

Proudly Serving Communities Throughout the United States!



July 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to the July edition of Capital Strategic Solutions' newsletter—where innovation heats up and big ideas shine brighter under the summer sun!

Building a More Accessible Bernardston



Capital Strategic Solutions Leads ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

Across the Commonwealth, communities are reaffirming their commitment to equity by ensuring that all residents—regardless of ability—can access public spaces and services with dignity. The Town of Bernardston is taking bold action on this front by collaborating with Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS) to develop a comprehensive Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. This forward-thinking initiative not only addresses legal compliance but also reinforces the Town's dedication to creating a truly inclusive environment for all who live, work, and visit.

"By undertaking a comprehensive ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, the Town of Bernardston is reaffirming its commitment to accessibility and proactive governance," said Karen Kelly, Town Administrator for the Town of Bernardston. "This initiative ensures that our public spaces, services, and policies reflect the values of inclusion and dignity for all."

Karen Kelly, Town Administrator, Town of Bernardston

Kick Off Your Communication Strategy with Confidence

Media Relations Training for Your Team!



At Capital Strategic Solutions, we believe that effective communication is a cornerstone of leadership. That's why we're offering opportunities to empower yourself and your employees with the tools and techniques needed to lead with clarity, credibility, and confidence in today's fast-paced media environment. Whether you're a seasoned spokesperson or preparing to face the press for the first time, our tailored, hands-on approach delivers practical, real-world strategies to help you and your team excel in any communications scenario..

Join us for **Module 1: Introduction to Media Relations, a 2-hour virtual session** on **Tuesday, September 16 at 9 AM** via Zoom. Led by experienced media professionals, this session will guide participants through the fundamentals of engaging with the press—what to say, how to say it, and how to build lasting, productive relationships with journalists.

For just **\$199 per participant**, you'll gain access to expert insights and interactive instruction that will set the tone for a powerful, three-part learning series.

- ☐ Understand today's media landscape
- ☐ Build effective press relationships
- ☐ Craft and deliver clear, compelling messages
- ☐ Speak on the record with confidence

Ready to build trust, credibility, and control your message?

**Register Now to Secure Your
Spot!**

Talent Spotlight

Driving Innovation and Excellence in Public Works

Spotlight on Leadership: Meet Peter Sellers!

This month, we're proud to feature Peter Sellers, Senior Project Manager at CSS, whose decades-long career in municipal management has transformed how cities and towns approach public works. From restructuring entire departments to implementing advanced infrastructure systems, Peter brings deep expertise, strategic vision, and hands-on leadership to every challenge.



Now available for **consulting engagements**, Peter is helping communities streamline operations, enhance service delivery, and plan for long-term success. Learn how his real-world experience and forward thinking approach are shaping the future of municipal management.

**Learn More About
Peter**

Featured Community: Brookline, Massachusetts

Where Civic Excellence Meets Neighborhood Charm

Just minutes from downtown Boston, Brookline, MA blends small-town warmth with big-city sophistication. Known for its walkable neighborhoods, top-rated schools, and rich history, Brookline is also a standout for its efficient, transparent, and resident-driven government.

Smart, Inclusive Governance

Brookline operates under a representative town meeting structure — a rare model that empowers residents to actively shape policy and priorities. Oversight comes from an elected Select Board, while a professional Town Administrator ensures smooth day-to-day operations. The result? A government that's both accountable and responsive.



High-Quality Public Services

Brookline delivers full-scale municipal services on par with larger cities:

- Public Safety: Community-focused policing and well-equipped fire services.
- Health & Human Services: Proactive programs in mental health, elder care, and public health.
- Public Works: Impressive maintenance, green space stewardship, and climate-conscious infrastructure.

Its commitment to sustainability, equity, and innovation is visible in everything from clean energy planning to accessible housing initiatives.

Thoughtful Planning, Livable Neighborhoods

From historic preservation to smart growth, Brookline strikes a careful balance. Zoning policies promote inclusive, transit-oriented development, while preserving the character of beloved neighborhoods like Coolidge Corner, Brookline Village, and Washington Square.

Major school and public building projects are community-approved and transparently funded, reflecting a culture of trust and long-term investment.

A Culture of Engagement

Brookline thrives on civic participation. Hundreds of residents serve on volunteer boards, advise on planning and equity, and speak up at public forums. This active involvement drives progress on:

- Affordable housing
- Climate action and resilience
- Business growth and development
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion

Why Brookline?

With its blend of good governance, outstanding public services, and deeply engaged residents, Brookline is more than a place to live — it's a community that works. Whether you're raising a family, launching a career, or settling down, Brookline offers stability, culture, and a voice in shaping the future.

