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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.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>ITEMS OF INTEREST .....</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>CITY ADMINISTRATOR .....</b>	<b>Page 3-4</b>
<b>ASSESSING .....</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT .....</b>	<b>Page 4-5</b>
<b>LIBRARY.....</b>	<b>Page 5-6</b>
<b>PLANNING &amp; CODE ENFORCEMENT .....</b>	<b>Page 6-7</b>
<b>POLICE DEPARTMENT .....</b>	<b>Page 7-8</b>
<b>PUBLIC WORKS .....</b>	<b>Page 8-10</b>
<b>RECREATION .....</b>	<b>Page 10-11</b>
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES .....</b>	<b>Page 11-12</b>

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### Lewiston has won \$60,000 from Shane's Inspiration & Landscape Structures!

On November 15th, the City of Lewiston hosted a press event to accept a \$60,000 check towards the development of a universally accessible playground at Marcotte Park—where children and families of all abilities can play together!



As a regional winner, the City of Lewiston will receive \$10,000 in universally accessible playground equipment from Landscape Structures and \$50,000 in design, development, and educational programming assistance from Shane's Inspiration. Special out-of-state guests who attended the gathering included Shane's Inspiration CEO/Co-Founder Tiffany Harris, Director of Project Development Brad Thornton, and Director of Design Virginia Hatley, along with Jane Jenewein from Landscape Structures.

When considering applying for this contest in July 2011, Lewiston invited community stakeholders to the table, namely those who interact with children and families who could benefit from a universally accessible playground. After much discussion, a supportive Lewiston City Council resolution, a 1000-word essay, a YouTube video, and multiple support letters were submitted as a contest entry on July 29, 2011. First notified as a "Top Ten" regional winner on September 20<sup>th</sup>, Lewiston received the "Win" call on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Lewiston was part of a region including Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. Other regional winners were: South Elgin, Illinois; Keller, Texas; Gig Harbor, Washington; and Elmira, Ontario – Canada.

### COMING IN MID-JANUARY...



**FREE Tax Preparation and E-filing** of state & federal returns by IRS certified preparers, provided by the LA CASH Coalition. Phone lines will open on January 16, 2012 -- to begin making appointments, call 513-3160.

If you are eligible to receive an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), you could receive a credit of up to \$5,751! –***"Take the Money; You've Earned It!"***

For more information: [www.lewistonmaine.gov/lacashcoalition](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/lacashcoalition)



**Best wishes for very  
Happy holidays!**

## CITY ADMINISTRATOR

### Accomplishments of the 2010 Mayor and Council

As the term of the current Mayor and Council near its close, it is useful to take a look back at what has been accomplished over the last two years. Most notably, this Council responded to the effect of the recession and reductions in State aid by taking steps to control the City's operating budget and tax rate. These included eliminating over 25 positions through attrition and layoffs; reorganizing various functions of the City including the Finance Department and consolidating it with our Utility business office; working toward consolidating our Personnel and Risk Management functions with the School Department; pursuing a variety of energy efficiency projects to reduce utility costs; adopting single-stream recycling at a lower cost than the previous curb sort system; and refinancing a number of outstanding city bond issues at lower interest rates. As a result of these and other efforts, the City's operating budget has fallen in each of the last two years with minimal impact on the services provided and only modest property tax rate increases necessary to partially offset the significant loss of over \$3 million in state revenues.



At the same time, the Council was able to take steps to keep the City moving. Some of these included support for:

- A \$900,000 federal grant for investments in the City's Riverfront Island area including funding for the master planning process currently underway;
- The redevelopment of properties that have been vacant and undeveloped for many years including Lewiston's oldest apartment building at 271 Park Street; the former Healey Asylum on Ash Street; the former Lobsterland parcel; the redevelopment of 84 Lisbon Street now housing the Vault Wine Shop and new apartments; the mixed income Lofts at Bates Mill; and restoration of the Grand Trunk Railroad Depot;
- Creating a Downtown Neighborhood Action Committee to assist in implementing the Downtown Action Plan; allocating federal and local funding to a number of projects called for in the plan including reconstruction of Ash, Pine, and Holland Streets, an additional Code Enforcement position, and \$300,000 toward demolition and property acquisition;
- Major infrastructure projects including: over \$2 million for the reconstruction and paving of city streets; working with Main Street residents to achieve an acceptable design for a project that will install a traffic signal at Strawberry Avenue and widen a portion of Main Street; reconstructing Lincoln Street as well as intersection with Locust; supporting a \$20 million state and federally funded project to upgrade the Exit 80 interchange to allow for continued industrial and commercial growth in South Lewiston; and approving a federally funded grant to install a \$7.7 million ultraviolet light system to treat Lake Auburn drinking water, a step that helps us avoid the necessity of spending over \$40 million on a full filtration plant;
- Expanding the City's public transportation system to provide better and more reliable service;
- Improving the technology used in City operations through transitioning to Microsoft-based platforms and launching a new web site designed for easier access and use by residents and others interested in the City and its programs and services;
- Establishing new fund balance and debt policies designed to continue to move the City toward a fiscally sustainable future.

