



# TOWN OF CONCORD

## Town Manager's Report

Week of: January 4, 2016

### Finance News

Contact: (978) 318-3090

#### Third Quarter Property Tax Bills Issued

Property tax bills have been mailed for the third quarter of fiscal year 2016. This bill reflects the actual tax owed for the fiscal year based on the property's assessed value times the tax rate of \$13.92 per thousand dollars value. The third quarter bill also includes utility liens and betterments, if applicable. Third quarter payments are due in the Treasurer-Collector's Office at the Town House by 4:30 PM on Monday, February 1, 2016. Taxpayers are encouraged to pay online at:

[http://www.concordma.gov/pages/concordMA\\_WebDocs/online](http://www.concordma.gov/pages/concordMA_WebDocs/online)

#### Board of Assessors to Hold Public Forum on Property Valuation Process

On Thursday, January 14, 2016, the Board of Assessors invites taxpayers to a Public Forum – 7:00 PM in the Hearing Room, second floor, Concord Town House – at which time the Assessors will review the local real estate market for calendar year 2014 which forms the basis for January 1, 2015 assessment date values used for the FY16 tax bills. The presentation may be previewed at:

[http://concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA\\_Assessor/FY16PUBFOR.ppt](http://concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_Assessor/FY16PUBFOR.ppt)

**Property Record cards are available online at:**

<http://gis.vgsi.com/concordma/>

**Further detail about the FY16 valuation process and how to read your property record card is available at:**

[http://concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA\\_Assessor/index](http://concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_Assessor/index)

### Veterans News

Contact: (978) 318-3038

The week between the two holidays was used for renewing existing Chapter 115 cases that give veterans, their spouses and their dependents financial assistance if they qualify. The Veterans Services Officer (VSO) contacts all clients receiving the benefit, reminding them that they need to forward to the VSO their information in order to qualify. This information is forwarded to the Department of Veterans Services in Boston who then "authorizes" the case so that the veterans can continue receiving their check in January. The town currently has ten veterans receiving Chapter 115 benefits.

The daughter of a veteran walked into the veterans' office requesting assistance for her father who resides in Plymouth. The daughter was given information about the service officer in Plymouth who can assist her father.

Holiday gifts were delivered to families in need during this period when the VSO was waiting for clients to bring in the required renewal documents for chapter 115.

The VSO was contacted by the Council on Aging requesting military records for a senior resident veteran who was applying for healthcare. The VSO forwarded the records to the veteran after contacting the regional office of the VA.

The VSO contacted a local veteran offering assistance when the veteran started falling behind in his regular monthly bills.

The national military records center in St. Louis, MO was contacted by the VSO at the request of the daughter of a deceased veteran. The daughter was trying to get benefits for her mother. The St. Louis office was contacted, and the record request was made.

### Police Logs Available Online

Contact: (978) 318-3400

The Concord Police Dept. (CPD) has made their police log available on their webpage, as well as on social media. You can access the log on the CPD webpage on the [www.concordma.gov](http://www.concordma.gov) website, or you can like them on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/ConcordMAPD](http://www.facebook.com/ConcordMAPD)

# Happy New Year!



**CONCORD PUBLIC WORKS (CPW)**  
**ADMINISTRATION • ENGINEERING • HIGHWAY & GROUNDS • WATER & SEWER**

Contact: (978) 318-3206

### **Winter Weather Responses**

After several weeks of above average temperatures, Concord Public Works (CPW) crews were very busy with multiple winter weather responses this past week. On December 29, 2015, light snow began falling in the Concord area around 1:00 AM, which quickly changed over to heavy sleet at approximately 3:00 AM. The sleet continued throughout the morning, eventually changing over to rain in the afternoon with a total accumulation of 1.5 inches. CPW crews began treating all roads and sidewalks in the downtown and commercial areas at approximately 2:30 AM. After the initial treatment of these areas, it was determined that it would be necessary to plow the roadways and sidewalks before retreating them. CPW crews began plowing operations at approximately 5:30 AM which continued until the afternoon. The sidewalks in the downtown and commercial areas were plowed and treated first and then the sidewalk machines moved on to the remaining routes throughout town. Temperatures dropped significantly around 4:30 PM requiring crews to retreat all roads and sidewalks in the commercial and downtown areas. Crews remained on duty until 8:00 PM as freezing drizzle continued in our area. The following morning, a crew returned at 4:00 AM to remove snow from the downtown areas in Concord. CPW crews continued scraping roads and cleaning sidewalks throughout the day to ensure the roads and sidewalks were in good condition.

With freezing rain predicted in the Concord area on the night of December 30<sup>th</sup>, CPW crews reported back for duty at 10:30 PM to prepare the deicing trucks for potentially hazardous road conditions. With the crew fully prepared, CPW supervisors closely monitored weather reports and road conditions throughout the posted freezing rain advisory and carefully applied deicing materials to ensure safe roadways for all motorists. After the freezing rain advisory was lifted at approximately 3:00 AM, CPW crews were redeployed to continue removing snow from the downtown areas in Concord and West Concord.

