

City of Lewiston

JANUARY 2013

City Administra-



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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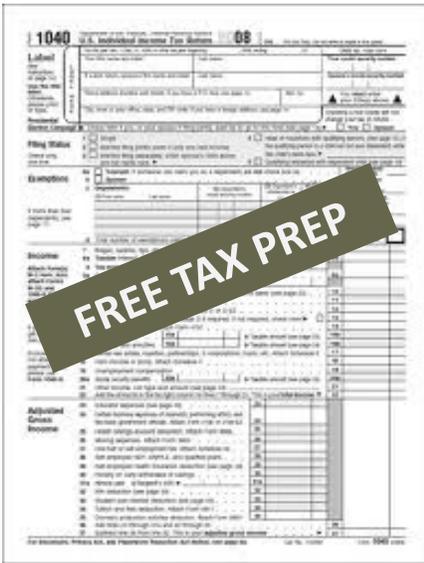
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Table of Contents

Items of Interest.....	Page 2
City Administrator.....	Page 3
Assessing.....	Page 4
Fire.....	Page 5
Library.....	Page 6
Planning & Code Enforcement	Page 7
Police.....	Page 8-9
Public Works.....	Page 10-12
Recreation	Page 12-13
Social Services.....	Page 14-15
Wellness Team Updates.....	Page 16



Items of Interest



The Lewiston-Auburn CASH Coalition provides Free Tax Prep and Financial Literacy Outreach for low-moderate income workers.

- ◇ The number of people taking advantage of this service has grown from **336** in 2004 to **1,592** in 2012!
- ◇ The 10-year effort has returned over \$15 million in refunds to L/A area individuals, families and the economy
- ◇ Tax prep appointments are held at the Lewiston Armory or at Auburn Hall
- ◇ You may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) worth a maximum of \$5,891!

CALL 513-3160 to schedule your appointment with a volunteer IRS-certified preparer.

LYAC Produces HOMELESS VIDEO

At the suggestion of LYAC Chair Kon Maiwan, the Lewiston Youth Council developed a documentary entitled **“Homeless Youth in Lewiston...What Can You Do?”** to enhance community awareness of the approximately 200 homeless youth in Lewiston.

The documentary includes:

- ◆ Personal stories of youth who have been homeless
- ◆ Common reasons that youth are homeless
- ◆ Youth Council perspectives on youth homelessness
- ◆ Bob Rowe, E. D. of New Beginnings, and Jamie Caouette, Homeless Academic Liaison of L.H.S. STEP Program, also provide insight on their interaction with homeless youth
- ◆ What the community can do to help
- ◆ Local resources

Inquiries may be directed to Dottie Perham-Whittier at dottie@lewistonmaine.gov or Maggie Chisholm, mchisholm@lewistonmaine.gov.



LA 101 “Ten-week Exploration of the Twin Cities”

For the second year in a row, the League of Young Voters Education Fund is facilitating this weekly event, held from 6:00 - 7:30 PM each Wednesday from February 6th to April 10th. Informative, interactive meetings will occur at several locations throughout the Twin Cities (TBA), and participants will have an opportunity to engage with elected officials, administrators, and staff to learn more about how L/A operate and what makes them great places in which to live, work, do business, play, and raise a family.

City Administrator

Edward A. Barrett

Governor's Budget Proposal – Part II

Last month, I summarized the impact of the Governor's budget proposal on municipalities in general and the City of Lewiston in particular. Since then, and when confronted by municipal concerns, the administration and some legislators have basically said, "What's the big deal? These cuts are only a few percent of municipal budgets." Let's check this against Lewiston's reality.

Under the proposed budget, we will lose just about \$4 million in revenue sharing and \$91,000 in commercial vehicle excise taxes for a total of \$4.1 million. Such a reduction represents 4.2% of the City's total budget, so the comments above are technically correct. But, in the real world, the impact is much greater.

