



Town of Concord

Bi-Weekly Operations Report

2024 Volume 38/December 14th, 2024

Minuteman Media Network

Alliance for Community Media Awards

The MMN team scored First Prize at the **Alliance for Community Media Awards!** This annual awards show recognizes excellence in video production for community media stations. The winning video was our coverage of the Concord Free Public Library's 150th Anniversary Celebration. Our category was "Community Event - Multiple Cameras", and we're proud to say we beat larger cities like Boston and NYC!

The award-winning video features Emily Smith, Director of Libraries, a parade of Minutemen and reenactors, and crowds of Concordians enjoying the day. The MMN staff is pictured here L to R: Tory Wesnofske, Julie Manoogian, Matt Beren, Arkadiy Barshteyn. You can watch all our videos on [YouTube](#).



Planning and Land Management

Visitor Center and Economic Vitality

Concord continues to get positive coverage in a variety of national travel and tourism publications, this month including [Luxe Beat Magazine](#), [Northwest Prime Time](#), and a radio segment on Big Blend Radio.

Natural Resources

Natural Resources Commission

Three new applications were heard at the November 20 Natural Resources Commission meeting including a Notice of Intent (NOI) to construct a barn and gravel driveway at 110 Spencer Brook Road, a NOI for after-the-fact approval of tree removals at 355 Garfield Road, and a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for replacement of a septic system at 1345 Monument Street. Certificates of Compliance were issued for completed projects at 178 Heaths Bridge Road, 531 Annursnac Hill Road, and 1643 Monument Street. One new NOI application was submitted for the December 11 meeting for demolition of an existing house and construction of a new house at 185 Heaths Bridge Road. Continued hearings for the December 11 meeting include demolition of a portion of an existing building at 300 Bakes Ave to construct additional parking. The NRC will also consider placement of benches for the 250th celebration at Mill Brook Way and Macone Park conservation lands, along the Reformatory Branch Trail.

Warner's Pond Task Force

The Warner's Pond Task Force continues to meet every 2-3 weeks with the next meeting scheduled for December 17. The three Task Force Subgroups are in the process of finalizing proposals for their assigned alternatives, and these will be discussed at the 12/17 meeting. It is anticipated that proposals will be finalized in early 2025, with a public workshop to follow in late January or early February. The Task Force is also considering conducting a randomized Knowledge, Attitudes, and Perception (KAP) study to better understand resident's understanding of the issues at Warner's Pond, and their thoughts on the best course of action forward.

Hapgood Wright Town Forest

In late November, Natural Resources staff and volunteers completed a multi-day project to install six water bars along a gullied and eroded trail near Fairyland Pond at Hapgood Wright Town Forest. The trail had been washing out, including loss of structural soils, exposure of large tree roots, and ultimately leading to an unsustainable, degraded trail. The new water bars are strategically placed along the trail to slow and redirect water runoff, most importantly during intense downpours, which are anticipated to increase due to climate change. The project was made possible with the invaluable assistance from volunteers including the trail stewards for the property, who all played an important role in accomplishing this work. With minimal annual maintenance requirements, the water bars should remain effective for over a decade.

Concord Public Works

Engineering

Davis Court Paving – This street received its final paving.

Main St/Walden St Intersection – The application of the patterned crosswalks is temperature dependent and a decision was made to put it off until the spring and hopefully, before the 250th celebrations. In the interim, the plan is to enhance the existing striped crosswalks with painted bars.



Silver Hill Neighborhood

Water Main Replacement Phase 1 – For the past weeks, progress on replacing the existing water main continued to be hindered by the unexpected ledge and unmarked utilities. On Monday 12/8 and Tuesday 12/9, water work will be occurring on Monument St which will involve a change to the traffic pattern, details of which are posted in News & Notices.

Lexington Rd Gas Project – Utility work by National Grid is essentially complete and the street will be restored next. However, because of unfavorable weather next week, milling of the pavement is scheduled for Sunday 12/15 during night hours (8 pm to 4 am) and paving during daytime on Monday 12/16 and Tuesday 12/17.

Baker Ave Culvert – The design of the permanent repair has started and will continue over the winter to have construction occur next summer. In the meantime, temporary paving over the steel plate placed over the collapse is being planned to allow for better snow removal.

General Administration

November GEM Winner - Mike Aceto

Congratulations to our November GEM Lottery Award winner Mike Aceto from Facilities!

For **G**oing the **E**xtra **M**ile with a situation well outside the scope of his normal job duties, Mike will receive a \$25.00 gift certificate to a local business to enjoy.



Town Clerk

2025 Dog Licensing has Begun!

Dog licensing for 2025 began on December 2nd. All dogs six months and older are required to be vaccinated against rabies and must be licensed where the dog resides.

You may license your dog(s) in person, online, or by mail.

