

### President's Message



**Robert E. O'Brien**

Dear Massachusetts Highway Association Members and Colleagues,

I am proud to be President of the Massachusetts Highway Association and look forward to furthering the mission of our organization. This is an exciting and momentous year as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of

the founding of MHA. The 125th Gala was held on June 2nd at the Intercontinental Hotel in Boston; the evening included an inspiring patriotic performance by the Singing State Trooper Sgt. Daniel M. Clark and guest speakers, including the Massachusetts State Highway Director and the City of Boston Transportation Director. The food, the venue and the band made it an extraordinary event not to be forgotten. A special thank you to co-Chairs Chris Cronin and Dave Capelle as well as the committee members, sponsors and volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

The MHA Charity Golf Tournament was held August 21 at Brook Meadow Country Club. Bill Elovirta, MHA treasurer and retired highway superintendent of Becket was the honoree, who chose the Massachusetts Eye & Ear Foundation as the beneficiary of this year's successful tournament. Thanks to all who worked on the event and to all the golfers! As always, the tournament was a great day for members and sponsors.

The New England Public Works Expo at the Boxborough Regency Hotel on September 19 and 20 was an outstanding success with the highest attendance of any previous expo. Congratulations to Dave Capelle, the committee and volunteers for all their work!

I recently retired as Director of Public Works of Walpole and was honored at the Expo with a plaque and clock for my many years of public service presented by Tom Reynolds of the MHA Awards Committee. Thank you all for this recognition.

I know you join me in looking forward to another successful year ahead for MHA. We will continue to work together to provide professional development, offer scholarships to support further education, and advocate for needed funding for highway infrastructure in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,  
Robert E. O'Brien

*President, Massachusetts Highway Association*

### Mark your Schedule for MHA TriCounty Joint Meeting

The Annual Massachusetts Highway Association/Tri-County Highway Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 27th at the Castle of Knights in Chicopee. The agenda is being finalized and will be provided in an upcoming meeting notice. A prime rib dinner will be served.

### Collaboration and Clear Communications Keys to Overcoming Extreme Challenges in the Wake of Gas Explosions in Andover, Lawrence and North Andover

*By Chris Cronin, Andover PWD & MHA Past President*

On September 13, 2018 a series of natural gas explosions rocked the communities of Andover, Lawrence and North Andover. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) attributed the cause to over-pressurized natural gas pipelines serving significant portions of the three communities. Within minutes Public Works officials reached out to the area Public Works Directors offering help. The explosions resulted in one fatality, injuring others, and set over 80 buildings on fire. Approximately 8,600 customers were out of gas service, and most were out of power for days after electricity was cut to prevent further explosions. Although power could be restored in a matter of days after the danger from gas leaks had passed, full gas service restoration would take months. An estimated 50 miles of gas lines were identified as needing replacement in busy residential and commercial neighborhoods. On top of that, winter conditions were only weeks away.

As first responders in the wake of the catastrophe, all three public works departments provided vital support functions for road closures, night lighting, water system monitoring and associated response actions. This was a 24/7 operation with no breaks in sight and was stressing the departments to the breaking point. Almost immediately, all three public works directors, MHA Past President Chris Cronin of Andover, Carlos Jaquez of Lawrence, and Jim Stanford of North Andover, recognized the need to work as a close-knit team to pool resources and jointly represent their communities in the response actions. While each was concerned about their constituents and worked feverishly to service them, they also realized that the only way to get through this event was to maintain a high level of cooperation and a concerted front in dealing with Columbia Gas. This team approach was fully supported by Andover Town Manager Andrew Flanagan, Mayor Dan Rivera of Lawrence, and North Andover Town Manager Andrew Maylor, and was essential for coordinating with the immediate and substantial state-led response actions directed by Governor Baker.

