

# Massachusetts Highway Association

Since 1893

Volume 54 2024

## SPRING NEWSLETTER

### President's Message



John Haines

As my term as President of the Massachusetts Highway Association ends, this is my opportunity to say, "Thank You!"

Thank you to the members of the Massachusetts Highway Association, which I have belonged to for more than 20 years, for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President. Not only is our association recognized

throughout Massachusetts but it's one of the oldest public works organizations in the country. Thank you to the incredibly dedicated Executive Board who give their time solely for the benefit of our organization and advancement of public works. Working with them has been one of the greatest experiences of my professional career. Thank you to the town of East Bridgewater for allowing me the opportunity to dedicate the time to be able to commit myself to serving as your President. Thank you to my team at the DPW, which again without them managing the day-to-day operations during my absence it would not have been possible for me to serve.

Finally, but most importantly thank you to my wife Rachel and three children, Ben, Yvonne, and Max. Only those of us in public works will truly ever understand the sacrifices our families make for us, the missed games because of another night meeting or the canceled weekend plans because of a forecast change. Our families know when we are walking out our doors before the winds start to blow that their husbands and wives, moms and dads are the first to arrive and last to leave in most emergencies our communities face. Thank you to all our families who hold our homes together through the wind, the rain, and the snowstorms so we can serve so many others.

Thank you to the Massachusetts Highway Association for allowing me to be part of your organization of more than 650 strong, representing the men and woman of public works since 1893. Although our work continually changes and the demands seem to always increase, the goal of the Massachusetts Highway Association remains clear, serving as a constant resource for our members to meet those changing demands for another 130 years.

Respectfully,

John B. Haines

President, Massachusetts Highway Association 2023-2024

### Annual Meeting, Scholarship Awards, Election Results to be held May 2nd at Pleasant Valley Country Club

The Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Highway Association will be held on Thursday, May 2nd at the Pleasant Valley Country Club, 95 Armsby Road, Exit 7 Route 146, Sutton, MA. The election of officers will be announced along with the 2024 scholarship and award winners.

- 8:00 AM Registration – coffee & doughnuts
- 8:25 AM MHA welcome by MHA President John Haines
- 8:35 AM Right of Way Process for Municipally Managed TIP Projects
- 9:30 AM Break
- 9:45 AM Managing your Culvert and Bridge Infrastructure
- 10:30 AM MMA Legislative Update
- 11:00 AM MassDOT Update
- 11:30 AM Networking session
- 12:00 Noon Buffet dinner
- 12:30 PM Annual elections results, awards, and scholarships

The official meeting program and registration will be emailed to all members. Please plan to attend.

### 44th Annual New England Public Works Expo to be held on Sept. 18 and 19, 2024



The 2024 New England Public Works Expo, sponsored by the Massachusetts Highway Association, will be held at the Royal Plaza Trade Center in Marlboro, conveniently located off Rte. 495, on Wednesday and Thursday, September 18 and 19. The expo is always a well-attended event, with a record number of attendees and vendors at the 2023 expo.

Attendees will have an opportunity to learn about the latest services and equipment at this year's show. Admission is free and includes coffee, doughnuts, and lunch. Check our website at [nepublicworksexpo.org](http://nepublicworksexpo.org)



# Massachusetts Pre-Apprenticeship and Vocational School Training Program

www.MAPAVSTP.com

## Success Story: Tyshawn Aponte

Tyshawn Aponte was an outstanding participant in the Pre-Apprenticeship and Vocational School Training Program during the fall session of his senior year at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School in 2022. He attended the first Career Fair at the Mass Highway Public Works Expo in 2022, and completed a co-op at the Palmer Department of Public Works where he put the skills he learned in the Horticulture Shop to good use. In addition to participating in a Chainsaw Safety Class, Ty has been involved with patching potholes, tree and brush trimming, litter picking, participating in salt/sand operations, and learning the ins and outs of a DPW.

Tyshawn obtained his passenger car license in August and his CDL Class B license in October. He is now a full-time employee of Palmer Public Works Department.

The Massachusetts Pre-Apprenticeship and Vocational School Training Program is a one-week program that teaches students about careers in the highway construction industry. According to information provided by the program, "We explain how to apply to the five Highway Construction Trade Unions as well as offering students the opportunity to earn certifications in working towards these careers. We offer hands-on instruction as well as field trips. Funding is provided by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. There is no cost to schools for instructors, materials, or transportation. Class B Training supported through a grant from the UMass Transportation Center OJT/SS Program."

