



TOWN OF CONCORD

Town Manager's Report

Week of: February 6, 2017

Town Clerk News

Contact: (978) 318-3043

2017 CENSUS

The 2017 Annual Town Census was mailed to all Concord households in early January. 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. If your household did not receive a 2017 census in the mail, please contact the Town Clerk's Office.

2017 DOG LICENSING

2017 dog licenses are now available for sale at the Town Clerk's Office. A licensing form was included with the census, and is also available online. 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 – click "Online Payments" and follow the prompts for dog licensing. Licensing must be done by March 31 in order to avoid a late fee.

FREE RABIES CLINIC

On Saturday, March 4th the Board of Health is sponsoring a Free Rabies Clinic from 1:00 pm to 1:45 pm (dogs only) and from 1:45 pm to 2:30 pm (cats only). This is only open to Concord residents. The Clinic is held at the Public Works Building at 133 Keyes Road. All dogs must be on a leash and all cats must be in a cat carrier. To be eligible for a rabies vaccination, the dog must be licensed in Concord for 2017. Dog licenses will be available for sale at the clinic. Please bring your animal's previous rabies certificate, along with proof of a 2017 license.

TOWN CLERK HONORED

Town Clerk Anita Tekle, who is retiring on February 28th, was recognized and honored last week by her colleagues of the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association at a meeting at Devens. Anita was honored for her 19 years of service as a Town Clerk, and for her considerable contributions to the Mass. Town Clerk Association during her tenure. In addition to serving as a mentor for many new clerks and a trainer at several conferences, Anita served four terms as Treasurer of the Association, and served on the Executive Committee, Education Committee, and Policy & Bylaw Committee. As a thank you gift, Anita received a lovely desk clock from the Association.

Community Services

Contact: (978) 318-3034

Fuel Assistance Season Continues

If you are a Concord resident under the age of 60 and are interested in applying for fuel assistance or have questions about the program, please contact Bonny Wilbur, Community Services Coordinator, at 978-318-3034 or bwilbur@concordma.gov. Eligibility is based on household size and income.

The Fuel Assistance season runs through April 30, 2017.

Police Department Establishes 24-Hour Crime Tip Line

Chief Joseph O'Connor reports that the Concord Police Department has established a crime tip line where residents can report tips on non-urgent crimes 24 hours a day.

The tip line serves as a direct place where residents can report non-violent, non-threatening crimes, or provide tips to help police capture criminal offenders. Instead of calling 911 or the department's business line, residents or community members can leave a message on the tip line. All messages will be reviewed and Concord Police will contact the caller, should they leave their name.

The tip line was created in response to resident requests for another avenue to report crimes to the police department without having to call 911 or file a formal police report.

Residents and community members can reach the Concord Police Department Crime Tip Line at 978-318-3407.

This tip line does NOT serve as an alternative to 911, and the line is NOT monitored 24 hours. Anyone that has an emergency should call 911 or the Concord Police Department directly at 978-318-3400.

"This tip line is another way for the public to communicate with our department," Chief O'Connor said. "Members of our community asked for this service and we are meeting that need. As always, we ask that if people see something, they say something."





DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT
Natural Resources • Planning • Building • Health

Building Inspections Division

Contact: (978) 318-3280

Architectural Access and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Building Commissioner Laurie Livoli attended the monthly Massachusetts Building Commissioners and Inspectors meeting. The topic was Architectural Access and American with Disabilities differences and similarities for public buildings, playgrounds, trails and much more. The Building Inspections Division enforces the Massachusetts Architectural Access board requirements only. ADA is enforced through the US department of Justice. An Architect is required to design for both regulations.

Planning Division

Contact: (978) 318-3290

Planning Board meeting of January 24th: The Board reviewed a revised Preliminary Plan for the improvement of Keuka Road. The Board granted waivers to the road right-of-way width, curve radius, and intersection off-set and directed the Town Planner to draft a decision approving the Preliminary Plan with conditions. The Board will review and vote on the decision at the February 7th meeting. The Board also reviewed 5 of the 7 draft warrant article presentations for the 2017 Annual Town Meeting. Other items on the agenda included a discussion regarding the Tree Preservation Bylaw warrant article and the proposed fee for the removal of a “Protected Tree” and vote to send a letter of support for an Efficiency and Regionalization Grant for CrossTown Connect.

“Considering the Future of Downtown”: On Wednesday, Director Marcia Rasmussen attended a workshop on Dynamic Market and Retailing Shifts as it relates to the future of ‘downtown’ or Village Commercial Districts in Concord. Speakers presented information about major trends that impact commercial districts, ideas for small businesses to stay competitive and ideas for what public sector could do to keep village centers vibrant. This information will be useful as planning related to the Concord Center and West Concord Junction Cultural Districts continues and will help inform the Comprehensive Long Range Plan Committee with its work.

Health Division

Contact: (978) 318-3275

Polystyrene Bylaw: Health Director Susan Rask and Board of Health Chair Ray Considine have been attending meetings of the Polystyrene Outreach and Education Committee. The Town Manager designated the Board of Health as the town entity that will review businesses’ requests for exemptions to the bylaw. At the request of the Board of Health, the Polystyrene Committee developed criteria for the Board to consider in granting exemptions to the bylaw based on undue hardship to the business. Information on the process for granting exemptions and the exemption application will be mailed to all licensed food service establishments in early February. The Board of Health plans to hold public hearings to consider exemptions at their March-May monthly meetings, as needed.

CHNA 15 Learning Community Symposium on Reducing Substance Use: Health Director Susan Rask, Board of Health member Deb Green MD, and Concord-Carlisle Youth Services Coordinator Jennifer Clarke will be attending a 4-part symposium sponsored by Community Health Network Area 15 (CHNA15) to learn best practices for creating and sustaining community coalitions for substance abuse prevention.

Verrill Farm Expansion: Food service areas renovated as part of Verrill Farm’s expansion project have been completed and the new facility opened as of January 14th.