



AUGUST

2019

summer

edition

Newsletter
Lewistan

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Acting Director Elaine Brackett

Executive Office



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The YWCA Central Maine honors women's success in Maine through the annual Women of Achievement Awards.

Congratulations, Mayor Cloutier on your Lee Young Leadership Award!

Items of Interest

**27th Annual Great Falls
Balloon Festival**

ART WALK L-A

**Lewiston-Auburn Bike
Criterium**

Farmers Markets

L-A Bridge Run

Events update: The events above are only some of the events held in Lewiston throughout the month of August. The Lewiston Public Library held Shakespeare in the Plaza “As You Like” at Dufresne Plaza, Community Health Options, a local business, held their annual employee BBQ at Simard-Payne Park, children enjoyed being read to at Pettingill Park on Friday mornings, and a birthday party was also held at Pettingill Park. If you’re a fan of fresh produce, there was ample opportunity to buy local with Farmers’ Markets at Mill 5 every Sunday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and each Tuesday at Kennedy Park. New this season, is the addition of the Good Food Bus at the Tuesday’s Farmers’ Markets (Cultivating Community). A few local agencies utilized Kennedy Park for tabling events. The Lewiston Police Department continued with their summer movie series, with movies held at LAP and the Pathway Vineyard.

AND IN SEPTEMBER... The annual Dempsey Challenge was held on September 28-29 at Simard-Payne Park; and folks from our Tree Street community held their first Community Block Party!

OCTOBER will bring our youngsters and the young at heart to the downtown for Downtown Trick or Treat in Lewiston-Auburn on October 25th sponsored by the LA Metro Chamber.





Items of Interest

CANDIDTES for MUNICIPAL ELECTION

November 5, 2019

The Candidates for Mayor

Mark Cayer, Timothy Lajoie, Charles Soule

The Candidates for City Council

Ward 1: Walter Hill, Safiya Khalid; **Ward 2:** Donna Gillespie, Zachary Pettengill;

Ward 3: Alicia Rea; **Ward 4:** Michel Lajoie; **Ward 5:** Luke Jensen;

Ward 6: David Chittim, Kerryl Lee Clement;

Ward 7: Stephanie Gelinas, Michael Marcotte, Kaitlyn Rourke

The Candidates for School Committee

At Large: Owen Cardwell-Copenhefer, Megan Parks;

Ward 1: Bruce Damon, Joshua Nagine; **Ward 2:** Monique Roy;

Ward 3: Kiernan Majerus-Collins; **Ward 4:** Tanya Whitlow;

Ward 5: Lynnea Hawkins, Curtis Roundy; **Ward 6:** Ronald Potvin;

Ward 7: Ryan Donovan

City Administrator

COUNCIL WORKS TO ESTABLISH STANDING HOUSING COMMITTEE

Over the years, the City has devoted considerable time, attention, and resources toward housing issues within the community. These have ranged from efforts to address poorly maintained multi-unit rental properties to supporting a wider array of housing options throughout the community, ranging from new workforce housing through additional single-family subdivisions, and everything between.

During the City Council's planning session in 2018, the possibility of establishing a Housing Committee was discussed. This suggestion was reinforced by the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Rental Registration, which suggested that a standing Housing Committee be established and detailed some of its roles and responsibilities. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Council on the full range of housing issues facing the community with the goal of ensuring the quality and safety of the City's residential housing stock, expanding the diversity of housing options and types, and providing safe and healthy housing alternatives for current and future residents of every economic status. The Committee will monitor and assist in implementing the housing recommendations found in the City's comprehensive plan and the report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Rental Registration; will advise the Council on residential development projects requiring actions by the Council; and advise on other steps the City may take to ensure quality, safe, and lead-free housing is available for all.

The Committee will be composed of 11 members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Once the Committee is up and running, terms will be for three years. The Committee will be composed of two multi-unit property owners; two tenants of such properties; two homeowners; a representative of the LA Public Health Committee; someone from a financial institution; a residential developer or real estate professional; someone from an organizations that owns and operates an affordable workforce or elderly housing project; and, initially, someone who was a member of the Ad-Hoc Rental Registration Committee.

