

City of Lewiston



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Each month, this newsletter 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.

In this edition

Items of Interest.....	<i>Page 3</i>
City Administrator	<i>Page 4-5</i>
Library.....	<i>Page 6-7</i>
Planning and Code Enforcement	<i>Page 8-9</i>
Police.....	<i>Page 10-12</i>
Social Services	<i>Page 13-15</i>



Items of Interest

Kora Shriners FEZTIVAL of Trees 2019

Maine's premiere holiday festival

During the holiday season, Kora Temple holds it's annual FEZtival of Trees. The community is invited in to see the beautiful trees and decorations, take a chance on the Raffle Room, visit the Craft Fair and top it off with a visit from Santa!



The FEZtival is held annually, the week of Thanksgiving.

November Election Statistics



November 5, 2019 State Referendum and Municipal Election:

- ⇒ 27,104 total registered voters in the city
- ⇒ 6,060 voters participated in the election
- ⇒ 22% voter turnout
- ⇒ 1,442 voted early by absentee ballot
- ⇒ 4,618 voted in person at the polls

A note/reminder regarding fire hydrants:



Mark Caron, Acting Assistant Chief, LFD

City Administrator Ed Barrett

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 2018 ELECTED OFFICIALS

As we approach the end of the terms of our officials who took office in January 2018, it's appropriate to highlight some of this group's major accomplishments over the last two years. Among them are:

- ◆ Adopting a no-fee rental registration program that will ensure the City has current, up-to-date information on the City's multi-family properties and the necessary contact information to interact with responsible parties on both routine and emergency matters.
- ◆ Implementing a General Assistance Housing Inspection Program, coupled with tenant training for these clients, to ensure that they are housed safely and have the tools to be successful tenants.
- ◆ Establishing a standing Housing Committee charged with advising elected officials on all elements of the City's housing issues.
- ◆ A further expansion of our efforts to address lead issues in our older housing through a new, three year, \$5.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. To date, more than 500 units have been certified as lead safe through the City's efforts.
- ◆ Adopted the Choice Neighborhood Plan designed to transform the City's Tree Street Neighborhood through addressing housing, economic, and educational issues affecting its residents. This plan was funded through a \$1.3 million grant from HUD and its adoption will allow the City to compete for an implementation grant of up to \$30 million. A major focus of this plan is to provide new, mixed income housing in the area.
- ◆ Continued implementation of the City's Riverfront Island Masterplan by installing a new, two-lane bridge crossing the canal at Beech Street. This will improve access to two privately owned properties looking to be redeveloped as well as to Simard-Payne Park. The Council also authorized the first phase of canal improvements to address the section of the lower canal adjacent to the park and the next phase of Simard-Payne improvements, upgrading the walkway from the Park Entrance to the Androscoggin River Pedestrian Bridge.
- ◆ Approved funding to convert the City's street lights to LED's, resulting in significant electrical cost savings, improving night-time lighting quality, and reducing maintenance requirements.
- ◆ Provided funding to replacing the City's inadequate Sabattus Street fire substation, the first of three such replacements planned for the coming years.
- ◆ Continued implementation of the City's 2017 Comprehensive Plan through funding a review of the City's current design standards to ensure the quality of future development and that such development complements what exists in certain of the city's more intensive zoning districts.
- ◆ Added three positions to the Police Department to enhance police coverage and increase police presence in the School System, a new fire prevention position to expand the Fire Department's multi-family housing inspection program, a Planning position to further our efforts to implement the Comprehensive Plan, and several other positions to enhance the City's ability to meet public service demands.

- ◆ Funded the initial phase of an effort to address the city's image and to develop a public communications plan that will ensure information on city programs, services and initiatives is available to all residents.
- ◆ Overseen continued sound fiscal management that has allowed the City to operate well in the black each year with savings invested in capital projects that otherwise would require property tax support through additional borrowing.
- ◆ Adopted a complete licensing and regulatory scheme to manage the introduction of adult use marijuana into the community.
- ◆ Supported Central Maine Power's Clean Energy Connect Project that will invest more than \$250 million in Lewiston and produce between \$6 and \$8 million in new property taxes that can be used to meet service demands and lower the City's tax rate.

While future challenges remain for the incoming Mayor and Council, it is clear that the current elected officials have made a significant contribution toward moving Lewiston forward.

On my behalf and that of all city staff, I would like to express our appreciation to Mayor Cloutier and Councilors Lysen, Beam, and Marcotte for their hard work and commitment to Lewiston. I'd also like to welcome back returning Councilors Rea, Pettengill, and Lajoie and first time Councilors Kahlid, Jenson, Gelinas, and Clement. We look forward to working closely with all of you over the coming two years.





