



Massachusetts Highway Association

Since 1893

Volume 46 2018

SPRING NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Sean Divoll

Dear members and friends,
As I write this, the sun is shining and there is growing optimism that winter is finally behind us and better weather is in our future. However, let us take a moment to remember what we all just went through: historic cold temperatures in December/January causing havoc to our public infrastructure, high tides breaking the record set in 1978, and three back-to-back Nor'easters in a span of 11 days in March causing destructive coastal flooding and heavy and wet snow inland causing widespread tree damage and power outages. It was an incredible winter for our history books and one that will live on in the memories of public works officials for a very long time.

We serve our communities with very capable hands fulfilling a critical mission each and every day. On behalf of this Association I say a heartfelt, "Thank you", to each and every one you for the long hours and dedication to a profession that is vital to our way of life in this great country. I also thank the many vendors that support this Association and also support our efforts in public works by making resources available especially during times of greatest need. We are all in good company.

So what do we do now? We celebrate. Please come to the Massachusetts Highway Association's 125th Anniversary Gala on June 2nd to celebrate 125 years of commitment and excellence to the Public Works community. Please be on the lookout for more information as it becomes available. The Gala committee has been hard at work planning a great night of festivities.

Again, thank you for all of your hard work and your contributions to your communities and the public works profession. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Sincerely,
Sean Divoll
President



Join us on

Saturday, June 2, 2018
for a celebration of 125 years
of commitment and
excellence

By Chris Cronin, Chairman

On June 2nd, the Massachusetts Highway Association will hold a Gala at the InterContinental Hotel, in Boston. The event is a celebration of the Massachusetts Highway Association's 125th Anniversary, its history, and its contributions to the industry and region.

Formal attire is appropriate. The event will start at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner, with music and dancing.

The cost for the event is \$100 per person. A very limited number of tickets are available. The InterContinental has rooms at reduced rates until May 3rd.

More information can be found at:

www.MHA125.com

Contact us directly:

Email us at info@mha125.com

Telephone: (781) 462-5549

InterContinental:

(617) 747-1000 and mention MHA 125

www.intercontinentalboston.com

*We look forward to seeing everyone at this wonderful event celebrating
125 years of commitment and excellence to Public Works.*

Annual meeting to be held Thursday, May 3

by Chris Bouchard, Chair

The Massachusetts Highway Association will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 3rd at the Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The annual meeting will consist of the election of officers and the announcement of the 2018 scholarship winners and awards.

The program will include MaDOT Asphalt Pavement Specifications "Superpave," Legislative Updates, Severe Weather and Snow Prediction Tools, and Honoring Fallen DPW Workers

The official program has been emailed to all MHA members.

To register, call David Lane at 978-777-0001 ext. 3015.

Chapter 90 bill is moving through the Legislature

*Reprinted from the April 2018 Issue of The Beacon, with permission from the Massachusetts Municipal Association
March 26, 2018*

A one-year, \$200 million bond bill for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program, filed by Gov. Charlie Baker on Feb. 13, is moving through the legislative process.

The Joint Committee on Transportation reported out the legislation in mid-March, after hearings on the bill (H. 4237) had to be cancelled due to weather.

In a letter to the Transportation Committee, the MMA urged legislators to pass a multi-year, \$300 million Chapter 90 bond bill, and to do so “as soon as possible, so that the measure can be signed into law by the April 1 deadline, and cities and towns can begin the construction season on time.”

The MMA presented similar testimony at a March 22 hearing before the House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets.

The Bonding Committee gave the \$200 million bill a favorable report, and the full House was expected to take up the bill in the first week of April. The bill will then be sent to the Senate, which will have to pass it before it goes to the governor’s desk.

The MMA has long supported and advocated for a substantial increase in the Chapter 90 program, which helps cities and towns fund qualifying road and bridge maintenance projects that are key to economic development and quality of life.

Local officials argue that a multi-year Chapter 90 bill would allow communities to plan more effectively at the local level by bringing predictability and certainty regarding funding authorizations and timing. Communities are able to design multi-year projects and implement pavement management plans more effectively when they know what their Chapter 90 authorizations will be in future years.