**Learn More About
Brookline**



Mic Check, Please!

Master Media Moments with Confidence Replay!

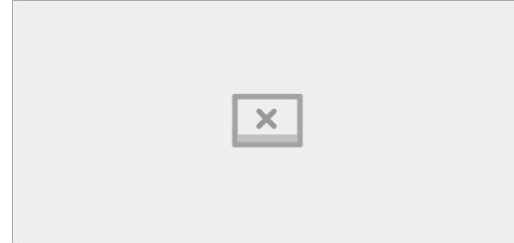
Missed our June 24 Coffee Talk Webinar? No worries—the replay is live! Watch as municipal leaders and a veteran journalist spill the beans on media wins, missteps, and must-know strategies. From emergency updates to tough live interviews, learn how to sharpen your message and speak with confidence.

Featuring insights from:

- Troy B.G. Clarkson (City of Brockton)
- Christina Metcalf (Town of Brookline)
- Kirsten Glavin (Capital Strategic Solutions & Emmy Award-Winning Reporter)
- Nichol Figueiredo (CSS CEO)
- Hosted by Liz Kalaijian (CSS)

Watch the Replay Now and get ready for your next media moment!

**Watch it
Now!**



Tackling Stormwater Pollution - One Post at a Time!

The Think Blue Massachusetts Stormwater Social Media Toolkit, developed by CSS, delivers plug-and-play resources to help cities and towns meet MS4 permit obligations—while engaging residents with clear, impactful messaging. Whether you're a seasoned stormwater coordinator or juggling outreach on top of everything else, this toolkit makes compliance easier, faster, and more effective.

"With more than 260 municipalities across Massachusetts striving to meet MS4 permit requirements, we aimed to create a centralized, high-quality resource to make compliance both easier and more consistent. This toolkit empowers local governments to engage their communities in safeguarding water quality."

**Maria Rose, Chair
Massachusetts Statewide Municipal
Stormwater Coalition**

**Learn
More**

Decked Out: How to PowerPoint Like a Rockstar

1-Hour Interactive Training
for Better Presentations

Tired of slide overload, blurry visuals, and endless bullet points? Join us for a fast-paced, hands-on training where you'll learn how to design PowerPoint decks that are crisp, purposeful, and impossible to ignore.

For just **\$99 per participant**, this session is perfect for anyone who creates or reviews presentation slides –whether you're building executive briefings, project updates, or client proposals.

What You'll Learn:

- Use the "3-Second Rule" to instantly gauge slide clarity
- Trim the fluff and focus on essential information
- Apply visual hierarchy, whitespace, and alignment to guide attention
- Make smarter choices with fonts, colors, and imagery
- Manage decks effectively with versioning and feedback workflows

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2025

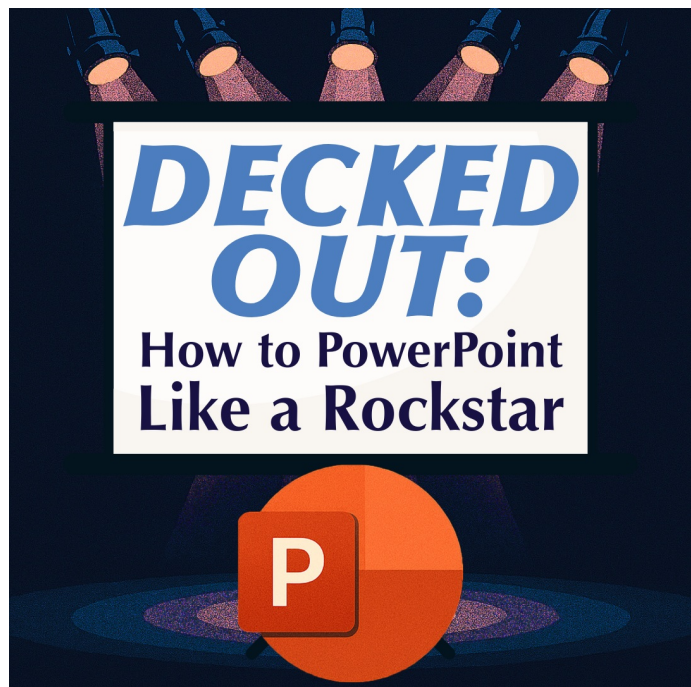
Time: 9:00 AM Eastern Time

Location: **ZOOM** (virtual)

After registering, you'll receive a confirmation email with details on how to join.

Let's make your next presentation your strongest yet.

