



County Of
CUMBERLAND
CHRONICLE

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Message from the Board Chair - Commissioner Clenott:

I am glad we have increased our outreach effort with the "Cumberland County Chronicle". We expect it will provide all our constituents with a better understanding of what Cumberland County government is about, what we are doing and are attempting to do to improve the future of our communities and the lives of our citizens. This is the first issue of this regularly scheduled newsletter. We welcome input from all municipalities, citizens, businesses and legislators to give an all around picture of what is going on in Cumberland County.

Unfortunately, this will likely be the first and last issue I will address as your Commissioner. I will be sliding into a different life, hopefully, with gainful employment on January 1, 2009. I leave with great memories from my 16 years as Commissioner. It has certainly been a challenge, but one that I have truly loved. I will miss all my many friends around the County, but be assured, I will always be available.

Thank you (particularly our wonderful County Staff) for your support over the years, for choosing me to be your commissioner and for all the memories.

Esther Clenott

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST BEING HELD

On Wednesday, December 17th, from 8-10:30 AM there will be an important county legislative breakfast held at the Holiday Inn West by exit 48. A number of organizations and individuals are co-sponsoring this event with the theme "There is strength in unity."

The co-sponsors are the Greater Portland Council of Governments, Representative Meredith Strang Burgess, Senator Bill Diamond, the County of Cumberland, and the County Partners representing:

- * The Cumberland County Extension Association,
- * Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District,
- * The Portland Public Library,
- * Threshold to Maine Resource Conservation and Development Area, and
- * Southern Maine Emergency Medical Services.

The purpose of the breakfast is to bring together community and regional leaders, as well as interested citizens who want to:

- * **Really do something about the challenges we are facing in our communities and region;**
- * **Build consensus on those issues that unite us;**
- * **Organize ourselves with mutual support and common purpose; and**
- * **Establish a clear set of priorities that will achieve our common goals, some of which may require legislative action.**

We have received a good response to date and are looking for RSVPs no later than Friday, December 12th. It will be a great discussion and important step forward! If you have not registered already, please contact Barbara Buckley at the County of Cumberland by calling 871-8380 or you may write to buckley@cumberlandcounty.org.

www.cumberlandcounty.org

Cumberland County Animal Response Team

Cumberland County Emergency Management (CCEMA) is actively coordinating the formation of a County Animal Response Team (CART). On, September 23, 2008, CCEMA hosted the "Kick Off" meeting to introduce the program to local agencies and concerned citizens. Twenty-five (25) interested members were in attendance, and each received a copy of the Cumberland County Animals in Disaster Plan (draft), as an annex to the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and a drafted copy of the proposed County Animal Response Team Constitution and Bylaws. The next meeting of the Cumberland County CART is scheduled on Tuesday, October 28, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. to review the proposed annex and bylaws, and will be held at the CCEMA. Adele Jones, Fire/Rescue Officer—Town of Scarborough, and Adam Farrington—City of Westbrook Animal Control Officer, serve as the CART Co-leader, and Bonnie Canfield was designated by James E. Budway, Director Cumberland County EMA, as the County Liaison for all CART activities. Jim Budway, Shelley Doak, from MEMA, Adele and Adam gave presentations on the importance of CART in relationship to lessons learned from past disasters when communities were not better prepared to plan and care for pets and large animals.



What are County Animal Response Teams?

County Animal Response Teams (CART) are local networks of government, not-for-profit organizations, businesses, concerned citizens, producers, and others. CART will be the core resource for addressing many animal emergency issues in the State of Maine.

How does my County Start the CART Development Process?

The first step in the process is to meet with the County Emergency Management Director. The Director will meet with you to outline the objectives of the CART

and identify the training requirements. The second step is to secure the participation of key local stakeholders in your community and identify planning needs. In some cases, CART programs may be regional or involving two or more counties.

A typical Animal Response Team might include:

-  County and Local Emergency Management
-  Animal control and law enforcement
-  University of Maine Cooperative Extension
-  Animal shelters and Animal Rescue groups
-  Fairground Associations & Livestock Associations
-  Veterinary Professionals & Kennels and Pet groups
-  Public Health & Fire and EMS
-  Zoos and Wildlife Agencies

Why do you need a CART?

To assist with the evacuation of people and their pets and to establish emergency pet sheltering. Nearly 60 percent of the population have pets and consider them family members; 65 percent would risk their lives to save their pet. Providing shelter for people and their animals will expedite an evacuation.

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Communities, agencies and individuals interested in joining the Cumberland County CART; or need more information; contact:

Bonnie Canfield—County CART Liaison Cumberland County EMA 22 High Street, Unit 1 Windham, Maine 04062 (207) 892-6785 or canfield@cumberlandcounty.org

Cumberland County Jail Programs

Programs at CCJ serve an important function. They provide appropriate opportunities for inmates to engage themselves in learning, skill building, work, community service and treatment.

Programs Division Mission Statement

We believe that offenders must learn and display a set of skills the community values. We also believe that offenders can change from a criminal life style to one that bring into balance their strengths of mind, body and spirit. In order to ensure that they are equipped for the future, offenders should strive to work, care for their family, and contribute in a positive way to their community. Providing offenders with the skills and experience needed to accomplish these goals is our task and our challenge. These skills and experiences include, but are not limited to literacy, citizenship, employability skills, communication, responsibility, accountability, accessing resources and decision-making.

