

Vol. 49, No. 6

A Publication of the Massachusetts Municipal Association | www.mma.org

June 2022

Senate OK's \$49.7B state budget bill

By Jackie Lavender Bird

On May 26, the Senate approved a \$49.68 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2023 that would increase discretionary local aid by 5.4% and proposes \$60 per student in minimum new Chapter 70 aid.

With a deadline looming, the Senate bill includes a <u>provision to extend autho-</u> <u>rization for remote local government</u> <u>meetings</u>.

The budget passed by the Senate (S. 4) had few changes from the <u>recommen-</u> <u>dation released by the Senate Ways and</u> <u>Means Committee</u> on May 10, which proposed increases in Unrestricted General Government Aid, Chapter 70 education aid, charter school reimbursements, the Special Education Circuit Breaker account, and payments in lieu of taxes for state-owned land.

During three days of budget deliberations, senators considered more than 1,100 amendments, adopting just a fraction of them.

The Senate did approve an amendment to increase Rural School Aid from \$4 million

Inside

Administration files \$1.7B supplemental budget3
Municipal finance rule changes proposed4
At hearings, MMA supports MassTRAC bill 6
AG Healey sues PFAS manufacturers7
manufacturers7
manufacturers7 Around the Commonwealth

to \$5.5 million. An amendment to fully fund the regional school transportation account was not adopted.

The Senate budget would increase Unrestricted General Government Aid by \$63 million, doubling the increase proposed by the governor in January and approved by the House in April.

The Senate budget would increase Chapter 70 education aid by \$494.9 million over this year, for a total of \$5.99 billion. The funding level would continue to fund the Student Opportunity Act on the intended schedule.

In recognition of the challenges faced by 135 school districts due to receive only minimum new aid, the Senate bill would double the per-pupil minimum aid amount from \$30 per student to \$60, matching the increase in the <u>House-ad-opted budget</u>. (The governor's budget had proposed \$30.)

The Senate budget would increase payments-in-lieu-of-taxes for state-owned land to \$45 million, a \$10 million increase over this year.

The Division of Local Services has posted preliminary Cherry Sheet numbers for cities, towns and regional school districts based on the Senate budget bill.

The House and Senate are expected to quickly appoint a six-member conference committee to work out the differences between the House and Senate budget bills, with the objective of presenting a final legislative budget to the governor by the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1.

Senate includes remote meeting extension in state budget bill

By Ali DiMatteo

The fiscal 2023 state budget bill passed by the Senate includes language to extend temporary authorizations for remote local government meetings currently due to expire on July 15 through Dec. 15, 2023.

Sen. William Brownsberger's amendment to extend remote and hybrid meeting options was adopted by the Senate on May 25, with passage of the full budget bill occurring the following day.

The <u>MMA sent a letter to legislators in</u> <u>April</u> urging them to enact a permanent option for remote meetings, including town meetings, and caucuses.

"Remote participation at public meetings has ensured continuity of operations during the public health crisis and

REMOTE MEETINGS continued on 15



The town of Franklin holds a budget hearing outdoors in 2020 to allow participants to maintain a safe distance.

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 Chapdelaine, MMA Immediate Past President

Town Manager, Arlington Brian Arrigo, MMaA First Vice President

Mayor, Revere

Steve Bartha, MMMA First Vice President Town Manager, Danvers

Lisa Blackmer, MMCA President Councillor, North Adams

George "Bud" Dunham, MMMA President Town Manager, Sandwich

Andrew Hogeland, MSA First Vice President Select Board, Williamstown

Samantha Squailia, MMCA First Vice President Councillor, Fitchburg

Melinda Tarsi, ATFC First Vice President Industrial and Development Committee, Mansfield

John Trickey, ATFC President Finance Committee, Pelham

Linda Tver, MMaA President Mayor, Pittsfield

Michael Walsh, MSA President Select Board Member, Westwood

Geoff Beckwith (non-voting) MMA Executive Director

Ted Bettencourt, Mayor, Peabody

Lisa Braccio, Selectman, Southborough Denise Casey, Deputy Town Manager, North Andover

Lisa Feltner, Councillor, Watertown Ralph Figy, Councillor, Westfield Andrew Flanagan, Town Manager, Andover Claire Freda, Councillor, Leominster Scott Galvin, Mayor, Woburn Christine Hoyt, Selectman, Adams Afroz Khan, Councillor, Newburyport Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor, Easthampton Andrea Llamas, Town Administrator, Northfield John Mangiaratti, Town Manager, Acton John McLaughlin, Councillor, Waltham Debra Roberts, Select Board, Stoughton Moises Rodrigues, Councillor, Brockton Alan Slavin, Selectman, Wareham Peter Spellios, Select Board, Swampscott Kevin Sweet, Town Administrator, Wrentham Arthur Vigeant, Mayor, Marlborough Kristi Williams, Town Manager, Westborough Michelle Wu, Mayor, Boston

Executive Director's Report

Remaining optimistic in times of national tragedy

Uvalde, Texas, is more than 2,000 miles away. It's a place that few of us knew existed — until May 24. And now Uvalde will be forever associated with violence, tragedy, death, pain and heartbreaking loss.

Buffalo, N.Y., is only 325 miles from the Massachusetts border. We've all heard of Buffalo, but few of us knew about the Tops supermarket there — until May 14. And now that neighborhood will be forever associated with violence, tragedy, death, pain and heartbreaking loss.

In the days since these hate-inspired attacks, we have witnessed the suffering and pain of the families and community members. From hundreds of miles away, we've felt deep sadness, anger and fear. Aching sadness for the innocent victims whose lives were cut short, and for the family members who will grieve for the rest of theirs. Anger that people with evil intent have the access and means to weaponize their hate and racism. And yes, we feel fear that people with evil intent have the access and means to weaponize their hate and racism in any community in America, not just in Uvalde and Buffalo.

There is so much pain and loss around us. The opioid overdose epidemic continues to claim more than 200 lives per day across our nation. The COVID-19 pandemic has killed more than a million Americans since February 2020. The murder of George Floyd triggered national awareness of how



By Geoffrey Beckwith

systemic racism places a knee on the neck of millions of our neighbors because of the color of their skin, an ugly American legacy that is four centuries old.

Even as I write this, a voice is telling me to stop — to not mention the climate crisis, the rising mental health crisis among our youth, the devastation in Ukraine, or the growing economic chasm that

separates more and more people from the American Dream.

Yet we can't ignore these issues, and we can't shut ourselves off from reality. It is so easy to become overwhelmed, and to question if we are doing enough as individuals, or as communities. These thoughts reflect our own humanity, and our discontent with the scope of these deep-seated national and global problems.

How, then, can we move ahead in the face of so many crises, so much loss, so much heartache?

The simple answer is that communities have always moved forward in the face of tragedy and crisis, because people and neighborhoods are naturally connected by place, history and a shared interest in their future and each other's future. Time after time, we see local leaders stand up and step forward, bringing people together to help them grieve, heal, recover and rebuild.

Where does this resilience come from?

DIRECTOR'S REPORT continued on 21

eacon

June 2022 | Volume 49, Number 6 Copyright © 2022, Massachusetts Municipal Association

Manager of **Publications & Digital** Communications

John Ouellette

Digital Communications Full Circle Design Specialist

Meredith Gabrilska

Massachusetts Municipal Association Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association

3 Center Plaza, Suite 610, Boston, MA 02108 617-426-7272 · www.mma.org Twitter and Facebook: @massmunicipal

TheBeacon (ISSN 0199-235X) is published monthly, except for a combined July-August issue, by the Massachusetts Municipal Association, 3 Center Plaza, Suite 610, Boston, MA 02108. The MMA is composed of the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association, the Massachusetts Mayors' Association, the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association, the Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, and the Association of Town Finance Committees. Subscription rate for **TheBeacon** is \$36 per year. An \$18 subscription fee is included in dues payments for members.

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

Communications & Membership Director Candace Pierce Publisher Geoffrey Beckwith

Design

Associate Editor Jennifer Kavanaugh

Administration files \$1.7B FY22 supplemental budget

The Baker-Polito administration announced on May 18 that it is filing a \$1.7 billion fiscal 2022 supplemental budget that proposes investments in transportation, housing, environmental infrastructure, economic development, child care and education initiatives.

The administration said the legislation is supported by state tax revenues that exceed fiscal 2022 benchmarks through April by \$4.2 billion (14%). The surplus also prompted the administration yesterday to formally upgrade the fiscal 2022 tax benchmarks, to \$37.67 billion.

"Unprecedented fiscal year 2022 revenues afford us this opportunity to make targeted investments in some of the Commonwealth's most pressing areas of need," Gov. Charlie Baker said at a press event in Salem.

Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito said the bill's initiatives "will benefit residents and communities across the state, with a focus on expanding opportunities for disadvantaged populations." She said the bill would "increase the availability and quality of housing, build business opportunities in underserved communities, support transportation and environmental projects, and strengthen education and child care systems."

The legislation includes \$235 million for transportation projects, \$200 million for Cape Cod water and sewer initiatives, and \$100 million for offshore wind port infrastructure in Salem, New Bedford and Somerset.



On May 18 in Salem, Gov. Charlie Baker announces the filing of a \$1.7 billion supplemental budget bill for fiscal 2022. Also pictured is Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Beth Card. (Photo courtesy Joshua Qualls/ Governor's Press Office)

The administration said the bill also builds in funds for the implementation of more than \$9.5 billion provided through the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law over the next five years, as well as funding that will allow Massachusetts to access additional federal funding through matching grants. These funds complement investments proposed in the governor's pending <u>MassTRAC infrastructure bond</u> <u>bill</u> and its recently announced <u>FY23-27</u> <u>Capital Investment Plan</u>.

Building on the governor's recently filed \$3.5 billion <u>economic development</u> <u>package</u>, called FORWARD, the supplemental budget bill would provide \$200 million for workforce housing, \$100 million for public housing redevelopment in Boston, Cambridge, Salem and



LGAC discusses fiscal issues

During the May 10 meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission, Revere Mayor Brian Arrigo cites the state's continued strong revenue collections and expresses support for the 5.4% unrestricted local aid increase in the Senate's state budget bill for fiscal 2023, "which will obviously make a tremendous difference in a tight budget year." He also expressed concerns that rising school transportation costs are straining local budgets. "We're seeing an increase of \$3 million this year," he said. "There's really no competition among those providing these services. It's not sustainable for us to see multimillion dollar increases."

Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito said the bill's initiatives "will benefit residents and communities across the state, with a focus on expanding opportunities for disadvantaged populations."

Worcester, and \$10 million to increase permanent supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness.

Another \$180 million is allocated to targeted economic development initiatives, including \$80 million to support efforts to improve small businesses' options for purchasing commercial real estate, \$50 million to provide financial assistance to socially and economically disadvantaged developers, particularly those owned by women and people of color, who are seeking to undertake large housing construction projects, and \$50 million to "de-risk" lending to small business owners in underserved markets where access to capital is otherwise limited.

The bill also includes \$150 million for higher education campus infrastructure, primarily at the Mass College of Art and UMass Dartmouth; \$45 million for a new family child care home ownership and improvement program and \$10 million for innovative and flexible models of child care delivery; \$55 million for nursing pathways programs; and \$30 million for schools and colleges to modernize science and biotechnology labs.

Administration and Finance Secretary Michael Heffernan said "unprecedented" fiscal 2022 state tax collections "will allow the Commonwealth to continue building our stabilization fund balance while making the critical investments proposed in this supplemental budget to fund infrastructure and spur economic development."

The legislation includes several policy proposals, including a number that seek to <u>modernize and streamline certain</u> <u>municipal finance rules</u>. ●

Budget bill proposes municipal finance rule changes

By Jackie Lavender Bird

A fiscal 2022 supplemental budget bill

that Gov. Charlie Baker filed on May 18 includes a number of policy proposals that seek to modernize and streamline certain municipal finance rules.

These seven sections of the bill (<u>H.</u> <u>4802</u>) are as follows:

- Section 3 would make a technical correction to clarify "governing body" regarding other post-employment benefit (OPEB) trust funds.
- Section 4 would allow for a simple majority vote of the local legislative body, rather than a two-thirds vote, to draw down special purpose stabilization funds. A two-thirds vote would still be required to establish both types of stabilization funds general and special purpose — but the threshold would be lowered for drawing from special purpose funds.
- Section 5 would allow municipalities to combine an appointed treasurer and appointed collector into one position.
 Presently, municipalities must seek a home rule petition if they want these positions to be held by one employee.
- Section 6 would allow municipal departments to repair damaged property under \$150,000 before the insurance claim comes through, without seeking appropriation, with the expectation that appropriate accounts would be reimbursed when the insurance claim is paid. The municipality would be required to fund the deficit if the insurance claim is not received within a certain period.
- Section 6 would also create a "general fund revenue exception." Under state law (Ch. 44, Sect. 53), all money received or collected from any source by a municipality belongs to its general fund and can only be spent after appropriation, unless a general or special law provides an exception. This rule can present accounting challenges when unexpected, conditional revenue is received, because the law requires this revenue to become part of the general fund even though it is intended for a specific purpose. As a result, these funds often become part of the next year's free cash certification, creating confusion around how the funds

can be used. The administration's proposal would allow municipalities to reserve such one-time revenue in a special fund, thus keeping it out of the general fund and preventing it from eventually becoming free cash. The proposed language would clarify how the receipts in special funds can be spent: if the receipt is for one specific purpose, a municipal executive would be able to spend the funds without further appropriation; otherwise, qualifying revenue reserved in a special fund would be subject to appropriation. In both cases, the exception only applies to one-time, unanticipated receipts that are received by multiple communities.

For example, money for a very specific purpose (e.g., recent payments to cities and towns for veterans' benefit cost-ofliving adjustments) could be spent by the municipal CEO out of the account without appropriation by the legislative body, but money for a broader purpose (e.g., opioid settlement funds that have flexible use) could be put into the special designated fund that would need legislative body approval to be spent.

- Section 7 addresses approval of the spending cap of a municipal department's revolving account. Currently, the spending cap must be approved annually by the local legislative body. The administration is proposing that legislative body approval would only be needed when the spending cap of the revolving account is being changed.
- Section 8 would establish a new

MMHR discusses HR audits

Mary Beth Bernard, human resources director in Wrentham, discusses "high-ticket" human resources audit items that municipalities need to be aware of during the annual HR 101 Boot Camp held by Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources on May 12 in Wrentham.

Section 53k under Chapter 44, Section 53, to allow a municipal CEO to create a special revenue fund (rather than using the general revenue fund) for funds coming to the municipality for a specific purpose. Municipalities often enter into host or mitigation agreements with developers or other entities to address the impacts of new development, and receive payments to mitigate these impacts. Under current law, these mitigation payments go into the general fund and must be appropriated before they can be used for their intended purposes. The administration's proposal would let communities separately account for these payments and spend them for the dedicated purpose without appropriation.

• Section 25 would address potential violations of the state conflictof-interest law regarding shared municipal employees.

A re-filed section would update Chapter 70, the school finance law, to establish early college and innovation pathways as an enrollment category in the foundation budget, a change that the administration says would provide "sustainable and predictable support for the growth of these pathways," which are expanding access to college and careers for underrepresented students.

Another section would temporarily allow school districts to reserve some of their Chapter 70 funding for future years without facing state financial penalties, thereby helping them spend time-limited federal funds.



Local officials testify in support of FORWARD bill

By Ali DiMatteo

At a May 9 hearing before the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, the MMA and local officials testified in support of Gov. Charlie Baker's recently filed economic development bill, known as the FORWARD Act, which targets downtowns, infrastructure and other investments.

The \$3.5 billion bill (<u>H. 4720</u>) would use \$2.3 billion of the Commonwealth's American Rescue Plan Act funding and more than \$1.2 in capital bond authorizations. The bill would provide nearly \$970 million to revitalize local downtowns and communities, with more than \$550 million for the <u>MassWorks</u> program and \$108 million in downtown recovery grants.

