



TOWN OF CONCORD

Office of the Town Manager

Operational Status Reports and Departmental Updates
For the week ending September 29, 2023

Town Manager's Office

Personnel News



Megan J. Zammuto, Deputy Town Manager, has been appointed to the role of Deputy Town Manager/Director of Planning and Land Management effective immediately. As you recall, Megan joined the Town of Concord in April 2023 as the Deputy Town Manager. In June, she took on the additional role of interim Director of Planning and Land Management following the retirement of Marcia Rasmussen, who served in that capacity for many years.

“Megan’s fresh perspective, can-do attitude, and collaborative approach have all made an impact in the short time she’s been here. She’s demonstrated the ability to successfully oversee multiple projects across departments while also focusing on the operational effectiveness of DPLM,” said Town Manager Kerry Lafleur. “With her broad experience and creative approach, I know that she is the right person to move the organization forward.”

Prior to coming to Concord, Megan was the Assistant Town Administrator/Executive Director of Municipal Services in the Town of Maynard. In this role, she managed the day-to-day operations of the Office of Municipal Services which includes building, conservation, economic development, housing, planning, public health, and zoning.

Megan holds a Master of Public Administration from Suffolk University and a Bachelor of Arts from Providence College. She is a member of the International City/County Management Association, Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and MMMA’s Women Leading Government group.

MUNIS Conversation

The town accounts payable and procurement systems have been successfully converted over to the MUNIS system. A tremendous thanks to all involved in the conversion.

H. 4104 -Tax Relief Bill

The Town Manager’s Office is following the much-anticipated Tax Relief Bill (H.4104) which is projected to save Massachusetts taxpayers \$561 Million during FY24 and close to \$1 Billion in subsequent years.

The State legislature has voted to approve the Joint Conference Committee Tax Relief Bill (H.4104). The conference committee bill includes the following:

- child and dependent tax credit: would rise from \$180 to \$310 in fiscal year 2023, then again to \$440 in fiscal years 2024 and beyond;
- Earned Income Tax Credit: would increase the credit from 30 percent to 40 percent of the federal credit;

- Senior circuit breaker tax credit: double and index to inflation the maximum senior circuit breaker tax credit;
- Rent deduction: increase the cap on the rental deduction from \$3,000 to \$4,000, according to the summary;
- Short term capital gains: slash the tax rate on short-term capital gains (which stem from the sale of assets held for a year or less) from 12 percent to 8.5 percent.
- Changes to Chapter. 62F tax refunds: the 1986 initiative petition law that caps the amount of tax revenue state government can collect each year and requires taxpayers to be reimbursed for any overage. The bill would replace the proportional system with an equal payment for every single taxpayer if Chapter 62F were triggered again;
- Align state and federal tax reporting for married taxpayers: would require married taxpayers who file a joint return with the federal government to file a joint return at the state level as well.
- incentivize new housing production by expanding the Housing Development Incentive Program, which would rise from \$10 million to \$57 million in the first year and then settle at \$30 million annually thereafter, and
- increasing the annual authorization for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit from \$40 million to \$60 million.

Police Department – week ending 9/22

Activity Log:

- Log items: 639
- Traffic enforcements: 49
- Motor vehicle stops: 42
- Motor vehicle crashes and/or paper exchanges: 7
- Arrests: 1

Community:

- Lieutenant Goldman and Lieutenant Landers attend the intermunicipal meeting in Lexington on the 250th Celebration.
- Officers assisted with the Ride to Defeat ALS and the Domestic Violence Awareness ride, two charity bike rides with routes through Town.
- Officer Samantha Simpson graduated from the department's Field Training Program and has been assigned to a patrol shift rotation.
- Chief Mulcahy attended the annual three-day Massachusetts Chief's of Police training in Norwood.

