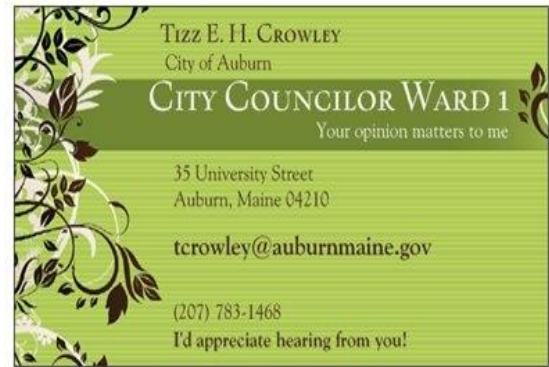


## **Auburn Ward 1 Report for Meeting Monday 2014.12.01**

**TO:** Residents of Auburn and the Auburn City Council

**FROM:** Tizz E. H. Crowley- Auburn City Council Ward 1



### **Dates to watch-**

**Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>** – is World Aids Day. It is comforting to be able to say, “today an estimated 33 million people are living with aids”, but more has to be done.

**Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** - is our community Holiday Parade. Please note, the parade kicks off at GREAT FALLS PLAZA in Auburn at 6pm and ends at Kennedy Park in Lewiston where I’ve heard Santa is expected to arrive. This is a change of location for Auburn from previous years. The parade will travel down Lisbon Street the opposite direction from usual traffic. I’ll be looking for you in the crowd as I participate in the parade. I encourage families to come to Auburn City Hall and enjoy story time and free crafts before the parade. The fun starts here at 4pm.

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** is St. Nicholas Day. Before there was a Santa Claus, St. Nicholas was traditionally known as the “bearer of gifts”. He was a real person admired for being kind and helping those in need. This is an evening where you can enjoy a large meal with family and friends. Take a hint from St. Nicholas and remember those less fortunate- drop an anonymous donation into a red kettle or other charity box. Don’t forget the local Coats for Kids campaign that will put your outgrown jackets to use.

**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>** is Pearl Harbor Day. Part of my plans for the day will be to listen to President Roosevelt’s Day of Infamy Speech. If we don’t learn from history, we will be destined to repeat it.

While this past Saturday was small business day in Maine, we can take a second pass by celebrating again on **Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**. In Ireland, this is the traditional holiday shopping day for rural populations, when everyone comes to town. Our neighborhood businesses are ready for your arrival with lots of gift ideas.

**Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup>** - I invite you to the Christmas Open House at the Woman’s Literary Union headquarters- the Foss Mansion at 19 Elm Street. The place is all decked out for the holidays.

Sundown, **Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>** is the start of Hanukkah. Hanukkah is the Hebrew word for dedication. It is the celebration of a Miracle. Most faiths recognize miracles- the big ones like oil for 8 nights and the little ones that happen every day.

**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** is the Winter Solstice the beginning of winter and the shortest day of the year. I promise things will get brighter.

So December is jam packed with holidays and celebrations. So have some home town fun and enjoy your family and neighbors. And if you must complain, save it for **December 26<sup>th</sup>** Whiners’ Day.

**Visiting Hours-** Visiting hours will be next week. 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.

**I haven’t heard from any residents regarding budget ideas.** I am surprised that residents have not been sending comments regarding the upcoming budget process. The CIP requests from departments are due Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. I know my colleagues on the Council would welcome constructive suggestions or hear

your priorities. We want to engage our community in determining what it highly values and expects. We need to establish clearly defined goals for Auburn so we can prioritize resource allocation to the City's most valuable programs and services. It is your opportunity to provide us, the decision makers, with better information about the impacts of our choices. Don't wait until the end of the process to complain about our actions- now is the time for all good Men and Women to come to the aid of this council.

**In closing,** I would ask all to take a few moments in the hectic time of year, to reflect on your own busy and full lives. Remember what's important- the people with whom we come in contact with daily.

Thank you for your attention.