



MCAPWA News

CONNECTING PUBLIC WORKS PROFESSIONALS IN MAINE



No Grinches at PW



in Saco



When Saco's beloved Dyer Library discovered that the beautiful blue spruce tree at their front entrance was starting to cause damage to the building who did they call? Public Works, of course. The PW and Parks team removed the tree with love and care (above), repurposing it to bring joy to Saco residents and visitors as the 2025 Holiday Tree (left)!

Great job spreading good will and cheer
Saco Public Works!

New \$14MM PW Facility Approved



Voters in Falmouth approved a \$13.7 million investment in the Public Works facility there. The facility was built in 1969 and expanded in 1999. It doesn't fit the needs of the current Public Works Department due to drafty windows, not enough space for employees and equipment, and maintenance areas that are too small for modern equipment. This expenditure request received the full support of the Town Council and voters approved it in a referendum as required by their Charter. This goes to show that towns are willing to invest in the things that provide value to them!

Public Works Updates

Some days it seems like the only thing Public Works professionals can count on is change. Here are a few 2025 staffing changes in Maine's Public Works sector:

- Tony Theriault, Fort Kent PW Director, retired in December after 17 years of service to the town
- Chad Pelletier was named the new PW Director for Fort Kent
- Darren Hanson, Fort Fairfield Public Works Director, retired in December after more than 25 years of service to MaineDOT and Fort Fairfield
- David Teelon was named Bangor PW Director in December
- Bruce Van Note, MaineDOT Commissioner retired in August
- Dale Doughty was named Acting Commissioner of the MaineDOT
- Jeff Jandreau was hired as Public Works Director in Ashland in August

Lastly, to highlight what a great training ground PW can be, Biddeford and Fort Fairfield hired former PW Directors Truc Dever and Aaron Huotari to fill their Town Manager positions.

Congratulations from MCAPWA to all retirements, promotions, and new hires!

Sponsors

The events MCAPWA hosts are meant to be educational, engaging, and entertaining for public works employees, but they also cost money. If you are a business who is interested in furthering the mission of the Maine Chapter of the American Public Works Association, here's an idea:



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Support the work & mission of the Maine Chapter of the American Public Works Association



ARTERIAL | \$2,500

- All Collector & Townway benefits plus:
- * Two players in golf tourney & hole sign
 - * Two tickets to Fall Meeting, plus meal tickets
 - * Priority placement on front page of website
 - * Scholarship sponsorship



COLLECTOR | \$1,500

- All Townway benefits plus:
- * Booth at Highway Congress
 - * Two tickets to spring meeting
 - * Listing on sponsorship board at all in-person events
 - * Scholarship sponsorship



TOWNWAY | \$500

- * Logo and link on sponsor page of MCAPWA website
- * Logo or name on president's 'welcome' letter

Ask about individual sponsorship opportunities!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.maine.apwa.net mike.morin@bangormaine.gov

Executive Committee

One of the important functions of the annual Fall Meeting is the election of MCAPWA Officers. With a unanimous vote the 2026 Executive Committee will be:

President	Ryan Barnes	Project Manager, Gorrill Palmer
Vice President	Mike Morin	Fleet Services Director, Bangor
Treasurer	David Cote	Public Works Director, Brewer
Secretary	Owen Chaplin	Project Manager, Wright Pierce
Past President	Scott Holland	Public Works Director, Auburn
APWA Delegate	Eric Labelle	Principal Project/Process Eng., Kennebunkport
Director	Mary Ann Brenchick	Deputy Public Works Director, Augusta
Director	Ryan Carrigan	Vice President, Ray Labbe & Sons
Director	Robert Clark	Public Works Director, Easton
Director	Dennis Cox	Public Works Director, Topsham
Director	John Cross	Public Works Director, Standish
Director	Aaron Huotari	Town Manager, Fort Fairfield
Director	Melissa Hutchins	Public Works Director, South Portland
Director	Steve Holston	Sales, H.P. Fairfield
Director	Dean Lessard	Public Works Director, York
Director	Tom Martin	Owner, ANNACO Construction Services
Director	Mike Murray	Public Works Director, Portland
Director	Ralph Norwood	Deputy Director, Maine Turnpike Authority
Director	Stewart Sevey	Owner, Allied Equipment
Director	Barry Sheff	Senior Principal, Woodard & Curran
Ed Liaison	Peter Coughlan	Director, MaineDOT Local Roads Center

Visit our webpage for more information about our chapter membership, educational opportunities, job postings, and more! maine.apwa.org

