TheBeacon

Vol. 53, No. 10 **A Publication of the Massachusetts Municipal Association | www.mma.org** November 2026

Legislators continue negotiations

By John Ouellette

Due to changes in legislative rules this session, conference committees are continuing to meet to reconcile differences between House and Senate versions of a dozen important bills.

Under the rules, conference committees have through Jan. 5, 2027, to work out differences between the bills and issue final compromise language, which will go before each chamber for a final vote without an opportunity for amendments.

The legislation under negotiation that's of greatest interest to cities and towns is an economic development bill, an environmental bond bill (known as the Mass Ready Act), and an energy affordability bill.

Economic development

Economic development bills passed by the House and Senate in July include funding via bond authorizations and a wide range of policy provisions.



Massachusetts State House

Zoning: Each branch included proposed by-right zoning changes that would significantly impact cities and towns. The Senate bill would allow duplexes by right in residential zones, while the House bill would mandate multifamily housing by right on land owned by religious institutions.

The MMA strongly opposes both proposals, as these types of by-right provisions undermine essential local decision-making and bypass community input. The MMA is also concerned about a Senate provision that would create a "preference modifier" for all grant applicants that have specific zoning or land-use policies for all discretionary and competitive grant funding across all agencies.

Alcohol: The Senate bill would return control of bar and restaurant liquor licenses to cities and towns. The Senate included local-option provisions for municipalities to permit happy hour pricing on alcoholic beverages and to allow public drinking in designated areas, as happened this past summer under a pilot program.

Public meetings: The Senate bill would codify existing remote and hybrid public meeting flexibilities, as well as remote provisions for representative town meetings. These existing authorizations are set to expire next June. The Senate included a provision aimed at limiting nuisance open meeting law violation complaints, allowing a municipality to seek relief from the attorney general's office if a complainant

■ **COMMITTEE UPDATE** *continued on 21*

Inside

MIIA Executive VP Corcoran announces retirement.....3

Commission to examine education funding 3

Move-In Mass homeownership program launched 5

West-East Rail gets $130M in federal funding.....7

MMA Webinars.....10

MIIA Report.....23

Around the Commonwealth.....24

People.....26

Classifieds.....28

Calendar.....32

To keep pace with change, MMA to cease publication of The Beacon

In light of changes in news consumption habits and member needs, the MMA will be discontinuing publication of its flagship publication, The Beacon, with the December issue.

The monthly newsletter has kept city and town leaders informed through 10 gubernatorial administrations, dozens of state budget cycles, and extensive technological change. But as 2026 comes to a close, the MMA will be evolving the way it communicates with members.

In April, the Communication Team began a process to re-evaluate the products it provides, in an effort to deliver the greatest impact. The team studied its analytics data, conducted a member survey, and held two member focus groups. The feedback was that, while The Beacon is highly regarded and trusted, the format (a large monthly PDF) is not optimal for today's member needs.


TheBeacon

Local leaders support reforms package

New MMA report documents fiscal crisis facing cities, towns

Members indicated that they want content that's "skimmable" (like our Weekly Review), easily sharable, and searchable (through their email inbox). Therefore, the labor-intensive Beacon production process is not a very effective use of staff time.

"The Beacon has had an amazing run," said MMA Communications Director John Ouellette. "But in communications we must always be thinking about what

■ **BEACON RETIREMENT** *continued on 31*

2026 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 the Massachusetts Mayors' Association, Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, Massachusetts Municipal Management Association, Massachusetts Select Board Association, and Association of Town Finance Committees.

Executive Committee

Kassandra Gove, *MMA President, Mayor, Amesbury*

Kiana Baskin, *MMA Vice President Select Board Member, Sharon*

Jamie Hellen, *MMA Immediate Past President and MMMA District 2 Representative Town Administrator, Franklin*

Ted Bettencourt, *MMaA First Vice President Mayor, Peabody*

Denise Casey, *MMMA President Town Administrator, Wakefield*

Lisa Feltner, *MMCA President Councillor, Watertown*

Joshua Garcia, *MMaA President Mayor, Holyoke*

Jennifer Glass, *MSA First Vice President Select Board, Lincoln*

Kevin Mizikar, *MMMA First Vice President Town Manager, Shrewsbury*

Michael Ossing, *MMCA First Vice President Councillor, Marlborough*

Debra Roberts, *MSA President Select Board, Stoughton*

Kevin Sullivan, *ATFC President Finance Committee, Hanson*

James Walters, *ATFC First Vice President Finance Committee, Halifax*

Adam Chapdelaine *(non-voting) MMA Executive Director*

Colleen Bradley-McArthur, *Councillor, Waltham*
Peter Cusolito, *Select Board Member, Leicester*
Denise Dembkoski, *Town Administrator, Stow*
Claire Freda, *Councillor, Leominster*
Melissa Goff, *Deputy Town Administrator, Brookline*
Yolanda Greaves, *Select Board Member, Ashland*
Jill Hai, *Select Board Member, Lexington*
Heather Harper, *Assistant Town Manager, Sandwich*
Carole Julius, *Select Board Member, East Bridgewater*
Afroz Khan, *Councillor, Newburyport*
Andrea Llamas, *Town Administrator, Northfield*
Breanna Lungo-Koehn, *Mayor, Medford*
Mike McCabe, *Mayor, Westfield*
John McLaughlin, *Councillor, Waltham*
Marybeth Mitts, *Select Board Member, Lenox*
Shaunna O'Connell, *Mayor, Taunton*
Ryan Pereria, *Councillor, New Bedford*
Israel Rivera, *Councillor, Holyoke*
Sam Squailia, *Mayor, Fitchburg*
Liz Sullivan, *Town Administrator, Dennis*
Michelle Wu, *Mayor, Boston*

Executive Director's Report

Connect 351 is right around the corner



By Adam Chapdelaine

As the autumn leaves give way to winter, our sights are set squarely on the start of the new year. Each January, local leaders from every corner of the Commonwealth — from the Berkshires to the Cape and everywhere in between — make their annual pilgrimage to Boston for Connect 351.

Taking place from Jan. 21 through 23, 2027, this flagship gathering represents our shared commitment to public service, continuous improvement, and the vitality of our communities. It is the premier platform where the collective wisdom of Massachusetts municipal government comes together under one roof, and this upcoming conference promises to be one of our most impactful yet.

At the center of Connect 351 is a lineup of speakers chosen not only to inspire, but to provide actionable insights for the complex work of governing.

In an era when cities and towns must continuously balance economic growth, housing demands, infrastructure resilience, and vibrant public realms, hearing from forward-thinking leaders is essential. Our general sessions and keynote addresses will challenge us to reimagine how our communities look, move and thrive. From renowned urban planners and public communicators to innovators in civic engagement, the voices taking the stage will offer the kind of fresh perspectives that reinvigorate our passion for public service.

Complementing our main stage is an expansive slate of professional development opportunities designed specifically for the day-to-day realities of municipal leadership. Whether you're a seasoned department director, a newly elected select board member, or a municipal manager navigating a contentious local issue, Connect 351 provides practical tools to help you succeed.

Across 18 timely workshops and focused learning labs, participants will explore the latest developments in municipal finance, human resources, labor relations, climate adaptation, and civic technology. These sessions are curated with one goal in mind: delivering strategies, best practices, and policy blueprints that you can immediately take back to town hall or city hall to make a tangible difference for your residents.

Connect 351 also serves as an indispensable bridge between local governance and our partners on Beacon Hill. Local officials understand that the relationship between state government and our 351 municipalities is vital to solving our greatest shared challenges. Connect 351 provides a front-row seat to hear directly from state leadership, offering firsthand insight into legislative priorities, upcoming state budget forecasts, and administration goals. This open

■ **DIRECTOR'S REPORT** *continued on 17*

TheBeacon

November 2026 | Volume 53, Number 10
Copyright © 2026, Massachusetts Municipal Association
Communications Director
John Ouellette

Associate Editor
Jennifer Kavanaugh

Digital Communications Manager
Meredith Gabrilska

Publisher
Adam Chapdelaine, *MMA Executive Director*

Design
FCD, Inc.

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

617-426-7272 • www.mma.org
Twitter and Facebook: @massmunicipal

TheBeacon (ISSN 0199-235X) is published monthly, except for a combined July-August issue, by the Massachusetts Municipal Association, 3 Center Plaza, Suite 610, Boston, MA 02108. The MMA is composed of the Massachusetts Select Board Association, the Massachusetts Mayors' Association, the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association, the Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, and the Association of Town Finance Committees.

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

MIIA Executive VP Stan Corcoran to retire in June

By Jennifer Kavanaugh

MIIA Executive Vice President Stan Corcoran, who has helped hundreds of cities and towns navigate municipal insurance needs and secure quality coverage through several decades of growth and change, will retire next June after more than 45 years of service with the organization.

Corcoran's retirement will coincide with the 45th anniversary of MIIA's founding and the 35th anniversary of MIIA's Health Benefits Trust.

His announcement will allow MIIA time to retain a consultant to lead a search process for his successor, while ensuring continuity of operations and quality of services to municipal members.

MIIA's announcement of his retirement on Oct. 26 thanked Corcoran for "setting a standard of excellence we will carry forward for years to come."

"Stan began his career at the MMA in 1981 as a junior consultant, at a time when MIIA was merely a concept waiting to be realized," MIIA said. "Over the decades, his leadership, passion, and unwavering commitment have profoundly shaped MIIA and positively impacted cities, towns, and public employees across Massachusetts."



MIIA Executive Vice President Stan Corcoran speaks to members during Connect 351 in January.

Corcoran joined the MMA shortly after receiving his master's degree in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School. He was instrumental in every milestone that took MIIA from an idea to a thriving nonprofit corporation that has brought services into more than 400 cities, towns and public entities. He became MIIA's executive vice president in 1998.

Following its creation in 1982 as a workers' compensation insurer, MIIA began offering property and liability insurance in 1984, created the MIIA Health Benefits Trust in 1992, and has expanded its offerings over the years to include popular offerings such as MIIA Wellness, cybersecurity coverage and training, and the Unemployment Services Program.

MIIA's partnerships with companies including Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Aon Risk Services and Cabot Risk have created the operation that's familiar to member communities throughout the state.

In 1998, Corcoran also took the lead in developing the MMA's MunEnergy program, which has helped more than 100 cities, towns and other government entities save millions of dollars in energy costs since its inception.

Corcoran is a member of the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities Mutual Insurance Company, and a former chair of the NLC Risk Information Sharing Consortium (NLC-RISC) Board of Directors.

Note: The MMA will publish a more thorough retrospective of Corcoran's career next month.

Foundation Budget Review Commission to examine education funding

By Adrienne Núñez

The fiscal 2027 state budget included a provision to reconvene the Foundation Budget Review Commission, which is charged with examining how the allocation of state education resources addresses current needs.

The reconvening of the commission launches a renewed effort to evaluate the state's public education funding formulas for pre-kindergarten through grade 12 and to propose reforms. Commission members have been named, but the group has yet to schedule its first meeting.

The commission will review recommendations and data from a study on the "required local contribution" that is currently underway. Its work may include a review of school finance programs such as rural school aid, charter school mitigation payments, out-of-district special education costs, and transportation costs.

The commission is required to identify state resources to support any recommendations that would increase state costs.

The budget law calls for the commission to hold at least four public hearings across the state, and its first report is due no later than Oct. 31, 2028.

Education funding and Chapter 70 aid remain top priorities for cities and towns, which face increasing budget pressures related to shifting student needs, inflation, and a limited ability to generate local revenues.

The MMA has historically played an active role in the commission's proceedings, and will be represented on the new commission by MMA President Kassandra Gove, the mayor of Amesbury.

The 24-member commission will include legislators — including representatives of the Joint Committee on Education, the House speaker and the Senate president — the governor's office, the Division of Local Services, state education officials, the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, and organizations such as the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education, Tufts Center for State Policy Analysis, Massachusetts Business Roundtable, and the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts.



A reconvened Foundation Budget Review Commission will examine the efficacy of the state's public education funding formulas for pre-kindergarten through grade 12 and will propose reforms.

Connect 351 offers networking, learning and energy

By Jennifer Kavanaugh

If you ask MMA members about their favorite aspects of Connect 351, they often say they look forward to the networking, diving into complex topics in workshops, and brainstorming ideas with their fellow local leaders from around the state.

MMA Vice President Kiana Baskin said she attends the annual event for all of these reasons, but the Sharon Select Board member also goes for something that can't be found on an agenda or event description.

"The energy is infectious," Baskin said in a video recorded at the conference last January. "I walked in and received so many hugs. Yes, you're going to learn, and yes, you're going to connect, but just coming back and feeling the warmth is important."

The MMA staff is continuing to refine plans for Connect 351, which will return to the Menino Convention and Exhibition Center in Boston's Seaport District on Jan. 21 through 23.

The two-and-a-half-day event features inspiring speakers, timely workshops, a municipal Trade Show, membership business meetings, awards programs, and countless opportunities for networking and socializing.

As always, the latest and most comprehensive information about conference programming, registration and hotel options can be found on connect351.org.

Through Jan. 19, the cost to register online is $289 for MMA members and MMA Partner Program members, and $359 for officials and staff from other governmental entities. On-site registration at the conference will incur an additional $40 charge.



Pittsfield City Clerk Michele Benjamin, center, speaks with fellow attendees during Connect 351 in January.