**Register for this
Webinar**



Empower Your Organization and Employees – One Hour at a Time!

CSS offers flexible, virtual coaching

designed to support professionals across sectors—public, private, and nonprofit. Whether appointed, hired, or serving in a leadership role, participants can access expert guidance that fits their busy schedules and evolving responsibilities.



**Register
Today!**



Connecting Talent with Purpose

*Explore Career
Opportunities with Our
Trusted Partners*

- City of Northampton, Engineering Superintendent (\$43.68 - \$57.32/HR)
- Town of Harvard, Full-Time CDL Driver/Laborer Position
- Town of Westford, Operations Manager, Highway Department (\$84 - \$116k)
- Town of Westford, Public Safety Telecommunicator



Smart Reads, Fresh Takes

*From Quirky Finds to Deep
Dives - These Reads are
Worthy of Your Scroll*

- Strengthening Communities Through Strategic Procurement Assistance
- Summer Strategies: Keeping Communities Cool, Safe and Informed
- Beyond the ARPA Obligation Report Deadline: Sustaining Fiscal Capacity & Compliance for Municipalities with April 30, 2025, in the Rearview

Grant Watch

Insights, and Support to Drive Community Growth and Innovation.

Federal Grant Opportunities

- Fuels Management and Community Fire Assistance Program Activities, Open Until July 23rd
- Local Law Enforcement Grants for Enforcement of Cybercrimes Program Due on Grants.gov August 7th & JustGrants August 12th
- The USDA Rural Community Development Initiative Accepting Applications Until August 7th
- HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Grant Program Application Due August 14th



CONNECTICUT



FLORIDA

Connecticut Grant Opportunities

- DEEP Accepting Applications for Trees for Communities Grant until August 31st
- ConneCTed Communities Grant Program Round 2: Still Open

Florida Grant Opportunities

- Beach Management Funding Assistance Program Deadline July 31st
- Resilient Florida Application Now Open

Maine Grant Opportunities

- Efficiency Maine Energy Storage System Program Now Accepting Applications
- Efficiency Maine Commercial and Industrial Custom Program Now Accepting Applications

- Round 6 of Maine Community Action Grants Open Until August 29th
- Round 6 of Service Provider Grants Open Until August 1st
- Maine Trails Program Grant Applications Due September 26th



Massachusetts Grant Opportunities

- DOER Applications for Climate Leader Communities Decarbonization Accelerator Program Deadline August 1st
- FY 26 Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative Applications Due August 1st



New Hampshire Grant Opportunities

- New Hampshire Housing Currently Accepting Applications for Housing Mini Grants
- The Harvey Schwartz Housing Policy Education Fund Currently Accepting Applications

New Mexico Grant Opportunities

- Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households In New Mexico, Accepting Applications
- New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant Due August 14
- Applications for 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) due August 19th
- New Mexico Water Project Fund Technical Assistance Program is Now Open!
- NMED Accepting Applications for Clean Water State Revolving Funds on Rolling Basis



- Opening New Pathways: The Outdoor Equity Fund Round 1 Applications Due July 31
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Rhode Island Grant Opportunities

- PY 24 Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Accepting Applications Until August 5th
- Rhode Island Division of Forest Environment Accepting Applications for Urban and Community Forestry Program: Deadline August 30th



Vermont Grant Opportunities

- 2026 Municipal Park and Ride Program Applications Due August 26th
 - Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) Offering Technical Assistance for Prospective Disaster Recovery Projects
 - Vermont Arts Council Accepting Applications to the Artists in Schools Grant Until July 28th
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For assistance with your application, reach out to Capital Strategic Solutions. We are experts in Grant Management, expertly handling every stage of the grant lifecycle—from identifying lucrative funding opportunities and securing awards to ensuring compliance and managing project budgets. Our deep understanding of the public sector enables us to effectively support clients in delivering sustainable and impactful community projects. Partner with us to achieve your goals with certainty and success.

**Contact
Us**

About Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS)

CSS is a certified woman-owned, disadvantaged business enterprise of municipal experts delivering creative, cost-effective



**CAPITAL
STRATEGIC
SOLUTIONS**

A Women-Owned Business Enterprise

solutions that maximize success and minimize risk. With deep local government expertise, we craft tailored strategies to meet each community's unique needs.

Our capabilities span public administration, municipal finance, human resources, policy development, emergency management, public safety, public works, water operations, interim municipal services, public relations, community engagement, project management, grant writing, and onsite support. We partner with clients to define clear goals, overcome challenges, and implement human-centered plans that drive performance and transform communities.

**Visit our
Website**



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