

MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings set

By Daniel Yi

The MMA will hold its fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings in Lee, Athol, Middleborough and Chelmsford.

The MMA's Legislative Breakfast Meetings, held each spring and fall in communities across the Commonwealth, give local leaders, legislators and MMA staff an opportunity to network in an informal setting and learn about and discuss issues of importance at the local and state level.

The MMA's Legislative Division staff will discuss the latest activity in the Legislature with implications for cities and towns. Topics will include the state budget, the Chapter 90 program and the recently signed transportation bond bill, supplemental budget bills, an environmental bond bill, updates to the tax title foreclosure process, clean energy siting and permitting, regulatory updates, and more.



Framingham City Councillors Leora Mallach, left, and Brandon Ward, right, speak with Rep. Jack Lewis during an MMA Legislative Breakfast Meeting in Marlborough in March. The MMA will host its next round of the meetings beginning on Sept. 26.

A light breakfast and coffee will be provided at these free meetings beginning at 8:30 a.m. Introductions will begin shortly thereafter, followed by presentations and a Q&A session. The meetings will end by 10:15 a.m.

Meetings will be held on the following Fridays:

Sept. 26: Lee

Oct. 3: Athol and Middleborough

Oct. 17: Chelmsford

Additional details will be available soon on the MMA website.

MMA members are asked to [register online](#).

Questions may be directed to Daniel Yi at 617-426-7272, ext. 125, or dyi@mma.org.

Municipal 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.

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Timothy Shriver is Connect 351's Friday keynote speaker

By Jennifer Kavanaugh

Timothy Shriver, chair of the Special Olympics and a nonprofit leader working to restore dignity to the national conversation, will be a keynote speaker during the MMA's Connect 351 conference on Friday, Jan. 23, in Boston.

As CEO and founder of UNITE, Shriver co-created the [Dignity Index](#), a tool that scores political speech along a continuum ranging from dignity to contempt and helps political leaders and citizens rethink the language they use to describe people with opposing views.



Timothy Shriver

At Connect 351, he will discuss his organization's work, the contempt that he says is poisoning civic life, and the ways people can bridge divisions and see each other's humanity.

In interviews, Shriver says reversing unchecked contempt is "our nation's most urgent priority." He has identified numerous dynamics that are unraveling public cohesion, including fractious elections, divisive social media algorithms, partisan politics and news outlets, rapid social change, and a decrease in social connection through civic, community and faith-based organizations.

"When you don't have the institutions, and you have a lot of toxins coming at you, it's kind of like a perfect storm," Shriver said on a November 2024 episode

2025 MMA Board of Directors

The MMA Board of Directors holds regular meetings, often 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.

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Executive Director's Report

Health care costs: Defining the challenge and finding solutions

In some ways, I cannot believe that in 2025 I'm writing about the pressures that health care costs are putting on already-strained municipal budgets. I say this from the perspective of someone who lived and worked through municipal health insurance reform well over a decade ago. This reform was a hard-fought victory for the MMA and its members, and it allowed many of you to do great work in reducing the cost burden that health insurance had been putting on your annual operating budget.

Fast forward 13 years, and we find that, once again, most public and private sector employers are facing unsustainable year-over-year increases in the cost of providing health insurance to employees. These increases would be unsustainable in any economic environment, but they have been particularly hard to manage in a time of broad inflationary pressures and the general fiscal uncertainty driven by the retreat of the federal government from state and local funding. Stemming from this, the question I often hear from city and town officials is: "What is causing this spike in costs, and what can we do about it?"

Candidly, the first part of the question is easier to answer than the second. In



By Adam
Chapdelaine

terms of the cause, there are three main drivers:

- More people are accessing care, and more usage of the health care system means more expenses.
- The cost of providing care is rapidly increasing. You may hear this described as "unit cost," but basically, this is a way of saying that doctors and hospitals are increasing the rates they charge for providing health care.
- The costs of prescription drugs continue to rise, with particular growth in the usage of the class of weight loss drugs known as GLP-1's.

These three drivers together explain the often double-digit rate increases that many of you have experienced over the past year.

The "what can we do about it?" part of the question is much harder to answer. One thing is clear, there is no silver bullet to solving the problem, but that doesn't mean that there are no tools that can be used to address the challenges.

Sarah Iselin, the CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (MIA's partner in providing municipal health insurance), laid out a roadmap for potential action in a [piece published in Commonwealth Beacon last month](#). Her suggestions are a more-than-solid start to the conversation. As you'll see, the majority of her recommendations

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

Connect 351 program is taking shape

By Owen Page

Excitement continues to build for [Connect 351](#), the MMA's annual conference, and registration is right around the corner, opening on Oct. 1.

Connect 351 will return to Boston's Seaport District, at the Menino Convention and Exhibition Center, on Jan. 22 through 24.

The MMA has announced this year's slate of inspiring speakers for Connect 351.

The Friday keynote speaker is educator and activist [Timothy Shriver](#), co-creator of the Dignity Index.

Center for Civic Futures Executive Director [Cassandra Madison](#) will discuss artificial intelligence during her keynote speech on Saturday morning.

And [Tami Pyfer](#), Chief External Relations Officer at UNITE and co-creator of the Dignity Index, will address the Women Elected Municipal Officials luncheon on Friday afternoon.

Connect 351 offers a diverse program of events, including timely, information-packed workshops, countless networking opportunities, membership business meetings, receptions, awards programs, and other engaging activities.

A new video on the [event's website](#) features interviews with local leaders about why the conference is so important to them.

"Connect 351 provides a valuable opportunity for municipal leaders to come together and learn from each other," said Stoughton Select Board Vice Chair Debra Roberts. "I am passionate about this work, and I am involved in it because of the people that I continually interact with. Interactions I've had at Connect 351 have shaped my approach to policy and helped me to better advocate for my community."



Kristen Wright, left, management analyst for the town of Needham, and Myles Tucker, support services manager for the town of Needham, participate in a Connect 351 session this past January in Boston.

Exhibitors are already filling the rows of the annual [Trade Show](#), where more than 250 companies, nonprofits, and government agencies will be showcasing the latest innovations, technology and services of interest to municipal officials. Sponsorship opportunities are open as well.

Applications for the MMA's [Municipal Innovation](#), [Municipal Website](#), and [Town Report Contest](#) awards are open through Oct. 31, with awards to be presented during Connect 351.

The 2026 conference will open on the afternoon of Thursday, Jan. 22, with the Trade Show, a Women Leading Government session, and a new interactive networking and skills activity called Boardroom Breakout. The Trade Show and [Headshot Station](#) for members will open at 2 p.m.

The Trade Show and conference programming continues all day on Friday, Jan. 23, with an opening general session, two blocks of informative workshops (seven in each), the annual Women Elected Municipal Officials Luncheon, networking opportunities, and other events.

Saturday opens with MIIA's Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast,

followed by a keynote, member business meetings, the MMA Annual Business Meeting, and three highly interactive workshops, with the conference concluding at 3:30 p.m. with a dessert reception.

The MMA continues to develop the program, and updates, including hotel information, will be available on www.mma.org in the coming weeks and months.

Trade Show

The Trade Show will open on Thursday, Jan. 22, from 2 to

5:30 p.m., and on Friday, Jan. 23, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. An opening reception will be held on Thursday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The Trade Show will not be open on Saturday, Jan. 24.

More information will be available soon on the series of Learning Labs that will be held on the Trade Show floor.

The [Trade Show web page](#) has complete information, including sponsorship opportunities, a contract for exhibit space, a new exhibit hall floor plan, and the list of exhibitors and sponsors from the 2025 event. The MMA will update the online floor plan as exhibit contracts are received, and sponsors and exhibitors will be updated continually on the event website.

If you know of a company that would be interested in sponsoring or exhibiting but is not currently listed, contact the MMA's new event and development specialist, Stacey Compton-Maga, at tradeshow@mma.org or 617-426-7272, ext. 154.

Note: The Boston Convention and Exhibition Center was renamed in July as the [Menino Convention and Exhibition Center](#) in honor of the long-time mayor of Boston. ●

MMA to hold Health Care Costs Forum on Sept. 30

The MMA will hold a half-day municipal forum to discuss health care and insurance costs on Sept. 30 in Wrentham.

The forum will feature leading industry experts discussing the following topics:

- The health care landscape in

Massachusetts

- Health care cost trends impacting municipalities
- The current legal landscape relative to municipal health insurance

The forum will be held at [Lake Pearl](#)

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is free for MMA members, and lunch is included.

Online registration is available on www.mma.org. Space is limited, and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. ●

Cassandra Madison to discuss AI at Connect 351

By Jennifer Kavanaugh

Cassandra Madison, a technology leader who helps public officials understand and engage with digital innovation, will explore the promises and challenges of integrating artificial intelligence into municipal government as Connect 351's Saturday keynote speaker on Jan. 24 in Boston.

Amid rapid advances in AI over the past few years, municipal governments are grappling with questions about how the technology will shape the future of public services. Madison, who is executive director of the nonprofit [Center for Civic Futures](#), has spoken to municipal leaders in other states, including at a Maine Municipal Association conference, about AI's implications for how city and town halls will function going forward.

"Local governments are carrying immense responsibility with limited capacity, and AI offers an opportunity to transform how they serve the public," Madison told the MMA. "But for that transformation to take root in ways that strengthen public service, leaders themselves must experiment, learn, and get their hands on the technology.

"Doing so will make them more discerning consumers of AI and better positioned to shape what happens next — how this technology is used, and how it impacts the communities they serve," she said.

A nationally recognized leader in public-interest technology, Madison has two decades of experience in helping government deliver services with integrity and empathy while using modern tools. Through her background working both in government and alongside it, she said she has learned how to turn policy into practice, guiding the design and implementation of public systems that

are effective and respond to people's needs.

At the Center for Civic Futures, Madison and her team work to give government leaders the tools and expertise they need to make thoughtful decisions around the use of AI and other emerging technologies. The center operates on the idea that if public officials manage the risks of generative AI and other technologies prudently, they can significantly enhance the ability of governments to serve the public.

Madison was previously vice president of partnerships at the Tech Talent Project, where she worked with federal, state and local government agencies to expand their capacity for hiring technology talent. In the course of five years, she said, she was able to help more than 100 tech leaders transition from roles in the private sector to government service.

Madison has also worked for the state of Vermont, where, as deputy commissioner for the Department of Health Access, she led the turnaround of the state's Health Insurance Exchange and Integrated Eligibility System.

Madison was involved in the digitization of Vermont's eligibility determination process for public benefits, allowing residents to photograph their paperwork and upload instead of having to mail it or, in some cases, drive significant distances to submit their documentation in person.

Madison is also co-founder and CEO of Madison Insights, a consulting practice that helps mission-driven organizations build the teams, infrastructure,



Cassandra Madison

"Local governments are carrying immense responsibility with limited capacity, and AI offers an opportunity to transform how they serve the public," Madison told the MMA.

and capacity to deliver technology that improves lives. She is a senior advisor to the Federation of American Scientists and the Aspen Institute's Financial Security Program, and serves as an independent board member at AidKit. She has a bachelor's degree in political science and women's studies from Penn State University, with a minor in information sciences and technology, and she is a former non-resident fellow at New America's New Practice Lab.

"I've seen firsthand how fragile trust in government can be when technology fails," she told the MMA recently, "and how powerful it is when technology truly serves people."

Madison now works to help demystify AI and other technologies, and to show government leaders how the thoughtful use of these tools can help transform public service.

"Helping municipal leaders understand AI isn't about chasing hype — it's about giving them the confidence, tools, and wisdom to shape the future in a way that reflects their communities' values," she said. "I believe that when local leaders are empowered, they can set precedents that ripple outward and redefine what public service looks like in the age of AI." ●

MMA survey seeks feedback on Connect 351 experience and needs

Each year, the MMA strives to enhance the experiences of attendees at its annual conference, Connect 351. To this end, we're asking members to respond to a [brief survey](#) by Sept. 18 to help us make the Connect 351 experience more meaningful and enjoyable.

The survey results will support MMA

staff in determining the networking and engagement opportunity spaces we may be able to support (with consideration to space availability, staff capacity, and budget), and what accommodations we should plan for. Your input will also be valuable as we explore launching new aspects of the conference.

The survey may also be shared with municipal colleagues across the Commonwealth.

Questions may be directed to MMA Chief Equity Officer Jillian Harvey at jharvey@mma.org.

• [Connect 351 Pre-Registration Member Survey](#)

Energy siting board advances clean energy regulations

By Josie Ahlberg

The Energy Facilities Siting Board will hold a public meeting on Sept. 8 to discuss draft regulations related to implementation of a clean energy and climate law passed last November.

The independent state board, supported administratively by the Department of Public Utilities, reviews proposals for power plants, electric transmission projects, intra-state gas pipelines, and natural gas storage tanks.

Last year's [climate law](#) calls for the [Energy Facilities Siting Board](#) to play a key role in developing a new streamlined, consolidated application and review process for clean energy infrastructure facilities.

The law requires the state to promulgate regulations and guidance to implement the new policies by March 1, 2026.

The DPU, EFSB, and Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs held stakeholder sessions earlier this year to get feedback on state and local permitting topics.

The EFSB held a meeting in July to discuss its possible approaches to a new regulatory framework and its response to public input. At the meeting, the board unveiled draft proposed regulation, which can be viewed on the [EFSB's July regulations meeting website](#), along with a [recording of the meeting](#) and the [slides presented](#).

The Sept. 8 meeting will include presentations on revisions to the proposals listed above and provide an opportunity for public comment, time permitting. The board is expected to initiate a formal



The state is moving forward with permitting process changes for clean energy facilities, with a meeting on draft regulations set for Sept. 8.

rulemaking process with additional opportunities for written and oral comments.

Revised draft regulations are expected to be made available prior to the next meeting.

More information about the clean energy siting and permitting reform process can be found on the [Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting Reforms website](#), and questions can be directed to energypermitting@mass.gov.

Permitting for small projects

A new [Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Division](#) within the Department of Energy Resources is developing a new consolidated permitting process for local governments that would apply to clean energy generation projects under 25 megawatts and clean energy storage projects under 25 megawatt hours.

The Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Division is expected to publish draft regulations for these small projects and hold public hearings this fall. The draft is expected to be informed by the EFSB

regulatory process detailed above.

Under the new process, municipal governments will have 12 months to review an application and issue a decision on a project proposal. Should a local government not issue a decision within 12 months, the project will automatically receive constructive approval. A common application will be available for applicants to fill out, as opposed to separate applications for individual municipal boards or departments.

A municipal decision must be issued within a single permit that incorporates all necessary local approvals. An appeal would be possible only for that single permit, not for individual board or department decisions within it.

The climate law calls for the EFSB to adjudicate all appeals within six months. Appeals of an EFSB decision would go directly to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

The division's [siting and permitting regulations homepage](#) has more information on the DOER's role in the process. The division has hired four [siting and permitting regional coordinators](#), who can be contacted with questions. The team is responsible for providing technical assistance to municipalities, project proponents, and other stakeholders, but will not be involved in reviewing or permitting projects, or in the appeal of local decisions.

Questions and feedback on the division's work regarding siting and permitting of small clean energy infrastructure projects by local governments may be sent to DOER.Siting.Permitting@mass.gov. ●

CCC seeks comments on draft social consumption regulations

By Ali DiMatteo

The Cannabis Control Commission on Aug. 14 opened the public comment period on its draft regulations governing on-site social consumption licensing.

The public comment period will remain open until Sept. 8, and the CCC will host a hybrid hearing on that date at its Worcester location and online.

The [draft regulations](#) (published on Aug. 1 at 3:52 p.m.) would create three different on-site, adult-use consumption license types:

- Supplemental, for existing marijuana

establishments, including cultivation sites

- Hospitality, for new or existing non-cannabis businesses
- Event organizer, for temporary consumption events

The three proposed licenses would be exclusive to social equity businesses and participants, certified "economic empowerment priority" applicants, "microbusinesses," and "craft marijuana cooperatives" for five years.

The draft regulations also contain provisions outlining safety protocols,

smoking consumption area requirements, and "cooling down area" requirements (for areas free of consumption and smoke where consumers can recover from overconsumption).

The CCC released a preliminary draft of the regulations in January, and the [MMA collaborated with the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association to submit initial comments](#) on Jan. 23 during an "initial feedback" period.

The draft regulations and information about the comment process can be found on the CCC's website: masscannabiscontrol.com. ●

Pyfer to be WEMO keynote speaker at Connect 351

By Jennifer Kavanaugh

Tami Pyfer has experienced the challenges and rewards of public service at many levels — from PTA president to Utah state education board member, and from city councillor to gubernatorial advisor, with steps in between.

Now a nonprofit leader and USA Today's 2025 Woman of the Year for the state of Utah, Pyfer will share her insights as the keynote speaker at the Women Elected Municipal Officials Leadership Luncheon during the MMA's Connect 351 conference on Jan. 23 in Boston.

Pyfer is the chief external affairs officer for UNITE and the co-creator of the nonprofit's [Dignity Index](#), a tool that measures political speech along an eight-point continuum from contempt to dignity. While public officials and citizens alike express dismay over incivility in politics and social media, Pyfer offers a hopeful message for pushing back against the "outrage industrial complex" and restoring more dignity and grace to our interactions.

"We can do better in our families. We can do better in our communities," Pyfer said in a February 2024 interview with the Associated Press. "We can solve problems together in politics."

Pyfer's path from politician to dignity champion started at the local level. In addition to involvement in local schools, she served for eight years as a city councillor in Logan, Utah, followed by four years on the Utah State Board of Education. She taught at Utah State University's special education teacher preparation program and served as education policy advisor to former Utah Gov. Gary Herbert for seven years before joining UNITE in 2020. She also sang with the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square for seven years, and later served as the choir's director of external relations.

In a 2023 Politico profile, Pyfer said that one of her proudest moments came as a city councillor, where she worked on a team that created a new ambulance system and brought emergency services closer to residents in more rural areas. She told Politico that she got a call five years later from a colleague whose infant grandchild had experienced a

medical emergency.

"He said, 'I wanted you to know that we saved my grandbaby's life,'" she told Politico. "It's not often that you get to feel like your voice and your advocacy can impact the community in that way."

In more recent years, politics began to wear on Pyfer, a married mother of five who heads a family with diverse political beliefs. When she worked in the governor's office, people's comments vilifying people on the left or right invariably insulted some part of her family. The public fights around education and pandemic-era hostilities over public policy led to her to resign from state government in the fall of 2020, according to the Politico article.

"People stopped blaming COVID," she told Politico, "and started blaming each other."

Pyfer now collaborates with UNITE founder Timothy Shriver — Connect 351's Friday keynote on Jan. 23 — and Tom Rosshirt. Together, they have been working to bridge divisions in the country through the Dignity Index, a tool intended to help people reflect on their speech and how they talk about people



Tami Pyfer

with different views.

"Everything else aside, every one of us is a human being, and therefore we deserve to be treated with dignity, with this basic level of human dignity," she said in a March episode of the "Brave Nation with Leigh Sloan" podcast. "And that word has resonated with people. People seem to be able to understand that innately."

In 2024, Pyfer was named a fellow by the [Emerson Collective](#), an organization founded by entrepreneur Laurene Powell Jobs to support philanthropic work and investments.

On the "Brave Nation" podcast, Pyfer said her fellowship project involved applying the Dignity Index to women in politics, as a way to support and strengthen their participation in leadership and elected roles. She said she met with elected women officials all over Utah, including mayors, city councillors and school board members, to hear their concerns, and to explain the possibilities of the Dignity Index.

She said women are particularly turned off by the toxic nature of politics.

