Back-to-School Backpack Drive to distribute backpacks filled with school supplies to Concord families in need. Donated backpacks and supplies will be distributed to students of all ages before the start of the new school year. Donation boxes are located at: Town Hall, 55 Church Street, the Beede Center, the downtown Public Library, and the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest. The backpack drive runs through August 25th.

### **Fund for CPD**

Thanks to a generous donation from a Concord resident, a fund has been established which will allow the Concord Police Department to provide transportation and/or meal vouchers to residents who turn to the CPD for assistance. There has been a need for funding for these expenses for some time, and the donor has agreed to continue to fund the account as needed.

## **Department of Planning and Land Management**

### **Planning Board**

At the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Planning Board continued the public hearing to August 22<sup>nd</sup> for the Definitive Subdivision at 80X & 1053 Main Street and issued a release for Lot 4 (55 McCallar Ln) from the Restrictive Covenant so the lot can be sold. The Chair and the Town Planner gave an update on the work and community engagement for the MBTA Communities

Zoning. The Board discussed and revised the Scenic Roads Bylaw Rules & Regulations working draft and directed the Town Planner to forward it to Town Counsel for review.

### MBTA Communities Zoning Update

Thanks to Steve Verrill for allowing the Town Planner to hold an MBTA Communities Connection Hour at Verrill Farm. Three people attended and spent the hour learning about the MBTA Communities Zoning requirements and having their questions answered in a more personal setting. The next Connection hour will be on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 2 pm at Nashoba Brook Bakery. Don't miss the next big community event on August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm to discuss what the MBTA Communities Zoning will be and what incentives should be considered. This will be a virtual event. Go to [www.concordma.gov/mbtacomunities](http://www.concordma.gov/mbtacomunities) to get the meeting link. There is also an MBTA Communities survey and interactive map link to provide feedback on the zoning and the zoning overlay district boundary.

### Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Committee is accepting grant applications for eligible Housing, Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Projects. The application deadline is September 8th, 2023. Go to the CPC website for more information: <https://www.concordma.gov/1054/CPA-Grant-Application-and-Instructions>

### Planning Division

Senior Planner Ann Clifford is working with the Historical Commission to finalize a Request For Quotes for the hiring of a consultant to prepare the Concord Historic Preservation Plan. The creation of this plan is being funded with \$50,000 in CPA funds and a successful grant application that Ann submitted for \$25,000 from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. At the request of the 2025 Permanent Memorial Committee Chair, Ann Clifford did extensive research and put together Cultural History of Parcel 1693, the traditional center of Concord off Monument Square. At this single site, Ann's research supports: 1) the 17<sup>th</sup>-century agreement between the indigenous people of Musketaquid and the English settlers at the house of

Concord's first minister, 2) the writing of the earliest Concord publication, 3) a Patriot physician and an enslaved African American woman caring for a wounded British soldier on April 19th, 1775, and 4) the jail where Thoreau spent the night on July 23th, 1846, an experience that resulted in his influential work *Civil Disobedience*. Previously, there were "no known images" of the jail.



## **Minuteman Bike Share**

Senior Planner Erin Stevens worked with the Town of Acton to get the Minuteman Bike Share bikes from Concord to Acton to launch their portion of the bike share. Six out of ten of Acton's bikes were ridden from Concord Public Works site Keyes Road over to the West Concord Train Station and along the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail to their new home in Acton! This regional bike share collaboration allows users to pick up a bike in either Concord or Acton at one of 4 locations and drop off at any of the 4 locations. We hope you join us in celebrating this collaboration by renting a bike and taking a ride yourself! Information can be found at <https://minutemanbikeshare.square.site/>