Expanded Thursday lineup

Connect 351's Thursday programming has been growing in popularity since it was launched two years ago. For 2027, the MMA is shifting a block of six workshops to Thursday, starting at 1:30 p.m., and will offer fun opportunities for learning and connecting.

At 3 p.m., attendees can choose from several offerings. They can engage in an hour-long Women Leading Government conversation with Boston Globe reporter Emily Sweeney. They can elevate their public speaking skills with BostonSpeaks founder Kit Pang from 3 to 4 p.m. Or they can participate in the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) and LGBTQIA+ Affinity Networking Spaces from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Those gatherings are just two of the Affinity Networking Spaces the MMA will host at the conference (details below).

Other Thursday events include a reception on the Trade Show floor, and a Belonging in Municipal Affairs reception at the nearby Omni Hotel. The Trade Show and Headshot Station for members will open at 2 p.m.

■ **CONNECT 351** *continued on 22*

MMA holds fall Legislative Breakfast Meetings

By Abigail Ferrone

On three Fridays in October, legislators and local officials from across Massachusetts gathered for six MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings, held in Great Barrington, Leicester, Lowell, Needham, Northampton and Westport.

The fall meetings featured updates from the MMA Legislative Division on the state revenue picture, fiscal 2027 state budget process, a fiscal 2026 "Fair Share" supplemental budget, the transportation bond bill, and the PROTECT Act, among others. The team also covered ongoing work and developments regarding active conference committee negotiations on key topics: an economic development bill, an environmental bond bill, and energy affordability legislation.

Updates were followed by an opportunity for legislators and local leaders to discuss the many challenges facing municipalities, covering topics such as increasing fiscal pressures, housing, energy regulations, ballot questions, and other issues.

The MMA holds its Legislative Breakfast Meetings around the state each spring and fall to provide an opportunity for local officials to engage in informal discussions with legislators, fellow local officials, and MMA staff. The fall meetings were held on Oct. 16, 23 and 30.



Maureen Flanagan, left, district director for Sen. Michael Rodrigues, Jessica Fidalgo, center, legislative aide for Rep. Steven Ouellette, and Westport Veterans Service Officer Carol Freitas speak during an MMA Legislative Breakfast Meeting on Oct. 23 in Westport.

The MMA has hosted 260 breakfast meetings in more than 200 communities since 2007, with a goal of hosting a meeting in each of the state's 351 cities and towns. Communities that have not hosted an MMA Legislative Breakfast Meeting but would be interested in doing so are asked to contact Abigail Ferrone at aferrone@mma.org or 617-426-7272, ext. 130.

- Download the presentation from the meetings (PDF)

Move-In Mass launched to expand homeownership

At an event in Sturbridge on Oct. 22, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced the launch of Move-In Mass, an initiative to expand homeownership by supporting innovative, cost-effective approaches to building starter homes.

The program is expected to support at least 20 homes in its first round, with financing designed to be repaid and reinvested in future housing developments.

Move-In Mass will encourage the use of manufactured, modular and other innovative construction methods that can reduce development costs, shorten construction timelines and make homes more affordable for first-time homebuyers. The initiative aims to build quality homes at lower costs while reducing reliance on state subsidies, allowing public investments to support additional housing opportunities over time.

"Buying your first home should be an exciting milestone, but for too many people in Massachusetts, it feels out of reach," Gov. Maura Healey said in a prepared statement. "We want more people to have the opportunity to put down roots, build equity and raise their families right here in Massachusetts."

Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll said Move-In Mass "gives us another tool to work with communities and developers to build quality homes at lower costs and help more families achieve the dream of homeownership."

Through Move-In Mass, MassHousing is making $10 million in financing available to developers interested in using manufactured, modular or other cost-effective construction methods to build starter homes. The program will accept proposals from across Massachusetts for detached single-family homes, townhouses and duplexes.

MassHousing will work with the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities to award financing to qualified developers with projects ready to move forward. The program is designed to recover much of its initial investment through home sales, allowing MassHousing to reinvest that funding in additional housing developments.

Proposals will be evaluated based on their ability to lower construction costs, reduce the need for subsidies, shorten development timelines, and return financing to support future projects.

At least 20% of the homes in each project must be affordable to qualifying first-time homebuyers earning no more than 80% of the area median income, with affordability restrictions maintained for 15 years. Eligible affordable homes may receive subsidies of up to $150,000 per unit when necessary to close the gap between development costs and appraised values or meet affordability requirements.



Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Juana Matías, center, speaks during the launch of the Healey-Driscoll administration's Move-In Mass initiative on Oct. 22 in Sturbridge. Joining her were Justin Stelmok, left, developer of Blueberry Hill Estates, and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. (Photo courtesy Joshua Qualls/Governor's Press Office)

The administration said the initiative will place particular emphasis on manufactured and modular homes built on permanent foundations, including CrossMod homes, which combine the cost efficiencies of manufactured housing with features of traditional single-family homes. These construction methods have the potential to reduce costs while delivering quality homes that meet applicable building requirements and mortgage financing standards.

The program announcement was held at Blueberry Hill Estates in Sturbridge, a manufactured housing community where Healey-Driscoll administration officials toured homes that demonstrate the innovative construction methods Move-In Mass aims to encourage.

RFP period opens

MassHousing and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities will work with developers, manufacturers and municipalities to identify participation and identify opportunities for projects across the state.

The request for proposals opened on Oct. 22, with responses due by Feb. 25, 2027. Awards are expected to be announced in April 2027.

Questions can be directed to MoveInMass@masshousing.com.





Mayors meet with gubernatorial candidates

The two major party candidates running for governor share their visions for Massachusetts during a monthly meeting of the Massachusetts Mayors' Association on Oct. 21 in Amesbury. Gov. Maura Healey, left, and challenger Mike Minogue discussed state finances, the cost of living and affordability concerns for residents, economic development, transportation, immigrant enforcement and other issues affecting communities.

Report finds inequities in liquor license process

The liquor license framework in Massachusetts, which relies on a population-based quota dating to 1933, fails to account for modern realities and creates a two-tier system where the vast majority of municipalities cannot control the number of licenses in their communities, according to a new report from the Office of the State Auditor.

The report, License to Pour: Access and Equity in Massachusetts Liquor Licensing, published on Oct. 13, examines the Commonwealth's system for licensing restaurants, bars, hotels, and clubs to serve alcohol. It finds that the quota formula results in a shortage of on-premises liquor licenses in communities where businesses want to open, while pushing prospective business owners into a legislative process and private resale market in an effort to acquire licenses.

Produced by the Division of Local Mandates, the report analyzed municipal licensing data, surveyed 260 municipal officials and business owners, and interviewed license holders, municipal officials, legislators, and industry participants.

Twenty-six municipalities were allowed local control due to a limited opportunity between 1978 and 1984 to opt out of the state-imposed quota, but this created an inequitable system that leaves many municipalities unable to respond to local needs and priorities, according to the report.

The population-based quota, which allocates roughly one all-alcohol license per 1,000 residents and one wine and malt license per 5,000 residents, fails to account for modern tourism, commuter populations, or seasonal shifts, the report states.

Scarcity has turned licenses into expensive private commodities, the report found, with business owners reporting that they pay up to $600,000 for an all-alcohol license in Boston or $175,000 in Somerville, compared to around $2,500 in Cambridge (which operates under local control).

Alternative routes — such as home rule petitions (special legislation) and Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission processes — are inefficient and disproportionately benefit wealthier communities, the report found.

A lack of centralized statewide data and inconsistent municipal websites leave prospective business owners navigating an opaque system. Further, the home rule petition process has no written criteria and no complete, readily accessible public record.



A new report finds that the state's liquor license process creates a two-tier system that prevents the vast majority of municipalities from controlling the number of licenses in their communities.

Compared to neighboring states, Massachusetts has fewer full-service restaurants per resident; matching the regional average could mean 490 additional restaurants, 9,500 jobs, $311 million in annual wages, and $56 million a year in state and local meals taxes.

The report recommends eliminating the state-imposed, population-based quota and establishing local control for on-premises liquor licensing; addressing the equity and wealth-access barriers created by the secondary market; and creating a statewide, public licensing data platform to increase information access, equity and transparency.

Applications open for $75M Build For Mass infrastructure loan program

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Oct. 20 announced that applications are open for Build for Mass, a new $75 million revolving loan fund to help cities and towns finance infrastructure, clean energy, climate resilience and economic development projects.

The program will provide flexible, low-interest financing to help communities cover upfront project costs, access federal funding, and move important projects forward.

Announced by Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll in a July meeting with local leaders, Build for Mass is administered by MassDevelopment and will prioritize Gateway Cities and rural communities to help ensure that more municipalities have access to the financing they need.

The administration said the program will help communities access affordable financing, make the most of federal funding, and advance infrastructure and clean energy projects.

Build for Mass offers two low-interest financing options:

- The General Loan Program provides low-interest loans to help municipalities bridge financing gaps for federally funded infrastructure projects, including neighborhood revitalization, seawalls, and other community improvements.
- The Green Loan Program provides bridge financing for municipal clean energy projects that qualify for the federal Direct Pay program, enabling cities and towns to receive tax credit reimbursements for eligible projects. Projects may include battery energy storage and ground-source heat pump systems that lower energy costs and improve energy efficiency. Private entities with a public purpose, such as health clinics, are also eligible for the Green Loan Program.



The Build for Mass revolving loan fund aims to help cities and towns finance infrastructure, clean energy, climate resilience and economic development projects.

Build for Mass is funded through $50 million from the Massachusetts Federal Matching and Debt Reduction Fund, established through legislation filed by Gov. Maura Healey to help the state compete for federal funding.

BUILD FOR MASS *continued on 22*

State wins $130M in federal funding for West-East Rail

At an event in Springfield on Oct. 16, Gov. Maura Healey, U.S. Sen. Ed Markey and U.S. Reps. Richard Neal and Jim McGovern announced that Massachusetts has secured $130 million in federal funding for the Springfield Hub Modernization Project.

The investment will improve existing passenger rail service along the Connecticut River Line (Knowledge Corridor) and help lay the groundwork for future West-East Rail connections between Boston, Springfield and Albany.

The project is part of the state's Compass Rail vision, centered on Springfield Union Station and building on existing Amtrak Vermonter, Hartford Line and Valley Flyer service.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation was awarded the funding through the Federal Railroad Administration's fiscal 2025-2026 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements grant program to support modernization of the rail infrastructure around Springfield Union Station.

The Springfield Hub Modernization Project is a key phase of the Springfield Area Track Reconfiguration Project. It will upgrade tracks, signals and other infrastructure to address a major rail bottleneck, reduce conflicts between freight and passenger trains, and allow more efficient operations and expanded rail service.

The administration said the work will improve on-time performance, reduce delays and provide more schedule flexibility for Amtrak Vermonter and Valley Flyer passengers. The project will also create capacity for future passenger rail service while reducing unnecessary train idling, emissions and operating costs.

The funding is considered a major step in efforts to strengthen transportation connections across western, central and eastern Massachusetts, expand access to jobs and economic opportunity, and make West-East Rail a reality.

Sen. Markey called West-East Rail "a once-in a-lifetime investment" to connect communities, adding that the total federal investment is now more than $280 million.

Springfield is considered a critical transportation hub for the regional rail network, including Union Station, which supports passenger rail and regional and intercity bus services. The area is also home to West Springfield Yard, an important freight facility. The administration said the planned improvements will address existing capacity constraints, improve operational efficiency, and support future rail growth.



Massachusetts has secured $130 million in federal funding to advance the West-East Rail project.

The administration previously secured $108 million in federal funding for the Inland Route, which will connect Boston-Springfield-New Haven with two daily Amtrak roundtrips in 2030, as well as previous CRISI awards of $36.8 million to advance the design of the Springfield Area Track Reconfiguration Project and $1.75 million for preliminary engineering and environmental work.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is also advancing the service development plan for Boston-Albany service funded by a $3.5 million FRA Corridor Identification and Development grant.

Last week, Healey announced a new agreement to advance critical rail infrastructure improvements in Pittsfield that will pave the way for permanent seasonal Berkshire Flyer service and expanded passenger rail in western Massachusetts.



Mayors explore agritourism

During a monthly meeting of the Massachusetts Mayors' Association on Oct. 21 in Amesbury, Nancy Gardella, right, executive director of the North of Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau, discusses the symbiosis that can exist between communities and local farms. Gardella was joined by Jenny Durocher, co-owner of Cider Hill Farm in Amesbury, to cover the benefits of agritourism — bringing visitors not only to the farms but to local restaurants and downtowns — as well as the challenges and implications for traffic and local infrastructure.

House passes closeout supplemental budget

By Adrienne Núñez

On Oct. 21, the House approved its version of a fiscal 2026 supplemental budget that would allow the Commonwealth to close the books on fiscal 2026.

The $2.35 billion bill is a revised version of the governor's proposal.

The House bill includes a provision intended to ensure consistency with the legislative intent of data requirements from the Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act, especially given logistical reporting challenges at the U.S. Department of Labor and proposed federal regulatory changes. A recently proposed federal rulemaking would eliminate the federal EEO-1 through EEO-6 workforce demographic reporting that is the foundation for the Massachusetts wage equity reporting.

The bill proposes to transfer responsibility for collecting workforce demographic data to the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and establish a backstop provision outlining a state reporting requirement should federal reports be eliminated. This could align it with the same data that is currently collected and submitted within current EEO reports.

