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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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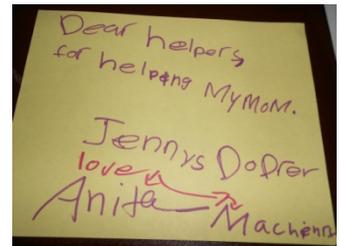
ITEMS OF INTEREST

LA CA\$H Coalition Going Strong!



The Lewiston-Auburn CA\$H Coalition is once again this tax season advocating the Earned Income Tax Credit, a Federal benefit for low-to-moderate-income workers; providing free tax preparation/e-filing by IRS certified volunteers; and connecting residents to asset-building opportunities. In February, the Coalition hosted its annual **“Super REFUND Saturday”** and prepared over 200 returns for Lewiston-Auburn area residents . . . **and that was just one day!**

Super REFUND Saturday also provided free accessibility to & analysis of credit reports, financial literacy information, and CA\$H Coaches if attendees wanted to learn more about budgeting, credit card debt, savings, etc. The Coalition will continue its services through early April, and last year served 1,457 individuals. Residents can continue to make appointments for free tax prep by calling **513-3160**. For more info, interested individuals may visit www.lewistonmaine.gov/lacashcoalition. Pictured here is free tax prep in action, as well as a thank-you note from a child whose mom had her taxes done for free.



Since the 2004 tax season, the LA CA\$H Coalition has facilitated the return of over \$13 million in Federal & State refunds to LA area individuals/families.

Cool Happenings on Lisbon Street



On February, 11, 2012, the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council debuted their new video *“Cool Happenings on Lisbon Street,”* highlighting new energy on Lisbon Street. The video was viewed by an overflow crowd at LA Arts' Downstage with LYAC members sharing their positive impressions of Lisbon Street and the fact that it has once again come alive, as they reflected upon its activity of years past. The debut was accented by

"then & now" pics of Lisbon Street; food donated by Lisbon Street's Niky's Greek Restaurant, Marche, and LA Arts; and a donated arrangement from Lisbon Street's Dube's Florist as a door prize. LA Magazine, also located on Lisbon Street, provided give-away copies of its publication. To view the video (25 minutes), go to: <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/index.aspx?nid=503>



Pictured here are LYAC members engaging with event attendees & a picture of attendees looking at the displayed “then & now” photos.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Capital Improvement Plan Adopted

The City Council adopted the FY13-FY17 Capital Improvement Program that calls for \$151.6 million in projects with \$67.5 million of that from City resources and \$17.2 million from school resources. During the coming fiscal year, \$4.2 million in City projects are included in the plan, including \$2.9 million to be financed from a bond issue. The School Department, responding to growing enrollments, is also seeking just over \$9 million in bonds for a number of projects including expansion of McMahan Elementary and the initial phase of renovations to the Middle School. Other notable projects include updating the City's core financial and management software, road rehabilitation and reconstruction, completing the Ultraviolet Treatment Facility at Lake Auburn, conducting a Jepson Brook Drainage Channel study and addressing deferred maintenance items at the Library, City Hall, and the Police Department. Specific authorizations for any project must be subsequently approved by the Council during the annual operating budget process.

State Budget Proposals May Increase City Welfare Costs

In an effort to balance the state's budget, the Department of Health and Human Services has begun notifying recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) who have or are nearing the recently adopted 60 month limit on such benefits that they will no longer be eligible for the program. In Lewiston, 337 families will potentially be off the program in June. Under current law, many of these families may be eligible for General Assistance benefits. Unlike TANF which is primarily funded by the federal government, General Assistance is funded by the state and the city. This could have a significant impact on the City's FY13 budget. We are working with other large communities, the state, and our state legislative delegation to explore alternatives to this cost transfer. There is also the potential that the state will reduce its reimbursement rate to heavily impacted communities. As the program now works, we receive a 50% reimbursement from the state until we hit a local funding cap, at which time the state increases its reimbursement to 90%. The state is proposing that all reimbursements be at the 50% level. If the TANF transfer remains in place and the 90% reimbursement is eliminated, the impact on our budget will be magnified. This is another potential example of the state transferring costs on to the property tax payer. This year, the City "lost" over \$1.8 million in municipal revenue sharing when the state decided to retain these funds to balance its own budget. Municipal officials at all levels are concerned with these trends and with the apparent lack of concern at the state level regarding the impact of such actions on the property tax.

