

City of Lewiston

MARCH 2013

City Administrator's Report



Greetings from the All-America City of Lewiston

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the community of Lewiston. Feel free to send your comments and suggestions.

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Homeless Youth in Lewiston

“If you don’t know where you’re putting your slippers at night, you can’t do algebra,” noted Mary Seaman, Director of the Lewiston High School STEP Program, following the documentary debut of “**Homeless Youth in Lewiston**” on January 17th at Lewiston City Hall.

The 30-minute documentary was produced by the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) to build awareness about the approximately 200 homeless youth in Lewiston. Before the video was shown, LYAC members shared what an eye-opening experience making the documentary had been. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, one out of every three homeless persons are under the age of 18, and 1.6 million to 1.7 million people under 18, will experience homelessness each year (nationwide).



Donations for New Beginnings and the LHS STEP Program were accepted at the event. In addition, LYAC Chair Kon Maiwan announced that copies of the documentary would be available to purchase for a nominal fee of \$5.00 and proceeds would be split between the two agencies.

City of Lewiston employees sponsored a Jeans Day to benefit the STEP program at Lewiston High School during the month of March. Employees who wore jeans donated \$3.00 to the cause as well as food, clothing, and personal items for the homeless students at LHS.

The need is overwhelming. There are two teachers who serve as the guidance counselors for the 300 or so students who are homeless at various times during the school year. These teachers are part Mom, part teacher, part counselor, part therapist, part shoulder-to-cry-on. As one of the teachers said, “It is really hard to focus on studying for a US History exam if you don’t know where you are going to sleep that night.” Many students couch surf at friend’s houses. Some sleep in cars. Many are in transition.

The students the homeless program services really fight to stay in school - school is their safe haven - the teachers are supportive, they receive breakfast and lunch, they are safe, dry, and warm.

When a City employee delivered the collected items, she was able to meet a young woman who is homeless - she is a junior in high school and has a 6-month old daughter and a 21-month old daughter. Oh, and by the way, she is a straight A student, having the drive to strive for better.

Funds are limited, so donations of any size are appreciated-monetary or tangible. For instance, they were overjoyed at receiving a case of bottled water. Tuesdays are “Toaster Tuesdays” where students can go get bagels and cream cheese, or an English muffin with peanut butter. You have no idea how big a deal this is and how students look forward to it.

It takes special people who give of themselves on a daily basis, to care for and mentor others.

If you or someone you know would like to give to this cause, you may contact the teachers involved in the **LHS STEP program**: Mary Seaman and Jamie Caouette. Both can be reached via email: mseaman@lewistonpublicschools.org or jcaouette@lewistonpublicschools.org.

Or you may get in touch with **LYAC Co-Advisors** Dottie Perham Whittier, or Maggie Chisholm via email: dottie@lewistonmaine.gov or mchisholm@lewistonmaine.gov.

THANK YOU

City Administrator

Edward A. Barrett

Proposed Budget Goes to Council

The City Council is beginning the annual process of reviewing the City's proposed budget which will go into effect in July.

Total City revenues are projected to fall by about 6.7%. When adjustments are made for General Assistance, which was budgeted for a significant increase in the current year which did not materialize, revenues are actually off by about 2.1%. This is the fourth year the City has seen a decrease in its non-property tax revenues. Taken together, revenue declines are this period exceed 20%

City expenses are up 1.6% (3.1% after adjusting for General Assistance). The largest increases involve personnel and fringe benefit costs, including retirement and health insurance. Capital expenditures are up slightly, and most other areas are down, including energy and fuel. Debt service is about flat, but has been reduced by almost \$1 million over the last few years.

The School Department budget is up 6.8% as a result of a \$740,000 debt service payment toward the Middle School renovation project, \$259,000 in retirement costs shifted to us by the State, and \$400,000 in additional costs previously paid by MaineCare. In addition, the student population continues to increase by 100 plus per year, also increasing costs. These increases are partially offset by a significant addition to school revenues, primarily General Purpose Aid to education.

We estimate that our assessed value for the coming year will be up by about \$33 million, primarily due to the Maine Power Reliability Project.