The supplemental budget bill would also change the Massachusetts School Building Authority's annual spending limits, allowing the authority to approve additional grants exceeding the cap by up to 10% and allowing for grants to cover over 80% of project costs if incentive percentage points have been awarded.



A fiscal 2026 closeout supplemental budget bill passed by the House includes $4.3 million for regional transit.

The bill includes a proposal to allow municipalities with remaining deficits related to the COVID-19 pandemic to amortize them over the course of up to three years.

Funding provisions include allocations for programming for new parents, MassHealth, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, the Cannabis Control Commission, and other accounts. Committee members told State House News Service that its version of the bill would have a net cost to the state of about $1.5 billion.

The bill's proposed appropriations include:

- $4.3 million for regional transit
- $1 million for a community schools program run by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- $731,409 for "smart growth" education payments (Chapter 40S payments)
- $725,000 for marijuana social equity municipal payments

The bill would also provide support to the Department of Transitional Assistance to adapt to federal policy changes that are pressuring states to reduce error rates for SNAP benefits.

Policy proposals include:

- Limiting the use of artificial intelligence in political advertising
- Extending the deadline for businesses to come into compliance with updated tax policy changes
- Addressing veterans' access to medical marijuana licenses
- Allowing municipalities to grant temporary liquor licenses to certain nonprofit charitable corporations

The House did not include Gov. Maura Healey's proposal to temporarily suspend the gas tax.

The bill was sent to the Senate for its consideration.

Women Leading Government to discuss thriving in leadership

Drawing from their real-world leadership journeys, a panel will discuss navigating and thriving in leadership during a Women Leading Government meeting on Nov. 5 in Wrentham.

The opening panel will explore actionable strategies for navigating systemic challenges, cultivating resilience, and advocating for organizational change.

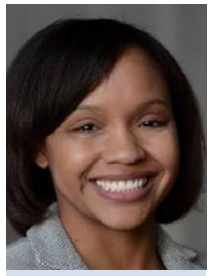
The panelists will be:

- Worcester Red Sox General Manager Brooke Cooper
- Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Lauren Jones
- Department of Conservation and Recreation Deputy Commissioner Kendra Amaral

Cooper, the first female GM in the Red Sox organization, will share her story of advancement within the organization while building a family.



Brooke Cooper



Lauren Jones

Secretary Jones had worked in state and local government, as well as the private sector, before joining the governor's cabinet in 2023.

Amaral is a former town manager who served in both Massachusetts and Maine before stepping into a leadership role at the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Meeting attendees will also collaborate in small group discussions to examine the challenges they encounter and to formulate practical solutions.

The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at noon, followed by brunch. The registration fee is $25 per person.

Women Leading Government events are open to all staff in appointed positions in local government.

The meeting will be held at Lake Pearl in Wrentham.

More information and online registration are available at www.mma.org.

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

MMA launches professional development webinar series

By Kristianna Lapierre

In late October, the MMA launched a professional development webinar series called Extra Credit, which is designed to complement the MMA's popular free webinars by providing additional opportunities for training.

The first round of Extra Credit webinars is designed to help municipal staff navigate workplace pressure, communication, and burnout. They are being led by Cally Ritter, principal of Positive Ripple Training and Consulting, who has more than 25 years of experience as a leadership development facilitator, speaker and employee assistance program consultant.

Because the Extra Credit webinars go deeper than a typical MMA webinar and are led by a professional trainer, there is a small fee to participate.

The upcoming Extra Credit sessions are:

- **Navigating Difficult Conversations**
  Wednesday, Nov. 4, 1-2:30 p.m.
  It's human nature to want to avoid conflict, since we're wired to avoid pain and seek pleasure. But conflict is inevitable whenever people work together, and when it's habitually avoided, small tensions build into bigger problems that strain relationships and make daily collaboration harder. Building stronger communication and conflict resolution skills, by contrast, boosts confidence, reduces avoidance, and improves both working relationships and team performance.

  Through discussion and role-play, participants will build the skills to handle conflict with confidence and leave with practical tools for turning disagreements into opportunities for collaboration and understanding.

Key takeaways:

- Strategies for giving constructive feedback so conversations stay productive and respectful
- Practical techniques for saying "no" with confidence and setting boundaries without damaging relationships



Cally Ritter

- Techniques to approach conflict with tact and sensitivity to build stronger team performance
- **Pacing Yourself: Preventing Burnout, Sustaining Performance**
  Wednesday, Nov. 18, 1-2:30 p.m.
  Over the past several years, we've faced one challenge after another — a global health crisis, funding cuts, mounting public demands — and many of us are running on empty. Our nervous systems have been under sustained strain, and the exhaustion is real. This session will explore evidence-based approaches to interrupting burnout before it takes hold.

Key takeaways:

- A clear definition of burnout and an examination of the individual and workplace factors that drive it
- Evidence-based approaches to interrupting burnout before it takes hold
- Micro-practices for shifting your relationship with work toward something more sustainable and positive

First session

The first Extra Credit session, "Cool, Calm and Effective: Managing Reactions at Work," was held on Oct. 28. The dynamic webinar was designed to equip municipal employees with essential skills to navigate the unique challenge of serving a public that may be frustrated, angry or confrontational — often due to circumstances beyond any single employee's control. The webinar explores how emotional intelligence serves as the foundation for remaining calm and professional under pressure, and offers a practical, three-step technique to de-escalate tense interactions before they spiral.

Key takeaways from the first webinar are:

- Critical strategies for when and how to end abusive conversations while maintaining dignity for all parties
- Techniques for supporting colleagues who face public friction
- The power of deep listening as a de-escalation tool

The recording of this webinar is available for purchase on MMA On-Demand.

Registration details

MMA members may register online for the Extra Credit webinars. The registration fee is $45 per webinar or $120 for the series of three.

Attendees will be sent the Zoom information once registration closes at noon the day before each webinar. Any cancellation requests must be received by email at least one week in advance to receive a refund.

The registration fee also provides access to the webinar recording on MMA On-Demand, a sortable and searchable library with a collection of archived webinars. In On-Demand, members can save relevant training content for later viewing, browse "101" bundles, and purchase premium content.

The first Extra Credit series is made possible by support from MIIA Wellness.

For more information, contact MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre at klapierre@mma.org.

MMMA, MMHR to hold joint holiday meeting on Dec. 10

The Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources will hold their joint holiday meeting on Dec. 10 at the Publick House in Sturbridge.

Registration and a networking coffee will begin at 9 a.m., and the event will conclude at 1 p.m.

The meeting is open to all MMMA and MMHR members. The registration fee is $40 and lunch will be provided.

Registration and the full agenda will be made available at www.mma.org.

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

MMA Webinars

Winter energy outlook

The MMA hosted a webinar on Oct. 20 with its partner in the MunEnergy program, Constellation, to look at the region's energy landscape.

Brandon Fong, principal of Constellation's Commodities Management Group, provided an energy market update and explained how New England's energy costs are linked to global events.

Roughly half of the region's electricity is generated using natural gas, and the pipeline capacity for domestic gas is insufficient to meet the heating and electricity-generation demands during a New England winter. So New England power plants must import natural gas, which is much more expensive than domestic gas, especially at times of peak demand.

The war in Iran, meanwhile, has disrupted the supply of oil and natural gas flowing through the Strait of Hormuz, further escalating global energy prices.

Constellation predicts that this year's Super El Niño could bring warmer-than-average temperatures this winter, but that doesn't mean there won't be cold snaps that drive up energy demand — and prices.

Aiste Dacys and Charlotte Diogo, business development managers at Constellation, reviewed the benefits of the MunEnergy program. Dacys works with cities and towns in central and western Massachusetts on their energy needs, and Diogo works with communities in eastern and southeastern Massachusetts.



Panelists discuss the region's energy landscape during a recent MMA webinar. Participants included Charlotte Diogo, top left, a business development manager at Constellation; MMA Deputy Executive Director Katie McCue, top right, and Brandon Fong, principal of Constellation's Commodities Management Group.

Date: Oct. 20 **Length:** 60 minutes VIEW WEBINAR ↗

MMA Deputy Executive Director Katie McCue moderated 15 minutes of questions and answers, addressing inquiries regarding potential changes to Day-Ahead Ancillary Service Initiative costs, how power generated by offshore wind turbines can help offset costs of electric generation, and how municipalities should prepare for the upcoming winter.

– Kristianna Lapierre

ROAD to Housing Act

The MMA hosted a webinar on Oct. 15 that reviewed the federal 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act with the National League of Cities.

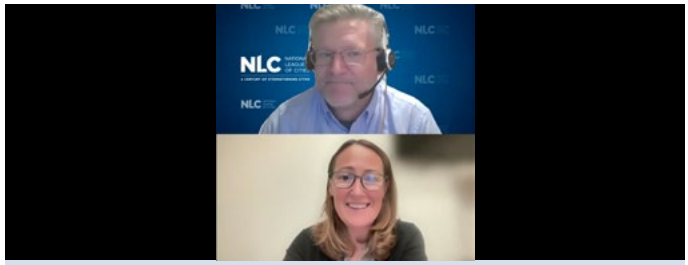
To kick off the webinar, MMA Legislative and Policy Counsel Ali DiMatteo said the ROAD to Housing Act, created to address a nationwide housing shortage, "explicitly prioritizes partnership over preemption."

The ROAD to Housing Act aims to expand housing supply tools, modernize federal housing programs, unlock private investment, reduce barriers to development, and preserve local decision-making authority.

"It's a collection of dozens of standalones statutes, standalone program proposals that have been knitted together," said Mike Wallace, legislative director of housing, community and economic development at the NLC. "It's really a package of many, many bills aimed at fixing discrete things in different parts of the housing market — and hopefully as a whole really spur development in a way that brings down costs."

The new tools and programs that municipalities can use include:

- Regional Housing Planning Grants
- Innovation Funds
- Pattern Book Home Grants
- The RESIDE Act
- The Whole-Home Repair Program
- Technical Assistance Resources



Mike Wallace, top, of the National League of Cities, and MMA Legislative and Policy Counsel Ali DiMatteo discuss the ROAD to Housing Act during a recent MMA webinar.

Date: Oct. 15 **Length:** 75 minutes VIEW WEBINAR ↗

Wallace encouraged attendees to plan and prepare now, as many of these competitive provisions will roll out over the next 12 to 24 months.

"I think [communities] that can show that they've made some progress and taken steps to maximize the usefulness of these dollars will be at the head of the line when it comes time to applying for these different grants," Wallace said.

– 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.

CONNECT 351

JANUARY 21-23, 2027
Menino Convention & Exhibition Center
and Omni Boston Hotel at the Seaport

NETWORKING

Our dynamic, high-energy conference provides countless opportunities to discuss the challenges you face and to learn what other local leaders are doing to move their communities forward.

- Receptions on Thursday, Friday and Saturday
- A lively Trade Show for meeting with exhibitors and colleagues
- Events for Women Leading Government, Women Elected Municipal Officials and other groups
- A Friday evening dinner
- Affinity networking spaces
- Hallway conversations and numerous seating areas where you can engage with colleagues whenever you like



TRADE SHOW

Our Trade Show is a great opportunity to find out what's new in the municipal marketplace! More than 200 exhibitors will be showcasing the latest in products and services tailored to Massachusetts cities and towns. And experts on a variety of topics will share their knowledge in a series of Learning Lab workshops.

WORKSHOPS

Our workshops cover the latest developments affecting local government.

Topics:

- Artificial intelligence
- Avoiding burnout
- Board collaboration
- Clean energy siting and permitting
- Communications
- Cybersecurity
- Data centers
- Diversity, equity and inclusion
- Division of Local Services
- Employment liability claims
- Fiscal outlook
- Healthcare cost containment
- Intentional zoning
- Interagency emergency response
- Labor law updates
- Municipal law updates
- Neurodiversity in the workplace
- Procurement issues

Workshop details are available on Connect351.org



Join more than 1,000 local leaders at this inspiring, can't-miss event devoted to learning, problem solving and idea sharing!

FRIDAY GENERAL SESSION



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Planner and author
Founding partner, Speck Dempsey
Walkability advocate
Jeff Speck

> "I have a little notebook. I take notes all day of things that I want to remember and bring back, and I set time on my calendar to make sure I go through all of those things and follow through. You don't want to lose the momentum and energy you get from learning and connecting."



Ryan McLane, Town Administrator, Carlisle



HEADSHOT STATION

Attendees can get free professional headshots taken at the Trade Show.

Visit
CONNECT351.ORG
for complete information.





Make the most of your Connect 351 experience with our official app. Find out how to get it in the next issue of The Beacon.

REGISTER TODAY!

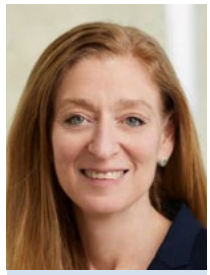
Webinar will cover municipal guidance for data centers

The MMA will host a webinar with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs on Nov. 12 to discuss the development of a state municipal guidance document for data center development, as called for by Executive Order 658.

The guide will build on Gov. Maura Healey's Expectations for Responsible Data Center Development and Operations and provide practical recommendations for local leaders, helping municipalities protect against unrestricted data center development and execute community benefits agreements.

