



# Massachusetts Highway Association

Since 1893

Volume 51

2022

## SPRING NEWSLETTER

### President's Message



Christopher J. Bouchard

Happy Spring,

I hope this letter finds everyone well and ready for some nice spring weather days to enjoy. It is nice to be back to normal with in person meetings, seeing people without

masks on. The past two years have seemed like it has been the movie "Groundhog Day." As I write this message, I realize this is my last President's Message. Two years seem to have gone by very quickly as president of the MHA. I have been very lucky to have worked with a great board of directors on a lot of important topics/projects during these two years.

I am excited that we have the annual meeting planned for May, the program committee has put together a great program and the MHA Board is busy planning the rest of the year's events as scheduled on the calendar. The New England Public Works Expo committee has been working extra hard, and they have a new location this year. I hope to see you at our events this year.

We need to continue to work with our elected officials on the importance of the Chapter 90 program and how this helps all cities and towns. It is great that Governor Baker has filed legislation for \$200M in Chapter 90 funding for FY23 and he has also filed a supplemental budget with an extra \$100M for Chapter 90 and an extra \$100M in winter road repairs funding. Thank you, Governor Baker. We need to get the legislators to also support and approve this important much needed funding for roads and bridges for this year and send it to the Governor's desk to be signed and released.

This year will be challenging due to inflation, supply chain issues and help shortages with contractors and vendors. This is why we need to show why we need regular increases to keep pace with inflation as we can expect our Chapter 90 funds not to stretch as far this year, but the work we need to accomplish will still be there uncompleted due to funding constraints.

*Continued on page 3*

### MHA Annual Meeting to be held on May 5th

The MHA Annual Meeting will be held at the Pleasant Valley Country Club, 95 Armsby Road, Exit 7 Rte. 146, in Sutton, Massachusetts.

**8:30 a.m. Registration – Coffee & Danish**

**9:00 a.m. Welcome from President Bouchard**

*Chris Bouchard, South Hadley DPW Director*

**9:10 a.m. Leadership as seen from MA State Police**

*Major Mary M. Sennott, Deputy Division Commander Massachusetts State Police, Crime Laboratory*

**9:45 a.m. MassDOT Update**

*John Bechard, Assistant Deputy Highway Administrator, MassDOT*

**10:10 a.m. Break**

**10:30 a.m. Leadership as seen from MA National Guard**

*Colonel Matthew Porter, Commander Camp Edwards, Massachusetts Army National Guard*

**11:05 a.m. Leadership as seen from the USS Constitution**

*Commander B.J. Farrell, 77th Commander of the USS Constitution*

**11:40 a.m. Annual Elections, Awards, & Scholarships**

**12:00 p.m. Social Hour**

**1:00 p.m. Prime Rib Dinner**

MHA members will receive a flyer containing ticket and reservation information as well as a ballot for the election of officers which must be returned no later than 9:00 a.m. on May 5th.



### 2022 New England Public Works Expo to be held September 21st and 22nd

The 2022 New England Public Works Expo will be held at a **new location** this year on September 21 and 22 at the Royal Plaza and Trade Center in Marlborough, Massachusetts. This is the largest public works and construction expo, featuring some of the region's most up-to-date heavy equipment, construction, municipal and highway products, and services.

Over 190 vendors will be showcasing their products and services, including demonstrations. Antique equipment will be on display. Admission is free and includes a complimentary lunch on both days. Raffle prizes will be given away daily.

The Expo hours are Wednesday 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., and Thursday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

If your company would like to exhibit in the Expo, please call 781-245-7070 or email [laura@jcmarketingassociates.com](mailto:laura@jcmarketingassociates.com). To see the vendors who have signed up or for more information about the Expo go to [www.nepublicworksexpo.org](http://www.nepublicworksexpo.org).

# Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Legislative Update

By Ariela Lovett, MMA Legislative Analyst

This will be my last update for the Massachusetts Highway Association newsletter, as I have left my role at the MMA on March 18. I am grateful for the opportunity I've had to serve as a liaison between the MMA and Mass. Highway for the past 3.5 years and to lobby on behalf of increased Chapter 90 funds and other local road and infrastructure priorities. I want to thank the membership of Mass. Highway and especially the Board for everything you've taught me and the kindness you've shown me.

The fiscal year 2023 Chapter 90 bond bill had its [preliminary hearing](#) on March 9 before the Joint Committee on Transportation. The MMA testified at the virtual hearing alongside a panel of local officials, including Dedham Director of Public Works Joe Flanagan, Auburn Town Manager Julie Jacobson, and Mount Washington Select Board Member Jim Lovejoy.

MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith testified that the inflation-adjusted level of state support for Chapter 90 would drop to \$117 million — a loss of \$83 million in purchasing power over 11 years (42.6%) — under the \$200 billion bond bill currently before the committee for fiscal 2023. The MMA submitted [written testimony](#) that includes a chart showing the declining value of Chapter 90 funds.

The municipal panelists emphasized the urgent need for a permanent increase in the Chapter 90 bond authorization to \$300 million per year, indexed to grow with inflation. They also asked the committee to support a multiyear bill, in order to provide predictability for local budgets and road project planning.

At the hearing, Transportation Committee members indicated their intent to act quickly on a fiscal year 2023 Chapter 90 bond bill. Once the committee reports out a bill, it is expected to go to the House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets. In both 2020 and 2021, a Chapter 90 bond law was not enacted and signed until July.

In mid-February, Gov. Charlie Baker filed a \$2.4 billion spending bill that included a one-time, \$100 million supplemental appropriation for Chapter 90, but the House and Senate have removed that line item from their versions of the bill. The branches have, however, included

the governor's separate \$100 million line item for a winter road recovery assistance program. The winter road funds would be distributed to all cities and towns based on a formula, and could be used for the rehabilitation, reconstruction, resurfacing or preservation of roadways.

The MMA supports both a proposed \$100 million supplemental appropriation for Chapter 90 as well as the proposed winter road recovery assistance program; however, the MMA argues that these funds should not be viewed as a substitute for a long-awaited and necessary increase in the base funding for Chapter 90.

Governor Baker filed on March 17 a [\\$9.7 billion infrastructure bond bill](#). The bill, called "An Act Relative to Massachusetts's Transportation Resources and Climate," or MassTRAC, would provide required state matching funds to compete for and leverage federal formula and discretionary investments provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law enacted last November, along with other investments in transportation and environmental infrastructure. The bill includes \$55 million to support investments in cities and towns to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety and invigorate downtown community public spaces through several grant programs, including Complete Streets, Municipal Small Bridge, Municipal Pavement, and Shared Streets and Spaces.

A bill filed by Senator Bruce Tarr that would regulate green lights for the exclusive use of municipal emergency management vehicles received a favorable report by the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. [SB1646](#), An Act relative to the use of green lights for municipal emergency management vehicles is supported by Mass. Highway and has a chance of advancement through the state legislative process.

On Feb. 7, Mass. Highway Board President Chris Bouchard and Board Member Brutus Cantoreggi were featured speakers for a webinar presented as part of the MMA's Annual Meeting virtual workshop series. The webinar, titled Recruitment and Retention Strategies for Public Works and Other Municipal Departments, is [available to view](#) on the MMA's website.



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# President's Message

*Continued from page 1*

It will always be the time to start thinking about how we can encourage and show our legislators and elected officials how important an increase to funding and a multiyear Chapter 90 Bond Bill will be in continuing to stabilize and help our economy. It is important to point out that Chapter 90 gets spent with LOCAL IN-STATE BUSINESSES that employ RESIDENTS / TAXPAYERS. This will be spent repairing the 80 percent of the road miles of infrastructure that the cities and towns are tasked to maintain, resulting in improved infrastructure, jobs, and tax revenue all retained in our state. This is the true way to spur our own economy in Massachusetts. We also must stress the importance of a timely release of the funds so that we may bid and award contracts early in the spring, working within the short weather window that we have in Massachusetts to get quality work completed.

