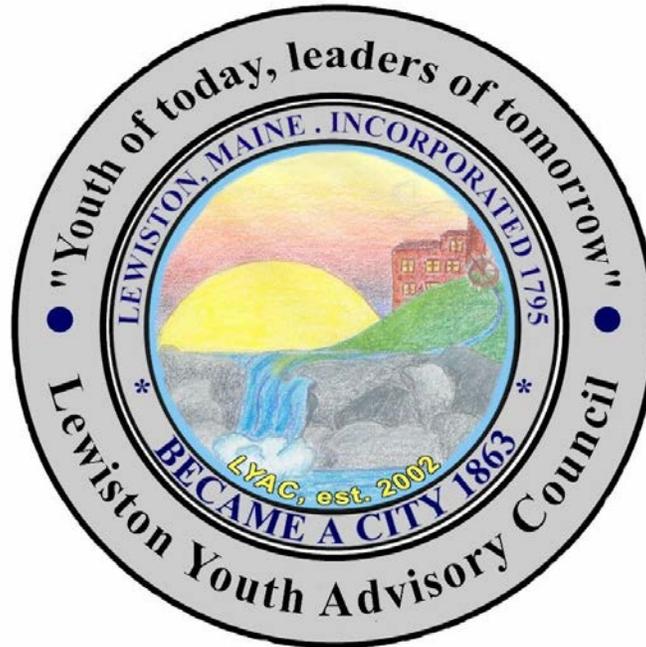


Lewiston Youth Advisory Council
Lewiston, Maine
Updated July 29, 2016

(Below are Examples of LYAC Achievements)



A Bit of History

The Lewiston Youth Advisory Council was established by the City Council in 2001. Prior to LYAC being established, a review of youth councils in Portland, Maine; Torrance, California; and Boston, Massachusetts was facilitated by municipal staff, and a community forum was also held to discuss the youth council idea.

Youth and adults respecting each other's viewpoints set the wheels in motion for the establishment of Lewiston's youth council. Community input was key regarding what the youth council would "*look like*," and meeting with Boston's youth council advisors/youth proved insightful. Lewiston's elected officials also participated in the process, and media coverage was helpful in gaining attention for this undertaking.

Much discussion ensued as to whether there would be an application or election process for membership. Due to youth input preferring an "*application process*" versus an election process, with the latter often based on popularity, applications became the means to seek membership on LYAC.

With community support evident, a St. Dominic's Regional High School student and a Bates College intern developed by-laws to launch the concept, with the understanding that the charter group could modify them. An application process was publicized, school presentations made, and interviews and orientation held. The Lewiston City Council authorized the establishment of LYAC in 2001, and LYAC first met in September 2002.

To be considered for membership on LYAC, an individual must be a Lewiston resident at the time of application **OR** a student (or will be one in the fall) at either Lewiston High School or St. Dominic Academy (St. Dom's students have been included due to the school's long-time history with Lewiston, and St. Dom's students have been included in membership since LYAC's establishment). Should a member no longer meet membership criteria in the midst of his/her tenure, the youth may complete his/her term but not re-apply.

“We’re pleased that the City of Lewiston has taken steps to encourage young people to participate in the community’s civic life, as by doing so, the City is assisting them in acquiring the knowledge and skills to be effective citizens.”
(2001: Fran Rudolf, Maine Dept of Education Citizenship Education Task Force)

LYAC regularly tackles new initiatives with a balance of returning and new members annually, and members establish/build upon community partnerships. The current financial sponsor of LYAC is the Lewiston Firefighters Association—both funding for sustainability and an annual scholarship opportunity for LYAC seniors.

