

Vol. 50, No. 8

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

September 2023

Chapdelaine prepares to lead MMA

By Jennifer Kavanaugh

When Adam Chapdelaine becomes the MMA's new executive director on Sept. 9, he will bring his years of experience working in city and town halls, his firsthand knowledge of the inner workings of the State House, and an abiding belief in the essential role of local government in our quality of life.

Chapdelaine, an MMA past president who served for a decade as town manager in Arlington and most recently was deputy director of the Boston Green Ribbon Commission, was appointed on July 28 by the MMA Board of Directors to succeed Geoff Beckwith, who has led the organization for three decades.

As he embarks on his new role, Chapdelaine said the MMA and its members must continue making the case on Beacon Hill for robust local aid. He said local government has a strong case, because cities and towns are central to every Massachusetts resident who drives on local roads, bor-

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Adam Chapdelaine

rows books from a local library, and relies on police and fire services for safety.

"I feel that there's a magic in the fact that cities and towns touch everybody's lives," Chapdelaine said. "I think there's a strong footing to

be able to talk about the critical, fundamental importance of cities and towns as a building block of our society. We can be pretty persuasive about how critical these issues are to the core quality of life that every Massachusetts resident enjoys."

Chapdelaine has been engaged with the MMA's work for more than a decade, having served on the MMA Fiscal Policy Committee and the MMA Board of Directors, as president of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association in 2018, and as MMA president in 2021. He said he always had a high regard for Beckwith's leadership, but has long considered pursuing the director's role when the opportunity arose.

First steps

Chapdelaine said he wants to begin by building relationships with the MMA staff and getting feedback from members.

"I have my viewpoints on what the key municipal issues are, but I know that those issues differ from rural to suburban to urban, from western Mass. to central Mass. to eastern Mass. to the Cape, and all of the regions within those," he said. "So I want to find the right way to learn from all the members about what their priorities are."

Some municipal issues, however, already command spots on the to-do list, including climate change, staffing shortages, increased public incivility, and an urgency to maximize funding opportunities through the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

■ CHAPDELAINE continued on 29

Beckwith reflects on 31 years as executive director of MMA

By John Ouellette

Geoff Beckwith welcomes a visitor into his office of the past two years and points out that, despite his collection of plaques, photos and memorabilia, nothing is hung up.

"I didn't want to put any holes in the walls," he says. "I saved that for the next person."

After 31 years in a job that he loved, a job to which he showed unflinching dedication, Beckwith knew the day would come when he'd close the door for the last time. Still, he's attempted to slow the pace and savor the last months and weeks leading up to his retirement on Sept. 8, the day before his 65th birthday. Many can't wait to cross the threshold



Geoff Beckwith

of retirement and leave all the stress and worries behind, but Beckwith talks about how perfect the job was for him, and acknowledges that he'll continue to worry about things like local aid and unfunded mandates in the years ahead.

"It's been the trifecta for me," he says, referring to the key ingredients for happiness in

work. "I have for decades here been able to grow in this position, and to learn, and become a better manager and leader of the staff, to help the MMA grow. I've evolved a lot, and that kind of growth is really important, to have someone feel wonderful about the job that they're doing.

2023 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. Board members are chosen by: Massachusetts Mayors' Association, Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, Massachusetts Municipal Management Association, Massachusetts Select Board Association, Association of Town Finance Committees.

Executive Committee

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John McLaughlin, MMA Vice President and MMCA President Councillor, Waltham

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Executive Director's Report

The MMA's best days are ahead of us

Greetings! This is my final column as your Executive Director. My retirement becomes official on Sept. 8, just days from now.

After 31 years, this is the right time for me to transition to a new phase in my life, so I can dedicate more time for my family, and make more space for other pursuits such as writing, researching, coaching, and mentoring (and hiking and traveling).

Yet retirement hasn't been an easy decision, as I still feel great energy and passion for this amazing job, which I have loved very much. I am inspired every day by the MMA's extraordinary members and staff, and I know that our association has exciting and important work to do in the months and years ahead.

I've spent 75% of my career and nearly half my life at the MMA. By my count I've written at least 336 Beacon columns and participated in 287 MMA Board of Directors meetings, 211 Local Government Advisory Commission meetings, more than 150 MIIA Board of Directors meetings, countless meetings of our member groups, hundreds of public hearings on Beacon Hill, and 32 MMA Annual Meetings. (I was hired at our 1992 conference!)

The MMA has grown and evolved in so many ways since my first day on the job.

When I started, there was no email, no website, no wifi, no cellphone service,

eBeacon

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By Geoffrey Beckwith

and no Zoom platform. Our personal computers, database, word processing software, and voicemail systems were all first generation. Back then, most of our programs ran in silos, and our "innovative" communications system involved the use of blast faxes and largescale snail mail, mixed in with an occasional DHL overnight

package.

Now we are a fully integrated and engaged team, using the latest in technology to provide best-in-class member programs, meetings, conferences, and publications, including a website that is the go-to place for the latest in municipal news. Our policy agenda is broader and deeper than ever, and we connect local leaders with lawmakers, agency leaders, and partner organizations to forge meaningful consensus whenever and wherever possible, always working to have state and federal officials view critical issues through a municipal lens. MIIA is one of the nation's elite municipal insurance pools, with outstanding risk management services and innovative approaches that have forced the entire marketplace to pay attention to the needs of cities and towns. Internally, our finance. IT and administrative teams collaborate across the organization to support and enable all our initiatives, amplifying MMA's effectiveness.

During this time, while I received an

DIRECTOR'S REPORT continued on 28

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 Select Board Association, the Massachusetts Mayors' Association, the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association, the Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, and the Association of Town Finance Committees.

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

Membership Director Full Circle Design

MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October

By Daniel Yi

Registration will open soon for the MMA's fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on Oct. 6 and 13.

Each year, the MMA hosts a series of meetings in communities across the Commonwealth to give local leaders, legislators and MMA staff the opportunity to network in an informal setting and learn about and discuss issues of importance at the local and state level.

MMA Legislative staff will discuss the latest activity in the current legislative session, which has wide-ranging implications for cities and towns. Topics will include the recently passed fiscal 2024 state budget, cannabis regulations, zoning compliance guidelines for MBTA communities, a recently signed transportation bond bill, PFAS contamination, and more. City and town officials from every community are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to discuss issues of importance with MMA staff and legislators. Attendees are also urged to contact their local legislators and invite them to attend as well.

Meetings are free to attend. Members will be asked to pre-register online; more details and registration will be available soon on www.mma.org.

For more information, visit <u>www.mma.org</u> or contact Daniel Yi at 617-426-7272, ext. 125, or dyi@mma.org.



Carlisle Select Board Chair Kate Reid (left) talks with Rep. Simon Cataldo during an MMA Legislative Breakfast Meeting held in Tyngsborough on March 17.

Save the date for MMA Annual Meeting in 2024

By John Ouellette

The MMA is hard at work on plans for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held on Jan. 19 and 20 at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston.

The theme for the 45th annual event is "Turning Passion Into Action," recognizing the passion that local leaders bring to their work and their problem-solving approach to myriad challenges.

The MMA is continuing to develop the program, and updates will be posted on <u>www.mma.org</u> during the month of September. Registration will open on Oct. 2.

The MMA Annual Meeting — the largest regular gathering of municipal officials in the state — is a forum for learning, networking, and product and services information, as well as a celebration of the efforts and innovations in community governance. In addition to prominent speakers, workshops and the Trade Show, the two-day event features membership business meetings, receptions, awards programs and other activities.

This year's event will be the first for Adam Chapdelaine as the MMA's executive director, though he has been an attendee for many years and is credited with giving the conference the affection ate nickname of "municipal prom."

The theme for the 45th annual event is "Turning Passion Into Action," recognizing the passion that local leaders bring to their work and their problem-solving approach to myriad challenges.

The conference will feature 21 timely workshops on issues such as climate change and resilience, fiscal health, community engagement, housing, labor law, human resources, workforce development, public works and infrastructure. Recognizing the MMA's commitment to the issue, each of the three workshop time slots will feature a training on diversity, equity and inclusion.

The conference will kick off with a special session to help first-time attendees get the most from the opportunity. It will also feature the annual Women Elected Municipal Officials Leadership Luncheon and a Friday evening dinner.

Last year's return to an in-person MMA



Annual Meeting drew more than 1,200 local leaders, and the Trade Show featured 215 exhibitors offering the latest products and services to local government.

Companies, nonprofits and government agencies interested in exhibiting at the meeting can find <u>details and contract information on the MMA website</u>. For Trade Show and Partnership Program information, contact Karen LaPointe at 617-426-7272, ext. 154. ●

Bond bill, budget make \$325M available for roads

By Adrienne Núñez

Cities and towns will soon have a total of \$325 million in reimbursement funding available for local road and bridge projects in fiscal 2024 thanks to a transportation bond bill and state budget bill that were signed last month.

Alongside key stakeholders at events in Lowell and Amesbury on Aug. 4, Gov. Maura Healey signed a \$375 million transportation bond bill that includes \$200 million for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program for fiscal 2024 plus \$25 million for a supplemental municipal road formula program to offer additional support to rural communities.

The formula for the \$25 million in new road funding for rural communities — population below 10,000 and population density below 500 people per square mile — will be based on road miles and population.

The bond bill also includes authorizations for \$150 million for six other transportation-related grant programs (\$25 million for each):

- <u>Municipal Small Bridge</u> <u>Program</u>
- <u>Complete Streets Funding</u>
 <u>Program</u>
- Municipal grants for infrastructure focused on the enhancement of mass transit by bus
- Funding for the study, design, construction or improvements that increase access to mass transit and commuter rail stations
- Grants to municipalities and regional transit authorities to support fleet electrification

An additional \$100 million in supplemental municipal road and bridge funding was included in the <u>fiscal 2024 state</u> <u>budget bill</u> that Gov. Healey signed on Aug. 9, with at least half of the funding distributed based on each municipality's total share of road mileage and the remainder distributed through the Chapter 90 formula.

Healey initially filed a fiscal 2024



Gov. Maura Healey, seated center, signs a transportation bond bill that includes Chapter 90 funding during an Aug. 4 event at Lowell City Hall.

<u>Chapter 90</u> bill in January, proposing two years of funding at \$200 million per year. The bill was revised during the legislative process and a compromise bill, including the additional grant programs, was passed on July 27.

A bond terms bill has been filed and will need to be approved before the Massachusetts Department of Transportation can reimburse municipalities for qualifying Chapter 90 expenses. ●

• <u>Municipal Pavement Program</u>

Municipal leaders urged to comment on CCC draft regulations

By Ali DiMatteo

The MMA is encouraging municipal officials to weigh in on draft regulations approved by the Cannabis Control Commission on July 28 regarding host community agreements and social equity.

The CCC has filed the draft adult-use regulations with the Secretary of the Commonwealth to begin the formal administrative process. A public comment period is open through Sept. 8 at 5 p.m., and a <u>hybrid public hearing</u> is scheduled for Sept. 8 beginning at 10 a.m. Comments may be sent to Commission@ CCCMass.com.

The 83-page draft regulations can be <u>downloaded as a PDF</u>. The most relevant sections for municipalities are Section 500.170, Section 500.180, and Section 500.181.

The CCC's draft regulations would broaden its authority over host community agreements and apply retroactively to existing host community agreements. Constitutional tenets protect existing



Municipal officials have until Sept. 8 to comment on the draft adult-use regulations approved on July 28 by the Cannabis Control Commission.

contracts from statutory encroachment, and the MMA argues that the draft regulations would invite substantial litigation.

The MMA is continuing to advocate strongly for the final regulations taking a two-tiered approach — allowing existing host community agreements to continue as is until their expiration, while applying any new regulations to agreements executed after the final regulations are in place. Following commission meetings to discuss and approve the regulations in September, the final versions will be filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office no later than Oct. 13, according to the CCC, with the aim of promulgation by Nov. 9.

A comprehensive cannabis law enacted last August, Chapter 180 of the Acts of 2022, gives the CCC until Nov. 9 to finalize and promulgate the new rules.

In-person participation in the Sept. 8 hearing will be available at the CCC's headquarters at Union Station, 2 Washington Square, in Worcester, and virtual attendees may view the hearing using Microsoft Teams Live. Participants are asked to <u>sign up in advance</u>.

On Aug. 7, the MMA hosted a <u>webinar</u> led by KP Law senior attorney Nicole Costanzo to discuss how the draft regulations are likely to affect existing host community agreements, as well as strategies for municipalities to navigate the changing environment.

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Final state budget for FY24 boosts key local accounts

By Jackie Lavender Bird

The \$56 billion state budget bill signed by Gov. Maura Healey on Aug. 9 increases unrestricted local aid by 3.2% over fiscal 2023 and boosts Chapter 70 education aid by \$603 million.

The budget for fiscal 2024 was enacted by the Legislature on July 31. The governor vetoed \$205 million in net spending and signed 103 of the bill's 112 outside sections.

The budget increases Unrestricted General Government Aid to \$1.27 billion and Chapter 70 education aid to \$6.5 billion for fiscal 2024. It also increases the Rural School Aid account by \$15 million, while fully funding the Special Education Circuit Breaker account and charter school mitigation payments.

The budget creates a spending plan for the \$1 billion in anticipated revenue from the voter-approved surtax on annual incomes over \$1 million, known as the Fair Share Amendment, which is dedicated to transportation and education programs. The Fair Share plan includes significant new investments benefitting cities and towns, including \$100 million for local road and bridge maintenance, \$100 million for relief from extraordinary school building project increases, \$50 million for a new Green School Works grant program, and \$172 million to codify and fund universal free school meals.

The <u>Division of Local Services has pub-</u> <u>lished local aid estimates</u> for cities, towns and regional school districts based on the budget signed by the governor.

The state had been operating on temporary budgets since the fiscal year began on July 1.

Chapter 70

On education aid, the budget commits to funding the Student Opportunity Act according to the originally intended schedule. In recognition of the challenges facing 119 "minimum aid" districts that would have received only a \$30 per student increase over the previous year, the budget doubles the minimum aid increase to \$60 per student.

Special Education Circuit Breaker

The budget fully funds the Special Education Circuit Breaker program, which reimburses school districts for the high cost of educating students with disabil-

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Gov. Maura Healey, center, signs the fiscal 2024 state budget at the State House on Aug. 9. Standing behind her, left to right, are House Speaker Ronald Mariano, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, Senate President Karen Spilka and Administration and Finance Secretary Matthew Gorzkowicz. (Photo courtesy Josh Qualls/Governor's Press Office)

ities. The governor reduced this item by \$5.6 million, but would attain full funding by using \$5.6 million of unspent fiscal 2023 funds, for a total of \$504.5 million. The Legislature could consider an override of this action in the coming months.

Charter school mitigation payments

The budget includes \$232 million for charter school mitigation payments, which funds the state's statutory obligation as outlined in the Student Opportunity Act.

School transportation

The budget funds regional school transportation at \$97 million, representing a reimbursement rate of 90% of fiscal 2024 costs as estimated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The budget fully funds the McKinney-Vento account for transportation of homeless students at \$28.6 million, and increases funding for out-of-district vocational transportation to \$1 million.

PILOT

The budget funds Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes for state-owned land at \$51.5 million, an amount that holds communities harmless from recent property valuation increases.

Rural School Aid

The budget includes \$15 million for Rural School Aid to provide assistance to eligible towns and regional school districts. The grants will help schools that are facing the challenge of declining enrollment identify ways to form regional school districts or regionalize certain school services to create efficiencies.

Fair Share revenue

The budget allocates \$1 billion from anticipated revenue generated by the Fair Share Amendment, which took effect on Jan. 1 of this year and is required to be used for education and transportation programs. This spending includes the following funding for municipalities:

• \$100 million in supplemental aid to support the construction and maintenance of municipal roadways

• \$100 million in supplemental grants for school construction projects already approved for financing by the Massachusetts School Building Authority to address significant and unanticipated cost escalations in recent years that are having an adverse impact on previously approved projects

• \$69 million to help codify the universal school meals program, which would provide free lunches at public schools for all students, regardless of household income

• \$50 million for a Green School Works grant program, administered through the DESE, to provide financial support to K-12 districts to install or maintain clean energy infrastructure, which will help to support local climate action and promote energy efficiency

MassHealth crossover payments for EMS

The budget includes an outside section to provide financial relief for emergency medical service providers for the transport of patients who are eligible for both Medicare and MassHealth. The section would provide "MassHealth crossover" reimbursements for dual-eligible transports, which would provide additional assistance to emergency medical services providers to support ongoing efforts to recruit and retain staff.

The governor returned this section to the Legislature with a technical amendment intended to maximize federal reimbursement and the total fiscal impact of the relief to emergency medical service providers.

The MMA has partnered with the Fire Chiefs of Massachusetts, Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Ambulance Association in support of this provision, and will continue to work with these stakeholders to get the updated language adopted by the Legislature in the coming months.

Municipal officials request permanent meeting options

By Ali DiMatteo

During a July 26 legislative hearing, the MMA and local officials from across the state called for the existing authorization for public body remote and hybrid meetings to be made permanent.

