



ENGINEERS WEEK

Highlighting the impact of engineering projects in communities across the Granite State



FEBRUARY 22-28, 2026

Transform your future: Engineers Week 2026

From the devices in our pockets to the bridges we drive across, from clean water systems to life-saving medical innovations, engineering touches every part of our lives. That's why each year, Engineers Week is a time to celebrate the people who make all this possible — and to inspire the next generation of problem-solvers.

This year's theme, Transform Your Future, is a powerful reminder that engineering doesn't just shape our world — it shapes our opportunities, our communities and the futures we can imagine for ourselves and our children.

And it starts with you.

Why Engineers Week matters

Engineers Week (Feb. 22-28) is more than a celebration of a profession — it's a movement to show young people that engineering is creative, collaborative, and most importantly, open to everyone. When students see how engineering can make a real difference — and when they see people who look like them in those roles — they begin to believe: This could be my future, too.

75th annual Engineers Week Awards Banquet & Exhibition is today

Join NSPE-NH for the 75th annual Engineers Week Awards Banquet & Exhibition on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. Registration is open.

Educational Sessions 3 PDHs (2 to 5 p.m.)

- "Coordination Without the Sparks: Electrical Coordination 101 (Because Rework is not a Design Phase)," presented by Sara Richardson and Kori Terray of Richardson Engineering.

- "Extending the Paving Season: Rethinking Cold-Weather Limits for Asphalt Compaction," presented by UNH professor Dr. Mohamed Elshaer.



Andy DeMeo

- "Cold Stone Springs Water Supply, Jaffrey and Peterborough — A New Model for New Hampshire," presented by Keith Pratt of Underwood Engineers.

- "The Future of Power Generation with Hydro-power," presented by Chris Rousseau of WSB.

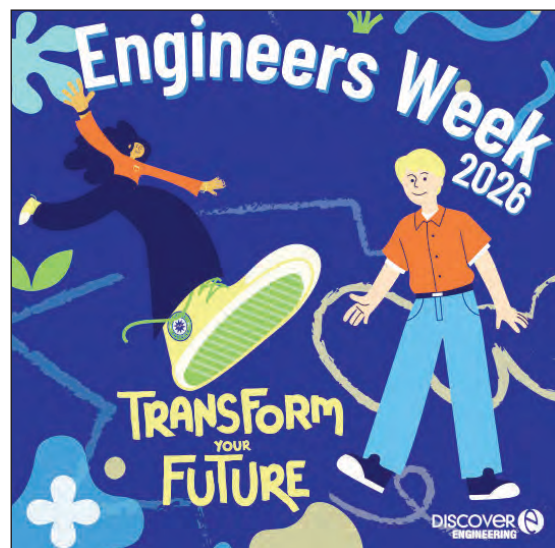
Exhibition & Awards Banquet (6 to 8 p.m.)

The keynote speaker is Andy DeMeo.

DeMeo is the creator and host of "Granite Goodness," a solutions-journalism project celebrating optimism, progress and problem-solving across New England, proudly hosted in New Hampshire.

A lifelong Granite Stater, DeMeo's work has garnered regional acclaim. He was named Stay Work Play New Hampshire's Young Person of the Year (2025), selected as a Seacoast 10 to Watch winner (2025) and received UNH's Alumni Award for Graduates of the Last Decade (2025). He also co-hosted TEDx Portsmouth 2025, the largest TEDx event in New England.

When he's not talking to optimists around New England, DeMeo can be found doing homesteading projects with his nine chickens, two dogs and one wife on their farm in northern New Hampshire.



VHB



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VHB partnered with Monahan Companies and LeCesse Development Corporation for Slate at Merrimack, a 224-unit multifamily rental community located in Merrimack Park Place, a mixed-use development.

Tackling New Hampshire's housing crisis through policy and partnerships

Provided by VHB

According to a recent statewide housing needs assessment, New Hampshire will need to create about 60,000 new homes by 2030 to keep up with growing housing demands.

