

# **CITY OF LEWISTON PRESS STATEMENT**

## **JUNE 10, 2020**

**LEWISTON:** City of Lewiston administrative offices will re-open to the public on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. However, should individuals feel ill, they are asked to remain home and instead conduct municipal business online, by email, FAX, or postal mail.

**UPON ARRIVAL:** When entering a municipal building, residents will be asked to wear a face covering unless an underlying medical condition prohibits doing so. Hand sanitizing stations will be available, and visitors can be assured that staff will undertake cleaning between customers. Those entering municipal buildings are also asked to practice social distancing by keeping 6 feet between themselves and others. For City Hall only, customers are asked to enter through the Park Street side of the building and exit through the Pine Street exit, unless, of course, handicapped accessibility is needed, which is located at the Pine Street side of the building.

**FEELING ILL AND DOING BUSINESS FROM A DISTANCE:** Should individuals feel ill and need to do city business from a distance, online business can be conducted via [www.lewistonmaine.gov/cityonline](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/cityonline). Calls can be directed to 513-3000, and the City's FAX number is 784-2959. A staff email directory can be found at [www.lewistonmaine.gov/citystaff](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/citystaff).

Residents doing an online vehicle re-registration may use an electronic check with no service fee. When using a debit or credit card for re-registration and other online services, a 2½% service fee may be incurred. A drop-box for items such as water bill and tax payments is also located on the Park Street side of Lewiston City Hall, 27 Pine Street.

**ONE EXCEPTION:** The one re-opening exception at City Hall is Social Services. As such, General Assistance (GA) requests should be made by telephone (513-3000, X3263), and GA applications will continue to be conducted via telephone. Requests for additional verifiable information to determine eligibility can be sent via email,

fax, or postal mail to the Social Services Department. The mailing address is 27 Pine Street, Lewiston, ME 04240, and the GA FAX number is 376-3229.

**POSSIBLE WAIT TIMES:** Due to high call volumes for service during the City's recent service by appointment only response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a large in-person presence is anticipated at municipal offices starting June 15<sup>th</sup>. Municipal staff will be monitoring how many individuals are in each building at one time, and wait times can be expected. Should an exterior line occur at Lewiston City Hall, people should form a line on Park Street—standing 6 feet apart—and extend the line towards the Police Department at 171 Park Street. To reduce wait time, re-registrations can easily be done online and are encouraged – [www.lewistonmaine.gov/cityonline](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/cityonline).

**ABSENTEE VOTING/VOTER REGISTRATION UPDATE:** Residents who need to register to vote, enroll in a political party, or update their address can do so one at a time at the self-serve table in the Park Street lobby at City Hall, 27 Pine Street. Voter registration cards and instructions will be available at the table, which will have bins for both clean and used pens. Residents unable to come to City Hall may call the City Clerk's Office at 513-3124, and a voter registration card will be mailed to their home.

In addition, starting on June 22, in-person absentee voting will be available in the City Council Chambers, first floor of City Hall. This will occur Monday – Friday from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. The voting area will adhere to social distancing practices, and monitoring the number of individuals in the voting area at one time will occur. Voters are encouraged to visit the City's website in advance at [www.lewistonmaine.gov/elections](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/elections) to become familiar with the ballot questions before voting to allow for a faster turnaround time in the on-site voting booths. Voters may also order an absentee ballot online at the same website, and one will be mailed to them.

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT UPDATE:** The City of Lewiston will be re-opening two of its recreation facilities on June 15, based on Governor Janet Mills' Plan to Restart Maine's Economy found at the below link:

<https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/governor-mills-presents-safe-gradual-plan-restart-maines-economy-2020-04-28>.

The two facilities to re-open are: the Franklin Pasture Tennis/Pickle Ball Courts and the Kennedy Park Skateboard Park. The City recommends that tennis/pickle ball matches be singles only and that good social distancing practices be maintained in the skate park. Gatherings at both facilities shall be limited to less than 50 people.

**RECREATION DIVISION UPDATE:** As of June 17<sup>th</sup>, Lewiston Rec enthusiasts can enjoy the division's first "**Wednesday OUT OF the Parks**" live streamed show featuring Jason Tardy. The show will include innovative choreographed juggling to music and various creative entertainment stunts. Following the streamed show, Jason will chat with viewers to answer questions and may even do more impromptu juggling!

FMI: <https://www.facebook.com/events/185792346039754/>

**LIBRARY UPDATE:** In addition, the Lewiston Public Library, at 200 Lisbon Street, is now offering pick-up service for checking out library materials, **LPL To Go**. Although the building is not open to the public yet, Library cardholders can place requests for up to 10 items using the Library's online catalog, emailing [LPL@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:LPL@lewistonmaine.gov), or calling the Lending Services Desk at 513-3134. In turn, library staff will call the customer to schedule a pickup appointment. Additional information is available at <http://lplonline.org/lpltogo/>

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