"A lot of people will tell me, a lot of women will say, 'Yeah, I couldn't do that,' she said. "I know we need more women in politics, but it's so awful. I can't do that.' And I say, 'Actually you can.'" ●



Warren, mayors address housing

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren discusses her proposed Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream to Housing Act of 2025 during a press conference in Lynn on Aug. 28. Warren and several mayors spoke about the state's housing shortage and ways that Warren's ROAD to Housing Act could boost housing supply while lowering costs across Massachusetts and the country. Warren also participated in a roundtable discussion with the mayors prior to the press conference.

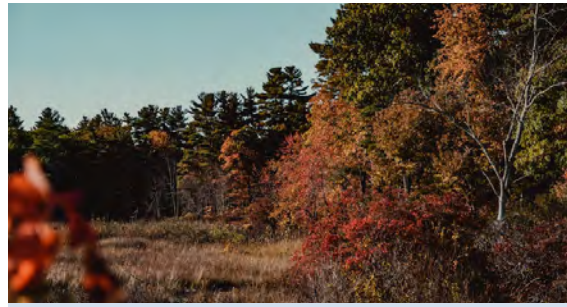
PILOT Commission to study geographic fairness

Gov. Maura Healey signed an executive order on Aug. 13 creating a Commission on Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for State-Owned Land to advise her on potential reforms to the PILOT program.

The state owns over half a million acres of land, such as state parks and forests, wildlife sanctuaries, beaches, and state military campgrounds. To compensate municipalities for the loss of local property taxes related to this land, the state administers a PILOT program that provides them with funding.

Municipalities with the most state-owned land are primarily in western Massachusetts, but they receive lower payments than communities in eastern Massachusetts with similar acreage due to lower property values.

“We know that cities and towns rely on PILOT to deliver the services that their residents rely on,” the governor said in a prepared statement. “For too long, some communities, especially rural communities in western and central Massachusetts, have not received their fair share of this funding. This new commission will drill down into what’s working with the current program and where there are areas for improvement to make sure that every community is receiving the resources they



State-owned land is located in towns and cities across the Commonwealth. A special commission aims to publish a report that may recommend legislative, regulatory or administrative reforms to the payment-in-lieu-of-taxes program.

deserve.”

PILOT commission membership will include a representative of the MMA, the state’s director of Rural Affairs, representatives from the executive offices for Administration and Finance and Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Office of Climate Resilience and Innovation, the Department of Revenue, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Department of Fish and Game, two legislators from the House and two from the Senate, and at least eight individuals with relevant experience appointed by the governor.

The commission’s report may include recommended legislative, regulatory, or administrative actions, and may also outline further areas for study or stakeholder engagement. If legislative action is recommended, the commission shall propose draft legislative language.

Sen. Jo Comerford of Northampton, whose district includes 25 cities and towns, said rural communities in western and central Massachusetts make “enormous contributions” in stewarding the

Commonwealth’s forests, farms and watersheds, and the PILOT commission “is a welcome and necessary step toward a fair, climate-forward formula — one that values the ecosystem services our lands provide and recognizes the fiscal realities facing all 351 of our cities and towns.”

The commission’s scope will focus on land that is owned by the state and will not impact entities, such as universities, that may provide PILOTs to municipalities.

• [View Executive Order No. 645: Establishing the Commission on PILOT for State-Owned Land](#)

Gov. Healey signs transportation bond bill, with \$300M for Ch. 90

By Adrienne Núñez

Gov. Maura Healey on Aug. 8 signed a transportation bond bill that will deliver a 50% increase to base funding for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program and make key investments in initiatives overseen by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

For Chapter 90, the law will distribute \$200 million based on the traditional formula, and \$100 million based on road miles. According to the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, 85% of communities will receive an increase of at least 45% in their base Chapter 90 funding.

The law includes a \$200 million authorization to support a culvert and small bridge program, \$500 million for MassDOT bridge and pavement asset management, and \$185 million for congestion and safety initiatives.

“The MMA and local leaders across the



Cities and towns are putting a 50% increase for base Chapter 90 funding to work after Gov. Maura Healey signed a transportation bond bill on Aug. 8.

state are thrilled with this historic level of funding for the Chapter 90 program and deeply grateful to the governor and legislators for their support,” said MMA Executive Director Adam Chapdelaine. “This essential local road and bridge maintenance program, which benefits all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts,

promotes safety, quality of life and economic development in our communities. The 50% increase in funding will have a substantial impact in all corners of the Commonwealth.”

The funding in the bond bill joins \$103.5 million in funding for local infrastructure included in the [recently enacted supplemental budget](#) allocating surtax revenues.

In an effort to help communities program their funding

more quickly, MassDOT announced on July 29 that it would [accept project requests](#) for fiscal 2026 funding prior to the signing of the transportation bond law. Project reimbursements cannot be processed, however, until after the bond bill’s related terms bill has completed the legislative process. ●

Mass. wins \$3.5M in federal funding for West-East Rail

The Healey-Driscoll administration announced on Aug. 25 that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation has secured \$3.5 million in federal funding to continue advancing a cross-state passenger rail service called West-East Rail.

The federal funding was awarded to MassDOT's Rail and Transit Division, through the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development Program. It will be used to support the Boston-Albany Corridor Service Development Plan, which is an essential step in expanding and enhancing train service connecting Boston to Albany, New York, through Springfield.

The Corridor Identification and Development Program, created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is intended to help guide intercity passenger rail development throughout the country and create a pipeline of intercity passenger rail projects ready for implementation and funding through the Federal Railroad Administration's Federal-State Partnership-National Network Program.

The Boston-Albany Corridor Service Development Plan will outline MassDOT's implementation plan for service expansion and is developed cooperatively with the Federal Railroad Administration.

The plan will demonstrate the feasibility of a Boston to Albany intercity passenger rail route and the necessary steps to implement the service. It will identify the purpose and need for the service, include a comparative analysis of viable alternatives, define the recommended capital projects to enable the service, and evaluate the operational, network and financial impacts of the service and infrastructure investment. It will also include an operating plan, a corridor project inventory, and an investment case. The plan will require significant engagement with the public and relevant



The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has received \$3.5 million in federal funding to support the potential development of cross-state passenger rail service.

stakeholders, and it will define a governance structure for project implementation and future operation.

In a prepared statement, Gov. Maura Healey said the expansion of rail service across the state will improve commutes, reduce congestion, and "usher in new housing and economic development opportunities."

Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbitts-Nutt said West-East Rail will be "a lifeline for the communities [along the route], opening doors to economic opportunity, environmental progress, and a stronger, more united Massachusetts."

The federal funding announcement included strong statements of support from Congressman Richard Neal, whose district includes 83 cities and towns in the western and central parts of the state, U.S. Sens. Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren, and state legislators and other officials.

The funding builds on \$108 million in federal funding that Massachusetts [secured in 2023](#) for corridor infrastructure projects to support additional Amtrak service between Boston and New Haven, Connecticut, via Springfield. Massachusetts also won \$37 million in 2024 for the Springfield Area Track Reconfiguration Project to design track, signal and infrastructure improvements at Springfield Union Station. These upgrades will ultimately increase rail

capacity and reduce congestion — as part of the broader [Compass Rail](#) vision.

Compass Rail — short for Passenger Rail for the Commonwealth — is made up of existing and proposed west-east and north-south services intersecting at a hub in Springfield. The goal of Compass Rail is to enhance mobility, expand transportation choice, and support economic development goals through transportation investments.

Existing services supported and managed by MassDOT under the Compass Rail banner include the following Amtrak-operated routes:

- Vermonter, between Washington, D.C. and St. Albans, Vermont, with Massachusetts stops in Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton and Greenfield
- Valley Flyer, between New Haven, Connecticut, and Greenfield, with Massachusetts stops in Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton, and Greenfield
- Hartford Line and Northeast Regional, between Springfield and New Haven, Connecticut, or Washington, D.C.
- Berkshire Flyer, a seasonal, pilot service, between Pittsfield and New York City

West-East Rail would offer new Compass Rail services that focus on improved connections between western and eastern Massachusetts. This includes an inland route, to operate between Boston and New Haven, Connecticut, via Springfield, and the Boston and Albany Corridor, via Pittsfield.

MassDOT continues to seek additional financial resources to grow its passenger rail program. The Healey-Driscoll administration currently has approximately \$1.27 billion in pending federal transportation funding applications.

For more information, visit [MassDOT's Compass Rail website](#). ●

MSA Fall Conference on Oct. 9 will be 'Fiscal Summit'

The Massachusetts Select Board Association will hold its annual Fall Conference on Thursday, Oct. 9, in Boylston, focusing on fiscal issues facing municipalities across the Commonwealth.

The conference will open with a keynote address by MMA Executive Director Adam Chapdelaine on the current fiscal

landscape for cities and towns.

The conference will feature two panel discussions, focused on education funding and on public engagement strategies for municipal finance and budgeting.

Registration and a networking coffee will open at 8:30 a.m. The program will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 1:15 p.m.,

followed by lunch. The cost to attend is \$25.

The agenda and registration link will be available at www.mma.org.

The conference will be held at the [Cyprian Keyes Golf Club](#).

Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Martin Davis at mdavis@mma.org

Extended Producer Responsibility group makes progress

By Josie Ahlberg

The state's Extended Producer Responsibility Commission has completed four of its six scheduled meetings as it works toward making recommendations for EPR policies to the Legislature.

Established by a [clean energy law](#) enacted last November, the [Extended Producer Responsibility Commission](#) is responsible for making recommendations for five main categories of items: paint, mattresses, batteries, electronics, and plastics and packaging. Thus far, the commission has met and discussed recommendations for paint, mattresses and batteries.

EPR reduces adverse health, safety and environmental impacts from products and packaging throughout the lifecycle of products, from the point of manufacturing to the eventual disposal or recycling. This "product stewardship" process also creates certain economic benefits, as manufacturers and retailers seek to ensure that their products have maximum value and minimal impact throughout their lifecycles.

According to the [Product Stewardship Institute](#), extended producer responsibility "includes, at a minimum, the requirement that the producer's responsibility for their product extends to post-consumer management of that product and its packaging."



Extended producer responsibility, for items such as waste paint, is a strategy to reduce adverse health, safety and environmental impacts from products and packaging throughout the product's lifecycle.

The MMA has supported EPR as a way of shifting responsibility for difficult-to-manage products — such as paint, mattresses, electronics, and packaging and paper — to retailers and manufacturers, rather than municipalities.

On June 30, the commission sent a [letter to the Legislature](#) recommending passage of an extended producer responsibility law for paint. The letter provides background information on paint recycling and statistics related to unwanted, unused paint in Massachusetts. An estimated 1.8 million gallons of leftover paint is generated each year in Massachusetts, with 67% of it discarded either in a landfill or combustion facility, according to the letter.

An extended producer responsibility framework for paint could help to capture leftover paint for recycling, a practice currently in place in several New England

states. The recycling program most extensively researched by the commission, [PaintCare](#), had collected nearly 80 million gallons of paint, with a recycling rate greater than 80%, the letter states.

The commission is expected to send additional recommendations to the Legislature.

The next commission meetings are scheduled for Sept. 17 at 9:30 a.m., on the topic of electronics, and Oct. 29 at 9:30 a.m. on the topic of plastics and packaging.

Two advisory groups have been meeting throughout the summer to discuss these two topics, which were identified by commission members as the most complicated, with additional information requested.

Comments on extended producer responsibility and the work of the commission can be submitted through the [Massachusetts Commission on Extended Producer Responsibility Comment Portal](#).

In May, the MMA submitted [comments in support of the various extended producer responsibility bills](#) that were heard by the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. Since that hearing, at least one bill in each of the primary EPR material categories — paint, mattresses, batteries, electronics, and plastics and packaging — obtained a favorable report and was sent to an additional committee for review. ●

Administration awards \$2.9M for ecological restoration projects

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Aug. 14 announced more than \$2.9 million in grants to support ecological restoration projects, such as culvert replacements, in 21 communities across the state.

The funding, provided by the Department of Fish and Game's Division of Ecological Restoration, is intended to strengthen resilience against extreme weather events, improve water quality, reduce flood risks, and restore crucial wildlife habitat.

"Massachusetts has over 25,000 culverts, most of which are undersized," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper in a prepared statement. "By replacing these outdated culverts with larger, safer structures, we can better prepare our communities for severe weather. Investing in these projects now will save our cities and towns money

on disaster recovery in the future."

The Division of Ecological Restoration is awarding more than \$2.7 million through its [Stream Continuity Program](#), which includes Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance grants and the Culvert Replacement Training Site Initiative. The grants help municipalities replace outdated culverts with new, improved crossings. The upgrades restore river ecosystems, enhance fish and wildlife passage, and reduce flood risks, improving climate resilience and public safety.

The Training Site Initiative will turn some of these project sites into training hubs, creating a network of locations for hands-on learning to teach local roadway managers about culvert replacements in Massachusetts.

The Division of Ecological Restoration is

also awarding \$200,000 to support the Herring River Estuary Restoration Project in Wellfleet through its Priority Projects Program, which is a vehicle for pursuing wetland and river restoration projects that present the greatest benefit to the state ecologically, socially and economically. Other Priority Projects underway include the removal of aging, unsafe dams; restoration of freshwater wetlands in former cranberry farmlands; replacement and removal of undersized and degrading culverts; and restoration of tidal flow to degraded coastal habitats.

Communities awarded culvert funding include: Agawam, Ashby, Douglas, Grafton, Hinsdale, Hopkinton, Kingston, Lincoln, Longmeadow, Mendon, Middlefield, Monroe, Norfolk, Palmer, Savoy, Stockbridge, Swansea, Wales, Washington, Westborough, and Williamsburg. ●

Chelsea wins All-America City recognition

By Owen Page

The National Civic League selected Chelsea as one of 10 All-America City Award winners for 2025, recognizing the city's efforts to improve sustainability, resilience and environmental justice.

A video [highlighting Chelsea's award-winning work](#) focuses on efforts to improve air quality, address extreme heat, and produce clean energy. Community engagement is at the heart of each project, which City Manager Fidel Maltez said is "part of our DNA."

"These are not the city's projects; they are our community's projects," he said in a recent interview.

The 2025 edition of the NCL's All-America City awards focused on resident-driven efforts to create a more sustainable future for their communities. Maltez said the award recognizes the value of Chelsea's work and its potential for emulation around the country.

More than 40 city representatives, including staff, local officials, community leaders and residents, attended the awards ceremony on June 29 in Denver, Colorado.

A compact and densely developed community just north of Boston, Chelsea faces environmental challenges related to its industrial economy, highway traffic, the Tobin Bridge, proximity to Logan Airport, pollution, and excessive heat — hazards that Maltez said are "not something Chelsea is going to take



Chelsea's All America City application highlighted the city's air quality monitoring system, consisting of more than 80 sensors that provide real-time data to a community dashboard.

laying down."

City staff worked with residents as well as staff from Boston University's School of Public Health and the Boston Society of Landscape Architects to develop a Cool Block project, which led to the planting more than 60 trees in the city's hottest block, transforming a vacant lot into a public park, and painting the Boys and Girls Club roof white to reflect sunlight and reduce ambient heat.

City residents who had experienced Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico in 2017 and lived for months without power in the storm's wake collectively advocated for reliable energy and increased resiliency. In response, the city created a microgrid with solar panels and large-capacity batteries for critical

public infrastructure to keep key services running in the event of a climate disaster. Any surplus energy will be sold back to the electrical supplier to reduce residents' energy costs.

To gather data on the city's pollution levels, Chelsea partnered with Northeastern University to deploy more than 80 air sensors throughout the city. The sensors provide real-time data and updates for residents to access through an online, multilingual dashboard, and supplies the city

with valuable information that can be used in future advocacy.

"At a time when low-income and immigrant communities across the nation are under attack, we stand here proudly to say: Chelsea is strong, Chelsea is united," Maltez said during his acceptance speech in Denver. "From clean air to cool blocks to energy justice — Chelsea is a testament that when frontline communities lead, bold climate solutions follow. Chelsea is what resilience looks like. Chelsea is what justice sounds like."

Chelsea also won the All-America City Award in 1998 and 2014.

• [Link to the National Civic League's website for more details about Chelsea's award-winning programs](#)

Gov. signs FY25 supplemental budget with tax title updates

By Ali DiMatteo and Adrienne Núñez

Gov. Maura Healey on Aug. 5 signed a fiscal 2025 supplemental budget that allocates \$259 million in spending and makes technical updates to the tax title foreclosure process.

The law includes a clarification that there is only a prospective impact from the recently reduced interest rate on the original sum of property taxes or other municipal charges owed.

The [fiscal 2025 state budget](#) reduced the tax title interest rate from 16% to 8%, but a Land Court decision later determined that the reduced rate applied retrospectively, which is at odds with both the legislative intent and a Division of Local

Services bulletin issued last year.

The supplemental budget law clarifies that the reduced interest rate applies only to tax title takings that occurred after Nov. 1, 2024.

The law also extends the deadline for making a determination of whether to retain or sell a property after a final judgment of the Land Court that forecloses the right of redemption. Last year's state budget law gave a municipality 14 days to make this decision; the supplemental budget law extends the timeframe to 30 days.

Since the tax title law was changed last year, the MMA has been actively working to get these critical technical changes made.

Spending in the supplemental budget includes the following:

- \$60 million for home care services for the elderly
- \$42.9 million for rental assistance for families in transition
- \$40 million for the Committee for Public Counsel Services
- \$15.5 million for the Department of Transitional Assistance's electronic benefits transfer chip cards
- \$10 million for extraordinary EMS cost reimbursements
- \$7.5 million for the Healthy Incentives Program ●

Administration unveils biodiversity protection plan

By John Ouellette

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Aug. 21 unveiled a 25-year plan focused on protecting and restoring nature and biodiversity across Massachusetts.

The administration said the plan, “[Biodiversity Conservation Goals for the Commonwealth](#),” is designed to rebuild nature, sustain the health and well-being of residents, improve access to fresh food, and enhance the overall quality of life and economy for everyone.

Gov. Maura Healey made the announcement at Mass Audubon’s Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary in Barnstable, where local leaders and supporters gathered in one of Cape Cod’s most valuable ecosystems, the Barnstable Great Marsh.

The administration also announced its intention to join the [International Union for Conservation of Nature](#) — becoming the first state to join — to deepen the state’s commitment to national and global leadership on conservation. Massachusetts is also one of three states to join in the United Nations [High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People](#).

“Our lands, waters and wildlife are at the heart of what makes Massachusetts so special,” Healey said in a prepared statement. “Protecting them isn’t optional — it’s essential.”

Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll added that “strong local economies are built on the foundations of healthy communities.”

Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer emphasized the natural environment’s role as the “first line of defense against the impacts of climate change.”

“The more biodiverse our forests, wetlands, and marine environments are, the more resilient they are,” she said.

Following Gov. Healey’s [Executive Order No. 618](#), the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game engaged state agencies, municipalities, Tribes, and community partners to develop a whole-of-government approach to biodiversity.

This is the first time a state has comprehensively set biodiversity targets for 2030, 2040 and 2050, including for coastal and marine habitats. The plan sets ambitious targets to restore 75% of the state’s most important habitats for



Gov. Maura Healey announces the Biodiversity Conservation Goals for the Commonwealth plan during a ceremony at Mass Audubon’s Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary in Barnstable on Aug. 21. (Photo courtesy Henry Shifrin/Governor’s Press Office)

wildlife by 2050.

Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper said a “long-term plan to protect these resources is essential.”

“Acting now,” she said, “helps us avoid much higher costs in the future and ensure a better quality of life.”

Program goals

Biodiversity is declining at an unprecedented rate, according to the administration. In just one generation, we have lost over 3 billion birds in North America and seen the decline of iconic species like Atlantic cod and the monarch butterfly.

The biodiversity plan is structured around four key goals — Protect, Restore, Sustain and Connect — each defining specific strategies for action by 2030, 2040 and 2050. The plan also includes governance and innovative funding models to drive action.

