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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

City of Lewiston Wellness is Sponsoring a Blood Drive

When: Tuesday, June 5th

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Where: Lewiston City Hall, 27 Pine Street, Third Floor Conference Room



The American Red Cross has declared June – Adventure Month!

What does that mean for you?

All presenting donors in June will receive:

- a coupon for a **free day pass** to a Maine State Park
- a coupon for a free **24-pack of Pure Spring Water**
- a coupon for up to **20% off from Walgreens**
 - a chance to **win a kayak** from Old Town Canoe
 - a chance to **win a bike** from L.L. Bean



Sign up to save lives!

Did you know that one pint of blood can save three lives?

Please contact Janet Labbe by calling 513-3121 or send an email to: jlabbe@lewistonmaine.gov

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

General Assistance Major Factor in FY13 City Budget

While the City adopted a FY13 budget with no property tax increase, changes in state welfare programs, including General Assistance, had and will likely continue to have a significant impact on our budget.

The most significant change is the state's imposition of a 60 month limit on eligibility for the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. It provides support to economically disadvantaged families through a combination of state and federal funding. This change was made with little to no consideration of its impact on General Assistance (GA). This is a state mandated, municipally administered welfare program where current state rules allow those no longer eligible for TANF to remain eligible for GA. In Lewiston, 337 families will reach the 60 month limit by the end of this month and an estimated 150 more will join them next year.

Our best current guess is that 25 to 35 percent of TANF families reaching the 60 month limit will transfer to General Assistance at an overall cost of about \$650,000.

As previously structured, the state reimbursed communities for 50% of GA expenditures up to a certain spending level; once that spending level was reached, reimbursement increased to 90% recognizing the disproportionate burden faced by certain communities in Maine such as Lewiston. The legislature has reduced that 90% to 85%.

The legislature also made some minor changes to the program to reduce costs including reducing the maximum support levels by 10% and capping eligibility for housing at 9 months (with the exception of individuals with severe mental or physical handicaps or those applying for Social Security disability). The legislature has also authorized a study committee to review the program and develop other recommendations to improve it and reduce costs.

Taken together, these changes will result in our taxpayers contributing about an additional \$100,000 toward the local share of GA.



It is unfortunate that the changes to the TANF program were made without fully analyzing their impact on the General Assistance program. No cost benefit analysis was done to determine whether moving families from TANF, which is support by state and federal funds, to GA, which is funded by the state and municipalities, was cost effective. Once the potentially significant impact on GA was recognized, the state moved quickly to attempt to transfer cost to municipalities with an initial proposal to reduce reimbursements to a flat 50%, a change which would have cost Lewiston's taxpayers about \$500,000.

This is just the most recent cost shift experienced by Maine's cities and towns. It comes on top of the on-going raid on the municipal revenue sharing program. By statute, this program is required to allocate 5% of state sales and income taxes back to cities and towns. Recently, the legislature has routinely overridden this statute to retain a substantial portion of this revenue to balance its own budget. In the coming year, the state will "raid" Lewiston's allocation by about \$2 million. This loss represents over \$1 dollar in property taxes.

With the focus in Augusta on cutting spending and reducing the income tax, it is apparent that property tax relief is no longer of concern. Given this, I anticipate that the state will continue to raid revenue sharing and look to transfer costs to local government over at least the next few years.

ASSESSING

April activity in the Assessing office was concentrated on completion of the canvass of new personal property accounts, pricing personal property assets and preparing State mandated personal property Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) forms.



Appraisers have been following up on building permits that were issued since the last spring canvass. All building permits are visited by appraisers to determine the impact on value of the new improvements for the upcoming tax year.

April also saw the appraisers visit over 50 buildings that have been placarded by Code Enforcement and Fire to determine the taxable value for the April 1, 2012 assessment date.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Riverfront Island Master Plan



The City Council and Planning Board will meet and a joint workshop on May 29th at 6 p.m. to review and discuss a master plan that has been developed for the area of the city bounded by the main canal to the east, Cedar Street on the south, and the Androscoggin River on the west and north, leading back up to the main canal. The area is 77 acres in size, has more than a million square feet of well-preserved mill space, 1.8 miles of canal

and riverfront, significant public land ownership, and holds great potential. The plan was developed with significant public involvement, with a 15 member citizen advisory committee, private discussions with more than 30 stakeholder groups, and approximately 100 people participating in each of three public meetings. The plan can be explored at <http://www.riverfrontislandmasterplan.com/>. The public is invited to participate in the workshop.

