

City of Lewiston

FEBRUARY 2013

City Administrator's Report



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

February seemed to be all about SNOW!



25.5" Snowfall



BLIZZARD of 2013: "NEMO"



2010-2011 SNOW FALL

City services and events were cancelled. Hundreds of folks scheduled for LA/Cash Coalition's Super Refund Saturday had to be rescheduled. Volunteers went above and beyond to be sure those appointments were made in a timely manner, by working later evening hours, even on Sunday to accommodate everyone.

Thanks to all for the effort put forth in this regard.

2012-2013 SNOW FALL

2011-2012 SNOW FALL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCHES</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCHES</u>
Nov. 7, 2012	1"	Oct. 30, 2011	4"
Dec. 17, 2012	5"	Nov. 23, 2011	10"
Dec. 27, 2012	9"	Dec. 24, 2011	1"
Dec. 28, 2012	1"	Jan. 12, 2012	5"
Dec. 29, 2012	5"	Jan. 17, 2012	2"
Jan. 17, 2013	5"	Jan. 20, 2012	8.5"
Jan. 28, 2013	3"	Jan. 27, 2012	4"
Feb. 9, 2013	25.5"	Feb. 4, 2012	1"
Feb. 11, 2013	3"	Feb. 22, 2012	1"
Feb. 16, 2013	1.5"	Feb. 25, 2012	5"
Feb. 17, 2013	2.5"	March 1, 2012	9"
Feb. 23, 2013	2"	March 3, 2012	3"
Feb. 24, 2013	8.5"	March 5, 2012	2"
Feb. 27, 2013	4"	Total	55.5"
Mar. 1, 2013	0.5		
Mar. 2, 2013	0.5		
Total	77"		

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCHES</u>
Dec. 6, 2010	0.25"
Dec. 20, 2010	2"
Dec. 23, 2010	4"
Dec. 26, 2010	5"
Dec. 27, 2010	7"
Jan. 12, 2011	15.5"
Jan. 18, 2011	5"
Jan. 19, 2011	1"
Jan. 21, 2011	6"
Jan. 26, 2011	1"
Feb. 1, 2011	3.5"
Feb. 2, 2011	10"
Feb. 5, 2011	3.5"
Feb. 25-26, 2011	10"
Feb. 27, 2011	2"
Feb. 28, 2011	5"
March 21, 2011	3"
April 1, 2011	10.3"
Total	94.5"

City Administrator

Edward A. Barrett

Mayor Macdonald's Testimony on State Budget

Mayor Robert Macdonald recently testified before the Legislature's Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Taxation regarding the impact of the proposed State budget on the City of Lewiston and our residents. What follows is the testimony he presented.

This budget proposes an historic shift onto the backs of Maine's municipalities and property taxpayers. I urge you to reject this shift.

- The revenue sharing proposal would cut \$4.1 million from our budget. This represents 12.5% of our operating budget and over \$2 on our tax rate.
- Eliminating the homestead will increase the taxes of Lewiston's non-senior homeowners by \$227.
- The transfer of business equipment from the Reimbursement program to the Exemption program will cost us \$897,000.

Those no longer eligible for the Circuitbreaker will see an average loss of \$414.

In total, Lewiston could lose \$5.5 million. To replace this, our tax rate would have to go up by \$3, adding \$300 to the bill on a \$100,000 home. With the loss of the homestead, that \$100,000 home could see an increase of \$527 or 20.4% next year.

We could cut our budget this much if we eliminate the Police or Fire Department. Or we could keep police, fire, and public works and eliminate everything else. We obviously can't take either of these options. But we would have to raise taxes and massively reduce services with unacceptable results for most residents.

Since 2002, the City has cut almost 20% of its workforce. With an operating budget of about \$900 per resident, Lewiston currently spends less per capita than any of the largest 10 cities in Maine. We've succeeded in holding down costs and becoming more efficient. But we're at the breaking point. Tax increases and cuts of this size will make us less competitive. The progress we've made in reinventing our economy will be jeopardized – to our detriment and that of the entire state.

We understand that this budget poses enormous challenges.

