



TOWN OF CONCORD

Town Manager's Report

March 17, 2015

Concord Municipal Light Plant
concordlight@concordma.gov

Substation 479 Voltage Conversion Project

On a sunny, but cold, Friday the 13th, CMLP finished a multi-year effort to upgrade the antiquated 4,000 volt distribution infrastructure to 15,000 volts. Along with the completion of this project comes the retirement of our oldest substation. It was replaced by new state-of-the-art equipment and new tree-resistant overhead conductors ultimately resulting in greater reliability and operational functionality. The scope of this project spanned about a third of Concord's geographic area and directly benefitted about 1,300 homes and businesses. Crews will still be in the area removing retired equipment such as poles and transformers for the next several months.



Power to the People

Last week CMLP Assistant Director, Chris Roy, visited Washington DC in an effort to promote public power as part of the American Public Power Association's annual legislative rally. Chris informed members of the 114th Congress about potential impacts that proposed legislation could have on their constituents. He was able to meet with staffers from five of the nine Massachusetts congressional districts, the Legislative Assistant to Elizabeth Warren and even with Senator Warren herself!

Thanks, in part, to the efforts started by the Concord Saves and Green Energy Groups, electricity consumption has declined in almost all of the buildings in the Municipal Facilities category. In some cases this is likely due to equipment upgrades (Beede Center's HVAC, CPW Maintenance Bay lighting, Hunt Recreation locker room lighting controls), or equipment repairs (Cemetery at the Knoll). There were about 11% fewer heating degree days from October to December of 2014 compared to October to December of 2013, which may explain the decline in electricity use in facilities such as the Water/Sewer garage, which heat with electricity. Some declines may be explainable, in whole or in part, by a raft of small changes that were made in buildings during the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters of the Concord Con-

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION : TUE 3/31 — ABSENTEE BALLOTS —

Concord's Annual Town Election is coming up on Tuesday, March 31st. Polls will be open from Noon to 8:00 pm on Election Day (note the reduced hours for this election only, due to the lack of contested races). Positions to be filled are Moderator (one year term); Board of Selectmen (two three-year terms); School Committee (two three-year terms); and Concord Housing Authority (one three-year term). Although there are no contested races on the ballot, voters are urged to take the time to support the candidates of their choice and thank them for their willingness to serve the Town in these volunteer capacities.

If you will be away from Concord during polling hours, or are otherwise unable to get to the polls in person on Election Day, you may vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are now available to be completed at the Town House in person during our normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm) or request that a ballot be mailed to you. You may contact our office via e-mail at townclerk@concordma.gov or via telephone to 978-318-3080. You may view a sample ballot, check your voting status, or verify your polling location via links on our web site – www.concordma.gov – click "Elections & Voting."

Town Clerk's Office
townclerk@concordma.gov

DOG LICENSING. The Town Clerk would like to remind dog owners that 2015 dog licenses are now available. All dogs six months of age or older must be licensed in Massachusetts. Licenses are issued on a calendar year basis—January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Licenses issued after March 31 are subject to a \$25 late fee. Please do your dog a favor and obtain a license as soon as possible. Licenses are available online at the Town website (www.concordma.gov – click online payments) or in person at the Town Clerk's Office, Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. If you did not license your dog in 2014, you will be required to purchase a 2014 license as well as a 2015 license.



Planning & Land Management

Planning Division

On Tuesday, March 10th, the Planning Board voted to move Articles 12 to 17, either as printed in the Warrant or with minor modification. After lengthy discussion, the Board determined that based on the questions raised at the public hearing regarding Article 18 (Floor Area Ratio), further refinement of the Bylaw was needed to determine if issues and concerns could be addressed and continued the discussion of Article 18 to March 30th. Also at the meeting, the Board endorsed an ANR plan to divide the existing lot at 368-374 Sudbury Road into two lots because there was adequate frontage for two lots on an existing public way. If this land division proceeds as shown on the ANR plan, demolition of the existing historically significant structure (Hubbard, Cyrus and Darius House built in 1816) would be required. Because of the historic significance of the house, the owners were informed of an alternative approach to divide the land that is available by Special Permit in the Zoning Bylaw (Section 6.3.3) which allows the creation of a lot with reduced frontage, lot width, lot area and/or side and rear yard setback for the purpose of preserving existing historically significant structures.

Summer Intern position in the Planning Division: The Town received a total of 17 applications for the Planning Division Summer Intern position. The objective of this position is to research and report on efforts in other municipalities to restrict the size of new or expanded single-family homes. The intern will become familiar with existing research on the trend toward building large houses on small lots (also known as ‘mansionization’), identify towns inside and outside of Massachusetts that have restricted, or attempted to restrict, the size of houses, collect detailed data, summarize findings and then assess the efficacy of those measures to achieve the desired outcome, and, in collaboration with others, provide recommendations to the Planning Board.