A statewide survey conducted by the MMA in 2014 shows that cities and towns need at least \$639 million per year in order to maintain roads in a state of good repair. Cities and towns are responsible for maintaining 30,000 miles of local roads.

Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito discussed the filing of the legislation at the Feb. 14 meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission, saying that the request would bring the total amount of Chapter 90 funds released by the administration since January 2015 to \$900 million.

Written by MMA Legislative Analyst Victoria Scalfani

Governor signs workplace safety bill

*Reprinted from the April 2018 Issue of The Beacon, with permission from the Massachusetts Municipal Association
March 14, 2018*

Federal workplace safety standards will apply to all public sector workers in Massachusetts under a law signed by Gov. Charlie Baker on March 9.

The new state law, which takes effect on Feb. 1, 2019, applies standards set in the Occupational Safety and Health Act to all state and local government workers. The law expands the reach of a 2014 law that applied the OSHA rules to certain state employees.

The Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards will enforce the law, not OSHA.

The law requires the governor to appoint representatives from local governments and groups, including a representative from the MMA, to a 21-member occupational health and safety advisory board. The board will consult with the DLS to amend current regulations in order to include municipal employees.

The advisory board will also evaluate data on injury and illness, recommend training and implementation of safety and health measures, monitor the effectiveness of safety and health programs, and determine where additional resources are needed.

The MMA had worked with legislators to ensure that municipal management would be included on the board.

The Occupational Safety and Health Act, passed by Congress in 1970, created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and established standards to ensure safe and healthful working conditions by providing enforcement, outreach, training and compliance assistance.

Massachusetts joins 26 states that have statutorily extended OSHA standards to public employees.

Written by MMA Senior Legislative Analyst Lisa C. Adams



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Governor's environmental bill focuses on climate adaptation

Reprinted from the April 2018 Issue of The Beacon, with permission from the Massachusetts Municipal Association

Written by MMA Legislative Analyst Victoria Sclafani

On March 15, Gov. Charlie Baker filed a \$1.4 billion multi-year environmental bond bill that includes \$300 million in authorizations for infrastructure improvements to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The bill includes \$170 million for infrastructure such as seawalls and nature-based climate resilience solutions, and \$130 million for new initiatives such as the integrated state hazard and climate adaptation plan and the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program.

The bill also includes funding for the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's development of emergency response and natural hazard preparedness programs, climate science and data, grants for public entities for electric vehicles and charging stations, implementation of the state's Global Warming Solutions Act, and a climate change workforce skills grant program.

The bill would provide \$270 million for environmental protection, including grants to help communities comply with the MS4 stormwater permit, \$60 million for the Clean Water Trust, and \$50 million for the Complete Streets program.

The legislation includes a revolving fund to assist communities in implementing transfer-of-development-rights zoning and an authorization and framework for municipalities to engage in public-private partnerships.

The bill would codify key principles in the governor's Executive Order 569, "Establishing an Integrated Climate Change Strategy for the Commonwealth," issued in 2016.

The filing of the governor's bill follows winter storms that caused severe flooding, widespread power outages, and infrastructure damage in many communities, particularly in coastal areas. The legislation is intended to build on the administration's efforts to increase resiliency in municipalities. About 70 communities are already participating in the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, which helps communities assess their vulnerabilities to climate change.

Meanwhile, the Senate is taking up its own clean energy bill, which would also address climate adaptation. The legislation would create more ambitious requirements for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by allowing the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate regulations that exceed standards set by the Paris Climate Agreement. The Senate bill also would expand the definitions in the state's Global Warming Solutions Act to more directly deal with emissions from all sectors.

The Senate bill would set new goals for solar energy, expand opportunities for wind and hydropower and energy storage, and increase the renewable portfolio standard. The bill would lift the net-metering cap in order to promote solar projects and establish a comprehensive climate change adaptation management plan.

