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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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ITEMS OF INTEREST

The New City Web Site is Up and Running!

You'll enjoy the new features such as:

Notify Me - where you can sign up to receive an email or text for such items as: alerts on road closures, parking bans due to snow storms, or perhaps you're interested in government jobs, bid postings, calendar items for various boards and committees, or when to attend City Council meetings...signing up for Notify Me will keep you informed!

Report a Concern - gives you the opportunity to be in touch with City staff for items like pot holes, street lights, or other concerns within the community.

Find It Fast - with a click you can find information on items such as: Zero Sort Recycling, Dog Licenses, Job Applications, or information on the Riverfront Island Masterplan or the Downtown Neighborhood Action Committee.

Check us out and let us know what you think.



The 2011 Great Falls Balloon Festival had another successful year and was enjoyed by our community.



CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Charter Review Committee Established

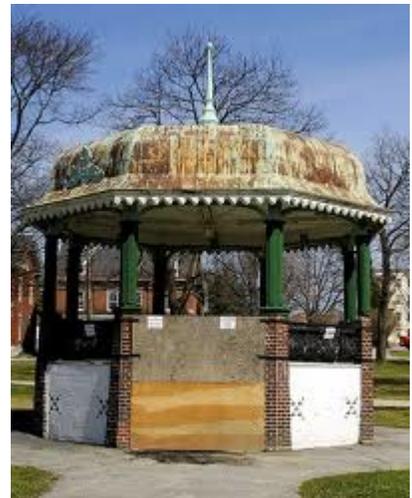
The City Council established a Charter Review Committee to undertake the first comprehensive review since the charter was adopted in 1980. The Committee has been asked to make recommendations on charter amendments to the City Council by November 15th. In addition, the Committee will recommend whether a Charter Commission should be elected to undertake a more substantive revision to the Charter. In general, major changes that would affect the basic structure of City government would require a separately elected Charter Commission similar to the process now underway for Androscoggin County. More minor amendments can be accepted by the City Council and placed on the ballot for a public vote. The Committee has also been charged to solicit public comments on possible charter changes and to hold at least one public hearing after completing its review of the charter but prior to finalizing its recommendations to the Council. If you have ideas or concerns about the City's current charter, please email me at ebarrett@lewistonmaine.gov and I will pass them on to the members of the Committee. The City Charter can be found on our web site at www.lewistonmaine.gov under the City Clerk Department's link to City Ordinances.

New Code Enforcement Position

During the budget process, the Community Development Block Grant Committee recommended that federal funds from this program be set aside to hire an additional person to assist in handling our more complex code cases involving substandard structures. One option that we explored was expanding the Police Department's Community Resource Team by assigning a Police Officer to these duties. This option was appealing because it would allow for cross training a Police employee on code issues, allow for that individual to assist other public safety personnel when they encounter building issues in the course of their duties, take advantage of Police training in handling violations and court proceedings, and offer greater stability in the position than we might see if we hired a new employee for a limited time engagement. The two city employee unions involved in these areas have agreed to this approach, and we are in the process of identifying the individual who will be selected. This is part of a number of efforts to address the condition of certain buildings in our community, most especially in our downtown. We hope to have this individual selected and at work soon.

Upcoming Issues

Now that Labor Day is past and summer is nearing its end, a variety of issues will be coming forward for Council consideration. The School Department has been developing a facilities plan to address the continuing growth we are experiencing in our student population and will be briefing the Council in September. A workshop has been scheduled for September 27th on the future of the gazebo in Kennedy Park. As noted above, recommended charter changes should be proposed late this calendar year. We also plan a workshop session with the Council on the City's current debt posture and alternatives the City can pursue to manage our debt position as we move forward. Finally and as reported elsewhere in this newsletter, we have started to work on our River Front Island Master Plan with the first public meeting set for early November. As always, we look forward to hearing the views of our citizens as we discuss these and other issues facing the City.