Canal Acquisition

One of the recommendations of the Riverfront Island Masterplan is that the City take ownership of the canal system. With ownership the City can control land use in, along, and adjacent to the canals. They can be turned into assets, rather than the forgotten, blighted, or ignored area that significant portions of the canal are now. The City has entered into a Letter of Agreement with NextEra Energy to transfer the ownership. The City would receive the canals and hydrogenating assets downstream from the gate house. In exchange the City would repair leaks in the canal system and only retain enough water rights to keep the canals at historic water levels. The City would stop generating power at the municipally-owned Upper Androscoggin Hydro Station. Through tax increment financing the City would use new tax revenues from a \$5 million investment NextEra is making in their upstream dam infrastructure to pay the City's debt service on the canal repairs. NextEra would receive 20% of the new taxes paid on that dam infrastructure back (about \$17,000 per year) for 20 years. The City is currently engaged in due diligence on the deal structure, checking the validity of the canal repair costs and water flow needing to be retained estimates. The City Council is scheduled to take action on the Tax Increment Financing District and Program related to this transaction at their June 5th meeting.



Lisbon Street on the Rise - New investment and businesses continue to site on Lisbon Street

Niky's Greek Restaurant relocated to 29 Lisbon Street, adding authentic Greek fare to the growing diversity of dining options and the reputation of Lewiston as a destination dining locale.

Kimball Street Studios, downtown Lewiston's third art gallery, also does fine art framing, consulting, and preparatory services that run the gamut from customers' personal favorites to hang in the living

room, to museum and archival work. They do the preparatory work and installation at many of the shows at the Bates College Olin Arts Center and at the University of New England. They are located at 191 Lisbon Street.

Gallery 5, created by LA Arts, was the first gallery on Lisbon Street. It has been split off and reborn in the same location next to Fuel Restaurant as the **Lyceum Gallery**. It is now owned by long-time curator Tammie Grieshaber, who has a full calendar of shows and events lined up, showcasing some of the best of local artists.

Forage Market, at 180 Lisbon Street is now serving bagels and breads baked in its wood-fired oven, creative and delectable take out or eat in lunch and dinner offerings, and is offering a growing selection of regionally produced grocery items, and cheese offerings from near and far.

Rainbow Bike has purchased the former Drapeau's Costume building located at 95 Lisbon Street. They will relocate the bicycle shop from Center Street in Auburn, and add a café/coffee shop to their new locale. Opening is expected in early fall.

Economic Achievement Awards



Lewiston presented economic achievement awards to three businesses at the Lewiston Auburn Economic Growth Council's annual dinner. **Carbonite**, a leading provider of an internet based automatic online computer back up service received the award for the relocation of a customer service/technical support center from India to Lewiston, bringing 200 jobs (and counting) to the community. **ArtWalk Lewiston Auburn** will start its second season of once a month (May – September) gatherings on Lisbon Street that transform downtown for a night. Local art is showcased up and down the street, music is in the air, and food and

wine is offered at many locations as people take to the streets to take it all in. **ArtWalk** was given the award in recognition of the organization being a catalyzing force that is redefining the downtown.



The Vault is a wine and specialty beer store that is setting a new standard on what downtown retail can become. Handpicked wine for every budget, exceptional service, and frequent wine tastings and other events are attracting clients from LA and beyond. Niche retail has long been considered a possibility on the street. **The Vault** has made it a reality. They were given the award for their vision, commitment, and for leading the charge on reestablishing retail in the downtown.

Lewiston and Auburn gave a joint economic achievement award to the **Lewiston CareerCenter**. Through training grants, apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and customized workshops, the **CareerCenter** works with individuals and routinely assists businesses with their recruitment and training goals. It has played a critical role in helping attract new business to the area, serve the staffing needs of local businesses, and help residents secure employment or freshen up their skill sets. The **CareerCenter** adds to the strength and diversity of the local economy.

FINANCE

Purchasing Going Paperless

With the implementation of the City's new website on August 2011, the Purchasing Division has converted from making paper bid copies and mailing them to contractors, to a completely electronic system. Now contractors are sent an e-mail which contains the bids information. Contractors are also advised to visit the City's website to sign-up for the "Notify Me" option on bid postings.



