What's In The Somerset County PIPELINE

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Somerset County Bicentennial Committee Projects

The Somerset County Bicentennial Committee had a booth at the Skowhegan State Fair August 13-22. Diane godlin, Register of Deeds, Committee Members, and various Historical Societies manned the booth each day.

The booth displayed many historic pictures from all over Somerset County. These pictures drew a big crowd curious to see the people and places from the 1800's and early 1900's. There were pictures of civil war veterans from Mercer, 1938 men's softball team from Skowhegan, early village pictures from Ripley, Bingham New Portland and Anson, downtown Skowhegan businesses in the 1800's, corn shops and canning factories in Starks and Harmony and a downtown Madison parade on July 4th 1903 just to name a few.

The booth also displayed a mock up of the Somerset County Bicentennial Quilt that is currently being assembled. The quilt contains a square from each organized town and one representing the unorganized towns. The County Seal is in one square. Quilters from all over the county contributed their time and talent to this project and when the quilt is complete there will be a ceremony at the County Courthouse, where the quilt will be on permanent display.

The Bicentennial Coin was also available for sale at the fair. The coin can still be purchased at the Somerset County Registry of Deeds 41 Court St Skowhegan.

Office Hours M-F 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

The next project being worked on by the Bicentennial Committee is a time capsule that will be on display in the court house until 2059. Eighth grade students from all the towns are being asked to write an essay about their town and what would symbolize the year 2009. The essay and objects or pictures will be put in the time capsule at the end of 2009. Hopefully some of the same students will be on hand in 2059 when the time capsule will be opened and can reflect back on the year 2009.

The Richard H. Pierce Family Foundation Awards $20,000

To Somerset County Students...

On February 28th, 2009, at the Somerset County Bicentennial Opening Ceremony, Rite: Ready of Maine Education Services, announced a new scholarship opportunity for Somerset County students entitled the Richard H. Pierce Family Foundation Scholarship. This past week, we received information stating that the Richard H. Pierce Family Foundation awarded 20 $1,000 scholarships in its first year.

This scholarship program was established in memory of Mr. Richard H. Pierce's parents, Henry and Bea Pierce, who were born and raised in Somerset County. The recipients of its first year pilot program were recipients from several Somerset County High School's including: Carrabec High School, Forest Hills Consolidated School, Lawrence High School, Madison Area Memorial High School, Maine Central Institute and Skowhegan Area High School.

Maine Education Services (MES), a non-profit organization located in Portland, administers the Richard H. Pierce Family Foundation Scholarship Program. For more information about this scholarship you may contact MES at 800-922-6352 or www.mesfoundation.com.
Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus

The Somerset County Emergency Management Agency has been in support of and engaged with the planning of H1N1 since its arrival in Maine in April. June resulted in the introduction of H1N1 into Somerset County when the summer camp season arrived and the agency provided logistical support to an area camp for isolation efforts. Somerset County Communities, Businesses, Citizens and School District need to be prepared for the fall Flu Season(s); i.e. Regular Influenza and H1N1, as our schools are open and there will be an impact.

The leader guidance comes from the Maine-CDC and is the “go-to” location for the “One Voice” message to avoid miscommunication, erroneous information, and confusion and you have a responsibility to be informed and prepared:
http://www.maineflu.gov/

Quick and to the Point:

These are two separate issues and flu we have to be aware of and the risk groups are different for both, and have to be taken seriously:

**H1N1**

Maine has identified 370 cases of H1N1, which include 19 individuals requiring hospitalization and one individual who has died. Since the last update, there has been one residential school outbreak in a college, which we now know to be Bowdoin College.

Of Maine residents with H1N1, 62 percent have been under 25 years of age. The number of cases is only a barometer of community transmission, not of actual case counts, because not all people with infection are tested.

The following groups are prioritized to be offered the first available doses of H1N1 vaccine, because they are at higher risk of complications from H1N1 infection or are more likely to pass the flu on to others who may be at higher risk of complications:

- Pregnant women;
- Household members and caregivers for children under 6 months old;
- Health care and emergency medical services personnel;
- All people ages 6 months through 24 years of age;
- People ages 25 through 64 who have health conditions.