Testifying before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, supporters discussed the success of remote and hybrid meetings in increasing access, engagement and transparency in local government, while stressing the need for local flexibility.

The MMA pointed out that municipalities have different fiscal, technological and physical space constraints that create different capabilities, needs and preferences when it comes to remote and hybrid meetings.

Acton Town Manager John Mangiaratti said his town has more than 50 boards and committees that appreciate the ability to use different formats.

Discussing Ludlow's various meeting locations and technology capabilities, Town Administrator Marc Strange said, "It's incredibly useful to be able to use all these formats."

Local officials pushed back, however, on the idea of mandating hybrid meetings.

"A mandate would require a significant



Ludlow Town Administrator Marc Strange, foreground left, testifies as part of an MMA panel on a number of bills related to remote and hybrid meeting options for public bodies during a July 26 hearing before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight at the State House. Also testifying on the MMA panel were MMA Legislative Analyst Ali DiMatteo and Acton Town Manager John Mangiaratti.

investment in technology and staffing within each of our communities that we may not be able to fund or properly staff," said Adams Select Board Member Christine Hoyt, testifying virtually.

Stow Town Administrator Denise Dembkoski, president of Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts, discussed the difficulty that volunteer board members have in "triaging" hybrid meetings when trying to balance remote and in-person participants. "We need flexibility so that volunteer members of our public bodies can make meeting format determinations based on their own capabilities as well as the public interest," she said.

The MMA also submitted written testimony supporting <u>S. 2043</u> and <u>S. 2011/H.</u> <u>3025</u>, which would make the remote and hybrid options permanent, while opposing bills with mandate provisions.

The Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight will provide a recommendation on the bills.

The COVID-19 pandemic-related authorizations related to public meetings <u>were most recently extended in March</u>, allowing remote and hybrid meeting options for public bodies, remote and hybrid participation options for representative town meetings, and reduced quorums for open town meetings, all through March 31, 2025. Regarding representative town meetings, the definition of remote participation specifically includes hybrid participation. ●

State makes additional revisions to MBTA communities guidelines

By Ali DiMatteo

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities has made additional revisions to its compliance guidelines for multi-family zoning districts in MBTA communities.

Under the <u>revisions</u>, <u>released on Aug</u>. <u>17</u>, <u>MBTA communities</u> may now allow mixed-use and non-residential developments, which was not allowed under the previous guidelines and was a concern raised by a number of communities.

The revised guidelines, however, also add 13 discretionary grant programs to the list of programs for which state agencies will take compliance with the MBTA zoning law into consideration when making grant award recommendations.

The revisions allow an MBTA community to "offset" the minimum multi-family



On Aug. 17, the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities released updated compliance guidelines for multi-family zoning districts in the state's 177 MBTA communities.

unit capacity requirement in certain multi-family zoning districts by up to 25%, based on the unit capacity of a mixed-use zoning district, if certain requirements are met.

They aim to "protect the financial feasibility of achieving housing goals where

.....

mixed-use zoning requires ground-floor non-residential uses" by setting location criteria for mixed-use development districts; capping the percentage ground floor area of each development that may be required to be non-residential; requiring a broad mix of non-residential uses allowed as of right; and prohibiting minimum parking requirements for non-residential uses.

In a <u>memo to municipal officials in</u>

MBTA communities, Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Edward Augustus said the revisions to the compliance guidelines "are intended to provide greater flexibility to MBTA communities to adopt new zoning districts in mixeduse neighborhoods, and to promote housing opportunities for residents in such neighborhoods." He added that the revisions "do not reduce the total unit

MBTA continued on 31

Treasury issues new guidance on ARPA Flex provision

By Jackie Lavender Bird

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has released detailed guidance that increases flexibility for the use of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act.

The ARPA Flex Interim Final Rule, released on Aug. 10, provides additional clarity on what spending can be included, as well as different deadlines for using the funds in the new ways. The eligibility provisions were expanded by a <u>federal budget law in late 2022</u>.

The additional approved uses include costs associated with emergency response to a natural disaster, spending on transportation infrastructure-eligible projects, including matching funds, and any program, project or service that would also be eligible under the <u>Community Development Block Grant</u> program, also referred to as Title 1.

The new rule is most likely to be helpful to "metro cities" (generally with populations greater than 50,000), as most non-entitlement units of government opted to use ARPA's standard allowance (up to \$10 million for revenue loss replacement), which already granted them maximum flexibility.

Emergency response to a natural disaster

The new rule allows municipalities to use SLFRF funds for natural disasters or their negative economic impact, and outlines a two-step process for this category. The municipality must identify a natural disaster that occurred, will occur, or is threatened to occur in the future and then identify the emergency relief that responds to the physical and negative economic impacts. Examples of eligible uses include temporary housing, food assistance, fire and flood fighting expenses, public infrastructure repairs, and increased operational costs.

CDBG eligible uses

Under ARPA Flex, municipalities can use SLFRF funds for Title 1/CDBG projects. Examples include acquisition of property for a public purpose, construction and improvements to public facilities, and payments to housing owners for loss of certain rental income. <u>Details about</u> <u>additional requirements are available</u> <u>online</u>.



The U.S. Department of the Treasury has increased flexibility for the use of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act.

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Transportation infrastructure

The new rule outlines three "pathways" for surface transportation spending:

1. Supplementing surface transportation projects receiving funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation

2. Funding surface transportation projects not receiving funding from the USDOT.

3. Satisfying non-federal share requirements for certain surface transportation projects or repaying a loan provided under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act

Under Pathway 1, after consulting with the USDOT, municipalities may:

• Expand an existing project that is receiving funding from the USDOT to cover unexpected costs of an existing project receiving funding from the USDOT • Expand the scope of a project, cover additional costs, or in other ways supplement USDOT funding for projects that have not yet, but will receive, funding from the USDOT by the Dec. 31, 2024, obligation deadline

Recipients may use SLFRF funds for projects eligible only under specific programs; the list is available on the <u>Treasury's website</u>.

Pathway 2 projects will be administered by the

Treasury, which released a streamlined framework for municipalities to use up to \$10 million in SLFRF funds per project on surface transportation projects that do not include USDOT funding but meet certain parameters. Municipalities may use SLFRF funds for a surface transportation project that would be eligible under the RAISE grant program and meets the following criteria: contribute no more than \$10 million of SLFRF and limited to actions that typically do not have significant environmental impact.

Under Pathway 3, municipalities may use SLFRF funding to repay a Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan or to satisfy non-federal share requirements for projects eligible under the following programs:

- INFRA grants
- Fixed Guidance Capital Improvement grants
- Mega grants
- Projects eligible under credit assistance under the TIFIA program

The total amount of SLFRF funds a grantee may use for a surface transportation project and Title I project cannot exceed the greater of \$10 million or 30% of a grantee's SLFRF allocation.

Recipients may use funds under these new eligible use categories for costs incurred beginning on Dec. 29, 2022. Municipalities using SLFRF funds for Surface Transportation and Title I projects must obligate funds by Dec. 31, 2024, and expend funds by Sept. 30, 2026. ●

Racial Equity Group selected to lead MMA's DEI work

By Candace Pierce

The MMA has contracted with the <u>Racial</u> <u>Equity Group</u> to develop a strategic plan to advance diversity, equity and inclusion efforts in local government.

The Racial Equity Group was chosen by a subcommittee of the MMA's DEI Committee from 15 companies that submitted an application through a competitive RFP process.

The management consulting firm provides advisory services to public and private sector organizations on racial equity, diversity and inclusion strategies, as well as customizing and facilitating racial equity audit assessments and DEI training. The firm has worked with a number of municipalities across the Commonwealth.

The firm's work for the MMA will primarily focus on the internal operations of local government. The MMA anticipates that a later phase will provide tools and training to support local officials as they engage with the public on broader efforts to advance DEI in the community at large.

"We are thrilled to begin this work with the Racial Equity Group to support municipalities that want to engage in or advance their DEI work," said DEI Committee Co-Chair and Westwood Town Administrator Christopher Coleman. "We particularly like that the REG develops data-driven strategies to measure, monitor and manage DEI."

The firm's framework is focused on advancing racial and gender equity because "these are the most persistent and pervasive inequities throughout our society," according to CEO Bird Guess. He notes, however, that the framework can be adapted for other social categories as well, such as sexual orientation, age and physical abilities.

"I am excited to begin this journey with the MMA to accelerate advancing equity for all stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth," he said.

The firm's work, which will begin immediately, will include DEI training for the MMA's DEI Committee, which will incorporate developing common language and definitions around diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. The firm will also conduct an equity audit of all municipalities to measure the current level of DEI work being implemented. This will include an online survey and focus groups. In addition, the Racial Equity Group will assess work being conducted by other organizations working with municipalities.

From the information gathered, the firm will develop a strategic plan to support cities and towns in their internal DEI work, looking at human resources policies, employee training, operations, policies for boards and committees, establishing DEI positions, and similar activities. The group will also develop metrics and key performance indicators to track local progress, and will develop DEI resources and tools to support municipalities. The strategic plan is due in January of 2024.

The Racial Equity Group will be using the <u>MMA's DEI Framework</u> as a guide for its work, and will work with the DEI Committee to further shape the framework as the strategic plan is developed. The MMA DEI Committee developed and approved the framework last fall.

A second RFP will be developed for the implementation of the strategic plan.

go- The DEI subcommittee that chose the



Racial Equity Group CEO Bird Guess

Racial Equity Group includes:

- North Andover Deputy Town Manager and DEI Committee Co-chair Dee Casey
- Former Northborough Assistant Town Administrator Becca Meekins (who just joined the Collins Center for Public Management at UMass Boston)
- North Adams Councillor and DEI Committee Co-chair Michael Obasohan (also the chief diversity officer in Pittsfield)
- Sharon Select Board Member Kiana Pierre-Louis
- Stoughton Select Board Member Debra Roberts
- MMA Senior Executive and Director of Communications and Membership Candace Pierce
- MMA Education and Training Coordinator Lily Rancatore

Webinars to discuss allocation of opioid settlement funds

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has contracted with JSI Research & Training Institute to provide training and technical assistance to municipalities regarding the allocation of <u>opioid settlement funds</u>.

JSI will host a series of regional webinars this month to discuss resources available to municipalities and to connect municipal officials with individual community members who have been most impacted by the opioid epidemic.

The Zoom webinars will be held on the following schedule, all beginning at 2 p.m.:

- Sept. 12, Southeast <u>Register</u>
- Sept. 14, Central <u>Register</u>

- Sept. 19, Metrowest <u>Register</u>
- Sept. 21, West Register
- Sept. 28, Northeast <u>Register</u>

To discuss these activities further, contact JSI at abate@jsi.com, visit <u>www.</u> <u>caremass.org</u>, or call 617-385-3655.

[–] Jackie Lavender Bird

Healey declares emergency, seeks support for migrants

By John Ouellette

Gov. Maura Healey on Aug. 8 declared that a state of emergency exists in Massachusetts due to rapidly rising numbers of migrant families arriving in need of shelter and services, and a severe lack of shelter availability.

The governor said the declaration serves as a notice to the federal government and the Commonwealth that the state's shelter system cannot sustain its recent rapid expansion, and that further assistance is urgently needed.

She said there were nearly 5,600 families — or more than 20,000 individuals — in state shelters, a number that's 80% higher than it was a year ago. The governor said the number of families coming to field offices seeking assistance, which was 25 families per day in March of last year, had jumped to more than 100 families per day in July.

In a letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, Healey pointed to work authorizations as a primary driver of the crisis, and called on the federal government to take urgent action to streamline and expedite work authorizations and increase funding to states to assist in providing shelter and services to families. She also called on Congress to address "outdated and punitive" immigration laws, and called on cities and towns, charities, advocates, faith organizations and providers to continue to partner with the administration to meet the need for shelter and work.

The administration has launched the Immigrant Assistance Services program to provide case management, legal services and other support for families in state shelters. The administration said the first-in-the-nation program is providing an unprecedented level of legal support toward asylum, work authorization, and other legal steps to help new arrivals integrate into Massachusetts.

The administration said it is also working to establish new pathways for new arrivals to secure work. On July 31, the state's congressional delegation <u>wrote</u> to Secretary Mayorkas and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director <u>Ur Jaddou</u> to urge them to expedite and streamline the work authorization



Gov. Maura Healey declared a state of emergency due to rapidly rising numbers of migrant families arriving in need of shelter and services and a severe lack of shelter availability. The surprise arrival of 50 Venezuelan migrants on Martha's Vineyard grabbed national headlines in September 2022. (Photo courtesy Rep. Dylan Fernandes)

process.

Massachusetts is the only state in the country with a "right-to-shelter" law, which guarantees homeless families access to emergency shelter. Healey said "state employees and our partners have been miracle workers throughout this crisis, going above and beyond to support families and using every tool at their disposal to expand shelter capacity" by nearly 80% in the last year.

She added that demand has increased "to levels that our emergency shelter system cannot keep up with, especially as the number of families leaving shelter has dwindled due to a lack of affordable housing options and barriers to securing work."

"Many of the new arrivals to our state desperately want to work," she said, "and we have historic workforce demands across all industries."

Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll said the state's Emergency Assistance system is designed to be a temporary, emergency safety-net program. She said addressing the root causes of the emergency will necessitate "rapidly increasing housing production across the state and implementing comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level, including work authorizations."

Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus said the state's migrant service provider partners "are stretched beyond their means, and it has become increasingly difficult to add new shelter units to our [Emergency Assistance] portfolio."

MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith noted that the migrant housing issue has had a direct impact on more than 80 communities in every region of the state, and that local officials "are doing their level best to partner with the state" to respond to the crisis as it unfolds.

"Municipal leaders support every effort to muster the necessary federal and state resources to respond to this crisis," he said.

For questions or concerns, municipal officials can contact Alicia Rebello-Pradas, deputy chief of staff for legislative affairs, at 650-520-6852 or Alicia.m.rebello-pradas@mass.gov.

Information about how the public can help is available at <u>mass.gov/shelter-</u> <u>crisis</u>. Anyone who can offer assistance should contact the state at shelterhelp@ mass.gov or by dialing 211, which will be monitored by the <u>Massachusetts</u> <u>Emergency Management Agency</u>.

The administration also announced that the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and The Boston Foundation have launched the <u>Massachusetts Migrant</u> <u>Families Relief Fund</u> to help ensure that new arrivals in Massachusetts have their essential needs met. ●

Administration awards \$31.5M for climate resiliency

At an event in Stockbridge on Aug. 30, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper announced \$31.5 million in <u>Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness</u> grants for climate resilience implementation and planning throughout Massachusetts.

For the first time in the six-year history of the MVP program, two tribes are receiving funding — eligibility was expanded by the Legislature last year — and the announcement was made at the original homeland of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans.

In the 1800s, the tribe was pressured to leave their home, forcing them to eventually relocate to Wisconsin. The tribe was awarded a \$2.26 million MVP Action Grant to reclaim 351 acres of their indigenous homelands and establish tribally driven conservation and forest management strategies.

"The Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans' stewardship of lands is profoundly interwoven into their culture," Driscoll said, "and reclaiming it will not only restore their relationship with the natural environment but also ensure that ancestral-significant areas are preserved."

She added that the MVP program "is one of our critical tools to partner with communities and build resiliency. We're



Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, left, announces \$31.5 million in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grants during an event on Aug. 30 in Stockbridge. Standing next to Driscoll is Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. (Photo courtesy Joshua Qualls/Governor's Press Office)

grateful to this year's recipients for their hard work to mitigate the impacts of climate change."

Tepper said equity and environmental justice "are fundamental in our approach to tackling climate change," and the administration is working to undo "the systems that excluded the Indigenous, Black, and brown communities and ensuring they are centered in our work."

The MVP grant program provides funding and technical assistance to support the local climate resilience planning process and to implement priority actions to adapt to climate change. In April, Gov. Maura Healey launched the next phase of the program: MVP Planning 2.0, which supports communities in updating their climate change resiliency plans in a way that centers environmental justice and other populations most impacted by climate change, and putting these plans into action.

The awards include \$3 million for MVP 2.0 to 28 individual municipalities, one regional group, and one tribe. Another \$28.5 million in MVP Action Grant funding is going to 79 local im-

plementation projects led by 56 different municipalities, 16 regional groups, two water districts, and one tribe.

MVP Action Grant projects are focused on proactive strategies to address climate change impacts and may include actions to invest in and protect environmental justice communities and improve public health, nature-based solutions to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat and flooding, and climate resilience-focused regulatory updates.

<u>Click here to see the full list of grant</u> <u>recipients</u>.

MMA-Suffolk to offer 3 finance seminars in 2024

The MMA and Suffolk University will offer three Municipal Finance Management Seminar programs in 2024.

The seminars will be held via Zoom over the course of five Fridays, with start dates as follows:

- Winter 2024: Jan. 5
- Spring 2024: March 1
- Fall 2024: Oct. 18

The seminar is designed to provide an overview of municipal finance in Massachusetts, including the operational aspects of finance structure, systems and processes in cities and towns. Topics include budgeting, financial reporting, treasury functions, property assessment, and costing out contracts.