A few Program Facts:

We graduated more GED completers last year than Portland Adult Education, the state's largest adult education center.

We have harvested more than 1000 pounds (and we continue to harvest!) of produce from the inmate garden – and use the food to supplement the jail's meals and maintain a staff salad bar.

Our Food Service prepares and serves nearly 600,000 meals per year, at a cost of under \$1.00/meal.



Thomas Monaghan, Officer Vinal Thompson, Officer Steve Dahle, Deputy Seth Moore, and Lieutenant Scott Jordan.

The staff at the Community Corrections Center work to hold inmates accountable as they prepare for what we hope is a successful release back into the community. From left to right are: Ben Smith, Community Service Officer, Officer

On any given day, the jail's Trustee Program "employs" no less than 70 inmates in various jobs such as janitorial, food service, and in the library, intake and medical areas.

Our community service program saved County non-profits (schools, churches, municipalities, etc) over a half-million dollars in labor costs in 2007, having completed projects in every community in Cumberland County.

Our Work Release and Alternative Sentencing programs generate significant revenue for the County.

More than 75 community volunteers come into the jail each week to work with our inmates to provide Bible Study, AA and NA meetings each week.

Most of the funding for the program staff salaries and programming at CCJ does not come from the taxpayers – a portion is generated through the commissary purchases made by the inmates and through a percentage of the revenue collected for inmate phone usage.



Some members of the CCJ Program Staff include, from left to right: John Hoeprich, Adam Mitchell, Instructors, Deputy Cathy Fornisano, Trustee Coordinator, Lt. Arlene Jacques, Education Team Coordinator, Hope Lanza, Instructor, Jennifer Galletta, Librarian, Richard McCallum, Work Release Officer, Stan Piknick Instructor, Reverend Jeff McIlwain, Chaplain, Bruce Harris, Acting Food Service Supervisor, and Captain Wayne Pike who oversees Jail Programs.

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Manager's Message

It's hard to believe, but another year has almost ended. Can you believe we are about to enter the ninth year of the 21st Century! It is remarkable how time flies. It seems only yesterday that we were concerned about Y2K. As a County, we have seen many accomplishments and changes in 2008. A few highlights in no particular order include:

- * The implementation of our 2006-2010 strategic plan tax assessing recommendation, which we are working on collaboratively with several municipal officials to examine the costs and benefits of a regional assessing approach;
- * The implementation of a new radio and microwave system for the Sheriff's Office and the Cumberland County Regional Communications Center with a \$1.7 million bond approved by citizens in November of 2007;
- * **Our active participation in a new unified county jail system to ensure that we get a good result for the Cumberland County Jail and this region;**
- * **Our increasing partnership and collaboration with GPCOG on several important projects, such as the Cumberland County CDBG Program, the previously mentioned assessing project, the county legislative breakfast on Dec. 17th, and the metro coalition's regional forensic lab;**
- * **The addition of new communities to our Cumberland County Regional Communications Center (CCRCC); and**
- * **The continued discussions and work by the Civic Center Task Force.**

I would expect that 2009 will be equally challenging and interesting. With the difficulties we are facing with our national, state and regional economies, it is clear that the coming year will require all of us to do the very best we know how, and to think and act in positive ways to develop solutions to the difficulties we face as communities and as a region. The Legislative Breakfast on December 17th is an important step toward accomplishing this goal, so if you have not registered please do so.

Joining the Board of Commissioners in 2009 will be Jim Cloutier as County Commissioner for District 1, replacing retiring Commissioner

Esther Clenott. In addition, returning to the Board will be Commissioner Richard Feeney from District 2, with Jack O'Brien elected to serve as the new Register of Probate.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that Commissioner Esther Clenott is leaving office after 16 years as a County Commissioner. Commissioner Clenott was board chair when I was hired ten years ago and will always hold a special significance for me. Esther is a truly remarkable person. Her straightforward candor and charm will long be remembered as she departs to pursue other opportunities for the second half of her life. She has our sincere thanks and best wishes.

To all our employees, friends and their families, I wish you all the happiest of the Holiday Season, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and the very best for 2009!

Peter Crichton, County Manager

Cumberland County Charter Commission Update

The County Charter Commission held a preliminary meeting on Thursday, December 4th. Their organizational meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8th in the Peter Feeney Conference Room from 4-6 PM, followed a week later by a public hearing on Thursday, January 15th, with the time and location to be determined. This hearing will be the first of many hearings and forums that will be held over the next several months.

The members of the Commission are as follows: former South Portland Mayor Claude Morgan, Attorney Neil Jamieson, former New Gloucester Selectman David Lunt, Harrison Selectwoman Lisa Villa, businessman Steve Gorden, former Falmouth Town Clerk Kathleen Babeu, former State Rep. John Eder, State Rep. Meredith Strang Burgess, and County Commissioner Dick Feeney.

The charge to the Commission by the County Commissioners is to review the structure, role and responsibilities of Cumberland County Government in the 21st Century and develop the first charter in the history of Cumberland County which would then be voted on by the citizens in either November of 2009 or 2010 depending on how long it takes to prepare a charter and other factors.