The Mayors Coalition supports additional revenues at the state level to address them. Options include increasing the sales tax, raising the lodging tax, or delaying the implementation of the income tax cuts.

This budget has been balanced on the backs of Maine cities and towns. It will lead to major service cuts and tax increases for every municipality in the state. I urge you to restore municipal revenue sharing and reject the other proposals that will increase the burden on property taxpayers.

Assessing

Joseph Grube, Chief Assessor



Snow Affects Property Review

February presented a challenge to the Assessing staff in completing the 2012-2013 four-year review program due to the frequent snow storms. It is anticipated that the change over to canvas new building permits will now begin in March, after completion of the last scheduled four-year review inspections.



Out-of-Town Taxpayers

Assessing staff followed the annual schedule of preparing and mailing various property schedules to taxpayers residing out of town.

Homestead Exemptions

Potential new taxpayers were mailed homestead exemption forms advising them of this State of Maine property tax savings program.



Annual Assessor's Notice

The annual Assessor's notice was published in the local newspaper advising taxpayers of their responsibilities and informing first-time eligible taxpayers of the requirement to file for the Homestead and Veterans Exemption program.

Finance

Heather Hunter, Director

Bond Rating and Results of Bond Sale

I am thrilled 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. on the sale of \$52,416,400 of general obligation bonds to finance the FY2013 capital improvement projects, current refund the City's 2003, 2005A and 2005C issues, and advance refund our 2004 and 2006 bond issues. Both series were sold to Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley and Company.

Although this is the largest combined bond sale in history, the City ended up reducing the issuance amount by \$1.45 million due to the bidder's premium received on the refundings. This is a good problem for the City to have as it reduces the overall outstanding principal and interest balance.

The details of the sale are noted in the following table.

	New TIC*	Current TIC	Present Value Savings
FY 2013 LCIP	2.56%		
2005A Refunding	1.84%	4.01%	\$976,650
2005C Refunding	1.11%	3.75%	\$121,316
2004 Refunding	1.73%	4.58%	\$1,571,715
2006 Refunding	1.94%	4.18%	\$506,010
2003 Refunding	1.65%	3.44%	\$549,539
TOTAL			\$3,725,230

**True Interest Cost*

The savings are spread over the remaining life of the debt, providing an average savings of \$250,000 in each of the next five fiscal years and then tapering off after that. I'm also pleased to inform you that the average bond life in issues over the past 5 years ranged from 12-18 years. This sale has an average payoff of 10 years.

Each City public bond sale requires us 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 positive outlook.

The report focuses on several important factors that contributed to the A+ rating:

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

Favorable credit was given to City Council and Administration for the debt control measures established recently and the ability of the City to maximize low market interest rates. S&P was especially pleased with the adoption of the recent Fund Balance Policy and Post-Issuance Compliance Policy.

As noted during the annual financial report presentation, the City planned to reduce fund balance by \$1 million in fiscal year 2012 due to its use to paydown a portion of the City's outstanding pension obligation bonds. Actual year end results showed the municipal unassigned fund balance grew by \$2.39 million, which impressed the credit analysts given the current economic conditions.

We could not have asked for better bond sale results. Financing capital projects and refinancing past issues at these low interest rates will provide long-term benefits to the City.

Nancy Mennealy Retires

Nancy Mennealy has retired as the City of Lewiston's Tax-Collector effective February 22, 2013. She worked for the City for over forty-two years. Wow, what an accomplishment! The employees are going to miss her bright smile and cheery personality. Although she will be sorely missed, we wish her the best life has to offer as she heads toward another one of life's milestones.

With Nancy's retirement, Pam LaBelle has assumed the role of Treasury Manager/Tax Collector. Tammy Bureau has been named the Investments Office/Deputy Treasury Manager. The Treasury Office has also hired Lisa Latulippe to be the Finance Technician. Transferring from the Library where she has worked for over four years, Lisa has an Associates Degree in Business Administration and a



and a strong financial background. She will perform the daily cash-up, and enter revenues along with many other duties. Lisa is going to be instrumental in the Finance Department's new structure and help the office run smoothly. Please welcome her aboard when you see her in your travels.