For information, contact:

Massachusetts Pre-Apprenticeship and Vocational School Training Program

Erin Gingerella: [eringerella@gmail.com](mailto:eringerella@gmail.com)



Photo 1 Tyshawn, (at right) at the Palmer DPW co-op inspecting culverts.



Photo 2 Tyshawn (at right) at the Career Fair.

Photo 3 Tyshawn at the Palmer DPW



## Winter Meeting Highlights

by Jody Trunfio

On February 1, Mass Highway Association was pleased to host our annual Winter Meeting at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. Mass Highway President John Haines from the Town of East Bridgewater provided welcome remarks and introduced our opening speaker, MassDOT Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt.

As Secretary, Tibbits-Nutt is responsible for the four divisions of MassDOT: Highway, Rail and Transit, Registry of Motor Vehicles and Aeronautics. She also serves on the Massport and MBTA Board of Directors. During our event, she provided an overview of the upcoming MassDOT initiatives, as well as recent past achievements, particularly in the areas of regional and transportation planning and transit equity.

Following Secretary Tibbits-Nutt's presentation, Massachusetts Municipal Association's Legislative Analyst, Adrienne Nunez, provided an MMA Legislative update on recent activities occurring on Beacon Hill. Ms. Nunez covered such topics as bills of interest to the Association (including Rural Roads supplemental funding and an Act Relative to the Use of Green Lights for Municipal and Emergency Management Vehicles), the Governor's FY25 budget, the Municipal Empowerment Act, and the outlook for this year's Ch. 90 funding.

Our Winter Meeting was closed with a lively panel discussion featuring representatives from the Town of Franklin Public Works Co-Op Program as well as Stephanie Whitney from the University of New Hampshire. Doug Martin and Jacob Standley, staff from Franklin's DPW, were joined by Samantha McCarthy, a student from Franklin's Tri County Regional Vocational Technical High School. Samantha is currently a co-op with the Town of Franklin and offered insight into what motivated her to pursue an opportunity within the public works department, and the future career opportunities she is now aware of. The group discussed the challenges municipalities face with employee recruitment for Public Works positions and stressed the importance of outreach, promotion, and training programs that support this needed initiative.

Thank you to the Winter Meeting co-Chairs, Jody Trunfio from TEC, Inc., and Roby Whitehouse from the Town of Yarmouth, for organizing this important and insightful annual event!



# Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Spring Update

by Adrienne Núñez, MMA Legislative Analyst

Hello Massachusetts Highway Association members!

It's April 5, 2024. We have just experienced a nor'easter followed by an earthquake and the forecast is calling for a gorgeous spring weekend. This action-filled week is a mirror for all that's happening on Beacon Hill and beyond. The legislature is hard at work in the last few months of the formal session. Lawmakers have until the end of July to finalize the bulk of their work. Many, many bills and policy topics are on the agenda for the next several weeks. Key among these priorities are the state's fiscal 2025 budget, a transportation bond bill, and climate-related bills.

The Governor filed her \$58.1 billion fiscal 2025 budget (H.2) in late January. Her proposal includes an increase to Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) by 3% over the current fiscal year. She also proposes a very modest increase to Chapter 70 education aid. Notably, 211 of 318 districts would be considered "minimum aid districts" and only receive an increase of \$30 per student. The Governor's budget would fund the state's obligation for charter school mitigation and special education circuit breaker while level funding rural school aid, vocational transportation, and homeless student transportation. Regional school transportation would receive a modest increase. The MMA is advocating for increases to UGGA and school aid including an increase to minimum aid districts to \$100 per pupil.

Also included in the Governor's budget is a proposal to create a disaster relief fund to support municipalities that have experienced extreme weather events. This is an effort initially spearheaded by Representative Blais and Senator Comerford through their bills H. 4181 and S. 2506 that would empower MEMA to manage a disaster relief fund to quickly provide support to affected municipalities.

Finally, the Governor has also proposed a \$100 million supplemental investment in the Chapter 90 program as well as a \$24 million investment to provide supplemental support that favors rural communities. The apportionment favoring rural communities would be a continuance of a program established through last year's transportation bond bill that has yet to be distributed. The total \$124 million road and bridge supplemental aid would be funded through the state's "Fair Share" surtax that is earmarked for education and transportation expenses.