We anticipate that the members of the Committee will be appointed this fall, with work beginning shortly thereafter.



Economic & Community Development



EPA Celebrates Brownfields Cleanup Grants

Jayne Jochem and Heidi McCarthy represented the City of Lewiston at a Brownfields award ceremony on August 19th, 2019. The City of Lewiston received \$500,000 in Cleanup funds for Bates Weave Shed (Mill #5). Fourteen communities in Maine received a total of \$6 million in grant funds.

To follow the progress of the Bates Mill #5 Cleanup, visit the Economic and Community Development page and click on “EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant”. Information will be updated as the project progresses.



Council Approves Housing TIF District

Vacant lots at the corner of Blake and Pine Streets are one step closer to development. The City Council approved a 15-year TIF for a mixed-income 35-unit housing development. The development will include a community room, indoor bike storage, and greenspace. Twenty-eight of the units will be made available to people with incomes less than 60% of area median income (AMI), while seven of the units will be market rate.



Economic Development staff attends NextFacility “Tastemakers” event in Brunswick

Over 90 food entrepreneurs, real estate developers, municipal economic development leaders, and investment professionals convened on August 6 at Flight Deck Brewing in Brunswick to discuss collaborative opportunities to expand Maine’s food and beverage manufacturing infrastructure.

Lincoln Jeffers presented information about Lewiston including available industrial properties, existing food businesses, and the advantages of Lewiston as a central city. Opportunity Zones were a hot topic. Lewiston has one Opportunity Zone in Census Tract 203, which was highlighted on a “hot-spot” map created by Joel Greenwood of NextFacility.

Growing Our Tree Streets – A Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan for Downtown Lewiston

The transformation plan was completed this summer and open for public comments throughout July. Comments on the plan were reviewed by the teams who helped draft the plan, and edits were made where necessary. The document was finalized for adoption by the City Council.

The Neighborhood Development Team has been hard at work planning for some of the plan's first significant community improvements to be made in the Tree Streets Neighborhood. A survey was completed by over 400 residents sharing what improvements should be prioritized. Leading ideas were improvements to public gathering spaces within Kennedy Park and Paradis Park; the addition of a sledding hill at Franklin Pasture; streetscape improvement grants for businesses, and vacant lot reuse. The Department of Housing and Urban Development will review project proposals and approve awards for selected projects later this year.

Small projects through Healthy Neighborhoods have been underway this summer to beautify the neighborhood and implement ideas from the transformation plan. Example projects include creative cross walks on Adams Avenue and a community mural at Webb's Market. A block party was planned for September 18th, 4-7pm on Pine Street by Webb's Market to showcase and celebrate the completion of the transformation plan. For more information, check our growingourtrestreets.com



City of Lewiston Begins HUD Consolidated Plan Process

The City of Lewiston receives federal funding through the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD). Under the CPD Program, the City receives funding from two grant programs, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME). Combined, these grants provide funding of approximately \$1.1 million annually.

Every five years, the City is required to assess affordable housing market conditions and community development needs so as to make strategic decisions about how to best invest these funds. The Mayor appoints citizen members, known as the Citizen Advisory Board (CAC), to represent the community and to assist in identifying community priorities and developing specific goals and objectives. The broader public is also invited to share their thoughts, concerns and ideas. The consolidated planning process serves as the framework for a community-wide dialog to identify housing and community development priorities that align and focus funding from the CDBG and HOME programs.

The City is currently developing the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. A survey was recently sent to community stakeholders including nonprofit agencies, business leaders, and civic leaders. The results from this survey will guide the development and goals of the Consolidated Plan.

