



Town of Concord

Weekly Operations Report

2024 Volume 32/September 6th, 2024

General Administration

MCI-Concord Public Hearing and Information Session

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Asset Management and Maintenance is hosting a public forum to discuss the disposition process for MCI-Concord on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024 at 7 PM at the Town House and on Zoom. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend to hear the presentation and ask questions. Find more information at concordma.gov/MCI

Residential Tax Exemption Public Forum

The Select Board will host a hybrid public meeting on Sept. 30 at the Town House and on Zoom. The Residential Tax Exemption went into effect a year ago. A presentation reviewing the impact will be shown, with an opportunity to ask questions and provide comment.

Election Report 2024: State Primary

- Total Registered voters as of August 24, 2024: **14,114**
- Total Voter Turnout: **3,552** (25%)
- 26% voted in person on Election Day (911 voters)
- 74% of voters had cast their ballots before election day (**2,641** voters)
- **81** voters who requested ballots by mail decided to vote in person.



A total of **88** voters took advantage of State mandated Early in Person voting held over 6 days, totaling 42 hours, averaging 2 voters per hour. The highest turnout days were Monday and Friday with 18 voters each day.

Statistics narrative

25% of Concord's eligible voters cast ballots in the State Primary of September 3, 2024. Of the 3,552 voters participating, 74% (2,641 voters) had cast their votes prior to election day. Only 88 voters took advantage of the State-mandated Early In-Person voting held over 6 days, totaling 42 hours for an average of 2 voters per hour. The highest turnout days were Monday and Friday with 18 voters on each of those days.

Polling places saw 911 voters (26% of the total turnout) in person town-wide, of whom 81 had requested ballots but decided to vote in person.

Health Department

Mosquito Borne Viruses

Concord Health is in close communication with the Mass Dept of Health regarding the presence of the West Nile and EEE in regional mosquito populations. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced on Friday one additional human case of Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) and one additional human case of West Nile virus (WNV) in Massachusetts this year. The DPH raised the risk level to High in Acton and moderate in Concord. Concord residents are asked to take precautions and avoid contact with mosquitoes:

- Avoid outside areas with obvious mosquito activity
- Avoid being outside at dusk and dawn
- Remove standing water where mosquitoes can breed
- Use CDC recommended insect repellent
- Wear long sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks
- Repair window screens- keep mosquitoes out.

The Health Director has informed the area public and private schools of the DPH advisory, particularly regarding evening activities, and will continue to monitor and advise the community of any elevation in risk level. For more information see [Massachusetts arbovirus update | Mass.gov](#)

Police Department

Calls for Service

Thursday August 29th thru Wednesday September 4th, 2024

- Log items: 636
- Traffic enforcement: 39
- Motor vehicle stops: 45
- Motor vehicle crashes and/or exchanges: 10
- Arrests: 1

Officer Mailloux and Ofc. Sellards participated in the “National Night Out” at Hanscom Air Force Base on August 29th.

On August 29th, Captain Goldman, Lieutenant Landers, Sergeant Bordenca, and Inspector Holsinger attended the 250th Transportation Group meeting that was held at CPD.

Officers assisted the Lafayette Parade on September 2nd from the Concord Museum to Wright Tavern.

Detective Rodriguez and Detective Bordenca attended Surveillance Detection for Bombing Prevention training put on by the Department of Homeland Security at CPD on September 4th.

Inspector Paladino and Ofc. Simpson met with staff from Nashoba Brooks School on September 4th to go over school safety drills.

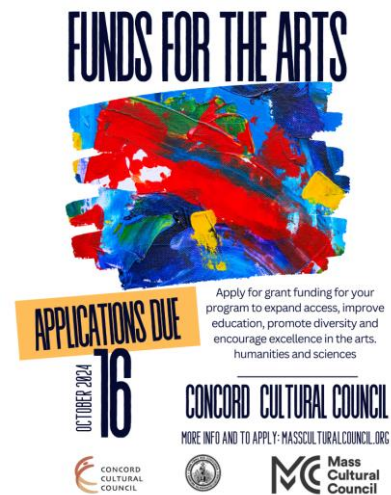
Economic Vitality

Cultural Council's Grant Opening

Apply for grant funding from the Local Cultural Council (LCC) for a variety of projects and programs in the arts, humanities, and sciences! Applications are now open, and are due by October 16th at 11:59 pm through the [Mass Cultural Council system](#).