Speakers will include:

- Melissa Lavinson, executive director of the Office of Energy Transformation
- Mike Judge, undersecretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- Josie Ahlberg, Senior Legislative Analyst, MMA



Melissa Lavinson



Mike Judge

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

Municipal Communicators discuss data visualization

Massachusetts Municipal Communicators hosted a virtual meeting on Oct. 22 to discuss effective strategies for translating data into visual graphics.

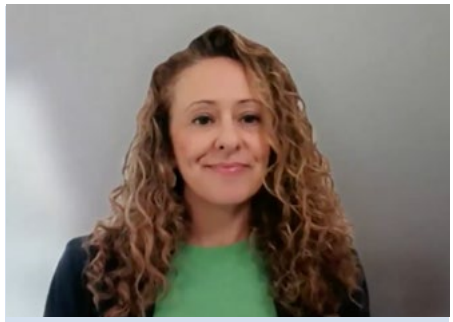
Kim Lundgren, CEO and founder of Kim Lundgren Associates, defined data visualization as "any visual that turns numbers into something people can see, compare, and act on." She highlighted the importance of choosing the best visual medium for the intended audience — such as budget books, a website, yard signs, or social media posts — while using clear language to maintain resident trust.

Amesbury Communications Director William Donohue discussed making municipal data visuals accessible by using optimal type sizes, ensuring high color contrast, defining reading orders, and providing alternative text.

The speakers led an interactive activity to test what attendees have learned on data visualization and accessibility.

To end the meeting, Tanner Walling, the assistant to the town manager and communications coordinator in Shrewsbury, facilitated a Q&A between Lundgren, Donohue, and MMC members.

– Kristianna Lapierre



Kim Lundgren, CEO and founder of Kim Lundgren Associates, discusses data visualization during an Oct. 22 virtual meeting hosted by Massachusetts Municipal Communicators.

ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Nov. 7 in Sharon

Local finance committee members are invited to the Association of Town Finance Committees' Annual Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Sharon Community Center.

The opening session will feature a panel discussion with MMA Executive Director Adam Chapdelaine and Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation President Doug Howgate to discuss the current fiscal climate and how it is impacting local budgets, including an increase in Proposition 2½ overrides.

The meeting will continue with four educational workshops, running concurrently during two time slots, on the following topics: budgeting 101; creating efficiencies in the budgeting process; deconstructing the school budget; and financial trend monitoring.



Doug Howgate

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

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.

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

As a reminder, the 2025 edition of the Finance Committee Handbook was published last October and is available at no cost to all ATFC members. Email Kat Christy at kchristy@mma.org to request your digital copy.

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

MMA webinar to cover communications during storm

The MMA will host a webinar on Dec. 9 on municipal communications during a snow emergency.

Provincetown Deputy Town Manager Dan Riviello will share lessons learned from Winter Storm Hernando, which left the town without power for four days in February 2026.

He will explore how clear, timely, and compassionate communication supports emergency operations, connects residents with assistance, and builds community trust.

Drawing on his experience, he will discuss:

- Keeping residents informed as conditions change, including communicating about power outages, shelter availability, and essential services
- Coordinating information across town departments and community partners to provide consistent, actionable updates
- Reaching older adults and residents with medical and other support needs, including those with limited access to digital communications
- Bringing empathy and a human voice to emergency messaging so residents feel informed, supported, and comfortable seeking help
- Applying lessons from a prolonged emergency to strengthen future communications and preparedness



Dan Riviello

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

Vice chair nominations sought for Mass. Municipal Communicators

Massachusetts Municipal Communicators, an affiliate group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its vice chair position.

Any individual with communications responsibilities from a member municipality may complete the nomination form and submit their name for consideration.

The deadline is Friday, Nov. 13.

The MMC's leadership consists of two officers: chair and vice chair. Nominations are currently open for vice chair, a two-year term beginning in January 2027.

Vice chair responsibilities include attendance at MMC webinars, training sessions and meetings, including virtual and in-person events; generating program ideas; participating in outreach and in sessions when needed; and supporting the chair and stepping in when necessary to lead member or committee meetings.

After interviewing applicants, the MMC leadership will appoint the vice chair during Connect 351, the MMA's annual conference, on Friday, Jan. 22.

- Link to MMC vice chair nomination form

MTF to hold Tax Policy Conference on Nov. 6 in Boston

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation is inviting municipal officials to its 2026 Tax Policy Conference on Nov. 6 — "Looking Ahead to 2027: How Federal Changes and Local Pressures Will Affect Tax Policy."

The annual conference brings together tax practitioners, business leaders, public officials, policymakers, and government staff to explore the most significant tax policy developments affecting Massachusetts and its communities.

This year's program will feature senior officials from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, nationally recognized tax policy experts, leading tax attorneys, and state and local government leaders to discuss how national economic trends and policy decisions are affecting Massachusetts.



Jared Nicholson



Matthew Gorzkowicz

Speakers include Lynn Mayor Jared Nicholson and Administration and Finance Secretary Matthew Gorzkowicz.

The conference is an opportunity for local officials to stay informed about emerging tax policy issues, engage with leading experts, and connect with professionals from across the Commonwealth who are helping shape the future of tax policy.

The conference will be held from 8 a.m. to noon at the offices of WilmerHale (60 State St. in Boston) and virtually.

The MTF is offering its member rate ($75) to municipal officials. To receive the discount, registrants can use promo code MTF50.

Registration and the agenda are available online.

WEMO seeks nominations for 2027 Steering Committee

Women Elected Municipal Officials, a group within the MMA's membership, is seeking nominations for its 2027 Steering Committee.

Any woman mayor, select board member, or city or town councillor in Massachusetts may submit their name for consideration by completing the online nomination form by Nov. 13.

The WEMO Steering Committee consists of one mayor, three select board members and two councillors.

Nominations are open for two officer positions — chair and vice chair — and for four director positions.

WEMO officers and directors serve one-year terms, and there is no restriction on which elected position serves in these seats.

WEMO steering committee responsibilities include attendance at WEMO committee meetings and planning content and recommending speakers for WEMO virtual and in-person events.

The WEMO committee meets virtually on a monthly basis. Previous participation in WEMO and MMA events is strongly preferred.

After interviewing all nominees, the WEMO Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of nominations for election during the WEMO Leadership Luncheon on Jan. 22, 2027, in Boston.

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

CPTC offering land-use trainings in coming months

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative has opened registration for its fall/winter workshop series.

For 30 years, the nonprofit collaborative has provided training to citizen and professional planners in Massachusetts, and has worked to empower local land-use officials to make effective and judicious decisions.

The collaborative will offer the following workshops over the next few months:

- Site Plan Review: Nov. 30, 5:30 p.m.



- Use of Design Review: Dec. 1, 5:30 p.m.
- Roles and Responsibilities of Planning and Zoning Boards: Dec. 10, 6 p.m.
- Creating Master Plans: Jan. 6, 5:30 p.m.
- Introduction to Subdivision Control Law/ANR: Jan. 21, 2027, 5:30 p.m.

The workshop fee is $35. Registration, which is required, will close 48 hours before each workshop.

The CPTC website has more information about the webinar series and registration links.

Questions can be emailed to coordinator@masscptc.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!

SIGN UP TODAY



Sign up for our Weekly Review newsletter, sent every Friday morning.

MMA Massachusetts Municipal Association

Visit mma.org/weekly to get on the list today!

MMA-Suffolk kick off municipal finance seminar

By Kate Evarts

The MMA and Suffolk University kicked off the 21st session of the Municipal Finance Management Seminar in October.

The Municipal Finance Management 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.

The MMA and Suffolk University offer three Municipal Finance Management Seminar programs during the 2026-27 academic year — in the fall, winter and spring. More than 500 participants have completed the seminar since its inception in 2019.

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

Finance seminars will be held via Zoom over the course of five Fridays, with upcoming class schedules as follows:

- Winter 2027: Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 12; session is fully enrolled
- Spring 2027: March 5, March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2; registration opens Dec. 9

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 for each session will be hosted on the MMA's event registration website.

Registration is first-come, first-served. Students will be vetted to ensure that they're a municipal employee and that there are no more than three participants per municipality.

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



Vanesha Williams, a financial supervisor for the Barnstable Community Services Department, speaks during an Oct. 16 class of the MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program in Medfield.

Municipal Human Resources

The MMA and Suffolk are also offering three Municipal Human Resources Seminar programs during the 2026-27 academic year — in the fall, winter and spring. The Municipal Human Resources Seminar began its eighth session in September.

The Municipal Human Resources 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 HR 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. More than 175 participants have completed the seminar since its inception in 2024.

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

- Winter 2027: Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 19, Feb. 26; session is fully enrolled
- Spring 2027: April 9, April 16, April 23, April 30, May 7; registration opens Jan. 12

Registration for each session will be hosted on the MMA's event registration website. Registration is first-come, first-served. Students will be vetted to ensure that they're a municipal employee and that there are no more than three participants per municipality.

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

Certificate program

The MMA and Suffolk University kicked off three Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs in September, in Littleton, Medfield and Palmer.

Offered over the course of 25 Fridays during the academic year, the program covers a wide range of municipal management topics.

The next certificate programs will begin in September 2027 in Barnstable, Great Barrington and Lexington. Applications will be available on the program website on Feb. 1, 2027.

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.

Application opens for opioid matching grant program

Applications are being accepted for the Mosaic Municipal Matching Grant Program, which will match municipal opioid settlement funds in cities and towns using best practices to end the overdose crisis, such as conducting community outreach and needs assessments and collaborating with others.

RIZE, the state's partner in this effort, will award $2.25 million in matching grants to municipalities across Massachusetts.

The Round 3 application and details are available online.

Massachusetts communities continue to receive significant resources through national opioid settlements to address the harms of the overdose crisis. Under the Massachusetts State Subdivision Agreement, a portion of these funds is distributed directly to cities and towns for opioid abatement activities, including substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery.

The Mosaic Municipal Matching Grant Program is one tool available to help communities address these challenges. The program provides municipalities with an opportunity to leverage their local opioid settlement funds alongside additional grant resources, technical assistance, and support for partnerships with community-based organizations.

The Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership, funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Addiction Services and powered by the RIZE Massachusetts Foundation, is a public-private collaboration designed to support initiatives in communities that have been historically underserved and have experienced a high rate of opioid-related overdose deaths. ●



The Mosaic Municipal Matching Grant Program helps leverage local opioid settlement funds alongside additional grant resources, technical assistance, and support for partnerships with community-based organizations.

Applications due for drought resiliency, water efficiency grants

Applications are due on Nov. 12 for the third round of the Drought Resiliency and Water Efficiency Grant Program, which provides awards of up to $50,000 for projects that support climate resiliency through reduced water usage and improved water loss control.

Projects eligible for funding include:

- Water loss control program development and implementation
- Water conservation/efficiency program development
- Outdoor water use efficiency improvements
- Drought management planning and plan development

Municipalities, public water suppliers, regional planning agencies, public schools, colleges and universities, and nonprofit organizations are invited to apply for the grants.

Details are available on the Drought Resiliency and Water Efficiency Grant Program website, and the program's COMMBUYS webpage, which has application details.

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs opened the application on Oct. 1.

Questions about the grant program can be sent to Purvi Patel at purvi.patel@mass.gov or Jason Duff at Jason.duff@mass.gov. ●

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Continued from page 2

dialogue ensures that the municipal voice is not merely heard, but remains central to shaping the Commonwealth's policy agenda.

Beyond the workshops, policy discussions, and distinguished guests, the true heartbeat of Connect 351 is its unparalleled networking. Municipal service can often feel isolating; local leaders routinely tackle complex crises within the borders of their own communities, sometimes forgetting that colleagues a few towns over are navigating the exact same hurdles. Connect 351 bridges that gap.

Walking through the Trade Show floor, gathering at evening receptions, or exchanging ideas during affiliate association meetings, you are surrounded by peers who walk in your shoes. Conversations over coffee or hallway check-ins often yield the very breakthrough you need — an innovative solution to an ongoing project, a creative funding mechanism, or simply the reassurance of a trusted friend in local government.

When all 351 cities and towns stand together, our Commonwealth becomes stronger, more resilient, and more equitable. I look forward to welcoming you to Boston this January as we reconnect, learn, and lead the future of Massachusetts together.

Visit mma.org/connect for the latest information and to register.

THE 351
Massachusetts Municipal Association

THE OFFICIAL
MMA podcast
Local policy — untangled and humanized

Catch a new episode
EVERY OTHER TUESDAY

Visit mma.org/the351

Subscribe on
Apple Podcasts or Spotify

Applications sought for Cyber Resilient grants

The MassCyberCenter is providing grants under the Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Grant Program to municipal entities in Massachusetts to fund Security Operations Center services, including Managed Detection and Response and other related services, from CyberTrust Massachusetts.

Limited funding ($500,000) remains available for grants that may fund up to one-third of the cost of the following services provided by CyberTrust Massachusetts, plus an onboarding fee (if applicable):

- Managed Detection and Response (SentinelOne)
- Extended Detection and Response (XDR)
- Application Control and Zero Trust (ThreatLocker)

CyberTrust Massachusetts has recently established partnerships with MS-ISAC and the Massachusetts Educational Technology Administrators Association that apply to municipal entities receiving grants under this program. All CyberTrust MDR customers will receive free MS-ISAC membership and Malicious Domain Blocking and Reporting, plus service (provided by Akamai), at no additional charge. METAA members will receive the best available pricing, the newest MDR offering (including MS-ISAC benefits), and free cyber assessments with onboarding.