Developers in the state face unique challenges such as restrictive zoning, local community control, availability of infrastructure and complex permitting requirements.

Addressing New Hampshire's housing shortage will require a nuanced understanding of both the local culture and its regulatory environment.

Thoughtful policy and strong partnerships between developers, planners, and state and local officials will be instrumental in moving residential projects forward.

Collaborating with clients and municipalities to address the shortage, VHB is a team of engineers, scientists, planners and designers actively working to advance residential projects in New Hampshire.

By leveraging their knowledge of local zoning regulations, relationships with state agencies and impactful community outreach, VHB has delivered several meaningful residential developments throughout the state. These high-profile multifamily housing projects have created a total of 783 new units for New Hampshire communities, with more projects currently in development.

- Slate at Merrimack: VHB partnered with Monahan Companies and LeCesse Development Corporation to provide full permitting, design, and site and civil engineering services for this 224-unit multifamily community located in Merrimack Park Place, a mixed-use



The Marek South, above, and the Summit at Juniper are two high-profile multifamily residential developments delivered by VHB, with additional projects currently under way.

PROVIDED BY VHB

development.

- The Marek South: This 250-unit multifamily apartment complex is close to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Dartmouth College and the tech industries of New Hampshire's Upper Valley, making it ideal for commuting professionals and graduate students. VHB delivered permitting, site planning, landscape architecture and construction phase services to bring the development to life.

- Summit at Juniper: VHB assisted the development team, a Public-Private Partnership (P3) with the Michaels Organization and Dartmouth College, to provide a graduate student housing complex. The development contains 309 units in four buildings, including 638 beds in fully furnished apartments with spacious layouts and modern amenities.

During the New Hampshire Municipal Association Conference last fall, VHB New Hampshire Managing Director Dave Fenstermacher joined industry partners Adam Wagner of Market Square Architects and Preston Hunter of

PROCON to discuss the policy barriers affecting affordable housing.

Their presentation highlighted how zoning ordinances, parking standards, density limits and state permitting requirements can either hinder or enable housing development across New Hampshire.

"This was a great opportunity to show how developers can partner with local officials to advocate for policy initiatives that will advance affordable housing development across the state," said Fenstermacher.

Content sourcing: Engineering firms from around the state were invited to submit articles featuring current or recently completed projects for this special advertising section.

Hoyle Tanner

A 130-year-old Portsmouth landmark bridge gets new life

Provided by Hoyle Tanner

In Portsmouth like many other communities around the state, infrastructure is more than function — it is history. That is why the rehabilitation of the Maplewood Avenue Bridge stands out as a project that preserved the past while strengthening the future.

Originally constructed in 1896, the single-span stone arch bridge carries Maplewood Avenue over the tidal inlet to North Mill Pond. It is one of just 60 stone arch bridges in New Hampshire, one of only two located at a tidal crossing, and the only one in Portsmouth.

Eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, it serves as both a working transportation link and a historic landmark.

By the early 2000s, deterioration had become severe and the corrugated metal liner that was installed in 1976 was failing. The roadway was settling, the granite masonry walls had shifted, drainage was sub-standard and the bridge's closure was becoming a real possibility.

Rather than replace the bridge, which would have caused significant impacts to historic resources, the City of Portsmouth in partnership with Hoyle Tanner advanced a preservation-focused rehabilitation strategy designed to extend the bridge's life while maintaining its historic character.

The solution combined innovation and stewardship. Hoyle Tanner's engineers restored structural capacity using a 3.5-inch spray-applied geopolymer liner inside the arch. This advanced material provides high strength, corrosion



The rehabilitation of the Maplewood Avenue Bridge in Portsmouth highlights how innovative engineering can preserve a rare 1896 stone arch bridge — enhancing resilience, protecting the tidal environment and keeping a vital community connection open for the future.

PROVIDED BY HOYLE TANNER

updated Tier 4 tidal crossing regulations. Advanced hydraulic modeling evaluated full tidal cycles, storm surge, freshwater inflows and projected sea level rise.