Backing out the school (since the Governor is attempting to protect school funding) and the county tax (since we have no choice but to pay) leaves a municipal budget of \$41.4 million. That \$4.1 million cut is now up to about 10%. We also have an \$8.6 million debt payment. That takes our City operating budget down to \$32.5 million and increases the impact of state reductions to 12.5%. This is far more substantial than the "few percentage points" argument some advance.

What would it take to cut \$4.1 million from our budget? We could close down City Hall (except for state-mandated Social Services) and save \$2.7 million. But this would mean we wouldn't have anyone to assess properties, collect taxes and auto registrations, issue birth certificates, run elections, pay our bills, run our data systems, or enforce our building and zoning codes. Of course, we'd also have to eliminate the City Council -- and I'd be out of a job too. But we'd still be \$1.4 million short. If we close the library, that would be another \$1 million (not counting having to continue to heat and protect its building). Eliminating our \$467,000 recreation program would just about do it, again ignoring the costs of heating and maintaining the Armory.

In effect, we would have to virtually eliminate the rest of city government in order to maintain our Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments. Of course, this isn't feasible. Significant cuts would be required virtually everywhere. Three years ago, the City eliminated over 20 positions and raised taxes just to make up a \$2.1 million problem. We are now looking at something about twice that size.

Others argue that municipal consolidation and cooperation can provide significant savings. This is certainly true in some areas, as Lewiston and Auburn have repeatedly shown, and more might be possible. But, some cautions are needed.

The Citizens Commission on Lewiston-Auburn Cooperation released its report in August of 2009. It estimated that over five years, the cities could see savings that eventually grow to about \$2.7 million per year. Note the five year phase in. Since 2009, both cities have reduced staff. Lewiston alone has eliminated over 30 positions at all levels of the organization, including Directors and Assistant Directors, positions heavily targeted in the Cooperation report. These positions represent roughly \$2.25 million in savings, the majority of the \$2.7 million the Commission estimated. I suspect that similar cuts in Auburn would more than make up the difference.

Cooperation will not solve the \$4.1 million loss we are facing, regardless of what some might say. Cuts would have to be made and property taxes would have to increase substantially, the worst of all worlds.

Assessing

Joseph Grube, Chief Assessor



The Impact of the Governor's Proposal

Staff has been working toward determining the impact of the Governor's proposals on the following:

- **Local Personal Property Assessments**
- **Homestead Exemption Program** would result in an estimated 4,000+ residential property owners losing their homestead exemptions. At the current mill rate, the increase in a typical residential tax bill would be over \$226.
- **BETR and BETE programs** could result in Lewiston losing approximately \$900,000 during the 2014-2015 tax year.



Real Estate Review

Reviews of real estate are ongoing. The four-year review program for the 2013-2014 tax year will be wrapped up in the next month or so with emphasis then shifting to inspections of new and open building permits.



Mailings

Staff has begun working on the mailings for the 2013-2014 tax roll. The actual mailing to affected taxpayers is anticipated to be somewhat delayed due to the current Senior Principal Clerk vacancy in the department.

Fire

Paul LeClair, Chief

Lewiston Firefighters Complete Haz-Mat Refresher

The month of January brought Ken Brennan and Tom Denison from Life Safety Specialists Inc. to the Lewiston Fire Department for Hazardous Materials Operations Level refresher certification.

This year, the focus was the Department's Enmet multi-gas meters.

The class helped firefighters hone their skills on evaluating and detecting potentially flammable, toxic, oxygen deficient/enriched atmospheres.

The Lewiston Fire Department responds to numerous CO (carbon monoxide), natural gas, and other hazardous calls throughout the year. With the proper refresher and yearly training on these multi-gas meters, the Department has been able to provide a valuable safety service to the residents of Lewiston.

The meters are calibrated quarterly with a standardized array of pure gasses by the Department's Maintenance Technician, Bal Nash. The quarterly calibration ensures that we are in a constant state of readiness for any type of gas emergency.

