



CBA Newsletter

Chelmsford Business Association • Winter 2021

Chelmsford, MA 01824 • 978-250-3858 • www.chelmsfordbusiness.org

President's Message

Dear CBA Members:

Despite all the doom and gloom (I will spare you the details) of 2020, I am pleased to report that our membership remains strong, thanks to your continued support.

In lieu of our regular Holiday Social announcements, the following Officers were elected at our Annual Meeting held on November 19, 2020: Thomas Boucher, President; Paul Hardy, Vice President; Lynn Marcella, Secretary and Jim Cullen, Treasurer--for a one-year term. The following Directors were also elected: Rick Romano, Kirk Marshall and Amanda L'Hussier--for a three-year term: Doug Hausler, for a two-year term and Brian Reidy for a one-year term. We are particularly excited to welcome Amanda, who brings enthusiasm and a fresh perspective to our board. Welcome Amanda! Thank you all for agreeing to serve on the CBA Board.

Also serving as Director on the CBA Board is John Demers, Peter McAllister, Annmarie Roark, Jeff Hardy, Jim Shannon, Michael Smith and of course, our Executive Director, John Harington. Thank you all so much for your dedication, wisdom and support.

For me, 2020 was a year of political enlightenment. We've seen the most extraordinary Presidential election in modern times. If you've had the opportunity to observe a Select Board meeting you can also see the polarization of opinion on a local level.

To get a taste of what I am talking about I urge you to watch the November 30, 2020 meeting on YouTube. This meeting is of particular interest to us as it was the meeting that set the real estate tax rate for the next fiscal year. These are the people we elected to govern our town. Some put in extraordinary amounts of time to make Chelmsford a better place for all citizens, often sacrificing time with work and family. Others are not so invested in what's best for our town as a whole and, promote self-serving, misleading views. There are two Select Board seats up for grab this April. This is an opportunity for the town to begin creating a long-standing government with consistent goals and ideas. If you've ever thought about running for office, now is the time. If you know of anyone that wants to make Chelmsford a better place both economically and socially, please ask them to run for office. Like Georgia, this April could be a turning point in our town's future for years to come.

Also important to note, from the November 30th meeting, is the implications stemming from



the new tax rates. While the CBA was unsuccessful in reducing the split, the net effect to the average residential tax bill will be nominal this fiscal year, but the average CIP tax bill will actually decrease by about \$900.00. This is due to the town's decision to transfer \$2 million from its Stabilization Fund to our projected fiscal levy while receiving essentially level State funding from the prior fiscal year. Some good news, I guess...

It goes without saying that we are all happy to have 2020 in our rearview; however, the vaccine isn't an on/off switch, but rather a dimmer that will slowly take us back to normal. Let's hope it's sooner than later.

Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy and prosperous 2021!

Sincerely,
Thomas N. Boucher
President



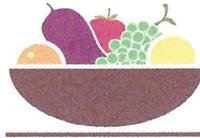


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December 30, 2020

Dear Chelmsford Business Association friends,

On behalf of the board of directors of Table of Plenty in Chelmsford, Inc., we would like to thank you for your generous tax-deductible Christmas contribution of \$250.00, along with your \$200.00 meal sponsorship, both received on 12/11/2020.

Your kindness and generosity during this unsettling time enables us to provide a weekly take home meal along with groceries and other essentials to families in need. We have recently experienced an uptick in demand and are now providing 250 take home meals per week, which is more than double the number previously provided in house. By helping to alleviate hunger and the stress of providing for a family, your contribution will help to build a stronger community for the future.

We look forward to the time when we can once again provide an in house meal, allowing our guests to enjoy the socialization that has become so important, and adding to the over 45,000 meals which we have provided since 2010. Your support makes these programs possible.

Please contact us if you would like to learn more about our organization. Once again, please accept our heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,



Deborah Kendrick

Treasurer

Table of Plenty in Chelmsford, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Your donation is fully tax-deductible. There were no tangible benefits, goods, or services provided in exchange for your contribution.

Many thanks for your continued support!

Mailing Address:
 Table of Plenty In Chelmsford, Inc.
 PO Box 321
 Chelmsford, MA 01824

www.tableofplentyinchelmsford.org
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YOUR TOWN, YOUR VOICE. LET IT BE HEARD. LET IT LEAD. RUN FOR OFFICE!