When all of these factors are taken into account, the budget projects a tax rate increase of \$1.15 with 57 cents for the City, 62 cents for Schools, and a decline of 4 cents for the County.

The proposed budget constitutes a starting point for the City Council as it works toward approving a budget in May. Between now and then, the Council will hold budget workshops each Tuesday and Thursday that are available on cable or streamed/archived on Great Falls TV's web site.

The Council normally makes significant changes to the proposed budget, usually with a view to mitigating the impact of property taxes on our residents and visitors. I anticipate that this will again be the case this year, and I'm sure the Council would be interested in hearing from you, both about the services the City provides and their cost.

One final caution. The Governor has proposed a state budget that would significantly reduce state aid to municipalities. If approved, the City could lose up to \$4.5 million in revenue sharing and other funding. If this happens, it is likely that municipal services will be dramatically cut and property taxes will significantly increase. Unfortunately, the state budget may not be adopted until after the City Charter's budget deadline at the end of May. As a result, the Council may have to revisit the budget in June or July.

For more information, visit the City's web site at www.lewistonmaine.gov and click on the Finance Department from the Departmental drop-down menu.

Deputy City Administrator Phil Nadeau

Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee (LATC) Budget for FY 2014



As Chair of the Lewiston-Auburn Transit Committee, I am pleased to report that the LATC will be submitting a budget to both City Councils that will not exceed funding levels for FY 2013. Though we saw a 25% increase in ridership this past fiscal year (we are up 172% over the last 10 years!), the combination of a favorable new contract with the Western Maine Transportation Service, great administrative support from Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (special thanks to Marsha Bennett and Greg Whitney), and some modest increases in advertising and fare box revenues, all mean a flat budget proposal. There will be much discussion as to what the overall budgets will be for both Lewiston and Auburn, but the LATC has worked hard to increase ridership and to keep costs reasonable for the taxpayers of Lewiston and Auburn.

The Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority Project Update

Our \$15 million dollar anaerobic digester project is ahead of schedule and on budget. We may begin a “soft” opening of the new project sometime in April, and the public will get that information as soon as it is available. This project is the first such publicly owned facility in Maine and the first publicly owned sewage treatment plant to produce its own electricity from processed sewage. We are excited about the project and the prospect for real cost savings in the not too distant future. As for now, all systems are “go”!

City Labor Contracts to Expire June 30, 2013

As the City’s chief contract negotiator, I am in the midst of preparing for a new round of negotiations with all six unions. I will post periodic updates on the status of negotiations as they proceed.



Assessing

Joseph Grube, Chief Assessor



Assessing staff have been busy canvassing personal property accounts and visiting new homes and other construction sites.

Mobile home **parks were visited to ascertain the continued** situs of mobile homes. This annual canvass is intended to verify ownership due to the lack of recorded deed instruments for this type of property.



The activity within our office this month has been centered around determining the taxable status of property based on the State of Maine established assessing date of April 1st.



Applications for Exemption

Applications for exemption from property taxes were submitted in March by several organizations. The Assessing Department will either grant or reject their requests based on State statutes.

Lewiston continues to be one of Maine's largest host communities for exempt properties with 9.4% of the land area taken up by exempt uses totaling over \$607,000,000, while taxable property accounts for \$1,855,359,945.

Finance

Heather Hunter, Director

Department Focus and Projects

Finance & Treasury

With the economy on a slight upward trend but uncertainty around the level of state funding, the Finance Department continues to pay close attention to how actual receipts are trending compared to budget estimates and prior year balances. The results at the end of March are shown in the graph below:



The amounts shown for tax collections strictly reflect property tax payments received for the current year levy. At the end of March, the City was at 91.65% collected for its real estate and personal property taxes compared to 2012's collection rate of 94.81%. We are considerably behind last year's collection, even though the mil rate remained the same and taken into account the increased amount of the homestead exemption. Reminder letters will be mailed on April 11th to accounts with outstanding balances to assist with collection efforts. Additionally, the City collected \$551,919 of its \$733,120 budgeted Homestead Exemption from the State. The remaining portion of the Homestead Exemption is anticipated in July, but the revenue will be accrued for the current fiscal year. The BETE reimbursement is fully collected at the \$1,009,735 budgeted amount.

