



COUNTY NEWS

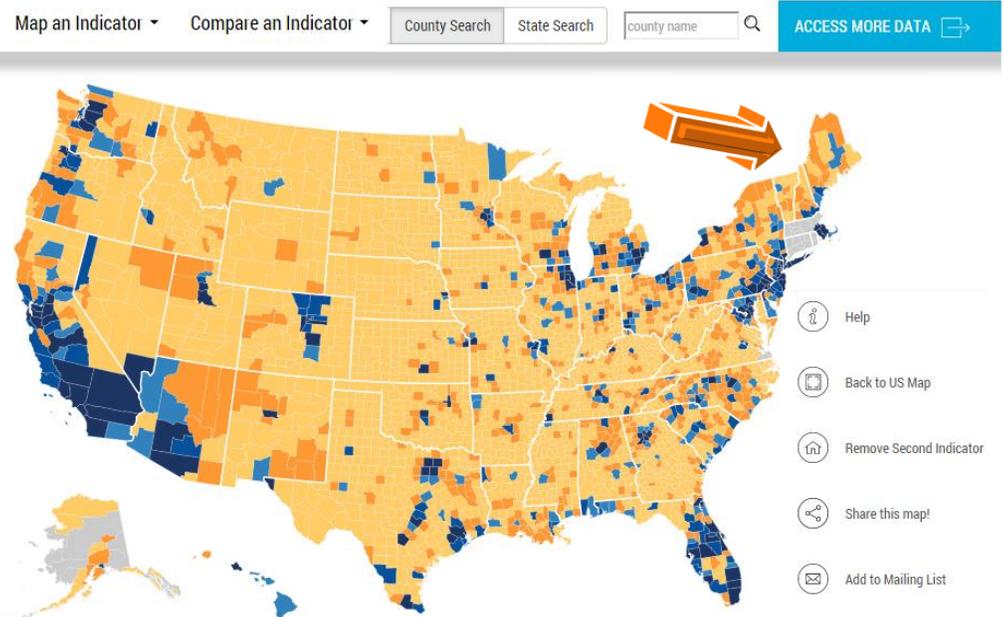
Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter



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The County Explorer



The County Explorer is a one-stop-shop for county data and profiles for each and every of the 3,069 U.S. counties, while incorporating city-county searches and other queries. This is an upgraded version of the previous NACo database County Intelligence Connections (CIC), with the addition of familiar "Find a county" searches available on the NACo website. Every month, NACo updates the County Explorer map and the extraction tool with new years of data and additional datasets. Using this tool users can view demographics and compare various indicators. [~ Click here to read more about it.](#)



Christina McAllister,
Deputy at
The Oxford
County
Sheriff's
Office



Ten Mainers We're Thankful For

Deputy Christina McAllister has been named one of the "Ten Mainers We're Thankful For" in 2014 by the Portland Press Herald. Deputy McAllister has been the school resource officer for three years. She works with more than a thousand students that are spread across five schools in MSAD 55, which serves the towns of Baldwin, Cornish, Hiram, Parsonsfield and Porter. She spends most of her time at the Sacopee Valley High School where she became known for her unflinching devotion to encouraging students while holding them accountable. Principal Britt Wolfe calls her the school's most effective dropout prevention tool. Many thanks to Deputy McAllister for her commitment to Maine kids as well as all the other resource officers who may never get a pat on the back for the amazing work they do. [~Read the Portland Press article here.](#)

The Waldo County Commissioners are pleased to announce the release of a video entitled "How County Government Works" narrated by Commissioner Betty Johnson.