By having one manager for the Treasury Department, Utility Services employees and Treasury employees will work together as one unit. The counter staff is cross-training to accept utility payments, so it will truly be a one-stop-shop. Gone will be the days of paying your taxes or registering your vehicle at one window then moving to another to pay your utility bill.

The most recent transition marks the third Finance Department reorganization in as many years, in addition to the Utility Services Department joining the Treasury Department two years ago. These changes have been remarkable and at times challenging, but department employees have banded together to do what is needed to get the job done in a prompt, courteous manner. It's astonishing to think that less than ten years ago, there were seventeen (17) employees in the Finance Department and seven (7) employees in the Utility Services/Public Works Business office. Today, the combined unit has seventeen (17) employees total. Through the three reorganizations over the three-year period, the **City has saved \$282,161 annually.**



Fire

Paul LeClair, Chief

The Lewiston Fire Department Responded to a Variety of Calls in February

225 Bartlett Street / The Italian Bakery

On February 6, a call came in at 5:03 PM that the roof of the Italian Bakery was on fire and everyone had evacuated the building. That one of the City's icons could be in danger caused anxiety among firefighters. Upon arrival, crews were thankful that flames or fire shooting from the roof did not greet them, quickly realizing that the cause of the fire was an electrical malfunction in the sign located on the roof. Luckily, the damage was minimal, and it was business as usual the very next day. (See photo below)



139 Park Street

There was a dumpster fire on February 7th, quickly extinguished by firefighters. An investigation ruled that the fire was intentionally set by a juvenile who was apprehended and charged. Damage was confined to the dumpster. (See photo below)



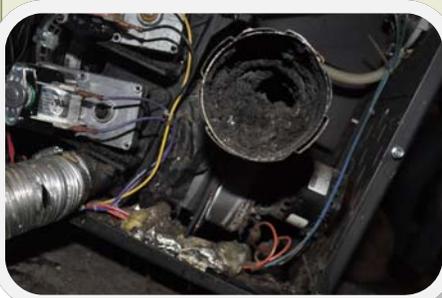
52 Boston Avenue

An unattended candle was the cause of the fire of February 7th. A cat knocked over a roll of paper towels onto a lit candle which caused minimal damage to kitchen counter tops, cabinets, and the refrigerator. (See photo below)



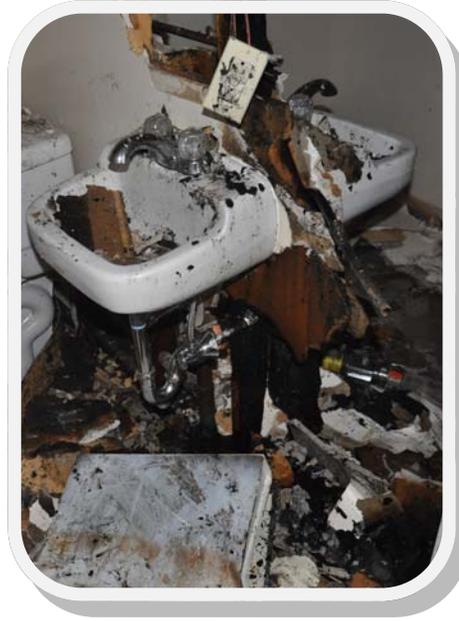
28 Pearl Street - A Malfunctioning Pellet Stove

On February 9, this home's pellet stove's exhaust pipe was plugged with soot and unburned pellets - not allowing the exhausting air to vent. The reported damage was to the pellet stove, exhaust pipe, the inside, and exterior walls. (See photo left)



67 Strawberry Avenue

On February 12, fire fighters responded to a fire at 67 Strawberry Avenue. The fire started between two adjacent first floor bathrooms and spread between the walls to a second floor bathroom. The heat of the fire loosened a solder joint, breaking the pipe free, which allowed water to spray downward, keeping the fire contained. The cause of the fire: soldering copper pipes that were too close to combustible materials. Fire and water damaged was estimated at \$30,000. (See photo right)



Yesterday and Today



466 Main Street

Pictured above is property located at 466 Main Street, a fire that occurred in October 1966, and the current structure. The structure located across from Cloud 9 Day Spa, was the home of Dr. Greene, a family doctor who served for more than 60 years as a medical examiner for Androscoggin County and who lived to be 102 years old. Back in this era of firefighting, there was very little or no breathing apparatus protection for fire fighters. Notice the ambulance in the forefront.