The City has also collected \$1,215,002 in delinquent real and personal property taxes which is slightly higher than last year's amount of \$1,159,510. The Treasurer's Office will be sending out 30-day tax lien notices on May 15th prior to tax lien recording which will occur on June 19th.

Revenue Sharing receipts of \$2,891,439 are at 72% of the budget estimate and below the targeted 75% collection rate at this point in the fiscal year.

Excise Tax collections have increased from this time last year by \$68,509. The 2013 budget was increased by \$35,000. Looking at prior years' collections for the upcoming months, we should be right on track with this year's budget in this revenue area.

Fire

Paul LeClair, Chief

MARCH MADNESS for LFD

- ◇ **March 11th—308 Main St** - Cooking grease fire with burn injuries sustained
- ◇ **March 12th - 172 Pine St.**— Fire in hallway, still under investigation
- ◇ **March 13th — 477 Main St.**—Furnace fire
- ◇ **March 17th—3 Hilton Place** — Mattress fire, mattress thrown into campfire.
- ◇ **March 18th — 287 Bates St.** — Bed set on fire
- ◇ **March 24th — 154 Pine St** — 2 Alarm structure fire, still under investigation
- ◇ **March 25—156 East Ave**—Fire in bathroom
- ◇ **March 29th—75 Spring St**—Set kitchen fire
- ◇ **March 25th — 134 Main St**—3 Vehicle fire
- ◇ **March 30th—101 Pine St.**—2 Alarm structure fire, cooking grease fire



- ◆ **March 18th—287 Bates St.** A bed in the fifth floor apartment was set on fire. Luckily a sprinkler head was activated and helped to extinguish the fire. There was extensive water and electrical damage to the apartments displacing tenants. The estimated property damage was \$50,000.



- ◆ **March 30th—101 Pine St.** Fortunately the fire was quickly brought under control. The cause of the fire was deemed accidental. The first floor tenant was cooking with grease on a high setting and walked away from the cooking area and left the pan of grease unattended.



Estimated damage to the building was \$80,000.



- ◆ **March 27th—154 Pine St.** The early Sunday morning fire originated in the first floor apartment spreading to the upper floors. The cause of the fire remains under investigation with C.I.D. Total fire damage is estimated at \$50,000.

L.F.D. Completes Two OSHA Mandated Classes in the Month of March

Lewiston Firefighters were the first City of Lewiston employees to be trained on The Global Harmonization System (GHS). The **Global Harmonization System** is a new method of chemical labeling and describing so that employees now have a “right to understand” the chemicals that they are exposed to in the workplace. The **GHS** is OSHA mandated to insure that all chemical manufacturers worldwide list and label chemicals the same way by 2016. The new Safety Data Sheets will replace the older style MSDS better known as Material Safety Data Sheets. The training mandate by OSHA states that all facilities that deal with hazardous chemicals must have employees trained by December 2016.

L.F.D. refreshes in Blood borne Pathogen.

Blood borne pathogens are infectious microorganisms present in blood that can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS. Workers exposed to blood borne pathogens are at risk for serious or life-threatening illnesses. The annual training is job site specific and protects workers who can reasonably be anticipated to come into contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) as a result of their job duties. All employers are required by OSHA to meet the following:

- **Establish an exposure control plan.** This is a written plan to eliminate or minimize occupational exposures.
- **Update the plan annually** to reflect changes in tasks, procedures, and positions that affect occupational exposure and technological changes that eliminate or reduce occupational exposure.
- **Implement the use of universal precautions** (treating all human blood and OPIM as if known to be infectious for blood borne pathogens).
- **Identify and use engineering controls.** These are devices that isolate or remove the blood borne pathogens hazard from the workplace.
- **Identify and ensure the use of work practice controls.** These are practices that reduce the possibility of exposure by changing the way a task is performed.
- **Provide personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, gowns, eye protection, and masks.** Employers must clean, repair, and replace this equipment as needed.
- **Make available hepatitis B vaccinations to all workers with occupational exposure.** This vaccination must be offered after the worker has received the required blood borne pathogens training and within 10 days of initial assignment to a job with occupational exposure.
- **Make available post-exposure evaluation and follow-up to any occupationally exposed workers who experience an exposure incident.** An exposure incident is a specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or OPIM. This evaluation and follow-up must be at no cost to the worker and includes documenting the route(s) of exposure and the circumstances.