The protection goals include preserving 30% of Massachusetts’ lands and waters by 2030 and 40% by 2050, focusing on the most important habitats for wildlife; protecting over 425,000 acres of essential habitats; establishing natural corridors that enable safe movement for fish and wildlife; supporting designation of Cashes Ledge as a National Marine Sanctuary; and reducing pollution, pesticides, and plastics.

Restore goals call for revitalizing essential habitats, enhancing river ecosystems, upgrading 2,500 culverts by 2050 to support wildlife while reducing flooding risks, restoring marine habitats such as salt marshes, and streamlining

permitting to advance projects that have immediate benefits for biodiversity and resilience.

Sustain goals include fostering local farming, foraging, and fishing practices, and investing in working waterfronts and marine habitat restoration.

Connect goals include building community gardens, parks, and green spaces in every neighborhood to bolster wildlife and pollinator populations; launching a Nature

in the Schools initiative to engage young people in environmental stewardship; and identifying licenses and trainings needed to launch the next generation of the conservation and restoration workforce.

To kick off this initiative, Massachusetts is launching a new public-private Biodiversity Partnership to protect the state’s land and water, with Mass Audubon as the first partner. Mass Audubon is making a \$5 million investment to support Massachusetts in achieving the “30 by 30” goal of safeguarding 30% of the state’s natural areas by 2030.

Additionally, the state is investing \$4 million from capital funding, part of which will go toward establishing the Local Biodiversity Grant Program, which will provide funding for municipalities, Tribes, nonprofits and community organizations to enhance conservation efforts, as well as for marine habitat restoration.

At the announcement event on Aug. 21, Fish and Game Commissioner Tom O’Shea noted that the grant program “brings biodiversity into local cities and towns and neighborhoods.”

The administration’s recently proposed [Mass Ready Act](#) includes \$370.5 million for land protection and biodiversity, and \$20 million for advancing the biodiversity goals for the Commonwealth. The bill also includes \$5 million to restore important marine habitats to support the state’s “blue economy,” coastal resilience, and carbon sequestration. ●

Gov. Healey files \$2.45B supplemental budget

Gov. Maura Healey on Aug. 14 filed a \$2.45 billion supplemental budget bill to address deficiencies and meet time-sensitive budget needs as Massachusetts closes the books on fiscal 2025.

The bill would deposit \$125 million into the state's stabilization fund, and would create a new Economic Resiliency and Federal Response Fund, seeded with fiscal 2025 excess capital gains revenue, to ensure that the state remains fiscally resilient against the negative impacts of federal budgetary and policy decisions.

In a prepared statement, the governor said her bill would ensure "that our state budget remains responsible, while also strengthening our ability to weather economic unpredictability coming from Washington."

She said the bill would close gaps in the fiscal 2025 state budget for services such as universal free school meals and care at public health hospitals. It also proposes a limited amount of new spending, for items such as the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, the 2026 World Cup, and grants to reproductive health care providers.

The largest cost addressed in the bill is for services provided by MassHealth in fiscal 2025 — with \$2.05 billion (at a net cost to the state of \$539.7 million after federal reimbursements).

The bill would also appropriate:

- \$162.7 million for a reserve to cover costs accrued by Massachusetts sheriffs
- \$75 million for housing preservation and stabilization
- \$60.7 million for snow and ice removal
- \$20 million to support costs associated with hosting the 2026 World Cup
- \$20 million for the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center
- \$18.5 million for public health hospital operations
- \$12 million for universal school meals
- \$7.2 million for Department of Correction facilities operations
- \$6.8 million for the Clean Water Trust Fund
- \$5 million for direct supports to reproductive health providers at risk of

losing federal funding

- \$3.5 million for State Police operations
- \$700,000 for the Suffolk County district attorney's office

The administration said the net cost of the supplemental budget bill to the state is \$947 million after revenue offsets.

Due to uncertainty surrounding federal permitting and tax credits, the bill proposes more flexibility in the state's timeline for offshore wind procurements in response to changing market conditions. The supplemental budget would extend the deadline for the state to contract for 5,600 MW of offshore wind from 2027 to 2029, and would remove the requirement that a solicitation be conducted every 24 months.

Another outside section would expand the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's authority to decouple immunization recommendations and requirements in Massachusetts from federal standards, if necessary, to preserve public health.

The bill would also set Sept. 1, 2026, as the statewide primary election day. ●

Administration awards \$6.5M to assess and clean brownfields

The Executive Office of Economic Development and MassDevelopment joined state and local officials in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood on July 30 to announce \$6.5 million in awards from the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund to support the environmental assessment and cleanup of 20 contaminated sites across Massachusetts for redevelopment.

Once complete, the projects are expected to redevelop a total of 21 acres, unlock more than 950,000 square feet of new development, and create or preserve more than 700 housing units.

"The Brownfields Redevelopment Fund helps local partners meet their economic development goals by bringing blighted or vacant sites back into productive use for housing and commercial development," said Interim Economic Development Secretary Ashley Stolba, who serves as chair of MassDevelopment's Board of Directors. "This is an important state resource for cleaning up contaminated properties to benefit our residents and communities now and into the future."

MassDevelopment, the state's



Brownfields Redevelopment Fund grants for 2025 are expected to redevelop a total of 21 acres, unlocking space for new development and creating or preserving more than 700 housing units.

development finance agency and land bank, oversees the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund, which was created in 1998 to transform contaminated and underused industrial or commercial properties by funding or financing their environmental assessment and remediation toward redevelopment.

MassDevelopment President and CEO Navjeet Bal said the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund works closely with municipalities, community development corporations, and other nonprofit organizations "as they work to revitalize challenging properties in their communities."

The awarded projects are located in Athol, Boston (multiple), Gloucester, Hingham, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, Salem, Winchendon, and Worcester. ([Click here for details.](#))

The awards were provided as rolling round grants, which are available year-round on a case-by-case basis to eligible community development corporations, nonprofits, and municipalities seeking environmental assessment or remediation of sites with active projects. The [MassDevelopment website](#) features a Notice of Funding Availability with details on how to apply for this category of assistance.

Stolba made the announcement at the Talbot Bernard Senior Homes, a previous recipient of a Brownfields Redevelopment Fund grant. The organization that manages the property, the Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation, is receiving \$850,000 in awards from this round of the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund to support the development of 42 units of affordable housing across two sites in Dorchester. ●

DOER awards nearly \$8M in Green Communities Grants

The Department of Energy Resources on Aug. 18 announced the award of nearly \$8 million in Green Communities competitive grants to 46 cities and towns across Massachusetts to fund energy-efficiency and clean energy projects.

In a prepared statement, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper said the state is “proud to support these communities with local energy projects that deliver lower costs, cleaner air, and more reliable, resilient public buildings.”

The proposed projects are expected to save about \$566,000 each year in energy costs, according to the DOER, and the annual energy savings is enough to power 279 Massachusetts households. The projects also cut greenhouse gas emissions by 1,421 metric tons annually, which is roughly equivalent to taking more than 309 gas-powered cars off the road.

DOER Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony said the local clean energy projects improve public health and make buildings more comfortable while lowering monthly energy bills. She added that half of the projects “transition buildings and fleets to more efficient technology.”

The municipal projects are designed to reduce energy use and costs. They include installing high-efficiency lighting and building weatherization, upgrading to

energy management systems, facility retro-commissioning (which identifies ways to improve a building’s performance), and transitioning HVAC systems away from fossil fuels by installing air- or ground-source heat pumps.

The town of Canton, for example, is using its grant award to update the heating and cooling systems at its senior center, saving the town over \$22,000 a year in electricity costs.



The proposed projects are expected to save about \$566,000 each year in energy costs.

The projects supported in Quincy include replacing an outdated electric resistance pool heater with a heat pump water heater, which will reduce the building’s electricity use by 270,000 kWh, resulting in over \$67,000 in annual savings.

And in Townsend, retro-commissioning the 19th century town hall and replacing

older inefficient lighting with LED technology in the Hawthorne Brook Middle School will save the town \$32,000 in electric and natural gas costs.

Under the Green Communities Act, cities and towns must meet [five criteria](#) to be designated a [Green Community](#) and receive funding. The grants provide financial support for projects that further the designated communities’ clean energy goals, and are awarded to Green Communities that have successfully invested their initial designation grants and previous competitive grant awards.

Funding for the grants is available through proceeds from carbon allowance auctions under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Competitive awards are capped at \$250,000 per municipality, or \$500,000 if applying for comprehensive building decarbonization funding. Building decarbonization funding is for projects that are ready for immediate implementation, but may extend beyond typical grant implementation times and costs.

The DOER has now awarded more than \$199 million to Green Communities in Designation Grants and Competitive Grants since 2010.

Information on the awarded projects and funding amounts is [available online](#). ●

Housing and Livable Communities holds office hours to discuss ADUs

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is continuing its series of office hours this fall to support municipal planners and building officials in understanding the state’s accessory dwelling unit law and regulations.

The office hours kicked off on June 11 and several were held during the summer. Additional sessions are scheduled for Sept. 10, Oct. 8 and Nov. 12, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

The intended audience includes municipal planners, volunteer planning board members, building officials and staff, consultants, and regional planning agency staff — but not the general public.

Under last year’s [Affordable Homes Act](#), ADUs of up to 900 square feet are allowed by right in single-family zoning districts across Massachusetts. The



The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is hosting monthly office hours through November to assist municipal planners in navigating the state’s new accessory dwelling unit law and regulations.

Healey-Driscoll administration highlights the ADU option as providing a key resource to address the state’s housing

needs.

The ADU office hours, held via Zoom, provide an opportunity to engage with the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities and ask questions about the new regulations.

[Advance registration is required](#).

Municipal officials are encouraged to check the state website, at www.mass.gov/adu, for continually updated information and resources on the law and regulations, such as [FAQs](#), and [Model ADU Zoning](#), to help cities and towns evaluate and amend their local ADU rules. ●

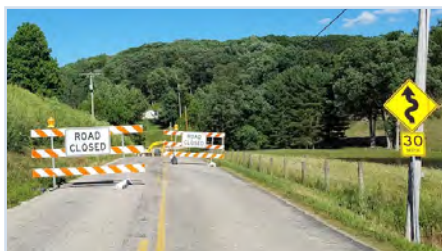
MassDOT's LEAP program seeks to jump-start projects

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has launched a program to help municipal officials jump-start infrastructure projects, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

MassDOT's Office of Transportation Planning on July 17 announced the Local Early and Actionable Planning Program, designed to provide planning and early stage design assistance to towns and cities. The LEAP program is open to all municipalities, but will prioritize requests from rural and economically disadvantaged communities.

Funding for the new program, totaling \$1 million, is included in Gov. Maura Healey's Capital Investment Plan this year, and will be funded as part of MassDOT's capital budget for fiscal 2026.

State officials said rural and underserved communities often face significant



The LEAP Program provides \$1 million to support early-stage planning and design activities for local infrastructure projects.

barriers when it comes to initiating transportation projects due to limited funding and staffing.

"Our goal is to empower community leaders with the tools and support they need to bring priority projects to life," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt in a statement. "Through the LEAP Program, we're helping local governments take that critical

first step — positioning them to secure the resources needed to advance transportation projects that make streets safer, more connected, and more accessible for everyone, whether they're walking, biking, riding transit, or driving."

The LEAP Program is structured to allow municipal staff to request the support they need for early-stage planning and design activities, including, but not limited to:

- Conceptual design and alternatives analyses, such as hydraulic and geotechnical analyses
- Safe Streets network strategy
- Design and engineering for smaller-scale projects, such as Complete Streets Program projects
- Federal grant application development

■ **LEAP PROGRAM** *continued on 32*

DLS 'What's New in Municipal Law' seminars are Oct. 21 and 23

The Division of Local Services legal staff will offer the annual "What's New in Municipal Law" seminars for local officials on Oct. 21 in Waltham and Oct. 23 in Holyoke.

Virtual seminars, replicating the in-person ones, will be offered on Oct. 27 and Oct. 30.

The seminars will kick off with a general morning session highlighting recent legislation and court decisions pertaining to local government, including Appellate Tax Board cases, and DLS updates.

The afternoon will feature three concurrent workshops on:

- Assessing ownership, exemption, abatement and quorum issues and other unique assessment situations
- Tax title issues and updates
- Accounting issues such as PFAS funds, staff reimbursement, credit cards and points, prepayment of certain services, energy credits and charitable endeavor issues, among others

The Waltham session will be held at the Bentley University Conference Center,

and the Holyoke session will be held at the Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House. Lunch will be served.

The [agenda is available online](#). Space is limited, and [registrations](#) must be received by Oct. 3.

The registration fee is \$100.

Questions can be directed to dlsregistration@dor.state.ma.us.

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

Seaport Economic Council grant program opens for FY26

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Aug. 14 announced the opening of the fiscal 2026 round of the Seaport Economic Council grant program.

The program, administered by the Executive Office of Economic Development, provides funding to support working waterfronts, local tourism, coastal resiliency, and maritime innovation across Massachusetts' coastal region.

In a prepared statement, Gov. Maura Healey said the program invests "in infrastructure, innovation and resiliency

to help [coastal] communities succeed for generations to come."

The Seaport Economic Council serves all 78 of the state's coastal communities by making strategic investments in projects that grow and sustain the maritime economy.

The Executive Office of Economic Development updated the grant categories for this round to focus investment on projects that leverage local and regional economic opportunities and support innovation. Applicants are encouraged to propose projects that

incorporate the deployment, testing and development of advanced technologies.

Applications will be accepted through the [Seaport Economic Council grant program website](#) for coastal infrastructure projects that are ready to begin in fiscal 2026. Applications are due by Sept. 10 at 11:59 p.m.

Over the past 10 years, the Seaport Economic Council has invested more than \$93 million in the state's coastal communities. ●

ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Oct. 18

Local finance committee members are invited to the Association of Town Finance Committees' Annual Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Sharon Community Center.

The opening speaker will be Quentin Palfrey, director of Federal Funds and Infrastructure in the Executive Office of Administration and Finance.

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

The first time slot will feature:

- "Finance Committee and Budgeting 101," led by Ashburnham Town Administrator John Coderre, covering the basics for new members

- A session on managing health insurance costs led by Chris Bailey, director of the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association's Health Benefits Trust

The second time slot will feature:

- An in-depth look at Proposition 2½ overrides
- A session focused on revenue and expenditure forecasting

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 2 p.m.



Quentin Palfrey

All local officials are welcome to attend. The cost is \$65 for dues-paying ATFC finance committee members and \$75 for nonmember finance committee members and other local officials.

Online registration and a detailed agenda are available on www.mma.org.

In conjunction with the meeting, the 2025 edition of the Finance Committee Handbook will be digitally published and made available to members. The handbook is free for all ATFC dues-paying members.

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

Climate Beacon conference is Oct. 22-24 in Boston

Climate Beacon, New England's premier climate solutions conference, will be held on Oct. 22-24 in Boston.

The conference brings together corporate, municipal, institutional and community leaders, along with global and national experts and practitioners, to discuss strategies and resources that

can propel climate crisis solutions into reality and chart paths to more sustainable, livable futures.

Speakers will include Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. A Municipal Leaders Breakfast will be held on Oct. 23 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Complimentary tickets are available for students, public servants, and community, youth, environmental justice, and small nonprofit organizations.

[Climate Beacon](#) will be held at Lyrik, 1001 Boylston St. in Boston.

[Registration is available online.](#) ●

U.S. Dept. of Education releases \$6B that had been frozen

By Owen Page

In a letter to states on July 25, the U.S. Department of Education said approximately \$6 billion in previously paused federal K-12 education funds will be released.

The funds, which were previously approved by Congress, had been held up for review to ensure alignment with President Trump's priorities. The department issued a [notice to grantees announcing the funding pause](#) on June 30, just a day before the funds were expected to be available to states and local schools across the country.

The federal action held up \$108 million



A federal funding pause on education funds, which was reversed on July 25, had been holding up \$108 million destined for Massachusetts districts.

destined for Massachusetts districts.

Dispersal of the funds is expected to begin in the next week and continue

through the end of the calendar year, according to the Education Department.

The funds in question support summer and afterschool activities, teacher training programs, migrant student education, behavioral and mental health supports, chronic absenteeism programs, classroom supplies, and more.

The Healey-Driscoll administration had condemned the funding pause, and Massachusetts joined 23 other states and the District of Columbia to file suit against the Trump administration for the freeze, arguing that the funds in question had already received Congressional approval. ●

MMA Webinars

Municipal law

The MMA hosted a webinar on Aug. 6 with a panel of attorneys from the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association to address timely legal topics affecting municipalities.

Nicole Costanzo, an attorney with KP Law, provided updates on topics related to the cannabis industry, including social equity mandates, delivery, and social consumption.

Kelli Gunagan, an assistant attorney general and director of the Municipal Law Unit, gave an overview of recent changes to the law regarding accessory dwelling units and reviewed examples of ADU bylaw requirements, including dimensional requirements, parking and bedroom limitations. (All Municipal Law Unit decisions can be accessed using its [Decision Lookup Tool](#).)

John Finnegan, an attorney with Hill Law, explained a recent Land Court decision in *Leominster v. Corbett* and how it impacts tax title takings and the calculation of interest.

Sam Dinning, chief of staff and policy for the city of Boston Law Department, discussed federal actions regarding immigration enforcement, the legal landscape in Massachusetts, and its practical application on municipal work.

“States and municipalities don’t have an obligation to affirmatively assist the federal government with immigration enforcement,” Dinning said, “but they also cannot interfere with or obstruct immigration enforcement.”

The [Attorney General’s office has issued guidance](#) on the topic, and Dinning recommended reviewing Section 3, on the

Crisis communications

An MMA webinar on Aug. 20 provided an introduction to crisis communication planning and response.

“Crisis communication allows you to address crises quickly, get to a resolution faster, protect your reputation, and build trust with stakeholders,” said Joyce McMahon, president of McMahon Communications.

Jennifer Ranz, account director at McMahon Communications, began by addressing what qualifies as a crisis. She emphasized that having a plan in place ahead of time is crucial, in order to help keep a minor issue from escalating into a major crisis.

McMahon reviewed the seven essential steps for municipalities to effectively respond during a crisis: confirm the situation, activate the crisis team, determine the scope of the matter, craft statements, set the response plan in motion, and get the word out.

The presentation included templates and examples for statements, social media graphics, and other materials.

McMahon and Ranz used real-world crisis response examples — from the Flint Water Crisis to Hurricane Sandy — to explore what worked and what didn’t.

Ranz moderated 25 minutes of questions and answers, addressing inquiries regarding using social media for effective



Panelists discuss developments and current topics in municipal law during an MMA webinar. Speakers included, top row, left to right, Kelli Gunagan, assistant attorney general and Municipal Law Unit director; Ivria Fried, a Harrington Heep partner who also moderated the webinar; Sam Dinning, chief of staff and policy for the city of Boston Law Department; and, bottom row, left to right, Hill Law attorney John Finnegan and KP Law attorney Nicole Costanzo.

Date: August 6

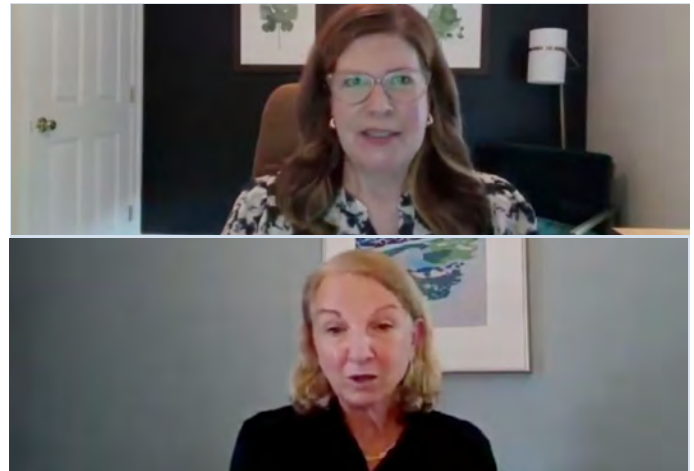
Length: 75 minutes

[VIEW WEBINAR ↗](#)

distinction between public and private spaces, and Section 9, on what constitutes interference.

