CAPITAL STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS

Strategic Insights

October 2026 | A monthly recap of what we've been up to.

A Note from Staci Figueiredo, Executive Administrator:

Hello, CSS Community!



October has been a busy and exciting month at Capital Strategic Solutions! Our team has been working on a variety of projects, building new partnerships, and preparing for several upcoming conferences and events.

In this month's newsletter, we're sharing information about capital improvement and strategic planning, our partnership with PowerQV, and the ways CSS helps communities plan for the future. We're also highlighting two of our Senior Project Managers, Michael Herbert and Michael McGovern, along with our latest Trailblazer stories featuring Carla Delacruz Davila and Justin DeMarco.

You'll also find updates on where the CSS team will be over the next several months. Nichol and I are especially excited to be heading to Long Beach for the ICMA Annual Conference! If you're attending, please stop by Booth 957 and say hello.

As always, we've included helpful municipal resources, career opportunities, upcoming events, and plenty of new funding opportunities in our Grant Watch section.
As Executive Administrator, I have the opportunity to see so much of the work happening behind the scenes and how all the moving pieces come together. I'm proud to help support our team and look forward to sharing more of what we're accomplishing at CSS in the months ahead!

Warm regards,

Staci Figueiredo

Executive Administrator, Capital Strategic Solutions

This Month's Highlights



Capital Improvement Planning: Building the Future One Project at a Time

How CSS + PowerQV Are Helping Communities Make Smarter Infrastructure Investments

Nobody thinks about the water main under Main Street until it breaks. Or the fire station roof. Or the pump that keeps a neighborhood dry every April. These things work quietly for decades, and then one day they don't.

At Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS), we spend our days helping communities get ahead of that day. The tool for it is a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). It isn't glamorous, but it's one of the smartest things a local government or utility can do, whatever its size.

PowerQV is a capital project management platform designed specifically for government agencies. By bringing project tracking, budgets, inspections, and reporting into one centralized system, PowerQV helps municipalities improve efficiency, strengthen transparency, and manage infrastructure investments with confidence.

Through its partnership with Capital Strategic Solutions, PowerQV combines innovative technology with hands-on municipal expertise to help communities turn capital improvement plans into lasting results.

Read the Full Story Here



Bringing Decades of Municipal Finance Leadership to Flagler Beach

Mary Ellen brings more than 30 years of municipal finance, budgeting, and administration experience to the table. She holds an MBA along with specialized certifications in government auditing and municipal management, and her resume reads like a tour through some of Massachusetts' most complex public finance operations.

She served as Chief Financial Officer for both the City and Town of Framingham, where she managed an annual budget exceeding $450 million, led revenue forecasting, built out

the Capital Improvement Plan, and helped steer the city through the rollout of a new charter and the financial demands of the COVID-19 response.

Learn More –>

Beyond the To-Do List: Helping Communities Plan Ahead



Municipal government rarely suffers from a shortage of things to do. Finding the time, funding, and people to do them is another matter.

October is National Community Planning Month, making it a good time to consider how communities turn a growing list of needs into a practical plan for the future.

A strategic plan gives municipal leaders a shared framework for setting priorities, weighing investments, and coordinating work across departments. It also helps answer a familiar question: with everything that needs attention, where do we start?

Learn More –>

Employee Spotlight

Michael Herbert
Senior Project Manager



Successful municipal leadership requires a combination of strategic vision, sound financial management, and the ability to turn complex challenges into meaningful opportunities for communities. At Capital Strategic Solutions, those qualities are exemplified by **Michael Herbert, Senior Project Manager.**

Read Michael's Spotlight

Michael McGovern
Senior Project Manager



Strong municipal leadership requires the ability to balance financial stewardship, strategic planning, economic development, and community engagement. At Capital Strategic Solutions, those qualities are exemplified by **Michael McGovern, Senior Project Manager.**

Read Michael's Spotlight

Trailblazer Series

Carla Delacruz Davila
Co-Founder & President,
The WellStorm Inc.



Some people spend their lives looking for opportunities. Others spend their lives creating them, not just for themselves, but for everyone around them. **Carla Delacruz Davila, MSW, CHWC, CD, CBS,** falls firmly into that second category.