In spite of these difficult times, our 2010 elected officials continued to move Lewiston forward and to do so with strategic vision, a sense of humor and proportion, and the ability to disagree agreeably. All of us on City staff have deeply appreciated the commitment and time that this group of elected officials has devoted to the City. We wish those who will not be returning to office in January the best and know that they will continue to be involved in and supportive of continuing efforts to enhance Lewiston's quality of life.

## ASSESSING

November activity in the Assessing Department continued apace despite the late October and pre-Thanksgiving snow storms. The Assessing staff volunteered during the month to assist the City Clerk's office with the November election.

The four-year review program continues in the Pond Road area.

### New Construction

Given favorable weather conditions, new construction projects are being visited as part of the fall canvas. Despite the weak economy, new home construction activity continues in Lewiston with three new homes among the November building permits.



### Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement (BETR)

Personal property filings for the BETR program continue to be processed with 285 business owners requesting assistance for reimbursement under the state program.

### Property Transfers

Year-to-date property transfers in Lewiston total 583. This total includes any type of transfer from arm's length sales to foreclosures. This is a slight decline from 2010 when 644 transfers occurred in the same period.

## FIRE



### Lewiston firefighter Johnathan "JP" Adams, Named Maine Fire Instructor of the Year

Mayor Larry Gilbert congratulates Private Johnathan P. Adams in recognition his receipt of the "**Deputy Chief Marc Bellefeuille**" **Instructor of the Year Award**. The award is presented to a fire service instructor whose acts and deeds serve as an example to the profession, their department, and peers. The Instructor of the Year *demonstrates an ongoing commitment to serving Maine's fire service by teaching and encouraging others to improve themselves and/or their organizations in pursuit of excellence.*

## The Lewiston Fire Department Proudly Supports Kids Day America



The **8th Annual Kids Day America** proved to be a huge success. The day was coordinated by Sasseville Chiropractic Wellness Center with the sponsorship of many local businesses. The theme of the day was **“Environmental Safety and Wellness Awareness”**

Over 475 kids and their families participated, with all of the services free for the kids. The event also raised \$2,500 for New Beginnings. Pictured to the right are Acting Lieutenant Chris Fournier, Private Michael Laliberte and “Sparky the Fire Dog” a.k.a. Private Justin Shink.



## LIBRARY

### Kindle Fire!



A new Kindle Fire eReader is available for citizens to try at the Adult Services Desk on the second floor of the Library. During the month of December, the new Fire is only available for use in the Library as many patrons are interested in trying out the recently released model before purchasing one either for themselves or as a holiday gift. Beginning in January, library card owners will be able to borrow the new eReader. (Several other eReader models, including the original Kindle, are already available for borrowing at the Library. Downloadable eBooks are available for loan by Library cardholders through the LPL website.) For more information on eBooks and eReaders, contact the Adult Services Desk at 513-3135.

### Library Endowment Fund Receives Major Gift

Thanks to the generosity of Ernest Wilkins and his family, the Lewiston Public Library Endowment Fund has been named as one of four area non-profits to receive the residual proceeds of a family trust fund. Once the final paperwork is complete, the City expects to receive approximately \$54,000 for the Library Endowment. Donations are provided to this Fund to allow the Library to offer materials, resources and programs beyond those which are funded through the City’s General Fund budget. The Endowment totaled \$1.3 million at the end of the last fiscal year. City policies allow the Council to authorize spending of 4% of the Fund’s value each year.



### New Graphic Novel Collection

The Library recently unveiled a new, separate collection of adult graphic novels. In the past, graphic novels for adults were cataloged as part of the adult non-fiction collection, but, with the growing maturation of this relatively new publishing category along with heightened community interest in the

materials, the Library has decided to pull these items from the non-fiction shelves and place them in a separate collection in the Internet Room on the second floor. For more information, contact the Adult Services Desk at 513-3135.