CO (Carbon Monoxide)

CO (Carbon Monoxide) is the most common hazardous gas call the LDF responds to. CO calls are typically higher in heating season months due to improperly installed or malfunctioning heating systems, i.e. furnaces, fireplaces and wood or pellet stoves.

The State of Maine mandates that all tenement buildings with three or more units install CO detectors that are hardwired with battery back-up. We recommended that **ALL** homes have CO detectors installed.

Symptoms of CO poisoning are:

Headaches, nausea, and feeling sleepy, or drowsy. If you think that you or someone you know may be experiencing symptoms of CO exposure, **get out of the home immediately and call 9-1-1.**

Upon exiting the home, remember to keep all of the windows and doors closed as this will aid in determining a true reading of the exposure. For more information on Carbon Monoxide exposure, please go to:

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/co/>

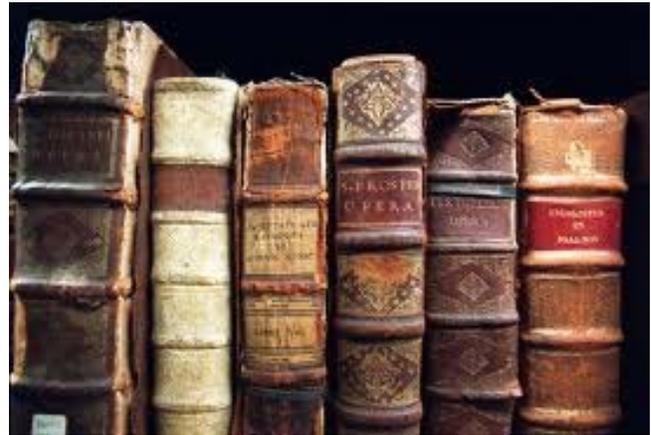


Pictured here is Pvt. Matthew Wiers inspecting an Enmet multi-gas meter

Downtown Education Collaborative Transitions

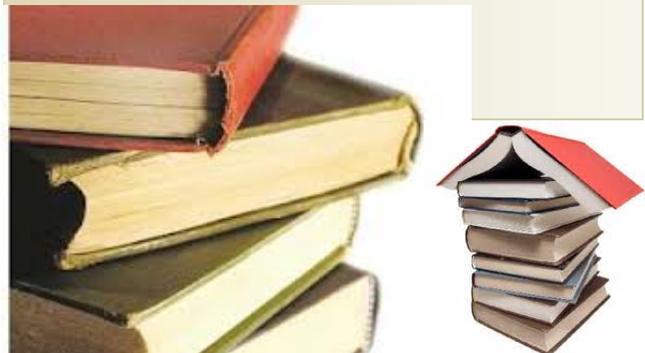
The Downtown Education Collaborative (DEC) has reached a point of transition and will be closing its 219 Lisbon Street office at the end of March. DEC partners include: Bates College, Central Maine Community College, Kaplan University, USM's Lewiston-Auburn College, Lewiston School Department, and Lewiston Public Library. DEC's mission is to bring the resources and skills of their member institutions into partnership with the downtown community to address local needs.

DEC collaborations and programs will continue, including two at the Library: digital Divide Lab and Academic Success Afterschool homework help. The Digital Divide Lab provides an open computer lab for adults in the community who need access to computers and the internet. Lab monitors from Kaplan University provide one-on-one support and instruction on various computer literacy topics. The Homework help program is open to middle and high school students, and provided by tutors from the DEC colleges. Both programs operate out of the Library's second floor computer lab. The adult Digital Divide Lab is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM; the Homework Help Lab is open Monday through Thursday from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM.



Public Computers Upgraded to Office 2013

Thanks to a \$626 donation from the Androscoggin Valley Community Network (AVCNet), the Library has upgrade the public computers in its Computer lab, Internet Room, and Teen Room to the latest Microsoft Office software package: Office 2013. The Library computers are heavily used by adults who are job searching and working on improving their computer literacy skills. Experience with the latest Office software products can be especially valuable to those in the job market.