Read Carla's Trailblazer Story

Justin DeMarco
Director of Public Works,
Town of Maynard, MA



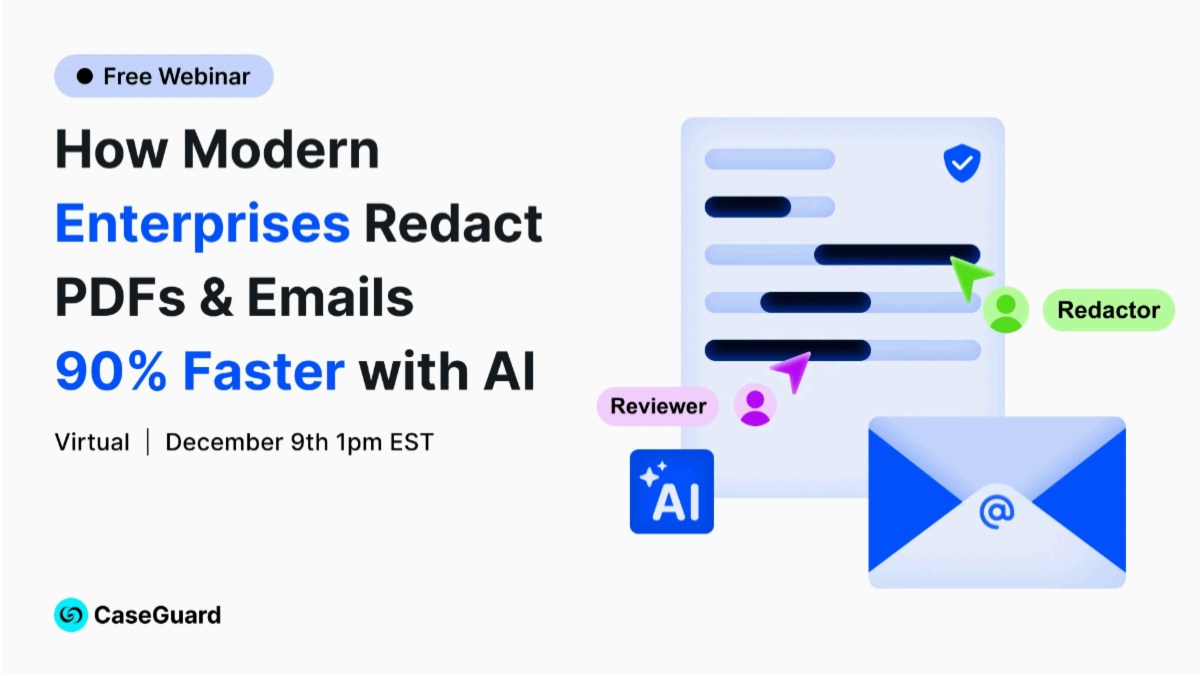
Long before **Justin DeMarco became Maynard's Director of Public Works,** he was a boy growing up on the same street as the Department of Public Works in Marlborough...

Read Justin's Trailblazer Story

CaseGuard Webinar

Free Webinar You Won't Want to Miss: Redact PDFs & Emails 90% Faster with AI

Join our partner **CaseGuard** on Wednesday, **December 9th at 1PM EST** to see how enterprise teams use AI to redact 1000s of documents & emails **90% faster.**



Reserve Your Seat

Where to Find Us Next



Connecting Beyond the Office

At CSS, some of our most valuable conversations happen outside the office. Over the next couple of months, members of our team will be attending two upcoming municipal conferences, where we'll have the opportunity to connect with local leaders, strengthen existing partnerships, and meet professionals who are passionate about building stronger communities.

We always enjoy learning from others, sharing our expertise, and exchanging ideas that help municipalities tackle today's challenges and prepare for tomorrow's opportunities. If you'll be attending either conference, we'd love to connect—be sure to stop by, introduce yourself, and say hello!

Fall Forum – Clear Communications Upstream

Massachusetts Water Works Association
Devens Common Center, Devens, Massachusetts
October 15, 2026

Annual Training Conference & RIPCA Technology Tradeshow

New England Association of Chiefs of Police
Crown Plaza, Warwick, RI
November 16, 2026

2026 ICMA Annual Conference

International City/County Management Association
Booth 957 at the Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center, Long Beach, California
October 17-21, 2026

2027 Connect 351

Massachusetts Municipal Association
Booth 808 at the Menino Convention & Exhibition Center, Boston, Massachusetts
January 21-23, 2027

2027 Spring Joint Regional Conference & Exhibition

New England Water Works Association
DCU Center, Worcester, Massachusetts
March 31 – April 1, 2027

Water Resources Conference

Florida Water Resources Conference
Booth 510 at the Orlando World Marriott, Orlando, Florida
April 18 – April 21, 2027

Worth a Read



ADA Title II Digital Accessibility: What Municipalities Need to Know and How to Prepare

October is **National Disability Employment Awareness Month**, an opportunity to consider how communities remove barriers and make public services accessible to everyone. For cities and towns, that conversation now includes a significant federal requirement affecting municipal websites, online forms, mobile applications, and electronic documents.