Police Department – week ending 9/29

Activity Log:

- Log items: 667
- Traffic enforcements: 53
- Motor vehicle stops: 24
- Motor vehicle crashes and/or paper exchanges: 9
- Arrests: 0

Community:

- Officers assisted Temple Kerem Shalom with their holiday services for Yom Kippur.
- Officers assisted with the Kicks for Cancer event at CCHS, ensuring there were no issues with security, traffic, or parking.
- Officers assisted with the annual Minuteman Arc walk in west Concord.
- Officers assisted with the Mighty Moose 5k road race.
- Lieutenant Goldman and Lieutenant Landers met with Town departments on logistics for the upcoming 250th Celebration.
- Chief Mulcahy and Carlisle Police Chief Amendola held a discussion for The Concord-Carlisle League of Women Voters at The Concord Free Public Library.

Visitor Center:

The Visitor Center received great coverage from their partners at Visit New England. It's one of the center's top referral sites.



Great Weekend Activities



Town of Concord

Experience the enchanting autumn charm of historic Concord through a variety of captivating activities that allow visitors to view the blaze of fall color. A perfect outing includes a **walking tour of Concord** combined with a visit to the Concord Museum, which is offered as a combo package. Immerse yourself in American history as you explore iconic Revolutionary War landmarks, such as Minuteman National Historic Park, where you can stroll across Old North Bridge, the site of "the shot heard 'round the world," and capture a photo with the renowned Minute Man statue by Daniel Chester French. For literature enthusiasts, meander through Thoreau Farm, the birthplace of Henry David Thoreau, visit the Ralph Waldo Emerson house, and explore Authors Ridge in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Don't forget to indulge in some retail therapy in downtown Concord, where you can find unique gifts and souvenirs crafted by New England artists. End your day on a delicious note by savoring fresh seafood or farm-to-table cuisine at one of the area's delightful restaurants.

The new partnership with Collette Tours kicks off on September 29, focusing on leaf peeping in Vermont with Concord being their final stop.

News from Boston.com:

In honor of its 40th anniversary season, the Barnstable Land Trust (BLT) will host the nation's first "Thoreau's Cape Cod Read-a-Thon" October 7-8 at its Fuller Farm property in Marstons Mills. Read on... <https://www.boston.com/things-to-do/festivals-expos/attend-the-nations-first-thoreaus-cape-cod-readathon/>

Recreation

- We welcomed two new full-time employees, Robert Beatty, Recreation Facilities Coordinator, and Will McClements, Aquatics Manager. Both Bob and Will have offices at the Beede Center. We look forward to seeing the contributions they will make to the Recreation operation in the coming weeks, months, and years!
- Beede hosted a Mermaid Swim on September 16th that sold out with nearly 60 participants. The kids that participated in this event met professional mermaids (yes, that's a thing!) and

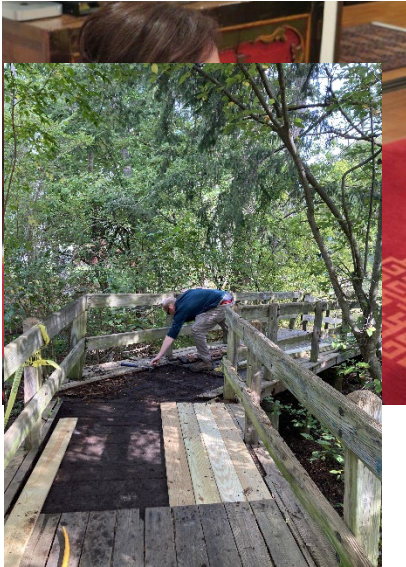
learned to swim with their own tail. Optima Synchronized swim choreographed a one-of-a-kind show for the event as well.

