



COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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Electric car sales were set to rise 30 percent last year in the United States, according to the Electric Drive Transportation Association. And sales are projected to rise to 1.2 million by 2025, representing 7 percent of all car sales, the Edison Foundation Institute for Electric Innovation said. The top metro areas for electric vehicles: Los Angeles, the Bay Area, Atlanta, New York/New Jersey/Connecticut, San Diego, Seattle and Chicago, according to IHS, Inc. With an increase in electric cars comes the need for the infrastructure to support them — specifically, electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Without them? It's the single biggest obstacle to increasing the adoption of electric vehicles in the United States, according to the Rocky Mountain Institute. Currently, there are about 17,000 electric stations or 47,000 electric car charging outlets in the United States, according to the Department of Energy (DOE). The country will need about 100,000 to 200,000 charging stations to fulfill future demand, according to the DOE. Some counties around the country are adding public electric car charging stations to county-owned properties. Montgomery County, MD. is being proactive. "About three years ago, we began putting electric car charging systems in our parking garages," said Al Roshdieh, director of Montgomery County's Department of Transportation. The county charges residents what the county pays for the electricity, he said. Typically, drivers pay about \$2.50 to \$3 for a four-hour charge. A car-charging station typically costs the county about \$10,000. Availability of public charge points and workplace charging is linked with electric vehicle market uptake, according to the International Council on Clean Transportation. [~Click here for more.](#)



Car Chargers Gain a Larger Footprint in Counties

By NACo Senior Staff Writer Mary Ann Barton



Penobscot County was incorporated in 1816 and the county seat is Bangor. The Penobscot River, Maine's longest, runs through the county. It is one of Maine's largest counties, covering over 3,250 square miles. The county borders Piscataquis County on the west and Washington and Hancock Counties on the east. Penobscot County has a population of 146,000 people.



Penobscot Regional Communications Center

is a Dispatch/Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) facility with enhanced 9-1-1 capability, operated on a 24-hour basis, assigned the responsibility of receiving 9-1-1 calls and, as appropriate, directly dispatching emergency services or passing 9-1-1

calls to public or private safety agencies for the citizens of Penobscot County. It is also the PSAP for 72,000 people who reside in Aroostook County which is the most northern county in the State of Maine. Communication Operators are required to pass an oral board, criminal record check and polygraph before they are hired. They go through a Field Training Operator program which lasts anywhere from three to six months. Some certifications and licenses must be renewed every two years and require a minimum of 24 hours of specialized training.

Working in a PSAP/Dispatch Center is very fast paced and highly stressful. Employees must be able to multi-task and make split second decisions. PRCC handles approximately 180 E9-1-1 calls and 800 calls on the in-house telephone each day. They do over 4,000 Emergency Medical Dispatches (EMDs) a month and are responsible for the dispatching of ninety-one agencies in Penobscot County. Dispatchers are required to work shifts, weekends and holidays. When disasters happen, dispatchers are required to work when most people are with their families. They are the true "unsung heroes" of public safety.



In June of 2016, the Unorganized Territory of Penobscot County received approval for the Passadumkeag Wind Park Omnibus Municipal Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District and Development Program. This was Penobscot County's first TIF award, which required us to put into place a process for handling requests for funding. During the next year, funding applications were developed, a TIF Committee was established and a contract for financial services with Maine Stream Finance was signed. In the fall of 2017 we received our first application for funding from the Matagamon Lake Association, who oversees and maintains the Matagamon Dam for the benefit of fish, wildlife, recreational values and downstream safety.

The Matagamon Dam is located on the East Branch of the Penobscot River in T6 R8 WELS, Penobscot County, and impounds Grand Lake Matagamon. The dam has a total drainage area of 496 square miles. It is a concrete gravity structure constructed in 1941, 218.5 feet long and 30 feet high and was built to replace the timber crib structure constructed in the 1880's.

Over the years, the Matagamon Lake Association has partnered with many different agencies to complete much needed repairs to the dam. These improvements included fishway repairs in 2003, replacement of the gate hoist and generator in 2009 and the replacement of 9 spillway gates in 2015.

The Association's request for TIF funding would be to complete a two-phase resurfacing project of the concrete structure. This work would include chipping down to sound concrete, adding new dowels and rebar, installing an armor plate to raise the elevation of the dam and then filling the void with new concrete. The TIF Committee has completed its initial review of the project and has forwarded the application to Maine Stream Finance for the financial review. The Penobscot County Commissioners are very supportive of this project due to the many benefits provided by the operation of this dam.



Let's Hear Some Good News!



Earlier this month, members of the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office and a member of the Marine Patrol were honored to help pass out awards at the Winter Special Olympics. Athletes participated in many winter events, and onlookers witnessed true sportsmanship not often seen these days. Congratulations went to all the athletes and Hermon Mountain Ski Resort for hosting this amazing event.



Winter Special Olympics



100 YEAR CELEBRATION

Recently, members of the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office were honored to attend the 100th birthday of Mr. John Merry. Mr. Merry worked for the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office under Sheriff Pat Dwyer from 1964-1967. County employees felt blessed to be invited to the celebration and to be given the opportunity to say, "Thanks". Sheriff Troy Morton couldn't help but ask if he was still interested in working for Penobscot County, but for the rate of pay he received in 1964. By his priceless reaction, it was clear what their visit meant to him. Sheriff Morton wished him a Happy 100th Birthday and thanked him for his service to the citizens of Penobscot County and to our Country during World War II.



Welcome to the Team!

The field of Corrections is clearly one of the most important parts of the criminal justice system. Congratulations to the 31st Basic Corrections Class and the four new Correctional Officers representing Penobscot County!