"We've seen great success with the program and are addressing a longstanding need," said John Petrin, a retired town manager and senior fellow and liaison for the MMA-Suffolk programs. "We're filling an important gap in preparing the next generation of municipal finance professionals."

The seminar is for municipal officials interested in furthering their careers in municipal finance or employees who are new to municipal finance. Applicants must be currently employed by a city or town, and must have the approval of their municipal manager, administrator or mayor to apply. The application for the 2024 seminars is <u>available online</u> as a fillable PDF. Applicants can choose which seminar they would like to be considered for, and will be informed of their status at the end of the application period.

The application deadline for the winter session is Oct. 15.

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, or Kate Evarts at 617-426-7272, ext. 172, or kevarts@mma.org. ●

Questions answered on records, meetings laws

By Lily Rancatore

An interactive MMA webinar on July 18 offered an extended opportunity to discuss the state's public records and open meeting laws.

Attorneys Lauren Goldberg and Janelle Austin of KP Law led the hour-long open forum, answering inquiries about the latest developments related to each law and practical considerations for municipalities, while Northbridge Town Manager Adam Gaudette moderated.

The session opened with a brief review of key takeaways from an <u>MMA webinar</u> in <u>April that discussed the fundamen-</u> <u>tals of each law</u>. Goldberg and Austin reiterated the intent of the laws — to increase government transparency and ensure that the work of public bodies is conducted in open session, and that



Attorney Lauren Goldberg fields questions about the public records and open meeting laws during an MMA webinar on July 18.

accurate and timely minutes are kept.

Goldberg and Austin discussed best practices for using community email accounts to improve accountability, particularly when messages are sent using "reply all" or committee members are blind CC'd. They said sharing feelings, ideas and concerns with committee members via email or text — regardless of whether anyone responds — is considered a violation of the open meeting law.

Gaudette fielded dozens of questions from attendees. Goldberg and Austin addressed inquiries about personal note exemptions, best practices for posting meeting minutes and notices, resumes as public records, and participating in deliberative discussions on social media.

Goldberg and Austin recommended attendees review the <u>Attorney General's</u> <u>Open Meeting Law Guide and website</u>, as well as the <u>Secretary of State's Guide</u> to the Public Records Law.

• <u>View the webinar</u>

MMA webinar reviews draft CCC regulations on HCAs

By Lily Rancatore

An MMA webinar on Aug. 7 discussed the implications of the Cannabis Control Commission's <u>draft regulations on</u> <u>host community agreements and social</u> <u>equity</u>.

Nicole Costanzo, a senior attorney at KP Law, covered how the draft regulations are likely to affect existing host community agreements, as well as strategies for municipalities to navigate the changing environment.

The CCC approved the preliminary regulations on July 28, and the public comment period is open through Sept. 8. The CCC has until Nov. 9 to promulgate the final rules.

The draft regulations would broaden the CCC's authority over host community agreements. Costanzo said the regulations would enable the CCC to deem a host community agreement provision as "invalid, unenforceable, or voidable," and no host community could impose an "unreasonable condition" or a term that is "unreasonably impracticable" in an agreement.

Under the draft regulations, any conditions set in a host community agreement must be "reasonable." This



Nicole Costanzo, a senior attorney at KP Law, discusses the implications of the Cannabis Control Commission's draft regulations on host community agreements and social equity during a Aug. 7 webinar hosted by the MMA.

includes instances where an HCA condition is deemed necessary to promote public safety or public health, among other reasons.

Under the regulations, the CCC's review of HCAs would apply retroactively upon license renewal, and approval of an HCA may be conditioned on a host community being in "good compliance standing" with the CCC. A host community, however, may waive the regulatory requirement by submitting an HCA waiver, in a form and manner determined by the CCC, at any time. Costanzo said the CCC will be "charged with establishing criteria for reviewing, certifying and approving" community impact fees. To qualify as a community impact fee, the fee proposed by a host community must be "reasonably related" to costs imposed by the operation of the marijuana establishment.

The CCC is also establishing acceptable equity standards governing host communities. The procedures will require municipalities to promote, and encourage transparent participation in, HCA negotiations with social equity businesses by publicizing certain information in community offices and websites. Host communities would be required to adopt local rules or bylaws to comply with social equity requirements on or before May 1, 2024.

MMA Legislative Analyst Ali DiMatteo moderated 15 minutes of questions and answers, which addressed inquiries about license renewals, templates for community impact fees, and the collection of unpaid fees.

• <u>View the webinar</u>

30 watersheds impacted by new nitrogen regulations

By Josie Ahlberg

Updates to septic system and watershed regulations, intended to combat nitrogen pollution in certain coastal areas, took effect on July 7.

The updates are to the <u>Title 5 regula-</u> <u>tion</u> (310 CMR 15.000), which pertains to the construction and maintenance of septic systems, and the <u>Watershed</u> <u>Permit Regulations</u> (314 CMR 21.00), which establish a watershed permitting strategy to prevent pollutants from entering coastal waters. The regulatory changes were spearheaded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Nitrogen pollution in coastal waters, including estuaries and embayments, can cause an overgrowth of algae, invasive plants and weeds that cut off supports for naturally occurring plants and animals. Coastal areas including Cape Cod, the islands, and southeastern Massachusetts, have experienced elevated levels of nitrogen pollution, primarily as a result of septic systems and wastewa-



The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has published a map of properties affected by new regulations intended to reduce nitrogen pollution.

ter disposal.

The new regulations designate 30 watersheds as "Nitrogen Sensitive Areas," in which individual residents or the community as a whole must update septic systems with nitrogen-reducing technologies. The MassDEP has published a <u>map of properties impacted by</u> <u>these regulations</u>.

These communities now have a two-year window to obtain a 20-year watershed

permit, which would enable them to design and implement strategies to combat nitrogen pollution on behalf of their residents, allowing for a more centralized problem-solving approach.

Should Cape Cod communities choose not to apply for a watershed permit within the tw0-year planning and application period, any new septic systems installed in Nitrogen Sensitive Areas will be required to include enhanced nitrogen reducing technology. Existing septic systems in communities without a watershed permit will also be required to update their systems within five years.

Nitrogen removal technology installation costs for homeowners can range from \$17,000 to \$36,000, according to the MassDEP.

For more information, including regulatory revisions in response to public comment, visit the <u>Watershed Permit</u> <u>Regulations</u> and <u>Title 5 Regulation</u> websites. ●

MMA webinar highlights navigation of COMMBUYS

By Lily Rancatore

An MMA webinar on Aug. 15 with the Operational Services Division reviewed how to access statewide contract information and use COMMBUYS for procurement.

Panelists from the **Operational Services**

<u>Division</u>'s Local Government Team discussed how to use statewide contracts effectively, identify underused contracts, post bid announcements, and search for products and vendors.

OSD Local Government Account Manager Jackie Needham began by discussing the efficiency of the wide-ranging statewide contracts, which meet the requirements of the state's Uniform Procurement Act (<u>Chapter 30B</u>) and offer competitive pricing with pre-negotiated benefits.

Needham said the OSD has developed <u>contract user guides</u> to make it easier for buyers to understand the key aspects of each statewide contract, enabling them to make informed purchasing decisions and place orders in COMMBUYS. The components of a guide include a contract summary, benefits and cost



Local Government Account Manager Jennifer Forsey, a member of the Operational Services Division's Local Government Team, discusses procurement and COMMBUYS during an MMA webinar on Aug. 15.

savings, pricing and purchasing options, and contract counties or regions, among other details.

Among the more popular statewide contracts used by cities and towns in fiscal 2023 were <u>IT Hardware and Services</u>, <u>Public Safety Equipment</u>, and <u>Building</u> <u>Maintenance Repair</u>, Needham said. She also highlighted underused contracts in professional and trade services, as well as vehicle, transportation and road

maintenance.

Local Government Account Manager Jennifer Forsey reviewed the COM-MBUYS landing page and helpful resources for municipalities during procurement. She highlighted the platform's Trades Index, which allows users to quickly see which vendors are on contract. Forsey explained how to post a bid notice in COMMBUYS after registering as a buyer.

North Andover Assistant Town Manager and Director of Operations Laurie Burzlaff moderated 25 minutes of questions and answers, which addressed inquiries about changing the fiscal year on COMMBUYS listings, soliciting quotes, and <u>United Nations Standard Products</u> <u>and Services Codes</u>. Tim Kennedy, OSD director of strategic sourcing services, joined Needham and Forsey for the Q&A.

- Presentation: <u>Best Practices for</u> <u>Navigating Statewide Contracts and</u> <u>COMMBUYS Purchasing</u> (3.8MB PDF)
- <u>View the webinar</u>

EV charger report recommends policy actions

By Adrienne Núñez

A new report from the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council provides a comprehensive view of the current electric vehicle charging landscape, as well as recommendations for policy actions to support a robust, equitable and accessible charging network across the Commonwealth.

The <u>Electric Vehicle Infrastructure</u> <u>Coordinating Council</u>, established by last year's <u>offshore wind and climate bill</u>, was charged with creating an electric vehicle charging infrastructure deployment plan. Its 82-page <u>Initial Assessment</u> includes a series of recommendations and was published on Aug. 11.

Building out a network of electric vehicle charging stations is a core challenge to achieving the state's transition to a clean energy economy, according to the report, and is necessary to meet the goals of the Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plans for 2025/2030 and 2050, which requires a near-total transition to zero-emission vehicles.

The council estimates that 10,000 publicly accessible fast charging ports; 35,000 publicly accessible Level 2 stations; and more than 700,000 residential and workplace charging stations will be needed to support electric vehicles. This represents a build-out of between six and 15 times the current charging infrastructure in Massachusetts, and may add as much as 1,400 megawatts of additional peak demand on the electric grid.

The assessment covers the current state of EV charging infrastructure, future needs, the user experience, what's needed to improve access, grid updates, technological advances, and policy recommendations.



A new report from the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council examines the state of EV charging in Massachusetts.

It was informed by input during a series of public meetings from electric vehicle drivers, industry professionals, consumer advocacy groups, and state officials on topics ranging from the driver experience to impacts on the electrical grid.

The council's recommendations include:

- Legislation to require publicly accessible electric vehicle chargers to register with the Division of Standards so they can be regularly inspected
- "Right to charge" legislation to help tenants and people living in condominiums install charging infrastructure
- Working with municipalities to develop guidance and support for programs to expand curbside charging and overnight charging infrastructure for tenants and those without garages
- Focusing on the deployment of publicly available funds for environmental justice populations and rural areas
- Developing programs to reduce the transmission and distribution

infrastructure burden of electric vehicle chargers by using policies such as timeof-use rates and technologies such as onsite storage and bidirectional charging to turn electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging stations into grid assets

- Regulations to ensure that publicly accessible electric vehicle chargers are registered, inspected and tested
- Regulations that apply consumer protections to electric vehicle supply equipment
- Working across state agencies, as well as with cities and towns, to coordinate procurement processes

The <u>Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council</u> will continue to meet, and is looking into establishing a website focused on electric vehicles, electric vehicle supply equipment, and funding opportunities. The council says it will track progress on its recommendations, and will conduct more research on electric vehicle supply equipment and related infrastructure costs.

The council must also determine how to program \$50 million in the Charging Infrastructure Deployment Fund that is under its authority.

Council members include Energy and Environmental Affairs Undersecretary Michael Judge, Transportation Undersecretary Monica Tibbets-Nutt, Housing and Economic Development Undersecretary Layla D'Emilia, officials from a range of state agencies, legislators, and a representative from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

Questions about the council may be directed to daniel.gatti@mass.gov.

USDOT accepting applications for SMART grants

By Adrienne Núñez

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grant applications for the second year of its Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation grants program.

Funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the <u>SMART grants program</u> will make approximately \$50 million in competitive grants available for Stage 1 SMART projects focused on advanced smart community technologies and systems that improve transportation efficiency and safety while building data and technology capacity and experience.

Eligible applicants are state, local and tribal governments seeking to carry out transportation projects that demonstrate at least one of the following technology areas: coordinated automation, connected vehicles, sensors, systems integration, delivery/logistics, innovative aviation, smart grid, or traffic signals.

smart community technologies and Applications are being accepted through

Oct. 10.

More information, including the notice of funding opportunity, webinars and FAQs, is available on the <u>SMART grants program</u> website and <u>Grants.gov</u>.

Questions can be directed to SMART Grants Program staff at smart@dot.gov, or call Roxanne Ledesma at 202-774-8003.

Approximately \$50 million in additional funding will be available in 2024 for Stage 2 Implementation Grants. •

Safe Routes to School grants available

By Adrienne Núñez

Safe Routes to School, a federally funded program that works to increase safe walking, biking and rolling by public school students, is accepting applications for its Signs and Lines and Infrastructure Project grant programs.

Administered by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, <u>Safe</u> <u>Routes to School</u> uses a collaborative, community-focused approach that bridges the gap between health and transportation.

The <u>Signs and Lines</u> program provides design services and up to \$10,000 in construction funding to selected municipalities for a low-cost infrastructure project around a public elementary, middle or high school. The project goal is to eliminate small barriers that students encounter when walking, bicycling or using a wheeled mobility device to get to school. Approved eligible expenses are reimbursed after completion. The application deadline is Sept. 22.

The Infrastructure Project program helps fund larger-scale bicycle and pedestrian improvements that seek to improve safety, access and mobility for students in kindergarten through 12th grade, while also encouraging more students to walk, bike and roll to school. Projects must be within two miles of a school in the public right-of-way or along publicly accessible bikeways and pedestrian pathways and trails.

Applications for Infrastructure Projects will be accepted through Oct. 6. Eligible schools must be partnered for at least six months at the time of application. Applications are available and must be submitted through the <u>Massachusetts</u>



The Safe Routes to School program is accepting applications for its Signs and Lines and Infrastructure Project grant programs.

Project Intake Tool account.

Additional information and guidance documents are available on the <u>Engi-</u> <u>neering</u> page. Questions may be directed to 888-426-6688 or MassDOTSRTS@ dot.state.ma.us.

Massachusetts Broadband Institute seeks input on Internet for All

By Adrienne Núñez

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute this month will begin a series of public listening sessions as it develops a five-year plan to deploy <u>\$147 million in</u> <u>federal investments</u> to support actions to bridge the digital divide.

Informed by public engagement, the <u>Massachusetts Broadband Institute</u> will present its plan and proposal to the federal government later this year.

The MBI listening sessions are part of a Statewide Broadband and Digital Equity

planning process and the national Internet for All effort. The two-hour hybrid events are designed to hear directly from residents to help ensure that the unique needs of individuals and communities are elevated in the State's Broadband and Digital Equity strategic plans.

Agendas for each session may include presentations and discussions regarding region-specific digital equity challenges and opportunities, presentations from experts in the field, and facilitated breakout sessions. The listening sessions will be held on the following schedule, with additional events expected in the coming weeks. Advanced registration is requested.

- Sept. 7, 5-7 p.m., Brockton: Register
- Sept. 13, 3-5 p.m., Pittsfield: <u>Register</u>
- Sept. 14, 4-6 p.m., Holyoke: <u>Register</u>

Additional information about the <u>In-</u> <u>ternet for All public engagement effort</u> is available online. Questions and input may be directed to Madison Trepanier at trepanier@masstech.org.

Energy Future planning grant applications being accepted

By Adrienne Núñez

Phase 1 of the federal Energy Future Grants program is making \$27 million in financial assistance available to government-led partnerships that will advance clean energy innovation.

Administered by the State and Community Energy Program, <u>Energy Future</u> <u>Grants</u> will support local, state and tribal governments in developing and implementing plans that break new ground in three topic areas: transportation, the power sector, and buildings. Applicants are encouraged to think across these sectors and propose multi-sectoral or integrated ideas to improve energy affordability and access, and to support jobs and economic benefits.

The State and Community Energy Program says it intends to select approximately 50 teams for Phase 1, with awardees receiving approximately \$500,000 for a 12-to-18-month award period to provide design support and to ensure engagement is inclusive of all jurisdictions and aligned with the needs of disadvantaged communities. Activities may include stakeholder engagement meetings, planning workshops, financial or economic analyses, or electrical grid modeling.

Phase 1 activities will be limited to planning and outreach. At a later date, the program intends to conduct a competitive process for Phase 2, which will award approximately 10 teams from all the Phase 1 teams to receive approximately \$1 million in additional funds.

Applicants are advised to include at least three or four governmental partners as well as additional community partners, such as nonprofits, higher education, planning organizations, utilities, and for-profit entities.

Applications are due by Sept. 30 via the <u>Clean Energy Infrastructure Funding</u> <u>Opportunity Exchange</u>. Questions may be sent to Energyfuturegrants@hq.doe. gov or InfrastructureExchangeSupport@ hq.doe.gov. ●

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Grants available for resilience in disadvantaged areas

By Adrienne Núñez

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's <u>Southeast New England Pro-</u> <u>gram</u> is accepting applications through Sept. 15 for an <u>Opportunity to Advance</u> <u>Resilience in Disadvantaged Communities</u>.

For 2023, the EPA expects to award five to 10 cooperative agreements for activities under this RFP in amounts likely to range from \$50,000 to \$300,000. Total estimated funding for awards is \$1.25 million. SOAR-funded projects will be funded in full.

Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the mission of the SNEP Opportunity to Advance Resilience (SOAR) Fund is to improve and support the resilience of disadvantaged communities throughout the region to address the anticipated effects of climate change and



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website has a map of disadvantaged communities in the Southeast New England Program region.

the historic, long-term impacts of environmental and social injustices. Projects will include planning, implementation, outreach, training, capacity, and staff-building that correspond with the goals, objectives and priorities outlined in the <u>SNEP's Five-Year Strategic Plan</u>. Applicants should propose projects that broadly address at least one of the following categories: planning projects, implementation projects, outreach projects, training projects, or capacity building/staffing.

Eligible applicants include state, local and tribal governments, public and private universities and colleges, public and private nonprofit organizations, interstate agencies, and intertribal consortia within the SNEP region.

The EPA website has a <u>map of disadvan-</u> taged communities in the SNEP region.

Applications must be submitted through <u>Grants.gov</u>.

Questions about the SOAR RFP may be sent to SECoastalNE@epa.gov through Sept. 1. The EPA will post written responses at <u>www.epa.gov/snep</u>.

State announces \$11.5M grant program to electrify heavy-duty vehicles

By Josie Ahlberg

The Healey-Driscoll administration has made a total of \$11.5 million in funding available through a new competitive grant program for low- and zero-emission vehicle and equipment projects.

The grant program, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, will use \$7.5 million from the Volkswagen emissions fraud settlement and \$4 million from the state's Climate Protection and Mitigation Expendable Trust.

The Massachusetts VW and Refuse Truck Electric Solicitation, announced on July 26, is open to public and private entities with an eligible diesel vehicle, engine or piece of equipment operating in Massachusetts. The maximum grant award through the two-part solicitation will be \$500,000.

The VW Electric portion of the solicitation will fund eligible electrification projects to offset nitrogen oxide emissions. Equipment that might qualify for replacement under this opportunity includes medium- and large-freight trucks; school, shuttle and transit buses; ferries and tugboats; airport ground support equipment; and forklifts.

The Refuse Truck portion of the pro-



A total of \$11.5 million in state grants is available for low- and zero-emission vehicle and equipment projects, including the replacement of school buses with electric versions.

gram will provide funding to municipalities and entities that contract with municipalities to replace waste-serving refuse trucks with more efficient options, including plug-in hybrid and full electric versions. Eligible refuse trucks include waste haulers, waste trucks and recycling trucks.

Applications for the VW and Refuse Truck Electric Solicitation Grants are due by 5 p.m. on Sept. 26. Application information is available on the <u>grant</u> <u>program website</u>. Additional details, including full eligibility criteria, can be found in the <u>solicitation guidance</u> <u>document</u>. Questions can be submitted to vw.settlement@mass.gov.

The 2017 Volkswagen Settlement was

a result of litigation brought by the U.S. Department of Justice and several states after the company sold 590,000 diesel cars (2009 through 2016) that contained "defeat devices" — software that could detect when the vehicles were being tested, allowing the diesel cars to pass laboratory and station testing even though they emitted nitrogen oxides up to 40 times the allowable limits during normal operation. Volkswagen was found to have violated the Clean Air Act and other regulations, resulting in agreements to pay billions of dollars toward environmental mitigation and clean-emissions efforts.

The Final Massachusetts Volkswagen Settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan was released in April 2023. The plan details how the Commonwealth will spend its \$74 million allocation and incorporates feedback from a public comment period.

MassCyberCenter to hold annual municipal summit Oct. 5

The MassCyberCenter will hold its third annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on Oct. 5 in Worcester.

The free day-long event will feature cybersecurity experts from state and federal agencies and the private sector, who will give municipal officials and employees a better understanding of pressing cybersecurity issues, the current threat landscape, and state and federal initiatives. It will also provide practical ideas, information and resources for improving cybersecurity.

The summit is open to municipal leaders, first responders, municipal utility providers and municipal IT professionals. Both breakfast and lunch will be served. The summit will take place at



The third annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit will be held on Oct. 5 in Worcester.

Mechanics Hall from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Information and recordings from the previous two summits can be found on the MassCyberCenter's cybersecurity

summit page.

The summit is one of several efforts by the MassCyberCenter to help cities and towns navigate an increasingly complex cybersecurity environment. Last month, the center, along with the Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Working Group, updated the "The Minimum Baseline of Cybersecurity for Municipalities" to include a new "Minimum Baseline of IT," which covers the technologies, devices and basic configurations needed to establish a safe and secure technology environment.

Visit the MassCyberCenter's website for more information about the center and its work.

DLS offering municipal law seminars in Holyoke, Waltham

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual "What's New in Municipal Law" seminar for local officials on Sept. 21 in Waltham and on Sept. 28 in Holyoke.

Both seminars will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include lunch. The cost to attend is \$100.

This year's seminar will begin with a condensed general session highlighting new legislation and recent court decisions affecting local government. Attendees can then choose among different workshops later in the morning and during the afternoon.

The morning workshops will focus on recent tax title cases, charitable and religious exemption cases and special funds and related legislation.



The afternoon workshops will address:

- Paperless billing and abatement applications, the issuance of abatement checks, sufficient interest in real estate, manufacturer designation and, if applicable, new exemptions
- Health insurance, investment of municipal funds and collection of unpaid charges and fees

• Affordable housing, common city and town budget approval and appropriation issues, and special purpose appropriations

The Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers will grant four hours of continuing education credits to assessors attending this program.

For more information and to register, visit the DLS website for the Waltham and the Holyoke seminars. The DLS must receive payment before the event. The registration deadline, and the final day for cancellations and refunds, is Sept. 15.

Contact Jennifer McAllister at dlsregistration@dor.state.ma.us with any questions.

MMA webinar will offer tips for finding and securing grant funding

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 18 will provide an overview of federal and state grants available to municipalities and best practices for writing, submitting and administering grants.



Jennifer Raitt

Panelists will discuss how to factor grant funding into budgets and long-term planning, and share resources to assist cities and towns with the grant process.



Kate Hartke

Speakers will include:

• Jennifer Raitt, executive director of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

- Kate Hartke, director of grants and external funds in Somerville
- Kristina Johnson, planning and community development director in Hudson

Appointed and elected municipal officials are invited to register online. The one-hour webinar will begin at noon.

For more information, contact MMA Education and Training Coordinator Lily Rancatore at lrancatore@mma.org.

Kristina Johnson

MMA webinar to explore communication skills

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 26 will discuss how to effectively communicate with constituents and customize outreach according to the target audience.

Panelists will explore





Jeremy Warnick

the spectrum of engagement, including when to consult. involve or collaborate with residents, and the importance of "being your own news organization."

Speakers will include Easton

Assistant Town Administrator Sean Dugan and Jeremy Warnick, director of media relations and content strategy in Cambridge.

Appointed and elected municipal officials are asked to <u>register online</u>. The 75-minute webinar will begin at noon.

For more information, contact MMA Education and Training Coordinator Lily Rancatore at lrancatore@mma.org.

Gov. signs \$200M FY23 spending bill with \$20M for flood relief

By Jackie Lavender Bird

Immediately after enacting a state budget bill for fiscal 2024, the Legislature passed a \$200 million fiscal 2023 supplemental budget bill with \$20 million in mitigation funds for natural disasters, including recent flooding in western Massachusetts.

Gov. Maura Healey quickly signed the bill into law on Aug. 1.

The bill (H. 4034) focused on extending deadlines for horse racing and simulcasting that were set to expire on Aug.

1, along with \$180 million for fiscally strained hospitals.

The \$20 million reserve for farms damaged by recent flooding will be administered by the Executive Office for Administration and Finance and the Department of Agricultural Resources.

Unlike an earlier version of the bill, the one signed into law did not include funding to address extraordinary cost increases in special education for eligible school districts, relief that was requested following an Operational Services Division decision last fall allowing out-of-district special education private schools to increase tuition by 14% in fiscal 2024.

The law also does not include several municipal finance law changes that were included in a supplemental budget bill that was filed by the governor in March.

The MMA is advocating for both of these priorities to be taken up in the fall as part of a fiscal 2023 closeout supplemental budget.

IG hosts webinar on use of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds

On Sept. 26, the Office of the Inspector General is hosting a webinar for local leaders on the use of Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act.

Topics include:

• Uniform administrative requirements, cost principles and audit requirements for federal awards, including monitoring requirements, procurement rules, and oversight of subrecipients and

contractors

- Allowed uses of Fiscal Recovery Funds, including projects that are presumed eligible under federal rules
- Updates to the ARPA/FRF rules from the U.S. Treasury Department

The webinar, to be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m., is geared toward city and town administrators, purchasing agents, public works managers and finance directors.

The IG's office held an identical webinar on Aug. 22.

The webinar is part of the inspector general's mandate to prevent and detect waste, fraud and abuse of public resources through its Pandemic Funding Oversight Unit.

To attend, <u>register online</u>.

Annual Town Forest Conference is Oct. 21 in Ashland

The annual Massachusetts Town Forest Conference, a platform for fostering collaboration among a range of professionals and volunteers who contribute to the management of community forests, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Ashland Community Center.

The free conference recognizes local efforts to enhance the climate resilience of community forests, and underscores the indispensable role that town forests play in local ecosystems.

The event features presentations, networking opportunities and field tours. The audience includes foresters, planners,

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arborists, conservation commission members, land trusts, nonprofit organizations, forest landowners, and more.

This year's theme is "The Now and Future Forest in Massachusetts."

Sessions will include "Climate Change and the Threats to the Future Forest," and "Massachusetts Forest Health Year in Review." The event will include tours of the Salem End Sanctuary Caves, a rain garden, Bay Circuit Trail and quarry tour, and two tours of the Bungalow Historic Site.

Registration and coffee will begin at 8:30

a.m. Ashland Town Manager Mike Herbert will give opening remarks. The event will conclude at 3 p.m.

Pre-registration is required and is available online.

The roots of the Town Forest Conference trace back to 1928, when the Massachusetts Forestry Association orchestrated the first-ever gathering of town forest committees in Boston. In 2013, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation re-established the conference in commemoration of the centennial of the state's town forest enabling law, the Town Forest Act of 1913.

Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31

The MMA is accepting entries for its Annual Town Report Contest.

First-, second- and third-place winners will be selected from each of four population categories: less than 5,000; 5,001-15,000; 15,001-30,000; 30,001-plus. Winners will be recognized and given a certificate during the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in January 2024.

Judging criteria include:

· Attractiveness of report cover and layout

- Material arrangement
- Presentation of statistics and data
- Summary of the year's achievements
- Evidence of local planning for the future
- Practical utility of report

Each entry will be reviewed by two judges, chosen based on their expertise in the field and their ability to remain impartial.

To enter, please complete the <u>form on</u>

Entries sought for municipal website contest

The MMA is accepting nominations for its annual municipal website awards, which will be presented during the MMA Annual Meeting in January 2024.

The awards recognize excellence in customer service, functionality, convenience and government transparency delivered by a municipal website.

To enter the contest, chief municipal officials may simply <u>fill out a short online</u> <u>nomination form</u>. The entry deadline is Tuesday, Oct. 31.

The awards recognize the best municipal

websites in five population categories: under 5,000; 5,001-12,000; 12,001-25,000; 25,001-35,000; and 35,000-plus. One winner is selected from each category.

Judges evaluate municipal websites based on the following criteria:

- Current and timely information
- Intuitive navigation tools and organization of material
- Ease of access to resources for residents, such as the ability to apply for licenses and permits, pay bills, order documents, and make suggestions

the MMA website with a link to, or a PDF of, your town report. OPTIONAL: You may also opt to send a physical copy of your town's 2022 report to: Town Report Contest, Massachusetts Municipal Association, 3 Center Plaza, Suite 610, Boston, MA 02108.

Entries are due by Tuesday, Oct. 31.

For more information, contact Daniel Yi at the MMA at 617-426-7272, ext. 125, or dyi@mma.org. ●

- Use of social media and tools for online community engagement (including the use of an events calendar)
- Availability of public records
- Clear branding as the official municipal government site
- Robust search function
- Mobile-responsive design
- · Details about municipal departments
- Visual appeal and overall experience

For more information, contact Daniel Yi at dyi@mma.org. ●

MMHR to hold annual Fall Conference on Sept. 21-22

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources will hold its annual Fall Conference on Sept. 21 and 22 in Falmouth, covering topics such as collective and impact bargaining, policing, diversity, equity and inclusion, and recruitment.



Jaime Kenny

Attorneys Katherine Hesse and Mike Maccaro of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane will begin the day on Thursday, Sept. 21, with a session on the fundamentals of collective bargaining in municipal settings and recent case law pertaining to public sector employees.

MMA Legislative Director Dave Koffman will then provide a legislative update, and the 2023 Emil S. Skop award will be presented by MMHR Vice Chair Dolores Hamilton, the assistant town administrator in Stow who won the award last year.

In the afternoon, attorney Jaime Kenny of



Katherine Hesse



Regina Ryan

place. The session will be led by Regina Ryan, president of Discrimination & Harassment Solutions, and Trevor Boylston, an LGBTQ+ motivational speaker.

The last session of the day will be a roundtable dis-

cussion on employee recruitment and retention facilitated by MMHR board and committee members. The conference will conclude at noon, with boxed lunches available for attendees.

The conference will be held at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in Falmouth at 35 Quaker Road. The registration fee is \$185 for the full conference, or \$110 for Thursday only. Registrants will be sent a detailed agenda in the coming weeks. <u>Registration is available</u> <u>online</u>. The cancellation deadline is Sept. 14.

Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Anneke Craig at acraig@mma.org

Mike Maccaro

Clifford & Kenny will give a presentation on effective impact bargaining, and Enrique Zuniga, executive director of the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission, will discuss the commission's work since it was established in 2020.

To conclude Thursday's events, attendees are invited to join an outdoor reception for snacks, beverages and networking.

Friday morning will begin with an optional yoga class at 7 a.m., followed by breakfast at 8 a.m.

A morning session on diversity, equity and inclusion will discuss transgender and nonbinary inclusion in the municipal work-

MMHR to hold annual Labor Relations Seminar in Oct.

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources will hold its annual Labor Relations Seminar on Oct. 27 at the Devens Commons Center in Devens.

The agenda is under development, but the event traditionally focuses on leadership challenges in managing the municipal workforce, including collective bargaining and employee relations.

The day will begin at 8:15 a.m. with registration and a networking breakfast. The program will start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The registration fee is \$90 for members and \$110 for nonmembers. Registration information and the agenda will be posted on <u>www.mma.org</u> in the coming weeks.

Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Anneke Craig at acraig@mma.org

Management Association to hold boot camp on Oct. 19

The Massachusetts Municipal Management Association will hold its annual "boot camp" on Oct. 19 at the Sharon Community Center.

The boot camp is designed as a practical guide for administrators and assistants who are new to the profession, and for department heads and professional staff who are planning to move into a town manager or administrator role. A Management 101 session will feature a panel of managers who will share their experiences and insights on everything from working with elected officials to ethics.

Additional topics will address opportunities and challenges of the profession.

The day-long meeting, which will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., is also an opportunity for networking. Please note that the boot camp is not a training session for frontline staff or elected officials.

The full agenda and online registration will be available on <u>www.mma.org</u> later this month.

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

MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors.

Any councillor in Massachusetts may complete the <u>online nomination form</u> and submit his or her name for consideration. The form must be completed by Nov. 1.

Nominations are sought for three officer positions on the MMCA Board of Directors: president, first vice president and second vice president. Officers serve a one-year term.

Board member responsibilities include attendance at MMCA and MMA Board

meetings. The MMA Board meets on the second Tuesday of most months, typically in Boston from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. MMCA Board responsibilities also include assisting in planning MMCA events and attendance at in-person and virtual meetings for councillors.

After interviewing all nominees, the MMCA Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of nominations for election during the MMCA's Annual Business Meeting, to be held during the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 20, 2024, in Boston.

In performing its responsibilities for identifying, recruiting and recommend-

ing candidates to the MMCA Board, the Nominating Committee is committed to including qualified candidates who reflect diverse backgrounds. Previous attendance at MMA and MMCA in-person and virtual events is strongly preferred.

For more information about the MMCA, visit <u>www.mma.org/members/council-</u><u>lors</u>.

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

Form-of-government resources available

The Massachusetts Municipal Management Association offers free resources to help communities that are considering a change in their form of government.

The Management Association, a member group of the MMA comprising town managers, administrators and assistants, has compiled answers to frequently asked questions as well as descriptions of the different forms of government with a professional administrator. Also available are reports on towns that have gone through changes in their forms of government.

A management chart shows the progression of management authority in a decentralized vs. centralized form of government.

<u>These and other related resources can</u> <u>be found in the MMA website Resource</u> <u>Library</u>.

Members of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association are also available to meet with charter commissions, government study committees and select boards to discuss options and answer questions.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

WEMO to hold annual Leadership Conference in Sept.

Former Acting Gov. Jane Swift will be the keynote speaker at the Women **Elected Municipal** Officials annual Leadership Conference on Sept. 29 in Marlborough.

The theme of the half-day conference is "Communicating with Confidence."

