



COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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Counties Connect America: Strengthening a Nation Together

To help convey importance of this intergovernmental partnership and the role counties can play to help move this country forward, NACo created the "Counties Connect America" initiative. This initiative will utilize the 2016 U.S. Presidential election cycle as an opportunity to educate and collaborate with our intergovernmental colleagues campaigning for the White House. NACo has developed a number of materials and resources for county officials to utilize during engagements with candidates on the campaign trail. NACo recently unveiled the Counties Connect America hub containing resources and information including a brochure with "Why Counties Matter Fast Facts" and a social media tip page with sample share lines and photo albums of county officials engaging Presidential candidates.

As we enter primary season, candidates are focusing much of their attention on first-in states like Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada. Through this initiative, NACo will be working with our state association partners to create candidate engagement opportunities on the campaign trail. Our members and state association partners have already taken a strong lead in bringing this message to the various campaigns in their home states.

~Please click here for more information.



National Water Quality Month reminds us to take a long, hard look at what households and communities are doing to protect sources of fresh water. According to the Audobon Society, "Each individual household may not produce enough pollution to force a beach closing or cause a fish kill, but the combined output of all the homes in a community can be severe. And, consider that about half of the U.S. population lives within 50 miles of a coastline where runoff flows quickly to the ocean. This is why watershed protection — attention not only to the body of water but the area that drains into it — is important."

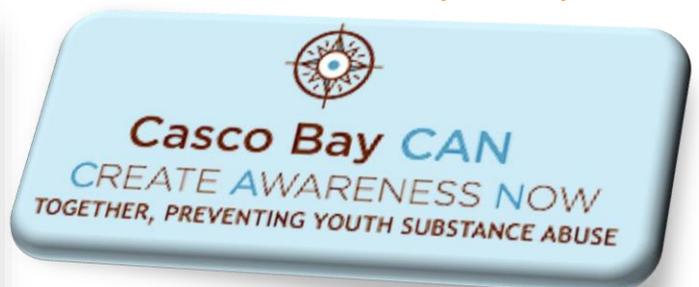
The Environmental Protection Agency, which reports that 40 percent of the nation's waterways suffer water quality problems, has a detailed watershed database, which allows users to locate which watershed they live in and learn about how polluted it is and what actions they can take to protect their regional water quality.

Clean Water Action offers a factsheet on what individuals and families can do to prevent water pollution from their homes, including:

- not using antibacterial soaps or cleaning products
- not flushing unwanted or out-of-date medications down the toilet or drain
- not putting anything but water down storm drains
- fixing leaks that drop from cars and putting liners in driveways to collect oil and other materials
- avoiding using pesticides or chemical fertilizers
- choosing nontoxic household products when possible
- picking up after pets
- not paving properties



The Convention of Maine Counties is fast approaching! The dates of September 9, 10, and 11 have been reserved for this event being held at the Atlantic Oceanside Hotel and Event Center in beautiful Bar Harbor. Hancock County and the Convention Planning Committee are making final preparations to guarantee its success. The schedule is packed with 18 informative educational sessions for varied audiences, exciting evening entertainment, and many fun outdoor activities planned for Thursday afternoon. Of course there will be delicious food featured as well, cooked by Atlantic Oceanside's own on-site caterer. You won't want to miss it! If you have neglected to register, please call Lauren Haven at 623-4697 to make sure you don't miss out on this opportunity or [click here to register online now](#).



Casco Bay CAN (Create Awareness Now) Coalition recently received the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) Regional ReCOGNition Award and the National Association of Counties 2015 Achievement Award in Public Safety.

Casco Bay CAN is a regional initiative serving eight communities (Falmouth, Cumberland, Freeport, Yarmouth, Pownal, North Yarmouth, Gray and New Gloucester) within Cumberland County, based on volunteer participation, including a Law Enforcement Subcommittee, resulting in successful youth substance abuse prevention and intervention services.

"The success of Casco Bay CAN has only come from the collaboration of parents, youth, schools, advocates and law enforcement," said Falmouth Lieutenant John F. Kilbride. "The members have energized all these parties to work together to manage problems of today and the ones facing us tomorrow regarding youth substance abuse. This recognition validates our efforts and supports our continued efforts to educate our youth on healthy alternatives."

"We are extremely grateful to be recognized by community members and on a national level for all the hard work from our volunteers," Casco Bay CAN Director Beth Blakeman-Pohl said. "We in law enforcement realize early on that we can't go it alone," Lt. Kilbride said. "Our measure of success comes from one child, one parent, one school and one community making efforts to curb and stop alcohol and drug abuse. Working with Casco Bay CAN has given us the opportunity to share ideas, energize our mission and surround our greatest citizens with the knowledge and life stories to educate and alter their behavior before it claims them."

~Please click here FMI.

The Maine Emergency County Communications Association



The Maine Emergency County Communications Association AKA MECCA is the County Association of the County Regional Communication Center/911 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS). The Association was formed in 2003 to have a voice at MCCA and to represent County Communications in legislative issues. Thirteen of the 16 Counties have Regional Communication Centers which are also 911 PSAPS. Out of the total 26 PSAPS in the State the Counties operate 13 of them.

As regional centers we answer calls requesting police, fire, EMS and EMA response for emergencies. We also answer all 911 calls coming into the center. We then dispatch them out to the required agencies. Our Regional Communication Centers were the first "regional consolidation" efforts on behalf of towns, cities and counties and go back to 1999.

MECCA provides educational programs for dispatchers, testifies in Legislative sessions involving 911 issues and provides a solid network for cooperation among communication centers. MECCA is co-sponsoring a day of training on October 8th. The morning training is, "Active Shooter" and the afternoon