Did you know the Library has a fantastic Children's Program? You can check out all the details by going to lponline.org.

Some of the programs offered include:

Baby Time

Fridays from 11-11:30 AM

Preschool Time

Tuesdays from 11:00 AM -12:00 PM

Kids Cooking Club

Thursdays from 4-5:00 PM

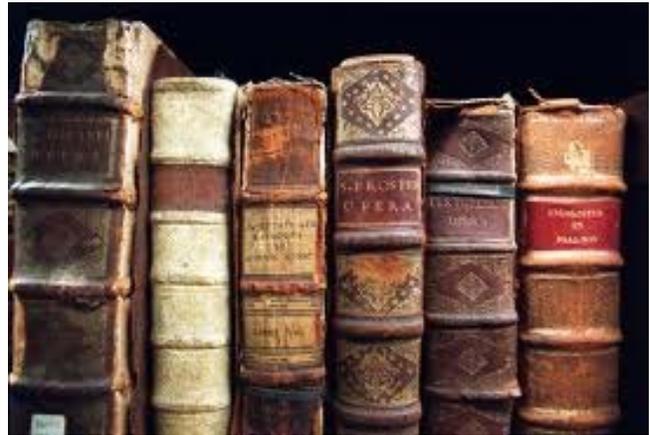
Art Van

Mondays at 4:00 PM

Homework Help

And other great programs! Be sure to check them out on-line or by calling the Library at

513-3004.

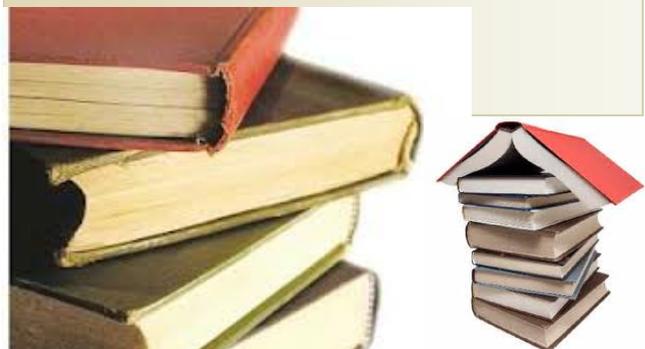


Lewiston Firefighters Donate AED to Library

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit is being donated to the Library by the City's Fire Union, Lewiston Firefighters Association, Local 785. Library staff will be trained in the use of the unit, and it will be installed on the first floor shortly thereafter.

Library Partners with U.S. Immigration

The Library's Adult Services staff is working on a new collaboration with the Portland Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Initial plans include serving as a distribution center for their materials, training library staff regarding their materials and services, and hosting an Immigration Officer in the Library to answer questions from local residents.



Planning & Code Enforcement

Gil Arsenault, Director

Planning Board

LCIP

On Friday, February 11, the Planning Board made a favorable recommendation for the City Council's consideration of the FY2014 Lewiston Capital Improvement Plan.

Bike/Ped Committee

The Board also made a favorable recommendation for the Council's consideration for the adoption of the Bicycle Pedestrian Committee's Complete Streets Policy.

393 Main Street

On February 25th, the Planning Board made a favorable recommendation for the City Council's consideration to conditionally rezone 393 Main Street from Community Business District to Downtown Residential District. If approved, this rezoning will permit Veteran's Inc. to convert the former St. Joseph's School property located at 393 Main Street to 25 efficiency dwelling units for occupancy by up to 25 veterans. This use will also include medical, vocational, nutritional services, and administrative functions for the veterans to be housed at this location. The current zoning permits a maximum of 11 dwelling units for which prior approval had been granted.



Board of Appeals

35 Ash Street

On February 20, the Board of Appeals granted approval to Maine RSA #1, Inc. (a.k.a. US Cellular), to install 12 panel antennas along with related equipment on the roof of the six-story building located at 35 Ash Street.