Purchasing has a subscriber count of 507, including count duplication based upon product/service elements, over a variety of different categories. Once enrolled in the "Notify Me", subscribers receive an e-mail or text that there's a request for proposal or bid in their area of interest. Interested parties then visit the City's website under the Bid Specs and Awards' link to view and obtain the detail information. This link is now available on the homepage for ease of use. The follow-up bid tabulation and award information is also located under this heading.

With the electronic bid process, Purchasing has experienced a significant decrease in photocopies over the past eight months, from 10,381 copies (September 2010 thru April 2011), to 4,015 copies (September 2011 thru April 2012). This is a decrease of 6,366 copies or 61%, at a dollar value of \$318.30. With the electronic circulation, Purchasing has reaped a savings of \$416.94 or 98.5% in postage during the same period. Savings referenced are the Purchasing Division's hard cost only and exclude labor and printing savings experienced in other departments, particularly the Engineering Division.

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Adoption

Spring isn't the only thing that arrived early this year. The City of Lewiston's governing body adopted their annual budget a full 16 days earlier than in 2011. On May Day, the City Council adopted the FY2013 annual budget for the general fund (both the city and school department), as well as, the Community Development Block Grant Fund, and the City's water, sewer, and stormwater funds.



The City Administrator presented his budget on March 29th, calling for a 19 cent tax rate increase, taking the current rate of \$25.79 to \$25.98. Total proposed general operating costs increased by \$3,610,684, \$1,610,769 on the municipal side, and \$1,999,915 on the school side. Increased school enrollment and anticipated changes by the State to the general assistance program represented the lion's share of the increase. Both culprits also provide a revenue source so non-tax revenue rose by \$2,539,659, from 49,100,238 to \$51,639,897.

After a solid month of budget deliberations, the City Council approved \$231,430 in revenue estimate reductions, of which State reimbursement for general assistance encompassed \$299,430; and \$575,670 in expenditure cuts. This action, coupled with an increase in assessed valuation of \$27,772,000, enabled the budget to be approved with a **zero tax rate increase**.

Special items of note included in the May 1st City Council approved budget resolution include:

- ❖ An increase in the taxpayer Homestead Exemption from \$8,500 to \$8,800, providing an overall cash reduction to homeowners of \$7.72.
- ❖ A zero rate impact on School's portion of the tax rate.
- ❖ An increase of \$797,473 in capital purchases including road paving of \$421,000.
- ❖ A reduction in the City's debt burden of \$300,539.
- ❖ A flat water and sewer fund rate i.e. no rate increase, approved by Council.
- ❖ A 12% overall stormwater rate increase or \$6 to residential homeowners.

Details of the City Council approved FY2013 Budget will be available on the City's website next week, under the Finance Department section's Financial Reports' link.

FIRE

L.F.D. Institutes Vacant Building Structural Hazard Placarding

The Lewiston Fire Department has been in the process of identifying properties within the city that have structural hazards which would create a life safety issue for firefighters should interior fire ground operations be required. To date there have been 46 buildings identified as unsafe. As a result, the L.F.D. has been placarding the exterior of these buildings in an effort to make first responders aware that structural hazards exist. These buildings have either been condemned by the City of Lewiston Code enforcement office and / or inspected by the Lewiston Fire Department as part of our "Vacant Building" Inspection Program.



Pvt. Jacob Letendre placards one of the city's buildings identified as a vacant structural hazard.

Firefighters Review the Importance of Back Safety



We would like to especially thank Dr. Peter Sedgwick, Dr. Timothy McAteer, and Heather Small (Lewiston's Health Care Educator) for their time and efforts in putting this class together for the L.F.D.

The topics discussed were proper bending, lifting, carrying, and pulling along with stretching and strengthening exercises.

Lewiston Fire Fighters look on as Dr. Peter Sedgwick speaks about the importance of back safety.

PLANNING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

Planning Board

- On April 9th the Planning Board conducted a workshop meeting with the Maine Turnpike Authority to discuss the proposed park and ride at 1243 Lisbon Street (i.e. the former location of the Chalet Motel).
- On April 10th the Planning Board held a joint meeting with the Auburn Planning Board for legal training presented by Brann & Isaacson.
- On April 23rd the Planning Board approved an application submitted by Stoneybrook Consultants, Inc. on behalf of Lisbon Donuts, Inc. to construct a Dunkin Donuts kiosk on a vacant lot located at 828 Lisbon Street (i.e. on land adjacent to the Lisbon Street entrance to the Lewiston Mall).