Planning & Code Enforcement



NURSERY SCHOOLS

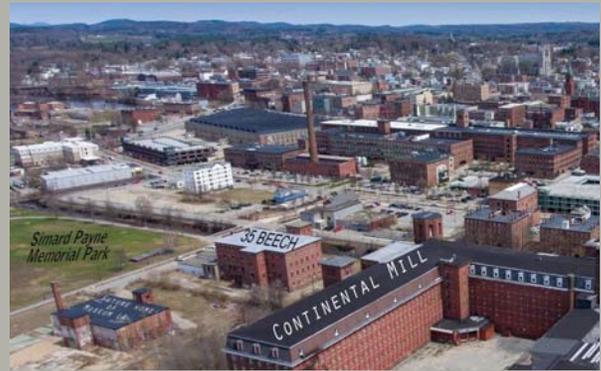
- ◆ On AUGUST 12th, the Board sent a recommendation to the City Council for a text amendment to Article II, Definitions, to include Low Density Residential (LDR), Medium Density Residential (MDR) and Suburban Residential (SR) districts to the definition of Nursery Schools and to Article XI, District Regulations, Section 22, Land Use Table to remove note (22) from the same zoning districts for the Nursery School land use category. The motion failed and will require a super majority vote of the City Council to pass.

MARTEL ELEMENTARY



- ◆ On AUGUST 12th, the Board sent a favorable recommendation to the City Council for the disposition of 860 Lisbon Street including the following recommendations for the future of Martel Elementary School from the Planning Board: using a portion of the property for a new fire station; preserving the school's space and playground for a future neighborhood park; given the surrounding land uses and the amount of nearby vacant commercial space, the Planning Board was reluctant to make a recommendation for a zone change that would create more commercial land; acknowledging the costs of maintenance and condition of the school.

- ◆ On AUGUST 12th, the Board sent favorable recommendations to the City Council for the disposition of 91 Pine Street, 111 Bartlett Street, 114 Bartlett Street, and 320 Bates Street.
- ◆ On AUGUST 26th, the Board approved an application submitted by Gorrill Palmer, Engineering on behalf of Lewiston Mill LP c/o Developer's Collaborative to redevelop to redevelop a four story, 38,387 sf mill building located at 35 Beech Street. (photo below-SJ)



- ◆ On AUGUST 26th, the Board sent a favorable recommendation to the City Council on CMP's request to contract zone the property located at 183 Merrill Road (rear) in support of a new converter substation.
- ◆ On AUGUST 26th, the Board sent a favorable recommendation to the City Council on Chinburg Properties' request to contract zone the property at 2 Cedar Street from Riverfront (RF) district to Mill (M) district to allow residential and commercial uses and to increase the maximum building height to 125 feet.
- ◆ On AUGUST 26th, the Board sent a favorable recommendation to the City Council to amend Appendix A of the Zoning and Land Use Code, Articles II, V, and XI for the definition and regulation of Adult Use and Medical Marijuana and Section 22, Business, Article XV of the Code of Ordinances regulating and licensing Adult Use and Medical Marijuana



ENFORCEMENT ACTION

- Residential properties condemned via the IPMC: **3**
- Notice of violations issued: **30**
- Citations issued: **4**
- Solid waste civil penalties issued: **15**

PERMIT ACTIVITY AUGUST 2019

Building Permits: **62**

with a reported value of \$2,832,752

Electrical Permits: **31**

Plumbing Permits: **15**

Commercial Projects over \$250,000:

685 Sabattus Street

New 5,220 SF medical building
\$1,240,898

New Single-Family Homes:

4 Commons Drive

46 Deer Road

10 Macadamia Lane



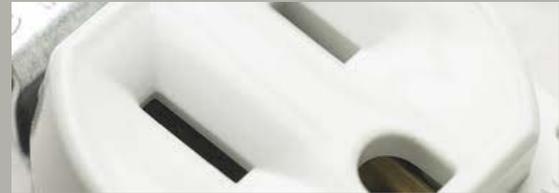
PERMIT ACTIVITY AUGUST 2018

Building Permits: **62**

With a reported value of \$1,328,081

Electrical Permits: **48**

Plumbing Permits: **12**



Police

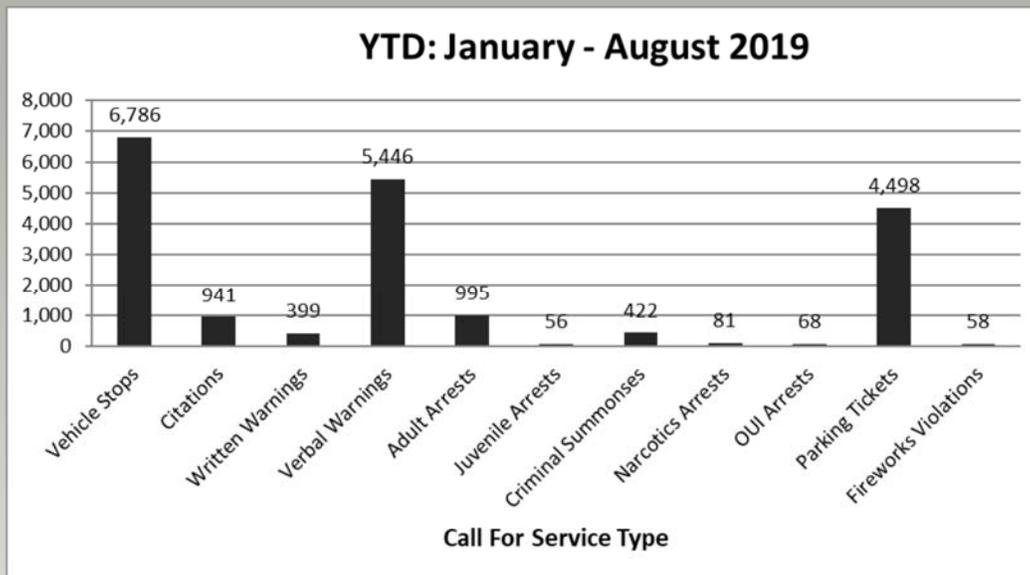
Statistics

Officers responded to a total of 3,955 Calls for Service in the month of August.

Year-to-Date data is below



Calls For Service	August 2019
Total CFS	3,955
Vehicle Stops	794
Citations	76
Written Warnings	37
Verbal Warnings	681
Adult Arrests	114
Juvenile Arrests	9
Criminal Summonses	45
Narcotics Arrests	17
OUI Arrests	6
Parking Tickets	462
Fireworks Violations	6



Enforcement

Traffic enforcement with the radar trailer deployed at various locations throughout the city. Sex offender notifications were distributed. Sergeant Conley & Officer Weaver did a detail on mountain bikes on the campus of Bates College.

Community Events - meetings

- ◇ Masjidul Salaam Mosque
- ◇ Common Ties Board Meeting
- ◇ New Mainer Community Collaborative
- ◇ Executive Androscoggin Community Collaborative
- ◇ Lewiston-Auburn Alliance for Services to the Homeless (LAASH)
- ◇ Community Partnership for Protecting Children (CPPC)
- ◇ (Promise) Early Childhood Education Board Meeting & Executive Committee Meeting
- ◇ Healthy Neighborhoods Planning Council & Community Engagement
- ◇ Healthy Neighborhoods Ethnic Community Outreach
- ◇ COMMUNITY Law Enforcement Steering Committee Meeting & Subcommittee Meeting
- ◇ World Refugee Day Planning
- ◇ Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Business Advisory Committee
- ◇ Bates College Students' Meeting
- ◇ Bates College Dean's Office Meeting
- ◇ Bates College Off-Campus Housing Meeting
- ◇ Rental Registration Subcommittee Meeting
- ◇ Healthy Neighborhoods Mini-Grant Review
- ◇ Androscoggin Collaborative Retreat Planning
- ◇ Stand Against Racism Planning
- ◇ Poverty Awareness Subcommittee Meeting
- ◇ Lewiston Downtown Association Meeting
- ◇ Pettingill Park Association
- ◇ City Spirit Council Meeting
- ◇ Healthy Neighborhoods Block Party Planning



Community Resource Team

CRO Sergeant Conley & CRO Officer Weaver facilitated *COFFEE WITH A COP* at Oak Park and Birch Hill Apartments, as well as Russell Park Manor.