November was National Novel Writing Month or NaNoWriMo



LPL hosted a series of write-ins where participants could come together to discuss writing, share community, and work on developing brand new writing projects. We also hosted several NaNoWriMo events geared specifically for teens - *pictured above; photo by Sun Journal.*

Great Falls Forum

On November 21, the featured speaker of the Great Falls Forum was Sarah Perry, discussing her memoir: *After the Eclipse: A Mother's Murder, a Daughter's Search* about the murder of her mother and subsequent investigation. Perry was joined by Detective Walter Grzyb who was the lead detective in the investigation. Around 80 people attended the forum which received a write-up in the *Sun Journal*—(photo below).



Makala

On November 2nd, LPL paired with the Tournees Film Festival at Bates College to hold a screening of *Makala*, in Callahan Hall. The film provides a look into the life of a charcoal salesman in the Democratic Republic of Congo as he faces the challenges and complexities of daily life.

Anne Williams at LPL

On November 14th, the Friends of the Library hosted Anne Williams to discuss her experience researching and writing about the history of jigsaw puzzles in the state. Her work and collecting of Puzzles have contributed to museum exhibits throughout New England.

Pilot Program/Teacher Totes

The Children's Dept. has begun a program for "teacher totes" with Promise Early Education Center; once a month the Children's Librarian visits their pre-school classrooms for storytime and brings a tote full of books for them to use throughout the month until her next visit, when she brings a new tote!

Kneat Knits



The Children's Dept. introduced a new fiber arts program for kids that meets on: the first Friday of every month from 3:30-4:30 PM. Kneat Knits introduces kids to knitting, crocheting, felting, and more!



Family Yoga is back!

Each month, the instructors from Chill Yoga in Lewiston come and share the joys of yoga with our patrons. Call the Childrens Desk to reserve your spot at next month's session!

207-513-3122



Planning & Code Enforcement

David Hediger, Director

Enforcement Action

- ◆ 21 notice of violations were issued
- ◆ 5 citations were issued
- ◆ 4 condemnations
- ◆ 13 solid waste civil penalties

Permit Activity November 2019

- ◆ 54 building permits with a reported value of \$3,574,488
- ◆ 29 electrical permits
- ◆ 11 plumbing permits

Commercial projects over \$250,000 included:

John Murphy Homes, Inc., 5 Memorial Avenue, 41,000 square educational facility, \$3,250,000

No single-family homes were built.

Land Use Planner Position Filled

Planning and Code Enforcement is pleased to welcome Jimmy Buzzell as Lewiston's Land Use Planner. This position is responsible for, but not limited to, comprehensive planning, zoning and land use regulations, technical support and advisor to City boards and committees on planning and related matters and activities as assigned; and shall participate in zoning and land use inspections and enforcement regarding local, state, and federal, rules and regulations pertaining to land use. This position fills a void in the department with respect to planning related efforts from over 15 years ago when the Land Use Inspection Officer was eliminated.

Planning Board Activity

At the Board meeting of November 25th, the Board took the following actions:

To send a favorable recommendation to the City Council for the Contract Zoning request by Saxon Partners, LLC for properties located at 10, 35 and 37 Avon Street to reduce the density standard for 10 Avon Street from 1,180 sf. to 1,000 sf. in order to consolidate all the residential units to 10 Avon Street. The three properties at 10, 35 and 37 Avon Street were approved for a contract rezoning from Resource Conservation (RC), Urban Enterprise (UE) and Neighborhood Conservation B (NCB) to Centreville (CV) back in April of 2019. The three properties, totaling 6.8 acres, were approved for a maximum of 245 dwelling units at density of one dwelling unit per 1,180 sf. of net lot area. The development concept at that time was to build 210 apartment units at 10 Avon Street (5.71 ac.) and 35 units at 35 and 37 Avon Street (1.17 ac.). Now, Saxon Partners has re-evaluated their development plans and would like to locate all 245 units at 10 Avon Street, the largest of the three properties.

Continued discussion regarding updates to Lewiston's design standards including, landscaping, open space, buffering, new design district standards, exterior building standards, parking access and design, treatment of yards, roofs, and context sensitive design.