*Continued on page 3*

## MHA 2018-2019 Board of Government

The Annual meeting of the Massachusetts Highway Association was held on Thursday, May 3rd in Sutton. Eighty five members cast ballots to elect the following slate of officers for the 2018-2019 fiscal year: President Robert O'Brien, Walpole; Vice President David Desrosiers, Granby; Vice President Cornelius Andres, Eastham; Trust Fund trustee Joseph Welch, Norwood; Directors representing Essex County, Lisa DeMeo, Salisbury; Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex Counties, Robert Cantoreggi, Franklin; and Plymouth County, John Haines, East Bridgewater.

The Board of Government also voted to re-appoint Secretary David Lane, Danvers and Treasurer William Elovirta, Becket.



## 2018 Scholarship Winners

At the MHA Annual Meeting held on May 3rd, 18 \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to the following recipients: Anthony Crisafulli, Mathew Bagley, Allison Bardwell, Nicole Benevento, Kristin Carreiro, Kyle Dickson, Jessica Dwelly, Alexis Fairbanks, Brandon Hooper, Monica Kashi, Krystal Kilhart, Elise Maynard, Matthew McCarthy, Sam McGown, Patrick O'Regan, Mia Russell, Shelby Scarborough and Molly Tilton.



# Open letter to the Executive Director of APWA

Reprinted with permission of the writer, Sgt. Robert Pedrini

Dear Mr. Grayson,

I am writing to you in regards to a funeral I had the honor of escorting today, August 19th, in Melrose MA. I saw that you were the Executive Director for the APWA and figured you would be the highest official I would be able to contact.

I am a Sergeant with the Arlington MA Police Department, and I am part of a regional task force made up of motorcycle Officers. Melrose Police requested our assistance this morning in regards to a large funeral procession in their town. I along with 15 others, including Melrose, took part in the escort for Mr. John Doherty, a Melrose DPW employee. I did not personally know him but was involved in the escort. I have done close to 100 funerals in my 20 year career with the department, but I have never experienced anything like today's event. I can't stop thinking about it even now as I sit at work. I was in charge of leading the outside agency vehicles to the church for a drive by while the family stood on the sidewalk. I was in awe, overly impressed and filled with hope for the future at the sight of all of the vehicles that made an appearance today. The show of support was beyond outstanding. Your organization, which is extremely well run, did an amazing job in the final farewell for Mr. Doherty. I have never taken part in a Public Works employee funeral and did not know that your organization existed until today. I spoke with a few of the participants, from Framingham and some towns in Connecticut. They told me a little about what you guys do and where they have been.

I have been to Law Enforcement funerals as well as Firefighters, and I must say, today took the cake. I believe at least 150 vehicles from all over New England arrived to take part. The distance these people drove, and the variety of trucks they brought, it was awesome to see and take part in. Like I stated earlier, there is no greater honor for a motor cop than to escort a fallen brother to his final resting place, but today, it was even more of an honor to take part in the procession that brought Mr. Doherty home. The officer in charge (OIC) on scene introduced himself to us, but I'm not good with names, but if you could forward this to him and praise his excellent work in getting all of these trucks together, rolling and parked, and all of it. As we approached the cemetery, all members of your organization stood next to the truck they were driving with hands over hearts. It brought a tear to this man's eye. The professionalism, pride, and honor these men and women showed today is a model that should be sought by any organization. Your members did an outstanding job and you should be extremely proud of each and every one of them.

In closing, please pass on my appreciation to the OIC of the day in Melrose, and let all of your members know that they did an outstanding job and they whole heartedly gave Mr. Doherty a well-deserved send off. Thank you for your time, and dedication to your members who do an outstanding job. It was an honor to be part of the funeral today with your organization.

Truly,  
Sgt Robert Pedrini  
Arlington Police

# Collaboration and Clear Communications Keys to Overcoming Extreme Challenges in the Wake of Gas Explosions in Andover, Lawrence and North Andover

*Continued from page 1*

Within one week of the explosions, the gas line reconstruction program was projected to involve as many as 200 repair crews gathered from across the eastern United States. In order to ease the burden on the combined public works force and community municipal management team, they quickly recognized the need for professional support. Of primary concern was monitoring crew activities, coordinating daily meetings with the Gas Company, community leaders and state officials, tracking activities impacting the water/sewer/drainage utilities of all three communities, and effectively communicating all of this among all parties every day.

