

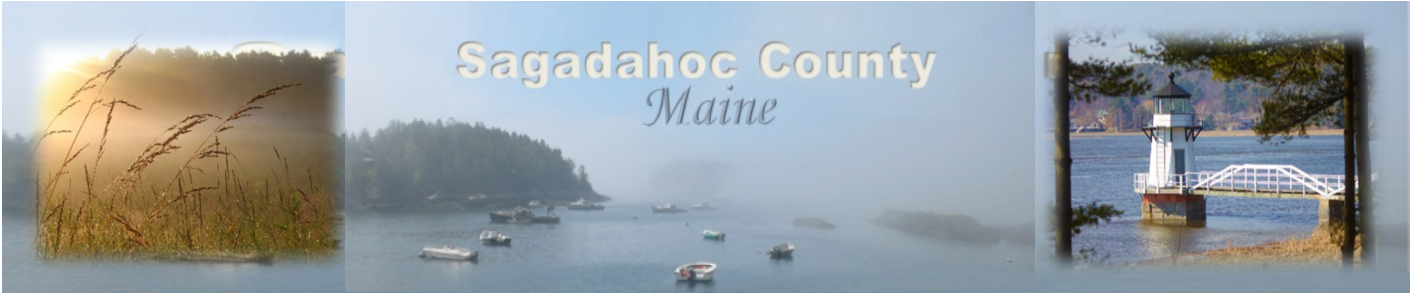
COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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The National Association of Counties Legislative Conference occurring February 28th through March 4th in Washington D.C. brings together nearly 2,000 elected and appointed county officials to focus on federal policy issues that impact counties and our residents. Attendees have the opportunity to engage in second-to-none policy sessions, interact with federal officials and participate in congressional briefings and meetings. This is a one-of-a-kind advocacy opportunity. Featured speakers include President Donald Trump, U.S. Secretary of Interior David Bernhardt, U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, and U.S. Senator Chris Coons. A brass quintet from the U.S. Army Band will perform a patriotic opening and the Armed Forces Color Guard will present the colors at the start of the General Session. The slate of educational sessions will cover topics such as, "County Innovation for Value Added Solutions and Revenue Generation", "Cyber Disaster Recovery", "Federal Policy Lightning Round: Outlook for the 116th Congress", and "Leveraging Federal Policy to Strengthen Networks of Support for Aging Americans". MCCA Representative Commissioner Peter Baldacci plans to gather important details from the event to share with the Board of Directors. [~Click here for more about the NACo conference.](#)



In 2016 the Sheriff's Office started an outreach program with the aim to keep low-risk, non-violent offenders out of jail and allowing them to work towards putting themselves in a better position to succeed. The program initially worked closely with the Maine Department of Probation and Parole, supervising individuals who had been put on stricter conditions of release called graduated sanctions, or in other words, making them more accountable to a law abiding life-style. One of the key components was to keep individuals employed if they had a job, and thus contributing to society, opposed to increasing the costs of incarceration.

Many of the individuals who are put on graduated sanctions and assigned to the Outreach Program have also struggled with alcohol or other drug use. Many suffer from substance use disorder and would benefit from a treatment program. Recognizing this need, the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office contracted with Mid Coast Hospital Addiction Resource Center to offer individual and group counseling. This is in addition to any intensive outpatient treatment an individual might have. For many, the group sessions and some one-on-one counseling is enough to keep them on an even keel.

The Sagadahoc County Outreach Program is overseen by Programs Deputy Mike Lathrop. Dep. Lathrop, who serves as kind of a case manager, started working with individuals in the fall of 2018 and has increased his caseload from two to 20.

Currently, the majority of Dep. Lathrop's case load is individuals who are on pre-trial status. Many require an extra level of monitoring, so they are required to wear an electronic monitoring device (EMD) which in many cases either keeps track of where they go or prevents them from consuming alcohol.