All 351 municipalities would receive some form of aid through the bill (named "An Act investing in future opportunities for resiliency, workforce, and revitalized downtowns"). Newton Mayor and MMA President Ruthanne Fuller hailed the bill's inclusiveness.

"It's going to touch every single resident across the state," she said. "Everything in this act is urgent, transformational, smart and inclusive. ... Passing this now means we'll get money to work before the ARPA time restrictions kick in."

The bill includes \$104 million for the Clean Water Trust Fund, \$270 million to support affordable housing production, \$20 million for municipal workforce training grants, and \$62 million for broadband infrastructure and

"middle mile" grants. The bill would also formally establish the <u>MassCyberCenter</u>.

The MMA has advocated for swift pas-

sage, in part to avoid the possibility of the U.S. Congress pulling back any of the state's remaining \$2.3 billion in ARPA allocations if the funds are not yet committed to projects. Federal ARPA rules require funds to be obligated by the end of 2024 and expended by the end of 2026. Some members of Congress have been stalling President Joe Biden's supplemental COVID spending bill and calling for financing the measure using unspent state and local ARPA funds, raising the concern that unobligated ARPA funds could be recalled by the



Newton Mayor and MMA President Ruthanne Fuller (left) testifies on May 9 in support of the FORWARD Act with MMA Legislative Director Dave Koffman.

federal government prior to the current 2024 timeline.

Similar large-scale state economic development bills have traditionally been done at the end of a two-year legislative session, and Gov. Baker told the State House News Service that he was anticipating getting a bill back from the Legislature for his signature in early August.

On May 10, the administration gave a presentation about the FORWARD bill during the Local Government Advisory Commission meeting (<u>download here</u>). The <u>governor filed the bill on April 21.</u>

House passes expansive cannabis bill

By Ali DiMatteo

The House on May 18 approved a wide-ranging cannabis bill that largely mirrors <u>a bill passed by the Senate in April</u>.

Unlike the Senate bill (S. 2823), however, the House bill (H. 4791) includes language that could retroactively subject existing host community agreements to review by the Cannabis Control Commission, a major concern for the MMA and local officials. With more than 1,000 host community agreements already executed, the provision could lead to numerous legal battles and undermine municipal authority.

The House bill would also eliminate community impact fees after the first five years of a licensee's operation. The MMA is concerned about eliminating these fees while municipalities are still determining the long-term costs of this rapidly growing and immature industry. The MMA outlined its concerns about the House bill in <u>a letter to House members</u>.

The MMA has expressed concerns about language in both the House and Senate bills that would expand the authority of the Cannabis Control Commission in ways that would erode established local authority and cause counterproductive interference in contract negotiations.

The MMA supports provisions in both bills establishing a Social Equity Trust Fund, which would provide grants and loans to Economic Empowerment and Social Equity participants.

The legislation would implement the most significant changes to state cannabis laws since the legalization of adultuse marijuana in 2017.

A House-Senate conference committee will be appointed to work out a final compromise bill, which will need to pass



both chambers before being sent to the governor for his consideration. The MMA will continue to closely watch this issue and advocate for municipal needs.

MMA testifies in support of MassTRAC bill

By Adrienne Núñez

The MMA testified before the Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets on June 1 to strongly support Gov. Charlie Baker's \$9.7 billion transportation bond bill, known as MassTRAC.

In a letter to the committee, the MMA said the bill (H. 4798) "provides strategic capital investments alongside authorizations necessary to access the unprecedented funding available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law."

The MMA highlighted the bill's proposed investment of \$55 million for municipal grant programs and \$85 million for non-federally funded roads, as well as increases made by the Joint Committee on Transportation to regional transit authorities and \$25 million for grants to reduce vehicle congestion, improve air quality, and enhance transportation demand.

"H. 4798 will enable rapid and extensive improvements in our transportation system, an essential element to facilitating sustainable and resilient economic recovery in all parts of the Commonwealth while ensuring our residents are safe and healthy," the MMA wrote.

The governor filed An Act Relative to Massachusetts's Transportation Resources and Climate, or MassTRAC, on March 17.

In addition to investing in existing state programs, MassTRAC includes authorizations for required state matches to compete for and capitalize on investment opportunities provided by the \$1.2 trillion <u>Bipartisan Infrastructure Law</u>, which provides discretionary funding through formula-based allocations and more than \$110 billion in competitive grants to be



Gov. Charlie Baker's \$9.7 billion transportation bond bill, known as MassTRAC, aims to modernize the state's transportation system, with a focus on transportation network improvements and infrastructure.

overseen by the U.S. Department of Transportation and dispersed over five years. The administration says the MassTRAC bill would provide authorizations necessary to ensure the Commonwealth is well-positioned to win the federal grants.

MassTRAC includes:

- \$2.85 billion in BIL-related authorizations for formula-based funding
- \$3.55 billion in BIL-related authorizations for discretionary grants
- \$3.3 billion in non-BIL authorizations for capital investment programs

The proposed spending would be used to modernize the state's transportation system, with a focus on transportation network improvements and infrastructure geared toward climate change mitigation, resiliency, equity and safety for all users, particularly cyclists and pedestrians. Investments would include improvements to non-interstate highways; funding for

HR professionals discuss diversity

Teresa Cruz Foley, founder of Brave Space Consulting, leads municipal human resources professionals in a discussion about first steps and best practices that municipalities can follow to build toward diverse, inclusive and equitable cities and towns, during the Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources annual HR 101 Boot Camp on May 12 in Wrentham.



several municipal grant programs, including <u>Complete Streets</u>, the <u>Municipal Small</u> <u>Bridge Program</u>, the <u>Municipal Pavement</u> <u>Program</u>, and the <u>Shared Streets and</u> <u>Spaces</u> grant program; modernization of the MBTA; support for regional transit authorities; grants for electric vehicle charging infrastructure; and funding for transportation management associations.

The MMA also submitted <u>written testimo-</u> ny supporting the bill before a hearing by the Joint Committee on Transportation on April 12.

The Transportation Committee favorably reported an amended version of the bill on May 18.

The committee's amendments would increase total spending by \$46.5 million and add a handful of policy provisions. The allotment for regional transit authorities would increase by \$21.5 million, along with \$25 million added for grants to reduce vehicle congestion, improve air quality, and enhance transportation demand management activities.

The committee's bill would also mandate a minimum of \$6 million per year for the <u>Industrial Rail Access Program</u> and \$25 million for grants under the MassEVIP <u>Direct Current Fast Charging Program</u>, which helps property owners with publicly accessible parking and educational campuses acquire electric vehicle fast charging stations.

The Transportation Committee added policy provisions that would:

- Require the MBTA to provide adequate commuter parking during construction on MBTA parking facilities
- Authorize a three-project pilot program that would permit the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to use "cost-plus-time" bidding
- Revise language to align with a federal requirement for apprenticeships on projects funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- Revise "Dig Safe" rules to allow the Department of Public Utilities to require completion of a Dig Safe training program, in lieu of fines, for first-time violators

AG Healey sues manufacturers of 'forever' chemicals

Attorney General Maura Healey is suing 13 manufacturers of PFAS used in firefighting foam for contaminating drinking water sources, groundwater and other natural resources with highly toxic "forever" chemicals that pose a serious threat to public health and the environment.

The suit also names two companies that allegedly shielded assets that should be available to remedy the damages caused by contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS.

The <u>AG's complaint</u>, filed on May 25 in the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina, alleges the manufacturers repeatedly violated state and federal laws protecting drinking water and prohibiting consumer deception by marketing, manufacturing and selling PFAS-containing aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) to government entities, counties, municipalities, fire departments, businesses and residents in Massachusetts while knowing of the serious dangers the chemicals posed.

"For decades, these manufacturers knew about the serious risks that highly toxic PFAS chemicals pose to public health, the environment, and our drinking water, yet they did nothing about it," Healey said at a press event announcing the suit. "As a result of this deception, our municipalities are spending millions of dollars to provide safe drinking water to their residents.

"I am suing today to hold these manufacturers accountable, require them to pay the growing costs these communities are shouldering, and repair our state's precious natural resources that have been damaged by these illegal actions."

Gov. Charlie Baker said he appreciates Healey's partnership in this matter, adding that the administration has provided more than \$110 million in funding to address PFAS contamination, including establishing strict standards for PFAS in drinking water and awarding funding to public water suppliers to help address PFAS contamination.

Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Beth Card called the lawsuit a "momentous step."

MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith, who joined Healey for the announcement, said cities and towns across the state applaud the attorney general's

"leadership and resolve to hold PFAS manufacturers accountable for years of harm to our environment, public health and worker safety.

"Municipalities and local taxpayers have been unfairly burdened with the expensive and complex task of removing toxic PFAS chemicals from our groundwater, lakes and streams, and from our public safety workplaces," he said. "Attorney General Healey's legal intervention rightly seeks to place that burden squarely on the manufacturers who have caused this harmful pollution and exposure."

"For decades, these manufacturers knew about the serious risks that highly toxic PFAS chemicals pose to public health, the environment, and our drinking water, yet they did nothing about it," Healey said.

Healey is alleging that the manufacturers' illegal actions led to the contamination of countless water supplies in Massachusetts, including more than 126 public drinking water systems in 86 communities with serious levels of PFAS contamination, in places such as Chicopee, Weymouth, Abington, Rockland, Cape Cod and Stow. The contamination has required massive efforts by municipalities and the expenditure of millions of dollars to address the threat to public health and the environment.

She says the manufacturers engaged in the design, manufacture, marketing and/or sale of PFAS-containing AFFF used in Massachusetts, which can cause hundreds, if not thousands, of gallons of foamy water laced with PFAS to enter the environment through soils, sediment, surface water and groundwater.



Attorney General Maura Healey discusses her lawsuit against PFAS manufacturers during a May 25 press conference. Also joining her were (I-r) Billy Cabral, secretary-treasurer of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts; Richard MacKinnon Jr., president of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts; James Vuona, Shrewsbury fire chief and president of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts; and MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith.

> The lawsuit is part of multidistrict litigation that consists of hundreds of lawsuits brought by state attorneys general, municipalities and private and public water districts.

> Exposure to PFAS, including through contaminated water supplies, can lead to serious health issues, including decreased antibody responses to vaccines, increased risk of childhood infections, developmental issues for children, decreased birth weight, testicular and kidney cancers, ulcerative colitis, liver damage, and thyroid disease.

Healey also alleges that the AFFF products have caused serious contamination to the state's lakes, streams and rivers, coastal zones, sediments, soils and submerged lands, as well as thousands of plant species and diverse wildlife.

The lawsuit is seeking costs to clean up and remove, restore, treat and monitor PFAS contamination and an order requiring the manufacturers to reimburse the state for the damages its products caused. The complaint also demands that the manufacturers remediate and restore the state's natural resources and pay investigation fees and costs.

The suit is supported by the co-chairs of the Legislature's PFAS Interagency Task Force, which <u>released an 88-page report</u> <u>last month</u> outlining a policy framework to protect public health and address environmental concerns and remediation efforts related to the family of chemicals.

Civil service legislative panel releases report

By Dave Koffman

The <u>final report</u> issued in late March by the Special Legislative Commission to Study and Examine the Civil Service Law includes a recommendation to extend the panel's charge through the 2023-24 legislative session.

An amendment to extend the commission's work through 2024 was adopted in the House's version of the fiscal 2023 state budget, but the Senate did not adopt a similar amendment during its budget debate. An extension of the commission's work will now be one of many outside sections to be considered during House-Senate budget negotiations in June.

The special commission's report includes several policy recommendations, including:

• Lowering barriers to the civil service

exam fee waivers

- Adjusting the formula for entry-level certifications (2n+1)
- Supporting cadet programs
- Increasing the Civil Service Commission budget and enhancing its authority
- Examining amendments to Chapter 31A, which provides a local option for full decentralization of existing civil service responsibilities, among many other policy recommendations
- Supporting diversity scholarship models

The 29-member special commission was established by Chapter 253 of the Acts of 2020, known as the Policing Reform Law. The commission was charged with studying the employment, promotion, performance evaluation and disciplinary procedures for civil service employees and for municipalities not subject to the civil service law, and the procedures of the Department of State Police.

The panel has been co-chaired by Sen. Michael Brady and Rep. Ken Gordon, who also co-chair the Legislature's Joint Committee on Public Service.

Speaking with reporters at the report's release, Gordon said the report could show "where we are, highlight some of the issues, and provide guidance as to where we think we need to continue to go."

Gordon also mentioned interest in analyzing local municipal data, particularly in terms of diversity and looking at peer communities.

For more information, contact MMA Legislative Director Dave Koffman at dkoffman@mma.org. ●

Chapter 90 bill remains in Senate Ways and Means Committee

By Adrienne Núñez

The fiscal 2023 Chapter 90 bond bill remains in the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, to which it was referred on March 31 after being approved by the House.

The <u>House bill</u> would provide \$200 million for the <u>Chapter 90</u> program to maintain local roads and bridges, along with \$150 million for other municipal infrastructure grant programs, including:

- \$30 million for the <u>Municipal Small</u> <u>Bridge Program</u>
- \$30 million for <u>Complete Streets</u>
- \$40 million for design, construction, repair and improvements on nonfederally aided roads and bridges,



The fiscal 2023 Chapter 90 bond bill remains in the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

including state routes and municipal roads

- \$25 million to improve bus stops and stations
- \$25 million for mass transit and commuter rail stations and parking

lots, and related enhancements

Base Chapter 90 funding has been level-funded at \$200 million since fiscal 2012. Adjusting for inflation, the program has lost 42.6% of its purchasing power over the past 11 years, <u>according</u> to an MMA analysis.

The MMA's most recent biennial statewide survey shows that cities and towns need \$600 million in Chapter 90 funding to adequately maintain 30,000 miles of local roads and hundreds of bridges. The MMA and local officials continue to advocate for a permanent increase in Chapter 90 funding to a \$300 million, multiyear allocation, indexed to grow each year by the rate of inflation. ●

U.S. Treasury says 2nd tranche of ARPA funds coming soon

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has indicated that non-entitlement units of government should receive their second tranche of funding soon from the American Rescue Plan Act.

The Treasury Department administers the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provided for in the ARPA law passed in the spring of 2021. Last spring, the Treasury Department announced that NEUs — typically municipalities with fewer than 50,000 residents — would receive funding in two payments, or tranches, funneled through their state government. NEUs received the first payment in June 2021, with the second payment scheduled to arrive 12 months later.

NEUs, among other recipients of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, were required to submit project and expenditure reports by April 30. The Treasury Department has acknowledged, however, that some NEUs continue to have technical and administrative issues with submitting their mandatory reporting.

The Treasury Department is instructing states and territories to distribute the second tranche of NEU funds in as timely a manner as possible, and not later than 30 days after receiving the payments. States and territories should not plan on withholding funds to NEUs under any circumstances, the department said.

– Jackie Lavender Bird

House OK's \$5B bond bill with funding for local grants

By Jackie Lavender Bird

On May 19, the House passed a nearly \$5 billion, five-year general government bond bill that includes funding for a range of municipal grant programs.

The bill (H. 4807) includes the following funding proposals:

- \$100 million for municipal grants to support a range of local infrastructure improvements and projects
- \$64 million to support the Massachusetts State Revolving Fund, specifically for state matching funds required to secure federal dollars for

the fund, which helps cities and towns improve water supply infrastructure and drinking water safety

- \$60 million for the Housing Stabilization Fund, which provides funding for municipalities, nonprofits, for-profit developers and local housing authorities in support of affordable rental housing production and rehabilitation
- \$50 million for the Cultural Facilities Fund to provide grants for planning, acquisition, rehabilitation and construction of cultural

facilities, administered through Massachusetts Cultural Council and MassDevelopment

- \$30 million for the Community Compact IT competitive grant program for innovative technology initiatives at the local level
- \$25 million for Housing Choice grants to municipalities that receive a Housing Choice designation through high housing production and/or the demonstration of best practices

The bill is currently in the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

MMA testifies in support of 'water banking' bill

By Josie Ahlberg

The Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government has collected written testimony on a bill that would expand authority for cities, towns, water districts, stormwater utilities, and authorities to collect fees on new development to help offset the costs of water, wastewater and stormwater system investments.

