



# COUNTY NEWS

## Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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## Washington County Courthouse Project

An \$8.3 million project now under way and funded wholly by the state of Maine involves a 94-foot addition, refurbishing of the interior of the existing building and more parking. Perhaps even more important than additional restrooms is the fact that renovations will eliminate what County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald terms a "mixing of populations." Currently, the public, staff, prisoners and participants in civil court cases are forced to share the same space in order to get around inside the courthouse. The courthouse's only elevator is used by prisoners from the adjacent jail who are going to or from hearings and trials. Once the project is completed, the public will not have access to the same routes as prisoners. Ms. Fitzgerald's office will move across the

hallway and her office will become a library with an extensive genealogical collection. The Washington County Archives Committee has the largest collection of newspapers in the state, with 600 volumes, and these also will be made available to the public. The addition is expected to be completed in December.

*~Click here to read the full article by Johanna Billings.*

## Chief's Day in Waldo County



The Maine Criminal Justice Academy recently held Chief's Day for the currently running 28th Municipal County Basic Law Enforcement Training Program. Chief's Day is the opportunity for all the chief executive officers of each law enforcement agency that currently has a cadet enrolled to come to the academy and meet with the cadet and hear from staff about their progress. The Waldo County Sheriff's Office currently has Wiley McVety enrolled in the training program. He is the most recent full time Deputy Sheriff at the Waldo County Sheriff's Office. Deputy McVety is a Unity College graduate and is currently a Lieutenant in the Maine Army National Guard. Deputy McVety is representing everyone in the County of Waldo with pride and distinction. Pictured above is Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton, Lt. Jason Trundy and Deputy Wiley McVety.



## Eugene Conlogue

Meet the very first County Administrator in Hancock County! Eugene Conlogue, who recently joined the team, is exploring uncharted territory in his new job. Luckily, as a northern Maine native, Gene is familiar with some of the challenges he will face in the area. Born in Houlton, he has lived most of his life in Presque Isle, graduating from Presque Isle High School. He then continued his education at The University of Maine earning a Master's degree in public administration. During his career, he has gained a wealth of experience on the municipal side of the fence having served for many years as a town manager in Gouldsboro, Millinocket, Washburn, Fort Fairfield and Houlton. Additionally, he has been involved with so many associations, boards and good will organizations, that there's not enough room to mention them all here. Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Conlogue was instrumental in negotiating the sale of two paper mills, establishing the Katahdin region's first multi-use recreational trail, and producing a tax decrease for five straight years in Millinocket. He says he is looking forward to working closely with commissioners for the first time and assisting with the MCCA Convention.



## NACo Testimony Echoes Local Concerns about 'waters of the U.S.'

Six weeks after NACo First Vice President Sallie Clark expressed serious concerns at a joint congressional hearing on proposed changes to the "waters of the U.S." rule, Clinton County PA Commission Chairman Pete Smeltz testified on the proposed rule's potentially harmful impacts on rural America before the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture's Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry. "NACo, including rural counties, supports common-sense environmental protection," Smeltz said. "Our concerns stem from the proposal's unclear language and its failure to consider real-world, on-the-ground impacts in localities across the country. "This proposal would amount to extended federal oversight, greater delays in critical work, public safety risks and additional financial costs without benefiting the environment."

*~Read more here.*

## Sheriff Receives ATV from Grant



In the fall of 2014, the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund awarded the Aroostook Sheriff's Office a grant to purchase an ATV. The successful bidder, Tidd's Sport Shop, recently delivered the new vehicle. Pictured from left to right are Deputy Stewart Kennedy, Chief Deputy Shawn Gillen, Elwood Tidd, Sheriff Darrell Crandall and Sergeant Erica Pelletier.

This ATV will allow Deputies to access remote areas of their rural county they would otherwise only reach on foot.

**Sgt. Mike Gould receives Presidential Valor award**

**Maine Sheriffs' Association 2015 Conference**

**Dr. Kevin Gilmartin**

**EMOTIONAL SURVIVAL FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*A Guide for Officers and Their Families*

**Two Knox County Deputies Recognized for their efforts**

Chief Deputy Tim Carroll Sheriff Donna Dennison Deputy Arthur Smith