APRIL 6, 2021 TOWN ELECTION - POLLS OPEN 7 AM TO 8 PM

Nomination Papers are available: Monday, January 4, 2021 at 8:30 am

The last day to obtain nomination papers: Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 5:00 pm
(MGL Ch. 53 §9A)

**Last day for Nomination Papers to be filed
with the Board of Registrars: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 5:00 pm**

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Town-wide candidates (incumbents and challengers) must obtain a minimum of 50 signatures from registered voters. The Clerk strongly recommends all candidates **obtain additional signatures**.
- Non-incumbent Town Meeting Representative candidates must obtain 25 signatures of registered voters from the precinct they wish to represent. The Clerk strongly recommends all candidates **obtain additional signatures**.
- Town-wide candidates are entitled to eight (8) blank nomination papers. Town Meeting Representative Candidates are entitled to four (4) blank nomination papers.
- Town-wide candidates must remember the following Campaign & Political Finance obligations:
 1. Before incurring any expenses or receiving any funds they must file a **Statement of Organization**.
The form can be found here: http://files.ocpf.us/pdf/forms/cpf_m101.pdf
 2. **Your first OCPF (Office of Campaign and Political Finance) report is due on Monday March 30, 2020 - eight (8) days before the election.**
The form can be found here: http://files.ocpf.us/pdf/forms/M102_edit.pdf
 3. **Your second OCPF report is due on Thursday, May 7, 2020 - thirty (30) days after the election.**
The form can be found here: http://files.ocpf.us/pdf/forms/M102_edit.pdf
 4. **Even if you incur no expenses and raise no money**, you are still obligated to sign the CPF M 102-0 report in the Office of the Town Clerk, both eight days before and thirty days after the election.

Please be aware that you have an obligation to file
all necessary paperwork with the Clerk's Office.
Do not hesitate to contact the Town Clerk's office at: 978-250-5205 with any questions.

Last day to register to vote for the April 6, 2021 Annual Town Election is:

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

Clerk's Office will be open from 8:30 am to 8:00 pm for voter registration on that day.

A Quick Look Back at 1990

What are some fun facts, trivia, and historical events the year 1990?

- *The Chelmsford Business Association was established.
- *Life expectancy in the U.S. was 75.4 years, 250,437 Americans were 95 and older, and Campbell's produced its 20-billionth can of tomato soup.
- *In the year 1990, unemployment averaged 5.6%, inflation was 5.39%, and the retail price for a gallon of gas averaged \$1.34.
- *Potatoes were 89 cents for a five-pound bag, Coca-Cola cost \$1.99 for an eight-pack, and eggs were 89 cents a dozen.
- *A General Electric washing machine cost \$199.00, and Cheer liquid laundry detergent was \$3.49 for a half-gallon container.
- *Wise potato chips cost 99 cents for a 10-ounce package.
- *Toilet paper (Charmin): \$3.49 for 12 rolls
- *George H. W. Bush was President of the United States and J. Danforth Quayle was Vice President.
- *According to the 1990 Census, the population of the United States was 248,709,873.
- *The average household income was \$28,960.00, and the average cost of a new house was \$123,000.00.
- *The average monthly rent was \$465.00.
- *In July, President Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law. According to VOANews.com, "The ADA bars discrimination against Americans with disabilities in jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and privately-owned places that are open to the general public."
- *In November, President Bush signed the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. The bill mandated "a variety of pollution-reducing changes in the automobile and fuel industries."
- *In 1990, Time Magazine's "Man of the Year" was George H. W. Bush.
- *Microsoft released Windows 3.0, and the updated version sold more than three million copies in one year.
- *Campbell's Soup introduced cream of broccoli soup into the marketplace. It soon became their most successful new soup in over 50 years.
- *The "X rating" was replaced by NC-17 (no children under 17).
- *Mikhail S. Gorbachev received the Nobel Peace Prize.
- *The cost of a Super Bowl ad was \$700,000.
- **Here are some examples of 1990s lingo: bling-bling (wearing nice jewelry), blood (friend), chill out (calm down or take it easy), FYI (for your information), freak out (go crazy), get over it (exactly what it says), old school (old fashioned), whacked (someone who is out of their mind), and yada yada yada (to make a long story short).