Preparation of the Municipal FY13 Budget

Much of February focused on reviewing the budgets submitted by the City's various departments. The City Charter required the Administrator to submit a proposed annual operating budget no later than the end of March. As always, this process involves weighing the service demands of the public against the state of the economy and the ability of our property owners to meet their property tax commitments. While the City's revenue picture has stabilized to some degree, non-tax revenues are not yet growing and tight budgets over the last few years have required staff and service reductions, all of which have been worsened by state cuts to municipal support programs. The City Council will spend the month of May reviewing departmental requests and the proposed budget. As always, Councilors will be interested in hearing the views of the public regarding the budget and the services provided by the City.

ASSESSING

February highlights included publishing the Annual Assessment notice advising eligible veterans and homestead applicants of the requirement to *file for those exemptions by April 1, 2012*.

Internal Review – Homestead Exemption

Assessing staff conducted an internal review of existing homestead exemptions to ensure that the eligibility requirements are still being met by those taxpayers granted the exemption. In cases where duplicate filings or non-resident status are apparent, the Assessor's office follows the procedures outlined in state law to notify the taxpayer and Maine Revenue Services of the deficiency. The review disclosed that the vast majority of the better than 6,600 homestead recipients in Lewiston are in full compliance with state statutes.



Personal Property

The Assessing Department received hundreds of personal property returns from business owners in February. This annual filing requirement is the first step in the canvassing business assets for the April 1, 2012 personal property assessments.

Ownership Verification



Over six hundred forms for ownership verification of mobile homes and homes on Franklin property land have been sent out. This annual request for ownership information is necessary due to the lack of recorded ownership information on these types of properties.

Four-Year Review

The four-year review program for real estate is finishing up in the Pond Road area. Assessing staff will transition over the next few weeks to canvass new construction for the 2012-13 tax roll.

CLERKS

Ward Four Special Municipal Election

The Department conducted the special election to fill the open seat of the Ward Four City Council position. Doreen Christ was elected in a three-way race, and a small Oath of Office ceremony for Doreen was held in the Council Chambers the following day.

Dog Licensing

By state law, a \$25 fine goes into effect for any dogs licensed after January 31. The Department was busy with owners licensing their pets late.



FY13 Budget

The City Clerk met with the City Administrator and Finance Director to review the Department's budget for FY13.

Energov

Preparations were made for full testing of the business licensing module system. Staff worked with Peter Parker to identify and correct programming errors in the module.

Appointments to Boards and Committees

Worked with the Mayor to complete all of the pending appointments to the various city boards and committees and notified the citizens and related departments of their appointments.

On-going Work

During any given month, staff works to process: appointments to boards and committees, business licenses, and state corrections to vital records. Updates to the traffic schedule and policy manual are made, as well as preparation of agenda binders and meeting minutes for Council meetings, sale of miscellaneous permits, recording of legal documents, rotation of mail processing, and switchboard coverage are also part of the routine tasks.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Veteran's Clinic

The **Veteran's Administration's Community Based Outpatient Clinic** (CBOC) began serving veterans at an \$8 million, 32,000 square foot clinic on Challenger Drive in early February. The facility is slated to be fully operational by mid-March. The center will employ 30 people.

