

CLERK'S CORNER

2nd installment June 2015 (ready for 6/18/15)

Getting married? Congratulations. Getting married in Massachusetts for residents and/or non-residents requires obtaining a valid Massachusetts marriage license. Regardless of where the ceremony is, the marriage license can be prepared in any municipality in the State. The key is to remember where you obtain the license. The certificate will be on file in the State Registry of Vital Statics, www.mass.gov but additional certified copies will always be available in the municipality where it was obtained.

Before applying for the license, the officiant for the ceremony must be chosen; member of the clergy, justice of the peace or someone else. A Massachusetts clergy member or justice of the peace is the least complicated; however there may be reasons to want someone else to officiate your ceremony. A member of the Clergy or Justice of the Peace from out of state must complete a Petition to Solemnize Marriage from the Secretary of State which can be found at www.sec.state.ma.us. This application will need to be completed 2-4 weeks prior to the ceremony. A layperson in Massachusetts can apply for a one day designation that allows non clergy the right to officiate at a wedding and sign a marriage license. This application can be found on the Governor's website, www.mass.gov and requires a recommendation and a fee and takes 4-6 weeks. These special circumstances when granted are specific to the couple involved on the specified date. Any changes to the wedding plan will need an additional application. The certificate of solemnization will also need to be returned to the clerk after the ceremony with the signed license so the marriage can be registered properly. The duties of the officiant after the ceremony are crucial to having the marriage recorded correctly so it is in your best interests to be sure that person completes the license properly. In Wenham, we highlight the directions and review these steps when you pick up the license.

The fee for applying for a marriage license varies within the State. In Wenham it is \$15. We are open Tuesday nights until 7pm which brings in many couples for their license. Look for more information on Massachusetts marriage licenses next month.

Other news in Wenham: The mandatory water ban that was imposed as of May 28th has been relaxed to allow watering by sprinkler between 5pm and 9am. Please continue to be cautious when using water. The Two Town July 4th celebration this year will combine with the Community Block Party at Patton Park on June 27 from 4-8.

Dianne Kaplan Bucco was elected the Wenham Town Clerk April 11, 2014.