Sergeant Conley and Officers Philippon and Weaver gave a *Presentation on Opioids* to the American Academy of Professional Coders.

Officer Philippon continued his efforts with *PROJECT SUPPORT YOU* by giving a presentation to Medicare.

Sergeant Conley, Officer Weaver, & Philippon conducted a mock interview panel.

Officer Philippon was at a *Wake-a-Wish* event.

Officer Weaver participated in the Tall Pines Block Party!

The Community Resource Team officers continued to organize *SUMMER FUN & FILMS* with the outdoor movie nights: Lewiston Middle School, "Mary Poppins Returns," and Pathway Vineyard, "Dumbo."

Other Community Events

Officers were involved in Maine Community Integration community discussions.

Officers were present at Conner Elementary's Open House.

LPD participated in the August 6th *NATIONAL NIGHT OUT*, an annual community-building campaign that promotes community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

August 18th, Crime Analyst Amy Blaisdell-Pechmanova ran in the Corporal Eugene Cole Memorial half marathon (13.1 miles)!

Community Events

From the PD's
Facebook:

"Cpl. Griffin strikes a pose at the Great Falls Balloon Festival, Friday night, wearing Smokey the Bear's Ranger hat atop LPD's Command Post. Smokey the Bear was celebrating his 75th birthday and was one of the theme balloons at the festival."



Officers sampled lemonade from various lemonade vendors throughout Lewiston.



School Superintendent Todd Finn

MONTH IN REVIEW

August witnessed the coming together of our school district in many ways. As summer vacation wrapped up and leaders assembled their site-based teams, our buildings began to take shape, rosters were created, and future planning commenced. Both at the district and building level, diligent and well thought out work to prepare for the first day of school was completed.

On August 26, all district employees participated in our “kickoff” event at LHS, where direction for our three-year plan was discussed.

All schools opened without any issues on August 28, to include an impressive, well-rehearsed intake plan at the new Connors Elementary School. District staff were assigned a specific school community to assist and support during their opening day.



“Fridays with Finn” began on August 30, and I was able to visit, observe, as well as provide feedback to principals in each building. With the support of the school committee, we have been able to staff our building and programming appropriately, which has directly led to a smooth opening for Lewiston Public Schools. Pre-K and Kindergarten opened up on September 3.

CONTINUOUS SCHOOL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

The Continuous School Improvement Coordinator search is underway. Applications are being reviewed and an interview committee is being assembled. We anticipate the first round of interviews to be completed by September 13 and with the second round of interviews, to include the recommendation of the successful candidate prior to the 9.23.19 School Committee Meeting. In the meantime, a preliminary data collection process is underway to gather demographic data as well as previous outcomes and goals for each school in LPS.

OPERATIONS - FINANCE /BUDGET UPDATE

I am reviewing the FY20 Budget to familiarize myself with the processes and outcomes of the budget building procedure in 2018-19. The Chief Administrative Officer and I will be creating a timetable to begin building the FY21 Budget this month. Our needs-based budget approach will take into consideration input and feedback from key stakeholders in our learning communities to begin working toward supporting a world-class education experience for all learners.

OPERATIONS - FACILITIES

Connors	Keys being made, distributed to staff.		
Farwell	Striping completed.		
Geiger	Striping completed.		
McMahon	Striping completed.		
Montello	Striping, electrical panel upgrade and outlets added to classrooms.		
LMS	95% mold cleanup completed; the rest will be completed this month. Striping has been completed.		
LHS	Striping completed. PC/Sargent Construction working on grass field.		
LRTC	Striping completed. Plans for better use of parking areas being developed.		
Longley	Striping completed.		
Dingley	RFQ to evaluate for roof replacement next spring.		



HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Teacher Openings Posted: 50

Ed Tech Openings : 60

Other Openings Posted: 24

We have reached out to (and are in the planning process of) recruiting directly out of some of the premier Educator Prep programs in New England. We look forward to utilizing new and innovative ways to attract new teachers and staff members to our district, while maintaining the talent already on board.

MEDIA

I have participated in television news and print media interviews pertaining to the opening of our new elementary school, opening day for teachers and staff, opening day for learners, the Martel building, smoking and vaping laws, the teacher shortage in Lewiston, Maine, and across the nation, as well as providing the best opportunity for children of poverty. I have been contacted about participating in a two-part documentary chronicling the transition of a principal to a superintendent, based on experiences as a turnaround principal in the south coming to Lewiston Public Schools. Thus far, we have received positive press coverage and we will continue to build positive relationships with our friends in the media.

TEACHING AND LEARNING UPDATE

Our Teaching and Learning Team has been working diligently on curriculum, assessment, federal and state reporting, educator effectiveness, and problem solving in our actual school buildings as well as in small/large group collaborative sessions. I am pleased to report that Karen Paquette, our new Chief Academic Officer, has assembled and led a tremendous team effort to improve outcomes district-wide. Currently, in addition to regular responsibilities, the team is in the midst of preparing for the CSIP Coordinator interview process.



LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION UPDATE



Our three-hour, bi-weekly series kicked off in August and will resume on 9.10.19. Principals, as well as LRTC, Adult Education, ELL and Special Education Directors participate in three segments: *Business, Professional Learning, and Problem Solving*. In September, we will finalize our Leadership Evaluation format, processes, procedures, and functionality so that all principals and directors receive regular and meaningful feedback reflective of four, mutually-decided upon common goals (Vision, Communication, Student Achievement, and Nurturing Connections). In order to build skilled leadership capacity in LPS, one of the three goals of my entry plan, our bi-weekly meetings will provide information, support, and critical thinking opportunities to our leaders entrusted to provide for our learners across LPS. “Next Up” Assistant Principal Development planning is in developmental stages. Aspiring Leaders rosters are full. Our “Genius Hour” open collaboration session for innovators kicks off in late September.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS UPDATE

Lewiston Listens, a series of community forums to assist in gathering process and perception data from community members, begins on Thursday, September 19 at 6:30 pm at Lewiston High School/LRTC Room V-120. We have revamped our Facebook Page, and you may follow me on **Twitter @SupeFinnLPS**.

SUPERINTENDENT’S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I have completed 100% of the required coursework toward my Doctoral in Educational Leadership, a journey that began in 2013. This has allowed me to access my learning to assist in organizational change, leading across cultures, and accessing research-based strategies to move our district forward. I am currently in the second Dissertation Phase of this degree program, having completed and submitted the first two (of five) Chapters for dissertation committee review. Over the summer I completed *Maine School Law* and *Maine Special Education Law* courses at Thomas College through Drummond and Woodsum. I am currently reading “*Game Changers*” by Dave Asprey and “*A Better Way to Budget: building support for bold, student-centered change in public schools*” by Nathan Levenson. Additionally, I am meeting with Dr. Katie Hawes, my Maine Superintendent’s mentor on a monthly basis.

Social Services

Housing Expenditures	25,214.00
Temporary Shelter	0.00
Utilities	673.86
Fuel –Heat/all types	0.00
Food	1,924.26
Personal Items	755.70
Burials	3,449.00
Diapers/Baby Supplies	96.15
Medications - Prescriptions	95.11
Medical Services	0.00

Just the Facts

A total of \$29,345.68 was expended in General Assistance in the month of August. \$32,208.08 in reimbursement was requested from the State at 70% of the total expenditures. *(chart left)*

GA Assisted Summary Client Characteristics (more than one category may apply per applicant)

Asylum Pending	33
Deceased	2
Able-bodied Adult	1
Employed	10
Food Stamp Recipients	48
G.E.D.	3
Immigration Interview	5
Mental Health	21
Parolee	1
Refugee	2
SSI Pending	20
SSI Recipient	2
TANF Recipient	6
TANF 60 Months	1

Workfare Program Statistics

Cases: 29, Hours Completed: 900.5, Individuals: 72,
Dollar Value: \$9,905.50

An educational overview, understanding, and confirmation of understanding, on sexual harassment have been added to the work agreement forms and are signed for all workfare referrals. An introduction to the understanding of the behaviors and laws regarding sexual harassment is required before attending a workfare site.