For more information on the program, eligibility, the timeline, and how to apply:

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/application-process/>



"Freedom's Silhouette" by Liz Helfer: A Public Art Celebration

In collaboration with the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA), the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Concord is proud to present "Freedom's Silhouette," a captivating temporary art installation by Massachusetts-based artist Liz Helfer. This project is part of NEFA's state-wide "Making It Public" program, which supports diverse, inclusive, and equitable public artmaking across Massachusetts. These offerings are made possible thanks to funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to the Concord Center Cultural District. "Freedom's Silhouette" honors the enduring fight for freedom, drawing inspiration from the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the lives of 19th-century Concord residents Henry David Thoreau and Ellen Garrison. The artwork will be installed in Concord Center's Monument Square in mid-September and will remain on display through the 2025 celebrations.





Upcoming Events

Freedom Concert: Terry Borderline and the Suns

Join us for an electrifying performance by Terry Borderline and the Suns held at Monument Square on Saturday, October 5th from 3-5 pm. This seven-piece band will perform a set of original songs about freedom, spirituality, nature, and social justice, including an original piece inspired by Thoreau and Garrison. The concert will be followed by a 45-minute Q&A session.

Wright Tavern Pub Choir

Lift your voice to sing at Monument Square on Sunday, October 20th from 3:30-6 pm. Accomplished choir director and musician Tim Bongiovanni will teach participants a three-part harmony that they will perform by the sculpture. Enjoy refreshments and a beer garden at the Tavern as part of this unique musical event.

Youth "Upstander" Art Project

Explore Concord's African American history and connect past struggles for equality with modern movements on Saturday, October 5th from 11-1 pm or Wednesday, October 23rd from 3-5 pm at Monument Square. Presented by the Robbins House, this art project engages local youth in artmaking and dialogue about freedom and social justice.

Embodied Writing Workshop

Book coach Madeleine Eno and Boston Globe art critic & Substack writer Cate McQuaid present a free daylong workshop for writers and any creative souls who want to reinvigorate the connection between their bodies and their pens, giving voice to what freedom means to them. The workshop takes place in sites around Concord Center on

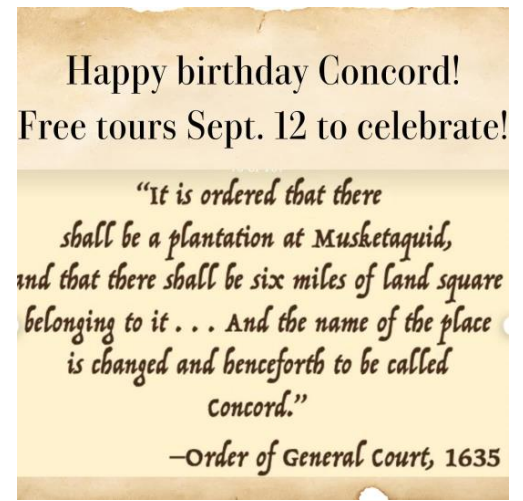
Saturday, September 28th. Space is limited. For more information and to apply, visit madeleine-eno.com/embodied/

Freedom Silhouette: Bridging Generations Through Film

This film project produced by Megan Carroll, Jane Howes, and Charley Kidd explores how three generations of a family encounter Thoreau and Garrison and reflect on the nature of freedom. The series of digital shorts will be distributed in November.

Concord's 389th Birthday

Thursday September 12th is the Town's 389th birthday and the Visitor Center will celebrate with Free Tours offered at 9 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 3 pm, and 5 pm! The first large tour company (Collette Tours) is running our Beyond 1775 Package with 30 coach bus tours reserved in 2026. The Visitor Center is partnered with the Wright Tavern and Robbins House to offer this 3 hour bus tour with a private Concord Tour Guide.



Happy birthday Concord!
Free tours Sept. 12 to celebrate!

"It is ordered that there shall be a plantation at Musketaquid, and that there shall be six miles of land square belonging to it . . . And the name of the place is changed and henceforth to be called Concord."

—Order of General Court, 1635

Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism Spotlight

This week, the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism (MOTT) wrote a feature on Concord250! Check out the full article here: <https://mailchi.mp/mass/industry-update-big-e-grants-revolutionary-fun?e=33975f9df4>

Concord Free Public Library

Reference Services

For June and July, Reference answered 724 reference questions, booked 447 meeting rooms, assisted 244 patrons with technology, and advised 14 patrons on reading choices. Eight patrons used the Library's notary service in June and July.

