

# COUNTY NEWS

## Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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On August 21st, MCCA held a strategic planning retreat in beautiful New Harbor, Maine to continue the process of determining the direction for the organization. This is not the first strategic plan adopted by MCCA, and much has been accomplished since the last plan was devised in a daylong summit in 2010.

In meetings leading up to this workshop, the Strategic Planning Committee, composed of Commissioners, County Managers, Administrators and MCCA staff, brainstormed and identified priorities within a number of categories. Seven subcommittees were formed to concentrate on each of the planning categories with a chairperson leading the charge. Facilitator, Leigh Tillman, was brought in to keep the group on task and moving along in order to come to an agreement on the plan and the development of "next steps" going forward. The committee chairpersons led discussions in their group prior to this meeting, and aided in the process of prioritizing the goals within their category at the strategic planning retreat. The entire assembly discussed and voted on the order of priorities for each category and then defined a number of realistic and quantifiable goals. A draft of the plan compiled from the retreat will be presented to the Strategic Planning Committee and, after any revisions are made, will continue on to the MCCA Board of Directors. Upon approval, the updated strategic plan will be adopted at the next annual meeting in January of 2015.

### Westbrook's First Tough Mudder

The Tough Mudder event features an obstacle course over twelve miles designed to test all-around strength, stamina, teamwork, and mental grit. On August 16th & 17th, over 60,000 Mudders came together around the world for five events in four countries, on 3 continents for two days. And they did it all as 1 Mudder Nation.

Several members of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office participated in the Westbrook Tough Mudder Challenge on teams with names like "Team Muddy Bacon", "Team Girls Gone Muddy", and "Team 10-44". As many as 15,000 people turned out for the event. And why would anyone sign up for this, you ask? Proceeds benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. Since 2010, Tough Mudders have raised more than \$6.5 million dollars.



August is (NIAM) National Immunization Awareness Month.

### August is National Immunization Month

The goal of NIAM is to increase awareness about immunizations across the lifespan, from infants to the elderly. August is an ideal time to make sure everyone is up-to-date on vaccines before heading back to school and to plan ahead to receive flu vaccine. Most young parents in the

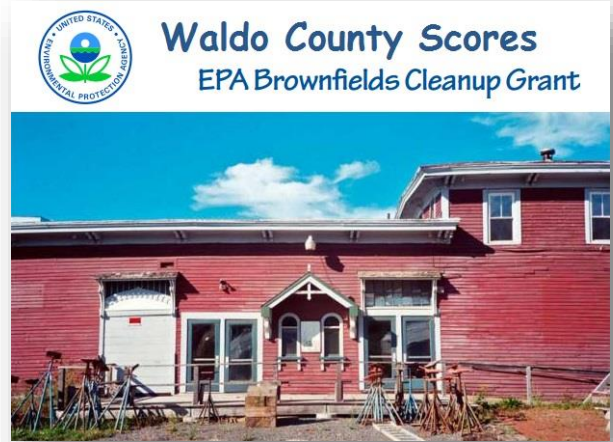


United States have never seen the devastating effects that diseases like polio, measles or whooping cough (pertussis) can have on a family or community. It's easy to think of these as diseases of the past. But the truth is they still

exist. Many vaccine preventable diseases are only a plane ride away. For example, measles is not very common in the U.S. because most people are protected through vaccination, but it is still common in many parts of the world. The disease is brought into the United States by unvaccinated travelers who are infected while abroad. Once reaching this country, measles spreads quickly in unvaccinated populations. By providing and making NACo discount prescription cards available, Maine counties are contributing to low cost vaccines offered at local pharmacies. [Click here to read more.](#)

### ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

The amazing phenomena of the ALS ice bucket challenge has spread like wildfire across the nation raising funds and awareness of this terrible disease. Almost as sobering as a bucket of ice water, are the facts about ALS which is a neurodegenerative disease. ALS is in the same category as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, quickly becoming a global health crisis. Many Maine county folks took the plunge, always ready for a challenge. Corrections Officers of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, led by Major John Costello, not only took the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, they also raised over \$500 in less than a week! Thanks to everyone for being a good sport and supporting a great cause.



The Waldo County Commissioners are very pleased to report that 2014 Brownfields EPA Cleanup Grant funds in the amount of \$200,000 have been awarded to Congress Street Hill Property, LLC for the purpose of remediating and repurposing the Old Waldo County Jail, Jailer Keeper's House and barn.

Congress Street Hill Property, LLC originally applied for 2013 Brownfields EPA Cleanup Grant funds but was unsuccessful at that time. City of Belfast Economic Director Thomas Kittredge volunteered to lead the LLC in resubmitting an application for 2014 funds. Under the excellent direction of Mr. Kittredge, along with the expertise of Peter Sherr of Ransom Consulting, Inc., the second application went through successfully.

The Old Waldo County Jail site was previously assessed under the EPA-funded, City of Belfast's Brownfields Assessment Program, also obtained with the assistance of Mr. Kittredge. The assessment process revealed that building materials used during the construction of and/or historic renovations of the Old Jail, Jailer Keeper's House and barn pose exposure risks to the health of the public, county employees, and also to the environment in the buildings' present deteriorating conditions. [~Click here for more.](#)

### Teamwork Across County Lines



When Somerset County Sheriff's Deputy David Cole was shot at by a woman with a gun in New Portland in March, he could have used quick backup from deputies in nearby Franklin County. Cole, who was not injured, tackled the woman without another shot being fired. But the encounter could have been deadly for Cole, who was caught out in the open. While New Portland is close to the border of Franklin County, next-door deputies did not have police powers in Somerset County. That changed on August 21st when twenty four sheriff's deputies and administrators from both departments were sworn in as full-time officers in both counties, giving them pursuit and arrest powers in rural areas where county lines blur and dark roads twist in and out of jurisdictions. Franklin County deputies were sworn in as Somerset deputies and Somerset County deputies were sworn in as Franklin deputies. [Read the article by Doug Harlow here.](#)



Cumberland County



Somerset & Franklin



Kennebec County



Two Bridges



Sheriff Guy Desjardins