An overview of these services and new partnerships was provided at the 2026 Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on May 13.

CyberTrust Massachusetts is a nonprofit organization working closely with the MassCyberCenter and receiving grant funding to manage the operation of its security operations center and support cyber ranges located at colleges and universities across the Commonwealth. Municipalities may contract directly with CyberTrust Massachusetts for MDR and related cybersecurity services without a public procurement process.



Grants are available to help Massachusetts entities fund Security Operations Center services.

Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Grant Program applications will be reviewed and accepted on a rolling basis, and must include a scope of work for SOC services from CyberTrust Massachusetts.

Applicants should contact CyberTrust Massachusetts at muni@cybertrustmass.org to obtain the scope of work. ●

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 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 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 2027.

HOW TO ENTER

- Fill out the summary sheet found on the MMA website, 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.
- 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.

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

DEADLINE

Entries are due by Friday, Nov. 6.

Please send one electronic copy to awards@mma.org. For more information, email awards@mma.org.

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

$1.5 million awarded in infrastructure grants

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Oct. 20 announced nearly $1.5 million in grant awards to advance local infrastructure projects and help Massachusetts communities compete for federal funding.

Grants were awarded to transportation, clean energy and resilience projects in 30 communities, with 18 going to rural communities, four to Gateway Cities, and one to the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah).

The awards were made via the Municipal and Tribal Technical Assistance program, administered by the state's Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office. The MTTA program supports technical assistance activities for projects that are seeking or have received federal funds.

"Today's awards will provide meaningful support to communities that are faced with significant infrastructure needs and strained resources," said Quentin Palfrey, director of Federal Funds and Infrastructure, in a prepared statement. "We created the MTTA program to move forward the projects that communities care about and build their capacity to receive federal support."

The MTTA program was created through legislation filed by Gov. Maura Healey, and enacted in September 2024, to support infrastructure projects in cities and towns across the state. The legislation was part of a broader strategy to increase the state's competitiveness for federal funding and to empower local governments with more resources to advance infrastructure projects.

Grant awards

Ashburnham, Bridgewater, Fall River, Falmouth, Lowell, Marion, Methuen, Middleborough, Millis, North Attleborough, North Dighton Fire District, North Sagamore Water District, Rowley Water Department, Shirley Water District, Southampton, and Walpole each received $50,000 to identify and verify water service line materials in search of lead to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements, which regulates lead and copper in public drinking water systems. Hadley and Westminster each received $45,000 for this purpose, and the Templeton Municipal Light and Water Plant received $23,000.

Granby, Granville, Hampden, Millville, New Braintree, and West Brookfield each received $30,000 to update their municipal Hazard Mitigation Plan, a Federal Emergency Management Agency requirement for communities to be eligible for certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance funding. The city of North Adams received $25,000 for this purpose.

Cheshire received $57,600 to create a new accessible restroom at the Cheshire Community House, where the town offices and assembly space are located, by applying for a federally funded Community Block Development Grant.

Holyoke received $75,000 to apply for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities funding, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, for construction improvements to the municipality's flood control pump stations 5 and 6.



Grants made through the Municipal and Tribal Technical Assistance program will support infrastructure projects around the state, including ones to improve water systems.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council received $100,000 to build capacity to serve as regional coordinator and provide technical assistance to the cities of Gloucester and Revere, and potentially any future communities, with enrollment in the Community Rating Service, a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management practices, and advancing their climate resilience commitment.

The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) received $65,153 for the Tribe to update its Hazard Mitigation Plan and ensure traditional ecological knowledge and tribal community priorities will be incorporated throughout the process.

This is the fourth round of Municipal and Tribal Technical Assistance awards made by the FFIO, which has, in total, awarded $4.36 million in MTTA grants to communities across Massachusetts.

AcceliGOV offers no-cost pilots for Mass. communities

AcceliGOV, run by the Boston-based nonprofit Leading Cities, helps communities test fully vetted, no-cost, low-risk projects so they can evaluate promising solutions without procurement burden or financial exposure.

Every pilot is fully funded, and every solution comes through AcceliCITY, which leverages its network of over 400 international experts to vet and evaluate the solutions.

In partnership with the Clinton Global Initiative, AcceliGOV has committed to deploying 100 solutions in 100 communities by 2030.

AcceliGOV is currently accepting applications for the following opportunities:

- Predictive maintenance for city assets
- AI traffic analytics on existing CCTV
- Climate resilience planning
- Clean energy delivered by freight rail
- Wastewater sludge-to-energy

The posted deadline for these five opportunities is Oct. 31, but, through a partnership between the MMA and Leading Cities, AcceliGOV is able to offer an extended deadline through Nov. 11.

The application is available online. Applying does not establish a binding commitment.

Administration announces $13 million for road safety

At an event in Braintree on Oct. 16, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced $13 million in federal funding for grants that will be used to help make roads safer across Massachusetts by preventing crashes, strengthening traffic enforcement and protecting drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

The funding will support state and local efforts, including high-visibility traffic enforcement — a proven approach that combines strategic and proactive efforts by police addressing specific traffic safety issues combined with public outreach and education, pedestrian and bicyclist safety initiatives, advanced police training, crash investigation tools and education for children, teen drivers and families.

The grants are being awarded through four programs administered by the state's Office of Grants and Research: the Municipal Road Safety Grant Program, the State Agency Traffic Safety Grant Program, the State Traffic Safety Information System Improvements Grant Program, and the Community Traffic Safety Grant Program. The programs are funded through federal grants from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



The Healey-Driscoll administration announced $13 million in federal funding for road safety grants to protect drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

"These investments will give police departments the enforcement tools, training, technology and resources they need to prevent crashes before they happen, address dangerous driving, and ultimately save lives," Gov. Maura Healey said in a prepared statement.

Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll said the funding brings together enforcement, education and prevention.

Public Safety and Security Secretary Gina Kwon said preventing crashes "requires a comprehensive approach that combines effective enforcement with strong training, reliable data and public education." She added that the grant funds "give our state and local partners proven tools to address traffic safety risks."

The Municipal Road Safety Program provides local police departments with funding for traffic enforcement, pedestrian and bicyclist safety enforcement, traffic safety equipment, officer training and public education. ●

After backlash, Amazon withdraws plans for drone deliveries

After receiving strong pushback from the public, local leaders and the MMA, Amazon has dropped its controversial proposal to use autonomous drones to deliver packages within a 7.5-mile range of its fulfillment center in Westborough.

On Oct. 30, Amazon asked Westborough's Planning Board for permission to withdraw its site plan review application for the proposed operation without prejudice.

Amazon had proposed adding commercial drone takeoff and landing capabilities to its existing facility on Otis Street in Westborough. The operation would have created a delivery footprint across 15 neighboring municipalities, raising questions about public safety, zoning, environmental impacts, and quality of life.

The MMA raised concerns about the plans in an Oct. 28 letter to Amazon's New England economic development leadership, calling for a transparent, comprehensive review and meaningful input from all affected municipalities.

MMA Executive Director Adam Chapdelaine emphasized that the proposal had implications well beyond Westborough, while the local officials responsible for protecting their communities had limited opportunities to participate in the process.

The MMA joined municipal leaders from Westborough and surrounding communities in calling for greater transparency and a comprehensive review.

The association also noted that the proposal could set a precedent for other commercial drone delivery operations, as additional companies pursue federal certification and consider converting existing distribution facilities into drone delivery sites.

Although Amazon's withdrawal is an important development, the broader issues remain relevant to municipalities across Massachusetts. The MMA will continue to advocate for municipal involvement and work with local leaders, the Legislature, and state and federal agencies to ensure that cities and towns have a meaningful role in decisions affecting their communities.

In its letter to town officials, Amazon wrote that the company "values its relationship with the Town of Westborough and looks forward to continuing to work with Town officials on next steps."●

DOER to hold training on new clean energy siting permitting portal

On Nov. 10, the Department of Energy Resources will hold a training session on a new permitting portal called Massachusetts Energy Siting Hub, or MESH.

The portal will allow users to file, track, and comment on clean energy projects going through the new state and local consolidated permitting processes that took effect on Oct. 1.

Developers, local officials, state officials, and members of the public will be able to access and use the portal for free.

The Nov. 10 training session, scheduled 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., will focus on showing municipal officials how to use the new portal, set up accounts, review and approve filings, and receive alerts for projects in their communities.

Here's the meeting information:

https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/2355474021091998?p=HKN9gpKEmuG0bST8FC

Meeting ID: 235 547 402 109 199 8
Passcode: ph9gg66r

Questions can be directed to Rick Collins, director of the Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Division, at rick.collins@mass.gov. ●

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Continued from page 1

files more than 12 complaints within a year.

Municipal buildings: The Senate bill would create a commission to study the concept of a Municipal and Public Safety Building Authority. The commission's charge would be to develop a framework to assist cities and towns with the construction, rehabilitation, and long-term management of municipal and public safety facilities.

Smart growth: The Senate bill would update payments for Chapter 40R Smart Growth zoning.

Other provisions: Both the House and Senate bills include provisions that would:

- Standardize site plan review
- Create an opt-in program for communities wishing to convert commercial buildings to housing
- Create regulations for micromobility devices (such as motorized bikes, scooters and skateboards), including a speed tier classification system and standardized definitions
- Allow municipalities to create bylaws allowing for tenants of multifamily buildings to have a right of first refusal when the building is sold

Funding: Grant authorizations in either the House or Senate bill (or both) include:

- $25 million to support the Downtown Vitality Fund
- $25 million for Creative Economy and Cultural Infrastructure grants
- $50 million for grants and technical assistance for municipalities that have opted in to the commercial conversion program
- $20 million for community development financial institutions
- $75 million for the development and application of AI
- See MMA letter to economic development bill conference committee

Environmental bond bill

Environmental bond bills passed by each branch include funding to strengthen infrastructure, invest in farms and local economies, protect water sources and the environment, reform permitting for housing and environmental initiatives, and support the western and central regions of the state.

The Senate passed its $3.94 billion version on April 15, and the House passed its $3.5 billion version on June 17.

Authorizations: The House bill includes $315 million for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, in line with the governor's proposal, while the Senate bill includes $500 million.

The House bill includes $385 million for water pollution abatement work, including the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, while the Senate recommended $450 million. Both bills include $120 million for PFAS remediation projects.

Both the House and Senate included a $93.5 million authorization for inland flood and dam control projects, while the House proposed $50 million more than the Senate did for a coastal infrastructure authorization, bringing it to $250 million.

Extended producer responsibility: The House included an extended producer responsibility framework for statewide mattress recycling, while the Senate tackled paint recycling.

Light pollution: The House bill would require that state and municipal governments purchase lighting fixtures that conform with certain guidelines and certifications to reduce light pollution.

Combined sewers: The House bill would create a new series of planning, testing and reporting requirements for water bodies and waterways impacted by combined sewers.

Non-flushable wipes: The Senate bill includes a labeling requirement for non-flushable wipe products to help consumers avoid improper disposal.

Shade trees: The Senate bill would update the public shade tree law.

Drought management: The Senate bill would allow the state to impose water conservation measures, including but not limited to nonessential outdoor watering restrictions, across drought regions or basins. Currently, the state can only impose such requirements during a Level 4: Emergency Drought. This provision would make municipalities responsible for expanded enforcement and oversight of conservation restrictions.

Prioritization of funding: The Senate bill would require the Executive Office for Administration and Finance to help institute a "preference modifier" for municipalities that have zoning or land use policies that encourage the production of housing (such as as-of-right zoning for multifamily housing, elimination of parking minimums for residential use, elimination of lot size requirements, and wastewater and wetlands standards that do not exceed state health or environmental standards). This would apply to all discretionary or competitive grant programs authorized under the environmental bond bill.

"Priority housing projects": The Senate bill would exempt newly defined "priority housing projects" from local regulations or rules that go above and beyond the minimum state codes for wastewater and wetlands protection.

Right of first refusal: Both the House and Senate bills include a new right of first refusal for the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture and Department of Conservation and Recreation for Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B lands, subsequent to the municipal process.

- See MMA letter to environmental bond bill conference committee

Energy affordability

The Senate passed its version of a sweeping energy affordability bill on July 1, after the House passed its bill in March. The bills take different approaches to addressing energy affordability while continuing to make progress on clean energy efforts statewide.

The House bill would create nearly $1 billion in savings by reducing funding for the Mass Save program, which provides services, rebates, incentives, and training to promote energy efficiency statewide. The Senate bill would realize $1.46 billion in savings by narrowing the scope of the Gas System Enhancement Program, which is designed to repair or replace aged natural gas infrastructure. These proposals would result in lowering related surcharges on consumer bills.

Third-party suppliers: Both bills would give municipalities the option to ban third-party competitive energy suppliers, marketers or brokers from renewing or executing new contracts in their city or town (while not impacting municipal aggregation programs).

Solar generation cap: The Senate bill

■ **COMMITTEE UPDATE** *continued on 31*

CONNECT 351

Continued from page 4

Conference programming will continue all day on Friday, Jan. 22.

The day's opening session will feature keynote speaker Jeff Speck, who will discuss how walkability creates a thriving community for all. The Women Elected Municipal Officials Leadership Luncheon will begin at noon. Workshop blocks will begin at 2 and 3:30 p.m.