Ivria Fried, a partner at Harrington Heep, moderated 15 minutes of questions and answers, addressing inquiries regarding marijuana delivery, requesting identification from federal agents detaining residents, and tax title changes included in a [recently signed fiscal 2025 supplemental budget](#).

– Kristianna Lapierre



Webinar panelists discuss crisis communication planning and response, including messaging following an incident and internal communications. Speakers were Jennifer Ranz, left, and Joyce McMahon, both of McMahon Communications.

Date: August 20

Length: 75 minutes

[VIEW WEBINAR ↗](#)

crisis management, how best to address misinformation, and who should be on the crisis response team.

– Kristianna Lapierre

MMA Webinars

Municipal communications

An MMA webinar on Aug. 27 covered strategies for effective municipal communications work.

Nantucket Communications Manager Florencia Rullo and Ashley Curtis, digital media marketing manager for Cambridge, discussed “simplifying your social media presence,” among other topics.

Curtis stressed the importance of a clear and consistent visual identity. She said a recognizable brand reinforces credibility across all municipal departments.

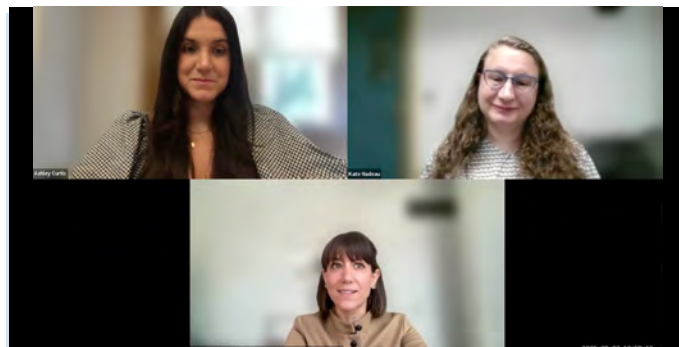
She said the information that’s shared and the way it’s expressed should be tailored for the various platforms that are being used. Presenters offered strategies for tone and optimal times to post on various platforms. Their social media recommendations include maintaining a consistent posting schedule, following platform-specific best practices, and providing value before promoting.

The presentation included tips for leveraging social media algorithms.

“Algorithms favor content that sparks genuine community interaction,” Rullo said. “You want to respond to comments to keep conversations going and alive, and the content that gets more people talking will be the content that performs better.”

The presenters also discussed establishing social media policies with the following key elements: brand voice guidelines, content review process, crisis response protocols, legal and ethical considerations, and employee use guidelines.

Belchertown Communications Manager Kate Nadeau, moderated 25 minutes of questions and answers, addressing



Panelists discuss effective municipal communications and social media strategy during an MMA webinar. Panelists included, clockwise from top left, Ashley Curtis, Cambridge digital media marketing manager, Kate Nadeau, Belchertown communications manager, and Florencia Rullo, communications manager in Nantucket.

Date: August 27 **Length:** 75 Minutes

[VIEW WEBINAR ↗](#)

inquiries regarding managing social media comments, managing the workload with a small team, and correcting errors.

– *Kristianna Lapierre*

Webinar topic suggestion form available

The MMA invites members to submit topic ideas for webinars or offer their expertise to present on a topic. Visit the [webinars form](#) on our website.



Municipal communicators connect

Plymouth Communications Coordinator Casey Kennedy, left, and Reading Assistant Town Manager Jayne Wellman discuss proactive municipal communications during the inaugural in-person meeting of the Massachusetts Municipal Communicators on Aug. 14 in Foxborough. More than 60 municipal communications professionals attended the event, which featured roundtable discussions on topics such as social media management and emergency communications, as well as networking opportunities and a guided tour of the Foxborough Community Center.

MMA.org has latest news for Mass. cities, towns

The latest developments on issues affecting Massachusetts cities and towns can always be found on the MMA website (www.mma.org).

The website is a valuable resource for news updates in between issues of The Beacon.

The website also features the latest details about MMA meetings, a Resource Library full of helpful documents, a webinar library, MMA advocacy updates, municipal employment opportunities, and much more. ●

MMA offers municipal guide to inclusive holidays

By Jillian Harvey

Scheduling city council or school committee meetings, town board and commission meetings, and other important dates for community members is a challenging yet essential task.

Scheduling conflicts will be inevitable, but there are ways that municipalities can take a more inclusive approach to scheduling that will allow for broader participation.

Towns and cities have the ability to schedule important events months or sometimes even years in advance. Generally, school breaks are avoided, as well as the [12 legal holidays observed by the Commonwealth](#). Towns and cities also have the autonomy to determine additional days that they include as holidays, during which no business is conducted, such as the day after Thanksgiving, or Good Friday.

Diversity varies in many ways across towns and cities, and each community should be mindful of its demographic makeup when making scheduling

decisions. In an effort to foster a more inclusive workplace for municipal employees and more engagement opportunities for community members, municipalities should acknowledge that other religious holidays and days of significance are celebrated and observed beyond the standard 12 recognized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Scheduling conflicts will be inevitable, but there are ways that municipalities can take a more inclusive approach to scheduling that will allow for broader participation.

The MMA has created a list of [religious holidays and days of significance for fiscal 2026](#) that municipalities may want

to consider when scheduling important public meetings, events and programs — in an effort to be mindful of staff and community members who may be observing them.

Inclusive scheduling is a proactive approach to creating a culture where staff and community members feel valued, seen and respected. The religious, ethnic and cultural diversity across the Commonwealth highlights the need to be considerate of varying practices and accommodations individuals may need to fully participate in civic events.

Some religious practices include fasting or refraining from work, which can significantly impact an individual's ability to engage during the workday or at a community meeting. The MMA's [multi-faith holidays and observances glossary](#) provides more details on the numerous days of religious and cultural significance, in order to support deeper understanding and awareness of the diversity that exists within our communities. ●

MMHR to hold Fall Conference Sept. 18-19 in Springfield

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources will hold its annual Fall Conference on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 18 and 19, in Springfield.

The conference will open with a keynote workshop: "Recruitment Strategies for Greater Diversity." Led by Eden-Reneé Hayes, CEO of Pluralism Solutions, the session will highlight how diversity, equity and inclusion foster genuine relationships and inspire sustainable growth.

The afternoon will feature a roundtable discussion on recruitment best practices, moderated by Pittsfield Human Resources Director Michael Taylor. Facilitators will lead participants in small group discussions.

Jerry Posner, an accomplished training specialist and personal strategic coach, will lead an afternoon workshop, "Cooling Hostility," which will provide practical tools, techniques and strategies for deescalating potentially hostile situations.

Thursday will conclude a networking reception, followed by an optional trip



Jerry Posner



Eden-Reneé Hayes

to the [Big E](#), New England's largest annual fair. Trip tickets are limited, and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who wish to participate must register using the conference registration link. Transportation to and from the fair will not be provided, and carpooling is encouraged.

The conference will resume on Friday with a networking breakfast at 8 a.m.

The morning will feature a panel discussion on employee wellness and morale, moderated by East Longmeadow HR Director Audra Staples, and featuring Danvers Assistant Town Manager and

Communications Director Jen Breaker, Springfield Assistant HR Director Caitlyn Julius, and Tyngsborough Town Manager Colin Loiselle.

The program will conclude with a workshop on employee resource groups, which will discuss how the groups help foster supportive and inclusive workplaces.

The agenda also includes networking activities, a morning yoga class, and a legislative update by MMA Legislative Director Dave Koffman.

Registration and a welcome breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 18.

The conference will be held at the Marriott Springfield Downtown.

The registration fee is \$200 for the full conference, or \$125 for Thursday only. The agenda and registration link are available at www.mma.org.

Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Martin Davis at mdavis@mma.org

MMA webinar to cover wage equity law

The MMA will host a webinar on Sept. 10 covering the [Frances Perkins Wage Equity Act](#), which was enacted in July 2024 to help close gender and racial wage gaps in Massachusetts.

The webinar will review the key provisions of the law, including pay disclosure requirements and U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission data reporting.

Panelists will include:

- Trini Gao, assistant attorney general, Civil Rights Division, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office

- Josh Cutler, undersecretary, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development
- Jen Breaker, assistant town manager and communications director, Danvers (moderator)

Presentations will be followed by an extended opportunity to ask questions regarding the law and its requirements



Jen Breaker

for Massachusetts municipalities. Attendees are invited to submit questions for the panelists in advance on the Zoom registration page.

[Online registration is available](#) for the 75-minute webinar, which will begin at noon. Only MMA members may register. MMA members include elected officials and municipal employees from MMA member communities across the state. Media members are not permitted to attend.

Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre at klapierre@mma.org

MMA to hold webinar with Red Cross on Sept. 16

The MMA will host a webinar on Sept. 16 with the American Red Cross of Massachusetts to explore how municipalities can work with the Massachusetts chapter and to offer examples of the support the Red Cross can provide when a community needs it most.

Three regional executive directors will join the webinar to provide information related to their region.

Every eight minutes, the Red Cross responds to a disaster to offer care, comfort, financial support and relief, according to the [organization's website](#). The Red Cross also runs training and certification programs, blood drives, the largest food pantry in New England, services to the armed forces, and more.



Holly Grant



Kyle McWilliam-Lopez

Webinar speakers will include:

- Holly Grant, CEO, American Red Cross, Massachusetts
- Barbara Cotton, executive director, Red Cross Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter

- Kyle McWilliam-Lopez, executive director, Red Cross Northeastern Massachusetts Chapter
- Nia Rennix, executive director, Red Cross Central-Western Massachusetts Chapter

[Online registration is available](#) for the 60-minute webinar, which will begin at noon. Only MMA members may register. MMA members include elected officials and municipal employees from MMA member communities across the state. Media members are not permitted to attend.

Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre at klapierre@mma.org

MMA to host webinar with Mass. Councils on Aging Sept. 25

The MMA will host a webinar with the Massachusetts Councils on Aging on Sept. 25 that will highlight the vital role of councils on aging and senior centers as a community safety net for older adults and caregivers.

The webinar will cover core programs and services offered by councils on aging, and describe how the MCOA supports the statewide network through advocacy, education and collaboration.

Councils on aging and senior centers are more than gathering places — they are lifelines for older adults, providing essential programs, services, connections, and supports that promote well-being, independence and dignity.

Changing demographics are placing



Andrea Cordis



Betsy Connell



Maddie Noonan

increased demand on councils on aging, and this webinar will discuss how municipalities today can best support older adults in their communities.

This webinar will be led by the MCOA Executive Director Betsy Connell, MCOA Assistant Director Madeline

Noonan, and MCOA Training and Education Manager Andrea Cordis.

[Online registration is available](#) for the 75-minute webinar, which will begin at noon. Only MMA members may register. MMA members include elected officials and municipal employees from MMA member communities across the state. Media members are not permitted to attend.

Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre at klapierre@mma.org

MMCA to hold regional breakfast Sept. 26

All city and town councillors are invited to a Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association regional breakfast meeting on Sept. 26 in Marlborough.

Hudson Planning and Community Development Director Kristina Johnson will give a presentation on recent successes and challenges in economic development, housing and zoning in her

town. Attendees will then have an opportunity to share their own experiences during a networking session.

The free meeting will run from 8 to 10 a.m. at the



Kristina Johnson

Marlborough Public Library.

Registration is [available online](#).

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

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's Connect 351 conference in January 2026.

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 [form on the MMA website](#) with a link to, or a PDF of, your town report.

Entries are due by Friday, Oct. 31.

For more information, visit the [MMA website](#) or contact Daniel Yi at the MMA at 617-426-7272, ext. 125, or dyi@mma.org. ●

Entries sought for municipal website contest

The MMA is accepting nominations for its annual municipal website awards, which will be presented during the MMA's Connect 351 conference in January 2026.

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 [fill out a short online nomination form](#). The entry deadline is Friday, 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

- 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

Please note that previous winners are not eligible to re-enter the contest unless their website has undergone a significant redesign.

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



Stolba highlights economic development

Interim Economic Development Secretary Ashley Stolba speaks during a Massachusetts Municipal Management Association meeting on July 17 in Quincy, where she discussed the proposed Mass Leads Act, the state's five-year capital investment plan, and Community One Stop for Growth.

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 [online nomination form](#) and submit their name for consideration. The nomination deadline is Nov. 1.

Nominations are sought for three officer positions on the MMCA Board of Directors. These include 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 of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of most months, at various locations throughout the state, including 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 Connect 351 (the MMA's annual conference) on Jan. 24, 2026, in Boston.

In performing its responsibilities for identifying, recruiting and recommending 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 www.mma.org/members/councillors.

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

Management Association to hold boot camp on Oct. 16

The Massachusetts Municipal Management Association will hold its annual "boot camp" on Oct. 16 at the Sharon Community Center.

The free 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.

The meeting will include an interactive roundtable session and workshops on career advancement, resiliency, and

municipal finance basics.

In the afternoon, Sean Cronin, senior deputy commissioner of local services at the Division of Local Services, will discuss state and municipal finances.

The meeting will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Sean Cronin

The boot camp is not a training session for frontline staff or elected officials.

The agenda and online registration are available on www.mma.org.

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

MMA and Constellation to discuss energy outlook on Sept. 24

The MMA and its partners at Constellation will hold a free presentation and conversation via Zoom on Sept. 24 to cover two energy topics.

- Brandon Fong, principal in Constellation's Commodities Management Group, will provide an update on the current energy landscape for cities and towns, including winter energy costs, weather updates, global challenges facing the energy markets, and more.
- The team managing Constellation's electric vehicle charging solution will discuss how it can help municipalities offer an important charging amenity, while gathering data to support further electrification efforts. This

energy efficiency program, available to MMA members, can be an effective entry point for cities and towns in the early development of their electrification strategy.

The meeting is free, but [registration](#) is required to receive the link. The hour-long meeting will begin at noon.

The Constellation team offers a wide range of services to help communities manage summer energy costs, including



Brandon Fong

strategic energy buying, efficiency projects, and clean energy options. As electricity production is struggling to keep up with demand and New England prices rise, Constellation can help cities and towns explore alternative energy and cost-savings solutions.

For 25 years, the [MMA's MunEnergy program](#) has helped cities and towns manage energy costs through a program designed specifically for public entities. For more information, visit the [MunEnergy web-page](#) or contact MMA Deputy Executive Director Katie McCue at 617-426-7272, ext. 111, or kmccue@mma.org. ●

MMA-Suffolk offering 3 sessions of finance, HR seminars

By Kate Evarts

The MMA and Suffolk University will be offering three Municipal Finance Management Seminar programs during the 2025-2026 academic year, in the fall, winter and spring.

The seminar is for municipal employees interested in furthering their careers in municipal finance or employees who are new to municipal finance.

The seminar provides an overview of municipal finance in Massachusetts, including the structure and purpose of local government, municipal budgeting systems and sources of revenue, financial reporting and record keeping, financial management, principles of property assessment, the intersection of human resources and financial resources, and best practices in local government finance.

Participants must be currently employed by a city or town, and must have the approval of their municipal manager, administrator or mayor to apply.

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

- Fall 2025: Oct. 17 (fully enrolled)
- Winter 2026: Jan. 9
- Spring 2026: March 6

“We’ve seen great success with this program, which is 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.”

Students are expected to attend all course sessions, participate in class activities, and complete all course assignments. Each session can accommodate up to 25 students, and the cost is \$925.

Registration is first-come, first-served. Applicants will be vetted to ensure that they’re municipal employees and that there are no more than three participants per municipality.

Registration details for the winter session will be emailed to chief municipal officials in mid October.

Questions about the registration process can be directed to Kate Evarts at kevarts@mma.org or 617-426-7272, ext. 172.

Municipal Human Resources Seminar

The MMA and Suffolk University will host three sessions of the Municipal Human Resources Seminar during the 2025-2026 academic year.

The seminar is designed for municipal employees interested in furthering their career in municipal human resources, employees who are new to municipal human resources, and employees who work in a municipal function with human-resources-adjacent tasks.

The seminar covers human resources management, policies and practices specific to Massachusetts cities and towns. Topics include hiring and onboarding, benefits administration, policy development, collective bargaining, and employee reviews and evaluations.

Students also review relevant labor laws and best practices in municipal human resources management.

The Municipal Human Resources Seminar will be held via Zoom over the course of five Fridays, with start dates as follows:

- Fall 2025: Oct. 17 (fully enrolled)
- Winter 2026: Jan. 9
- Spring 2026: April 10

The application for the winter seminar is available on the [MMA website](#) and is due by Oct. 10. This is a competitive application process; applicants will be informed of their status by early November.

Waitlisted applicants will receive emails when additional sessions are confirmed.

Questions

The MMA has partnered with Suffolk University since 2011 to offer programs designed exclusively for municipal employees to help them further their professional careers. For more information on any of the MMA-Suffolk programs, visit [mma.org/suffolk](#) or contact Katie McCue at 617-426-7272, ext. 111, or kmccue@mma.org, or Kate Evarts at 617-426-7272, ext. 172, or kevarts@mma.org. ●

MMA to host webinar with POST Commission on Oct. 2

The MMA will host a webinar on Oct. 2 featuring the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission.

Established in 2020 by criminal justice reform legislation, the purpose of the [POST Commission](#) is to implement a fair process for mandatory certification, discipline and training for all peace officers in Massachusetts.

Andrew Golas, town administrator and emergency management director for the town of Charlton, will moderate a panel discussion providing essential information for municipal leaders about the POST Commission, its legal requirements for municipalities, and its future goals.

Panelists will include:

- Enrique Zuniga, executive director of



Andrew Golas



Enrique Zuniga

the POST Commission

- Eric Atstupenas, general counsel for the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association
- Christopher Padden, police chief in Norwood

The MMA invites attendees to submit their questions in advance when they register using Zoom.

[Online registration is available for the 75-minute webinar](#), which will begin at noon.

Only MMA members may register. MMA members include elected officials and municipal employees from MMA member communities across the state. Media members are not permitted to attend.

Before the Oct. 2 webinar, attendees may want to watch the MMA’s [first](#) and [second](#) annual POST update webinars, available on demand on [mma.org](#).

Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre at [klapierre@mma.org](#)

Clean Water Trust issues nearly \$62 million in loans

The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust's Board of Trustees on Aug. 6 approved \$62 million in new low-interest loans and grants.

The Clean Water Trust, along with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, provides low-interest loans and grants to cities, towns and water utilities through the Massachusetts State Revolving Funds. These funds help communities build or replace water infrastructure that enhances existing water resources, ensures drinking water safety, protects public health, and increases community resiliency.

More than \$24 million went to clean water projects in New Bedford, Provincetown and Quincy.



The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust has approved nearly \$62 million in loans and grants for water infrastructure projects that enhance water resources and drinking water safety.

Approximately \$36 million went to drinking water projects in Dedham,

Westwood and New Bedford.

A total of \$900,000 went to Easton and Plymouth for community septic management.

A grant of \$61,000 went to Marion for sewer overflow mitigation and stormwater reuse.

Nearly \$63,000 in related Cybersecurity Improvement grants went to Erving and Hudson.

And a total of \$233,000 in Asset Management Planning Grants went to Bedford, Blackstone and Lynnfield.

For more information, visit the [SRF programs webpage](#). Information on the state's [Loan Forgiveness Program](#) is also available online. ●

Free public sector cybersecurity summit is Oct. 30

Public sector employees are invited to a free [Public Sector Cybersecurity Summit](#) on Oct. 30 in Worcester.

The summit, sponsored by Government Technology, will focus on addressing the public sector's unique cybersecurity challenges. It will bring together government leaders and IT security

professionals to discuss strategies for protecting sensitive information, upgrading cybersecurity infrastructure, and preempting threats before they happen.