Permit Activity

February 2013

- ◇ 39 building permits with a report value of \$333,115
- ◇ 6 plumbing permits
- ◇ 29 electrical permits

As compared to:

February 2012

- ◆ 41 building permits were issued with a reported value of \$8,131,875
- ◆ 11 plumbing permits
- ◆ 39 electrical permits

The highest reported dollar value building permit in February 2012 was The Lofts 48-unit apartment project located at Bates Mill, 36 Chestnut St. for \$7,500,000.

Dangerous Buildings

On February 11, the owners and parties-in-interest of the multi-family building located at **53 Maple Street rear (a.k.a. 91 Knox Street)** signed a consent to removal of dangerous building order. This action avoids the cost of a condemnation hearing and permits the City to demolish this nuisance/dangerous property and to recover its costs.

On February 19, the City Council determined that the multi-family structures located at **93 Knox Street and 139 Bartlett Street** are nuisance/dangerous buildings and ordered their demolition.

Police

Mike Bussiere, Chief

STATS

FEBRUARY	2013
Calls For Service	2,832
Vehicle Stops	421
Citations	89
Written Warnings	193
Verbal Warnings	139
Adult Arrests	130
Juvenile Arrests	13
Criminal Summonses	46
Narcotics Arrests	2
OUI Arrests	7
Parking Tickets	795
Fireworks Violations	1

Training & Instruction

- ⇒ SRO Johnson instructed new recruits at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy on Community Policing
- ⇒ Sgt. Ullrich attended the Androscoggin County Alcohol Enforcement Team monthly meeting
- ⇒ Sgt. Ullrich and Officer Griffin attended training on Hepatitis B Awareness
- ⇒ Sgt. Bradeen, Detective Dumont, and SRO Johnson met with LHS administration in reference to Lockdown Drill Preparation and Procedures
- ⇒ Sgt. Bradeen and Detective Brochu attended Androscoggin Children Advocacy Center's Director's Team Meeting at the Auburn PD

Special Olympics

- ◇ The Special Olympics Snowshoe event held at Pettingill Park in Auburn was attended by Officer Griffin, and Detective Murphy who handed out ribbons to participants
- ◇ School Resource Officer (SRO) Johnson attended the Special Olympics Bowling event handing out ribbons to participants

PD Tours

- ◆ Officer Philippon provided tours of the police department for two students enrolled in the John F. Murphy Homes government class, and to Cub Scout Pack 007.

Sgt. Ullrich and officer Griffin attended the bi-wkly. Coffee with Blake Street Towers residents. And Officers Philippon and Griffin conducted a Cultural Orientation class to newly arriving immigrants.

Citizen Police Academy

The Community Resource Officers (CRO) team continued the Citizen Police Academy held each Wednesday from 6:00 - 8:00 PM.

Topics included:

- **K-9 Demo** conducted by Cpl. Cramp and K-9 Chico
- **Patrol Functions** presented by Officer Griffin and Sgt. Ullrich
- **Domestic Violence** presented by Officer Michaud, and Kelly Glidden from Safe Voices
- **Role of the District Attorney** presented by Assistant District Attorney Matulis
- **OUI Enforcement** by Officer Craig Johnson
- **Personal Safety** by Cpl. Tom Murphy

Public Works

David Jones, Director

The big news this month was a return to an old-fashioned Maine winter!

Through the end of January we had a total of only 29 inches of snow for the winter. In February alone, we had 6 additional plowable storms totaling 48 inches! This brings our seasonal total to 77 inches, exceeding the annual average of 65.6 inches (source: weathersource.com). In addition to plowing 6 storms, our salt/sand trucks responded and treated roads 11 times during the month. On February 12th, we established a night shift to remove the high snow banks in the downtown and transport the snow to the Snow Dump on River Road.

