

*Proudly Serving Communities Throughout the United States!*



# August 2025 Newsletter

*Welcome to the August edition of Capital Strategic Solutions' newsletter— Where we share great ideas and stories across communities.*

## **Guiding Bridgewater Forward: Blythe Robinson Served as Interim Town Manager**

### ***Bridging the Transition to Permanent Leadership***



At CSS, we pride ourselves on providing strong leadership during times of transition. Recently, Senior Project Manager and Development Executive Blythe Robinson served as Interim Town Manager in Bridgewater, ensuring seamless operations and continuity while the town searched for permanent leadership. Her decades of municipal experience helped guide all departments with stability and strategic oversight.

*"Mrs. Blythe Robinson has served the Town of Bridgewater with exceptional dedication, diligence and professionalism in her role as Interim Town Manager. During her tenure she has provided study leadership, clear communication and a strong work ethic during a significant period of transition for the town. Her presence has brought consistency to the daily operations of municipal government, and her collaborative spirit has supported and enhanced the work of the Town Council and staff. The Bridgewater Town Council recognizes and commends her tireless efforts, thoughtful guidance, and unwavering commitment to public service. The Bridgewater Town Council also expressed heartfelt gratitude to Blythe for her outstanding service in the Town of Bridgewater and extends their best wishes for continued success in all her future personal and professional endeavors."*

**Town Council, Town of Bridgewater MA**

# Spotlight on MediaBoss: Cinematic Storytelling That Connects



At Capital Strategic Solutions, we're proud to shine a light on our partners at MediaBoss—a creative powerhouse known for transforming everyday messages into cinematic stories that move audiences.

Founded in 2008 in Framingham, MA, MediaBoss has built its reputation on one core belief: *every story deserves to be told with artistry and heart*. Their award-winning team doesn't just capture footage—they uncover the narrative that makes each project unforgettable.

That commitment has earned them 29 Telly Awards for cinematic and visual storytelling, including recognition for their acclaimed branded YouTube series *Data Unknown* and the mini-documentary *Your Ship Never Sails* from the *Badass Women* series. Whether working with global brands like IBM and Universal Music Group, leading institutions like MIT and Boston Children's Hospital, or local communities looking to make an impact, MediaBoss brings the same dedication to finding the heartbeat of every story.

From live broadcasts to branded documentaries, digital campaigns to event production, MediaBoss offers a full spectrum of services—but it's their **ability to inspire through story** that truly sets them apart. Their cinematic approach ensures each project resonates long after the screen goes dark.

## Why We Love Working with MediaBoss:

- Cinematic storytelling that inspires – They bring messages to life in ways that connect and endure.
- Seamless, end-to-end partnership – From idea to final cut, they handle every detail without losing sight of the story.
- Rooted in Massachusetts, polished for the world – Local service with global-caliber impact.
- Proven excellence – Award-winning work and an impressive roster of clients.

When you're ready to tell your story—not just share it—MediaBoss is the partner that will bring it to life.

## Talent Spotlight

### Spotlight on Leadership: Meet Mary Ellen Kelley!

This month, we're proud to feature Mary Ellen Kelley, Senior Project Manager at CSS. Her extensive career in municipal finance and administration fosters trust in communities and builds resiliency. Her keen financial eye and ability to connect small goals to big picture planning prepares organizations to tackle challenges effectively.



Mary Ellen is available for coaching sessions to offer strategic guidance on budgeting, grant management, and aligning financial policies with community priorities. Her expertise helps leaders navigate complex fiscal challenges and drive sustainable growth.

Meet With Mary  
Ellen

## Think Blue Massachusetts Gets a Fresh Wave of Energy

### *CSS Leads Creative Overhaul for Statewide Outreach*

As stormwater awareness grows from a compliance checklist into a true community cause, the Statewide Stormwater Coalition reenergized its Think Blue Massachusetts campaign. With support from Capital Strategic Solutions and creative partner MediaBoss, the initiative paired clarity with creativity to inspire action across 260+ communities. CSS has developed a ready-to-use social media toolkit—tailored content, posting strategies, and analytics—that helps municipalities engage residents, meet MS4 requirements, and make real progress in protecting water quality.



