

The Beacon

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March 2022

Local aid hearing set for March 15

By Jackie Lavender Bird

The Legislature’s Joint Committee on Ways and Means has begun holding public hearings on the fiscal 2023 state budget bill filed by the governor in January, and has scheduled a hearing focused on municipal and school aid for March 15.

The MMA will testify at the hearing on key municipal priorities, leading with its case that unrestricted local aid should better reflect the historic state tax collections of the past few years.

Unrestricted General Government Aid

The MMA is strongly advocating for a larger increase in Unrestricted General Government Aid, the state’s revenue-sharing mechanism.

Fiscal 2023 state tax collections are forecasted to be \$2.5 billion higher (7.3%) than the tax base that was used to pass

the fiscal 2022 budget last July, and state tax collections have increased by \$6.32 billion (21.3%) since fiscal 2020. But the [governor’s fiscal 2023 budget](#) proposes just a 2.7% increase for UGGA, or \$31.5 million to be distributed across 351 cities and towns.

MMA Executive Director and CEO Geoff Beckwith points out that the governor’s budget (known as House 2) uses a recently upgraded revenue estimate for fiscal 2022, rather than the one used in the state budget as enacted, “leading to an artificially low growth projection” that fails to share the higher-than-expected revenue growth with cities and towns. He said the past two years have seen an “unprecedented divergence” between the growth in state revenues and local aid.

The MMA is urging the Legislature to use the fiscal 2022 state budget figure as the base, which would increase



Sandwich Town Manager George “Bud” Dunham discusses Chapter 70 education funding, particularly the hardship faced by “minimum aid” communities, during the Feb. 8 meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission.

the UGGA account by 7.3%, or \$85.3 million.

■ **BUDGET** *continued on 22*

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Baker files supplemental budget with funds for roads and MVP

By Jackie Lavender Bird

Gov. Charlie Baker filed a \$2.4 billion spending bill on Feb. 18 that includes funding for key municipal programs, including a \$100 million supplemental distribution for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program, \$100 million to help municipalities repair winter road damage, and \$150 million for climate change resiliency initiatives, including the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program.

The governor’s bill draws from two revenue sources: fiscal 2022 state tax collections, which have far exceeded initial expectations, and \$800 million in federal COVID recovery aid.

“Massachusetts remains in a strong fiscal position, which enables us to use surplus fiscal year 2022 revenues to sustain our efforts to respond to COVID-19 and



Gov. Charlie Baker

invest in areas like early education, human services, housing and more,” the governor said in a prepared statement.

The MMA quickly [indicated its strong support for the municipal investments in the bill.](#)

In a letter to the governor, MMA Executive Director and CEO Geoff Beckwith wrote: “We look forward to working with you to urge the Legislature to move quickly to enact these key priorities so that every region of the state has the resources and support to maintain our roadways

■ **SPENDING BILL** *continued on 21*

2022 MMA Board of Directors

The MMA Board of Directors holds regular meetings in Boston, followed by a meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission with the administration. For information on the board's activities, call the office of MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith at 617-426-7272.

Executive Committee

Ruthanne Fuller, MMA President
Mayor, Newton

Jill Hai, MMA Vice President
Select Board, Lexington

Adam Chadelaine, MMA Immediate Past President
Town Manager, Arlington

Brian Arrigo, MMA First Vice President
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Arthur Vigeant, Mayor, Marlborough

Kristi Williams, Town Manager, Westborough

Michelle Wu, Mayor, Boston

Executive Director's Report

Another complicated leg in the COVID journey

Just six weeks ago, we were in the grip of the greatest level of COVID transmission of our two-year pandemic journey. While Omicron's toll was dreadful here in Massachusetts, including hundreds of thousands infected, tens of thousands hospitalized, and thousands of lives lost, the stark truth is that it could have been much worse. The public was spared from unspeakably devastating impacts because of the unprecedented public health interventions implemented by municipal and state leaders over the past two years.

Today, with the latest surge fading as quickly as it spiked, we can measure the effectiveness of the extraordinary protection and resiliency measures that have been put in place over the past two years.

COVID has been ever present since March 2020, and we have experienced three major surges, each peaking with clearly visible spikes in April 2020, January 2021, and January 2022.

The first surge occurred without any vaccine protection, the second with very limited vaccine deployment, and the third with 75% of Massachusetts residents fully vaccinated.

During the first spike, strict health mandates were in place, many aspects of the Massachusetts economy had been shut down, and municipal



By Geoffrey Beckwith

and school operations and non-essential businesses were virtual. During the January 2021 spike, mask mandates were in place, most operations were in rapid-switching mode, alternating between remote, hybrid or in-person settings, yet we did not have an economic shutdown. In the most recent spike in January 2022,

the state did not have an indoor mask mandate, although some communities implemented them locally, and stronger health requirements (mask and/or vaccine-entry requirements) were generally reserved for health care institutions, schools, large venues, congregate-living facilities, or other spread-conducive environments.

In April 2020, the peak numbers were: 2,700 daily confirmed cases (an artificially low number because of testing shortages), 3,900 patients in the hospital, and 198 daily deaths.

In January 2021, the peak numbers were: 9,000 daily confirmed cases, 2,400 patients in the hospital, and 94 daily deaths.

In January 2022, the peak numbers were: 36,000 daily confirmed cases, 3,300 patients in the hospital (COVID was not the major health issue for many of these), and 84 daily deaths.

Looking at the statistics from a very

■ DIRECTOR'S REPORT *continued on 23*

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We encourage readers to send comments, story ideas, news items, and events notices to editor@mma.org.

MMA to hold 5 virtual Legislative Briefings in March

By Alandra Champion

The MMA will hold a spring series of five Legislative Briefing meetings on March 4, 7, 11, 14 and 16. Registration is now open (see Zoom links below).

The MMA is holding the meetings for different regions across the state to give local leaders, legislators and MMA staff the opportunity to network in an informal setting, exchange information, and discuss issues of importance in state and local government.

The 2021-2022 legislative session is in its second year, and the MMA is tracking hundreds of bills that would affect cities and towns. Relevant bills will be discussed, along with topics such as the fiscal 2023 state budget, a COVID recovery package and ARPA funding, Chapter 90 local roads funding, special pandemic-related provisions affecting city and town operations, health care, economic

development, and other priorities.

City and town officials from every community are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to discuss local successes and challenges and to give input on the MMA's legislative priorities.

Introductions will begin at 12 p.m., followed by presentations and Q&A, and the meetings will end by 1:15 p.m.

The following is the meeting schedule, with registration links:

- [Friday, March 4](#): Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties
- [Monday, March 7](#): Middlesex County
- [Friday, March 11](#): Norfolk and Worcester counties
- [Monday, March 14](#): Essex and Suffolk counties
- [Wednesday, March 16](#): Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket and



Plymouth counties

The meetings are free to attend, but members will need to register in advance.

Attendees are urged to contact their local legislators and invite them to attend as well.

For more information, visit www.mma.org or contact Alandra Champion at 617-426-7272, ext. 121, or achampion@mma.org.

Recordings of 12 Muni Workshop Webinars available on mma.org

By John Ouellette

On Feb. 17, the MMA concluded its first-ever Muni Workshop Webinar Series with a session on advancing diversity in public safety.

Recordings and supporting materials for all 12 webinars in the series are available on the [MMA website](http://mma.org).

When the 43rd MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show had to be switched to a virtual format due to the COVID surge, the popular, timely and informative workshops were changed to Zoom webinars, available to all members free of charge.

The hour-long webinars were held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays over the course of four weeks. Panelists included Cabinet secretaries and state agency leaders, a wide range of local officials, attorneys specializing in municipal issues, and numerous other subject-mat-

ter experts.

The following are the workshop titles:

- Fiscal Outlook
- Municipal Strategies for Online and In-Person Engagement
- The Future of Work: 8 Key Insights and Collaborative Solutions
- Municipal Law Update
- Overview of Draft Zoning Rules for MBTA Communities
- Creative Placemaking in Your Community
- Recruitment and Retention Strategies for Public Works and Other Municipal Departments
- Labor Law Update: New Laws, Recent Cases and Agency Decisions
- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness: Tools and Tales
- Building a Culture of Cybersecurity: Minimum Baseline for Municipalities
- The State of Waste and Recycling



Attorney Donna Brewer speaks during the "Municipal Law Update" webinar on Jan. 31 held as part of the MMA's workshop series.

- Advancing Diversity in Public Safety

Workshop descriptions, panelists, supporting materials and video links can all be found in a [central location on the MMA website](http://mma.org).

NLC holding Congressional City Conference March 14-16

The National League of Cities is holding its Congressional City Conference March 14-16 in Washington, D.C.

At the conference, local leaders meet federal experts, get insights on critical federal issues, and raise their voices as a local leader on the national level. Attendees will hear from renowned speak-

ers with insights on the roles that local communities will play in the nation's pandemic recovery.

With once-in-a-generation federal funding coming to communities, conference sessions provide access to federal experts, blueprints for community success, and strategies to embed equity

and access into local projects. Topics will include grant writing, compliance and reporting, broadband and transportation funding, and other top local government priorities.

For more information, visit ccc.nlc.org.

MMA continues advocacy work on election reforms

By Dave Koffman

Despite the disruption of the pandemic, municipal clerks and election officials in the Commonwealth's 351 cities and towns administered federal, state, and local elections in a safe, accessible and efficient manner over the past two years. This was due to dedicated local officials and the pandemic-related flexibilities that the Legislature enacted during the public health crisis.

These authorizations — including no-excuse vote-by-mail and in-person early voting — were key tools for local officials and overwhelmingly popular, but these two provisions expired last Dec. 15.

Earlier in 2021, the Senate passed a [comprehensive election reform bill](#) (S. 2545), known as the VOTES Act, that would make many changes permanent, including vote-by-mail for all elections, longer periods for early voting, and same-day voter registration.

On Jan. 27, the House [passed its own version of the VOTES Act](#) (H. 4359). The House bill includes vote-by-mail and early voting for state and federal



Lawmakers continue to deliberate election reforms.

elections, as well as local options for both vote-by-mail and early voting for municipal elections. The House bill does not include direct authorization of same-day voter registration, but did add language to evaluate the potential costs involved.

A six-member House-Senate conference committee has been named to reconcile differences between the bills and propose a final bill for passage.

The MMA has previously supported many permanent election reforms, and [sent a letter](#) to the conference committee highlighting considerations for negotiators to support important provisions while avoiding unfunded man-

dates or requirements on municipalities across Massachusetts.

The following are key points made by the MMA:

- Make no-excuse, vote-by-mail a permanent change to encourage and allow all citizens to exercise their right to vote from home. Municipalities should have this option at the local level. Additionally, vote-by-mail ballots should be requested through an online portal or traditional written request, rather than creating any other administrative burden on local officials.
- Codify early voting while providing a local option for local elections.
- Guarantee full funding for all new election responsibilities and training requirements imposed by the legislation.

Once the conference committee agrees on compromise legislation, and both the House and Senate enact it, the governor would have 10 days to either sign the bill, veto it, or return it with proposed amendments. ●

Gov. Baker signs COVID bill with public meeting provisions

By Jackie Lavender Bird

On Feb. 12, Gov. Charlie Baker signed a \$101 million bill supplementing certain fiscal 2022 appropriations in response to the current phase of the COVID-19 public health emergency and extending certain authorizations related to public meetings.

The law extends pandemic-related authorizations related to public board and town meetings that either had expired or were due to expire soon. The following options are now available through July 15:

- **Remote option for public bodies:** The law extends authorization for virtual public meetings, first enacted at the beginning of the pandemic in April 2020.
- **Open town meeting quorums:** The law allows select boards, in consultation with their town moderator, to lower the quorum requirement for open town meetings to not less than 10% of the existing quorum level. The



Acton holds a socially distanced town meeting in 2020.

quorum provision includes a seven-day notification requirement before any select board vote.

- **Remote representative town meetings:** The law allows representative town meetings to have the option to meet remotely, if approved by the select board and town moderator, as well as the town meeting when it meets.

These extensions were priorities for the MMA in early 2022.

In terms of funding, the law includes \$50 million for the expansion of COVID testing and \$25 million to procure high-quality masks for students and faculty in elementary and secondary public school districts, early childhood centers, congregate care facilities, and home health care workers.

It also includes \$25 million for the COVID-19 Massachusetts Emergency Paid Sick Leave

Fund and \$1 million for a public awareness campaign regarding unemployment benefit overpayments.

The law also sets the state primary date for Sept. 6, 2022.

Following negotiations between the House and Senate, the Legislature had sent a final bill ([H. 4345](#)) to the governor on Feb. 3. ●

State begins pandemic premium payments

The state this month will be distributing \$500 payments to 500,000 lower-income workers who worked during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Baker-Polito administration announced on Feb. 8.

Municipal employees who meet the income qualifications are among those eligible for this first premium pay program of its type in the nation, which was created by the state's \$4 billion COVID recovery law, enacted in December.

The payments, totalling \$250 million, represent the first round of funds to be distributed as part of the Essential Employee Premium Pay program established by the Legislature and the governor, which uses a portion of the state's allocation from the American Rescue Plan Act. The administration said payments will be mailed to 500,000 people by the end of March.

Gov. Charlie Baker said his administration "has worked quickly to design the parameters for the program," which "will support those workers who served our communities, especially early in the pandemic."

The state has created an informational webpage about the program, including income eligibility by family size, at www.mass.gov/premiumpay.

Based on filed 2020 Massachusetts tax returns, individuals will be eligible for payments if their income from employment was at least \$12,750 and their total income put them below 300% of the federal poverty level. The lower bound of this range equates to working 20 hours a week for 50 weeks at minimum wage as of 2020 (\$12.75).

The federal poverty level is set by the federal government and increases with household or family size. The maximum total income for a single filer with no dependents will be \$38,280, according to the administration. A resident who files with a spouse and two dependents, or with no spouse and three dependents, could be eligible with a household income up to \$78,600. Married filers can each be eligible, provided each independently qualifies.

Individuals who received unemployment compensation in 2020 will not be eligi-

ble for the first round of payments, nor will state executive branch employees who received or will receive a one-time payment from the state as their employer.

Those eligible to receive a payment from this program will automatically receive a check by mail.

The first round of payments will be based on 2020 state income tax returns. Following the 2021 tax filing season, the next round of payments will be made using information from 2021 returns. After that, the program will be evaluated for any additional rounds.

This \$460 million program accounts for most of the \$500 million for low-income essential workers called for in the legislation creating the Premium Pay program, with the other \$40 million allocated to fund previous agreements with state employee unions.

The administration said it would release additional information on plans to disburse subsequent rounds of funds in the future. ●

Auditor Bump to speak at WEMO spring symposium April 2

Women Elected Municipal Officials will hold a spring symposium on Saturday, April 2, in Marlborough.

The half-day conference — "Reimagining Equitable Leadership" — will open with a fireside chat with State Auditor Suzanne Bump.

The conference will also feature educational panels focused on equitable leadership and communications strategies, as well as plenty of opportunities to network with peers.

The first panel — "Equity First: Approaching Leadership Through an Equity Lens" — will feature Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tyer, Somerville City Councillor Judy Pineda Neufeld, and Westborough Select Board Member Shelby Marshall. Malden City Councillor and WEMO Committee Member Amenda Linehan will moderate.

The second panel — "Navigating Transparency and Expectations in Communications" — will feature Archipelago Strategies Group CEO and Founder Josiane Martinez, KP Law Managing



Suzanne Bump

Attorney Lauren Goldberg, and Needham Public Information Officer Cyndi Roy Gonzalez. Greenfield Mayor and WEMO Committee Member Roxann Wedegartner will moderate the session.