Shortly after being elected, Commissioner Johnson discussed with the Board of Commissioners, the need for transparency in county government and the need to educate citizens about how county government works. Originally, Commissioner Johnson had the goal of producing the video on her own. Josh Gerritsen, a local Lincolnville citizen who met Commissioner Johnson two years ago, learned of this project and expressed his desire to assist in its production. The idea was to create a video to show to fifth graders in local schools to expand their knowledge of county government. Due to the excellence of this production, it has been determined that this video will be relevant to every citizen. It puts a face on each department and thoroughly explains how the county functions. Therefore, the Commissioners are making it available to the general public. Everyone is encouraged to watch and share this video. [~Click here to see it now.](#)



AARP commissioned a video highlighting the work of Friends of Aroostook (FOA) which runs a non-profit farm in Aroostook County that grows and donates fresh vegetables to low and moderate income families and seniors. Executive Director Dale Flewelling of Houlton manages the farm. FOA partnered with the Sheriff's Office this year so jail inmates could provide labor as farm hands. From hand planting to harvesting, inmates put in 3,000 hours at the farm this season. Over 235,000 pounds of vegetables were harvested and distributed to families in three counties. This is one way that offenders can give back to their communities in a meaningful way. [~Click here to watch the video](#)

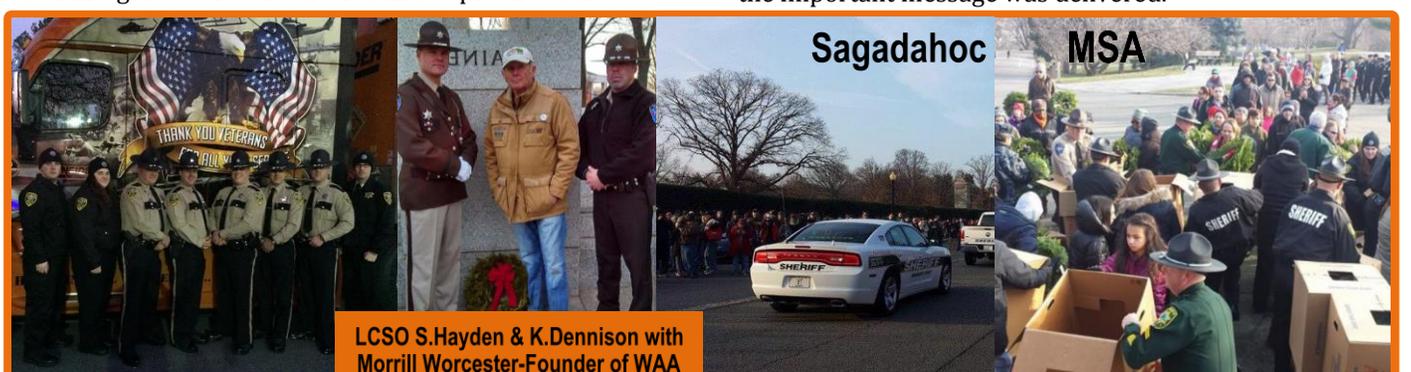


National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

Waldo Deputy Nick Oettinger presented an alcohol awareness program to the entire Mount View High School titled "Alcohol: the other side." This presentation focused on consequences that Deputy Oettinger personally witnessed. Students were told about a high school classmate who was paralyzed from the neck down in an OUI crash, about a young alcohol abuser who had liver failure at 23 years old and about a former co-worker who took his own life while intoxicated. Then Deputy Oettinger lightened the mood with a "drunk goggle obstacle course" utilizing Fatal Vision "drunk goggles" that simulate levels of intoxication from the ME Dept. of Highway Safety. The obstacle course showed students how impairment can make simple tasks difficult and dangerous. The presentation was well received by the student body and the important message was delivered.

Wreaths Across America 2014

Maine nonprofit Wreaths Across America has collected a record 325,000 wreaths to honor veterans in Arlington National Cemetery. It's the 20th year making the journey from Maine to Virginia, and this year it took a convoy of 80 trucks, each carrying 5,000 wreaths to be laid at headstones at Arlington. "It's renewed my faith in the patriotic nature of Americans. I can see it here in Maine," said Norma Luther, President of the American Gold Star Mothers, a group for mothers who lost children serving in the military. It's the first year accomplishing the long term goal for every veteran's grave to receive a wreath. See pictures below.



LC SO S. Hayden & K. Dennison with Morrill Worcester-Founder of WAA