Momentum has been built on LYAC's successes, as LYAC and others see the difference the group continues to make within the community. People have taken notice, and Deputy City Administrator Phil Nadeau often says, **“If you want something done, LYAC can do it!”** LYAC's outreach has included interaction with:

- **Attorney General's Office**
- **Chamber of Commerce**
- **Local Historians**
- **Downtown Neighborhood Action Committee**
- **Great Falls TV**
- **Healthy Androscoggin**
- **High School Substance Abuse Counselor**
- **Service for Peace**
- **National Civic League**
- **National League of Cities**
- **New Beginnings**
- **Lewiston High School STEP Program**
- **Lewiston Police Department**
- **Lewiston Fire Department**
- **Lewiston Firefighters Association**
- **Local/State Elected Officials**

- Fairpoint Communications
- Youth + Adults + Dialogue = Action (YADA)
- Local Businesses
- Medical Professionals
- LA Landlords Association
- Lewiston Public School Department
- Local Elementary Students
- Lewiston Middle School Students
- Lewiston High School Students
- Belfast High School
- Great Falls Community Folk Orchestra
- Other Municipalities
- Boy Scouts
- Military Personnel
- 9-11 Families
- Media
- Maine Youth Action Network
- The Franco Center
- Lewiston Middle School Aspirations Coordinator



LYAC's mission is to *serve as an advisory council to the Lewiston City Council in regards to community issues affecting youth and serve as a liaison between the youth of the community and the City. The LYAC also enables youth to work toward goals that empower all of the community's youth and to undertake service projects that enhance the community.*

Currently, the LYAC membership consists of nine (9) youth. The group's Advisor is Community Relations Coordinator Dottie Perham-Whittier, and Councilor Isobel Golden is the group's City Council Liaison.

Voices of Youth Supporting Lewiston



On May 11, 2016, the "Voices of Youth Supporting Lewiston" were heard loud and clear at the Lewiston Public Library, as a video of Lewiston Youth Advisory Council members and Farwell Elementary School K-6 students highlighted Lewiston in a positive, upbeat video. Following the video, attendees participated in youth council led dialogue about the positives known about Lewiston, negatives said about Lewiston, and ways to be their community's own

cheerleaders! The list of positives was vast from the "feeling of home" to the arts, cultural diversity, community gardening to a low crime rate! Negatives noted were regarded as more perception than what Lewiston is truly like, and the group felt that community members need to focus on advocating for the City they are so proud of - let voices be heard! LYAC was lauded by attendees for focusing on all that Lewiston has to offer and were encouraged to continue promoting their community.



Lewiston Jeopardy Night – November 4, 2015

Callahan Hall at the Lewiston Public Library on November 4, 2015, was filled with questions, answers, applause and lots of community pride. The Lewiston Youth Advisory Council hosted "**Lewiston Jeopardy Night**," after doing research & preparing questions for a Lewiston version of the well-known nationally televised Jeopardy game. The game was an enhanced version of the game they played with elementary students earlier in the year. The event was part of the youth council's ongoing positive image campaign for Lewiston, **DO YOU DO LEW**, encouraging individuals to be themselves and to enjoy the diverse offerings within the City of Lewiston. LYAC Chair Eric Hall served as MC, and local residents' competitive spirit came through loud & clear! Two rounds of Jeopardy were played, "*Back in the Day*" and "*Here & Now*," focusing on Lewiston's rich heritage and the many positives Lewiston is currently known for. During the evening, attendees also had the opportunity to share what they like about Lewiston, and a slideshow highlighting Lewiston was shown.



Do You Do Lew Goes to Geiger Elementary!

In May of 2015, LYAC took their “Do You Do Lew” campaign to Geiger Elementary where they talked with students about all that Lewiston has to offer. A particular hit was an interactive “DO YOU DO LEW JEOPARDY” game that LYAC put together!



“We Love Lewiston” Documentary Debuts!



On February 4, 2015, the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) debuted its 31-minute documentary video entitled “We Love Lewiston” as part of its DO YOU DO LEW public image campaign. The film was shown at Guthries Independent Theater in Lewiston with a good turnout.

Numerous community members were interviewed in the documentary sharing their perspective on why Lewiston is a great place to live, work, raise a family, play, and do business.

Photos of Lewiston were also in the film, along with snippets of the pop song “Happy.” Following the viewing, LYAC members took the stage for a Q & A session with members of the audience. They also shared their personal love for Lewiston and were lauded by attendees for taking a stand for the city they are proud of.



Do You Do Lew – 2014 - 2015



On October 27, 2014, the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council launched its public image campaign for Lewiston. It is meant to encourage people to be themselves and to enjoy life in Lewiston . . . and to boost Lewiston's image. Nairus Abdullahi, LYAC Chair, stated, "*The Lewiston Youth Advisory Council is tired of people saying negative*

things about Lewiston. The words are hurtful and untrue. They imply that we are uneducated and unworthy of newcomers and business offers. Lewiston is a multi-faceted city that has a lot to offer. We have great diversity, programs, and social events that bring people together. Our mission is to end negativity about Lewiston. It is not fair that a city such as Lewiston has to suffer this verbal nonsense."

