

Town Manager's Report

September 23, 2014

To: Board of Selectmen
From Christopher Whelan, Town Manager

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

- **Recreation Programs –**
 - The analysis of the summer programs at the Hunt Recreation Center been completed with favorable results. The total revenue was \$745,340. This includes the revenue from the programs held at 105 Everett for spring and summer which was \$52,900. The total net income was \$32,000. Additional good news is with the overwhelming success of the Concord Open Golf Tournament, the recreation department will defer the proceeds for future use towards Summer Scholarships.

- **Beede Center Update –**
 - In just the first 4 days after reopening, the Beede Center has already had 1780 customers use the facility for their fitness and swim workouts. Our new hot water system flawlessly maintained sufficient hot water to accommodate approximately 2670 showers.
 - The new water softener system went on line this week so along with plenty of hot water and 2670 Beede members are all having a “good hair day” compliments of the new water softener.
 - Swim registration began Monday for non-members. Of the 108 registrations received 16 of them were completed online.
 - The Otter's Swim Team tryouts were last week. 65 new otters will join the team, rounding out the team to 175 children between the ages of 5 and 17, with the largest group age being 9 &10 year olds. The Otter Team is coached by Assistant Aquatic Coordinator Erin MacDonough. The Otter's season is late September through the end of March. They are part of the Metro Swim League and participate in 8 meets as well as championships.

- September is one of the strongest membership months both new and renewed memberships are coming in steadily keeping the administrative staff very busy.
- WiFi is now available for Beede members adding value to their membership at no cost to them. The Beede Center covered the cost for the installation of the wiring and Tom Power from the IT Department completed the final connections.
- **Community Services –**
 - Community Services received 27 assistance related phone calls, 47 assistance related emails, had 3 office visits and provided assistance and resources to 15 Concord families.
 - Community Services collaborated with the following agencies, departments and groups to provide assistance and resources to 15 Concord families:
 - The Salvation Army * Hugh Cargill Trust * St. Vincent De Paul Society* The VA * The Town Clerk's office *The Planning & Development office * The Concord COA *Eliot Homeless and Outreach Services * LARC *The Concord Housing Authority *The Public Works Dept.* The Finance Dept. * The Town Manager's office.
 - Assistance provided :
 - *funding for utility bills * general town information * assistance with housing and rental costs *tenant issues *legal services *fuel assistance applications *phone service issues * assistance with oil disbursement *communication with SNAP and Dept. of Transitional Assistance
 - The Community Services Coordinator continues to assist families with their re-certification applications for SMOC (Fuel Assistance).
 - The SMOC Fuel Assistance Program opens for new clients during the last week of October 2014. Anyone interested in learning more about the program or applying to the program, please contact Aileen Buford, The Community Services Coordinator at 978.318.3034 or abuford@concordma.gov
 - The Community Services Coordinator attended the CHNA 15 Membership Meeting at Minuteman Senior Services in Bedford, MA on Thursday Sept. 18th, 2014.
 - The Community Services Coordinator communicated with 51 Concord families who participate in the Food For Families – Gaining Ground produce distribution program, to invite them to the upcoming Harvest Fest event.

- **Veterans Services –**

- The third week of September for veterans' services had three events worth noting. The first event was assisting a veteran who has suffered from a stroke which has left him a mute. Veteran will need on going assistance with his healthcare plan.
- The second event is an ongoing investigation of a veteran client who has been receiving Chapter 115 benefits but may not have been disclosing all of her income. After consultation with the VA regional offices in Rhode Island and Boston we have terminated the benefit this week and placed this client in refund status--- she won't be able to receive Chapter 115 benefits again until she has satisfied her refund status which is over \$10k.
- The third event is a call from Walden Rehab on Main Street reporting that they have a resident veteran who is receiving hospice care and would I be able to visit with this veteran as he doesn't have much time left. Visit was made on same day as request.

- **Senior Services - Walk to End Alzheimer's**



- The Concord COA sponsored a team on Sunday, September 21st and participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease in Andover. Eight walkers (Staff, Board Members and Supportive Friends) participated and the team has raised nearly \$2000 to date. It is still not too late to donate! You can log onto Alz.org and search for the Concord COA team to make a contribution. Many thanks to the walkers and donors! (Included in the photo are COA employees: Claudia Curran, Sally Lopez, Ginger Quarles and COA Board member: Margaret Hoag.)

- **Concord Library – This week at the Library**

- September 22, 2014 10 AM Baby Story Time @ Fowler
- September 24, 2014 2 PM Book a Mystery Adult Book Club @ Fowler
- September 24, 2014 3 PM Downloading ebooks to Your Kindle workshop @ Main Library
- September 27, 2014 @ Story Walk @ Main Library 10 AM and Fowler 3 PM. A library card sign-up party will follow.
- 141 applicants have been whittled down to a finalist list of 8 candidates who will be invited to interview next week for the position of Circulation Assistant. In the interim two temporary staffers provided by BiblioTemps will start this week to assist us with the Circulation Assistant responsibilities until we fill the position.

- **Youth Services –**

- Concord-Carlisle Youth Services and CCHS Parent Association Partner to Present “What’s Right With My Teen”. Free, open to the public presentation for parents of teenagers regardless of where student attends school. October 15th, 7 p.m., CCHS Auditorium.
http://www.concordma.gov/pages/concordma_news/01E8B1A1-000F8513

- **Concord Public Works –**

- **2013/2014 Roads Program** – Final course paving will take place this week on Elm Street, from Main Street to the Sudbury River bridge, beginning on Thursday, September 25th. Notice will be provided directly to abutters and a variable message board will be placed early this week. Drainage improvements on the eastern portion of Powder Mill Road, from Sudbury Road to Plainfield Road, are planned to begin during the week of September 29th. This work is expected to last approximately 10 days followed by roadway reclamation and binder course paving. Drainage improvements and paving will also take place this construction season on the western portion of Powder Mill Road, from Old Pickard to Stone Root, along with Seven Star lane. A schedule for these activities will be finalized over the next several weeks.

