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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

Coming Soon...



Balloon Launches

Due to weather conditions, the best times for balloon launches are 6am for morning launches and 6pm for evening launches. Times may vary depending on weather conditions. Moon glows (hot air balloons tethered and lit up with propane) are scheduled for the evenings, following the 6pm balloon launch, at Simard-Payne Memorial Park.

Volunteers



Mohamed Mohamed, Volunteer for Lewiston Public Library

Mohamed Mohamed is volunteering with the Lewiston Public Library as a computer lab monitor four nights per week, Monday - Thursday, from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Suzanne Duplissis, Volunteer for Lewiston Public Works

Suzanne Duplissis, a graduate from the Cooperative Extensions Master Gardener Volunteer Program, is volunteering for the Public Works Department during the summer of 2012. She is pictured (right) weeding with Summer Park Worker Le-Ann Kropa.



CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Building Demolitions Gain Speed

A City Council priority is to improve housing conditions city-wide. Toward that goal, the City has been aggressively addressing the removal of condemned structures. Five structures have been demolished so far with another nine in process. On average, the Council is conducting two condemnation hearings at each of its regular meetings. Removing these structures eliminates blighted buildings that are the targets of vandalism and other illegal activities and is just one of a number of steps the City is taking to address housing issues, including stepped up code enforcement efforts to try to address problem buildings before they become uninhabitable.

This effort will continue throughout the coming year supported by funding from the City's federal Community Development Block Grant Program and annual bond issues. We anticipate that the overall rental market will stabilize as dilapidated, uneconomic buildings are removed over time.



Implementing our Forest Management Plans



Last year, the City Council adopted management plans for a number of large, City-owned forested parcels. Over the winter and spring, the first of these plans was implemented on property near our solid waste facility on River Road where about 100 acres were selectively cut. This project produced about \$50,000 in revenue for the City. It also will improve the health and appearance of this forested area.

We will soon begin similar work on the forested area adjacent to the McMahon School on North Temple. While this is a smaller, roughly 60-acre parcel, it will also result in timber harvesting revenue for the City and improve the overall health of the forest. Once harvesting is completed on this parcel, we also hope to begin developing a trail system that will allow it to be used both by the school and neighbors in the area.

Over the coming years, the City will be addressing a number of other forested parcels. As we do so, our goal will be to improve accessibility to these areas so that our residents can use and enjoy them. Accessible open space is a tremendous asset to any community, providing recreational opportunities and improving quality of life.

We're working hard to preserve and improve these resources.

Parking Changes at City Hall

Parking on Pine Street has changed. Both sides of the street adjacent to City Hall and the Police Station are now stripped for diagonal parking. In addition, the City Hall side of the Street is now designated for public parking, providing easier public access to these public buildings. This change will also slow traffic in this heavily pedestrian area and hopefully reduce one-way violations on Pine Street, a frequent occurrence under the old design.

DEPUTY CITY ADMINISTRATOR / HR DIRECTOR

Union Contract Negotiations Update

On June 3rd, the City Council approved the contract for the Lewiston Police Patrol Unit. The contract covered a three-year period beginning July 1, 2010. No cost of living adjustment (COLA) was awarded for FY2010-11; 2% COLA was approved for FY2011-12 effective on 1/1/12 (full fiscal year equivalent of 1%); and 2% COLA was approved for FY2012-13, with a portion of the COLA cost offset by reduction in annual retirement benefit payments. All City unions, with the exception of the firefighters, now have approved labor agreements. Negotiations with the firefighters remain active.

Relocation of City-School Human Resources Office



The City and School Department Human Resource (HR) merger, approved several months ago, is on schedule. The City's HR staff will be relocated to the Dingley School Department building on July 9. All staff phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same. The planned physical relocation of the City HR office will take approximately two days to complete and plans are to reopen the office no later than July 11th (it could be as soon as July 10th). Newly appointed School Department Human Resources Director Jackie Little will oversee a staff of five people who will be providing services to some 1,500 full and part-time City and School staff. Ms. Little's expertise will help to shape a new direction in a department that must deliver personnel services in an increasingly complex environment driven by a seemingly never-ending parade of new state/federal regulations and case law. I will continue to provide HR support in overseeing labor-management activities, workers compensation, and serving as the City's chief labor negotiator.