**Seasonal Influenza**

Seasonal flu vaccine has begun to arrive in Maine; US CDC recommends that people at risk for the seasonal flu get vaccinated as soon as it is available:

- Children ages 6 months to 18 years
- Pregnant women
- People 50 years of age and older
- People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu, to include:
  - Health care workers, Household contacts of persons at high risk for complications from the flu, and Household contacts and out of home caregivers of children younger than 6 months old.

*Precautions for Staying Healthy - Wash Your Hands - Cover Your Cough - Stay Home if You Feel Sick*
The Somerset County Technical Services Department has been given a new and much needed position - a Systems Support Specialist. We are pleased to promote staff member Steve Damren from the position of Technical Support Specialist to this new position.

The Systems Support Specialist does advanced technical services work involving the analysis, design, development, and implementation of diverse, enterprise-wide applications including web based systems. The most important aspects of this work is the application of system analysis skills to formulate solutions to complex business problems through the use of automation technology and preparing system design plans and detailed specifications to facilitate the development and implementation of application systems.

The Systems Support Specialist:

- Studies and evaluates business problems and operations in order to produce feasibility, scope and objectives
- Deploys web design strategies and internet based systems maintenance
- Implements enterprise-wide systems in order to place system in operational status.
- Maintains systems and applies control techniques to keep systems operational.
- Participates in reviews, feasibility reports, functional requirements, system design, program specifications, coding, test plans and results, and documentation packages in order to minimize system problems and assure quality control.
- Has knowledge and experience with Microsoft Windows Server 2003 and 2008, Microsoft SQL Server, Pervasive SQL, Citrix and current web design software are essential to this position.

As System Support Specialist, Steve is working with the Kitchen Jail Staff and Jail Management, to create a Somerset County Jail Meal Count and Tracking system. The old system required Jail Staff, via phone or in person, to gather the necessary meal and utensil counts from each area in the jail and relay that information to the kitchen staff manually. The new Jail Meal Count and Tracking system will automate this process. Jail Staff will log into the SharePoint computer system and add meal counts for their respective areas. This information is then electronically transmitted to the kitchen where they now can see an accurate meal count for the entire facility. This results in a more accurate count and a huge savings in time for all involved in the process.

Steve is also working with Sean Maguire, the Jail Compliance officer, to automate some of the forms that Corrections Officers are required to fill out during the normal course of the business day. This automation process will result in more accurate and detailed information and assist in the retention of records. It will also insure that information on inmates is readily available to appropriate jail personnel.

Upcoming projects: Creating a County Property/Equipment Sale Section to the Somerset County Website; Revamping the Somerset County departmental websites and building in search links to companion pages and consistency in look and style county wide; Building a County wide SharePoint Intranet to be used by all departments and employees; Upgrading the IMC System to the Newest Release Level as well as the Sheriff's Office and Local PD's laptops.

Courthouse Generator Project - At the beginning of the year the decision was made to replace the small and outdated backup generator at the Somerset County Courthouse. The old generator had been in service for many years and had supplied backup power to just a small part of the Courthouse. The new generator is an 80 kilowatt Generac with a Ford v-8 engine. The generator is large enough to supply power to the entire Courthouse.

This generator will insure that everyone in the building can continue working with little or no interruption during a power failure as well as give the assurance that the furnace will continue running nights and weekends when no one is in the building thus preventing pipes from freezing and the possibility of breaking. It will also insure that the servers in the building will continue to operate on a 24/7 schedule.

The generator project began in March with the pouring a four by six foot slab to set the generator on. Travers Electric of Skowhegan brought in the generator and did all the electrical wiring. This involved installing a transfer switch and running cables to the generator. The work took about two weeks to complete.

After the electrical work was completed, the Dead River Propane Company, also of Skowhegan, came in to install a connection between the generator and the propane tank. Several tests were conducted to make sure the generator was working properly, and in August the generator project was deemed a success.
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 - 474-3322
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

Check Somerset County’s web site for more detailed information—www.somersetcountycommissioners.com