Brian J. Stafford, CPA, MST

David S. Gaudet, CPA



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Avoid Frozen Pipes this Winter

As the winter weather arrives, it is important for residents to take proper precautions to avoid the costly damage that can result from freezing pipes. Residents can prevent this by following a few simple precautions:

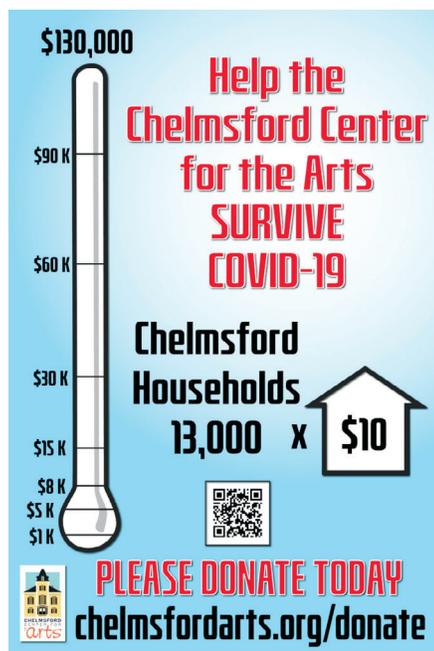
Locate your master shut off valve. The master shut -off valve controls all of the water into your home. Residents should know the valve location and how to turn it off as this can save valuable time and prevent water damage in an emergency. Once you locate the main shut off valve, mark it so everyone in your family can find it should an emergency occur.

Keep cold air out: Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents and pipes and use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out. With severe cold, even a tiny opening can let in enough cold air to cause a pipe to freeze.

Insulate pipes: Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic. Exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing.

Disconnect garden hoses: Disconnect garden hoses and, if possible, use an indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance of freezing at the short span of pipe just inside the house.

Keep the water running: A trickle of water might be all it takes to keep your pipes from freezing. In extremely cold weather, let water drip overnight, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall. The cost of water is small compared to dealing with the cost and inconvenience of frozen or burst pipes.



\$130,000

Help the Chelmsford Center for the Arts SURVIVE COVID-19

Chelmsford Households 13,000 x \$10

PLEASE DONATE TODAY
chelmsfordarts.org/donate

The CCA is Chelmsford's own public visual and performing arts center. Besides the patrons from all over the Merrimack Valley who attend performances, we are primarily the home to our Resident Arts

Organizations: the Chelmsford Art Society, the organization that sponsors the beloved annual 4th of July Art Show; the Chelmsford Community Concert Band and the Chelmsford Jazz Band, whose volunteer musicians give free concerts every summer on the Common; Illumination Opera, which presents fully staged operas and cabaret performances at the CCA; and Toastmasters, the public speaking organization open to all. In addition, we present exhibitions in our own gallery of the work of local artists throughout the year. The CCA has also served almost 2000 children through our partnership with Applause Academy, a non-profit children's music theatre organization.

Due to the pandemic, we have lost our income from ticket sales, rehearsal rentals, class rentals, gallery gift shop sales for the holidays, and private rentals; but there are ongoing costs to running the building and

keeping the CCA alive until we can fully re-open again. Without the exhibition and rehearsal space, more than 150 community artists and performers who bring art and music to our town have no home. So...

...What do we ask of our Chelmsford community? We just celebrated our 10th Anniversary in November and **we ask every Chelmsford household to contribute \$10** to help Chelmsford's public arts center (the ONLY public arts center in the Commonwealth) survive the pandemic. You may, of course, donate any amount, but \$10 a household will assure the CCA will continue and be able to open as soon as possible.

We are working on presenting outdoor performances, live streamed and recorded performances from our auditorium, and outdoor exhibitions. Show your support of the arts in our town by donating today.

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Charlene A. Parlee
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Annamarie Roark
ATTORNEY

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Stop COVID-19 - Business temporary capacity

Flyers with guidance about temporary capacity limits for businesses.

Temporary capacity limits in effect December 26, 2020

In accordance with [Executive Order #59](#), businesses must adhere to the following temporary capacity limits.

Sector	Capacity Limits
Restaurants	25% (applies separately to indoor/outdoor capacity)*
Close Contact Personal Services (Hair salon, nail salon)	25%*
Theaters and Performance venues	Indoor performance venues – closed* Movie theaters – 25% (max 50 people)* Outdoor venues – 25% (max 25 people)*
Office Spaces	25%*
Places of Worship	25%*
Retail Businesses	25%*
Driving and Flight Schools	25%*
Indoor Golf Facilities	25%*
Libraries	25%*
Operators of Lodgings	25%* (in common areas only)
Gyms/Health Clubs	25%*
All sectors not otherwise specified	25%*
Common Areas in facilities subject to EEA-Issued COVID-19 safety rules	5%* (Applies only to indoor spaces and excludes youth and amateur sports facilities)

*Workers/staff excluded from count All other terms beyond the capacity limits continue to apply.