Proposed Changes in City-Wide Overnight Winter Parking Ban

The City Council met on June 19th to discuss the Downtown Neighborhood Advisory Committee's (DNAC) plan to amend the city-wide winter parking ban which prohibits overnight parking on essentially all city streets from December 1 through March 31 of each year. Under this new proposal, overnight parking would only be allowed on streets that do not have existing parking restrictions (e.g. restricted parking on one side of the street in the winter which would continue under this proposal). Additionally, new winter emergency parking ban language would provide for advance notice of a city-wide winter parking ban which would also result in towing violating vehicles. Currently, the plan is to try to bring the details of a final proposal before the City Council for a formal vote on August 14th.



ASSESSING

Taxable Status

Assessors concentrated on the completion of fieldwork and review of real estate and personal property to accurately record the taxable status of properties in Lewiston for the current tax year.

Monitoring Real Estate

The Assessing office continues to monitor the local real estate market. Real estate sales activity for the current year remains sluggish as the market continues to recover. It is anticipated that there will be a slight increase in sales over the prior year, but many of the transfers, which stood at 590 thru May, included foreclosures and inter-family sales.



Exemptions Reviewed

Final checks on individual's exemption status were completed for over 6,400 homestead claimants and over 1,000 veteran applicants. Exemption amounts in Lewiston for the 2012-13 tax year will be: Homestead Exemption: \$8,800 and \$5,280 for Veterans' Exemption. These amounts are subtracted from the qualifying applicant's taxable valuation, and result in a savings of over \$360 in taxes for an eligible homestead applicant who also qualifies for the Veterans exemption.

FINANCE

Spring and summer months are when most of the highway, road rehab, and paving projects are generally bid. This spring, in addition to City Bond and Operating Capital resources, a number of MaineDOT projects have been bid by the City as part of the MaineDOT Locally Administered Projects (LAP) where City engineering staff develops plans and specifications. The MaineDOT approves the plans, and the City solicits the bids.



The following table represents the bid activity taken to the Finance Committee between February and early July.

Bids and Awards Section of Purchasing Division

Bid Date	Bid #	Description	Budget Est.	Award Amt.
4/10/2012	LA 2012-001	Water Treatment Chemicals	96,354.00	79,000.00
4/12/2012	LA 2012-002	Trench Restoration		46,525.00

5/10/2012	LA 2012-003	Water Treatment Chemicals Carbon Dioxide	21,780.00	19,400.00
1/10/2012	2012-001	Fire Uniforms	22,000.00	8,929.55
1/10/2012	2012-002	Turnout Gear	19,000.00	19,437.68
2/23/2012	2012-003	RFQ - General Consulting Services		
3/27/2012	2012-004	Jepson Brook CSO Phase II	1,075,866.00	1,087,740.50
3/8/2012	2012-005	Oak Street Separation Phase III	1,100,000.00	1,049,999.99
5/15/2012	2012-006	Russell Street Resurfacing	450,000.00	339,530.00
	2012-007	Sale of 299 Webster Street		Pending
2/29/2012	2012-008	4X4 SUV	29,000.00	27,275.00
4/12/2012	2012-009	Armory Elevator	60,000.00	53,320.00
4/12/2012	2012-010	Armory Elevator Enclosure	250,000.00	307,820.00
4/24/2012	2012-011	Annual Crack Sealing of Asphalt Pavement	68,000.00	66,920.00
5/15/2012	2012-012	Route 196 Resurfacing	2,200,000.00	1,726,005.00
6/28/2012	2012-013	Reclaiming of Existing Asphalt	60,000.00	41,918.00
5/24/2012	2012-014	Demolition: 10 College Street	15,000.00	6,888.88
5/24/2012	2012-015	Demolition: 305 Bates Street	22,000.00	17,889.00
	2012-016	Resurfacing Section of Walnut Street		Pending
4/17/2012	2012-017	Shade Trees	7,000.00	5,721.60
4/24/2012	2012-018	Equipment & Truck Rentals		
4/24/2012	2012-019	Work Zone Traffic Control (Flaggers)		
6/28/2012	2012-020	Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Paving Various Streets	1,300,000.00	1,172,566.00

