



Town of Concord

Bi-Weekly Operations Report

2024 Volume 34/ October 6, 2024

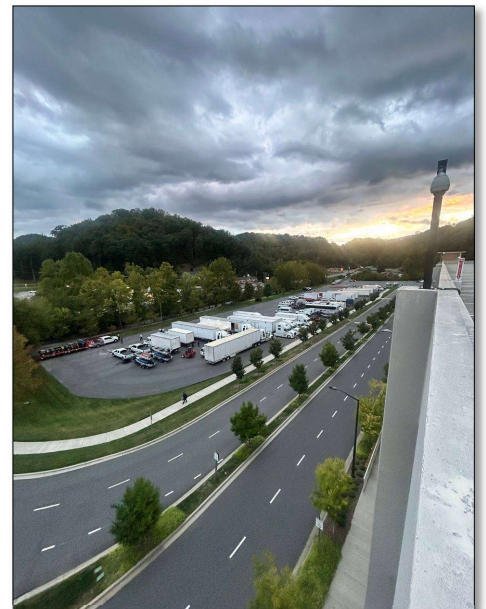
General Administration

Hurricane Helene Response

The Town of Concord is proud to have staff assisting the relief and recovery effort in North Carolina and South Carolina in response to the devastating impact of Hurricane Helene.

Aaron Miklosko, Highway and Park Superintendent and Walter Latta, Jr., Asst. Fire Chief, as members of Massachusetts Task Force 1 - FEMA Urban Search and Rescue have been staged in Haywood County, North Carolina since before Helene hit and have been involved in the operational logistics and recovery effort since.

As of Oct. 6, there are more than 230 deaths confirmed and many, many more still missing, in rural areas with washed out roads and landscapes completely transformed by water. Walter and Aaron continue to assist in the effort to clear storm debris, recover the missing, and coordinate staging operations for crews from Maryland, Nebraska, Arizona, and Ohio. Both are working long challenging days but buoyed by the importance of this mission and the appreciation of the people impacted.



Haywood County, North Carolina



Aaron Miklosko and Walter Latta, Jr.

Rich Fedele and Matt McNamara, CMLP were deployed to South Carolina on Oct. 2 as part of a mutual aid effort. They are on the ground working to get the power restored in Laurens and Aiken, South Carolina. The area is in rough shape following the storm, and restoration continues to be a challenge. Despite the slow progress, due to the magnitude of the work, crew coordinators are very proud of the work being accomplished. Estimates predict that full power may be restored by October 11, 2024.

We send our best wishes and support to Walter, Aaron, Rich and Matt, that they stay safe and well.

Personnel News - Interim Chief Information Officer Appointed

Town Manager Kerry Lafleur is pleased to announce the appointment of Amalia McCaffrey as Interim Chief Information Officer, effective Monday, October 7, 2024. McCaffrey will be taking over the role from Jason Bulger, who has accepted the position of Concord Municipal Light Plant Director. "We are most fortunate in Concord to have a deep bench of talent, who bring a unique perspective to their roles," commented Ms. Lafleur. "Amalia's experience perfectly exemplifies this quality."



Amalia McCaffrey, Interim CIO

McCaffrey has been serving as the IT Operations Manager since February 2024. Prior to joining the Town of Concord, she had a distinguished 25-year career with the United States Air Force and remains a member of the Massachusetts Air National Guard. McCaffrey has spent her career leading technical teams across various operational fields, specializing in network, communication, and systems operations. McCaffrey holds a master's degree in politics and public policy from the University of Colorado.

The Town of Concord is excited to have McCaffrey leading its IT department and looks forward to her contributions to the organization.

State Ethics Training

On September 25, 2024, the Public Education Chief of the State Ethics Commission presented to Concord board member volunteers on their ethical obligations under state law. A copy of the recording can be accessed here: https://youtu.be/xYpssB4Dg0s?si=aWwzX_KcWsSzurQ. Copies of the handouts will be available on the Town Clerk's webpage.



David Gianotti, State Ethics Commission

Minuteman Media Network Welcomes VIP Talk Show Guest

Did you know that MMN is located inside Concord-Carlisle High School? We train students on video production and help them create original TV shows! Gerald Tenenbaum, CCHS '26, welcomed a very special guest to the debut episode of his upcoming radio/TV show *The People's Tomorrow*. Gerald interviewed NH Governor Chris Sununu about his career in politics and his advice for aspiring students. In future episodes, Gerald plans to bring more accomplished guests to the MMN studio.