At this time, 196 repair crews are working daily on bringing the gas system back into operation, with a target to complete all street operations by November 19th. However, contingency plans have been initiated to provide shelter for residents that may not have service as winter approaches. Collaboration and communication between the three directors: Chris, Carlos, and Jim have been the key to effective response, planning and communications in an effort to return to a reasonable sense of normalcy for the residents and businesses of Merrimack Valley. All three wish to thank their fellow directors and Public Works officials in many nearby communities who generously lent support in the initial stages of this event. The remarkable support and outreach received from the members of the county highway associations and of course those in MHA was invaluable in the first few hours and days following this event. It is the importance of those organizations and relationships that helped us operate quickly under such difficult conditions.



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# 39th Annual New England Public Works Expo

The 39th annual New England Public Works Expo took place on September 19th and 20th at the Boxboro Regency Hotel & Conference Center in Boxborough, MA. The show was a sell out with over 200 vendors exhibiting a variety of services and equipment. Educational seminars were featured on both days of the Expo, including motivational speaker Rocky Blunt. Other highlights included antique equipment displays from Northeast Rockbusters.

Vendors donating raffle prizes were: Adamson Industries, Airgas, BETA, BMC Corp., Boston Freightliner, CN Wood, Equipment East, Franklin Paint, Gourmet Donuts, HC Hydro Cutter, Highway Rehab Corp., Safe Road Services, HP Fairfield, JC Madigan, Penway Sales, Sound off Signal, ST Pierre Chains, Tri- State Diesel and WoodCo, Inc.

A big thank you to Bartlett Consolidated, LLC, who every year donates a TV to be raffled, with proceeds earmarked for the MHA scholarship fund. This year, Brian McCarthy of the Burlington DPW was the winner of a Samsung 43" flat screen TV.

The NEPWE continues to gain a steady following from both exhibitors and attendees. This year's Expo brought in many new vendors and 1,680 attendees from all over New England.

Special recognition goes to Expo Chairman Dave Capelle and his committee for another superb job.

The 40th annual Expo is already in the planning stages.



## Safety Corner

*This is a regular feature that will appear in the newsletter  
Compliments of Jennifer Tetreault of HazCommpliance, LLC*

There is a good chance that many are up to date on the 'new' OSHA compliance that will soon be in full effect. However, there are other safety laws that some may not be familiar with that we wanted to take a quick moment to share. The new Hot Works Law (Chapter 41 of 527 CMR 1.00) has been effective since 2015 in Massachusetts as part of the State Fire Code. However, since July 1, 2018, anyone performing welding, cutting and other hot works must now obtain appropriate training in addition to a Hot Work Permit from the local fire department. This includes the DPW. For more information on this program and requirement, visit <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/welding-cutting-other-hot-works> or phone DFS Code Compliance Desk at (978) 567-3375.

## Recap of the Educational Sessions at the 2018 Expo

Educational Sessions at this year's New England Public Works Expo were all well-attended and quite valuable. With information on the new safety policies in our DPW's, MS4 requirements, purchasing contracts and more, there was a little something for everyone. Add to that the great vendor demonstrations to showcase their latest and greatest products and technology and the sessions were well worth attending.

Educational sessions are a great way to stay abreast of changing rules and regulations and to keep updated on the latest and greatest in the business. These classes provide time to discuss the challenges, changes, and methods of the industry with your peers and to garner that sense of camaraderie at the show.

Regardless of attendance this year, there is always room for improvement and the Sessions Committee is continuously looking for input on what topics to bring to the attendees. These sessions can be great tools and resources for all employees and DPW administrations and we strive to make them valuable to each organization. We strongly encourage all to submit requests for information to the Massachusetts Highway Association for what you feel would be a beneficial addition to the sessions for next year.