Business Licenses



During this time of year, the office is busy working with the different events and festivals that are held within the City during the summer. We work with the festival committees and related food and product vendors to ensure that all of the proper licenses are secured. Representatives of the Balloon Festival and the Dempsey Challenge have been great to work with.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Riverfront Island Master Planning Underway – Get involved



The lead consultant for the master planning effort, Goody Clancy, came to town on September 13th with an ambitious agenda. They created a buzz at City Hall and in the downtown as they held their initial meeting with the 18 member advisory committee, spent 2 days meeting from 8 AM to 7 PM with a variety of stakeholders, and conducted a downtown walking tour open to all and designed to garner citizen's thoughts, including tours of some of the mill buildings. Goody Clancy is currently in information gathering mode. Your participation is invited through

a web page devoted to this process and at upcoming events and public meetings, the first of which will occur in November. The web address is: <http://www.riverfrontislandmasterplan.com/>

CARBONITE Hiring

In June 2011, this Boston based company announced plans to relocate 250 jobs from call centers in India to Lewiston. They work fast. As of September 1st, Carbonite employs 60 people at their Mollison Way call center. They are working to hire 75 more before Christmas. They need both customer service and technical service representatives. Ideal candidates will have some knowledge of computer software and the inner workings of computers.

Carbonite provides automated on-line backup of computer files, with anytime anywhere access for a \$59 annual fee. In 2010 they were listed by Inc. Magazine as the 9th fastest growing company in America.

Moody's Collision Center



The structure is up and interior work is underway on Moody's expansion into the Lewiston/Auburn marketplace. Located on Main Street, just north of Marden's, the facility is expected to open later this fall.

Like Downtown Living? Like Wine?

Renovations are complete at 84 Lisbon Street. Four gracious apartments are available for rent adjacent to Dufresne Plaza, near Fuel and Mother India restaurants. Long-term monthly parking is available for residents in the Oak Street Garage at \$42 per month. The street-level space has been occupied by *The Vault*- a new wine shop providing handpicked wine at great prices. Owner Susan Hall has many years of experience in the wine industry as a wholesaler and importer.



Funding Available for Home Energy Improvements

The City Council adopted an ordinance that makes Lewiston homeowners eligible for financing of home energy improvements through the Efficiency Maine **PACE Program**. Eligible improvements include weatherization, upgrades to more efficient heating, lighting, and appliances, and solar thermal or solar photovoltaic systems. Loans range from \$6,500 to \$15,000. The loan is transferrable with the property. It has no processing fees, a fixed interest rate of 4.99%, and the repayment period is up to 15 years. More program information is available at <http://www.energymaine.com/at-home/hesp-program/eligibility> or call Efficiency Maine at 1-866-376-2463 to pre-qualify for a loan.

Neighborhood Stabilization Properties for Sale

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the City of Lewiston received Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funding to help stabilize neighborhoods struggling with foreclosures and abandoned properties. The City partnered with **Community Concepts** to acquire and fully rehabilitate two downtown properties. 137 Pine Street has two 3 bedroom apartments and is listed at \$95,000. Located across the street from St. Peter and Paul's Basilica, 119 Ash Street has two 2 bedroom units. It is listed at \$100,000.

FIRE

Firefighters Take the Oath

Two newly hired firefighters, Justin Shink and Max Couture, were sworn in by Deputy City Clerk Kelly Mercier. The new firefighters have been busy with the many aspects of becoming a City of Lewiston Employee. In addition to orientation, new employees must participate in practical training to refresh their technical firefighting skills along with a fair amount of classroom time reviewing emergency vehicle operations and equipment applications. Justin and Max began their training on August 15, 2011.



Firefighter's Memorial



For many years, The Lewiston Firefighter's Association has worked toward the goal of dedicating a monument to the memory of Lewiston Firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. In 2010, firefighters reached their funding goal and pledged the financial support to purchase a monument and complete the desired landscaping. In the spring of 2011, the Lewiston City Council approved placing the monument at the corner of Bates and College Street at Lewiston Central Fire Station. Collette Monuments of Lewiston was commissioned to

design and install the memorial. Lewiston Public Works staff provided the necessary support by pouring the foundation for the memorial. Steve Murch and his staff also designed the landscaping and brick paver walkway that enclose the monument. Many thanks to the members of Local 785 for supporting a memorial which will remain in place for many years to come. A dedication ceremony will take place this October.