During construction, a carefully designed water diversion system maintained tidal exchange between North Mill Pond and the Piscataqua River, protecting marine life and environmental conditions.

Equally important was minimizing disruption to daily life of the community. The bridge serves as a critical connection between downtown and densely populated neighborhoods to the west, especially for pedestrians, making maintained access throughout construction nonnegotiable.

Ultimately sidewalks were upgraded to meet ADA standards, crosswalk visibility was improved and ornamental lighting was added to enhance safety while complementing the historic setting.

When unexpected challenges arose, including emergency railroad work adjacent in the city and major public events, Hoyle Tanner's team adjusted schedules to reopen the roadway when the community needed it most.

Today, the Maplewood Avenue Bridge is no longer at risk of closure. It stands as a model for how thoughtful engineering can preserve historic infrastructure, improve safety, protect the environment and serve the community for decades to come.

In Portsmouth, this project is more than a bridge, it is an investment in connecting the past, present and future of this community.

resistance and long-term durability while requiring far less material than traditional reconstruction.

The team also utilized targeted grout injections to

stabilize the surrounding soil without extensive excavation. The partial removal of deteriorated concrete footings improved hydraulic performance while

preserving the original stone arch.

The rehabilitation also allowed the city to replace an aging water main and install conduits for future

underground utilities, preventing future roadway disruptions.

The bridge was among the first projects permitted under New Hampshire's



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Engineer of the Year

Fryer drives infrastructure growth across region through leadership

The New Hampshire Engineering Societies has named JoAnn Fryer, PE, the 2026 Engineer of the Year. Nominated by New Hampshire Chapter of Women in Transportation (WTS-NH), Fryer was selected for this distinguished award by a panel of industry colleagues, who recognized her contributions to the engineering profession, dedication to public service and philanthropy, and outstanding professional accomplishments.



JoAnn Fryer

After graduating from the University of New Hampshire in 1991 with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering, Fryer accepted a position with CLD Consulting Engineers in Manchester, where she would work on major infrastructure improvement projects throughout the state.

As her career advanced, Fryer moved from project engineer to project manager, and served as a mentor to junior staff. She relocated to the firm's branch office in York, Maine, in 2001 and became the office manager in 2002, serving in that role until she became the firm's quality control manager in 2015.

In 2017, CLD Consulting Engineers was acquired by Fuss & O'Neill, and Fryer was quickly identified as a leader. In 2018, Fryer assumed the role of office manager of the Manchester office and was promoted in 2019 to Northern New England regional manager where she was responsible overseeing more than 60 employees across four offices while

seeking opportunities for long-term growth and viability.

Fryer is now a senior vice president and the firm's market leader for transportation, where she is responsible for client care, overseeing growth initiatives and new market pursuits across New England.

Fryer was the inaugural president of the New Hampshire Chapter of Women in Transportation International, ratified in 2020, which helps aspiring women transportation professionals network, collaborate and advance within the industry.

During the development of the new chapter, Fryer worked closely with the WTS Maine and Boston chapters to engage with professionals in the area to build momentum for the founding of the New Hampshire Chapter.

In 2025, Fryer was recognized as the WTS-NH Woman of the Year, citing her as a driving force in the growth and development of the chapter.

In the competitive New Hampshire engineering market, Fryer stands out for her ability to manage both projects and personalities. She continues to explore opportunities and manages key projects that will make a difference in the quality of people's lives throughout the state.

Her presence within industry organizations (American Council of Engineering Companies, WTS, NH Society of Professional Engineers and the American Public Works Association) shows her dedication to collaborating with industry representatives to identify issues and generate solutions that benefit both the engineering industry and the end-users of these infrastructure investments.

For the betterment and equity of both the industry as a whole and the technical professionals that work within it, Fryer is a co-chair of the joint NHDOT/ACEC-NH Consultant Quality Initiative Committee, which fosters open and active communication between the consulting community and the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

Fryer has always cared deeply for the well-being of others, particularly in working toward justice and inclusion. She is a leader in Fuss and O'Neill's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (IDEA) program and an overall champion of widening the circle of inclusion.