Registration and a networking breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. The program will start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m. Boxed lunches will be provided.

The conference will be held at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel at 75 Felton St. in Marlborough. The cost is \$40.

Due to COVID, attendees of this in-person meeting will be required to show proof of being fully vaccinated (card, photo or QR code) on the day of the event. (Religious or medical exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) Masks are optional.

The symposium will feature two panel discussions: "Equity First: Approaching Leadership Through an Equity Lens" and "Navigating Transparency and Expectations in Communications"

These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

Additional information, including the agenda, will be available in the coming weeks. Registration is available at www.mma.org.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols at inichols@mma.org

White House releases details on infrastructure law

By Jackie Lavender Bird

The White House has released a range of documents and details about the \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, enacted last November.

The resources include:

- A 465-page [comprehensive guidebook](#)
- A [searchable database of program funding](#), by agency, topic and funding mechanism
- A [fact sheet for local governments](#) on 25 competitive infrastructure funding opportunities, with the latest available information, including program descriptions, links to agency websites, and application timing

The infrastructure law supports new federal investments in a wide range of public systems over five years.

The administration has placed the programs in four broad categories:

- Transportation: Roads, bridges, passenger and freight rail, public transit, airports, ports, safety and electric vehicles, buses, and ferries
- Climate, Energy and Environment: Clean energy and power, water, resilience, and environmental remediation
- Broadband (including cybersecurity)
- Other Programs: Regional commerce,

agriculture, health and human services

The following are the programs highlighted in the fact sheet for cities and towns:

Transportation

- [Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainably and Equitably](#) (RAISE)
- [Port Infrastructure Development Program](#)
- [Bus and Bus Facilities Competitive Grants](#)
- [National Infrastructure Project Assistance](#) (also known as “Megaprojects” or MEGA)
- [Infrastructure for Rebuilding America](#) (INFRA)
- Safe Streets and Roads for All (applications expected to open in May 2022)
- Charging and Fueling Infrastructure
- [Clean School Bus Program](#)
- Reconnecting Communities
- Rural Surface Transportation

Climate, Energy and Environment

- [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#)
- [Flood Mitigation Assistance](#)
- [Brownfields Remediation Program](#)
- [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants](#)
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Improvements in Schools
- Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas

- Energy Efficiency and Resilience Code Adoption
- Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs
- Community Wildfire Defense Grant Program

Broadband and Cybersecurity

- [ReConnect Loan and Grant Program](#)
- Middle Mile Grants Program
- State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program
- Smart Grid Investment Grant Program and Energy Sector Operational Support For Cyber Resilience Program

Other Programs

- Water and Groundwater Storage and Conveyance
- [Emergency Watershed Protection Program](#)

Additional funding opportunities

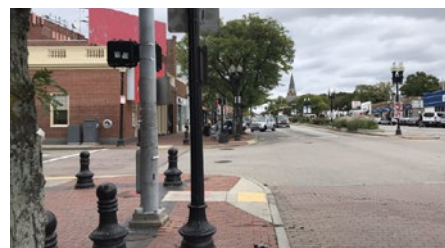
The law significantly increased the amount of non-competitive formula funding that will flow first to states and then on to municipalities. Examples include funding available through Surface Transportation Block Grant sub-allocations for local governments, which now include significantly expanded flexibility for municipalities to determine how these funds can be used, as well as increases for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. ●

U.S. DOT issues grant application for infrastructure program

The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity discretionary grant program, funded by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, issued a [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) on Jan. 27 for \$1.5 billion in grant funding.

This is the first discretionary funding program to accept applications as directed by the IIJA (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), and the funding level has been increased by approximately \$500 million over last year.

Funds for the fiscal 2022 RAISE grant program — referred to as the Local and Regional Project Assistance Program in the IIJA — are to be awarded on a competitive basis for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact. RAISE discretionary grants were originally created as TIGER grants under the American Recovery and



A fiscal 2021 RAISE grant of \$15 million will fund improvements to Blue Hill Avenue in Boston. (Photo courtesy city of Boston)

Reinvestment Act of 2009.

At least \$15 million in RAISE funding is guaranteed to go toward projects located in Areas of Persistent Poverty or Historically Disadvantaged Communities.

Under the IIJA, RAISE expands the num-

ber of communities eligible for a 100% federal share of funding, specifically those in rural communities, areas of persistent poverty, and historically disadvantaged communities. To help reach this goal, the U.S. Department of Transportation has [launched a tool](#) that allows applicants to determine if their project location is considered as a historically disadvantaged community.

The RAISE application deadline is April 14, and selections will be announced no later than Aug. 12, 2022.

For more information, contact RAISE grant program staff at RAISEgrants@dot.gov. The Department of Transportation regularly posts answers to questions and requests for clarifications, as well as information about webinars for further guidance, at www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants. ●

Federal cybersecurity agency offers range of services

By John Ouellette

The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency offers a range of free services to help cities and towns protect against cyberthreats, the agency's interim director for Massachusetts, Richard Berthao, told the Massachusetts Mayors' Association during the group's monthly meeting on Feb. 16.

Berthao said financially motivated actors remain the biggest threat to local governments.

Speaking at a U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in January, CISA Director Jen Easterly warned, "Cybercriminals are relentless. They're increasingly sophisticated. ... [They're] looking for the most vulnerable points. Software that hasn't been updated. Someone who isn't using multi-factor authentication. It's the lack of really effective cyber hygiene that causes these."

Berthao acknowledged that the problem can seem overwhelming, but said it's important to take whatever steps are possible and to make continual progress.

"The problem is here to stay ... just as crime is," he said. "We need local leadership involved in this process."

Berthao said the CISA offers four key resources to municipalities:

- [StopRansomware.gov](#), a website created last year to provide alerts and guidance about extortion malware

- A range of free risk-assessment and vulnerability-scanning services (such as a cyber resilience review, a cyber infrastructure survey, onsite cybersecurity evaluation tool assessment, and phishing campaign assessment)
- Cybersecurity advisers
- Resources being made available through a \$1 billion grant program created in last November's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

He said [cisa.gov](#) provides a one-stop shop for cyber resources, including all CISA-issued Activity Alerts, a cyber incident reporting portal, and a CISA free service and resource guide for assessment and vulnerability scanning. Local leaders may visit [www.cisa.gov/uscert/ncas](#) to subscribe to any of the National Cyber Awareness system products or feeds.

Berthao cited three key takeaway points:

- Ransomware, information stealers, and banking trojans are still the most likely threat to organizations, typically originating as "phishing" activity. Cyber awareness training is where this defense starts.
- Local leaders should continue to focus their efforts around building a "cyber hygiene" organizational culture first, then build detection and response capacity to identify and contain known malicious activity quickly.
- Public and private partnerships can make a big difference.



Richard Berthao, interim Massachusetts director for the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, speaks to mayors during a Feb. 16 webinar.

"We have come a long way when it comes to threat information sharing across the cybersecurity community," he said, "and it is absolutely making a difference in our ability to respond and deter the threat actor. CISA values this partnership and is counting on this community approach to better protect and safeguard the homeland."

"We are all in this together," Easterly told the mayors conference in January. "So reach out to us if you have anything like this happen. ... We are here to render assistance, and to help you get back up and running. We can help ... advise on what you need to do to rebuild your data and your systems."

Related resource: see [Guidelines for Responding to IT Public Records Requests](#), from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (2 pages, 300K PDF) ●

Citing Russian activity, federal agency urges vigilance

In the wake of Russian military action against Ukraine, a federal cybersecurity agency is reminding local leaders to remain especially vigilant for suspicious activity.

On Feb. 23, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency said that while it had received no credible threats against computer systems in the U.S., there is the potential that the Russian government might "consider escalating its destabilizing actions in ways that may impact others outside of Ukraine."

CISA is urging state and municipal officials to make use of several resources it provides:

- A [cybersecurity advisory](#) issued jointly by CISA, the FBI and the National Security Agency on Jan. 11 describing the tactics, techniques and procedures

frequently associated with Russian state-sponsored cyberattacks

- A [CISA list of of cybersecurity measures](#) to reduce the likelihood and impact of a cyberattack
- A [Russia Cyber Threat Overview and Advisories webpage](#), with CISA's advisories about Russian state-sponsored threats
- CISA's [Shields Up webpage](#), which includes urgent steps that organizations can take to bolster their systems against threats
- A [new catalog of free cybersecurity resources](#) from CISA, the open-source community, and CISA's private sector partners in the Joint Cyber Defense

Collaborative

- A CISA Insights document, "[Preparing for and Mitigating Foreign Influence Operations Targeting Critical Infrastructure](#)," focusing on misinformation and disinformation campaigns used to sow public distrust and undermine security

CISA urges local officials to report suspected cyber intrusions and anomalous activity to CISA at central@cisa.gov or at 888-282-0870, and/or to the FBI's 24/7 CyWatch operations center at 855-292-3937 or at CyWatch@fbi.gov.

CISA can offer help to organizations that have experienced cyber incidents and can use information from incident reports to protect other possible victims. ●

State updating building code to include net-zero option

By Ariela Lovett

The Department of Energy Resources is accepting public comment on proposed changes to the state building code that would help the state achieve its goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.

The DOER is proposing updates to the state's base energy code and "stretch energy" code, as well as the introduction of a new, net-zero energy code that municipalities could opt into. The proposed changes to the building codes are in the form of a "[straw proposal](#)" that was unveiled on Feb. 8. Following public comments, the DOER will draft specific code language, expected to be released this summer, and then hold regulatory hearings.

The DOER said it conducted research to find the lowest-cost path to decarbonizing buildings, and its analysis looked at 12 different types of buildings and their specific needs.

In 2009, Massachusetts became the first state to adopt an above-code appendix to the base building energy code. This "[stretch code](#)" is designed to result in cost-effective construction that is more energy efficient than that built under



Net-zero energy codes encourage the use of electric heat pumps rather than burning fossil fuels.

the base code. The stretch code was last updated in 2017.

Since 2010, municipalities have had two building code options: the state's base energy code or the stretch energy code created by the Green Communities Act of 2008. Adoption of the stretch code is a requirement for becoming a [Green Community](#), a designation achieved by 299 cities and towns thus far.

[Last year's omnibus climate law](#) requires the state to create a new opt-in net-zero stretch energy code for municipalities by the end of 2022. The goal of a net-zero energy code is to transition away from

heating buildings with fossil fuels and move to electrified systems such as heat pumps.

Residential and commercial buildings were responsible for 27% of the greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts as of 2017, the latest year with official emissions data, according to a December 2020 report from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Municipalities will not be required to adopt the new net-zero stretch energy code once it is finalized. Any city or town will be able to continue using either the base energy code or the regular stretch energy code.

The DOER has scheduled a series of five hearings in early March to discuss the draft prior to the public comment deadline. The hearing schedule, and more information about the new net-zero stretch energy code, is [available on the DOER website](#).

Public comments on the straw proposal are due by 5 p.m. on March 9. Comments can be sent to stretchcode@mass.gov with the subject line "Stretch Code Straw Proposal Comments." ●

Environment Committee grants extensions to recycling and waste bills

By Ariela Lovett

The Legislature's Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture has granted extensions to a number of bills supported by the MMA related to recycling and solid waste.

Under what is known as Joint Rule 10, legislative committees had a Feb. 2 deadline to issue a favorable report on bills, send them to study (i.e., decline to take further action for the remainder of the legislative session), or grant them extensions.

The following bills, [supported by the MMA in testimony during their initial hearing in June](#), were granted extensions until March 31:

- H. 878: Pertaining to extended producer responsibility for packaging materials
- S. 569: To establish a mattress stewardship plan

- S. 570: Providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to mattress recycling
- H. 869: To reduce single-use plastics
- H. 902: To reduce the use of plastic bags
- H. 938: To promote paint recycling

The MMA and other advocates for legislative interventions to address the ongoing challenges associated with recycling market conditions now have until March 31 to push for favorable reports on the pending bills.

A recent MMA webinar, "[The State of Waste and Recycling](#)," part of the virtual Annual Meeting workshop series, discussed the concepts of extended producer responsibility and product stewardship, as well as related legislation.

The [MMA has also endorsed legislation that would expand the bottle deposit law](#) to add new categories of beverage containers and increase the deposit



A legislative committee has extended the deadline for a number of bills related to recycling that are supported by the MMA.

from 5 cents to 10 cents. The Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy held a hearing on the bill (S. 2149) and gave it a favorable report. It now awaits action by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. ●

Community One Stop opens application process

The full application process is open for fiscal 2023 for numerous state grant programs under Community One Stop for Growth, a centralized portal and streamlined application process for communities and other entities.

Full applications must be submitted between May 2 and June 3.

The Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development recommends that prospective applications submit Expressions of Interest through One Stop. The Expressions of Interest process provides an opportunity to receive guidance on potential economic development projects prior to submitting a full application, helping prospective applicants connect to the most appropriate grant programs in the One Stop portfolio and providing referrals to dozens of the Commonwealth's grant programs outside of One Stop.

The Expression of Interest period will remain open through March 18, and is available to municipalities, public entities, community nonprofits, and private companies. While each organization is limited to one Expression of Interest, the form allows applicants to seek feedback on up to two project ideas.



Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito (center) presents a MassWorks grant award to Lowell City Manager Ellen Donoghue (right) on Oct. 25 as Gov. Charlie Baker looks on. (Photo courtesy Joshua Qualls/Governor's Press Office)

Twelve programs will be administered through the [Community One Stop for Growth](#) for fiscal 2023, including MassWorks, Urban Agenda, Housing Choice Community Grants, Massachusetts Downtown Initiative, Community Planning Grants, Rural Development Fund, MassDevelopment, Brownfields, Site Readiness, and Underutilized Prop-

erties. New this year are the Collaborative Workspace Program, Real Estate Services, and Commonwealth Places.

In Community One Stop's first year, 360 project proposals were submitted from 177 communities, and [196 grants were awarded to projects in 122 communities](#).

For more information, visit www.mass.gov/onestop. ●

2022 application for Housing Choice designation now available

The 2022 [application for Housing Choice Community designation](#) is available online, and the deadline is March 7.

The Housing Choice Initiative rewards municipalities that have produced certain rates or amounts of new housing units in the last five years and that adopted best practices related to housing production that will meet workforce needs and increase access for all Massachusetts residents.

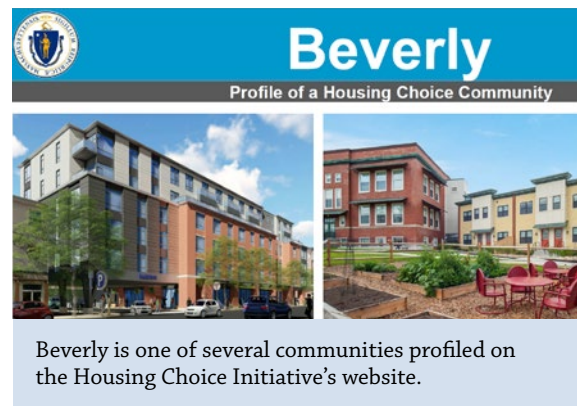
Communities that achieve the Housing Choice Community designation have exclusive access to apply for the Housing Choice Grant Program and receive bonus points or other considerations to certain state grant programs.