Attendees will hear from cybersecurity experts, participate in collaborative discussions, and learn practical solutions

tailored for public sector entities.

The event will be held at the DCU Center, at 50 Foster St. in Worcester. Registration is [available online](#).

Questions may be directed to Audrey Houser at ahouser@erepublic.com or 916-932-1420. ●

MassDEP announces \$46 million for EV chargers

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection on Aug. 12 announced a \$46 million allocation through fiscal 2027 for electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support strategic EV charger buildout across Massachusetts.

The funding includes \$16 million in grants to support the purchase and installation of EV charging infrastructure, and \$30 million for medium- and heavy-duty charging, chargers along secondary corridors, and other opportunities.

The MassDEP said the funding will be made available through the scaling up of existing successful programs and the creation of new grant opportunities.

The [Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council](#) released its [biennial assessment](#) on Aug. 11, which outlined next steps in the state's rollout of EV chargers. The MassDEP investments



The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is making funding investments to support the purchase and installation of EV charging infrastructure.

seek to match the needs identified in the assessment in an effort to enhance EV charging infrastructure affordability and accelerate statewide charger deployment, particularly in western and central Massachusetts and for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.

The assessment's recommendations include enacting solutions to reduce potential grid impacts of EV charging, bolstering existing information and facilitating access to existing EV charging programs, partnering with stakeholders and the Legislature to develop expanded "right-to-charge" legislation for renters, deploying measures to ensure clear customer information on EV chargers, and combining existing EV charger incentives at retail and other popular locations.

The assessment also recommends addressing existing gaps in EV charging infrastructure, such as fast charging technology along secondary transportation corridors, particularly in western and central Massachusetts; increasing on-street and public transit parking lot charging capabilities in residential areas; and expanded fleet charging for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles. ●

Town Forest Conference is Oct. 4 in Middleborough

The annual Massachusetts Town Forest Conference, which fosters collaboration and conversation among a range of professionals and volunteers who contribute to community forest management, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, at Middleborough High School.

The free, full-day conference recognizes local efforts to support the climate resilience of community forests, and underscores the critical functions that town forests play in local ecosystems. The conference features exhibits, presentations, networking opportunities and field tours. The audience includes foresters, planners, arborists, conservation commission members, land trusts, nonprofit organizations, forest landowners, and more.

This year's theme is "Sustaining Our Landscapes: Farms, Forests, and Cranberry Bogs." The event will include a keynote discussion on the history of Middleborough and the Frederick



A Massachusetts Town Forest Conference on Oct. 4 will feature educational speakers, networking opportunities, and tours of Middleborough's natural resources.

Weston Memorial Forest. It will also feature speakers from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Middleborough Town Forest Committee.

Attendees may sign up for one of three field tours: Picone and Pratt Farms in Middleborough; Pratt Farm and Red Meadow Cranberry Bog; or the Frederick Weston Memorial Town Forest and

Benson's Pond Bog.

Registration and coffee will begin at 9:30 a.m., along with a chance to meet with exhibitors.

Lunch and refreshments are included with registration for the event, which will conclude at 4:30 p.m. [Online preregistration is required.](#)

The roots of the Town Forest Conference trace back to 1928, when the Massachusetts Forestry Association orchestrated the first 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.

Questions may be directed to Mike Downey at michael.downey@mass.gov. ●

MCOA seeks annual award submissions

The Massachusetts Councils on Aging is accepting nominations through Sept. 5 for its annual awards, which honor individuals, groups and programs that have significantly impacted the lives of older adults.

Local leaders are encouraged to nominate champions of the older adult community for their work and dedication.



Categories include Director of the Year and Innovation of the Year.

Visit the [MCOA website](#) for award

criteria and nomination forms.

Awards will be presented at the MCOA Fall Conference, to be held Oct. 22-24 at the Sea Crest Resort in Falmouth.

For questions, contact kelly@mcoaonline.org. ●

MBI announces largest statewide investment in public housing internet

On Aug. 6, the Healey-Driscoll administration and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute awarded \$31.5 million to four internet service providers to increase internet access for affordable and public housing residents statewide.

The [Massachusetts Broadband Institute](#) provided the funds through the state's Residential Retrofit Program, which expands reliable, high-speed internet service by addressing inadequate wiring and infrastructure through grants to qualified ISPs.

According to the MBI, this round of grant funding will modernize internet access in more than 13,700 housing units across Massachusetts, including the installation of fiber-optic or CAT6 internet infrastructure, customer



The latest round of funding in the Residential Retrofit Program will modernize internet access in more than 13,700 housing units across Massachusetts.

home-based equipment, and Wi-Fi service to residences in 60 municipalities across the state. The upgrades aim to increase connectivity, reduce cost burdens and improve digital access for low-income residents.

"With this funding, we're making sure low-income residents have the same access to essential services, opportunities, and tools as everyone else, leading to a more connected and advanced economy," said Interim Economic Development Secretary Ashley Stolba in a prepared statement.

The Residential Retrofit Program is funded by the [U.S. Treasury's Capital Projects Fund](#) through the American Rescue Plan Act. The program prioritizes projects in federally designated Qualified Census Tracts and properties with high percentages of deed-restricted affordable housing.

• [Link to complete list of award recipients](#)

Mass. Digital Government Summit to be held on Sept. 18

Government Technology's Massachusetts Digital Government Summit, on Sept. 18 in Boston, will bring together public sector leaders and technology professionals to explore innovative solutions to solve government problems.

The free event, to be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Menino Convention and Exhibition Center, will cover topics including cybersecurity, digital transformation, artificial intelligence implementation, and data governance.

The day will kick off with opening remarks from Jason Snyder, Massachusetts secretary of Technology Services and Security.

Jessica Matthews, CEO of Uncharted, a sustainable infrastructure company, will deliver the keynote address, "Find Your Fight: Innovating When the Odds Are Against You."

A general session, "Government Services Game Changer – From Legacy to Legend," will focus on how the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance transformed its digital

operations. Speakers will include Anthony Fantasia, chief information officer at the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and Matthew Moran, assistant secretary and chief engagement officer at the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security.

The day will kick off with opening remarks from Jason Snyder, Massachusetts secretary of Technology Services and Security.

The following will be concurrent morning sessions:

- Doing More with Less: Real World Cost-Effective Modernization Strategies
- From Data Sharing to Decision-Making: Modern Strategies for a Connected, Data-Driven Commonwealth

- Designing Next-Gen Digital Services and Experiences
- Journey to the Dark Web
- Accessibility Training and Tools to Assess Compliance with ADA Title II

The following will be concurrent afternoon sessions:

- Measuring What Matters: Strategies for Program Effectiveness
- Communicating Change for IT Success
- Preparing the Workforce for What's Next
- Power in Partnership: Advancing Collaboration and Shared Services

The event will include lunch, networking opportunities, the presentation of Massachusetts Excellence in Technology Awards, and a trivia game.

For more information and to register, visit the [event website](#). For questions or help with registering, contact Audrey Houser at ahouser@erepublic.com. ●

Send us your Municipal Innovation Award entries!

- Has your community been working on a new and unique project?
- Do you have a new or different solution to a problem facing your community, and possibly others in Massachusetts?
- 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 Connect 351 in January 2026.

Entries are due by Friday, Oct. 31.

HOW TO ENTER

- Fill out the summary sheet found on the MMA website (at www.mma.org/connect-351/awards/municipal-innovations/), 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 www.mma.org/connect-351/awards/municipal-innovations/).
- 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 dysi@mma.org.

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

MARPA and DLS Conference is Oct. 7

The Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies and the Division of Local Services will hold their annual conference on Oct. 7 in Worcester.

Local, state and regional thought leaders will discuss a range of topics, such as housing, transportation, climate, funding, and more.

The conference will be held from 9 a.m.



to 12:30 p.m. at the Hogan Campus Center Ballroom at the College of the Holy Cross, 1 College St. in Worcester.

The admission cost is \$20.



[Click here for more details and registration](#), or contact Norman Abbott at nabbott@mapc.org. ●

Public Works Expo is Sept. 17 and 18 in Marlborough

The Massachusetts Highway Association will host the 46th New England Public Works Expo on Sept. 17 and 18 at the Royal Plaza Trade Center in Marlborough.

The show features some of the region's latest heavy equipment, construction, and municipal and highway products

and services from regional and national vendors.

Admission is free, and attendees may register in person.

The 2024 Public Works Expo featured more than 200 vendors and had 2,000 attendees.

The expo will be open from 8 a.m. to 3

p.m. on Sept. 17 and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 18.

The event will feature a two-hour block of educational seminars each day, as well as a complimentary lunch for all attendees.

For more information, visit www.nepublicworksexpo.org. ●

Administration delivers \$5.7M to support fire, police staffing

Gov. Maura Healey on Aug. 18 announced that 10 Massachusetts cities have received funding to help ensure sufficient staffing for emergency services.

The state funds were awarded through the [Massachusetts Municipal Public Safety Staffing Program](#), which provides funds each year to cities that meet strict criteria set by the Legislature.

The funds were made available on an expedited basis as part of the state's response to the July 13 fire in Fall River that killed 10 people and injured 30 others, according to the administration. Fall River is one of the 10 communities that meet the program's strict eligibility criteria.

The Office of Grants and Research, which administers the grant program, reviewed all applications as they were received.

The program gives local leaders and public safety officials discretion to direct the funds in ways that best meet their public safety needs.

In past years, grant recipients were able to use their awarded funds over a 12-month period from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. This year, cities were given the option to use their award over a period of up to 17 months, from August 2025 through December 2026. This allows police and fire departments with urgent

Brockton Mayor Robert Sullivan said the funding "will provide critical support to both our Fire and Police departments by helping to address staffing shortfalls and ensuring that we can continue delivering the high-quality public safety and emergency response services our residents rely on every day."

needs to access the funds as soon as possible. Award recipients were also given the option to continue using their funds on a 12-month timeline.

In a prepared statement, Brockton Mayor Robert Sullivan said the funding "will provide critical support to both our Fire and Police departments by helping to address staffing shortfalls and ensuring that we can continue delivering the high-quality public safety and emergency response services our residents rely on every day."



Ten Massachusetts cities received \$5.7 million in state funding to boost staffing for emergency services.

Fall River Mayor Paul Coogan said he's "deeply grateful" for the \$1.6 million his city received to bolster public safety staffing.

"Our city is safer and more prepared because of this program," he said.

Haverhill Mayor Melinda Barrett the grant funds will enable her Police Department to "perform duties outside of routine patrol at a higher level," such as traffic enforcement, community policing, ATV patrols, motorcycle patrols, walking beats, hot spot patrols, drug interdiction, and community meetings.

The other seven cities receiving funding are Framingham, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Newton, Malden and Somerville. ●

Green Building Council to hold Leadership Summit

The U.S. Green Building Council will hold its Local Government Leadership Summit on Sept. 30 in Boston.

The half-day event is an opportunity to connect with local government leaders in New England who are driving climate resilience, green building and sustainable development in their communities.

Attendees will gain insight into state and national programs that support local government sustainability and resilience leadership, as well as USGBC



Local Government Leadership Summit

tools and resources, such as LEED for Cities, which equip local governments to advance climate goals.

Speakers will include Boston Chief Climate Officer Brian Swett, Massachusetts Green Communities Division Director Joanne Bissetta,

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Director Kara Runsten, and several representatives of the U.S. Green Building Council.

The cost is \$35 for USGBC members and \$45 for nonmembers. There's a \$25 rate for students and emerging professionals.

For more information and to register, visit the [USGBC Local Government Leadership Summit website](#). ●

MBI awards \$555,747 to advance digital equity in cities, towns

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute announced on Aug. 13 that it is awarding \$555,747 to nine municipalities as part of the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program.

The funding will support a broad range of activities across each community, including expanding digital literacy instruction, digital education and access, digital navigation services, laptop and tablet distribution and public Wi-Fi networks.

The nine communities previously developed digital equity plans under the [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program](#), a statewide initiative that connects municipalities with qualified consultants to determine access gaps and enact planning activities aimed at bridging the digital divide.

Awardees are Charlemont, Clarksburg, Dalton, Lenox, North Andover, Northfield, Orleans, Shutesbury and Somerset, and the awarded funding

ranges from \$47,000 to \$85,000.

Economic Development Secretary Ashley Stolba said the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program "offers a roadmap to local leaders through a planning exercise, and puts dollars on the table to implement the communities' top priorities to close the digital divide."

Applicants were able to select one or more of seven focus areas for implementation funding: connectivity for economic hardship; device distribution and refurbishment; digital literacy; education, outreach and adoption; public space modernization; staff capacity for digital equity; and wifi access and

innovative connectivity technology.

A total of 105 cities and towns across Massachusetts participated in the [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program](#), and 28 are currently participating in the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Communities participating in the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program may apply for a direct grant of up to \$100,000 after completing the planning process.

Details about the digital equity projects and each community's plan are available on the [Massachusetts Broadband Institute website](#). ●

Let us know about your local news

Every day across the Commonwealth, municipal leaders are finding ways to deliver services more efficiently, save taxpayers money, engage more citizens in the work of local government, and improve the effectiveness of services that have a direct impact on people's lives.

The MMA wants to spread the word about these local efforts. If your community has launched a new program or initiative, or has found a unique solution to a common problem, please let us know with our [Local News Tips form](#) on the MMA website. ●



Mayors discuss trash, recycling contracts

Kathi Mirza, left, municipal waste reduction branch chief at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and Julia Greene, principal of BCLW Consulting, speak during a meeting of the Massachusetts Mayors' Association on July 23 in New Bedford. Green and Mirza discussed trash and recycling contracts in municipalities.

MIIA grant helps communities protect first responders

By Joyce McMahon

Several Massachusetts communities turned to an innovative health screening program to help first responders stay healthy, both on and off the job.

The HeartStart and Onsite Full Metabolic Screening programs, both grant-funded and offered by the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association's Health Benefits Trust, gave municipalities the tools to detect early signs of heart disease and metabolic conditions in their police and fire personnel, and to do so with a level of clinical depth far beyond what typical annual checkups provide.

MIIA partnered with Sigma Tactical Wellness to offer two levels of screening that provide advanced lipid and biomarker testing, personalized health consultations, and resources to support lifestyle changes. The full onsite option adds vascular imaging, cardiopulmonary exercise testing, and detailed nutrition and metabolic analysis.

Results in Amesbury

In Amesbury, Police Chief Craig Bailey said the decision to apply for the grant was simple.

"There is nothing more important to me



John Szewczyk



Craig Bailey

than the overall health of my department," he said. "This program checked several boxes that would give individual employees a better overall picture of what their cardiac health looked like."

To ensure buy-in, Bailey and his team worked from the ground up.

"Initially there were some reservations as some members were worried what would be done with the information received," he said. "Individual heart health is a very private matter. We built trust and assured our members that the information was for them, and them only."

Those assurances paid off.

"Everyone — and I mean everyone — was happy with services we received from SIGMA and MIIA," Bailey said. "Although

not all of us may have gotten the results we had planned for, we all looked at this as an opportunity to either maintain or ... improve our heart health."

One participant was Communication Coordinator Laura Kilgour, who has served on Amesbury's MIIA Wellness Committee for a decade.

"This was a huge opportunity to get these men and women a look into their cardiovascular health that went above and beyond what their primary care might do on a regular check-up."

While she was already on the way to improving her fitness, her results showed one abnormal marker — something her regular doctor hadn't tested for — so she took action.

"I immediately changed my diet and prioritized working out," she said.

Borborough builds culture of wellness

In Borborough, Police Chief John Szewczyk shared a similar motivation.

"It is common in the public safety community for personnel to work a tremendous number of hours and shifts, such

■ MIIA continued on 36

MIIA offers grants to help early detection of esophageal cancer

To help communities protect their first responder workforce, MIIA is offering new grant funding for an employee wellness program focused on early detection of esophageal cancer.

MIIA member municipalities can apply for support to bring Lucid Diagnostic's EsoGuard testing to their employees as part of their workplace health and safety strategy.

EsoGuard is an innovative DNA screening program aimed at detecting signs of Barrett's esophagus — a precancerous condition — at an early, more treatable stage. The EsoGuard

test assesses genes from cells collected non-invasively from the esophagus. This gives clinicians the ability to detect disease before it progresses to cancer, all during a quick visit and without the need for sedation.

Esophageal cancer is the second most lethal cancer. Those at risk of developing the cancer have three or more of the following factors: chronic gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), male, white race, obesity, age over 50, smoker, family history of esophageal precancer or cancer, or occupational or environmental exposure (smoke inhalation/fire/

chemicals).

Early intervention not only improves health outcomes but supports workforce retention by keeping employees healthy and on the job.

This program is funded by the MIIA Health Benefits Trust and is part of MIIA's broader Wellness Grant offerings. Funding for these screenings is available on a first-come, first-served basis for the current fiscal year (July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026).

For more information on how to apply, visit the [MIIA website](#) or speak with your MIIA wellness representative. ●

Around the Commonwealth

Nantucket

Town tests wastewater for evidence of high-risk substance use

Hoping to detect public health problems before they escalate, Nantucket has expanded its wastewater testing to find signs of illegal drug activity, nicotine use, and respiratory illnesses beyond COVID.

In late June, Nantucket began testing its wastewater for traces of illegal drugs including cocaine, fentanyl and other opioids, methamphetamine, and xylazine (also known as “tranq”). It has also begun monitoring for flu and RSV, as well as nicotine. The new testing builds on the existing COVID wastewater surveillance that the town has been conducting with Cambridge-based Biobot Analytics since 2022.

Town officials said that the increased wastewater testing will help inform their policymaking around substance abuse and respiratory illnesses, respond to emerging problems in real time, provide more detailed information to health care providers working on the front lines, and help guide decisions around funding and grant opportunities.

“Over the past few decades, overdose deaths have risen at alarming rates,” said Roque Miramontes, Nantucket’s public health director. “No community is immune, including small and rural towns. And on Nantucket, we are an island 20 miles out to sea, and although we are relatively small in population, that number grows by a factor of four in the summer, with the addition of seasonal residents and vacationers.”

During the peak tourism season, Nantucket’s population expands to about 80,000. Miramontes said the wastewater testing data can help the town better understand the fluctuations in substance-use levels through different times of the year, including the off-season.

Because of the existing partnership with Biobot, Miramontes said the expanded testing has gone seamlessly so far. Nantucket had already found success using its COVID wastewater surveillance to prevent larger illness outbreaks. Early this summer, for example, the town saw increased COVID in the wastewater and was



The town of Nantucket is working with Cambridge-based Biobot Analytics to test wastewater for evidence of high-risk substance use and several respiratory illnesses. (Photo courtesy Biobot Analytics)

able to alert the local hospital ahead of the two-week surge of cases that followed.

The town saw similar possibilities for the other illnesses, and particularly for substance use, Miramontes said, especially given the opioid crisis that has devastated so many communities.

The town budgeted \$30,000 this fiscal year to cover the expanded testing. The COVID wastewater testing already in progress was funded by the state, he said.

Town Manager C. Elizabeth Gibson said such testing can help municipalities better understand their own health needs.

“This is a non-invasive, fairly inexpensive way of testing for, measuring and monitoring a variety of substances that could be impacting the health of your community,” Gibson said, “which can help determine if you have a problem that needs to be explored further or addressed.”

Marisa Donnelly, Biobot’s epidemiology director, said the company is working with more than 100 locations nationwide to monitor for high-risk substances in wastewater, including four in Massachusetts. She said the company isn’t able to disclose the three other testing locations in the state, but she commended Nantucket officials for their work in this area.

“Nantucket is one of the most forward-thinking communities in their use of wastewater monitoring to track trends in opioid use and other substances,” Donnelly said.