Lewiston Public Library

World
Book Night
April 23, 2013



LEWISTON
public **LIBRARY**
6-8 PM

Free Books!

Join us at LPL for this event and collect
up to 3 free books for you to keep.
Choose from 13 different popular books!

World Book Night is a worldwide event dedicated to spreading the love of
reading, person to person.

For more information, please call the Adult Services Department at (207) 513-3135 or visit
www.WorldBookNight.org



Planning & Code Enforcement

Gil Arsenault, Director

Planning Board

- On March 11, 2013, Terradyn Consultants, LLC on behalf of Thompson Rolect Enterprises, LLC was granted site plan review approval for construction of a new 20,000 square foot equipment repair building and outside equipment storage area at 14 Rousseau Way.
- On March 25, 2013, TFH Architects on behalf of Veterans, Inc. was granted approval to increase the number of residential dwelling units from 11 to 25 at 393 Main Street (formerly St. Joseph's School) for use by veterans. (Note: On March 19th City Council granted approval for the conditional rezoning of this property from Community Business to Downtown Residential to facilitate the creation of the 14 additional dwelling units.) The change will allow the originally proposed shared units to be replaced with individual units.



Permit Activity

March 2013

- ◆ 18 building permits with a reported value of \$410,705 (one permit was issued for a new single-family home)
- ◆ 6 plumbing permits
- ◆ 37 electrical permits

March 2012

- ◇ 29 building permits were issued with a reported value of \$11,898,928
- ◇ 6 plumbing permits
- ◇ 37 electrical permits

The highest reported dollar value building permit for March 2012 was an \$11,140,548 project at the Lewiston - Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority located at 535 Lincoln Street.



Police

Mike Bussiere, Chief

STATS

MARCH	2013
Calls For Service	3,435
Vehicle Stops	716
Citations	139
Written Warnings	393
Verbal Warnings	184
Adult Arrests	221
Juvenile Arrests	14
Criminal Summonses	120
Narcotics Arrests	11
OUI Arrests	12
Parking Tickets	641
Fireworks Violations	1

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Rec Department's Annual Easter Egg Hunt was attended by Sgt. Bradeen, Det. Brochu, SRO's Johnson & Jacques, Dare Off. Lacombe, and Officers Griffin, Philippon, and Weaver. Autographed "cop cards" and free small giveaways were handed out to children.



Training

- ◆ Victims of Domestic Violence Training Seminar in Portland was attended by Off. Desiree Michaud
- ◆ Training Seminar on Pharmaceutical Drug Diversion was attended by Officers Beuparlant and Bourgoin
- ◆ Officers Gagne and Kavanagh went to Crisis Negotiation School refresher training
- ◆ Training on Dealing with Difficult People was held in Vassalboro and attended by Off. Beuparlant
- ◆ Cpl. Vierling completed the training for night watch on EBT card crimes
- ◆ Cpl. Dumond completed the training for nights on use of the Hobble Restraint and the units were placed in each cruiser
- ◆ Nick Wiers attended Armorers school
- ◆ Jason Johnson attended a Drug Investigations school
- ◆ Ken Strout attended Methods of Instruction training at the MCJA

Husson University Job Fair

Attended by Off. Patrick Griffin & Sgt. Ullrich



Community Events

Citizen's Police Academy

The purpose of the Police Academy is to give members of the public a working knowledge of the Lewiston Police Department. We believe that an informed public is better able to make decisions about the Lewiston Police Department.

The CRO team continued the Citizen Police Academy classes held each Wednesday from 6-8 PM. This month's topics included:

- ◇ **Use of Force**, instructed by Off. Jason Johnson
- ◇ **Maine Drug Enforcement**, instructed by Agent Michaud
- ◇ **Central Maine Violent Crime Task Force**, instructed by Agent Rawston
- ◇ **Criminal Investigations**, instructed by Detective Clifford

Academy participants were also afforded the opportunity to go through Firearms Training Simulator (FATS) training (shooting simulator) at Central Maine Community College. Officer Rousseau was the instructor for the FATS training which was well received by the participants.