More Downtown Development

The City awarded a \$150,000 elevator grant to **Eric Agren** to assist in the redevelopment of 43 and 49 Lisbon Street. The elevator will be installed in an existing shaft at 49 Lisbon (Fuel building) and will serve both buildings. A market rate apartment will be developed on the 4th floor of 49 Lisbon. A fire-rated second means of egress will also be installed at 49 Lisbon connecting to an enclosed walkway across the roof of 43 Lisbon which connects to the existing exit stairs in that building. Under the terms of the grant, the project will generate at least \$450,000 in private sector investment in the buildings. Near term, there will be a new market-rate condominium on the top floor of the Fuel building. Longer term, there will be a third Agren restaurant at 43 Lisbon Street with an apartment above.

Local Food Coming to Lisbon Street

Forage Market is slated to open soon at 180 Lisbon Street. The developer has done a first-rate job of redeveloping the former Playtime Sports into a showplace. Among their offerings, the market will have



locally grown and value-added foods including: a bakery featuring specialty bagels baked on the on-premises, a wood-fired oven, a café offering take home meals, and a variety of wine, beer, and coffee. The City provided a \$100,000 loan and \$50,000 façade grant to assist in the redevelopment of the property.

Lincoln Street Hotel Update



Civil design work is underway and bank financing is being pursued for this 90+ room hotel to be built at 15 Lincoln Street next to Yvonne's Car Wash. The proposed TIF has been submitted to the state. Construction may begin late in the 2012 construction season.

Riverfront Island Master Planning

Over 100 citizens turned out to participate in the most recent public meeting where the consultant presented three possible development scenarios for the area bounded by the main canal, Island Point, Cedar Street and the river and the challenges/benefits of each. Their proposals can be viewed at <http://www.riverfrontislandmasterplan.com>. The final public workshop is scheduled for April 4th at 6:00 PM at Museum LA. Let us know what you think about the proposal either via the web site before the meeting or at the meeting. You can sign up for updates on the proposal and activity at the web site above.

Community Development Block Grant Funding (CDBG)

A citizen advisory committee is actively engaged in reviewing funding requests and interviewing applicants so that the committee can make recommendations to the Council on how to best invest Lewiston's anticipated \$760,000 CDBG allocation. More than \$1.3 million in funding requests have been submitted.

FINANCE

I am excited to report the results of the City's recent bond sale as well as Standard & Poor's (S&P) bond rating. Numerous bids were received at the office of UniBank Fiscal Advisory Services Inc. for the sale of \$7.557 million of general obligation bonds to finance the FY2012 capital improvement projects including \$1.394 million in street rehabilitation funds. Additionally, the City refunded its outstanding 2002 capital improvement issues' principal balance at a par value of \$2.16 million. The original 2002 bonds were issued at a rate of 4.32%. The bonds were sold at a true interest cost of 1.99%.

The net present value cash flow savings on the refunded bonds is \$328,020, which exceeds the preliminary estimate of \$241,044. The actual true interest cost secured on the 2012 debt of 1.99%, was below the original market estimate of 2.72%, and last year's interest cost of 2.94%.

Each bond sale requires the City to seek a bond or credit rating prior to the sale date. These services are currently provided by Standard & Poor's. Their complete credit report containing the City's Credit Profile can be viewed on our website, www.lewistonmaine.gov, under the Finance Department heading and Financial Reports subheading. I am pleased to report that the City of Lewiston's bond rating was reconfirmed at AA- with a revision from "stable" to "positive," indicating the City's financial position appears to be improving. The report focuses on several important factors contributing to the rating and revision:

- ❖ stable local economy and employment base;
- ❖ recent growth and development which provides for strong per capita market valuations;
- ❖ Strong financial operations and reserves;
- ❖ overall debt burden is moderate, but manageable;
- ❖ adequate but below-average household incomes continue to temper our rating.

Favorable credit was given to City Council and Administration for the debt controlling measures established during the current year and the ability of the City to maximize the positive effect of low market interest rates. They were especially pleased with the adoption of the recent Fund Balance Policy, specifically the sections allowing for excess funds to be used for capital improvements/replacements and other one-time costs rather than to balance the operating budget.

