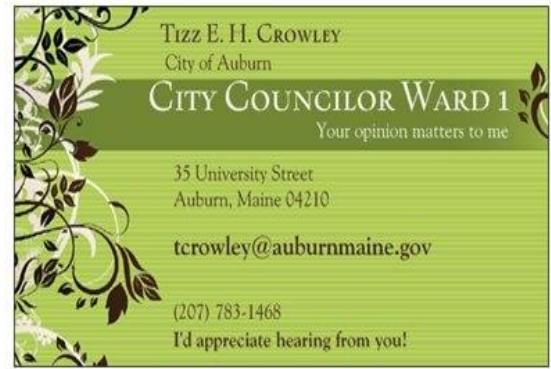


## **Auburn Ward 1 Report for Meeting Monday 2014.11.17**

**TO:** Residents of Auburn and the Auburn City Council  
**FROM:** Tizz E. H. Crowley- Auburn City Council Ward 1

**“Thank you”-** Thank you to all the Auburn residents who voted. I really enjoyed my time at the polls greeting friends and neighbors. I did listen to your concerns and have followed up on several.



Thank you to the **Lewiston Auburn Veterans' Council** for the excellent ceremony on Veterans' Day. I so enjoy the review of colors. I encourage other local organizations to participate. Not all units were military, the Knights of Columbus, as an example, were impressive.

Thank you to **Mainely Artisans Gift Shop** for locating your business here in downtown Auburn. I encourage residents to find the local business in your area of the city- share the news and support those who have invested in Auburn with us. I enjoyed the ribbon cutting ceremony. It would be great if we could do this every week in Auburn.

One of my memorial experiences as a City Councilor occurred on Veterans' Day when I was honored to attend the medal ceremony at Clover Manor. A significant number of WWII veterans, along with Korean and Cold War veterans were presented medals by Congressman Michael Michaud, local members of the military, and the Veterans' Council. I am most thankful to have had the opportunity to meet this local men and women who served so proudly.

### **Dates to watch-**

**Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**- public hearing on the proposed sewer rate change- 5:30pm at the District offices on Court and South Goff Streets.

**Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**- public information meeting on the Downtown Transportation Center 6pm at city hall.

**Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**- free meditation session starting 11am at the Auburn Public Library to help cope with holiday stress.

**Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**- I wish everyone a happy and bountiful Thanksgiving. Please reach out to others who may not be as fortunate to have family or friends nearby- remember the caretakers who will still be "working" on the holiday.

**Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>** is free fare day on our local purple buses. Have you ever wondered about where the buses go, how easy it is to use, how inexpensive. Friday is the day to get your questions answered. Take your out of town visitors or meet friends and ride the bus- see just where it will take you!

**Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**- is our community Holiday Parade. It kicks off in Auburn at 6pm and ends at Kennedy Park in Lewiston where I've heard Santa is expected to arrive. Don't forget if your club or organization is celebrating the holidays in December, we'd like to include your event on the Community Calendar. Please contact Dottie in Community Relations at Lewiston City Hall.

**Visiting Hours-** Visiting hours are canceled on the Thanksgiving holiday. December hours will be Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm at the Auburn Public Library. Once again, the Christmas holiday will cancel the Thursday evening session- so please call or email me if you'd like to connect and mid-day Tuesday doesn't work.

**Information provided to residents this period:** As a Councilor I get calls and questions from Auburn residents. Helping to find the answers is one of my favorite parts of serving on the Council. Since our last meeting we've looked at several things including:

... Overgrown trees that block the view of on-coming traffic. I used the Report It feature on the City website and got a prompt reply with a work order number from Public Works. I've asked the resident to let me know when the work is completed.

... The condition of the North River Road. This was the hot topic at the polls. City Engineer Dan Goyette provided some useful information which I will follow up with residents and staff. There is a 10 year road plan that was part of the Engineering Department's 2015 CIP request. This 10 year plan was not funded to the request so the years that are identified for the road repairs is not accurate as Dan suspects subsequent years will also not be funded to our requested amounts therefore the ten year plan is most likely a 20-30 year plan. The Department has a pavement condition program that we use to help determine which roads will be rebuilt. The program develops a ranking for each road based upon a visual survey of the number and types of distresses in a pavement. Pavement distress types for asphalt pavements include: Low ride quality, Alligator cracking, Bleeding, Block cracking, Bumps and sags, Corrugations, Longitudinal and transverse cracking, Patching and utility cut patching, Potholes, Rutting, etc. This information is then used along with utility information (is there a new water line required, is gas being extended in this area), traffic volume, economic benefit, cost, and amenities to help build what is an ever evolving list. N. River Road has a particularly high reconstruction cost while having very little traffic. The reason for its' high cost is that the roadway is identified as having a dedicated bike lane in the Bike/Pedestrian Plan Bridging the Gaps. In order to be consistent with the City's Complete Streets Policy the reconstruction will need to incorporate this work when it is rebuilt. This will require Right-of-Way acquisition and additional drainage infrastructure. All of these items drive up cost. This is a good place to start a conversation. I hope to meet with the neighborhood residents soon.

**In closing,** the departments have likely begun work on their budget requests. I believe the Council and the Community should be honest and upfront on any limits- tax rate increases, department changes, etc that will be expected so to approve a budget. I encourage residents to communicate with Council members and share your positive suggestions and ideas for meeting our future needs while providing financial stability for the City and our families.

Auburn, and her residents, must be fiscally responsible, be economically viable, as well as maintain and improve public services. Changes won't happen overnight, but we have a need to bring stability and predictability to finances. As the council, we must build resident trust and confidence in our efforts to wisely govern the City. Residents must more fully understand the reality that they need to invest in Auburn to have the kind of community they desire. There is a difference between an investment and an expense. It is imperative we look at the budget process for ways to cut expenses and make great investments in Auburn.

I suggest we, the City, help residents better understand municipal finances. These efforts would help to clear misconceptions and rumors. Auburn has to begin to establish credibility with the residents so they will know we are seeking ways to further streamline local government and operations. We have to continue to evaluate privatization possibilities and to identify opportunities to wisely invest or appropriate taxpayer monies.

Thank you for your attention.