The above photo is not Officer Rousseau or an actual participant.

Bi-weekly Coffee at Blake Street Towers

Sgt. Ullrich and Officers Griffin, Weaver, and Philippon attended and interacted with residents. These meetings are extremely popular and have been replicated at the Hillview housing complex.



Oak Park Residents Meetings

were attended by Cpl. Tom Murphy.

Hockey The Bruins Legends vs. Pal Hockey Team (fundraiser) was facilitated by Sgt. Bradeen, Det. Brochu, and SRO's Jacques & Johnson during off-duty hours. And, the Lewiston Police Hockey Team played two charity games: the first against the Bruin Old-Timers to benefit PAL, and the second against Maine Fire (annual game); this year's proceeds supported the American Lung Association.

Special Olympics

Several officers assisted Special Olympians as a starter during their swimming competition at the YWCA. Sgt. O'Malley and SRO Johnson attended the annual New England Special Olympic conference in Portland.

LHS Skills Competition

SRO Johnson assumed the position of a judge during the LHS students' participation in their skills competition held in Bangor.

Personal Self-Defense

Officer Jason Johnson taught a class on personal self-defense to citizens from the community.

Cpl. Tom Murphy attended meetings at Healthy Androscoggin and the Regional Liquor Task Force meeting.

Public Works

David Jones, Director

As I write this in early April, opening day has just occurred, the Red Sox beat the Yankees, and spring is approaching. Hallelujah!

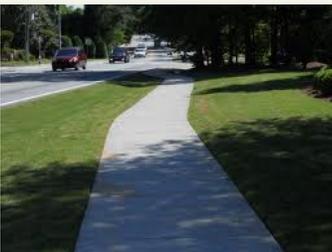
We're glad to have this winter over! We did get another ten inches of snow in March bringing our winter season total to ~86 inches. After 3 weeks of night snow removal, we ended the shift on March 6th. The crew did a terrific job clearing the snow banks resulting from the huge February storms. Our sand/salt crews responded to five more events in March.

Street/Road & Sidewalk Improvement Projects

Upcoming Construction Projects

The following projects are nearing design completion and expected to be advertised in the next couple of months:

- Walnut Street Rehab and Sidewalk Improvements (Bates Street to Howe Street) were awarded to L.P. Poirier & Sons on March 18, 2013 for \$273,703.80 (CDBG funding);
- Route 126 Sabattus Street Traffic Signal Improvements (Main Street to Pond Road) Bid Opening April 17 (Est. cost \$700K -- 100% state & federal funds)
- New Freedom Grant - Park Street (Oak Street to Ash Street) sidewalk & ADA access Bid Opening March 20 (Est. cost ~\$55K --100% state and federal funds)
- Main Street Route 202/11/100 highway improvements Memorial Avenue to Stetson Road (0.57 miles) with replacement of Stetson Bridge. MDOT held a 2nd public hearing at 6:00pm on March 27th in the Lewiston City Council Chambers at City Hall. The project is scheduled for 2014 construction.
- Maine Turnpike Authority contract to upgrade the Old Lisbon Road bridge over the turnpike is expected to be advertised this spring with construction occurring in the fall. Another public hearing for the project is planned.



The crews completed the following workload:

- ◇ Removed sand boxes around the downtown area;
- ◇ Repaired four damaged storm man-holes;
- ◇ Began sweeping sidewalks in preparation for street sweeping;
- ◇ Graded Bradbury Road and Chadbourne Road (gravel roads) twice during the month;
- ◇ Posted roads for spring weight limits;



- ◇ Removed or pruned trees at 13 locations around the city;
- ◇ Repaired or replaced traffic signs at 25 locations around the city;
- ◇ Set up tennis court nets at Lewiston High School / Franklin Pasture;
- ◇ Cleaned River Valley basketball courts.