6/12/2012	2012-021	River Road Culvert Replacement	160,000.00	135,999.99
5/3/2012	2012-022	Bituminous Pavement	102,000.00	97,875.00
6/1/2012	2012-023	ACM @ 10 College Street & 305 Bates Street	17,000.00	14,561.05
	2012-024	East Avenue Sidewalk Improvements		Pending
	2012-025	Paving Walnut Street (CDBG)		Pending
6/26/2012	2012-026	So. Lisbon Rd. Drainage & Old Webster Rd. Culvert	150,000.00	131,754.00
6/14/2012	2012-027	Single Axle Truck Chassis & Cab	145,000.00	126,832.00
6/14/2012	2012-028	Tandem Axle Truck Chassis & Cab	205,000.00	176,745.00
6/13/2012	2012-029	ACM @ 81 Lincoln Street & 67 Oak Street	4,000.00	7,800.00
6/26/2012	2012-030	Demolition: 81 Lincoln Street	10,000.00	4,800.00
6/26/2012	2012-031	Demolition: 67 Oak Street	14,000.00	16,333.00
	2012-032	Pierce Street Park Equipment/Structure		Pending
	2012-033	Pierce Street Park Fence		Pending
6/19/2012	2012-034	Photocopier Rental Services - Library		Pending
			<hr/>	
			7,603,000.00	6,789,586.24

FIRE

LFD Completes Annual Hose Testing



The department has approximately 475 hoses of various lengths and diameters that is tested annually. As required by the N.F.P.A. (National Fire Protection Association), all hoses must be tested prior to being placed in service – and then be tested annually ensuring that the hoses used on fire grounds are in safe working order. The test consists of a “*destructive test*” that runs 200/250 p.s.i. (pounds per square inch) of water

for five minutes through each length of hose. Typical problems found are pin holes or leaky couplings. Repairs are done in-house by firefighting personnel.

PLANNING & CODE ENFORCEMENT

On June 25th the Planning Board approved the following projects:

- Parallax Partners, Inc. was granted approval for the construction of a four-story, 113 room hotel located at 15 Lincoln Street. This is a phased project whereby phase I will consist of 90 rooms and Phase II will consist of an additional 23 rooms.
- KTI Bio Fuels, Inc. 38 Alfred Plourde Parkway was approved for a Phase II Site Improvement Project with Phase 1 having been approved in May 2011. Phase I and II improvements consist of operational safety and efficiency by increasing office space, upgrading utilities, enhancing traffic flow, improved storm water management systems, installation of a gravel working surface, installation of a concrete pad for a new screening picking machine, etc.
- Budget Document Technology was given approval for the construction of an 8,000 square foot addition to their existing building located at 251 Goddard Road. The new space is proposed to be constructed in two phases. Phase 1 will consist of 5,000 square feet of office and warehouse space and Phase 2 will consist of an additional 3,000 square feet for future expansion or lease space.

Dangerous Buildings – June 5th

- The City Council determined that the three unit residential structure located at 357 Sabattus Street is a dangerous building and ordered that it be demolished.
- TD Bank, N.A. the owner of 220 Park Street agreed to a Consent Agreement and Consent to Removal of Dangerous Buildings. In essence, the agreement requires that the four unit residential property must be under reconstruction within 60 days. If

reconstruction is not begun to the full satisfaction of the City, staff will take steps to have the building demolished and the Bank will reimburse our costs.

- A Consent Judgment with the owner of 72 Wellman was approved that requires the rehabilitation or demolition of the fire ravaged single family home at that address. On June 22nd it was determined that the owner had violated the terms of the Consent Judgment and staff has begun steps to demolish the property.

Dangerous Buildings – June 19th

- On June 19th the City Council determined that the four unit structure located at 122 Pierce Street is a dangerous building and ordered its demolition.

Permit Activity June 2012

- 56 building permits with a dollar value of \$2,152,321
- 15 plumbing permits
- 32 electrical permits



Permit Activity June 2011

- 77 building permits were issued with a dollar value of \$4,216,575
- 12 plumbing permits
- 62 electrical permits

POLICE

<i>June Stats</i>	<i>2012</i>
<i>Calls For Service</i>	3,718
<i>Vehicle Stops</i>	601
<i>Citations</i>	115
<i>Written Warnings</i>	327
<i>Verbal Warnings</i>	159
<i>Adult Arrests</i>	158
<i>Juvenile Arrests</i>	11
<i>Criminal Summonses</i>	72
<i>Narcotics Arrests</i>	10
<i>OUI Arrests</i>	3
<i>Parking Tickets</i>	409
<i>Fireworks Complaints</i>	89

Training

- Sergeants Theiss and Campbell attended Leadership and Management training at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. This course or similar courses are a requirement upon promotion to a supervisory rank.
- Officer Somma attended crash reconstruction in-service training and forensic mapping training.
- Officer Lacombe completed in-service **DARE** training in NH.
- Officer J. Johnson taught an Explorer program at the MCJA.

