

CLERK'S CORNER –APRIL 2016
SPRING NOTES FROM THE CLERK

“Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.” Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945). The right to vote is perhaps the most important right granted to US citizens because it allows for the preservation of all other rights and yet the voter turnout is barely 10% in local elections over the past years.

Voting is not only a means to choose between X and Y but it is the only way to maintain this right. Voting in any and all opportunities is vital to upholding the democratic way. Voting in local elections and town meetings shows your support of your government, your community and your neighbors. Moving forward our goal should be to increase the voter turnout in all elections, federal, state or local, regardless of whether there are contested races or not.

If you are registered to vote in your community, unless you move or want to change your affiliation, there is no need to register again. In anticipation of the presidential election in November, there may be announcements coming via mail, email, on tv and even by phone encouraging you to register to vote. Before re-registering, you can check your registration online at www.sec.state.ma.gov or with your Clerk and avoid any unnecessary paperwork.

"The only title in our democracy superior to that of President is the title of citizen." Justice Louis D. Brandeis (1856 – 1941). Do you use that designation well? Make quality use of your time by getting involved in one of the many Town boards or committees that relies on community support. In Wenham, openings exist on the Council on Aging, Conservation Commission and Finance and Advisory Committee to name a few. Others are listed on the Town's website, www.wenhamma.gov and announced at Selectmen's meetings.

In other news, Pleasant Pond Stickers are available for purchase to all residents of Wenham and Hamilton. More information, the rules and applications are on the Town of Wenham's website, www.wenhamma.gov. Please bring the car registration when purchasing a sticker at the Clerk's office.

As wedding season approaches, if you or someone you know is getting married, there are considerations when planning the ceremony. If the ceremony is not supervised by a member of the clergy or an appointed Justice of the Peace, make sure your officiant has the correct credentials and is aware of the regulations set forth by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. That website, www.sec.state.ma.us or your clerk's office is the best place to get much of this information.

Dianne Kaplan Bucco was elected the Town Clerk of Wenham in April 2014. More information on the Wenham Town Clerk can be found at www.wenhamma.gov and by following the WenhamTownClerk on Facebook.