Street, Road, and Sidewalk Improvement Projects

Upcoming construction projects

The following projects are nearing design completion and expected to be advertised in the next couple of months:

- ◇ Walnut Street Rehab and Sidewalk Improvements (Bates Street to Horton Street) Bid Opening is scheduled for March 5 (est. cost ~\$400K CDBG funding);
- ◇ Route 126 Sabattus Street Traffic Signal Improvements (Main Street to Pond Road) Bid Opening April 17 (est. cost \$700K 100% state & federal funds)
- ◇ Park Street (Oak Street to Ash Street) sidewalk & ADA access Bid Opening March 20 (est. cost ~\$55K 100% state and federal funds)
- ◇ Main Street, Route 202/11/100 highway improvements Memorial Avenue to Stetson Road (0.57 mile) with replacement of Stetson Bridge. MDOT will be holding a 2nd public hearing on at 6:00 pm March 27th in Lewiston City Council Chambers at City Hall. The project is scheduled for 2014 construction.
- ◇ Maine Turnpike Authority contract to upgrade the Old Lisbon Road bridge over the turnpike is expected to be advertised this spring with construction occurring in the fall. Another public hearing for the project is planned for mid-March.



- ◇ Maine Turnpike Authority contract to upgrade the Old Lisbon Road bridge over the turnpike is expected to be advertised this spring with construction occurring in the fall. Another public hearing for the project is planned for mid-March.

The crews completed the following workload:

- ◆ Treated ice conditions in 16 locations around the city and removed snow from trouble spots at 21 locations (in addition to the downtown snow removal);
- ◆ Cleaned up and chipped downed trees and branches after the high winds from the blizzard of 2013;
- ◆ Replaced damaged or worn street and directional signs at a number of locations around the city.

Water, Sewer, and Stormwater

Upcoming construction projects

The following projects are nearing design completion and expected to be advertised in the next few months:

- A Public Meeting was held at Lewiston City Hall regarding the Lake Auburn Diagnostic Study, which is addressing the causes of the algae bloom that killed fish in the lake last summer. Our engineering consultants identified some immediate actions to be taken, but long term actions will be developed as part of Phase 2. In the interim, we are working closely with regulatory agencies to obtain permits to apply algaecides to the lake. This will only be done if an algae bloom threatens the lake again and only to protect the drinking water supply. The algaecide will be applied at doses small enough not to affect fish or humans;
- King Avenue and Fair Street water main replacement awarded to Pratt & Sons of Mechanic Falls for \$431,775;
- Oak Street Sewer and Stormwater Improvements (final section from Sabattus Street to White Street) (est. cost of ~\$1 million);

- Jepson Brook Phase 3 of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Sewer/Stormwater project (five streets on the north side of Sabattus Street near the intersection with Russell Street) (est. cost ~\$500K);
- Bartlett Street Water line replacement project (Adams Avenue to Sabattus Street) (est. cost ~\$700K);
- Jepson Brook Phase 4 of the CSO Sewer & Stormwater project (south side of Sabattus Street, Genest Street to Wildwood Drive. (est. cost \$700K)

Work performed by the Water/Sewer crews included:

- ◇ Repairing five main breaks: Wicklow Place, 11 Lucille Ave, 1152 Main, 25 Manning Ave., and repaired the 24" transmission main on Center Street, which caused major damages to properties adjacent to the leak, the crews had to replace 10' of old 24" cast iron main;
- ◇ Repairing three service leaks: 15 Lincoln, 1929 Lisbon, 478 Sabattus Street;
- ◇ Crews responded to 31 customer concerns (E-GOV'S); 22 are completed and the remainder is work to be completed later in the spring;
- ◇ Crews responded to 63 Dig Safe requests;
- ◇ Crews have cut and cleared cross country sewer lines along Stetson Brook, and this work is ongoing;
- ◇ Crews also cleared snow from 750 hydrants after each of the 6 plowable storms, and monitored them for freezing and operating correctly;
- ◇ Crews continue to plow and maintain all watershed properties, along with water & sewer facilities;
- ◇ On-going hydrant painting, sewer flushing, gate valve cleaning and operation, meter reading and replacement program. (75 meters changed out this month)



2013 Blizzard



Solid Waste

Regulatory Updates

- ◆ Actions taken to address Maine DEP concerns regarding methane gas migration from the closed (attenuated) landfill have included testing specific monitoring wells and underground structures in areas adjacent to this closed landfill. The results of these tests indicate methane gas is being generated within this landfill, but the gas is not being detected at any of the monitoring points away from or adjacent to this landfill.

