



Massachusetts Highway Association

Since 1893

Volume 57 2026

SPRING NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Hello Massachusetts Highway Association Members!

I hope you enjoyed the Winter Meeting on February 5, 2026, where you experienced a packed and diverse agenda led by C. N. Woods Katherine Boshar, who kept the event on schedule for our First Vice President Michael Hale who graciously stood in for me.

Thanks to speakers State Procurement Officer, Mark Fine, Assistant Secretary, Commonwealth of MA, Operations Services Division; Patricia Leavenworth, District 2 Highway Director, MA DOT; Colby Cousens, CIO and Angelica Medina, Business Manager, Danvers; Moderator Chris Cronin APEX and panelists Michael Hale-Gloucester, John Borghesi-North Andover, Kevin Cafferty-Scituate, and Sean Divoll-Worcester.

Connect 351

Massachusetts Highway Association Workshop called **From Hired to Higher: Public Works Recruitment, Retention, and Succession Planning**: I would like to thank the panelists whose presentations outlined how their communities are finding new ways to recruit employees. It was a pleasure meeting and working with Jen Breaker, Assistant Town Manager and Communications Direct in Danvers; Ricardo Morales, Commissioner of Public Works in Pittsfield; and Andrew O'Malley, Deputy Chief of Police.

Have you heard that MHA now has a Membership Committee? The Board of Directors voted for this new committee to enable our membership to have an avenue to create surveys and encourage member engagement. Brenda Codella is the committee chair and can be reached at bcodella@yahoo.com.

Chapter 90 / Transportation Bond Bill Hearing

The Joint Committee on Transportation held a hearing on the transportation bond bill in March, which included Chapter 90 funding. Massachusetts Municipal Association testified in support of the legislation, and MHA's own, Jeffrey Colby (2nd Vice President) joined the MMA panel representing MHA.

Continued on page 2

Annual Meeting, Scholarship Awards, Election Results to be held May 7th at Pleasant Valley Country Club

The 2026 Annual Business Meeting, Election of Officers, Scholarship Awards and General Awards will be held on Thursday, May 7th at Pleasant Valley Country Club, 95 Armsby Rd., Sutton.

PROGRAM

- 8:00 AM Registration – Coffee & Danish**
- 8:25 AM MA Highway Association Welcome**
President *Roby Whitehouse*, Asst. Public Works Director, Yarmouth, MA
- 8:30 AM Safety Minute**
Catherine Schoenenberger, President, Stay Safe Traffic Products, Inc.
- 8:40 AM MMA Legislative Update**
Violet Gebr, Legislative Analyst, Mass Municipal Association
- 9:00 AM MassDOT Grant Central: New Programs and Simplified Applications**
Kristen Rebelo, Grants Administrator, MassDOT Community
- 9:20 AM Moped/E-Bike Issues and Proposed Restrictions**
Councilor Ed Flynn, Boston City Council - District 2 Representative
- 9:35 AM Break**
- 10:00 AM Municipal Trees & Urban Forestry**
Tom Brady, Director of Public Works, Watertown, MA
Marc Welch, Director of Urban Forestry, Newton, MA
- 11:00 AM Annual Elections, Awards**
- 11:30 AM Networking Session**
- 12:00 PM Buffet Dinner**
- 12:30 PM Scholarships**

Ticket Reservations: \$75.00 per person includes tax and gratuity. Because we must guarantee seating, there will be no refunds for tickets sold. Please email reservations to the Secretary MHAsecretary1893@gmail.com and follow up with payment. Please note: Life-members do not need to submit payment; please register as a life-member so that we get the count correct.

Please make checks payable to: Massachusetts Highway Association and mail to Massachusetts Highway Association, P.O. Box 2004, Danvers MA 01923.

46th Annual New England Public Works Expo to be held on September 16-17.

The 2026 New England Public Works Expo, sponsored by the Massachusetts Highway Association, will be held at the Royal Plaza Trade Center in Marlborough, conveniently located off Rte. 495, on Wednesday and Thursday, September 16 and 17.

A record number of over 2200 attendees and a record number of over 220 vendors participated last year. Coffee, donuts, and lunch are included in the free ticket, and there will be door prize drawings. Further information is available on our website at nepublicworksexpo.org.

