



# TOWN OF CONCORD

## Town Manager's Report

Week of: February 2, 2016

### Library News

Contact: (978) 318-3300

#### New Book Scanner at Fowler Branch Library

The BookScan station is a simple self-service scanner that patrons can use to scan documents and photos and save them in a variety of formats including PDF, JPG, and Word. It allows multiple scans to be saved as one file and offers basic editing capabilities. Users can save, email or print their documents directly from the scanner. The 11" x 17" flatbed scanner is identical to the one already in use at the Main Library. The scanner is free to use though printing is an additional cost. Stop by if you would like to obtain digital copies of important documents, preserve family photos or just share a recipe with a friend.

#### CFPL YouTube Channel

CFPL is now on YouTube and patrons can subscribe to this channel to receive updates of when new content is added. If you missed a library lecture or enjoyed one so much that you would like to hear it again, this will be your go to place for programs on demand. [Click here for the link.](#)

#### Author Event with John Palfrey

Recently John Palfrey, author of [Bibliotech: Why Libraries Matter More Than Ever in the Age of Google](#), addressed an audience of 65 at the Concord Free Public Library's Main Library. Residents will also be able to watch it on CCTV's Public Access Channel 8.

#### "My Militant Suffragist Grandmother, Betty Gram Swing" Program with Pam Swing

Join Pam Swing on February 2 at the Main Library beginning at 7:00 p.m. for a presentation on her Suffragist Grandmother. Pam Swing, PhD is a Resident Scholar at the Brandeis Women's Studies Research Center. For the past three years, she has been researching the life and work of her grandmother, Betty Gram Swing, in preparation for writing a book about her.

Please be sure to also join us for a free screening of the newly-released film, *Suffragette* on Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at the Fowler Branch Library.

#### Last session in Permission to Pause Series

CFPL's relaxation series with Catherine Collins, RN, MS, CHES will conclude this Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at Noon with the 4<sup>th</sup> program on sleep tips and techniques for falling asleep and returning to sleep after interruptions. All are welcome to attend this 30 minute program in the Transcendental Alcove.

### Senior Services/Council on Aging (COA)

Contact: (978) 318-3020

The Lions Club Annual Italian Lunch will be held on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at noon. Please plan to join in the traditional Italian meal prepared and served by the Concord Lion's Club with music by the Yankee Stompers. Due to space constraints, reservations will be limited to the first 100 seniors to sign up. The event is offered free of charge. Please plan to join the fun!

On Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM we will offer a presentation about Property Tax Relief with Carolyn Dee from the Town's Assessor's office as our speaker. Carolyn will be speaking about the exemption and deferrals that are currently available in Concord. Please plan to come and learn what the eligibility requirements are and how one may receive the benefit. Please call to sign up.

On Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM we will welcome Barry Burbank from WBZ-TV. Barry is the region's longest tenured meteorologist and will offer an interesting presentation about New England weather. There is no charge for this event, but you must sign up in advance.

Exciting new class on the Plantagenets! Concord resident and former teacher, John Gardella, will discuss the interesting connection between European history and many of our ancestors. The class will meet on Monday, February 22 at 9:30 AM. Offered free of charge, but please let us know you are coming!

First Ever SPA DAY at the COA. Treat yourself to some pampering and relaxation on Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00- 3:00 PM. We will be offering Reiki, manicures, massage, self-facials and more! While you wait for your treatment, you can sip on fresh smoothies. There is no cost for this event, but space is limited and you must sign up.

Lunch and Learn on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at Noon. Please plan to join Sara Heldman with Physical Therapy Associates of Concord for an informational session regarding total hip replacement surgeries. The discussion will include strategies for preparing for the surgery and the expected rehabilitation. There is no charge for the presentation or lunch, but sign up is required.