Recycling

- ◆ Single Stream Recycling rates continue to climb. As of the current 5-month average, the recycling rate in Lewiston has increased 26.5% as compared to a similar 5-month average last year. In addition, the amount of residential trash disposed in Lewiston (most recent 5 month average) has decreased 5% as compared to a similar 5-month average last year.

Recreation

Maggie Chisholm, Director

Upcoming Twin City Gun Show

A meeting was scheduled with the A/L Exchange Club regarding the upcoming 37th annual Twin City Gun show located at the Lewiston Memorial Armory. This meeting was a proactive discussion to review safety and rules of conduct in accordance with all state and federal laws. Discussion points included gun sales, background checks, security, access points, loading/unloading zones, parking, etc. All proceeds help fund projects related to “youth and Americanism.” According to the Exchange Club, “over a half million dollars has been donated over the years to our schools, area youth sports and recreation teams, the needy, and our veterans.”

Charitable Donation Applications

As of February 28, 2013, the Department has reviewed 15 Charitable Donations applications (CDAs). Approximately 34 CDAs were sent to various non-profit organizations/agencies. The Charitable Donations Policy allows non-profit organizations/agencies the opportunity to seek in-kind support for their event from the City, relative to city properties, resources, assets, or departments. They must contact each department to verify whether that department will or will not be required to service their event. The City reserves the right to deny or approve any/all requests.

Lewiston/Auburn Youth Court

Training continues to be successful. Eleven LHS youth are trained in the different court roles required by the tribunal court system. Court hearings are scheduled on a monthly basis at the District Court located on Lisbon Street.

L/A CA\$H Coalition

Tax preparation sessions are now located at the Armory or Auburn Hall. Opening day was January 24, 2013 with preparations sessions scheduled on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. The last day of free tax prep is on March 20, 2013.

March-ing On Into Sports/Activities

Preparations to close out winter programs are complete as we start organizing the spring line-up of activities and events.

Annual EASTER EGG HUNT

Mark your calendars for our annual Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for **March 30, 2013** from **Noon to 2:00 PM**. Word is that we'll have a special appearance from the Easter Bunny and many fun-filled activities for the children.

February Activities, Events, and Meetings

The Lewiston Seniors

- * Monthly Board and Membership Meeting
- * Weekly card games which include: Cribbage, Bridge, and Pinochle

Veterans Meetings

- Franco-American War Veterans and Auxiliary Post 31
- L/A Veterans monthly meeting
- American Legion - Post 22
- American Post 210
- Disabled American Veteran's Chapter 11
- VFW - Post 9150 monthly meeting



Political Meetings

- ◆ Lewiston Democrats and Androscoggin County Democrats monthly meeting

Other

- ◇ Association Canado-Americanne Chapter Dr. Paul Fortier monthly meeting

Sports-Related

- ⇒ Lewiston Area Youth Cheering Practices
- ⇒ LRD Gymnastics, Pre-Team and Team Practices, and Competition Meet
- ⇒ LRD Volleyball Games at the Armory and MPC
- ⇒ LRD Family/Youth Open Gym & Vacation Open Gym
- ⇒ LRD Fifth-Sixth Grade School Basketball Games
- ⇒ LRD Winter Co-ed Basketball Practices and Games - All Divisions
- ⇒ LRD Girls and Boys Fifth-Sixth Grade Travel Basketball Practices and Games
- ⇒ LRD Girls Seventh-Eighth Grade Travel Basketball Games
- ⇒ LHS Varsity Basketball Practice
- ⇒ Central Maine Christian Academy and St. Dom's Academy Basketball Practices
- ⇒ Vermont Technical College Basketball Practice

Social Services

Sue Charron, Director

CLIENTS SEEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Beginning with the new fiscal year, July 1, 2012, our reimbursement from the state is at the 50% rate. Once we reach our threshold (\$685,620) we will receive reimbursement at 85%— reduced from the prior 90% rate.