The Senate bill contains provisions that would impose standards on municipalities for the reduction of municipal solid waste, requiring the MassDEP to establish standards to reduce solid waste to not more than 600 pounds per capita per year by July 1, 2020, and to not more than 450 pounds per capita by July 1, 2024.

The MMA submitted testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means on several sections of the wide-ranging bill.

NEW! Safety Corner

Submitted by Jennifer Tetreault Of HazCompliance, LLC

OSHA compliance? Safety regulations? There is a lot of chatter about some of the "new" buzzwords going around, along with a lot of misconceptions, as well. To the satisfaction of some (and possible disappointment of others), we would like to take a moment to first clear up those misconceptions and to touch on what this is all about.

Overview: The Department of Labor Standards has traditionally adopted the safety standards that OSHA puts out as their guideline and policy to follow when it comes to municipal employees. However, these standards have not necessarily been made mandatory, nor have they been enforced. In 2015, Massachusetts General Law 6-1/2 was created to reduce the number of work-related injuries and illnesses among Commonwealth employees. This law required Commonwealth employees to follow, at a minimum, OSHA Standards. At the time, it did not cover municipalities. The recent signing of the amendment to the MGL now includes municipalities as being covered under the OSHA compliance law (actual effective date is February 1, 2019).

What does this mean? The Department of Public Works will now need to ensure that the safe work practices outlined in OSHA Standards are followed. This does NOT mean that OSHA will be entering your workplaces or stopping at your sites. Rather, the Massachusetts DLS will still be responsible for inspections- random and planned, as well as responding to injuries or fatalities, and issuing corrective action

citations. Monetary citations are only issued if corrective actions are not implemented and, to the best of my knowledge, these citations are not typically the high cost fines of private industry OSHA citations.

Some of the requirements of OSHA Standards include having written policies for confined spaces, chemical hazard communication, blood borne pathogens, personal protective equipment and more. Within these policies, the hazard assessment is conducted, and the safe work practices are stated on how the department will safeguard against the assessed hazards. You may already be implementing many of these safe work practices; it is now a matter of formalizing it. Some other practices you may not be in the habit of routinely carrying out, such as the use of trench boxes (for every applicable dig!), monitoring and ventilating each time entering a manhole or other permit required confined space, offering exposed workers hepatitis B vaccines, or ensuring employees are medically fit to wear any respirators that have been properly selected and fit-tested.

In addition to safe work practices, OSHA Standards outline some routine inspections that should be carried out and require recordkeeping of workplace injuries and illnesses.

Perhaps one of the most emphasized parts of safety that OSHA requires is the training component. One can have all the policies and

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Are You Eligible?

By David Webster, Trustee

For most of us there comes a time in our careers when we decide that we would like to do something else other than work in the highway field. Regardless of what that something else may involve, walking completely away from a career may not be desirable. As a member of Massachusetts Highway Association, we all make friends and acquaintances along the way, which we want to maintain. This is where Life Membership in MHA may help you.

Article II Membership of the Constitution of Massachusetts Highway Association is as follows:

“A Life Member shall be any individual active, corporate, or associate member retired from the field who has been active, corporate or Associate member for at least 15 years in the Massachusetts Highway Association, or any Past President of this Association upon retirement may become a life member after affirmative action by the Board of Government. Life members will be exempt from paying dues, fees, or assessments, and will enjoy all other rights of their former membership.”

When it comes time for your retirement, keep this benefit in mind. Just contact the MHA Director from your County Highway Association and ask for your name to be voted into Life Membership by the Board of Government.

Your Board of Government is currently updating the existing list of Life Members. If you have previously been voted into life membership or know someone who has, please contact the MHA Director from your County Highway Association to make sure you are on the list.

Finally, an “In-Memoria” list of previous Life Members who have passed away is being generated. If you become aware of someone that should be remembered on that list, please notify the MHA Director from your County Highway Association.

PICTURES OF THE DISASTROUS 2018 WINTER STORMS

Salisbury, MA – Winter 2018



Becket, Mass - Winter 2018



Basics of a Good Road



Cities and towns spend a lot of tax dollars on their infrastructure, yet many miles of road are in poor condition. It is often the case that roads were not constructed for modern traffic loads and volumes and maintenance has been inadequate, resulting in the deterioration of the riding surface and base.