Fryer lives in Concord and is an active member in her community, volunteering for many charitable organizations.

Young Engineer of the Year

Fischer leads complex bridge, transportation projects in New England

The New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers has selected Fernanda Fischer, PE, as the 2026 New Hampshire Young Engineer of the Year.

The honor recognizes young engineers who demonstrate outstanding technical achievement, leadership and service to the engineering profession and community.

Fischer graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a master of science in civil engineering in 2018, after completing her undergraduate studies in Brazil.

She maintains professional engineer licensure in New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts.

Fischer's engineering experience spans seven years and includes the design of both vertical and horizontal structures, with a focus on bridge rehabilitation and replacement projects across New England.

As a project engineer at H&H, Fischer leads the design of complex bridge and infrastructure projects and serves as a deputy project manager on multiple transportation initiatives.

Her role includes structural design, coordination across disciplines, construction support and client collaboration.

Known for her technical versatility and collaborative approach, Fischer is passionate about delivering high-quality solutions while mentoring junior engineers and supporting multidisciplinary teams.

Fischer is actively engaged in the engineering profession through service and outreach. She serves



Fernanda Fischer

as chair of the TransportationYOU Committee for WTS-New Hampshire and is involved with Structural Engineers of New Hampshire.

She regularly supports STEM outreach and professional development initiatives, including MathCounts, university programs, student competitions and senior capstone sponsorships, helping inspire the next generation of engineers.

Outside of work, Fischer enjoys hands-on projects, including renovating her historic home, gardening, cooking and traveling. She lives in New Hampshire with her husband, Klaus, and their cat, Mandy. They are expecting their first child in 2026.

The award will be presented at the 75th annual Engineers Week Awards Banquet & Exhibition on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the Grappone Conference Center.

ENGINEERS WEEK
Hands-on winter break fun for families.

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Roof Snow Loads: What Building Owners Should Know Heavy Snowstorms Can Threaten the Safety of Your Building



Buildings are typically designed to support snow loads recommended by the applicable building code. This is determined by considering the contribution of roof slope, exposure factors, building use, and potential for snow drifts against parapets, adjacent rising walls, or

buildings. During severe snowfall, the actual snow load may exceed the load for which the roof was designed. When snowfall is followed by rain or warm weather and melting, the snow can absorb and retain water or thawed snow. The slush layer trapped under the snow can contribute to a much heavier load. If the actual roof loads exceed the design loads, the roof framing may be at risk for excessive deflections and, in the worst cases, localized failure or collapse.

How to Prepare and Minimize Damage to Your Building

Locate your building's structural drawings (including roof plans and general notes), which typically list the design snow loads. This information will be important if and when you need a structural engineer to evaluate roof snow loads. If structural drawings are not available, have pertinent information on hand, such as the year the building was constructed, the roof framing members, and deck types.



Locate the existing architectural drawings or the latest re-roofing drawings. Before snow starts to fall, familiarize yourself with the type and age of the roof system/covering and the locations of existing roof drains. Without damaging the roof covering, consider

installing temporary flags at each drain strainer that extend above the anticipated snow layer for quick identification on a snow-covered roof. After a snow and/or rain event that results in snow accumulation, you may want to remove snow around roof drains to provide a drainage path for melting snow. Personnel removing snow on and around roofs must be trained, take necessary safety precautions, and use snow removal equipment intended to reduce the likelihood of damage to the roof system. Snow blowers and similar equipment are typically not recommended.

If the snowfall forecast is significant for your area, contact your structural engineer to help determine when and where to remove snow proactively.

Many storms produce snow accumulation within an acceptable range for the roof structure to support, and professional assistance may not be required. However, snow drifting can occur and may push accumulation past the acceptable range.

Unsure Whether to Remove Snow from Your Roof?