We have been working hard over the past year on the mutual aid program with the help of MassDOT GeoDOT Team, Tito from BETA, MEMA, CMAC's and the Mutual Aid Committee. What this team has done in a short amount of time has been unbelievable, the help from the technical experts to take our ideas and put them into a GIS based platform and have it hosted cannot ever be measured. We now have a platform for our CMAC's to track requests for aid, track resources being requested / deployed, when they arrived and when returned, and to finally close the request out. Over the past year for a few events, we have helped to get resources for we have learned what worked well and where we needed improvements to get to where we are today. Mutual aid will always need to change, grow, and evolve; we now have a great foundation and team to continue onward and upward. Please check the MHA website and upcoming meetings for when we roll this out at 100% as we will need everyone to make sure we have current 24/7 contact information for each city and town for our CMAC database to make sure we can provide help when requested in a timely manner.

I want to take a moment to thank all the public works' staff in all our cities and towns for everything that you do daily and that sometimes goes unrecognized or unappreciated by residents. People are what make public works, without them it doesn't happen. Thank you to you and your staff for being on the front lines every day and getting the work we do done as what we do is very important to our residents and visitors.

I want everyone to remember the lessons of strength, innovation, resilience and adapting to challenges we never could have imagined over the past two years. This is why we are **PUBLIC WORKS STRONG**.

Christopher J. Bouchard

President MHA

# Safety Corner

*Compliments of Jennifer Tetreault of HazCompliance, LLC*

## Safety Check-In---- How Are You Feeling?

A ladder. A middle-aged man. A tragic morning at work.

Any workplace injury makes me wince and take a good hard look at what the root cause of the incident was: Was it the right tool? Was there safety training? Was there a failure of equipment? But a fatality at work weighs on my heart like a massive boulder.

Two weeks ago, a subcontractor at one of my client's jobsites had a tragic accident. He fell from the second rung (from bottom) on a ladder and struck his head on the concrete floor, cracking his head; he died later that day at the hospital. Initial investigations and according to supervisors indicate that he may have been on heart medication that was affecting him; an eyewitness reported that he seemed like he just went unconscious and fell back. Without formal medical reports and a cause of that initial fall officially determined yet, it is unofficially presumed that he had a health condition which led to the fall. Regardless the root cause, the tragedy shook the site.

There are a multitude of tangible hazards to assess on our worksites in the Highway Divisions and throughout the DPW's. We worry about trench safety, confined spaces, work zone safety, tool safety, etc... the list goes on. Yet, when was the last time we checked in with the person who is digging that trench, or entering the confined space, or working out in traffic?

Whether it is an underlying health condition, medication for that condition, "covid fog" after recovering from sickness, or just plain ol' not feeling "right"- we need to check in with ourselves and be aware of those around us for our overall focus and capabilities of the day. Workers are expected to handle heavy equipment and operate around other individuals and communication is depended upon for the safety of everyone on a site. To carry out the jobs safely, workers need to feel safe and capable themselves, and know that it is OK to step away from the controls on those days.

Understanding that there are privacy laws we don't want to cross, I am not recommending that we require people to publicly post their medications or discuss their health issues with everyone. But I am recommending that we communicate the need to our employees that safety is dependent on so many factors, and they themselves are the primary factor. It can be a sensitive and delicate subject, but I think it is a necessary topic to acknowledge for the sake of our employee's own safety, and the safety of those who work around them.

Workers should be able to perform their job safely, and there may be times that this ability may be compromised. The tragedy from two weeks ago has made me feel the need to impress the importance for awareness and checking in with employees to start the conversation about overall individual assessments for job function. Our safety should not be compromised.