Planning & Code Enforcement

Gil Arsenault, Director

Riverfront Master Plan

Staff from several City departments met with Richardson and Associates to discuss design considerations associated with the implementation of first-year priority projects associated with Simard-Payne Park.



National Flood Insurance Program

Staff prepared the annual Community Rating System cycle “flood” report for submittal to the Insurance Services Office. The City undertakes a number of flood plain related activities on an annual basis that are above the minimum required by the National Flood Insurance Program. As a result of our efforts, flood insurance rate payers receive a 10% discount on their premiums.

PERMIT ACTIVITY January 2013

- ◇ 30 building permits with a dollar value of \$4,062,843
- ◇ 10 plumbing permits
- ◇ 10 electrical permits

Please Note: The four highest reported dollar value building permits for January are as follows:

1. Veteran’s Inc. at 393 Main Street for the creation of 11 dwelling units, office, and related space in the amount of \$1,000,000.
2. Cumberland Farms at 743 Sabattus Street for a new retail store with a fuel-dispensing island in the amount of \$740,000.
3. Bates Mill Complex at 150 Mill Street - 2 Wing & Store House for the creation of office space over Davinici’s in the amount of \$700,000.
4. St. Mary’s Hospital at 95 Campus Avenue for renovations in the amount of \$469,000.

PERMIT ACTIVITY January 2012

- ◆ 23 building permits were issued with a dollar value of \$102,510
 - ◆ 6 plumbing permits
 - ◆ 40 electrical permits

Police

Mike Bussiere, Chief

STATS

JANUARY	2013
Calls For Service	2,938
Vehicle Stops	534
Citations	117
Written Warnings	213
Verbal Warnings	204
Adult Arrests	143
Juvenile Arrests	7
Criminal Summonses	58
Narcotics Arrests	11
OUI Arrests	9
Parking Tickets	659
Fireworks Violations	2

DARE Graduations

The following schools recently held their 6th grade DARE graduations:

- ◇ Longley School
- ◇ Geiger School
- ◇ Farwell School
- ◇ St. Dom's Academy

Chief Bussiere, DARE Officer Lacombe, Sgt. Bradeen, Deputy Chief Jim Minkowsky, Lt. Hamel, Sgt. Whalen, & Detective Murphy, attended one or more graduations.

SRO Jacques and DARE Officer Lacombe chaperoned the 6th grade graduates to the Auburn Rollerdrome for two hours of skating.

Sgt. Ullrich and Officer Philippon worked a "Hot Spot" which resulted in a drug-trafficking arrest.

School Security, Lockdowns, and Emergency Evacuation Procedures Reviewed

School buildings security and emergency evacuation procedures were reviewed at the following Lewiston schools, and agencies:

- ◆ Sgt. Bradeen, SRO Jacques and DARE Officer Lacombe met with **Child Development Services** management to review the school's building security and emergency evacuation procedures.
- ◆ **Longley School** staff reviewed emergency lockdown and evacuation procedures with Sgt. Bradeen and Detective Murphy
- ◆ **Geiger School** administration participated with Sgt. Bradeen, Detectives Dumont, Brochu, Stone, and Murphy on the school's lockdown drill
- ◆ **Martel School** had a surprise lockdown drill, with Sgt. Bradeen, Detectives Dumont, Brochu, and Stone either observing or participating
- ◆ **Montello School** administration also met with Sgt. Bradeen, Sgt. Ullrich, Detectives Brochu, Murphy, Stone, and Officers Philippon, and Griffin, regarding their lockdown drill
- ◆ Sgt. Ullrich along with Officers Philippon and Griffin assisted the **Youth and Family Services Division** with a lockdown drill at **Montello School**

