



Town of Concord

Weekly Operations Report

2024 Volume 5/February 09, 2024

General Administration

Town Clerk

The Town Clerk's Office has mailed 3,005 Presidential Primary ballots to voters as of Friday, February 9, 2024. Voters are reminded that the deadline to apply for ballots by mail is **Tuesday, February 27th at 5:00pm**. Ballots may be returned in person, by mail, or drop box. When using mail, please allow plenty of time for your ballot to arrive. To be counted, your ballot must be received at the Town Clerk's Office by 8:00pm on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

Special thanks to Jon Straggas and the Facilities Dept. for bringing an historic hue to our drop box and installing it in time to manage the volume of ballots we anticipate receiving. This replaces the two smaller drop boxes that were previously located at the side entrance to the Town House.



January Going the Extra Mile Lottery Winner

Congratulations to our January GEM Lottery Award winner Madhavi Obbani from the Library! For Going the Extra Mile, Madhavi will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to a local business to enjoy.

Follow this link to learn more about the GEM Program: [Town of Concord \(concordma.gov\)](http://TownofConcord.concordma.gov)

If you know someone who has gone the extra mile and deserves recognition, nominate them! [GEM-Form \(concordma.gov\)](#) Completed forms can be submitted to Magnolia Begley, Human Resources, mbegley@concordma.gov

Police Department

Thursday, February 1 - Wednesday, February 7, 2024

- Log items: 560
- Traffic enforcement: 50
- Motor vehicle stops: 87
- Motor vehicle crashes and/or paper exchanges: 5
- Arrests: 4

Personnel News

Detective Harrington was assigned to the FBI-Boston Joint Terrorism Task Force(JTTF) as a liaison to the department.

Community

Officers provided a local Girl Scouts group with a tour of the Concord Police Station.

Training

Detective Rodriguez attended a seminar on Understanding Dementia at Concord Park

Health Division

This week in the Health Division the Concord Public Health Nurse worked with the State Department of Public Health, Concord Public Schools, and the Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative to deliver childhood vaccines at the Concord Shelter. This is part of the ongoing efforts to support the medical needs of that community. Work also continues with the Town-wide mental health clinician position, a draft contract with Eliot Services is under review. The Health Division is working with our Behavioral Health Collaborative to establish a mental health prevention team and a substance use prevention program. We are in collaboration with the library to set up Narcan cabinets that will be placed in the main branch and in West Concord stay tuned for a launch announcement. Narcan is currently available on the second floor of 141 Keyes Road. Other items that have been ongoing so far this year include:

- Update of the Concord Private well regulations in collaboration with the Concord Board of Health
- Update and improvement of Form S with Water and Sewer and permit eyes, aiming for efficient resolution for the workflow and user interface.
- Continued training for the health inspector, Mike, who attended excavation and trenches training sessions to enhance our team's safety protocols and knowledge.
- Ebony Sodl, our new admin, is working to digitize the paper in the Health Department in collaboration with the Town Archivist. She is also working to follow up on overdue accounts related to weights and measures.
- We are actively reviewing resumes for a new health inspector to replace Gabrielle White who left in January for another position.

Natural Resources

Warner's Pond Task Force

The newly created Warner's Pond Task Force held its first meeting Thursday, with a robust discussion on protocols and procedures for the work ahead. The Task Force will review the alternatives that have been studied and implemented to date to improve the ecological health and recreational opportunities at Warner's Pond, identify any other feasible alternatives, and recommend a course of action forward to the NRC.

Task Force members include 11 voting members: (Vickie Alani-upstream abutter, Paul Boehm-Recreation Commission, Malcolm Bryant-at large, Jeff Collins-OARS, Christine Denaro-downstream abutter, Keith Hannon-Friends of Warner's Pond, Mark Howell-Select Board, Bill Kemeza-NRC, Liz Morrison-Howe-at large, David Owen-Concord Scout House, and Sven Weber-Public Works Commission. The Task Force also includes five ex officio, non-voting members: Ann Clifford-Senior Planner, Bruce Curliss-Hassanamisco Band of Nipmuc, Delia Kaye/Bert Comins, Natural Resources Division, Jeff Quick-MA Department of Corrections, and Sal Ybarra-CPW Stormwater Engineer.

Concord Free Public Library

Youth Services

- Kids joined Children's Library staff for several fun Make-it! Club projects in January that each "upcycled" items for crafts and experiments. January projects included making penny spinners from recycled cardboard boxes, conducting a science experiment on buoyancy that used recycled plastic bottles, and creating hedgehogs from books weeded from the Children's Library collection.



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- Youth Services staff Sara and Erick partnered with volunteers from the METCO program to host the first METCO Buddies Playdate for 4th and 5th grade students at the library. During the playdate, students were introduced to the button maker, and they quickly became experts creating buttons independently! They also had the opportunity to explore the Teen Lounge to play board games, face off at the ping-pong table, and even use the Nintendo Switch.



- Dr. Karin Hodges, psychologist, MIT lecturer, and founder of local education center Raising Moxie, visited the library to educate library staff, caregivers, and educators on youth mental health. During her presentation, Dr. Hodges shared her insights on fostering environments that support children's emotional growth and wellbeing by providing opportunities for children to be challenged and given the privilege to develop resilience.

Fowler Library



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- Fowler kicked off 2024 with a full January with 64 programs (1,203 participants) and 4 take and make crafts (333 kits). Regular programming, including storytimes, book clubs, free play, crafts, and more, continue to attract a mix of new and returning patrons.
 - Staff worked with the Pollinator Health Advisory Committee, the CCHS Green Team, and the West Concord Green Thumbs to run the second annual, Friends of CFPL-sponsored Winter Seed Sow, hosted by Verrill Farm. Despite being snowed out on the original date, 160 people participated over 3 hours. Thanks to the Friends, Lady Fern Farm led a second Winter Seed Sow at Fowler, which provided a useful model for a staff-run, all ages Winter Seed Sow during a weekly Craft Lab. These programs support the library's sustainability efforts and help connect the community with resources related to native plants and the preservation of biodiversity.
 - Mothers Out Front worked with staff to offer a "Reduce, Reuse, Repair" Saturday Studio. This storytime focused on mending, and participants reused fabric to make fabulous paper dolls. The same day, Cathy Karp led a Visible Mending class for adults, continuing the theme of making materials last.
 - Thanks to the Friends of CFPL, Fowler held a winter watercolor class led by Laurie Engdahl and a meditative watercolor class led by Cathy Karp.
 - Laila Pavlov, a CCHS high school student, led an introduction to Bharatanatyam. Preschoolers had another opportunity to move their bodies and develop their language skills during Talk Yoga.

Administration and Staffing

- The Library prepared to welcome the new Facilities Manager, Bruce LaPlante, as part of the Library Corporation's staff team. Bruce will be responsible for the maintenance of the building and grounds and will be an essential partner for the library's custodians and Administration.
- The library is partnering with Public Health, Police, Fire, and the Council on Aging to plan a program about Emergency Preparedness for Seniors. This program will also

be held for Library Staff as part of the requirements for the library's Sustainability Certification process.

- The Admin Team attended the most recent meeting of the Behavioral Health Collaborative and has offered to host upcoming sessions on a permanent basis as the schedule is set. Additional members of the library staff have expressed interest in assisting with the group's efforts as well.
- On Friday, February 2, a half-day in-service was held for library staff. Various departments shared updates on new services, refreshers on electronic resources, tours, and Q&A. The day was very successful in providing staff with the opportunity to learn from and associate with each other. Special thanks to the Friends and Corporation for supporting this day by providing a delicious lunch!