As always, we thank those who participated in the sessions this year to make it a success. If you missed the opportunity to attend, please submit your email to MHA to be added to the email list and stay updated on all announcements!





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## MMA Presenting 40th Annual Meeting & Trade Show

By Ariela Lovett, Legislative Analyst, MMA

The MMA's 40th Annual Meeting & Trade Show will be held January 18 and 19 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston and will feature more workshops and learning opportunities than ever before. The theme for 2019 is "Strong Communities for a Stronger Commonwealth." Program details are posted at [www.mma.org](http://www.mma.org) as they become available.

Thirty-four workshops will be offered over two days, covering important and timely municipal issues. The list of workshop titles is currently available at [www.mma.org/workshops](http://www.mma.org/workshops), where the full descriptions and panelists will be posted in November.

The Massachusetts Highway Association is sponsoring a workshop on Saturday, January 19 titled "The Road to Funding: State Public Works Grants." This workshop will feature panelists from MassDOT on the Complete Streets and Small Bridges programs, as well as from the Executive Office on Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) on the MassWorks Program. Attendees will learn everything they need to know about program eligibility, the application process, and deadlines for submission, and can ask questions of the presenters to help make their public works projects a reality.

In addition to more than 200 exhibitors showcasing the latest tools and services available to municipalities, the MMA Trade Show will feature 10 Learning Lab sessions presented by exhibitors – twice as many as this past year. For more information about exhibiting at the Trade Show or presenting a Learning Lab session, contact Karen LaPointe at [klapointe@mma.org](mailto:klapointe@mma.org).

The two-day event also features speakers, business meetings, special receptions and countless opportunities for networking.

The MMA Annual Meeting is the largest regular gathering of local officials in Massachusetts. The 2018 event was attended by more than 1,200 local leaders, and the Trade Show featured more than 200 exhibitors.

This year, the MMA will be marking 40 years of bringing municipal officials together to articulate a clear and united municipal message, to develop and advocate for unified policies, and to share information and work together to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of municipal service delivery.

The advance Annual Meeting registration rate is \$180 for members and \$295 for registrants from other government entities. After the early registration deadline of January 9, all registrations will be done on-site at a rate of \$230 for members and \$345 for other government entities.

Online registration is available at [www.mma.org/am-registration](http://www.mma.org/am-registration). The MMA accepts credit cards for Annual Meeting transactions. No Annual Meeting registrations can be accepted over the phone.

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# MMA Soliciting Responses to Chapter 90 Survey

By Ariela Lovett, Legislative Analyst, MMA

The Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) is soliciting responses from municipal officials for its bi-annual Chapter 90 survey. We have long heard from city and town officials that the annual Chapter 90 authorization amount is not adequate to meet local road construction needs. The MMA seeks to learn how much funding our member communities need annually to maintain their local road system in a “state of good repair.” Our survey also asks whether and how much municipalities allocate from local revenue or authorized borrowing toward road construction projects. As of mid-October, we have collected responses from approximately 250 municipalities. We seek full participation to be able to calculate aggregate need and make an effective case to lawmakers for increased Chapter 90 funding.

A useful working definition for “state of good repair,” based on work done by the US DOT and the Federal Transit Administration, is

as follows: “an asset or system is in a state of good repair when no backlog of capital needs exists – hence all asset life-cycle investment needs (e.g., preventive maintenance, rehab, replacement) have been addressed and no capital asset exceeds its useful life.” The MBTA uses the following definition: “the standard by which all capital assets are functioning at their ideal capacity within their design life.”

Both paper and electronic copies of the survey were sent out to Chief Municipal Officers and DPW directors or the equivalent in September. The original deadline for completing the survey was October 1; however, we are still accepting responses. Please complete and submit your survey as soon as possible. If you would like an additional copy or wish to confirm whether your municipality has already completed the survey, please contact Alandra Champion at [achampion@mma.org](mailto:achampion@mma.org).