Once a week, Nantucket auto-samples the wastewater every hour over a 24-hour period, Miramontes said, and sends the composite samples to Biobot’s lab, which analyzes them and sends back the data. The whole process takes four days, Donnelly said.

The wastewater samples are taken from the town’s wastewater treatment plant, which services roughly 70% of the island, Miramontes said. He said the testing area reflects a good representation of the community for analysis purposes.

“We believe that doing this activity represents a good use of our finite resources,” he said.

— Jennifer Kavanaugh

Westport

Town partners with UMass Dartmouth on climate resiliency plan

With coastal storms growing stronger, sea levels rising, and extreme heat events increasing, the town of Westport has joined forces with the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth to develop a long-range climate resilience action plan that will help guide decision making for the coastal community and provide practical support for residents.

The town’s volunteer [Climate Resiliency Committee](#), formed in 2022 as a result of a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant, has been working on developing the framework for the plan, but decided it would be ideal to bring in subject-matter experts to help synthesize all the ideas and build out a strong report.

“The work of the committee is really driven by a strong volunteer base,” Town Planner Michael Burris said. “That’s something that we’re very lucky to have here.”

Burris, who provides support to the committee, said that the partnership between the town and UMass Dartmouth is a result of networking, born out of preexisting connections between John Bullard, chair of the committee and a former mayor of New Bedford, and the university. Burris said the university also feels like a good fit because of the work it is doing with blue economy initiatives. Last year, UMass Dartmouth [secured \\$8 million in state funding](#) to support the university’s regional work on sustainability and blue economy innovation.

“We’ll now have access to cutting-edge tools that can model and visualize climate

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Around the Commonwealth

COMMONWEALTH

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impacts specific to Westport,” John Bullard said in a statement. “These will help us communicate risks more effectively to town officials and residents. UMass Dartmouth will also support us in creating a framework to prioritize the most impactful actions, informed by successful strategies from similar communities.”

Westport, a low-lying town bordering Rhode Island with a couple different barrier beaches and the tidal Westport River, has a number of areas of concern when it comes to resiliency, Burris said. It experiences flooding from sea-level rise and coastal storms, which damage municipal roads, and major wind events damage electric infrastructure.

The town has significant tree cover, Burris noted, and all power lines are overhead. Tree damage from major storms causes power losses, which is of particular concern because the majority of the town needs electricity to power water supply wells and wastewater pumps.

The town also has an aging population that is particularly vulnerable to extreme heat events.

“There’s a fair amount of the housing stock that was created prior to air conditioning being common,” Burris said. “A lot of those homes are also concentrated in the north end of Westport, and that’s also a place where Westport’s environmental justice population is located.”

As the partnership gets underway, Burris said he expects that the final climate resilience action plan will be developed within the next two years, alongside other committee resiliency projects. The town has also applied for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant to support public engagement efforts to bolster the plan.

Like many towns across the Commonwealth, Westport has limited staff capacity, and the interest and dedication of volunteers has been vital, Burris said. For other municipalities looking to increase volunteer involvement on committees, Burris said identifying community champions who consistently come out to public meetings is an important starting point.



Flooding as a result of coastal storms is just one of the climate-related concerns facing Westport. (Photo courtesy town of Westport/Chris Leonard, former harbormaster)

“They’re always wanting to get involved and seeing where, you know, maybe climate resilience isn’t necessarily a direct call to action for them, but maybe agriculture is,” Burris said. “Climate change will have an impact on agriculture, and so maybe that’s the way to bring them into the fold.

“Trying to find those community volunteers, I think, is really critical.”

—Meredith Gabriliska

Boston

City partners with Google to ease traffic congestion

The city of Boston in June announced an expansion of its partnership with Google Research to use artificial intelligence as a tool to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion.

Google’s Project Green Light uses Google Maps data and AI to model traffic flow and make timing recommendations for the city’s 900 intersections. Since the city’s partnership with Google [launched in 2024](#), Project Green Light has analyzed hundreds of Boston’s signaled intersections to identify traffic flow issues and recommend potential improvements.

These recommendations allow staff at the city’s Traffic Management Center to synchronize traffic lights between intersections to create better traffic flow and adjust light patterns to align with demand. The city has made improvements at 114 intersections using Project Green Light recommendations.

Boston partnered with traffic analytics company INRIX to assess the implemented recommendations. This work revealed



Improvements at 114 Boston intersections using Project Green Light are reducing delays and unnecessary stops.

a 13.5% average reduction in delays, an average 20% reduction in unnecessary stops at newly retimed intersections, and up to a 33% reduction in unnecessary traffic stoppages at congested intersections.

“Typically, signals are retimed every three to five years,” said Michael Lawrence Evans, Boston’s director of emerging technologies, “and what we found is that traffic patterns are changing more often than that.”

While city staff were already aware of traffic pattern issues during rush hour periods, they saw an opportunity to improve traffic patterns during less-busy times.

Citywide congestion led to Boston being [ranked eighth in the world](#) by INRIX for commuter hours lost to traffic delays in 2023. City staff identified Project Green Light as a potential partner due to ease of implementation and alignment with Boston’s aim to deliver more frequent adjustments through modeling.

“We didn’t have to install any new equipment,” Evans said. “All we needed to do was provide them with the location of our signalized intersections.

“They’re providing this for no cost ... and it’s not something that displaces our traffic engineers. It actually works in concert with them.”

Project Green Light analyzes data from existing traffic monitoring hardware like cameras to perform its analysis and make recommendations. Google makes a recommendation once it has gathered four to six weeks of data at an intersection and follows up with an impact report a month after a change is implemented.

Staff can adjust 600 of the city’s signalized intersections remotely from the Traffic

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Management Center, located in City Hall, which leaves one-third of the city's signaled intersections without the capability for real-time updates. In those cases, the Project Green Light analysis helps the city shorten the adjustment gaps, reducing the likelihood of calls from residents about timing issues.

Evans said the city has tested Project Green Light recommendations in nearly every Boston neighborhood and has seen consistent congestion reduction during the worst traffic hours. City staff review new recommendations every Thursday, which enhances the city's understanding of traffic hotspots and the state of its equipment inventory.

"There might be a communication issue between two adjacent lights; there might be a communication issue between an intersection and the Traffic Management Center," Evans said. "Having a better understanding of that helps us maintain the system a little bit better."

Evans' approach to new technology emphasizes continuous efforts to build buy-in and confidence in the project outcome.

"You can't just sort of say here's a fuzzy thing, here's this AI thing that will kind of do this magic," he said. "People internally need more detail. Once people start seeing good results, then it definitely helps them get more comfortable with it."

— Owen Page

Lexington

Intergenerational gardening program springs to life in town

Lexington's new gardening program for seniors and summer camp kids has created fertile ground for strengthening intergenerational learning, collaboration between town departments, and multicultural bonds in the community.

Over the summer, the town launched Sow and Grow Together, a program bringing together seniors and kids from the town's summer camp program to help plan and design a community garden. Lexington Recreation and Community



An intergenerational gardening program in Lexington brings together seniors and children from the town's summer camp program to grow vegetables and flowers. (Photo courtesy town of Lexington)

Programs, working with the Human Services Department, created the program with a \$17,500 grant from the [National Recreation and Park Association](#) and the [RRF Foundation for Aging](#). Lexington was one of four communities nationwide to receive the grant.

Lexington officials said they envisioned the five-week program as a way to strengthen relationships between younger and older residents, give seniors a chance to share their gardening knowledge and life wisdom with a new generation, and cultivate a wider interest in gardening and a sense of environmental stewardship.

"I grew up on a farm, so it's important to me, but I feel like so many of our youth don't have that opportunity to see where their food comes from, to see all the different intrinsic benefits of growing your own food and caring for and being a steward of that," said Community Center Director Christine Dean, whose office overlooks the garden. "And I think there's so much to learn from our older adults."

Following a kickoff party on June 25, the children, ages 7 to 11, spent the five weeks keeping journals, matching plants to different shades on a color wheel, learning about plant components, participating in a scavenger hunt, creating artwork, and painting rocks for a rock garden. Volunteer senior gardeners explained concepts such as pruning and checking for insects, evaluating soil composition, understanding plant varieties, and appreciating the role of worms, officials said.

"Some of the seniors felt that it was great to share what they know about gardening with the younger generation," said Michelle Kelleher, Lexington's senior

services director. "Their youth and energy was contagious. The presence of having them there brought liveliness and joy to the seniors. I feel the elders feel more valued and socially engaged when we run programs like these."

Lexington officials also wanted the program to reflect Lexington's large Asian population, Dean said. A leader from the regional Chinese Garden Club participated in the program, and as a result, some campers were better able to understand gardening terms in Mandarin or basic Chinese.

The program also welcomed campers with disabilities.

"With some of the activities," Dean said, "we were able to reach them in a different way, which was also just super rewarding — kids who maybe didn't have an interest in certain things, but just loved watering plants, or just got excited to see if the strawberry was ever going to grow. So it was a lot of fun."

Dean said the seniors and the children grew a wide variety of plants, including vegetables, herbs and marigolds. She said she has been exploring the idea of having an instructor give a cooking demonstration with vegetables grown in the garden.

Dean said the National Recreation and Park Association worked closely with the town, providing training, preparing pre-program surveys, gathering participant feedback from each session, and conducting post-program surveys to measure outcomes.

Dean said the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and she's looking forward to incorporating the lessons of this summer into future plans. The program will be highlighted at the 10th birthday celebration for the town's intergenerational community center on Sept. 12, and the town is considering installing a permanent story walk at the center to promote intergenerational connections.

— 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.

LEAP PROGRAM

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- Safety analysis, such as crash pattern evaluations
- Traffic analysis, including the collection of traffic volume data
- Speed studies
- Cost estimation
- Visual and mapping support

MassDOT estimates that approved municipalities will receive between \$25,000

and \$100,000 per project.

Municipal leaders can request support through an [online form](#). The program's priority deadline is Sept. 30, though the state will continue to accept requests on a rolling basis and may approve them depending on available resources. For requests submitted by Sept. 30, the initial approval notifications are expected on Nov. 14, and any approved requests submitted after the deadline will likely receive notifications on a quarterly basis.

MassDOT staff will be presenting at a series of public meetings across the Commonwealth about the LEAP program and application process through September, and details will be posted, when available, on the [MassDOT Municipal Planning and Support website](#).

A [LEAP Guidance Document](#) covers program details. Questions may be directed to Derek Krevat, manager of municipal planning and support, at derek.krevat@dot.state.ma.us. ●

FRIDAY KEYNOTE

Continued from page 1

of the podcast "For the Love With Jen Hatmaker." "There's not one single thing that's made us struggle. But the one single thing that we can do about it is to recognize that contempt for each other is the problem, and treating each other with dignity is the solution."

UNITE works with political leaders, school districts, colleges and universities, businesses and others to help ease divisions, prevent violence, and solve problems. Earlier this year, the nonprofit partnered with the University of Utah to promote the study, teaching and practice of dignity. UNITE and the university previously worked together in 2022, to score the political speech in Utah's midterm congressional races.

Shriver created the Dignity Index in 2021 with Tom Rosshirt and Tami Pyfer (who will be the keynote speaker at Connect 351's Women Elected Municipal Officials Leadership Luncheon on Jan. 23 in Boston).

The eight-point index measures speech according to how much it does, or doesn't, embrace the humanity of people from different groups or opposing views. Speech that scores five or higher reaches toward dignity, while speech

registering at four or below pushes toward contempt.

Shriver draws his insights from an extensive career in public service, which includes serving as CEO of the Special Olympics, working as a public school teacher, and producing numerous films. He cofounded and chairs the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning, sits on the boards of numerous organizations, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is the author of a bestselling book about his experiences, "Fully Alive: Discovering What Matters Most."

Shriver, a nephew of the late President John F. Kennedy and U.S. senators Robert F. Kennedy and Ted Kennedy, grew up watching his parents work to improve American society. His mother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founded the Special Olympics, and his father, Sargent Shriver, a one-time vice presidential candidate who served as a U.S. ambassador to France, helped found the Peace Corps.

"These were really extraordinary experiences as I look back," Shriver said on Hatmaker's podcast. "Of course at the time I thought, this was my mom and dad, and this is what we do. But they were inviting me into a world in which the joyful — and I often come back to this word, 'joyful' — there was a sense

in which to make the world better, more just, more hopeful — it was a joyful pursuit. It wasn't a burden."

For many, however, that joyful pursuit is being strained by the hostilities that often overtake public discussion. In a [November 2024 opinion piece for Newsweek](#), Shriver cited an [American Psychological Association study](#) that identified election anxiety as the top cause of mental distress, furthering isolation and damaging friendships and familial bonds. He echoed the sentiment when speaking on the PBS NewsHour in May.

"We're in an us-versus-them country, or an us-or-them country," Shriver said. "And that level of despair about our capacity to solve problems and heal, is what leads to increases in violence, the risk of family division, mine included, that have been torn apart by this level of contempt, this surround sound of judgment and dehumanization."

Still, Shriver expresses optimism about the future of dignity. Many people are already doing the work of dignity, he said on Hatmaker's podcast, and it's important to focus on them as well.

"The discouraged American story is not the real story of us," Shriver said. ●

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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directly address the cost drivers outlined above.

In the coming months, the MMA and MIIA will be engaging in dialogue with industry partners as well as state

decision makers about the need for action and the possible solutions to be considered.

We also want to engage with you. To that end, we're holding a [Health Care Costs Forum](#) on Sept. 30 in Wrentham, where we'll bring together health care and insurance experts for a deeper dive

on the issues facing cities and towns as they work to manage the cost of providing employee health insurance.

We'll keep you up to date on our work on these issues as it advances, and we encourage you to reach out to us to share your challenges and ideas for solutions. ●

People



Dori Vecchio

Dori Vecchio became the new town manager in Auburn on July 1, after having served six months as the interim manager.

Vecchio joined Auburn in 2023 as the assistant town manager and human resources

director. She became the interim manager in February, following the departure of longtime Auburn employee **Edward Kazanovicz**, who retired after 41 years of public service, including two years as town manager in Auburn.

Vecchio previously served for two years as the town administrator in Blackstone, and worked in Worcester for more than 23 years, including nine years in the city's human resources department (as the assistant human resources director and later as director), and as director of administration and operations, grants director and finance manager for the Worcester Redevelopment Authority, and director of administration for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Vecchio earned a master's degree in public administration from Clark University, and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Worcester State University.



Kelly Clark

On Aug. 26, **Kelly Clark** became the new town manager in Truro after having served as the town's interim manager for much of this year.

Clark had been the assistant town manager since

December 2016, and became the interim manager after former Town Manager **Darrin Tangeman** left in February after four years in the role.

Clark previously served for eight years as the town's recreation and beach director. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology from the College of the Holy

Cross, and a master's degree in social work from Bridgewater State University. She is also a graduate of the MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program.



John Coderre

John Coderre became the new town administrator in Ashburnham on July 30.

He was previously the town manager in Foxborough and worked for two decades in Northborough, as

the assistant town administrator and later as town administrator. He also worked for nearly six years as the assistant town manager in Chelmsford and spent a year working as a management assistant in Windsor, Connecticut. He has a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in public administration, both from the University of Connecticut.

In Ashburnham, Coderre has taken over for **Brian Doheny**, who served for five years before becoming the comptroller in Marlborough earlier this year. **Doug Briggs** served as the interim town administrator.



Joseph Laydon

Joseph Laydon became the new town administrator in Bellingham on Sept. 2.

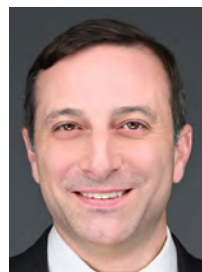
Laydon was the town manager in Upton for more than three years. Previously, he spent two-and-a-half

years in Littleton, serving as the assistant town administrator and as interim town administrator. Before Littleton, he served for six years as the community development director and town planner in Grafton, and as the town planner in Weston, Stoughton and Wayland. In addition, he served as a part-time planner in Millville, and he was a land use and transportation planner for

the Northwest Regional Planning and Development Commission in Vermont.

Laydon has a bachelor's degree in science, technology and society from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and a master's degree in regional planning from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He graduated from the MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program in 2019, and completed the MMA-Suffolk Municipal Finance Management Seminar in 2021.

In Bellingham, Laydon has taken the place of **Denis Fraine**, who retired after having served the town since 1987.



Mark Gould

Mark Gould became the new town manager in Norton on Sept. 2.

Gould has served on the North Attleborough Town Council since 2021, and was the director of finance and administration in

Framingham for two-and-a-half years. Previously, he served as tax counsel for the state, as assistant solicitor for the city of Taunton, and as a trial attorney for the Committee for Public Counsel Services. He has been an attorney in private practice and has also taught at Georgetown University, worked as a researcher at Harvard Law School, and clerked for both the Appeals Court of Massachusetts and the Superior Court of Massachusetts. In addition, he served for four years as a U.S. Army specialist. He has a bachelor's degree in accounting from Bridgewater State University and a law degree from UMass Law.

In Norton, Gould succeeds **Michael Yunits**, who retired on June 30 after 14 years in the role. Police Chief **Brian Clark** served as the interim town manager.

The Northeast Renewable Energy Coalition recently named Holyoke Mayor **Joshua Garcia** as a finalist for

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Joshua Garcia

its Mayor of the Year award. Garcia is being recognized for his commitment to clean energy, and for the city's focus on hydro and renewable energy through upgrades by Holyoke Gas and Electric. According to news reports,

Garcia is the first mayor in the state to receive the recognition. Garcia, who has been Holyoke's mayor for almost four years, will be honored as a finalist during Massachusetts Clean Energy Week, which begins on Sept. 29.

Last month, MassLive.com named Billerica Select Board member **Daniel Darris-O'Connor** as one of its 2025 young leaders under 30 "who are doing good, making change and forging their own paths."

Darris-O'Connor, 18, joined the Select Board in April, during his senior year in high school. He was previously elected to the Student Council and served as the student representative on the Billerica School Committee. According to MassLive, he is starting college this fall at UMass Lowell.



Violet Gehr

On Sept. 2, **Violet Gehr** joined the MMA as a legislative analyst.

Gehr was previously an associate at ActBlue in Boston for three years, where her portfolio included Massachusetts

and Vermont Democratic politics and elections. Previously, she spent a year each as a foundation coordinator for the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Foundation and a constituency liaison for the office of New York City Councillor **Keith Powers**. She has also worked as a

political organizing director and as a campaign field director. She has a bachelor's degree in political science and environmental studies from Mount Holyoke College, and is working toward a master's degree in public administration at UMass Boston, with an expected graduation date of May 2026.



Martin Davis

Martin Davis joined the MMA on July 30 as a member program coordinator.

For more than three years, Davis worked at the National Democratic Institute in several roles, including

project assistant, program associate and program officer. As program officer, he worked with leaders in local government and civil society to promote the strengthening of municipal governance and civic engagement in Central Europe. Previously, he worked as a press intern for former Gov. Charlie Baker, and as a legislative intern for Rep. **Hannah Kane**. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Loyola University Maryland.

At the MMA, Davis has taken over the role from **Anneke Craig**, who left in August to attend graduate school.



Katherine Christy

Katherine Christy became the new membership and project assistant at the MMA on Sept. 2.

Christy joined the MMA in May as receptionist and administrative assistant. She

previously worked as a charity analyst intern for the Better Business Bureau in New York, and worked in interview phone services for the Marist Institute for Public Opinion in Poughkeepsie, New York. She was also the women's basketball team manager for Marist College Athletics, and a group leader and

liaison in nonprofit leadership and management at the Marist College School of Management. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration, with an emphasis in international business and a minor in environmental studies, from Marist.

In her new role at the MMA, Christy succeeds **Maddie Roberts**, who left in August to move out of state.



Lauren Stratton

Lauren Stratton became the new risk management program coordinator at MIIA on Aug. 25.

