

NH Public Works Association

Community Profile: Nashua

Nashua's population is 87,000. It is the second largest community in NH. Nashua's Solid Waste Department collects trash and recyclables from 22,000 households. They operate the Four Hills Landfill/Nashua Recycling Center and host regional drop-offs at the Household Hazardous Waste/Small Quantity Generator Waste Collection Center.

The Solid Waste Department has recently improved operations by recycling about 12,000 tons of construction debris annually, and by automating trash collection. They were approved for a 20-year expansion of the 300-acre landfill. There is a public-private partnership to collect and convert landfill gas to energy.

Nashua's Solid Waste Department was awarded the American Public Works Association's 2003 Project of the Year award for their "Multi-Site Landfill Closure/Parks Improvement Project." The department has remediated five former landfills and redeveloped the parks and recreational facilities on those sites. The department also received the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Gold Excellence Award.

The department will begin phase two of the landfill capacity development project. Seven million dollars will go into construction. This includes a state-of-the-art compactor. This and the recycled construction debris, should add more than six years to the landfill's life.

The collection program's new focus is to use single-stream recycling. This would increase curbside pick-up and operations efficiency. This program is expected to increase recycling, due to easier recycling for residents and more items being accepted.

There are 14,000 residential permits issued each year and 650 commercial users of the Landfill/Recycling Center. New signs with simple text and neon colors were installed to allow safe and efficient off-loading. Signage has improved overall traffic flow, decreased contamination, and decreased the number of staff needed to assist residents.

The Solid Waste Department has special collections for electronic waste and mercury-containing devices, such as fluorescent bulbs and thermometers. Other newly acceptable items to the Nashua Recycling Center include antifreeze, books, CDs, and rechargeable batteries. The facility also has a Swap Shop for the residents.

For more information: www.gonashua.com/CityGovernment/Departments/PublicWorks/SolidWaste



A Sneak Peek

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Innovative Public Works Ideas!

Submitted by Chum Cleverly, DPW Director, Bow

The public works department in Bow has developed innovative ideas to solve problems.



Temporary Mailbox

In the rare event a mailbox is damaged during plowing operations, this temporary mailbox can be placed in the area of the damaged one even when the ground is frozen. We salvage old mail boxes from the dump and attach them to discarded tires with wheels. These temporary mailboxes will take a hit from a plow and come back for more.

~Chum Cleverly

What ways does your department solve problems? Submit innovative ideas (picture and caption) to kclaytor@unh.edu

Study: U.S. Pedestrians More Likely to Die During Daylight Savings Time Change

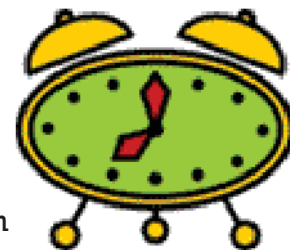
*Submitted by Catherine Schoenenberger, President, Stay Safe Traffic Products
Fox News—Saturday, November 3, 2007*

The end of daylight saving time translates into about 37 more U.S. pedestrian deaths around 6 p.m. in November compared to October. Paul Fischbeck and David Gerard, of Carnegie Mellon University, conducted a preliminary study using seven years of traffic data. They calculated the risk per mile walked by pedestrians. This risk increases 186 percent from October to November, and then decreases by 21 percent in December. This study supports previous findings of higher pedestrian deaths after clocks are set back in fall.

Darkness is not the culprit but rather the adjustment to earlier night-time. This indicates that the risk is caused by the trouble drivers and pedestrians have adjusting when darkness suddenly comes an hour earlier.

The reverse happens in the morning when clocks are set back and daylight comes earlier. Pedestrian risk plummets, but there are fewer walkers. The risk for pedestrian deaths at 6 p.m. is higher in November than any other month. Then the risk decreases steadily through May.

Retrieved on November 29, 2007 from: http://www.foxnews.com/printer_friendly_story/0,3566,307844,00.html



The Necessary Evil?

Submitted by: Kelsie Lee, Student, Colby-Sawyer College.

When a public works employee dies, they do not receive the same type of media coverage as deaths of other public employees. On December 1, 2005, Ryan Haynes of New London Public Works Department was killed while filling potholes.

Recently, two police officers were killed in the line of duty: Officer Michael Briggs, Manchester, and Officer Bruce McKay, Franconia. These two men received a public burial. Governor John Lynch made a speech. There was a parade and broadcast on the local news channel for most of the day.

Ryan Haynes received 30 seconds of coverage on WMUR and 20 second segments on various radio stations. Various news articles blamed his death on the lack of signage. Two years have passed since Ryan's death and his case still sits at the Attorney General's office waiting for a final decision on prosecuting the driver who hit and killed Ryan.

I surveyed 29 public works employees, public administrators, firefighters, and police officers. I asked them if they agreed with this sentence, "citizens feel as though public works employees are as valuable as fire department and police department employees." Ninety percent of participants disagreed.

Public works employees are "on-call" during the day and night. They face some of nature's most inclement weather, yet society has made them feel undervalued.

Catherine Schoenenberger, President of Stay Safe Traffic Products added, "although killed on the job at public works, Ryan Haynes was revered as a firefighter, but they hardly mentioned the dangers public works personnel

"Public works personnel face some of nature's most inclement weather."

face every day. No emergency bells ring, no sirens go off, no hats and dress blues, no warning, and no recognition for the perils they face each day."

One survey participant mailed me an article entitled "Police Move 1 Ton Boulder from Road." He commented "I cannot say for certain, but I would assume that the Hudson Police Department does not have a loader at their disposal. However, I am sure that the Hudson Department of Public Works does." I have to agree.

Another survey participant asked "Do you know of any other place where you could find a mechanic that would work on a chain saw, a police cruiser, a fire truck, weld a snow plow and build a hydraulic hose? In the private sector these would be five separate specialties, at the public works department it's an average day."

It is obvious that public works employees face many societal misconceptions about their work. I believe the media contributes to that misconception. It is my opinion that other public officials are treated with a higher level of respect. However, society often forgets the unglamorous and dirty jobs that our public works employees do.

This is a shortened version. To read the entire paper, please contact Kelsie: kelsie@tds.net

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CALENDAR

**MARK
THESE
DATES**

• **Public Works Association (NHPWA)**

Annual Meeting: May 6, 2008

• **Public Works Week:** May 14-24,
2008.

• **Mountain of Demonstrations:** May 22,
2008, Gunstock, Gilford.

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