Board of Appeals Activity

On November 6, 2019, the Board of Appeals heard an administrative appeal of a Notice of Violation issued by the City of Lewiston Department of Planning and Code Enforcement to Pike Industries, owner of the property located at 145 River Road, Map-Lot 180-021, for operating an unlicensed automobile graveyard over a significant sand and gravel aquifer. Pike Industries noted in their appeal that they did not cause any land use violations on the property and was not responsible for any of the violations. The vehicles were placed on Pike's property by the lease holder of the abutting property at 145 River Road, Map-Lot 180-7. Pike's Attorney had contacted the owner of the vehicles demanding the vehicles be removed from their property and expected the matter to be resolved before December. At the request of the applicant, the Board voted to table the hearing until a meeting on or after March 9, 2020 unless the City and/or Pike Industries requested a sooner hearing. On November 21, 2019 Pike withdrew their tabled appeal as their property was brought into compliance with the abutter removing their vehicles from Pikes property.



Police

Chief Brian O'Malley

Calls For Service	NOV. 2019
Total CFS	3,163
Vehicle Stops	607
Citations	47
Written Warnings	30
Verbal Warnings	530
Adult Arrests	102
Juvenile Arrests	15
Criminal Summonses	58
Narcotics Arrests	9
OUI Arrests	5
Parking Tickets	435
Fireworks Violations	2

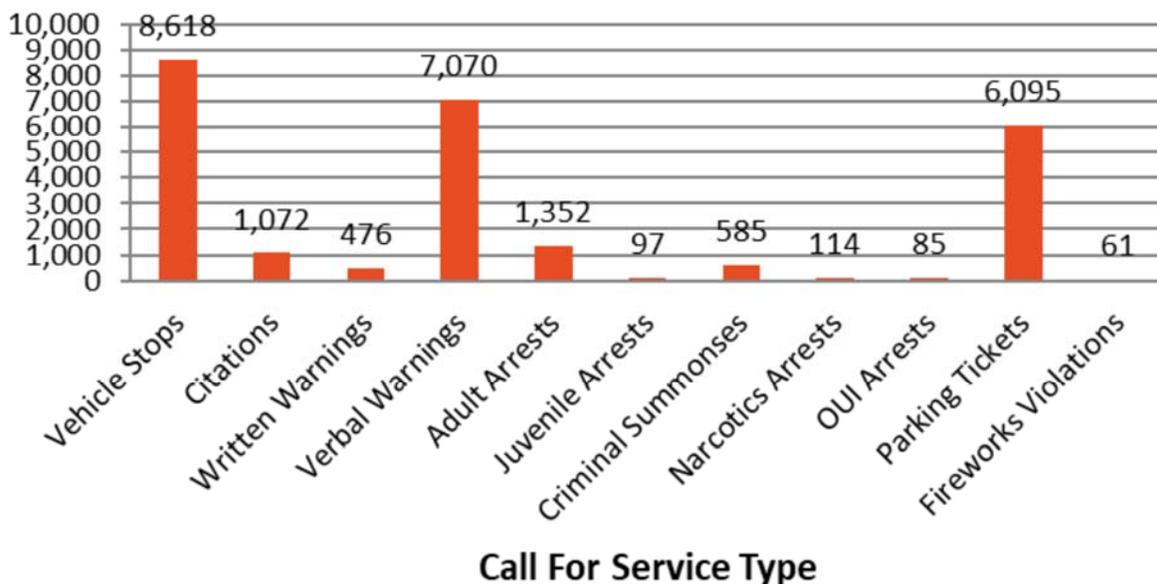


Enforcement

- Officers conducted traffic enforcement throughout the city, deploying the radar trailer in various locations.
- Sex offender notifications, regarding offenders moving within the city, were provided to residents.



YTD: January - November 2019



COMMUNITY EVENTS

TRAINING

New recruit **Joseph Nixon** graduated from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy (MCJA) on November 27th and has begun his field training.

L to R: Deputy Chief Higgins, Officer Nixon, and Chief O'Malley

Officers provided the YWCA staff with **risk assessment training**.



TRAINING

Sergeant Conley, Officers Philippon, and Weaver attended training on **Community Policing**, and Sgt. Conley and Officer Weaver provided Bates College Administrators with **active threat response training**.



RECRUITMENT

Officers Ryan Gagnon (left), formerly from Portland PD and Efra Becerra-Aviles (right), formerly from Wilton PD have joined Lewiston Police!



