

# Concord Village Voice ♦ May 2018

**Village of Concord:** 110 Hanover Street-PO Box 306 Concord, MI 49237 / 524-8534 / M-Th: 8am– 6pm

## Village of Concord Contact Information

### Village President:

Jeremy Bush: 414-4104-jbush@villageofconcord.com

### Village Council:

Jeff Jackson: 524-7407-jjackson@villageofconcord.com

Tom Norris: 937-3679-tnorris@villageofconcord.com

Tim Casey: 740-6260 -tcasey@villageofconcord.com

Ashley Meeks: 206-0435-ameeks@villageofconcord.com

Mike Lovitt: 607-1720 -mlovitt@villageofconcord.com

J. Mockeridge: 895-6006-jmockeridge@villageofconcord.com

Clerk: Judy Lefere-clerk@villageofconcord.com

Treasurer: Colleen Gibbs-treasurer@villageofconcord.com

Fire Chief: Lloyd Mosher-concordfiredepartment@yahoo.com

DPW: Jason Blossom-jblossom@villageofconcord.com

## Village Meeting Dates and Times

All meetings are held in the Village Commons and are open to the public. Come participate in your local government!

Village Council: May 8th & 22nd— 7:00pm

Parks & Recreation: May 1st — 7:00pm

Planning Commission: May 15th— 6:30pm

Fire Board: May 16th— 6:00pm - Meeting at Fire House

Due to operational changes, Granger began accepting glass in all curbside residential recycling containers. They accept clear and colored glass bottles and containers. Visit [grangernet.com/recycle-guidelines](http://grangernet.com/recycle-guidelines) for more info on recycling guidelines.

## Correction to the April Village Voice

The minutes published in the April edition of the Village Voice stated that there is a pediatric nurse on staff at the Concord Community Linked Health Center. It should have stated that there is a Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner on staff.

### CBSC (Concord Baseball & Softball Club)

Practices beginning soon.

**PLEASE KEEP DOGS OFF THE BALL FIELDS!!**

## Village Voice—Village of Concord Website

Do you have community information you want included in the Village Voice or on Village of Concord Website? Call Village Office. Email: [office@villageofconcord.com](mailto:office@villageofconcord.com). All info. must be submitted a week prior to the beginning of the month. The submission deadline for the June issue is May 23rd.

## Concord Heritage House May Event

Lunch/Tour of Restored Albion. May 16th @ 10:00 am.

For more information contact Cathy Coppernoll:

524- 9094 or Gail Snow: 524-6675.

As always open for the public to attend!

## BIRTHDAY PARTY for DEE CALLIOTTE

Saturday June 2nd from 2 pm to ???

Food will be provided. Please bring your own chair and beverage. Band will play from 4 pm to 7 pm. Come celebrate with Dee and enjoy the food, band and bonfire.

**NO GIFTS PLEASE!!**

## Concord Branch of the Jackson District Library

Community Expo on November 24th and are looking for people who would like to have a table or activity that day. Please contact Tammy Dotson at the Concord Branch if you are interested in being on the planning committee or participating in the expo.

## Village Dump Policy

REMINDER: the village dump/brush pile is for yard waste only. Foam containers and trash have been found in the brush pile. If this continues the brush pile will be shut down.

## Concord District Library's Upcoming Events

Yoga with Amy Reamer Wednesdays-10 am Bring your yoga mat and join us for yoga. Suggested \$5 donation. **On hold until they find an instructor!!**

Willy Wonka—Concord Area Players. The play will be on Concord Classic Weekend in June.

Friends of the Concord Library - 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 10 am. Please come!

Drop N' Knit—Wednesdays @ 10:30 pm.

Forget-Me-Not-Pots—May 16th @ 5:30 pm. Adults. Registration is Required.

Book Jackets Book Club - 3rd Monday @ 1 pm.

ABC Academy is now offering Preschool and Latch Key services for Concord Community Schools!

Our programs include:

Full and Half Day Preschool for children ages 33 months to 4 years of age

State-funded Free GSRP Preschool for children 4 years of age

Before and After School Latch Key Program

Music & Yoga Enrichment Programs

S.T.E.M. Curriculum and Technology Centers

Security Access Doors

Electronic Parent Communication System

Please contact Cody Blair, Program Director, at

[cody@abcacademyjackson.com](mailto:cody@abcacademyjackson.com) or by phone at 517-740-0167 if you are interested in enrolling your child in our high-quality programs.