In 2019, Dep. Lathrop worked with 104 individuals, with 20 violations, which is an 81% success rate. As for individuals who were either pre-trial, home confinement, furlough or on deferred dispositions, they had a total of just over 7,000 bed days out jail. The success of the program goes much further than just reducing the number of individuals in jail, it keeps folks working and supporting themselves or their families, while also assisting them in their fight to overcome substance use disorder. This program has been very successful for the citizens of Sagadahoc County.



We are pleased to announce the promotion of **Tammy Shiers** to the position of Communications Director. Tammy joined Sagadahoc County in 2004 and has served in the roles of dispatcher, dispatch supervisor and Deputy Director. Tammy bring her extensive expertise and experience to dispatch, and we are excited to see where she will lead the department in her new position. This promotion recognizes the contributions Tammy has made to Sagadahoc County during her tenure with them.

And it is with great pleasure we announce the promotion of **Michael Carter** as Sagadahoc's new Deputy Director of Communications. Mike has been with Sagadahoc County for thirteen years, painstakingly climbing the ranks with his dedication and commitment to his work. Eight of those thirteen years were spent as a dispatch supervisor where he proved his leadership skills. We are excited to see where his leadership will take the Communications department.



The SHAPE award was conceived in 2005 as a way to recognize public-sector employers and employees who are striving to provide a safe and healthful workplace. It is given only to exemplary public-sector employers after a thorough review and inspection of the employer's safety and health policies and procedures by a SafetyWorks consultant. Sagadahoc County has been recognized for excellence in safety and health management (SHAPE) since 2016 and continues to strive for excellence.



Equipment Upgrades for Law Enforcement

The Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency (SCEMA) has been working to upgrade patrol vehicle computers in the County and respective municipalities. The project replaces 30 car-mounted tablets, which have been failing due to age and replaces them with ruggedized laptops which are virtually indestructible. The existing equipment has been deteriorating over time or has completely failed, and many are in need a new operating system. "Law enforcement agencies use their computers on a daily basis and the equipment is repeatedly exposed to weather extremes", said Sarah Bennett, Director of SCEMA. "We want to be sure that our law enforcement agencies have the best tools available to them which will withstand the heat, cold, rain or even the occasional tumble during any emergency situation."

Using funds from the Homeland Security Grant Program over the last three years, SCEMA has also been able to finance the outfitting of each municipal law enforcement, fire and EMS department with life-saving ballistic vests and helmets, provided pet oxygen masks to each Fire/EMS Department, installed mobile vehicle repeaters in multiple town fire apparatus, installed an additional radio communications tower in the Town of Bowdoin and updated all of the portable radios for the Sheriff's Office, to name a few projects. "Having new, cutting edge technology across the county saves time and saves lives... every citizen, first responder, employee and visitor deserves that."

Registry of Deeds ~ Project Index ~

Lynn C. Moore, Registrar



One of the primary functions of the Registry of Deeds is to create an index that allows registry users to find documents relevant to their research. The deeds department took on a huge task when we scanned the deed books and converted to digital format. Paper deed records have an infinite life span. Shrinking that lifespan happens even more rapidly when these records are handled on a regular basis. So, to avoid degradation and allow the public instant access the decision was made to move forward with this project. The next step was document indexing. Without this step the deed images would not be retrievable. Indexing creates searchable information like date, names and addresses that will help users find the document.

This project started in September 2017 and completed October 2019. Although the indexing has been completed, the proofreading of all these documents will be an ongoing project. We have imaged and added to our database all of our indexes from 1826 - 2019 in a virtual format for verification in searching. This will be helpful should there be any misspellings or errors not yet found. We are proud to be able to state that Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds now has all documents and plans imaged and indexed into our database and are available on our website.

We utilized a company called CrowdForce through our software company Fidlar to do the back indexing of all our unindexed documents. We were able to accomplish this project using the \$3.00 surcharge fee we receive for preservation from each document recorded.

