Littleton is home to 6,000 people and located in the White Mountains. Larry Jackson is the Road Agent his department maintains 62 miles of road, 13 are gravel. The crew is made up of 10 full-timers.

Littleton is a Main Street Community and a 2003 recipient of the Great American Main Street Award which recognizes outstanding achievement in the revitalization of a Downtown. Littleton’s goal for 2006 is to have the Main Street completely refurbished. From lights and curbs to culverts and heated sidewalks, downtown. It will be under construction for the next 18 months. Littleton’s high school students are implementing the heated sidewalks. The students demonstrated the heated sidewalk system at the New Hampshire Road Agent’s Mountain of Demonstrations this past May.

The Riverwalk Bridge Project is a recent accomplishment. It was initiated by the North Country Council in 1992 and. It officially opened this late spring. According to Town Manager, Jason Hoch, the foot bridge (believed to be the longest in the State of New Hampshire) was “an immediate tourist attraction.” The main objective was to connect both sides of the river. From a commerce standpoint, the Bridge connects the weekly Farmers’ Market to Main Street and its retailers. The bridge has reduced vehicle trips, increased pedestrian safety, and has become an active exercise pathway.

Once the design and funding were secure, the Littleton Riverwalk Bridge actually took 5 years to complete. Much of the funding came through Ice Tea and then T-21’s enhancement funds. As with any project, the political angst of funding and public’s perception of it “taking forever”, did have its stresses on the Town’s officials. Fortunately, it has been worth the wait. The so-called Nay-Sayers have recanted their opinions and now applaud the success of the Bridge.

Message from Our President

Fall is when we break to attend the Annual Fall Scholarship Social. The social is in Meredith at the Church Landing on Lake Winnipesaukee. A brochure was sent to our membership and is online at http://www.t2.unh.edu/nhpwmeea/2004/2004_social.pdf. Please join us, bring friends and coworkers and enjoy a night out while supporting our scholarship program.

Membership renewal notices have been mailed and an updated membership form is also available at www.t2.unh.edu/nhpwmeea.

The New Hampshire Public Works Standards and Training Council requests our assistance with “Best Practices” accreditation program. Volunteers will be asked to attend a review meeting to be held in Concord in late September. An on-site facility inspection in October. And a follow-up debriefing and evaluation meeting in November. We need two or three volunteers. Please contact me if you can provide assistance.

To have your community profiled or have a project or idea you would like to have included in the newsletter please send your information to Kathy at UNH T2 Center. See you at the Social.

Jim Brown, Engineer
President, Salem
Technical Sessions

“Design Criteria for Stormwater on Site-Specific Plans”
Local Government Center, October 21, 2004
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 and Examples: Where do we go from next?” Paul DegliAngeli

Annual Meeting, November 4, 2004
- Silas Nicols, FWHA, Geotechnical Engineer
- John Burke, Portsmouth, and Doug Mellin, Hampton, will discuss lessons learned from sign safety showcase in Mendicino County California.

Homeland Security and Public Works – A Seat at the Table

When the words Homeland Security or first responders is mention what comes to mind? Police, Fire, Emergency Medical personnel. What about Public Works or Highway Departments? Public Works has always had a role and integral part in responding to man-made or natural disasters/events. Typically Public works crews are one of the first responders to a scene, “setting up a barricade”, and will be the last to leave after the clean up and recovery activities are complete, “picking up the barricade”. An illustration of how integral Public Works in emergency responses look to the activities of the Oklahoma City Public Works Department and the New York City Department of Sanitation when those communities where faced with unplanned and unimaginable events.

In today’s environment Public Works Departments have become a critical component in the planning and responding to threats. Public Works departments are responsible for the oversight of critical infrastructure components such as sewage treatment facilities, water supply and distribution facilities, and transportation facilities. Laws such as the Public Health Security and Bio-terrorism Preparedness and Response act of 2002 have placed a greater responsibility for security planning and preparedness upon Public Works and utility departments. These requirements place a greater emphasis on the ability of Public Works to work with the emergency services and other first responders in setting priorities and establishing requirements.

The Public Works Department, in Keene, has had a vital part in the planning and responding to events. To address the unique requirements and needs of Home Security a cross department team consisting of representatives from the Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works Department was established. This team works with the various city departments to assess needs of the city. They review the requirements and make recommendations on priorities for funding. This has allowed the Keene Public Works Department to be able to receive Homeland Security grant funds for projects to make critical assets more secure and enhance the response capabilities of its staff. This team has been a valuable tool for all staffs in communicating and learning to work together.

Public Works and highway departments have not been traditionally thought of in emergency management or Homeland Security roles. In today’s world we are critical to the planning, responding, and recovery of our communities. If your Department is not involved in your community’s Homeland Security and emergency planning and preparedness you should become involved. You will be welcome.

By Kürt Blomquist, Director of Public Works, Keene
What’s Wrong with This Picture?

In addition to diverting attention away from the STOP sign, the sign beneath it is not mounted properly, sanctioned by the law, or the correct colors.

Legislative Update

Retroreflectivity

A notice of proposed amendments to the MUTCD regarding Sign Retroreflectivity was issued by the FHWA. These amendments are designated as PROPOSED Revision No. 2 of the 2003 MUTCD. Please visit the MUTCD website [http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov) for the July 30, 2004 Federal Register. Submit comments, referencing Docket No. FHWA-2003-15149, to DOT, Docket Management Facility, room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590, or electronically at [http://dmses.dot.gov/submit](http://dmses.dot.gov/submit). Comments to the docket are due by October 28, 2004. For further information contact FHWA Peter Hatzi at (202) 366-8036.


A potential action item of NHMA is to support amending RSA 264:33 to include liability protection for municipal public works and highway employees involved in motor vehicle accidents while operating municipal vehicles in the performance of their official duties.

There must be municipal interest. This amendment will provide protection to municipal public works and highway personnel similar to that afforded to police, fire, and military personnel while performing their official duties operating government owned-vehicles. [http://www.nhlgc.org/Public_Documents/NHLGC_WebDocs/003BB0BE-000F8513](http://www.nhlgc.org/Public_Documents/NHLGC_WebDocs/003BB0BE-000F8513)

Member Profile

Melodie Esterberg, PE

Melodie Esterberg is the Director of Public Works in the City of Rochester. She also directs Public Buildings and Grounds. She is responsible for highway, water, sewer, fleet maintenance, engineering, city buildings, and parks. Melodie serves as the Vice President of NHPWA.

Melodie has been with the city for seven years. Prior to her current position she worked as the City Engineer in Rochester. She worked for the City of Portland, ME as a project engineer and in the private sector, focusing on municipal engineering.

Melodie earned a BS in Civil Engineering at Northeastern University.

Melodie is married to Dan. She has a step-daughter, grandson, and a step-son; who is stationed in Italy. Melodie and Dan will travel to Italy for Christmas this year.

In her “spare time,” Melodie enjoys hobbies include motorcycling, sailing, knitting, weaving, and sewing.
CAALENDAR

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 4 — 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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Membership term expires June 30, 2005. Please detach and mail this form along with payment to:

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