LIBRARY

Microfilm Reader/Scanner/Printer

A new microfilm reader was installed this summer offering researchers expanded capabilities. The networked machine allows patrons to create digital copies from the Library's microfilm collection which can be printed, emailed to the user's account, or saved as a PDF file. The Library's microfilm files contain Lewiston newspapers back to the 1860's, U. S. Census files for Androscoggin County, and Sanborn insurance maps for Lewiston/Auburn.

Let's Talk About It

With support from the Friends of LPL, the Library is again sponsoring a Maine Humanities Council "Let's Talk About It" reading and discussion series this fall. The theme is "Entering Nature: Contemporary Views of the Human Self in the Natural World." The programs take place monthly from September through December.

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)



The Library received a new videoconferencing unit and nine computers for the Computer Lab this summer through their participation in the Maine State Library's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. This will allow local organizations to utilize the equipment to participate in distance learning and meeting opportunities. The BTOP also includes a partnership with the Maine Department of Labor to provide unemployed and underemployed residents with job search assistance.

Great Falls Forum

LPL announced its lineup of speakers for the 2011-2012 Great Falls Forum Series. The first Forum program of the new year took place on Thursday, September 15 at 12 noon featuring Major General Bill Libby and Maine's First Lady Ann LePage speaking on "Maine's Military Families: Their Needs and Resources." The October 13 Forum will feature The Beehive Collective, an arts/activist group from Machias, Maine, presenting on "The True Cost of Coal." The GFF is cosponsored by the Library, Bates College and the Lewiston Sun Journal.

PLANNING & CODE ENFORCEMENT

Historic Preservation Review Board

The Historic Preservation Review Board met on August 4th and granted a certificate of appropriateness to the Lewiston-Auburn Railroad Company for exterior renovations to the Grand Trunk Railroad Depot located at 103 Lincoln Street. This property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 4, 1979.



Planning Board

The Planning Board had meetings on August 8th and on August 22nd to address a variety of zoning and related matters.

Board of Appeals

The Board of Appeals convened a meeting on August 17th and issued a conditional use permit to New Beginnings to locate their offices and outreach programs at 134 College Street. In addition, approval was granted for the conversion of the two-family home located at 169 Holland Street to professional offices for use and occupancy by New Beginnings (169 Holland adjoins 134 College).

Property Maintenance Codes

The City Council granted final approval on August 23rd of the 2009 Edition of the International Property Maintenance Code. This Code will be effective on September 23rd and is very similar to current property maintenance code provisions with the exception that weed growth will now be regulated in several downtown districts.

Sunoco Station on Sabattus Street



The former Sunoco Station located 445 Sabattus Street was demolished in August resulting from a condemnation order issued by the Superior Court.

Permit Activity

August 2011:

- 46 building permits with a dollar value of \$539,080 (this includes permits for the construction of two single-family homes)
- 17 plumbing permits
- 47 electrical permits

August 2010:

- 78 building permits were issued with a dollar value of \$4,538,960
- The largest commercial permit was for McMahon School with a reported value of \$1,973,570
- Three new single-family homes were permitted in July, two of which had a reported value of \$545,000 each
- 17 plumbing permits
- 58 electrical permits