*"Stormwater runoff remains a leading pathway for pollutants to contaminate our local rivers and lakes," said Maria Rose, CFM, Coalition Chair and the Town of Brookline's Environmental Engineer. "This toolkit empowers every city and town to continue educating residents with fresh, beautifully illustrative, easy to understand messages. There's no need to write or design a thing."*

**Learn More About Think Blue**

## 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.



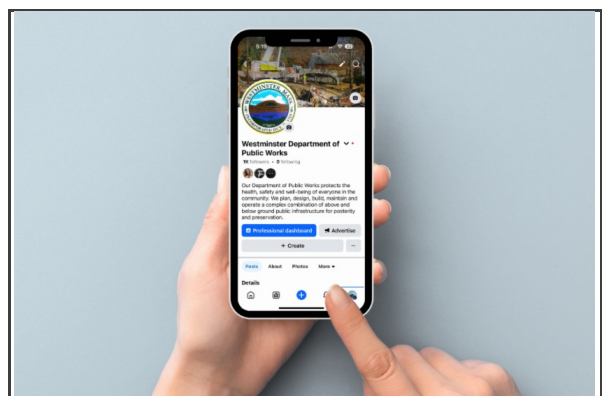
Whether you're navigating policy challenges, seeking to enhance leadership skills, or simply need expert guidance in an area outside of your expertise, our seasoned professionals are here to help you build confidence and drive success for yourself, your team and your community. Elevate your organization, enhance leadership and drive impactful change with our hourly coaching sessions. Get in touch today and start shaping your success.

*Need an invoice? Submit a purchase order and we'll take care of the rest.*

**Seats Are Filling Up Fast- Book Your Session!**



## Rewatch Our



## Why Consistency on Social Media



# Coffee Talks!

*Follow for Municipal  
Insights Fueled by  
Experience*

- Mic Check, Please:  
Mastering Media  
Moments Brewing  
Confidence for Your Next  
Interview
- Grounds for Change:  
Building Better Staffing  
Strategies in Fire  
Services
- How and Why to Create a  
Successful Summer  
Internship Program

[Watch Now on YouTube!](#)

# Matters for Municipalities

In today's fast-paced digital world, your municipality's social media presence is more than just a communication tool, it's a bridge between your departments and the people you serve. Whether you're sharing public works updates, community events, emergency alerts, or helpful resources, consistency in posting is essential.

## **Consistency Builds Visibility and Trust**

When municipal departments post regularly on social media, they create a predictable rhythm that the community can rely on.

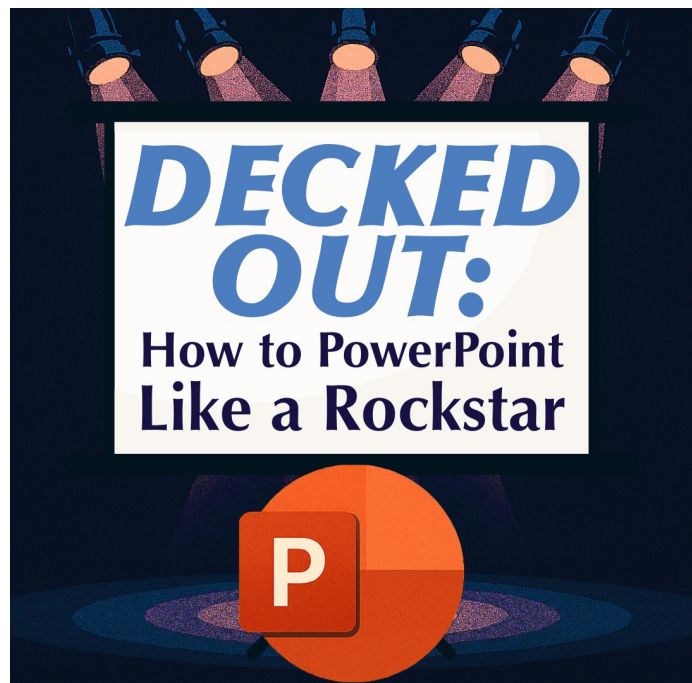
[Learn  
More](#)