New Laws Taking Effect in Massachusetts

On Jan. 1, workers will be able to access most paid family and medical leave benefits approved in a 2018 agreement that will eventually bring the Massachusetts minimum wage up to \$15

New year..new laws. What happens on Beacon Hill may seem a million miles away, but it can affect your everyday life.

Here's a look at those new laws, plus some that had a big impact on 2020:

Minimum Wage Increase

In 2021, Massachusetts' minimum wage will rise from \$12.75 per hour to \$13.50 per hour and tipped workers' minimum wage increases from \$4.95 to \$5.55 an hour.

Meanwhile, the higher rate of premium pay that retail establishments must offer for working on Sundays and some holidays will drop from 1.3 times

standard pay to 1.2 times.

Those changes are all part of a multi-year phased transition to a \$15 minimum wage and elimination of premium pay that Beacon Hill leaders approved in 2018 as part of the so-called "grand bargain" with business and labor groups.

Paid Family Medical Leave

On Jan. 1, workers will be able to access most paid family and medical leave benefits that were also approved in that "grand bargain."

Those benefits offer paid leave to workers taking time off to bond with a new child, take care of a sick or injured service member or to tend to a serious personal health condition. Paid leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition will

become available on July 1.

Without action from the Legislature, employers will also face a massive increase in unemployment insurance trust fund contributions starting next year, stemming largely from the unprecedented surge in demand for joblessness benefits.

The fund that pays out unemployment aid -- funded almost entirely by employers -- projects to end the year nearly \$2.4 billion in the red, which would trigger a nearly 60 percent increase in the unemployment taxes that businesses pay. Gov. Baker filed a bill that would limit those hikes to about 17% and lawmakers took testimony on it. The increases take effect starting in 2021, but the bills for the first quarter will not be due until the spring.

The State House News Service contributed to this report.

The 22nd Annual Taste of Chelmsford has been re-imagined

This year, we'll host Taste of Chelmsford as a fun filled calendar raffle in March, with prizes that feature gift cards for dining from Chelmsford-area restaurants. The raffles will be awarded March 1-31, with chances for your raffle ticket/s to win each and every day. Stay tuned for ticket sale information!

All proceeds from Taste of Chelmsford continue to benefit enrichment programs for students at Center Elementary School.

Chelmsford Business Association Scholarship Fund

Established in 1990, The Chelmsford Business Association is a group of many local businesses that operate in the Town of Chelmsford. The purpose of the Association's fund is to award scholarships to Chelmsford residents who upon graduation from the Chelmsford Public High School, the Nashoba Valley Technical High School or any other accredited private high school, including an accredited "charter high school" with the intent to pursue a degree at an accredited two or four year college or junior college.

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SHRED DAY

Thursday, April 29, 2021, 1 - 4pm

Lincoln Liquors Parking Lot (Formerly Harrington Wine and Liquors)
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Any questions, please feel free to email the CBA at chelmsbusassoc@comcast.net

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 john.demers@Novolex.com
 tel: (978) 513-8860



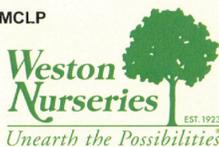
KJ Caffè
Justin Bastinelli, Owner
 118 Chelmsford Street
 Chelmsford, MA 01824
 978.455.2534
 justin@kjscaffè.com



NORTHEAST MED STAFF
 Ph: 978-455-6907 ext. 204
 C: 603-765-3135
KIRK MARSHALL
 President/CEO
 221 Chelmsford Street
 Chelmsford, MA 01824
 KMarshall@NEMedstaff.com
www.NEMEDSTAFF.com



JIM CONNOLLY, MCH, MCLP
 GARDEN CENTER MANAGER
Weston Nurseries
 EST. 1923
 Unearth the Possibilities
 160 PINE HILL ROAD
 CHELMSFORD, MA 01824
 978-349-0055 (Main)
 508-962-5978 (Mobile)
 978-349-0058 (Fax)
 JimC@WestonNurseries.com
 www.WestonNurseries.com



REMCO FLOORING, INC.
 www.remcoflooring.com
 Robert E. McClure, Jr.
 General Manager
 remcoflooring@comcast.net
 978-452-8207
 108 Middlesex St. Ste. 1
 No. Chelmsford, MA 01863
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Mary Jo Metro
 CFP®, CDEA®, AAMS®, CRPC®, CRPS®, MBA
 President of METRO Financial Strategies, Branch Manager
 Financial Advisor
MaryJo.Metro@RaymondJames.com
 www.METROFinancialStrategies.com
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SHOPPING REMINDERS FOR STORES

Help stop the surge with safe store practices for shoppers



Offer curb side pickup when possible



Follow in-store capacity limits - 25% of building's maximum capacity, excluding staff (effective 12/26/2020)



Offer appointment-based shopping



Sanitize between checkouts



Use distance markings and reminders near registers and line areas



Place signage reminding about mask mandates on entrances and throughout the store

Find more materials for municipalities and businesses at mass.gov/covid-municipal-info



Precautions recommended by the CDC and MDPH to be adopted by employers to continue operations after workers have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Sick workers should:

Stay home or go home if they develop symptoms during the work day.