As noted during the presentation of the annual financial report, the City planned to reduce fund balance (our "rainy day" account) by \$1.7 million in 2011 due to the use of \$700,000 to balance the operating budget and \$1 million to pay down our outstanding pension obligation bonds. Actual year-end results showed that our fund balance increased by \$780,000, a total positive swing of \$2.48 million. S&P gave the City credit for this strong surplus despite the weak revenue environment. They noted that under recently adopted accounting standards (GASB 54); our total available fund balance is equivalent to 18% of operating expenditures – "levels we consider to be very strong."

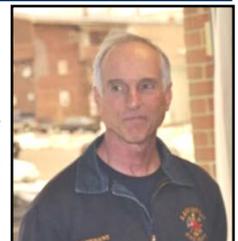


I am thrilled with the bond sale results. Financing capital projects and refinancing past issues at these low interest rates will provide long-term benefits to the City. If you have any questions with regards to S&P's report, please call or e-mail me at hhunter@lewistonmaine.gov.

FIRE

Lt. Louis Morin Retires From LFD

On February 29th after nearly 34 years of service, Lt. Louis Morin retired from the Fire Department. Louis joined the department on November 30th, 1978 and was assigned to various units until his promotion to the rank of Lieutenant on February 28th, 1993.



His final assignment with the department was at the Sabattus Street sub-station, Engine #4. In 2008 “Lou” became certified as a peer fitness trainer for the department. His enthusiasm and encouragement for living a healthy life style was greatly appreciated and an inspiration for many. Congratulations Lt. Morin - may your retirement years bring you only the best!

February was a Month of Testing

Each year firefighters are required by O.S.H.A and the Maine Bureau of Labor Standards to undergo numerous tests in order to ensure their safety.



A Respiratory Protection Plan (RPP) is designed to ensure that all firefighters engaged in emergency operations will be provided personal protective equipment to eliminate respiratory hazards. This includes: *Respiratory Clearance Evaluation* - being medically fit to wear a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). *SCBA Fit Test* – being properly fit into the SCBA. *N95 Fit Test* - being properly fit to surgical masks that help to prevent the spread of infection from one person to another.



A Hearing Conservation Program designed to prevent noise-induced hearing loss. By establishing an individual’s hearing baseline, the yearly audio exam helps to detect any hearing loss.

Tuberculosis (TB) Screening - Due to the nature of their job, firefighters are at a higher risk of exposure to TB. Although the screening is not mandatory, it is encouraged that all firefighting personnel be screened on a yearly basis.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Status of Email Filter for the Month of February

Blocked: SPAM	189,757
Blocked: Virus	949
Rate Controlled of Mail Broadcast	2,023
Quarantined	6
Allowed: Junk Email	1,395
Allowed	61,631
Total Received	255,761



Council Chamber Sound Adjustments

On February 22nd, Phil Larlee and Brian Soucy of Great Falls Television (GFTV) came to City Hall in response to poor sound quality at the City Council meeting the evening before. The TV sound was over modulating, and the PA sound within the Chambers was extremely low. Turns out we have essentially been turning up the TV input to make the volume over the Chamber PA louder. When complaints were received about the over blown TV sound, we would turn it down, only to be told that no one could hear in the Chambers over the PA.

The GFTV people worked for about three hours adjusting our microphones, mixers, and amplifiers, but predominantly worked on the secondary Council Chambers PA system switch located in the wall (between the Councilors semicircle bench and the sidebar). This switch was set long ago and taped in



position with warnings not to touch. It turns out that the switch is extremely sensitive. The slightest movement yields huge differences in the PA output in the Chambers. Over time, this switch became grossly out of adjustment and had loose parts. They pulled the switch and tightened its connections, and the sound was successfully tested here and

LIVE over the air.