## 2018 Chapter 90 Local Road Funding Survey

### A. LOCAL ROAD PROGRAM NEEDS

City and town officials report that the annual Chapter 90 authorization amount is not adequate to meet their local road construction needs. The MMA wants to know how much your community needs to maintain your local road system in a “state of good repair.”

A useful working definition for “state of good repair,” based on work done by the US DOT and the Federal Transit Administration, is “an asset or system is in a state of good repair when no backlog of capital needs exists – hence all asset life-cycle investment needs (e.g., preventive maintenance, rehab, replacement) have been addressed and no capital asset exceeds its useful life.” The MBTA uses the definition “the standard by which all capital assets are functioning at their ideal capacity within their design life.”

1. What is the total annual road construction budget amount (including both Chapter 90 and other funds) that would be required to maintain your community’s roads in a “state of good repair” and fund other Chapter 90 eligible projects such as intersection improvements, traffic signal installations and bridge repairs? Please see attached page for last year’s Chapter 90 allocation and your 2016 survey response.

ANNUAL SPENDING NEEDED TO REACH AND MAINTAIN A STATE OF GOOD REPAIR:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

### B. PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT

2. Do you have a pavement management system in place?

NO  YES Vendor/Program \_\_\_\_\_

### C. SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 90 FUNDS WITH MUNICIPAL FUNDS IN FY 2018 OR FY 2019

3. Has your community **appropriated any local revenue** or **authorized any borrowing** for road construction projects in addition to the Chapter 90 funds you receive?

**Appropriated local revenue** **Authorized borrowing**

YES NO If YES, amount: YES NO If YES, amount:

FY18   \_\_\_\_\_ FY18   \_\_\_\_\_

FY19   \_\_\_\_\_ FY19   \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Agencies such as MassDOT may be interested in the results of this survey. Do you give consent for your community’s results to be shared with other agencies?**  Yes  No

Name of Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please email, fax, or mail your completed survey to the MMA by October 1, 2018 . THANK YOU.**

Massachusetts Municipal Association, One Winthrop Square, Boston, MA 02110

Fax (617) 695-1314 or email to Alandra Champion at [achampion@mma.org](mailto:achampion@mma.org)

# BETA GROUP, INC. ACQUIRES NOVER-ARMSTRONG ASSOCIATES, INC.

New England-based Engineering and Landscape Architecture firm, BETA Group, Inc., has acquired Nover-Armstrong Associates, Inc. (Nover-Armstrong); an Environmental Services firm based in Carver, MA. Effective October 1, 2018, the merger of these two firms further expands BETA's environmental services expertise and resources. Nover-Armstrong's staff will complement BETA's existing services, while bringing further in-house expertise to the group including hazardous material building surveys, ecological services, and expert environmental permitting. These services will continue to be provided to municipal, private, and state agency clients throughout the region.

Under the leadership of Principals Marta J. Nover and Marylou Armstrong, LSP, Nover-Armstrong has provided environmental consulting, permitting, and environmental engineering services for the past 15 years across Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Both Ms. Nover and Ms. Armstrong will join BETA's management team as Vice Presidents of the Environmental Services practice group. Nover-Armstrong's entire professional staff including Licensed Site Professionals, Professional Engineers, Asbestos Inspectors, and Soil Evaluators will join the firm in BETA's Lincoln, RI corporate headquarters as well as BETA's new Worcester, MA office.

"Our firms have teamed together for over a decade offering comprehensive environmental and engineering services to our clients. This merger will provide a seamless transition for our combined client base as we continue to offer these services, now under one roof," said Frank Romeo, PE, President and CEO of BETA Group.

BETA Group, Inc. has consistently been ranked as one of the largest regional engineering firms. The acquisition of the Nover-Armstrong team will further bolster that position as a regional leader in the industry.