There are certain essentials to any good road, whether asphalt or gravel, in cities or the country. Many roads could benefit

from a simple condition assessment and the application of the basic principles of design, construction, and maintenance. This workshop will give attendees an understanding of what goes into the construction and maintenance of a good road and how they can implement these principals in their community.

5/3/2018 – Dalton Highway Garage – Dalton, MA

5/16/2018 – Sunderland Public Safety Complex – Sunderland, MA

Register at: <http://www.umasstransportationcenter.org>.

OSHA 10 Hour Construction Training

The OSHA Outreach 10 Hour Construction Training Program provides training on the recognition, avoidance, abatement and prevention of workplace hazards. Classes also provide overview information regarding OSHA, including workers' rights, employer responsibilities, and how to file a complaint. All OSHA 10 Hour Construction Training is intended to cover an overview of the hazards a worker may encounter on a job site. Training emphasizes hazard identification, avoidance, control and prevention, not OSHA standards.

5/2/2018 – UMass Center Springfield – Springfield, MA

5/8/2018 – Hamilton-Wenham Public Library – South Hamilton, MA

Register at: www.umasstransportationcenter.org.

Baystate Roads Needs Your Success Stories!

Baystate Roads, the state Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), has offered municipalities training and technical support for over 30 years! The LTAP Center is looking for feedback to assess their impact on **YOUR** department or organization. These may be small or large changes, operations or workforce related.

If you are contacted for additional information, **YOU will receive** a voucher to attend a 1-day class of your choice!

To submit your success story

Please email the following information to umtcTraining@engin.umass.edu or fax your response to Karen Dodge, at 413-545-9569.

Information requested

1. What training topic or technical assistance most impacted your job performance?
2. How did the training impact your job performance? (list as many as apply)
 - a. saved me time
 - b. saved me money
 - c. contributed to a safer workplace
 - d. improved team relationships
 - e. changed my life!
 - f. other
3. What new information or skill were you able to apply?
4. Please give us additional details about your results or how Baystate Roads has helped grow your career. (i.e., If a new process saved you materials, time or money, can you estimate how much? Was this a long process or something relatively quick to initiate?)
5. May we contact you to gather additional information? If so, please provide the following contact information: name, email, phone #, municipality or other organization.

We know you value the services Baystate Roads provides – please help them by showing how much you do!

Thank You for Your Many Examples of Excellence



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Senate releases comprehensive clean energy legislation

Reprinted from the March 2018 Issue of *The Beacon*, with permission from the Massachusetts Municipal Association
Written by MMA Legislative Analyst Victoria Sclafani

An extensive clean energy bill released on Feb. 12 by the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change would create more ambitious regulations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and municipal solid waste, expand clean energy procurement and storage, and eliminate the solar net metering cap and further promote solar generation.

The bill would allow the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate regulations for greenhouse gas reduction that exceed standards set by the international Paris Climate Agreement. It would also expand the definitions in the state's Global Warming Solutions Act to more directly deal with emissions from all sectors, including transportation vehicles, buildings and structures, and any residential, commercial, institutional, industrial or manufacturing process.

The bill allows for the procurement of more offshore wind and hydropower and would expand opportunities for energy storage.

Changes to net metering and solar energy generation in the bill include the elimination of the net metering cap for renewable energy projects and establishment of a statewide solar target of 20 percent of total electricity use by 2020 and 30 percent by 2030.

The bill would delay the establishment by electric utilities of a "monthly minimum reliability contribution" for net metering customers by a year, to 2020, and would require advanced metering equipment before a customer could be assessed the fee.

Regarding municipal solid waste, the bill would require the DEP to

establish standards to reduce solid waste to not more than 600 pounds per capita per year by July 1, 2020, and to not more than 450 pounds per capita by July 1, 2024.

The bill would establish a comprehensive climate change adaptation management plan, providing a process for local and regional climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy development and implementation. The bill directs the secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs to develop an adaptation management plan grant program to provide financial and technical assistance to municipalities.