### Library Hosts Community-Wide Events

Over the last month, the Library's Callahan Hall served as the site for three important community events. On November 4<sup>th</sup> a day-long Refugee Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Conference was attended by area law enforcement and social service professionals, along with representatives from our refugee community. The Library partnered with the Lewiston Sun Journal for a Mayoral Runoff Debate between candidates Robert Macdonald and Mark Paradis on the evening of November 28<sup>th</sup>. And on the afternoon of Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, Callahan Hall served as one of the community sites for LA Arts' Festival of Art and Lights.



## PLANNING & CODE ENFORCEMENT

### Planning Board

The Planning Board met on November 14<sup>th</sup> and made a recommendation to the City Council to amend language in the Zoning and Land Use Code regarding permitting requirements. The Zoning and Land Use Code has long required permits for fences, driveways, change of use, etc. However, in view of the fact that the state-mandated Maine Uniform Building and Energy Codes (MUBEC) exempt permit requirements for small sheds and fences, staff was of the opinion that the language in the Zoning and Land Use Code needed to be strengthened in order to avoid any questions regarding the MUBEC exemptions.



The Planning Board also made a recommendation to the Council on November 14<sup>th</sup> to reduce the area adjacent to Garcelon Bog that is shoreland zoned. Since 1974, the Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act (MSZA) has required all municipalities to establish zoning and land use controls in areas located within 250 feet of the normal high water line of any great pond, river, or saltwater body. In 1989, that requirement was expanded to also include areas within 250 feet of the upland edge of freshwater wetlands of 10 or more acres and within 75 feet of the normal high water line of streams. Lewiston has regulated such wetlands by referencing those areas as identified on the Fresh-Water Wetland Maps prepared by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, dated 1989.

### Garcelon Bog

Garcelon Bog is a wetland of at least 10 acres. Over the years, the accuracy of the map has been questioned by staff and property owners given obvious discrepancies between open emergent wetland areas, scrub-shrub wetland vegetation, forested wetland, and the location of the "upland edge of a wetland". Specifically, areas that are forested wetland are not subject to shoreland zoning regulations (however, they may be subject to other DEP natural resource protection regulations).

The City has been provided updated wetland delineation from Jones Associates with respect to the specific shoreland boundary of Garcelon Bog. This delineation was arrived at by walking the boundary of the resource, resulting in more accurate data for purposes of mapping. The City has taken that data and has drafted and updated the shoreland zoning map for Garcelon Bog. More accurate data has resulted in removing over 70 properties from areas previously subject to shoreland zoning; no new properties have been added to the shoreland zoning area.

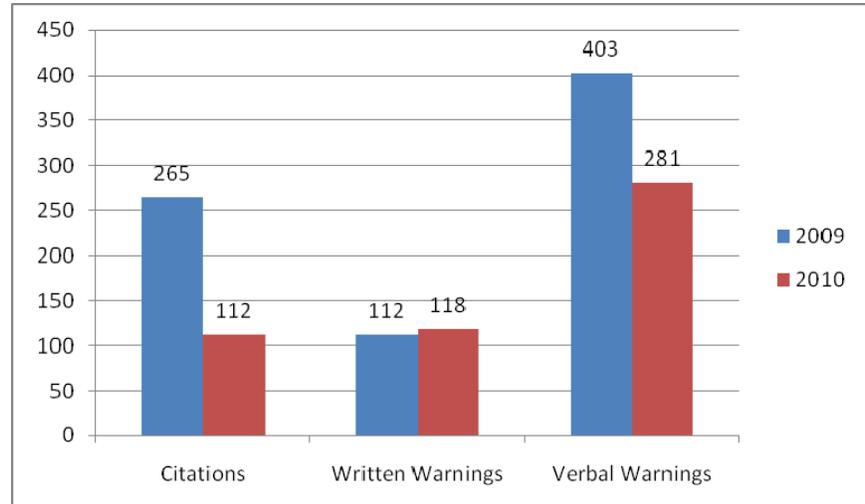
Amending the shoreland zoning district will not result in changes to the underlying zoning on these properties.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Stats

In the month of November, the Lewiston Police Department responded to 2,760 Calls for Service. The agency initiated 364 vehicle stops resulting in 89 citations and 132 written warnings with the remaining stops resulting in verbal warnings. There were 144 adult arrests and 30 juvenile arrests as well as 85 criminal summonses issued. There were ten arrests on narcotics violations and six arrests for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The parking enforcement and patrol divisions issued 523 parking tickets.