## About BETA Group, Inc.

Founded in 1982, BETA Group, Inc. provides state agencies, municipalities, and private clients with planning, engineering, landscape architecture, design, asset management, and construction services. BETA is ranked by Engineering News-Record in the Top 500 Design firms, and has received awards from the American Public Works Association, American Council of Engineering Companies, and other prestigious groups for both service and project design. BETA has over 160 employees in offices within Lincoln, Rhode Island; Worcester, Norwood and Chicopee, Massachusetts; Hartford, Connecticut and Manchester, New Hampshire.



## Upcoming Training

### Spreader Calibration

Spreader Calibration: Save time, save money, save the environment by not over applying. This class will cover all the necessary steps for calibration of spreaders. Whether you spread sand or salt, this class will teach how to achieve a goal of 250 lbs. of salt per lane mile or 1,000 lbs. of sand per lane mile (for gravel roads) or anything in between. Please bring your spreader truck with you and get it calibrated. This class will be both indoors and out so please plan and dress accordingly.

11/13/2018 - Wellesley DPW Training Room – Wellesley, MA

12/3/2018 – Andover Public Safety Complex – Andover, MA

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

For our up to date course listing, go to: <http://www.umasstransportationcenter.org/assnfe/searchcourses.asp?MODE=FINDRESULTS&cs-SortB=2>

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# Driver Skills and Safety Training Event (aka Snowplow Roadeo)

by Chris Bouchard, Chair

The MHA held its Driver Skills and Safety Training (Snowplow Roadeo) on July 19th at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area under great weather at a great location. This year, we had the single axle truck event and a wheel loader event for the competition. We invited all County Highway Associations to participate in the one event to make the event larger, more competitive and build comradery among all competitors. MHA and County Associations have some of the best pre-trip vehicle inspectors, loader operators and snowplow drivers. All cities and towns should be proud as they have trained their operators well.

I would like to thank all the teams and the cities and towns that they represent for their participation, as well as the judges and the cities and towns they work for, and the vendors that send judges. I would like to

thank our vendor sponsors as they help us in providing the loaders and trucks used in the events.

We traveled to the Western Snow and Ice snowplow roadeo National Finals in Loveland, Colorado on September 26th through September 28th in which the teams participated in the snowplow roadeo and wheel loader events and participated in some of the workshops offered at the three-day event. One difference this year at the National Finals was the new courses for all events. The teams finished very well and represented Massachusetts. We did find, as there has been talk of moving the National Finals to a new location, that the home for the finals will be in Loveland, Colorado going forward.

## MHA Roadeo results

### **Single Axle Truck:**

**1st place** - Town of Milford, Chris Butler and Jimmy Charzenski

**2nd place** - Town of Burlington, Patrick Duran and Mike Murphy

**3rd place** - Town of Salisbury, Chuck St. Cyr and Dave Vigneaux

### **Wheel Loader:**

**1st place** - Town of Otis, Kyle Pettibone

**2nd place** - Town of Stoughton, Richard Jasmin

**3rd place** - Town of Shrewsbury, Chad Morin

## National Roadeo results

### **Single Axle truck:**

Town of Milford, Chris Butler and Jimmy Charzenski finished 7th out of 47 teams and it was a 5-way tie for 7th as well.

### **Wheel Loader:**

Town of Otis, Kyle Pettibone finished 34th out of 48 teams

### **Motor Grader:**

Town of Granby, Dave Desrosiers finished 17th out of 40 teams.

Town of Becket, Christopher Bouchard finished 12th out of 40 teams

These teams competed against the nation's best snow and ice operators. They did a great job and congratulations on your accomplishments.

Congratulations to the other New England teams that travel to compete as well. Maine DOT team finished 3rd in the single axle truck, Exeter, Rhode Island finished 4th in the single axle truck, Exeter, Rhode Island finished 8th which was a 3-way tie in the loader event at the National Finals. Great job!

This event would not be possible without the help and support of the MHA Board of Directors and members. Over the winter, we will be working to take this event to an even higher level and will need your help to accomplish that task. If you would like to help send Chris or Dave an email or give us a call and we will put you to work.





