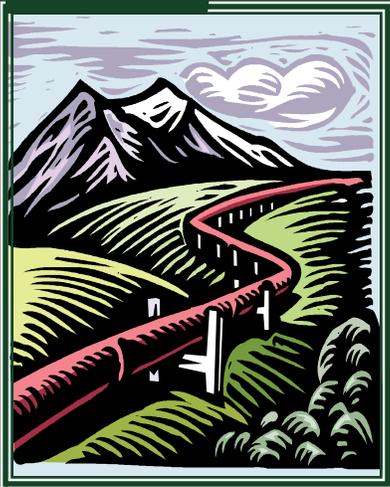


VETERAN'S RECEPTION HELD AT THE SOMERSET COUNTY JAIL



On Wednesday, November 4th, 2009, the Somerset County Commissioners and the Somerset County Bicentennial Committee held a Veteran's Reception at the Somerset County Jail in Honor of our Veterans. All Somerset County Posts were invited to this event. The evening began with the presentation of the colors, followed by a prayer from the Post Chaplain. Immediately following the prayer, all those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Chairman, Robert Dunphy, welcomed all those in attendance and brief introductions were given. Immediately following the introductions, a roast pork dinner was enjoyed by all. Following the dinner, a Veterans Video was played showing what a Veteran is and the sacrifice they have made for our Country. Commissioner Dunphy then introduced the Guest Speaker, Ron LaPage, who then gave a heart warming speech on who Veterans are "ordinary people, accomplishing extraordinary things". The evening began to wind down with a video tribute to our Veterans prepared by Somerset County's Technical Service Department and the presentation of Somerset County Veteran Proclamations, which were presented to each Somerset County Post by the County Commissioners. Selected Post members then proceeded with the removal of the Colors and the Post Chaplain closed the evening with a Prayer.

Somerset County has great appreciation and admiration for the many local men and women who have served our country. These men and women shall be remembered for their sacrifice, their quiet courage and their exemplary service. Let us all remember this Veterans Day, our soldiers, for their valor, their loyalty, their dedication, and their selfless sacrifices. Join us in Proclaiming November 11th "Somerset County's Veterans Day".



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SOMERSET COUNTY CHARTER UPDATE....

On October 28th, the County Commissioners extended the Charter Commissions Term for 180 days at the request of the Commission. Elaine Aloes, Vice Chair of the Charter Commission and a Somerset County Budget Committee Member stated that the Commission needs more time to address revisions to the proposed Charter. Several County Officials were not in favor of the proposed Charter and proposed several changes which the Commission has taken under consideration. The County Commissioners are hopeful that during this extension period, the Commission will draft a Charter that is acceptable to the citizens of Somerset County.

SOMERSET COUNTY RECEIVES 1.3 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS

In January of 2009, the Somerset County Commissioners signed an agreement with Russ Reid Company of Washington D.C. to assist them in securing federal funds for the following projects:



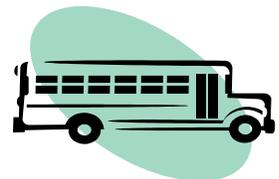
1) The first project was for the upgrading of the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In 2003, the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) performed a vulnerability assessment on Somerset County's Emergency Operations Center. The assessment came back documenting numerous inadequacies and functionality issues with the Center and County Officials became extremely concerned about the risks and liability and knew they had to do something. Timing was not in their favor, for Somerset County had just built a 30 million dollar jail facility based on the assumption that boarding revenues would assist the County taxpayers in paying for this huge debt not only to have the State turn around and introduce "Jail Consolidation".

Due to the new law, Somerset County had lost its ability to collect the boarding revenues it needed to help pay for this huge debt. Not only did County Officials feel like they had been swept under the rug, they knew that the likely hood of the taxpayers supporting another capital need was slim to none. Searching for another alternative to address the immediate risks and liability issues associated with inadequacies and functionality issues of the EOC, the Commissioners signed a contract with Russ Reid Company to assist them with the application process and follow-up needed to convince the congressional delegation and staff that this was project was extremely important to the public safety of Somerset County. In August and September, Congressional Delegation members and staff, visited the County's EOC and concluded that this project was indeed extremely important to Somerset County in order to address public safety issues County wide. In October, Somerset County received the news that the EOC upgrade request had been funded at the federal level in the amount of \$550,000 dollars. This success has brought tremendous relief and excitement to Somerset County Officials. Now, they can begin to address the inadequacies and functionality issues cited in MEMA's vulnerability assessment.