November	2011
Calls For Service	2,760
Vehicle Stops	364
Citations	89
Written Warnings	132
Verbal Warnings	143
Adult Arrests	144
Juvenile Arrests	30
Criminal Summonses	85
Narcotics Arrests	10
OUI Arrests	6
Parking Tickets	523



## Parking Tickets

We received a check from ACI, a collection agency in Bangor, for monies owed on outstanding parking tickets. We also sent out letters to registered owners who are past due informing them that they need to pay or they will be sent to collection.

## And in Other News...



- The Community Resource Officer (CRO) team continues to be active in the community. Their weekly reports are forwarded to the Chief.
- Members of support services have been organizing criminal record folders to make it easier to locate files and make room for additional folders.
- We had WMD/Hazmat training on November 28 at the Paris FD with CST (military unit) and NewPage/Rumford WMD Hazmat Team. This was a night/cold weather training session and all went very well.
- The PD participated in the Twin Cities' Holiday Parade by performing traffic control for the event.
- The Lewiston Police Department received \$5,000 in state grant funds for holiday OUI saturation and roadblock details. The grant will run through January 3, 2012.

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Following the eventful month of October, November seemed much quieter:

- We had our share of challenges during the second snow storm of the season the day before Thanksgiving. For much of the storm, we had seven of the 25 plow units out of service due to breakdowns. We worked through this by shuffling units from other plow routes, but there were streets that did not get plowed for several hours more than what we would normally like to see. We mentioned this possibility when we briefed the City council earlier in the month.
- On Tuesday November 22<sup>nd</sup>, we cut and transported the City's Christmas tree donated by Bill Rubino of 1090 Main St to Dufresne Plaza (formerly Courtyard Plaza) in preparation for the Twin Cities Parade of Lights and tree lighting on November 30<sup>th</sup>. This year's tree is the largest we have ever had. It is a 45 foot tall blue spruce that is 25 feet wide and weighed 5,600 lbs. The Department decorated a truck and participated in the parade.
- As it turns out, November (normally the wettest month of the year) was relatively dry and much warmer than normal and the snow from both storms this year has melted.



Here is a quick summary for other work done in November:

### Street/Road & Sidewalk Improvement Projects

- Lincoln Street (Gully Brook to South Avenue) – This DOT project is administered by our Engineering Division. Overhead utilities (electric, telephone, cable and street lights) will be relocated to the new poles and the old poles removed. The project is being winterized and will be completed in the spring;
- Lincoln Street – Locust Street Intersection Improvements – This project was completed with some minor punch-list items which will be completed in the spring;
- The rehab projects for Old Webster Road and both sections on College Road were completed;
- Ash Street – The project is winterized and final surface paving will occur in the spring;
- The Riverside Greenway sidewalk project is currently being advertised with a bid opening delayed to December 6<sup>th</sup>. The project will upgrade and repair sidewalks in two phases, and work is expected to begin in the spring:
  - Phase I - Main Street to Sunnyside Park consists of new sidewalks on one side of the street on: Lowell Street from Chapel Street to Middle Street; Middle Street from Lowell Street to Bates Street; Bates Street from Middle Street to Spring Street; Spring Street from Bates Street to Bridge Street; Bridge Street from Spring Street of Winter Street; and Winter Street from Spring Street to Sunnyside Park.
  - Phase III Tall Pines Drive to College Street consists of new sidewalks on one side of the street on: Tall Pines Drive from the proposed Riverside Greenway to Northwood Road; and, Fair Street from Mollison Way to College Street.



- Other work performed by crews included:

- ✓ Storm drain catch basin repairs and installation at 22 locations;
- ✓ General patching (street, curb & sidewalk repairs) at 23 locations;
- ✓ Roadside ditching / road shoulder work on Ferry, Chadbourne and No Name Pond Roads;
- ✓ Graded gravel roads for East Avenue Extension, Bradbury Road and Chadbourne Road;
- ✓ Installed, painted pavement marking for stop bars, crosswalks, turning arrows and pre-marked for fall street line renewal at numerous locations throughout the City;
- ✓ Trained new staff on sidewalk plow operation;
- ✓ Catch basin cleaning and street sweeping to meet regulatory requirements continued;
- ✓ Maintenance and winterizing of playing fields, parks, and green spaces throughout the City;
- ✓ Responded to a number of traffic signal issues to reset the controllers and make repairs.