On May 19, the <u>MMA submitted testi-</u> <u>mony</u> in support of the local-option bill, which would establish a process known as water banking.

"Cities and towns need supplemental funding options in order to protect municipal water supplies, meet federal requirements, and address environmental concerns," the MMA wrote.

With water banking, a community collects a fee from new developments — for each new unit that would increase water demand — and those funds are placed into a dedicated fund that helps offset the cost of the water system's conservation efforts, the replacement of aging infrastructure, and environmentally friendly retrofits.



The MMA supports a local-option bill that would establish a process known as water banking.

Water banking allows municipalities to maintain their water systems while taking steps to meet more ambitious goals, such as water conservation and updating infrastructure. By targeting the fees to new development, water banking avoids additional costs for existing users or having to finance water projects using other municipal sources.

Across Massachusetts, key components of municipal water infrastructure are long past their expected lifespans. Repairs, replacements and upgrades are urgent but very costly for municipalities. In 2012, a report from the Massachusetts Water Infrastructure Finance Commission estimated that there was a \$20 billion gap in funding needed for water and wastewater infrastructure over the next 20 years, in addition to an \$18 billion deficit to meet proposed federal stormwater regulations. Newly available, one-time funding options — such as the American Rescue Plan Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law — are not sufficient to close the funding gap. Other competitive programs, such as the State Revolving Loan Fund, require projects to meet a high threshold to obtain funding, leaving many lower-scoring projects without a path forward.

The MMA and advocates argue that giving communities the option, through water banking, to increase funding for water management, infrastructure updates, and repairs would offer an innovative financing solution to a costly problem.

The water banking bill (<u>S. 2869</u>) awaits further action from the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

Administration offers \$7.5M in Gap Energy Grants

On April 22, the Baker-Polito administration launched the Gap III Energy Grant Program, designed to implement energy efficiency and clean energy facility upgrades to qualified entities.

The program will make up to \$5 million available to municipal drinking water and wastewater facilities, and up to \$2.5 million to nonprofit affordable housing, food- and agricultural-producing orga-

nizations and small business food-distribution and processing organizations across the state.

The administration said the grant program is designed to fill the last "gap" in project financing as facilities use utility incentives and other sources to build or install selected energy efficiency and clean energy projects. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, which manages the program, will hold two Zoom information sessions to help applicants, on June 2 at 10 a.m. and June 14 at 10 a.m.

To register for a webinar, or for more information or to apply, visit the program's webpage. ●

Applications open for Bottleneck Reduction grants

By Adrienne Núñez

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the <u>Local Bottleneck Reduction</u> <u>Program</u> through June 30 via the <u>Mas-</u> <u>sachusetts Project Intake Tool</u>, known as MaPIT.

All cities and towns are eligible to apply for up to \$500,000 in grant funding per fiscal year.

The competitive grant program assists with innovative solutions to improve traffic flow, ease congestion, and promote safety on local roadway intersections. Grant recipients receive scope-of-work and design services from MassDOT-led consultants, in addition to reimbursement for the accrued construction costs of the locally implemented projects, up to the grant award value.

Municipalities may propose a specific treatment, project type or location that would benefit from an eligible project type. Grant approvals are primarily based on congestion and delay metrics collected from INRIX for the MassDOT. Data from 2020 will not be used, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on traffic patterns.

Proposed locations where congestion has negative impacts on the state highway system will also receive priority. Locations in Environmental Justice Communities, within one mile of a school, or on fixed transit routes will also be given additional consideration.

Examples of eligible signal equipment

improvements and infrastructure or reconstruction projects include coordination of multiple traffic signals, pedestrian or bicyclist signal improvements, traffic signal retiming, vehicle detection installation, repairs or replacement, intersection access management, signage to improve directional navigation, curb modifications, and more.

Ineligible projects and costs include costs related to public notice, engagement, easements and other land takings, asso-



The Local Bottleneck Reduction Program addresses traffic flow, congestion and safety issues at intersections.

ciated police details and traffic control, projects that negatively impact transit services or inhibit pedestrian or bicycle facilities, and roadway widening/lane configuration changes where right-ofway is not available.

<u>Click here for application information</u>. Questions about the program may be sent to Localbottleneckgrants@dot.state. ma.us. ●

Administration announces second round of premium pay payments

On May 19, the Baker-Polito administration announced its plan for a second round of \$500 payments to low-income workers under the <u>COVID-19 Essential</u> <u>Employee Premium Pay program</u>, which was enacted last December as part of a \$4 billion spending plan for American Rescue Plan Act funds.

These payments will deliver approximately \$165 million to an estimated 330,000 eligible individuals in June. Municipal employees who meet the income qualifications are among those eligible for this program.

The first round of payments, distributed in March, provided \$500 checks to approximately 480,000 people. Individuals in the second round of payments did not receive payments in the first round. With the second round of payments, more than \$400 million of the \$460 million program will have been distributed to eligible individuals. The eligibility parameters for the second round of payments largely mirror those of the first round, but criteria have been updated for annual changes in minimum wage and federal poverty level calculations.

Eligibility will be based on filed 2021 Massachusetts tax returns. Individuals will be eligible for payments if their 2021 income from employment was at least \$13,500 and their total income put them at or below 300% of the federal poverty level. The lower end of this range equates to working 20 hours a week for 50 weeks at minimum wage as of 2021 (\$13.50).

The maximum total income for a single filer with no dependents will be \$38,640; 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 \$79,500. Married filers can each be eligible, provided each independently

qualifies.

Individuals who received a Round 1 payment through this program or received unemployment compensation in 2021 are not eligible for the second round of payments, nor are Commonwealth executive branch employees who received or will receive a one-time COVID-related payment from the state as their employer.

The program's web page includes FAQs.

The legislation creating the Premium Pay program included \$500 million for low-income essential workers; this \$460 million program comprises the majority of those funds, and \$40 million was allocated to fund previous agreements with state employee unions.

The administration said it will release additional information in the future on plans to disburse funds remaining after June.

MMA reaffirms support for producer responsibility bill

By Josie Ahlberg

On May 5, the <u>MMA submitted a letter</u> to the House Committee on Ways and Means supporting a bill that would establish manufacturer responsibility for the recycling of waste paint.

The proposed stewardship program would be operated by the paint industry and funded by a consumer fee at point of sale. The bill (<u>H. 938</u>) would enable statewide participation by requiring that at least 90% of Massachusetts residents would have a collection site within 15 miles of their residence, and one site would be made available for every 50,000 residents in urban areas.

"Extended producer responsibility" legislation for paint has been adopted in 10 states across the nation. Programs in those states have resulted in the reuse or recycling of more than 70% of latex paint collected, relieving local governments and taxpayers of more than \$295 million in avoided paint transportation and processing costs. EPR programs are demonstrating that leftover paint can be safely and sustainably diverted from waste streams, with an added cost-saving benefit for municipalities.

As Massachusetts aims to meet ambitious <u>solid waste reduction goals set in</u> <u>its Solid Waste Master Plan</u>, legislators and environmentalists are turning their attention to extended producer responsi-



A bill that would establish manufacturer responsibility for the recycling of waste paint had a hearing before the House Committee on Ways and Means on May 5.

bility legislation as a way to promote the recycling and reuse of certain products and materials.

With extended producer responsibility, or EPR, manufacturers and importers of products bear much of the responsibility for the environmental impacts of production as well as the impacts of the product's use and disposal. Stewardship organizations or manufacturers operate a recycling and disposal process, often financed by a consumer fee charged at point of sale. Advocates assert that EPR can help remove materials that are not easily recycled from municipal waste streams and ensure their proper disposal.

EPR legislation for plastics and packaging was first <u>signed into law in Maine</u> in 2021, followed quickly by Oregon. Bills before the Massachusetts Legislature would implement EPR for packaging and for specific



MMHR tackles pressing HR issues

Jen Breaker, Danvers' assistant town manager and communications director, and Avon Town Manager Greg Enos respond to questions about recruitment, remote work, the management of discrimination claims, and employee evaluations during a roundtable discussion closing out the Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources annual HR 101 Boot Camp on May 12 in Wrentham. products, such as paint, mattresses and box springs. The MMA expressed support for many of these bills <u>earlier this session</u>.

Upcoming waste bans

Additional efforts to meet the goals of the 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan include the expansion of statewide waste disposal bans. The state's first waste bans were introduced in 1990, pulling easy-to-recycle and hazardous materials out of the solid waste sent to landfills and combustion facilities. Two new bans, on mattresses and textiles, will become effective on Nov. 1.

The Department of Environmental Protection reports that <u>approximately 600,000</u> <u>mattresses and box springs are discarded</u> <u>in Massachusetts each year</u>. Despite being composed of almost entirely recyclable materials, they are often not recycled. The impending mattress ban could place an added burden on many municipalities that lack the capacity to collect and store mattresses and transport them to recyclers.

Two bills before the Legislature (<u>H. 988</u> and <u>S. 569</u>) seek to address the gap in recycling services by creating a mattress stewardship program, which would be funded by a fee paid when consumers buy a new mattress or box spring. Without such a system in place by November, many municipalities might be left scrambling to get the resources needed to comply with the ban.

Currently, there is no legislation to address the upcoming textile ban. Municipalities looking to establish a textiles recovery or recycling program are encouraged to contact <u>RecyclingWorks Massachusetts</u> or the MassDEP for assistance.

The MassDEP estimates that <u>230,000</u> <u>tons of textiles are tossed each year</u> in Massachusetts, so a significant diversion from the waste stream would reduce disposal costs for local governments. Where textiles would be diverted to is a larger question for municipalities and residents without easy access to existing donation services.

The MassDEP has published answers to <u>frequently asked questions</u> about the upcoming waste bans.

Note: An earlier version of this story incorrectly reported that the House Committee on Ways and Means had held a hearing on H. 938. The bill was favorably reported to the committee on April 14.

State offers Homeowner Assistance Fund

By Jennifer Kavanaugh

With foreclosures on the rise and financial pressures mounting on homeowners, municipal leaders can direct at-risk residents to a new state program to protect home ownership.

Through the <u>Massachusetts Homeowner</u> <u>Assistance Fund</u>, homeowners who are at least three payments behind on their mortgage for COVID-related reasons can receive aid for mortgage payments and other property-related costs such as taxes, insurance, condo fees and delinquent municipal utility bills. The program seeks to keep homeowners in their homes and prevent foreclosure proceedings.

The program, which started late last year, is already helping Pittsfield residents struggling to pay mortgages, taxes and other property-related costs, Mayor Linda Tyer said during the May 10 meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission. This assistance has become especially critical now, she said, as pandemic-era moratoriums and forbearance programs have ended.

"Having this vital resource for preserving homeownership for at-risk Pittsfield homeowners for the foreseeable future is a really important element for all of our communities to create stable neighborhoods and ensure that our residents can remain in their homes," Tyer said.

The program has \$178 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, Assistant Administration and Finance Secretary Mark Attia said during the LGAC meeting. The program is being administered by the <u>Massachusetts Housing Part-</u> nership and the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, in collaboration with the Executive Office for Administration and Finance and several other state agencies, as well as community-based organizations and the state's 10 housing counseling agencies. (Download the administration's presentation on the program.)

"We were among the first states to hold a stakeholder listening session in preparation of our plan being submitted to the U.S. Treasury," Attia said, "and we're among the earliest to launch a full program, and we aim to keep up that momentum as aggressively as we can over the next several months."

Before the pandemic, Massachusetts had a high number of foreclosures, and the numbers have been climbing again since the foreclosure moratorium ended about a year and a half ago, said Maureen Flynn, program director for the Homeowner Assistance Fund at the Massachusetts Housing Partnership. The foreclosures haven't yet reached pre-pandemic levels, she told LGAC members, and she hopes this program will help keep that from happening.

To qualify, homeowners must have experienced a COVID-related financial challenge after Jan. 21, 2020, Flynn said. Applicants must also earn 150% or less of the area median income; be owner-occupants of a single-family home, condo or multi-family home of up to four units; use the home as their primary residence in Massachusetts; and have a conforming loan (not a jumbo loan). People who have reverse mortgages also may be eligible for assistance with taxes or insurance, she said.

Homeowners submit applications online,



Pittsfield Mayor Linda Tyer discusses the Massachusetts Homeowner Assistance Fund during the May 10 meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission.

and can use a <u>zip code search tool</u> to identify their local housing counseling agency if they need help preparing and submitting an application. When an application is approved, the program sends the funds directly to the mortgage servicing company. Flynn said the program is working directly with about 160 mortgage servicers.

So far, Attia said, the program has received more than 3,400 applications and made payments to help 422 homeowners, for a total of about \$8 million, Flynn said, and more than 1,000 additional applications are awaiting payments. Of the approved applications, roughly half came from non-white borrowers, and 93.6% of the funded applications involved households under 100% of the area median income. The program has served homeowners in 123 cities and towns, and the most-served communities have been Springfield, Brockton, Boston, Worcester, Methuen, New Bedford, Lynn, Agawam, New Bedford, Randolph, Chicopee and Pittsfield.

MSA to discuss technology and staffing for virtual meetings on June 15

The Massachusetts Select Board Association will host a free Zoom webinar on June 15 to discuss the technology and staffing required for municipalities to run successful virtual and hybrid meetings.

Virtual and hybrid public meetings have allowed municipalities to continue operations during the pandemic, and have provided the additional benefit of enhanced equity in access, public engagement and transparency in government operations. But these meetings require both the right technology and the right staffing to ensure



Peter Fasciano

an orderly meeting with limited interruptions.

Franklin TV Executive Director Peter Fasciano will provide an overview of the technology that his town uses to run virtual and hybrid meetings, and will discuss technical

issues that may arise during these types of

meetings and how to best address them.

Cohasset Procurements and Contracts Manager Michelle Leary will discuss staffing needs for hybrid and virtual meetings, with a focus on some of the unique challenges faced by small towns.

The webinar will run from noon to 1 p.m. An email with the registration link has been sent to all select board members. Advance registration is required.

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

MSA to hold training for newly elected members

The Massachusetts Select Board Association will hold a free training for newly elected select board members on Saturday, July 23, in Devens.

Key topics will include municipal finance and budgeting, open meeting and public records laws, and collaborative decision making. A roundtable discussion will provide an opportunity to hear from veteran select board members about their experiences, followed by an open question and answer session.

The training will be targeted to newly elected members, but any select board member is welcome to attend for a refresher and an opportunity to network with colleagues.

Registration and networking will begin

at 8:30 a.m. The program will start at 9 a.m., and lunch will be served. The full agenda and registration will be available at <u>www.mma.org</u> in June.

The training will be held at Devens Commons Center, 31 Andrews Parkway in Devens.

Due to a recent rise in COVID-19 cases, the MMA is currently requiring attendees to wear masks at all in-person meetings except when eating, drinking or presenting. On the day of the event, attendees also must show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID (card, photo or QR code). (Religious or medical vaccine exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

The Massachusetts Select Board Association will also host a series of free webinars over the summer covering more technical topics. The first of these webinars will take place on June 15, covering technology and staffing needs for virtual and hybrid public meetings.

Newly elected select board members are encouraged to share their contact information with the MMA (by email to database@mma.org) in order to receive information about Select Board Association events.

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

U.S. DOT accepting applications for Safe Streets and Roads grants

By Adrienne Núñez

On May 16, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued a <u>Notice of</u> <u>Funding Opportunity for the new Safe</u> <u>Streets and Roads for All program</u>, which will provide \$5 billion in discretionary grant funding to municipalities, counties, special districts, metropolitan planning organizations, and federally recognized tribal governments.