LYAC Vice-Chair Marguerite Seguin concurred, "*Now I've lived in Lewiston since I was three, but I've served on LYAC for two terms now and it was during that time that I discovered how great Lewiston really is. From continuous projects about cultural awareness to educating children about healthy lifestyles, we as group are dedicated to improving this great city. And it is a great city: art walks and balloon festivals, tasty local restaurants and low crime rates, upstanding colleges and even our own Lewiston High School - we truly have it all, located right here.*"

With community supporters holding "I Love Lewiston Because . . ." signs at the press event, LYAC also debuted the campaign's DO YOU DO LEW t-shirts and handed out bumper stickers. They have also distributed DO YOU DO LEW window decals to businesses interested in posting them. More comments about Lewiston can be found at #doyoudolew

Celebration of Immigration - 2014



History came alive on April 5th at the Lewiston Memorial Armory as Irish, French, Greek, Lithuanian, and Somali Americans shared their families' journey to Lewiston as immigrants—to include the reasons they came to Lewiston, experiences along the way, and the struggles/successes once here. Phyllis Deringis, Lithuanian panelist, stressed the importance of sharing these stories so that generations to come will have answers to their questions. In addition to Deringis, other panelists were John Henderson (Irish); Rachel Desgrosseilliers (French-Canadian); Jack Clifford (Greek); and Zam Zam Mohamed (Somali). Respective flags—along with the

American flag—served as decorations, and a world map was available for attendees to put a push pin on their country of origin.



Celebration of Immigration, which was hosted by the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council, was intended to recognize Lewiston’s five largest immigration “waves” and to bring people together in a spirit of unity and community. Lithuanian music played as attendees arrived, and a Lewiston history Powerpoint scrolled throughout the event. The event was very well attended, with even tears shed as residents from here and away viewed displayed historical memorabilia, some

pertaining to their own family members. Cultural food samples provided by LYAC members were served, cultural dancing was demonstrated and extended to audience participation, and cultural music was provided by the Great Falls Community Folk Orchestra.

LYAC members also shared what planning and experiencing the event had meant to them with words such as “*eye opener*,” “*we are different but alike*,” and “*we are all people*” echoing their sentiments. In addition, Lewiston Mayor Robert Macdonald was on hand for the event and praised those who have come to Lewiston to build a better life, such as the Irish who built the local canals.

December Holidays – Share, Show & Tell – December 7, 2013



The Lewiston Youth Advisory Council’s (LYAC) desire to enhance cultural understanding resulted in a December 7, 2013, community gathering to highlight ten (10) December holidays: Christmas, Hanukkah,



Kwanza, Saint Nicholas Day, Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Lucia Day, Las Posadas, Boxing Day, Omisoka, and Bodhi Day. Apparently word reached far and wide about the multi-cultural celebration, as the Philippines band “Balonge” arrived at the event and offered to do a surprise finale, sharing traditional Philippines holiday music . . . a fitting ending to the event! Balonge had performed at Schooner Estates earlier in the day. LYAC had undertaken the “**December Holidays Share, Show & Tell**” event to provide information about multiple holidays, as well as provide an opportunity for audience members to share their personal favorite holiday memories. The event also featured traditional foods for the



various holidays highlighted to include fresh fruit quesadillas eaten for Las Posada and St. Nicholas Day gingerbread cookies. Cultural outreach continued around the food table, as a Maine French instructor spoke in French to many of the LYAC members who are also fluent in that language.

2013 Mayoral Debate

In regards to the November 2013 Lewiston elected officials election, the LYAC hosted a 90-minute debate between the two Mayoral candidates. The event was well attended, and LYAC found it to be a very informative experience. The event was shown live on Cable and streamed live on Great Falls TV online.



