



COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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Howard County, Md. suffered severe flash flooding Sunday, May 27, Memorial Day weekend, on the same scale as July 30, 2016. More than 8 inches of rain fell on the area — an amount equal to “two months of rain in two hours,” according to AccuWeather.



Second '1,000-year' flood hits historic Md. city in Howard County

Video posted on social media showed cars in the county seat of Ellicott City careening down Main Street, being swept away by a wall of ravaging floodwaters. Howard County first responders located the body of a missing man in the Patapsco River Tuesday. He was last seen at the height of the flooding on Main Street trying to assist. “It’s devastating for all of us, it’s a difficult scene down there,” Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman said May 28 during a news conference. Local business owners, he noted “have gone through hell to get where they are today. We told them we’re there for them in any way possible.” Kittleman and Gov. Larry Hogan (R) declared the county under a state of emergency and held their first news conference after dark the same day of the flood. The county assisted about 300 residents May 27 and about 30 of those were water rescues, County Fire Chief John Butler said. The county’s 911 center fielded more than 1,100 phone calls during a six-hour window. Local businesses were just getting back on their feet after the flood hit two years ago; most of the businesses had returned and the area saw 20 new businesses open.

~Click here to see the full article by NACo Senior Staff Writer Mary Ann Barton



Visiting Piscataquis County

This county is the size of the State of Connecticut, and is located in central Maine. It has a population of just over 17,000 people and with miles and miles of forested land and a population of less than six inhabitants per square mile, it is still considered a "frontier county." Natural resources are an important part of the heritage, both for work and play.

Welcome to this haven for outdoor enthusiasts. Fishing, hunting, camping, hiking or a quiet weekend at a summer cottage can all be enjoyed here. Read a book by the fire in winter or bundle up and hit the miles of snowmobile and cross-country ski trails. Pull big fish up through auger holes and take plenty of pictures for the folks back home!

Residents are very proud of their region, and love to share Maine’s great outdoors where eagles still fly, and deer graze the fields. After admiring the local flora and fauna, be sure to come into town for dinner, shopping and a show.



The Piscataquis County Office of the District Attorney (DA), located in the Piscataquis Shiretown of Dover-Foxcroft, is part of Prosecutorial District #5, which encompasses Piscataquis and Penobscot Counties. The office is situated at 159 East Main Street, Suite #11, in the Piscataquis Judicial Center. The Penobscot County Office of the DA is located at the Penobscot County Courthouse in Bangor. The DA’s Office for Prosecutorial District is comprised of the DA, one Deputy DA, seven full-time Assistant DAs, plus support staff. The office is responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases, civil violations, traffic infractions and juvenile cases in courts located in Newport, Bangor, Lincoln, Millinocket and Dover-Foxcroft. It serves approximately 30 Law enforcement agencies throughout the Prosecutorial District.

In April of 2013, the Dover-Foxcroft District Court and the Piscataquis County Superior Court combined to become the Piscataquis County Unified Court. Arraignments, initial appearances, motions, juvenile matters, and trials are held in Dover-Foxcroft on the first Monday of every month, excluding holidays and at other times if ordered by the Court. Trials and Dispositional Conferences are also held each month. The Piscataquis County Grand Jury meets in January and June of each year and considers between twelve and fifteen cases each session. The traverse jury meets in March, July, and November for periods of 1-3 weeks at a time to handle any criminal matters that request a jury trial. The DA also has the responsibility of giving legal counsel to the County Commissioners when needed.

The DA’s Office operates a program of victim assistance that is designed to provide info and support for victims and witnesses who become involved in the criminal justice system. There are four victim advocates in the Bangor office and one victim advocate in the Dover office who also assists in the Newport District Court. This office collects restitution for victims of crime. Just in Piscataquis County alone approximately \$30-\$33,000 in restitution is collected during a year. The Victim-Witness Advocates work extensively with child abuse and domestic violence cases and are also involved in community out-reach programs. In addition to meeting with victims and witnesses before the court date, they have arranged an on-call system to minimize the number of necessary court appearances.

In Piscataquis County alone, approximately 800 adult criminal and juvenile cases are prosecuted each year, approximately 300 civil violations, and 100 traffic infractions returned from the Violations Bureau to District Court for trial. The public is welcome to attend court sessions to observe the system at work.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Updated



Piscataquis County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has updated its Hazard Mitigation Plan. It was decided to complete a multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan to include and incorporate each of its member towns, plantations and its portion of the Unorganized Territory. This is due to the fact that the majority of these communities have limited populations, finances and/or governmental structures. This combination of attributes makes it a challenge to contemplate and prepare adequate mitigation plans on an individual basis. This county-wide mitigation planning effort encouraged agencies at all levels, local residents, businesses, and the non-profit sector to participate in the mitigation planning and implementation process. This broader public participation enabled the development of mitigation measures that are supported by the various stakeholders and reflects the needs of the county-wide community. The Piscataquis County Hazard Mitigation Planning Participants decided to review only natural hazards at this time.

~Click here to read the final updated plan.



Congratulations to Lt Jamie Kane who was named the Guilford Grange's "Citizen of the Year". Piscataquis County is fortunate to have a guy of Jamie's character and integrity as part of the SO team. He's not just a very good law enforcement officer and DARE teacher [20+ years], he coaches the Piscataquis County High School baseball team and is active in other school projects. The lady next to him is his mom.

Emergency Management



The Piscataquis County EMA Director serves as a link between local jurisdictions and the State for both the collection and the distributing of information during a disaster. The EMA is not a replacement for police, fire, ambulance, Red Cross, or other emergency response groups, but rather coordinates response and recovery in declared disasters when a disaster extends beyond the normal mutual aid boundaries of the affected community, or when several communities are involved. The County Director provides guidance, planning models, home study courses, and workshops on emergency management to local communities and their staff. All County EMA’s have developed mutual aid agreements with neighboring counties for the sharing of personnel, and sometimes other resources, during emergencies. The natural disasters most likely to occur within Piscataquis County are winter storms, flooding, wildfires, and severe thunderstorms. The most likely man-made disasters include railroad derailments, tanker truck accidents, or a major structure fire.