A few notable changes are being implemented this year:

- **Grant cool-off period eliminated:** Designated communities will no longer have to wait for one year after receiving a Housing Choice Grant; they

will be eligible to apply in the immediately following grant period.

- **Designation extended to five years:** The Housing Choice Designation is being extended from two to five years. [Currently designated communities](#) that received designation in 2020 and 2021 will not need to re-designate and will have their designations extended until 2025 and 2026, respectively. The Department of Housing and Community Development has reached out to these communities to inform them of their designation extension.
- **Designation start and end dates:** All designations will start and end on the due date for designation applications. This will ensure that no



Beverly is one of several communities profiled on the Housing Choice Initiative's website.

designation will lapse pending a re-designation application.

Grants offered through the [Community One Stop for Growth](#), including the Housing Choice Grant Program, are also live. ●

MassDOT relaunches Municipal Small Bridge Program

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has announced the relaunch of the [Municipal Small Bridge Program](#), which provides grants for the replacement, rehabilitation and preservation of municipally owned bridges with spans between 10 and 20 feet.

Since 2017, the competitive grant program has invested \$50 million through 117 awards. The relaunch adds \$95 million to be spent over five years.

Every municipality in Massachusetts is eligible, and applications are due on April 1.

“This funding program has helped facilitate the development of small bridge projects across the Commonwealth that, due to their size, would be deemed ineligible for federal funding,” Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito said in a prepared statement. “We are pleased to work with cities and towns to address their infrastructure needs and support local economies.”

Funding is prioritized for bridges that are most in need of intervention, helping communities maintain their bridge networks and avoid lengthy detours that can result from bridge closures. By funding these key local projects, the program seeks to ensure that residents, essential service providers, and emergency responders can reach their destinations as safely as possible while also advancing the overall condition of the small bridge system.

For example, the town of Granville re-

ceived \$500,000 through the Municipal Small Bridge Program in 2019 for the rehabilitation of a bridge on Old Westfield Road over Hollister Brook. Without these improvements, a future bridge closure would necessitate a 12-mile detour. Old Westfield Road also provides a direct route to the Baystate Noble Hospital in Westfield, further highlighting the importance of supporting bridge projects in key locations such as this.

To be considered for funding, small bridges must be on a local public way and must be on the State Bridge Inventory and have a span between 10 and 20 feet.

The program uses phased grants to municipalities in order to separately fund the design and construction of small bridge projects. A Phase 1 grant is designated for the costs of bridge design and permitting and may provide up to \$100,000. A Phase 2 grant provides funding for the costs of construction up to \$500,000.

Applications are being accepted for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 grants.

MassDOT now connects Phase 1 design grant awardees directly with a MassDOT-led consultant for the design of the approved bridge improvements. This update to the program is intended to give communities additional support to ensure their projects are successful.

The application document is a fillable PDF that collects information about the



The state is accepting applications for the Municipal Small Bridge Program until April 1.

bridge, its impact on the community, and the community’s financial and logistical needs. Applications must include preliminary cost estimates (including a recommended 15% contingency), photographs and repair history.

Applications may be submitted to SmallBridgeProgram@dot.state.ma.us.

The Municipal Small Bridge Program, which is 100% state-funded, was authorized in the 2021 transportation bond bill for \$95 million over five years. In order for authorization to be used, all program funds must be programmed in MassDOT’s Capital Investment Plan (CIP).

To learn more about MassDOT grant programs, visit geodot-local-massdot.hub.arcgis.com/pages/grants. ●

Application period opens for culvert replacement grants

The Division of Ecological Restoration in the Department of Fish and Game seeks proposals from Massachusetts municipalities interested in replacing undersized, perched and/or degraded culverts located in areas of high ecological value.

The purpose of the [Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program](#) is to encourage municipalities to replace culverts with better-designed crossings that meet improved structural and environmental design standards and climate resiliency criteria. In general, individual awards have ranged from \$25,000 to \$400,000 for single culvert replacements, depending on the project phases and work proposed. Awards over \$200,000 are anticipated for construction projects only.

Only projects that intend to meet the



Municipalities have until March 14 to apply for culvert replacement grants.

goals of the [Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards](#) will be considered for funding. Projects should be designed to facilitate fish and wildlife passage, maintain the natural movement of water and sediment through the stream crossing, and reconnect upstream and

downstream habitat. Use of these standards to design culverts improves river function and access for fish and wildlife, and reduces hazards to public safety, such as flooding, culvert failure and road washout.

Massachusetts municipalities are eligible to apply for funding to support advancing single or multiple culvert replacement project(s) on the same local connected stream network.

Interested communities should view the full announcement, including funding, eligibility and evaluation criteria, on [Commbuys](#) and the [DER website](#).

The application deadline is 5 p.m. on March 14. ●

Pandemic study reveals socioeconomic impacts

By Jennifer Kavanaugh

Researchers from UMass Amherst examining the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Massachusetts households warn that the fallout will produce “possibly irreversible” socioeconomic impacts for households unless there is rapid intervention by policymakers and greater assistance for particularly vulnerable populations.

The study also involved researchers from Amherst College and Indiana University, and received support from the MMA, the International City/County Management Association, the Women’s Fund of Western Massachusetts and the Boston Women’s Fund.

“[Impacts of COVID-19: A Survey of Massachusetts Households](#),” released by the UMass Amherst School of Public Policy on Feb. 14, found that Massachusetts households experienced significant effects on income and careers, child care and educational outcomes, and mental and physical health during the pandemic’s first year.

“If not addressed quickly, these socioeconomic impacts will have lasting, and possibly irreversible, implications for the United States,” said UMass Amherst economist Marta Vicarelli, who led the study. “We hope that our results will inform the design of policies that address these impacts and support vulnerable groups.”

The 116-page report paid particular attention to the pandemic’s effects on women, children and minority populations. It focuses on a range of topics, including employment and financial strains, child care and education, physical and mental health, substance use, and food security. In particular, researchers looked at delays in children’s academic and emotional development, negative mental health outcomes, and negative effects on women’s employment.

Key findings

When broken down by race, income, gender and other factors, the survey results revealed that pandemic disruptions have disproportionately affected people of color, women, children and low-income households. However, the survey generally revealed substantial challenges for households throughout Massachusetts:



“If not addressed quickly, these socioeconomic impacts will have lasting, and possibly irreversible, implications for the United States,” said UMass Amherst economist Marta Vicarelli, who led the study.

- Nearly one-third of respondents (31%) saw decreases in overall income and savings, with women more likely to report having become financially dependent on their partners due to COVID-19 disruptions.
- Nearly three-quarters (72%) of women said they have done more than their partners in supervising their children’s remote learning and other education-related activities during COVID-19.
- Men with children were more likely than women to report decreased productivity in their professional lives (60% and 44%, respectively) or to report having lost their jobs (12% and 9%, respectively) due to COVID-19 disruptions. However, women who responded were more likely to have made changes to support household needs, such as reducing work hours or leaving or changing jobs.
- Three-quarters of respondents with children of preschool to middle-school age indicated that COVID-19 impacts

had hindered their children’s academic progress, and 87% of parents of children with special needs believe that their children had lost skills they had gained before the pandemic.

- About six in 10 respondents reported being “quite” to “extremely” concerned about disruptions on their children’s academic achievements due to the pandemic, and more than 70% of parents of children of kindergarten age and older reported being “quite” to “extremely” concerned about their children’s social-emotional development.
- Just over three-quarters of respondents said they had canceled or postponed necessary health appointments, mainly because of concerns about in-person visits or cancellations by health-care providers.
- Parents identified several sources of stress: work (40%), limited access to child care (37%), and supervision of children’s school progress (36%).
- More than one-third of respondents (35%) reported an increase in alcohol consumption, while 45% reported an increase in cannabis use.
- Access to food also affected mental health: 46% of people with low food security, and 76% of those with very low food security, reported moderate-to-severe anxiety and depression, compared with 22% of the general survey group.

Researchers also asked Massachusetts residents what policies and resources would best help them cope with the crisis, and residents identified three top priorities: a one-time stimulus payment (15%), greater mental health support (15%), and more support with child care (13.4%).

The survey was designed and implemented by the Sustainable Policy Lab at UMass Amherst and was distributed online between Oct. 4, 2020, and Feb. 18, 2021. Researchers received 5,916 responses from 54 states and U.S. territories, including 2,617 responses from Massachusetts. ●

MMA profiles new leaders of mayors, managers

By Jennifer Kavanaugh

As a way to introduce them to members, the MMA is sitting down for interviews with the new presidents of the member groups who took office in January.

This month, we feature Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tyer, president of the Massachusetts Mayors' Association, and Sandwich Town Manager George "Bud" Dunham, president of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association.

Next month, we'll talk with Westwood Select Board Member Michael Walsh, president of the Massachusetts Select Board Association, and North Adams Councillor Lisa Blackmer, president of the Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association.

Linda Tyer



Linda Tyer

When Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tyer joined a women's political action committee a couple of decades ago, she had no idea that it would inspire her to run for City Council in 2003, or that it would ultimately lead to the top job in City Hall.

"It wasn't like growing up, and in high school and in college, I was like, 'I am going to run for office someday,'" said Tyer. "That was not my plan at all. So this was a complete surprise to me that I decided to do this."

Tyer served on the council from 2004 through 2009, when she became Pittsfield's elected city clerk. She remained in that role until winning her first mayoral election and taking office in 2016. She won reelection in 2020.

Before entering politics, Tyer earned an associate's degree as a legal assistant/paralegal from Bay Path University, and worked as an executive assistant in the Lenox Public Schools.

Last year, Tyer served as first vice president of the Mayors' Association. This year, she said, mayors are transitioning from pandemic crisis response to recovery mode, and have the opportunity to make "transformative change" with federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

"It wasn't like growing up ... I was like, 'I am going to run for office someday.' So this was a complete surprise to me that I decided to do this."
- Linda Tyer

The daughter of a U.S. Air Force veteran, Tyer was born in Michigan, spent middle school in Athens, Greece, high school in Bellevue, Nebraska, and lived in Winnepeg, Canada, among other locations. She said those experiences have shaped her policies, including creating Pittsfield's new diversity, equity and inclusion office.

"That's the vision that I have for our future city," Tyer said, "that it's a place for everyone."

Away from City Hall, Tyer enjoys life with her husband Barry Clairmont, their Brittany dog Kenzie, and gray cat Shea. Hailing from an Italian family, Tyer loves to cook the family spaghetti sauce recipe "and just all kinds of foods that are rich in flavor." For life balance, she practices yoga and loves to read, especially novels.

George "Bud" Dunham



George "Bud" Dunham

When George "Bud" Dunham was a graduate student at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, he watched as many of his classmates took federal and state jobs, with very few seeking roles in local government.

But Dunham, the town manager in Sandwich since 1993, is glad that he took the road less traveled, given the direct impact his job has on the lives of residents.

"I guess I've always believed in the whole concept of public service, and, you know, good government and trying to do positive things to influence everyday lives," Dunham said.

Before becoming town manager, Dunham had served four years as the assistant.

He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Wake Forest University and a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse. Long active in the Management Association, Dunham has been serving on the MMA Board of Directors for about a decade. He was the Management Association's first vice president last year, and second vice president in 2020.

"I do think you reach a point in your career where you feel like you have something to give back," he said, "and it's important to invest that time."

"I guess I've always believed in the whole concept of public service, and good government and trying to do positive things to influence everyday lives."

- Bud Dunham

In terms of Management Association priorities and concerns, Dunham said he hopes to have more in-person meetings this year if possible. Another concern is that many communities are grappling with employee turnover and the struggle to find replacements. And managers are facing much more public scrutiny now because of social media, he said.

To deal with those pressures, Dunham relies on a Cape Cod managers' group, friends, and a text group with other managers. He also relies on his "incredibly supportive" wife, Trish Brown, and daughter Katherine, who is pursuing a master's degree in public health. He also has five adult stepchildren: Michelle, Emily, Theresa, Catie and Max.

Outside of work, Dunham enjoys soccer, golf, "all kinds of music," and summer vacations in the Adirondacks. He also enjoys cooking, and loves to grill.

"Some of the people who've known me the longest at work call me a food pusher," he said. ●

MMMA, MMHR to hold joint meeting on April 14

A joint meeting of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources on April 14 in Worcester will feature a keynote presentation about the impact of birth order on management style and interpersonal relationships.

Human relations and management expert Jack Agati will lead an entertaining and informative session, "Birth Order: What's It Got to Do With Business, Anyway?" Agati will explore the impact that a person's place in the family has on styles of managing and dealing with people.

Attendees will learn how to avoid potential interpersonal conflicts, while tapping into a person's strengths as developed through the birth order process. The meeting will also feature a panel dis-



Jack Agati

cussion focused on civility in city and town halls. Panelists will include Bridgewater Town Manager Michael Dutton, Acton Human Resources Director Marianne Fleckner, and Norfolk Town Administrator Blythe

Robinson. Randolph Town Councillor Katrina Huff-Larmond, founder of Huff, Larmond and Associates, will moderate the session.

Registration and networking will begin at 9 a.m. The program will start at 9:30 a.m., and lunch will be served.

The meeting will be held at the AC Hotel Worcester at 125 Front St.

The registration fee is \$45. To register, visit www.mma.org.

Due to COVID, attendees of this in-person meeting will be required to show proof of being fully vaccinated (card, photo or QR code) on the day of the event. (Religious or medical exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) Masks are optional. These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

Contacts:

- MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols at inichols@mma.org or 617-426-7272, ext. 104
- MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker at dbaker@mma.org or 617-426-7272, ext. 105

Select Board Association to discuss local economic development

On March 4, the Massachusetts Select Board Association's first program meeting of the year will be held as a free webinar covering the local economic development grants made available through the [Community One Stop for Growth program](#).

The webinar is being co-sponsored by the [Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts](#).

2021 was the inaugural year for Community One Stop, a single application portal and streamlined, collaborative review process for grant programs that support local economic development initiatives.

Discussing the first year of One Stop and what to expect from the program moving forward, including some upcoming changes, will be:

- Juan Vega, assistant secretary for Communities and Programs with the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development



Shaun Suhoski



Juan Vega



Jen Cohen



Helena Fruscio Altzman

- Helena Fruscio Altzman, assistant secretary of Program and Performance Management with the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development
- Jen Cohen, vice president of real estate development with MassDevelopment

The session will be moderated by STAM Chair and Athol Town Manager Shaun Suhoski, who will discuss Athol's experience with the One Stop program in 2021.

The Zoom webinar will run from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and advance registration is required. An email with the registration link was sent to all select board members in early February.

Select board members are encouraged to invite any elected or appointed municipal colleagues that would benefit from this program to join.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols at inichols@mma.org

Let us know about your local news

Every day across the Commonwealth, municipal leaders are figuring out ways to deliver services more efficiently, save taxpayers money, engage more citizens in the vital work of local government, and improve the effectiveness of the lay-

er of government that has the most direct impact on people's lives. The MMA wants to recognize and help spread the word about these local creative solutions.

If your community has launched a new program or initiative, or has found a unique solution to a common problem, please let us know by filling out our new [Local News Tips form](#) on the MMA website. ●

MMA-Suffolk to hold information sessions

By Katie McCue

The MMA and Suffolk University will hold information sessions on March 9 and 16 for upcoming Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs.

The two sessions, to be held via Zoom at 10 a.m. on March 9 and 2 p.m. on March 16, will cover the same information. To register, visit www.mma.org/events.

In September 2022, the MMA and Suffolk University will launch the 19th and 20th Certificate programs in-person in Grafton and Dartmouth. Suffolk programs currently have a vaccination requirement for in-person learning.

