



COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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AN OVERVIEW OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION APPOINTED COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS

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Counties are responsible for providing core services, such as human services, criminal justice, public welfare and infrastructure, to communities of all sizes across America. To help with the increasing complexity of county activities and the range of responsibilities, new research shows that many county governments appoint county administrators which is a function with various titles and fulfilled by different county positions around the country. Most often, county administrators implement the board's policy, run the daily operations of the county and prepare the annual budget. "Professional county administrators can be instrumental in fulfilling the vast responsibilities of county governments," said McHenry County Administrator Peter Austin, the incoming president of the National Association of County Administrators. "County managers or administrators are uniquely positioned to understand all the services counties provide and make level-headed recommendations to the elected officials." National Association of Counties (NACo) has released a comprehensive analysis of county administrators across the country and by region. The report provides regional snapshots of the data, an analysis of state and county legislation on county administrators and a historical perspective on the trend towards formalizing the county administrator role. [~Please click here to read the Overview of County Administration.](#)



Somerset County Dispatchers Connect with Seniors

The Somerset Friendly Caller program allows seniors independence in their lives every day. If dispatch doesn't hear from them in the morning, someone calls to make sure they're okay. "It kind of stemmed out of a need of realizing that we live in very rural area, and have a large, rural population of more elderly people or people who live alone," said Michael Smith, Somerset County Regional Communications director. Not only is it comforting for seniors, but it's also refreshing for the 911 center. "Usually people are calling because they have an emergency, and that call breaks up that flow for dispatchers just to have a different feeling with the caller," said Smith. One dispatcher says she loves the program and they're always looking for more people to include. "They're funny. They know us by name. Our first names. They know who we are when we call and that they're having a good day. It's always nice just to talk to them," said Kelly McQuarrie, dispatcher supervisor at Somerset County Regional Communications Center. [~Click here to read the full report by Brenna Kelly.](#)



The month of June is dedicated to raising awareness about health issues that affect men throughout their lives. This initiative is also intended to educate the public on ways to prevent health problems and encourage the early detection and treatment of disease in boys and men. Now is the perfect time to get checked! There are some health issues that only affect men, like prostate cancer and decreased testosterone. Colon cancer and heart disease are major health problems that affect more men than women but can be prevented with early detection, through screening and early diagnosis. Seeking out a healthcare provider to fit your individual needs as well as being informed about your health risks is essential to overall health and wellness. [Click here](#) to look at the age appropriate health screenings listed from the Men's Health Network. And remember to use your NACo Prescription Discount Card whenever possible. If you don't have one, [print one here.](#)



Washington County employees collaborated with Maine State legislators Rep. Will Tuell of East Machias, Rep. Henry J. Bear of the Houlton Band of Maliseets, Rep. Brian Hobart, of the Transportation Committee as well as Madonna Soctomah of the Passamaquoddy Tribe to commemorate the dedication of the Jeremiah O'Brien Bridge during the 2015 Margaretta Days Festival. This annual festival in Machias encourages everyone to enjoy travelling back in time to life in 1775. It celebrates the American Revolution Downeast, specifically the Battle of the Margaretta, the first Naval Battle of the American Revolution, the beginning of the US Merchant Marines, and the Battle of the Rim when the British returned for revenge and were defeated by the Native Americans and patriots. County folks such as Register of Probate Carlene Holmes, County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald, Judge of Probate Lyman L. Holmes, and County Archives Committee members Valdine Atwood and Susan Wright joined other Machias Historical Society members to make the full day of activities possible including a full pancake breakfast, parade, reenactment demonstrations, crafts, booths and even performances from the United States Navy Band Northeast. [~For more information and photos of the event please visit http://www.margarettadays.com.](#)



Shooting Star Competition

Crack shots from fifteen sheriff's departments convened at the Capitol City Rifle and Pistol Club in Augusta to compete to see which agency has the best marksmen. The Maine Sheriffs Association held its second annual Shawn Donahue Memorial "Shooting Star" Competition, recognizing the best shots in the state and the best-shooting sheriff's department. The competition honors Donahue, who was Washington County's Chief Deputy when he died unexpectedly in 2014. "I think it says a lot of the law enforcement community to all come together with the camaraderie of all this and the support of Kennebec County to put this together," said Chris Donahue, a corporal in the Washington County department and brother of Shawn. "He would have been very humbled by all this." Donahue was a 19-year veteran of law enforcement, holding posts throughout Maine, including stints as police chief in Baileyville and chief deputy at the Washington County Sheriff's Office. Great competition and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Penobscot County is the team to beat next year, taking the overall trophy home to Bangor. [~Click here for more with a full article by Jesse Scardina.](#)

