



Town of Concord

Weekly Operations Report

2024 Volume 3/January 26, 2024

General Administration

MCI/Concord Closure

Governor Healy announced this week that the FY25 budget bill would include the closure of MCI-Concord and disposition of the property effective as soon as July 1, 2024.. The population at the prison has decreased to its lowest levels. Closing the prison would save \$16 M in operating costs and approximately \$190M in future infrastructure costs. The bill includes language which would transfer the water treatment plant to the Town of Concord for public use. The closure represents opportunities for site-reuse which will be discussed in the coming weeks and months.

Emergency Health & Safety Training for Staff

The 2nd in a series of health and safety workshops was held this week for staff. The AED with CPR certification course, facilitated by CFD staff, followed up on a naloxone training workshop in the fall. Next up is the "Stop the Bleed" module focused on the ability to recognize life-threatening bleeding and act quickly and effectively to control the bleeding until help can arrive. "Stop the Bleed" workshop information will be available soon. For information on naloxone administration, contact Moira Carter, Public Health Nurse at mcarter@concordma.gov.

MAPC/NEFA Public Art Project

Three finalists were selected for the Fight for Freedom public art project. The project is a temporary art installation to creatively interpret the ways in which people have struggled for the fight for freedom through time in Concord, Massachusetts. It will be sited in Monument Center. Taking inspiration from the 250th anniversary of the start of the American Revolution in 2025, the town sought artists to consider the ways in which two 19th century Concord residents – Henry David Thoreau (1817 – 1862) and Ellen Garrison (1823 – 1892) - continued this fight for independence through the abolitionist cause.

This project is presented by the Town of Concord as part of “Making It Public,” a program of the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) with Forecast and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). This program seeks to support more diverse, inclusive, and equitable public artmaking across Massachusetts.

The three finalists will present their work at a public forum on March 6, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hearing Room at the Town House.

Fire Department

Calls for Service

There were 78 responses over the past week. Mutual aid was provided and received three times each.

Lt. Nichols responded to the town of Wayland with the regional fire investigation team to investigate the cause and origin at a structure fire.

Training

Ice rescue training continued this week, with all groups practicing with ice rescue equipment and making entry onto ice to simulate rescue.

Fire District 14 Dive Rescue team, including Concord FF Eric Harries conducted ice dive training at White Pond this week. The training teaches the skills of navigating under a sheet of ice and conducting search patterns.

FF Harries at left, finishing his dive and emerging from a hole in the ice. *Maia Kennedy photo used with permission.*



250th Planning

Assistant Chiefs Latta, Whitney, and Chief Judge attended a meeting at MEMA headquarters to present on Concord's public safety planning.

Fire Prevention

FF Evan Foisy has been assigned as the department's SAFE coordinator. In this role FF Foisy will be working with the public schools and the council on aging on a variety of fire safety education topics.

Police Department

Thursday, January 18 - Wednesday, January 24, 2024

- Log items: 534
- Traffic enforcement: :51
- Motor vehicle stops: 68
- Motor vehicle crashes and/or paper exchanges: 10
- Arrests: 2

Chief Mulcahy attended District Attorney Marian Ryan’s annual Chief/School superintendents’ breakfast sponsored by the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office to discuss school safety on January 22.

Lieutenant Landers attended a three-day training course on interview and interrogation on January 23.

Detective Bordenca attended Behavioral Observation and Suspicious Activity Recognition (BOSAR) training on January 11.

Concord Free Public Library

Fowler Library

- Fowler celebrated the holidays with a number of seasonal programs...
 - The West Concord Village Community organized a Holiday Stroll, offering events, discounts, and holiday cheer. At Fowler, Mothers Out Front promoted sustainable celebrations, demonstrating an induction stove to make mulled cider. Staff led patrons in making buttons and citrus garlands.
 - The Concord Visitor Center, Concord Recreation, and Kerem Shalom organized this year’s Annual Menorah Lighting, and Fowler staff created book lists and used



the Cricut to make bookmark crafts - a fun take home activity and a promotion of the Workshop's tools!

- 225 people celebrated Noon Year's Eve, transforming the whole library into a party, with a variety of programs from Fowler staff and community partners!
- Mothers Out Front created a display to raise awareness about composting and the town's pilot food drop-off program, now in its second year. They invited patrons to pledge to compost and to encourage others to compost.
- Fowler debuted Talk Yoga, a program developed by speech-language pathologists to combine speech with movement. Thanks to the Friends of the CFPL, instructor Jen Movitz will offer it on a monthly basis through May.
- Fowler closed for several days for carpet replacement provided by the Library Corporation. The Children's Room and Meeting Room both look amazing and are well worth a visit. During the closure, Fowler staff worked at the Main Library, leading two of their monthly book clubs and a children's craft while there.





Innovation & Communications

- The Workshop had its busiest month yet, providing more than 150 tools to the Concord community in December!
- The Innovation and Communication team is also preparing for a relaunch of the Library of Things Collection with new tools coming to both Main and Fowler locations.
- The Innovation and Communication team is excited to announce an upcoming partnership with Minuteman Media Network to make public access media services even more accessible to residents. MMN staff will offer a trial series of Open Studio hours in the Workshop in March 2024 - more details coming soon!

Technical Services

- A second new public PC is being added to the Teen Lounge, running Windows 11 - the first one in the Library!
- A new ScanEZ Touchscreen was installed recently, replacing the broken one in the Main Library Computer Alcove.
- A new public photocopier was added to the Main Library Circulation Desk. Many thanks to the Library Corporation for donating the much needed photocopier.

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- Tech Services staff cataloged, entered, and processed 2,036 new items in the months of October, November, and December.
 - 22,053 people visited the Main Library and 5,009 Fowler Branch in December 2023!

Special Collections

- During the 150th anniversary celebration, the Trustees realized no space had ever been named in honor of William Munroe. He was responsible for art being a part of the Library, and because the art gallery was being renovated, it seemed like the perfect space. The Munroe Gallery was dedicated on December 13. This beautiful and much-needed renovation would not have been possible without the support of generous donors.
- "Connecting the Community: An Exhibition to Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Concord Free Public Library," closed on December 22. Special Collections plans to make an online version of the exhibit available on the Library website soon.
- Interns from Simmons University and the University of Rhode Island prepared collection guides and assisted with managing new accessions.
- The Concord Free Public Library was built thanks to the generous contribution of William Munroe. He oversaw the construction of the Library and left funds for its upkeep. Upon his death in 1877, the town issued a formal tribute to his character to be sent to his family and the Town Clerk's records. Thanks to a recent donation, we now have the family's copy of this tribute.

Administration and Staffing

- The Library is compiling the 2023 Annual Report and collaborating with the Library Committee, Library Corporation, and Friends of the Library on their annual reports as well.

Council on Aging

Concord Bridge Talk

Concord senior residents came out in force to hear from Betsy Levinson, editor at *The Concord Bridge*, to learn about the publication's inception, plans, hopes and realities on January 25. Betsy was eager to hear from seniors about what they want covered and what is important to them in a weekly format. Many rich questions from the closing of Concord MCI to 2229 Main Street Superfund site were posed by the engaged and civic minded group.

Pictured L to R: Eileen Bogle, COA interim director; Betsy Levinson, *The Concord Bridge* editor.