The graduate-level academic program provides a solid grounding in municipal management, and covers topics such as human resources management, budgeting and financial management, and strategic leadership.

The program is held over the course of 25 Fridays from September through May. The MMA expects to be back in-person in September 2022.

The program application is available on the MMA website. The application deadline is April 30.

Fellowship Program

The application deadline is May 1 for the MMA and Suffolk University's Municipal Fellowship Program, which was launched last year to offer significant support to municipal managers and professionals to attend the master's in public administration program at Suffolk's Sawyer School of



Twenty-one students graduate from the winter session of the MMA-Suffolk Municipal Finance Management Seminar on Feb. 11.

Business.

The fellowship program will provide a scholarship of up to \$28,000 while the recipient's municipality commits to continuing their salary and position while they attend the program part-time. The application is available on the MMA-Suffolk programs web page.

Applicants must already be accepted for admission to the MPA program and receive the support of the chief municipal official in their municipality. Consideration will be given to graduates of the MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program.

Finance Seminar

The MMA-Suffolk Municipal Finance Management Seminar will hold three programs in 2022.

The five-week program, held on Fridays, is designed to provide a deep dive into municipal finance.

The application period for the spring 2022 session has closed, and the application period for the fall 2022 session remains open through July 31. The application is available on the MMA website.

For more information on any of the MMA-Suffolk programs, visit mma.org/suffolk or contact Katie McCue at 617-426-7272, ext. 111, or kmccue@mma.org.

Councillors' Association to meet on March 9 in Waltham

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association will hold its statewide dinner on March 9 at The Chateau in Waltham.

MassInc Polling Group President Steve Koczela will be the featured speaker.

The free event will begin at 5 p.m. with networking, followed by a speaking program and dinner. All city and town councillors are invited. Visit www.mma.org for more information and online registration.



Steve Koczela

Due to COVID, attendees of this in-person meeting will be required to show proof of being fully vaccinated (card, photo or QR code) on the day of the event. (Religious or medical exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.)

Masks are optional. These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker at dbaker@mma.org

ATFC to hold spring conference on April 30

COVID-related recovery programs and capital planning will be the focus of the Association of Town Finance Committees' Spring Conference on Saturday, April 30, at Pine Ridge Golf Club in Oxford.

In the first educational session, MMA Senior Legislative Analyst Jackie Lavender Bird will discuss the American Rescue Plan and other COVID-related recovery programs.

The second session will highlight best practices in capital planning. Medfield Finance Committee Chair and ATFC Governing Board Member Jeremy Marsette will discuss his committee's work to establish and implement a capital plan over the past several years. Kasey



Jeremy Marsette



Kasey Bik

Bik from the Division of Local Services will offer guidance on developing a capital plan, focusing on three key areas: how to inventory, prioritize and pay for capital needs.

The conference will run from 9 a.m. to

1 p.m., with lunch served at noon. The cost is \$25 for ATFC members and \$35 for all other registrants. [Click here for online registration.](#)

Due to COVID, attendees of this in-person meeting will be required to show proof of being fully vaccinated (card, photo or QR code) on the day of the event. (Religious or medical exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) Masks are optional. These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker at dbaker@mma.org

MMHR to discuss municipal recruitment strategies on March 10

On March 10, the Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources association's first program meeting of the year will be held as a free webinar covering municipal recruitment strategies.

Representatives from communities that participated in a first-of-its-kind municipal career fair on the North Shore in November will discuss how the event was put together and lessons learned that can help other communities that may be interested in pursuing a similar event. In an effort to promote open positions with area residents, six North Shore cities and towns partnered with the [MassHire-North Shore Career Center](#) to hold the municipal career fair.

Speakers will include:

- Danvers Assistant Town Manager and Communications Director Jen Breaker

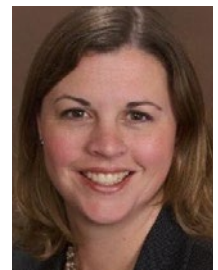
- Salem Human Resources Director Lisa Cammarata
- Beverly Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director Abu Toppin
- Peabody Human Resources Director Beth O'Donnell



Jen Breaker



Abu Toppin



Beth O'Donnell

Labor shortages are affecting employers across the country, including municipalities, and key positions sometimes remain vacant for months. The U.S. Department of Labor reported that a record 4.5 million Americans quit their jobs last November, and employers face the challenge of adapting to the shifting job market landscape.

Advance registration is required for this webinar, which will run from 9:30 to 11 a.m. An email with the registration link was sent to all MMHR members in early February.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols at inichols@mma.org

Get MMA.org updates in your mailbox

The MMA's weekly email newsletter provides a digest of all the updates posted each week on www.mma.org.

The MMA website is a great source for all the latest developments related to local government in Massachusetts, including timely updates on the state budget.

The email newsletter ensures that subscribers won't miss any website updates, with a summary arriving in their mailbox every Friday morning. The

newsletter includes a listing of all the latest news stories, MMA testimony to the Legislature, guidance documents, upcoming member group events and webinars, the newest resources in the website's extensive Resource Library, and additions to the classified ads board.

The email subject line is "MMA Weekly Review."

The MMA also offers a Breaking News email option to provide up-to-the-minute news on major stories.

To sign up for either or both newsletters, use the short and simple form at www.mma.org/about-mma/newsletter-sign-up/.

- Meredith Gabriliska

MSA to host Western Mass. Municipal Conference

The Massachusetts Select Board Association will host its second Western Massachusetts Municipal Conference on Saturday, April 9, in Easthampton.

The event will bring together regional stakeholders, including municipal officials, planning agencies and legislators from Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties, to address challenges facing the region. Conference goals are to promote sustainable cross-governmental partnerships across western Massachusetts, to share best practices for adaptation to and mitigation of challenges facing the four counties, and to advocate more effectively for the region.

The conference is being co-sponsored by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and the Rural Policy Advisory Commission.

The conference will open with a legislative panel focused on priorities for the next round of American Rescue Plan Act aid (“ARPA 2.0”) and for the remainder of the legislative session.

Following the panel, a number of workshops will cover topics such as police reform and its impact on small towns, ARPA funding and economic recovery from the pandemic, the impacts of post-COVID population shifts on housing affordability, and the state of public infrastructure in western Massachusetts.

The conference will be held at Easthampton High School at 70 Williston Ave. Registration and networking will begin at 8 a.m., and the program will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Boxed lunches will be available for those who would like to take lunch to go or stay for networking after the conference.

More information, including details about speakers and a formal agenda, will be made available in the coming weeks.

Due to COVID, attendees of this in-person meeting will be required to show proof of being fully vaccinated (card, photo or QR code) on the day of the event. (Religious or medical exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) Masks are optional. These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

The registration fee is \$35. Registration is available at www.mma.org.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols at inichols@mma.org

MunEnergy marks 23 years, plans webinar sessions this spring

By Katie McCue

The MMA’s MunEnergy program recently celebrated 23 years, a milestone that underscores the strong relationship between the MMA and Constellation, as well as Constellation’s commitment as a trusted partner for energy procurement and education for Massachusetts cities and towns.

MunEnergy provides valuable resources to cities and towns, including a unique municipal contract, energy experts who provide information and answer

questions, and a focus on sustainability solutions. MMA members can work with the team at Constellation on their climate goals through a range of innovative solutions.

The MMA will soon announce spring webinar sessions for members to learn more about the value of the MunEnergy program. Local officials can make sure to receive the latest energy information from the MMA and an invitation to a spring webinar by sending their energy contact information to energy@mma.org.

The MMA formed the MunEnergy program in 1998 to help Massachusetts cities, towns and government entities stabilize energy costs and simplify energy management. For more about the MunEnergy program, visit www.mma.org/munenergy or contact Katie McCue at kmccue@mma.org or 617-426-7272, ext. 111. ●

MMHR to hold HR101 boot camp in Wrentham on May 12

The Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources association will offer its annual HR101 boot camp as a full-day, in-person event on May 12 in Wrentham.

The boot camp will cover core functions of the municipal HR office, including trends in negotiations related to COVID, first steps in creating a diversity, equity, and inclusion plan for cities and towns, key components of an HR audit, and an HR101 roundtable with seasoned human resources professionals.

The boot camp is geared toward newer

municipal human resources professionals, but veterans in the field are welcome to attend for a refresher course.

Registration and networking will begin at 8:30 a.m. The program will start at 9 a.m., and lunch will be served.

The boot camp will be held at Lake Pearl, 299 Creek St. in Wrentham.

The registration fee is \$75 for members and \$85 for nonmembers. A registration link will be available at www.mma.org in late March.

Due to COVID, this in-person meeting

requires attendees to show proof of being fully vaccinated (card, photo or QR code) on the day of the event. (Religious or medical exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) Masks are optional. These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols at inichols@mma.org

Nominations due by March 4 for MSA Board

The Massachusetts Select Board Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking members for vacancies in the District 1 and 3 representative seats on its board of directors.

MSA district representatives also serve on the MMA Board of Directors.

The District 1 representative seat, which covers Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties, is currently vacant. The District 3 seat, which covers Bristol, Norfolk and Suffolk counties, will become vacant in mid-April.

The term for both positions will end in January 2023.

Any select board member in the eligible counties may complete the [online nomination form](#) and submit his or her name for consideration. The nomination deadline is March 4.

MSA Board responsibilities include attendance at MSA and MMA Board meetings. The MSA Board meets four to six times a year, and the MMA Board meets on the second Tuesday of most months, typically in Boston from 10

a.m. to 2 p.m.

MSA Board responsibilities also include working with MMA staff to develop agendas and identify speakers for MSA events, and participation in virtual and in-person events throughout the year.

After interviewing all nominees, the MSA Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of nominations to be approved by the MSA Board of Directors.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols at inichols@mma.org

Municipal Law Conference to be held on March 16

Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education's 20th Annual Municipal Law Conference, co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association and the MMA, will be held remotely on March 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Municipal officials are welcome at the annual program, which provides updates on recent developments from the Legis-

lature, government regulators, and the courts on many areas of public sector law.

This year's program will address developments regarding the public records and open meeting laws, land use and zoning, environmental laws, public employment law, cybersecurity and data breaches, and the 2nd Amendment, home rule

and gun regulation. It will also feature a presentation on administrative law.

Tuition is \$275, and registration is through the [MCLE website](#). The OnDemand webcast can be viewed later, and the audio recording will be available on CD or as an mp3 download at www.mcle.org.

Stephanie Duggan is 1st recipient of Longo Scholarship

Maynard Human Resources Manager Stephanie Duggan is the first recipient of the Rocco Longo Memorial Scholarship, established by the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association in 2021 in honor of longtime town manager Rocco Longo.

The scholarship, offered twice a year, covers full tuition for the [MMA-Suffolk Municipal Finance Seminar](#). Longo was one of the founders of the finance program, which provides an overview of Massachusetts municipal finance, including the operational aspects of finance structure, systems and processes



Stephanie Duggan

in Massachusetts cities and towns.

Longo is remembered by his peers as generous with his time and knowledge. He reached out to everyone he met and built lasting relationships with fellow managers across the state

and country.

Duggan has worked in Maynard for 13 years, beginning as the executive

assistant to the town administrator. She completed the MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program as well.

The Longo Scholarship will be offered again later in the year. Any student admitted to the MMA-Suffolk finance program is eligible to apply for the scholarship. A notice will be posted on www.mma.org and in The Beacon when the application is available.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker at dbaker@mma.org

MMHR appoints Marie Buckner to Board of Directors

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources has appointed Sandwich Human Resources Director Marie Buckner to fill a vacant director position on its Board of Directors.

Please note that the February issue of The Beacon incorrectly included Anne O'Brien as an MMHR director. She left the board last summer.

The full 2022 MMHR Board is listed on the [group's web page](#).

The MMHR elects its board of directors annually at its annual meeting in June.



Marie Buckner

Around the Commonwealth

Holyoke

City departments join forces, target troubled properties

By putting away their separate binders and embracing interdepartmental collaboration and technology, Holyoke officials have cleaned up dozens of blighted and vacant buildings and helped give new life to properties around the city.

Holyoke's Property Preservation Group, which represents several city departments, has been meeting monthly since late 2015 to discuss Holyoke's blighted, vacant and unsafe properties. By combining departmental resources, the group resolved 60 of 74 problematic properties between 2015 and 2020, according to a city report released early this year.

According to Holyoke officials, the combined efforts have resulted in greater efficiency and fewer duplicated efforts in addressing blight, the return of more properties to the city's tax rolls, and improved quality of life for residents. In some cases, the group was able to resolve properties that had been in limbo for more than a quarter century.

"What the group has been doing, and the progress achieved to date, is a clear example of why it's important for local governments to think outside the box," said Mayor Joshua Garcia. "Our cross-departmental collaboration has resolved many properties that have been a nuisance for a very long time. ... What we are witnessing with this group is responsible management of resources."

When Building Commissioner Damian Cote came to Holyoke in 2012, departments were on separate pages about troubled properties. The Building Department had a three-ring binder of problem properties. The Board of Health had its own binder. And other departments had their own lists, which Cote eventually reviewed and combined into one. Meanwhile, previous group efforts to tackle blight in the city had fallen apart, Cote said.

"So all these departments were looking at things from different lenses and not working toward the same goal," Cote

said. "Or they were, but not even knowing they were working together toward it."

Group participation is voluntary, but the monthly meetings regularly draw representatives from the building, fire, health, public works, law, planning and economic development, and community development departments. Garcia, who was sworn in as mayor last November, has also been attending recent meetings.

Having abandoned their physical binders, group members now refer to a collective spreadsheet that links to property information. Each month, the group reviews its updated "top 10" of properties needing attention, and decides on next steps. The properties have ratings based on input from Cote, the fire chief and the economic development director, with a focus on safety and economic value. The group then assigns tasks electronically to employees.

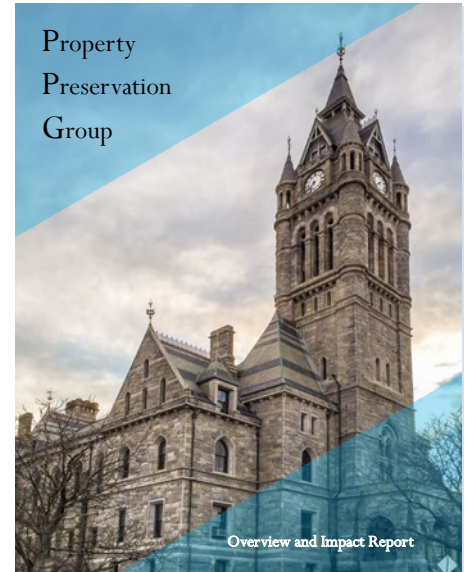
Resolving distressed properties may involve demolishing unsalvageable structures, renovating buildings, selling abandoned properties to buyers with rehabilitation plans, or redeveloping properties, Cote said. The city also has a property maintenance and demolition team, consisting of two employees trained in hazardous materials removal, to secure and stabilize properties.

The group's five-year report describes numerous success stories. A two-family home, which owed more than \$36,000 in back taxes at the time of its 2014 tax taking, is now privately owned, renovated and contributing \$4,600 annually in property taxes. An abandoned property that had only a foundation now has an owner-occupied duplex. And an unsafe, vacant apartment building is undergoing a major renovation by a private developer.

Going forward, the group plans to focus more on prevention and preservation work, so properties don't fall into such disrepair. For instance, Cote said, the group is looking at setting up funds to help new homeowners with their properties.