Stratton had already been working for MIIA for several months on a temporary basis at the

time of her appointment. Previously, she worked as a legal assistant for Rosencranz and Associates, as a law clerk and summer fellow for Cutler & Associates, as a law clerk for Los Angeles County Counsel, and as an intern for the Massachusetts Senate Office of Counsel.

She has a law degree from New England Law, and a bachelor's degree in political science from Austin Peay State University.



Brian Hickey

Last month, **Brian Hickey** retired after more than four decades of serving in the Webster Fire Department.

Hickey began at the department as a 14-year-old junior firefighter. Appointed as fire

chief in 2010, he was responsible for transitioning the on-call department to a full-time service. **Jeff Saad**, who was the deputy fire chief, is now the fire chief.

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Thomas Costin Jr.

Thomas Costin Jr., a former mayor and confidant of President **John F. Kennedy**, died on Aug. 11 at age 98.

Costin served for eight years on the Lynn City Council, and in 1955, at age 29, he became the city's youngest mayor at that time. He spent six years as mayor before becoming a postmaster in 1961, serving until his retirement in 1992. He was twice elected president of the National Postmasters Association. While in the White House, Kennedy tasked Costin with helping implement the desegregation of post offices in the

South.

Costin was also involved in numerous civic organizations, chaired the Lynn Business Partnership Transportation Committee, owned several businesses, including Sterling Machine in Lynn and the Jesmond Nursing Home in Nahant, and co-founded Mt. Pleasant Hospital in Lynn. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. In 2019, a post office in downtown Lynn was dedicated in his name.

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Frederick Murtagh, a former longtime Peabody city councillor, died on July 15 at age 91.

A lifelong Peabody resident, Murtagh was first elected to the City Council in 1962 and left the role in 2007, after having served 30 years on the council over four decades. A veteran of the National Guard who briefly worked for



Frederick Murtagh

the FBI, he started an insurance agency in Peabody and later worked four decades at the Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute, starting as business manager and later serving as treasurer until his retirement

in 2014. He also served on the Peabody Liquor Board Commission from 2013 until his death.

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.

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
- Connect 351 announcements
- And much more!



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MIIA

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as midnights, that are not conducive to a healthy lifestyle,” he said. “Accordingly, I felt it was imperative that we continually stress self-care and educate officers about ways they can become more knowledgeable about their personal health and wellness.”

Szewczyk noted the ease of the grant process and praised MIIA and Sigma for their responsiveness. While younger officers were harder to convince, he said peer support made a difference.

“It was important to have some of the older, experienced officers talk about their experiences and how health and wellness is paramount,” he said.

The outcome, he said, was a positive reception across the department.

“I think it’s important to remember that if we improve the health and wellness of even one employee, then participating in the program was a success,” Szewczyk said. “This is a terrific opportunity to improve the wellness of your department

and also improve morale. There is no downside.”

Advice to others

Those who have implemented the program are united in their recommendation: go for it.

“Start the conversation now,” Bailey said. “Be honest and build trust so the team knows it’s about them, and their

long-term health.”

Szewczyk called the grant process and implementation “relatively simple.”

Kilgour put it most plainly. “You can forfeit an hour of your life to possibly save your life, can’t you?”

For more about MIIA’s health and wellness programs, visit www.emiia.org/well-aware. ●



MMA committees discuss siting, permitting

Rick Collins, director of the Siting and Permitting Division at the Department of Environmental Resources, discusses the state’s draft clean energy siting and permitting regulations and the changes brought about by last year’s climate law during a joint meeting of the MMA policy committees on Energy and the Environment and Public Works, Transportation and Public Utilities on July 24 at the MMA office in Boston. For more on the siting and permitting process, see story on page 5.

MIIA announces FY26 Risk Management grant program

MIIA has opened applications for its fiscal 2026 Risk Management grants.

With \$1 million in funding available, MIIA members can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 per municipality.

The annual program focuses on three high-priority areas:

- Adapting to extreme weather impacts on property and infrastructure
- Improving employee health and safety
- Addressing evolving cybersecurity threats

Any MIIA Property and Casualty or Workers Compensation member group may apply for items related to their coverage.

Categories for funding

Eligible projects fall into several categories:

- **Property:** Building envelope inspections, water loss prevention, insulation upgrades, boiler room

safety, roof inspections, HVAC evaluations, and facility management software

- **Cybersecurity:** Risk assessments, social engineering training, multi-factor authentication installation, and governance software
- **General liability:** Sewer maintenance, playground safety certification, and barriers to prevent vehicular intrusion
- **Automobile:** Backup cameras, fleet maintenance software, GPS tracking, and height detection sensors
- **Law enforcement liability:** Body and dash cameras, training simulators, and policy-supporting technology
- **Public officials/school board:** Leadership training and equal employment opportunity professional development
- **Workers compensation:** Safety equipment, fall protection, trench

safety systems, and work zone safety tools

Application requirements

Applicants must:

- Consult with their MIIA risk manager before submitting an application.
- Align requests with MIIA-provided coverage and risk management priorities.
- Submit vendor estimates from U.S.-based companies.
- Obtain signatures from the chief municipal officer and chief procurement officer.

Grants are competitive, with preference given to members demonstrating ongoing, proactive risk management.

Applications are due by May 15, 2026, or until funding is depleted.

For more information or to apply, visit www.emiia.org or contact your MIIA risk manager. ●

Classified Advertisements

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Town Planner

Town of Saugus

The town of Saugus is seeking a full-time Senior Town Planner. This position will serve as the town's point of contact and manager for all shorter-term, intermediate and longer-range master planning. Responsibilities include: land-use planning; energy, housing and open space projects and initiatives; infrastructure needs assessments; and coordination of efforts to attract desired economic development. Duties also include developing sound approaches to development; assessing proposals for growth; making recommendations for land-use development zoning bylaw changes. The Senior Planner will be expected to develop and/or obtain strategic land-use planning tools as well as housing studies; assist in the review and evaluation of development proposals and will provide input for specific planning and development issues. The Senior Planner will also seek and prepare grant applications, and will perform other related planning, community development assignments. This position majorly focuses on zoning, assisting and advising various elected and appointed groups, boards and commissions. Qualifications: Education and Training: Bachelor's degree in planning or a related field required, along with five years of relevant municipal experience or a master's degree in planning, public administration, natural resource management, or related field and a minimum of two years of relevant municipal experience. AICP certification preferred. Compensation and Benefits: \$90,000-\$110,000 annually based on your educational qualifications and past work experience. The town of Saugus offers a competitive benefits package including health insurance, vision insurance, dental insurance, disability insurance, life insurance, FSA, Employee Assistance Program. Paid holidays, vacation, personal, and sick time. Link to posting: www.saugus-ma.gov/human-resources/pages/town-employment. This position is open until filled, and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Submit your resume and cover letter to the Human Resources Department at smalik@saugus-ma.gov.

Payroll Supervisor

Everett Public Schools

The Payroll Supervisor will oversee and supervise the Everett Public Schools payroll functions, ensuring that pay is processed on time, accurately, and in compliance with government regulations. Duties/Responsibilities: Oversees procedures and processes and manages inquiries and requests related to the preparation and distribution of payroll. Processes payroll transactions including salaries, benefits, garnishments, taxes, and other deductions. Ensures accurate and timely processing of payroll updates, including new hires, terminations, and changes to pay rates. Maintains or oversees the maintenance of employee records. Ensures compliance with federal, state, and local payroll, wage, and hour laws and best practices. Facilitates audits by providing records and documentation to auditors. Identifies and recommends updates to payroll software, systems, and procedures. Upload monthly MTRS Deductions Report and assist with MTRS reconciliation. Performs other duties as assigned. Education

and Experience: Bachelor's degree in accounting, business administration, human resources, or related field required. Four years of experience in payroll processing required, with two years in a supervisory or management role preferred. Experience with school district payroll. To apply, visit everett.schoolspring.com.

Town Administrator

Town of Templeton

The town of Templeton is seeking a Town Administrator. The town of Templeton is a rural community in north-central MA with a population of approx. 8,200. The town is made up of four villages, close to Route 2 and a short drive to Boston. Templeton has a Fiscal 2026 General Fund budget of \$10.5 million. It is a member of two regional school districts, Narragansett Regional with a town assessment of \$8,787,299 and Montachusett Regional Tech, with town assessment of \$633,606. Qualifications: Bachelor's/master's degree in business, public administration or related field. Five to seven years of responsible management experience or an equivalent combination. Preference given to those with an advanced degree, MCPPO designation, experience in municipal setting and an open town meeting form of government. A full job description is located under our Town Job Opportunities at www.Templetonma.gov. Compensation: Salary negotiable based on qualifications and experience, comprehensive benefits package including health, dental, retirement through Worcester County Retirement System. The town of Templeton is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Position open until filled. The Town Administrator is responsible for overseeing the services provided by all of the town's departments and boards. The employee is required to perform all similar or related duties as required by the Select-Board policies. Please Submit Only via email, a cover letter, resume, and three professional references in PDF format to jbennett@templetonma.gov, Select Board Chair.

Director of Technology

Town of Westford

The town of Westford (24,700 population) seeks a forward-thinking, innovative, and service-driven Director of Technology. Working both independently and under the general direction of the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools, this key leadership position serves as a department head and oversees all municipal and school district technology operations. Westford is a full-service community governed by a five-member Select Board and Town Manager, with a strong partnership between municipal and school leadership. The School Department is governed by a seven-member School Committee and Superintendent. Our residents and staff expect high-quality services supported by reliable, secure, and accessible technology. This position requires strategic leadership in enterprise-level IT operations, cybersecurity, infrastructure management, digital services, and educational technology. The Director of Technology will be responsible for aligning technology initiatives with long-term goals, managing a high-performing IT team, and ensuring seamless and secure service delivery across all departments and school buildings. The town has recently migrated to Microsoft 365 and implemented multi-factor authentication. This position is expected to leverage the opportunity to make use of that platform to improve business processes and enhance staff efficiency. This role directly supports the town's Strategic Plan, contributing to a responsive and responsible town Government. The Director will play a critical role in managing technology assets and capital planning — ensuring our infrastructure supports current needs while preparing for future demands. A culture of professionalism, collaboration, and accountability is essential to our mission of delivering exceptional public and educational services. This position supervises all technology staff, including the Applications Manager, Systems Technician, School Technology Manager, Office

■ CLASSIFIEDS *continued on 38*

Classified advertising rates and information

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

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

Classified advertising rates

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

Member rates

- web only, 200 words or less: \$115;
201-400 words: \$225
- web & Beacon, 200 words or less: \$165;
201-400 words: \$325

Nonmember rates

- web only, 200 words or less: \$175;
201-400 words: \$285
- web & Beacon, 200 words or less: \$225;
201-400 words: \$385

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 published in mid-July.

October Beacon

Deadline: September 26
Publication: October 2

November Beacon

Deadline: October 28
Publication: November 3

Placing an ad

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

For more information, call Owen Page at the MMA at 617-426-7272, ext. 135.

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

See www.mma.org for details.

Classified Advertisements

CLASSIFIEDS

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Manager, and School-Based Technicians. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree in computer science, information technology, or a related field (master's preferred), along with at least 10 years of experience in IT, including five in a leadership role. A public-sector background is strongly preferred. Candidates should have experience in cybersecurity, enterprise systems, IT governance, and team management. Certifications such as CISSP, PMP, ITIL, or CETL are a plus. Strong communication, project management, and strategic planning skills are essential. The hiring salary range is \$125,769 to \$155,000, depending on qualifications and experience. We will begin reviewing applications on Aug. 18. Position will remain open until filled. Please email resume and cover letter to HR@westfordma.gov or send to: Town of Westford, Pam Hicks, Director of Human Resources, 55 Main St., Westford, MA 01886. For a full position description, please visit: www.westfordma.gov. EEO/AA Employer.

Full-Time Forestry Foreman

Town of Saugus

Join the town of Saugus DPW Team! Now Hiring: Full-Time Forestry Foreman. The town of Saugus is seeking a motivated and hardworking individual to fill the role of Forestry Foreman in our department of Public Works. This is a full-time, benefitted position ideal for someone who enjoys hands-on work and takes pride in maintaining and improving public infrastructure. This position is responsible for supervising and performing a variety of skilled tasks in the maintenance, repair and care of town trees and shrubbery. Must be available for emergency services 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days of the year. What You'll Do: Supervise the operations of the Forestry Division by planning, assigning and scheduling the daily work of employees. Supervise and assist with the removal of bee hives. Perform maintenance work such as preventing/repairing limb and trunk fractures by wiring or placing tree rods as needed; trimming, shaping and cutting trees and shrubbery; grinding of stumps and roots where needed. Delegate and perform the operation of power saws, brush clipper, spray equipment, and other miscellaneous tools and equipment. Enforce safety regulations and inspect the operation of construction equipment required on projects supervised. Prepare oral and written reports for review of the General Foreman and Public Works Director. Qualifications: associate degree or equivalent two-year college or technical school; Class B CDL preferred, or ability to obtain within one year, hoisting license, Massachusetts Driver license required. Other Skills and Abilities: Ability to operate bucket truck and various small pieces of equipment. Ability to climb trees; knowledge of the various types of trees, shrubs and plant life as well as their proper planting cycles and fertilization. Schedule: Monday–Friday, 40 hours/week. Hiring Range: \$69,896.54 to \$76,319.29 annually. Benefits: Excellent package including health insurance (90/10 split), town retirement plan, and paid time off. Apply now: Please e-mail all cover letters/resumes to Human Resources Manager, Shalini Malik at smalik@saugus-ma.gov. The town of Saugus is an equal opportunity employer. Federal Law forbids discrimination based on race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin,

age, marital status, gender orientation or disability. Please e-mail all cover letters/resumes to Human Resources Manager, Shalini Malik at smalik@saugus-ma.gov.

GIS Data Systems Manager

Town of Saugus

The town of Saugus is seeking an experienced and proactive GIS Data Systems Manager to oversee the administration, technical management, development, and maintenance of the town's Geographic Information System. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in computer science, management information systems, engineering, GIS or related; five to seven years' experience in software/technology support; at least three years' technical expertise with GIS; or equivalent combination of education and experience. Utilities and/or public works infrastructure and automation systems experience desirable. Valid driver's license. The anticipated salary range is \$80,000 to \$100,000 per year DOQ, with excellent benefits and is part of the municipal pension system. View the full job description on our website at www.saugus-ma.gov/human-resources/pages/town-employment. Please email applications/resumes to: smalik@saugus-ma.gov. Applications received by Aug. 31 will receive first consideration. Position will remain open until filled.

Electrician

Town of Saugus

The town of Saugus is seeking a qualified, full-time Electrician to perform skilled electrical work in the installation, maintenance, and repair of electrical systems across municipal buildings, facilities, and equipment. Responsibilities include troubleshooting electrical issues, ensuring all work complies with local and state codes, assisting in upgrades and improvements, and responding to emergency electrical needs. The ideal candidate must possess a valid Massachusetts Journeyman or Master Electrician License and have a minimum of five years of experience in commercial or municipal electrical work. A valid Massachusetts driver's license and the ability to work independently and as part of a team are required. Strong knowledge of electrical codes, safety procedures, and preventive maintenance practices is essential. OSHA 10 is required. This is a 40-hour-per-week union position with competitive pay and excellent benefits in accordance with the town of Saugus' collective bargaining agreement. This position is also part of the municipal pension system. View the full job description on our website at www.saugus-ma.gov/human-resources/pages/town-employment. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to the Human Resource Manager, Shalini Malik at smalik@saugus-ma.gov.

Senior Planner

Town of Burlington

Become a part of our talented planning department, performing a wide variety of tasks, with the opportunity to work on a diverse array of planning initiatives. Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in planning, geography, or other planning related field, and a minimum of two years' municipal planning, permitting and project management. Ability to communicate effectively with the public and experience with public meetings. Familiarity with geographic information systems and cloud-based permitting software. Ability to travel independently to work locations. Ability to attend evening

Planning Board meetings. Dynamic and motivated professional who enjoys working with a team of planners, enjoys public service and who has the capacity to build trust, excellent communications skills, honesty, flexibility, and a proven ability to develop and maintain lasting relationships. Pay starts at \$80,157 with the opportunity to advance to a maximum rate of \$110,492 through annual increases. Benefits include: Health and dental insurance. Paid time off – vacation, sick, personal, holiday. Pension plan. Deferred compensation match. Eligible for public service loan forgiveness. Partner with local universities for tuition savings for employees and families. Apply online at burlington.catsone.com/careers.

Fiscal Director

Montachusett Regional Planning Commission

Fiscal Director. Expertise in general accounting functions: i.e. payroll, benefits, grant reporting, payables, receivables and audit preparation. Experience w/accounting system software required; Familiarity with Grants Management Systems Software (GMS) helpful. Public sector experience a plus. Strong mathematical, organization, interpersonal and Microsoft Office skills. Education minimum: Bachelor's degree in accounting or related field. Minimum five years' experience. See full job description at mrpc.org. Background and credit screening will be undertaken. Salary range \$60,000 to \$90,000 DOQ. Submit cover letters and resumes to Montachusett Regional Planning Commission no later than Sept. 5; at MRPC, 464 Abbott Ave., Leominster, MA 01453, email mrpc@mrpc.org or fax: 978-348-2490. AA/EOE. Open until filled.

Regional Human Resources Manager

Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments

The Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG), one of Connecticut's nine regional councils of governments, serving 16 member towns, is seeking qualified, experienced, and motivated candidates for the position of Regional Human Resources Manager. This position reports to the Executive Director and is responsible (individually or as part of a team) for various human resources functions for participating towns or NECCOG which may include but not limited to, state, federal, and local personnel policies and regulations, employee relations, policy development, labor relations and any other related tasks. This position requires a high level of professionalism, confidentiality, and superior customer service skills. The successful candidate will have an associate degree in human resources or a related field, and five years of human resources experience; Bachelors or master's degree preferred. Experience in a municipal organization and Certification with the Society of Human Resources Management is highly desirable. The salary is commensurate with education and experience. Salary range is \$70,000-90,000 per year. A full description is available on NECCOG's website: necog.org/about/employment-opportunities. Qualified individuals should send an application/resume with cover letter to Executive Director's Office, 125 Putnam Pike (PO Box 759), Dayville, CT 06241. Position to remain open until filled. EOE/AA/ Employer. Job City - Dayville CT. NECCOG.

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Classified Advertisements

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Conservation Officer

Town of Saugus

Job Opportunity: Conservation Officer (Full-Time or Part-Time). The town of Saugus is seeking a qualified and motivated individual to serve as its Conservation Officer. This position involves professional, technical, and administrative responsibilities in support of the Saugus Conservation Commission, with a focus on the administration and enforcement of environmental regulations, including: The Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Stormwater Management Standards, FEMA Floodplain Maps, Local Wetlands By-Laws. The Conservation Officer will also assist the Commission with land conservation efforts, including the acquisition, management, and protection of conservation lands, and will contribute to research, organization, and coordination of Commission decisions. Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in environmental science, land use management, or a related field. Minimum of two years' relevant experience in a related role. Experience with the Wetlands Protection Act and River Protection Act is highly preferred. Valid motor vehicle operator's license and access to a personal vehicle for town-related business. Must successfully pass a CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) check upon hire. Position Details: Schedule: Full-time or part-time; attend evening meetings as required. Compensation: Commensurate with experience and qualifications (DOQ). To view the full job description, visit www.saugus-ma.gov/human-resources/pages/town-employment. The town of Saugus is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to: Shalini Malik, Human Resource Manager, smalik@saugus-ma.gov.

