

Town Manager's Report
November 11, 2014

To: Board of Selectmen
From Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

--VETERAN'S DAY--

On Veteran's Day and every day the Town of Concord thanks all veterans for their service and sacrifice that insures our country's freedom.

Public hearing to set FY15 property tax rate set for Monday,
November 17th

A Public Hearing regarding the setting of the FY2015 property tax rate is scheduled for the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday, November 17th at 7:10 PM, at the Town House.

FY2015 is the year that began July 1, 2014 and ends June 30, 2015. The Board of Assessors will present its recommendation to set the FY15 property tax rate at a uniform rate of \$14.29 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, down from the prior year rate of \$14.45. As assessed property values have generally increased for the assessment date of January 1, 2014 (based on analysis of calendar year 2013 sales data), most property tax bills will increase despite the drop in the tax rate. The tax rate is based upon the budgets voted at the May 2014 Annual Town Meeting. The total property tax levy required to fund the adopted budgets is up 4.32%. The required levy is about 5% below the Property Tax levy Limit.

The FY15 proposed valuation list and other useful information for taxpayers is available for review on the Town's website at:

http://concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_Assessor/FY2015

The listing of assessed valuations is for public review at the Main and Fowler branch libraries and is expected to be published in the November 13th edition of the Concord Journal. This information is available also at the Council on Aging office at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center and at the Town House first floor counter. A copy of a property record card is available upon request from the Assessing Office, 978-318-3070 or via e-mail at assessing@concordma.gov.

The Board of Assessors conducted a Public Forum at the Town House Hearing Room, Thursday, November 6th, and the slide presentation is available at the website page listed above.

Following are some of the matters reported on this week by various Town Departments:

- **Senior Services**

- **Veteran's Breakfast:** The COA was proud to host a well-attended breakfast for Concord Veteran's on Friday, November 7th. There were many special moments during the program hosted by Marshall Buford, Master Sargent, United States Air Force, Retired. The children from the Carousel Preschool sang each and every song for each branch of the services and there was a touching description about how the responsibility for serving and protecting our country moves from generation to generation. Additionally, there was a moving ceremonial setting of a table with an empty seat in remembrance of our POW's (Prisoners of War) and those MIA (Missing in Action). All Veteran's participated in a ceremonial swearing in ceremony and heard from special guest speaker, Sargent Robert Parent, United States Air Force Recruiter for New England and Europe.
- **Winterization Project:** Students from Concord Academy will once again be working with Concord seniors to help them prepare for winter by putting away summer furniture, doing light yard work and minor repairs. Work will take place on Saturday, November 22nd. Please call the COA at 978-318-3020 for more information.
- **Fraud and Scam Protection:** The COA is sponsoring a program on Tuesday, November 18th from 1-2pm on how seniors can protect themselves from various forms of fraud and scams. Seniors are encouraged to come and learn about the most common and recent forms of fraud and scams and learn tips on how to avoid becoming a victim.

- **Community Services:**

- Community Services assisted 21 Concord families with issues related to housing, food resources, homelessness resources, community concerns, financial assistance, and fuel assistance applications.
- The Community Services Coordinator collaborated with the following agencies to provide services to and connect residents with resources: CMLP, HCT, SVDP, VA Housing Case Management, SMOC, SNAP, Concord COA, Salvation Army, Concord Housing Authority, Open Table, Concord Library staff, Concord Masons, Concord Carlisle Community Chest, Concord Community Adult Education, Concord Planning and Development, Concord Recreation and the Concord Police Dept.

- Community Services continues to assist Concord residents with applying for fuel assistance through the LIHEAP program offered through SMOC. If anyone under the age of 60 is interested in receiving more information about the fuel assistance program or to determine eligibility please contact Aileen Buford, MSW for a packet of information. abuford@concordma.gov or 978-318-3034
 - The Community Services Coordinator attended the Concord Hoarding Task Force Meeting that was held on Wednesday, Nov. 5th at the Harvey Wheeler Center.
- **Recreation Programs**
 - The Concord Recreation Department had a successful registration for the popular Musical Theater program on November 5th. The Town's network and Webtrac, the online registration software, was tested by accepting 78 registrations in 12 minutes.
 - Sixty children will be attending the program offered by the recreation department on November 12th which is a Concord Public School professional day.
- **Beede Center Report**
 - The new HVAC units have arrived in Massachusetts and will be delivered Friday, November 14th. The Pools will be closed that day from 5:30 am to 5 pm as the sections of the unit need to be transported across the pool deck. Notices to the members have been posted throughout the building in strategic places and posted on the news and notices on the Town website/Recreation Page. It will take approximately a week and a half to assemble and connect the smaller unit and placed it online. Once that unit is online the current unit will be decommission and disassemble to allow for the installation of the other larger HVAC unit.
 - The Outside Area way has had the grates install. Landscaping and paving continue in order to return the area to preconstruction conditions. The Ben Lawhorn, the contactor who originally installed the irrigation system, was onsite to reconnect the irrigation lines that had been disturbed during excavation for the area way.
 - Craig Lifner Jr. began working in the Fitness division as a Fitness and Personal Trainer this week. This will help meet the demand for orientations for new members and the numerous requests for personal training experienced since September.