Community

- Corporal T. Murphy continues to be very active with the Oak Park Community Action Group.
- Sergeant Bradeen and Detective Stone participated in the Walk to End Domestic Violence on Saturday, June 2.
- Several department members participated in the 6.2 mile Special Olympic Torch Run.
- Sergeant Theiss and Officer Hood represented the department as honor guard members at the re-dedication of Court House Plaza.
- Officer J. Johnson represented the department as an honor guard member at a funeral for a fallen police officer in Massachusetts.

In Our Schools

- School Resource Officer Jacques and Dare Officer Lacombe chaperoned Farwell and Geiger Schools' 6th grade class to Boston.
- Detective Stone chaperoned McMahon 2nd grade class to the Portland Children's Museum.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

June turned out to be a very rainy/wet month starting with an 8½ inch rain storm over the weekend of June 2-3. The department was called out to close flooded roads and clear catch basins plugged with fallen debris. The Androscoggin River overflowed its banks blocking River Road (out past the landfill), Switzerland Road beyond the entrance to the cemetery, and a part of Tall Pines Drive near the sewage lift station. Numerous other locations had clogged culverts and water over the roads or erosion, such as in Veterans Park where the perimeter stones needed to be replaced.



The Highway Division had to remove a stone wall that a resident was relocating into the roadway on Bradbury Road, resulting in a dangerous obstruction to traffic flow.

The Highway Division completed the parking and access road at the Armory to support the relocation of the Seniors Program from the Multi-Purpose Center building. Our Buildings Division completed the interior renovations for the spaces to be used and new windows are expected to be installed in early

July. The contractor installing the elevator addition is expected to complete their work by the end October and the rain garden along Central Avenue will be done about the same time.

Here is a quick summary of other work done in June:

Street/Road & Sidewalk Improvement Projects

- Work on Lincoln Street (Gully Brook to South Avenue) and two (2) sections of Cotton Road continued with final paving expected in late/early July;
- Work on Main Street from Pettingill Street to Bearce Avenue is expected to begin in mid to late July.
- We have more than 20 lane miles of paving planned for this summer including City-sponsored projects and projects funded by Maine DOT. Work has begun to prepare for this paving with the following streets planned for July:

Lisbon Street, Route 196, Westminster Street to River Road in Lisbon (MDOT Project)
 South Lisbon Street
 Read Street
 River Road
 Hillmount Avenue
Scribner Boulevard
 Valley Street
 Cotton Road



- Additionally, the in-house crews completed the following:
 - ✓ Storm drain catch-basin and culvert repairs were completed at nine locations;
 - ✓ Began catch basin cleaning to meet regulatory requirements;
 - ✓ Street sweeping continued with all streets swept by the end of the month;
 - ✓ General patching at 12 locations;
 - ✓ Big push to address tree removal/pruning and prepare flower beds all over the city continued;
 - ✓ Traffic pavement painting for stop bars and crosswalks near schools continued;
 - ✓ Paving prep and storm utility CBs and manholes were raised for College Street, Ash Street, and Cotton Road;
 - ✓ Gravel road grading for Cotton Road and Chadbourne Road along with ditching and shoulder work along a part of South Pleasant Street was completed;
 - ✓ Numerous street signs and traffic signs were replaced;
 - ✓ The parks and open space crews were busy preparing playing fields, cemeteries, and parks for the summer activities;
 - ✓ Assisted the City Clerk with setting up and removing the voting facilities for the election.

Water, Sewer and Stormwater

- Work on Phase 2 of the Joint (Lewiston & Auburn Water District) UV Facility at Lake Auburn is nearly complete. A ribbon cutting is being planned for early fall;

- 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 designed and ready to be issued to relocate Lewiston's chloramine injection point from Main Street to this new facility;
- Work continued on the next phase of Jepson Brook (St. Laurent & Sons) and the Oak Street sewer/stormwater separation (Gendron & Gendron; while significant, the impact on Sabattus Street traffic seems to be manageable;
- 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 one main break on Mollison Way and also repaired one service leak
 - ✓ responded to three sewer-back ups
 - ✓ responded to 32 E-GOV'S (customer concerns) and 240 Dig-Safe requests
 - ✓ replaced and raised 32 manholes and 42 water gates for the paving of Lisbon Street, Westminster to town line
 - ✓ replaced 600' of 6" water main with 8" D.I.P on Bailey Avenue along with 16 water services
 - ✓ continue to maintain all Lewiston and Lake Auburn watershed properties including NO NAME POND septic system
 - ✓ Ongoing hydrant flushing and sewer flushing
 - ✓ Ongoing interaction with local contractors for the CSO projects and water main replacement projects
 - ✓ Ongoing water meter reading and replacement program
 - ✓ Ongoing sandblasting and painting of fire hydrants
 - ✓ Ongoing gate operating program
 - ✓ Ongoing GPS upgrades for water & sewer maps and records