Water, Sewer and Stormwater Upcoming Construction Projects

The following projects are nearing design completion and expected to be advertised in the next few months:

- ◆ A Public Meeting was held at Auburn City Hall on March 28th regarding the application to apply algaecide to Lake Auburn if or when algae returns to the lake this summer. Our consultants' Diagnostic Study, which is addressing the causes of the algae bloom that killed fish in the lake last summer, recommended this action, and we are working closely with all regulatory agencies to prepare for this if needed. This will only be done if an algae bloom threatens the lake again and only to protect the drinking water supply. The algaecide will be applied at doses small enough so that it will not affect fish or humans;
- ◆ King Avenue and Fair Street water main replacement (awarded in February to Pratt & Sons of Mechanic Falls for \$431,775) Construction expected to begin later this spring;
- ◆ Bids were opened and are being evaluated for Oak Street Sewer & Stormwater Improvements (final section from Sabattus Street to ~White Street) with apparent low bidder being St Laurent & Son with a base bid of \$1,279,259;
- ◆ Jepson Brook Phase 3 of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Sewer/Stormwater project (five streets on the north side of Sabattus Street near the intersection with Russell Street (Est. cost ~\$500K);
- ◆ Bartlett Street water line replacement project (Adams Avenue to Sabattus Street (Est. cost ~\$700K);
- ◆ Jepson Brook Phase 4 of the CSO Sewer & Stormwater project (south side of Sabattus Street, Genest Street to Wildwood Drive. (Est. cost \$700K)

Work performed by the Water & Sewer crews included:

- ◇ Repaired one main break (Campus Avenue) and repaired two service leaks;
- ◇ responded to 37 customer concerns (E-GOV'S), 32 are completed and the remainder is work to be completed later in the spring;
- ◇ responded to 120 Dig Safe requests;
- ◇ cut and cleared cross country sewer lines, and this work is ongoing;
- ◇ cleared snow from 750 hydrants after the March snow storm, and repaired 4 due to accident damage;
- ◇ changed 172 water meters and tested 140 for flow;
- ◇ monitored and maintained the 145 miles of sewer lines and 150 miles of water lines in the city (this includes monitoring and maintaining the 11 sewer lift stations, two reservoirs, two water pump stations, water treatment plant and the chloramine facility);
- ◇ ongoing hydrant painting, sewer flushing, gate valve cleaning and operation program, meter reading and replacement program;
- ◇ Prepared the Lake Auburn boat launch for opening soon after "ice-out."



Solid Waste

“Cleanup Assistance Week - 2013”

- ◆ The City Council recently approved holding a Cleanup Assistance Week as we have done for the past few years. This service will waive tip fees and use of the ePass for the City’s residents disposing of spring cleanup waste at the Solid Waste Facility during the week of April 22. In addition, the Facility’s Saturday hours will be extended from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM on Saturday, April 20 & 27. Curbside collection of brush generated by the City’s residents will be collected by Public Works staff during the week of April 22. The amount of brush for each residence is limited to about a pick-up load.

Regulatory Updates

- ◆ Actions taken to address Maine DEP concerns regarding methane gas migration from the closed (attenuated) landfill have included testing specific monitoring wells & underground structures in areas adjacent to this closed landfill. The results of these tests indicate methane gas is being generated within this landfill, but the gas is not being detected at any of the monitoring points away from or adjacent to this landfill.

Recycling

- ◆ Single Stream Recycling rates continue to climb. The most recent 4-month average for Lewiston’s recycling is 112 tons. This is a 30% improvement over the same timeframe last year and resulted in a reduction in the amount of waste transported to MMWAC for disposal (approximate 1% reduction).

Recreation

Maggie Chisholm, Director

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on March 30, 2013 from Noon to 2 PM with one of the largest turnouts since it began. Volunteer groups included Police Department, Lewiston Rec Department, Police Athletic League, and New Beginnings. School Groups included National Honor Society, Lewiston Middle School, Law Enforcement Cadets, Air Force Jr. ROTC, and Key Club. Fifty four students assisted the Department to operate the games, bounce, face painting, etc.



Auburn/Lewiston Exchange Club

The Exchange Club hosted the 37th year of the Twin City Gun Show at the Lewiston Armory. All proceeds help fund projects related to "Youth and Americanism." According to the Exchange Club, "over a half million dollars has been donated over the years to our schools, area youth sports, and recreation teams, the needy, and our veterans.