Board of Appeals

- On April 23rd the Board of Appeals granted a side setback modification for the construction of a garage addition on the property located at 20 Owen Street. In addition, the Board granted a side setback modification for the construction of second story living space on the property located at 32 Fairlawn Street.

Dangerous Buildings

- On April 3rd the City Council made determinations that the vacant and dilapidated multifamily structures located at 81 Lincoln Street and 67 Oak Street are dangerous buildings within the meaning of Title 17 M.R.S. § 2851 and ordered that they be demolished. In the event that the owners and or parties of interest in these buildings do not appeal the Council Order of Condemnation and if they do not demolish these buildings, the City will take the necessary steps to cause their demolition.

Permit Activity April 2012

- 66 building permits with a dollar value of \$777,665 (one permit was issued for a new single family home)
- 9 plumbing permits
- 35 electrical permits

Note: the largest permit for April 2012 was for Central Maine Medical Center for renovations with a reported building value of \$275,000

Permit Activity April 2011

- 34 building permits were issued with a dollar value of \$385,189 (one permit was issued for a new single family home)
- 16 plumbing permits
- 43 electrical permits

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Stats

April	2012
Calls For Service	3,731
Vehicle Stops	869
Citations	92
Written Warnings	392
Verbal Warnings	385
Adult Arrests	133
Juvenile Arrests	17
Criminal Summons	65
Narcotics Arrests	6
OUI Arrests	6
Parking Tickets	515

In the month of April, the Lewiston Police Department responded to 3,731 Calls for Service. The agency initiated 869 vehicle stops in the month of April resulting in 92 citations, 392 written warnings with the remaining stops resulting in verbal warnings. There were 133 arrests of adults and 17 juvenile arrests during this period as well as 65 criminal summonses issued. There were 6 arrests on narcotics violations and 6 arrests for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The parking enforcement and patrol divisions issued 515 parking tickets in the month of April.

Pat Gagne Retires

After serving the City of Lewiston for 15 years, Parking Enforcement Officer, Patricia Gagne, retired on April 30, 2012. We wish Pat well in her retirement. Her replacement, Debra Millazo-Shannon, was recently hired as our newest Parking Enforcement Officer and started the week of April 23rd.

Community-based Events

The month of April was very busy with community-based events, many of which the officers donated their personal time. The following events represent a snap shot of their various involvements:

- Detective Stone and Officer Griffin conducted a station tour for a local Cub Scout pack.
- Several officers participated in the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Lewiston Armory.
- Officer Craig Johnson conducted the “father boot camp” class and instructed a class on parental rights at Advocates for Children.
- Officer Jason Johnson taught defensive tactics at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.
- Officers attended the most recent Special Olympics swim meet and handed out medals to the participants.
- Corporal Murphy attended two meetings at Oak Park to discuss the drug take back program and concerns in their neighborhood.
- Sergeant St. Laurent continues to coach baseball to local youth.
- Detective Brochu and Officers Jacques & Griffin participated in the second annual “Touch a Truck” event which was hosted by CMCC this year.
- Sergeant St. Pierre and Detective Conley presented at the University of Southern Maine (L/A campus) on the crimes of prostitution and domestic violence.
- Lieutenant Cornelio was a chaperone for St. Dom’s “Mission to Mississippi” trip in which 42 seniors and 20 adults travelled by school bus and vans to Mound Bayou Mississippi to perform service work in the community.
- Corporal Kavanagh and Officers J. Johnson, P. Griffin, and J. Nadeau attended the funeral in New Hampshire for the recently slain police chief.

- All members of the CRO team attended the monthly cultural orientation class presented to all new immigrants settling in Lewiston. Corporal Baril worked with several landlords and has begun planning a downtown trash/litter cleanup day.
- Sergeant St. Pierre and Sergeant Ullrich met with Colisee owners to set up a date to use their lot for EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operation and Control) training in early June.

Drug Take Back Day

The annual “Drug Take Back” event, in cooperation with the DEA, was held at Farwell School on April 28th. The combined Lewiston/Auburn drop exceeded last year’s take-in of unused/expired prescription drugs by hundreds of pounds. This take back had an impact on over 450 individual households compared to just over 250 during the last take back.



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

This amazing spring continued into April. Despite a cooling off from the record heat we saw in March, it has been an unbelievable spring with golf courses opening and spring activities beginning much earlier than normal. This includes the City’s efforts on road and utility work and residents doing their spring cleaning!