The MMA testified on behalf of municipalities at one of several hearings on H.2 held by the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. The House Ways and Means committee is planning to release their proposed budget by April 10. Following the House's approval of a budget, the Senate will also draft their own version after which both drafts will need to be reconciled. Meanwhile, the transportation bond bill (H. 4529) is making its way through the legislative process. The House approved a bill that would authorize \$200 million for the Chapter 90 program as well as \$175 million to continue existing transportation-related programs: \$25 million each for the Municipal Pavement Program, the Small Bridge Program, Complete Streets, two accounts that would fund grants for transit access and infrastructure, one account to support municipal and RTA fleet electrification, and an extension of supplemental aid favoring rural communities using a formula weighted 20% on local road mileage, 20% on population, and 60% on whether the municipality is considered rural as defined towns with populations of less than 10,000 and population densities of fewer than 500 people per square mile.

The MMA is advocating for at least \$350 million total support for municipal road and bridge aid. Our most recent biennial Chapter 90 survey estimated municipal road repair needs at \$715 million for fiscal 2024 alone, underscoring the need for additional state support. We will

continue our advocacy efforts in this session and beyond to raise the authorization for this critical program. Currently there's a total of \$349 million being considered for municipal road and bridge aid:

- \$200 million for Chapter 90 through the bond bill
- \$25 million for a supplemental distribution that favors rural communities through the bond bill
- \$100 million for a supplemental Chapter 90 distribution funded through surtax revenues in the H.2 budget
- \$24 million for a supplemental distribution that favors rural communities through surtax revenues in the H.2 budget

In other news, much is happening in the regulatory space and in commission work. To start, we are awaiting the roll out of EPA's new PFAs regulations that will establish a maximum contaminant level for drinking water of 4 ppt for PFOA and 4 ppt for PFOS. Four other PFAs chemicals would be regulated as a mixture of chemicals. The finalized rules were anticipated to be released in March and we expect their release very soon.

At the state level, MassDEP is accepting public comment on proposed regulations on waterways, stormwater, and wetlands protection. Among many changes, these proposals include a revision of the definition for what is considered to be redevelopment and new stormwater management setback requirements. In order to accommodate these new setback standards, municipalities would need to acquire additional land. The proposals also have significant implications for development in coastal communities, including, but not limited to, roadway construction.

There are many implications to these proposed rules including incompatibility with the Complete Streets initiative and potential negative impact on a community's willingness and ability to take on various projects. The MMA is preparing public comment on these proposed regulations and welcomes your input. Please be in touch with any thoughts on the proposals. The draft regulations can be found here:

- 310 CMR 9.00: The Massachusetts Waterways Regulation
- 314 CMR 9: 401 Water Quality Certification
- 310 CMR 10.00: Wetlands Protection Act Regulations

There is also much to be aware of with advancements related to the clean energy transition. Specifically, we want you to be aware of two key actions: Final Electric Sector Modernization Plan (ESMP) submissions and the work of the Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting.

First the ESMPs: these are five- and ten-year plans that have been drafted by the electric utility companies and submitted to the Department of Public Utilities for their consideration. For the two biggest companies, Eversource and National Grid, these plans are approximately 700 pages long and are meant to provide plans to proactively upgrade distribution and transmission systems that would help the Commonwealth reach its greenhouse gas emissions goals. The Department must approve, approve with modification, or reject each ESMP by the end of August of this year.

These proposed upgrades have the potential to cause considerable disruption and considerable opportunity in communities across the Commonwealth. We recommend reviewing the ESMP relevant to your area to see what infrastructure may be planned for your community.

*(continued on page 3)*

# Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Spring Update

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Second, the Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting; this group was charged with the task of reviewing the siting and permitting process for electric infrastructure — this is potentially everything from substations to distribution lines to solar arrays and battery storage. The Committee is recommending that a reformed Electric Facilities Siting Board oversee a new consolidated permitting process for what are considered to be large clean energy projects. The committee is also recommending a mandated local-level consolidated permitting process that would tackle “smaller projects.” Such projects would include solar generation less than 25 MW and storage systems less than 100 MWhours. A mandated local-level consolidated process may have numerous implications on municipal authority and operations including affecting street opening permit process, grants of location, local environmental regulations, zoning, public engagement, and beyond.