- 2) The second project was to address communication issues up the Rte 201 Corridor. County Officials were extremely concerned with the inability of law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and ambulance services, to communicate with one another during an emergency response; or the inability of HAZMAT teams and EMA officials to communicate with each other during a disaster along the Rte 201 Corridor. For years, first responders have spoken out about their inability to communicate by cell phone or radio in certain areas throughout the "Route 201 Corridor" of Somerset County. County Officials, through federal funding, now had the opportunity to assist these agencies in resolving this issue by proposing the construction of at least six new communication towers strategically located up the Route 201 Corridor. In November, Somerset County received notification from Russ Reid that the funding for three of towers (\$500,000) was highly probable. County Officials are once again, very excited about the probability of addressing these communication issues up the Rte 201 Corridor and are currently working on a plan that will not only address these communication issues but provide additional revenue to help support the maintenance and upgrades of these towers without having to go to the taxpayers for additional funding.



- 3) The third project was submitted by Somerset County's Economic Development Corporation addressing transportation issues along the two major East/West and North/South Corridors. This request was for the purchase of two 18 passenger-accessible buses to provide service along two major East/West and North/South Corridors within the county. One route would cover the Corridor from Pittsfield to Norridgewock; the second route would cover the corridor from Fairfield to Madison. The morning and late afternoon routes would be designed as commuter routes offering transportation to major employers, medical providers, and other destinations critical to the well-being of citizens in Somerset County. It would also offer transportation access to the youth attending physical activity programs and allow the general public access to sites of interest. In November, County Officials were notified by Russ Reid that this project (\$300,000) was also on its way to being funded; however, the funding would be funneled through Maine Department of Transportation.



Corbin Academy students attend Crossroads Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility Dedication...

Corbin Academy students attend Crossroads Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility Dedication...

Commissioner Lynda Quinn and Corbin Academy students as well as many other distinguished guests were invited to attend Crossroads Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility Dedication on September 17th at Waste Management in Norridgewock. The students learned first hand how landfill gas will generate up to 4 megawatts of electricity to feed 3,500 homes. How? By using an intricate piping network that will gather the gas from the landfill, compress it and feed it to three engines; these engines will then generate power and be able to supply energy for the New England power grid. Students learned how landfill gas, like wind and solar power, is a natural resource that can produce clean energy and provide a stable, regional source of alternative energy and



provide a stable, regional source of alternative energy. The facility dedication began with a welcome from District Manager, Jeff McGowan followed by remarks from the Honorable John Baldacci, New England Engineering Manager, Steve Poggi and WM President, Chris DeSantis. A tour was then followed by the Ribbon-Cutting and Dedication. The students of Corbin Academy were able to participate in the Ribbon Cutting.

1st Row Left to Right: Corbin Academy Students – Jacob Warren, Christy Smith, James Norton and Emily York and WM District Manager, Jeff McGowan.

2nd Row – Chris DeSantis, VP, WM New England; Honorable Governor John Baldacci and Steve Poggi, WM New England Engineer

Update from the District Attorney's Office....

The District Attorney's Office has a new face added to its staff. Julie Smith of Madison has joined the District Attorney's Office as one of its legal secretaries. Julie is our receptionist and will be handling all our restitution collection and distribution. She can be contacted at our Skowhegan Office during regular business hours with any questions regarding restitution.

We are also pleased to announce that Kristen Washburn is our new Victim/Witness Advocate, a position that was vacated by Pamela Mitchell. We thank Pam for her many years of dedicated service. Kristen will be responsible for assisting victims and witnesses through the court process and can be contacted at our Skowhegan Office during regular business hours with any questions that victims or witnesses have regarding their cases and the court process.

District Attorney Fowle is also pleased to announce that his office is aggressively prosecuting crimes against older people. There has been a new Multidisciplinary group created to serve as watchdogs in crimes against older people and against people incapable of handling financial and other matters. "We want older people to get help right away. Criminals who target elderly people are going to get special focus and scrutiny from this office. We are going to pursue them vigorously, and in this effort we have a lot of partners." If anyone is aware of any elderly person who is a victim of a crime, abuse or exploitation, please contact Kristen Washburn at our office and it will be investigated.



Building Healthy Relationships Through Effective Governing

Somerset County Courthouse
41 Court Street
Skowhegan, ME 04976

Phone: 474-9861—Fax: 474-7405

Email: somerset@somersetcounty-me.org

About our Website:

At www.somersetcountycommissioners.com you will find links to all County Departments and their web sites; Commissioner meeting schedule, agendas, and minutes; Budget Committee information; Charter Commission Committee information; Request for proposals; and Employment opportunities; and other upcoming events.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

Departmental Address & Phone Directory

Located at 41 Court St. Skowhegan

County Administrator - 474-9861
County Treasurer/Finance - 474-5776
Registry of Deeds - 474-3421
Registry of Probate - 474-9861
Economic Development - 474-0166
District Attorney's Office - 474-2423
Somerset Technical Services— 858-4261

Located at 8 County Drive Skowhegan

Emergency Management - 474-6788
Telecommunications - 474-6386

Located at 131 East Madison RD Madison

Somerset County Jail - 474-9591
Sheriff's Department - 474-9591