A former state senator, Swift was elected lieutenant governor in 1998 alongside Gov. Paul Cellucci. As lieutenant governor, she focused on efforts to improve public education and boost economic growth across the state. In 2001, when Cellucci was appointed U.S. ambassador to Canada, Swift became the first woman to serve as governor in Massachusetts. She also gave birth to twins while in office.



Jane Swift

Cally Ritter



Katie Gilfeather

Swift continues to serve as an advocate for women's leadership in education, and is founder and president of the nonprofit Cobble Hill Education and Rescue Center.

The keynote address will be followed by two workshops. Cally Ritter, Principal of Positive Ripple Training and Consulting, will lead a session on building emotional intelligence for improved communication. The second workshop will feature Katie Gilfeather, an employee assistance program clinician with AllOne Health,

who will discuss methods for identifying and building sources of confidence in order to navigate difficult relationships and exchanges. Both sessions will provide participants with opportunities to participate in discussions and network.

The conference will be held at the Courtyard Marriott at 75 Felton St. in Marlborough.

Registration and breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m., and the program will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at noon, after which there will be a networking lunch with boxed meals available for attendees to eat on-site or take to go.

Online registration is available at <u>www.</u> mma.org, where the agenda will be posted in the coming weeks.

Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Anneke Craig at acraig@mma.org

Booth selection is open for 2024 MMA Trade Show

Booth selection is open for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, to be held on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024, at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston.

Companies, nonprofits and government agencies looking to connect with MMA members by exhibiting can visit the 2024 MMA Trade Show web page for more information, including the contract for exhibit space, a current exhibit hall floor plan, and a list of 2023 exhibitors.

As contracts are received, the MMA will add exhibitor names to the 2024 exhibitor list (with a link to their website) and add them to the exhibit hall floor plan.

Sponsorship opportunities will also be available; information will be available in the coming weeks.

MMA members are encouraged to talk with companies they currently do business with about the MMA Trade Show, which is a great opportunity to meet other MMA members.

For more information about the Trade Show, contact Advertising and Trade Show Manager Karen LaPointe at klapointe@mma.org or 617-426-7272, ext. 154. For more information about the conference, visit www.mma.org/ annual-meeting. Details about the 2024 event will begin to appear this month.

– Karen LaPointe

MSA to hold annual Leadership Conference on Dec. 8

The Massachusetts Select Board Association will hold its annual Leadership Conference on Dec. 8 in Stow.

This meeting was originally scheduled for Oct. 12, but needed to be postponed. The meeting will be held at the Pompositticut Community Center.

The agenda is being developed, and more information will be posted on www.mma.org and emailed to select board members in the fall.

Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Anneke Craig at acraig@mma.org

Women Leading Government to meet Nov. 2 in West Boylston

All women working in appointed local government positions are invited to the Nov. 2 meeting of Women Leading Government at The Manor in West Boylston.

Attendees include town managers, human resources directors, and staff from all departments in government, including police, fire, library, finance, planning and recreation.

The meeting will run from 9:30 a.m. through lunch at noon. The cost is \$25 and includes lunch.

Additional details and a registration link will be available in the coming weeks at www.mma.org.

Women Leading Government is an initiative of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association.

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

MSA seeks nominations for its 2024 Board of Directors

The Massachusetts Select Board Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its 2024 Board of Directors.

Nomination submissions will be accepted for four officer positions: president. first vice president, second vice president, and secretary, all of whom serve a one-year term. The District 5 representative, for the second year of a two-year term, is also open for nominations.

With the exception of secretary, MSA board members also serve on the MMA Board of Directors.

Any select board member in Massachu-

setts may complete the online nomination form and submit his or her name for consideration. The form must be completed by Oct. 20.

MSA board responsibilities include attendance at MSA and MMA Board meetings. The MSA board meets approximately seven times a year, most often following meetings of the MMA board, which meets on the second Tuesday of most months from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The MSA board meets on the same day from 2:15 to 3:30 p.m. These meetings are typically hybrid: Zoom as well as in person at the MMA office in Boston.

Board responsibilities also include working with MMA staff to develop agendas and identify speakers for MSA conferences and webinars, and participation in these events throughout the year. Previous participation in MMA events is strongly preferred.

After interviewing all nominees, the MSA Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of nominations for election during the MSA's Annual Business Meeting, to be held during the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024, in Boston.

Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Anneke Craig at acraig@mma.org

ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Nov. 4 in Sharon

Local finance committee members are invited to the Association of Town Finance Committees' Annual Meeting on Nov. 4 at the Sharon Community Center.

The meeting will feature four educational workshops, running concurrently during two time slots.

The first session will feature "Finance Committee and Budgeting 101," covering the basics for new members, and a session on climate change and sustainability initiatives.

The second session will feature capital planning and a workshop taking a closer look at the town treasurer and collector function.

Following lunch, retired town administrator and local government consultant Jeff Nutting will lead a session titled "Good Committee Collaboration." Finance Committee members regularly work with fellow volunteers and professional staff across town hall and the school department, and maintaining these relationships is important. Nutting will explore how to do this while prioritizing the finance committee's fiscal responsibility to the community.

The meeting will open with a legislative and budget update from MMA Deputy Legislative Director Jackie Lavender Bird. Newly appointed MMA Executive Director Adam Chapdelaine will also offer brief remarks.



Jeff Nutting

begin at 9 a.m. and end at 2:15 p.m. The cost is $$\overline{65}$ for dues-paving ATFC finance committee members and \$75 for nonmember finance committee members and all other local officials. All local officials are welcome to attend.

The meeting will

Online registration and a detailed agenda will be available on www.mma.org by mid-September.

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



Augustus discusses housing with managers

Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Edward Augustus speaks to local officials during a meeting of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association on July 20 in Sandwich. During the meeting, the managers' association also thanked MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith for his service and partnership with the member group. The meeting was Beckwith's last with the managers before his retirement this month.

BECKWITH

Continued from page 1

"I feel as though the last 31 years have been a gift, and that I have been a disproportionate beneficiary of the great work that the MMA does."

Growth of the MMA

Beckwith first became aware of the MMA as a legislative aide in the early 1980s, when he stopped by the organization's office on Tremont Street in Boston to "Xerox" a document and discovered that the association was "far more technologically advanced than the State House." The MMA, founded in 1979, was in its formative years, but it was quickly becoming a force in policy discussions regarding the fiscal health of cities and towns and government reform.

"The MMA was educating legislators about the issues and the realities on the ground ... in a way that was extremely powerful," he says. "It was, I think, punching above its weight at the time."

After earning a bachelor's degree in political science from Boston College and working as an assistant to the Board of Selectmen in his hometown of Reading, he went on to serve three terms in the House of Representatives, where he championed a significant piece of legislation to reduce the use of toxins in workplaces. In 1990, he'd decided not to run for reelection, and instead managed a successful uphill campaign to defeat a ballot question that would have cut taxes while creating a \$1 billion hole in the state budget. He was director of a work environment department at UMass Lowell when a friend and former MMA executive director, Jim Segel, tipped him off that the MMA was in search of a new leader.

Beckwith was appointed during the MMA Annual Meeting in January 1992 at age 34, and quickly came to understand the scale of the organization.

"I was whisked around the Annual Meeting, and I said, 'Holy moly, this organization is a lot bigger than I thought.' There are hundreds and hundreds of local officials there, multiple organizations underneath the MMA umbrella. People don't realize how complex our organization is.

"And so it was exhilarating and a little scary to be perfectly honest. But I figured, OK, just one step at a time."

Communities were still reeling from the aftereffects of a major recession, and still adjusting to the fiscal constraints of Proposition 2½, which took effect 10 years earlier. Technology widely used to-day was either nonexistent or in its infancy — "Our power at the time was blast faxes," he quips — so the MMA staff was routinely assembled in the conference room to process countless mailings to members.

As the workings of local government became more complex and sophisticated, so, too, did the MMA. The organization held more meetings with more member



MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith, second from left, listens as then-Gov. Paul Cellucci speaks during a State House event in the late 1990s.

groups and broadened its educational programs, eventually leading to the launch of a wide-ranging webinars program in 2020. Its legislative portfolio grew to accommodate a broader range of emerging and vexing issues. Its communications vehicles expanded to include a robust, up-to-the-minute website, and its monthly newsletter, the flagship Beacon, has roughly doubled in size. The MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show is twice as big as it was when Beckwith was introduced. And in 2011, the MMA launched a highly successful partnership with Suffolk University to offer professional development opportunities to local government practitioners.

During Beckwith's tenure, the combined staff for the MMA and MIIA, the MMA's nonprofit insurance service, has tripled to be able to meet the evolving needs of members.

Beckwith gets particularly excited when

BECKWITH continued on 23



MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith, right, speaks with the late Boston Mayor Tom Menino during an MMA Annual Meeting in the late 1990s.



MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith joins scores of local officials from across the state in calling for the passage of the Housing Choices Act during an event at the Grand Staircase of the State House in February 2019.

BECKWITH

Continued from page 22

he talks about the growth of MIIA, which is recognized as "one of the elite municipal insurance pools in the country, not just in size, but in content and effectiveness and in value delivered to communities." The \$800 million operation "saves communities millions and millions of dollars a year," while providing essential risk management services and training.

When Beckwith came aboard, the MIIA staff was located on a separate floor and had little interaction with the MMA team. Over time, the two organizations have become fully integrated and focused on a shared mission.

"I'm proudest of hiring a team of extraordinary people," Beckwith says, "and then helping to coach them and support them and give them resources along the way so they can deliver for our members — and boy have they delivered."

All about the members

Over the years, Beckwith has rubbed shoulders with some of the legends of Massachusetts politics — folks like Tom Menino, Ted Kennedy and Mike Dukakis — and has formed relationships, and quite a number of genuine friendships, with countless state and local officials in every corner of the Commonwealth. He says getting to know the MMA membership has been one of the biggest joys of his job.

"I love the fact that local employees, local officials — appointed, elected — are all leaning in to build the best communities that they can build," he says. "And the MMA's work is to be right there alongside them."

He refers to local government as "a movement," and beams when talking about how local leaders have evolved and become more professionalized — and about how they maintained quality operations and stood up new services when a pandemic brought the world to a halt in the spring of 2020.

This is part of what fuels his optimism, despite daunting headwinds like incivility, climate change, aging municipal infrastructure, racial and social justice issues, and economic vulnerabilities while under the constraints of Proposition 2½.

"Local government is doing more, and is much more agile and innovative than anyone gives our communities credit for," he says. "Just take a look at what happened during the pandemic.

"We are in a time of incivility, but we still have all these people saying, 'Yes, I know it's hard, I know that I'm going to be insulted out there in the public square, but this is important, and I want to help my community move forward.'

"So how can we not be optimistic when we see the capacity of local government being higher, and local officials being so committed to helping their communities, and stepping forward still?"

The next chapter

An avid hiker and gym rat known to arrive at the office with a gym bag over his shoulder, Beckwith is in very good health and has no lack of energy.

"I'm going to be an active retiree," he says.

Having earned a master's of business administration degree from MIT's Sloan School of Management in 2018, he says the study of organizational development has given his career a new source of energy over the past 10 years or so.

"So when I take a look at how I might be able to make a difference, it's continuing that, helping advise other nonprofit organizations, other mission-driven organizations, about how to develop a culture and systems that embrace the best qualities of why people want to work somewhere.



MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith is joined by local officials from across Massachusetts for a press conference at the State House in December 2015 to celebrate passage of a "municipal modernization" law to update and reform a number of state laws governing everything from basic municipal finance and administration to local approval of liquor licenses.

> "I am so proud of our staff. And I'm also proud that a lot of people are on this staff because they care about the mission, but they also see that this is a great place to work. ... And so going forward, I'd like to help other organizations make that a part of their DNA as well."

He'll also continue mentoring executive MBA student teams at MIT, as he's been doing for the past four years. He sees a role for himself in helping people unlock their full potential. He also looks forward to having more time for hiking, traveling and visiting family. But he will be following the progress of local government from afar.

"There's no way that I can forget about all the things that I've been doing," he says, "and I'll still care just as much. So it'll be an adjustment, I'm sure, that I'll have to figure out." ●

MMA and Massachusetts: Then and now

	1992	2023
Mass. population	6 million	7 million
Mass. state budget	\$13.4 billion	\$56 billion
Mass. governor	Bill Weld	Maura Healey
MMA & MIIA office	60 Temple Place, Boston	3 Center Plaza, Boston
MMA & MIIA employees	25	72
MMA Annual Meeting		
attendance	About 700	1,200
MMA website	No	www.mma.org

Around the Commonwealth

Cambridge

City focuses on flood prevention, zoning as part of larger climate action

In an effort to mitigate the impacts of climate change, the city of Cambridge is taking a multi-pronged approach to resiliency, looking at the impacts of flooding, heat and emissions.

The city's work is part of a broad <u>Resilient</u> <u>Cambridge Plan</u> that was released in 2021. The plan maps out 24 strategies in four categories — closer neighborhoods, better buildings, stronger infrastructure, and a greener city — to drive the work of the city to reduce the risk and severity of climate change with an emphasis on using the best available information to do so.

"We always talk about flooding in terms of reducing the severity and frequency — not eliminating," said Public Works Commissioner Kathy Watkins. "You're trying to make it so low-lying areas are less impacted by flooding and also working with residents to say, 'OK, if you are flooded, what are the steps you can take?'

"That is where the infrastructure and zoning conversations really line up in terms of trying to do this multi-pronged approach at the same time."

For its 2015 Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, the city worked with climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe to develop rainfall projections for 2030 and 2070 using climate change data, not past events. (The state has recently developed updated projections using the same methodology.)

The projections are available in a useful <u>FloodViewer</u> tool, where property owners and developers can see projected flood levels for every property in the city, enabling them to make more informed decisions.

The city has made significant investments in underground storage tanks to help mitigate the impact of flooding in neighborhoods. Already in place are 12 tanks that can hold more than 2 million gallons of water.

The city is working with the <u>Resilient</u> <u>Mystic Collaborative</u> to address coastal flooding concerns related to two dams that are expected to be able to provide less protection by 2040 in light of predicted sea



The Cambridge FloodViewer is a tool for property owners and developers to see the extent of flooding threats to every property in the city.

level rise and an increase in powerful coastal storms. Failure of the dams, Watkins said, would impact the Mystic River and Alewife Brook.

"Alewife feels really far away from the ocean, but by 2070 if we don't do anything you would expect to see that area have salt water impacts every two years," Watkins said. "If we can stop the water at [the dam] locations then you can protect the areas behind it."

Regional intervention efforts could reduce future flooding risk in 11 additional communities, she said. The effort recently received a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant to continue the work.

"Cambridge really benefits greatly from these interventions, but none of them are within Cambridge so the conversation about this really requires a different approach," Watkins said. "As we really look at impacts of climate change, knowing that each individual municipality can't work on these things alone, it really takes a much more collaborative effort."

Cambridge has also been working in partnership with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and the city of Somerville to plan for significant improvements to reduce combined sewer overflows, building on work already underway in part to improve water quality in the Charles River and Alewife Brook. The city is again looking to projected future rainfall levels to establish a future "typical year." The effort has already seen a 98% reduction in combined sewer overflows into the Charles and 85% into Alewife.

"We know the work we've done to date has been really effective," Watkins said. "We also know there is more work to do." Cambridge also has new resiliency zoning requirements taking effect this month that will require new buildings and those undergoing major renovations to factor in climate change projections. The new zoning provides clarity to the process for property owners, Watkins said.

In June, Cambridge adopted a new net-zero amendment to its <u>Building Energy Use</u> <u>Disclosure Ordinance</u>, mandating that non-residential buildings reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2035 for large buildings (larger than 100,000 square feet) and 2050 for mid-size buildings (100,000 square feet or smaller).

The city is working to mitigate the impacts of heat through its <u>Urban Forest Mas-</u> <u>ter Plan</u>, looking to grow the urban tree canopy and implement strategies that allow current trees to thrive. A recently opened park in East Cambridge — an area that used to be a gravel lot for construction staging — now has more than 400 trees. The purpose of the park evolved from plaza to urban forest to meet the city's priorities.

"We are trying to emphasize the value of planning," Watkins said. "It's really critical to have those processes that set the stage."

– Meredith Gabrilska

Boston

Program encourages office-to-residential conversions downtown

As big cities nationwide attempt to revitalize downtown office districts hollowed out by the pandemic and the rise of remote work, the city of Boston is seeking to incentivize the conversion of underused office buildings into residential units.

In July, Mayor Michelle Wu announced a public-private partnership that will offer tax breaks to qualifying downtown developers and owners who convert office buildings into residential properties. The program seeks to inject more life into downtown, which hasn't fully recovered post pandemic, and to provide badly needed residential units in the face of a regional, and statewide, housing shortage.

"We must take every possible action to create more housing and more affordability

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Around the Commonwealth

COMMONWEALTH

Continued from page 24

so that Boston's growth meets the needs of current and future residents," Wu said in a statement. "This program will help us take advantage of the opportunity we have to rethink downtown as a space where people from all over come together to collaborate, create, live, and play."

