Community Profile: Keene

City of Keene has the largest main street in the US and holds the world record for lighted jack-o-lanterns, over 28,000. The city maintains 250 lane miles of road, more than 100 miles of water, 86 miles of sewer mains, 52 miles of sidewalks, 32 bridges, 4 well-sites, 2 reservoirs, 5 water tanks, 10 lift and pumping stations, 6 MGD Water Treatment Facilities and 6 MGD Secondary wastewater treatment plants.

Kürt Blomquist, Director of Public Works, has 70 full-time employees. The department is organized into eight divisions.

Highway maintains the streets, bridges, and drainage systems. Annually, they plant over 4,000 flowers, maintain the green spaces, benches, fountain, a band stand, and support all of the downtown events.

Water/Sewer Division’s sewer collection system dates to 1868 and their water distribution system to the 1870’s. Many mains are over 100 years old.

Fleet Services supports the city’s 138 vehicles and equipment including Police and Fire.

Engineering supports all engineering, construction oversight, and other technical services for the community.

Laboratory, Utilities Maintenance and Operation Divisions ensure that the pump stations and water and wastewater treatment plants operate at peak efficiency.

Solid Waste maintains a permanent household hazardous waste facility and provides collection services to communities in the county. The Recycle Center/Transfer Center sees over 17,000 customers annually and processed over 10,000 tons of compiled containers, fibers and metal materials in 2003.

In 2003 the City constructed a single lane roundabout at the Court Street and Allen Court intersection. Area neighborhoods had complained of excess speed and other safety fears. The roundabout has gained high praise from the community. Also in 2003, the Public Works Department moved into a 60,000 square foot warehouse.

Message from Our President

At first glance you may have noticed that we changed our name from NHPWMEA to NHPWA. This decision supports our mission to include all public works professionals.

Congratulations to scholarship winners: Eric Grenier (UNH CE), Cameron McNall (UNH CE) and Josh Manning (UNH Thompson School).

The Board of Directors voted to participate in Memorial Jeffrey P. Shaw/GEO Insight Scholarship for a graduating college senior enrolled in graduate study of environmental engineering at UNH.

Our annual meeting results are in: Mike Faller, Director of Public Works, Meredith, At Large and Gus Lerandeau, All States Asphalt, Supplier Representative.

Dues are now $25 per individual and $100 per group membership. Group membership is an entire group i.e. Public Works Department/Engineering Department/Firm/Business. Each group will be allowed five members on the mailing list.

As always, I look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming events, and the scholarship social.

Jim Brown, Engineer
President
Salem
Technical Sessions:

“Design Criteria for Stormwater on Site-Specific Plans”
- Local Government Center

9:15-10:00 "Design Guidelines for stormwater management"
Eileen Pannietier

10:15-11:00 "Draft Revisions to Site Specific Guidelines"
Ridge Mauck

11:15-12:00 "Case Studies & Examples: Where do we go next?" Paul DegliAngeli

An Imprint demonstration in Dover is being planned. See UNH T² Article on the process
http://www.t2.unh.edu/winter03/p g1.html

Don't Push!

How do you sell your ideas to the public and the administration? You don’t. You present them with their benefits to the best of your ability. If they don't pass, don't be dissatisfied. Too many of us believe our insight is the only answer. I have had several ideas which I thought should be adopted. Much to my dismay, some were scoffed at. Management felt the plans were too costly, too grandiose, too time consuming, or too frivolous. At one time I would have been upset, now I know that the plan wasn't as good as I had thought. Often, the combined intelligence of the administration is greater than a single individual’s, even if one’s ego is hesitant to admit it.

Once, I had a plan to improve a road and its traffic pattern. The crew and I developed what we considered a "flawless" plan. We presented our idea with confidence. When our turn to speak was over we took our seats and the officials began. This public meeting fell nothing short of an execution. They felt my plan was ludicrous and inconvenient. I left steaming. I hoped no one would die because of their bad decision. I regarded their plan as a maintenance headache. My ego was blown when I realized I was wrong. The traffic is flowing nicely, the maintenance is equal to other sites, and there hasn’t been a single accident.

Although, this particular presentation worked out badly for me, several of my ideas have yielded positive results. They have saved money and worked well. We tend to forget that we work for residents; hence our title “public servants.” Taxpayers have the final decision. Their wishes may come through the elected or appointed officials, but they have the last word. We make recommendations but when the taxpayers say no, don't take it personally. It's their money, neighborhood and town. We just work there.

We all feel responsible for accidents that occur on our roads. If we think a double yellow line is needed on a particular road and your governing body tells you absolutely no lines, the responsibility is no longer yours. The neighborhood may have signed a petition and that was not shared with you, just the decision. People who make these requests are not doing it to be mean, malicious, or selfish. They feel the decision is the right one without thought to the consequences. Ultimately the blame will go to the "town" if the decision is wrong.

Yet, if you feel your position is right and another creates a safety hazard, put your recommendation, and request for an answer, in writing. Explain the details of your idea and any possible outcomes. After this is done you've removed some personal exposure. Our position is to work WITH the community, not for or against it. We use our experience and education to hopefully make the best decisions possible. When others decide contrary to your suggestions, don't dismay, you've done your job to the best of your ability and that's all that's ever asked.

By Chum Cleverly, Public Works Director, Bow
**Member Profile**

**Domenic Ciavarro**

Domenic Ciavarro is the principal for Waterfield Design Group in Manchester, NH. He works mostly with municipal and state agencies designing infrastructures, land planning and development, and transportation planning.

A graduate of Northeastern University, Mr. Ciavarro worked as a consultant in Boston, MA for a few years after finishing his degree. In the late 1980’s he dug his roots in NH.

Domenic has worked with numerous consultants providing services to both the public and private organizations. Prior to Waterfield, Domenic worked for RIZZO Associates for over seven years. He has also worked for Sampark Associates in Boston, MA and later in Manchester, NH.

Domenic is currently in his second year as president of Planned NH. He serves as a member of ASCE. Previously he was a member of ACEC NH.

Mr. Ciavarro enjoys playing all sports in the summer especially on Lake Winnipesaukee. In the winter, you’ll most likely see him skiing in the White Mountains of NH.

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**Fall Social**

Mark your calendars the NHPWA Fall Social on October 1, 2004 from 6-10 PM. The New Church Landing in Meredith — the newest of the lovely Inns of Mill Falls will host this event. Tickets will be available in August, contact a board member for more information.

This is one of our major fundraisers for our scholarship program, so we are looking for everyone's support. Our goals are to sell 150 tickets and for everyone to have a great time!
CALENDAR

Fall Scholarship Social
October 1 — 6:00-10:00, New Church Landing (Mill Falls)

Design Criteria for Stormwater on Site Specific Plans
October 21 — Local Government Center

NHPWA Annual Meeting
November 3 — Local Government Center Conference
Manchester, NH

Imprint demonstration in Dover
Planned

Site visit to Stormwater Testing Facility
Planned

The NHPWA newsletter is a quarterly publication. For submissions, contact:
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Useful Links
NHPWA: http://www.t2.unh.edu/nhpwmea/
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Membership term expires June 30, 2005. Please detach and mail this form along with payment to:
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