# County Association News

## Barnstable County – Roby Whitehouse

This year, the Barnstable County Public Works Association gave out nearly \$16,000 in total scholarships to 10 recipients. The ability of this small association to give out that amount of money is a direct result of the support of our membership with the raffles and the golf tournament.

Thanks to Plymouth County Highway Association for hosting the Joint County's meeting on September 13th where the speaker was Representative Straus, House Chairman of the Joint Transportation Committee. He was able to update the group on transportation related matters that the State House is involved in. It is also great to have both Associations get together to discuss common challenges, and to seek creative solutions.

## Berkshire County – Chris Bouchard

On April 26th, the First Meeting / Workshop was held at the Skyline Country Club, in Lanesborough. Berkshire County Retirement Board gave a presentation about the retirement system, Mike Smith from Baystate Roads Program gave a presentation on programs and training they are offering, and Kathy Stevens, MA DOT District 1 State Aid Representative, gave a presentation on the Chapter 90 program.

On June 15th, the 10th Annual Charity Golf Tournament was held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough, MA. with great weather and attendance. We raised \$4000 for the Moments House in Pittsfield, MA which supports people and families with cancer.

On June 28th, the Second Meeting / Workshop was held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough. Seal Coating Inc. and All States Asphalt gave presentations on pavement preservations technologies.

On August 23rd, the Third Meeting / Workshop was held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough. HazCommpliance gave a presentation on how cities and towns will be affected by the OSHA regulations and guidance on how to move forward to stay in compliance.

On September 14th, the 35th Annual Equipment Show and Picnic was held in Hinsdale, MA at the Hinsdale Fire Assn. pavilion with great weather and was enjoyed by all who attended.

On October 25th, the 39th Annual Meeting was held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough. The annual election of officers was held, and three scholarships were awarded.

**John Murray** has left the Town of Chester. His successor is John Baldasero who also serves as a Chester Selectman.

**David Laviolette** has retired from the Town of Windsor and has been succeeded by **John Denno**.

**Dan Labonte** has left the Town of Savoy to go into the private sector and has been succeeded by **Bill Drosehn**.

## Essex County – Lisa DeMeo

After nearly 20 years of service to the town of West Newbury, it's the end of the road for Public Works Director **Gary Bill**. The decision marks the end of an era in the town, where for more than 50 years of care and repair of the streets has been overseen by one of two men — Bill and his predecessor, Albert Knowles Jr.

"I will miss doing all the road work and all the nice people I've worked with over the years, but what I will not miss is the winter with all the storms and the endless hours working them," he said.

Issues he had been working on include the impact of a new five-year permit for the collection or conveyance of stormwater, new

Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements set to take effect in February; future plans and budgeting for town facilities, including Page Elementary School; updates to the town's capital program; completion of the fiscal 2019 road paving program; and the transfer of information regarding the current DPW operating budget.

## Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex – Joseph Flanagan

**Robert O'Brien** recently retired from his position of Director of Public Works in Walpole, MA. after 21 years of leading the multi-division Department of Highway, Parks, Cemeteries, Building Maintenance, Vehicle Maintenance, Engineering, Sewer & Water. Bob was celebrated by DPW and other Town employees, elected local and state officials, colleagues, friends, and family on August 16 at receptions to mark his last day on the job. Many Massachusetts Highway Association Board Members were also in attendance. At the recent Massachusetts Highway Association New England Expo, Bob was honored with a presentation clock in recognition of his public service.

Bob is a Past Present of the Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex Highway Association prior to currently serving as Massachusetts Highway Association President. He earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a Masters of Public Administration from Suffolk University. Prior to his position in Walpole, Bob served as Assistant Superintendent of Public Works in Norwood and Superintendent of the Charles District for the Metropolitan District Commission.

Bob is looking forward to spending time with his family in Falmouth, enjoying golf, as well as continuing his professional involvement through consulting opportunities.