The MMA had one representative on the Commission and has been advocating for an incentivized opt-in process at the local level. We will continue this advocacy as these issues are addressed through the legislative and regulatory processes.

The Commission’s report is available here. Legislators and the Administration plan to file a larger climate bill to enact some or all of the recommendations put forward by the Commission. The bill may also address some recycling, solid waste, and other environmental topics.

In the transportation arena, MassDOT has announced the release of Grant Central, a new online tool provided by MassDOT’s Highway Division for municipalities in the Commonwealth to use for grant management activities. This includes applying for program funding and

submitting expense reimbursements. The launch is planned for May 2.

The Governor has appointed a Transportation Funding Task Force made up of public and private sector representatives. The group is tasked with providing recommendations to the Governor on all things transportation funding including implications of the clean energy transition, general road and bridge support, and transit. Mayor Mike Nicholson of Gardner will represent the MMA on this task force.

And finally, bills proposing a new fund with up to \$750 million available to support accessing federal funding opportunities are on a path to finalization. Both the House and Senate have approved versions of An Act to provide for competitiveness and infrastructure investment in Massachusetts (H4446, S2554) that would expand the reach and mission of the Office of Federal Funds and Infrastructure to support efforts to access federal funding. The bills include a proposal for earmarks for municipal technical assistance and a fund to allow for loans and grants to meet the required matching funds for municipalities applying for federal grants. The two approved bills have small differences that must be reconciled through a conference committee. If your community is considering applying for federal funding through competitive grants or planning projects that may take advantage of Direct Pay offerings available through the inflation reduction act, now is the time to reach out to the Office of Federal Funds and Infrastructure.

For more details about happenings in the legislature and beyond, watch the recording of our Spring Legislative Briefing. And, as always, I’m available to answer any questions you have and hear your input. Don’t hesitate to reach out at [ANunez@mma.org](mailto:ANunez@mma.org) if I can be of support to you.

I hope to see you at the 2024 Mass Highway Annual Meeting!

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## Mutual Aid Update

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*by David Lane for the Mutual Aid Committee*

The Public Works Mutual Aid Program has been doing a lot of work in the background that most people will never see, as it is a tool we will use to manage requests for assistance and when communities send assistance for tracking. Developing this GIS platform has been challenging and much harder than we thought, but every time we make a change or test it, we have made changes and improvements to make sure we are successful with it when we use the program. We could not have accomplished this without the MassDOT GEODOT team, who have been great in helping us build, develop, and streamline our processes, and hosting the GIS platform for us. We are currently working on incorporating all city and town contact information into our program.

We have helped assist communities over the past year with great success, because of our members and the mutual aid team. Thank you. We do need your help in keeping your cities or towns’ 24-hour contact information up to date. We have a spot on the membership dues form for it to be updated.

We need this in case a request goes out so that we may have direct 24-hour contact information to get help moving to those who request or who want to send assistance as well. Please send updated contact information to [mhasecretary1893@gmail.com](mailto:mhasecretary1893@gmail.com) if it changes, or if you have not done so yet.

It has been very exciting to see how this has grown from a conversation to an actual program. This program will always be evolving as we find new ways and tools to utilize as we move forward and learn more as it is utilized.

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## Jay Fink selected as an APWA 2024 Top Ten Public Works Leader

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On behalf of the Massachusetts Highway Association, we are excited and honored to announce that Jay Fink, Commissioner of Public Works and Parks for the City of Worcester, has been selected as an APWA Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year for 2024!

The Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year program seeks to inspire excellence and dedication in public service by recognizing the outstanding career service achievements of individual public works professionals and officials. This recognition puts Jay in a very elite group of Public Works professionals that represent the public works profession and our association.

Jay is an outstanding member of the Massachusetts Highway Association. He currently serves on the MHA Board of Directors as the representative for the Worcester County Highway Association. He plays a major role in making sure MHA is second to none. Jay also serves on the Worcester County Highway Association Board of Directors and has played a key role in the success of WCHA. During his distinguished career, Jay previously served on the Essex County Highway Association Board of Directors.

Congratulations Jay!!!

Compliments of Jennifer Tetreault of HazCompliance, LLC

## “Tis the Season!

When we are at the end of a chilly wet spring, it’s hard to imagine that in a short time, school will be out and the summer sun will shine! The seasonal influx of those out of college for the summer and other part timers coming to work for summer is almost upon us. With the increase of seasonal workers comes along an increase of workplace injuries.

