



## City of Lewiston Press Announcement June 6, 2022

Celebrating Lewiston on June 25, 2022, will be a billboard of how great Lewiston is according to the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council (LYAC). The members have been diligently planning an event at the new Mike McGraw Park, 280 Bartlett Street, to highlight Lewiston music, art, history, business input, career opportunities, recreational opportunities, and more! LYAC's goal is to help educate attendees about what Lewiston has to offer.

Hannah Arsenault, LYAC member, notes, ***"This event involves youth and adults in what we do here. Sometimes people get in the habit of going to or being involved with the same things over & over, but this event can show what other things are available. They may be surprised as to what else they might like in Lewiston!"***

The June 25<sup>th</sup> event will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will conclude at 5:00 p.m. Drumming Extraordinaire Damon DeWitt, a former LYAC member, will kick-off the event with a dynamic presentation, followed by a packed schedule of offerings for all ages. The day's schedule—**which continues to evolve**—can be viewed at [www.lewistonmaine.gov/lyac](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/lyac).

**CHECK SCHEDULE FOR TIMES:** Attendees are encouraged to check the schedule, as several offerings will have specific time slots, while other offerings will be on site all afternoon, like The Colisee, which will highlight facility programming, hockey team info, billet family opportunities, and season tickets.

Mayor Carl L. Sheline, who will have a 2:00 – 2:30 p.m. Meet the Mayor time slot is enthusiastic about LYAC's undertaking, ***"I am so pleased that the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council has put this event together to showcase various aspects of what the City of Lewiston has to offer. It's also inspiring that these young people take pride in their city and want others to know that it's a vibrant place with many opportunities."***

City Council Liaison to LYAC Linda Scott concurs, ***"The future of Lewiston are these bright, creative students who have shown on a daily basis their passion and***

***commitment to celebrate our community and make it better place for all that live here. I couldn't be more proud to stand beside them and promote all they do."***

**SCAVENGER HUNT LAUNCHES TODAY!** Leading up to Celebrating Lewiston, today LYAC is launching a go-at-your-own-pace Lewiston-themed Scavenger Hunt. LYAC member Cadence Nadeau developed the Google-based hunt submission process, and LYAC collaboratively came up with #17 clues. To read the clues, begin the hunt, and review the interactive submission process, interested individuals may visit [www.lewistonmaine.gov/lewscavenger](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/lewscavenger). Visits to the required locations/photos to be uploaded can be done over a period of time, but all answers and photos need to be uploaded and submitted in ONE submission at the same time. Submissions will be part of a drawing at the June 25<sup>th</sup> event; hunt participants may be eligible to win a \$100 Mother India gift card, a \$50 Forage gift card, or a \$50 Italian Bakery gift card.

The June 25<sup>th</sup> afternoon offerings will include musical entertainment by local performer Josie French; the Lewiston High School Jazz Band; Somali & Wabanaki history presentations; a *"Why Do I Do Business in Lewiston?"* panel discussion and Q & A featuring businesses *Geiger, Forage, and Mother India*; an iconic Lewiston image *"paint night"* type activity provided on a first-come, first-serve basis by Melanie Therrien of Wicked Illustrations; and the Lewiston Public Library will lead an interactive activity for children to design a booklet about Lewiston for later display. The St. Mary's Nutrition Center Good Food Mobile Bus & a mini Farmer's Market will also be at the event.

**But, there's much more!** Lewiston firefighters, with Engine #7, will be on site to meet with children and provide educational handouts. A yoga class will be held by The Sanctuary, Lewiston, at 1:30 p.m. and interested participants are encouraged to bring a mat, towel, blanket, or use the grass, The Lewiston Career Center will be on site from 12 noon – 5 p.m. providing job/career information, and attendees can learn more about Veterans Memorial Park from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

An *"I Love Lewiston,"* selfie backdrop will be on site with photo props for attendees to have some fun *"repping Lewiston,"* and a hashtag will be provided for photo distribution. In addition, an enlarged version of Lewiston's honeycomb logo will be on site for *"What Do You Love About Lewiston"* posts by attendees.

Lewiston-themed face painting compliments of LHS art teacher Deanna Ehrhardt will be available from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., and Lewiston High School Assistant Principal Doug Dumont and *“teachers he can round up”* will be the focus of a 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. dunk tank experience compliments of Recovery Connections of Maine.

LYAC member Brea Mathieu believes the event will bring people together after a challenging two years. ***“It will be good to show what happens here and to show that unity exists in Lewiston.”***

Information will also be on hand about the City of Lewiston, The LA Metro Chamber, Bates College, and the Gendron Franco Center, to include the area’s updated Explore & Discover Guide.

The event will conclude with LYAC’s announcement of a 10-year sponsor for the field at Mike McGraw Park. LYAC has selected a field sponsor through a sponsorship application submitted by a local entity, and the sponsor’s name, as well as the name of the field will be announced/unveiled. Permanent signage will be eventually erected.

LYAC’s Keira Potvin notes that at the end of July 2022, ten (10) graduating seniors will be concluding their tenure on the youth council. ***“This is our last hurrah, and we really want to leave our mark on Lewiston.”***

***“It has been very exciting to watch LYAC members plan this event. The creativity and energy at meetings is uplifting, and their teamwork is impressive. They clearly set the bar high as positive ambassadors for the City of Lewiston,*** notes Dottie Perham-Whittier, Community Relations Coordinator/LYAC Advisor.