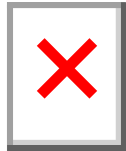


From: Mass Municipal Association <wbtm@mma.org>
Sent: Mar 28, 2025 13:16:13.000000000 UTC
Subject: MMA Weekly Review
To: pdellorusso@cityofmelrose.org <pdellorusso@cityofmelrose.org>

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MMA Weekly Review

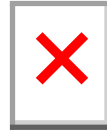
Happy Friday! The MMA has joined Bluesky! Follow us there: [@mma.org](#).

In local happenings: Needham Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick [reflected on her tenure](#) in The Needham Observer. Fitzpatrick, who is planning to retire in early July, cofounded Massachusetts Women Leading Government, a formal committee of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association.

Here's a digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#). Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe](#)!

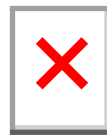
[Supplemental road funding now available; Chapter 90 hearing set](#)

MassDOT announced that \$45 million in supplemental funding for road and bridge repair and construction is now available to communities. ...



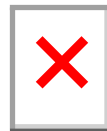
[President signs order calling for dismantling of Education Department](#)

State and local officials, and the state's congressional delegation, are raising concerns about the potential implications of an executive order signed by the president. ...



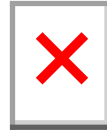
[Program awards \\$500,000 for drought resiliency, water efficiency projects](#)

The new grant program supports projects that promote climate resiliency by reducing indoor and outdoor water use, as well as improving water loss control programs. ...



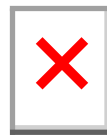
[Cyber resilience grant program opens](#)

Massachusetts municipalities can now apply for the MassCyberCenter's Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Grant program, which provides funding for managed detection and response services. ...



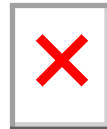
[Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)

The first reports are due on June 30 under a new energy reporting requirement for buildings larger than 20,000 square feet. ...



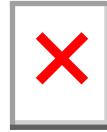
[Municipal leaders invited to join hydrography group](#)

The Mass. Hydrography Framework Committee is seeking municipal leaders to participate in its work to create "next generation hydrographic spatial data." ...



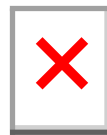
MMA to host introductory webinar on artificial intelligence

The MMA will host an introductory webinar on artificial intelligence for municipalities on April 17. ...



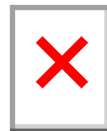
MMA to host 'Demystifying DEI' webinar on May 6

The MMA will host a webinar, "Demystifying DEI," on May 6 to provide clarity on the topic of diversity, equity and inclusion. ...



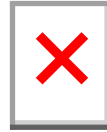
Administration announces 'Energy Affordability Agenda'

At an event in Lowell on March 10, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced an "Energy Affordability Agenda" to identify and advance actions to lower energy bills for Massachusetts residents. ...



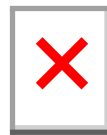
[UMass Lowell seeks municipal fellows for energy projects](#)

The Municipal Fellows program supports municipalities with clean energy transition projects in conjunction with the state's Clean Energy and Environment Legacy Transition Initiative. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Are local government and school board meetings getting too long? Some in Fall River say limits needed](#) - Herald News

[Strapped for school funding, Valley schools eye lagging state aid](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

['Live, work, play': Is form-based code the recipe for Eastham's strategic plan](#) - Cape Cod Times

[Mayor Petty: Worcester schools threatened by 'heartbreaking' Trump bid to kill Education Department](#) - Telegram and Gazette

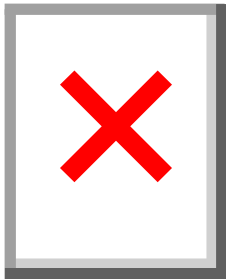
[New Bedford drafts new plan for dealing with disasters](#) - New Bedford Light

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Holyoke City Councillor Israel Rivera



What We're Reading

[Flipping the script on youth engagement](#) - Bloomberg Cities

"Young people can be transformative partners to local government. Not only do they possess a font of fresh ideas, but also—because of all the years they have ahead of them—they are the group likely to benefit the most when those ideas are put into action. Yet youth are sometimes among the most challenging communities for leaders to include meaningfully in public problem solving, whether that's because they don't think their values are aligned with those of city hall, they don't trust that they'll be heard, or they're simply focused on other pursuits."

Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA and Constellation MunEnergy Spring Zoom webinar](#) - April 2

[Bridging the Knowledge Gap: Key Insights for Overseeing Local Assessing Operations webinar](#) - April 3

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 8

[Citizen Academies: How to Engage your Communities webinar](#) - April 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Joint Meeting](#) - April 10

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 15

[Artificial Intelligence for Municipalities 101 webinar](#) - April 17

[Office of the Veteran Advocate \(OVA\): What Municipalities Need to Know webinar](#) - April 30

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - May 3

[Demystifying DEI webinar](#) - May 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp](#) - May 8

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar](#) - May 12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

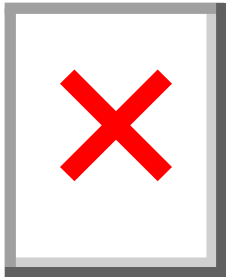
In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MunEnergy program offers spring energy webinar on April 2](#)
- [MMA webinar to cover assessing on April 3](#)
- [MVP Program Action Grant applications due April 4](#)
- [Diesel replacement grant applications due April 7](#)
- [Municipal decarbonizing workshop is April 9](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on citizen academies on April 9](#)
- [Applications due April 18 for Housing Choice Communities Designation](#)
- [Applications open for Round 2 of MA250 Grant Program](#)
- [Complete Streets program accepting applications](#)
- [5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)
- [Mass. Housing Partnership hosting affordable housing training](#)
- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
- [Applications open for MMA-Suffolk Certificate program](#)

- [MSBA accepting Statements of Interest for consideration in 2025](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The Riverwalk in Amesbury is a multi-use path along the Powwow River that connects downtown Amesbury to Carriagetown Marketplace. Photo by John Ouellette, MMA Communications Director.

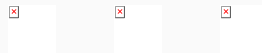
Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 71 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Human Resources Coordinator, Tree Warden, Local Building Inspector, Finance Manager, Community Outreach Librarian and Mental Health Clinician. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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