Keep in Mind; Be Kind Anti-Bullying Outreach

The Lewiston Youth Advisory Council developed and then touted on May 3, 2013, an anti-bullying message entitled **Keep in Mind; Be Kind** to students at Montello Elementary. LYAC members did presentations for kindergarten, third grade, and sixth grade students, to include talking about bullying and ways to stop it, doing skits, asking students to write anti-bullying skits, providing an opportunity for



students to sign an “*I’m a Be Kind Kid*” pledge card, showing anti-bullying video clips, and asking students to participate in writing/drawing exercises about kindness and ways to help stop bullying. Written comments/artwork done by students were assembled into an anti-bullying booklet that was shared electronically for use at Lewiston’s elementary schools.

By the end of the presentations, students were shouting out “**Keep in Mind; Be Kind**” amidst high fives and handshakes, with lots of hugs given to LYAC members by kindergarten students. Stickers and rubber bracelets with the “**Keep in Mind; Be Kind**” message, compliments of the Lewiston Firefighters Association, were also distributed.

Homeless Youth in Lewiston Documentary Filming & Debut



During the 2012 – 2013 year, LYAC wanted to create community awareness about the approximately 200 out-of-home youth in Lewiston. LYAC interviewed Bob Rowe, Executive Director of New Beginnings, Jaime Caouette, Homeless Academic Liaison of the Lewiston High School STEP Program, and several homeless youth.

They filmed a documentary that debuted on January 17, 2013, to a standing-room-only crowd, to include the Governor of the State of Maine. Before the video was shown, LYAC members shared what an eye-opening experience making the film had been. The documentary featured Kat Borghoff and Kendra Sprague, both previously homeless teens who received life-changing support from New Beginnings and Volunteers of America Northern New England. The documentary also featured Rowe and Caouette who discussed the reasons for youth homelessness, to include physical and sexual abuse, strained relationships, addiction of a family member, or parental neglect.

The documentary stresses the theme of “*What Can You Do?*” encouraging donations, reaching out to others, using one’s voice to spread the news about community resources, and to share what was heard in the documentary. Donations of items youth could use were accepted during the event.



Naming of Mark W. Paradis Park – LYAC Renaming Contest



On December 18, 2013, Pierce Street Park, Lewiston, was renamed in the memory of Mark W. Paradis, a former dedicated elected official who was running for Mayor at the time of his passing. The Lewiston City Council voted unanimously for the renaming recommendation made by the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council. The park renaming was the result of a contest facilitated by LYAC during their work with the Downtown Neighborhood Action Committee (DNAC) to make improvements to Pierce Street Park, to include a more attention-getting name. Nicole Morin, a student at Lewiston Middle School, submitted the winning entry, hence the renaming of **Mark W. Paradis Park**, which was also endorsed by DNAC.



Recycling Rulz!

One of the topics the 2011-2012 LYAC group focused on was recycling. They met with a rep from the LA Landlords Association as to how to best communicate the importance of recycling, especially within the downtown. The group also held a **Recycling Rulz** event in Kennedy Park, playing recycling-related games with attending children, handing out recycling t-shirts, and providing attending adults with information about Lewiston's zero sort recycling program.



Pierce Street Park Revitalization



Following LYAC members' attendance at a Downtown Neighborhood Action Committee (DNAC) meeting, LYAC decided that they'd like to assist the group in seeking ways to revitalize Pierce Street Park. Members of LYAC visited the park twice, the first time to view the park & brainstorm about ideas; the second, to talk with youth who use the park. Both visits resulted in a list of suggestions & thoughts which were communicated to the DNAC. The result of the collaboration resulted in multiple meetings with DNAC; a neighborhood meeting; City Council support; and plans for improvements, in phases, commenced!

Cool Things Happening on Lisbon Street



On October 21 & 22, 2011, members of the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council visited and filmed several locations on Lisbon Street to demonstrate that Lisbon Street—historically a flurry of activity—does indeed still have “cool” things to offer with regularly increasing activity. They visited places such as Fuel, Chill Yoga, The Vault, Niky’s Greek Restaurant, LA Arts, Gallery Five, Mother India, LA Magazine, Forage, Kaplan University, and Baraka Store to interview people about what was happening at their respective sites & gained many positive comments about Lewiston and Lisbon Street. LYAC edited the footage at Great Falls TV and debuted the video at LA Arts’ Downstage – **full house & rave reviews!!!!**

LYAC Hosts 2011 Mayoral Debate



On October 6, 2011, the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council hosted its first Mayoral Debate. LYAC worked in partnership with Chip Morrison, President of the Chamber of Commerce, who served as moderator. LYAC Chair Kenzi Masselli facilitated the event, and LYAC members asked the five Mayoral candidates questions. The event was shown live on Great Falls TV and also live-streamed online. A standing-room-only crowd also attended at Lewiston City Hall.