Cote said he also hopes to produce additional reports detailing the group's progress. And Garcia said he hopes

Property Preservation Group



Holyoke Property Preservation Group report

Holyoke can also pursue streamlined, citywide permitting among departments for property owners looking to develop in the city.

— Jennifer Kavanaugh

Boston

City works to address issues faced by Black men and boys

A new office and commission in Boston will address systemic barriers facing the city's Black men and boys and work to improve their educational, socioeconomic and health outcomes.

Boston's new Office for Male Black Advancement will work to "empower Black men and boys and ensure they have equitable access to opportunities through the concentration of policy, programs, resources, and local and national partnerships." A new Black Men and Boys Commission will advise Mayor Michelle Wu and the city on equity issues, programs and budget priorities, and provide outreach to residents.

Surrounded by Black leaders in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood on Feb. 3, Wu named Frank Farrow as the office's first executive director. Farrow, a Roxbury native who founded a nonprofit serving

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Around the Commonwealth

COMMONWEALTH

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Frank Farrow, the new executive director of Boston's Office for Black Male Advancement, speaks during the Feb. 3 event announcing his appointment.

Boston youth and families, said he had benefited from different opportunities while growing up. But those resources dwindled as he grew older, he said, and Boston can now give Black boys and men better support.

"We have an opportunity to ensure that Black men and boys in this city realize their full potential, and are able to live in a greater Boston," Farrow said, "and pass on a legacy of success, prosperity, and uplifting and empowering Black men and boys in our community."

With the new office and commission, Boston will address the policy and social gaps that worsen outcomes for Black men and boys, Wu said at the event. Incidents of police brutality nationwide and COVID-19's disproportionate health outcomes illustrate the disparities that persist, she said.

"This is the heart of our city, this is the future and the success and the prosperity of Boston connected to each and every one of us," Wu said. "And so I am proud to stand among many, many city leaders, in that the future of Black men and boys in Boston is the future of Boston."

The commission has been years in the making. In 2014, the City Council approved then-City Councillor Tito Jackson's ordinance to create a commission, but then-Mayor Martin Walsh vetoed it. Last year, Councillor Julia Mejia revived the ordinance, which the council approved and Acting Mayor Kim

Janey signed.

Mejia, who became a councillor in 2020, told the MMA recently that the commission was an early priority, given the obstacles her constituents were facing.

"Black men in particular, here in the city of Boston, have faced a number of systemic barriers, from those who are returning citizens, to men trying to navigate the economic ladder ... as well as issues of mental health and wellness," Mejia said. "So to be able to establish a commission that will dive deeper into these issues and create a pathway forward was important to me."

For the 21-person commission, Wu will appoint seven experts on issues facing Boston's Black men and boys, and seven members who have experience or knowledge of those issues. Wu will choose the final seven from a list of 14 people nominated by the council. The commission will meet monthly, provide quarterly reports to the council, and produce an annual report.

Mejia said she hopes members will be selected in the coming weeks, and be ready to convene by the end of March. In terms of commissioners' expertise, Mejia said her priorities include mental health and wellness, physical health, and having a commission that represents all experiences, including those of LGBTQ residents. With regard to specific policies or programs, Mejia said she wants Boston's male Black community to determine what's most needed.

"I think Boston should be the leader in advancing this work," Mejia said, "and I think that we have an opportunity to create a blueprint for others to follow."

- Jennifer Kavanaugh

Weymouth

ARPA funds turn former school bus into mobile food pantry

The town of Weymouth and the Weymouth Food Pantry have joined forces to turn a former school bus into a mobile food pantry, and Mayor Robert Hedlund is committing American Rescue Plan Act funds to do it.



Weymouth Mayor Robert Hedlund's Chief of Staff, Ted Langill (standing, back), and Weymouth Food Pantry Executive Director Pamela Denholm (front right) join town and pantry staff and volunteers in the bus that will become a mobile food pantry. (Photo courtesy town of Weymouth)

The Weymouth Food Pantry, an independent public charity and hunger-relief organization that already operates on a mobile model, began brainstorming last July about how to improve its service and increase access.

The bus will be outfitted with shelving, refrigerator and freezer units, and storage for about 3,000 pounds of food, a conversion that is expected to be completed by this summer at a cost of about \$200,000.

"The Weymouth Food Pantry is the gold standard for providing food assistance," Hedlund said. "With the need for food access on the rise due to COVID, this mobile pantry project will help us reach even more Weymouth residents and families."

Like food pantries across the country, the Weymouth Food Pantry saw an increase in demand during the pandemic, while experiencing restrictions to their operations and supplies.

"We've had to do with less," Weymouth Food Pantry Executive Director Pamela Denholm said. "A lot of our volunteers are seniors and more vulnerable groups who needed to stay home, and a lot of our corporate partners paused their volunteer programs. But the need in our community grew."

About 650 new families have signed up

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Building climate resiliency into municipal properties

By Joyce McMahan

Recent reports indicate that climate change is warming the Northeast faster than most other regions in the Northern Hemisphere, and research released by UMass Amherst notes that the [North-east has heated by 3.6 degrees over the past century](#) due in part to the increasing temperature of the Atlantic Ocean.

This warming is already having an enormous impact in the region. According to the [U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit for the Northeast](#), among other resources, climate change impacts here include extreme precipitation events (both rain and snow), sea level rise, coastal and river flooding, and severe weather such as high wind events and heat waves, all of which are challenging our environmental, social and economic systems.

Flooding, both coastal and inland, is a major concern. Most Massachusetts counties can expect a 10% to 20% increase in flooding between 2020 and 2050, with an average annual loss



Climate-friendly green roofs, like this one at Chicago's City Hall, can reduce building cooling costs while also absorbing rainfall. (Photo courtesy National Park Service and city of Chicago)

increase of more than \$5 million over the same period, according to a [Jan. 31 article in the journal Nature Climate Change](#).

Municipal governments that do not build sufficient climate resilience may experience increased climate-related losses, risk of credit rating reductions, and higher borrowing costs, as well as a loss of public trust.

What's being done

The UMass Northeast Center for Coastal Resilience surveyed Massachusetts communities on their climate resilience, and the results, [published last November](#), demonstrate that municipalities across Massachusetts are taking some proactive steps to mitigate climate change in their communities.

A large majority of respondents (89%) indicated that climate adaptation and resilience planning are a priority in their planning documents, while 80% have completed a vulnerability/risk assessment.

Strategies that municipalities most frequently reported wanting to adopt in the future include weatherization and retrofitting of buildings (64%), and improvement or expansion of stormwater drainage systems (61%).

MIIA is working with the [Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association](#) to identify ways to better share

■ **RESILIENCY** *continued on 25*

Best practices for a sewer system emergency response plan

By Stephen Batchelder

Every sewer system owner should prepare, and regularly review and revise, an emergency response plan. The plan should be developed to assure that applicable personnel are prepared to take timely and efficient action in the case of a sewer incident.

At a minimum, sewer system emergency response plans should include the following:

- Primary response personnel designated for each section of the municipality, including names, titles, and emergency phone numbers
- Backup personnel to be contacted if those in the primary response positions cannot be reached

- A list of all emergency cleanup or pumping equipment, and where it is stored
- Contact information for specialty contractors that may be called upon 24 hours a day for materials, equipment or services
- Police and fire department non-emergency phone numbers for notifying them (if needed) that the municipality is responding to a sewer system emergency
- Names and telephone numbers of regulatory or environmental agencies that may need to be notified in the event of sewer system emergency
- Name and contact information for the assigned management personnel

authorized to speak to the media in the event of a major problem that may affect the larger community or the health or safety of citizens (All personnel should know the name of the authorized media spokesperson.)

In addition to general information relating to any type of emergency that might be experienced in the sewer system, every municipality should include sewer-related topics within its municipal Hazard Mitigation Plan and expand upon specific procedures for responding to sewer system backups and overflows.

Stephen Batchelder is MIIA's VP of Claims Operations and Risk Management.

COMMONWEALTH

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since the pandemic started, she said, a 30-40% increase. The pantry is open weekly, and people can come once a week. Prior to the pandemic, volunteers were used to seeing people only once or twice a month, Denholm said, but that rate quickly increased to every week. Coupled with food shortages, she said, it has been a challenging couple of years for the pantry.

“We are managing the stress, fears and anxiety of the community and are pivoting for all the changes, which was tough,” Denholm said. “We are a small grassroots organization with fewer resources.”

The Weymouth Food Pantry doesn’t operate a brick-and-mortar location. Instead, it operates pop-ups at three different locations, currently at houses of worship, while distributing about 350,000 pounds of food per year. The pantry plans to use the bus in conjunction with the ongoing pop-ups.

“We find transportation to be a barrier for people who need us, so being mobile lets us get to more people,” Denholm said.

Denholm said she expects the new mobile bus to have a layered impact on the community by offering a more dignified experience for those in need while improving access. The bus can simply be pulled into a parking lot, allowing the pantry to go anywhere at any time, potentially increasing the number of days it is open.

“We now have an opportunity to think about summer lunch programs for kids or holiday programs,” Denholm said. “It’s a contained unit, so it can go anywhere, it can respond to situations, even emergency situations.”

“We can be super inventive, and increase access, by building on what we already have.”

The bus will also allow the pantry to be more intentional about the needs of specific members of the community experiencing food insecurity, Denholm

noted, by considering age groups, demographics, physical restrictions, and dietary needs.

“For seniors, for example, it could be that they have the food but don’t have the movement to break it down,” Denholm said. “So if we have a senior day at a senior center, we can think about what kind of food, or prepared food, we should have.”

The strong, supportive relationship between the organization and the town, and the shared goal of best serving the community, made the project possible, she said.

“This is a really wonderful partnership,” Denholm said. “When municipal and nonprofit collaborate, we can do anything.”

—Meredith Gabriliska

This monthly column features local and regional news items related to local government in Massachusetts. To suggest an item for this column, email editor@mma.org.

SPENDING BILL

Continued from page 1

and protect our environmentally sensitive infrastructure.”

Chapter 90

A \$100 million supplemental [Chapter 90](#) distribution would provide a much-needed infusion to this important program, according to the MMA and local leaders across the state. [Base Chapter 90 funding has been level-funded](#) at \$200 million since 2012, while road construction costs have increased by 42% over that period.

Baker’s bill would use \$100 million from the state’s revenue surplus to provide a boost to Chapter 90 that can be put to work right away, with the construction season about to begin in just a few weeks.

The MMA, meanwhile, will continue to advocate for timely enactment of a separate Chapter 90 bond bill this spring that provides \$300 million for fiscal 2023 so that long-term repairs can get underway as well.

Winter road repairs

The governor’s bill includes \$100 million for grants to municipalities for a winter recovery assistance program. Funds

could be used for projects including the rehabilitation, reconstruction, resurfacing or preservation of roadways. Grant funds could also be used for the repair or replacement of traffic control devices, signage, guardrails, storm grates, road striping or painting.

Environment and climate

Baker’s bill includes \$150 million to fund climate change resiliency initiatives, including the [MVP program](#). To date, 93% of Massachusetts municipalities are enrolled in the MVP program. In the most recent MVP grant funding round, \$20.6

million was distributed through both planning and action grants.

With such a high engagement rate and thousands of priority projects identified through the planning process in communities across the state, requests for action grants far exceed available funding (from the Global Warming Solutions Trust Fund).

The governor’s bill would enable more projects to be approved in each MVP grant round and provide a stable source of long-term funding as the program expands its reach. ●



LGAC discusses state budget, PILOT

Williamstown Select Board Member Andy Hogeland addresses municipal financial concerns during the Feb. 8 meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission. He thanked Administration and Finance Secretary Michael Heffernan for his state revenue update, and noted the importance of the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program for municipalities, especially for smaller ones.

BUDGET

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[The MMA has prepared a spreadsheet showing the difference for each community between the governor's proposed UGGA increase and the 7.3% increase called for by the MMA.](#)

Chapter 90

While the [Chapter 90](#) local road and bridge program falls outside the state budget, the MMA will remind legislators, as they take up the [governor's proposal to level-fund the program in fiscal 2023](#), that allocations have been generally flat at \$200 million since fiscal 2012, with a few exceptions, while the purchasing power has been substantially diminishing.

If Chapter 90 remains at \$200 million in fiscal 2023, the real level of state support for local road projects will drop by 42% since fiscal 2012, to an inflation-adjusted \$117 million — a loss of \$83 million in purchasing power over the past 11 years.

The MMA will continue to urge legislators to fund Chapter 90 at \$300 million per year, and will urge them to support a one-time increase of \$100 million included in a [fiscal 2022 supplemental budget filed by the governor](#) on Feb. 18.

Chapter 70

House 2 would increase Chapter 70 school aid to \$5.98 billion, with a \$485 million increase in fiscal 2023, fulfilling commitments in the Student Opportunity Act.

An examination of the budget, however, shows that 136 of 318 operating districts (43%) would receive only the minimum per-student increase of \$30 in the Student Opportunity Act, providing those districts with a Chapter 70 increase of just 1%, far below inflation.

The MMA is continuing to strongly advocate for minimum aid of \$100 per student to ensure that all districts can at least keep pace with inflation and maintain their school services.

Special education circuit breaker

The MMA is supporting the governor's proposal to add \$41.2 million to fund the Special Education Circuit Breaker program at \$414 million, an increase of 11%. The Student Opportunity Act

expanded the special education circuit breaker by including out-of-district transportation, an important enhancement for cities and towns.

The MMA will remind legislators that Chapter 90 allocations have been generally flat at \$200 million since fiscal 2012, while the purchasing power has been substantially diminishing.

Charter schools

The governor's budget would increase the charter school reimbursement account to \$219 million, intended to meet the commitment in the Student Opportunity Act to fund 90% of the state's statutory obligation to mitigate Chapter 70 losses to charter schools.

The MMA argues, however, that charter schools continue to divert a high percentage of Chapter 70 funds away from many municipally operated school districts, and place increasing strain on the districts that serve the vast majority of public schoolchildren. The MMA will reiterate its call for comprehensive charter school finance reform.

School transportation

The MMA will point out that House 2 would reduce funding for regional transportation reimbursements from \$82.1 million in the current fiscal year

to \$77.8 million, which would create a hardship for virtually all communities in regional districts. Reimbursements for transportation of out-of-district vocational students remains significantly underfunded at \$250,000.

The governor's budget would increase reimbursements for the transportation of homeless students under the federal McKinney-Vento Act from \$14.4 million this year to \$22.9 million in fiscal 2023.

PILOT

The governor's budget would level-fund payments-in-lieu-of-taxes at \$35 million, which, the MMA will point out, would create a significant hardship for many smaller, rural communities with large amounts of state-owned land. This is a key account due to the major impact that PILOT payments have on budgets in very small communities, and level-funding this account would fall short of the Legislature's goal of phasing in full funding by fiscal 2024.

Budget process

The MMA will urge legislators to announce an agreement as soon as possible on the two main local aid accounts — UGGA and Chapter 70 — which would be tremendously helpful to the municipal budget planning process.