# 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**

## Strengthen Your Communications Skills with CSS Training Services

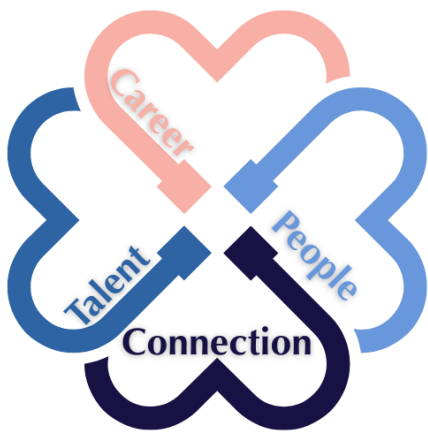
### Upcoming Virtual Trainings

Register for **Media Relations: Module 1 – Introduction to Media Relations** training on **Tuesday, September 16 at 9:00 AM EST via Zoom | \$199 per person session (purchase orders accepted).**

Participants will explore today's media landscape, learn strategies for building productive relationships with reporters, pitch newsworthy stories, and practice developing clear messaging. The training also covers how to communicate with transparency and confidence, equipping attendees with the tools they need to represent their organization effectively in any media setting.



**Register  
Today!**



## Connecting Talent with Purpose

*Explore Career Opportunities with Our Trusted Partners*

- Town of Westford, Director of Technology (\$125,769 - \$155,000 depending on qualifications and experience)
- Town of Westford, Permanent Firefighter - Paramedic (\$28.97 per hour)
- Town of Westford, Public Safety Telecommunicator (\$24.86 - \$32.48 per hour)



## Smart Reads, Fresh Takes

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

- Preparing Your Community for New England's Evolving Wildfire Risk
- Keeping Your Organization Future-Ready: How Capital Strategic Solutions Supports Policy and Procedure Updates
- Title II Deadlines Are Coming: Celebrate World Wide Web Day with a Call to Build a More Accessible Web

# Grant Watch

*Insights, and Support to Drive Community Growth and Innovation.*

## Federal Grant Opportunities

- EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant Due September 26
- EPA Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Grant Due October 6
- USDA Accepting Applications for Rural Housing Preservation Grant Until





## Connecticut Grant Opportunities

- DEEP Accepting Applications for Trees for Communities Grant until August 31
- DEEP Currently Accepting Applications for Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Until November 3



## Florida Grant Opportunities

- DEP Accepting Applications for Resilient Florida Until September 1
- DEP To Begin Accepting Applications for Florida Recreation Development Assistance Grant Starting September 1



## Maine Grant Opportunities

- GEO Accepting Applications for Clean Energy Partnership: Residential Energy Efficiency Workforce Training Grants Until September 17



## Massachusetts Grant Opportunities

- DOER Accepting Applications to Regional School District Decarbonization Grant Program
- MassDOT FY26 Complete Streets Round 2 Deadlines Approaching

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## New Hampshire Grant Opportunities

- New Hampshire Housing Currently Accepting Applications for Housing Mini Grants



- The Harvey Schwartz Housing Policy Education Fund Currently Accepting Applications
- NHDES Accepting Applications for Granite State Clean Fleets Grant on Rolling Monthly Basis



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## New Mexico Grant Opportunities

- DOI Accepting Applications for Small Surface Water and Groundwater Storage Projects
- Arts & Cultural District Pilot Grant Program Accepting Applications Until August 29
- New Mexico Disaster Recovery Funding Available for 2024 Fires and Floods
- DFA Accepting Applications for New Mexico Match Fund on Rolling Basis



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## Vermont Grant Opportunities

- ACCD Now Accepting Applications for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery
- Vermont Arts Council Accepting Applications for Creative Aging Grants Until October 17
- Vermont Arts Council Accepting Applications for Early Childhood Arts Partnership Grants Until October 17



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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](#)

## About Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS)

CSS is a certified woman-owned, disadvantaged business enterprise of municipal experts delivering creative, cost-effective solutions that maximize success and minimize risk. With deep local government expertise, we craft tailored strategies to meet each community's unique needs.



# CAPITAL STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS

A Women-Owned Business Enterprise

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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