Lewiston/Auburn Youth Court

Training continues to be successful. Eleven Lewiston High School students are trained in the different court roles required by the tribunal court system. Court hearings are scheduled on a monthly basis at the District Court on Lisbon Street in Lewiston.

L/A CA\$H Coalition

Tax preparation sessions have been located at the Armory assisting folks on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. The program will conclude on April 1, 2013. (see photo, right)

Lewiston Senior's Programs

- The Senior's membership and board meet monthly
- Various card games: Bingo, Cribbage, Bridge, Pinochle, and other games

Sports-Related Activities & Events

- Lewiston Area Youth Cheering practices
- Andy Valley Umpires meetings
- Men's & CoEd Informational start-up meetings for softball
- Lewiston Rec Department: Gymnastics classes (pre-team and team practices and completion meet); Volleyball games at MPC and the Armory; T-Ball 6-week program at Longley Gym
- Batting Cages

Other Activities & Events

- Lewiston Public Works Union Meeting
- Lewiston Police Department Self Defense class
- Just Us weekly (music)
- Franco-American War Veterans and Auxiliary Post 32
- L/A Veterans
- American Legion Post 22
- American Post 210
- Disabled American Veterans' Chapter 11
- VFW Post 9150
- Lewiston Republicans & Lewiston Democrats meeting
- Androscoggin County Democrats meeting
- Association Canado-Americanne Chapter Dr. Paul Fortier



Social Services

Sue Charron, Director

CLIENTS SEEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Beginning with the new fiscal year, July 1, 2012, our reimbursement from the state is at the 50% rate. Once we reach our threshold (\$685,620) we will receive reimbursement at 85%— reduced from the prior 90% rate.

Statistical Activity	MARCH 2013	FYTD 7/1/2012 - 6/30/2013
Office Traffic (Duplicated)	571	5,689
New Clients	57	574
Households Served (OT) (Unduplicated)	160	647
Housing Expenditures	\$44,561.00	\$564,181.14
Total Expenditures	\$48,617.02	\$640,091.53
State Reimbursement	\$22,734.63 (50%)	\$315,702.67 (50%)
SSI Reimbursement	\$4,888.66	\$69,806.13
Other Reimbursements	\$3,147.77	\$8,686.24
Actual Municipal GA Cost (net)	\$17,845.96	\$245,896.49

Workfare	MARCH 2013	FYTD 7/1/2012 - 6/30/2013
Cases (unduplicated)	69	265
Clients (unduplicated)	91	344
Hours Performed	2,369.00	26,472.25
Dollar Value (\$7.50 per hour)	\$17,767.50	\$198,542.00
Percentage of Cases Assigned Workfare	44%	41%

Able-bodied recipients are required to participate in the workfare program. The number of hours assigned are calculated by dividing the amount of assistance the recipient receives by minimum wage.



CHANGES TO THE GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BEGINNING 7/1/12 - 6/30/13:

- The overall GA maximums are reduced by 10%.
- Housing assistance is limited to 9 months out of the calendar year unless a person has a severe and persistent mental or physical condition. We will see impacts of this in April 2013.
- The reimbursement rate, once the threshold is reached, is reduced from 90 to 85%.

- The work group that was convened to review the GA program, has finalized their recommendations, which include \$500,000 in savings to the state.
- The DHHS Commissioner has presented the final report to the HHS Committee. The report has been forwarded to the Appropriations Committee. The report includes recommendations regarding law or rule making related to the GA program, including changes that will achieve \$500,000 in General Fund savings from January 1, 2013—June 30, 2013.
- **REFERRALS CONTINUE TO BE MADE TO THE STATE DISABILITY ADVOCATES TO ASSIST CLIENTS WITH THE SS AND VA PROCESS. THE GOAL IS TO DECREASE THE TIME IT TAKES FOR CLIENTS TO BE APPROVED FOR SS AND VA BENEFITS, ELIMINATING OF THEIR NEED FOR GA.**

TANF 60-MONTH IMPACTS

- **As of 03/31/2013, 129 families consisting of 553 household members have applied for general assistance because their TANF benefits were eliminated due to the 60-month time limit. To date, a total of \$24,192.89 has been granted on behalf of 44 families. Many of these families live in subsidized housing and that reduces the expenditures.**
- Some of the remaining families have been granted temporary TANF extensions; others are still pending eligibility determination. Each month, we continue to see new families that are losing their TANF.