President's Message

Continued from page 1

Final comments as President:

As I conclude my term as President, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our membership for the trust and support you have shown me. It has truly been an honor to serve our association and to work alongside such dedicated and passionate individuals.

During my term, we accomplished a great deal together. I am especially proud of the progress made in strengthening member engagement, including increased participation at meetings and events, and successfully hosting educational and networking opportunities. I am hopeful that the new Membership Committee will continue to find innovative ways to improve communication and provide timely updates to the membership.

In addition, the association made important strides in organizational growth and will continue to advance the goal of a cohesive Mutual Aid program through the committee, members, and work with MEMA, advancing front line workers' education with the Annual Driver Skills, which will be held on July 15th at Mount Wachusett. Watch for sign up through Bay State Roads. These efforts were made possible through collaboration with the Board, committee members, and volunteers who generously gave their time and expertise.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting on May 7, 2026, at Pleasant Valley Country Club, in Sutton MA.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve in this role. I am confident that the association is on a strong path forward and that our incoming leadership will continue to build on this momentum. I wish the membership continued success, good health, and fulfillment in the year ahead, and I look forward to remaining an active and supportive member of this organization.

With sincere appreciation and best wishes,

Roby Whitehouse

President

Winter Meeting Highlights

by Katherine Boshar

On February 5th, Massachusetts Highway Association hosted our annual Winter Meeting at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. Massachusetts Highway 1st Vice President Michael Hale from the City of Gloucester provided welcome remarks and introduced our program chair Katherine Boshar. Jennifer Tetrault-Mannarino from HazCompliance provided a safety update.

The OSD team followed with a presentation on statewide contracts, category management, and procurement resources. The team included Mark Fine, Asst Secretary for Operational Services Purchasing Agent, Ann Maria Benner, Director of Category Management, and Patricia Burke, Local Government Account Manager. They also had a table set up during the rest of the meeting to answer any specific questions the members may have had.

Patricia Leavenworth, District 2 Highway Director at MassDOT followed up with a presentation on Attention Span in the Digital Age. She covered why focus is fading and what leaders can do about it. We learned that every pop up, every buzz of our phone, every multi-tasking activity, and every interruption takes away from our concentration and productivity and requires a refocus.

We had a Legislative Update from Violet Gehr, Legislative Analyst from MMA. As always, she informed our members of the many goings on at the state level.

A presentation on AI in the workplace followed. Town of Danvers has implemented AI throughout the town and Colby Cousens, IT Director, and Angelica Medina, Business Manager, presented the many ways the town uses AI. Their presentation also covered the history of how it came about and where it may be heading.

The meeting ended with a municipal panel covering daily challenges that face DPWs. This panel was moderated by Christopher Cronin from APEX, and included Michael Hale from Gloucester, John Borghesi from North Andover, Kevin Cafferty from Scituate, and Sean Divol from Worcester. The panel infused some humor into talking about their wide range of issues and experiences, while the MHA members related to the difficulties they had to overcome.

MHA thanks all of the presenters at the February meeting, and the many members who were in attendance. It was a fulfilling day of learning and networking.



Good Works Across Massachusetts - DPWs & Engineers Making a Difference in Our Communities

Massachusetts public works teams and engineering professionals are doing more than maintaining infrastructure; they are quietly improving quality of life for residents every day. While much of this work happens behind the scenes, recent efforts highlight the dedication, creativity, and community focus that define the profession.

Protecting Public Health, Often Unseen

This spring, communities like Northampton have begun annual water system flushing programs to maintain water quality and ensure safe drinking water. Crews are often out at night to minimize disruption, balancing operational needs with respect for residents' daily routines. It is a simple but powerful reminder that some of the most important work happens when few people are watching.

Keeping Residents Informed and Involved

In towns such as Bedford, DPWs are taking extra steps to communicate directly with residents ahead of paving and construction activities. From online schedules to hand-delivered notices, these efforts help eliminate surprises and give residents time to prepare. Clear communication builds trust and helps projects run more smoothly for everyone involved.

