



# COUNTY NEWS

## Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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On December 20, President Trump signed into law a five-year reauthorization of the farm bill. The president's signature comes after a bipartisan group of legislators worked for months to resolve disagreements between the two farm bills passed by the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate earlier this year. The five-year, \$867 billion reauthorization will help support county economies and provide critical investments



President signs five-year farm bill reauthorization containing several key wins for counties

to rural and underserved communities. Throughout the farm bill process, NACo helped draft bill text and amendments to preserve and promote key county priorities. Specifically, the final package creates a new Rural Innovation Stronger Economy grant program, reinstates the Undersecretary for Rural Development and codifies the interagency Council on Rural Community Innovation and Economic Development. Provisions include language that would allow counties with regional jails to exclude incarcerated individuals from population caps for funding eligibility under USDA Rural Development programs and a provision that allows counties to use USDA broadband loans, which is prohibited under current law. Additionally, the nutrition title of the conferenced farm bill did not include proposed cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program which could have resulted in more than two million individuals losing or seeing a reduction in their SNAP benefits.

*~Click here for the full article by NACo Legislative Associate Austin Igleheart*

# York County Maine

Est. 1636



### YORK COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD



2018 Elections brought about several changes in York County Government. Coworkers said goodbye to two County Commissioners, Sallie Chandler who has been a commissioner for twelve years, and Cynthia Chadwick-Granger, who was appointed to the commission by Governor LePage. In their stead, York County will soon welcome newly elected Commissioners, Robert Andrews and Allen Sicard, as well as Register of Deeds Nancy Hammond and Treasurer Bobbi Mills. Progress made with the assistance of the former commissioners will continue to impact and benefit county citizens through the approval for the funding of the Layman Way Recovery Center. After two years of joint planning, the grand opening was in May.

### Layman Way Recovery Center

The Center is a collaborative effort of York County Government, York County District Attorney's Office and York County Shelter



A Collaborative Effort of



Programs, Inc. The Recovery Center is a 24-bed addiction treatment center. The purpose of the center is to offer immediate access to addiction treatment services for individuals who are involved in the criminal justice system and might otherwise be subjected to long periods of pretrial incarceration at the York County Jail.

### ENSO RECOVERY

A CULTURE OF COMPASSION, CREATIVITY, COMMITMENT AND COMMUNITY

Commissioners also recently approved a plan to start offering medical recovery to inmates at the York County Jail through ENSO Recovery.

York County continued to support county employee health through an annual event organized by the Human Resource Department. The Wellness Fair took place in April of 2018 where more than twenty vendors were brought in to provide wellness education to employees and their families.



Recently York County held its first gingerbread house decorating contest, receiving some wonderful entries made by individual employees and others made by whole departments! The picture to the right was made by the Registry of Deeds staff of Walkers Point.



### EMA Open House

Above, local high school students learning about EMA operations during the annual 2018 open house in September. The Life Flight helicopter made an appearance and many educational booths were set up to illustrate the various resources available in York County.



EMA has developed an Unmanned Aerial System program to assist Towns and Local Responders with Search and Rescue and other response needs during emergencies in the spring of 2017 and to date have provided Local Communities with 27 live assistance missions.



The most unique aspect of the program is that the team of pilots who must be certified to FAA standards is a completely volunteer group, including the team lead being a commercial real estate broker/ commercial pilot, a medical doctor, a United Airlines pilot, President of the local chapter of search and rescue among many other professional individuals who make themselves available 'on call' for any type of response. The program has been highly successful and is called upon by many of the towns needing immediate assistance. The advantage to the local communities is that while their already short staffed 1st responders are engaged in the event, like fighting a fire, the volunteer team arrives simultaneously and provides support and assistance.

*~Click here for more about this program.*

### GIVING back.

York County employees pride themselves on their contributions to various local charitable organizations and fundraising drives throughout the year. Some of these include: the Sanford Backpack Program, School Supply Drive, Children's Advocacy Center, Red Cross Blood Drives, York County Food Pantry, Toys for Tots, Santa's Cause Inc. The picture to the right shows HR Director Linda Corliss with donated school supplies.



### Employee Recognition

Deb Ham receives her 30-year award from the Registry of Deeds at the annual Employee Years of Service Recognition Night.



The picture to the right shows Rachel Sherman receiving her 30-year award from Deputy District Attorney Justina McGettigan!



Kathy Dumont with Major Paul Mitchell and Commissioner Mike Cote enjoying the 2018 annual employee picnic.



In 2018, York County collected for **Santa's Cause** to help make sure needy children in Maine's Foster Care System have at least one gift to open on Christmas morning.

Wow! Thanks for doing that!