Your roof may require localized snow removal around drains and in drifted areas for one storm, and a different snow removal approach after a subsequent storm. The height of the snow isn't the only parameter required to measure

the actual in-place snow load. Snow density and other factors will impact the recommended snow depth to remain on a roof. If there is a question regarding the in-place snow or snow/rain load on your roof, Gale has the engineers, equipment, and experience to field-measure the snow and provide opinions and options regarding snow removal. *Please reach out to us anytime, whether you are preparing for an upcoming snowstorm and frigid weather, or for any of your building enclosure, structural engineering, or civil engineering needs.*

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CMA

From design to delivery: The engineer's role in construction

By Jodie Bray Strickland, PE and Nick Mason, EIT
CMA Engineers

For most communities, a new bridge, upgraded water system or reconstructed street gradually takes shape over months of construction.

What is less visible is the engineering presence required to ensure that what was designed on paper is executed correctly in the field — safely, accurately and in full compliance with codes, permits and funding requirements.

Construction administration and resident engineering services represent the transition from design to delivery. During this phase, engineers move from computer models and drawings into active job sites, where they oversee on-site execution of the work.

This can include installing, testing, maintaining and verifying critical components of infrastructure systems, whether they are utilities, structural elements or treatment equipment.

Survey and layout are often among the first field responsibilities. Engineers verify site conditions and elevations and confirm that construction aligns precisely with approved plans. Accurate layout ensures that roadways drain properly, bridges meet alignment tolerances and underground utilities are installed at correct depths and locations.

Quality control and safety oversight are central to the role. Field engineers conduct inspections, review materials, document progress and confirm compliance with safety standards, environmental permits, accessibility



Engineers spend significant time in the field ensuring designs are built safely, accurately and in full compliance with codes, permits and funding requirements.

requirements and building codes. They verify that work adheres to design specifications and regulatory guidelines, protecting both the public and the long-term performance of the infrastructure.

Construction rarely proceeds exactly as depicted in blueprints or 3D models

developed in platforms such as AutoCAD or Revit. Subsurface conditions may differ from geotechnical reports. Weather may affect sequencing. Materials may require substitution. Engineers are responsible for resolving technical issues in real time and translating design intent into action-

able solutions that contractors can implement while maintaining compliance and quality.

Communication is equally important. Field engineers serve as the liaison between clients, project managers, regulatory agencies and subcontractors. They respond



Before and after: Engineers helped turn this aging sidewalk, top, into a safer, more accessible route for pedestrians, improving everyday mobility in the community.

to contractor questions, review shop drawings, prepare documentation for funding programs, and ensure all parties understand design requirements and field adjustments.

The work can be demanding. Engineers often spend extended periods outdoors in heat, cold, rain or snow to maintain consistent oversight. The role requires technical expertise, attention to detail

and steady judgment under changing conditions.

Engineers Week provides an opportunity to recognize that successful infrastructure depends not only on thoughtful design, but on disciplined field execution.

From establishing survey control to final inspection, engineers help ensure that public projects are built safely, responsibly, and exactly as intended.

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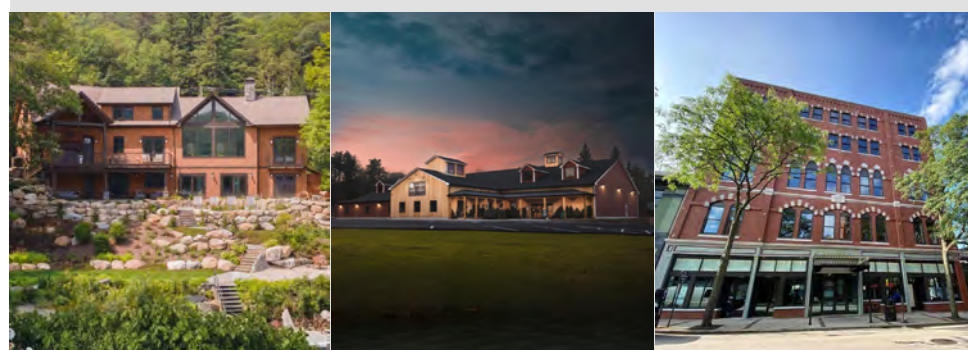