Up to \$1 billion is available in the current federal fiscal year for projects costing from \$200,000 up to \$50 million, depending on project type. Applications are due Sept. 15, and award announcements are expected in late 2022 or early 2023.

Funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the SS4A program is intended to support the <u>National</u> <u>Roadway Safety Strategy</u> and its goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on U.S. roadways.

Eligible projects include planning, design, development or updating of a



Municipalities have until Sept. 15 to apply for grants through the Safe Streets and Roads for All program.

Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, as well as implementation of Action Plan activities.

Examples of possible projects include, but are not limited to:

 Improvements along an expanded multimodal roadway network with separated bicycle lanes and improved safety for pedestrians

- Community-informed street design enhancements
- Application of low-cost safety treatments (rumble strips, flashing beacons, signage, etc.)
- Traffic speed management projects
- Installation of safety enhancements including crosswalks, sidewalks, and lighting for safe passage for people walking, rolling, and using mobility assistive devices
- Creation of safe routes to schools and public transit services through improved safe passage for people walking, biking and rolling in underserved communities
- Addressing alcohol-impaired driving

Interested parties may <u>subscribe to</u> <u>email updates</u> to receive program announcements. Additional details and informational webinars are available on the <u>SS4A page</u>.

MMA seeks input for Annual Meeting workshops

The MMA is seeking topic suggestions from members for the timely, informative and interactive workshops that are a key component of the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show each January. Please offer your input on topics that would help you in the work you do in your city or town. To submit ideas, use our convenient <u>online form</u>. The 2023 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show will be held on Jan. 20 and 21 in Boston. •

EPA announces BIL-funded Clean School Bus rebates

By Josie Ahlberg

On May 20, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency <u>announced that \$500</u> <u>million is being made available this</u> <u>summer</u> for a new <u>Clean School Bus Rebate Program</u> funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The program is set to receive \$5 billion over the next five years for the purchase of zero-emission school buses.

The first round will offer \$250 million in rebates for exclusively zero-emission school buses, and \$250 million in rebates for cleaner, alternative-fuel school buses, including battery-electric, propane and compressed natural gas.

Zero-emission buses will allow school districts to reduce fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions, thereby improving air quality around schools and in neighborhoods. Zero-emission buses are also less costly to operate than diesel buses.



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will make \$500 million available this summer through its Clean School Bus Rebate Program.

The Biden-Harris administration acknowledged the need to address heavily polluting buses to combat climate change, especially in overburdened and underserved areas, so the EPA plans to prioritize applications from high-need, low-income, rural and Tribal school districts.

To participate in the 2022 Clean School Bus Rebate Program, school districts may submit one application each to request direct funding to replace up to 25 buses. Rebate award amounts are dependent on the bus fuel type and size, as well as the priority of the school district served.

Rebates for replacement range from \$15,000 to \$375,000, with associated infrastructure funding ranging from \$13,000 to \$20,000. Applicants will be selected for funding through a random lottery process.

The application period is open through Aug. 19, with selection status notifications expected in October. The EPA has created a <u>web-based application process</u>.

The EPA has released a <u>Clean School Bus</u> rebates webinar presentation.

Management Association, MIIA to hold risk management webinar

The Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association are sponsoring a free webinar on June 21 focusing on how to identify, monitor and address risks in municipalities.

Speakers will include attorney Regina Ryan, founder and president of <u>Dis-</u> <u>crimination and Harassment Solutions</u>, and MIIA Loss Control Manager David Dowd. They will cover general municipal liability, discrimination and harassment claims, managing reasonable accommo-



Regina Ryan

a.m. to 1 p.m.

dations and school related issues, and cybersecurity risks.

The webinar, titled "Municipal Risk Management 101: Understanding the Municipal Liability Landscape from a Risk Management Perspective," will run from 11:30

pendent advice and

Any town administrator, assistant town administrator or human resources director is invited to attend, but the program is targeted to those who are new to their positions.

Visit <u>www.mma.org</u> for more information and to register.

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

Transportation secretary seeks to fill transportation equity board

The office of U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg is seeking applications for the newly re-established <u>Advisory Committee on Transportation</u> <u>Equity</u>.

Those with expertise in related areas such as transportation equity in planning and policy, or at the intersections of civil rights, housing, health care, disability access, small business, and environmental justice are encouraged to apply.

A letter of interest and statement of qualifications (such as a resume) must



Pete Buttigieg

recommendations to the secretary regarding civil rights and transportation equity in the context of planning, design, research, policy and advocacy. The committee will include up to 25 members with a balanced representation of equity practitioners from academia, community groups, business, non-government organizations, state, local and tribal governments, disability and veteran organizations, and indigenous groups.

The committee will undertake tasks assigned to it by the secretary and is expected to meet quarterly.

MMHR to discuss federal drug and alcohol testing

On June 16, the Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting will cover federal drug and alcohol testing requirements for those with commercial driver's licenses.

Municipal employers must comply with mandatory drug and alcohol regulations from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for CDL drivers. Any employer of CDL drivers must follow a specific set of drug and alcohol testing rules, and noncompliance can result in fines for the organization.

Ted Dawson, owner of Advantage Drug Testing, will lead a comprehensive training about the federal regulations and what municipal employers need to know to ensure compliance.

The MMHR Annual Meeting will include a vote on the fiscal 2023 budget and MMHR board slate; presentation of the 2022 <u>Skop Award</u>; and a legislative update from MMA Legislative Director Dave Koffman.

The annual meeting will be held at Grandview Farm, 55 Center St. in Burlington.

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

The registration fee is \$40 for members and \$55 for nonmembers. Registration

MMA HSC President

Laura Ducharme,

in Acton, will pro-

The meeting will

run from 9:30 a.m.

to 12:30 p.m., and

center is located at

39 Marrett Road in

the community

vide an association

the community services coordinator

update.

is available at <u>www.mma.org</u>.

Due to a recent rise in COVID-19 cases, attendees will be required to wear a facemask at this in-person meeting except when eating, drinking or presenting. On the day of the event, attendees must show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID (card, photo or QR code). (Religious or medical vaccine exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) 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

MMA Human Services Council to hold Annual Meeting on June 22

The MMA Human Services Council will host its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 22, at the Lexington Community Center.

The meeting will feature a discussion about living in a post-pandemic world, covering topics such as food insecurity and inflation.

Catalina López-Ospina, vice president of engagement for Project Bread, will open the meeting with a discussion about trends in food insecurity. She will discuss how families and individuals are coping with the high cost of groceries caused by inflation, and ways that communities can support families who may be experiencing food insecurity for the first time.

A panel will then discuss the work they are doing to address food insecurity and inflation. Panelists will include Pat Baker, senior policy analyst with the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, and Jill Tsakiris, program manager for Open Table in Maynard.

REMOTE MEETINGS

Continued from page 1

provided the additional benefit of enhanced equity in access, public engagement and transparency in government operations," the MMA wrote. "With multiple councils, boards and commissions in place in each of our 351 member communities, there are thousands of public entities that have relied on remote meetings and virtual platforms



Catalina López-Ospina

Lexington.

The cost to attend the meeting, which includes breakfast and a morning snack, is \$25 for HSC members and \$30 for nonmembers. (Anyone who has not paid their HSC dues for fiscal 2022 by June 21 will be charged the nonmember rate.) Payment can be made by cash or check at the meeting, and checks should be made out to MMA HSC. Payment can also be mailed to Acton Town Hall, c/o

to conduct their business. With new technologies developing rapidly, and an increased investment in equipment by these public entities, remote meetings have been very successful and effective for cities and towns [statewide]."

The MMA also noted that "flexibility is imperative, as different public entities have different capacities, needs and preferences."

The <u>budget bill passed by the House</u> in

Laura Ducharme, 472 Main St., Acton, MA 01720. (Those who <u>register online</u> will receive a confirmation email that says a zero balance is due. Please ignore this automated response; it is incorrect and cannot be changed.)

Due to a recent rise in COVID-19 cases, attendees will be required to wear masks at this in-person meeting except when eating, drinking or presenting. On the day of the event, attendees must show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID (card, photo or QR code). (Religious or medical vaccine exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

The cancellation deadline for non-COVID-related cancellations is June 21.

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

April does not include a remote meeting extension.

A House-Senate conference committee will soon be appointed to work out a compromise state budget bill, which will need to pass both chambers before being signed into law. The MMA will continue to advocate for the remote meeting extension to be included in the final budget bill, and is urging legislators to make the options permanent.

Around the Commonwealth

Boston

City releases plan for addressing heat dangers

As a part of the much larger campaign to address climate change readiness in the city, Mayor Michelle Wu announced a citywide framework to address hotter summers and an increasing number of dangerous heat events.

"Heat threatens the health and well-being of our residents, of our infrastructure, and our environmental justice communities like right here in Chinatown are especially vulnerable," Mayor Wu said during a press conference.

The heat plan, <u>Heat Resilience Solutions</u> for Boston, builds on the 2016 <u>Climate</u> <u>Ready Boston</u> plan, which encompasses a much larger effort to prepare the city for near- and long-term effects of climate change. The heat plan is also designed to work in concert with the city's <u>Urban Forest Plan</u>.

The plan lays out 26 strategies organized into two sections — relief during heat waves and creating cooler communities — and includes both long-term and short-term initiatives. The plan provides an implementation roadmap, including the launch of an interdepartmental Extreme Temperatures Response Task Force, which will be supported by the city's Environment Department, the Office of Emergency Management, and the Boston Public Health Commission's Office of Public Health Preparedness.

The heat plan focuses on five environmental justice communities that are hotspots: Chinatown, Dorchester, East Boston, Mattapan and Roxbury. The planning process included analyzing historical development practices, including redlining and land use, to understand neighborhoods and the impact of systemic inequalities, with the goal of ensuring that everyone can access cooling resources.

"We understand that our environmental justice communities disproportionately feel the impacts of climate change and compound factors of inequality," said Zoe Davis, program coordinator for the Heat Resilience Study. "We can deliver



The city of Boston has published a plan to address hotter summers and dangerous heat events.

more just outcomes."

The plan, released on Earth Day (April 22), took nearly two years to develop, funded in part by the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program.

"Extreme heat was identified in the 2016 climate ready plan, and a lot of previous work had been focused on flooding," Davis said. "After the summer of 2019, which at the time was one of Boston's hottest summers, we recognized the need to develop a plan to deal with heat resiliency."

The plan was made possible by cross departmental collaboration, partnership with consultants, and significant community engagement, including virtual open houses, a citywide survey, a youth forum and a community advisory board, all of which were adjusted to succeed despite in-person limitations during the pandemic.

Davis called the community advisory board "a really valuable part of the process ... by informing the process and building relationships and ensuring that community voices are closer to the process and that there is a sense of agency. We have community leaders who are experts on certain experiences and we value that resource."

The project team conducted a citywide heat analysis to develop the data-driven plan. The team isolated a weeklong period from the summer of 2019 to create models of daytime and nighttime air temperatures, heat event durations, and an urban heat island index, which reflects the impact of the built environment on heat. Pavement, roofing material, density and lack of green space and trees can all increase urban heat island effects.

The plan also looks at the impact of extreme heat on transit and energy infrastructure, like the warping of steel rail tracks, buckling of concrete and power outages.

The city is taking short-term steps to offer relief during heat waves, with a number of pilot projects including distributing popup cooling kits to organizations that host outdoor events during the summer and a cool roof grant program to help property owners learn about and install <u>cool roofs</u>.

"We are thinking about integrating heat resilience into major building projects, at the neighborhood level and district level, but also thinking about governance and implementation, like zoning laws, and about education and bringing climate into those conversations," Davis said.

"It is making sure Boston can thrive in the context of a changing climate."

– Meredith Gabrilska

Salem

City launches housing service to help tenants, landlords

Hoping to preserve housing stability in its neighborhoods, the city of Salem recently launched a service to help tenants and landlords navigate rental challenges before tenants face eviction and disputes wind up in court.

Partnering with the Essex County Bar Association, the city has created the <u>Salem Housing Stability Service</u> to help lower-income tenants and their landlords as they contend with the pandemic's fallout, rising housing costs, job insecurity and inflation. The service, which launched on March 23, includes a <u>website</u>, a telephone hotline and drop-in sessions with an attorney who can provide information about rental programs and other resources.

"We know that so many of our residents

COMMONWEALTH continued on 17

Around the Commonwealth

are struggling with

housing insecurity

challenges," said

Mayor Kimberley

Driscoll. "There's

tory, and what is

is very, very ex-

pensive. And with

some of the federal

just a lack of inven-

available for rentals

COMMONWEALTH

Continued from page 16



Kimberley Driscoll

subsidies that were in place during the pandemic — during the heart of the pandemic — beginning to run out, we wanted people to be armed with information, both tenants and landlords."

When residents struggle to pay rent, landlords struggle to pay their bills, for property taxes, building maintenance and other expenses. Officials said the problem has worsened over the past two years. Jane Guy, Salem's assistant community development director, said her staff were getting more calls from residents seeking assistance to avoid eviction or find housing.

"It's a bad situation for everybody," Guy said. "And a lot of people just don't know where to turn — tenants and landlords alike."

Through the new service, renters and landlords can attend in-person sessions staffed by an attorney at two alternating locations, four times a month, with assistance in English and Spanish. A live hotline is available during the in-person sessions, or a message can be left off hours. Given the sensitive nature of these landlord-tenant situations, all interactions are kept confidential.

The service provides information about rental assistance, past-due notices, the eviction process, eligibility for subsidized housing, apartment safety issues, and the proper handling of security deposits. The service doesn't provide legal advice or representation, just information and resources to help people to determine their next steps and avoid the courthouse when possible.

"We know that if you're struggling, obviously, to pay rent, there are also challenges around food and health and education supports," Driscoll said. "So if we can keep people stabilized within a housing environment, we think there are a lot of wins in our community overall."

To pay for the service, Salem is using \$30,000 from a Community Development Block Grant available through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. The money will fund Salem's contract with the Essex County Bar Association, as part of an open-ended arrangement to run the service until the funds are spent. Guy said she is hoping the money will last for at least a year, and officials said they hope to find ways to fund the service beyond that.

A recent housing production study helped give the city a better understanding of the challenges faced by tenants, Driscoll said, and the urgent need for this program.

"We wanted to get this up and running, and learn how it's working — what is working, what might not be working, and then go from there," Driscoll said. "But I do think that housing stability services are going to be needed beyond the life of this contract, and so we want to work to continue to refine it, and put us in a position to meet the needs of our community members."

– Jennifer Kavanaugh

Springfield

.....

City announces plans for opioid settlement funds

With more than \$7.2 million in opioid settlement money coming its way, the city of Springfield has announced several new initiatives to help first responders and city employees better address the public safety, medical and mental health problems caused by the opioid epidemic.

The city is receiving the funds through the <u>settlement agreement</u> that the Attorney General's Office helped secure from several of the nation's largest drug distributors for their roles in the opioid epidemic. Of the \$525 million the state is receiving, more than \$210 million will directly benefit municipalities.



Domenic Sarno

with community stakeholders and regional partners for years to address substance abuse and opioids, and officials developed their opioid settlement priorities based on that experience.

Springfield will

in installments

Mayor Domenic

announced more

said his adminis-

tration has worked

than a dozen uses

for the funds. Sarno

Sarno recently

receive its portion

through 2038, and

"A life saved is a success, and reducing our opioid-related deaths is the goal," Sarno said. "It is my hope that by investing in these initiatives and programs, we can successfully address this complex and complicated endeavor."

In this city of about 155,000 residents, opioid-related overdose deaths have nearly quadrupled recently, from 31 deaths in 2014 to 119 deaths in 2020, according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Officials cite numerous reasons for the increase, including the increased availability of the opioid drug fentanyl. Sarno said the pandemic has only exacerbated the challenges faced by people struggling with addiction.