A research paper with the Bureau of Labor Standards (BLS) looked at injury rates based on seasonality presented the summer months having an increase in injury rates. For the younger workers, data from a survey from parks and recreation workers show that 70% of young workers reported an injury. The list can go on with statistics on temporary, seasonal workers and workplace injuries.

Why the increase in summer month injuries among younger, seasonal workers? Perhaps it is a busier, more demanding time of year for DPW jobs. Or maybe the addition of extreme summer temperatures adds to exhaustion and heat stress. Or, perhaps we are not taking as much time to train the seasonal employees and invest in them for safety. Full time employees enjoy the benefit of continued education for safety throughout the year, and often use the quieter months to schedule safety training. Seasonal employees may be coming on staff for our short, busy season, which will be jam packed with pothole repairs, weed trimming, beautification projects and other tasks.

What can you do this summer as you bring on your seasonal staff?

- ✓ Train seasonal employees for the jobs they will be performing. Ensure this is in a format they understand and know that many tasks may require hands-on training. Keep in mind that this may be the first time these employees are ever performing the task. OSHA puts out information on assisting training young workers (<https://www.osha.gov/young-workers>)
- ✓ Consider pairing up seasonal staff with veteran staff.
- ✓ In addition to the regular task-related training, there are hazards unique to the summer such as poisonous plants, insect-borne diseases, heat stress/ stroke, and severe weather.
- ✓ Understand that seasonal workers may not only consist of young workers. Seasonal workers may also include retirees who are re-entering the seasonal workforce. Assess each task to ensure the job is not too strenuous for individuals.
- ✓ Continue to monitor your seasonal employees and check in with them regularly. If your foremen or supervisors have too much on their plate, consider training one of your seasonal workers as a safety lead.
- ✓ Hold routine job talks about the day or other projects. This is a great way to discuss the hazards, the safe work practices, and to identify any additional training needs. HazCompliance uses this quick checklist with our clients to take foremen through hazard assessments out there on the job.

So as the season changes and our staff does as well, let’s set ourselves up for a summer of success in safety with our seasonal (and regular) staff.

Stay safe.

by Kathryn Donnelly, Digital Marketing Specialist

## Baystate Roads Workshops

ADA Municipal Transition Plan Development & Tracking – Virtual  
5/8/2024

## OSHA 10 Hour Construction Training

5/8/2024 – Franklin

5/22/2024 – Centerville

## Trenching & Excavating Safety: Competent Person

6/3/2024 – Wilbraham

6/20/2024 – Sudbury

## Chainsaw Skills & Safety – 2 Day

6/4/2024 – Westminster

8/6/2024 – Lanesborough

8/19/2024 – Dighton

## Complete Streets 201: Designing Your Streets For People

6/11/2024 – Holliston

## Confined Space Hazard Awareness Training

6/13/2024 – Wilbraham

## Creating Accessible Communities – Newton

6/13/2024 – Newton

## Municipal & Capital Budgeting

7/11/2024 – Athol

## Drainage Roadway Maintenance & Reconstruction

8/6/2024 – Chicopee

8/8/2024 – East Wareham



# County Association News

## Barnstable County – Jeff Colby

Barnstable County Public Works Association takes great pride in the annual Scholarship awards, offering \$18,500 in scholarships in 2023. The deadline to submit scholarship applications is May 1, 2024. Please see the BCPWA website at <http://www.bcpwa.info/scholarship-info/> for more information.

The Barnstable County Public Works Annual Golf Tournament, which is the largest fund-raising event for BCPWA, will be held on June 3rd at the New Seabury Country Club. E-mail golf/meal reservations to the Golf Committee Chair – Paul Maher (Muni-Tech) via Sam Nastasia (Muni-Tech) [samn@munitechinc.com](mailto:samn@munitechinc.com). Reservations must be received no later than noon on FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024. Members are responsible for reservations not cancelled by the due date. Information on becoming a sponsor is also available from Paul Maher/Sam Nastasia of Muni-Tech, Inc. at [samn@munitechinc.com](mailto:samn@munitechinc.com)

## Berkshire County/District #1 Hwy. Supt. Assoc. – Curt Wilton

The Berkshire County/District #1 Highway Superintendents' Association resumes its regular Board of Director meetings and is working on its workshops/meeting schedule held on the 4th Thursday of the coming months:

- April 25** - 1st Meeting/Workshop, Dalton VFW, Dalton.
- Mike Bott/ Frost Solutions, “Making smart decisions about de-icing and plowing treatments utilizing new and improved RWIS system”
  - Jeremy Cohen/Tensar Corp, “Using Geosynthetics for Roadway Design And Maintenance”
  - Aidan Woutas & Didem Paker/Vialytics, “A.I. Based Pavement Manage”

**June 21** - Annual Charity Golf Tournament, Bass Ridge Country Club, Hinsdale

**June 27** - Meeting/Workshop, Dalton VFW, Dalton.

**August 22** - 39th Annual Equipment Show & Picnic, Hinsdale Volunteer Fire Grounds, Hinsdale

**October 24** – 44th Annual Conclusion Meeting and Scholarship Awards, Dalton VFW, Dalton.

Officers for the year 2023-2024:

President Bob Navin, Town of Otis; Vice President Brad Curry, Town of Huntington; Secretary Gerald Coppola, Retired Town of Richmond; Treasurer William Elovirta, Retired Town of Becket.

Board of Directors – Jamie Boyer, Town of West Stockbridge; Justin Russell, Town of Peru; Charles Loring, Town of New Marlborough, Kate Donovan, Town of Tolland.

Currently the Board of Director's By-Law Committee is working on reviewing and making possible amendments to the By-Laws to fit and reflect today's world. All Association Members will be asked to review these changes for a ratification vote at the April meeting.

Sadly, Steve Daby passed away on March 12, 2024. Steve was a lifelong resident of Buckland where he served as the Highway Superintendent for 25 years. Following his tenure in Buckland, he transitioned to the position of Highway Superintendent for the Town of Colrain until his retirement. Steve was truly one of us who had unwavering commitment to his many roles, he will be greatly missed.

The Berkshire County/District #1 Highway Superintendent's Association would like to thank MHA President John Haines and all members for their support and continued efforts to fight for our common cause. The Berkshire County Highway Association is a strong and financially sound organization due to all its members, vendors, and a very dedicated Board of Directors. Together we are “Public Works Strong, First to Respond, Last to Leave.”

## Essex County – Michael Hale

Young Professionals - Landfill Closure

The Essex County Highway Association Young Professionals held an interesting educational program and peer networking event on Thursday, April 18. This special event highlighted Andover's active landfill closure project with a presentation and educational session at the Andover DPW, followed by a visit to the landfill for a site walk. The networking session followed at Wamesit Lanes in Tewksbury.

## Plymouth County – Chris Peck

The Plymouth County Highway Association (PCHA) met in November and December 2023 as well as January and March 2024.

The Association held its November meeting at the Meadowbrook Restaurant in Hanson during which Peter Marino made a presentation on Decorative Servicing of Roads.

The annual Corporate Sponsor Appreciation Event was held in December at the Ming Dynasty in Marshfield.

The January meeting at the Boston Tavern in Middleborough began the first term for our new President, Victor Diniak, Director of Hanover DPW. Kevin Cafferty, Director of Public Works in Scituate, presented a brief history of the town and provided the attendees with a look at some of their newest safety equipment.

The annual St. Patrick's Day Meeting was held in March at the Upland Club in Plympton. This is always a well-attended meeting with a local comedian who always entertains and throws comedic punches at the crowd. The Superintendent's meeting was also held to let member towns get together to discuss a recap of the winter season and any other on-going issues.

We would like to thank all our members and corporate sponsors for supporting the Plymouth County Highway Association. On behalf of the Association, we hope everyone has a safe spring and summer.

Please visit our website <https://www.pchaonline.com/> for more information.

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# County Association News

## Tri-County Highway Association – Rob Colson

Tri-County Association Directors met on February 15th and set the meeting schedule for the year.

The winter meeting was on March 14th at the Bluebonnet Diner in Northampton. Edward MacKeil from the Department of Labor Standards gave a great presentation on workplace safety and health and the ways that DLS is available to help us with any and all topics to run a safe operation. Ed hopes members will use him as a resource. He can be contacted via phone 508.599.3461 or email [edward.mackeil@mass.gov](mailto:edward.mackeil@mass.gov).

Mike Ralbovsky, Vice President Sales and Marketing with Precision Trenchless, LLC was the meeting's second speaker. Mike talked about the various pipelining and point repair projects they have been tackling using their UV light curing of the special weight bearing lining material inside the pipe or structure. The process has an extremely quick cure time and projects can be done in all types of weather that typically prevents trenchless work. Headquartered in Schenectady, NY, they can be reached at 518.346.5800.