- **CPW Hazardous Waste Collection** - CPW is sponsoring a hazardous waste collection on Wednesday, September 24th, from 3:30-7:30 at 133 Keyes Rd. This collection is open to residents, businesses, and all municipal sites. Curbside program subscribers receive a free pass. Non-curbside subscribers and businesses pay the vendor, Clean Harbors, directly. To date, seventy subscribers have stopped by CPW to obtain a free pass for this collection.

- **Concord Fire Department –**
 - **Concord Fire Department Receives an Award from the National Park Service** - The Concord Fire Department received the National Park Service Recognition Award on Friday September 12, 2014 at Station 1. The award states the following:
 - “In recognition of the Concord Fire Department dedication to assisting the National Park Service with the protection and preservation of nationally significant structures. The department’s professionalism is greatly appreciated.”The award was given to the CFD based on our excellent response and Operations at the Wayside Inn Building fire several years ago as well as the excellent service we provide the NPS on a routine basis. The attached photo includes not only our local rangers but NPS fire professionals from all over the United States. This was quite an honor!

 - **Emerson Hospital Mass Decontamination Unit Exercise**- The Concord Fire Department and Emerson Hospital will be conducting a Mass Decontamination Unit exercises on September 24, and October 1, 2014. The exercises will begin at 9 am. The purpose of these two exercises is to exercise and evaluate decontamination policy and procedures and to use the mock incident for training purposes. The department will be sending personnel and companies to assist in the drill.

 - **Concord Firefighters Graduate Firefighter Recruit Academy** - Please join us in congratulating Firefighters Evan Foisy and Matt O’Donnell for graduating from the Mass State Fire Academy’s fulltime firefighter recruit academy on Friday September 19, 2014 at 1330 hours. A job well done!

- **Department of Planning and Land Management**

Planning Division

- **Marriott Hotel at 320 Baker Avenue:** After hearing additional information from the development team at the September 16th Planning Board meeting, the Board asked Town Planner Elizabeth Hughes to prepare a draft letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) recommending approval of an amendment to a special permit to construct the proposed hotel. The draft recommendation letter will be reviewed by the Planning Board on September 30th, which will then be submitted to the ZBA for the October 9th public hearing.
- **Black Horse Place PRD at 140 Commerford Road:** On Friday morning, September 19th, ZBA members spent an hour and a half hiking the property with the developer to get a better understanding of the layout of the project, the impact to abutters, and the scenic quality of the over 28 acres of open space to be deeded to the Town. The ZBA will next hear this item at the October 9th public hearing.
- **Ingham Lane PRD at 1888 Main Street:** The Planning Division received the Special Permit application for the Ingham Lane Planned Residential Development, which proposes construction of 7 detached single family dwellings with one of the units to be deed-restricted for affordable housing purposes. The project will be accessed by a new 20-foot wide private drive that terminates with an emergency turnaround and two public parking spaces. The project includes a sidewalk from Main Street along one side of the drive to a common open space area at the rear of the development that includes a community garden and walking path. The sidewalk, walking path and community garden will be open to the general public. The Planning Board will begin discussion of its recommendation on October 14th; the Zoning Board of Appeals will open the public hearing on November 13th.
- **Community Preservation Act:** Grant applications for Community Preservation funds are due Friday, September 26th. Planning Division staff is preparing five town applications: 1) support for the Regional Housing Services Office and update to the Housing Production Plan; 2) acquisition of the Mandrioli land off Main Street; 3) additional funds for installation of a slate roof at 141 Keyes Road; 4) a feasibility study for dredging 6+ acres of Warner's Pond; and, 5) additional funds for design and construction support for Phase 2B and 2C of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

- **CrossTown Connect:** As a destination community for residents of surrounding towns, Concord is participating in discussions to form a Transportation Management Association called CrossTown Connect. This year, Concord has been invited to join the participating communities by entering into an Intermunicipal Agreement for the provision of Transportation Management Services between the seven communities of Acton, Boxborough, Concord, Littleton, Maynard, Stow and Westford. Director Marcia Rasmussen attended the latest meeting on Friday to discuss the draft Agreement, Operational Guidelines, Memorandum of Understanding and the Community Innovation Challenge Grant #4.

Natural Resources Division

- **Keuka Road Wetland Delineation:** MassDEP issued a Superseding Order of Resource Area Delineation upholding the Natural Resource Commission’s decision of an inaccurate wetland boundary delineation at Keuka Road filed by Steve Marsh of the Westchester Company. The DEP disagreed with the applicant on the status of an isolated wetland, finding that it was hydrologically connected to a regulated wetland, therefore bringing the alleged “isolated” wetland into jurisdiction.
- **Old Calf Pasture:** The New England Wild Flower Society began glossy buckthorn treatment at Old Calf Pasture last week, treating buckthorn and other invasive species with a cut-stem and swipe application of glyphosate. Treatment will continue through this week.

Building Inspections Division

Bondir access ramp: The handicapped access ramp to the front door of restaurant Bondir at 22 Walden Street under construction and completed and ready for use – see photos at right. Some say the prettiest handicapped access in Town!

Harvard Vanguard at 330 Baker Ave.: Early in the week, Building Inspector Laurie Livoli was called to the scene of an accident at 330 Baker Ave. when a person drove their vehicle into the building. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured.