Springfield had already undertaken measures to address the problem, including the opening of a needle exchange program, the creation of a regional collaboration with outside organizations to address substance abuse, and equipping first responders with the overdose-reversing drug Narcan. Fire Commissioner Bernard Calvi said the settlement money will help the city expand on this work.

"I think it will be a huge game changer in the public safety realm, between the Fire Department and the Springfield Police Department," Calvi said.

The Fire Department plans to boost its Narcan supply and buy two additional semi-automatic defibrillators, Calvi said. But mainly the money will help staff two full-time tactical EMS response vehicles,

COMMONWEALTH continued on 19

Nonprofit Locally based Member driven

Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association www.emiia.org | 800.374.4405

Serving Massachusetts' communities since 1982

IT groups are forums for information sharing

By Joyce McMahon

MIIA

Heightened awareness about IT security and the dangers of cyberthreats for municipal governments has prompted state and local governments to band together to discuss cybersecurity and share best practices.

Among the services offered by the <u>Office</u> of <u>Municipal and School Technology</u> in the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security is helping communities build networking groups so members can share best practices, hot points and needs, according to Municipal and School IT Manager Susan Noyes. These information-sharing spaces include regional IT director networking groups and the State and Local Information Exchange.

Regional networking groups

There are currently four regional IT director groups: North Shore, South Shore, Greater Metro Boston, and Western Massachusetts. There is no cost for a community to join. Each group has its own listserv, where members can post questions, inquire about vendors and products, and share information that may be useful to members.

Each group meets regularly, either virtually or in-person, and is invited to participate in quarterly meetings held with the MassCyberCenter and Homeland Security.



posture," or overall defense readiness against cyberattacks, Noyes said. They also discussed requirements for cyber insurance, noting that the requirements continue to evolve

group discussed community "cyber

Susan Noyes

each year.

Another recent discussion covered multi-factor authentication, or MFA, which was a condition for cyber insurance this year, Noyes said. Multi-factor authentication requires a user to provide two or more verification factors to gain access to a resource, such as an application or online account. Rather than just asking for a username and password, MFA requires one or more additional verification factors, such as a code sent by text or email, which decreases the likelihood of a cyber breach.

Noyes said many communities were caught off-guard by this new pre-requisite for cyber insurance.

"MFA often presents a challenge for smaller communities with simple environments and/or limited IT resources, as opposed to organizations with multiple vendors and more complex environments where a single solution isn't palatable," she said.

A lack of MFA, however, "leaves these communities without the ability to get cyber insurance, potentially making the effects of an attack even more devastating."

There are many two-factor authentication tools available, often at minimal cost, but there is no one-size-fits-all solution. The best bet is to consult with the municipal IT team in your community and/or one of the regional IT groups to identify the best option for your community.

Other topics recently discussed include cyber training, the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds for critical infrastructure, incident response planning, and establishing a minimum baseline for cybersecurity to help communities and schools be more prepared and avoid attacks.

Noyes said the regional IT groups help build the agendas for the meetings with the <u>MassCyberCenter</u> and Homeland Security.

"We want to be as helpful as we can be," she said. "They are on the ground, so their input into discussion topics is invaluable."

The regional IT groups have more than 100 members overall, and the number continues to grow, Noyes said. Munic-

■ IT SECURITY continued on 20

At a recent quarterly meeting, the

MIIA welcomes new medical, dental and vision members

MIIA is welcoming a number of communities and municipal organizations as new members to MIIA's <u>medical</u>, <u>vision and dental plans</u>.

MIIA looks forward to helping the new members manage their health insurance and workplace wellness environments, while providing access to an extensive network of hospitals, physicians and essential health care providers.

The new members are:

Medical: Brimfield, Harvard, Holden, Leicester, North Brookfield, Paxton, Winchester, and Wrentham

Dental: Ayer Shirley Regional School District, Berkley, Farmington River Regional School District, Freetown Lakeville Regional School District, Leicester, Littleton, Maynard, North Attleboro, Sherborn, and Townsend

Vision: Ayer Shirley Regional School District, Berkley, Brookfield, Farmington River Regional School District, Freetown Lakeville Regional School District, Leicester, Millbury, Nashoba Board of Health, North Attleboro, Sherborn, and Townsend

WLG to meet on June 23 to discuss interview process

Women Leading Government will hold a meeting titled "Owning the Interview Process" on June 23 at Hillview Golf Club in North Reading.

The day will open with a discussion of the book "<u>Huddle: How Women Un-</u> <u>lock Their Collective Power</u>" by Brooke Baldwin, led by Needham Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Southborough Assistant Town Manager Vanessa Hale.

A panel of town managers and human resource directors — including Brookline Town Administrator Mel Kleckner, Sandwich Town Manager Bud Dunham, Stow Assistant Town Administrator Dolores Hamilton, Rowley Town Administrator Deborah Eagan, and Westford Town Manager Jodi Ross — will share their experiences as hiring managers, focusing on why candidates move on in the job search process, and how candidates can be successful. They will also discuss recent trends in municipal hiring.

The panel will also engage in mock interviews with candidates. The interviews will be designed to show strengths and



HR professionals get law update

Attorney Liz Paris of Valerio, Dominello, & Hillman discusses recent trends in labor law and collective bargaining during the Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources annual HR 101 Boot Camp on May 12 in Wrentham.





Dolores Hamilton

Jodi Ross

weaknesses of candidates, prompting discussion between attendees and the panel.

All attendees will have the opportunity to practice their interviewing skills in small groups.

The meeting will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person, including lunch. Visit <u>www.mma.org</u> to register online.

Due to a recent rise in COVID-19 cases, attendees will be required to wear a facemask at this in-person meeting except when eating, drinking or presenting. On the day of the event, attendees must



Mel Kleckner

show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID (card, photo or QR code). (Religious or medical vaccine exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) These safety protocols are subject to change

based on the latest public health data and guidance.

Women Leading Government is an initiative of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association. Its mission is to encourage and support women in appointed staff positions in local government. Women working in any level of local government are encouraged to register for this event.

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

COMMONWEALTH

Continued from page 17

with two people per vehicle, to respond to calls in the busiest overdose areas, he said. Currently, the two units run only about 65% to 70% of the time, when staffing allows.

The Police Department plans to increase Narcan training for officers; provide training for early intervention strategies; purchase equipment and supplies for officers, including medical bags with tourniquet kits, automated external defibrillators, and Narcan pouches for officers; hire an additional crime analyst, to join the current dozen; and purchase software.

"We wanted to utilize these funds to increase the ability of our officers to rapidly and effectively respond to an opioid overdose," said Springfield Police Superintendent Cheryl Clapprood.

Other settlement funds will support the Department of Health and Human Services, with priorities that include improving relationships among providers, families and people in recovery to enhance information sharing and facilitate referrals; assessing the behavioral workforce to identify training needs, capacity and competency gaps; creating a real-time data collection system to provide updated information about available spots in detox services and residential settings; developing a community-wide opioid overdose response plan; and buying a specialized vehicle to enhance its opioid-related response.

In 2018, Springfield had filed a separate lawsuit against pharmaceutical manufacturers and distributors for their alleged role in the opioid epidemic, and that litigation is still pending. Sarno said that a favorable outcome for the city could provide Springfield with even more resources.

– Jennifer Kavanaugh

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.

IT SECURITY

Continued from page 18

ipalities and school districts aren't required to join their regional group, but Noyes said there are only benefits to doing so. Membership is also not limited to IT directors.

"Whoever is responsible in the community for IT is welcome to be part of a group," said Noyes. "Those with less IT experience, but who have managing technology as part of their work duties, have plenty to gain given the amount of free and valuable information that is shared."

Noyes said she welcomes inquiries from any community or school district about joining a group. She can be reached at susan.noyes@mass.gov.

Other state programs

Another opportunity to get and share information is the State and Local IT Information Exchange, a listserv offered by the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security. The statewide group is open to any municipal or school employee who is responsible for IT and may seek advice on several IT topics.

The competitive <u>Municipal Cyber-</u> <u>security Awareness Grant Program</u> helps local governments improve their cybersecurity through end-user training, evaluation and threat simulation. The program, including procurement and coordination, is managed by the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security, and Noyes is optimistic it will be offered again this fall.

Local governments can access basic cybersecurity evaluation services at no cost through the Office of Municipal and School Technology's <u>Cybersecurity Health Check Program</u>. These services can be a good first step in discovering, assessing and identifying cybersecurity gaps that could impact IT systems that support essential business functions.

For more information about the state programs, contact Noyes at susan.noyes@mass.gov.

Joyce McMahon is a freelance writer.

......

MMA-Suffolk programs update

On May 13 and 20, the MMA and Suffolk University graduated the 17th and 18th classes of the Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program.

More than 450 municipal officials have graduated from the Certificate program since its inception in 2011.

The Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management is a fivecourse, graduate-level program held over the course of 25 Fridays. The program is designed for municipal employees looking to further their careers in municipal management. Sample classes include budgeting, human resources management, and strategic leadership.

The application period ended April 30 for the certificate programs scheduled to begin this fall in Dartmouth and Grafton.

Information about the 2023-2024 programs will be available in the fall, and applications will be available on Feb. 1, 2023.

Municipal Finance Management 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 an in-depth examination of municipal finance, including the operational aspects of finance structure, systems and processes in Massachusetts cities and towns.

The application period for the fall 2022 session is open through July 31, and the application is available on the <u>MMA website</u>. The program will be held virtually on five Fridays beginning in mid-October.

The cost of the seminar is \$825.

Questions

For more information on any of the MMA-Suffolk programs, visit <u>mma.org/</u> <u>suffolk</u> or contact Katie McCue at 617-426-7272, ext. 111, or kmccue@mma. org. Any in-person Suffolk programs currently have a vaccination requirement.

– Katie McCue



On May 20, 26 students graduated from the Barnstable class of the 2021-2022 MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program, the program's 17th session.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Continued from page 2

My own thought is that local leaders and, by extension, local governments are inherently optimistic by nature and practice, and that our resilience flows from this belief that we can improve things and make a difference.

In her book, "You Can be an Optimist," Canadian writer and counselor Lucy MacDonald shares her view that "it's not that optimism solves all of life's problems; it's just that sometimes it can make the difference between coping and collapsing."

Building on the groundbreaking work of Milton Seligman, the father of positive psychology, whose research has demonstrated that helplessness and its opposite — optimism — are traits that are influenced by our genes *and* our experiences, MacDonald says that optimism can be learned and strengthened through intentional practice.

"Optimism is such a powerful tool because it gives you the confidence to handle both positive and negative events. It enables you to approach situations with assurance, persistence and an expectation of success. Being optimistic means that you have a natural aptitude for happiness, that you can manage your perspectives and that you take an active role in creating the life you want," she writes. "Optimists thrive on dealing with other people, and because they tend to be involved in so many different activities, they have ample opportunity to do so."

Noam Chomsky, one of the world's leading linguists and social scientists, underscores the value of optimism, saying that it "is a strategy for making a better future. Because unless you believe that the future can be better, you are unlikely to step up and take responsibility for making it so." That certainly sounds like an apt description of a mayor, councillor, select board member, town manager, and so many municipal workers who dedicate their careers to working with and serving the public.

And there is so much hard evidence that local officials are making a difference on the most troubling issues of our time.

Massachusetts is a national leader in stemming gun violence, primarily because of the Legislature's strong gun control laws, including the unique provision giving *local* police departments the decision-making power over gun license applications. Our state has the second-lowest rate of gun-related deaths in the country, at 3.7 per 100,000 residents, compared to 28.6 in Mississippi.

Cities and towns in every region of the state have been true leaders in fighting the largest pandemic of our lifetimes, saving countless lives through massive public health interventions to reduce community spread and illness, working with national, state and health care leaders to deliver vaccines and supplies to the most vulnerable among us, and transforming schools and municipal systems to continue operations as COVID continues its rampage.

Substance use disorder continues to plague too many households and neighborhoods, yet we know that community-based programs are saving lives. The recent \$525 million opioid settlement forged by Attorney General Maura Healey will provide \$210 million to our cities and towns, funding new and expanded programs for education, treatment and recovery programs in the years ahead. We know Healey was the all-star quarterback delivering this monumental win, yet there were more than 150 municipalities on the playing field as well, having joined in class action suits against the opioid manufacturers and distributors.

Addressing the systemic racism that pervades all parts of society is the most complex and deeply rooted problem of our time. Yet over the past two years, we have seen more and more communities engaging in open dialogue and taking concrete steps. Many have hired diversity, equity and inclusion officers. Internal systems are being examined, localities are introducing implicit bias training, and more than 150 local officials took part in the MMA's introductory racial equity training last summer, offered in partnership with the National League of Cities. The hill we must climb is very steep, but the journey has begun, and there is no going back.

And there are hundreds of examples of how local leaders succeed in making progress on dozens of issues every week, large and small, just by being in service to their neighbors and the community in general.

It is easy to be overwhelmed by all the pain around us. Yet focusing solely on the bad can have us lose perspective and dilute our sense of optimism that local government can — and does — do great and impactful work. Remembering these successes, and the countless ways that municipalities have touched and improved people's lives, is essential to fostering optimism and resilience. And optimism and resilience are what makes progress possible.

The Dalai Lama exhorts us to "choose to be optimistic — it feels better." This is sound advice for our individual happiness. And it is sound advice for our communities. It is only when we are optimistic that we can make a better future.

Even as we experience heartache and sorrow when reflecting on Uvalde and Buffalo, we can choose to be optimistic and thus contribute to healing and recovery, and move forward with purpose.

MunEnergy webinar covers energy costs, sustainability

The <u>MunEnergy program held a webinar</u> on <u>May 12</u> to provide timely information about energy costs and sustainability opportunities for cities and towns.

Local officials had the opportunity to learn about issues affecting energy costs, including summer weather and the crisis in Ukraine. Participants also heard about benefits of the MunEnergy program.

For 24 years, the MMA's MunEnergy pro-

gram has helped cities and towns manage energy costs through a program designed specifically for public entities.

For more information about the MMA's MunEnergy program, visit the program's <u>webpage</u> or contact Katie McCue at 617-426-7272, ext. 111, or kmccue@mma.org.

– Katie McCue



Bill Bartlett, Constellation's senior association manager for the Northeast, speaks during a May 12 MunEnergy webinar.

People



Thatcher Kezer

for the city of Framingham, from April 2018 through the end of 2021. Other previous roles include senior vice president at Devens, military legislative liaison officer for the Massachusetts National Guard, leader at NewDEAL, director of purchasing and contract administration for the city of Beverly, project director for the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition, and project director for Mass Insight. He also worked as a legislative analyst at the MMA from 1995 to 2000.

Kezer served for five years in the U.S. Air Force, and for more than three decades in the Massachusetts Air National Guard. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Salem State University.

In Marblehead, Kezer fills the role left vacant by the resignation of **Jason Silva** at the beginning of this year. Silva, who had served more than three years as administrator, is now the director of community engagement for Regina Villa Associates in Boston. John McGinn has been serving as the interim town administrator.



Thatcher Kezer will become the new town administrator in Marblehead on June 6.

Kezer was the mayor of Amesbury from 2006 to 2014, and most recently worked as the chief operating officer

He also served for 11 years on the Melrose Zoning Board of Appeals.

Slagle earned a bachelor's degree in history and religion from the College of William & Mary, and a law degree from Northeastern University.

In Townsend, Slagle replaces James **Kreidler**, who left last year after more than five years in the role. **Ross Perry** had been serving as the interim administrator.

Heather Munroe became the new town administrator in Paxton on May 9.

Munroe served for almost two years as the director of senior services in Wellesley, and was a staff consultant for the Council on Aging for several months before that. She served as interim town administrator in Barre for several months in 2020, as town administrator in Ashburnham from 2016 to 2019, as town administrator in Southampton from 2014 to 2016, and as an assistant city clerk in Haverhill from 2011 to 2014. She has also held a number of volunteer positions, and currently serves on the Hubbardston Select Board.