### Water, Sewer and Stormwater

- Work on Phase II 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 is expected to be complete later this year;
- Water crew completed the water line replacement on Dow Avenue;
- Gendron & Gendron completed the water line replacement on Campus Avenue;
- St. Laurent & Sons completed the water line projects on Holland and Walker Streets;
- The Jepson Brook Phase I project was completed by St. Laurent & Sons with only punch-list items remaining.

Other work performed by the crews included:

- ✓ Repaired two water main breaks, Repaired four service leaks;
- ✓ Responded to 51 customer concerns (47 were completed);
- ✓ Responded to 160 dig safe requests;
- ✓ Responded to/repared 15 sewer back-ups (12 were private);
- ✓ Responded to two "Code Red" fires;
- ✓ Winterized all 744 fire hydrants;
- ✓ Raised/repared water & sewer utilities for street paving;
- ✓ Sewer flushing program, water gate exercise program and hydrant flushing program on-going;
- ✓ Water meter installations and shuts for delinquent accounts on-going



### Solid Waste

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, Maine DEP representatives visited and inspected the facility on River Road. The inspectors were pleased with the condition of the facility and complimented the staff on their efforts.

### Other Information

- A ground-breaking was held for the Sewage Treatment Facility's \$12 million Anaerobic Digester Project on November 10th;
- We continued the transition of the parking garage management and maintenance and expect to improve upon the cleanliness and operation of the garages.

## RECREATION

### Multi-Purpose Center Prime Time After-School Program

Staffing and program preparation for the after-school program was completed by the end of November. The Prime Time After-School Program is funded through the Community Development Block Grant and provides structured, quality supervision for Lewiston children in Kindergarten through Grade 6. Activities include: arts & crafts, recreational & athletic programming, free play, homework time, and free daily snacks provided by the Child & Adult Care Food Program. The program starts December 5, 2011, from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm at the Multi-Purpose Center, 145 Birch Street and will operate Monday through Friday.

## Community Events Scheduled

**Parks** - Veterans Park Remembrance Day Celebration

**Athletic** - LAP and Montello – Fly football games



## Armory and MPC Events/Activities Scheduled

Men's and women's volleyball games - Armory

Travel basketball tryouts - Armory

Co-ed basketball evaluations, practices, and games – Armory

Grade-school basketball start-up - Armory

L.A.Y.C. cheering practices – MPC & Armory

L.P.D. Self-Defense classes – Armory

Veterans' Remembrance Day celebration – Armory

November 8<sup>th</sup> elections – MPC + Armory

L.E.A.P. activities – Armory

Central Maine Christian Academy basketball practice – Armory

Co-ed volleyball games - MPC

Gymnastics classes and practices – MPC

Longley School activities – MPC

Just Us practices – MPC

L/A Veterans' meeting – MPC

Big Brothers/Big Sisters – MPC

E.I.D. prayer event – MPC

Franco-American War Veterans meeting- MPC

Open Door Christian Academy volleyball/basketball games – MPC

Marine Corps meeting - MPC



## SOCIAL SERVICES

### **Please Note:**

- The MaineCare proposals in the Governor's supplemental budget, if enacted, will have an impact on the GA budget – increasing medical expenditures.
- **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.

<b>Statistical Activity</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 2011</b>	<b>FYTD (7/1/2011-6/30/2012)</b>
Office Traffic (duplicated)	710	3,286
New Clients	73	352
Households Served – OT (unduplicated)	216	1,005
Housing Expenditures	\$66,513.50	\$318,600.50
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$77,144.25</b>	<b>\$371,267.93</b>
State Reimbursement (50%)	\$38,572.13	\$185,418.32
SSI Reimbursement	\$9,030.50	\$27,684.73
Other Reimbursement	\$0	\$431.33
<b>Actual Municipal GA Cost (net)</b>	<b>\$29,541.62</b>	<b>\$157,733.55</b>

<b>Workfare</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 2011</b>	<b>FYTD (7/1/2011-6/30/2012)</b>
Number of Cases	74	335
Number of People	101	453
Hours Performed	2,895.00	13,361.90
Dollar Value (\$7.50 per hour)	\$21,712.50	\$100,214.25

*(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.)*

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