Putting Safety First in Every Operation

Whether coordinating traffic during large tree removals or managing work zones, safety remains a top priority. In smaller communities like Goshen, coordination between DPW crews, contractors, and local police ensures that even complex or hazardous work is completed with minimal risk to the public.

Investing in the Next Generation

Engineering professionals across the Commonwealth are stepping into classrooms, participating in career days, and supporting STEM initiatives. These efforts introduce students to careers in public works and civil engineering, helping to build the future workforce our communities will rely on.

Did You Know?

- Most DPW work happens **before residents ever notice an issue**
- Water system maintenance like flushing helps **protect public health year-round**
- Simple steps like **advance notice of paving** can significantly reduce resident complaints
- Traffic calming and safety measures have been proven to **reduce speeds and crashes**
- Workforce outreach today helps address the **growing shortage of public works professionals**



Gloucester Culvert Replacement: Enhancing Coastal Resilience on Concord St.

by Sara Vargas Dupree, DPW Civil Engineer and Michael B. Hale, DPW Director

Coastal communities like Gloucester are on the front lines of climate change, facing threats to critical infrastructure, with the sea level rise, tidal flooding, storm surges, and coastal erosion.

The City of Gloucester, through the years, has been working on getting help from the state and federal governments to address flooding and sea level rise issues. A specific culvert on Concord Street was identified as critical due to concerns about washing out during coastal storms and increased erosion along the bank. The culvert is within the transitional zone and the AE flood zone, located at about an elevation of 8 ft., and it will deal with more serious impacts of sea-level rise due to climate change.

The culvert's upstream area receives input from precipitation runoff and groundwater exfiltration. Downstream, the area is tidally influenced by the adjacent marsh flat. The culvert is currently functionally obsolete/failing. Its replacement could potentially restore an additional 10 acres of salt marsh under future sea level conditions.

The Massachusetts Department of Ecological Restoration (DER) has been collaborating with the city, using this specific culvert to help develop the state's "Guidance for Enhancing Climate Resilience of Current and Future Tidally Influenced Crossings" (2025 Draft). This guidance document will be used in planning and development of site assessments for upgrades and replacements of tidal and transitional crossings, which consists of reviewing the existing crossing for current and projected conditions, and in this it could be a baseline for conceptual design for Gloucester, MA for eventual culvert replacement.

From previous efforts, we have received site assessments, surveys, and base Mapping, preliminary Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) Modeling, Alternatives Analysis, and Conceptual Drawings which have been fundamental to identifying the preferred conceptual alternative and evaluating feasibility. The goal for this year is to investigate the geotechnical portion of the project and refine the H&H Modeling. This will provide a more accurate design, allowing the city to advance the project toward the construction phase.

Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Spring Update

by Violet Gebr, MMA Legislative Analyst - Vgebr@mma.org

Hello, Massachusetts Highway Association members!

Spring has sprung on Beacon Hill, and the legislative calendar is heating up. We are officially in the home stretch of the session. With the July 31 deadline looming, the House and Senate are moving at a quick pace to tie up loose ends, especially as we navigate the uncertain impacts of federal policy shifts and the “One Big Beautiful Bill.” Here is what you need to know at the fiscal and policy levels to stay informed:

House vs. Senate Supplemental Budget

The Legislature is currently reconciling two major supplemental budget packages aimed at addressing state deficiencies and programming Fair Share surtax revenues.

The Senate has proposed a bill that would allocate \$1.3 billion in Fair Share surtax revenue from fiscal 2025 and \$491 million in general fund investments. The surtax investments include \$753 million to support transportation initiatives and \$591 million for education programs:

- **\$100 Million for Winter Relief:** This includes \$80 million distributed via road miles and \$20 million for communities hit hardest by extreme weather.
- **\$7 Million for Unpaved Roads:** Continued support for dirt and gravel road maintenance.
- **\$1 Million for Truck Safety:** Grants for the purchase of truck safety devices
- **Rural & Regional Aid:** Includes \$8 million for rural schools and \$25 million to incentivize regionalization.

The House version also allocates \$1.3 billion in surtax revenue but with a slightly different focus:

- **Green School Works:** \$20 million to help with school energy efficiency projects.
- **Special Education:** A significant \$152 million for the Circuit Breaker account for FY27 (bringing the total to \$804.7 million).
- **Revenue Stabilization:** Includes a provision to “permanently decouple” the state tax code from federal policy if voters approve the ballot measure to lower the income tax to 4%. This is intended to prevent a \$5 billion revenue loss.