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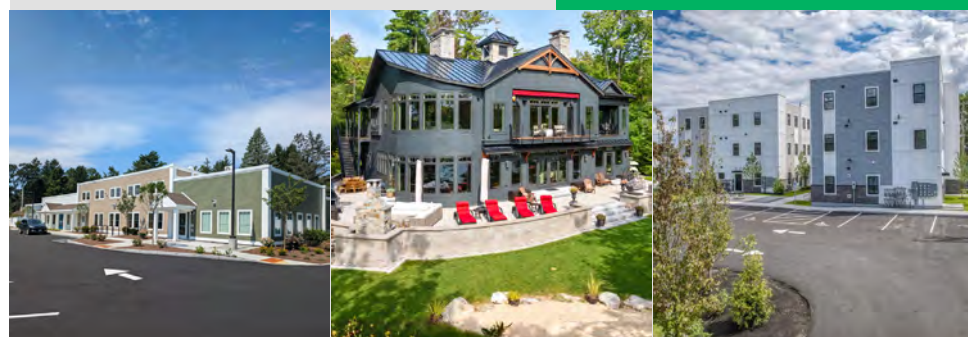


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Recent Projects

Market and Main Canopies, Bedford



Team Engineering, myteamengineering.com

Team Engineering designed one distinctive canopy style specifically for the new REI building at Market and Main. This system is framed with structural steel and positioned prominently at both the front and corner of the building. The canopy incorporates exposed steel rods and hardware that not only provide structural support but also complement the building's industrial aesthetic, tying the exterior architectural expression to the interior design language. A second canopy style was designed for installation across four additional buildings within the development.

Pump Station Upgrades, Salem



Underwood Engineers, underwoodengineers.com

Underwood Engineers partnered with the Town of Salem to modernize two aging wastewater pump stations at Butler Street and Brookdale Road. These critical upgrades ensure reliable, efficient and resilient wastewater service for the community.

Rockingham County Municipal Complex, Brentwood



TFMoran, TFMoran.com

TFMoran provided structural engineering services for the Rockingham County Municipal Complex, a landmark 110,000-square-foot county facility located in Brentwood. Planning and design efforts began years in advance of construction, with TFMoran working closely with the project team to develop a structural system capable of supporting the facility's complex programmatic needs, long-term durability requirements and architectural vision.

Elliot Hospital, Manchester



Fuss & O'Neill, fando.com

Fuss & O'Neill completed three separate projects at Elliot Hospital in Manchester: a 20,000-square-foot addition as part of the hospital's Cancer Center Expansion, including a healing garden, above; a 40,000-square-foot new Emergency Department; and a new multi-level parking structure to support the developments. The multidisciplinary team provided full site design, survey, landscape design, permitting and construction administration services.



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Explore how VHB supports
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Engineers Without Borders

EWB-NH bringing sustainable water solutions to rural Uganda

Provided by
Engineers Without Borders-NH

This June, a contingent from Engineers Without Borders New Hampshire Professional Chapter (EWB-NH) along with students from the UNH EWB Student Chapter (EWB-UNH) will be traveling to the Buyende district of Uganda.

The purpose of this trip is to install drinking water wells in the villages of Dema and Butooli. If you were to look on a map of Uganda, the Buyende District lies between the city of Kamuli and Lake Kyoga. It is home to the Busoga people.

The villages of Dema and Butooli are located in an area that has no paved roads or access to basic infrastructure.

The inhabitants of these villages are subsistence farmers living in mud huts with thatched roofs. Children in these villages have no shoes and just threadbare clothes.

During times of drought, food security can become a serious problem. Their greatest need is access to clean drinking water.

Currently, some of these villagers travel up to a mile carrying a 5-gallon jerry can just to get water from a swamp. This is a swamp that is generally shared with farm animals from each village. As you can imagine, water-borne diseases are endemic among the population.

