



# TOWN OF CONCORD

## Town Manager's Report

Week Of: August 10 , 2015

### AROUND TOWN

#### IMPORTANT NEWS & NOTICES

Water and sewer service installation work, associated with the Concord Academy facility improvements is scheduled during the weeks of August 10<sup>th</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup>. The work will commence Wednesday (8/12) and will be performed on Main Street between Academy Lane and Belknap Street. Work involves installation of a new sewer manhole with a new sewer service in Main Street and installation of new water services for domestic and fire protection purposes. No water service interruption is anticipated during this work.

During construction activities traffic will be restricted to alternating lanes (between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM). Commuters are being advised to seek alternative routes. During construction activities a portion of Main Street will not be open to truck traffic. Trucks will be detoured around the construction zone via Thoreau Street and Sudbury Road. Parts of the sidewalk on Main Street will be closed during construction.

Temporary parking restrictions will be in effect, in the vicinity of the work zone, for the duration of the project. Police officers will be available to direct traffic during construction activities. Electronic sign board are being provided before and during construction to alert the commuters and truck traffic.

### PUBLIC WORKS

#### *Mosquito Control Project*

The East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project is scheduled to begin their annual larval mosquito control program this week and will be continuing over the next few weeks. Technicians will travel using bicycles or trucks to apply treatment by hand to approximately 2500 catch basins in order to control the mosquito population.

### YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

#### TRAINING - REGISTRATION OPEN

You may know CPR and the Heimlich maneuver but can you administer first aid in a mental health crisis? It's easy to tell when someone is having a heart attack, is choking or can't breathe. What do depression or anxiety look like? What would you say to a person you know who says they are thinking about suicide? How can you help in a panic attack? Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family member...s, caregivers, teachers, school staff, coaches, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. CC Youth Services, in partnership with CC Adult & Community Education and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, is pleased to offer this training and materials FREE after payment of a \$10 processing fee. Training is limited to 30 participants. This course will fill up quick so sign up today! [www.ace.colonial.net](http://www.ace.colonial.net) course 2241.





## WHITE POND UPDATE

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### **WHITE POND RECREATIONAL WATER USE ADVISORY HAS ENDED—August 12, 2015**

**The recreational water use advisory for White Pond has ended. The pond can now be used for swimming and other recreational activities.**

White Pond underwent a sixth round of weekly sampling on Monday, August 10. Laboratory analysis showed cyanobacteria levels of 2,500 cells/ml, well below the MDPH guideline level of 70,000 cells/ml. Microcystin toxin level was <1 ppb.

The August 3 water sample showed cyanobacteria levels of 34,000 cells/ml and Microcystin toxin level was <1 ppb.

According to MDPH guidelines, samples collected a week apart with levels below the guidelines are required before the advisory can be lifted. The August 10 result is the second low sample, so the advisory can now be rescinded.

Small remnants of the algae bloom may still be visible along some areas of the shoreline. These appear as yellow streaks of floating algae or as mustard yellow or brown-red-yellow scums washed up on the beach. **Avoid contact with any remnants of the bloom.** The remnants are not dense enough to produce toxin in worrisome amounts, but people and dogs should still avoid contact with the algae.

**For more information, call the Concord Board of Health at 978 318 3275**

MA Department of Public Health, - US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and US EPA websites provide further information on blue-green algae blooms:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/environmental-health/exposure-topics/beaches-algae/algae-information.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/hab/>

<http://www2.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/cyanohabs>



## PLANNING & LAND MANAGEMENT

BUILDING INSPECTION • PLANNING • NATURAL RESOURCES • BOARD OF HEALTH • ZONING

### Planning Division

**Managing Parking Forum on August 4<sup>th</sup>:** Over 50 people attended a workshop/forum on managing parking, providing input on various aspects of implementation such as the length of time for parking, fees for parking in various locations, the parking needs of employees and commuters in addition to customers, visitors and residents, and the need for better signage and mapping. The presentation and follow up information will be available on-line via a link on the home page of the Town's website – [www.concordma.gov](http://www.concordma.gov).

**West Concord Advisory Committee meeting of August 5<sup>th</sup>:** WCAC members who serve as liaisons to various other Town committees provided updates from recent meetings. WCAC then briefly discussed the 'safe sidewalks project' chart prepared by Peter Baty, which is expected to be finalized at the September meeting and potential easements over private property to continue trails along the Assabet River. WCAC members who had attended the Managing Parking forum then shared comments and observations about the information presented and public comments heard. WCAC also heard an update on the property at 169 Commonwealth Ave.

**West Concord Cultural District:** Planning Division staff met with the Executive Director of the Concord Chamber of Commerce to assist in preparing an application to designate a West Concord Cultural District.