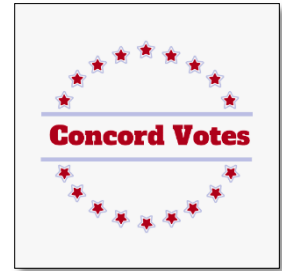
- In person: 22 Monument Square, Mon – Thu: 8:30 AM – 4:30 AM | Fri: 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Online: <https://concordma.gov/543/Dog-Licenses>
- By Mail: Town Clerk's Office, Attn: Dog License, 22 Monument Square, Concord MA 01742

To license your dog, you will need to provide a current rabies vaccination certificate. You may already have one on file; please call or email if you are unsure. The fee is \$15 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$20 if the dog is intact. If you are paying by check, please make it payable to the Town of Concord. If you are applying by mail or drop box, you should include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with two forever stamps for up to three licenses. Please include your name, address, phone, and email as well as your dog's name. Please note that if you have four or more dogs, you'll require a kennel license. Please contact the office for information about our kennel licensing fees and kennel inspection requirements.

The deadline for licensing your dog without a late fee is March 31, 2025. From April 1, 2025, onward, a \$25 late fee will apply.

2024 Presidential Election Statistics

In the final tally, Concord had an impressive 86% voter turnout with 12,026 ballots cast compared to a 72.11% turnout state-wide. Ultimately 7,753 or 64% of Concord voters cast their ballots early in person or by mail, while 4,273 voters went to the polls on election day.



From September 30th to November 18th, election workers dedicated 1,067 hours to the election process and volunteers contributed more than 400 hours to this effort. We are grateful for the effort of these Concordians!

It also takes the work of many departments, and dedicated office staff to run a Presidential Election. Special thanks to Chief Mulcahy and his staff for assistance with planning a safe election and keeping ballots secure; to the Facilities Staff for working steadfastly to set up and break down polling locations during early voting and on election day, to the Council on Aging, Planning, and Recreation Departments for hosting polling locations on Election Day; to Karlen Reed for her help coordinating a crew of 45 Election Workers and volunteers over a 33-day period leading up to the election to get ballots to voters and organize those that were returned; and last but not least, to MaryLou, Nate, Laurie, and Justine in the Town Clerk's Office for their collective energy and commitment to meet all the various deadlines and requirements that go with running an election!

Fire Department

Calls for Service:

From November 15 to December 13, the fire department responded to a total of 331 calls. Among these were mutual aid responses to Lexington, Maynard, and Acton for structure fires.

Personnel

Captain James Redmond retired on November 26th after thirty-two years of service. During his career, Captain Redmond advanced through the ranks from Firefighter, to Lieutenant, to Captain. He served as a department mechanic for many years. He is responsible for the refurbishment program that the department uses for the mid-life refurbishment of our apparatus. He was a key player in the design and procurement of all our apparatus since the 1990s. We thank Jay for his dedication to the town and department and wish him a happy retirement!

Firefighter Rachel Vroegindewey achieved a significant milestone by graduating from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy recruit program on November 18, 2024. This course

equips new firefighters with the basic skills and knowledge to begin their firefighting careers. Congratulations Rachel and welcome back to the station!

Community

Firefighters Samantha Hamilton and Elsa Heil showcased their creative side by entering a gingerbread house contest at the Colonial Inn. Their entry is a remarkable replica of CFD Station 2. Voting continues through December 31st.

Concord Fire delivered Santa to Monument Square on Ladder 1 for this year's tree lighting ceremony which was once again well attended by thousands of people and continues to grow in popularity.

Fire Prevention

Over the past three weeks, the Fire Prevention Division has been busy conducting 42 inspections. These included residential smoke detector inspections required for a real estate sale. Liquor license inspections were completed recently; each November these inspections are conducted by the Fire Department to verify that egress paths are clear, no fire code violations exist, and all fire protection systems are in working order with current inspections.

Lt. Nichols attended the monthly Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts meeting in Auburn, where the topic was hazardous material limitations in buildings, based on the Massachusetts Fire Code.

Police Department

Calls for Service

Thursday, December 5th thru Wednesday, December 11th, 2024

- Log items: [492](#)



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- Traffic enforcement: 32
 - Motor vehicle stops: 47
 - Motor vehicle crashes and/or exchanges: 15
 - Arrests: 2

Captain Goldman attended the 250th Celebration event public safety meeting at the Massachusetts Emergency management Agency facility on December 5th.

On December 11th, Captain Goldman, Lieutenant Landers, Detective Rodriguez, Detective Bordenca and SRO Simpson all attended the DEI Commission’s “Community Coffee.”

Officers assisted with the fourth annual Chanukah Celebration held on December 11th at the Harvey Wheeler Center.