This rather touchy secondary switch in the wall is estimated to be over 50 years old and out of production. Mr. Larlee advised that changing it out with something newer is not going to be an easy task. They believed they have placed a Band-Aid for the time being and will await a decision about the possibility of revamping of the entire system.

Change of Internet Service Provider (ISP)

With our current ISP monthly contract up for renewal, I thought it was a good time to hear from other vendors that provide Internet Services. We received three proposals;

- 1) A fiber connection with data speed of 10MB up and down, monthly charge of \$500.00, installation charge of \$125.00, and a five-year contract;
- 2) A bonded DSL connection with a data speed of 8MB up and down, monthly charge of \$411.00, no installation charge, and a month to month contract;
- 3) A fiber connection with data speed of 20MB down and 10MB up, monthly charge of \$400.00, no installation charge, and a one-year contract.

We decided to go with the third option from Oxford Networks. We started the transition Friday evening and had a couple of bumps, but by Monday morning all email was flowing correctly and all DNS was being resolved.

PLANNING & CODE ENFORCEMENT

Planning Board

On February 13th, the Planning Board voted to send favorable recommendations to the City Council regarding the adoption of the Lewiston Capital Improvement Program for FY 2013 along with the recommendations for the adoption of the following amendments to the Zoning and Land Use Code: Community Garden provisions and In-Law Apartment Standards. In addition, the Board granted approval to J&S Oil Company for the construction of a gas station, convenience store, and a manual and automatic car wash facility at 1075-1103 Lisbon Street. This 3.2 acre site currently consists of a vacant single-family dwelling and a vacant Wendy's restaurant. These structures will be demolished to make way for a 4,320 square foot convenience store with six canopy-covered fuel stations and an 8,920 square foot automatic carwash with three manual car wash bays and a dog wash.



Joint Workshop

On February 28th the Lewiston and Auburn Planning Boards conducted a joint workshop in Auburn. The following presentations were made and discussed:

- An overview of the Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (ATRC) presented by ATRC Director Jennifer Williams, P.E.
- A presentation on prescribing urban design standards/form-based codes presented by Auburn Code Compliance Officer Patrick Venne
- The City of Lewiston Riverfront master planning process that is currently underway presented by City Planner David Hediger

Board of Appeals

On February 1st, the Board granted a conditional use permit to Maine RSA #1 (U.S. Cellular) to install nine panel antennas on the existing lattice cell tower located at 532 East Avenue.

Kennedy Park Bandstand Committee



The committee met on February 15th and, after considerable discussion, voted to request the City Council to authorize the release of a limited amount of funds allocated for the restoration project in order to engage the services of Smith Reuter Lull Architects for design and related services.

Downtown Neighborhood Action Committee

The committee conducted their monthly meeting on February 23rd to discuss ongoing activities associated with the implementation of the February 2009 Downtown Neighborhood Action Plan. A great deal of discussion centered on the redevelopment of the Pierce Street Playground. It was announced that the Lewiston Youth Advisory Committee in concert with the Downtown Neighborhood Action Committee would meet on February 29th in the B Street Community Center to review Harriman Associates Landscape Architect John Jacobsen's rendering of the draft redesign of the Pierce Street Playground. Mr. Jacobsen and Harriman are donating their expertise to this project.

Permit Activity February 2012

- 26 Building Permits with a dollar value of \$8,131,875 (1 new modular single-family home)
- 11 Plumbing permits
- 39 Electrical permits

Note: the largest permit for January 2012 is the Lofts 48-unit apartment project at Bates Mill, 36 Chestnut with a reported building value of \$7,500,000.