Saturday events include MIIA's Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast, member business meetings, and the MMA Annual Business Meeting. The conference will conclude at 12:30 p.m on Saturday with a networking lunch.

Workshops

The 2027 conference will feature 18 workshops over two days, with six workshops on Thursday and 12 on Friday.

Workshops will cover a range of in-demand municipal topics such as municipal and labor law, fiscal outlook, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, procurement, communications, avoiding burnout, and much more.

Complete workshop details will be available on the Connect 351 website by mid-November.

Networking and Affinity Spaces

For the second year, the MMA will host several Affinity Networking Spaces for members. This year's affinity spaces will include gatherings for BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ members, Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts, members of MMA policy committees, young professionals, veterans, and neurodivergent and people with disabilities.

Networking opportunities include meetings and events for the Massachusetts Municipal Communicators, mayoral chiefs of staff, and an MMA-Suffolk programs reception.

Conference accessibility

The MMA also provides a range of services to enhance the experience of attendees at Connect 351, including Closed Captioning/CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation) services, separate quiet space available for sensory regulation as needed, and reserved seating.

Members who need a specific accommodation to participate fully in Connect 351, or who have questions or concerns, can contact Chief Equity Officer Jillian Harvey at jharvey@mma.org. The MMA will do its best to accommodate people's needs.

Trade Show

Exhibitors continue to fill the rows for the annual Trade Show, where more than 275 companies, nonprofits and government agencies will showcase the latest innovations, technology and services for municipalities.

The Trade Show will be open on Thursday, Jan. 21, from 2 to 5:30 p.m., and on Friday, Jan. 22, 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. 23.

More information will be available soon on the series of nine Learning Labs that will return to 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 growing list of exhibitors and sponsors for the event.

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

BUILD FOR MASS

Continued from page 6

An additional $25 million from the Department of Energy Resources, in partnership with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, will support clean energy projects and help lower long-term energy costs.

Build for Mass will operate as a revolving loan fund, with MassDevelopment overseeing loan underwriting, servicing, and compliance. As municipalities repay their loans, those funds will be reinvested into additional projects, allowing the program to support multiple rounds of infrastructure investments over the next 20 years. ●



Managers take communications focus

Dedham Communications Director Amanda Smith, left, speaks about the importance of integrating communications into decision making at the local level during a Massachusetts Municipal Management Association "boot camp" on Oct. 8 at the Foxborough Community Center. Smith and her fellow panelist, Millis Assistant Town Administrator Karen Bouret DeMarzo, discussed the ways in which effective communication strategies help build public trust and produce successful policies.

Reducing ergonomic strain for municipal workers

By Jennifer Ranz

From school cafeteria staff moving items on and off shelves to public works crews hauling materials and town hall employees spending hours at a computer, municipal jobs place a wide range of demands on the body. Over time, repetitive movements, awkward postures, and heavy lifting can add up to discomfort, fatigue and injury.

Ergonomics — the science of fitting work tasks and environments to the people performing them — is a practical way to reduce these risks. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, effective ergonomics can help prevent work-related musculoskeletal disorders, including injuries affecting muscles, tendons, joints, and nerves. For municipal employers, that can mean fewer workers' compensation claims and more comfortable, productive employees.

Recognizing risks on the job

According to MIIA Risk Manager Maureen Montanus, strains, sprains, and other musculoskeletal injuries are among the leading causes of workers' compensation claims for cities and towns, both in frequency and severity,



Municipal employers can take steps to protect the health of employees, whether they're performing physically intense work in the field or sitting at a desk all day.

and can carry significant medical costs. Many of these injuries happen while lifting and moving materials, such as:

- Swinging heavy bags and debris up into dumpsters (public works and facilities)
- Hoisting crates of milk onto high shelves in walk-in coolers (school food services)
- Shoveling snow or carrying 50-pound buckets of salt while bending to scoop and spread it (winter maintenance)

Office work brings a different set of problems. Laura Suwena, the MIIA Wellness ergonomics specialist, said the complaints she hears most often during workstation assessments involve lower-back pain from chairs that don't fit properly and neck and shoulder strain from desks that sit too high. Remote workers using laptops often end up looking down at screens that sit well below eye level.

Small changes at the desk

"People often don't notice that their desk is on the higher side, so they end up reaching and carrying tension in their neck and shoulders," Suwena said. "As soon as they raise their chair so their elbows are at desk height, it takes the pressure off their arms. It's a small shift that makes a big difference."

A properly fitted chair should leave two to three finger widths between the front edge of the seat and the back of the knees, with support from the lower back through the shoulder blades, Suwena said. For employees using laptops, raising the screen closer to eye level and adding a separate keyboard and mouse can reduce neck and shoulder discomfort. Keeping frequently used items, such as phones and staplers, within easy reach cuts down on unnecessary stretching and bending.

■ **MIIA** *continued on 27*

MIIA driving trainer Dave Bastien retires after 21 years

By Joyce McMahon

Before a recent snowplow driver training session in Reading, Dave Bastien, MIIA's driver training instructor, asked department supervisors about their most common incidents. Their answers helped him develop simulator scenarios that addressed the situations employees were encountering on the job.

That practical approach has been a hallmark of Bastien's work with MIIA. Now retiring after 21 years of service to MIIA and its member communities, Bastien has led 1,042 simulator training sessions since 2009 for 14,500 participants and 158 Emergency Vehicle Operator Course trainings for more than 2,779 participants.



Dave Bastien

For municipal employees, the consequences of a mistake while driving can extend well beyond a damaged vehicle. A collision can injure an employee or resident, take equipment out of service, and disrupt operations. MIIA's driver training gives employees an opportunity to improve their skills before they face a difficult situation on the road.

The EVOC program combines classroom instruction with driving exercises for police officers using their own cruisers. Participants practice backing up, braking and vehicle control, with instruction on emergency response, vehicle maintenance and managing risks at a scene.

■ **DAVE BASTIEN** *continued on 27*

Around the Commonwealth

Northampton

FACT Force addresses city budget challenges

As Northampton faces tough budget choices in the coming years, a community task force is working this fall to bring more residents into the decision-making process and give them a voice in setting the city's financial priorities.

Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra recently established the Northampton Fiscal Assessment Community Task Force, or FACT Force, to help the city better align its financial capacity with its spending priorities. The 13-member task force, which has been meeting several times a month and has held three public feedback sessions, is expected to deliver fiscal recommendations later this fall.

With Northampton facing a nearly $3.4 million budget gap and an expected override vote next March, Sciarra said she wants to have an honest financial conversation with residents so that they can make informed decisions when it comes time to vote.

"We have a pretty clear understanding of what we believe needs to happen," Sciarra said. "But let's have a community conversation that involves bringing in people from the community."

In the current fiscal year, Northampton is working with a general fund budget of $136 million, and another $16.3 million in enterprise fund budgets.

To the extent that budgets represent a community's values, Northampton has key services that it wants to protect. School spending has increased by 40% over the past five budget years, officials said. In addition, the city has seen a large increase in 911 calls, particularly involving fire rescue, so the city has added fire rescue personnel to maintain good response times, Sciarra said.

But Sciarra said she is also focused on affordability.

"I know there's a lot of discussion about all the things that we want," Sciarra said, "but it's really important to remember that here in Northampton, like all across the Commonwealth, property values have increased so much, and that has impacted people's tax bills. So you know, affordability is a huge concern."

Relying on fiscal stability plans for more than a decade, Northampton has done what it can to stretch out the periods between Proposition 2½ overrides, Sciarra said. The most recent override, for $2.5 million, passed in 2020, and Northampton has been pulling funds out of its stabilization fund for the past few years to delay the next override request. But time, and the stabilization funds, are running out, she said.

Sciarra said she got the idea of forming a task force from South Hadley Town Administrator Lisa Wong, who had undertaken a similar effort in her town.

Like most communities, Northampton faces multiple cost drivers that are straining its budget, including employee health insurance, special education, energy, and school transportation. Those expenses, plus cost strains caused by tariffs and inflation, are forcing budget increases that outpace the revenue-raising limits created by Proposition 2½.

"I feel like this is a process that many of us are going through, and it's really challenging to have these conversations in your community," Sciarra said. "So I guess I feel a sense of solidarity with all the other communities that have had override votes or are looking at override votes."

The FACT force, formed over the summer, consists of City Council President Rachel Maiore, City Councillor Garrick Perry, school officials and students, and seven community members.

The task force has been examining various aspects of the city's financial picture, including revenues, expenditures, reserves, levels of service, and economic trends and constraints affecting the city's bottom line and residents' ability to fund services.

"I'm really impressed with the group and the level of engagement," said Finance Director Charlene Nardi. "There are always questions. There are people bringing ideas to the task force for discussion purposes, and not everybody is, you know, coming from the same place. So the ability of this group to have dialogue in a way that they can exchange the ideas, talk about the ideas, and maintain a level of trust and respect within the group is amazing."



Robert Boulrice, chair of the Northampton Fiscal Assessment Community Task Force, speaks during a public forum on Oct. 27.

The task force is expected to finalize its nonbinding recommendations and create a presentation this month. Findings will be presented to the mayor and City Council by early December. The mayor would then bring an order to put an override on the ballot to the council for its consideration and vote.

The mayor said she plans to hold a series of public hearings in the runup to the anticipated override, and she hopes that some task force members will participate in those discussions.

— Jennifer Kavanaugh

Concord

Town launches Black heritage trail

The town of Concord held an event last month dedicating a new Black Heritage Trail that highlights the history and contributions of Black Concordians.

Ten interpretive signs, designed in a style that complements existing historical signage in the town, are installed at key locations selected for their historical significance, documentation and accessibility. Sites include the house where Harriet Tubman stayed during her visit to Concord in 1859, three enclaves where Black families built communities, and the Universalist Meeting House where Frederick Douglass spoke in 1841.

The project seeks to accomplish a number of goals, including broadening education and understanding of the town's history for both residents and visitors, increasing

■ **COMMONWEALTH** *continued on 25*

Around the Commonwealth

COMMONWEALTH

Continued from page 24

awareness of sites related to Black heritage, and supporting the town's goal of building a more welcoming community.

"Part of the work we've been doing in town over the last few years, both at the municipal level and at some of the nonprofits, was to try to bring a more full story to Concord," said Joe Palumbo, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission member and Robbins House co-chair. "Concord has a rich history that is well known, but the deeper layers of the history to make everyone feel welcome and included in the town have not been part of that narrative."

The project had a budget of $28,000, funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism Destination Capital program and matching town American Rescue Plan Act funds.

The project was spearheaded by the town's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and the Economic Vitality Division, as well as the Robbins House, a historic site that commemorates the legacy of a previously enslaved Revolutionary War veteran, and the Concord Visitor Center. An advisory team of 18 community members was formed to help guide the project.

"We had some of these public meetings, like the Historic District Commission, usually a pretty chill kind of meeting," Palumbo said. "We had like 50, 60 people showing up online for these things in the dead of summer, because people wanted good things to happen."

Economic Vitality Manager Mimi Graney said that even if the signs had not been approved, the town would have accomplished its goal of increasing awareness of the town's Black heritage just through the well-attended meetings.

"The other goal was bringing Black history and Black presence into the public realm and the physical landscape," Graney said. "People who are visiting Concord might look around and think there's not a lot of people that look like me.

"The abolitionist story is [often] told from the white abolitionist who owns the house, rather than the people of courage that came from the South. … We really wanted to center those stories and put them into the landscape."

Because the signs are meant to be educational and not monuments, they were relatively inexpensive to produce, Graney said. But erecting them entailed navigating the complexity of placing signs on public and private property, in some cases in different historic districts, in a town that sees significant historic tourism. She said Minuteman National Park sees about 1 million visitors annually, but that traffic does not always translate to Concord Center. A majority of the signs, however, are walkable within town and will bring traffic to the business district.

Graney and Palumbo said the partnership between town staff and volunteers was key to the success of the project, as was having support from Rep. Carmine Gentile, as well as having other communities to look to who have done similar work.

"We learned that you have to be willing to have honest conversations and do them in a way that's respectful when you can, but be willing to hear voices that you may not have heard before," Palumbo said. "The majority of the advisory team were members of the Black community that live here, work here, or go to school here. And there was power in what they said."



Concord School Committee Member Dr. Michael Williams, left, and Robbins House Board Co-Chair Nikki Turpin, members of the Black Heritage Trail Advisory Team, stand with the Frederick Douglass sign featured on the trail. (Photo courtesy town of Concord)

"If any community is trying to get a more inclusive voice in town," Palumbo said, "make sure the agency of the people who are behind it are in the conversation, and be ready when they speak up, and [if] people don't know how to hear them, or don't know how to respond to them, that you have people trying to coach people through that."

The walking tour can be self-guided using printed maps located at the town's visitors center or online, with a handful of scheduled tours available this month.

– Meredith Gabrilska

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.



Managers managing managers

During a Massachusetts Municipal Management Association "boot camp" on Oct. 8 at the Foxborough Community Center, Mendon Town Manager Jeremy Stoll discusses the challenges new town managers and administrators face in managing department heads and municipal leaders. The discussion covered strategies for shifting from hands-on operational supervision to high-level strategic management, delegating effectively, supporting departmental leaders, and building a cohesive municipal management team.