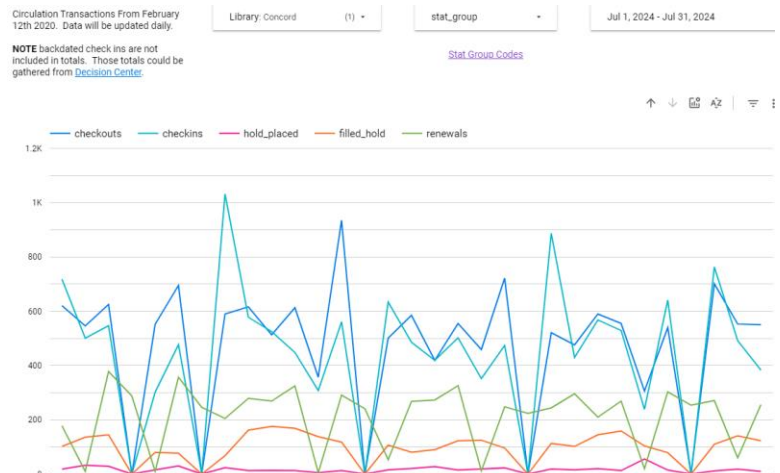
Reference ran a number of interesting programs in June and July, including a one-man show for Pride entitled "Pride the expiration date with Judah Leblang", a talk on the Isabella Stewart Gardner art heist, and a film screening of "Mona Lisa is Missing", which included a virtual Q&A with the filmmakers. Other programs included the weekly meditation series

with Lara Wilson, which was held on Zoom for each Thursday in June, as well as the monthly book discussion group and Cookbook Club.

Michelle John put together a wonderful pride display for June and a display on Olympic sports and athletes for July. Meanwhile, Barbara put together a display for Alzheimer's Awareness month, while Kate Keith-Fitzgerald put together a very popular display on books set in Paris.

Circulation

Circulation had 19,775 transactions and welcomed 111 new patrons to the CFPL family. Staff created book displays with the topics "Summer Blockbusters" and "Armchair Travel" and put up flags to celebrate the Summer Olympic Games Paris 2024! Also, patrons reserved 246 museum passes, with the New England Aquarium in first place by a significant margin, followed by the Museum of Fine Arts and the Museum of Science. Finally, circulation staff continue their involvement with professional development and the CFPL's Sustainability initiatives.



Fowler Library

On June 5, Fowler Library benefited from the first annual Concord Middle School Day of Service. Students enjoyed some animal therapy (they held the newly hatched chicks, a perfect balm for pre-finals stress!), painted book bricks to line the newly expanded pollinator garden in the backyard, and tested out the new corn hole set.

Fowler Library participated for the first time as a music venue for West Concord PorchFest, and a



cordoned off parking lot made for a perfect site for two acts, Blow My Own Horn and Timber Timbre.

For a second year, staff celebrated Pollinator Week in mid-June with support from the Pollinator Health Advisory Committee and the Natural Resources Division. Fowler held story times, transplanted seedlings from the Winter Seed Sow, and set up a self-guided garden tour of pollinator gardens throughout Concord. Staff also worked with Concord Public Works to begin the process of creating a new pollinator garden in the front yard. The first step, lasagna mulching, involved spreading a layer of cardboard directly on the grass and covering it with several inches of compost.



Reading Dragons and Rubber Duckies took over the summer, and staff have become adept at evolving dragons and helping the many summer reading participants navigate the popular program and find sufficient reading material to keep up with their dragon-like appetites.



Fowler Library joined the Main Library to celebrate ConcordPride, culminating for

Fowler in a well-attended Rainbow Crafting drop-in event during PrideFest on June 22nd, and staff offered weekly storytimes for Kaleidoscope, the youngest Concord Recreation Department campers. ArtScape at Bradford Mill curated another community art show, Still Life,

which opened in June and will be on display through the end of August.

During July, Fowler staff collaborated with the Sudbury, Assabet, Concord (SuAsCo) river stewards during their annual Riverfest celebration, working together for river storytimes, a River Lab, a craft during their July 20th event at the Old Manse, and a Fowler Afoot “River Walk” discussing *The Boatman: Henry David Thoreau’s River Years* by Robert Thorson. To help promote their many free events, the summer reading program had a special “Stream Egg” that participants only got by attending a Riverfest program.



Jen Movitz offered Talk Yoga classes and a new well-attended series of Gentle Flow Yoga for adults. Stitch Circle attracted new members and welcomed interested crafters of all ages by holding a Beginning Crocheting class during one of their weekly meetups. Mothers Out Front focused



on wind power and the problems of single use plastics during Sustainability Labs in June and July.