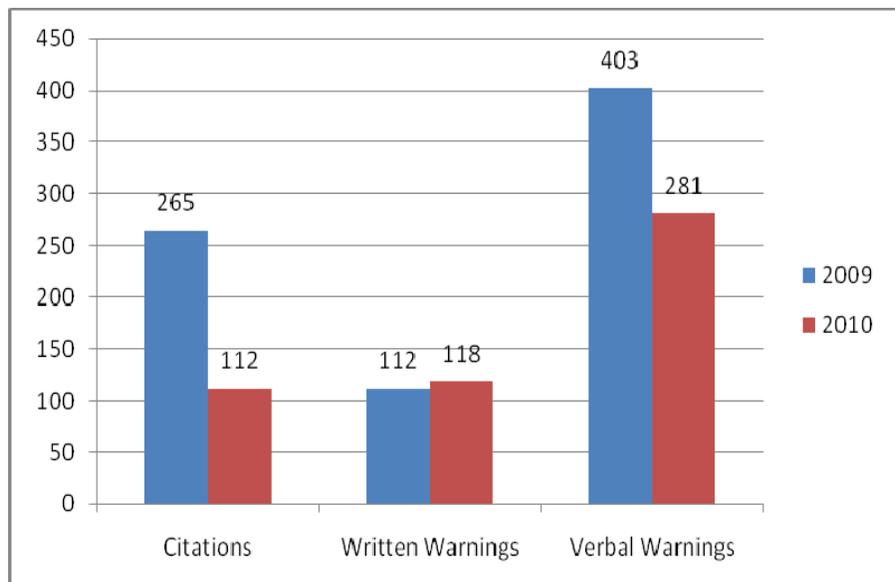
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Stats

In the month of August, the Lewiston Police Department responded to 3,580 Calls for Service. The agency initiated 428 vehicle stops resulting in 120 citations and 43 written warnings with the remaining stops resulting in verbal warnings. There were 155 arrests of adults and 25 juvenile arrests during this period as well as 95 criminal summonses issued. There were 7 arrests on narcotics violations and 11 arrests for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The parking enforcement and patrol divisions issued 562 parking tickets.



August	2011
Calls For Service	3,580
Vehicle Stops	428
Citations	120
Written Warnings	43
Verbal Warnings	265
Adult Arrests	155
Juvenile Arrests	25
Criminal Summonses	95
Narcotics Arrests	7
OUI Arrests	11
Parking Tickets	562



Events & Activities

Agency personnel assisted with several community events in August. Sgt. Randy St. Laurent assisted with the Timothy J. Mynahan scholarship foundation, in which he is the Vice President. Officers Patrick Griffin and Corey Jacques represented the City of Lewiston by taking part in the annual Camp Sunshine fundraiser to raise money for summer camps for children. Officers Jason Nadeau and Patrick Griffin represented the Department by taking part in a recent Portland PD sponsored benefit. Officer Craig Johnson facilitated a Community Action Group meeting at the River Valley apartment complex.

The Community Resource Team began focusing on traffic concerns in several residential neighborhoods including: Pond Road, Old Greene Road, Scribner Boulevard, Farwell Street, College Road, and Montello Street in response to concerns from citizens. Directed enforcement details and the deployment of the radar trailer were used in several locations. Residents are reminded that school is back in session and the Police Department will be focusing traffic enforcement in school zones and other neighborhoods in the coming months.



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The highlight of the month was the arrival of *“Hurricane Irene” on Sunday August 28th*. We began preparing the Wednesday before and called in 10 employees during the height of the storm to erect barricades and signs to block off roads due to downed trees and wires. We had a total of 11 roads that were impacted and blocked. More areas were affected, but we could clear them during the storm. Our crews did a terrific job and by Thursday morning after the storm all blocked roads had been restored to normal operation. We got lucky with the storm staying further west than predicted and its brunt affecting our neighbors in Vermont.