Motivate ME!



LYAC launched **“MOTIVATE ME”** in early 2011, an outreach to local 7th & 8th graders in an effort to enhance attitudes towards school and hopefully raise their aspirations. They sent a survey question to the middle school students at Lewiston Middle School and St. Dom’s Academy, **“What motivates you to do well in school?”** They received 480 surveys and selected **29 “standouts”** that they slotted into four categories: *Most Heartfelt, Most Driven, Family Encouragement, and Unsung Hero.*

On May 11, 2011, the LYAC hosted, in partnership with the Lewiston Firefighters Association, a televised live recognition event for those 29 youth, with prize packages handed out. The group had pursued Maine’s post-secondary educational facilities requesting donated college items, and what they received was used as part of the prize package contents. Interestingly, 116 students responded that their desire to go to college motivates them. The last meeting of the 2010-2011 membership was May 25, 2011, with a decision to highlight results from the MOTIVATE ME surveys on the community’s (LYAC spearheaded) electronic message board, especially since many youth said parental/family encouragement is a huge motivator for them.

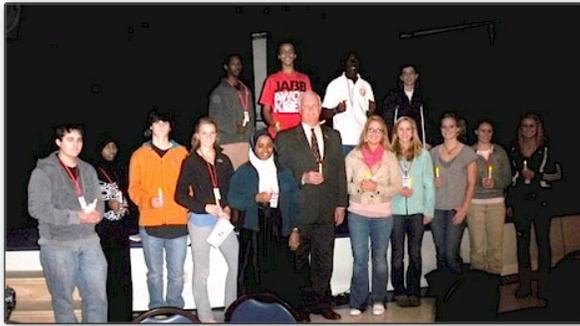


February 16, 2011 – Maine Distracted Driving Summit



Three youth council reps were invited to a **“Maine Distracted Driving Summit”** sponsored by Maine Senator Bill Diamond and AAA of Northern New England. LYAC was invited due to their previous production of SMASHED, an underage drinking awareness video that they wrote, produced, and debuted at a local theatre – standing room only. The video was approved as part of Maine’s driving education curriculum.

November 17, 2010 – Peace Walk



On November 17, 2010, the youth council held a World Peace Day candlelight walk across the local “**Bernard Lown Peace Bridge.**” The walk was followed by comments, music, Bates College interpretative dance, and a video clip of when the Lown Bridge was dedicated after Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Bernard Lown in 2008. The post-walk festivities took

place in Lewiston’s Franco-American Heritage Center, which was decorated with submitted peace-focused artwork from local elementary students.



Youth Council Members Sitting with City Council

New in 2010, members of the youth council started sitting with the City Council during regular meetings due to an adopted amendment to the LYAC municipal policy. LYAC members are encouraged to share their thoughts as agenda items are being discussed. This is **not a requirement** but instead an opportunity for those LYAC members who would like to participate.



Lewiston Youth Summit 2010



On April 16, 2010, LYAC hosted its first-ever youth summit, ***“Lewiston Youth Summit 2010”*** at the Lewiston Armory. It was sponsored by the Lewiston Firefighters Association. The summit was a huge success with five schools attending. In addition to a keynote speaker with a message of ***“Inspired to be Great,”*** and a physical fitness routine known as ***“ZUMBA,”*** educational interactive breakout sessions were held with summit goals listed below. A Chamber/LA Young Professionals presentation was also featured ***“Lewiston/Auburn: Then & Now.”***

- ❑ Bring youth together to share & implement different ideas/experiences
- ❑ Help youth to be better prepared for handling finances, staying healthy & physically fit, preparing for college, and being an effective communicator
- ❑ Show Lewiston from LYAC’s point of view & hopefully enhance other youth’s perception of Lewiston.