The Joint Ways and Means Committee will conclude budget hearings in mid-March. The House is expected to debate its budget bill in April, with the Senate deliberating its own bill in May. The Legislature will work to get a final budget bill to the governor by the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1. ●



LGAC starts 2022 term

Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito presides over the year's first meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission on Feb. 8. During the virtual meeting, Polito swore in the commission's 2022 members. Established under state law (M.G.L. Ch. 3, Sect. 62), the LGAC acts as an independent advocate for the interests of local governments in their work with the state and federal governments. The LGAC includes 29 members from the MMA Board of Directors and four representatives from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Continued from page 2

high level, we can see that the public has been well served by the remarkable efforts of government at all levels. As vaccine penetration increased, health mandates decreased. This reflects the balance that public leaders have tried to strike, placing a premium on public safety while trying to limit the negative social and economic impacts of intervention policies. In this context, we can also see that growing vaccine protection has enabled health indicators to trend in the right direction, despite COVID's relentless march through our communities. Going forward, this informs us that the best policy is vaccine promotion and acceptance, balanced with targeted policies to address the most acute challenges that the virus presents.

Municipal leaders have used the past two years to learn and lead. Like operators of heavy equipment, it has taken time to discover the best friction point to engage the clutch and change gears, and the work has paid off, allowing for increasingly efficient navigation through this public health emergency.

If Omicron had hit the U.S. in February of 2020, instead of the original strain, the result would have been unspeakably tragic. Because the initial virus was less transmissible and thus spread more slowly, it was possible to implement public health policies and protocols that were successful in flattening the curve.

This bought America time to develop vaccines, expand public health services, provide emergency support, and address every aspect of the crisis with coordination among municipal, state and federal leaders.

Yet now we are at another inflection point. Traumatized by another period of stress and worry, the public seems to have reached a point of COVID fatigue. As the Omicron surge recedes, many people are looking to roll back faster and further. The social, economic, and personal pain has been extraordinary, so this is totally understandable.

This explains why there is so much public pressure to move quickly to lift public health protocols, and why there is a generally passive reaction to the irresponsible and aggressive actions of a very tiny but very loud set of activists

who deny the public health reality and attack the officials who are doing their best to protect the public in the most difficult of circumstances.

It is beyond question that vaccines are the most effective way to protect us from this pandemic. Yet small groups of protesters have targeted the homes of many of our public leaders with unacceptably disruptive and aggressive tactics that those same protesters would decry in their own neighborhoods.

It is beyond question that face coverings reduce the spread of this deadly virus. Yet small groups of protesters have targeted school committee meetings and other public sessions to compare masking with genocide, equating mask requirements with the most heinous acts in human history.

Going forward, the pandemic is entering another difficult phase, full of nuance and subjectivity. People are naturally racing forward, trying to will the pandemic behind us, seeking to return to normal life with friends, family and society.

COVID has not disappeared, however, and new variants will likely vault back into the picture, requiring re-imposition of sweeping public health requirements.

This will create significant challenges for municipal leaders. Cities and towns will need to rapid-switch between the new normal of living with COVID in the background and the need to respond to new variants and future surges that threaten public well-being. Without public cooperation, efforts to change gears will not be smooth.



The next stage of the pandemic will be complicated because a growing number of people appear to be so fatigued that they will resist the kind of safety precautions that were normalized during the first three surges. People will hear what they want to hear unless it is made very clear. The best way to navigate this complicated phase of the journey will be with a three-pronged strategy: communication, communication, communication.

As municipal leaders, you have served during a time of enormous stress and upheaval, and you have led during a time of great consequence and impact. Working with your federal and state colleagues, you have saved countless lives, made your neighborhoods more resilient and safer than ever, and placed your communities in the best possible position to emerge from the pandemic with strength and vigor.

However, this journey is not over. Another complex stage is ahead of us. Ironically, it is more complicated because of your success locally — flattening the curve(s), increasing public resiliency, and creating safe pathways to engage with schools, businesses and civic life.

Thank you for your leadership, and as always, the MMA is right by your side. ●

Women Leading Government holds conference

Sarah Reiff-Hekking, owner of True Focus Coaching, speaks during the annual Women Leading Government conference in Marlborough on March 3, where she focused on the top three skills for setting priorities and personal and professional task management. Seventy-five women from all levels of local government attended the full-day event, which featured educational sessions and networking opportunities.

People



Derek Brindisi

Derek Brindisi will become the new town manager in Plymouth on March 14.

Brindisi has been the town manager in Upton since July 2017, and previously served as assistant town manager in Plymouth, from

2015 to 2017. He also served as town administrator in Ashfield in 2015, and as Worcester's director of administration and public health from 2000 to 2015. He earned a master's degree in public administration at Clark University and a bachelor's degree in health education at Worcester State College (now Worcester State University).

Brindisi is also a lieutenant colonel in the New Hampshire Air National Guard, serving as a public health officer at Pease Air National Guard Base. He has been in the Air National Guard since 2009.

In Plymouth, Brindisi replaces **Melissa Arrighi**, who served as town manager for nearly a decade before stepping down in December. She is still working with the town in an advisory role until the end of July. Planning and Development Director **Lee Hartmann** has been serving as the acting town manager.

Previously, Arrighi had been Plymouth's assistant town manager from 2004 to 2012, and the assistant town administrator in Orleans from 2003 to 2004. She earned a master's degree in public administration at Bridgewater State University.



Carolyn Dykema

Carolyn Dykema, who represented the Eighth Middlesex District for 13 years, left her seat in the House of Representatives on Feb. 11 to work for a solar energy company.

Dykema, now Northeast policy director at Nexamp, had chaired the

Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, and served on the Joint Committee on COVID-19 and Emergency Preparedness and Management. The Eighth Middlesex District includes Hopkinson, Holliston, Southborough and part of Westborough.

Before being elected to the House, Dykema had worked as a marketing professional in the financial services and environmental consulting fields. She served on the Holliston Wastewater Committee from 2000 to 2003, and on the Holliston Planning Board from 2003 to 2008. She had also served on the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board from 2007 to 2008.



Sheila Harrington

Sheila Harrington, who had represented the First Middlesex District in the House of Representatives for 11 years, left her House seat on Feb. 16, the same day the Governor's Council confirmed her appointment as the new clerk magistrate

in Gardner District Court.

Gov. **Charlie Baker** had nominated Harrington for the Gardner court post on Jan. 19. Before leaving the Legislature, Harrington had been the ranking minority member on the Joint Judiciary Committee, and had served on the House Committee on Ethics, the House Committee on Rules and the Joint Committee on Rules. The First Middlesex District includes Ashby, Dunstable, Groton, Pepperell, Townsend and part of Ayer.

Harrington has been practicing law since her 1985 graduation from the New England School of Law.

John Cronin, who served 33 years as town administrator in Milton, died on Jan. 27 at age 84.

A lifelong Milton resident, Cronin graduated from Tufts University's School of Engineering in 1959, and worked as a sales engineer at Worthington for



John Cronin

about a decade before turning to a municipal career. In 1968, he became Milton's executive secretary, a position that later became town administrator. He was also an active member of the MMA.

Cronin was dedicated to conservation work, and at various points in his life had served on Milton's Conservation Commission, as an associate commissioner for the Metropolitan District Commission, as a member of the Board of Thompson Island, and as a board member for the Environmental League of Massachusetts for 40 years, along with service in many other organizations.

An avid gardener, Cronin became a master gardener through a Massachusetts Horticultural Society course, and in November 2021 the society awarded him the Gold Medal of Honor for his service.



Raymond Jordan Jr.

Raymond Jordan Jr., who became Springfield's first Black state representative in 1975, died on Feb. 5 at age 78.

A lifelong Springfield resident, Jordan served for two decades representing the 11th Hampden District. He resigned in 1994 to become the New England liaison to faith-based and community initiatives for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, a role in which he served until his retirement in 2012.

Jordan, who held degrees from UMass Amherst and Harvard's Kennedy School, had been the director of the African American Cultural Center at American International College before running for state representative. He founded the Upper State Street Development Corp., which redeveloped a property into hundreds of affordable housing units in Springfield.

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People

PEOPLE

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In 2011, he founded the Brethren Community Foundation, an organization designed to support education and literacy programs for low-income youth as well as programs for seniors. He was president of the Massachusetts Electoral College in 2008 for Barack Obama's election as the

nation's first Black president.

Four years ago, the city of Springfield opened the Raymond A. Jordan Senior Center to honor Jordan's life of public service.

of municipal officials. To submit information for People, contact MMA Associate Editor Jennifer Kavanaugh at 800-882-1498 or jkavanaugh@mma.org.

This monthly column highlights transitions, accomplishments and awards, and life events

RESILIENCY

Continued from page 20

property best practices among communities while supporting efforts to build climate resilience into municipal properties. MFAA members and the MIIA Risk Management Team recently met to continue these discussions and received positive feedback on some of the MIIA Risk Management programs such as the Hartford Steam Boiler Sensor Program, which helps to identify, prevent, and mitigate property losses.

What you can do now

One idea for a city- or town-wide climate risk mitigation strategy, from [Risk & Insurance magazine](#), is to install smart surfaces. Reflective and porous pavements and roads, solar PV on cool or green roofs, and trees provide cost-effective ways to manage sun and rain to reduce temperature and flooding risks.

The potential for prolonged power outages from more frequent and damaging storms can mean pipe bursts in the winter and the buildup of humidity and mold in the summer, so municipal officials are advised to consider back-up energy storage from clean generation in order to keep critical systems working and prevent property damage.

Water and temperature detection systems in municipal buildings can provide an early alert to potential issues. Low-temperature sensors and alarms can provide an immediate alert to potential freezing and prevent pipe bursts. Thermographic imaging cameras can be used to identify areas of inadequate insulation, cold spots, and other causes of pipe vulnerability, providing the data

needed to take measures to improve the building envelope.

Building audits and maintenance should be scheduled and conducted regularly. Rain and humidity will increase as we move into the spring and summer seasons. HVAC systems must be programmed to work based upon a certain heat load from staff, students, lights, computers, etc. Maintaining proper humidity will mitigate the risk of environmental contamination and development of mold.

HVAC systems should be inspected for dust buildup, and air conditioning units should be checked to ensure proper working condition. Winter dirt and sludge accumulation can lead to degradation or failure of HVAC units.

As storms increase and grow in severity, any hole in a building, no matter how small, can allow rain and snow to get in or wind to erode, wreaking havoc that leads to significant repair costs and potential insurance rate increases. Municipal officials are advised to

inspect buildings and landscaping, and take note of any foundation cracks or missing roof shingles, separations or erosion of siding and masonry, and broken, cracked or leaking windows — and schedule repairs.

Losses from insured climate-related risks continue to increase. Flooding risks, including from rising bodies of water, sewer backups and basement flooding, and mold-related costs and illness are typically excluded from insurance policies. Municipal officials should check with their insurer to determine what coverage they have for flooding and wind damage, and then determine what may be needed.

This is just the start of climate mitigation measures that a community can take. Over the next several months, MIIA will publish additional articles on how communities can manage their climate risks.

Joyce McMahan is a freelance writer.



LGAC looks at ARPA spending

During the Feb. 8 virtual meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission, Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tyler thanks Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito for the administration's prioritization of housing in its proposal for the use of American Rescue Plan Act funding. The administration's plan would support municipal efforts to address housing affordability, workforce training and skill development, and economic growth.

Classified Advertisements

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Town Manager

Town of Plainville, Connecticut

Manager retiring after 17 years. Plainville, Conn., is known as a well-run town with good services for a population of 17,600. Required master's in public or business administration or a closely related field. With a minimum of five years of responsible executive and management experience; or any equivalent combination of education and experience (such as bachelor's and eight years experience or Asst. TM experience.) Position will remain open until filled; first screening date is March 17. Email Randi Frank Consulting for profile or call her at 203-213-3722 or send resume to randi@randifrank.com.

City Clerk

City of Cambridge

The city of Cambridge seeks qualified applicants for the position of City Clerk. Appointed and held accountable by the City Council. Serves as official record keeper for the city of Cambridge, including vital statistics (including births, marriages, domestic partnerships, and deaths), business and professional certificates, cemetery deeds for the Cambridge Cemetery, and the Cambridge Municipal Code and Cambridge Zoning Ordinance. Responsible for preparing and maintaining City Council documents, filings related to appeals before the Board of Zoning Appeal and Planning Board. Minimum five years of related experience, seven years preferred. Bachelor's degree in related field or equivalent combination of education, training, and experience. JD degree desirable. Notary Public and Justice of the Peace preferred. Familiarity with the Massachusetts Public Records Law, Open Meeting Law and Roberts' Rules of Order. Previous experience working in municipal government and/or with a legislative body helpful. \$139,326-\$154,034 plus excellent benefits. For a detailed job description and application instructions, visit our website at www.cambridgema.gov. Resume and cover letter requested by March 30 via email to cityclerkjob@cambridgema.gov. We are an AA/EEO employer.

DPW Business Manager

Town of Longmeadow

The town of Longmeadow is seeking qualified applicants for the FT position of DPW Business Manager. Under the general supervision of the Director of Public Works, position is responsible for oversight and management of the administrative functions of the Departments of Public Works, including skilled professional work in coordinating payroll, accounts payable, permits, utility billing and resident outreach and customer service; preparing reports and correspondence; administrative functions related to personnel, purchasing, utility billings; and providing administrative assistance as required for the department. The Business Manager provides immediate functional or technical supervision over clerical staff, provides direction and guidance, reviews and checks employees work, assists with the completion of work assignments in accordance with department procedures and/or policies. The successful candidate must be proficient in the use of computer programs and applications to include Google Suites, Microsoft Suites, email and the internet; webpage management; the town's financial software Munis;

Crystal Reports and social media. Ability to learn other DPW related software programs such as work management, GIS and utility billing. Advanced Excel skills with emphasis on spreadsheet development required. Must have a high level of interpersonal skills to handle sensitive and confidential situations and strong organizational skills in a multi-task environment. Ability to analyze, plan, prioritize, manage and implement multiple tasks and projects and work independently while meeting deadlines. The successful candidate should have a bachelor's degree in business administration or accounting or a closely related field, and three to five years of increasingly responsible experience in a management capacity, including experience in customer service, budget oversight and staff supervision, preferably in a municipal environment, or any experience combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential functions of the job. A valid vehicle operator's license must be obtained and maintained as a condition of employment. Salary Range \$65,590-\$88,950 DOQ/DOE; excellent benefits. Submit a cover letter and resume to the Department of Human Resources, 735 Longmeadow St., Suite 102, Longmeadow, MA 01106 or email hrdept@longmeadow.org. Posting Open until filled. Town of Longmeadow is an AA/EEO.

Planning and Community Development Director

Town of Agawam

The town of Agawam is accepting applications for the position of Planning and Community Development Director. Bachelor's degree in planning or a related field; five years of experience in land use planning, economic development or related field; or any equivalent combination of education and experience is required. Master's degree in planning preferred. Salary range for this position is \$81,340.02-\$100,041.69. Applications will be accepted until March 3 or until a suitable candidate is found. Please submit your resume to jsapelli@agawam.ma.us or mail to Town of Agawam,

36 Main St., Attn: Personnel, Agawam, MA 01001. For a full job description please visit our website at www.agawam.ma.us.

Human Resources Manager

Town of Swampscott

The town of Swampscott has a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a Human Resources Manager. The successful candidate will provide leadership and expertise in attracting, developing and sustaining a diverse workforce committed to quality public service. The selected individual will be responsible for implementing HR policies, procedures, and systems in support of the strategic objectives as established by the Town Administrator. Performs a variety of complex professional and administrative functions in administering the town's personnel programs for employees and retirees. Competitive salary, commensurate with experience: \$75,000-\$90,000. Applications accepted at the town of Swampscott's website: www.swampscottma.gov.

Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator/Select Board

Town of Swampscott

The town of Swampscott seeks an Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator/Select Board. The Executive Assistant is responsible for the administration of day-to-day operations of the office of the Town Administrator and Select Board, serving as a direct point of contact between departments, residents, board and committee volunteers, and the Town Administrator and Board. This position will be responsible for preparing and running Select Board meetings, partnering with Town Departments on important initiatives, assisting with the development of annual report and town budget as well as events and meetings such as the Annual and Special Town Meetings. Competitive salary, commensurate with experience, \$55,000-\$60,000. Applications accepted at the town of Swampscott's website: www.swampscottma.gov.

■ CLASSIFIEDS continued on 27

Classified advertising rates and information

The Beacon publishes classified ads from units of government, public agencies, and companies.

Classified advertising categories are: Employment Opportunities, Requests for Proposals, and Services. Only one job opening or RFP can be listed per ad. The MMA cannot assume responsibility for information or claims made in any advertisement.

Classified advertising rates

Classified ad rates include publication in The

Beacon and on www.mma.org, though a discount is available for those who request placement of an ad only in The Beacon or on the website.

Member rates

- \$100 for first 100 words; \$100 for each additional block of up to 100 words
- Rate for one format only (print or website): \$75 for first 100 words, \$75 for each additional block of up to 100 words

Nonmember rates

- \$150 for first 100 words; \$150 for each additional block of up to 100 words
- Rate for one format only (print or website): \$125 for first 100 words, \$125 for each additional block of up to 100 words

Beacon deadlines and publication dates

The Beacon is published on the first business day of each month, except in the summer, when a combined July-August issue is printed in mid-July.

April Beacon

Deadline: March 25
Publication: April 1

May Beacon

Deadline: April 25
Publication: May 2

Placing an ad

You may use our convenient online form at www.mma.org/municipal-marketplace/add-listing/.

For more information, call Meredith Gabriliska at the MMA at 617-426-7272.

Missed the Beacon deadline for an employment ad? You can still get the word out – right away.

See www.mma.org for details.

Classified Advertisements

CLASSIFIEDS

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Town Clerk

Town of Swampscott

The town of Swampscott is seeking a Town Clerk. The Town Clerk oversees and participates in the receipt, recording and maintenance of all official public records including road layouts, deeds to town property, general and zoning bylaws, Town Charter, personnel bylaws, rules and regulations of all town boards and committees, business certificates, professional registrations, conflict of interest disclosures and uniform commercial codes, federal and state tree liens, historical records, etc. Bachelor's degree, five to seven years of progressively responsible work experience, or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills. Competitive salary, commensurate with experience, starting at \$72,000. Applications accepted at the town of Swampscott's website: www.swampscottma.gov.

Local Building Inspector

Town of Blackstone

The town of Blackstone is seeking applicants for the part-time position of Local Building Inspector. Works under general supervision of the Town Administrator in accordance with applicable provisions of the MGL, local charter and ordinances and legal remedies when warranted. perform administrative, supervisory, and inspection work related to the enforcement and interpretation of the state building code, the local zoning bylaws, and other applicable regulations. Enforces the provisions of the Massachusetts State Building Code and the town's zoning bylaws. Enforces the regulations and requirements of special permits and variances issued by the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Board, and the Board of Selectmen as dictated by the zoning bylaw and all applicable statutes, rules and regulations. Reviews zoning and building applications. Reviews plans for building construction or alteration to determine compliance with state codes, local zoning bylaws, and other applicable regulations. Acts on all questions relative to the mode or manner of construction and the materials to be used. Inspects new buildings under construction and upon completion, as well as repair and alteration work during the process and upon completion for conformity with state building code, approved plans, and zoning restrictions. This position is required to work outside of regular business hours in cases of emergency and as duties require. The Building Inspector may be required to work on weekends and may be contacted at any time to respond to important situations and emergencies. This is a part-time salary position with an excellent benefit package. College degree comparable to a bachelor's, apprentice knowledge of construction trades with at least five years of experience in the supervision of building construction or design or in the alternative a two year degree and any combination of education and experience which would confer equivalent knowledge and ability. Possession of a valid state driver's license issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicle. Applications may be obtained at the Town Administrator's office or at www.townofblackstone.org. Completed applications/resumes should be returned by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8 to the Town Administrator's Office, Blackstone Municipal Center, 15 St. Paul St., or emailed to slemino@townofblackstone.org. EOE.

Senior Planner/Project Manager (Grant-Funded)

City of Chelsea

Work under the direction of the Director of Housing and Economic Development. The Senior Planner/Project Manager shall bring demonstrated practical experience in the community planning process and its component project management activities with a regard for neighborhood planning; environmental planning and project management; park and open space planning; transportation and traffic movement and safety; and streetscape infrastructure. Provide advice and expertise in project management. As designated, will represent the Director of Planning and Development with local, state/federal agencies, general citizenry and business community on matters related to planning, transportation, open space, environment, and infrastructure concerns of the city. EEO www.chelseama.gov/human-resources/blog/sr-plannerproject-manager-grant-funded.

Public Health Nurse

Town of Wayland

Department: Health. Full-time/hours: 35 hours per week. Union/Grade: Non-union. Salary Range: \$68,482-\$91,130. Description of Position: The town seeks a motivated candidate to serve as a Public Health Nurse to conduct case management and contact tracing related to epidemiologic investigations of COVID-19 and other communicable disease clusters and outbreaks by interviewing cases and contacts, and communicating with local health departments in the Great Meadows Regional Health Collaborative. The individual will work in conjunction with an Epidemiologist who will also be hired to serve the collaborative. [For a full job description, click here.](#) Recommended Minimum Qualifications: Education: Bachelor of science in nursing (BSN). Experience: Two years of public health experience preferred. Substitutions: None. Licenses/Certificates: Registered Nurse with the State of Massachusetts. Valid Class D Motor Vehicle License. CPR certification. Closing date: Open until filled. Apply to: Please submit a resume and cover letter to the Health Department Town of Wayland, 41 Cochituate Road, Wayland, MA 01778 or health@wayland.ma.us. The town of Wayland is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Assistant Veterans' Service Officer

Town of Rockland

The town of Rockland is seeking an Assistant Veterans' Service Officer, to work part-time 16 hours per week on Monday and Tuesdays each week. The VSO is responsible for providing assistance and advice to veterans and their dependents regarding finances, medical benefits, housing, employment and education. Must have excellent interpersonal and customer service skills. Education and Experience: Bachelor's degree preferred or high school diploma and three years of experience in an office or business administration; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Prior experience in the public sector and veterans' benefits preferred. Special Requirements: Valid MA driver's license. In accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 115, the Director of Veteran Services must be an honorably discharged veteran. Form DD214 must be provided and is contingent on hiring. Certification through the State Department of Veteran Services is required within six months of accepting the position. Full job description and application can be found online at

rockland-ma.gov. Please send a letter of interest, resume and application to scallahan@rockland-ma.gov.

Part-Time Local Inspector

Town of Rockland

The town of Rockland Building Department has an immediate opening for a part-time Local Inspector who works under the direction of the Building Commissioner. Duties include inspection of buildings under construction to monitor compliance with building code and bylaws. Also, inspects safety and conditions of existing buildings, issues certificates of inspection and stop work orders, reviews plans, maintains associated logs and records and investigates complaints of alleged zoning violations. High school diploma, associate degree in related field preferred, and five years' experience in supervision of building construction or equivalent combination of education and experience. Valid Massachusetts Construction Supervisor's License is required. Ability to interpret and enforce regulations firmly and impartially, to deal appropriately with the public and building community and to read blueprints are required. Must be able to access all areas of building construction sites, to walk long periods of time and to climb, crawl and to lift up to 30 pounds. Experience with computers, Microsoft Suite and preferably online permitting. Must have a valid Massachusetts motor vehicle license. Preference will be given to applicants with Certificate of Local Inspector. The position is part-time 19 hours per week and the hourly wage will be commensurate with experience. Schedule will be set by the Inspector of Buildings/Building Commissioner and, to the extent possible, at mutually convenient times. Please send a letter of interest, resume and application to scallahan@rockland-ma.gov. Applications can be found online at rockland-ma.gov, Human Resources. Posting open until filled. Review of applications begins March 1.

Town Accountant

Town of Rockland

The town of Rockland is seeking highly qualified team-oriented candidates for the position of Town Accountant. The Town Accountant, under the general direction of the Town Administrator, is responsible for managing the Accounting Department, maintenance of all financial records, accounts payable, audits, compliance with applicable state laws and town policies and maintaining accounting systems. This position has significant professional responsibilities which entails working closely with the Town Administrator, financial discussions with various boards and committees, public speaking, interacting with department heads and staff to establish policies and procedures which will ensure fiscal accountability for all town departments. This position requires thorough knowledge of municipal financial laws and regulations, policies and procedures, municipal budgetary functions, knowledge of financial software as well as extensive knowledge of GAAP, UMAS, and GASB accounting standards. Knowledge of MUNIS software is preferred. Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or relative field required; five to seven years of general ledger experience in the accounting field preferred, preferably in municipal government with a minimum of three years in a supervisory position or any of the combination of education, training, and relevant experience. Full-time salaried position with excellent benefits including BCBSMA health insurance with the town contribution of 79% of the premium

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Classified Advertisements

CLASSIFIEDS

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and 50% of the dental premium. Work extended hours two Tuesday nights/month, Sept.-June and Fridays off in July and August. Salary range \$88,000-\$105,000 DOQ and relevant experience. Full job description, employment application and instructions for applying can be found at rockland-ma.gov. Application, resume and letter of interest should be emailed to scallahan@rockland-ma.gov. Position open until filled. Review of applications begins on Feb. 28.

Town Accountant

Town of Orange

The Town of Orange is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Town Accountant. Bachelor's degree in accounting, business administration or a closely related field. A minimum of five years' general ledger accounting experience; preferably in the municipal field. Thorough knowledge of municipal financial laws and regulations, accounting and auditing principles, practices and procedures preferred. Massachusetts Accountants and Auditors Certification is preferred within one year of appointment. As a condition of employment, must complete a CORI check. This is a full-time position with an excellent benefits package. Salary: \$75,000-\$85,000. To apply, visit: www.townoforange.org/home/pages/job-opportunities. Open until filled. EOE

Grant Writer

GZA GeoEnvironmental Inc. (GZA)

GZA is seeking an experienced Grant Writer to join our Corporate team in Norwood. The Grant Writer will be responsible for researching, writing, preparing, submitting, and reporting grant applications and proposals providing funding to GZA's clients. Grants will be used for planning, feasibility studies, design, permitting and construction services for projects that align with GZA's Core Services including water resources, hazard mitigation, resilience, environmental and infrastructure. The Grant Writer will also identify and understand eligibility requirements, alerting clients and technical staff of opportunities, and tracking ongoing and new funding sources. Please apply at www.gza.com/careers.

Town Accountant

Town of Boxborough

The town of Boxborough is a growing community with a AAA Bond Rating. The town is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Town Accountant. Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business administration or related field, preferred. At least three-five years' experience in business administration or financial management or any equivalent combination of experience and education. Specific knowledge of the legal controls, methods and procedures of municipal finance. This is a full-time position with an excellent benefits package. Salary \$70,860-\$97,681 DOQE. To apply, visit: www.boxborough-ma.gov/Jobs.aspx. Open until filled. AA/EOE

Assistant Executive Director

Arlington Housing Authority

The Arlington Housing Authority is seeking an Assistant Executive Director. This is a highly visible and responsible administrative position in which the incumbent actively assists the Executive Director in planning, management, administration, and operation

of the agency. The Arlington Housing Authority assists over 1100 households through its state-aided public housing, Housing Choice Voucher and other programs. The successful candidate will be responsible for the administration of these programs as well as the supervision of 10 administrative staff. For more information on this position and the application process, please visit the AHA's website at www.arlingtonhousing.org.

Assistant City Solicitor City of Chelsea

Position Summary: The Assistant City Solicitor serves under the direction of the City Solicitor and serves as legal counsel to the city and school district. Education and Experience: JD degree of the Massachusetts Bar Association. Three to five years of general experience in public sector experience. Experience with public schools preferred. Skills, Knowledge and Abilities: Knowledge of Massachusetts General Law, civil rights. Ability to work in strict confidence for the city or school. Ability to analyze and resolve legal issues. Ability to conduct investigations. Ability to communicate with management, employees. The position requires a motivated, organized individual with strong computer skills. Investigative skills. EEO. www.chelseama.gov/human-resources/blog/assistant-city-solicitor.

Town Manager

Town of Upton

Upton, Massachusetts (8,000+/- pop.), is seeking an experienced, proactive, community-oriented leader, to serve as its Town Manager. The town of Upton form of government is a strong Town Manager position through a special act of the Legislature (Chap 391, Acts of 2008). The outgoing Town Manager has recently accepted a position in a larger community in Massachusetts. This quintessential New England suburban community is located 13 miles south of the city of Worcester and is 35 miles west of the city of Boston, and serves as an ideal commuter town for workers in both those major cities. The community is proud of its significant open spaces, abundant recreational opportunities for its residents, maintaining its small-town image by managing growth, AA+ Bond Rating, and providing first-rate services to ensure a high quality of life for its predominantly residential population. Led by a three-member Board of Selectmen, with a traditional town meeting form of government, the Town Manager oversees 64 FT employees and a combined budget of approximately \$27M (including costs of the independently administered regional school district). The successful candidate must have experience in local government operations, municipal finance and law, labor relations, strategic planning, economic development, and community-based problem-solving. Strong interpersonal, written, and verbal skills are essential, with demonstrated experience in providing excellent customer service. Preferred qualifications include an advanced degree (master's level), with a minimum of seven years of progressive public management and leadership experience or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Salary range is \$150,000 +/- commensurate with qualifications and experience. Upton is an equal opportunity employer. Deadline: March 1 at 8 a.m. Confidential electronic submission in PDF file to: shakala@uptonma.gov.

Economic Development Director Town of Brookline

Brookline is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Economic Development Director to lead the Economic Development and Long-Term Planning Division, provide urban planning, analyze real estate development and reuse incentives, recommend policies related to municipal property, and innovate programs to increase the economic well-being of the business community. Qualifications: Master's degree in urban planning, business or public administration, economics, marketing, finance, or related field; five years of experience in a professional capacity in economic development; any equivalent combination of education and experience. Review complete job description/requirements at brooklinema.hrmdirect.com/employment/job-opening.php?req=1914024. Additional requirements: Valid Driver's License, Class D. [Please apply by March 18.](#)

Municipal and Litigation Attorney

Anthony C. Savastano, Attorney At Law. P.C.

Respected, established firm seeks motivated, goal-oriented attorney desiring to build a long-term career in a collegial team atmosphere. Applicants must possess strong writing and advocacy skills. Firm has a busy and diverse practice concentrating in municipal law and civil litigation. Firm serves as Counsel for towns of Dartmouth and Swansea as well as for two municipal fire districts. It also serves as Special Counsel for other municipal entities. Applicants should have three years of experience. Beautiful office space in an award-winning historic building. Submit resume and salary requirements to Anthony C. Savastano, Attorney At Law, P.C. at anthony@savastanolawfirm.com.

Grants and Program Management Specialist

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) seeks to hire a Grants and Program Management Specialist (hereafter, Specialist) to implement vital public safety, preparedness and health related federal grants across Massachusetts. This individual must be a computer savvy, organized professional with effective communication skills who has a strong background in the management of grant funding and program delivery. The Specialist will partner with the Municipal Collaboration Department's Assistant Director and Grants Management Coordinator in the oversight and execution of grant management activities. To apply: www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mapc/jobs/3402578/grants-and-program-management-specialist?pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs.