Children's Library

This summer, Youth Services was thrilled to kick off our brand new Reading Dragons summer reading challenge for school-aged kids and the return of our popular Rubber Ducky Club for pre-readers! Members of the Rubber Ducky Club earned rubber duckies for each week of reading, and Reading Dragon Trainers earned dragon trading cards that grew and evolved into higher level dragons as they read. They were able to choose from a total of 16 different dragon eggs, each with a total of 4 evolutions. In summer 2023, 550 kids participated in summer reading challenges, and this year, a whopping 1,054 kids joined us for Reading Dragons and Rubber Ducky Club! Together, the children in our community read 30,450 days over the course of



the summer and collected over 192,000 dragon cards

In conjunction with Reading Dragons, Youth Services partnered with Concord



Pride in June and Riverfest in July to distribute special hidden dragon eggs that could only be found at Pride and Riverfest events! Several patrons reported attending to collect eggs and enjoyed discovering these events. Youth Services and Fowler staff also partnered with the

Concord250 Community to offer lanterns for the community to create and bring to celebrate 250 Days to the 250th Community Day. By the end of July, families at Main had created 50 lanterns to take to the event.

Youth Services also welcomed a variety of new and returning programmers:

- Musical Monday performer Julie Stepanek taught a class for families to learn to play the ukulele. Families learned plucking and strumming ukulele tabs and how to play 3 traditional tunes confidently.
- Kids went on an archeological adventure and excavated dragon figurines encased in “fossilized” dragon eggs, and then they constructed their own dragon eggs from clay and rhinestones.
- Buildwave led an interactive, hands-on building activity inspired by video games. Kids and their families participated in building challenges with “waves” of materials including LEGO, PlusPlus, and unique materials designed by Buildwave.
- Youth Services closed July with the first annual Worm Race! In this brand-new sporting event, kids each selected a worm “racer” and then competed to see which worm would move the farthest out of a 6 inch ring in one minute. Racers were brought home to the gardens of their trainers or released to enjoy a life of luxury in the Children’s Garden. Congratulations to the trainer of The Stow Speedster, who set this year’s record of exiting the ring in just 43 seconds!
- The Whalemobile visited, a life-sized inflatable humpback whale that nearly filled the Goodwin Forum and enchanted everyone who saw it! Families had the opportunity to go inside the whale with educator Michaela and learn about the anatomy of whales and the importance of whales in our ecosystem. Participants described the experience as “amazing” and “magical,” and several kids emerged with a new passion for caring for our oceans.



Innovation and Communications

The Workshop hosted hundreds of programs this summer, including a Pride Craft Party, gelli plate printing classes, a soldering workshop, and a Summer Paint & Sip that was a partnership with Youth Services! In addition, the Workshop ran its own Summer Maker Program, in which patrons received a stamp on a “loyalty card” for every visit they made to the Workshop—each full card earned them a special maker prize compatible with one of the Library’s maker tools.



It was a busy summer for Open Maker Hours, with more than 350 tool loans in June and July. The Innovation and Communication Team also expanded the Library’s accessibility infrastructure with a new mobile access cart that will allow the Library to offer assistive listening devices on request at programs hosted anywhere in the Main Library building, including storytimes and Workshop classes.



Special Collections

Special Collections served 236 patrons, including 197 on-site patrons, and answered 174 reference requests on-site, via phone, and email. Staff answered 85 requests to access archival records and manuscript materials. Patrons visited from 5 New England states, as well as from New York, North Carolina, California, Nevada, Colorado, Alabama, Indiana, Texas, Florida, Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, Alaska, Canada, Japan, and Spain.

The Annual Gathering of the Thoreau Society resulted in many visits to Special Collections and a team from Florentine Films (aka Ken Burns Productions) reviewed multiple photograph and manuscript collections and scanned items that may be included in an upcoming documentary about Henry David Thoreau.

Special Collections created a very successful exhibition titled *Illustrated - An Exhibition of Children's Art*. Beginning in 1985, Children’s Library staff collected and framed drawings from authors and illustrators who visited the Library, showcasing local authors like Matt Tavares and D.B. Johnson and world-famous children’s authors such as Tomie dePaola and

Eric Carle. This was originally displayed in the Children's Room, a space that became the Goodwin Forum during the recent renovation and expansion. Special Collections housed the art in the Munroe Gallery for this special exhibition.