Office buildings that convert to residential would go from the commercial tax rate (currently \$24.68 per \$1,000 of assessed value) to the residential rate (currently \$10.74), and would qualify for up to a 75% discount on the residential tax rate for a 29-year period. The buildings must reserve 20% of the units as affordable and meet energy efficiency standards, and will be encouraged to preserve first-floor space for retail or other public uses. The city would receive a 2% payment if the property is later sold.

"This public private partnership opportunity is the right tool to unlock new housing and shape a new, mixed-use neighborhood downtown," said Boston Planning Chief Arthur Jemison in a statement.

According to information provided by the city, about 10 developers and property owners have discussed potential conversion properties with officials. Some of the buildings aren't in the immediate downtown, but are in neighboring areas including the North End and Fort Point Channel. The city hasn't ruled out those buildings, though those applications would depend on neighborhood zoning, and could require variances, whereas downtown building conversions would be allowed as of right, based on zoning updates currently underway.

In particular, Boston is focusing on older office buildings — built roughly between 1910 and 1940 — of about 10 to 15 stories. Such buildings tend to be narrower, and can be converted more easily, allowing more rooms to have access to windows and natural light.

In the past couple of years, media headlines have been warning of a potential "urban doom loop" — a downward spiral in which downtowns lose workers and residents, forcing restaurants and retailers to shut down, which in turn reduces property tax revenues, forcing reductions in city



The city of Boston is looking for developers and owners of older properties downtown who might be willing to convert their office buildings into residential units.

services, which drives out more people and perpetuates the cycle. The city's conversion plan would seek to address housing needs while guarding against a "doom loop."

Estimates of Boston's office vacancy rate vary, but they all suggest a sizable gap. A <u>report released by the city last October</u> indicated a post-pandemic commercial vacancy rate of around 20%. A <u>report</u> by the commercial real estate company CBRE estimated Boston's office vacancy rate at 14.2% at the end of June 2023.

Other major U.S. cities — including Chicago, Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., and Seattle — are exploring similar conversion efforts, though the details vary. Chicago is focusing on tax increment financing, Pittsburgh is offering subordinate loans for conversions, and Seattle launched a design competition to solicit conversion ideas.

Boston plans to start accepting applications in October, and will do so through June 2024. Approved projects must start construction by October 2025. The city said it may modify the program to reflect changing market conditions.

– Jennifer Kavanaugh

Southern Berkshire County

Towns offer public ride-share service

Seeking to bridge the gap for seniors, workers and others lacking transportation options, several Berkshire County towns have banded together to create a public on-demand ride service.

On May 1, Great Barrington, Stockbridge

.....



Council on Aging vans have been repurposed to serve people of all ages for a new transit service in five Berkshire towns.

and Egremont launched the TriTown Connector, a 14-month pilot program allowing people to call and request rides within the towns. The program has been so popular that West Stockbridge and Monterey have since joined.

"It's sort of like a public Uber," said Jamie Minacci, a Stockbridge Select Board member. "It's a way for seniors, or you and I, to get to appointments, to get to the grocery store, to get to work."

Before the TriConnector vehicles hit the roads, the area relied on a sparse patchwork of transportation services, including senior center vans and limited fixed-route bus service through the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority. The towns have some degree of taxi service, but the fares often prove too expensive for residents, officials said.

Tate Coleman, the TriTown Connector's part-time program director, spent his early childhood riding the buses and trains in New York City. When he and his family moved to Great Barrington, he asked, "Where's the transit?" Now a 19-year-old graduate student at UMass Amherst studying regional planning and civil engineering, he has long advocated for more public transit in the Berkshires.

Coleman became involved in a 2021-22 study and community survey conducted by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, an effort that gave birth to the current ride service. The study identified three possible zones for a pilot program, but the zone covering Stockbridge, Egremont and Great Barrington showed the greatest promise. Great Barrington's senior transit service provided its vehicles.

"If you already have the vehicles, it's much

COMMONWEALTH continued on 36

Everything new on the MMA website, straight to your inbox.

MMA.org is the best source for the latest developments affecting Mass. cities & towns:

- State budget & local aid
- State & federal grant opportunities
- Member group meetings & webinars
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- And much more!





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Send us your Municipal Innovation Award entries!

- Has your community been working on a new and unique project?
- Do you have a solution to an issue faced by many municipalities?
- Has your community found a way to improve efficiency in providing municipal services?

If so, your community should enter the MMA's Innovation Award contest!

The Kenneth E. Pickard Municipal Innovation Award is sponsored each year by the MMA to recognize municipalities that have developed unique and creative projects or programs to increase the effectiveness of local government. It is named in honor of Kenneth E. Pickard, executive secretary of the Massachusetts League of Cities and Towns from 1969 to 1973. Any city or town that is a member of the MMA is eligible to apply. The awards will be presented at the MMA's Annual Meeting & Trade Show in January 2024.

Entries are due by Tuesday, Oct. 31.

HOW TO ENTER

- Fill out the summary sheet found on the MMA website (at <u>www.mma.org/mmaannual-meeting/awards</u>), including a description of the project, the groups and individuals involved, goals, strategy, results and funding structure.
- Have your community's chief municipal official sign the nomination form (found at <u>www.mma.org/mma-annualmeeting/awards</u>).
- Include any additional materials that would assist the judges in understanding the project or program. Feel free to send photos, brochures, maps, newspaper articles, videos, etc.

Entries MUST include a summary sheet and signed nomination form and must be submitted by email.

JUDGING

Entries are judged by the following criteria:

- Project originality or novelty
- Adaptability to other communities
- Cost-effectiveness
- Efficiency or productivity
- Improvement of a municipal service / administration / performance
- Consumer / community satisfaction

Please send one electronic copy to dyi@mma.org.

For more information, please contact Daniel Yi at the MMA: 617-426-7272, ext. 125, or dyi@mma.org. Nonprofit Locally based Member driven

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Serving Massachusetts' communities since 1982

Planning, prevention can mitigate property losses

By Jennifer Ranz

Property insurance costs are on the rise, posing a budget challenge for organizations across all sectors, including municipal governments, school districts and other public entities.

Factors that play a role in cost escalation include severe weather trends, deferred maintenance practices, and the reinsurance market. With effective planning, preparation and prevention strategies, however, municipalities can help to mitigate costs and losses.

Cost factors

The reinsurance market, which provides insurance for insurance companies, has become increasingly volatile, with rates charged to insurance companies <u>rising as much as 50%</u> in recent months, which in turn has led to higher customer premiums. The increased intensity and frequency of stormy weather has caused more property losses, <u>leading to higher</u> <u>rates</u>, and uncertainty around the world related to conflict and political situations has been a contributing factor. Further driving up costs, reinsurance companies have raised the threshold for how much insurance companies must pay in claims before reinsurance kicks in.

As many homeowners are aware, premiums for property insurance have risen <u>more than 20% on average since 2015</u>, again, in large part due to changing weather patterns and higher risks for storm damage, flooding and fires. <u>At a</u> <u>recent congressional hearing</u>, Eric Andersen, president of the global services firm Aon PLC, testified that, "Just as the U.S. economy was overexposed to mortgage risk in 2008, the economy today is overexposed to climate risk."

The practice of deferring maintenance — putting off infrastructure repairs, equipment upgrades and other maintenance projects — can impact insurance premiums and amplify later maintenance costs <u>as much as 7% per year</u>, according to Opengov.com. Infrastructure in the United States faces a \$1 trillion backlog in maintenance needs. And cities and towns are among the top entities that tend to defer maintenance, often because of budget constraints, staff shortages, and aging buildings that require more frequent repair.

Stephen Batchelder, MIIA's vice president of claims management and operations, noted that deferring maintenance can lead to further collateral damage and additional costs.

"If you decide to defer maintenance on a heating system, for example, you're not only paying to repair it on an emergency basis later on — which costs more — but you may be dealing with other downstream, costly repair issues if the system fails, such as flooding and water damage to other areas of your building," Batchelder said. "Capital planning for predictive maintenance programs such as roof assessments and HVAC repairs can be challenging for many reasons, but in the long run, deferring maintenance until it becomes an emergency is a losing proposition."

Plan, prepare, prevent

Municipal leaders should consider several key areas when it comes to planning and preparation to better mitigate risk and prevent property damage and related costs, Batchelder said.

■ MIIA continued on 31

MIIA receives national award for employee wellness programs

For the second year in a row, MIIA received national recognition for its comprehensive employee health and wellness programs.

At a June ceremony in Washington, D.C., the Validation Institute, a leading professional organization that evaluates health care solutions and services, presented MIIA with a 2023 Health Value Award in the Employee Engagement – Large category.

"It's amazing that a municipal association, which doesn't have direct access to employees of the member groups, can get this level of engagement in its programs just by the extent and quality of their offerings," said Benny DiCecca, CEO of the Validation Institute.

Al Lewis, CEO of Quizzify, one of MI-IA's partners in implementing wellness programs, noted that MIIA has a far more robust wellness initiative than most of its peers, with dedicated staff going into the field to directly engage with members through face-to-face programs.

"I am confident that the enthusiasm of the members who participate played a big role in MIIA earning this award," he said.

The Health Value Awards recognize

employers who have implemented health, benefits and/or wellness programs for their population and have shown significant cost-savings, improvements in health outcomes, and/or the ability to engage members in improving their own health.

MIIA's Well Aware program helps its members build a workplace culture of health and well-being through a range of program components, including worksite and online courses, grants for wellness-boosting activities, and online wellness challenges.

– Jennifer Ranz

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Continued from page 2

outsized amount of recognition, there are two groups of people who have built the MMA into what it is today.

First, it's my colleagues on the MMA staff who have improved and enhanced every part of our operation. They are the ones who expanded our services, modernized our systems, and constructed a truly impactful organization devoted to advancing the interests and needs of cities and towns, supporting the wonderful leaders who guide and shape our communities.

The credit for all these gains belongs with these dedicated and gifted professionals. My only real accomplishment has been to hire great people and support them as best I could along the way.

To every staff member who is reading this, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. You have inspired me to bring my best self and my best effort to the office, and I am a better person because of you.

I am forever grateful to you, Katie McCue, Stan Corcoran, Candace Pierce, Dave Koffman, Josie Ahlberg, Anjanique Allison, Scott Anderson, Selina Alvelo, Chris Bailey, Denise Baker, Shanti Balram, David Bastien, Stephen Batchelder, Elizabeth Berner, Kawanda Boyd, Jackie Lavender Bird, Mary Blank, Amanda Brangwynne, Andrea Cannata-Vinciarelli, Anne Carlson, Maria Carney, Lin Chabra, Kiana Chapman, Christine Chouinard, Anneke Craig, Pam Christie, Gail Cummings, Ana Karolina De Carvalho, Ali DiMatteo, Kate Evarts, Meredith Gabrilska, Mary Harrington, Courtney Hernandez, Martin Jackson, Matt Johnson, Joan Jordan, Kimlee Lindgren, Jennifer Kavanaugh, Steven Keplin, Lori Lambert-Osburn, Timmery Kuck, Karen LaPointe, Neal Makowski, John Manning, Mary Ann Marino, Meera Mathur, Greg McGrath, Yasmin Melara, Carrie Milardo, Eddie Montagna, Michelle Nerino-Roth, Adrienne Núñez, John Ouellette, Lily Rancatore, Ruby Sadoques, Joe Santeusanio, Sandy Sarni, Javne Schmitz, Lisa Stevens-Goodnight, Mary Thornton, Sam Trafidlo, Nicole Vartanian, George Varughese, Tricia Vigeant, Ben Wiley, Jeremy Wong, Daniel Yi, and all the dedicated colleagues who preceded you.

Equally true, the MMA's transforma-



MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith shares a laugh with his wife, Dru, as they listen to tributes during his retirement party in Quincy on Aug. 31.

tion and progress would not have been possible without the guidance, advice, engagement, support, and motivation provided by a legion of local officials people who stepped forward to volunteer countless hours to serve as stewards and champions of the MMA. Over the past 30 years, tens of thousands of people have served as key local officials in Massachusetts, as managers, mayors, select board members, councilors, and finance committee members. Of these, hundreds of you have stepped forward to donate even more time to the cause of local government, joining the MMA and its affiliate groups as officers, directors, and committee members. You've made sure that the MMA stavs true to its mission to serve and enhance local government. You've adopted our strategic plans and budgets, you've informed, instructed, and empowered our staff. You've been there, time and again.

To the MMA's local government leaders, you have been true difference-makers. Your involvement has been on top of your service to your neighbors and neighborhoods, which makes us doubly grateful. You are public servants in the highest and best sense of the expression, giving your time and talents to the mission and vision of building strong and vibrant communities in your hometowns and across Massachusetts.

The final point I'd like to leave you with is this: of all levels of government, it is our municipalities who have performed at the highest level during the past 31 years. Cities and towns have endured economic busts, unfunded mandates,

constrained property taxes, preemptions, and a worldwide pandemic. Throughout this time, our cities and towns have professionalized their operations, enhanced their governance systems, and expanded essential services for residents and businesses. Without fail. communities have enacted on-time budgets no matter how difficult and painful the choices. Our localities have increased public engagement and are working harder than ever to combat incivility and the outsized impact

of social media.

Shakespeare wrote that "the golden age is before us, not behind us." For local government, I believe this is true. Yes, the problems of climate change, racial and social justice, incivility, crumbling infrastructure, and economic and fiscal uncertainty are all deeply vexing. Yet looking at the arc of the past three decades, I know that our communities can and will address these challenges. And that the MMA will continue to be your partner every step of the way, guided by great local leaders and a fantastic staff.

I am deeply grateful and excited that the MMA's leaders have selected Adam Chapdelaine as our next Executive Director. Adam's distinguished career in municipal management, his experience on Beacon Hill, his style as an engaging and collaborative leader, and his openness to innovation and new ways of doing things, will make him a dynamic leader. He'll come with his own ideas and approaches, and that will be great for MMA and our members.

Working as your Executive Director has been an honor, and I thank you for this remarkable opportunity. Above all, I could not have done this job without the love and abiding support of my wife Dru, and our children Calley and Sam. I am forever grateful for their amazing gifts to me.

I head into my next chapter with gratitude in my heart, confident that MMA's best days are ahead of us.

CHAPDELAINE

Continued from page 1

and the Inflation Reduction Act. But the "forever challenge," he said, remains state funding, particularly Chapter 90 road funds, Chapter 70 education aid and Unrestricted General Government Aid.

"I think we're coming back into much tighter times, and tight times happening at the same time as when you need significant investment in things is a bad recipe," he said. "To put a positive spin on it, I think that the MMA can be an amazing asset to cities and towns as they face tightened revenues and increased demand for services and infrastructure investment, but I think that's going to be a big issue."

Chapdelaine also plans to focus on the revenue-raising constraints brought by Proposition 2¹/₂, a 40-year-old law "that hasn't kept up with the needs and demands of the 21st century." He said his Proposition 2¹/₂ comments resonated when he interviewed for the job with the MMA's search committee.

"The head nods were most intense when I was talking about the limitations of Prop 2½," he said.

Chapdelaine said he'll seek a range of voices in shaping the MMA's agenda, including trying to engage less-involved members. If someone's not at the table, he said, then "why aren't they at this table, and has anyone asked them to be at this table?"

A career in government

A Fall River native, Chapdelaine earned his bachelor's degree in political science from UMass Dartmouth, and spent more than five years working for then-Sen. Joan Menard, starting in 2002. The experience taught him that a firm grasp of policy is essential on Beacon Hill, as is forming "trusting relationships" with legislators and their staffs. "I think that the MMA can be an amazing asset to cities and towns as they face tightened revenues and increased demand for services and infrastructure investment, but I think that's going to be a big issue." - Incoming MMA Executive Director Adam Chapdelaine

Chapdelaine's time on Beacon Hill inspired his municipal career. When he called municipal managers to provide local aid figures, several tried to recruit him into local government, and he started attending Suffolk University at night to earn his master's degree in business administration.

After leaving the State House, Chapdelaine worked as Fall River's elections director, community services director, and finally city administrator. Starting in 2010, he served two years as Arlington's deputy town manager before becoming town manager. He recently was president of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and has served on the Metro Mayors' Coalition, the Commonwealth's Group Insurance Commission, and the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission.

Ongoing and future challenges

Chapdelaine has focused on diversity, equity and inclusion efforts throughout his career. Over the past couple years, he served as co-chair, with Westwood Town Administrator Christopher Coleman, of the MMA's DEI Advisory Committee. He said several challenges frustrate municipal efforts to advance DEI work, including limited funding, political polarization, and a lack of existing diversity in communities that can obscure inequities.

"I think much of that work is going to be focused on figuring out how to give local governments the tools that they need, wherever they are on the journey," he said.

Climate change has also been a central issue for Chapdelaine. At the Boston Green Ribbon Commission, he worked to engage business and civic leaders and citizens in designing and implementing the city's climate adaptation and mitigation strategy. Following a summer of climate disasters — particularly wildfires, flooding and extreme heat — he said, "there's more of an acceptance that we need to do something," and he's optimistic that federal aid will help businesses, residents and municipalities electrify their buildings and fleets. He said the MMA can support municipal efforts to access the funds and help speed up electrification.

