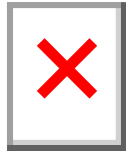


From: Mass Municipal Association <wbtm@mma.org>
Sent: Dec 20, 2024 14:15:07.000000000 UTC
Subject: MMA Weekly Review
To: kpigottbrodeur@cityofmelrose.org <kpigottbrodeur@cityofmelrose.org>

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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

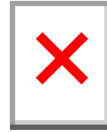
In local happenings: Longfellow's Wayside Inn, located in Sudbury, is the [oldest restaurant in the state and the oldest inn in the country](#). It opened for business in 1716.

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](#)!

Note: The Weekly Review is taking a break next week for the holidays. We will be back in your inbox on Jan. 3.

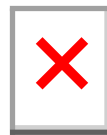
**Countdown to ARPA obligation
deadline**

With the Dec. 31 deadline quickly approaching for obligating American Rescue Plan Act funds, municipal officials are leveraging U.S. Department of the Treasury resources to help them avoid any potential clawing back of federal funds. ...



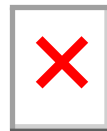
**Webinar covers select board role
in community arts, culture**

A Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with the Mass Cultural Council discussed how select boards can support arts and culture initiatives and advance economic development. ...



**MIIA workshops to cover legal,
cyber, wellness topics**

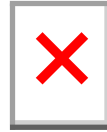
MIIA will present several training sessions during the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, to be held Jan. 23 through 25 in Boston. ...



[Staying ahead of emerging cyberthreats](#)

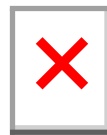
As cyberthreats become more sophisticated, local governments and public entities face increased risk, especially from ransomware attacks.

...



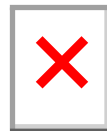
[Pittsfield restores pond, enhances park accessibility](#)

A quarter century in the making, a pond restoration project has brought new life to a somewhat neglected section of a Pittsfield park, completing a mission that was both professional and personal for city officials. ...

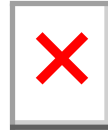


[Worcester conducts Urban Tree Canopy Assessment](#)

In a shift toward a more proactive approach for management of city-owned land, the Worcester Conservation Commission conducted a forest health assessment of more than 850 acres earlier this year. ...



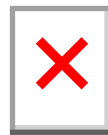
[Bourne to scan municipal property for tribal history](#)



The town of Bourne is planning to deploy ground-penetrating radar on a historic municipal property to search for tribal graves and artifacts, and attempt to forge a deeper connection with its Indigenous past.

...

[Retrofitting outdoor lighting can save energy and cut light pollution](#)



Municipalities must eventually replace components of critical building systems in schools, libraries and other public facilities.

New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges legislators to support corrective legislation that would help retain CDL drivers](#)

On Dec. 16, In Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[A \\$180K state grant for a group of South Berkshire towns aims to prevent ambulance deserts](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[Somerville City Council votes to ditch required parking rules for new developments](#) - Commonwealth Beacon

[New dashboard will offer deep dive into city finances, including salaries](#) - Eagle Tribune

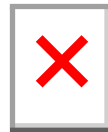
[Computer servers, radio equipment among items approved for ARPA funding in Mattapoisett](#) - Sippican Week

** 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.*

[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.



Special Guests: [Gov. Maura Healey](#) & [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#)

Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Kate Walsh](#)

Don't miss this year's additions to
[Thursday afternoon!](#)

- Trade Show hours, speed coaching, Women Leading Government session & a welcome reception!

What We're Reading

[Beyond the noise: How to engage residents effectively](#) - an 8 minute listen from Bloomberg Cities.

"According to a recent Bloomberg Philanthropies survey, 60 percent of mayors believe polarization in their cities is "more extreme than ever." Forty-four percent say they lack sufficient feedback loops with residents, and—with local

news outlets vanishing across the world—53 percent report a struggle to wade through the maze of an increasingly fragmented media landscape that's rife with misinformation."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Transportation funding webinar](#) - Jan. 13

[Mutual Aid During Crisis and Everyday: Severe Weather, Wildfire, and Emergency Medical Services webinar](#) - Jan. 16

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[Inspiring Climate Action webinar](#) - Jan. 29

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 6

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with Massachusetts Moderators Association](#) - Feb. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - Feb. 27

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

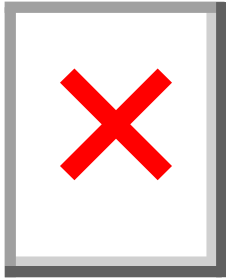
In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA and Suffolk offer robust program lineup in 2025](#)
- [MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)
- [MassTrails grant program accepting applications for 2025](#)

- [USDOT opens infrastructure, sustainability and equity grant program](#)
 - [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Gaylin Bingle, Administrative Assistant in Monson for sharing this photo of Soldier's Monument and The First Church of Monson!

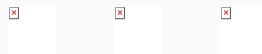
Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must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

Job Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)
 - [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
 - [MIIA Driver Training Instructor – EVOC & Simulator](#)
-

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

We've added 51 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Health Agent, Chief of Police, Town Planner, Town Solicitor, Treasurer/Collector, Assistant Assessor and Conservation Agent. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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