

CLERKS CORNER JULY 2016

DBA's

Every summer has its own stories and this summer will be like no other. With the upcoming Presidential Election on November 8th and the summer Olympics in Brazil starting on August 5th, it is sure to be one for the ages.

As if preparing for the Presidential Election is not enough, here in Massachusetts we have an additional State Primary on September 8th as well as several new components to the Election Law that will need to be integrated into our systems. As of August 1st, 2016 there will be opportunities for 16 and 17 year olds to pre-register to vote and for the November Presidential Election, Massachusetts will offer a 12 day early voting period for the first time. The details and specifics for these new procedures will be ironed out in the next few months so please keep posted for them via this column as well as on the Town website and the Wenham Town Clerk's Facebook page.

The Wenham Clerk's Office is busy with a large array of resident needs such as voter registrations, genealogical searches, Pleasant Pond passes, marriage licenses, DPW recycling slips and business certificates just to name a few. A business certificate, otherwise known as a DBA (Doing Business As), is the registration form that must be filed where a business is located if that business is run under any name other than the real name of the business owner. (MGL Ch 110, § 5) Obtaining a DBA does not authorize a business to operate as it is not a license. Many businesses require specific licensing or permits from either State or Town Departments. The filing of a DBA is a merely a means of creating a public record of the name and address of the true owner(s) of a business. Here in Massachusetts this filing is done at the local level. Each municipality has its own form for such a purpose but they all require the names and addresses of all owners, the name and address of the business and the type of business. This business name is then required on all government forms and applications. By State Law, DBA's are valid for 4 years. Businesses that decide to incorporate or form a business entity must be registered on the State Level through the Secretary of the Commonwealth and those businesses are not required to file a DBA with the municipality.

In Wenham news, the Town now has a bin at the DPW garage that accepts textiles and books. The Two Town Patriotic Celebration was again an amazingly fun community event. Looking forward, Wenham Day is scheduled for Saturday August 27th. Also of note, there are several potential openings on a variety of Town committees and all are listed on the website, www.wenhamma.gov. Selectwoman Harrison's Listening Hour continues on the first Tuesday of the Month at 1pm. Last but not least, the last day to register or make changes to your voter registration status for the **September 8th Primary** is on Friday August 19th and the Clerk's Office will be open from 9am-8pm.

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 Wenham Town Clerk on Facebook.