Workers who have symptoms, including but not limited to fever, cough, new loss of smell or taste, sore throat, or shortness of breath should notify their supervisor and stay home or go home.

Sick workers should follow CDC – recommended steps, including contacting their healthcare provider. Workers should not return to work until they meet all the criteria to end home isolation, in consultation with healthcare providers.

Employers should

Employers are required to report positive cases.

Employees must share information with the Chelmsford Health Department.

The Local Health Department and contact tracing may reach out to employees.

Employers must follow instructions about quarantine and isolation of employees

Close off areas used by the person who is sick.

Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the exposed area, if reasonable given food safety regulations.

Clean and disinfect a sick worker's workspace. Wait 24 hours or, if 24 hours is not possible, as long as practical before you clean or disinfect. Follow the CDC Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility Guidelines, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Forganizations%2Fcleaning-disinfection.html.

Collect information about the worker's contacts among co-workers for the period starting 2 days prior to symptom onset to identify other workers who could be considered exposed.

This is irrespective of whether the person with COVID-19 or the contact was wearing a mask or whether the contact was wearing respiratory personal protective equipment (PPE)

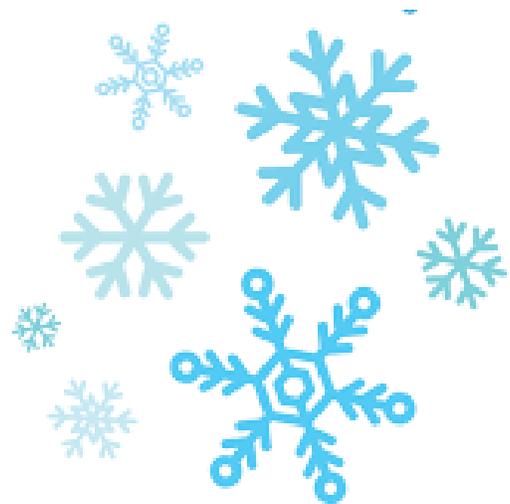
If a worker is confirmed infected, inform fellow workers of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The employer should instruct workers to proceed based upon the CDC Public Health Recommendations for Community -Related Exposure.

Work with state, local, and territorial (STLT) public health officials to determine the safest way to reintegrate exposed workers who are not experiencing any symptoms and have not tested positive back into onsite operations.

Refer to the OSHA 'Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for Covid-19, <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

NOTE: This is a summary only, not a comprehensive instruction on an employer's responsibilities. These rules and regulations are subject to revision from time to time by the adopting organization.

Winter Will Be Here Soon!



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Tom Boucher	President	(978) 441-6499	toucher@lowellfive.com
Paul Hardy	Vice President	(978) 256-5251	paulhardy@blakefuneralhome.com
Jim Cullen	Treasurer	(978) 251-0110	jimcullenpa@gmail.com
Lynn Marcella	Secretary	(978) 667-0751	lynn.marcella@verizon.net
John G. Harrington	Exec. Director	(978) 250-3858	jgh1013@comcast.net
Brian Reidy	Director	(978) 256-1808	b.reidy@comcast.net
Rick Romano	Director	(978) 256-9796	rickromano@comcast.net
Kirk Marshall	Director	(978) 455-6907	kmarshall@nemedstaff.com
Douglas E. Hausler	Director	(978) 256-6080	dhausler@lhrlaw.com
Michael Smith	Director	(978) 250-9300	mehall2000@aol.com
Peter McAllister	Director	(978) 256-7658	Triangleservice1@aol.com
Annmarie Roark	Director	(978) 256-4167	aroark@aroarklaw.com
Jeffrey Hardy	Director	(978) 250-1113	jeff@hardydoric.com
Jim Shannon	Director	(978) 250-3777	jcsiiicpa@comcast.net
John Demers	Director	(978) 513-8860	john.demers@Novolex.com
Amanda L'Hussier	Director	(978) 256-1583	amanda@lhussierins.com

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