

# NH Public Works Association

## Community Profile: Merrimack NH

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Edited by: Kathryn Claytor

**M**errimack Department of Public Works was established in 1976 and has 65 personnel operating seven distinct divisions. Town Administrative Code states, "Any town responsibility that can not be assigned to the tax collector, Fire or Police Station, is assigned to the Public Works Department." With all the demands on the Department, it is very productive. Two landfills were closed in the last five years and a new Transfer Station installed. Funds for the projects were obtained from the DES Funding Program and local tax funds.

The \$9.5 million operating budget is applied to a multitude of projects identified in the town's six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Key projects include bridge replacements, utilizing the NHDOT Municipally Managed Bridge Replacement Program, sidewalk construction; drainage improvements; significant (\$6 million) improvements to the Wastewater Treatment

Plant; and sanitary sewer extensions, which includes the rehabilitation of about 100 sewer manholes near the active railroad line. These manholes were damaged by repeated vibrations from the 100 car/coal train trips. Other anticipated projects include the construction of a 4000-ton salt barn and upgrades to the Highway office/garage areas.

Merrimack DPW recently transitioned from a contracted loading/hauling service for municipal solid waste to a "town-run" service. Two road-tractors and three live-floor trailers were purchased to haul trash from the new Transfer Station to Waste Management's landfill in Rochester.



### A Look Inside

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## President's Message

First of all, I would like to thank our members who are busy dealing with the winter weather and the long hours it takes to keep our roadways passable and safe.

Our Board is working with the Local Government Center and others to get the law revised to protect municipal employees while performing winter weather related duties. Please see the legislative update on page 3 and contact Kathy DesRoches, UNH T<sup>2</sup> Center, at (800) 423-0060 with any questions.

We have sponsored many training seminars over the last several years. I hope that these workshops have been useful and interesting. If you have a topic of interest or need additional information please contact any Board member. This is your association and we need membership involvement to remain strong.

Hope to see all of you at the Annual Spring Meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Board has been hard at work planning for that meeting.

In addition, I hope you enjoy this newsletter. If you would like to have your community profiled or have a project or idea you would like to see in a future issue please send your information to Kathryn Claytor, UNH T<sup>2</sup> Center, at [kclaytor@unh.edu](mailto:kclaytor@unh.edu) or call (800) 423-0060.

*Jim Brown, Engineer  
President, Salem*

## Scholarship Donation Appreciation

The NHPWA is pleased to recognize the following individuals and organizations that have contributed to the scholarship fund:

<b>All States Asphalt Inc.</b>	North Swanzey NH
<b>Clough, Harbour, &amp; Asso. LLP</b>	Albany NY
<b>CMA Engineers</b>	Portsmouth NH
<b>E.W. Sleeper Company</b>	Concord NH
<b>Geo Insight</b>	Londonderry NH
<b>GMI Asphalt Corporation</b>	Gilford NH
<b>The H.L. Turner Group Inc.</b>	Concord NH
<b>Hoyle, Tanner, &amp; Associates Inc.</b>	Manchester NH
<b>The Inns and Spa at Mill Falls</b>	Meredith NH
<b>McFarland-Johnson Inc.</b>	Binghamton NY
<b>New England Basin Cleaners</b>	Meredith NH
<b>Ossipee Mountain Electronics</b>	Moultonboro NH
<b>Ruel Sweeping Service, LLC</b>	Meredith NH
<b>S E A Consultants Inc.</b>	Cambridge MA
<b>Stay Safe Traffic Products</b>	Westford MA
<b>Steven G. Pernaw, P.E.</b>	Concord NH
<b>Underwood Engineers, Inc.</b>	Portsmouth NH
<b>Vanasse Hangen Brustling</b>	Bedford NH
<b>Vollmer Associates</b>	Concord NH
<b>Weston &amp; Sampson Engineers</b>	Peabody MA
<b>Wright-Pierce</b>	Topsham ME

Thank you. Please mail your scholarship donations to:

Lori Walter, LGC

PO Box 617

Concord NH 03302

Fax: 603-224-5406

## Technical Sessions

### Annual Meeting

May 12, 2005 at the Grappone Center

Topics include:

- CSTEVE update by Tom Ballestero, UNH Civil Engineering.
- Charrettes – “Community Based Planning.”
- Fast Track Bridges by Charlie Goodspeed, UNH Civil Engineering and T<sup>2</sup> Center.
- Another topic TBA.

# Legislative Update

## Plow Driver's Insurance Liability Issue

NHMA is supporting amending RSA 264:33, which 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.

If you have been involved in an accident in a municipal vehicle while performing assigned duties and have had your personal insurance increase as a result of the accident, please send accident reports and information to:

Kathy DesRoches  
UNH Technology Transfer Center  
33 College Road  
Durham NH 03824  
603-862-2826

## Motor Carrier Rules

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is reexamining the "Hours-of-Service" rule that regulates the amount of time commercial truck drivers can operate their vehicles. The Federal Register published the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on Monday, January 24, 2005. Responses are encouraged. The comment period closes **March 10, 2005**.

<http://dmses.dot.gov/docimages/p80/312470.pdf>

## What's wrong with this photo?



*Answer: A "Keep Right" sign should be installed on the left side of the road because it is intended for vehicles to avoid an obstruction by passing to the RIGHT of the sign.*



## Member Profile

### Mike Faller

Mike Faller is the Public Works Director for the town of Meredith. He currently supervises 25 employees among four public works departments: Highway, Solid Waste, Buildings and Grounds, and Cemetery.

Mike attended Mass Maritime for two years and UNH Thompson School where he earned an Associates Degree in Architecture Energy and Construction.

Mike worked for Atlantic Testing Laboratories as a technician for two years. He oversaw the White River Junction Office while the construction to build the new Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Facility was finalized.

From 1992 to 1997, Mike worked for the NHDOT in various departments. He joined Meredith in 1997. Mike has been married for 12 years. They have a son who is in the first grade.

In his leisure time, Mike enjoys hunting and fishing, and he snowmobiles on occasion.

NHPWA  
c/o LGC  
PO BOX 617  
Concord NH 03302

## Calendar

### National Workzone Awareness Week

April 3 – 9, 2005

A national campaign that helps increase public awareness of work zone safety.

<http://www.atssa.com/public/nwzaw.asp>

### 34th Annual Safety & Health Conference and Exposition

Safety & Health Council of Northern New England

April 19 – 21, 2005 in Manchester

Theme is "Spring Training" and 65+ exhibitors will be there.

[www.shcnne.org/conference\\_nh/conference\\_nh.html](http://www.shcnne.org/conference_nh/conference_nh.html)

### National Public Works Week

May 15 – 21, 2005

A celebration of the many men and women in North America who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works.

<http://www.apwa.net/About/NPWW/>

This is a quarterly publication. For submissions, contact:

Kathy DesRoches

UNH T<sup>2</sup> Center

33 College Road Durham, NH 03824

(603) 862-2826

[kathy.desroches@unh.edu](mailto:kathy.desroches@unh.edu)

## Join NHPWA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Ext: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Work E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Optional Information:

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Pager: \_\_\_\_\_

Cellular: \_\_\_\_\_

Home E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership \$25.00

Group Membership \$100.00

Membership term expires June 30, 2005.

Please detach and mail this form along with payment to:

NHPWA

c/o LGC

PO Box 617

Concord, NH 03302-0617