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SELECT BOARD
ABBOT HALL
188 Washington Street
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Thatcher W. Kezer III
Town Administrator

MEMORANDUM

To: Select Board
From: Thatcher Kezer, Town Administrator
Date: September 10, 2025
Re: Town Administrator Update

This memorandum provides a consolidated summary of key ongoing projects, operational updates, and upcoming initiatives currently underway across town departments.

Finance Department Professional Development

Treasurer/Collector Passes Collector Exam

I am very pleased to announce that **Treasurer/Collector Cami Iannarelli** has successfully passed the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association (MCTA) Collector exam on her first attempt, earning the designation of **Massachusetts Certified Collector**.

This certification represents a significant professional milestone and demonstrates Cami's strong command of the statutes, procedures, and best practices that guide the Treasurer/Collector's role in municipal government. The exam process is rigorous, testing knowledge of property tax collections, municipal finance law, state reporting requirements, and customer service responsibilities. Passing it on the first attempt is a clear reflection of Cami's dedication and expertise.

Beyond the technical achievement, this certification enhances the Town's financial operations by ensuring Marblehead has a state-certified professional leading collections. It also strengthens our capacity to maintain compliance with state requirements, improve efficiency, and provide high-quality service to residents.

Please join me in congratulating Cami on this well-deserved accomplishment, which brings distinction not only to her personally but also to our entire municipal team.

Assistant Assessor Passes Professional Assessing Course

I am pleased to share that our **Assistant Assessor, Viktorija Babrauskaite**, successfully completed the **Massachusetts Association of Assessing Officers' Annual Summer School** held August 18–22 in South Hadley. She was enrolled in *Course 200: Principles of Assessing Procedures*, an intensive program covering the full range of assessor responsibilities including deeds and ownership, excise abatements, real estate exemptions and abatements, Appellate Tax Board filings, sales analysis, and data uploads to the state's Gateway system.

This rigorous four-day course concluded with an exam requiring a passing score of 70%; Viktorija earned an impressive 82%. Beyond the technical training, she also built valuable professional connections with peers and instructors, expanding her network of resources for future guidance.

This accomplishment reflects both her dedication to professional development and her commitment to serving the Town. Please join me in congratulating Viktorija on this achievement.

Marblehead Police Department Updates

Re-Accreditation

The Marblehead Police Department has been **issued re-accreditation** and will be formally recognized in October. Accreditation is a self-initiated process through which police agencies voluntarily strive to meet and maintain professional standards established for the law enforcement profession. This achievement reflects our commitment to excellence and accountability, and marks six consecutive years of accredited status for the Department.

Mental Health Services Grant

The Department of Mental Health has awarded the Police Department a grant in the amount of **\$121,300** to support the work of our mental health clinician, **Gina Rabbitt**. Gina serves 32 hours per week in this role and provides an additional 8 hours per week focused on opiate and substance use disorder work. While this grant had been significantly reduced in the Governor's budget proposal, our local legislators, **Representative Jenny Armini** and **Senator Brendan Crighton**, worked effectively to reinstate the full funding, ensuring the continuation of this vital community service.

September 2025 Street and Utility Project Update (Map attached)

Pedestrian and ADA Ramp Improvements

Work on pedestrian accessibility and ADA-compliant ramps is scheduled to begin in late September 2025. The initial focus will be along **Atlantic Avenue** on the outbound side near the Temple Emanuel ramp and sidewalk. Additional ADA ramp work is scheduled for **West Shore Drive** at Jersey Street, coordinated with school holiday periods to minimize disruption. Sidewalk and ramp upgrades are also planned along **Pleasant Street**, from Maverick Street to Prince Street on the outbound side. Looking ahead, in spring 2026, further ADA improvements will be made at **Tedesco** and **Humphrey Streets**, as well as along **West Shore Drive** and **Lafayette Street**.

Paving Projects

Full-depth reclamation paving for **West Street**, **Mystic Street**, and **Florence Street** will begin on September 15, 2025. This process involves removing existing pavement, re-grading the road base, resetting structures, installing a binder course, reconstructing sidewalks, and applying a final topcoat of pavement.

Water System Upgrades

Water utility improvements are ongoing in multiple areas. The **Pleasant Street** connection project is scheduled to be completed by early October 2025. Following this, work will shift to **Gerry Street**, where water system upgrades are planned to take place from October through December 2025.

Gas Utility Upgrades

Several significant gas line replacement projects are underway. Work along **Conant** and **Winthrop Streets** began in September 2025 and will continue through April 2026. **Atlantic Avenue** is scheduled for work in September 2025, while **Prospect Street** upgrades will extend from September 2025 through February 2026. Finally, gas line work on **Gerry Street** is scheduled between December 2025 and February 2026.