Current and Future Budget Outlook

While economists are keeping an eye on slower job growth and shifting federal policies, the Commonwealth’s revenue collections remain a bright spot for cautious optimism. February collections were \$2.336 billion (\$59 million above benchmark), and leaders have agreed to a consensus revenue figure, predicting that \$44.9 billion will be collected in FY27.

The Governor’s \$63 billion plan includes a \$33 million (2.5%) increase to UGGA. The MMA is pushing for \$351 million to restore the program to its historic trajectory. The plan also includes a \$242 million increase to Chapter 70 with \$75-per-pupil minimum aid.

Something to be aware of is that the Governor’s budget includes an outside section that proposes changes to the process in which cities and towns are able to recoup outstanding unpaid parking tickets, excise taxes, and abandoned vehicle fees.

Notably, the Governor’s budget includes an outside section proposing changes to the process by which cities and towns recoup outstanding unpaid parking tickets, excise taxes, and abandoned vehicle fees. The proposal would create a new system requiring reporting to both the

Department of Revenue and the Comptroller to allow for the payment of delinquent bills via the state’s Intercept program. This program allows deductions from an individual’s state tax return, lottery winnings over \$600, or payments from the Commonwealth’s accounting system. Rules for the proposed program would be set through a forthcoming regulatory process.

The MMA has strong concerns that the new process cannot replace the critical tools the current process provides to collect vital municipal revenue. Many communities find the current system to be the only practical way to collect delinquent motor vehicle excise bills and parking tickets. We encourage you to reach out to your legislators as soon as possible to ask them to oppose these proposals.

If you have any questions about the proposed supplemental budgets or the Governor’s bill, please reach out to Adrienne Núñez, MMA Senior Legislative Analyst at Anunez@mma.org.

Chapter 90

The Governor’s Transportation Bond Bill, which houses Chapter 90 funding, had a hearing before the Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets on April 7. An MMA panel testified in strong support of the funding.

Previously, the Legislature’s Joint Committee on Transportation advanced a redrafted version of the transportation bond bill that would provide \$300 million for the Chapter 90 road and bridge maintenance program for fiscal 2027. While the committee preserved the \$300 million funding level, it shifted to a one-year authorization rather than the \$1.2 billion over four years sought by the Governor in her January filing. The redrafted bill (H. 5279) maintains the \$100 million distributed solely based on local road miles, rather than the traditional Chapter 90 formula.

The transportation bond bill also includes:

- **\$200 million** for transportation improvements that support expanded housing development.
- **\$200 million** for a new Parkway Resilience Improvement and Safety Modernization investment program.
- **\$500 million** for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation’s Bridge and Pavement Lifecycle Asset Management Programs.
- **\$200 million** for the MBTA’s Rail Reliability Program.

Municipal Empowerment Act

As you might recall, the MEA was split among three committees, and we are seeing progress. Committees have reported out provisions regarding double poles (creating actual enforcement and penalties), procurement efficiencies, and permanent hybrid meeting options.

This bill remains a top priority for the MMA, and we hope you will share your support for it with your legislators. Please reach out to us if you have comments or feedback on any part of the bill. For questions about the MEA, please contact Legislative and Policy Counsel **Ali DiMatteo** at ADimatteo@mma.org.

Energy and the Environment

Two major legislative vehicles are currently moving through the State House that will define the Commonwealth’s environmental and energy landscape for years to come. The first is the energy affordability bill originally filed by Governor Healey; this initiative sparked intense debate over balancing climate goals with resident costs.

Early House drafts included a controversial proposal to make 2030 climate goals non-enforceable, though the House has since walked back that idea. A redrafted bill was debated and engrossed by the House on February 26. The MMA is advocating for a balance that protects affordability while maintaining the state financial incentives and energy efficiency supports that cities and towns rely on. We are now watching the Senate for its next move.

