



# COUNTY NEWS

## Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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In order to remain healthy, vibrant, safe and economically competitive, America's counties must be able to anticipate and adapt to a myriad of changing physical, environmental, social and economic conditions. New and emerging technologies can be particularly critical for counties as they develop plans and programs to increase their resilience to unforeseen shocks. In a world increasingly driven by technology and data-driven decision-making, it is crucial for counties to continually explore data and technology solutions that can help them address local challenges. This exploration includes not only becoming more familiar with new and emerging technologies coming to market but also understanding when and how to introduce these new technologies into county operations. Some of the most talked about disaster-related resilient technologies of the moment rely on real-time data, mapping and communications platforms. These include geographic information system (GIS), mobile applications, drones, social media, and renewable energies like microgrids. In 2017 alone, 813 counties received a presidential disaster declaration at least once, and sixteen of those disaster events resulted in combined losses exceeding \$306 billion.



~Click here to read the full article by NACo writer, Jenna Moran.



**County Of Waldo** Inc. 1827

Official Website

County Seat: Belfast, Maine

Working For A Better Tomorrow

### WALDO COUNTY FIRST MAINE COUNTY TO RECEIVE AARP'S "AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY" DISTINCTION

On March 13, 2018, the County of Waldo became the first Maine County to receive the "Age-Friendly County" distinction as part of AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Counties & Communities. An age-friendly of county encourages people of all ages to be as actively engaged in the civic, social, and economic life of the community as they want to be and ensures that residents have the resources they need to live safely and securely in their communities. In a livable county, policies, services, settings, and structures encourage people to remain as active as they want to be at any age and to live life to their own satisfaction regardless of individual challenges. Because aging is a lifelong process, a livable county is not just a wonderful place to grow old, it is a great place to live, work, do business, and play at any age.



**Betty Johnson** - Ms. Johnson is currently the District 1 Commissioner of Waldo County. She brings a governmental perspective and is leading the organization in the construction of the charter. Talented at graphic design, she created the Aging Well in Waldo County logo.



#### Age-friendly counties also:

- ❖ Encourage their cities and towns to provide opportunities for employment and volunteer work that maximize the contributions that older residents make to economic and community development.
- ❖ Have an advantage when business of all kinds are thinking of where they want to locate network encourages states, counties, cities, towns and rural areas to prepare for the rapid aging of the U.S. population. The network encourages counties and communities to take action and pay increased attention to the environmental, economic and social features that encourage greater age integration and diversity and create a community that supports residents from the cradle through retirement.
- ❖ Promote active and healthy lifestyles and make sure that residents know about the resources they need to live safely, securely, and independently in their county and communities.

In 2016, local non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations and residents of Waldo County formed a committee called Aging Well in Waldo County (AWWC). This initiative later partnered with Waldo County General Hospital's outreach program, Journey to Health. Representatives of the committee met with the Waldo County Commissioners. County Commissioner Betty Johnson volunteered to assist and now serves on the AWWC Board of Directors and as Treasurer. The County Commissioners submitted a letter of support for Aging Well in Waldo County, allowing them to apply to AARP for funds to perform an assessment of County residents over age 50. The grant funds were received from AARP and the assessment was completed. When the County of Waldo received certification as an Age-Friendly County, Aging Well in Waldo County was now eligible to apply for and receive additional grant funding to create an Action Plan for the County residents. This Action Plan was recently completed and released. To read about Aging Well in Waldo County's assessment and action plan reports, go to <http://agingwellinwaldocounty.org> and click on the correct report.

#### Aging Well in Waldo County

The mission of Aging Well in Waldo County is to mobilize our communities to identify and address the needs of our aging friends and neighbors, striving for inclusive, supportive, and safe communities for all.



AARP Maine State Director Lori Parham congratulates Jan Dodge, Chair of Aging Well in Waldo County and Triad volunteer/committee member Sheriff Jeffrey Trafton on Waldo County becoming the first Maine County to receive the Age-Friendly County certification from AARP.

**AGING WELL IN WALDO COUNTY**

*Creating an age-friendly Community*

### Waldo County Dispatch Supervisors Get Certified



Waldo County Shift Supervisors Mike Larrivee and Linda Wry-Remillard recently acquired the Spillman Application Administration Specialist certifications. This was a weeklong training and both Mike and Linda passed the class with flying colors. Certification allows them to maintain the system to ensure it is running at full capacity and gives them the tools and knowledge to troubleshoot any problems that may arise. They are also able to educate personnel on system features.

Waldo County is proud to announce Dispatch Supervisor **Linda Wry-Remillard** has become a certified **Emergency Numbers Professional**. This is quite an accomplishment as it required over 200 hours of studying, followed by a three-hour, 150 question exam. By successfully completing this certification, Linda demonstrated a mastery of the comprehensive knowledge base required for emergency number program management and confirmed her commitment to the 9-1-1 profession by showing her ability to be a leader in public safety. Linda is now one of only six certified in the entire State of Maine, the first and only in Waldo County, and one of only two ENPs that work within the Dispatch field.



~Click here to read the full article.



### MAINE COASTAL REGIONAL REENTRY CENTER PREA CERTIFIED

Submitted by  
Correctional Administrator  
Raymond Porter



The Waldo County Sheriff's office is very proud to share that our Maine Coastal Regional Reentry Center recently became the second county facility in the State of Maine to become PREA Certified on June 25, 2018. The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) is a federal law established to support the elimination and prevention of sexual assault and sexual misconduct in correctional systems. As other County's facilities can attest, a PREA audit is a stringent process requiring the facility to be 100% compliant with all standards. These standards cover such areas as policy, prevention planning, responsive planning, training and education, screening for risk of sexual victimization and abusiveness, reporting, investigations, medical and mental care, data collection and review. The PREA Program in Waldo County was created over an 18-month period and involved the development and implementation of "Zero-Tolerance" policies through a facility-wide organized process that includes a comprehensive educational process for the residents.

Residents coming through our program are taught their rights to be free from sexual abuse and harassment, and have access to information about reporting options, sexual abuse prevention, and victim advocacy. The tremendous effort by our dedicated staff paid off, and this process only increased the level of communication and safety for our staff and residents. In the final audit report, the auditor noted, "Interviews with residents revealed that the facility staff were approachable and responsive to resident issues. All of the residents that were interviewed stated that they felt safe at the facility and that they were comfortable reporting any issues, especially sexual harassment or sexual abuse, to staff members."



### Old County Jail & Barn Sold

The Old Jailer's House and Barn on 45 Congress Street in Belfast passed into the hands of a new owner for the first time since they were built in 1887. Both buildings were constructed for just under \$3,000.00 and have been the property of the County of Waldo over 130 consecutive years. In 2017, the County completed remediation of hazardous materials in the Old Jailer's House, Barn and Old County Jail after obtaining Brownfields Cleanup Grant funds. ~Click here for more.

### Waldo County to Host 2019 Annual Convention of Maine Counties

MCCA has designated Point Lookout, in Waldo County, to be the location of the 2019 Annual Convention of Maine Counties on September 26-29.