Recreation

2024 Tree Lighting

- Estimated at 7,000 attendees with 300+ in the parade
- Months of collaboration across the town departments: police, fire, DPW, BOH, Light Department, Celebrations Committee, IT, and the Visitors Center.
- Recreation coordinated the event making sure Concord Residents, and friends, had a safe and fun experience. Mardi Hutchinson deserves huge recognition for a great job coordinating in 2024! Everyone did their jobs seamlessly.
- 5 musical acts were performed throughout the center of town. Beantown Swing Orchestra and the CCHS Choruses did not disappoint. Their music livened up the crowd.

were two trucks and dessert the first year. They welcomed to the event



There food one truck for time this were a addition along

with more than a dozen vendors scattered throughout the town.

- Everything from town businesses to scouts, to municipal groups and school groups participated.
- Santa and Mrs. Clause did not disappoint! They arrived in the fire truck to squeals of joy from children young and old. The biggest ooh and ahh came from the moment when the lights were lit on the tree and, for the first time, the lights were multicolored. It was a magical night indeed.



Carousel Pre-School

- The Carousel “snowmen” had a great time marching in the tree lighting parade. Nearly all of our enrollees marched. A great turnout!
- Concord Rec’s Carousel Preschool and Afterschool programs each created a tree for the Family Trees exhibit at the Concord Museum.
 - The Carousel children, assisted by the staff, created a tree based on the book *If You Find a Leaf* and every child is portrayed on the tree. The Afterschool program was assisted by retired Concord children’s librarian Fayth Chamberland who created a tree based on the book *The House on 88th Street* with Lyle the Crocodile.



Donation Received

- Concord Recreation received a \$400 donation from the Turkey Trot run by the Alcott Elementary School for our Scholarship Fund.
- This year’s Turkey Trot had 398 runners that spanned 521 miles of trotting!
- We are extremely grateful for this partnership and will continue in 2025!

Council on Aging

Northeast Mass Correctional Center for the Culinary Arts Event

Thanks to the Northeast Mass Correctional Center for the Culinary Arts, the COA was able to give away over 70 apple, pumpkin and blueberry pies to mouth watering seniors. We did it pandemic-style and asked the picker-uppers to drive by for pick up. Chris Choate and Tina Close, who are friendly colleagues, enjoyed a pie-in-your-face moment of hijinks.



Holiday Greens bouquet making

Next it was Holiday Greens bouquet making time at the COA. Thanks to instruction of and donation by The Garden Club of Concord, signed-up senior residents put together lovely green bouquets to take home for the season.



Pictured on right: COA volunteer Carole Mallonee



Saturday before Thanksgiving Luncheon

The COA coordinated with CCHS for the school's annual Saturday before Thanksgiving Luncheon. Senior residents were treated to hot, roasted turkey with all the trimmings and pies galore. Guests were also entertained by the

dulcet sounds of CCHS' jazz ensemble.



COA Baking

Public Health Director Melanie Dineen returned as Celebrity Chef to lead seniors in baking the "best chocolate chip cookies in the world!" Each



participant walked away with two dozen bites and the aroma in the HWCC halls was amazing!

Group Picture: Melanie Dineen (third from right) COA program coordinator
Tina Close (far right)



Trio: (L to R) JoAnn DiNardo, Elaine Dreher, Nancy Wright



Community Services

Corinthian Lodge Donations

Concord's Community Services runs a Holiday Gift Card Drive each December, asking for donations to support the many low-income families living in town who struggle to provide for their children. The number of children in need always totals well over 100. Each donation received is very much appreciated and passed along to struggling families to help with holiday expenses.



Every year, without fail, the Freemasons of the Corinthian Lodge in Concord provide significant support to the Gift Card Drive, ensuring that needy families receive help with their holiday expenses. In addition to their holiday support, the Corinthian Lodge administers the Masonic Angel Fund, which provides assistance to children in need who do not fit the criteria for the usual social-service programs. Applications for assistance through the Angel Fund come from school principals or guidance counselors, or from town social work staff, to support children who might not otherwise qualify for assistance.

These two programs highlight the support provided by the Masons to Concord's youngest residents. However, the Masons are involved in other charitable events throughout the year as well. Many thanks to the members of the Corinthian Lodge in Concord for their unwavering support! The organization remains a very important community partner.

Concord Municipal Light Plant

CMLP Report Highlights

Find the Concord Municipal Light Plant report here:

<https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/52949/2024-12-04-CMLP-Updates> Highlights for this report include an update on the Advanced Metering Project, where the residential installations are largely completed, a second Sustainability Roundtable meeting was held on Dec. 11, and an ALICE drill active shooter training was conducted by the Concord Police Department for staff.

Concord Free Public Library

November Director's Report



The CFPL showcased highlights from the month of November in the [Director's Report for November 2024](#). Events and activities range from the [Concord Prison Outreach-Concord Reformatory Cemetery Project](#) to the 3rd Annual Diwali

Gala, a celebration of community and a chance to learn about and share cultural and family traditions. Check out the report for all the news from Concord's libraries.

