

## CLERK'S CORNER 5/2018

### **Marriage in MA**

Planning on tying the knot in Massachusetts? One of my favorite parts of my position as Town Clerk is filing marriage licenses; I can share some important information. Anyone can get married within the Commonwealth as long as the couple files a marriage license within the Commonwealth at least 3 days but not more than 60 days prior to the ceremony. The marriage intention can be taken out in the Clerk's office in any of the 351 Massachusetts cities or towns. You do not need to be born, live or even plan your ceremony in the location where you decide to take out your license but you do need to remember it. Copies of the license will be available at that Clerk's office indefinitely. The fee for a marriage license varies within the State. It is also important to know your social security number, city of birth as well as the full names of your parents. Prior to applying for the marriage intention, the couple should have discussed whether there will be any name changing so that the license can indicate that.

Choosing your officiant is another key piece to your nuptials not just for the ceremony itself but also for the post ceremony requirement of the officiant. Completing the marriage license although easy is also easy to do incorrectly. To avoid any complications recording the marriage, the license must be completed exactly as the Commonwealth requires. It is wise to review this information with your officiant. Your officiant can be a member of the clergy, Justice of the Peace or a layperson who has applied for a one-day solemnization through the Governor's office, [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov), 4 to 6 weeks prior to the ceremony. Out of State clergy and Justices of the Peace are required to complete a petition to solemnize through the Secretary of the Commonwealth, [www.sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us), in order to legally perform a marriage within Massachusetts.

As this is the season for weddings it is also the time for water conservation. Here in Wenham, the mandatory water conservation is imposed on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Water Commission does not allow for sprinklers between the hours of 9am and 5pm. Water is essential to us all and we need to use it wisely. The water department's website at [www.wenhamma.gov](http://www.wenhamma.gov) has lots of information on our water and how to conserve it. The 375<sup>th</sup> Parade and Community Event is scheduled for Saturday September 8, 2018 and is still accepting registrations at <https://goo.gl/forms/LQYbgS2MtZMLLtBG3>. Lastly, it is Municipal Clerk's Week 2018 and in Wenham, a Town –Wide QUEST is circulating. For more information and to participate, check out the Clerk's page at [www.wenhamma.gov](http://www.wenhamma.gov).

*Dianne Kaplan Bucco was elected the Wenham Town Clerk April 11, 2014 and has achieved the designation of Certified Municipal Clerk in 2017. For more information on the clerk's office, please go to [www.wenhamma.gov](http://www.wenhamma.gov) or follow the Wenham Town Clerk on Facebook.*