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# 51 Cities, Towns Still Sharing from \$200 Million Pot

By Chris Lisinski, Massachusetts Municipal Assoc.

Cities and towns have for years argued that they need at least \$100 million more in annual state aid for road and bridge maintenance to address crumbling infrastructure, and in early March they added another argument to their so far unsuccessful pitch: raging inflation.

In just the past year, prices for highway work have grown by about one-quarter, according to one industry expert, exacerbating a steady trend of cities and towns being able to afford less road maintenance every year with the same amount of state financial support.

And with economy-wide inflation poised to keep soaring, Massachusetts municipalities are feeling the strain.

“The purchasing power of Chapter 90 has decreased by well over 40 percent since the first time Chapter 90 was funded at \$200 million per year,” Geoff Beckwith, executive director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, told the Transportation Committee.

“Construction inflation has essentially taken away over \$80 million of value in the program, and cities and towns are struggling mightily to maintain their local roads.”

Years of level-funding the program, albeit with occasional one-time supplemental funding, has forced the state’s 351 municipalities to steer more of their own local tax dollars to road maintenance or scale back the amount of work they can complete, Beckwith said.

On top of the shrinking purchasing power, Beckwith told lawmakers the \$200 million allotment only covers [about a third](#) of the \$600 million his group said is needed every year to keep local roads and bridges in a state of good repair.

For close to a decade, the Legislature and administration have level-funded Chapter 90 at about \$200 million per year with occasional mid-year boosts layered on top. The most recent version that Gov. Charlie Baker signed in July steered the traditional \$200 million to local road and bridge repairs plus an additional \$150 million spread across six grant programs.

Now in his final year in office, Baker again proposed keeping the program at \$200 million in his annual standalone bill (H 4358), though he also sought to add another \$100 million toward reimbursing cities and towns for road repairs, plus \$100 million more to repair potholes and other winter damage as part of a \$2.4 billion supplemental budget bill (H 4479).

“This total of \$400 million for municipalities between these two pieces of legislation continues to be a lifeline for municipalities across the state,” Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver told the Transportation Committee. “Due to the seasonality of roadway repairs and construction, it is crucial that this legislation be passed promptly so our communities may begin to plan and implement the investments for the year.”

The House on Wednesday approved a \$1.6 billion version of the mid-year spending bill (H 4532) that features \$100 million to address winter roadway damage but not the other \$100 million boost.

Construction Industries of Massachusetts Executive Director John Pourbaix said prices for construction are up across the board, particularly lumber and steel, which have “skyrocketed.” The past year has brought an inflation rate of about 25 percent for highway construction and maintenance, he told the News Service.

The impact on local communities ripples out across the entire industry, according to Pourbaix. With cities and towns able to afford less roadwork, they hire fewer workers to perform regular maintenance.

“The municipalities and the state’s buying power has been substantially diminished,” Pourbaix said. “Instead of doing four miles, you might only be doing three miles of resurfacing. Obviously, that would factor into the amount of labor that would be needed.”

Prices have increased by about 25 percent over just the past year, and compound that for the last several years especially if you look at Chapter 90 that’s been level-funded at \$200 million, you’re definitely paving less than you were,” he added.

Inflation has been potent in recent months, with the January consumer price index annual increase of 7.5 percent [representing a 40-year high](#). Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has sent gas prices in particular skyrocketing.

The rampant trend appears unlikely to change course in the near future. Bloomberg [reported Wednesday](#) that the latest Consumer Price Index update set for release is forecast to grow 7.8 percent, adding that economists now expect the rising action could peak at 8 percent to 9 percent.

Bill Gross, a high-profile bond investor, [also told Bloomberg](#) he expects inflation to continue at a 4 percent to 5 percent clip “for the next several years.”

In what has become an annual tradition on Beacon Hill, a string of municipal officials urged lawmakers to expand Baker’s proposal for the yearly injection of Chapter 90 money both by bulking up its amount and by authorizing several years of funding at once.