The Annual Meeting will be held on June 6th, and details will be available as the date gets closer. The summer meeting and golf outing will be held on August 15th at Southampton Country Club. To sponsor a hole, contact Tom Poissant (Ashfield, 413-628-4448, [highway@ashfield.org](mailto:highway@ashfield.org)); Matt Smith (Chesterfield, 413-586-1508, [highway@townofchesterfieldma.com](mailto:highway@townofchesterfieldma.com)); or Rob Colson (West Springfield, [rcolson@tows.org](mailto:rcolson@tows.org) 413-427-9507). We hope you can join us as your participation is what makes it a success.

Remember ... Tri-County has a scholarship program, and applications are due to the Scholarship Committee by September 15th.

Save the date - the Annual Joint Meeting with the Mass Highway Association will be held on November 14th from 9 am to 1 pm at the Castle of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA.

## Worcester County – Jay Fink

The Worcester County Highway Association started the year with a Business Meeting on March 12th at The Manor in West Boylston. 85 attendees enjoyed the MMA Legislative Update as well as an introduction to the Community One Stop for Growth portal. Precision Concrete Cutting, Eastern Wear Parts, and Aquaphalt offered their latest market technologies as well as a combined approach to pavement management by GISP, Beta, and MassDOT. \$500 was raised for the scholarship fund. Scholarship applications will be available soon on the WCHA website.

The Annual Meeting will be held on April 30th at the Northborough VFW with a roundtable including representatives from the Town of Leominster, Precision Weather Forecasting, MEMA, and Woodard & Curran to discuss the flooding event that occurred last September. A social lunch will follow.

The new slate of officers is expected to be sworn in:  
President: Travis Brown, Town of Hubbardston

Vice President: Scott Charpentier, Town of Northboro

Directors: Scott Chrisafuli, Town of Milford; Jay Fink, City of Worcester; Ryan Mouradian, Town of Sterling; Keith Caruso, Town of Millbury

Vendor Representatives: Dave Capelle, Highway Rehab; Katherine Boshar, CN Wood

Past President: Nick Repekta, Town of Shrewsbury

The Vendor Appreciation event will be held on June 11th at Wachusett Mountain and will include vendor exhibits as well as a surprise guest to address attendees.

The Annual Golf Tournament will be held on September 10th at Heritage Golf Club in Charlton. We are looking to give last year's winning teams from Indus and Putnam Pipe a run for the top prizes.

A big thank you to all the members and vendors that participate and contribute to the Worcester County Highway Association and MAKE IT HAPPEN.

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# 2024 MHA Larry Bombara Memorial Charity Golf Tournament

by Ryan Bartlett, Charity Golf Chair

## Save the Date!

The 2024 MHA Larry Bombara Memorial Charity Golf Tournament will be held at Brookmeadow Country Club, in Canton MA on Tuesday, August 13th. Official announcement and registration information will be sent in the coming weeks.

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

by Chris Bouchard, Chair; Jamie Boyer; Jason Page

The Snowplow Rodeo is scheduled to be held on July 17, 2024 at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, Princeton, MA.

The Driver Skills and Training Committee will be releasing details about the event in the coming weeks. Please save the date and stay tuned on the MHA and Baystate Roads websites. We would like to thank the MHA board for continuing to invest in this training as we are currently replacing our trailer, cones, barrels, and obstacles that we use for our Driver Skills event and also for traffic control at the Public Works Expo. We look forward to seeing you at the event this year.

# New England Expo 2023 Photos



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# Newsletter update

*This Spring 2024 Newsletter* is being distributed digitally only and is available 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 [bill@msn.com](mailto:bill@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 Fall 2024.



**John A. "Jack" Glynn, Jr. (75)** passed away on Wednesday, November 15, 2023. He was a Massachusetts State trooper for 20 years, he became a Deputy Sheriff with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, New Hampshire for several years. Upon retirement, he worked as an executive field project manager for Bartlett Consolidated LLC in Plymouth for 30 years.

**Gino Villa (64)** passed away on March 19, 2024. Gino was a 24-year member of the Town of Belmont Public Works Department as a mason in the Sewer Division. Gino was a well-liked member of the department and to all throughout the town.



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