Visit our website for more information

[www.abcacademyjackson.com](http://www.abcacademyjackson.com)

ABC Academy – a great place for your child to grow, learn, and succeed!

## GRANGER GARBAGE/RECYCLE INFO

You may have three additional bags of garbage outside of bin if you have 90 gal trash bin!

Garbage Pick Up: At curb by 6am Tuesday morning.

Recycling Pick Up: May 2nd, 16th & 31st.

Granger now accepts recycled glass.

Motioned by J. Jackson, seconded by A. Meeks, to accept the minutes from the 3/13/2018 meeting, as presented. The motion was approved by all.

Public Comments:

K. Wyatt asked about the Village changing to a City and if any comments from the residents had been received, J. Bush stated that he had not received any comments and the Council has not pursued at this time due to other pertinent issues.

B. Murray attended the meeting to ask what she could do to get her water turned back on. Water had been shut off a week earlier due to non-payment. She stated she is a senior citizen on a fixed income and questioned if the Village could offer a Senior Citizen Water Rate. J. Bush stated it was his understanding that legally this could not be done as everyone was expected to pay the same amount and no favoritism was allowed. Murray explained she was having issues with her financial institution making direct withdrawal payments for her bills. J. Jackson stated Murray needed to contact legal representation if her bank was engaging in the activities she was describing. She also stated that she was only a month behind on her bill. Clerk J. Lefere informed the Council that B. Murray had made a couple of payments however the checks were returned for non-sufficient funds. The Village mailed B. Murray a shut off notice two weeks prior to the water being shut off giving B. Murray the opportunity to set up a payment plan for her utility bill. She called the office the week before the water was shut off and was to stop in the office and make a small payment and then make weekly payments until the balance was paid in full. Murray did not follow through with the payment arrangement. J. Bush gave Murray several opportunities during the meeting to share what type of payment plan she could offer at the time of the meeting. B. Murray stated she had no money and excused herself from the meeting.

Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by J. Jackson, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$93,494.87. Motion approved by all.

L. Jacobson stated he had just returned from a weeks' vacation. He also stated that the 2<sup>nd</sup> suspect in the C.J.'s Party Store robbery has been arrested and they may be charging the parties with attempted robbery for their activities in the Concord Dollar General.

J. Blossom stated hydrant flushing has been completed. He also mentioned the Concord Baseball and Softball Club has donated money to the Village to purchase two batting cages for Gottschalk Park. He also informed the Council that J. Ripstra from Ripstra & Scheppelman is 95% complete on his portion of the cost estimate needed for the USDA Loan Application for the Village's large Water Infrastructure Replacement Plan. Rural Water will be completing another rate study to see where our rates need to be to pay for the USDA Loan. J. Blossom also asked the Council if they would like to run four circuits on each end of the Downtown Business District lighting system to avoid running generators during the Concord Classic Weekend. J. Bush motioned to allow Aladdin Electric to install extra circuits to the lighting system not to exceed \$5,000.00. Seconded by A. Meeks. All were in favor. Motion approved. He also recommended having an informational meeting on Water Infrastructure Replacement Plan and the USDA Loan for our residents at the first meeting in May. J. Bush stated before a public meeting occurs on the Water Infrastructure Replacement Plan and the USDA Loan the Council would like to have the all information necessary to present the plan thoroughly to the public i.e. rate study, map of streets effected, Ripstra's cost estimate, etc. J. Blossom also stated the water main running across the back of Gottschalk Park along the trail is in and the DPW will be turning on service around mid-April.

J. Bush mentioned a prospective buyer interested in purchasing a local business and completely renovating the historic building it was located in and reached out to the Council about what types of incentives the Village could offer. Bush stated he was in correspondence with the MEDC, MML and the Village's Lawyer to see what type of incentives the Village can and cannot offer. The Council would like to give anyone who would be willing to use their own monetary resources to open a business and/or renovate one of our commercial buildings (particularly in downtown historic district) the same incentives the Village would be expected to offer someone receiving an MEDC Rehab Ready Community Grant.

Council Comments:

A. Meeks informed the Council that the Fire Department Cash Bash will be held at the Concord Community Center on May 5<sup>th</sup>. See any firefighter to purchase a ticket.

J. Mockeridge brought up the possibility of placing the resident's garbage bills on their taxes. This would reduce the amount of the resident's monthly utility bill and instead residents would pay their garbage bill yearly as part of their taxes.