- During the annual Beede shutdown, a comprehensive cleaning and general maintenance upkeep was carried out in the weight, cardio, fitness studios, and locker rooms.
- Beede center sidewalk replacement project is underway and is approximately halfway through completion. The project has experienced setbacks due to the rainy season. We are anticipating completion of this project in the coming weeks.
- Beede is excited to now offer a Fitness Class Pass which will allow fitness goers the option to purchase 4, 8 or 12 passes that can be used to attend any available Land or Water Fitness class (space provided). This pass is the best option for someone who wants flexibility and is ready to enjoy a variety of different classes! For more information,
- The aquatics team participated in a monthly, in-service training session. August's in-service training covered escapes as the water safety skill and topics of discussion included new pool policies and a CPR scenario of a child with pulse but no breathing. The September in-service training will include entries as the water safety skill and the topics of discussion will include opening procedures, weather conditions, and pool policies. The CPR scenario will be an unconscious victim, no pulse, no breathing.
- Registration for Concord Recreation's youth basketball program will open on October 4. Registration for elementary age skiing will open on October 11th and middle school age skiing on October 18th.
- We have received interest from local adult women who are interested in learning how to play basketball. To meet this community need, we've created a new program that will run from October 15 – December 10 (no program 11/26) on Sundays from 3:30-4:30pm at Hunt run by two of our coaches. Registration is open and online, employees welcome!
- Upcoming Recreation Events:
- 9/29 and 9/30 [Outdoor movie night](#) at Emerson Park,
- Honey I shrunk the Kids (Friday) Jurassic Park (Saturday)
- 10/28 [Sleepy Hollow 5K](#) at Beede
- 10/29 [Trunk or Treat](#) at Beede
- 11/4 [Diwali Festival of Lights Celebration](#) at Beede
- 11/18 [Craft Fair](#) at Hunt Recreation Center
- 12/3 [Tree Lighting and Parade](#)
- 12/15 [Swimming with Santa](#) at Beede
- The next Recreation Commission meeting will be 10/24/23, 6:30P at the Hunt Recreation Center.
- Anna McKeown's last day as Recreation Director will be Friday, September 29th. Anna has been with the Recreation team for 7 years, first as the Assistant Recreation Director and then Recreation Director, always focusing her efforts on initiatives that aligned with the Department's mission of promoting and supporting community through wellness and play. In her absence, please contact DJ Fimiani at DFimiani@concordma.gov or at 978-287-1053 until further notice.



The September employee of the month is Monica Antsey. Monica has worked as an Office Assistant at the Beede Center for about 2 years now and brings a positive, can-do attitude to the workplace. She is eager to help Beede members in person and on the phone and is often heard saying "how can I help." She is incredibly personable, knowledgeable about Concord

Recreation programs and memberships, and reliable working nights and weekends as requested. Monica responds calmly and effectively in high-stress situations and always places the needs of the customer first. We are proud to have Monica supporting the Beede operation.



Public Works:

Engineering:

Commonwealth Ave Improvements – The Town’s contractor, Newport, has made significant progress in resetting the granite curb and replacing the sidewalk on the south side of Commonwealth Ave. Access to businesses is being maintained fairly well, the sidewalk is excavated. As expected, the interfacing of the sidewalk with several building entrance steps and facades presents challenges to Newport and the progress.



Guardrail Replacement on Sudbury Rd the contractor, Steelco has been replacing the deteriorated guardrail on Sudbury Rd between Seven Star Ln and Old Road to 9 Acre Corner. The work entails the removal and replacement of approximately 900 feet of existing roadside guardrail and replacing it with new timber posts with Cor-Ten weathering steel guardrail.

Natural Resources:
Chamberlin Bridge:
Assistant

Natural Resources Director Bert Comins and Land Manager Will Holden worked with Trails Committee chair Bob White and member Bouke Noordzij to repair rotted sections of the popular Chamberlin Bridge, which links the Keyes Road municipal parking lot to Lowell Road. This short-term repair project will allow continued use of the bridge until a full decking replacement can be undertaken in future years.





Community Preservation Act Applications: Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye and ANRD Bert Comins attended the CPC this week to present the three CPA applications brought forward by the Division this year. The first application seeks funding to restore a 50-foot section of dilapidated stone retaining wall at Heywood Meadow, the second is for survey, design, and cost estimating to replace deteriorated steps at the Hillcrest conservation land, and the third is to continue the A-Pod program at White Pond for water quality improvements.

Finance

MUNIS