COMMUNITY EVENTS

MEETINGS ATTENDED

- ◇ 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
- ◇ (Promise) Early Childhood Education Executive Committee Meeting
- ◇ Healthy Neighborhoods Planning Council
- ◇ Healthy Neighborhoods Community Engagement
- ◇ Healthy Neighborhoods Ethnic Community Outreach
- ◇ CommUNITY Law Enforcement Steering Committee and Subcommittee Meetings
- ◇ World Refugee Day Planning
- ◇ Lewiston Auburn Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Business Advisory Committee
- ◇ Bates College meetings with: Students, Dean's Office, Off-Campus Housing, Neighborhood Action Group, and Active Shooter 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 Androscoggin Annual Meeting

EVENTS

Members of the Department were present at the following events:

- **PROMISE Touch-A-Truck**
- **Youth Council Trunk-or-Treat**
- **Bates College Community Football**

Thanksgiving

Sergeant Conley and Officer Philippon attended Spurwink's Thanksgiving

Coffee With a Cop

facilitated by CRO Officer Weaver at Birch Hill Apartments



New Beginnings Open House

attended by Sgt. Conley and Officer Weaver

Maine Council on Elder Abuse Prevention Summit attended by our officers

PRESENTATIONS GIVEN

Officers provided the third grade class of the Carrie Ricker School with a presentation

Officers volunteered their time at the weekly Citizens' Police Academy



CONGRATULATIONS!

Officer Philippon was presented with the Healthy Androscoggin Will Bartlett Award for his work with youth through the Lewiston Summer Fun & Films Program, as well as his work with Project Support You. Thank you for your service.

Social Services

Director, Elaine Brackett

Just the Facts

A total of \$38,416.81 was expended in General Assistance in the month of November. \$26,891.77 in reimbursement was requested from the state at 70% of the total expenditure.

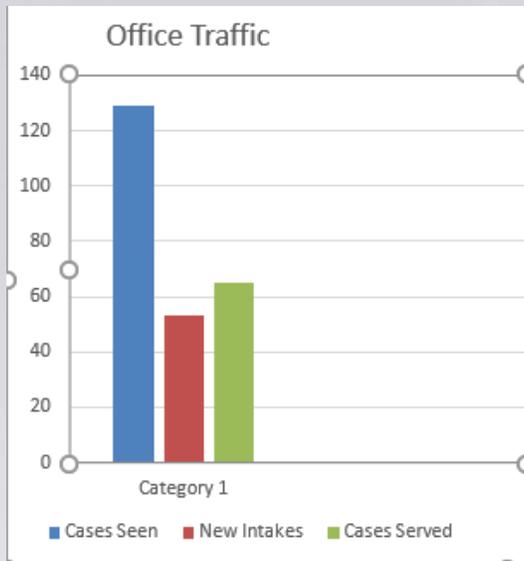
EXPENDITURES

Housing Expenditures	\$28,552.00
Temporary Shelter	\$ 0
Medications/Prescriptions	\$201.36
Medical Services	\$ 0
Diaper/Baby Supplies	\$199.80
Personal Items	\$1,126.51
Food	\$4,921.67
Fuel (Heating/all types)	\$ 0
Utilities	\$537.31
Burials	\$2,878.16

GA ASSISTED SUMMARY by client characteristics

more than one category may apply per applicant

Asylum Pending	37
Asylum Affidavit	9
Immigration Interview	3
Immigrant	5
Refugee	1
ESL Classes	35
Able-bodied Adult	0
Employed	4
Food Stamp Recipient	41
TANF Recipient	2
Mental Health	21
SSI Pending	19
Parolee	0



Unduplicated Cases Seen	129
New Intakes	53
Cases Served	62

Summary of Cases Served

Asylum Intakes	5
Refugee Intakes	3
US Intakes	42
Immigrant Intakes	3
Angola	19
Congo	8
Gabon	1
US	30
Somalia	1
Burundi	2
Djibouti	1

WORKFARE STATISTICS

Cases 24

Individuals 51

Hours Completed 1,021

Dollar Value \$11,231

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.



RENTERS EDUCATION

Renters' Educational Workshops are held the third 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 on 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.

FRAUD CASES and REIMBURSEMENT FUNDS

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-day 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.

Nutrition & Budgeting Workshops

A Nutrition & Budgeting class is offered once per month to GA recipients, hosted by Healthy Androscoggin and held at Lewiston City Hall.

The workshop 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.

188 homeless cases have been seen between 1/1/19 - 11/30/19 consisting of 241 individuals, including 55 children.

Did you know that 22% of GA office traffic are homeless?

Lewiston-Auburn has 8 shelters: 4 operated by local churches; one is for domestic violence & sex trafficking victims; one for youth 18-21; and one day-shelter providing resources that also acts as a warming center, located at 247 Bates Street in Lewiston and operating from 8A-3P with hot meals, a food pantry.

Shelter resources lists are available at the General Assistance office.

CODE INSPECTION UPDATE

Between 1/1/19 - 11/30/19

<i>Code Inspection Requests:</i>	71
<i>GA Violations/letters sent:</i>	26
<i>Not in Compliance:</i>	13
<i>In Compliance:</i>	58