Permit Activity February 2011

- 21 Building Permits were issued with a dollar value of \$5,982,208 (1 new single-family home)
- 13 Plumbing Permits
- 22 Electrical Permits

Note: the largest building permit for January 2011 was the Healey Terrace 32-unit apartment project at 81 Ash with a reported dollar value of \$5,029,000.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Stats

In the month of February, the Lewiston Police Department responded to 3,623 calls for service. The agency initiated 873 vehicle stops resulting in 228 citations and 453 written warnings with the remaining stops resulting in verbal warnings. There were 181 arrests of adults and 10 juvenile arrests as well as 85 criminal summonses issued. There were 11 arrests on narcotics violations and 8 arrests for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The parking enforcement and patrol divisions issued 1,001 parking tickets in the month of February.

CPR/AED Certification



The Department is in the process of recertifying all sworn members in CPR/AED. The certification is optional for non-sworn members, and all training is done by in-house instructors. Likewise, officers are receiving training in the new crowd control pepper spray unit.

LPD - Busy in Our Community

- Officer Wade assisted in teaching the use of the crash reporting system at the MCJA for three days.
- Officer J. Johnson taught defensive tactics at MCJA as well as at the Law Enforcement Program at LHS.
- Sgt. Bradeen attended a question and answer session at McMahon School for a Kindergarten class.
- Members of the patrol and criminal investigations division continue to work on welfare fraud cases in conjunction with the Maine Attorney General's Office.
- Many members of the department participated in the annual PAL hockey game to benefit Special Olympics. The game was played against former members of the Boston Bruins.
- Sgt. St. Laurent continues to coach youth hockey and Lt. Robitaille continues to coach high school swimming.

Community Resource Officer (CRO) Team

- During the month of February, the CRO team continued its outreach to the residents of Blake Street Towers through bi-weekly meetings over coffee.
- Officers Tyler Martin and Nick Wiers completed two weeks of field training with the community resource team. This training segment was recently added to the 12-week field training program by Chief Bussiere. The training exposes new officers to the effectiveness, and importance of community policing.
- Sgt. Ullrich and Officer Craig Johnson instructed community policing to new recruits at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

This winter still continues to be “different” than normal.

- We had two more plowable storms and five events when our salt/sand trucks were needed. So far this year, we have had more than 50 inches of snow with nine plowable storms and 11 additional events when only our salt/sand trucks were needed. We expect to have significant savings on overtime if this continues.
- The Water & Sewer crew worked closely with Ted Berry Company to clean a 5,150 foot cross country 16 inch sewer force main from the Randall Road pump station to Webster Street. Sixteen inch foam “bullets” (see photo) were pushed/pulled through the pipe to clean/remove material from the pipe. This was a major project as the pipe had not been cleaned since it was installed in 1981. Remarkably, very little material was removed, but what was will improve the efficiency of the pumps and system.



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

Street/Road & Sidewalk Improvement Projects

- Work on the large construction projects is dormant for the winter, but design work continues. Gendron did demo two buildings to clear the way for the Main Street project expected to be advertised and awarded in the next month or two.
- In addition to responding to snow storms, the crews:
 - ✓ Treated ice conditions – numerous areas had snow banks turn to ice and needed attention when they impacted travel ways;
 - ✓ Storm drain catch basin clearing of snow & ice in prep for rain;
 - ✓ Storm drain catch-basin repairs were completed on Challenger Drive, Furbush Street, Brault Street, and Birch Street;
 - ✓ General patching at numerous locations - our asphalt hotbox went out 18 of 20 workdays during the month;
 - ✓ Big push to address tree removal and pruning with more than 25 streets throughout the City addressed;
 - ✓ Replacing signs continued at 20 additional locations;

- ✓ Repaired fences at Pettingill School, Marcotte Park, Davis Cemetery, and GAR Cemetery;
- ✓ Inspected and made repairs to Jepson Brook channel and fence;
- ✓ Completed removing Christmas decorations.