Concord Cleanup

The annual tradition of cleaning litter from Concord’s roadsides and public lands in advance of Patriot’s Day continues. This year’s cleanup begins on Saturday March 28th through Sunday April 5th, with the major emphasis on Saturday, April 4th. Individuals, groups, and organizations are encouraged to stop by the Division of Natural Resources to sign up for a route and to pick up bags (yellow for litter and clear bags for recyclables, bottles and cans only– no paper).

Concord Public Works and their crews will pick up bags beginning Monday, April 6th.

Organic Waste Composting Program

Several food service establishments including: Woods Hill Table, Bondir, 80 Thoreau, Concord Cheese Shop, Colonial Inn, Emerson Hospital, Concord Academy, and the soon-to-open Salt Box Kitchen have committed to a sustainable practice of organic waste composting. The Health Division has been working with businesses and the vendor *Black Earth Composting* to provide a seamless program which will have the capacity to provide services to all entities which choose to participate. Composting will divert organic materials out of landfills, giving them a second life as a viable byproduct, compost. The compost will be sold at MA locations and used in local gardens. This program is in keeping with Concord’s Sustainability principles. A new page on the Town website has been developed to educate and assist businesses in these efforts: http://concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_health/COMPOST

Health Division

Routine Health Division Activities—

- ⇒ Septic system permitting: 8 Building Reviews to determine adequacy of septic system for residential expansion; 1 septic permit issued; 1 variance review denied; 1 certificate of compliance issued; 1 test hole witnessed; 3 consultations with homeowners.
- ⇒ Food service: 10 regular food service inspections and 3 inspections of facilities under construction or renovation. 3 temporary food permits reviewed. 1 consultation with owner for proposed new food establishment.
- ⇒ Other: 3 consultations with recreational camps regarding summer 2015 programs. 2 housing inspections; 1 order to correct letter issued; and 1 complaint filed in Northeast Housing Court.

Restaurant updates—

- ⇒ Starbucks has been closed for the past week for a total renovation of food service and retail area; final Inspection will occur 3/13 and the facility plans to re-open for the weekend.
- ⇒ Woods Hill Table officially opened for business Monday 3/9.
- ⇒ Colonial Inn has completed the renovation/repair of their primary kitchen and has re-opened and returned to their full menu.

Natural Resources Commission: At their meeting on March 18, the NRC will hear the following matters: a Notice of Intent (NOI) for 300 Main Street to remove a porch, construct a bulkhead, and incorporate landscape features; an NOI to demolish and reconstruct the single family house at 169 Commonwealth Avenue; and, a Request for Determination of Applicability to construct a screened porch and deck at 53 Stacey Circle.



Human Services Divisions

Community Services

Aileen Buford, MSW: abuford@concordma.gov

During the week the Community Services Coordinator received 16 phone calls, 51 emails and had 4 office/home visits all related to assistance requests.

Assistance requests were related to summer camp scholarship information, housing information, housing costs assistance, mental health referrals, travel costs, fuel assistance, food assistance, utility costs, personal care costs and extracurricular activities fees.

To address the requests the CSC collaborated with the VA Housing Office, The Concord Police Department, CCHS, Hugh Cargill Trust, St. Vincent De Paul Society, Concord Housing Authority, Concord Council on Aging, CCYS, SMOC, CMLP and Eliot Community Human Services.

The CSC attended the annual Town of Concord employee meeting. Along with the entire Human Services Team, the CSC presented the role of Community Services to the attendees.

The deadline for applying for the **SMOC Fuel Assistance program** is approaching. Anyone under the age of 60 who would like more information please contact Aileen Buford, MSW at abuford@concordma.gov or 978.318.3034

College and Graduate School Scholarship Opportunity – The Garden Club of Concord offers a scholarship for qualified undergraduate students (including high school seniors planning to attend college) and graduate students. For more detailed information and eligibility requirements please contact newt1533@aol.com Deadline for applications is March 31, 2015

Senior Walking Group

The Senior Walking Group is on hiatus for the rest of March and April and will return in May with guided walks. A listing of walks will be made available in late April at http://concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_NaturalResources/Senior%20Walking%20Group

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



The Concord Youth Services and Community Services Departments are pleased to offer the revised and updated 2015 Concord Social Service Guide online.