## **HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **RECREATION \* SENIOR SERVICES \* SOCIAL SERVICES**

### **Veterans News**

Contact (978) 318-3038

The Veterans Agent was contacted by a veteran who had fallen behind on his real estate taxes requesting any possible assistance. It was suggested that the veteran contact a reverse mortgage company and use the equity from his property to cover the taxes.

The Agent received a call from a case manager at Veterans, Inc. requesting a meeting. Veterans, Inc. assists veterans with housing who are homeless or about to be homeless. The veteran is given a VASH (Veterans' Affairs Special Housing) certificate that is "portable" and can be used in communities with affordable housing that is available. The rent in these units is reduced for the veterans that qualify for low income housing.

The Office was contacted by the wife of a veteran who just had been through a serious operation. The wife was checking for local organizations that can assist when the veteran is released from rehab and returning home.

The Office continues to help a WWII veteran who is struggling to pay medical bills that he receives via VA healthcare. The VA denied free healthcare and the agent is assisting the veteran with a VA appeal.

A local "service connected" disabled veteran contacted the Office requesting information on his lost annuity check that he receives for his disability. Problem was resolved with the Annuity Office in Boston.

### **Community Services**

Contact: Aileen Buford, (978) 318-3034 / [abuford@concordma.gov](mailto:abuford@concordma.gov)

The Community Services Coordinator received 13 phone calls, 51 emails and had 6 home/office visits all related to requests for assistance. The requests focused mainly on assistance for paying utility bills, rent payments, food assistance, fuel assistance application, food stamp application, affordable housing options, transportation assistance and home health services. Two of the thirteen calls were from Concord residents who had never utilized CSC services in the past.

**SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)**—assists individuals and families with funds to purchase food. You can apply in person, online or by mail to this program. Anyone interested in determining eligibility or applying for SNAP benefits, is a Concord or Carlisle resident, and is under the age of 60, please contact Aileen Buford, MSW.

**SMOC Fuel Assistance** – Any Concord resident under the age of 60 who is interested in applying for SMOC Fuel Assistance, please contact Aileen Buford, MSW for an informational packet and eligibility requirements. Eligibility is based on household size and income.

**SMH – Screening for Mental Health.** Designed to provide a safe and anonymous way individuals can check in on their mental health, online self-assessments allow users to screen for mood and anxiety disorders, eating disorders, and alcohol use disorders. Online screenings provide an assessment of the user's mental health, information on whether the user's assessment results are consistent with a mental health disorder, an overview of the signs and symptoms of treatable mental health disorders, and access to local, quality treatment options.

For more info: <http://screening.mentalhealthscreening.org/CONCORD>

**English at Large:** Trained volunteers, who provide free 1-to-1 English language tutoring and small group instruction, helping individuals to improve their English language skills, adapt to American life and participate in their communities. 781.395.2374 [www.englishatlarge.org](http://www.englishatlarge.org)



**Department of Planning & Land Management (DPLM)**  
**BUILDING INSPECTION • PLANNING • NATURAL RESOURCES • BOARD OF HEALTH • ZONING**

### **Health Division**

Contact: 978-318-3275

**Septic system permitting:** 4 septic permits issued; 3 Certificates of Compliance issued. 1 Deep test hole witnessed; 3 septic field inspections. 2 Building Reviews completed.

**Food Service:** 16 routine food service inspections; 1 build out inspection of a food establishment undergoing renovations; 1 consultation with a food service operation regarding food from an approved source. Developed guidance document for retail operations who wish to produce and sell fresh juice.

**Other:** 2 consultations with camp programs for upcoming summer 2016 recreational camps.

### **Planning Division**

Contact: (978) 318-3290

**Planning Division now on Twitter:** The Planning Division will “tweet out” important information about current community planning events, proposed development applications before the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, and any variety of important information on initiatives in the area of open space protection, affordable housing production, traffic and transportation planning, economic development guidance, historic resources protection, public facilities planning, development regulation creation and sustainable practices.