Community Involvement

- **The Special Olympics** held regional qualifying events and the state winter games at Sugarloaf which were attended by Officers Griffin and Philippon; Detectives Murphy and Brochu, SRO Jacques and Johnson, and DARE Office Lacombe assisted with handing out medals to the participants. Officer Burkhardt attended and sold raffle tickets for this event.
- Central Maine Community College (CMCC) hosted a **Job Fair**, and Detective Morin was there on behalf of the Police Department
- A **Career Fair** for 11th grade students was held at CMCC and attended by Officers Griffin and Philippon
- Sgt. Bradeen attended the annual **PAL Directors Meeting** at Marcos
- Residents of **Blake Street Towers** met with Sgt. Ullrich and Officer Griffin
- A community meeting was also held at **Oak Park** and attended by Corp. T. Murphy
- Several LPD officers participated in **the 3rd Annual International Police, Fire, and Military games Hockey Tournament**
- Sgt.'s Campbell and Landry along with Officers Weaver, Martin, and Cloutier represented the department by playing on the LPD hockey team at the **Annual Good Will Games**
- The **Cub Scouts of Pack 116** were escorted by Officer Philippon during a recent tour of the Police Department
- LPD began another session of the **Citizens' Police Academy** on January 23rd. Sgt. Ullrich and Officer Griffin organized and facilitated the first classes, which run for ten weeks, every Wednesday from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Sgt. Bradeen provided instruction on the functions of the department's Youth and Family Services Unit; Detective Stone instructed the class on the topic of Child Abuse Investigations and Sex Offender Laws and Registry. Corp. T. Murphy also was on hand and taught a class.

Training

Members of the P.D. received training and/or instruction on the following:

- ⇒ A week-long training on **Crisis Intervention** (Officers Michael Maillet, Nick Wiers, and Tyler Martin)
- ⇒ Cpls. Vierling, Dumond, and Officer Levesque have been acting as **Field Training Officers** for new recruits
- ⇒ Officer David Levesque and S/A Rawstron attended a two-day school on **Reid Interrogations**
- ⇒ Officer J. Johnson attended the MCJA for **honor guard training** and also **taught defensive tactics** at the L.H.S. Law Enforcement program
- ⇒ Officer Griffin attended the **Androscoggin County Domestic Violence Task Force Meeting**

Public Works

David Jones, Director

WILD WEATHER

The wild weather continued with extreme cold and highs in the single digits soaring within a week to the mid to upper 50's. It has been crazy.

We had two more plowable storms (5 inches on January 16th and 3 inches on January 28-29).

Total snowfall to date for this winter is 27 inches.

Our salt/sand trucks responded and treated roads eight times during the month.



Street/Road & Sidewalk Improvement Projects

Upcoming Construction Projects

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

- ◆ **Walnut Street** rehab and sidewalk improvements (Bates Street to Horton Street). Bid opening is scheduled for March 5th (estimated cost ~\$400K; CDBG funding);
- ◆ **Sabattus Street** traffic signal improvements (Main Street to Pond Road). Bid opening scheduled for April 17 (estimated cost ~\$700K; 100% state and federal funds)
- ◆ **Park Street** (Oak Street to Ash Street) sidewalk & ADA access improvements. Bid opening is March 20 (estimated cost ~\$55K (100% state and federal funds)

The crews completed the following workload:

- ◆ Storm drain catch-basin repairs at two locations and cleaning the culvert at 750 Sabattus Street;
- ◆ Snow removal at 27 locations including fire stations, Armory, congested dead-end streets, cul-de-sacs, and trouble spots;
- ◆ Guard rail repairs on Old Lisbon Road, River Road, Grove Street, and Plourde Parkway;
- ◆ Tree removals and pruning on No Name Pond Road, Wakan Avenue, Charles Street, Franklin Street, Libby Avenue, Jepson Brook, Manning Avenue, and Brooks Avenue;



- ◆ Removed all Christmas decorations and chipped hundreds of Christmas trees brought to the PW yard and Solid Waste Facility by city residents;
- ◆ Replaced damaged or worn street and directional signs at 19 locations around the City and replaced ~200 outdated and worn No Parking signs where parking is limited on at least one side during the winter.