Solid Waste

- The target date for the implementation of our new Scale Management System is currently mid-July. This system will simplify record keeping, allow the use of credit cards at the facility and further automate processing of commercial customers;
- Maine DEP staff provided minor comments to the 2011 Annual Reports – Operations & Environmental Monitoring, which staff will be responding to in the coming weeks.

Building Maintenance

- Parking Garages - Bill Paradis has been working on the parking garage maintenance program. The first step was sweeping all five garages, which should be completed by mid-July. The next task will be to power wash all structural members and parking deck surfaces starting with Chestnut and Park Street parking garages. There is also a very extensive list of miscellaneous repairs to all five parking garages;



- Our Building Maintenance crew will be finishing punch list items for the PW Boiler Replacement Project. They just finished installing the new Public Works sign facing Adams Avenue. There are a number of summer projects they plan to complete this summer, including painting the Pole Barn roofs at PW and the interior walls at City Hall.
- A number of small building maintenance projects will be bid for the FY2013 Capital Projects including: MIS fire suppression system, City Hall building foundation waterproofing, Violations Bureau heating system improvement, Chestnut Street Parking Garage maintenance painting and the Social Services improvement Project.

RECREATION

Recreation Department of the Year



The Department staff was honored to receive the Maine Tennis Association's "2011 Recreation Department of the Year" award. The award recognized the Department for its exemplary activities in support of tennis programming in Maine. We are humbled and overjoyed in receiving such an award, not just for the Department but also for the City of Lewiston.

Lewiston Senior Citizen Program

The Lewiston Senior Citizens Board of Directors has agreed to transfer their functions under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department effective July 1, 2012. The Board will continue to represent and oversee all activities associated with the senior citizens.

Throughout the month of June, senior members and LRD staff continued to move their office and activity room supplies, materials, and furniture. Board members and staff were busy sorting, separating, and setting up the office and activity room area preparing for July activities including bridge, cribbage, beano, pinochle, and other events.

The new parking lot in front of the Armory has been paved and will be lined in the near future. Vale Street will be posted as one-way from Sabattus to Central Avenue. The back of the Armory will also be posted one-way. Preliminary work started on the new elevator. Construction will start in July.



Athletic Events

- L.R.D. Home Track and Field Meet
- Jumpstart Conditioning Camp
- Senior/Junior Legion Baseball – Practices/games
- Senior Men's Pinetree Baseball Games
- U.S.M. – Tennis Fundraiser
- L.R.D. Track and Field Sessions
- L.R.D. Adult/Youth Tennis Lessons/Instruction

- L.R.D. Track and Field Adult Series - Meets
- L.R.D. Adult Softball League Co-ed/Men's League
- L.R.D. Lacrosse Practices/Games
- L.H.S. /L.M.S. Athletics-Practices/Games
- National Guard Fitness Tests
- South Lewiston Little League Softball/Baseball Practices
- John Murphy Homes – Softball Practices
- L.R.D. – U19 Girls' Softball Practices/Games
- Andy Valley Empires – Softball Benefit
- Drouin Field – Community Soccer Program



Park Events

- Simard –Payne Memorial Park – Safe Voices Fundraiser
- Dufrense Plaza – Monument Dedication
- Dufrense Plaza – L/A Arts-Art Walk
- Simard-Payne Memorial Park – Triple Crown-5K Road Race
- Veterans Parks – Memorial Service
- Farmers Market – Corner of Main Street/Lincoln Street
- Simard-Payne Memorial Park – Museum L/A – Half Marathon
- Kennedy Park – First Assembly of God Church

Armory Events

- Lisbon High School Graduation
- L.R.D. Gymnastic Classes
- Lewiston Middle School Promotion
- Lewiston Elks Flag Dedication
- State Primary Election
- L.R.D. Staff training
- Camp Smiles
- Wednesdays in the Park Program



MPC Events

- Longley School Events
- Sandcastle Graduation
- Lewiston Democrats – Meeting
- State Primary Elections
- F.A.W.V. Meeting
- VFW 9150 Meeting
- VFW Meeting
- Androscoggin County Democrats – Meetings