Administrative Assistant - Assessor

Town of Sunderland

The town of Sunderland is seeking applications for a part-time, non-benefited Administrative Assistant to the Board of Assessors, 12-14 hrs/wk. Salary commensurate with experience. The Assistant manages routine office operations, prepares reports, maintains electronic data records for deeds, maps, exemptions, abatements, excise taxes, and works with contracted vendors, the state, and other related entities re: annual tax rate. Candidate must be detail oriented, self-starter and conduct themselves in a professional manner. Assessing experience desired; must possess or be willing to obtain MAAO/DLS Course 101 within one year of employment. Familiarity with VADAR Real Property software desirable, as well as proficiency with word processing, database, and spreadsheet software. Employment Application and Job Description available at www.townofsunderland.us/home/pages/job-opportunities. Send application and resume with cover letter to Town Administrator, Town of Sunderland, 12 School St., Sunderland, MA 01375, or email to townadmin@townofsunderland.us. Position open until filled. EOE

Conservation Clerk

Town of Saugus

Job Title: Conservation Clerk. Department: Conservation Commission. Schedule: Part-time (20 hours/week), Monday-Friday (plus meeting hours).

Reports to Conservation Officer and Commission. Supervised by Town Manager. The town of Saugus is seeking a detail-oriented Conservation Clerk to support the Conservation Officer and Commission. Responsibilities include answering calls, scheduling site visits, processing invoices and payroll, fulfilling FOIA requests, organizing application materials, and managing legal postings and abutter notifications. The Clerk attends all Commission meetings, records and transcribes minutes, and prepares filings for MassDEP (e.g., Orders of Conditions, Certificates of Compliance). Duties also include purchasing supplies, preparing meeting packets, and handling correspondence. This is a benefits-eligible, part-time position with occasional evening hours for meetings. Strong organization, communication, and basic administrative skills are essential. Familiarity with conservation practices or municipal government is a plus. To view the full job description, please visit: www.saugus-ma.gov/human-resources/pages/town-employment. The town of Saugus is an Equal Opportunity Employer. To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to the Human Resource Manager, Shalini Malik at smalik@saugus-ma.gov.

Zoning Board of Appeals Clerk

Town of Saugus

Job title: Zoning Board of Appeals Clerk. Reports to Zoning Board of Appeals/Town Manager. Employment type: Part-time (15-20 hours/week). Schedule: Monday-Friday (additional hours as needed for meetings). Position summary: The town of Saugus is seeking a part-time Zoning Board of Appeals Clerk to provide administrative and clerical support to the ZBA under the direction of the Board Chair, with oversight from the Town Manager. Duties include reviewing application materials, coordinating meetings, posting legal notices and agendas, notifying abutters, and preparing meeting packets for Board members. The Clerk is responsible for attending all ZBA meetings and site visits, recording minutes, tracking roll call votes, and drafting decisions for timely filing with the Town Clerk's office. This role also includes processing payroll for the position, managing invoices and deposits, and maintaining necessary office supplies. Minimum Qualifications: Strong organizational, communication, and time management skills are essential. Familiarity with municipal procedures and attention to legal deadlines is required. Familiarity with town of Saugus zoning procedures and bylaws is a plus. The town of Saugus is an Equal Opportunity Employer. To apply, send a resume and cover letter to the Human Resource Manager, Shalini Malik at smalik@saugus-ma.gov.

Police Chief

Town of Shutesbury

The town of Shutesbury seeks a dynamic, community-focused Police Chief to lead its department. The Chief oversees two full-time officers and two part-time officers, with an annual budget of \$283,000. The ideal candidate is a collaborative leader committed to transparency, building public trust, officer wellness, and inclusive community policing. Qualifications include a minimum of three years in law enforcement, bachelor's degree or an associate degree preferred. Supervisory and leadership experience, organizational skills, and ability to communicate effectively. Base salary \$70,000 to \$85,000 DOQ. Full job description at www.shutesbury.org. Apply by submitting a cover

letter and resume in one PDF to Hayley Bolton, Town Administrator at townadmin@shutesbury.org.

Police Chief

Town of Canton

The role involves strategic planning and goal setting, organizing and directing the activities and functions of the department for effective enforcement of all laws that come within its legal jurisdiction, human resource administration, training, supervision, and guidance of all department personnel, proper delegation of authority, budget and capital management, and building, vehicle and facility operation and maintenance, and community relations. Detailed job description, with qualifications, competencies, salary and how to apply, available at www.town.canton.ma.us/Jobs. AA/EEO

Human Resources Director

City of Keene, N.H.

Are you a strategic, people-focused leader ready to make a lasting impact in a vibrant, community-driven city? The city of Keene is seeking a dynamic Human Resources Director to lead and elevate our people operations, supporting a creative, adaptive, and talented workforce that delivers exceptional services to our community. In this vital role, you'll provide visionary leadership in developing and executing forward-thinking HR strategies and programs across a wide range of areas — including talent acquisition and retention, employee and labor relations, benefits and wellness, safety and risk management, organizational development, policy and compliance, and much more. Specific job duties can be found by visiting KeeneNH.gov/jobs. This position offers a salary of \$107,221-\$133,617 annualized and will also receive an attractive benefits package, which includes low deductible/low-cost health insurance, low-cost dental insurance, State of NH Group I retirement, and other benefits such as life, disability, and paid time off, in addition to new hire incentives/moving expense assistance. This position will be open until filled, and the first review of applications will be on Aug. 18. To apply, visit KeeneNH.gov/jobs. EOE

CAREERS AT MMA/MIIA

Senior Risk Management Trainer MMA/MIIA

The Massachusetts Municipal Association and the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association are seeking a Senior Risk Management Trainer to join the MIIA Risk Management Team. This is an excellent opportunity for someone who is passionate about safety and risk management and excels at training and developing tailored safety, health, and risk management programs for municipalities. About the MMA: The nonpartisan association provides an array of services to its member cities and towns statewide, including advocacy, education and training, research and analysis, and publications and information programs. As the voice of local government in Massachusetts, the MMA works to advance the interests of all cities and towns. About MIIA: MIIA provides property, liability, workers compensation, and group health insurance to cities and towns in Massachusetts.

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MIIA is a nonprofit organization and a membership service of MMA. About the position: As Senior Risk Management Trainer, you will collaborate with the risk management and programming teams to deliver exceptional training experiences to members and peers. You will be responsible for creating, presenting, and revising training programs and materials for MIIA members and staff in a timely and consistent manner. Key responsibilities: Collaborate with the Senior Manager of Risk Management to set guidelines for the MIIA risk management training and program plan. Develop, implement, and evaluate MIIA's safety and health curriculum. Assist in developing and delivering training on other MIIA insurance coverages, including auto, property, general liability, professional liability, law enforcement, school board, and professional liability. Provide on-site and virtual training for members. Review member training requests and create training descriptions and course flyers. Facilitate online training and track member evaluations. Provide monthly training updates and annual training reviews to management. Additional responsibilities: Analyze member loss data to identify training needs and create materials to address high-loss and topical areas. Review materials with the risk management team, create and update technical documentation, and provide guidance for incident review and remediation. Serve as a liaison with the risk management team, outside consultants, and members, and conduct outside inspections. Become knowledgeable about MIIA's cyber risk management program and explore educational opportunities. Program review and analysis then update, implementation and evaluation. Project work as required. Qualifications: The candidate must have a bachelor's degree in a safety-related field preferably in occupational health and safety. Five years of work experience in safety or insurance related fields. Experience with adult learning principles and creating and implementing training curricula. Ability to work in a team setting and independently. Understanding of instructional design is a plus. Preference for an individual who is a current OSHA outreach trainer. Work environment: Our offices are located in Boston's Government Center neighborhood. The position offers a highly competitive salary, terrific benefits, and a great collaborative work culture. Our office uses a hybrid work schedule. If you are ready to devote yourself to work on behalf of our member cities and towns, then this position may be for you. How to apply: Please send a PDF of your cover letter and resume to: hr@mma.org.

Driver Training Instructor – EVOC and Simulator MMA/MIIA

The Massachusetts Municipal Association and the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association are seeking a full-time Driver Training Instructor (Simulator and EVOC) to oversee the driver simulator training program across the Commonwealth. The individual will also be a Certified Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) Instructor to train police officers in emergency driving scenarios. About the MMA: The nonpartisan association provides an array of services

to its member cities and towns statewide, including advocacy, education and training, research and analysis, and publications and information programs. As the voice of local government in Massachusetts, the MMA works to advance the interests of all cities and towns. About MIIA: MIIA provides property, liability, workers compensation, and group health insurance to cities and towns in Massachusetts. MIIA is a nonprofit organization and a subsidiary of the MMA. About the position: The MIIA simulator is a state-of-the-art driving simulator available to MIIA member communities and offers a safe environment for driver operators to experience a variety of scenarios and conditions typical to emergency response situations. Simulator duties: The Driving Instructor will have knowledge of or ability to be trained in the use of the Doran simulator computer system, including police, fire, DPW and general municipal driving scenarios. They will be responsible for curriculum development, including vehicle and scenario updates. They will work with Doran to ensure a 24-hour customer support onsite visit with followup. They schedule and confirm training while maintaining the truck, trailer and simulator. They will track and communicate participant performance to their Police Chief/Fire Chief or Training Officer. EVOC Instructor duties: the Driving Instructor will train participants on vehicle pre-trip inspections, defensive driving, backing emergency response pursuit and vehicle limitations. They will also discuss the importance of attitude, skill, capability and driving conditions. They will be responsible for course development, including setup and breakdown of courses. They will handle the onsite training logistics and facilitate driving instruction while supervising a team of EVOC instructors. Qualifications: The candidate must have knowledge and fluency of Police/Fire response policies, a valid driver license and the ability to drive the truck while towing the simulator trailer. They must have an understanding of the interaction between dispatchers and officers. EVOC Certification or the ability to obtain certification is required. Knowledge of EVOC course design, statement of program objectives and understanding of vehicle dynamics are necessary. Knowledge of commercial vehicles, federal highway regulations and CDL licensing is important. They must possess a DOT medical card. Five years of public safety employment, training and supervisory experience is preferred. Simulator experience is a plus. How to apply: Send a PDF of your cover letter and resume to hr@mma.org.

Receptionist and Administrative Assistant MMA/MIIA

The Massachusetts Municipal Association is seeking a Receptionist/Administrative Assistant to join the Administration and Finance team. This is an excellent opportunity for someone who excels at customer service and office organization. About the MMA: The nonpartisan association provides an array of services to its member cities and towns statewide, including advocacy, education and training, research and analysis, and publications and information programs. As the voice of local government in Massachusetts, the MMA works to advance the interests of all cities and towns. About the position: The ideal candidate is friendly, highly organized and excited to support a busy office of 70-plus staff. The successful candidate will be able to work in a fast-paced department, with

strong organizational skills and attention to detail, a commitment to excellent customer service, and the ability to work collaboratively on a busy team. The receptionist and administrative assistant will greet staff and guests at the office, answer the phones and manage the general voicemail box, sort mail, and be responsible for organizing a high volume of checks. This position will also support several administrative projects and staff on the Administration and Finance team. Qualifications: Candidates should be highly motivated with a commitment to meet office needs and provide excellent service. Basic computer skills required. Experience working in a busy office is preferred, and nonprofit or government office knowledge is ideal. Work environment: Our offices are located in Boston's Government Center neighborhood. The position offers a starting salary of \$60,000, terrific benefits, and a great collaborative work culture. Our office uses a hybrid-work schedule. This position is required to be in the office four days per week, with one remote work day as schedules permit. If you are ready to devote yourself to work on behalf of our member cities and towns, then this position may be for you. How to Apply: Please send a PDF of your cover letter and resume to hr@mma.org.

The MMA and MIIA are committed to diversity in the workplace and are proud to be equal opportunity employers. Diverse candidates are encouraged to apply. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, genetics information, pregnancy or pregnancy-related condition, disability, age, or military or veteran status.

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.

Town Counsel Services

KP | Law is a municipal law firm. With offices in Boston, Hyannis, Lenox, Northampton and Worcester, we serve as town counsel to more than 125 towns throughout Massachusetts, from Provincetown to Williamstown, and as special counsel to another 90. For more than 30 years, we have devoted ourselves to municipal law and have become experts in the defense of all areas of municipal trial matters. We have specialists in all areas of municipal law and maintain an

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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.

Urban Economics Consulting

Strategy 5 Consulting LLC is a boutique urban economics firm based in Andover, with national experience in a wide range of challenging projects. Over three decades, Principal Ernest Bleinberger has completed successful economic development strategic plans, achieved tangible downtown revitalization, conducted financial feasibility and market analyses in many sectors, formed TIF districts, induced significant private sector investment, and excelled in high-profile assignments from coast to coast. Our work ethic and professionalism ensure a close working relationship with our clients that has proven beneficial in achieving real economic results. Please contact Ernest Bleinberger by phone at 978-984-7125 or by email at eb@strategy5.net. www.strategy5.net.

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 who 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.

Human Capital Solutions

MGT provides executive recruiting, comprehensive interim staffing, and human capital consulting for local governments, school districts, businesses, and nonprofits. Drawing on decades of experience working across the country, our team collaborates with your organization to understand your unique needs, culture, and goals to deliver tangible results. We tackle immediate challenges, anticipate future workplace needs, bridge talent gaps, and enhance policies to foster lasting positive transformation within your organization. Visit us at mgt.us, post to our job board at govhrjobs.com, or contact our team of experts at 847-380-3240.

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.

Special Counsel, Public Construction and Infrastructure Services

Petrini & Associates P.C. (P&A) is a recognized statewide leader in representing public owners in public construction and infrastructure disputes and litigation. P&A has decades of experience, having represented public owners in numerous bid protests, delay claims, differing site conditions, disputes between design professionals and project owners, and a broad variety of other construction disputes. Since its founding in 2004, P&A has represented more than 40 cities, towns, school districts and water and sewer districts in public construction litigation. For further information, please visit www.petrinilaw.com or contact Christopher Petrini at cpetrini@petrinilaw.com or 508-665-4310.

Navigating Employment Law

Navigate the intricate world of public employment law with this indispensable guide, crafted to address some of the most challenging and pressing issues faced by public employers today. While it's impossible to cover every facet of employment law in a single volume, this resource focuses on providing practical guidance on key topics, including: Harassment in the Workplace; Combatting Disability Discrimination; FLSA; FMLA; Labor Relations; Management Rights; Freedom of Speech; IOD; Personnel Records. For more information or to purchase, visit mpitraining.com/product/navigating-employment-law-a-practical-guide-for-municipal-leaders.

Tax Title Legal Services

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

Labor Counsel Services/Municipal Human Resources Specialists

Clifford and Kenny LLP provides quality representation to cities, towns and school districts in the area of labor and employment. Attorneys John Clifford and Jaime Kenny have many years

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

Executive Recruitment and Municipal Management

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

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 Bartlett St., Suite 186, Andover, MA 01810; 978-474-0200; hsrc consulting@comcast.net; or visit www.hsrc consultinginc.com. WBE certified.

Town Counsel Services

Harrington Heep 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@harringtonheep.com or 617-489-1600.

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,

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President, MMA Consulting Group Inc., 101 Court St. #7, Plymouth, MA 02360; 508-746-3653; mmacginc@gmail.com.

Municipal Accounting and Consulting Services

Our outstanding team specializes in municipal financial consulting and outsourced accounting. Since 2008, we have worked with many Massachusetts cities and towns with interim accounting, special projects, fraud risk assessments, financial forecasts, and budgeting. We also provide permanent outsourced accounting solutions, which have proven successful for many years. Please contact Eric Kinsherf at eric@erickinsherfcpa.com or visit our website erickinsherfcpa.com for further information.

Municipal Support Services

Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS) is a Massachusetts-based, 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 www.capital-strategic-solutions.com, call 508-690-0046, or email info@capital-strategic-solutions.com.

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

VADAR Systems provides financial management software to more than 100 Massachusetts

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

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. ●



MMA committees focus on rights of way

Kerri DeYoung Phillips, a hearing officer at the Department of Public Utilities, speaks during a joint meeting of the MMA policy committees on Energy and the Environment and Public Works, Transportation and Public Utilities on July 24 at the MMA office in Boston. Phillips and several representatives of the DPU and the Department of Telecommunications and Cable discussed their review of regulations governing rights of way. The meeting also featured virtual discussions with Sen. Becca Rausch and Rep. Christine Barber, chairs of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Meeting space wanted

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

With more than 60 member group 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 assistant director of events, at tkuck@mma.org. ●



Managers hold summer meeting

Acton Town Manager John Mangiaratti, left, and two representatives from East Bridgewater, intern Hannah Faghan, center, and Town Administrator Charlie Seelig, speak during a meeting of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association on July 17 in Quincy. The meeting included a presentation by Interim Economic Development Secretary Ashley Stolba. Mangiaratti is president of the Management Association for 2025.

Calendar



The Beacon

Massachusetts Municipal Association

3 Center Plaza, Suite 610, Boston, MA 02108

SEPTEMBER

- 9 Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association**, hybrid board meeting, 8:45-9:45 a.m., The Delaney House, Holyoke. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker
- 9 MMA Board of Directors**, hybrid meeting, 10-11:45 a.m., The Delaney House, Holyoke. Contact: MMA Executive Assistant Elanienne Coste
- 9 Local Government Advisory Commission**, hybrid meeting, 1-2 p.m., The Delaney House, Holyoke. Contact: MMA Executive Assistant Elanienne Coste
- 10 MMA webinar**, wage equity law, 12-1:15 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre
- 16 MMA webinar**, Red Cross of Massachusetts, 12-1 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre
- 17 Massachusetts Mayors' Association**, meeting. Contact: Membership Director Jackie Lavender Bird
- 18-19 Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources**, fall conference, Marriott Springfield Downtown, Springfield. Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Martin Davis
- 25 MMA webinar**, councils on aging, 12-1:15 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre
- 26 Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association**, regional meeting, 8:30-10 a.m., Marlborough Public Library. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker
- 30 MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Lake Pearl, Wrentham. Contact: MMA Assistant Director of Events Timmery Kuck
- 30 Women Elected Municipal Officials**, virtual symposium. Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Martin Davis

OCTOBER

- 2 MMA webinar**, POST Commission, 12-1:15 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre
- 9 Massachusetts Select Board Association**, leadership conference, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Cyprian Keyes Golf Club, Boylston. Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Martin Davis
- 14 MMA Board of Directors**, long-range planning meeting, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., The Conference Center at Waltham Woods, Waltham. Contact: MMA Executive Assistant Elanienne Coste
- 15 MMA webinar**, cybersecurity, 12-1:15 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre
- 16 Massachusetts Municipal Management Association**, boot camp, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sharon Community Center, Sharon. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker
- 18 Association of Town Finance Committees**, annual meeting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sharon Community Center, Sharon. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker
- 23 Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources**, labor relations seminar, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Devens Common Center, Devens. Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Martin Davis
- 27 Massachusetts Municipal Management Association**, state event at ICMA Conference, Tampa, Florida. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

For more information, visit www.mma.org.

NOVEMBER

- 13 Women Leading Government, meeting**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Devens Common Center, Devens. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker
- 18 Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association**, virtual board meeting, 8:45-9:45 a.m. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker
- 18 MMA Board of Directors**, virtual meeting, 10-11:45 a.m. Contact: MMA Executive Assistant Elanienne Coste
- 18 Local Government Advisory Commission**, virtual meeting, 1-2 p.m. Contact: MMA Executive Assistant Elanienne Coste
- 20-21 Massachusetts Municipal Management Association**, fall conference, AC Hotel, Worcester. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

DECEMBER

- 2 Massachusetts Mayors' Association**, newly elected training. Contact: MMA Senior Executive and Membership Director Jackie Lavender Bird

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

MMA contacts

Denise Baker can be reached at dbaker@mma.org

Jackie Lavender Bird can be reached at jlavenderbird@mma.org

Elanienne Coste can be reached at ecoste@mma.org

Martin Davis can be reached at mdavis@mma.org

Timmery Kuck can be reached at tkuck@mma.org

Kristianna Lapierre can be reached at klapierre@mma.org