



# COUNTY NEWS

## Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES NACo PILT & the Cadillac Tax

Congress passed and President Obama signed a \$1.15 trillion FY16 spending bill that boosts overall federal spending by approximately five percent. One major highlight is the full funding of the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program at \$452 million. PILT are Federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable Federal lands within their boundaries. The law recognizes the inability of local governments to collect property taxes on Federally-owned land can create a financial impact. Another significant change due to this bill is a two-year delay of the 40 percent excise tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health plans, the "Cadillac Tax." This delay changes the effective date from 2018 to 2020. While the tax was originally non-tax deductible, the December 2015 changes make it tax deductible for employers who pay it. [~Click here FMI.](#)

# Sagadahoc County



Sagadahoc County is situated upon the lower portions of the Kennebec and Androscoggin Rivers. This county contains ten towns and one city as follows: City of Bath, Towns of Arrowsic, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Georgetown, Perkins Township, Phippsburg, Richmond, Topsham, West Bath and Woolwich. Sagadahoc County was formerly included in Yorkshire, and later in Lincoln County, having been set off from the latter and incorporated in 1854.

## The Ergo Initiative



### Steve Edmondson-Lynn Moore-Brodie Hinckley

In November of 2014 Sagadahoc County became the first county in Maine to receive the OSHA SHAPE (Safety and Health Award for Public Employees) designation from SafetyWorks! Maine. The award was a team effort between County Administration and employees, working together to ensure that safety initiatives not only met, but exceeded the required standards. It is truly an honor to be the first county in the state to achieve SHAPE recognition.

In an effort to build upon the record of employee safety and reduce the risk of musculoskeletal injuries that are the leading cause of both work-related injuries and compensable claims, Sagadahoc County is now in the process of performing ergonomic evaluations of all employees who work at a desk four or more hours at a time, aligning with Maine VDT law requirements. This initiative has served as a reminder to employees of the importance of working in an ergonomic manner, while also identifying employees that might be at risk of injury, and making the necessary adjustments to their workstations. In the fall of 2015, Sagadahoc County received a matching-funds grant from MMA Risk Management to purchase sit-stand workstations, and these assessments will help to determine which individuals will most benefit from this equipment. In an effort to continue to reduce workplace injuries, evaluations will be followed by Ergonomic and VDT trainings, and employees will be encouraged to continue their participation in a regular stretching program. Coupled with participation in both the SHAPE Program and the MMA Risk Management Leadership Program, this initiative builds upon an already-solid foundation of workplace safety that has been embraced by the employees of Sagadahoc County and demonstrated by the County Commissioners through their adoption of a Resolution for Employee Safety.

## The Wandering Person Program

The Sagadahoc County Communications Center's motto is, "Always there, always ready." With a focus on continuous improvement, it wasn't a difficult decision to implement the new Wandering Person Program when presented with a system to better address the issues surrounding individuals who wander and/or become disoriented.

The Wandering Person Program is designed to assist first responders by enabling the rapid deployment of personal



### MID COAST HOSPITAL Addiction Resource Center

## Recovery Coaching Program

In collaboration with Mid Coast Hospital's ARC (Addiction Resource Center), the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office has launched a program to assist post-incarcerated individuals, typically at high risk of re-offending, to stay drug and crime-free. The program is modeled after a successful program that Lincoln County has had in place for almost 10 years, and involves cooperation among Law Enforcement, the Department of Corrections, and the Recovery Coach to establish and implement a plan focused on preventing re-arrest and re-incarceration. Recovery coaching programs are considered evidence based and are increasingly being used across the country

The objective is to engage at-risk individuals and assist them in the path to productive citizenship by connecting them to available services, while assisting to identify and overcome barriers that can hinder their ability to break the cycle of addiction and crime. Integration with treatment services at ARC and strong ties with self-help programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous provide emotional and logistical support in overcoming addiction. As basic needs are met and addictions overcome, criminal activity declines, resulting in reduced recidivism.

The program cost is minimal compared to the outcomes. If each of individual involved in coaching were to commit additional offenses and be re-incarcerated, the cost to the county would be significant. Additionally, successful individuals become gainfully employed, paying taxes and restitution that otherwise would not be recouped.

A far greater benefit from the Recovery Coaching program is that it can transform lives. Individuals caught in a cycle of crime and self-destruction are able to turn their lives around and become respected citizens. This joint partnership exemplifies the strength that we have working together to improve the health of our community.

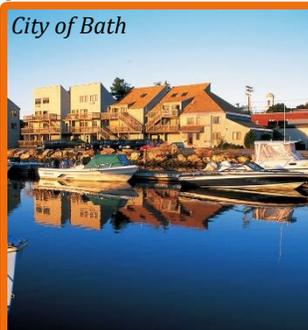


information for individuals with autism, Alzheimer's, dementia or other similar conditions, and who may be prone to wander. Quick access to this information which includes a detailed description and photo, and potential triggers as well as calming techniques, can save first responder's valuable time when trying to locate and return a wanderer to their home.

Even before implementation of the Wandering Person Program, the Sagadahoc County Communications team experienced firsthand the potential of such a program. A resident of Bowdoinham, who was known to wander, was safely located shortly after he was reported missing because the information that first responders needed was already in the 911 database from a previous incident with the same individual. While still in the development stage, the benefits of the Wandering Person Program were crystal clear. It is a program such as the Wandering Person Database that offers yet another tool to keep the community's most vulnerable residents safe.

Sagadahoc County joins several other jurisdictions across Maine that are working to implement similar programs. For Sagadahoc County Communications, the seeds of the Wandering Person Program were planted by Linda Lee, the mother of an autistic son and co-founder of the program in Maine, when she addressed Sagadahoc County staff at a recent conference. Communications Director Brodie Hinckley brought the idea back to his team.

It is initiatives like this one, along with his commitment to keeping Sagadahoc County Communications on the cutting edge of emergency communication technology, his support of every town that the Communications Center serves, and most importantly his support and commitment to his team that has earned Brodie the Maine NENA Communications Director of the Year award. Brodie is currently the Vice-president of Maine NENA and will become President of the chapter in May 2016.



January is the third issue in a series of MCCA Newsletter editions featuring a single county. If you would like to see your county highlighted in an upcoming newsletter, please contact Lauren Haven at 623-4697.