

Concord Village Voice ♦ June 2016

Village of Concord: 110 Hanover Street-PO Box 306 Concord, MI 49237 / 524-8534 / M-Th: 8am– 6pm
Website: <http://villageofconcord.com/> **Email:** office@villageofconcord.com

Visit www.villageofconcord.com for up to date information

Village of Concord Contact Information

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Village Treasurer: treasurer@villageofconcord.com
Fire Chief: Lloyd Mosher lmosher@villageofconcord.com
DPW Director: 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: June 14 & June 28th— 7:00pm
Parks & Recreation: June 7 — 7:00pm
Planning Commission.: June 21 — 6:30pm
Fire Board: June 22 — 6:00pm Meeting Occurs at Fire House

Welcome New Clerk Judy Lefere

Please welcome and be patient with our new Clerk Judy Lefere who will start June 6, 2016. We look forward to working with Judy and we think you will too.

Come See the Circus on June 21st

The Circus will be held at Concord Community Schools for pre sale ticket and showtime information call 517-524-8854

Code RED Emergency Warning System

Jackson County's new Emergency/disaster/weather warning system calls, texts, emails your phone when these issues arise. If you haven't received the call you are not on the list. If you would like to receive these alerts visit: www.co.jackson.mi.us or www.cityofjackson.org and click the CodeRed Link. Don't have the internet? Ask a friend or family member? Visit the Library and they can assist you with internet access.

Concord Heritage House June Event

Visit Concord Classic Weekend June 24-26th
For More Information Contact
Cathy Coppennoll: 524-9094 or Gail Snow: 524-6675
!As always open for the public to attend!

CONCORD COMMUNITY Vacation Bible School

" EGYPT – Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace!"
JULY 10th – 14, 6 – 8 PM at Concord UMC
119 S. Main St., Concord. Children ages preK-Fifth grade!
If you can VOLUNTEER or if you'd like to REGISTER YOUR CHILD you can do so ONLINE BY VISITING the Concord Community VBS Facebook page or Call the church office, 524-6156, Mon.-Thurs. 9-3 pm. VBS is Multi-Denominational

Concord Classic Weekend Is Back June 24-26th

Friday June 24th —Main St.

Dance on Main Street w/ Leisure Machine 6pm to ?
2-Person Cornhole/Baggo 6pm - 517-524-8854

Saturday June 25th—Main St. & Concord Schools

Concord Classic 5K.& 1/2 Mile Kids Fun Run - 8am
517-524-6995 – cclassic@frontiernet.net
Kids Games, Bounce Houses, & Activities
3 on 3 Basketball Tourney - 11am - 517-524-8854
Concord Classic Car Show - 10am - 517-250-2065
Friends of Library Book, DVD, Media Sale –10am - 2pm
Yardzee/Yahtzee on Main St. - 6pm - 517-745-8438

Sunday June 26th—Gottschalk Park

2 Man Scramble Golf Tourney (9-hole) -9am - 517-581-2445
Kids Games, Bounce Houses, & Activities
Little League Baseball - 12pm
4 on 4 Beach Volleyball Tourney 12pm - 517-524.8854

Signup Online Forms & Additional Information:

<https://www.facebook.com/Concord-Classic-Weekend-1503881163173185>

Concord Community Yard/Garage Sale June 24-26th

To have the address of your sale included on the map and advertisements
Contact: 517-414-4104 - jbush@villageofconcord.com

Concord District Library's Upcoming Events

Yoga with Amy Reamer Wednesdays-10am Bring your yoga mat and join us for yoga in the Opera House. Suggested \$5 donation

Color Me Calm June 8th-5:30 pm Unwind with our adult coloring program. Coloring sheets and colored pencils provided. Bring your own special coloring instruments. Enjoy relaxing music, conversation and light refreshments!

Germers are Gross June 15th-1:00 pm Pathogens, viruses, pestilence, oh my! Up your grossology quotient and learn how to beat bacteria and bad habits! Intended for ages 8 and older; reservations are required.

Sport Science June 22nd-1:00pm What is sport science? A creative new way to teach physical science by using sports! Do curve balls really curve? What keeps a Frisbee in the air? The combination of athletics and physical science make this a unique program with much audience interaction. Intended for families.