Additionally, the Massachusetts Senate was scheduled to vote on April 15 on a \$3.64 billion environmental bond bill (S. 3050) designed to fund climate resilience, land conservation, and clean water infrastructure. A centerpiece of this legislation is a proposed statewide ban on single-use plastic carryout bags, which would also implement a 10-cent fee for recycled paper bags and limit the distribution of plastic utensils and straws to a “by request” basis. Beyond these policy shifts, the bill authorizes significant investments, including \$500 million for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, \$450 million for the Clean Water Trust, and funding for PFAS remediation and dam safety.

If you have any questions about either of these bills or how they may impact your community, please contact Senior Legislative Analyst Josie Ahlberg at JAhlberg@mma.org.

Final Notes

- **Ballot Questions:** This fall could see a record number of ballot questions, including reforms to the income tax, 62F, and an initiative to implement same day voter registration. The MMA is following these closely and has already testified in opposition to two of these measures.
- **New Reports:** We released two major reports, A Perfect Storm and Navigating the Storm, which highlight the daily fiscal pressures municipalities face. We are using these findings to advocate for the resources you need to keep your communities vibrant and your roads safe.

I look forward to seeing you all soon! Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or input at VGehr@mma.org.



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2026 MHA Larry Bombara Memorial Charity Golf Tournament

by Jody Trunfio, Charity Golf Chairman

Save the Date!

The 2026 MHA Larry Bombara Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at Brookmeadow Country Club in Canton, MA on Tuesday, September 29th. The Planning Committee is once again working hard to make this day a memorable one. Please be sure to keep an eye out for future announcements for this wonderful day on the course with our fellow members, colleagues, and friends!

2026 Honoree, Ed Miga



Ed Miga served the Town of Wilbraham for 36 years, most recently as Director of Public Works and Town Engineer. He oversaw Wastewater, Water (MWRA source), Solid Waste, Highway, Engineering Departments, and the Board of Health. Prior to joining the Town, he spent 10 years in drilling and blasting, and five years with Laborers' Union Local 596 working for various contractors.

Ed holds a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Massachusetts and maintains a PE license along with multiple professional licenses and certifications. He is a past president of the Massachusetts Highway Association (2010–2011) and the Tri-County Highway Superintendents and has served on the Western Massachusetts Homeland Security Advisory Board. He currently sits on the Mass Highway Association Board of Trustees.

A proud father of three and grandfather of four, Ed enjoys fishing, carpentry, fast cars, and walking his German Shepherd. Ed's selected charity, in honor of his late companion, is the Kidney Foundation.

Driver Skills and Safety Training Event (aka Snowplow Rodeo)

by Chris Bouchard, Chair, Jason Page, ATG

The MHA Driver Skills Committee is preparing for another great event this year. This year's event will be held on July 15th, 2026, at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area. We are planning to hold two events again this year, the single axle truck and wheel loader events.

Please watch for emails and social media posts about the event. The [Baystate Roads Program](#) will open up in early May for registrations.

Thank you to the MHA Board of Directors for its continued support of this training event and for continuing to send the winning teams to the National Finals at the Western Snow and Ice Conference in Colorado to represent Massachusetts.

This event would not be possible without the help and support of the cities, towns, Baystate Roads Program, and vendors who participate in the event and help with judging and running the event.

Stay tuned for updates as the date gets closer.

Mutual Aid Update

by the Mutual Aid Committee

Happy spring everyone. We hope that you have had a safe winter and are looking forward to some nice weather.

We are in the final stages of work with our consultant on the changes / improvements to the program that has been funded by NERAC.

Stay tuned to the website, masshighway.org, or look for an email blast with news and updates coming soon. We are excited that we will soon have a 24-hour phone number to call if assistance is needed as we are finalizing the details on this important milestone.

Remember to keep your city or town's DPW emergency 24-hour contact information up to date on the yearly membership form or when there is a change in your organization, as this will be very important information for the CMACs to have when reaching out to provide or request assistance for mutual aid, and to have it work well, as these are crucial components.

If you have an emergency change, please send it to: MHAsecretary1893@gmail.com with the subject "emergency contact update."

It has been a long journey to get to where we are currently and will always need to be updated and changed as we continue to progress. This could not have been done without the help of many along the way. Please feel free to suggest changes or improvements, as we are always open to ideas.