J. Bush noticed the Village's portion of the asphalt trail in Concord's Mill Pond Park a Falling Water's Trailhead has some cracks that need to be repaired with crack sealing. J. Blossom stated he will look into and get with the Council about cost of needed repairs. Blossom mentioned possibly having this short section seal coated.

Village Council Meeting Minutes- April 10, 2018 Absent: View at [www.villageofconcord.com](http://www.villageofconcord.com) or pickup hard copy at Village Office

Motioned by J. Jackson, seconded by A. Meeks, to accept the minutes from the 3/27/2018 meeting, as presented The motion was approved by all.

Public Comments:

K. Morgan introduced herself and informed the Council that she will be opening an Edward Jones Investment office in the area and will be going around the Village to introduce herself to Village residents. She is hoping to find a location in the Downtown Business District.

A. Lewis asked how much the water rates will increase with the water project. He is also concerned about an increase on his taxes. J. Bush explained that the rate increase will only affect the utility bill and the rates would likely increase by \$10-\$20. A. Lewis also stated that there is an old well on his property and asked if he could tap into it and use the water to water his lawn during the Summer months. J. Blossom informed him the Village does not allow wells and that the Health Department would not allow him to pull a permit to do this.

K. Wyatt stated that he has a rain barrel on his property and uses the water collected to water plants with and asked if the Village had any ordinance against having a rain barrel. J. Bush stated that there was not an ordinance against this and would encourage residents to recycle rain water.

B. Schleede Concord Township Planning Committee Member attended the meeting and was interested in the Township having a booth or table and participating in the Concord Classic Weekend.

Motioned by A. Meeks, seconded by M. Lovitt, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$40,006.37. Motion approved by all.

L. Jacobson discussed his March 2018 Police Blotter. In response to some complaints about speeders on S. Main St. between the hours of 6am and 7am, Jacobson came in early two times and recorded the following numbers: the average speed registered was 29 and the fastest vehicle clocked in at 37. This was the fifth time since Jacobson started here he has done this and found there was little to no speeding. Jacobson stated, "There will always be crazy people driving at ludicrous speeds, but a majority of the vehicles are moving at close to posted limits." He also stated that all suspects involved in the robbery at CJ's Party Store have been identified and arrested. L. Jacobson also wanted to inform everyone that the Sheriff's Office, all local police agencies and the State Police are working very closely to address every potential threat, social media rant or rumor regarding the potential violence in our schools. Each report is monitored closely by the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office to determine if charges are warranted and/or intervention is necessary. He also wanted to warn residents about a new scam where a female will come to your door asking for a ride. When you leave to give her a ride she has a partner waiting to break into your house. Do not give her a ride, offer to call 911 for her.

J. Blossom informed the Council that DPW employee D. Winter has been using his own cell phone since he began employment with the Village last year. The Village has 3 cell phones, one that is an old phone that cannot receive alerts from the Village's Water System Software. The Village pays \$30 per month for this phone. The Village could purchase another smart phone and the rate would be \$50 per month or they could pay D. Winter a stipend of \$50 per month to continue to use his phone. Rather than buy a new smartphone the Council agreed to pay D. Winter a \$50 per month stipend to continue to use his personal phone for Village business.

J. Blossom has a meeting at the end of the month with the engineering firm regarding the construction that will take place at the school. He will also be meeting with Rural Water on Friday to discuss what our water rates will need to be raised to in order to pay back the USDA loan within 40 years. J. Blossom stated that the batting cages donated by the Concord Baseball and Softball Club (CBSC) have been delivered. He also mentioned one of the bigger donors to the CBSC has donated three sets of bleacher frames which will be placed at the ball diamonds in the park after the Village placed wood benching on them.

J. Bush discussed Business Development Incentives updates. Bush presented placing a Commercial Rehab Zone in the Village to offer tax abatements for up to ten years to anyone opening or completely renovating an existing business in the Downtown Business District or in the M-60 Business District. J. Bush and J. Mockeridge will be attending day two of the MEDC Rehab Ready Community Training on Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Council Comments:

J. Bush thanked B. Schleede for attending the meeting and mentioned his attempts at working together with the Township on updating the Master Plan. B. Schleede offered to attend the Village's next Planning Commission Meeting and stated maybe the rest of the Township Planning Committee could start working together on the Master Plan in June or July.