Auburn Town Manager Julie Jacobson said her community received about \$609,000 in Chapter 90 funding for the current fiscal year, about a quarter of the \$2.4 million the town needs per year to keep up with its roadway reconstruction plan.

“We’re putting a lot of local dollars in on top of it, and we’re still not keeping up,” she said. “The gap has just continued to widen, and the appropriations just aren’t keeping pace with annual increases in construction costs. As we all know, with further rising construction costs and materials this year, we’re not going to be able to fund anywhere near what we could fund last year.”

Rep. William Straus, a Mattapoissett Democrat who serves as co-chair of the Transportation Committee, noted during Wednesday’s hearing that a bill approved by the House later that day featured additional money to address potholes and other wear and tear inflicted during the past few cold, snowy months.

“It’s never enough, and we understand that and always hope we can do more,” he said.

Gulliver said that the Department of Transportation has rolled out several behind-the-scenes changes in recent years to improve management of the Chapter 90 program, including new guidance issued to cities and towns in August that replaced a 20-year-old predecessor.

MassDOT will also publish a new cost-estimate tool this month geared toward cities and towns seeking to use Chapter 90 funds on projects, Gulliver said.

“While previously it was a complicated task for a city or town to go through and project what the cost and spending is going to be for a project, this new tool -- which is the first of its kind in the nation as far as we can tell -- provides a very easy way to use the weighted average bid prices that MassDOT provides along with what, in real-time, towns experience in their bid prices to give them a much more accurate cost estimate when they put this project together,” Gulliver said.

We will be scheduling IN-PERSON trainings for April and May!

Please let us know your training requests! Contact Stephanie Cottrell at [scottrell@umass.edu](mailto:scottrell@umass.edu)

Complete Streets

- 303: Bicycle/Pedestrian Network Planning May 18
- 304: Traffic Calming Design June 7 & 8
- 305: Design Workshop June 21 & 22
- 306: Public Engagement July 12 & 13

ASSHTO TC3 Plan Reading: Self-paced Online

AASHTO TC3 Introduction to GIS Mapping: Self-paced Online

Previous Stump the Instructor Recordings:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/9267226>

Transportation Terminology Videos:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/9267506>

Leadership Series:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8057346>

Moving Together 2021 Recordings:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/9284956>

*By David Desrosiers, P.E., Mutual Aid Committee*

I am pleased to be able to give everyone the latest update on the Statewide Public Works Mutual Aid Program. Over the past few months, a subcommittee of our Massachusetts Highway Association Mutual Aid Committee has been working closely with the GIS division of MassDOT to refine the Arcgis online platform. The improvements made by the GeoDOT team have greatly simplified and streamlined the data entry for the CMACs (County Mutual Aid Coordinators). They have done a superb job polishing the application and automating many functions to make it very user friendly. Also, this enables us to scale it up to a major event all while keeping everything very organized.

We are now ready to roll out the much-improved GIS software and train the CMACs on the latest version of the software. Our hope is to have all the CMACs fully trained and familiar with the changes over the next few months. We expect to have the improved software fully functional and online by the end of summer.

Once we have completed all the training, we will meet with MEMA to go over the changes that have been put in place. As we have mentioned several times at our meetings, MEMA is already working closely with MHA, and we appreciate their help and input on this collaborative effort to make our Statewide Public Works Mutual Aid program one of the best in the country.

Our program is technically operational now, but we anticipate the official kickoff and publicity campaign to happen this fall.

Once again, thanks to everyone working on this behind the scenes to make this happen.




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# County Association News

## Barnstable County – Roby Whitehouse

Sandwich Public Works Director Paul Tilton is the new Barnstable County Public Works Association president. Other officers and board members include:

Vice President: Richard J. Waldo, P.E., Town of Provincetown  
Treasurer: Lincoln S. Hooper, Town of Harwich  
Clerk: Joseph J. Marshall, Town of Barnstable  
Directors: Paul Maher, Chris Lynch, Jeff Colby,  
Griffin Ryder, Tom Andrade

Barnstable County Public Works Association has resumed in-person meetings. The next scheduled meeting will be held on May 12th, at the Yarmouth House.