**Best Western Hotel at 740 Elm Street:** Town Planner Elizabeth Hughes and Natural Resources Assistant Director Laurie Capone met with representatives from Best Western to review a preliminary proposal to reconstruct the hotel lobby and construct a 2,250 s.f. commercial building. The Hotel is proposing that the commercial building will be for a 45-seat Starbucks restaurant. Staff strongly advised Best Western that they should speak with MassDOT District 4 regarding the traffic impacts of the project on Route 2 since any modifications to the intersection that may be required would be a significant financial cost to the Hotel.

**Historic Districts Commission meeting of August 6<sup>th</sup>:** The HDC reviewed two new applications for changes in the District. The Commission continued an application for new fencing, stone walls and lighting at 25 Barnes Hill Road to allow time for a site visit to the property; discussion was continued to the August 20 meeting. The Commission also continued an application for proposed changes to the new construction at 427 Lowell Road to allow time for the Applicants to submit dimensioned plans and project materials with further discussion continued to September 3. Lastly, the Commission made substantial progress in updating the Design Guidelines and expects to have the text completed by early September.

**Community Preservation Committee Survey:** The CPC is requesting assistance from former funding applicants and recipients in making improvements to their application and funding processes. An online survey was emailed to past funding recipients on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Results of the survey will be reviewed when the Committee meets on September 15. If anyone familiar with the process did not receive an email but would like to take part in the survey, it can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HBW2CSP>.

### Natural Resources Division

**Trail Development at Finigan Way:** The Trails Committee is starting to develop a new trail on the Conservation Restriction land that surrounds the housing development at Finigan Way. The new trail contains some interesting attractions such as a smallpox cemetery and an active vernal pool. This new trail will tie into existing trails at the Barrett Farm property. A trail guide will be developed once the trail is complete.





## HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENTS

RECREATION & YOUTH SERVICES • COMMUNITY SERVICES • COUNCIL ON AGING • LIBRARY

### COUNCIL ON AGING

The COA would like to thank the members of the Musketaquid Club for recently inviting Concord seniors to their property and serving a fine luncheon. Many enjoyed the outing as well as the food!

The annual COA summer BBQ will be held on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. The Concord Rotary Club will be providing the people power to do the cooking and the serving and the Concord Friends of the Aging have agreed to pay for the entertainment. Cost is \$5 per person and an advance reservation is required. Please call the COA at 978-318-3020 if interested.

The COA has recently completed the required annual report for the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Among the interesting statistics is the fact that 183 new seniors discovered the COA and have joined in participating in the wide variety of programming that we offer. If you are not currently active with the COA and are aged 60 or older and live in Concord, we encourage you to sign up to receive our newsletter and see what we have to offer!

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Coordinator received 14 phone calls, 36 emails and had 4 office visits this week all related to assistance requests. The requests focused on issues such as rent payment assistance, dental work payment assistance, food assistance, SNAP application assistance, transportation issues, support groups and housing issues. The Community Services and Youth Services Department have collected 55 backpacks and many school supplies during the Back to School Backpack and School Supply campaign.

#### Upcoming:

During the next couple of weeks we will be busy assembling the backpacks and distributing them to the families who qualify.

Anyone who is interested in receiving a backpack filled with school supplies for their child/children aged K-8 please contact Aileen Buford, MSW in the Community Services Department at 978.318.3034 or secure email [abuford@concordma.gov](mailto:abuford@concordma.gov)

### PUBLIC LIBRARY

This week Circulation Assistant, Milda Contoyannis will retire after 32 years of service to the Concord community. The Concord Free Public Library will host an informal reception on **Wednesday, August 12, 2015 @ 4:00 p.m.** at the Fowler Branch Library. Community members are welcome to stop by to offer their thanks and well wishes to Milda. A book will also be available at the Circulation desk over the next few weeks where residents can leave a note for Milda.

One of the concluding events for the *Escape the Ordinary* Summer Reading Program for adults will be a film screening of "Row Hard, No Excuses" which will take place on August 10 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the Fowler Branch Library. This documentary follows an American team on a harrowing two-person team rowing race across the Atlantic Ocean from the Canary Islands to the West Indies. All are welcome to attend.

Special Collections has installed a new exhibit in the lobby display case entitled, *H. Whittemore Brown Collection of Panoramic Photographs of Concord, Massachusetts, 1955 – 1958*. Please take a moment to enjoy this collection during your next visit to CFPL.

CFPL has renewed the Zinio Digital Magazine service for another year. Concord library cardholders can permanently download full magazine issues free of charge from approximately 30 popular journals. New subscriptions include: Architectural Digest, Astronomy, The Atlantic, Better Homes and Gardens, Bird Watching, Food Network, National Geographic Traveler Interactive, New Scientist, The New Yorker, Organic Life, Saveur, Shape, Sound & Vision, Weight Watchers, Wired, and Yoga Journal. For more information about this service please visit [http://www.concordlibrary.org/pages/dm\\_ZinioMagazines.html](http://www.concordlibrary.org/pages/dm_ZinioMagazines.html)

