



# COUNTY NEWS

## Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

### In this issue:

- NACo 2019 Legislative Priorities
- Featuring Oxford County
- Oxford County Trivia
- Hello from the Registry of Deeds
- News from the Sheriff's Office

### NACo 2019 Legislative Priorities

NACo works to preserve local decision making, to protect counties from unfunded mandates and local preemption and to strengthen the federal state local partnership. This year the legislative priorities are as follows:

- Promote county infrastructure priorities in a comprehensive infrastructure package
- Promote mental health, treatment for substance use disorders and criminal justice reform
- Boost broadband deployment and accessibility while preserving local zoning authority
- Support the payments in lieu of taxes (pilt) and secure rural schools (srs) programs
- Support implementation of the farm bill
- Establish a more effective definition of waters of the US
- Promote economic mobility and opportunity across all counties:

~ Please click here for full descriptions.



NACo supports efforts by the administration and Congress to increase our nation's infrastructure investments to help promote economic development, public safety and overall mobility. Any federal infrastructure package should reflect county priorities, such as: allocating more federal seed capital and matching funds for locally owned infrastructure, increasing local decision-making authority and flexibility, and streamlining and shortening the federal permitting process while still requiring robust public participation and world-class environmental stewardship.



### Welcome To Oxford County



Oxford County, Maine	
Founded	1805
Seat	Paris
Largest town	Rumford
Area	
• Total	2,176 sq mi (5,636 km <sup>2</sup> )
• Land	2,077 sq mi (5,379 km <sup>2</sup> )
• Water	99 sq mi (256 km <sup>2</sup> ), 4.5%
Population (est.)	
• (2016)	57,217
• Density	27.8/sq mi (10.74/km <sup>2</sup> )
Congressional district	2nd



#### Incorporated

1805 from parts of Cumberland County and York County

#### Boundary Changes

Parts were lost to Somerset County in 1816 and 1823, to Franklin County in 1838, and Androscoggin County in 1854  
Otisfield seceded from Cumberland County in 1978

A full account of boundary changes may be found [here](#)

#### Shire Town

Paris, since 1805 - The county buildings were moved from Paris Hill to South Paris in 1895; a Western District Registry of Deeds is maintained in Fryeburg

### Hello from Oxford County Registry of Deeds

My name is Cherri Crockett and I'm the newly elected Register. I have inherited the office from Pat Shearman, who retired at the end of last term. She left some big shoes to fill and I'm excited for the challenge. I'd like to introduce you to our team, which is comprised of four very knowledgeable ladies.



On December 31st I appointed 14-year veteran Deb Smith as my Deputy. Deb's home base is in the South Paris office, along with Melinda Herrick, who joined the team in 2017 and serves as a Clerk, also in the South Paris office. Holding down the fort in Fryeburg we have Gail Bartlett who has been with the county since 2004 and stood as Acting Register from January till December 2018, after the retirement of long-time Register, Jean Watson.

I'm excited to share the whirlwind of activity we are enjoying in both the South Paris and Fryeburg offices over this last month. I really cannot believe it's been a month already, but on the same note, I feel like I've been here far longer since we've been making strong connections and work so well together. - As you may or may not know, Oxford County is beginning the process of merging the two registry offices into one as of the first of the year as a result of the Legislative decision, LD 1679 passed early in 2018.

Currently it is business as usual, with the exception of my travel on Fridays from 9am until noon to join Gail in Fryeburg to record plans and provide attested copies. We have communication set up with our Western District towns to insure they are up to date on what our plan is and how we are going to proceed in making a seamless transition to recording the entire county's data in the South Paris office. Over the next couple of months we will be working closely with our systems department to create online access to both the East and West district data. We are confident that anyone who currently uses the online system, [www.maineregistryofdeeds.com](http://www.maineregistryofdeeds.com) or [searchiqs.com](http://searchiqs.com), will be pleased to have just one location to search for any recordings, county-wide. And, for those who have yet to try the system, we believe they are going to wonder why they waited so long to explore.

We do not have a date set as of yet for the actual physical closing of the West registry but can assure that it will be handled with kid gloves, providing the utmost in care for the historical data that is housed in that building. Over in South Paris we have been experiencing some construction, both on the inside and outside of the building. Our office library is in the middle of a facelift, providing ease of access for researchers who still want to look through the old books and high-density shelving has been installed to allow prolonged preservation of those books.

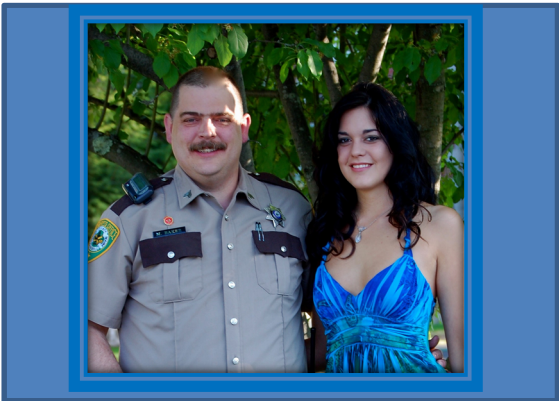
We look forward to having you join us for a tour of the new library set up when construction is complete, and we have a date set for the public open house. May you be well and if you're not sure how the registry supports the county, we invite you in to learn more.

*Cherri L. Crockett*

*Register of Deeds, Oxford County*

In November, the residents of Oxford County elected Christopher R. Wainwright as their Sheriff. Sheriff Wainwright began his career with the Oxford County Sheriff's Office 28 years ago. Throughout his career, he has held every position within the department, from patrol to Chief Deputy and now Sheriff. Sheriff Wainwright has chosen James H. Urquhart as his Chief Deputy. James is a retired State Trooper and has had a long exemplary career in law enforcement. Together they bring experience and expertise to the office and hope to regain the trust and confidence as they serve the citizens of Oxford County.

In addition to the regular duties of the deputies many are also involved in outreach programs within the community. A great example of community outreach is the work being done by Sergeant Matt Baker. In February 2015 he and his wife lost their 23-year-old daughter, Ronni, to a heroin/fentanyl overdose. At this same time, Western Maine's growing drug problem rapidly escalated to a level that got the attention of the general public due to a rash of overdoses.



Sergeant Baker has been representing the Oxford County Sheriff's Office for over 3 years as he speaks with the community about the dangers and effects of opioid addiction. He travels around the state speaking at public forums and other public events telling his family's story from the point of view of a police officer, as well as, a father. Project Save Me is a program developed by the Western Maine Addiction Recovery Initiative and encourages citizens with substance abuse disorders approach police officers and hospitals in Oxford County to ask for help.

Sergeant Baker was a member of the group that developed a block of instruction called "Understanding Addiction and the Impact on Law Enforcement" that is currently being taught to the new cadets of the MCJA. Sergeant Baker also became involved with NAMI and has represented the Sheriff's Office by attending Crisis Intervention Team trainings around the state. At these trainings he tells his story and speaks with Police Officers about substance use disorders.