Water, Sewer, and Stormwater

Upcoming Construction Projects

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

- ◇ Oak Street sewer and stormwater improvements (final section from Sabattus Street to White Street (estimated cost ~\$1million);
- ◇ 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 (estimated cost ~ \$500K);
- ◇ Bartlett Street water line replacement project (Adams Avenue to Sabattus Street (estimated cost ~700K);
- ◇ Jepson Brook Phase 4 of the CSO Sewer/Stormwater project (south side of Sabattus Street-Genest Street to Wildwood Drive) (estimated cost ~700K).

Work performed by the Water/Sewer crews included:

- ◇ Responded to a major overflow at the UV facility at Lake Auburn which flooded parts of the facility and damaged some equipment and walls. The facility was back up and running less than 20 hours later. The insurance company is involved in the evaluation of repair costs. Total damage is still being evaluated, but may be approximately \$100K.
- ◇ Bids were opened on the King Avenue and Fair Street water main replacement project with the apparent low bidder Pratt and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$431,775 (well below the engineering estimate of \$575,000.
- ◇ Responded to and repaired six main leaks: 7 Bellview, 22 Charles, 9 Montello, 22 Summer, 11 Robinson Garden, 1154 Main, and Brault/Theresa;
- ◇ Responded to and repaired three service leaks;
- ◇ Responded to and completed 18 Customer Concerns (E-Govs) and 77 Digsafe requests;
- ◇ Repaired cross country manholes that were either hit by ATV's, snowmobiles, or were just old;
- ◇ Continued to maintain all watershed and water & sewer facilities;
- ◇ On going painting and rehab of hydrants and cleared snow from 750 hydrants city-wide after each storm;
- ◇ On going sewer flushing;
- ◇ On going gate valve program-cleaning and operating;
- ◇ On going updates and locates for GIS;
- ◇ On going water meter reading and replacement program, changing 241 5/8" and 3/4" meters during the month;
- ◇ Crews aided PW in snow plowing operations on roads and sidewalks.



Solid Waste

Regulator Updates:

- * Maine DEP notified the City of a new waste handling fee for construction & demolition debris (CDD) disposed in municipal landfills. This fee, which was adopted by the legislature and approved by the Governor (P.L. 20112 Chap. 444), imposes a \$1/ton fee for CDD disposed in the City's secure landfill. This fee went into effect on January 1, 2013 and will increase to \$2/ton on January 1, 2014. Over the past five years, approximately 900 tons/year of CDD waste was disposed in the City's secure landfill. This will have an impact on the Solid Waste budget.
- * Maine DEP staff requested additional monitoring for methane gas generated by the closed (attenuated) landfill. Monitoring, conducted by City staff has detected low levels of methane gas in areas immediately adjacent to and within this landfill, as would be expected. Methane gas has not been detected in any of the other monitoring sites that are located away from this landfill.

Recycling:

- * Over the past four months, Lewiston residents recycled an average of 106 tons of single-stream recyclable material per month. This is an 18% improvement over the same time period last year. This resulted in the City sending less garbage to MMWAC for disposal (2% when compared to the same time period last year).
- * City Council approved leasing the shredder building and ~3 acres of land to allow Casella to construct and operate a Materials Recycle Facility (MRF) for single-stream recycling. This will help save the City money by not having to send our recycled materials to Massachusetts. In addition, the City will increase revenues through the lease and tax payments for the underutilized facility and reduce other costs as Casella assumes responsibilities for the maintenance and utilities for the facility.

Recreation

Maggie Chisholm, Director

Programs

Kinder Basketball is an instructional program which introduces youth (4-6 years old) to the fundamentals of basketball such as dribbling, shooting, and defensive skills, etc. These clinics help prepare participants for the next level of the program. The session started December 20th and will be completed February 2, 2013. Approximately 30 youth are enrolled in this program

Open Gym began January 2nd & 3rd. Wednesday is Teen night and Thursday is Family night. The program will operate until end of February.