The Solid Waste Facility sponsored a **Spring Cleanup Assistance Week** from April 21-28, where Lewiston residents could bring waste items to the facility and dispose of them with no tipping fees! We opened the facility for extended hours on both Saturdays and citizens took advantage of this great service. We estimate we had more than 800 vehicles go through the facility on those Saturdays and disposed of more than 200 tons of waste material compared to ~55 tons during the previous week. We typically ship ~200 TVs or computer monitors every three months. During this one-week period, we received more than 600! The residents of the City certainly benefitted from this service!



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

Street, Road, and Sidewalk Improvement Projects

- Work on Lincoln Street (Gully Brook to South Avenue) and two (2) sections of Cotton Road resumed during the month;
- We have more than 20 lane miles of paving planned for this summer including City-sponsored projects and projects funded by Maine DOT. The Maine DOT projects include:
 - Main Street (Pettingill to Bearce) - road widening, rehab, and traffic signal at Strawberry Avenue intersection;
 - Russell Street (Robinson Gardens to Sabattus Street) milling and surface pavement
 - Lisbon Street/Route 196 (Westminster to Lisbon town Line) milling and surface paving

Next month we will include a list of the City-funded street paving.

- The crews took advantage of the good weather to get a jump start on the following workload:
 - ✓ Storm drain catch-basin repairs were completed at five;
 - ✓ Sidewalk and street sweeping continued and we expect to complete the entire City early as a result of the March 12th start;
 - ✓ Spring road weight limit postings were removed on April 4th. This normally lasts until May 1st;
 - ✓ General patching at numerous locations with the hotbox out 19 days of the month;
 - ✓ Big push to address tree removal/pruning and preparing flower beds all over the City;
 - ✓ Traffic pavement painting for stop bars and crosswalks near schools began with the line painting scheduled for later in May;
 - ✓ Numerous street signs and traffic signs were replaced;
 - ✓ The parks and open-space crews were busy preparing playing fields, cemeteries and parks for the spring activities.

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 later this spring;

- Work on the Joint Chloramine Facility near the Central Maine Community College in Auburn is expected to be complete soon and a follow-on contract is planned for this summer to relocate Lewiston's chloramine injection point from Main St to this new facility;
- A water line project on Holland Street was completed by St. Laurent & Sons;
- Work began on the next phase of Jepson Brook (St. Laurent & Sons) and the Oak Street sewer/stormwater separation (Gendron & Gendron) will have a significant impact on Sabattus Street traffic flow;
- The Water & Sewer Crew spent two weeks addressing a major sewer back-up at Bates Mill near Fishbones. Our Vactor and Ted Berry's Vactor combined to remove 50 tons of silt from 750 feet 18x30 sewer main;
- Other work performed by the crews included:
 - ✓ repaired two water main breaks and two service leaks;
 - ✓ Responded to 32 E-GOV'S (customer concerns) and 265 dig safe requests;
 - ✓ Installed two new ¾" services for new customers;
 - ✓ Repaired and raised water gates and manholes for paving on Ash Street;
 - ✓ Crews are in the process of installing 900' of 8" D.I.P on Montello Street to loop Highland Avenue to Stanley Street to take care of rusty water complaints;
 - ✓ Crews have spent many hours with St. Laurent and Son on the water main replacement of Holland, Simard, and Bolduc Streets;
 - ✓ Crews have shaped up the boat launch and Lake Shore Drive for the up-coming season;
 - ✓ On-going sewer maintenance Vactor cleaning and flushing;
 - ✓ On-going water gate maintenance cleaning and operating;
 - ✓ On-going sandblasting and painting of hydrants;
 - ✓ On-going maintenance and lawn mowing of pump stations, lift stations, and reservoirs;
 - ✓ On-going water meter reading, meter repairs and change outs.

Other Information

- The Public Buildings Division continues work at the Armory preparing for the relocation of the Seniors Program from the MPC. The cost of the elevator addition came in higher than expected and we are working with the contractor to reduce costs.