Barnstable County Public Works Association takes great pride in the annual scholarship awards, with \$14,000.00 offered in scholarships in 2021. The deadline to submit applications was March 15, 2022.

The annual Golf Tournament, which is the largest fund-raising event for BCPWA, will take place on June 6th at the New Seabury Country Club.

Congratulations and best wishes to Dennis Public Works Director David Johansen on his retirement in March 2022 after 39 years in public service. Good luck to David from all your friends in Public Works.

## Berkshire County – Curt Wilton

The Berkshire County Highway Superintendent's Association is committed to returning to a more normal season by having meetings and events in person. What we have all experienced during the past few years has been a trying and difficult way of life, and it is our wish to put it all behind us. I want to take this opportunity to personally thank all who have served under these critical times.

- \*April 28th - 1st Meeting/Workshop, Tavern at the A, Pittsfield
- \*June 10th - 13th Annual Charity Golf Tournament, (Venue TBA).
- \*June 23rd - 2nd Meeting/Workshop, Tavern at the A, Pittsfield
- \*August 25th - 3rd Meeting/Workshop, Tavern at the A, Pittsfield
- \*September 16th - 38th Annual Equipment Show & Picnic, Hinsdale Volunteer Fire Grounds, Hinsdale
- \*October 27th - **42nd Annual Conclusion Meeting and Scholarship Awards**, Tavern A, Pittsfield

### **New positions and congratulatory kudos:**

**Alford:** Thomas "TJ" Horrigan /Highway Superintendent

Congratulations to Monty Green on his retirement after serving 33 years as Superintendent.

**Stockbridge:** Hugh Page/Highway Superintendent

The Berkshire County Highway Association is a strong and financially sound organization because of all our members, vendors, and a very active Board of Directors.

## Essex County – Michael Hale

Nothing reported

## Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex – Robert Cantoreggi

NBM awarded 16 scholarships valued at \$11,550.

The Spring Technical Session will be held on April 6, 2022, at the Cotali Mar Restaurante in New Bedford. Join us for an educational technical program. Breakfast and lunch are included with registration. Registration was required by April 1st.

The Spring Mechanics Workshop will be held at the Franklin Public Works Facility on April 21st. Topics include Stepp Hot Boxes maintenance/burner diagnostics, Cirrus Sander Systems, Fisher Plows off season work, J-PRO fleet diagnostics, CDL Train the Trainer, and GBPC equipment contracts. Breakfast and lunch are included with registration. Registration was required by April 15th.

The Equipment show will be held on May 4th at the Wellesley DPW. Free Lunch will be provided to all attendees. Stop by the NBM Registration Booth to get your free tickets the day of the show. We will again be featuring food trucks, a DJ, and a loader simulator competition.

Save the Date

July 13 – Golf Tournament

September 14 – Mechanic's Workshop

October 5 – Fall Technical Session

November 5 – Gala, Norwood

November 16 – Snow and Ice Training

## Plymouth County – John Haines

Plymouth County Highway Association has returned to a regular monthly meeting schedule and will be meeting again on the third Thursday of the month.

After two very challenging years as association president, Marshfield's Tom Reynolds' term ended in January. John Woods, Deputy Director of Operations and Maintenance for the town of Carver was elected to serve as president of the association through 2023.

Middleborough DPW Director Chris Peck has been appointed to represent the association on the Mass. Highway Association executive board.

February's meeting featured a presentation from meteorologist Ed Carrol who provided members with an opportunity to see what is being called the future of weather services.

Over 100 members attended the March meeting at the Upland Club in Plympton as our membership continues to grow. It was great to see everyone back telling stories and having a well-deserved laugh.