Street/Road & Sidewalk Improvement Projects

- The Maine Turnpike completed their bridge work for the Lisbon Street overpass. This two-year project was a long time coming!
- Lincoln Street (Gully Brook to South Avenue) – This DOT project is administered by our Engineering Division and continues to make progress;
- Cotton Road – The last sections of road rehab for Cotton Road will begin in September;
- Old Webster Road Rehab – Base and Surface paving and follow-up work was completed in August;
- Maple Street – Surface paving and the project was completed in August;
- Horton Street – The final project work is installing the street trees, which is scheduled for September;
- College Street (Lemieux to Merrill) - paving was completed and follow-up is continuing; (Little Street to 466 College) – base paving was done the Friday before the hurricane, surface paving and follow-up will be completed in September;

- Ash Street – Pike Industries began the sidewalk work. The project will be similar to what we did on Pine Street last year;
- Lincoln Street–Locust Street Intersection Improvements – This project was awarded to Gendron and Gendron and expected to be done late fall;

Other street paving completed in August include:

STREET	FROM	TO	Scheduled
Ernest St.	Central Ave.	Hogan Rd.	Complete – follow-up
Webber Ave.	Pleasant St.	Webster St.	Complete – follow-up
Meader St	Webber Ave.	Dead-end	Complete – follow-up
Montello St.	College St.	Gilmar St.	Complete – follow-up
South Ave.	Pleasant St.	Lisbon St.	Complete – follow-up
Campus Ave.	Sabattus St.	St. Mary's Emergency	Fall

- Sidewalks – East Avenue (from Montello Street back to past the school) is planned for later this year;
- The crew is working on completing painted crosswalks, stop bars and turning arrows;
- Other work performed by crews included:
 - ✓ Completing 10 catchbasin/culvert repairs;
 - ✓ Completing pavement patching on 4 streets;
 - ✓ Completing sweeping all the streets in the city, maintenance sweeping in the downtown priority areas continues;
 - ✓ Catchbasin cleaning to meet regulatory requirements resumed;
 - ✓ Mowing and maintenance of playing fields, parks and green spaces throughout the city;
 - ✓ Assisted with set-up and take-down for the Great Falls Balloon Festival;
 - ✓ Responded to a number of traffic signal issues to reset the controllers and make repairs;
 - ✓ Installed brick pavers and landscaping for fire memorial at Central Fire Station;
 - ✓ Covered and winterized Kennedy Park Pool;
 - ✓ Cleaned fountains in Raymond Park and Dufresne Plaza;



Water, Sewer and Stormwater

- Work on Phase 2 of the Joint (Lewiston & Auburn Water District) UV Facility at Lake Auburn continues and is expected to be complete next spring;
- Work on the Joint Chloramine Facility near the Central Maine Community College in Auburn began and is expected to be complete this fall;
- The Water Division is working with the Clean & Line Contractor to upgrade water lines on Deer Road, Myrtle Street and Highland Spring Road. Completed cement lining of water mains on Labbe Hilltop and the cross country to P V A;
- Work was completed on the Grove Street culverts near the town line and was begun on bridge replacements on Randall Road. Another culvert on Grove will follow the Randall Road project with additional work planned to replace a culvert on River Road;

- The White-Nichols Stormwater – this project was finally completed in August;
- The Jepson Brook Phase I project continues with work on Lafayette Street and Campus Avenue;
- Other work performed by the crews included:
 - ✓ Repaired 1 water main break, repaired 3 service leaks;
 - ✓ Responded to 50 customer concerns-all were completed;
 - ✓ Responded to 234 dig safe requests;
 - ✓ Responded to 6 sewer back-ups;
 - ✓ Raised 35 manholes and 28 water gate covers for street paving;
 - ✓ Water gate exercise program and Hydrant Flushing program on-going;
 - ✓ Water meter installations and shut-offs for delinquent accounts on-going

Other Information

- All park maintenance and playing field maintenance is in high gear during the summer months when these facilities have the highest use;
- “Zero-Sort Recycling” continues to do well. [City revenues on the recycled materials were \\$5,570 in July and \\$6,895 in August;](#)
- Selective cut timber harvests on city properties near the landfill begin in September. This will provide revenue to the City.
- The contract to replace the 45+ year old boiler and heating system for the Public Works facilities is underway;
- The Sewage Treatment Facility awarded the contract for the Anaerobic Digester Project to Methuen Construction of Salem, N.H. at a price of \$11,957,548. This is well below the \$13.2 million engineer’s estimated for the project;
- Work on the Emergency Generator project for City Hall is progressing but was delayed due to the hurricane;
- We began the transition of Parking Garage management and maintenance functions from Police to Public Works and expect to improve on the cleanliness and operation of the garages in the coming months.