Dragonfly Suncatcher June 22nd-1:00 pm Create a beautiful dragonfly suncatcher! Materials provided. Intended for adults; registration is required.

Family Magic Show June 29th-1:00 pm Jason Abbott brings an action-packed family magic show, complete with a real live bunny kids can pet at the end of the show and award winning straitjacket escape.

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: June 1st, 15th, & 29th

!Now picking up Commercial Trash on Tuesdays!

Granger No Longer Recycles Glass

Village Council Meeting Minutes-April, 26, 2015 (Absent:) Can be viewed at www.villageofconcord.com or pickup hard copy at Village Office

Motioned by K. Bush, seconded by J. Jackson, to accept the minutes from the previous meeting, as presented. The motion was approved by all.

Nancy Salvatore was curious if Employee Policies and Procedures Manual was available to the public. J. Bush had several hard copies to hand out and copies in the office for the public to review. Salvatore also asked J. Bush to put in the Village Voice how residents could switch phone service from Frontier to WOW and save money by bundling communication services. J. Mockeridge explained how a resident could change services.

Judy Clark asked to move Village/Township Elections back to the Concord Community Center due to lack of parking. J. Bush said they would have to pay the cleaning fee of \$75 but the charge to use would be waived.

Deb Laske wanted to know about sidewalk repairs and when they would be occurring. DPW Director Jason Blossom said it was usually completed in the summer and there was money available. D. Laske an avid walker mentioned several locations she noticed around the Village which could use sidewalk repair. Blossom asked her to write them down and the DPW would figure out sections to replace.

A. Losey asked the Council to consider putting a comment section on the Village's Website where residents could comment on repairs they notice needed, other complaints, and etc.

The Payment of Bills in the amount of \$12,748.54 was presented. Motioned by Meeks, seconded by Norris, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$12,748.54. Motion approved by all.

DPW Director J. Blossom reported the N Main Water Main Project was in the water sample testing phase and will likely be running early next week. He also noted two donated electronic scoreboards for the ball diamonds in Gottschalk Park were in place and operational. The scoreboards and services were a collaborative effort with donations from the Rothenberger Foundation, The Lions Club, Concord Excavating, Gruderman Electric, Precise Machining Unlimited, and support from the Village of Concord. Areas around the playground equipment received three loads of mulch just in time for the summer play season.

J. Mockeridge discussed the new email system and gave the Council their sign-ins and passwords. By moving to the new email system all emails will be backed up and easily recovered. All Village employees and Councilmembers will be using the system ending villageofconcord.com. The new email system will allow Councilmembers to cease using their private email address and gives the Village a more professional look.

J. Bush brought forth the conclusion to the MacCreedy Garbage issue and said after reviewing the email correspondence between BMAC Properties and Granger Garbage Services, check stubs, contacting Granger and etc. the Village overcharged BMAC Properties a garbage fee of \$555. BMAC Properties and MacCreedy's office manager D. Zenz paid Granger directly for the garbage service and the Village wasn't aware this was done.

J. Bush said the Village's Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan 2016-2022 needed the signed minutes from the 4/12/16 Council Meeting and letters needed to be sent out to shareholders like Jackson County.

The Village discussed possibly purchasing the downtown business building currently housing Murdock Floor Covering at 112 N. Main St. through the Jackson County's Tax Foreclosure Program. The Village would have to pay the back taxes \$2500 to gain possession. There was concern about the condition of the building, it being purchased by speculators and ending up sitting vacant and blighted. K. Bush said this was an opportunity to quit talking about the blight downtown and do something ourselves to fix it by procuring the building and making some improvements. J. Jackson felt the Village couldn't lose purchasing the building for less than a cheap used car. J. Bush said the Village could recoup purchase price in as little as six months with a minimal rent. J. Bush also said there were likely grants to fix up the building if we were to possess it as well as to tear down if needed. Ideas for the building included renting it out to the current tenant, using it as a business incubator, a community resource center where residents could use computers to find employment, demo of building and put parking or a downtown park, etc. There was concern by the public and some on the Council there wasn't enough information. Motioned by K. Bush, seconded by J. Jackson to purchase the property at 112 N. Main St. (Yeas: J. Bush, K. Bush, J. Jackson) (Nays: D. Norris, A. Meeks, E. Moubrey, J. Mockeridge) Motion failed.