Once again the proactive response and commitment from Concord Public Works crews to ensure safe and accessible roads, parking lots and sidewalks resulted in only three reported minor vehicle accidents with no injuries and no reported pedestrian ROW incidents during this difficult winter storm event.

### **Fire Hydrant Winterization**

Each year, as temperatures begin to plummet, CPW's Water & Sewer Division inspects and drains hydrants to prevent ice from forming inside the hydrant barrel, rendering them inoperable. There are over 1,300 hydrants within the Concord Water system. With winter upon us, Concord Public Works requests that residents and businesses do their best to adopt any fire hydrants that are adjacent to their property and assist the Town in keeping them clear from snow. Doing this helps ensure they are readily accessible in an emergency when time is important.

### **Christmas Tree and Styrofoam Recycling**

The 755 Walden Street compost site will be open on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM – 3 PM, for Christmas tree collection, and Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM – 3 PM, for both Christmas tree & Styrofoam collection. After that the compost site will be closed for the season and will reopen the first Saturday in April, which is 4/2/2016.



## Concord Town Clerk

Contact: (978) 318-3080

### 2016 CENSUS

The 2016 Annual Town Census was mailed to all Concord households last week. Residents are urged to return the form as soon as possible to the Town Clerk's Office, either by mail in the envelope provided or in person at the Town House.

### 2016 DOG LICENSING

2016 dog licenses are now available for sale at the Town Clerk's Office. A licensing form was included with the census mailing last week. If you have licensed your dog with us in the past, then we most likely have your dog's rabies vaccination and neutering/spaying information on file, so there is no need to send that to us. If the dog has not been licensed in the past, or has recently been vaccinated or neutered, then send that information with the license renewal form. Licensing may be done in person at the Town Clerk's Office, by postal mail, or online at the Town's web site – [www.concordma.gov](http://www.concordma.gov) – click "Online Payments" and follow the prompts for dog licensing. Follow the instructions provided with the census. Licensing must be done by March 31 in order to avoid a late fee.

### ELECTION RECOUNT IN REVERE

Assistant Town Clerk Pat Clifford participated in the Court ordered recount of the City of Revere's Mayoral race on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Under the supervision of the law firm of Kopelman and Paige, the Revere Election Commission recruited a team of 24 election professionals from municipalities in eastern Massachusetts to recount the 10,214 ballots cast on November 3. The results of the day long recount upheld the election of challenger Brian Arrigo over incumbent Daniel Rizzo, who lost by a margin of 118 votes. During the tabulation process, 11 votes were challenged resulting in a net change of 9 votes for Mr. Rizzo and confirming the accuracy and integrity of the election process.

## Council on Aging/Senior Services

Contact: (978) 318-3020

Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am the Harvey Wheeler Community Center will host a violin and cello concert. Local young-adult music students will perform a delightful mix of classical and popular musical pieces. The event is offered free of charge, but we ask that you make a reservation in advance. Refreshments will be served. In the event of inclement weather the performance will be cancelled and unfortunately will not be able to be rescheduled.

- Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:15am we head out to lunch at Trails End Café in Concord. Call to sign up if interested.
- Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> from 12:45 to 2:45pm Kim Houston, founder and owner of Kim's Custom Soaps will lead a brief discussion and demonstration about glycerin soaps and how they are made. Class Members will be able to make their own soap. Cost is \$10. Please call to sign up.
- Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> the Young Energetic Senior group (YES Group) will meet for dinner at 6:30pm at Le Lyonnais in Acton. Transportation and the cost of dinner are on your own. Please call to sign up.
- Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1-2pm, Concord Town Manager Christopher Whelan has agreed to answer questions that you may have about the workings and management of our town. We ask that you sign up for this event in advance and if you have a particular topic that you would like covered, you are asked to let us know that when you sign up.
- Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 10am, the COA will host a showing of the documentary film entitled "Lives Worth Living" which is a historical documentary about the Disability Rights Movement and a biography of one man's struggle to survive. One of the prominent leaders of the movement was Concord resident Fred Fay. Concord Committee on Disability member, Meryl Schwartz will introduce the film and be available for questions. Please call for more information or to sign up to attend.
- Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 10am please join Michele Ellicks from the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles to learn about disability placards and plates. Michelle will also discuss how to obtain a picture ID when one no longer has a valid driver's license. There is no charge for this program, but sign-ups are requested.
- Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm State Representative Cory Atkins and Representative Denise Garlick (Chair of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs) will share information on the resources that the Commonwealth currently uses to support seniors and look forward to listening to your concerns and ideas so that they are better prepared to plan for the future. Light refreshments will be served and we ask that you call the COA to sign up in advance.