The MMN crew was led by Matt Beren, who directed a 4-camera production, and worked with Gerald to edit the show. The show was simultaneously recorded by the high school radio station WIQH 88.3FM. *The People's Tomorrow* will be available through MMN, and on WIQH, 88.3FM / WIQH.org, regularly starting very soon.



Matt Beren, MMN, Julie Manoogian, MMN, NH Gov. Chris Sununu, Gerald Tenenbaum, WIQH/CCHS '26 (l-r)

Check out: www.youtube.com/@MinutemanMediaNetwork for the TV version and WIQH.org for the radio show.

Employee Appreciation Event

Staff gathered for a BBQ picnic served by division heads, ice cream, team building activities, and some friendly competition, including miniature golf, cornhole, and tie dye, in appreciation for their hard work and dedication to the Concord community. Staff were served by division heads and Thanks to everyone who made the day such a success. A special shout out to Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency (MIIA), the Town's insurance provider, for providing prizes and free 10-minute chair massages!



Police Department Calls for Service

Thursday September 26th thru Wednesday October 2nd, 2024

- Log items: 625
- Traffic enforcement: 52
- Motor vehicle stops: 65
- Motor vehicle crashes and/or exchanges: 13
- Arrests: 2

Sgt. Harrington completed the First Line Supervisor at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island on September 27th.

Officers assisted with the Kicks for Cancer events at CCHS on September 28th.

Officers assisted with the Mighty Moose 5K road race on September 29th which consisted of about 2,600 participants.

On October 2nd, Inspector Paladino, Detective Rodriguez and Officer Simpson conducted ALICE training at the Middlesex School.

Concord Public Works

Engineering

Main Street Paving – The last section of Main Street in the town center between Sudbury Rd and Monument Sq together with Monument Square itself received the final paving on Sunday (9/29) night. Under project management by Senior Public Works Engineer, Joe Cormier, the paving and striping of Main Street and Monument Square were successfully completed meeting CPW's goal to improve the appearance of the town center prior to the 25^{0th} celebrations. The final crosswalk markings at the Main Street/Walden Street intersection which will have a textured finish are being scheduled. Work on Lexington Road by National Grid continues with the intention to complete the gas pipe installation and restore the street before the close of the construction season.

Silver Hill Road Improvements, Phase 1 – The construction of this project which includes the replacement of water mains, improvements to drainage and reconstruction of Silver Hill Rd from Monument St to Turning Mill Rd, Cress Brook Rd, and Turning Mill Rd is scheduled to begin by the middle of October. A meeting with the neighborhood is scheduled for Tuesday 10/8 at 4:00 pm on site at the intersection of Silver Hill Rd and Cress Brook Rd.

Highland Street – After completing the design for re-grading the street and repairs to the failed underground drainage system, work resumed on Highland St. The entire street now has a layer of binder pavement, and the drainage repairs were completed this week. Preparations are being made for the final paving.

Other Street Paving – Road reconstruction and paving is about to get started on Channing Rd, Temple Rd, Isaac Davis Rd, Red Coat Ln, Ripley Hill Rd, Bartlett Hill Rd, Martin Rd and Westford Rd and continue until completed about the middle of November.

MS4 Permit Report – CPW Engineering completed and submitted the annual report for Year 6 (July 1, 2023, thru June 30, 2024) of the MS4 permit which is regulated by the Federal EPA. The report provided records and data on all the work and activities performed during the period to reduce pollutants in stormwater discharges to the water bodies. Information on the this permit and the Town’s Stormwater management plan can be found on the Town’s website link

<https://concordma.gov/3398/Stormwater-Management-Plan>

Gerow Recreation Area – The contractor, Cole, completed all work under their contract and has turned over the facility to the Town. They will return to complete punch list items and to address items under warranty as needed.



Gerow Park Pavilion

Economic Vitality

Tourism

Tour Guide Jeff Driscoll was featured in a Concord Bridge Article when we hosted free Concord Tours to celebrate Concord’s Birthday! Check it out here:

<https://concordbridge.org/index.php/2024/09/28/concord-celebrates-its-birthday-with-a-stroll-through-its-past/>

On September 26, Beth Williams and Joe Palumbo hosted 2 German Journalists for a FAM Tour (familiarization). Sponsored by the Mass Office of Travel and Tourism, FAM tours help to spread the word Regionally and Internationally about Concord by providing journalists with great local content.