Judy Clark questioned if the Council had noticed the junk piling up at the property located on the corner of River St. and Main St. J. Bush said they were on the Sheriff L. Jacobson's List.

J. Bush brought up the Village's updated Employee Policies and Procedures Handbook was finished and ready to implement if the Council was inclined. Motioned by J. Mockeridge, seconded by A. Meeks to approve the updates made to the Village of Concord Employee Policies and Procedures Handbook. Motion approved by all.

E. Moubrey brought to the Council the Planning Commission has voted to change the start time of future meeting to 6:30 p.m.

J. Bush gave a brief update of the Village's search for a new Treasurer and Clerk. J. Bush said he and Norris are hoping to meet with Homer in next few days to discuss the sharing of a Treasurer. J. Bush said all applicants for the Clerk position had completed the testing with three bowing out before testing. The number applicants has been cut to seven and the Hiring Committee will meet and narrow it down to a top five. Interviews will be conducted shortly after.

Village Council Meeting Minutes-May 10, 2016 (Absent: Moubrey) Can be viewed at www.villageofconcord.com or pickup hard copy at Village Office

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

Nancy Salvatore had a small list of typos and errors she noticed on the Village of Concord Website.

Lloyd Mosher brought news the downtown area of the Village will be closed off on Sunday, May 15, 2016 for a mutual training that will be attended by our Fire Department and several other area fire departments to practice urban fire fighting techniques. It is important too because it will be used to show how much water can be pushed out of fire hoses and Village's water system, which is then used as a piece of evidence for our ISO Rating, which in turn is used by the Insurance Industry to rate our fire response which affects the amount of money residents pay for homeowners insurance.

Sandy Lauer had concerns about cracking occurring on First Street and congested parking occurring at the dance studio Studio 306 located at the corner of S. Main St. and First St.

C. Hines asked the Council to consider adding a phone number on the answering machine where residents can contact a Village Representative after hours for non-emergency issues Sheriff L. Jacobson reassured C. Hines 911 was available for all issues including non-emergency situations.

J. Bush introduced Cynthia Laeder and recommended hiring as the Village's new Clerk, position for 40 hours a week, \$15 an hour and benefits would be offered in which the new employee pays a portion of the benefits. Motioned by K. Bush, seconded by J. Mockeridge to hire Cynthia Laeder as the Village Clerk. Motion approved by all.

Tim Casey was on the agenda to discuss his concern for the blight conditions occurring at the corner of Main St. and River St.

The Payment of Bills in the amount of \$39,670.26 was presented. Motioned by K. Bush, seconded by A. Meeks, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$39,670.26. Motion approved by all.

DPW Director J. Blossom reported N Main Water Main Project was close to finish. Blossom asked employee Dylan Tom receive a raise for completing his CDL. Motioned by J. Mockeridge, seconded by J. Jackson to give Dylan Tom a fifty cent an hour raise for procuring his CDL. Motion approved by all.

Sheriff L. Jacobson brought news he had discussed blight issues with building owners around town particularly the owner of the Shannon's Building and the home on Homer Rd. with tarps for a roof will be starting construction to re-shingle within a month.

Aaron Losey presented his business plan and application for The "One" a Private Medical Marijuana Dispensary/Retail Space he wants to put in on M 60. The front half of the store will be a retail space which will be open to the public and sell Michigan and American made products everything from cleaners to food. The back half of the store will be a private medical marijuana dispensary for members only. The parking lot will be home to a farmers market from the spring to fall. A. Losey presented a detailed security plan, his intention to work with law enforcement, the marijuana products sold will be tested for safety by a certified lab. As a "private" all customers must have the Medical Marijuana Card from the State of Michigan's LARA, must first fill out an application to become a member of the dispensary and be vetted by Losey before they can become a member and purchase product. This allows him the opportunity to turn away potential customers who don't meet his strict standards and people who don't fit the clientele he is interested in serving.

T. Casey asked what doctor's A. Losey would be working with? Losey replied all doctors he works with follow the regulations spelled out with the State.

C. Hines expressed concern with potential for criminal activity. A. Losey stated he was an active member of the Concord community having attended school here from kindergarten, attends multiple meetings, a Navy veteran, and wants to assist people with their medical needs. Losey said he was in the community to stay and wanted to re-invest his profits into the community in which he lives.