The energy bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

The Senate has a number of major bills on its agenda to take up before the end of formal legislative sessions on July 31. The MMA will continue to review the energy bill and weigh in on sections that affect municipalities.

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County Association News

Barnstable County – Neil Andres

Back to back Northeast storms have been making work difficult for the Cape's DPWs. Downed trees, wires, and poles, as well as flooding and coastal erosion, were extensive. Many went days without power. Restoration will take weeks.

Berkshire County – Chris Bouchard

This winter had been a normal one until March when Mother Nature decided to give us three Nor'easters, for a total of 47.5 inches of snow this month, which brought the season total to 111.5 inches.

The Highway Association has a great season of workshops and meetings planned.

June 15th - The 10th Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough. We will be raising money for the Moments House in Pittsfield which supports people and families with cancer.

June 28th - The Second Meeting/Workshop will be held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough.

August 23rd - The Third Meeting/Workshop will be held at the Italian-American Club in Pittsfield.

September 14th - The 35th Annual Equipment Show and Picnic will be held in Hinsdale at the Hinsdale Fire Association pavilion.

October 25th - The 39th Annual Meeting will be held at the Italian-American Club in Pittsfield.

Retirements/New Superintendents:

Town of Richmond - Jerry Coppola retired after 32 years and is succeeded by Peter Beckwith. Jerry is a past two-term President of MHA, and the long-time, and current, Secretary of BCHSA.

Town of Mount Washington - John Hoskins has replaced Peter Beckwith.

Town of Adams - Dave Nuvalle has retired.

Town of Lee - Chris Pompei has returned to the private sector.

Essex County – Lisa DeMeo

James Denison, P.E., has become the new DPW Commissioner for the City of Lowell. He recently served as the Assistant DPW Director and Town Engineer in Hooksett, NH.

The winter storms in March brought tidal flooding and dune erosion to the Town of Salisbury. During one storm, seven consecutive high tides overtopped the beach, flooding the beach's business center. The dunes had to be rebuilt after each tide. Damage still is being repaired.

Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex – Joseph Flanagan

The annual NBM equipment show will be held at the Wellesley DPW on May 2nd, and the annual Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on July 11th at the Brook Meadow Country Club. Please sign up and reserve your spots now.

The Town of Easton had over 200 trees come down during the first Nor'easter in March. The DPW community responded overwhelmingly for Public Works Director Dave Field, with nine communities sending 18 work crews to assist with the removal of trees, clearing roads and opening up the town for Business! This response is what Public Works is about! I am sure that Dave will fill us in with the details at a later date. Coordinating and working with multiple municipal departments and

utilities is what Public Works does on a daily basis, but to see it come together in this emergency situation is gratifying and should be noted!

Register Now

May 2nd – Equipment Show, Wellesley DPW

2018 Membership Application

To apply or renew your membership, please use our online form. No paper applications will be mailed this year. Everyone who signs up for membership before April 1st will receive two (2) complimentary lunch tickets for the Equipment Show. Please renew today!

Plymouth County – John Haines

After exceptional late spring-like weather in February, the month of March brought unprecedented winter storms that produced everything from Blizzard condition snow falls, to hurricane strength winds, to coastal flooding not seen since the Blizzard of 1978, leaving behind damage that will take months, if not years in some cases, to repair and rebuild and cost millions of dollars. These storms have stretched our Public Work resources to the limits, but also put the services we provide to our residents on the front pages.

Our Plymouth County Highway Association has continued to meet regularly throughout the winter on the third Thursday of each month at locations throughout Plymouth County. At our February meeting, the association awarded over \$10,000 in scholarships to the children of our Association members. Those scholarships funds are generated directly through the success and generosity of our Corporate Sponsors and events like our annual equipment show in July and golf outing in October. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday April 19th at Haddad's in Marshfield.

Worcester County – Scott Crisafulli

We would like to thank Sean Divoll for his dedication and hard work on the WCHA board of directors. Sean has decided to retire from his position on our board to allow for others to succeed. There are two open positions on our board of directors. Our nominating committee has nominated Nick Repekta from the Town of Shrewsbury and Tim Kilhart from the Town of Harvard. We will be voting on the new board members at our April meeting.