She earned a bachelor's degree in political science and justice studies at the University of New Hampshire, and a law degree at the Massachusetts School of Law.

In Paxton, Munroe replaces Carol Riches, who retired recently after 11 years in the role. Riches worked for the town for more than two decades, having started as an administrative assistant.

Gabriela "Gigi"

newest member

City Council, after

winning a May 3

fill the District 1

seat representing

Boston's

special election to

of the Boston

Coletta was sworn

in on May 18 as the



Eric Slagle

Eric Slagle became the new town administrator in Townsend on May 16.

Previously, Slagle served for more than nine years as director of development services in Lowell, and more than seven

years as Lowell's assistant city solicitor. Before entering the municipal field, he had worked for two years as an associate at KP | Law, and for five years at banks as a customer service representative and an assistant branch manager.

Gabriela Coletta

East Boston, Charlestown, and the North End neighborhoods. Coletta fills the seat left open by Lydia Edwards, who was elected to the Massachusetts Senate in January to represent the First Suffolk and Middlesex District. Previously, Coletta had served as

Edwards' chief of staff.



Jennifer Raitt

Jennifer Raitt will become the new executive director of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments on July 11.

For the past six years, Raitt has been director of planning and community development in

Arlington. Previously, she spent nine years at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council in various planning roles. She has also taught in the Urban Affairs and City Planning Program at Boston University's Metropolitan College, served on Boston's Housing Task Force, was executive director of the North Shore Housing Trust, and worked as the community development director in Amesbury.

In January, Raitt published an article, "Ending Zoning's Racist Legacy," in Zoning Practice, a publication of the American Planning Association. Her last day in Arlington is June 3.



Lisa Stevens-Goodnight

Lisa Stevens-**Goodnight** joined the MMA on June 1 as the new tobacco control director.

Stevens-Goodnight brings both legal and political experience. Her legal background includes work as a contracting attorney for the firm of Segadelli

Hoogendoorn and internships with the Committee for Public Counsel Services, the Massachusetts Attorney General's Civil Rights Division, Hedges & Tumposky LLP, and NuLawLab in Boston.

She has also worked on the campaigns of several political candidates, and as the deputy field director for the Committee to Ensure Safe Patient Care. She was a field organizer for the Service Employees

People

PEOPLE

Continued from page 22

International Union and state field director for the Tennessee Fair Share/Work for Progress campaign.

She earned a bachelor's degree in economics and history from the University of Vermont and a law degree from Northeastern University.



D.J. Wilson

provided technical and legal assistance to municipalities on various aspects of tobacco control, including enforcement issues; testified at public hearings about tobacco control measures; and served on the policy committee at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Before joining the MMA, Wilson worked as an associate at an intellectual property law firm. He earned a bachelor's degree in human services and a master's degree in public administration, both from Northeastern University, and law degree

Throughout the month of June, Stevens-Goodnight will be working with the outgoing tobacco control director, **D.J. Wilson**, who is retiring after 28 years with the organization. During his time at the MMA, Wilson has from the New England School of Law.

The MMA's tobacco control director position is contracted through the Department of Public Health.



Gina Letellier

A lifelong Agawam resident, Letellier had served on the council for 25 years, and was council

Longtime Agawam

Councillor Gina

Letellier died on

May 10 at age 55

after a long battle

with cancer.

president from 1999 to 2010. She was also an attorney who practiced family law, with degrees from Western New England University School of Law and Trinity College in Hartford. She also devoted time to numerous civic organizations, including the Agawam Rotary Club, the Massachusetts Justice Project, and Habitat for Humanity.

David Stevens, who served for almost three decades as executive director of the Massachusetts Councils on Aging, died on April 28 at age 67 after a short battle with cancer.

Stevens served at the MCOA from 1994 until just recently, leading the



David Stevens

organization's advocacy for older adults and aging programs in the state. Before joining MCOA, he had also worked for Families USA and for Greater Springfield Senior Services. He had also volunteered for numerous

city committees in Northampton and was involved in numerous regional and statewide boards and committees, including the Board of Trustees of Cooley Dickinson Health Care, the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative, the Massachusetts LGBT Aging Commission, and the MMA Human Services Council.

Stevens received several honors in recognition of his service, including a Trailblazer in Aging Award from the National Institute of Senior Centers and the National Council on Aging, and the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Massachusetts Councils on Aging.

This monthly column highlights transitions, accomplishments and awards, and life events of municipal officials. To submit information for People, contact MMA Associate Editor Jennifer Kavanaugh at 800-882-1498 or jkavanaugh@mma.org.

Towns choose new select board members in spring elections

The following are new select board members elected in annual town elections from April 23 through May 19.

This listing is meant to highlight first-time select board members, but it's possible that some listed here are returning to their board after an absence. If we are missing a new member, let us know by emailing newselectboard@mma.org.

Ashby: Mary Calandrella Bernardston: Ken Bordewieck Bellingham: Sahan Sahin Bolton: Emily Winner Bourne: Melissa Ann Ferretti Brookline: Mike Sandman Buckland: Lawrence Wells Colrain: Benjamin Eastman Cummington: June Lynds Deerfield: Timothy Hilchey Dennis: James Plath Dracut: Jennifer Kopcinski Foxborough: Dennis Keefe Georgetown: Daryle LaMonica **Granby:** Crystal Dufresne **Groveland:** Mark Parenteau Hadley: Randall Izer Hawley: Williams Cosby Holden: Stephanie Mulroy Kingston: Tyler Bouchard Leverett: Patricia Duffy Littleton: Mark Rambacher, Gary Wilson Mansfield: Diana Bren Marshfield: Lynne Fidler Millis: Ellen Rosenfeld Milton: Erin Bradley, Roxanne Musto Monterey: Susan Cooper New Braintree: Michael McQueston Newbury: Dana Packer New Marlborough: Daniel Alden New Salem: Carl Seppala Northborough: Mitch Cohen

Norton: Kevin Snyder and Steven Hornsby **Paxton:** Carol Riches Pepperell: Charles Walkovich **Plainfield:** Benjamin Gillett **Princeton:** Robert Cumming Rutland: Tom Galvin Salisbury: Michael Colburn Shrewsbury: Michelle Conlin Sterling: David Smith Sunderland: Nathaniel Waring Swampscott: Mary Ellen Fletcher, Catherine Phelan Topsfield: Rafael McDonald Townsend: Theresa Morse Wareham: Ron Besse, Jared Chadwick, Tricia Wurts Wellfleet: Barbara Carboni Westminster: Melissa Urban Banks West Stockbridge: Andy Potter Westwood: Marianne LeBlanc Cummings Williamstown: Randal Fippinger Yarmouth: Dorcas McGurrin

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant Treasurer Town of Rockland

The town of Rockland is seeking team oriented and highly motivated candidates for Assistant Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer, under the direction of the elected Town Treasurer, is responsible for the dayto-day responsibilities in the office including, but not limited to, processing weekly payroll through Harpers Payroll, billing, reconciliation and maintaining payroll records. Must have excellent customer service, multitasking, problem solving and time management skills. Full-time salaried position with excellent benefits including BCBSMA health insurance with the town contribution of 79% of the premium and 50% of the dental premium. Work extended hours two Tuesday nights/month Sept.-June and Fridays off in July and August. AFSCME Clerical Union, Grade 5, starting hourly rate \$22.53/hour, 35 hrs/ week. Increases to \$24.56/hour on July 1. Full job description and application can be found online at rockland-ma.gov. Letter of interest, resume and application should be emailed to scallahan@rocklandma.gov.

Part-Time Administrative Assistant Swampscott Contributory Retirement Board

The Swampscott Retirement Board seeks applications for an Administrative Assistant to support the Retirement Administrator. Duties include but are not limited to retirement benefit administration, records maintenance, and communicating information to retirees and members. Preferred candidates shall have Mass. municipal experience and familiarity with PTG retirement software. Benefitted position will work 20 hours/wk. Salary range: commensurate with experience. Please send cover letter and resume to: Swampscott Contributory Retirement Board, c/o Nancy Lord, Retirement Administrator, 22 Monument Ave., Swampscott, MA 01907 or via email at nlord@ swampscottma.gov. Full job description at www. swampscottretirement.com. Position open until filled

Superintendent of Building and Grounds - DPW

City of Chelsea

Responsible for direct hands-on project management of design architects, design engineers, contractors, subcontractors and municipal workforce associates with alterations in municipal buildings, parks and grounds. Immediate supervisor to buildings and grounds employees, responsible for creating work assignments for labor force and tracking through completion. Responsible for the maintenance and repairs. Develop architectural and engineering drawings; coordinate construction projects; responsible for estimating project budgets; to draw scale floor plans; develop and maintain as-built filing systems; ensures adequate operating supplies are in stock for maintenance. Responsible for the preparation and management of the operating and capital budgets for the division. www.chelseama.gov/ human-resources/blog/superintendent-buildingsgrounds. EEO

Town Counsel Town of Milford

The town of Milford is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Town Counsel. Salary range is \$113,515 to \$153,245, depending upon experience. Under the administrative direction of the Select Board, the Town Counsel is a senior level professional position responsible for providing legal services and activities for the town. The position prepares and presents legal papers and reports, motions, deeds and agreements; assists in the development of all town legislative and policy initiatives; investigates, settles and tries personal injury and property damage claims and all other civil matters, including jury trials; represents the town's interests before a variety of boards and agencies; prepares information and materials for the presentation and processing of court cases; and attends and provides legal advice at all town meetings, most select board and school committee meetings, and other town boards and committee meetings. Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree and a juris doctor degree, admission to the Massachusetts Bar; a minimum of five years of progressively responsible legal experience, including municipal law experience, the majority of which is in Massachusetts with jury and jury waived trial experience; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential functions of the position. Interested applicants must obtain the job description from the town website at www.milfordma.gov or from Select Board's Office, 52 Main St., Room 11, Milford, MA 01757. Complete application packet can be emailed to the Town Administrator at rvillani@townofmilford. com or returned to the Select Board's Office. Deadline is June 15.

Bookkeeper

Town of Wilton, New Hampshire

Seeking qualified applicants to fill the position of nonexempt, full-time Bookkeeper. Starting hourly range \$22-\$32; 457b retirement plan and health/dental insurance. Responsibilities: creating financial reports, payroll, AP/AR, cash-flow analyses, working with the TA, town officials, department heads and contractors on budgetary issues. Ability to apply knowledge of GAAP, GASB, federal and state regulations, and town ordinances as they pertain to local government accounting and financial reporting. At least three years experience in municipal finance, associate's or bachelor's degree in accounting or business administration and experience with BMSI Financial Software desirable. Submit cover letter and resume to TA at wiltonta@wiltonnh.gov.Full job description and town application: www.wiltonnh.gov/government/ departments/human_resources.

Director of Assessing Town of Rockland

The Rockland Board of Assessor's is seeking highly qualified team-oriented candidates for the position of Director of Assessing. The Director of Assessing is responsible for the valuation and taxation of real and personal property within the town of Rockland in accordance with state requirements. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in business or related field and minimum five years of experience in assessing real estate taxation preferred which at least three years were in an administrative or supervisory position or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Massachusetts Accredited Assessor (MAA) professional designation or its equivalent. Full-time, excellent benefits including BCBSMA town contribution of 79% of the premium and 50% of the dental premium. Works extended hours two Tuesday nights/month Sept.-June and Fridays off in July and August. Salary DOQ and relevant experience. Full job description, employment application and instructions for applying can be found at <u>rockland-ma.gov</u>. Application, resume and letter of interest should be emailed to scallahan@rockland-ma.gov. Position open until filled.

CLASSIFIEDS continued on 25

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 <u>www.mma.org</u>, 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.

Summer Beacon

Deadline: July 12 Publication: July 19

September Beacon

Deadline: August 26 Publication: September 1

Placing an ad

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

For more information, call Meredith Gabrilska 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 <u>www.mma.org</u> for details.

CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from page 24

Sewer Superintendent Town of Rockland

The town of Rockland is seeking experienced and motivated applicants for the Sewer Superintendent position which is under the direction of the town elected Board of Sewer Commissioners. The Superintendent is responsible for the planning, budgets, organization, direction, management of the operations and activities for the towns' 2.5 MGD, Grade 7 treatment plant, collection and storage system. This position will ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state mandates and regulations as well as exercise direct authority over all plant staff, including outside contractors in accordance with all town policies and procedures. This position is benefit eligible full-time, 40 hours per week, and on call 24/7 for emergencies. The full job description can be found online at <u>www.rockland-ma.gov</u>. Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, resume and application to Human Resources, scallahan@ rockland-ma.gov. Starting minimum salary \$88,000 or DOQ.

Building Inspector/Zoning Agent Town of Somerset

The town of Somerset is seeking applications for a Building Inspector/Zoning Agent to enforce the state building code and local zoning bylaws. Experience in supervision of building construction. Must possess and maintain a Construction Supervisor's License, state certification as a Building Inspector/ Commissioner in accordance with M.G.L Chapter 143 and 780CMR 110.R7 and a valid class D motor vehicle operator's license with a clean driving record. Experience in zoning enforcement is highly desirable. Full job description and application available at the Town Office. Applications should be submitted to the office of the Town Administrator at nfournier@town. somerset.ma.us. Position is open until filled. The town of Somerset is an affirmative action equal opportunity employer.

Assistant Finance Director/Assistant Town Accountant Town of Hudson

The town of Hudson is seeking a qualified candidate for the Assistant Finance Director/Assistant Town Accountant position. Responsible for the accounting of appropriations, expenditures, receipts, and general ledger entries. Under the direction of the Finance Director reconciles cash and receivables and assists in compiling data for state and federal reports as well as the town's audits. Replaces Finance Director/Town Accountant in their absence. Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree in finance or business-related field; five years' experience in municipal finance, business or related field with two years in a supervisory capacity; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Knowledge of Mass. laws pertaining to municipal finance and financial software highly desirable but will train; ability to grasp new concepts as they relate to Massachusetts General Laws, town policies and bylaws and other federal and/or state regulations; experience with computerized financial systems and strong Excel spreadsheet skills required. Strong communication skills and ability to work collaboratively with town departments, boards and committees and auditors. This is a full-time, benefiteligible, non-union position; the current salary range for this position is \$55,994-\$73,683 DOQ (\$57,114-\$75,157 effective July 1). Please email a resume and cover letter to Patricia E. Fay at pfay@townofhudson. org. Position open until filled. EOE/AA.

Deputy Assessor Town of Winthrop

This role performs professional, supervisory and technical work relating to managing the assessment and appraisal function for the town of Winthrop; including establishing property valuations, preparing tax rates with accompanying schedules and taxable property inventory lists, defending assessments, maintaining and enhancing the town's land based records, providing appraisal support to the Board of Assessors, in accordance with state and local statute and regulations and policies of the Board of Assessors. Performs all other duties as assigned. Administers the ad valorem tax system. Oversees measurements, listings and establishes valuations for all property both real and personal within the town. Conducts physical inspections of properties. Implements effective operation of a town-wide property appraisal system; assess value of property; keeps abreast of all new laws pertaining to real estate, personal property, motor vehicle excise and assessing procedures. Researches by performing property inspections; market, cost and income analysis; reviews value on real and personal property to determine assessment using complex internal assessment methods; reviews application for abatements and exemptions. For an application and more detailed job description please go to www. town.winthrop.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif4061/f/ pages/deputy_assessor_post_2022.pdf. Interested candidates can download an application off our website at www.town.winthrop.ma.us. Completed applications must be submitted to Stacy Calla, Human Resources, Town Hall One Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA 02152 or resumes can be emailed to smcalla@ town.winthrop.ma.us (all applications sent via email must have the position title in the subject line).