## Plymouth County – John Haines

Over this last few months, P.C.H.A. held many of its most popular association events, beginning with the Annual Ralph Haywood equipment show in July, an event that always draws several hundred highway and DPW employees from not only Plymouth County communities but many others. The scholarship golf tournament was held on October 1st at the Southers Marsh Golf Club. This event has become one of our most successful annual events with all the proceeds going directly to scholarship recipients.

The Snow & Ice Driver skills competition was held on October 12th at the Plymouth Municipal Airport. The winners of this competition will be recognized at the regular monthly meeting in November.

We would also like to recognize the retirement of **Jim Mulcahy**, highway surveyor for the Town of Plympton and Past President of our association, and congratulate **Scott Ripley**, formerly with the Pembroke DPW, who has been hired as Highway Superintendent for Plympton.

*Continued on page 10*



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### Tri-County – Rob Colson

Our previous Tri-County Representative **Don Ouellette** has retired from his position as Greenfield Director of Public Works to become Director of Public Works in Westerly, R.I. We all wish Don the best of luck in Rhode Island. **Rob Colson** has graciously accepted an appointment to the position as our Representative and MHA Board Member at the Director level. Rob previously worked with The Lane Construction Corporation based out of the Westfield, MA office for 24 years, from 1988 to 2012. A few items that the MHA is currently working to improve upon are difficulties with equipment licensing regulations; and our current mutual aid system. Our Annual Joint Meeting will be held on Tuesday November 27, 2018 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at the Castle of Knights (K of C) Chicopee, MA. with dinner starting at 12:30 pm. The cost is \$45.00 per person. A notice will be going out soon with more details, including the names of all guest speakers. We hope everyone can take the time out of their busy schedules to attend and network with other Mass Highway members. It is a great time to learn and share your knowledge that can help all of us improve.

With winter approaching, summer is the last thing on our minds, but for those planning in advance, the 2019 Tri-County Summer Meeting and Golf Tournament will be at the Southampton Country Club on August 13, 2019.

**Richard Kilhart**, Director of Public Works in Ware, has resigned and taken a job as Assistant DPW Director in Athol. He is training with Director Doug Walsh who is planning to retire in the near future.

Lastly, work safe and remember to be prepared for the recently enacted Massachusetts law that applies federal workplace safety standards (OSHA) to municipal workers which goes into effect on February 1, 2019.

### Worcester County – Scott Crisafulli

On August 3rd, **John Knipe**, Superintendent of Streets for the Town of Shrewsbury, retired after 46 years of service to the town. John began his career in the Shrewsbury Engineering Department in 1972, then was promoted to Superintendent of Streets in 1988. He was also Tree Warden and Sealer of Weights and Measures. John has been involved with many associations throughout his career, most notably as past president of the Massachusetts Highway Association, past president of the Worcester County Highway Association, APWA, and CMRPC. Mr. Knipe has been an invaluable asset to the Town of Shrewsbury for his knowledge, expertise, and dedication. We would like to congratulate John on a long and successful career and wish him well with his long deserved retirement.

Since Mr. Knipe's departure, the Town of Shrewsbury has formed a Department of Public Works naming **Jeff Howland**, Director and **Nick Repekta**, Highway Division Manager.

## Newsletter update

This *Fall 2018* Newsletter is being distributed digitally only, plus it will be on the MHA website at [masshwy.org](http://masshwy.org). If you are a member of MHA and not receiving the Newsletter please contact the editor, Bill Elovirta, at [bille@msn.com](mailto: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 distributed in the spring of 2019.

## MHA Celebrated 125 Years of Excellence

*Saturday, June 2, 2018*



On June 2nd, the Massachusetts Highway Association held a Gala at the InterContinental Hotel, in Boston.

The event, attended by over 300 people was a celebration of the Massachusetts Highway Association's 125th Anniversary, its history, and its contributions to the industry and region.

A special thank you to the committee headed up by Dave Capelle and Chris Cronin, the sponsors and volunteers who made the event so memorable.

### **125th Committee Members**



### **Thank You for Your Many Examples of Excellence**



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