Statistical Activity	FEBRUARY 2013	FYTD 7/1/2012 - 6/30/2013
Office Traffic (Duplicated)	564	5,118.00
New Clients	54	517
Households Served (OT) (Unduplicated)	224	487
Housing Expenditures	\$63,162.08	\$519,620.14
Total Expenditures	\$75,465.76	\$591,474.51
State Reimbursement	\$37,732.88 (50%)	\$292,968.04 (50%)
SSI Reimbursement	\$8,296.38	\$64,917.47
Other Reimbursements	\$0	\$5,538.47
Actual Municipal GA Cost (net)	\$29,436.50	\$228,050.53

Workfare	FEBRUARY 2013	FYTD 7/1/2012 - 6/30/2013
Cases (unduplicated)	67	237
Clients (unduplicated)	82	306
Hours Performed	2,082.00	24,103.25
Dollar Value (\$7.50 per hour)	\$15,615.00	\$180,774.38
Percentage of Cases Assigned Workfare	30%	49%

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.



CHANGES TO THE GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BEGINNING 7/1/12 - 6/30/13:

- The overall GA maximums are reduced by 10%.
- Housing assistance is limited to 9 months out of the calendar year unless a person has a severe and persistent mental or physical condition. We will see impacts of this in April 2013.
- The reimbursement rate, once the threshold is reached, is reduced from 90 to 85%.

- The work group that was convened to review the GA program, has finalized their recommendations, which include \$500,000 in savings to the state.
- The DHHS Commissioner has presented the final report to the HHS Committee. The report will be forwarded to the Appropriations Committee. The report includes recommendations regarding law or rule making related to the GA program, including changes that will achieve \$500,000 in General Fund savings from January 1, 2013—June 30, 2013.
- **REFERRALS CONTINUE TO BE MADE TO THE STATE DISABILITY ADVOCATES TO ASSIST CLIENTS WITH THE SS AND VA PROCESS. THE GOAL IS TO DECREASE THE TIME IT TAKES FOR CLIENTS TO BE APPROVED FOR SS AND VA BENEFITS, ELIMINATING OF THEIR NEED FOR GA.**

TANF 60-MONTH IMPACTS

- As of **01/31/2013**, **111 families** consisting of **491 household members** have applied for general assistance because their TANF benefits were eliminated due to the 60-month time limit. To date, a total of **\$20,884.97** has been granted on behalf of **41 families**. Many of these families live in subsidized housing and that reduces the expenditures.
- Some of the remaining families have been granted temporary TANF extensions; others are still pending eligibility determination. Each month, we continue to see new families that are losing their TANF.



FRAUD CASES AND 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). Many of the cases that are receiving the DHHS Food Supplement are also 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. Some cases have resulted in convictions.
- Reimbursements from retroactive SSI awards, Workers Compensation settlements, and other sources are actively pursued and tracked, resulting in decreased GA expenditures.

LENGTH OF TIME CLIENTS RECEIVE G.A.

FY2012 (7/1/2011 - 6/30/2012)

- **1-3 Months:** 60%
(34% received GA for only one month)
- **4-6 Months:** 18%
- **7-12 Months:** 22%
- **More than 12 Months:** N/A

5-YEAR PRIOR HISTORY (7/1/07—6/30/12)

- **1-3 Months:** 62%
(38% received GA for only one month)
- **4-6 Months:** 16%
- **7-12 Months:** 11%
- **More than 12 Months:** 11%
- 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.

WELLNESS TEAM UPDATES



MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US

Classes are held at the Lewiston Public Library at 4:45 PM on the following dates:

FEBRUARY: 12, 19, & 26

MARCH: 5, 11, 19, & 26

APRIL: 1, 9, 16, 22, & 30

MAY: 7 & 21

JUNE: 3 & 18



21 Employees attended the class on the 12th of February, which included our FIRST male participant!

Wellness Weigh-Ins are underway and will run through April.



2013 Wellness Challenge Weigh-In

Get Healthy!

55 people are participating in this challenge, with three \$75 gift cards awarded to the top three losing the largest percentage of weight.

We're sponsoring a...
FAMILY SKATE
on March 3rd at the
Androscoggin Bank Colisee



Countdown to spring...
Wellness Walk
Program - Starts April 1

SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 8

Meet, and Eat
Healthy Night

5:00 PM