Summit evaluations came in strong about the event; some examples are listed below:

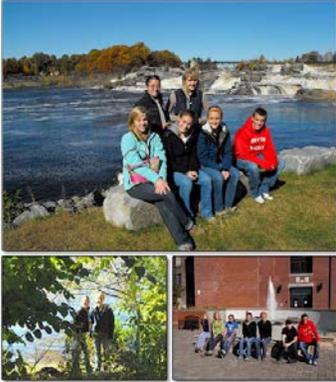
“There is a lot more in Lewiston than I thought.”

“A lot of people get accepted to local colleges.”

“There’s a lot of culture in Lewiston.”

“There’s a lot of opportunities here in Lewiston.”

DVD: Lewiston In the Eyes of Youth



At the 2010 youth summit, LYAC debuted its new DVD "*Lewiston in the Eyes of Youth*" which received much praise. LYAC had toured the city taking photos that they believe highlight positives in Lewiston and also accepted photos from other students & members of the public.

LYAC provided the Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce with a copy to use as an informative tool for families with youth considering a move to Lewiston.

Maine Youth Action Network Peer Leadership Conference



On November 10, 2009, several members of LYAC attended the **Maine Youth Action Network Peer Leadership Conference** at the Augusta Civic Center; their attendance was sponsored by Fairpoint Communications. While there, they continued to work on the group's Action Plan for the 2010 youth summit, attended various workshops on topics such as climate change & nutrition, and presented their plans for a youth summit before a panel of professionals for input & feedback.

Keep Lewiston Clean – Recycle!



During the 08-09 LYAC year, the group focused on downtown clean-up and beautification. A highlight of their efforts included a "**Keep Lewiston Clean – Recycle**" DVD for use within neighborhoods & community groups.

On March 24, 2009 at Montello Elementary, members of the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council acted out the characters in their new "**Charlie's Big Recycling Adventure**" story/coloring booklet, which they wrote/illustrated. Each student received a copy of the recycling booklet, which included a letter to parents, recycling activities for children to do, a family planning recycling page, and information on the City of Lewiston's recycling efforts. In addition, a recycling lesson plan--developed by LYAC member Tim Stretton--was also made available to teachers. LYAC also showed the 1st - 3rd graders their recently released video entitled, "**Keep Lewiston Clean . . . Recycle.**"





In addition, art and trash disposal blended together during the afternoon of April 24th, 2009, as members of the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council hosted a **painting event of 55-gallon drums at the Lewiston Armory**. They were accompanied by the Mayor, City employees, Lewiston High School (LHS) students, and LHS art instructor Jody Dube. **The project evolved into "Adopt-A-Can" for community members to become involved with & offering landlord incentives.**

U BOOZE U LOOZE & SMASHED

LYAC partnered with a local graphic design businessman, Nick Knowlton, who designed an underage drinking **U BOOZE U LOOZE** logo. The message was very close to Mr. Knowlton's heart, as he lost a nephew to a drunk driver.

"We wanted to highlight how much kids have to lose when they decide to drink. We also wanted to stress that there are many young people who do not drink and they still have a great time with their friends, and we're some of them."
(Allyson Beaucage, Chair – Former Lewiston Youth Advisory Council Chair)



Northeast Bank sponsored UBUL pens/key chains, which were distributed during LYAC speaking engagements, and LYAC received interest calls from The Montel Williams New York-based talk show; FACE, a national non-profit focusing on alcohol/substance abuse; Healthy Quarters of Salem, Massachusetts; and Lincoln County's (Maine) Weed & Seed.

UBUL evolved, through a State grant, into a 22-minute film entitled **SMASHED**—written, developed, produced, and co-filmed by LYAC members. It opened at the Auburn Flagship Cinema to a standing-room-only crowd and **was approved for use as part of driver's education curriculum by the State of Maine!**



National Speaker Brandon Silveria to LHS – Hosted by LYAC



LYAC brought national speaker Brandon Silveria to Lewiston High School to tell his life-changing story of what happens when you drink & drive. Silveria shared his story of having everything a teen could want--a job, a girlfriend, and a forthcoming full college scholarship--until he had a few drinks at a party and chose to drive home, leaving his life changed forever. His physical and verbal impairments were very obvious to listeners, and following a standing ovation

and not many dry eyes in the gym, numerous teens went forward to hug Brandon, talk with him, and shake his hand.