Regional Planner

Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments

The Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG), one of Connecticut's nine regional councils of governments, serving 16 member towns, is seeking qualified, experienced, and motivated candidates for the position of Regional Planner. This position reports to the Director of Regional Planning and is responsible for (individually or as part of a team) the development of regional plans/studies and related programs. This may include comprehensive planning, land use, environmental, agriculture, open space, hazard mitigation, transportation, economic development and other specialized region wide

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Classified Advertisements

CLASSIFIEDS

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planning work. The successful candidate will have a bachelor's degree (master's preferred) with major coursework in community or regional planning or a related public policy field. The salary is commensurate with experience. A full description is available on NECCOG's website: neccog.org. Qualified individuals should send an application/resume with a cover letter to the Executive Director's Office, 125 Putnam Pike (P.O. Box 759), Dayville, CT 06241. Open until filled. EOE/AA employer

SERVICES

Municipal Energy Services

Through the MMA's MunEnergy program, MMA members have access to an energy contract designed exclusively for Massachusetts cities and towns. The MunEnergy program offers access to energy experts at Constellation, a vetted municipal energy contract, and options for sustainability programs. Energy professionals at Constellation, the MMA-endorsed supplier for MunEnergy, work with municipalities to manage electricity costs for the long-term. Constellation is also on the forefront of sustainability programs and provides financial support to the MMA for its promotional and marketing efforts. To learn more, visit www.mma.org/about-mma/services/munenergy. To be notified about MunEnergy events, send contact information for the person on your team who handles energy for your city or town to energy@mma.org.

New Manager Webinar Series

The UMass Donahue Institute is offering a new manager webinar series, designed for those with limited experience managing direct reports. Focused on core skills any manager should master to engage, develop and retain talent, and drive the team member performance. Reflection questions and assignments are designed to further support skill development and behavior change. Each learning series and each webinar is recorded to make up missed sessions. Webinar length is 90 minutes. Starts April 13. Flexible registration options: both series (12 modules total); one series of six webinars (Series 1 or Series 2); or register for one at a time. Visit donahue.umass.edu/business-groups/organizational-development-learning-solutions2/new-manager-webinar-series.

Leadership Excellence Program

On the heels of our sold-out fall program, UMass Donahue Institute, with University Without Walls (UWW) and UMass Online, is again offering an online leadership development certificate. The Leadership Excellence program is for leaders who want to add new skills and tools for successfully implementing organizational change and propelling their careers forward. Five interactive online modules provide 30 hours of hands-on learning over eight weeks. Participants also complete two leadership assessments and receive individualized coaching to interpret the results. Completion will earn learners a certificate and is accredited to award three CEUs through UWW. Classes begin April 19. Visit www.donahue.umass.edu/leadershipexcellence.

Public Management Consultants

MMA Consulting Group Inc. provides consulting services to cities, towns, and other public agencies. We specialize in public safety/emergency response (police, fire, EMS) issues, the design and administration of assessment centers, structured oral panels, and recruitment of police and fire executives. For information, contact Mark Morse, President, MMA Consulting Group Inc., 101 Court St. #7, Plymouth, MA 02360; 508-746-3653; mmacgin@gmail.com.

Municipal Accounting Services

Melanson is one of the largest non-national Certified Public Accounting firms in New England and has been a leader in the accounting and auditing profession for over 42 years. Our Governmental Services Department includes eight principals and 65 professionals who work exclusively on governmental services. Among them are our outsourcing professionals, who are here for you and have the experience and knowledge to help solve your internal accounting challenges. We provide both long- and short-term services as well as flexible access, either remotely or on-site without adding to your long-term employee benefit costs. Contact us today! contactus@melansoncpas.com

Executive Recruiting, Management and Governance Consulting Services

Community Paradigm Associates provides comprehensive professional services to public sector, private sector, and not-for-profit clients, including organizational and management studies, executive recruiting, operational analyses, personnel studies, compensation and classification plans, charter development, strategic planning, leadership training, and facilitation services. Community Paradigm Associates has a team of seasoned associates with expertise in all aspects of municipal government. For more information, contact Principal Bernard Lynch at 978-621-6733 or BLynch@CommunityParadigm.com; www.communityparadigm.com.

Executive Recruiting, Interim Staffing, Human Resources and Management Consulting

GovHR USA/GovTempsUSA provides executive recruiting and interim staffing solutions, management and human resource consulting to local government and nonprofit clients across the country. Seasoned local government professionals provide five-star quality services including: Classification and Compensation Studies; Temporary and Outsourced staffing; Performance Evaluation System and Training. Visit our website at www.GovHRusa.com or contact us at 847-380-3240 or info@govhrusa.com to discuss how we may serve your organization. Post to our job board at www.govhrjobs.com.

GIS Consulting Services

As a local government, does your community expect more from you? Geospatial technology is a great tool to use to meet these expectations and build trust. Spatial Relationships is a GIS consulting firm in Boston that specializes in on-demand personalized GIS services for local government. Need extra GIS support for an important project, but don't want to deal with the overhead of a large firm? Don't have GIS staff, but have a one-time need? Indispensable GIS staff going out on leave? We're here to help. To learn more about us, please visit www.spatial-relationships.com.

Town Counsel Services

KP | Law is a municipal law firm. With offices in Boston, Hyannis, Lenox, Northampton and Worcester, we serve as town counsel to more than 125 towns throughout Massachusetts, from Provincetown to Williamstown, and as special counsel to another 90. For more than 30 years, we have devoted ourselves to municipal law and have become experts in the defense of all areas of municipal trial matters. We have specialists in all areas of municipal law and maintain an environmental and land use law department that is on the cutting edge of planning, zoning and conservation. KP | Law is highly sensitive to the limited legal services budgets of Massachusetts communities and thus has highly competitive billing rates to give your town the best quality legal counsel in the most cost-efficient manner. There is never a need for special counsel. Our breadth and depth of experience helps keep our cost per opinion to a minimum and enables us to service our clients quickly and efficiently, and is consistent with our commitment to excellence. For additional information on the legal services that KP | Law provides, please visit www.k-plaw.com or contact Lauren Goldberg, Esq., at 617-556-0007, or toll-free at 800-548-3522, or at lgoldberg@k-plaw.com.

General Consultant, Recruiting and Special Studies

Municipal Resources Inc. has been providing management solutions to New England municipalities since 1989. MRI is able to provide expertise when and where it's needed. Our services include executive recruitments, assessment centers and promotional testing; public safety organizational studies; finance operations; interim staffing; internal investigations; efficiency and regionalization studies. MRI has an extensive group of experienced subject experts that are able to provide the technical and management expertise that can help communities deliver quality services and resolve complex problems with real-world solutions. Contact us at 866-501-0352 or info@mrigrv.com.

Town Counsel/Legal Services

Brooks & DeRensis, P.C., is available to provide services to government entities at the state, county, city, town or regional district level. Legal services available include procurement law, contracts, eminent domain, labor relations and civil rights. Contact Jack Dolan for labor, employment, civil rights and retirement matters or Paul DeRensis for all other public law issues at 857-259-5200.

Organizational Development and Conflict Resolution

The Mediation Group is New England's one-stop shopping for conflict resolution and organizational development. With 30-plus years of experience, our multi-disciplinary team provides individuals and organizations with support to move forward constructively and improve functionality. Our services include: facilitation, mediation, training and coaching, leadership development, cultural competency, independent workplace investigations, stakeholder assessments, public engagement and process design. For more information, visit www.themediationgroup.org, email info@themediationgroup.org or call 617-277-9232.

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Classified Advertisements

CLASSIFIEDS

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Town Counsel Services

Miyares and Harrington LLP provides Town and Special Counsel services to help build and implement local programs that serve community needs. We have the expertise you require, based on decades of real-world experience. We take the time to understand your situation. We inquire, listen, and respond. We provide options that will work for you. We are committed to the values of democracy, to preservation and enhancement of natural resources and the built environment, and to excellence and care in support of municipal objectives. We offer competitive rates, personal service, diligent attention to our clients' needs, and good humor. Please contact us at contact@miyares-harrington.com or 617-489-1600.

Tax Title Legal Services

KP | Law has been providing a full range of legal services to municipal treasurers and collectors for more than 30 years. Our experienced tax title attorneys draft collection letters and payment agreements; prepare all instruments relative to tax takings and tax sales; draft pleadings for Land Court foreclosures; and provide full representation of municipalities in Land Court actions. We also provide assistance with disposition or reuse of tax parcels. The breadth of our experience, volume, use of experienced paralegals, state-of-the-art computer and informational services, and close proximity to the Land Court enables us to provide prompt, cost-effective services. For additional information, please visit www.k-plaw.com or contact Lauren Goldberg, Esq. at 617-556-0007, or toll-free at 800-548-3522, or at lgoldberg@k-plaw.com.

Municipal Financial Management Software: Accounting, Cloud, Utility and Collections

VADAR Systems provides financial management software to more than 100 Massachusetts

municipalities. Our accounting, cloud, utility and collections applications are designed exclusively for Massachusetts municipalities by Massachusetts end users. The VADAR Cloud maximizes efficiency with 24/7 secure, remote access to all your applications from any device. Our user support offers unparalleled expertise. Proudly serving Massachusetts for 20-plus years. For a free on-site demonstration, please contact us at 877-823-2700 or sales@vadarsystems.com. Learn more at www.VADARsystems.com. Locally owned and operated at 20 Main St., Suite G1, Acton, MA 01701.

Labor Counsel Services/Municipal Human Resources Specialists

Clifford and Kenny, LLP provides quality representation to cities, towns and school districts in the area of labor and employment. Attorneys John Clifford and Jaime Kenny have many years of experience in representing clients for collective bargaining and personnel-related matters including discipline and discharge of unionized employees. We have extensive experience in the area of police and fire injured-on-duty cases, and have worked extensively with municipalities and insurers to resolve costly long-term claims. We offer training in sexual harassment, social media and the "just cause analysis" to municipal managers. We also serve as appointed hearing officers on a case-by-case basis. Many of our clients take advantage of a flat monthly rate for unlimited phone calls and emails, which encourages key managers to work with counsel prior to making critical personnel decisions. Check our website at CliffordKennyLaw.com to see a complete list of our satisfied clients or call John Clifford or Jaime Kenny at 781-924-5796 for more information.

Municipal Financial Management Services

Eric A. Kinsharf, CPA, has been involved in municipal finance since 1994 in various capacities, ranging from Finance Director to an auditor of municipalities as

a Certified Public Accountant. Cities and towns in need of a CPA specializing in municipal auditing and consulting are offered services such as municipal audits, assistance in year-end closing, interim treasurer, collector and town accountant services, revenue forecasting, and capital financing plan assistance. If you are in need of a municipal audit or a financial consultant, please contact Eric Kinsharf at eric@erickinsharfcpa.com or at 508-833-8508. Learn more at www.erickinsharfcpa.com.

Human Resources Consulting

Human Resources Services Inc. provides a full range of human resource management consulting services to Massachusetts' local governments and other public agencies. Specialization includes compensation/classification, performance appraisal, job analysis and evaluation, job descriptions, salary/benefits and total compensation surveys and analytics, personnel policies/handbooks, staffing and organizational management studies, HR audits and assessments, HR training services, recruitment and selection services, web-based HR services, and special projects. Please contact Sandy Stapczynski, President, Human Resources Services Inc., 9 Bartlet St., Suite 186, Andover, MA 01810; 978-474-0200; hrcsconsulting@comcast.net; or visit www.hrcsconsultinginc.com. WBE certified.

Executive Recruitment and Municipal Management

Groux-White Consulting, LLC, is a full-service municipal management consulting firm specializing in executive recruitment, interim management, form of government studies, organizational effectiveness evaluations, strategic and financial planning and conflict resolution. Tom Groux and Rick White, One Pelham Road, Lexington, MA 02421; rickwhite58@verizon.net; 781-572-6332; www.grouxwhiteconsulting.com. ●

Massachusetts Municipal Directory available online

The 2021-2022 Massachusetts Municipal Directory, a comprehensive resource that helps municipal officials connect with colleagues, is available online as an easy-to-use PDF.

The MMA published the most recent edition on Oct. 13. MMA members and those who pre-ordered the 2021-2022 directory received emails with login information and instructions for accessing the document. Members and those who have purchased the directory can [log in here to view it](#).

The Massachusetts Municipal Directory PDF has live web links, allowing users to access online state, federal and association resources that are important to the work of local government.

The guide includes contact information for local officials and demographic and financial data for each Massachusetts city and

town. There are also sections devoted to regional school districts, state and federal government agencies, and relevant professional organizations, as well as a guide to products and services for municipalities.

All recipients of The Beacon receive access to the directory. For members, the cost is covered by their MMA dues. Others interested in gaining access to the Massachusetts Municipal Directory can [order it online](#).

For more information, contact Directory Editor Jennifer Kavanaugh or Database Administrator Ruby Sadoques at directory@mma.org.

— Jennifer Kavanaugh



Calendar



The Beacon

Massachusetts Municipal Association

3 Center Plaza, Suite 610, Boston, MA 02108

MARCH

2 Association of Town Finance Committees, board meeting, 4-5:30 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

3 Women Leading Government, conference 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Courtyard Marriott, Marlborough. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

4 Massachusetts Select Board Association, webinar, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols

4 MMA Legislative Briefing, Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties, 12-1:15 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Legislative Research and Administrative Assistant Alandra Champion

7 MMA Legislative Briefing, Middlesex County, 12-1:15 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Legislative Research and Administrative Assistant Alandra Champion

9 Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, dinner, 5:30-8 p.m., the Chateau Restaurant, Waltham. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

10 Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources, webinar, 9:30-11 a.m. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols

11 MMA Legislative Briefing, Norfolk and Worcester counties, 12-1:15 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Legislative Research and Administrative Assistant Alandra Champion

Online registration is available for most of these events.

For more information, visit www.mma.org.

Note: Until further notice, in-person meetings will require attendees to show proof of being fully vaccinated (card, photo or QR code) on the day of the event. (Religious or medical vaccine exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) Masks are optional. These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

14 MMA Legislative Briefing, Essex and Suffolk counties, 12-1:15 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Legislative Research and Administrative Assistant Alandra Champion

14-16 National League of Cities, Congressional City Conference, Washington, D.C. Visit ccc.nlc.org

16 MMA Legislative Briefing, Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nantucket and Plymouth counties, 12-1:15 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Legislative Research and Administrative Assistant Alandra Champion

18 Massachusetts Municipal Management Association, meeting, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lake Pearl, Wrentham. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

30 Massachusetts Mayors' Association, monthly meeting, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Brockton. Contact: MMA Communications and Membership Director Candace Pierce

APRIL

2 Women Elected Municipal Officials, conference, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Courtyard Marriott, Marlborough. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols

6 Association of Town Finance Committees, board meeting, 4-5:30 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

6-8 ICMA Northeast Regional Conference, Boston. Visit regionals.icma.org/northeast-regional-conference

9 Massachusetts Select Board Association, Western Massachusetts Conference, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Easthampton High School, Easthampton. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols

12 Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, board meeting, 8:45-9:45 a.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

12 MMA Board of Directors, board meeting, 10-11 a.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Executive Director's office

12 Massachusetts Select Board Association, board meeting, 2:15-3:30 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols

To list an event of interest to municipal officials in The Beacon, send information about the event, including date, location, sponsorship, cost, and whom to call for more information, to editor@mma.org.

MMA contacts
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