



COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter



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MCCA Logo Contest Winner

The winning design chosen to be our new MCCA logo was submitted by talented artist Ashleigh Burskey of Portland, Maine who said, "Thank you so much for the award! I'm thrilled! I am so honored that the MCCA chose my design." Ashleigh has been exceptionally accommodating, making many revisions as MCCA tried to develop an emblem that would most closely reflect the mission and vision of the organization.



National Hurricane Preparedness Week

U.S. Department of Energy Recognizes National Hurricane Preparedness Week May 25-31st. Get ready and be prepared for an energy emergency. The U.S. Department of Energy offers resources and guidance that can help prepare for and recover from energy disaster. Read more on this by clicking here.

Kudos for Somerset

Mike Smith just received the Director of the Year award from NENA (National Emergency Number Association) Mike is the Communications and EMA Director for Somerset County. He is the past president of NENA and member of MECCA. He currently serves on FEMA's Region 1 Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Groups. Mike actively participates in local meetings including Fire Chief, Advisory Committee, LEPC and Domestic Violence Task Force. He has testified in front of the legislature on 911 issues and he is not afraid to speak out in order to improve public safety. Mike is loved by his employees. He provides them with the most up to date training and equipment and he focuses on building strong relationships within and outside the department and community.



Washington County Courthouse Expansion

On Monday, April 28, 2014 the Washington County Commissioners formally voted to proceed with the expansion of the Courthouse. This project has been in the talking stages for twenty years or more, now it will become a reality. The expansion had been postponed several times as other court facilities developed structural problems needing more immediate attention. The Commissioners opted for an arrangement where the State of Maine will build and own the new addition to be conveniently attached to the rear of the current structure. Construction begins this summer with an ambitious completion date of December 2015.

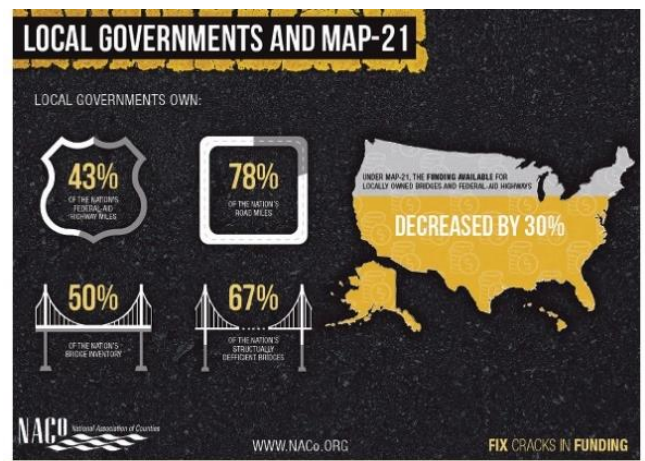
From the 1998 publication, The Courthouses of Maine by Robert K. Sloane, comes the following description: "The 1855 courthouse was built in the Italianate style, entirely of brick with heavy wooden dentils on the cornice and gable ends. It was the first brick structure in Machias."

The State of Maine's Bureau of General Services has opened the bids for a general contractor for the project. The parking lots are first on the list. The Registry of Deeds is moving across the street next week. Exciting times in Washington County.

~Read more here.



Somerset Communications Supervisor Kelly McQuarry also received the Communications Supervisor of the Year Award for the State of Maine. Somerset is fifth in call volume out of 26 PSAPs (Public Service Answering Points) and were actually third in call volume for the month of March. With only 15 dispatchers, they cover all of Somerset County and 19 Municipalities in Kennebec County as well. The total population covered is approximately 142,000 with law enforcement coverage in Fairfield, Madison, Pittsfield and Skowhegan. Notably, it was the first center in the state to be recognized by the National Center for Missing and Exploited children.



Androscoggin Celebrates National Bike Safety Month

With many lovely biking trails available to the public, including the popular Auburn River Walk, the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Department encourages people to enjoy biking safely. May is officially Bike Safety Month, and while most have experienced the thrill of flying through the air on a bicycle, many also remember a collision or two. But if you can't get the kids to wear full suits of body armor, at the very least, they need to wear a helmet! On Facebook, the Sheriff's department shared tips on how to correctly fit your kids' bike helmet. Check it out by clicking here and then visit the River Walk!

Senate Legislation Would Reauthorize Major Transportation Bill

On May 12th, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which has jurisdiction over the highway title of the surface transportation authorization bill in the Senate, released legislation to reauthorize the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). The 150-page bill would authorize federal highway programs for six years at current funding levels, plus inflation.

There are several provisions in the legislation that counties should be aware of. Specifically, the bill would:

- Provide a modest increase for programs that counties benefit from, including the Surface Transportation Program (STP)
 - Continue core highway program structure from MAP-21 which includes the STP program, National Highway Performance Program (NHPP), Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program
 - Provide \$400 million annually for the Projects of National or Regional Significance Program to support a variety of projects, including transportation projects sponsored by local governments.
- ~ Click here to read the full article.



We, the People, recognize that we have responsibilities as well as rights; that our destinies are bound together; that a freedom which only asks what's in it for me, a freedom without a commitment to others, a freedom without love or charity or duty or patriotism, is unworthy of our founding ideals, and those who died in their defense.
~ Barak Obama

