



COUNTY NEWS

Maine County Commissioners Association Newsletter

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Two dozen county officials from across the country gathered earlier this month in Polk County, Iowa, to participate in a Stepping Up peer exchange. Stepping Up is a national initiative that aims to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails. More than 450 counties, including 59 in Iowa, have passed a resolution to join Stepping Up since the initiative started. Polk County was chosen for the site of the second

Stepping Up peer exchange due to its innovations in using data to create a collaborative, system-wide effort to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses and substance use disorders in its jail. The peer exchange was organized around the recommended four key measures of the Stepping Up initiative: reducing the number of people with mental illnesses booked into jails, shortening the length of stay in jail for people with mental illnesses, increasing the number of people with mental illnesses connected to treatment, and reducing recidivism for people with mental illnesses in jails, tracking changes. Establishing baseline data on each of these measures and then tracking changes over time will show the resulting impact. Through this lens, peer exchange participants heard from representatives from all sectors of the Polk County health, human services & justice systems. [~Click here for the full article by NACo Justice Associate Jessica Perez](#)



Around this time every year a group of employees reaches out to schools within our County asking principals and guidance counselors to give us a list of items we can provide for children in need. With 10 municipalities – we cannot reach out to every town every year, so we rotate towns year-to-year. We hang the wishes on a tree in the Courthouse common area and from coats to clothing, toys to toothpaste – our employees grab tags and come together to make the holidays a little brighter for kids in our community. But even more happily – many residents visiting the Courthouse grab tags and return with gifts, which over the past few years has made it possible to reach out to even more kids in need.



Sagadahoc County is proud of its efforts in combatting domestic violence. Recognizing aggressive enforcement and prosecution along with appropriate sanctions is the key to success. Understanding several entities and agencies play a critical role in this endeavor, Sagadahoc County relies on a team approach for our success. Law enforcement, prosecution, probation, Maine Pretrial Services, New Hope for Women and the Certified Batterers Class meet regularly, and all have a voice in addressing this societal problem. From this collaboration came additional programs and services that aide in this effort such as the Domestic Violence Court, Electronic Monitoring Team, the Sagadahoc Working Group on Family Violence as well as representation on the Maine Commission of Domestic and Sexual Abuse. This collaborative approach has led to a decline in reported domestic violence cases over the past several years.

Registry of Deeds in the Digital Age



The Deeds Office has completed the project of placing all of Sagadahoc's document images onto the public database dating back to 1826. These are now searchable by Book/Page with any documents dating back to the 1930's indexed to be searchable by grantor/grantee as well. The indexing of the documents is an ongoing project to be completed back to 1826 sometime prior to the end of the year 2019.

Also, Deeds is vigorously promoting Property Fraud Alert sign-ups to all present and new property owners as a way to stop land owner property fraud. We continue to send out Press Releases as well as targeting any public that visits our office. We have shared the pamphlets with our Town Offices as well in an attempt to try and reach even more property owners. The web address for this sign-up is <https://www.propertyfraudalert.com>



Sagadahoc County Communications Center receives life-saving location data from Apple and Android for 9-1-1 calls via the RapidSOS NG911 Clearinghouse.

The first and most important question in every 9-1-1 call is "What's the address of your emergency?" Knowing the caller's location is the first step to dispatching life-saving emergency responders. With RapidLite, Sagadahoc County Communication Center is now able to access the NG911 Clearinghouse to receive fast and accurate location data from Apple and Android devices during 9-1-1 calls.

Sagadahoc County Communications Center always seeks to implement 9-1-1 technology tools that will improve emergency response for constituents. With fast, accurate location from this system we will be able to supplement the current 9-1-1 database to accurately place a caller's location. RapidLite SOS does not replace our 9-1-1 system, but it is another tool in the center's toolbelt to assist when location issues come up.

RapidLite is a completely free solution available with no commitment to every authorized PSAP center, providing invaluable information to call-takers and dispatchers as they work to send callers appropriate help quickly. We encourage fellow PSAPs in the state to also sign up. Please reach out to us if you have any questions.



Sagadahoc County Commissioner Carol Grose, District 3 Including: Arrowsic, West Bath, Georgetown, Phippsburg, Richmond, Woolwich & Perkins Township

There are milestones at which point the past can be put into prospective. Commissioner Carol Grose is celebrating her tenth year serving the citizens of Sagadahoc County. A couple of her many attributes are a strong desire to do things by the book and attention to detail regarding every public dollar spent. Looking at past achievements, "keeping taxes down" has been a focal point and carrot dangling as the prize in front of other ongoing objectives. Comm. Grose makes her home in Woolwich with her canine companion, Dixie. Aside from politics in which she loves a good debate, she is fond of antiquing, and has a passion to help the homeless, victims of domestic violence and the elderly.

From the United Way Website



United Way of Mid Coast Maine's fall campaign succeeded in reaching its \$1,750,000 goal, Chair Joel Merry announced at the Campaign Finale held at Bowdoin College. Volunteers on the Campaign "Cabinet" raised signs revealing the total number raised: \$1,771,911. Merry, Sagadahoc County Sheriff, said "thank you to all of you who worked so hard on this Campaign, and thank you to everyone in the community who gave!" Merry said he was so proud of his community, not only for their generosity in this campaign, but for all the ways in which people work together and help each other.