RECREATION

Summer Programs

All summer programs have ended. It was a successful season with daily activities scheduled throughout the city. The list below includes programs that were offered and the approximate daily attendance:

Kennedy Park Aquatics Program – Approximate daily attendance throughout the summer 100; 750 total participants throughout the summer.

Kennedy Park “Swim Lessons”- 30 participants

MPC Play Days - 23 participants

Camp Smiles - 50 participants

Drop-In Playground Program (4 sites) - 70 participants per day



Youth Tennis - 191 participants

Adult Tennis - 45 participants

Summer Basketball - 39 participants

Adult Softball - 30 teams played weekly

Gymnastics - 46 participants

Wednesdays In The Park – for each Wednesday performance, 350 attended

Track and Field - 26 participants



Preparations are underway to begin the fall and winter programs. Adult Fall Softball, Field Hockey, Youth Soccer, Adult Volleyball, Tennis, Gymnastics, and Cross Country are in planning for the 2011 fall season.

Community Soccer Program



Several fields were used to help our young athletes participate in their favorite sport of soccer. Simard Payne Park, Bardwell Field (Bates College), Marcotte Park, Sunnyside Park, and Drouin Field are the areas used to enhance the Community Soccer Program. Over two-hundred participated on a daily basis.

Community Events

Events held in the Parks for the month of July and August were:

Liberty Fest, Farmers Market, L/A Transition to Green Energy, Right to Life, First Assembly of God, L/A Arts, Neighborhood Housing League Community Party, Balloon Fest, Church of the Brethren, The Bridge, and Greater Androscoggin Humane Society-Strut Your Mutt.



Preparations for future events are underway. Events scheduled to date are: Hope House Baby Olympics, Bridge Run, Central Maine Christian Academy Soccer, Benefit Softball Tournaments, American Heart Association, Dempsey Challenge, Pray the Rosary, and the National Guard.

Independent Athletics



Independent athletics scheduled during July/August were: Little League, South Lewiston Little League, Jumpstart, adult track and field meets, youth baseball tryouts, John Murphy Home Softball pick-up games, Fast-Pitch Softball Tournament, Co-ed State Tournament, Men's Modified Softball Tournament, Flag Football practices and games, M.D.A. Softball Tournament, Kennedy Park Basketball Camp, and Soccer games.

Lewiston School Athletic programs started the week of August 15th with practices and games scheduled throughout fall season.

SOCIAL SERVICES

ALL GENERAL ASSISTANCE CLIENTS ARE SEEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Due to the new fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2011, our reimbursement from the state will start at the 50% rate. Once we reach our threshold, we will begin receiving reimbursement at the 90% rate. I anticipate that to be in April or May of 2012.

Statistical Activity	August 2011	FYTD 7/1/2011-6/30/2012
<i>Office Traffic (Duplicated)</i>	733	1415
<i>New Clients</i>	77	146
<i>Households Served (OT) (Unduplicated)</i>	205	416
<i>Housing Expenditures</i>	\$55,652.00	\$131,447.00
Total Expenditures	\$64,646.59	\$151,017.56
<i>State Reimbursement</i>	\$32,157.63 (50%)	\$75,293.12 (50%)
<i>SSI Reimbursement</i>	\$ 5,175.89	\$ 9,416.20
<i>Other Reimbursements</i>	\$ 331.33	\$ 431.33
Actual Municipal GA Cost (net)	\$26,901.74	65,796.74

Workfare	August 2011	FYTD 7/1/2011-6/30/2012
<i># of cases</i>	69	141
<i># of people</i>	94	183
<i>Hours Performed</i>	2,942.40	5,698.00
<i>Dollar Value (\$7.50 per hour)</i>	\$22,068.00	\$42,738.00

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