Thank you to all who have contributed and helped in this journey, for your vision, tenacity, strength, and goodwill to carry us forward on this mission for public works, for now and in the future.



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www.BaystateRoads.org to sign up!

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5/19/26 - Virtual

OSHA 10 Hour Construction Training
5/26/2026 - Barnstable

Flagger/First Aird Certification
5/28/26 - Virtual
6/2/26 - Virtual
6/4/26 - Virtual

Wood Chipper Operation & Safety
6/3/26 - Needham
6/23/26 - Northampton

Basics of a Good Road
6/3/26 - Natick

Truck Maintenance Essentials
6/4/26 - Tolland

Signs, Lines and MUTCD Update
6/9/2026 - Buckland

Bucket Truck Operation & Safety
6/10/2026 - Franklin

Asphalt Inspection Best Management Practices
6/11/2026 - Plymouth

Introduction to Line & Grade
6/11/2026 - Chestnut Hill

Culvert Assessment & Maintenance Plan Development
6/24/2026 - Chatham
6/25/26 - Athol

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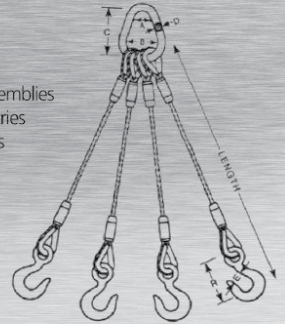
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County Association News

Barnstable County –Richard Waldo

Spring brings renewed energy to New England following a long winter marked by intense Arctic cold and at least two significant, high-impact snowstorms. I am proud of our Public Works teams across the Commonwealth for their unwavering commitment to meet the challenges of this demanding season.

The Barnstable County Public Works Association (BCPWA) takes great pride in its annual scholarship program, which awarded \$20,000 in scholarships in 2025. The application deadline this year is May 1, 2026. For more information, please visit: <http://www.bcpwa.info/scholarship-info/>

The BCPWA Annual Golf Tournament—our largest fundraising event—will be held on June 1st at New Seabury Country Club. To reserve golf or meal tickets, please email Golf Committee Chair Paul Maher (Bartlett Consolidated) at pmaher@bartlettconsolidated.com or Kim Berube at bcpwassoc@gmail.com. Reservations must be received no later than noon on Friday, May 15, 2026. Please note that members are responsible for any reservations not canceled by the deadline. Information about sponsorship opportunities is also available through Paul Maher at the same email address or via phone at (508) 277-2549.

Upcoming Meetings:

- May 14 – Cape Cod Tech High School (Culinary Program)
- June 1 – BCPWA Annual Golf Tournament, New Seabury Country Club

Berkshire County/District #1 Hwy. Supt. Assoc. – Gerald Coppola (Interim)

As the winter months are coming to an end, most highway departments are pretty worn out and looking forward to nicer weather to begin their summer projects. The Berkshire County Highway Superintendent's Association is also getting their programs up and running. Our first meeting was held on April 23rd.

Our golf committee has been working hard putting together our first TJ Horigan Memorial Golf Tournament on June 5th.

Our June 25th meeting is a follow-up from the tournament with speakers that help people dealing with Depression and Mental Health issues.

Our 41st annual Equipment Show and Picnic is scheduled for August 27th. The show continues to grow, and although we are almost at limits of available space, it all works out.

The Berkshire County Highway Superintendent's Association, Inc. is recommending that Robert Navin, Highway Supt. for the Town of Stockbridge to be our next County Board of Directors member of the Mass Highway Association.

Our Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, Scholarship Awards and Charity Awards will be held on Thursday, October 22 at a venue to be announced later.

Essex County – John Borgese

Nothing submitted

Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex – James McGonagle

NBM Highway Association is proud to continue its mission of supporting local Massachusetts Departments of Public Works by providing valuable education, training, and networking opportunities throughout the year. As we look ahead to 2026, we are excited to offer a full calendar of events designed to bring together highway professionals from across the region.

Our spring season kicked off on April 8th with the Spring Technical Session, which offered timely insights and educational programming relevant to today's public works challenges. A week later, on April 15, we hosted the Tom Collins Memorial Spring Mechanics Workshop, a hands-on opportunity for mechanics and technicians to enhance their skills and share best practices.