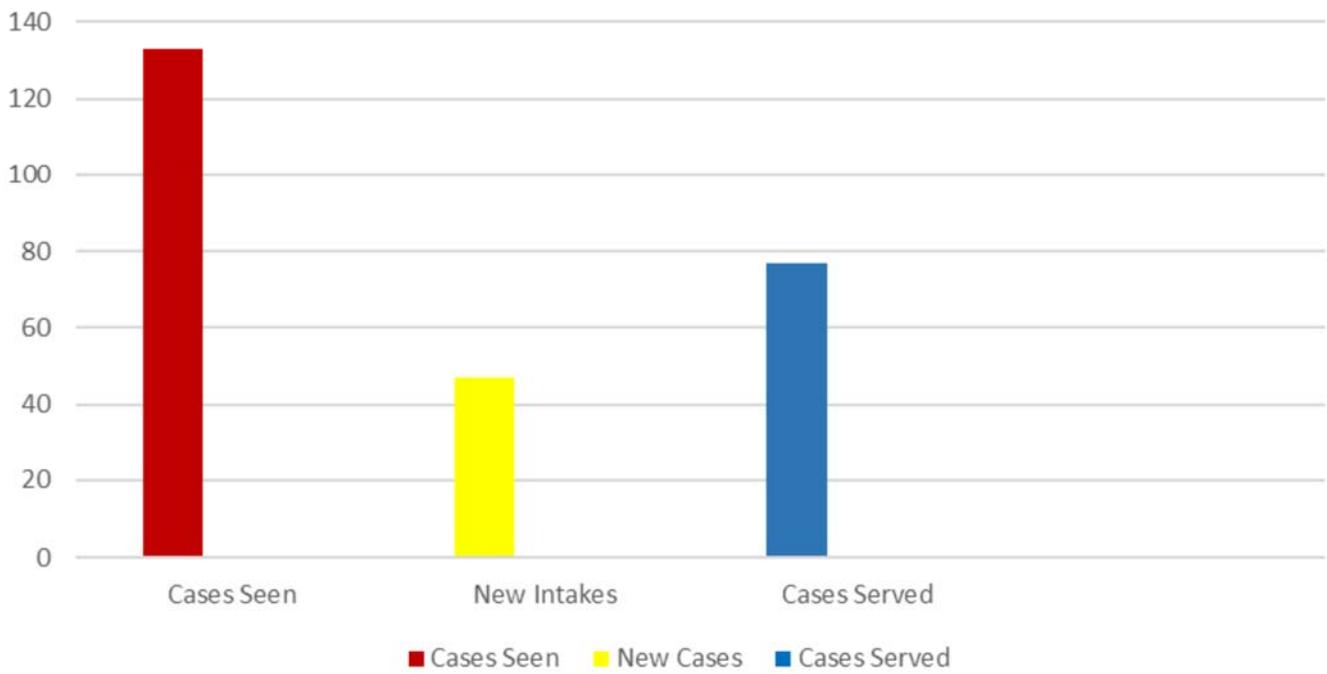
Fraud Cases & Reimbursement

General Assistance (GA) clients who commit fraud- by attempting to receive GA or that receive GA fraudulently are disqualified from receiving any GA funds throughout the state for 120 days. All cases are reported to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and may be disqualified from receiving Food Stamps for the 120 disqualification period. Cases that have already received GA fraudulently are reported to DHHS and to the Lewiston Police Department for potential prosecution.

Individuals who are disqualified for fraud are required to reimburse the amount of GA received which they were not entitled to.