Chief Financial Officer Town of Winthrop

Under general direction of the Town Manager, plans, organizes, directs and controls the operations and activities of the Department of Finance, including accounting, collections, treasury, assessing, purchasing, accounts payable and payroll. Plans, administers, directs all operations of the Department of Finance; establishes departmental policies and procedures based on needs of the town, requirements of law and best practices; consults with Town Manager on major changes. Develops and implements departmental goals and priorities in response to needs of the town and department; evaluates departmental needs and formulates long and short-range plans to meet needs; evaluates effectiveness of programs and adjusts as necessary. Regularly reviews and analyzes town's fiscal condition, including fund balances and reserves, and prepares reports on the same for town manager, Town Council and Finance Committee. Prepares quarterly reports on revenues and expenditures. Salary range \$110,000-\$130,000 annual salary, DOQ. For an application and more detailed job description please go to www.town.winthrop.ma.us/ sites/g/files/vyhlif4061/f/pages/cfo_post_2022. <u>pdf</u>. Completed applications must be submitted to Stacy Calla, Human Resources, Town Hall One Metcalf Square, Winthrop, MA 02152 or resumes can be emailed to smcalla@town.winthrop.ma.us (all

.....

applications sent via email must have the position title in the subject line).

Assistant Assessor and Data Collector Town of Groton

The town of Groton is looking for a 40 hour/week Assistant Assessor and Data Collector. The Assistant Assessor and Data Collector appraises all real property in Groton; performs field measurements and inspections of residential and commercial buildings, including but not limited to, new and incomplete construction, additions, alterations and demolition. Inspects land and land uses changes, deed transfers and subdivision changes; notes all technical aspects of property construction and location. Determines market values of property by using appropriate appraisal techniques; conducts research of real property when necessary. Assists in preparation and defense of values for cases before the Appellate Tax Board. Receives and maintains building permits for inspection purposes, and enters information on property records. Processes various types of forms, applications, reports and other types of information; organizes paperwork, makes copies, and distributes various reports and materials; may prepare materials for meetings. All other duties as assigned. This position requires a high school diploma or equivalent. An associate's degree and/or coursework in the following are preferred: business, finance and property assessment and/or a minimum of one to three years experience working as an appraiser. Several years of experience in an office environment with diverse responsibilities; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Valid driver's license is required. Must obtain a Massachusetts Association of Assessors (MAA) certification within 24 months of appointment; certification must be maintained throughout appointment. To apply, please send a cover letter and resume by mail to Human Resources Director, Town Hall, 173 Main St., Groton, MA 01450 or by email to humanresources@grotonma. gov. The hourly range is \$28.28-\$35.23 based on experience. For questions, please call 978-448-1145. Job description is available by request. Deadline for applications: June 3. The town of Groton is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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 (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 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

CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from page 25

(P.O. Box 759), Dayville, CT 06241 by 12 p.m. on June 13. EOE/AA/Employer.

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and School Committee Swampscott Public Schools

The Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and School Committee is a confidential position, which performs a wide variety of administrative support to the Superintendent of Schools, the School Committee and Subcommittees, and the District Office. For a full job description email: hr@swampscott.k12. ma.us. Minimum Qualifications: Associate's degree or related field and three years of administrative experience; municipal experience preferred. Advanced with computers. Successful completion of a criminal record check and fingerprinting. Demonstrate clear and concise written skills. Familiarize themselves with Open Meeting Law minutes/open meeting record taking. Citizenship, residency, or work visa required. Salary: starting at \$70,000. Send resume, cover letter, references to: hr@swampcott.k12.ma.us.

Human Resources Director Town of Falmouth

The town of Falmouth is currently recruiting for an HR Director. Responsible for all HR functions, including but not limited to recruitment, implementation of policies, administration of benefit plans, legal compliance, training, employee relations and administration of labor contracts. Serves as the town's primary resource on human resources and employment law matters and provides technical assistance to departments in all areas of human resources practices. Recruits and screens job applicants; interviews and makes recommendations to departments; assesses training needs and develops programs for all employees. Writes job descriptions for new positions; determines classification. Administers collective bargaining agreements; responds to requests for interpretation of contracts from departmental personnel; responds to grievances; serves as contact for labor counsel; participates as a member of the management negotiating committee; participates in arbitration hearings and hearings related to labor issues. Establishes and maintains positive employee relations; assists the Town Manager with employeerelated issues and provides resources, as requested. Develops and implements personnel policies and procedures, ensuring consistent interpretation and application; recommends and drafts new and revised collective bargaining language and assists supervisory staff in appropriate application of procedures. Oversees administration of town employee and retiree group benefit programs. Develops, defends and administers department budget and town-wide benefit and training budgets. Bachelor's degree in human resources, public administration, business administration or a related field; master's or juris doctor degree preferred; seven years of increasingly responsible professional experience in human resources administration; municipal experience preferred; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. The salary range for this position is \$82,118.40-\$107,182.40/annually. Full job description, employment application and instructions for applying can be found at Falmouth Job **Opportunities**. Preference Date: June 14. The town of Falmouth is proud to be an EEO/AA employer.

Finance Director/Town Accountant Town of Harwich

The town of Harwich is seeking applications for the position of Finance Director/Town Accountant. This senior management position oversees the finance division including the accounting, treasurer/collector, and assessing departments. Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business or public administration and five years of progressively responsible municipal finance experience required. Offering an attractive benefit package and compensation commensurate with qualifications and experience anticipated in the \$125,000-\$140,000 range. Submit cover letter, resume and town application to: Administration Office, 732 Main St., Harwich, MA 02645 or email to Assistant Town Administrator, Meggan Eldredge at meldredge@ town.harwich.ma.us. Application and full job description at www.harwich-ma.gov. EOE. Position is open until filled.

Housing Advocate Town of Harwich

The town of Harwich is accepting applications for a Housing Advocate. Position supports housing related services for various departments and committees. Responsibilities include promoting housing assistance educational programs, collaborating with local housing organizations. Maintains the Subsidized Housing Inventory and communicates with the Mass. Department of Housing and Community Development. Full-time, with benefits. \$70,538/year. Associate's degree in government, municipal planning, business or related field and one to three years' experience required. Submit cover letter, resume and town application to the Administration Office, 732 Main St., Harwich, MA 02645 or email to meldredge@ town.harwich.ma.us. Job description and application at <u>www.harwich-ma.gov</u>. Open until filled. EOE

Director of Cultural Affairs Town of Harwich

The town of Harwich is accepting applications for Director of Cultural Affairs. Incumbent responsible for developing and implementing cultural affairs policies and procedures, grant writing and operation of cultural programming. Bachelor's degree in arts management, business administration or related field required. Strong communication and writing skills and knowledge of social media platforms preferred. Applicant must be able to work independently. Cover letter, resume and town application must be submitted to the Administration Office, 732 Main St., Harwich, MA 02645 or emailed to the Assistant Town Administrator, Meggan Eldredge at meldredge@town. harwich.ma.us. Job description and application at www.harwich-ma.gov. Position open until filled. EOE

Computer Coordinator/IT Director Town of Harwich

The town of Harwich is accepting applications for the position of Computer Coordinator. This position acts as the department head supporting all technology needs of the town including set up and maintenance of personnel work stations, server updates and maintenance, deploying and configuring new equipment. Responsible for analyzing current and future technology needs and working closely with all departments to support hardware and software needs. Full-time with benefits, salary range \$82,977-\$103,503 annually. Submit town application, cover letter and resume to Administration, 732 Main St., Harwich, MA 02645 or meldredge@town.harwich.

ma.us. Job description and application are available at <u>www.harwich-ma.gov</u>. Position open until filled. EOE

Assessing Director

Town of Harwich

The town of Harwich is accepting applications for the position of Assessing Director. Essential functions of this position include managing staff, appraisal of property, coordinating revaluation, certifying assessments, reviewing deeds and surveys for quality control. Bachelor's degree and three years experience in municipal assessing preferred. Massachusetts Accredited Assessor status required. Full-time position with attractive benefits package with a salary range of \$82,977-\$103,503 annually. Send cover letter, resume and town application to Administration, 732 Main St., Harwich, MA 02645 or email to melderdege@ town.harwich.ma.us. Full job description and town application are located on our website: <u>www.harwich-ma.gov</u>. Position is open until filled. EOE

Firefighter/Paramedic Town of Wayland

Union/Grade: International Association of Firefighters/F-1E. Salary Range: \$59,573-\$65,546. Date posted: May 17. Closing date: Open until filled. Description of position: Professional, operational and technical work associated with combating, extinguishing and preventing fires; professional, administrative, and technical work associated with services as an Emergency Medical Technician; professional work associated with rescue operations; all other related work as required. The schedule of work is rotating 24-hour shifts that result in an average 42-hour workweek over an eight-week cycle. Recommended Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma. A degree or courses in fire service related subjects are highly desirable. A fire science degree is preferred. Experience: Experience as a call firefighter, medical technician or dispatcher working in a fire-emergency service environment is preferred. Licenses/Certificates: Prior to date of hire shall possess and subsequently maintain during employment: valid Massachusetts Emergency Medical Technicians License; valid Massachusetts driver's license. Consideration given in the following order: current Massachusetts Paramedic certification and having graduated the full-time Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Recruit Program; and/or current Massachusetts Paramedic certification, and as a condition of employment, complete the full-time Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Recruit Program within one year of hire; enrolled in a Paramedic Program to be complete within one year of hire, be certified to the Paramedic level, and as a condition of employment, complete the full-time Massachusetts Firefighting Academy program within one year of hire; and/or basic EMT certification, complete the full-time Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Recruit program within one year of hire, and be certified as a Paramedic within two years following the current collective bargaining agreement process. Apply to: Human Resources Manager, Town of Wayland, 41 Cochituate Road, Wayland, MA 01778 or hr@wayland.ma.us. The town of Wayland is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Assessing Data Manager City of Chelsea

Position summary: This position works with the Assistant Assessor and other office staff in all aspects of the Assessing Department, to include

CLASSIFIEDS continued on 27

26 • The Beacon • June 2022

CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from page 26

administrative, assessing and valuation tasks. Operates within the policies and objectives of the city to perform field reviews, mapping changes, and other analytical and administrative functions. It involves support to achieve valuation equity and classification of all properties. Assists with in-house revaluation and certification programs required by the Department of Revenue. Responsible for sales review, building permit inspections, general data collection and all other tasks required under the supervision of the Director of Assessing. EEO. Visit: www.chelseama.gov/humanresources/blog/assessing-data-manager.

Finance Director City of Greenfield

Responsible for administrative, supervisory, technical and professional work in planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, monitoring and supervising all the municipal financial management operations for the city including the Treasurer/Collector, accounting, procurement and assessing divisions; for development of financial policies and practices as set forth in Charter Section 6-3 and the General Laws; for maintenance of municipal accounting systems, for financial reporting, for central procurement system; and for compliance with all legal and contractual obligations; all other work as required that is logical to the position. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in public or business administration, finance, accounting or closely related field; five years of progressively responsible experience in public or municipal finance, three years in a management capacity (experience may be concurrent); strong public administration background highly desirable; master's degree preferred; or, a any combination of education and experience that enables performance of all aspects of the position. Position description and employment application available at: www.greenfield-ma.gov or Human Resources, City Hall, 14 Court Sq., Greenfield, MA 01301. Please mail your application to the address above or via email to: h.r@greenfield-ma.gov. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. No phone calls please. EOE

Building Inspector Town of Great Barrington

The town of Great Barrington is seeking a full-time Building Inspector. The position is responsible for daily administrative, technical, and fieldwork related to the inspection and, if necessary, enforcement of local and state building codes and zoning bylaws. Applicants are required to have excellent written and verbal communication skills, a reliable vehicle, and Class D Driver's License in good standing. Preferred qualifications include; state certification as a local building inspector or a certified building official; five years of experience in building construction or design supervision; either a bachelor's in a building-related field or an associate with additional field experience. A full job description is available at www.townofgb. org. The salary ranges between \$50,000-\$60,000 depending on experience and qualifications, with room for advancement. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled, with priority given to those submitted before the end of day on Friday, June 3.

Town Manager Town of Wells, Maine

The town of Wells, "The Friendliest Town in Maine" is accepting applications for the position of Town Manager. Located in southern Maine, Wells boasts a majestic shoreline bordering the mighty Atlantic Ocean with seven miles of sandy beaches and rocky promontories. This rural, small-town Maine community is not just a wonderful vacation destination, it is also home to thousands of year-round residents and where you will find a strong sense of community wherever you go, and an outstanding school system. Wells operates under a Select Board/ Town Manager/Town Meeting form of government. It has a year round population of 11,314 which can increase to 40,000 in the summer and fall. It has 100 full-time staff, 150 part-time/seasonal staff, and an annual budget of \$15.2M not including schools. The ideal candidate will be a demonstrated and dynamic leader who is forward-thinking, fair-minded, transparent, thinks outside the box, plans for the long term, and can lead the community; an effective and experienced manager from an environment of similar complexity with proven organizational and professional skills; possess strong skills in finance, human resources, employee relations and unions, planning, and community and economic development; be able to listen, engage, understand, and sustain relationships with all stakeholders (public and private partnerships); articulate clearly achievable goals to staff, and provide tools and resources to achieve the goals, and expects accountability; have experience working in a community with large seasonal population fluctuations and service requirements; be a person of unquestionable ethics and integrity, committed to the standards for municipal management professionals specified by the ICMA: have strong written, verbal, and public presentation skills and be able to promote the town in a variety of communications; be willing to engage and become part of the fabric of the community. The chosen applicant may reside outside of the town with approval of the Select Board. Candidates should possess a minimum of five years of demonstrated executive municipal experience as a manager or similar related private business experience, and a bachelor's degree in public or business administration or a closely related field. Salary range is \$110,000 to \$130,000 and will be determined based on experience and qualifications. Applicants must submit cover letter, resume, salary requirements and five references by Wednesday, June 15 to: Wells Town Manager Search, Don Gerrish, Eaton Peabody, 77 Sewall St., Suite 3000, Augusta, ME 04330; dgerrish@eatonpeabody.com; 207-622-9820. For more information about the town of Wells, please go to <u>www.wellstown.org</u>. The town of Wells is an ÊOE.

Wastewater Treatment Maintenance Mechanic

Charles River Pollution Control District The Charles River Pollution Control District, a medium-sized, advanced wastewater treatment facility, is seeking a candidate for the position of Maintenance Mechanic. Duties include but are not limited to: equipment troubleshooting or repair, performing preventative maintenance tasks, maintaining inventory of parts, cleaning offline process tanks, grounds and building maintenance including snow removal and other tasks that may be

needed to be completed to maintain the operation of the treatment plant. The candidate shall have the ability to: maintain and repair equipment with a strong mechanical aptitude; work well in a teamoriented environment while also being able to work independently; be safety conscious; use a computer to order parts, use the maintenance software, etc.; understand/execute written and oral instructions, read/understand technical instructions and manuals; operate specialty tools specific to Departmental needs and requirements, after receiving training. Valid driver's license required. No wastewater experience needed, training will be provided. Hourly rate ranges from \$18/hour-\$29/hour and will be based upon experience and qualifications. Competitive benefits are offered which includes the Norfolk County Retirement System. Please send a cover letter and resume to Janice Healy, Charles River Pollution Control District, 66 Village St., Medway, MA 02053 or jhealy@ charlesriverpcd.org.

Assessing Director Town of Harwich

The town of Harwich is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Assessing Director. The Assessing Director reports to the Finance Director and the Board of Assessors, is responsible for preparing the annual real estate, personal property and excise tax rolls, and coordinating with revaluation contractors. Bachelor's degree and three years experience along with accreditation as a Massachusetts Assessor required. Salary range \$82,977-\$103,503 annually. To apply, please submit a cover letter, town employment application and resume to the Administration Office, 732 Main St., Harwich, MA 02645 or email to meldredge@town.harwich.ma.us. Full job description at <u>www.harwich-ma.gov</u>.