To address the critical need for access to clean drinking water, the village elders from Dema and Butooli have reached out to EWB-NH for installation of a drilled water well in each village.



Villagers look on during the drilling a bedrock supply well in Uganda.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS - NH



Women collect water from a swamp to be used for drinking and cooking.

As part of their ongoing partnership with the Busoga Volunteers for

Community Development (BuVoCoD), EWB-NH was partnered with these



Children fill up cups with clean water provided from a newly installed bedrock supply well installed by EWB-NH.

villages to help identify a feasible solution. In January 2025, EWB-

NH performed an assessment trip to determine the viability of such a project

and evaluate the most feasible alternative to provide a clean source of drinking water.

After evaluating the needs and potential options, it was determined that installation of drilled wells would best serve the needs of these villages.

Many of us in the Environmental Engineering community may be familiar with well drilling, but drilling a supply well in Uganda and other parts of Africa adds layers of complications and preparation.

Uganda is littered with abandoned supply wells built by well-meaning charities that no longer function due to lack of proper

► See EWB-NH, Page C7

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EWB-NH

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maintenance and care. To promote a sense of ownership for the villages and allow for a sustainable solution, EWB-NH requires each village to pay 10% of the cost of a project.

Costs to install a well in a remote area of Uganda can range between \$10,000 to \$12,000.

In cases where a village cannot afford the 10%, EWB-NH will allow the contribution of labor and in-kind services (fencing materials, concrete for the well pad, etc.) to make up some of the difference.

In addition to the monetary contribution, each village must establish a water committee to manage the well. Its job is to collect user fees to finance

well maintenance, determine hours of operation and ensure the area in the immediate vicinity of the well is free from sources of contamination (animals, pesticides, cars, etc).

In the past 10 years, EWB-NH has installed eight drilled wells in various communities in the Buyende District. Each of these wells are still in operation today.

After a well is installed, EWB-NH members periodically return to Uganda to verify water quality, well operation and Water Committee management.

EWB-NH also surveys the population of each village to determine the efficacy of wells (questions like, has the rate of ill-

nesses declined as a result of well installation). These follow-up visits also assess future needs of villages in the surrounding areas.

EWB-NH is made up of professionals from the engineering and science communities. Without their dedication to volunteer and give back to others in need, nearly 10,000 people in Uganda would not have access to a clean source of drinking water today.

EWB-NH is always looking for more volunteers to get involved. People from all walks of life make up our organization.

If this sounds like an organization you might be interested in joining,

contact Julia LaRochelle at jlrochelle@haleyaldrich.com or visit our website at ewbnh.org to learn more.

Don't have time or interest to volunteer? Installation of drinking water wells halfway around the world is also not possible without the support of our generous donors and corporate sponsors.

EWB-NH will host its third annual "Water for Uganda" event at the Great North Brewery later this fall and is looking for corporate sponsors.

To learn more information about our upcoming fundraising events or sponsorship options, reach out to Derrick Fouts at Dfouts@sanbornhead.com.

Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day is Thursday

Introduce a Girl to Engineering, or Girl Day, is a time when volunteers, educators and others act as role models, facilitate engineering activities, and show girls (and boys — all are invited!) how engineers change our world.

DiscoverE's research found that this simple formula helps girls develop an interest in engineering, builds their confidence in their problem-solving skills and creates a STEM identity.

More than just a day, Girl Day is a movement to inspire a girl's future by sharing what engineering is all about. Go to discovere.org for resources to help you inspire students in engineering.



Keep track of the N.H. Union Leader's community events by visiting unionleader.com/union_leader_events.



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Unitil

Hampton company recognizes its engineers during Engineers Week

Provided by Unitil

As National Engineers Week kicks off, Unitil is recognizing its teams of engineers for the critical roles they play in the utility industry and celebrating the contributions engineers make to society while inspiring future generations.