People



Paul McClatchy III

For the second year in a row, Ashfield Town Administrator **Paul McClatchy III** was the first person to register for Connect 351 when registration opened on Oct. 1.

McLatchy registered promptly at 8 a.m. His secret is rooted in his morning routine, as he said he typically gets into the office between 7 and 8 a.m. to get some work done before Town Hall opens and the demands of the day take over.

"I set a reminder in my phone to sign up," McLatchy said, "and find it easiest just to get it done first thing before I get pulled in a half-dozen directions." [Editor's note: The MMA endorses this strategy.]

Now more than five years in his role in Ashfield, McLatchy has attended five MMA annual conferences so far. This past January, he enjoyed going to the affinity group gatherings, such as the LGBTQIA+ and Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts sessions, where officials with something in common get time to chat and get to know one another.

"It's not just making new friends, but these are people that I feel I can now reach out to whenever I run into an issue in my work that I think they might be able to answer," McLatchy said. "Plus, Connect 351 is a great opportunity to just get out of the office and away from Western Mass. for a few days to see the great things Boston has to offer."

Connect 351 gives people almost three days to spend with fellow local leaders, he said, the people who work hard "to improve their communities and serve their constituents, and who understand the chaos and complexity of municipal government."

"There is something special in being surrounded by over 1,000 people who work in the same field as you," McLatchy said. "In my personal life, no one really wants to hear about municipal budget troubles, or staffing shortages, or this really cool solar project we've got coming up. But at Connect 351 you find hundreds of people with the exact same passions and interests from all walks of life and backgrounds."



Matthew Fortier

Matthew Fortier recently became the first town manager in Orange.

Fortier had been serving as the town administrator since August 2023, but a new town charter that went into effect on July 1 created the town manager role.

Previously, Fortier had served for three years as the town's public health agent, and was an environmental health consultant and a general manager for Dunkin'. He has a bachelor's degree in environmental science from UMass Amherst, and a master's degree in business administration from Fitchburg State University.

On Oct. 26, **Alan Feltham** was sworn in as the new Precinct 13 town councillor in Barnstable. Feltham won an Oct. 13 special election to fill the seat left vacant by the death of **Felicia Penn** on June 15.



Mary Blank

After two decades of making sure that the organization's bills got paid and the books were balanced, MMA Senior Accountant **Mary Blank** retired on Oct. 30.

Blank joined the MMA in April 2006, after working as the senior accountant at Employment Resources Inc. and the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston. In recent weeks, she has been working with **Robert DiVito**, the MMA's new finance and accounting manager, to ensure a smooth financial transition for the organization. DiVito started on Sept. 14.

Looking forward to a retirement filled with more family time and travel, Blank said she will miss working with the MMA staff, and added that the "best part about working at MMA was the people I interacted with."



Nancy Stevens

Nancy Stevens, who became Marlborough's first woman mayor in 2006, died on Oct. 21 at age 65.

Stevens served three two-years terms as mayor, until 2012. She previously served for two years on the City Council after serving for four years on the School Committee. After leaving office, she worked for the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, where she was a director in the Consumer Division.

Patricia St. Pierre, chair of the North Attleborough Licensing Board and a former town councillor, died on Oct. 17 at age 65, according to The Sun Chronicle newspaper. Pierre served on the Town Council from 2023 to 2025, was a member of the Finance Committee, and served on the Governor's Council for Head Start, according to the newspaper.



Barry Clairmont

Barry Clairmont, a former Pittsfield city councillor and husband to former Pittsfield Mayor **Linda Tyer Clairmont**, died on Sept. 27 at age 63.

A Pittsfield native and certified public accountant, Clairmont served as a city councillor from 2012 to 2016. He served for eight years as campaign treasurer and data analyst for Tyer Clairmont, who was mayor from 2016 to 2024. The pair married in 2018.

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

MIIA

Continued from page 23

Still, a good setup only goes so far.

"A standing desk is great, but if you're locked in place most of the day, you still need to move," Suwena said. "In a perfect world, step away every 30 minutes. Even standing up, marching in place, rolling your shoulders, or shaking out your hands and arms helps keep your circulation going."

Let equipment do the heavy lifting

For physically demanding jobs, MIIA's risk management team starts by asking whether equipment can do the lifting instead. The weight of an object alone doesn't determine whether it's safe to lift, Montanus said.

Through MIIA's Risk Management Grant program, most member water and sewer departments now have magnetic manhole-cover lifters mounted on their trucks, which helps reduce the risk of back injuries and crushed hands or fingers, Montanus said. Other mechanical solutions include dumpsters with built-in lifts or drop-down walls, spring-loaded pallets that rise as they are unloaded, and automated stair-climbing dollies.

When lifting can't be avoided, Montanus recommends keeping loads in the "power zone" between mid-thigh and mid-chest, holding them close to the body, and avoiding lifting overhead.

She also encourages supervisors to walk through recurring tasks step by step to identify the hazards at each stage. For example, with snow blowing, that means pushing the machine rather than pulling it, and wearing proper footwear. For jobs that require awkward or static postures, like a mechanic working on his back with his arms overhead, she recommends regular breaks to stand, stretch, and return to a neutral position.

Supporting health and safety

MIIA offers in-person ergonomic assessments through both its Wellness and Risk Management teams, and MIIA specialists can also train designated staff members to conduct assessments in-house as new employees are hired or concerns arise.

Risk Management Grant funds are available for lifting and material-handling equipment.

For Health Benefits Trust members, MIIA's wellness resources include virtual physical therapy through a partnership with Hinge Health to help support employees experiencing musculoskeletal discomfort.

To see what workplace injuries can cost, OSHA's Safety Pays estimator provides average costs by injury type. Many ergonomic fixes cost far less than a single injury claim. ●

DAVE BASTIEN

Continued from page 23

MIIA's driving simulator also serves emergency vehicle operators and public works drivers. Classroom instruction is followed by individual practice in realistic scenarios, allowing employees to experience challenging conditions in a safe environment.

In Reading, Bastien tailored the snowplow training to low visibility and recognizing hazards before an accident occurs. He also explained how recurring behaviors, including distraction and backing up errors, can contribute to incidents.

"Dave's experience, practical knowledge, and ability to connect with our employees and find common ground make him an exceptional trainer," wrote Erik Mysliwy, Reading's water quality and public works safety administrator.

Feedback from Bedford echoed that appreciation. Following snowplow simulator training, Public Works Director David Manugian said, employees valued hearing perspectives from outside their organization and came away with useful examples and techniques.

"Dave understands the challenges municipal employees face behind the wheel, and he knows how to make the training useful to the people in the room," said Stan Corcoran, executive vice president of MIIA. "We're grateful for the care he has brought to this work and wish him a very happy retirement."

Beginning on Jan. 4, State Police Lt. Detective Phillip Wilgus will be MIIA's new EVOC and driver simulator trainer.

For more information on EVOC and other driver training courses, visit www.emiia.org/my-miia/92/view-service-program. ●



Mass. managers head west

Michael Dutton, left, county administrator for Barnstable County, and Sandwich Assistant Town Manager Heather Harper catch up during the opening reception at the International City/County Management Association's annual conference, held in Long Beach, California, from Oct. 17 to 21. The conference, which set a record with more than 5,600 registrants from 1,140 communities, featured a talk by Pulitzer Prize-winning author and presidential historian Jon Meacham and a 2.5 mile "Run with the Long Beach Manager" to highlight local attractions and acquaint visitors to the area.

Classified Advertisements

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Town Accountant

Town of Essex

The town of Essex is seeking a Town Accountant, anticipated start date early in calendar year 2027. Must have at least three years' experience in municipal accounting (six years preferred) and experience with VADAR Systems accounting software is preferred. Associate degree in accounting or related field required; bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, or related field preferred. Position requires preparation and approval of weekly payroll and bills payable warrants; knowledge of UMAS and GAAP regulations; maintenance and reconciliation of general ledger; management and development of municipal budgets in concert with others; performance of a number of complex cyclical certifications and procedures requiring interaction with the Massachusetts DOR, Board of Assessors, Treasurer/Collector, Finance Committee, various town departments, and the town's outside auditor. Town Accountant is required to attend Finance Committee meetings, Town Meetings, and certain meetings of the Board of Selectmen. Detailed job description available from the Town Administrator in Town Hall or at bzubricki@essexma.org. Salary will be negotiated commensurate with experience and education and an employment contract may be offered. Cover letter and resume to Essex Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 30 Martin St., Essex, MA 01929 or bzubricki@essexma.org. This vacancy announcement will remain open until the position is filled.

Laboratory Technician II

Greater Lawrence Sanitary District

The Greater Lawrence Sanitary District (GLSD), a 52-MGD municipal wastewater treatment facility in North Andover, Massachusetts, that serves several Merrimack Valley communities, is looking to fill two full-time positions. If you are interested in a long-term career that benefits the local and regional environment, consider a position with us. We provide employees with competitive wages, sick, personal and vacation time, as well as life, dental and health insurance. Additionally, we participate in a defined benefits pension plan. GLSD is seeking to fill Laboratory Technician II position. Hourly wage: $29.37 to $37.37. Candidates shall possess a minimum of an associate degree or equivalent in biology, chemistry, environmental science, or a related field. Bachelor's degree is preferred. Understanding of wastewater monitoring, testing procedures, sampling, safety procedures, and handling and preservation of samples required. Direct experience with environmental sampling including wastewater preferred. All applicants must be able to pass a background check and a physical. Please submit a resume to Ann Rader, GLSD, 240 Charles St., North Andover, MA 01845 or arader@glsd.org. Application deadline is Nov. 13 or until the position is filled. EOE

Monitoring Manager

Greater Lawrence Sanitary District

The Greater Lawrence Sanitary District (GLSD), a 52-MGD municipal wastewater treatment facility in North Andover, Mass. that serves several Merrimack Valley communities, is looking to fill two full-time positions. If you are interested in a long-term career that benefits the local and regional environment, consider a position with us. We provide employees with competitive wages, sick, personal and vacation time, as well as life, dental and health insurance. Additionally, we participate in a defined benefits pension plan. GLSD is seeking to fill the Monitoring Manager position. Candidate would serve as the Laboratory Director/Supervisor for the Monitoring Department. The chosen candidate will direct the daily operations of the monitoring department, including the state certified laboratory and industrial pretreatment program. A minimum of a bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry, environmental science, or closely related field with at least 30 college credits of chemistry required. Salary is commensurate with experience, skill, and licensure. All applicants must be able to pass a background check and a physical. Please submit a resume to Ann Rader, GLSD, 240 Charles St., North Andover, MA 01845 or arader@glsd.org. Application deadline is Nov. 13 or until the position is filled. EOE

Affordable Housing Preservation Staff Attorney

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

MLRI seeks an experienced attorney with a background in affordable housing preservation. Applications reviewed on a rolling basis. Responsibilities: Provide support to residents, legal aid and community groups to preserve privately owned affordable housing, including naturally occurring affordable housing, and manufactured housing. Activities include preserving the affordability of individual developments, outreach to and support for residents; property research; developing legal and other strategies; negotiating with owners; outreach to allies, and professionals to support preservation, and policy advocacy on affordable housing preservation. With the Housing Practice Group facilitate statewide housing coalitions, and take on specific advocacy, support, and other projects as they arise. About MLRI: Founded in 1968, MLRI is a nationally recognized nonprofit anti-poverty law and policy center that provides statewide advocacy and leadership in advancing laws, policies, and practices that secure economic, racial, and social justice for low-income people and communities. Full job description: mlri.org/careers, see "Affordable Housing Preservation Attorney." To Apply: Email the following required materials: cover letter outlining interest and qualifications; resume; and one to two legal writing samples to humanresources@mlri.org. All required materials must be submitted to be considered. No phone calls please.

Human Resources Director

Town of Scituate

The town of Scituate seeks enthusiastic and qualified candidates for the position of Human Resources Director. Responsible for the development and oversight of personnel practices and policies for the town, including employee recruitment, policy development and collective bargaining. Provides guidance and support to managers in handling employee performance. Conducts investigations as necessary. Coordinates and manages family and medical leave, workplace accommodations, workers compensation and unemployment assistance for town employees. Bachelor's degree with at least six years of progressively responsible experience in human resources administration. Public personnel administration preferred; prior experience in collective bargaining required. Salary range is Grade NU-S 7: $113,110 to $134,452 annually DOE. Full job description may be found on the town of Scituate's employment page. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to HR@scituatema.gov or via mail to Human Resources, 600 Chief Justice Cushing Highway, Scituate, MA 02066. AA/EEO/ADA.

■ **CLASSIFIEDS** *continued on 29*

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.

December Beacon
Deadline: November 25
Publication: December 3

Placing an ad

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

For more information, call Meredith Gabrilska at the MMA at 617-426-7272, ext. 110, or email job_ads@mma.org.

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

Continued from page 28

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.

Independent Municipal and Public Safety Investigations

Protect your municipality from liabilities and local conflicts of interest with completely independent, third-party administrative reviews. Fortress Security Consulting & Investigations LLC provides objective, comprehensive fact-finding for cities, towns and government agencies across Massachusetts. Our firm leverages more than 65 years of combined Massachusetts public safety and executive town management experience. We are led by a distinguished command team: Chief (Ret.) Frank B. Alvilhiera Jr. (founder and managing director) and Chief (Ret.) Joseph Perkins (senior municipal consultant, former interim town manager). We specialize in sensitive municipal casework, including internal affairs and public safety backgrounds, POST Commission compliance and backlog mitigation, command climate assessments and collective bargaining support, and vulnerability audits and liability mitigation. Our elite investigative team ensures absolute discretion, institutional authority, and unassailable reports to restore institutional trust. Contact our leadership team today to schedule a confidential consultation. Phone: 888-529-1117; email: frank@fortressgroupncma.com; and website: fortressgroupncma.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 over 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.