Reimbursements from retroactive SSI awards, Workers Compensation settlements, and other sources are actively pursued and tracked, resulting in decreased GA expenditures.

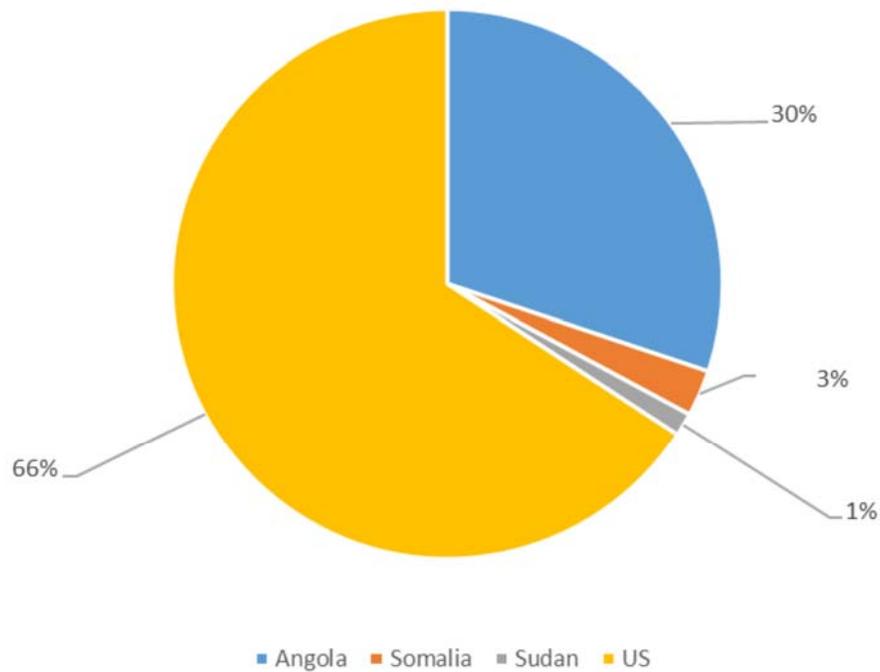
August



Cases seen: 133; New Intakes: 47; Cases Served: 77

Summary of cases served:

Angola: 22; Congo: 4; Somalia: 2; Sudan: 1; US: 48



Workshops and Training Opportunities

Renters' Educational Workshops are held the 3rd week of each month. Eight applicants per workshop are permitted. A translator is available to facilitate in both Portuguese and French.

The workshops educate renters of the danger of lead paint, radon, security deposits, leases, at-will agreements, renters rights and responsibilities, and giving appropriate notice to your landlord.

Informational handouts from Pine Tree Legal are available and formatted in English & translated in Portuguese and French.



A Nutrition and Budgeting class hosted by Healthy Androscoggin is being offered once a month to GA recipients. The class is held at City Hall and covers tips on saving money while grocery shopping, healthy recipes and reading labels. Participants receive a cookbook, food gift card and resources.



Homelessness is real.

Social Services has seen 117 homeless cases consisting of 171 individuals (including 37 children) between 1/1/19 to 8/31/19

The ongoing homeless initiative and tireless work by the LAASH committee members, continues to discover new solutions for the homeless population in Lewiston. One goal is putting a system in place to accurately track the number of homeless individuals and families in the Lewiston area. A focus group has formed by concerned members of local organizations, churches, & community members, to gain resources and partnerships to tackle the homeless problem in Lewiston. With the temperatures dropping during the Maine winters it is becoming imperative to open a warming shelter that operates at night to shelter homeless individuals that are on the street and exposed to the winter elements. There are 8 shelters for the homeless in the Lewiston & Auburn area. Four are operated by local church organizations, one is a shelter for domestic violence and sex trafficking victims, one shelter services youth ages 18-21, and there is one day shelter that acts as a resource and day time warming center located at 247 Bates Street in Lewiston. The hours of operation are 8:00 a.m-3:00 p.m. - hot meals, a food pantry, and other resources are available. Shelter resource lists are available at the General Assistance office upon request.