Recording U Booze U Looze Radio Commercial



On February 20, 2008, members of the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council recorded a **U Booze U Looze** commercial at Q97.9 radio station in Portland, Maine. Written by LYAC member Ashley Morgan, the commercial had sound effects from the group's **SMASHED** underage drinking awareness film. The commercial encouraged youth to "**listen to the voice within**" when faced with the decision of drinking and driving or riding with a driver who has been drinking.

Lessons Through Expressions

LYAC member Athena Andoniades, assisted by her peers, facilitated "**Lessons Through Expressions**", an art event for community children in grades K-4 on Saturday, April 26, 2008. This was the 2nd art-related event LYAC has hosted, the first being in the spring of 2006. LYAC members manned art stations that



encouraged children to try their hand at artwork imitating known artists such as

Pablo Picasso, Piet Mondrian, and Robert Oddy, as well as artwork focusing on the earth in light of LYAC's upcoming focus on recycling.



Youth from the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council: L-R - Athena Andoniades, Luke Jensen, friend of LYAC "Calder", Devin Bergeron, Jeff Lewandowski, and Ashley Morgan.

Lewiston Police Ride-Alongs



In December 2008, members of the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council participated in Lewiston Police Department ride-alongs to obtain an enhanced understanding of what occurs within the community. **One youth, Holly Lavorgna, had a keen eye during the evening, providing the officer she was riding with an important case solving observation.**

All-America City – First Time Around

Lewiston
2006
All-America City Finalist

LYAC took the lead in 2006 in nominating Lewiston as an All-America City and was involved in every aspect of the application process, to include script writing and competition in Anaheim, California. Although Lewiston was not a winner until the next year, LYAC member Ashley Morgan reflected upon the entire experience in a June 20, 2006, *Letter to the Editor*.

“As a member of the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council I would like to express my gratitude to all the delegates of the All-America City (AAC) trip to Anaheim, California. I was proud to represent Lewiston as an All-America contender and was fortunate to attend this awakening experience. The experience has ignited my enthusiasm for the future of our city. After working with my peers and elders on producing the AAC application, I now recognize the great strides Lewiston has taken within only the past decade and only wish to carry on these improvements presently and in the future.

No small amount of words can express the dedication that was put into the project by the advisors of LYAC and other AAC presentation members. It was a special opportunity for myself and other LYAC members to work one-on-one with city officials. I was disappointed that Lewiston was not touted as one of the top ten of the cities but was reassured by surrounding members that “All-America City Winner” was just a title. It is the obstacles Lewiston has overcome in recent years that are the true successes of our city.

(LYAC Member Ashley Morgan - 2006)

All-America City – 2007 – WE WON!



In 2007, it was at the urging of LYAC members that city staff and officials decided to “try” again for national recognition as an All-America City. This time, LYAC’s featured part was the U BOOZE U LOOZE campaign, and LYAC members were effective contributors in Anaheim . . . so much so

that a former Lewiston youth was invited to return to be a youth judge for other cities competing for the All-America title!



Electronic Message Board



In partnership with the Lewiston School Department, LYAC raised funds to site an electronic message board at the entrances of Lewiston High School. The community’s slogan is “*It’s Happening Here,*” and LYAC believed the electronic sign—especially in the selected high traffic area—would be an effective means to inform residents/visitors of the numerous city, school, and LYAC activities that are occurring. In addition to manning an informational booth about the message

board at the local **Business to Business Trade Show**, LYAC made several community presentations to include the Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club and the Downtown Advisory Board, the latter providing a financial match. In regards to the sign project, LYAC also successfully advocated Maine State legislation for more local control of such types of signs.

Teen Stakeholders

LYAC representation was “*at the table*” for a local **Teen Stakeholders Group** with a focus on making the community an even better place for young people. LYAC’s input was invaluable as the group progressed into a community-wide “*study circles*” process.