Coastal communities face staggering resiliency costs, however, and all communities will need significant funding and resources for investments such as cooling centers, heat pumps, and efforts to address stormwater flooding.

Chapdelaine said he'll bring his climate focus to his work with MIIA, the MMA's nonprofit insurance service, and he said he's eager to work with Stan Corcoran, MIIA's executive vice president. In particular, he said he is interested in promoting members' resiliency efforts through policy language and incentives.

Adam Chapdelaine, in person

In a recent interview, Chapdelaine shared some personal details:

Family first: Chapdelaine lives in Dedham with his wife, Rita, and their two children, Pearl, 8, and Roger, 6, who attend the Dedham Public Schools.

The great outdoors: Activities include running and towing his children around in a cargo bike. "We like going up to Vermont, or anywhere up north," he said. "We like to hike."

Getting involved locally: Chapdelaine serves as a representative Town Meeting member in Dedham and recently joined the Capital Expenditures Committee.

Must-see TV: Chapdelaine household

viewing includes "Ted Lasso," "The Bear," and HBO's "Somebody Somewhere" — "a show that really depicts that anywhere in America — this is in Kansas — there are people of different shapes and sizes and walks of life that can pursue their best version of a happy life."

– Jennifer Kavanaugh

People



Thomas Christensen

served almost five years as East Longmeadow's deputy public works superintendent and nine years as the civil engineer and facilities manager at the Concord Municipal Light Plant. He has also worked as a project manager and design engineer for Azzolina & Feury Engineering in New Jersey and as a field party chief at Smith Associates Surveyors in East Longmeadow. He has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Clarkson University.

Thomas

on July 1.

Christensen

became the new

town manager in

East Longmeadow

Christensen had

been the deputy town manager since

September 2022.

Before that, he

Christensen replaces Mary McNally, who left in June after almost four years serving as town manager.



Former state legislator Sean **Curran** became the town administrator in both Washington and Middlefield on July 6. Curran represented

the Ninth Hampden

District in the House

of Representatives

Sean Curran

from 2005 to 2015. He has been a Springfield city councillor for the past four years, and is seeking reelection in November. Previously, he was a Springfield city solicitor in 2015, and an assistant district attorney in Hampden County from 2016 to 2019. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Saint Anselm College and a law degree from Suffolk University.

In Middlefield, Curran succeeds **Duane Pease**; in Washington, he is the first town administrator.

Jennifer Constable became the new town manager in Hull on Aug. 16.

Until recently, Constable was the assistant town administrator in Rockland, a role



Jennifer Constable

she held for more than four years. She also served for seven years, the last two as chair. on the Hull Select Board, before stepping down in

February. Constable had held numerous state positions for more than a

decade, including working in program development for the Liabilities to Assets pilot program, serving as deputy manager in the Office of Community Development, and serving as manager of the community investment tax credit program. She was also a paralegal specialist for the Boston Housing Authority. She joined the MMA Fiscal Policy Committee in August 2019.

Constable has a master's degree in public administration from Suffolk University and a bachelor's degree in anthropology and biology from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh.

Hull's previous town manager, Phil **Lemnios**, retired on June 29 after serving from 1992 to 2002 and again from 2007 through this year. In between, he was town administrator in Natick.

Matthew Chabot became the new town administrator in Berkley on Aug. 7.

Chabot, who until recently had been serving as chair of the Finance Committee, worked for nearly two decades as a coordinator/courier at FedEx Express in Raynham. He has a bachelor's degree in history from Bridgewater State University, and a master's degree in business administration from UMass Dartmouth.

Former town administrator Mark **Stankiewicz** stepped down in April, and **Kevin Partridge** had been serving as the interim administrator.

David Mathers, a longtime member of the Williamsburg Select Board, died on July 21 at age 75 from complications related to a stroke.

According to the Daily Hampshire Gazette, Mathers was first elected to the Select Board in 2007, and remained on the board until his death. He previously served on



David Mathers

the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mathers graduated from Williamsburg High School in 1965, and served in the Army in Vietnam from 1966 to 1968. He opened and ran an auto mechanic business

in town, and, in 1985, went to work for National Grid, where he remained until his retirement in 2017.



Thomas Wojtkowski, a former legislator who helped create the state's community college system, died on Aug. 1 at age 96.

Wojtkowski was first

elected as a state Thomas Wojtkowski

representative in 1953 and served nine terms, during which time he championed legislation creating the Massachusetts Board of Regional Community Colleges. Wojtkowski served on several committees, including the House Ways and Means Committee, the Committee on Education, and the Committee on the Judiciary. In 1972, he became counsel to the House Ways and Means Committee and later served as assistant counsel to the House of Representatives from 1985 to 1994.

A Navy veteran, he served on a minesweeper, the USS Barbican, in the Pacific theater from 1944 to 1946. After his time in the military, he taught sixth grade. After graduating from law school, he practiced law for 50 years in Pittsfield.

His wife, Anne Everest Wojtkowski, who died in 2014, had served as Pittsfield's first woman mayor from 1988 to 1992.

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.

MIIA

Continued from page 27

The following are some examples:

- Develop and implement extreme weather protocols, including guidelines for before, during and after a storm hits.
- Assess building envelope quality using both internal and external thermography and other new technologies to identify any issues that may need to be repaired.
- Check water connections and replace needed parts, and conduct regular sewer maintenance inspections

MIIA encourages its members to focus on planning and prevention strategies through programs such as MIIA Risk Management grants, which reward communities for efforts to create a safety culture and mitigate property losses.

"Helping members to identify and address specific risk areas helps everyone in the pool to keep insurance costs down," said Stan Corcoran, executive vice president of MIIA. "The function of the pool isn't just to provide services and good pricing, it's about us working with our members as good pool participants to help moderate costs through safety efforts, versus us just passing along any increases."

As part of its mission, MIIA provides suggested best practices for preventing property losses. <u>Risk Management</u> <u>Programs and Resources</u> are available on the MIIA website.

Jennifer Ranz is a freelance writer.

MBTA

Continued from page 6

capacity required by the guidelines."

Enacted as part of the <u>2020 economic</u> <u>development law</u>, the new Section 3A of Chapter 40A (the Zoning Act) requires 177 MBTA communities to have at least one zoning district of reasonable size near a transit station in which multifamily housing is permitted as of right — and to meet other criteria set forth in the statute — or risk a loss of eligibility for funding from the state's MassWorks program, the Housing Choice Initiative, or the Local Capital Projects Fund.

The programs added by the revised guidelines are:

Community Planning Grants

Meeting space wanted

Does your municipality have a public meeting space that would be appropriate for an MMA event?

With more than 60 meetings each year, the MMA uses several different types of function spaces around the state. The use of municipally owned meeting rooms greatly improves the organization's ability to sponsor affordable educational events in a variety of places.

To offer your town or city's municipal function space, contact Timmery Kuck, the MMA's conference and meeting manager, at tkuck@mma.org.

- Massachusetts Downtown Initiative
- Urban Agenda
- Rural and Small Town Development Fund
- Brownfields Redevelopment Fund
- Site Readiness Program
- Underutilized Properties Program
- Collaborative Workspace Program
- Real Estate Services Technical Assistance

- Commonwealth Places Programs
- Land Use Planning Grants
- Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity
- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Planning and Project Grants

All MBTA communities were required to achieve interim compliance by Jan. 31, 2023, with full compliance varying by transit community type, beginning in Dec. 31, 2023.



State officials, mayors discuss environmental issues

Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper, left, and Brian Arrigo, commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation and a former mayor of Revere, discuss their priorities with the Massachusetts Mayors' Association during a July 26 meeting in Gloucester.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Sanitary Inspector

City of Brockton

The City of Champions is hiring! Our Inspectional Services Department is seeking a Sanitary Inspector to perform inspectional and administrative work in connection with the enforcement and interpretation of applicable sanitary codes, enforce local and state health laws and regulations, and assess the sanitary condition of private and public premises to ensure compliance with applicable standards. Employees are our most valuable asset! We offer a comprehensive benefits package and a stimulating work environment. This is a full-time, unionized position. Salary starts at \$62,663, pursuant to the provisions of the applicable union contract. Deadline: Open until filled. Review of applications will begin immediately. For more information and application instructions, visit brockton.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails. jsp?JOBID=166478.

Compliance, Quality and Technical Control (CQTC) Administrator City of Brockton

The City of Champions is hiring! Our Auditor's Department is seeking a detail-oriented and results-driven individual to join our team as the CQTC Administrator. You will focus on drafting and implementing financial procedures for citywide financial systems, assist in communicating policies that comply with newly issued accounting standards, and assist the City Auditor with a variety of projects to benefit the city. Employees are our most valuable asset! We offer a comprehensive benefits package and a stimulating work environment. This is a full-time, unionized position. Salary starts at \$63,780, pursuant to the provisions of the applicable union contract. Deadline: Open until filled. Review of applications will begin immediately. For more information and application instructions, please go to: brockton.interviewexchange.com/jobofferdetails. jsp?JOBID=166473.

IT Support Specialist Upper Blackstone Clean Water

The IT Support Specialist will be responsible for technical administration of all aspects of a variety of computer operating and communication systems that support a modern wastewater treatment facility. Manages computer security and access to plantwide control systems and assures data are properly stored and backed up. Interacts with plant personnel and outside vendors, suppliers, and engineers, and coordinates the work of outside control systems consultants. Assures availability to Upper Blackstone management, including shift supervisors via Upper Blackstone-provided cellular telephone to always assist with any IT problems. Requirements: Bachelor's degree from a four-year college or university. Five years' experience in computer control systems, at least two of which should be at a government or municipal agency. Any equivalent combination of education and experience. Must have a valid driver's license. Upper Blackstone offers a competitive benefits package, including medical, dental, vision, and 403(b) retirement plan. Employees are part of the Mass. State Retirement System. Send cover letter and resume to: Human Resources, hr@ubcleanwater.org.

SCADA Specialist Upper Blackstone Clean Water

The SCADA Specialist supports the process control network to ensure function and integrity of the systems. This includes the system servers and workstations, A-B programmable logic controllers (PLCs) and FTViewSE, human machine interfaces (HMI) and operator interface terminals (OIT), local area network/wide area network, workstations, printers, and related IT infrastructure to ensure secure and uninterrupted operations. Typical assignments for the SCADA Specialist are working on the SCADA network, power monitoring network, HVAC network, and CCTV/card access network. Identifying network communication and connectivity issues. Works with advanced control network data communications, client/server functions and characteristics and current hardware/software architecture. Makes minor programming changes in the PLC, OITs and HMI. Communicates frequently with team members and other units across the plant about processes, equipment, or potential problems. Bachelor's degree related to computer science, technology, or related area preferred. Ten years' experience in the computer network field. Must possess a valid driver's license. This is a full-time position. Upper Blackstone offers a competitive benefits package, including medical, dental, vision, and 403(b) retirement plan. Employees are part of the Mass. State Retirement System. Send cover letter and resume to: Human Resources Manager, hr@ubcleanwater.org.

Wastewater Operator Upper Blackstone Clean Water

Upper Blackstone Clean Water, a Massachusetts Grade 7 wastewater treatment plant in Millbury, is accepting resumes for a Wastewater Operator. We are one of New England's largest clean water treatment plants, serving roughly 260,000 people in the greater Worcester area and managing biosolids for an additional 14 communities. The facility provides biological nutrient removal treatment for flows originating in the greater Worcester area and provides biosolids management using incineration for numerous Massachusetts communities. Operators will be 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. Salary based on education level and experience – college level coursework in a related field is desirable. Holiday and weekend work is required. Must pursue work with energy and drive. Excellent potential for growth. Upper Blackstone offers a competitive benefits package, including medical, dental, vision, and 403(b) retirement plan. Employees are part of the Mass. State Retirement System. Send cover letter and resume to: Human Resources Manager, hr@ubcleanwater.org.

Industrial Electrician Upper Blackstone Clean Water

Upper Blackstone Clean Water, a Massachusetts Grade 7 wastewater treatment plant in Millbury, is accepting resumes for an Industrial Electrician. Skilled and committed to the inspection, maintenance repair and rebuilding of instrumentation, electronic operating and control systems, industrial electrical systems, and equipment of modern wastewater facilities. Performs work of a difficult and skilled nature. Provides detailed records of daily work activities, accident reporting, tool and equipment inventories, and predictive, preventative, and corrective maintenance information to the Electrical Systems Manager. Assures security of tools and equipment used in completion of work. Coordinates health and safety concerns and policy with the Safety Officer. Interacts with plant personnel and outside vendors, suppliers, and engineers. Works inside and outside, as well as in tanks and other confined spaces. Performs maintenance work involving the inspection, calibration, troubleshooting,

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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.

October Beacon

Deadline: September 26 Publication: October 2

November Beacon

Deadline: October 26 Publication: November 1

Placing an ad

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

For more information, call Amanda Brangwynne 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.

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repair and replacement of electrical components and equipment, electronic operating and control systems, generation and power distribution systems, motor control and distribution centers, lighting systems and process instrumentation associated with operating a modern wastewater treatment facility. Performs minor mechanical work of an incidental nature during electrical repairs, adhering to safety program requirements and maintaining superior housekeeping standards. Must pursue work with energy and drive. Possession of a valid electrician journeyman's license issued by the state of Massachusetts is required. Must have a valid driver's license. Five years of industrial experience in electrical maintenance. Upper Blackstone offers a competitive benefits package, including medical, dental, vision, and 403(b) retirement plan. Employees are part of the Mass. State Retirement System. Send cover letter and resume to: Human Resources Manager, hr@ubcleanwater.org.

Senior Housing Development Project Manager (Grant-Funded) City of Chelsea

The city of Chelsea is looking to hire a Senior Housing Development Project Manager to work professionally in meeting the city's comprehensive housing agenda. Under the direction of the Director, manage housing programs and development projects through the planning, design, and implementation phases, evaluate and effectuate city investment towards development of private and non-profit affordable and workforce housing, and assist in the creation of housing policy. Responsible for housing program development and management, grant management, program budgeting and project financing and other housing projects and programs. To see full position posting and to apply, visit: <u>www.chelseama.gov/job detail T14 R112.php</u>. Equal opportunity employer

Youth Behavioral Health Community Service Clinician Town of Chatham

The town of Chatham, Mass., seeks a highly qualified and compassionate clinical professional to serve as Chatham's first Youth Behavioral Health Community Service Clinician. The Youth Behavioral Health Community Service Clinician will help to identify individual youth, and/or families suffering with behavioral health disorders and/or substance abuse disorders and to intervene and assist when necessary. View the full job description at chatham-ma.gov. Starting biweekly salary is \$3,454.40-\$3,523.20 (\$89,814.40-\$91,603.20), depending on qualifications and experience. The town of Chatham values diversity and welcomes candidates of all backgrounds to apply. Please email a cover letter and resume in one PDF to jobs@chatham-ma.gov. First review deadline is Sep. 6. ADA/EO/AAE

Adult Behavioral Health Community Service Clinician

Town of Chatham

The town of Chatham, Mass., seeks a highly qualified and collaborative clinical professional to serve as Chatham's first Adult Behavioral Health Community Service Clinician. The Adult Behavioral Health Community Service Clinician will help to identify individual adults and/or families suffering with behavioral health disorders and/or substance abuse disorders and to intervene and assist when necessary. View the full job description at <u>chatham-ma.gov</u>. Starting biweekly salary is \$3,454.40-\$3,523.20 (\$89,814.40-\$91,603.20), depending on qualifications and experience. The town of Chatham values diversity and welcomes candidates of all backgrounds to apply. Please email a cover letter and resume in one PDF to jobs@chatham-ma.gov. First review deadline is Sep. 6. ADA/EO/AAE

Veterans Agent City of Easthampton

The city of Easthampton is seeking the right candidate for the position of Veterans' Service Agent. This position works to provide assistance to veterans in accessing benefits, identifying federal, state, and local programs, and providing referrals for employment, training, housing, and medical care. Planning, organizing, and carrying out programs to meet the economic and medical needs of military veterans, their dependents, and the public in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations. This position is 25 hours a week, Monday through Thursday, and is benefits eligible. Salary Range: \$33.29-\$40.94/hour. To see the full position posting and apply, please visit www.easthamptonma.gov.

Associate Planner

City of Easthampton

The city of Easthampton is seeking an Associate Planner within our Planning Department. This is a great opportunity to get involved in growth and development within the thriving Easthampton community. This position is professional and administrative, providing technical support for various boards and committees, including the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. This position is responsible for oversight and coordination of all land use permitting projects and assists the Planning Department with research, data collection, grant application and office administration. Interested applicants can apply at <u>www.easthamptonma.</u> gov. Full-time, benefitted, 34 hrs/week, Monday to Thursday. Salary Range: \$42,800-\$48,500 (\$24.21-\$28.07 per hour) to start.