H. England once again expressed her opinion allowing a medical marijuana dispensary in town should be put up to the voters in the November election. Losey stated the matter had already been decided in Michigan with the vote to legalize medical marijuana. Losey also expressed concern there would be a cost to taxpayers. J. Mockeridge stated there was an ordinance in place allowing one dispensary and we could be sued if we didn't allow.

N. Salvatore wanted the Council to know they were there to vote for what the people who elected them wanted, not what they want. J. Bush said just because you are the loudest and attend meetings doesn't make you majority and he had heard from many in the community they were fine with a dispensary in our town.

A. Coxson questioned how many employees Losey's business would have and how they could be trusted? Losey said initially he would be the only employee. If successful he would hire additional employees but before they could work on their own they would be trained and expected to abide by the high standards sets for himself. He would also allow member "caregivers" to sell their overages in a legally and it would be tested in a lab.

B. Barton felt with the excellent police service the Village has with Sheriff L. Jacobson and the willingness for A. Losey to work with the Sheriff's chance for criminal activity was minimized and felt even if the medical marijuana being offered assisted one person with their medical ailments it was worth having the dispensary. It is a personal decision for someone to find the medicine which best work them and who are we to judge them.

Working in the medical field C. Magness had concerns A. Losey was calling himself a "caregiver" and his customers "patients." Losey explained he was obligated to call himself a "caregiver" and his customers "patients" per the State law. Magness recommended Losey work in concert with health care providers to offer the best medical care to his "patients" and make a concentrated effort to educate the community of his product and plans.

T. Casey questioned what the Village was gaining by allowing a medical marijuana dispensary? J. Bush said they would receive an annual licensing fee, would have a new business, and business development was something this Council is pushing to facilitate. Millennials are attempting to attract to move here are interested in marijuana. J. Bush felt Losey's business plan was sound, was comfortable with him running it by the books, intends to donate to community causes and reinvest in the community. J. Bush also felt the added security where customers must become members selected by Losey was a positive to keep undesirables from our community. J. Bush also noted it would be in descript with no signs advertising it as a dispensary, only those who seek out medical marijuana would know what it was. J. Mockeridge was concerned how so many were attending the meeting because of the "marijuana" issue but fail to attend other times, fail to assist with community improvements, offering input, as well as assistance. We need our citizens to be involved and to help!

D. Norris discussed his resignation was the result of taking on a new position at work with much more responsibilities, it was going to cause scheduling conflicts, would be difficult to balance work, council and family responsibilities. J. Bush asked the Council and the public we are looking for a new Councilmember, T. Casey expressed possible interest in the position. J. Bush also noted we may want to explore contraction.

D. Norris presented a 2015 financial audit was needed explaining with employee turnover this was especially necessary. Willis & Jurasek PC wanted it known the Village would pay for this part of the audit now or later when the Village must complete their next audit. Motioned by K. Bush to complete 2015 audit by Willis & Jurasek PC for \$1500. Seconded by J. Jackson. Motion carried by all.

First right of refusal for 112 N. Main St tax sale was once again discussed. J. Bush discussed how he others meet with M. Crowley of the MEDC to tour the property and discuss grant opportunities available for the property as well as others around the Village. J. Bush said he felt it would be costly to fix, if we were to acquire we could complete improvements but could only sell it for cost of acquiring the property and improvements, all profits would go to the County and State. Crowley's discussion on using Blight Ordinances as a tool to get property owners to improve their property as well as the need to explore a Dark Store Ordinance, Dangerous Building Ordinance, and Vacancy Ordinance. Motioned by J. Mockeridge to not purchase 112 N. Main St. for \$2550 in back taxes through Jackson County. Seconded by A. Meeks. Motion carried. (K. Bush—Nay).

J. Mockeridge brought news he was able to get Granger to donate a dumpster to the school for use when the Circus will take place on the school grounds in June.

J. Bush brought news the Village of Concord Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan 2016-2020 had been submitted to the MDNR and the Village was now awaiting approval by the State. C. Hines was curious why the Village had to have a Five Year Parks and Rec. Plan. J. Bush explained in order to qualify for certain grants through the State of Michigan and Federal Government an approved plan must be in place.

Full Minutes can be viewed at www.villageofconcord.com, a hard copy picked up at the Village Office or read a copy at the Concord JDL Library