**West Concord Commuter Parking Lot:** Starting February 10<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Concord is introducing a new way for drivers using the 114 parking spaces on State-owned land in the West Concord commuter parking lot to pay for parking. The service, called **PayByPhone**, helps those MBTA commuter rail customers in West Concord to more conveniently pay for parking using a mobile phone or other mobile device. In tandem with the introduction of mobile payment to the West Concord commuter lot, **parking rates will increase from \$4.00 to \$5.00 a day.**

**Community Preservation Committee meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>:** The CPC heard a presentation from Stuart Saginor, Executive Director of the Community Preservation Coalition, the statewide organization that advocates for the Community Preservation Act and provides hands on assistance to Towns and Cities in administering the CPA. Mr. Saginor’s presentation provided an overview of the types of projects and funding models possible under the CPA. The presentation has been added to the CPC’s webpage for anyone who was not able to attend the meeting to review. In addition, the Committee met with Planning Director Marcia Rasmussen to review a Special Application for CPA funding to assist with the purchase of a property on Ball’s Hill Road and unanimously voted to recommend up to \$400,000 in funding for the project from the Land Acquisition Fund. In addition, the Committee reviewed the proposed conditions for recommended projects and the draft handouts for the upcoming public hearing with the Finance Committee on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Regional Housing Services Office update January 29<sup>th</sup>:** Planning Division staff met with the RHSO staff to hear an update on the following Concord housing activities – monitoring of rental projects (Concord Mews and Warner Woods) and home ownership units (all but four of 68 have responded); Subsidized Housing Inventory now shows Concord has 718 units (10.48%); WestMetro HOME Consortium action items; Local support; Regional Activities; and planning for FY17.

### **Natural Resources Division**

Contact: 978-318-3285

**Natural Resources Commission:** Staff reviewed the following projects for the February 2<sup>nd</sup> NRC meeting: the continued Notice of Intent (NOI) for Damonmill at 9 Pond Lane for extensive tree removal and dam repairs; the continued NOI for a 22-lot Planned Residential Development at 140 Commerford Road; the continued NOI for 68 Cambridge Turnpike Road to construct a garage, and an Amendment Request for Middlesex School for modifications to the siting of the temporary cell tower facility.



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

Contact: (978) 318-3206

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant Average Daily Flow**

A successful Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) program not only reduces the frequency of sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) during periods of high groundwater but also reduces treatment costs otherwise incurred by requiring treatment of otherwise “clean” groundwater or storm water. This past year, there were no reportable sanitary sewer overflows identified within our system and the 12-month discharge rate recorded at the wastewater treatment plant was reported as a ten year low of only 0.88 Million Gallons per Day (12 month annual rolling average). While some of reduction in total flow would be attributed to recent I/I efforts and effective collection system maintenance activities, some is certainly attributed to regional climactic conditions – notably an unusually dry spring and late summer.

### **Styrofoam™ & Christmas Tree Collection Results**

The January Styrofoam™ collection at the 755 Walden Street Compost Site was well attended. A total of 131 bags of Styrofoam™ were collected for recycling on January 2nd & 9th. And 1,179 Christmas trees were dropped off at the Compost Site over four collection days in January. The Compost Site and Paint Shed are now closed for the season and will reopen the first Saturday in April.

### **Environmental Compliance Calendar**

CPW’s 2016 compliance calendar has been finalized and is now being utilized. The compliance calendar includes weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual compliance items. Some of the areas covered include above ground tank inspections, annual DEP form submittals, Stage II fuel system testing, Hazardous Waste training, Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) training, MS4 Phase II annual report.

### **Roadside Mowing and Maintenance**

The limited snow fall this season has allowed Highway Division crews to continue with their roadside mowing program. With the assistance from a crew from MCI, most recent efforts have taken place at the end of Commerford Road and Lanes End. Crews have completed brush trimming and removal at these locations. These efforts will continue as the weather permits with the focus being on cul-de-sacs.