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.

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 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.

Public Management Consultants

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

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.

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.

Human Resources Consulting

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

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.

■ **CLASSIFIEDS** *continued on 30*

Classified Advertisements

CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from page 29

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.

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.

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.

Town Counsel Services

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

CAREERS AT MMA/MIIA

Health Benefits Trust Attorney

MMA/MIIA

The Massachusetts Municipal Association and the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association are seeking a MIIA Health Benefits Trust Attorney to join the MIIA Health Benefits Trust Team. This is an excellent opportunity for someone who has experience in health benefits administration, labor negotiations, and municipal employment law. About MMA: The nonpartisan Massachusetts Municipal 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, MMA works to advance the interests of all cities and towns. About MIIA: The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association provides property, liability, workers compensation, and group health insurance to cities and towns in Massachusetts. MIIA is a nonprofit organization and a membership service of Massachusetts Municipal Association. About the position: You will serve as a subject matter counsel on public sector labor relations, employee health benefits administration under MGL Chapter 32B, labor negotiations and municipal employment law. This role provides strategic counsel to the Health Benefits Trust Director, the MIIA Executive Vice President, and the MMA Executive Director as well as key vendors, and MIIA key departments. This position specializes in public sector labor relations, municipal health insurance reform, public procurement compliance, employment law, and municipal tort liability under Massachusetts General Laws. Key Responsibilities: Municipal Health Insurance & Benefits (MGL c. 32B): Advise MIIA leadership on municipal health purchasing under MGL c. 32B, including plan design, premium contribution ratios, and benefit structures. Advise MIIA leadership on health insurance reform procedures pursuant to MGL c. 32B, §§ 21–23, guiding the team through plan modifications, co-pay adjustments. Familiarity with Public Employee Committee (PEC); PEC agreements, mitigation plans, and trust documents for self-insured plans or joint purchase groups. Advise MIIA leadership on post-employment benefits (OPEB), retiree health coverage mandates under Chapter 32B, and compliance with federal ACA, COBRA, and ERISA rules where applicable to governmental plans. Labor Relations & Union Collective Bargaining (MGL c. 150E): Provide MIIA with insights and suggestions for understanding member collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) across municipal units (e.g., Police, Fire, DPW, Public Library, Clerical). Employment Law: Advise MIIA on member personnel practices and be a knowledge resource on state and federal employment compliance, including the Massachusetts Wage Act (MGL c. 149, §§ 148/150), Massachusetts Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML), FMLA, and Civil Service laws (MGL c. 31). Provide recommendations involving Members with claims before Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) and EEOC, including defense of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation claims. Be a resource on fitness-for-duty evaluations, line-of-duty injury claims (MGL c. 41, § 111F), and reasonable accommodation requests under the ADA and state disability laws. Procurement & Municipal Tort Risk Management: Be expert in MGL c. 30B (Uniform Procurement Act) and advise MIIA leadership on how to comply with those requirements when responding to RFP's and developing new programs. Work with MIIA and provide recommendations on municipal liability exposure under the Massachusetts Tort Claims Act (MGL c. 258) regarding employment-related torts or personnel claims. Advise MIIA on municipal Open Meeting Law (MGL c. 30A) and Public Records Law (MGL c.66) requirements as applied to personnel records, health data, and executive session labor discussions. Qualifications: Education & Licensure: Juris Doctor (J.D.) from an accredited law school. Active license in good standing to practice law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Experience: Minimum of three to five years of primary experience in Massachusetts public sector labor law, municipal employment law, or municipal legal representation. Technical Knowledge: Deep working knowledge of MGL c. 150E, MGL c. 32B, MGL c. 30B, and MGL c. 258. MCPPO (Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official) designation is a plus. Legal Qualifications: Labor & Union Relations: MGL c. 150E, DLR proceedings, grievance arbitration, interest arbitration, collective bargaining execution; Health Purchasing & Benefits: MGL c. 32B (Municipal Health Reform), PEC coalition negotiations, GIC transfers; Procurement & Contracting: MGL c. 30B (Uniform Procurement Act), sound business practices, RFP/IFB development; Liability & Risk Management: MGL c. 258 (Tort Claims Act), presentment review, statutory immunities, municipal defense; Workplace Compliance: MGL c. 149 (Wage & Hour), MGL c. 151B (MCAD), MGL c. 31 (Civil Service), FMLA, ADA. Work environment: Our offices are located in Boston's Government Center neighborhood. The position offers a salary range of $168,300 to $249,900, terrific benefits, and a great collaborative work culture. Our office utilizes 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.

MIIA Fellow – College Internship

MMA/MIIA

The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association and the Massachusetts Municipal Association are seeking a MIIA Fellow to join our team for a 12-week paid internship. This is an excellent opportunity for a college student

■ **CLASSIFIEDS** *continued on 31*

Classified Advertisements

CLASSIFIEDS

Continued from page 30

who wants hands-on experience solving real problems for Massachusetts cities and towns. About MIIA: The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association is a membership service of the Massachusetts Municipal Association. As a mission-driven, member-led nonprofit, MIIA focuses on providing Massachusetts municipalities and other governmental entities with insurance-coverage alternatives, quality risk management, and wellness programs. About the MMA: The nonpartisan Massachusetts Municipal Association is the recognized voice of local government across the state, advancing cities and towns as centers of excellence in our economy and society. The MMA provides high-impact services to its member cities and towns statewide, including advocacy, policy research and analysis, multi-faceted education and training, multi-platform publications and nationally recognized municipal service programs. As a membership organization, the MMA works to advance the interests of all cities and towns, uniting local leaders to promote local government policies and programs that build strong communities. About the position: Under the direction of the Member Communication Supervisor, the MIIA fellow contributes to departmental work supporting MIIA's members and operations. Fellows are matched to a placement prior to their start date and are assigned either a strategic project, owned from scoping through a final presentation to MIIA leadership, or a support-focused placement centered on a department's ongoing operational work. The MIIA Fellow meets weekly with the Member Communication Supervisor, who oversees supervision and priorities, and with an assigned Department Mentor, who provides subject-matter guidance on project work. Key Responsibilities: Contribute to assigned departmental work, which may include a strategic project owned from inception, scoping and through final presentation, conduct research and analysis and develop practical, actionable recommendations, produce professional deliverables such as written summaries, toolkits, process documentation, dashboards, or member-facing resources, support department operations through reporting, documentation, communications and data work, support recurring organizational needs including Salesforce and Recordsforce record updates, Legisway document management, and general administrative support, meet weekly with Program Manager and with your Department Mentor, attend and participate in the weekly MIIA professional skills academy, where a capstone is part of the placement, deliver a final presentation to MIIA staff and leadership. Additional Responsibilities: Participate in shadowing and introductions across MIIA departments, assist with general office needs including mail, meeting preparation, and front desk support as needed, participate in a mid-point review, end-of-term evaluation, and exit interview. What you'll gain: Real, finished work you can show a future employer, experience presenting to senior leadership at a statewide organization, a working understanding of how Massachusetts municipalities actually operate, hands-on exposure to professional tools including Salesforce and Microsoft 365, a professional network across an organization that serves cities and towns statewide. Qualifications: The candidate must be currently enrolled in a college, university, or certificate program. Strong written and verbal communication skills are required, along with the ability to work independently, manage a timeline, and meet deadlines. Comfort with Microsoft Office, particularly Excel, Word, and PowerPoint, is expected. We are looking for someone who is curious about how municipal government works and genuinely interested in public service, and who can commit to the full 12-week term. Coursework in public policy, political science, risk management, business, finance, communications, marketing, data science, cybersecurity, environmental science, public health, or a related field is a plus but is not required. Work environment: Our office is located in Boston's Government Center neighborhood. This is a paid, 12-week internship at 20 hours per week, offered in the fall, spring, or summer term, with a hybrid schedule of two days per week in the office. Compensation is $18 to $20 per hour based on academic level and relevant experience. If you are ready to spend a semester doing work that supports Massachusetts cities and towns, this position may be for you.

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.

COMMITTEE UPDATE

Continued from page 21

would strike a section of state law that caps the amount of solar generation — currently set at 10 megawatts — for which a city or town may obtain net metering credits. Rather than removing the cap, the House's bill would raise it to 20 megawatts.

Accelerated solar permitting: Both the Senate and House bills would require municipalities to use an online platform created by the state and designed to streamline and accelerate the permitting process for small, residential solar arrays. If a municipality does not use the state's platform, an equivalent would have to provide baseline efficiencies (including online submission for permit documents and forms and electronic approvals). The Senate bill would require the state platform to be provided at no cost to cities and towns, and includes more explicit responsibilities for the Department of Energy Resources to facilitate the use of the platform.

Clean energy siting and permitting technical support: The Senate bill would allow cities and towns to use Section 53G consultants for the new local clean energy siting and permitting process, which took effect statewide on Oct. 1.

- See MMA letter to energy affordability bill conference committee ●

BEACON RETIREMENT

Continued from page 1

works best for our audience, and so change is part of the equation. We remain committed to our mission of providing the best and most timely information we can to help our members in the work that they do, and to promoting the value of the MMA."

In the coming weeks and months, the Communications Team will be:

- Reinvesting in the popular Weekly Review newsletter (and adding current Beacon recipients to the list)
- Continuing upgrades to the mma.org website, including the search function, Data Hub and overall design
- Providing a monthly email with a list of headline links, to allow for easy sharing within city and town halls
- Creating a library of one-page explainer pieces about fundamental aspects of municipal operations, to help with member and public education

One year ago, the MMA added a podcast (The 351) to its communications portfolio. And media relations has become increasingly important, so that the word gets out about the work our members are doing and the real challenges they face.

"Everything that we've been doing in The Beacon will have a place in the future iterations of our work," Ouellette said. "We're getting those details pinned down now. As always, our members will be centered in the work that we do."

The MMA will publish a Beacon retrospective in the final, December issue. ●

Calendar

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

NOVEMBER

4 **MMA Extra Credit webinar**, navigating difficult conversations, 1-2:30 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre

5 **Women Leading Government**, meeting, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Lake Pearl, Wrentham. Contact: MMA Member Program Manager Denise Baker

7 **Association of Town Finance Committees**, annual meeting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sharon Community Center, Sharon. Contact: MMA Member Program Manager Denise Baker

10 **Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association**, hybrid board meeting, 8:45-9:45 a.m., MMA office, Boston. Contact: MMA Member Program Manager Denise Baker

10 **MMA Board of Directors**, hybrid meeting, 10-11:45 a.m., MMA office, Boston. Contact: MMA Chief of Staff Elanienne Coste

10 **Local Government Advisory Commission**, hybrid meeting, 1-2 p.m., State House, Boston. Contact: MMA Chief of Staff Elanienne Coste

12 **MMA webinar**, data center guidelines, 12-1:15 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre

18 **MMA Extra Credit webinar**, preventing burnout, 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre

19-20 **Massachusetts Municipal Management Association**, fall conference, Hotel Northampton, Northampton. Contact: MMA Member Program Manager Denise Baker

DECEMBER

3 **Massachusetts Mayors' Association**, holiday dinner, 5 p.m. Contact: MMA Membership Associate Katherine Christy

9 **MMA webinar**, snow emergency preparedness, 12-1:15 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre

10 **Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources**, joint holiday meeting, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Publick House, Sturbridge. Contact: MMA Member Program Manager Denise Baker and MMA Member Program Coordinator Martin Davis

15 **MMA webinar**, down payment assistance guidebook, 12-1:15 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre

JANUARY

21-23 **Connect 351**, MMA's annual conference, Menino Convention and Exhibition Center and Omni Boston Hotel, Boston. Visit connect351.org or contact MMA Assistant Director of Events Timmery Kuck.

FEBRUARY

9 **Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association**, board meeting, 8:45-9:45 a.m., location TBD. Contact: MMA Member Program Manager Denise Baker

9 **MMA Board of Directors**, board meeting, 10-11:45 a.m., location TBD. Contact: MMA Chief of Staff Elanienne Coste

9 **Local Government Advisory Commission**, meeting, 1-2 p.m., location TBD. Contact: MMA Chief of Staff Elanienne Coste

25 **Massachusetts Municipal Management Association**, mini boot camp, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Shrewsbury Public Library. Contact: MMA Member Program Manager Denise Baker

MARCH

4 **Women Leading Government**, conference, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., College of the Holy Cross, Worcester. Contact: MMA Member Program Manager Denise Baker

11 **Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources**, boot camp, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Publick House, Sturbridge. Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Martin Davis

18 **Massachusetts Municipal Management Association**, meeting, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Grand View Farm, Burlington. Contact: MMA Member Program Manager Denise Baker

24 **Massachusetts Mayors' Association**, meeting, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact: MMA Membership Associate Katherine Christy

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

Katherine Christy can be reached at kchristy@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

For more information, visit www.mma.org.

CONNECT 351
Join your colleagues for the MMA's Annual Conference!
Full details & registration:
mma.org/connect-351