Multi-Level Historic Timepiece Display



In partnership with Councilor Normand Rousseau, LYAC established a City Hall multi-story display of Lewiston's 1891 E. Howard timepiece, which was formerly in the building's tower, **by raising over \$25,000 to do so.** Lewiston is one of only a few New England communities to have an operational historic timepiece on display, and LYAC's community-wide awareness effort regarding the clock included a Great Falls TV *"newscast-simulation"* video, presentations throughout the community, and a 12-hour *"Rock for the*

Clock" fundraiser, along with **narrating the clock's history** on an audio podium accompanying the display (donated by Five County Credit Union). LYAC also hosted a press event with former Mayor Lionel C. Guay, Jr., when the entire project was officially *"unveiled."*

On May 3, 2007, LYAC's **"clock project"** was recognized at a Lewiston Historic Preservation Review Board public ceremony for being an **"outstanding preservation effort."** The recognition was also part of the Board's celebration of National Preservation Month.

"We were impressed with how hard the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council has worked to have the 1891 E. Howard timepiece relocated."

(Jennifer DeChant, Former Marketing Specialist – Five County Credit Union)

"Is Your Number Up" Campaign



LYAC has also partnered with the Lewiston Fire Department advocating an *"Is Your Number Up?"* campaign encouraging residents to adequately post their home/business addresses for immediate location by emergency responders. LYAC filmed a public service announcement featuring former City Councilor Mark Paradis' *"personal emergency story,"* hung informational posters throughout the community, and distributed 8,200 flyers via local newspaper

delivery. LYAC member Ryan Reed, who took the lead on the project, also involved his Boy Scout troop to post needed address numbers for Lewiston residents requesting such assistance.

Mayor's Citation of Excellence



LYAC and former Mayor Lionel C. Guay, Jr., developed the “*Mayor’s Citation of Excellence*,” whereby residents may nominate a middle or high school student who has recently achieved or accomplished something “*above & beyond*” or “*extraordinary*.” The Mayor and LYAC reviewed nominations, selected youth, and in a surprise visit to a youth’s school, home, or place of employment, they presented the citation.

Tax Cap Referendum Public Service Announcement

LYAC filmed a **public service announcement** with Great Falls TV in regards to a proposed tax cap referendum question before Maine voters—a referendum that was of concern to cities in regards to municipal service delivery. LYAC’s public service announcement encouraged residents to be fully informed before voting.



“I am very pleased to know that young people within our community are taking the time to learn about issues that will affect their future.”

(Former Mayor Lionel C. Guay, Jr.)

Youth Fine & Performing Arts Celebration



In an effort to highlight the talents of area youth, the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council hosted in the spring of 2006 a **Youth Fine & Performing Arts Celebration** at the City’s new Marsden Hartley Cultural Center. Area youth had the opportunity to display such items as photography, sketches, and ceramics, and two performances were also featured during the evening.

Noise Pollution Awareness Campaign



LYAC's first project was the facilitation of a community-wide noise pollution awareness campaign, ranging from a community forum featuring citizens, a state senator, police lieutenant, and an audiologist to developing a noise pollution educational comic book for elementary school children. **The group also made a presentation to local elementary students and facilitated a children's noise awareness poster contest (Winner was Caleb Labrie, St. Joseph's School kindergarten student – shown in picture).** In addition, LYAC also provided a citizen survey opportunity on their web site to ascertain community members' concerns in regards to noise. They also established a downtown storefront display to promote safe and courteous noise levels. Due to LYAC's awareness campaign, a **municipal noise ordinance** was established.

Various Other Activities



LYAC has also submitted comments on youth driving age legislation at the State level, as well as submitted their own proposal; participated in a National League of Cities race relations panel; participated in a "Rebuilding Together" home renovation; collected high school lunch hour change during the holidays to help meet the needs of teenagers at New Beginnings transitional center; participated in a WGME-TV "focus on war" youth panel; participated in a Maine Public Broadcasting panel regarding "Altruism vs. Self-Interest;" participated in a 2002 9-11 community remembrance event in Kennedy Park; led a 2003 9-11 community remembrance on the steps of City Hall; beautified a section of local Railroad Park; and participated in local holiday celebrations. They also **annually** participate in downtown holiday celebrations.



LYAC members have also partnered with Service for Peace. Having heard of LYAC's positive impact within the community, two members were asked to participate in a weeklong **"Summer of Service" leadership/service learning conference** on Cow Island, Maine, and participated in numerous service-learning projects, both on the Island and throughout the area.



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