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 this spring;
- Work on the Joint Chloramine Facility near the Central Maine Community College in Auburn is expected to be complete soon;
- Other work performed by the crews included the following:
 - ✓ Repaired four water main breaks & two service breaks
 - ✓ Responded to 23 customer concerns
 - ✓ Responded to 77 dig safe requests
 - ✓ Responded to five sewer back-ups, three were private
 - ✓ Crews conducted video inspections of sewer lines for road construction planned for 2012-13
 - ✓ Crews changed out 164 ¾" and 1" water meters
 - ✓ On-going flushing and maintenance of the sewer collection system
 - ✓ On-going hydrant sandblasting, painting, pumping, and repairs
 - ✓ On-going water meter reading
 - ✓ On-going water gate maintenance, vacuum, repair, and operation
 - ✓ On-going maintenance of water and sewer pump stations, reservoirs, lift stations, and the water shed properties
 - ✓ On-going water and sewer GPS updates



Other Information

- The Highway crew assisted the City Clerk's office with set-up and take down for the Ward 4 City Councilor election;
- The Public Buildings Division issued a contract an elevator for the Armory and began preparations to perform the demolition and renovations to accommodate the relocation of the seniors program from the MPC. Engineering has been assisting with drawings and design/permitting of the parking and changing Vale Street to one-way. In March, a Public Hearing will be held on the change to Vale Street and the Development Review Package will be going to the Planning Board;
- Lewiston's recycling rate for the past five months remains very strong as compared to the same period last year (62% increase). Revenue from the sale of single stream recyclable material is \$33,201 (YTD). There was a slight increase (\$2.50/ton) in pricing for March 2012. The volume of MSW shipped to MMWAC for disposal/incineration is down slightly from the same five-month period last year. This may be a combination of the City's improved recycling effort and the impact of the slow economy.
- Working with the finance folks and a dealer/broker of recycling equipment, we located a buyer for the Facility's used baler & conveyor. This equipment was sold by the end of February. The baler and conveyor are expected to be removed from the facility during the early part of March 2012. Given that the equipment was over twelve years old and fully depreciated, we were pleased to realize \$48,000 from this sale.

- Roy's Logging returned to the Solid Waste facility property on February 24th to continue the timber harvest begun last fall on areas adjacent to the secure and closed landfills.
- Bob Cote and Dick Bazinet (both Highway Workers) retired during the month. Jan Paterson (Project Engineer) left the City to accept a position with the State. Her replacement will be Justin Early, who will start work in early March.



SOCIAL SERVICES

➤ **ALL GENERAL ASSISTANCE CLIENTS ARE SEEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Due to the new fiscal year, beginning 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 will reach the 90% reimbursement mid-April 2012.

Statistical Activity	February 2012	FYTD 7/1/2011-6/30/2012
Office Traffic (Duplicated)	540	5229
New Clients	46	544
Households Served (OT) (Unduplicated)	207	1661
Housing Expenditures	\$66,839.50	\$ 522,082.88
Total Expenditures	\$77,140.70	\$608,672.43
State Reimbursement	\$38,455.73 (50%)	\$303,980.63 (50%)
SSI Reimbursement	\$ 3,452.63	\$ 48,611.18
Other Reimbursements	\$ 229.25	\$ 711.23
Actual Municipal GA Cost (net)	\$35,003.09	\$255.369.39
Workfare	February	FYTD 7/1/2011-6/30/2012
Cases	90	593

<i>Clients</i>	115	788
<i>Hours Performed</i>	3,406	23,895.40
<i>Dollar Value (\$7.50 per hour)</i>	\$25,545.00	\$179,215.50
Percentage of Cases Assigned Workfare	43%	36%

- *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.*

Length of Time Clients Receive GA	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 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.

An Androscoggin County grand jury recently handed up an indictment for one of the referred cases.

- Between September 1, 2011 and the end of the year, the City of Lewiston's GA office was reimbursed approximately \$18,550 from three Supplemental Social Security (SSI) recipients who were referred to the LPD for committing fraud (the entire amount of \$18,550 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 retroactive lump sum SSI payment.

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