Lewiston-Auburn Youth Court training continues to be a success. Eleven L.H.S. 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 on Lisbon Street.

L/A Cash Coalition tax preparation sessions are now located at the Armory.

Opening day was January 24, 2013. Preparation sessions are Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The last day is March 20th. ***(You can call 513-3160 to schedule an appointment.)***

Activities/Events/Meetings

Lewiston Senior Citizens (LSC)

- LSC Board and membership meetings
- Various weekly card games including: Cribbage, Bridge, Pinochle, and others
- Bi-monthly Beano

Veteran-Related Meetings

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

Political Affiliated Meetings

- Lewiston Democrats monthly meetings
- Androscoggin County Democrats monthly meetings

Lewiston Rec Department (LRD)

- Gymnastics classes / pre-team & team practices
- Volleyball at MPC and the Armory
- LRD 5/6 grade girl's basketball clinics
- LRD 5/6 grade school basketball games - MPC and Armory
- Winter co-ed basketball evaluation, practices, and games—all divisions
- Travel team: LRD girls and boys 5/6 grade practices and games
- Travel team: LRD girls 7/8 grade games

Other:

- L/A Cash Coalition training and sessions
- Lewiston area youth cheering practices
- Central Maine Christian Academy and St. Dom's Academy basketball practices
- Association Canado-Americanne Chapter, Dr. Paul Fortier monthly meetings



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	JANUARY 2013	FYTD 7/1/2012 - 6/30/2013
Office Traffic (Duplicated)	696	4,554
New Clients	78	463
Households Served (OT) (Unduplicated)	226	463
Housing Expenditures	\$65,970.65	\$456,494.06
Total Expenditures	\$74,927.11	\$516,008.75
State Reimbursement	\$37,436.83 (50%)	\$255,235.16 (50%)
SSI Reimbursement	\$10,027.10	\$56,621.09
Other Reimbursements	\$53.46	\$5,538.47
Actual Municipal GA Cost (net)	\$27,409.72	\$198,614.03

Workfare	JANUARY 2013	FYTD 7/1/2012 - 6/30/2013
Cases (unduplicated)	95	224
Clients (unduplicated)	111	287
Hours Performed	3,250	22,005.25
Dollar Value (\$7.50 per hour)	\$24,375.00	\$165,039.38
Percentage of Cases Assigned Workfare	42%	48%

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

ZUMBA

The premiere of Zumba was a great success! I'd say about 20+ women attended the class at Callahan Hall taught by our very own firefighter/trained Zumba Instructor, Michael Laliberte.

Originally, the Wellness Team had scheduled one class every two weeks... BUT, due to popular demand and the generosity of Mike adding to his already busy schedule, we will be hosting Zumba once weekly!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR ZUMBA

- ⇒ Tuesday, February 12
- ⇒ Tuesday, February 19
- ⇒ Tuesday, February 26
- ⇒ Tuesday, March 5
- ⇒ Monday, March 11
- ⇒ Tuesday, March 19
- ⇒ Tuesday, March 26
- ⇒ Monday, April 1
- ⇒ Tuesday, April 9
- ⇒ Tuesday, April 16
- ⇒ Monday, April 22
- ⇒ Tuesday, April 30
- ⇒ Tuesday, May 7
- ⇒ Tuesday, May 21
- ⇒ Monday, June 3
- ⇒ Tuesday, June 18

RESISTANCE BAND Lunch & Learn

This class was also taught by Mike Laliberte and had approximately 24 attend. Each participant was given a set of two resistance bands, and an array of exercises to do at home.

Two gift card winners were also drawn; one from the 11:30 class, and one from the 12:30.



We sponsored a...

FAMILY SLIDING PARTY
at **PINELAND FARMS**
on February 16th



WELLNESS WEIGH-INS & BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Wellness Weigh-Ins will be underway in February and run through April. Prizes will be awarded to the top three who lose the largest % of weight.

Join us on 2/7, 2/21, 3/7, 3/21, 4/4, and 4/18.