Conservation Agent Town of Sterling

The town of Sterling (population appx. 8,200) is seeking a part-time Conservation Agent. This position performs the administration and enforcement of the Wetlands Protection Act and the town's wetlands bylaw. Performs professional, administrative, and technical work which includes review of applications to the Conservation Commission, review of wetlands delineations and interacting with other town officials on projects involving wetlands. Performs all other related work as required. Bachelor's degree in biology, ecology, natural resource management, or related field; three to five years of related experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Must possess a valid driver's license. Working knowledge of Wetlands Protection Act and state DEP regulations, policies, wetland bylaws, and regulations. Knowledge of the applicable provision of Massachusetts General Laws concerning Conservation Commission operations. Knowledge of hydrology and stormwater issues and familiarity with wetland plants, soils, and erosion control techniques. Knowledge of the principles of land protection and management. For a full job description please go to <u>www.sterling-ma.</u> gov. Please submit a cover letter and resume to Town Administrator, 1 Park St., Sterling, MA 01564. Priority Deadline: June 24. Sterling is an EOE/AA employer.

Town Planner

Town of Sterling The town of Sterling (population appx. 8,200) is

CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from page 27

seeking a full-time Town Planner. The Planner should be a subject matter expert in potential land use concept, ideas, and plans, providing professional, management, and technical work assisting a wide range of town boards/committees/departments with all aspects of land use planning including zoning, site plan, growth management and subdivision matters as delineated by state statute, local bylaws, local subdivision rules and regulations. Qualifications for this position: a bachelors' degree in planning or a related planning field or a master's degree in planning or a related field plus five to seven years' experience in municipal or regional planning or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience are required. AICP Certification is preferred. Valid driver's license; must be able to drive a motor vehicle. Excellent knowledge and understanding of local and state regulations, MGL, subdivision rules and regulations, the zoning act, town bylaws, the ANR handbook, municipal planning and subdivision legislation, open meeting law and robert's rules. For a full job description please go to <u>www.sterling-ma.gov</u>. Please submit a cover letter and resume to the Town Administrator, 1 Park St., Sterling, MA 01564. Priority Deadline: June 24. Sterling is an EOE/AA employer.

Director of Public Health City of Gloucester

The city of Gloucester has an exciting opportunity for a qualified and motivated person to lead its Health Department as its Director of Public Health. The position of Director of Public Health offers the right candidate the opportunity to lead a team of progressive public health professionals and engage community partners in programs that improve the health and well-being of residents and visitors to our community. For a full job description visit: www.gloucester-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/ View/7632/Director-of-Public-Health. Candidates should submit a resume and <u>application</u> to: City of Gloucester, Human Resources Department, 9 Dale Ave., Gloucester, MA 01930; jobs@gloucester-ma.gov. AA/EOE

Town Clerk

Town of Groton

The town of Groton seeks gualified applicants for the full-time Town Clerk position. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide variety of functions such as maintenance of municipal records, issuing various licenses and documents, administration of elections (federal, state, and local) and town meetings, annual town census, voter registration, and annual budgets. The Town Clerk is responsible for office management, including the supervision of two part-time employees on a daily basis and approximately 50 part-time election workers' during elections and town meetings. This is a busy office and the successful candidate must be able to multitask, provide a high level of customer service, possess excellent organizational skills and be flexible. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in public administration or business management; three to five years' experience in an administrative capacity or a combination of education and experience. Experience working in a municipality is preferred. Special Requirements: Must be able to be accepted as a Notary and be bondable. Salary: \$90,000 with a full benefit package. To apply, please send a cover letter and

resume by mail to Human Resources Director, Town Hall, 173 Main St., Groton, MA 01450 or by email to humanresources@grotonma.gov. For questions please call 978-448-1145. Job description is available by request. Deadline for applications: June 17. The town of Groton is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Instrument Tech Repairman Upper Blackstone Clean Water

The Instrument Technician/Repairman will be responsible for executing highly skilled work in the inspection, troubleshooting, maintenance and repair and rebuilding of a variety of plant instruments and equipment associated with modern wastewater treatment facilities. Work involves maintaining the district's process control instrumentation including, but not limited to, phosphorus analyzers, ammonia analyzers, bisulfite analyzers, dissolved oxygen, pH, ORP, nitrate in-situ, suspended solids probes and associated equipment. Must pursue work with energy and drive with an emphasis on safety. Associate's degree related to environmental science or related area recommended. A minimum of 10 years' experience in the maintenance of field instrumentation is preferred. Please apply on the website.

Building Roads and Grounds Foreman Upper Blackstone Clean Water

The Buildings Roads and Grounds Foreman performs, coordinates, schedules, and oversees the work activities of this division of the maintenance department facilities including a campus of buildings, treatment tankage, and ash landfill. Candidate shall be skilled and committed to the inspection, maintenance, repair, and rebuilding of the buildings and grounds associated with a modern wastewater treatment facility. Performs repair work of a difficult and skilled nature as well as exercising technical supervision over subordinate maintenance staff. Must be a good communicator who provides detailed records of daily work activities, accident reporting, tool and equipment inventories; and predictive, preventative, and corrective maintenance to the Facilities Maintenance Manager. Foreman must have considerable knowledge of the materials, techniques, and tools used in the maintenance and repair of mechanical equipment used at landfills and in facilities and grounds maintenance at wastewater treatment facilities. Knowledge of basic computer skills, email, internet searches, and Microsoft Office Suite required. Ten years of combined experience in general mechanical, construction or electrical maintenance work. Must be skilled in reading and interpreting engineering drawings and maintenance materials. Must possess the following licenses: MA Hoisting Engineer HE-2B minimum for operation of front end loader, backhoe, and forklift and commercial driver's license, minimum Class B with Air Brake Endorsement and a valid driver's license. Must pursue work with energy and drive with an emphasis on safety. Please apply on the website.

Wastewater Operator Upper Blackstone Clean Water

Upper Blackstone Clean Water is currently accepting resumes for a <u>Wastewater Operator</u>. If you care about the environment and have experience as a mechanic or service technician, this job is for you. As one of New England's largest clean water treatment plants, the facility provides biological nutrient removal treatment for flows originating in the greater Worcester

area and also provides biosolids management using incineration for numerous Massachusetts communities. Operators are responsible for safely and reliably operating and maintaining WWTP facility processes and equipment including belt filter presses, multiple hearth incinerators, and a biological nutrient removal activated sludge system. Ability to perform process control laboratory analysis and work with and understand SCADA is necessary. Must pursue work with energy and drive with an emphasis on safety. Salary based on education level and experience – college-level coursework in a related field is desirable. Holidav and weekend work is required. Must pursue work with energy and drive. Must have a valid driver's license. Excellent potential for growth. Please apply on the website.

Part-Time Inventory/Administration Clerk

Upper Blackstone Clean Water

Upper Blackstone Clean Water, one of New England's largest clean water treatment plants, has an opening for a part-time Inventory/Administration Clerk to work up to 20 hours per week with flexibility on setting a schedule. The Inventory/Administration <u>Clerk</u> will perform clerical work ensuring that spare parts are adequately available for equipment repairs and tools and equipment are properly cleaned and stored. Must be committed to learning purchasing and inventory control activities and be skilled in the use of personal computers with knowledge of database use, word processing, and windows-based operating systems. The Inventory/Administration Clerk will also perform administrative general tasks of a simple or routine nature. Duties will include answering the telephone, daily distribution of mail, and receiving, stocking, and distribution of office supplies. Please apply on the website.

Principal Clerk Town of Saugus

Schedule: Monday to Friday. Pay Range: (Union Scale): \$45,084-\$51,961. Summary of Position Responsibilities: Applications are being accepted for a full-time Principal Clerk in the Treasurer/Collector's Office. This position requires a thorough knowledge of office-related computer software, including Microsoft applications, and must possess strong technical skills in computer applications. All other duties as directed. Qualifications: The incumbent must possess a thorough knowledge of office-related computer software including but not limited to Microsoft applications; must possess knowledge of general accounting principles; must possess the ability to analyze data: must be able to work independently and with others; must be able to work well with the public and appropriately resolve consumer concerns; must be able to take direction from superiors. Preferred Oualifications: An associate's or bachelor's in accounting, finance or related field preferred or at least two to five years of financial municipal experience in an office setting. Prior experience working with Munis a plus. Open until filled. www.saugus-ma.gov/ human-resources/pages/town-employment.

Meter Reader Technician Town of Saugus

Schedule: Monday to Friday. Pay Range: (Union Scale): \$50,942.59-\$57,820.06. Summary of Position Responsibilities: Applications are being accepted

CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from page 28

for a full-time Meter Reader Technician in the Treasurer/Collector's Office. This position reads and records utility service meters; enters data and retrieves information into and from a computer database; tests and repairs all sizes of water meters; installs and replaces meters in the field, and provides technical support to the Utility Billing and Meter Operations Manager and Water Foreman. All other duties as directed. Qualifications: The incumbent must possess a thorough knowledge of operational characteristics, services and activities of a municipal utility. Knowledge of Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) or Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) systems preferred. Knowledge of operation and adjustments of residential, commercial and industrial water meters. Knowledge of methods and techniques of meter calibration. The ability to test, diagnose, and calibrate water meters. The ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions. Preferred Qualifications: Bachelor's degree and additional specialized training in utility meters and associated usage recordkeeping systems, plus at least one year of related experience preferred; or any equivalent combination of training and experience. Open until filled. www.saugus-ma. gov/human-resources/pages/town-employment.

Utility Billing/ Meter Operations Manager

Town of Saugus

Schedule: Monday to Friday. Summary of Position Responsibilities: Applications are being accepted for a full-time Utility Billing/Meter Operations Manager in the Treasurer/Collector's Office. This position provides complex administrative, professional and analytical work in planning, organizing, and implementing utility billing and financial management for the Water and Sewer Enterprise activities. Oversee the installation, upkeep and reading of water/sewer meter equipment. All other duties as directed. Qualifications: The incumbent must possess a thorough knowledge of operational characteristics, services and activities of a municipal utility. Knowledge of organizational practices as applied to the analysis and evaluation of programs, policies and operational needs. Knowledge of principles and practices of program administration and financial management. Understanding of modern office procedures, methods and office-related computer equipment and software including but not limited to Microsoft applications. Understanding of accounting principles and practices relating to municipal enterprise funds. Understanding of pertinent federal, state and local laws, codes and regulations. Preferred Qualifications: Equivalent to a bachelor's degree in business or public administration, finance, or a related field. A minimum of five years increasingly responsible experience in the field of financial management or public administration, including at least two years in a supervisory capacity. Open until filled. www.saugus-ma.gov/humanresources/pages/town-employment.

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 <u>www.mma.org/munenergy</u>. 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

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: 90 minutes. Starts Sept. 14. Visit <u>donahue.umass.edu/business-</u> groups/organizational-development-learningsolutions2/new-manager-webinar-series.

Athletic Courts

Sport Court MA has been the premier custom court builder and sports flooring expert for residential and commercial properties for more than 25 years. Our experienced team designs and installs, and repurposes and resurfaces existing indoor and outdoor courts, including pickleball, basketball, tennis, volleyball, hockey, and much more. Headquartered in Andover, Mass., Sport Court MA has designed and constructed more than 2,000 courts. Call Mo Killay, Sales Manager, to arrange a complimentary site visit: 207-396-0205. www.sportcourtma.com

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; mmacginc@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 <u>www.GovHRusa.com</u> 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 <u>www.govhrjobs.com</u>.

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 <u>www.spatialrelationships.com</u>.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from page 29

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@mrigov. 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 <u>www.themediationgroup.org</u>, email info@ themediationgroup.org or call 617-277-9232.

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, costeffective services. For additional information, please visit <u>www.k-plaw.com</u> 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 longterm 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. <u>com</u> 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. Kinsherf, 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 Kinsherf at eric@erickinsherfcpa.com or at 508-833-8508. Learn more at <u>www.erickinsherfcpa.com</u>.

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; hrsconsulting@ comcast.net; or visit <u>www.hrsconsultinginc.com</u>. 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; <u>www.</u> grouxwhiteconsulting.com.

RFPs

Town Counsel Services Town of Winchester

The town of Winchester, Mass., acting through its Select Board, seeks to appoint a highly qualified attorney as Town Counsel effective July 1. The successful responding attorney should meet or exceed the qualifications stated in detail in the Request for Proposal (RFP) and, in general, should be: readily accessible to authorized public officials; experienced in municipal law (as further described in the RFP); scrupulous in adhering to required standards of professional conduct and ethics; and committed to rendering sound legal advice with suitable objectivity and professional detachment. A detailed description of the minimum requirements and scope of work can be found in the RFP. To request a copy please email pmihelich@winchester.us. Please put Town Counsel RFP in the subject line. The town anticipates entering into a contract for legal services with selected counsel with an anticipated contract start date of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. There may also be an option to renew for one or multiple year terms, based upon mutual satisfaction, to be determined 60 days prior to the expiration of initial agreement. Sealed proposals must be received by 3 p.m. EST on Monday, June 6, addressed to Mark Twogood, Assistant Town Manager, Office of the Town Manager, 71 Mt. Vernon St., Winchester, MA 01890. Questions should be emailed to mtwogood@winchester.us. The town of Winchester reserves the right to cancel or reject in whole or in part any or all bids/proposals if the town determines that cancellation or rejection serves the best interests of the town.

Calendar

JUNE



Spring Conference, Beauport Hotel, Gloucester. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker



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

Massachusetts Select Board 14 Association, board meeting, 2:15-3:30 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols

Massachusetts Select Board 15 **Association**, webinar, 12-1 p.m. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols

Massachusetts Municipal 16 Human Resources, annual meeting, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Grandview Farm, Burlington. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols

Massachusetts Municipal 21 Management Association,

webinar, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

- **Massachusetts Mayors'** 22 Association, monthly meeting, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact: MMA Communications and Membership Director Candace Pierce
- MMA Human Services Council, 22 annual meeting, 8:30 a.m.-1

p.m., Lexington Community Center. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols



Women Leading Government,

meeting, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Hillview Golf Course, North Reading. Contact: MMA Senior Membership Coordinator Denise Baker

ine registration is available for most of these events.

For more information, visit <u>www.mma.org</u>.



Massachusetts Municipal Association 3 Center Plaza, Suite 610, Boston, MA 02108

Note: Due to a recent rise in COVID-19 cases, the MMA is currently requiring attendees to wear masks at all in-person meetings except when eating, drinking or presenting. On the day of the event, attendees also must show proof of being fully vaccinated for COVID (card, photo or QR code). (Religious or medical vaccine exemptions are allowed with a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours.) These safety protocols are subject to change based on the latest public health data and guidance.

JULY

Massachusetts Mayors' 20 Association, monthly meeting, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact: MMA Communications and Membership Director Candace Pierce

Massachusetts Municipal 21 Management Association, monthly meeting, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Cyprian Keyes Golf Club, Bolyston. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

Massachusetts Select Board 23 **Association**, newly elected member training, Devens Common Center, Devens, Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols

SEPTEMBER

Massachusetts Select 9 Board Association, webinar. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols

Massachusetts Municipal 13 Councillors' Association.

board meeting, 11:15 a.m.-noon, virtual. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

MMA Board of Directors, board 13 meeting, 10-11:15 a.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Executive Director's office

Massachusetts Select Board 13 **Association**, board meeting, 2:15-3:30 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols

14-15 Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources, Fall

Conference, Nantasket Beach Resort, Hull. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Isabelle Nichols

Massachusetts Municipal 17 Councillors' Association. meeting. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

Massachusetts Mayors' 28 Association, monthly meeting, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact: MMA Communications and Membership Director Candace Pierce

Massachusetts Municipal 29 Management Association,

Boot Camp, Sharon Community Center, Sharon. Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker

OCTOBER

MMA Board of Directors. 11 annual long-range planning meeting, The Conference Center at Waltham Woods. Contact: MMA Executive Director's office

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

Denise Baker can be reached at dbaker@mma.org

Isabelle Nichols can be reached at inichols@mma.org

Timmery Kuck can be reached at tkuck@mma.org