Looking Ahead

- Feb-May, 2026** *MLRC Training -Work Zone Control, Practical Road Math, Tree, Weeds, Roads & Invasive Species.* Maine Local Roads Center is offering multiple training sessions all over the state to help prepare PW organizations for their work and to help them become a Road Scholar! See our website for more information.
- Apr. 2, 2026** *MCAPWA Spring Meeting.* This is the meeting where public works folks come together from all over the state to pray that winter operations are done for the year. Unfortunately, last year this event was cancelled due to a snowstorm... Educational presentations, networking, and good food make it an easy decision to attend this spring event.
- Apr. 26-29, 2026** *APWA Snow Conference in Cleveland, OH.* The annual APWA Snow Conference is THE place get together with other PW professionals to debrief from the winter's challenges and start developing new strategies that can be deployed for winter '26-'27!
- Apr-May, 2026** *Supervisory Leadership in Public Works.* This training program was designed to provide educational resources for Public Works Departments across the state to develop existing employees, preparing them for promotion to leadership roles. The spring class is full but keep your eyes on our website for a fall class announcement!
- May 17-23, 2026** *National Public Works Week.* Since 1960, APWA has sponsored National Public Works Week to energize and educate the public on the importance of public works to their daily lives: planning, building, managing and operating at the heart of their local communities to improve everyday quality of life.
- Jun. 4, 2026** *33rd MCAPWA Highway Congress in Skowhegan, ME.* This is the region's best municipal show. I have been told we outperform the other regional shows and vendors line up to meet the 1,000 or so municipal employees who come to Skowhegan for training, equipment demos, the Snowplow Road-ee, and the Lions Club BBQ chicken lunch!
- Aug. 30-Sep. 2, 2026** *PWX Conference in Houston, TX.* PWX is chock full of education, fun, and camaraderie. I encourage PW departments to send someone every year and witness the innovative ideas and positive energy that comes back.
- Sep 24-26, 2026** *Western Snow & Ice Conference in Loveland, CO.* Home of the national Snowplow Road-ee competition. MCAPWA sends the winners of the state Snowplow Road-ee to this event every year. This could be your year to visit Colorado!
- Sep. 2026** *Annual MCAPWA Golf Classic.* Each fall we get 25-30 teams together for friendly competition on the golf course. Like most of our events, the proceeds benefit the MCAPWA scholarship fund.
- Oct. 8, 2026** *MCAPWA Annual Fall Meeting, at the MMA convention in Augusta ME.* MCAPWA takes over one of the lecture halls on the 2nd day of the MMA conference to present informative and educational sessions relevant to public works and municipal operations. Oh yeah - we also serve lunch!
- Dec. 3, 2026** *75th Annual Maine Better Transportation Conference.* The Maine Better Transportation Association is hosting the 75th Annual Maine Transportation Conference at the Augusta Civic Center.

Why Should You Support MCAPWA?

The **M**aine **C**hapter of the **A**merican **P**ublic **W**orks **A**ssociation (**MCAPWA**) was formed in 1957. We are one of 62 **A**merican **P**ublic **W**orks **A**ssociation (**APWA**) chapters with 90 branches all over the United States and Canada.

The APWA was formed when the American Society of Municipal Engineers (AME) and the International Association of Public Works Officials (IAPWO) joined together under the APWA name in 1937.

APWA's mission is to support those who operate, improve, and maintain public works and infrastructure through advocacy, education, and member engagement.

At the Maine Chapter, we advance the APWA mission by representing a vibrant community of Public Works professionals in Maine. We are committed to fostering professional growth, facilitating meaningful connections, and promoting excellence within our industry.

However, this isn't easy work. Each of us already have full-time jobs that keep us very busy. Despite this, we recognize the need for education, development, and networking of our Public Works brothers and sisters. We devote time to develop and execute PW training programs throughout the year. We plan and host fun, educational events. Even with all that we are doing already, we think there is a need for us to do more!

We are working to develop pathways from Maine Career and Technical Education (CTE) schools into our PW departments. An internship, whether a month, semester, or full school year, is a great opportunity for students to develop critical skills that strengthen their classroom education. It's also a great opportunity for PW organizations across the state to make a positive impression on these students. They are the future, and you can convince them that they should be working for you! Once the documentation and methodology for getting these students into your shop is documented, we will freely share it with everyone!

We are also working on the development of apprenticeship program templates that you can grab and use as your own. An apprenticeship registered with the State of Maine is a powerful signal to potential employees that you are a first-class organization that can and will train them for success! We are currently working on apprenticeship programs for Heavy Equipment Operators, Fleet Technicians, and Electricians/Traffic Signal Techs.

MCAPWA currently has around 170 members. We could use your help with the important work I described above and in steering MCAPWA into the future of professional growth, meaningful connections, and industry excellence!