FRAUD CASES AND REIMBURSEMENT MONIES

- General Assistance clients who commit fraud-- those who attempt to receive GA and those who actually receive GA -- are disqualified from receiving GA benefits throughout the state for 120 days. All cases are reported to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Many of the cases that are receiving the DHHS Food Supplement are also disqualified from receiving the Food Supplement for the 120 day GA disqualification period.
- The cases involving clients who have actually received General Assistance by fraudulent means are reported to the DHHS and to the Lewiston Police Department (LPD) for potential prosecution. Some cases have resulted in convictions.
- Reimbursements from retroactive SSI awards, Workers Compensation settlements, and other sources are actively pursued and tracked, resulting in decreased GA expenditures.

LENGTH OF TIME CLIENTS RECEIVE G.A.

FY2012 (7/1/2011 - 6/30/2012)

- **1-3 Months:** 60%
(34% received GA for only one month)
- **4-6 Months:** 18%
- **7-12 Months:** 22%
- **More than 12 Months:** N/A

5-YEAR PRIOR HISTORY (7/1/07—6/30/12)

- **1-3 Months:** 62%
(38% received GA for only one month)
- **4-6 Months:** 16%
- **7-12 Months:** 11%
- **More than 12 Months:** 11%
- Approximately 35% of GA clients have SSI pending. These clients are mentally and/or physically disabled and require GA for longer periods of time. These clients tend to cycle in and out of GA throughout the years.

WELLNESS TEAM UPDATES



In January, Team Wellness launched a six-month calendar of events offering a variety of activities to City employees and their families. Our goal is to encourage a healthier lifestyle through fitness, education, and prevention, while trying to make it fun along the way!

- ◆ **Zumba** - We kicked off the year with Zumba. The class was originally scheduled for every other week. Due to requests, the class is now held once a week in Callahan Hall at the Lewiston Public Library. Attendance has ranged from 12 to 22 per session.
- ◆ **Lunch & Learn Resistance Band Training** held on January 25th was attended by 22 employees.
- ◆ **Wellness Weight Loss Challenge** - This program began on February 7th with 59 participants weighing in the first day. Weigh-ins are on the first and third Thursdays of the month and run through the third week of April.
- ◆ **Sledding Party at Pineland Farm in Gray** was held on February 16th and attended by 12.
- ◆ **Skating Party at the Colisee** was held on March 3rd and enjoyed by the 30 participants that attended.
- ◆ **Lunch & Learn Stretching Solutions** held at City Hall was attended by 22, and the PW session had 13 on March 14th.

- ◆ **Blood Pressure Screenings** It should be noted that there are on-going blood pressure screenings that are available to all employees. The screenings have proved to be critical in detecting high blood pressure in a number of our employees who have since followed up with their primary Care Physicians, thus avoiding a potential health risk.
- ◆ **WALK PROGRAM April 1-June 30th** Wellness is partnering with Lamey Wellehan in bring this 12-week program to 43 participants. The program includes a tracking program through the American Heart Association that will track individuals as well as the group as a whole. Designed to encourage participants to log in at least three 30 minute workouts per week.
- ◆ **Meet & Eat Healthy Night April 8th** Fuel Restaurant offered up to 75 participants a special menu created by owner Eric Agren and his Chef - A healthy four-course meal for City employees and their spouse to enjoy.
- ◆ **Relay for Life June 22nd** The Wellness Team will be recruiting City employees to join a team for the City of Lewiston.

The team is gearing up for the second half of the year, putting together a calendar that will include activities, educational fitness, and awareness programs as well as continuing blood pressure screening.

UPDATE:

And this just in....

The 30-39 employees who have weighed in for the weight challenge, have collectively lost **262 POUNDS!**
GREAT WORK!!