## Tri-County – Rob Colson

Sadly, Roger Bisbee passed away on March 9, 2022. Roger was a lifelong resident of Williamsburg, Massachusetts and had a legacy of public service including serving as our association secretary. Roger wore many hats including Fire Chief, Highway Superintendent, Planning Board Chairman, baker, repair person,

truck driver, woodworker, maple “sugarer”, gardener and most importantly, devoted and loved friend, father, and husband.

The Tri-County Association did not have a winter meeting and hopes to be getting its meeting schedule back on track. At this time, we hope to hold our annual meeting on June 2nd and will be reaching out with details.

We are also looking forward to a successful Summer Golf Outing on August 18th at the Southampton Country Club. Your participation is what makes it a success, so please get a foursome together and come out for a great day.

### Worcester County – Scott Crisafulli

WCHA kicked off the 2022 season with the March Business Meeting at The Manor in West Boylston. The day was sold out and many vendors and guests were in attendance. There were many great presentations, including Ariela Lovett who provided an MMA legislative update. We would like to offer our congratulations as she leaves her position and wish her the best and success in her new position.

Our next business meeting will be held April 23rd at the Italian American Club in Shrewsbury, and we also are looking forward to our Vendor Appreciation Day Clambake scheduled at Wachusett Mountain, June 14th. Save the date.

We are honored to announce we are offering the Matt Pessia Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 sponsored by WCHA Sustaining Member Muni Tech. In addition, we will be awarding our annual WCHA Scholarships. The deadline for submissions was April 1, 2022.

WCHA is pleased to announce that Nick Repekta from the Town of Shrewsbury Highway Department has been elected as the new President of WCHA for 2022. We congratulate him and wish him the best of luck and extend our thanks to thank Matt Stencil for his hard work during COVID the past two years as President of WCHA. We welcome new board member Kevin Collins who recently took a position as Assistant Director of Public Works in West Minster. We are happy to have you join us.



# Bartlett

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## Williamsburg's retired Highway Superintendent and former longtime Fire Chief Roger Bisbee remembered

Roger Bisbee, retired Williamsburg Highway Superintendent and former longtime Fire Chief who served the town in multiple capacities over the course of decades, died on March 9 on his 77th birthday.

"He was loving, he was caring, he was honest, he was funny," said Mary Bisbee, Bisbee's wife. "He was just an amazing person."

Bisbee died after celebrating his birthday with Mary, whom he started dating more than 50 years ago. Although the exact cause of his death hasn't been released, Mary said her husband passed "because his heart stopped."

Mary's father was Howard Sanderson, a past Williamsburg fire chief, and she noted that she and her brother Paul Sanderson used to hang around the Fire Department a lot when they were growing up. When Bisbee came to the department for the first time, Mary remembered being immediately taken by him.

"Yup, I'll take that one," she recalled.

Mary and Bisbee married and had two daughters, Amy and Angelia "Angel" Bisbee.

Mary said her husband became the highway superintendent in town in the 1980s, and that he retired from that position and from the Fire Department in 1999.

Bisbee was also serving as the secretary of the Williamsburg Firefighters Association and as the secretary of the Tri-County Highway Association.

## Newsletter update

This Spring 2022 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. The next issue will be distributed in the Fall of 2022.

## Annual MHA Charity Golf Tournament

By Ryan Bartlett, Charity Golf Chairman

The Larry Bombara Memorial Charity Golf Tournament is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, August 16th at the Brookmeadow Country Club in Canton, Massachusetts.

The 2022 Tournament Honoree announcement and registration details will be emailed to membership in the coming weeks. Please mark your calendar.

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

By Chris Bouchard, Chair

The date for the 2022 Driver Skills and Safety Training event is scheduled to be held on July 20th. The committee will be planning meetings for this year's event, so watch for additional details. We look forward to seeing you at this year's event.

## 2021 Expo



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