- **Veterans Service Officer**

- Dept. of Veterans' Services monthly close out for towns 75% reimbursement of benefits for Concord clients.
- Pick up payments stubs and apply for Chapter 115 benefits for Concord veteran living in the Concord Mews..
- Concord housing authority veteran monument question- re: language/ message to be placed on veterans' monument.
- Assisting Annursnac Hill Road veteran applying for VA healthcare and prescription benefits.
- Assisting resident of Everett Gardens obtain his military records for additional benefits from social security.
- Annual veterans breakfast presented by the COA at the Harvey Wheeler building.
- Hubbard Street veteran looking for assistance with long term care via VA and healthcare / Rx benefits.

- **Youth Services**

- CC Youth Services is partnering with Healthy Concord to present a free and open community program on Thursday, November 13 at 7 pm: **Overwhelmed: Work, Love and Play when No One has the Time** written by Brigid Schulte, discussion facilitated by Kathy Bowen, former K-12 Health Education Coordinator, currently a life coach and parent educator. Location: Harvey Wheeler Community Center, 1276 Main Street, West Concord. For more information visit http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_HealthNews/01C33897-000F8513

- **Department of Planning & Land Management**

- **Natural Resources Division** - At the November 5 NRC meeting, the Commission heard the following matters: the continued Notice of Intent (NOI) for a 22-unit Planned Residential Development at 140 Commerford Road, and new applications including an NOI for a new septic at 150 Garfield Road; an NOI for a new play structure at 51 Coolidge Road; an NOI for foundation work at 42 Shore Drive; and a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) to remove a barn at 296 Bedford Street. The Commission also issued an Order of Conditions approving a second-story addition and landscaping at 105 Walden Street. Five new

applications were received this week for the November 19 meeting: an NOI at 79 Commerford Road to repair a swimming pool; an NOI to relocate an existing garage at 115 Williams Road; an RDA to build a portico at 110 Commerford Road, an RDA to construct a second-story addition and remove trees at 40 Whippoorwill Lane, and an RDA to verify the wetland delineation at 740 Elm Street.

- **Planning Division** - MAGIC Subregional Meeting: Director Rasmussen attended Thursday's MAGIC meeting where MAPC staff led a discussion of the Boston Regional Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) next Long Range Transportation Plan titled: "Charting Progress to 2014", which is intended to be completed by June 2015. The discussion focused on: establishing vision, goals and objectives to set priorities for future transportation investments; identifying transportation needs; and, consider investment strategies to advance the region's goals.
- **Community Preservation Committee:** The CPC held the final project review meeting with this year's applicants. This meeting focused on the five applications submitted by the Town for additional funds for continued design of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2B and 2C; funding for of a feasibility study to dredge a portion of Warner's Pond; additional funding to support installation of a slate roof at 141 Keyes Road; a portion of the funds for continued participation in the Regional Housing Services Office and funding to support an archeology project with the Concord Historical Commission and Brandeis University. Director Rasmussen and Senior Planner Lara Kritzer attended to answer questions and learn what additional information was needed.
- **Health Division** - Board of Health tobacco regulation: The Board of Health's revised tobacco regulation, which requires that tobacco and nicotine delivery products may not be sold to persons under age 21, became effective November 1. Health Division staff have begun conducting compliance checks to ensure that required signage is posted and that products such as single cigars and flavored tobacco products, whose sale is prohibited by the regulation, have been removed from sale.
- **Recall of Chicken products due to contamination with Staphylococcus:** The Health Division was notified on November 6 that Bell & Evans Gluten Free Breaded Chicken Breast Nuggets and Breaded Chicken Breasts were being recalled by the manufacturer because they may be contaminated with Staphylococcal enterotoxin. The recall applies to 12-oz. boxes of Bell & Evans Gluten Free Breaded Chicken Breast Nuggets and 10.5-oz.

boxes of Bell & Evans Gluten Free Breaded Chicken Breast with a sell by date of August 9, 2015. The products subject to recall bear the establishment number "P-516" inside the USDA mark of inspection. Several retail outlets in Concord may have carried these products and were visited by Health Division staff on November 7 to ensure the products had been removed from sale. Residents who purchased these products should dispose of them or return them to the store where purchased; residents with questions may call the Health Division at 978 318 3275 for more information.

- Former Concord Farms, 477 Virginia Rd.: Assistant Health Director Stan Sosnicki has been addressing wastewater issues associated with redevelopment of the Industrial Park property on Virginia Road. The property's septic system has a groundwater discharge permit issued by MA DEP; Stan contacted MA DEP to make them aware of potential changes in wastewater flows at the property.
- **Building Inspections Division** - Permit Numbers: The Building Inspection Division continues to be very busy and is on track to match last year's numbers. The total number of inspections for the week of November 3-7 is as follows: 52 building inspections, 27 plumbing inspections and 36 electrical inspections. In 2013, the Division had issued 925 building permits, 933 electrical permits and 480 plumbing permits. As of November 6th, 776 building permits, 791 electrical permits and 483 plumbing permits have been issued.
- **Joint Fire and Building Inspections:** Fire Department staff and Building Inspections staff are conducting annual inspections of all restaurants that serve alcohol; all inspections will be completed next week. These inspections are required by the State as a result of the Rhode Island Station Nightclub fire in 2003. This State regulation has been in effect since 2004 and is included with any renewal of liquor licenses through the Town Managers office.
- **Concord-Carlisle Regional High School:** photo taken this week showing sidewalks and hydro-seed application near the future school entrance school entrance.