The week, which runs from Feb. 22 to 28, aims to honor engineers, raise awareness of careers in engineering and technology, and highlight the importance of education to maintain a strong engineering workforce.

"Our highly skilled electrical and natural gas engineers serve an essential role in providing safe and reliable energy to our customers," said Amanda Vicinanza, Unitil's manager of external affairs. "We acknowledge the invaluable work they provide throughout the year, but National Engineers Week is a time for us to really celebrate the accomplishments of these dedicated engineers."

They include engineers like Sheena Mason, a manager of gas engineering at Unitil. She was hired in 2021 and took on the managerial role a little over a year ago. Before joining Unitil, she was a gas engineer and supervisor of engineering at Maine Natural Gas, which was acquired by Unitil in 2025.

Mason's engineering role involves overseeing system planning and design for the company's natural gas distribution and transmission systems. The work includes designing metering and regulating stations, designing and permitting pipeline corridors, hydraulic modeling of natural gas systems and a variety of other tasks.

It's a career path she never thought she would take when she began college and initially



Jeremy Kites



Sheena Mason



Spencer Shample

attended nursing school because she thought she wanted to be a nurse.

"After the first semester, nursing didn't feel like a good fit for me, and I was confused about what I wanted to do. In talking to my advisor, I told them all I wanted to do was take calculus because I really enjoyed math," Mason said.

The advisor encouraged her to talk to the dean of civil engineering, which ultimately led her to pursue a civil engineering degree from the University of Maine. She is currently working toward her master's degree in business administration with a concentration in engineering management at Southern New Hampshire University.

After college, Mason worked for seven years as a structural engineer, achieving her professional engineering licensure in 2011. In 2013, a fellow UMaine graduate

at Maine Natural Gas informed her about a job opportunity with the company.

"I really enjoy managing people and watching them grow and come into their own. I like being able to encourage and support them through that," she said.

Gas engineer Spencer Shample began his career at Unitil as an intern in 2021 while studying at the University of Kentucky and later finishing his studies at the University of New Hampshire, where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering. He became an engineering technician and was later promoted to engineer in 2025.

In his role, Shample examines data to determine what may or may not be needed to bring a new gas customer online. He serves on the system planning team within gas engineering, which uses advanced engineering software and calculations to

simulate how gas flows through the pipeline network.

He enjoys his work as a gas engineer and encourages anyone interested in a career in engineering to seek input from those in the field.

"If you're looking to go into engineering, talk to somebody who works in engineering first. Ultimately it was the right decision for me, but there were a couple of times during my undergrad studies where I didn't know if I could stick with it," Shample said.

"I was in the weeds a couple of times, but if you can talk to somebody that can give it to you straight and you're determined to do the four to six years, it's worth it on the other side. Just make sure it's really what you want to do because the reward does not come without some serious effort."

An electrical engineer who joined Unitil in 2018, Jeremy

Kites serves as a senior engineer working in the area of distributed energy resources, which refers to small-scale energy systems like rooftop solar panels. Although his work involves all types of interconnections, much of his current focus is on larger solar array projects. Working closely with developers, Kites analyzes the potential impacts that power generation from a new installation might have on Unitil's existing equipment.

Kites attended Marine Maritime Academy, where he received a marine engineering degree. He worked in operations offshore in the oil and gas industry for several years and decided to change course and look for opportunities closer to home.

"One of the things I like about the job is I get to see into just about every department here and learn a little bit more about them. It's been good for me," he said.

Kites emphasized the importance of having a curious mind.

"Everybody here is so great to work with because you can be curious and ask questions. My coworkers are more than willing to help me out and pass along their knowledge, especially in the engineering department where there are a lot of people who have been in the utility industry for a long time and they have an endless amount of knowledge on the operations of the systems here and the industry as a whole," Kites said.

Growing up, he never expected to one day become an electrical engineer, but he always assumed he would find a job that offered some hands-on experience.

"I always liked to learn, but I just didn't like being told that I had to sit in a classroom. I was the kid who was always taking stuff apart that my dad had to see how it worked," he said.

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