



# COUNTY NEWS

## Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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### Waldo County Achieves Budgeting Feat

The Waldo County Commissioners have announced that they have submitted the proposed 2015 Waldo County Budget to the Budget Committee for review. The County Commissioners are particularly pleased that the proposed budget is \$175,204.00 less than the 2014 budget which is a decrease of 3.39%. Every town in the county should see a reduction in their tax



commitment due to the County. The County's portion of the 2015 proposed budget is \$4,986,634. The last time the County budget was under \$5,000,000 was in 2011! (Insert a round of applause here!) Furthermore, health insurance costs for 2015 are down by \$80,000 from the 2014 budget. Commissioner Betty Johnson, who sits on the Waldo County Wellness Committee, has consistently pushed to reduce health insurance costs over the last four years. Also, The Waldo County Garden, which Commissioner Shorey has been diligently working on, has been a huge success again this year, supplying thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables to soup kitchens and food pantries across the county. This, too, provides a cost-saving service to County citizens.

*~ Click here to read more.*



### Franklin County Elder Check Program

The Franklin County Sheriff's Department has launched a new program, *Elder Check*. Regular weekly checks made by deputies on people who live on their own in rural areas, sometimes with no family nearby, is expected to ensure their safety and also introduce seniors to law enforcement, stated Sheriff Scott Nichols. "The idea is to ensure that our seniors are not being taken advantage of by scam artists, that their medications are not being stolen and are located in a safe place, that their home is properly secured for their own safety and that they are not being used or abused by family members or friends." Sheriff Nichols said in a release, "It is something that has been weighing on my mind. If my own grandparents were living alone in rural Franklin County, I'd want them checked on. The department does a rotating weekly check of rural camp properties, so why wouldn't it work to check on our seniors." *~Read more here.*



### Introducing U.S. Communities

Good news! MCCA has entered into an agreement with the U.S. Communities' Government purchasing Alliance. Maine Counties can reduce their costs of purchased goods and services by participating in this program. U.S. Communities is the leading national government purchasing cooperative, providing world class government procurement resources and solutions to local and state government agencies, schools and nonprofits. By combining the potential cooperative purchasing power of up to 90,000 public agencies, counties will be able to access the best overall supplier government pricing. For more information about the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, how to use contracted companies in your procurement process, and see a list of contracted companies, please see the U.S. Communities web site at [www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org).



The NACo website is featuring counties across the nation, sharing stories of fundraisers and awareness projects for this October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Maine is also trying to bring one of the most important women's-health issues to the front of public conversation by spreading knowledge about breast cancer and helping everyone learn how they can help. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention identifies breast cancer as the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women today. Maine is "Making Strides" with walking events around the state to benefit the American Cancer Society. Nationwide, nearly 300 walks occur each year, each one a powerful and inspiring opportunity to unite as a community to save the precious women in our lives.

*~Click here to read about statistics in Maine.*



Recently, Nate Bean and police dog, *Diesel* of the Franklin County Sheriff's Department tracked a missing elderly New Vineyard man battling dementia. He was found a mile and a half away in nearby woods. This could have been a problem for human trackers, but not so for our trained K-9 professional. We don't hear often enough about the heroics that are commonplace for these experts. Cumberland and Knox County Deputies demonstrated K-9 detectives sniffing out hidden drugs as an activity for the MCCA Convention at the Kittery Trading Post. Knox County Deputies showed a blood hound trained to search for people. We even saw two attack dogs perform on queue and their partners, or handlers, answered countless questions from a curious group of onlookers. It was pretty amazing! *Click here to see the slide show of the K-9 demonstration at the bottom of this linked page.*

### The 2014 Convention of Maine Counties in Review

It takes a multitude of people to successfully carry off an event the size of a convention. One must manage a thousand details and guide as many moving pieces. This year's host, York County, and the Convention Planning Committee deserve the highest kudos for keeping all the balls in the air without dropping even one. Now, as we bask in the aftermath and look toward the next convention, we hope to continue to receive feedback for planning a comparable experience for 2015. *Please visit the MCCA website* to enjoy candid photos, share your own pictures of the Convention and fill out an evaluation form if you haven't already done so. Thank you to all who participated in the 2014 Convention of Maine Counties!



Maine ~ the way life should be.

Candid 2014 Convention Pictures