This directory provides a wealth of resources to assist Concord residents, youth and families. Please Visit http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_WebDocs/CommunityServices or www.concordma.gov/youth and click on “Concord Social Services Resource Guide for Concord Residents” to download your copy today!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Peer to Peer – sponsored through the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)—a 10-week recovery focused educational program for adults who wish to establish and maintain wellness in response to mental health challenges. The Program Begins **Thursday, March 26th, 2015 at 1:00—3:30** Temple Kerem Shalom on 659 Elm Street in Concord. For more information, please contact Eliza Williamson elizatwilliamson@gmail.com (617.733.7627) or Beth Flannery bethflannery@aol.com

Sunday, March 29th, 2015 3:30-5:00pm, The Fenn School – Ward Hall 516 Monument Street, Concord, MA -- A free event, registration required, **VISIONARIES in the Field of HUNGER RELIEF** – a multi-generational panel discussion on turning hunger awareness into hunger action. Register at www.gainingground.org For more information, contact Fan at fan@gainingground.org or 978.610.6086

Veteran's Services

Dick Krug: dkrug@concordma.gov

The Veterans' Services Officer attended the Town employee meetings the week of March 9th advising other Town Employees of the VA's areas of responsibility. These were informational sessions only as we want to ensure that employees have the correct information to pass along to residents should the need arise. The office of Veterans' Services assisted four veterans and families replacing lost military “dog tags”. Financial assistance for an ambulance bill and the assistance of financial help for a veteran in need was also completed this week.

For information regarding Summer Camp Scholarship opportunities, please contact Aileen Buford, MSW at: abuford@concordma.gov or you may call: (978) 318-3034. 



Human Services Divisions

Council on Aging

Ginger Quarles: gquarles@concordma.gov

On February 18th the Finance Department sponsored lunch at the COA for nearly 100 hungry and appreciative seniors. Special thanks to Anita Tekle for her culinary talents and her committed crew (co-workers) who helped put on the finishing touches and did the serving and clean up!

The COA kicked off the Aging Mastery program on March 12th. We are helping to pilot this 12 week course for the National Council on Aging and have reached the maximum capacity of 40 participants.

The Annual COA Tea was held at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center on Friday, March 13th. There was harp music and special finger sandwiches, sweets and of course multiple cups of tea were consumed out of beautiful tea cups that have been donated to the COA over the years.

The Concord Carlisle Class of 2015 hosted a St. Patrick's Day luncheon for Concord seniors on Saturday, March 14th at the high school cafeteria. A traditional meal of corned beef and cabbage, potato, carrots, Irish soda bread and sweets were served. There was even dancing entertainment! We are very grateful to the students, their parents and to the administration for continuing to sponsor this important event.

The COA will be making van rides available to the polls for the election scheduled for March 31st. Please remind seniors to call the COA at 978-318-3020 to sign up.

The COA made a small presentation on our services at each employee meeting during the week of March 9th. If you missed the employee meeting and have any questions about the COA operation, please do not hesitate to call.



After several winter weather delays, a new make-up air unit has been installed on the roof of Harvey Wheeler. It was "helped" up there by a giant crane on a freezing cold day in February. The contractors are now working on getting all of the controls set up, getting the system balanced and the entire new energy management system should be functioning by the end of the month.

Youth Services

Jennifer Clarke: jclarke@concordma.gov

Parent Academy: CC Youth Services announces an invitation to Concord parents to attend a Parent Academy hosted by our colleagues in Lexington, MA., on Saturday, March 28, 2015. Designed to educate and empower parents to manage the changing demands of parenting in today's world, this free event will be held at Clarke Middle School from 8:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Parents can choose to attend one, two or three workshop sessions based on personal interest and need. There are over 15 workshops covering cyber safety, mental health, concussions, safe and healthy eating, parents as sexuality educators and more. For more information about each workshop, the presenters and a workshop schedule go to <http://lps.lexingtonma.org/Page/1500> and click on the link: LPA Presenters and Schedule.



Sign up during March 16th-March 20th and receive a **10% discount** for Concord Recreation Day Camp. Register online at <http://summercamp.concordma.gov> and use the promo code: *CAMP10*. Or you may pick up an application at 90 Stow Street or call the Recreation office at 978-369-6460 for more details.

Sign up for the **Workrecreation** program which begins on March 23rd. This program is for students entering 8th and 9th grade. Enrollment is based upon a first come, first served basis. Sign up early to avoid disappointment.

Family Open Gym is still available at the Hunt Recreation Center and will be extended until April Vacation. Hours run: Mon & Thurs from 2 PM - 3 PM and Wed from 11am - 12 noon. The gym is reserved for children up to age 6 who are accompanied by a guardian.

The Recreation Department is accepting applications for **Summer Day Camp employment**. Download an application online at [Http://summercamp.concordma.gov](http://summercamp.concordma.gov) or come by the Hunt Center to apply. Interviews will be scheduled for the week of March 23.