On May 6th, we look forward to our highly anticipated Equipment Show, where members can explore the latest tools, vehicles, and innovations, shaping the future of DPW operations.

Summer brings one of our most popular events, the Scholarship Fund Annual Golf Tournament on July 8th. This event not only provides a great day of networking and camaraderie but also supports scholarships for future public works professionals and students furthering their education.

As the year continues, we return to technical training with the Tom Collins Memorial Fall Mechanics Workshop on September 23rd, followed by the Fall Technical Session on October 7th, both offering continued education and professional development opportunities.

We close out the year on November 7th with our annual Gala in Norwood, a celebration of our members, achievements, and the strong community that defines the NBM Highway Association.

We encourage all Massachusetts DPW professionals to participate in these events and take advantage of the resources and connections the Association provides. We look forward to another successful year supporting the people who keep our communities running safely and efficiently.

Plymouth County – Kevin Cafferty

Nothing submitted

Tri-County Highway Association – Christopher Bouchard

Nothing submitted

Worcester County – David Capelle (Interim)

Nothing submitted



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MHA + NBM Membership Drive & Networking Event

October 22, 2026

Topgolf, Canton, MA

The Massachusetts Highway Association and the NBM Highway Association are excited to host a joint membership drive this fall.

Join highway, public works, and municipal professionals from across Massachusetts for networking, collaboration, and a little friendly competition.

This event is open to members and non-members and is a great opportunity to:

- Connect with colleagues from across the region
- Introduce peers to the value of MHA and NBM membership
- Build relationships in a setting designed to encourage collaboration and information sharing
- Learn how MHA and NBM membership can enhance your professional network, resources, and opportunities

Registration will be limited and expected to fill quickly.

Full event details and registration information will be released soon. Watch your email and association updates so you don't miss out.

Mark your calendar now!



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This *Spring 2026 Newsletter* is being distributed digitally only and on the MHA website at masshwy.org. If you are a member of MHA and not receiving the newsletter please send your email address to the editor, Bill Elovirta, at bille@msn.com. All advertisers have a link to their websites. Please support our advertisers. All news items should be sent to your MHA County Director or direct to the *Newsletter* editor. The next issue will be distributed in Fall 2026.



Robert S. Benard, 91, passed away in Burlington on March 1st. Born in Melrose, the son of the late Frank F. and Rose E. (White) Benard was raised and educated in the Melrose school system. Robert graduated from Melrose High School, where he developed both his work ethic and his lifelong love of football. Mechanically gifted from a young age, Robert began working alongside his older brothers on cars and stockcars, eventually working at a nearby gas station throughout high school. That early hands-on experience sparked a passion that would shape the rest of his life. It led him to a position at a heavy equipment dealer; then joining with a small, struggling company, with a contract to become an owner. This was the birth of C.N. Wood Co., Inc. Within just two years, Robert and his partner Paul McCarthy were able to purchase the business. Over the next six decades, it has transformed it into one of the most respected construction equipment dealers in the region. Under his leadership, the company grew to nine locations across Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, and Maine, employing nearly 200 people. Bob spent 58 years guiding the company, assisting contractors and municipal clients with sage advice, dependable equipment, and unwavering support. Known for leading with his heart as much as his business sense, he built lasting partnerships and friendships that spanned generations.

A true definition of a hard worker, Bob was often found at the yard on Saturdays, and sometimes Sundays, making sure every machine leaving the lot was ready to perform. Beyond his business success, Bob believed deeply in giving back. He supported trade organizations through scholarships and educational opportunities, quietly helped local charities, and was known to many families in the Woburn and Burlington communities as a generous and anonymous "Secret Santa." His legacy of service, humility, and generosity continues to inspire a 1 who knew him. He was a founding member of NBM highway association; a member of Massachusetts Highway Association, UCANE, APWA-NE and many other industry associations. Bob was a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, and member of the Wyoming Lodge of Freemasons in Melrose.

He is survived by his wife Paula (Toomey) Benard of Burlington, Debra Del Dotto and her husband Ronald of Burlington, Paula Benard of Burlington, and Cheryl MacIver and her husband Dana of Burlington and Alton, NH.

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