Director of Natural Resources Town of Chatham

The town of Chatham (permanent population: 6,604; seasonal: more than 30,000), a vibrant, complex, dynamic, and diverse community with a coastal resiliency focus, is seeking exceptional applicants for the position of Director of Natural Resources. Please view the complete position announcement at chatham-ma.gov. The town of Chatham has established an annual salary range of \$140,316-\$151,860. Final salary negotiable, commensurate with gualifications. An attractive benefits package, including health and retirement plans, is part of the Director of Natural Resources' total compensation. All replies will be kept confidential. All submittals will be screened upon receipt. Final interviews are expected to be scheduled after the Labor Day holiday. Qualified candidates should call the consultant directly to discuss this opportunity. Please send a cover letter and resume in one PDF to: Richard J White, Groux-White Consulting, LLC, 1 Pelham Road, Lexington, Massachusetts 02421; www.Grouxwhiteconsulting. com; rickwhite58@verizon.net; 781-572-6332. ADA/ EO/AAE

Heavy Equipment Operator I Town of Boxford

The town of Boxford is accepting applications for a full-time DPW HEO I. One to three years' related experience - wing plow experience preferred. Skilled manual work requires both CDL and hoist engineer's licenses to support the repair and maintenance of roads, drainage systems, snow/ice removal, building and other town infrastructure maintenance, mowing, responding to emergencies, and safety and efficiency of work operations; all other related work as required. Wage is \$26.22/hr. Random drug testing required. For a complete description of the position, please visit the employment opportunities page of the town's website (boxfordma.gov). An electronic version of the town of Boxford application for employment can also be found on the town's website. A resume, cover letter, and completed town of Boxford application for employment must be submitted to Leanne Mihalchik either by mail (7A Spofford Road, Boxford, MA 01921) or email (lmihalchik@boxfordma.gov). Position will be posted until filled.

Public Health Nurse Town of Braintree

Qualifications: Registration by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a registered nurse with current certification as a basic life support (BLS) healthcare provider, bachelor's degree in nursing or public health nursing preferred, five years' experience in public health nursing or related field, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Must possess a valid Massachusetts motor vehicle operator's license and reliable motor vehicle. Valid Commonwealth of Massachusetts lead determination certification or ability to acquire certification within six months of employment. M14: \$75,854.54-\$89,942.31. <u>Visit our website for more information</u>. Email resume and cover letter to cdepina@braintreema.gov.

Health and Conservation Agent Town of Wellfleet

The town of Wellfleet is seeking to fill the position of Health and Conservation Agent, who will be responsible for enforcing federal, state, and local laws and regulations pertaining to the protection of the environment and public health education in accordance with applicable laws. Compensation: \$82,563.52 \$111,703 and benefits. This is a union position (WEA Unit A). More information available at www.wellfleet-ma.gov.

Accounts Payable Specialist (ARPA) City of Chelsea

Union: SEIU; Annual Salary: \$47,723.61-\$61,669.88; grant-funded. The city of Chelsea is looking to fill an Accounts Payable Specialist position to assist in the Auditing Department. Responsible and complex clerical account keeping work in the preparation and maintenance of the city's accounts payable (A/P) process and payments. Audit and verify the availability of funds. Assure proper documentation for vouchers. Process payments for city and school. Perform complex work in the oversight and disbursement of payments and the maintenance of A/P transactions and resulting reports. Perform key clerical functions of the Auditing Department. Click on the link for the full job description: www.chelseama.gov/job_detail_ T14_R107.php. EEO

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Civilian Dispatchers

Town of Saugus

Civilian Dispatchers wanted! Pay Range (Union Scale): \$41.854.30-\$50,051.31 with great benefits! Summary of Position Responsibilities: Applications are being accepted for a full-time Civilian Dispatcher at the Public Safety Building. Responsibilities include receiving calls on E-911 systems, determining appropriate level of response, and dispatching public safety personnel calmly and clearly to locations where corrective action is needed. Responsibilities also include maintaining proper records of all communications, providing information and assistance to the general public, as well as various clerical and computer-related functions. Applicants must be able to work well under pressure. Qualifications: Applicants must be able to complete all required training successfully. Prior training and experience is preferred. Close Date: Open until filled. To apply, email cover letter/resume to Human Resources at gchristina@saugus-ma.gov.

Real Estate Development Officer Massachusetts Housing Partnership

Massachusetts Housing Partnership is seeking a Senior Real Estate Development Officer to join its Community Assistance (CA) team. The CA team provides technical assistance, education and support to communities, local housing authorities, and nonprofits to produce equitable, affordable housing across the state. We are searching for a seasoned professional who will be a leader within the team and a promoter of equity and inclusion in affordable housing. This position will principally be providing direct pre-development technical assistance and project management of third party consultants to facilitate the disposition of surplus public real estate for the development of affordable housing. In addition, the Senior Real Estate Development Officer will assist with trainings, workshops, publications, and other direct and third party technical assistance. Establishing relationships, gaining trust, and effectively communicating complex information to non-technical audiences are integral for success in the role. Responsibilities include supporting local efforts for the disposition of public land for affordable housing, including assessing and managing sitespecific pre-development due diligence, assessing the financial feasibility of the desired development, and preparing requests for proposals. Project salary is \$120,000 to \$140,000. To learn more about the role and how to apply, visit <u>MHP's careers page</u>.

City Solicitor City of Medford

Salary range is \$122,244.19-\$140,000.21, annually (CAF 21 non-union FLSA exempt). Salary has been adjusted. Position summary: The City Solicitor is the chief administrator of the city's Law Department and is responsible for overseeing the provision of legal services to the city of Medford, the Mayor, City Council, and all city departments, boards and commissions. Education: Juris doctor degree with more than 10 years' prior work experience, preferably in a municipal law practice at a partner level. To apply and review the complete job description, visit <u>www. medfordma.org</u>.

Town Accountant/Assistant Finance Director

Town of Newbury

The town of Newbury is seeking a highly qualified candidate for the full-time (35 hours, fourday workweek) position of Town Accountant/ Assistant Finance Director. Under the direction of the Town Administrator, the Town Accountant/ Assistant Finance Director is a key member of the town's financial team. Responsibilities include the maintenance of accounting records in accordance with Massachusetts statutes and town bylaws, financial analysis, revenue and expenditure forecasting and reporting, control of town expenditures through the warrant process, and providing related financial information, analysis and consultation to the Town Administrator and to other town departments. Duties require skills equivalent to a bachelor's degree in accounting or related field and five to seven years of municipal accounting experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Massachusetts certified governmental accountant status is preferred. Salary is negotiable and commensurate with experience, starting at \$90,000. To apply, send a letter of interest and resume to: Town of Newbury, Town Administrator, 12 Kent Way, Byfield, MA 01922. AA/EOE

Children's Librarian (24 hrs/wk) Town of Saugus

The town of Saugus is looking for a Children's Librarian (24 hours per week)! The Children's Librarian, working under the supervision of the Head of Children's Services, develops, plans, and implements children's services. The successful candidate will be a friendly, self-motivated, and quick learner who is able to handle a variety of tasks. Application: Please email all cover letters/resumes to Human Resources Manager, Gabriela Christina at gchristina@saugus-ma.gov.

Department of Public Works Director Town of Duxbury

Responsible for the management of the Department of Public Works, which includes water, sewer, cemetery, crematory, transfer station, highway, vehicle maintenance, lands and natural resources, and animal control divisions. Manages operational and capital budgets, capital projects, snow and ice, central building, fuel depot, and streetlights. Graduate from an accredited four-year college/university, specialization in engineering; 10-plus years of increasingly responsible experience, five or more years in a supervisory position or equivalent combination of education, training, and experience, which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential functions. Licensed civil engineer and Massachusetts certified arborist preferred. To apply, go to townofduxburyjobs.easyapply.co.

Grant Administrator/Writer City of Everett

Everett's Grant Administrator/Writer will work under the supervision of the Department of Planning and Development and work closely alongside both the Department of Transportation and Mobility and the Engineering Department. The position is responsible for identifying grant opportunities, securing grants which pertain to the three aforementioned departments, and assisting in the management of approved grants. Between the three departments, the city of Everett is currently administering and/ or applying for more than \$100 million in grant

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funds, impacting multiple important sectors of the municipality, including affordable housing, infrastructure, conservation/sustainability, resiliency, open space, transportation improvements, roadwork, and building improvements. <u>Visit our website to</u> <u>learn more</u>.

Receptionist

Framingham Housing Authority The Framingham Housing Authority seeks a full-time front office Receptionist. Candidates must have the ability to work with a diverse socioeconomic population in a kind, patient capacity. Bilingual preferred. Please email jbibo@framha.org for a full job description. This is a union position. Salary: FHA offers a generous benefits package. \$24.31 an hour. The Framingham Housing Authority is an equal opportunity employer and qualified Section 3 residents, minorities, women, handicapped, veterans, and all above are encouraged to apply. Interested applicants should submit their resume to Janet Bibo, Framingham Housing Authority, 1 John J. Brady Drive, Framingham, MA 01702 or jbibo@framha.org. Position open until filled.

Registered Sanitarian City of Medford

Department: Health Department. Hours of Work: Full-time (35 hours/weekly); evenings as required. Salary: \$1143.55-\$1275.74 weekly (union). Basic Function: Performs inspection and technical work in the enforcement and interpretation of applicable state and local city of Medford codes relating to sanitation, and environment/public health practices and principles. Provides advocacy for the protection and advancement of public health and safety. Education and Experience: Bachelor's degree in public health or related field with emphasis on environmental health. Applicants must have at least three years of technical or working knowledge of environmental and public health principles, practices, procedures, and techniques. Professional experience in the field of inspectional, sanitary, or environmental health code enforcement or an equivalent combination of education and experience. License: Registration by the Massachusetts Board of Sanitarians is preferred or commitment to obtain within one year. Mass. state driver's license. Send cover letter and resume with the job title in the subject line to jobs@medford-ma.gov. For the full job posting, please visit the city of Medford website: www.medfordma.org. The city of Medford is an equal opportunity/affirmative action/504 employer. Residents of the city of Medford, women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Director of Economic Development City of Medford

Position: Director of Economic Development. Department: Planning, Development and Sustainability. Hours of Work: Full-time (35 hours/ weekly). Salary Range: \$1643.70-\$1923.14 weekly; non-union FLSA exempt). Position Summary: The Director works closely with businesses, developers, municipal departments, elected officials, and the community to recruit and facilitate the predevelopment process for new commercial and residential growth; manages business retention/ expansion efforts in Medford's various commercial districts; supports planning efforts related to community and economic development; oversees

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and informs economic development-related policy; and provides in-house expertise on topics such as planning, zoning, and real estate. Additionally, the position is responsible for developing and managing business support initiatives to ensure the recovery and resiliency of Medford's small business community. Education/Experience: Master's degree in planning, economic development, business, or related field. Minimum of five years of professional experience in the administration of redevelopment, economic development and/or land use planning. Any equivalent combination of education, training and experience, which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the essential functions of the job. American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) or certified economic developer (CED) credential preferred. Send cover letter and resume with the job title in the subject line to jobs@medford-ma.gov. For the job posting, please visit the city of Medford website: www.medfordma.org. The city of Medford is an equal opportunity/affirmative action/504 employer. Residents of the city of Medford, women, persons of color, veterans and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Technical Services Librarian City of Everett

The city of Everett is seeking applicants for the position of Technical Services Librarian. The individual would oversee cataloging, processing and repair of physical collections. Maintains the library catalog database in conjunction with NOBLE network and would also represent Everett Public Libraries at the technical services-related meetings at NOBLE. The candidate will need to have strong knowledge of principles and practices of public library functions. Strict attention to detail and accuracy, excellent oral and written communications. Ability to make decisions in an environment within time and resource constraints. A master's degree in library science and four years of professional experience. Hours: 35 hours per week, day shift. Salary: \$56,360.30-\$66,978.91 annually. Please visit the city's website for additional job description details. To apply, visit <u>cityofeverett.</u> com/city-hall/departments/human-resources/jobopportunities.

SERVICES

Municipal Energy Services

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

Municipal Support Services

Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS) is a Massachusettsbased, certified woman-owned, disadvantaged business enterprise composed of municipal experts. We have hands-on experience that allows us to formulate and implement strategies tailored to the communities we serve. We specialize in public administration and municipal finance, human resources and policy development, emergency management services and public safety, public works and infrastructure operations, public relations and community engagement, project management and oversight, grant writing and administration, and onsite support services. For more information, visit <u>www.capital-strategic-solutions.com</u>, call 508-690-0046, or email info@capital-strategic-solutions.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 Paul DeRensis for all public law issues at 857-259-5200.

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

Marcum LLP (formerly Melanson) is a national Certified Public Accounting firm and has been a leader in the accounting and auditing profession for more than 60 years. Our assurance professionals, most of whom have been focused in the governmental arena throughout their entire careers, have an in-depth understanding of the complex economic and political environment in which these entities operate. Their knowledge and experience allow us to provide the highest level of professional service to our governmental clients. 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! info@ marcumllp.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

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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>.

Town Counsel Services

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

General Consultant, Recruiting and Special Studies

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

Organizational Development and Conflict Resolution

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

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Town Counsel Services

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

Tax Title Legal Services

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

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

VADAR Systems provides financial management

COMMONWEALTH

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easier to expand on that than start a new service," Coleman said. "That was the original idea for the study."

The \$440,000 budget for the pilot includes funding from the communities, fare revenues, a Federal Transit Administration grant, another FTA grant through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and funding secured by Rep. Smitty Pignatelli in an economic development bond law.

The Connector service runs weekdays from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends. A one-way, in-town ride costs \$2, while a multi-town ride within the five communities costs \$4. Riders can also buy 10-packs of tickets at a discount. While the program is developing a phone app, for now people must request rides by 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 <u>www.VADARsystems.com</u>. 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. com to see a complete list of our satisfied clients or call John Clifford or Jaime Kenny at 781-924-5796 for more information.

Municipal Financial Management Services

Eric A. Kinsherf, CPA, has been involved in municipal finance since 1994 in various capacities, ranging from

phone, and pay by cash or check.

The system runs with five vehicles — four from Great Barrington and one from West Stockbridge — and the fleet consists of mini buses, vans, and an SUV, several of which are wheelchair accessible. In addition to Coleman, the program has two dispatchers and 14 drivers.

In June, the program had about 600 rides, or 115 unique riders, Coleman said, and each month's ridership increased at least 25% over the previous month. On Aug. 1, the service set a record of 53 rides for the day. With full staffing, the Connector could probably serve a total of 65 rides in a day, he said.

"For a lot of these people, it's a lifeline service," Coleman said.

Coleman said the communities have already committed to the program through fiscal 2025, dependent on grant funding. 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 www.erickinsherfcpa.com.

Human Resources Consulting

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

Executive Recruitment and Municipal Management

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

Coleman said he has already been applying for additional funding, and the program still has another \$100,000 from the economic development law to use for the second year.

Melanie Vicneire, Egremont's transportation administrator, said she hopes the Connector will provide a more specific understanding of the area's transportation needs.

"It would be really great to be able to expand to a handful of these other rural towns," Vicneire said, "because there's definitely a need."

– 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.

Calendar

SEPTEMBER



4-5 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

- **Massachusetts Municipal** 12 **Councillors' Association**, board meeting, 8:45-9:45 a.m., MMA office and Zoom. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker
- MMA Board of Directors, 12 10-11:15 a.m., MMA office and Zoom. Contact: MMA Executive Director's office

Massachusetts Select Board 12 Association, board meeting, 2:15-3:30 p.m., MMA office and Zoom. Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Anneke Craig

Massachusetts Municipal 14 Management Association,

monthly meeting, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Lake Pearl, Wrentham. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

MMA webinar, "Grants 101," 18 12-1 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Lily Rancatore



Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources, Fall

Conference, Sea Crest Beach Hotel, Falmouth. Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Anneke Craig



Massachusetts Mayors' Association, monthly meeting, 9:15 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact: MMA Communications and Membership **Director Candace Pierce**

For more information, visit www.mma.org



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

Women Elected Municipal 29 Officials, leadership conference, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Courtyard Marriott, Marlborough. Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Anneke Craig

OCTOBER

ICMA Conference, state 2 reception, 6-8 p.m., Austin, Texas. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

Association of Town Finance Δ **Committees**, board meeting, 4-5 p.m., virtual. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

MMA Board of Directors, 10 long-range planning meeting, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Contact: MMA Executive Director's office

Massachusetts Municipal 19 Management Association, boot camp, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sharon Community Center, Sharon. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

Massachusetts Municipal 27 Human Resources, labor relations seminar, Devens Common Center, Devens, Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Anneke Craig

NOVEMBER

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

Women Leading Government, 2 meeting, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., The Manor, West Boylston. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

Association of Town Finance 4 **Committees**, Annual Meeting, 9 a.m.-2:15 p.m., Sharon Community Center, Sharon. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

Massachusetts Municipal 14 **Councillors' Association**, board meeting, 8:45-9:45 a.m., MMA office and Zoom. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

MMA Board of Directors, 14 10-11:15 a.m., MMA office and Zoom. Contact: MMA Executive Director's office

Massachusetts Select Board 14 **Association**, board meeting, 2:15-3:30 p.m., MMA office and Zoom. Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Anneke Craig

Massachusetts Municipal 16-17 Management Association, Fall Conference, AC Hotel, Worcester.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

Massachusetts Mayors' 29 **Association**, newly elected mayors training. Contact: MMA Communications and Membership Director Candace Pierce

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.

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