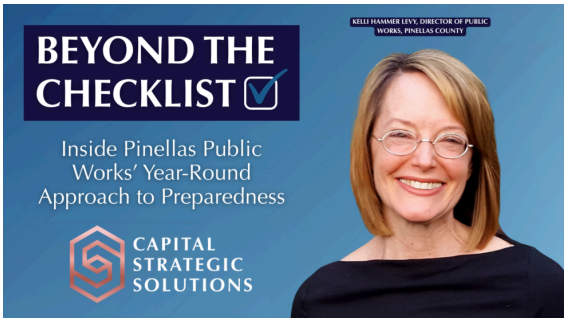
Read More...



ARPA Funds Remaining? Don't Assume They Have to Go Back

With the **December 31, 2026**, ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) expenditure deadline approaching, municipalities should be taking a close look at every remaining ARPA balance.

Read More...



BEYOND THE CHECKLIST: Inside Pinellas Public Works' Year-Round Approach to Preparedness



CSS Celebrates $3.75 Million SAMHSA Grant Award for Barnstable County Sheriff's Office

September 2026 – For many households, hurricane preparedness begins when a storm appears on the forecast: water gets bought, batteries get checked, furniture gets tied down. For **Pinellas County Public Works**, it begins long before a storm has a name and continues well after hurricane season ends.

Read More...

The Sheriff's Office has been awarded a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support its Expanded Medication Assisted Treatment (EMAT) Program. The award provides **$750,000 in Year 1**, with anticipated annual awards of $750,000 in Years 2 through 5, for **a potential total of $3.75 million**, subject to program outcomes and continued funding availability.

Read More...

Career Corner



Now Hiring
Public Safety Telecommunicator
Town of Westford

The Town of Westford is seeking qualified applicants to join its Public Safety Communications Department as a Public Safety Telecommunicator. This civilian role plays an essential part in supporting emergency response for police, fire, and medical services.

The successful candidate will receive and prioritize emergency and non-emergency calls, dispatch public safety resources, and help ensure critical information reaches first responders quickly and accurately.

This opportunity is ideal for a strong communicator who can remain calm, professional, and focused while serving the Westford community in a fast-paced public safety environment.

Salary
$24.86 – $32.48 per hour

Schedule
Full-Time • Day Shift

Location
55 Main Street,
Westford, MA

Agency
Town of Westford, MA

View the Full Job Posting & Apply

Grant Watch

Let us help you with your application! Our team specializes in grant management at every stage: from identifying opportunities and securing awards to ensuring compliance and managing budgets. Our public-sector expertise helps communities deliver sustainable, impactful projects.

Federal Grants

Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Grant

FY 2026 Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative

FY 2026 Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program

FY 2026 Expanding Youth Access to Community-Based Treatment

FY 2026 Opioid Affected Youth Initiative

FY 2026 Strategies to Support Children Exposed to Violence

FY 2026 Mentoring for Youth Impacted by Opioids and Other Substance Use

FY 2026 Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Program

FY 2026 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice assistance Grant

Massachusetts	Texas	Vermont
Environment & Climate One Stop (ECO One Stop) Planning Assistance Grants Massachusetts Municipal Public Safety Staffing Program Natural Resource Nitrogen Sensitive Area Grant Program – FY27 Section 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant Program Water Quality Monitoring Grant Program – FY27 Community Transit Grant Program – FY27 Operating and Mobility Management Tree Canopy Enhancement Grants Climate Leaders Technical Support Grant	Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant – FY27 Texas Community Development Block Grant – Community Development Fund Texas CDBG Colonia Fund – 2027	Vermont Community Development Program – Scattered Site Grants Recreational Trails Program – 2027 FY 2028 Better Roads Program 2027 Better Connection Grant Program
Connecticut	New Hampshire	Florida
Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program Energy Resilience Construction Grant Program	Low-Moderate Income Solar Grant and Loan Program 2027 Local Source Water Protection Grant	Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) Coastal Partnership Initiative Grant Program
New Mexico	Maine	Rhode Island

Strategic Water Supply Grant – 2026 **Land and Water Conservation Fund – 2026 State Round**	**Forest Economy Program** **Historic Community Buildings Grant**	**Litter-Free Rhode Island Cleanup Microgrants**

Contact Our Team

About Capital Strategic Solutions

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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