Our Annual March meeting was very successful, with a number of terrific speakers, including Richard Merson and Tom Collins who gave a presentation on Honoring Fallen Public Works Professionals & Public Works pride. Their committee's work speaks volumes and is very much appreciated.

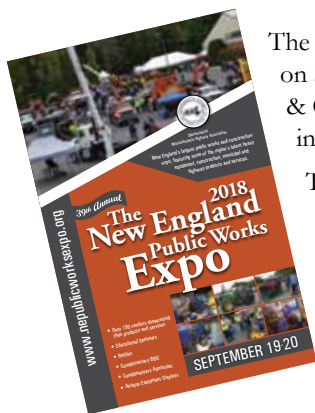
Our Annual April meeting was held in conjunction with the UMTC's MassDOT & Mobility Exchange at the DCU Center.

Our Annual Vendor Appreciation/Clambake in June is being planned at Wachusett Mountain. A clam bake will follow at lunch time.

WCHA website has been updated to a state-of-the-art user-friendly site. Memberships and meeting registration can now be done online, and members can sign in with their own profile. There are lots of other great options, so check it out!

Town of Shrewsbury Highway Superintendent and Tree Warden John Knipe will be retiring on August 3rd. John started with the town in 1972 and is a past President and Trustee of the Massachusetts Highway Association and a Past President of the Worcester County Highway Association.

39th Annual New England Public Works Expo



The 39th annual New England Public Works Expo will be held on September 19th and 20th at the Boxboro Regency Hotel & Conference Center in Boxborough, MA. For additional information, visit the website at www.nepublicworksexpo.org.

The expo is always a sellout and many vendors have already reserved their booths. If you would like to reserve a booth, or know of a vendor who would like a booth, call Ann or Carolyn at 781-245-7070.

There will also be a number of educational sessions during the expo. Additional information will be on the website www.nepublicworksexpo.org as soon as it is available.

Driver Skills and Safety Training Event (aka Snowplow Roadeo)

by Chris Bouchard, Chair

The Driver Skills and Training Committee is looking forward to seeing more cities and towns participate in this valuable training event this year. We hope to take a truck team and loader team to the National Snow and Ice finals in Loveland, Colorado to represent the MHA. Will your city or town be represented?

We need your help to set the date and location for this year. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey.

Link to the driver skills survey:

www.umasstransportationcenter.org/Forms.asp?MODE=NEW&Forms_FormTypeID=-20

MHA Charity Golf Tournament



The Annual Charity Golf Outing sponsored by the Massachusetts Highway Association is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, August 21st, at Brookmeadow Golf Club in Canton.



Joseph J. Medeiros, Jr., retired Rehoboth Highway Superintendent passed away on January 22nd at the age of 83.

NEW! Safety Corner

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inspections and recordkeeping buttoned up, but if this information and the policies are not conveyed to the employees, then it is not useful to them. All employees need to be trained in their jobs. If they are working in work zones, they should have work zone training. If they are entering confined spaces, they should have confined space training. Even topics that may seem simple to you will need to be addressed in some fashion with your employees. We cannot presume that our employees are automatically aware of the hazards and the subsequent safe work practices that must be implemented. How can we expect employees to follow rules if they have not been told what those rules are? Safety training is the most important part of keeping an employee safe.

OSHA's website www.osha.gov, as well as the DLS website www.mass.gov/dols/wshp, have great resources for all to peruse and safety templates and training material to use. Other useful resources for safety include your insurance group, your town risk manager, or safety professionals.

Newsletter update

This *Spring 2018 Newsletter* is being distributed digitally only and is on the MHA website at masshwy.org. If you are a member of MHA and not receiving the Newsletter please contact the editor, Bill Elovirta, at bille@msn.com and give him your email address. All advertisers have a link to their websites. Please support our advertisers. All news items should be sent to your MHA County Director or directly to the editor. The next issue will be Fall 2018.



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