Photos attached feature Gerry (Lexington Tour Guide), Sandhya Ayer (Lexington), Ariel Chin (Lexington), and Brian Bradbury (Exec Director of the Greater Merrimack Convention and Visitor Bureau).



Concord Free Public Library

Reference Services

Reference answered 338 reference questions, booked 244 meeting rooms, assisted 151 patrons with technology, and advised 9 patrons on reading choices. Three patrons used the library's notary service.

Reference ran several creative programs, including a talk with Henriette Lazaridis, author of *Last Days in Plaka*, and a screening of three independent films about Arabic culture from local filmmaker Raouf Zaki. Other programs included weekly meditation with Lara Wilson, as well as the monthly book discussion group and Cookbook Club.

Kate created a wonderful display of books exhibited in the Goodwin Forum, while Barbara put together a display for Hispanic Heritage Month. Meanwhile, Gay celebrated Climate Prep Week by displaying alternatives to plastic (see photo below).



Youth Services

Teen Lounge

Teen ran 7 programs in September with a total attendance of 79 teen attendees.

The new school year has brought the return of outrageous Dungeons and Dragons attendance numbers, which are creeping up towards 30 players. Stratifying back into an alternating high school game and a middle school game has let some of the pressure off, but already again it looks like we'll have to go to three individual games.

After the success of the Saturday Magic the Gathering draft programs, teens have requested both more collectable card gaming programs, but also more Saturday programs in general. The teen librarian is working with Youth Services on scheduling to accommodate more weekend options for teen patrons.

The teen librarian met with a representative of the Corwin-Russell school at Broccoli Hall in Sudbury on Monday, September 9th to discuss how the library could support their bright, neurodiverse students in exploring their community. Partnerships and class visits are in development.

The think tank behind Concord Pride '25 has begun meeting and has invited the teen librarian to once again assist in the development of programs and events for the June celebration. Their first meeting was on Thursday, September 19th. The teen librarian has already booked meeting time with the Concord Carlisle Spectrum Club for their input on

Pride starting in October, and he plans to use the new street team initiative (see below) to reach out to the other area schools' similar clubs for their input as well.

The teen librarian visited Concord Middle School on Monday September 23rd to speak to the 8th graders at their volunteering fair. He was able to head-hunt the next generation of general volunteers, but also to recruit for a new teen "street team" initiative which plans to utilize students to help advocate for the library and advertise programs among their peers. The street team model will soon be implemented at Concord Academy and Concord Carlisle High School, as well.

With the generous help of Sofia from the Concord Library Corporation, the teen librarian was able to secure a \$2500.00 grant from the Mass Cultural Council to help fund a joint project with Concord Carlisle High School. The Young Adult Author Symposium (YAAS!) will be held on Saturday, November 16th at CCHS, and will feature a dozen authors of literature, graphic novels, and non-fiction aimed at YA audiences. The event aims to give teens access to authors for Q&A, writing workshops, and book signings. Save the date!

Children's Library

Children's staff were thrilled to partner with Concord Girl Scout Troop 70542 to host a Kids' Mental Wellness Fair to kick off the month of September. Activities included crafts, stories about yoga and wellness, and a group yoga session hosted by Children's staff.

After a short break, storytimes and Musical Mondays have returned and continue to be some of the most popular Children's Library offerings. In September, the Library hosted favorite returning performers Julie Stepanek and Alan Goodrich and welcomed the wonderful Matt Heaton for his first concert at CFPL.

In recognition of Climate Preparedness Week, Workshop and Children's staff teamed up to present a month of activities celebrating birds during September Make-it! Club sessions. Participants had the opportunity to create bird feeders and standing bird sculptures from recycled books among other crafts. Children's staff also welcomed Concord Recreation After School back to Make-it! Club beginning in September and are looking forward to future events partnering with the program.

Council on Aging

New Nurse!

COA is pleased to announce the appointment of *Caroline Partridge* as our new nurse! Caroline brings knowledge and experience in health promotion, wellness, education, and a commitment to enhance the well-being of older adults. In her role, Caroline will lead several key health initiatives at the COA, including:

- Overseeing our *weekly Blood Pressure Clinic*
- Coordinating wellness speakers on a variety of health-related topics
- Delivering *wellness lectures*
- Offering *one-on-one health consultations*

Nicole Saia, COA Assistant Director, expressed her enthusiasm, saying, “We are excited to have Caroline join our team and to provide this valuable resource to our older adult community. We’re confident that our members will greatly benefit from her expertise and personalized care.”