SOCIAL SERVICES

ALL GENERAL ASSISTANCE CLIENTS ARE SEEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

*Beginning with the new fiscal year, 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. **We have reached the 90% reimbursement as of April 2012.***



Statistical Activity	April 2012	FYTD 7/1/2011-6/30/2012
<i>Office Traffic (Duplicated)</i>	674	6,670
<i>New Clients</i>	53	648
<i>Households Served (OT) (Unduplicated)</i>	225	586
<i>Housing Expenditures</i>	\$63,278.00	\$ 663,244.88
Total Expenditures	\$72,609.94	\$769,946.79
<i>State Reimbursement</i>	\$63,939.14 (50/90%)	\$412,132.73 (50/90%)
<i>SSI Reimbursement</i>	\$ 7,938.51	\$ 56,668.19
<i>Other Reimbursements</i>	\$ 469.10	\$ 1,418.83
Actual Municipal GA Cost (net)	\$ 263.19	\$299,727.04
Workfare	April	FYTD 7/1/2011-6/30/2012
<i>Cases (unduplicated)</i>	96	231
<i>Clients (unduplicated)</i>	127	302
<i>Hours Performed</i>	3,718.50	31,053.90
<i>Dollar Value (\$7.50 per hour)</i>	\$27,888.75	\$232,904.25
Percentage of Cases Assigned Workfare	43%	39%

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

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Governor's 2nd supplemental budget contained a variety of proposals that would impact the GA program. The final proposals were approved by the House and Senate on 4/12/2012, and the proposals are expected to be enacted by both the House and Senate on 4/13/2012. The Governor has publicly stated that he will not sign the bill, particularly because it ignores welfare reform. Below are the GA proposals that are expected to become law.

- Beginning July 1, 2012 until June 30, 2013, the GA maximum levels of assistance will be reduced by 10 percent.
- Beginning July 1, 2012 until June 30, 2013, households will be limited to receiving housing assistance for a period of nine months; except if a person has a severe and persistent mental or physical condition or has an application pending with the Social Security Administration, housing will not be limited.
- The state reimbursement rate for municipalities that exceed their threshold (based on property valuations) will be reduced from 90 to 85%. Lewiston will be impacted by this reduction.
- A work group will be established to review and make recommendations related to the GA program. The work group must have its first meeting no later than June 1, 2012 and the DHHS Commissioner must report back to the legislature no later than December 1, 2012. The report will include recommendations regarding law or rule making related to the GA program, including changes that will achieve \$500,000 in General Fund savings from January 1, 2013-June 30, 2013.
- A pilot program will be established whereby funding will be allocated for 7 Family Independent Specialist positions to assist applicants in applying for SSI benefits, and to assist veterans in accessing cash or medical benefits from the Veterans Administration. The positions are established through June 15, 2014 and the program is expected to generate revenue for the GA program. The revenue will more than pay for the cost of the positions.

<i>Length of Time Clients Receive GA</i>	1-3 MONTHS	4 -6 MONTHS	7-12 MONTHS	MORE THAN 12 MONTHS
FY 2011 7/1/2010-6/30/2011	65% (36% received GA for only 1 month)	16%	19%	N/A
10 Year Prior History 7/1/00-6/30/10	72% (45% received GA for only 1 month)	13%	9%	6%

- Approximately 35% of GA clients have SSI pending. These clients are mentally and/or physically disabled and require GA for longer periods of time. These clients tend to cycle in and out of GA throughout the years.

FRAUD CASES AND REIMBURSEMENT MONIES

The City of Lewiston's Social Services Department is aggressively referring fraud cases and pursuing reimbursement monies.

- General Assistance clients who commit fraud— those who attempt to receive GA and those who actually receive GA— are disqualified from receiving GA benefits throughout the state for 120 days. All cases are reported to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The cases that are receiving the DHHS Food Supplement are disqualified from receiving the Food Supplement for the 120 day GA disqualification period.

- The cases involving clients who have actually received General Assistance by fraudulent means are reported to the DHHS and to the Lewiston Police Department (LPD) for potential prosecution.

For the calendar year 1/1/2011 - 12/31/2011, the GA office referred 33 cases involving clients who received general assistance fraudulently. This constituted only 5% of the total GA cases that were assisted, but the amount of money that was fraudulently received was in excess of \$50,000.00. An Androscoggin County jury recently handed up an indictment for one of the referred cases.

- From September 2011 - December 2011, the City of Lewiston's GA office was reimbursed approximately \$18,550.00 from three Supplemental Social Security (SSI) recipients who were referred to the LPD in calendar year 2011 for committing fraud (the entire amount of \$18,550.00 was not fraudulently received). All clients who receive GA and have SSI pending, sign an agreement to have the Social Security Administration (SSA) reimburse the municipality when the clients receive their retro-active lump sum SSI payment.

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