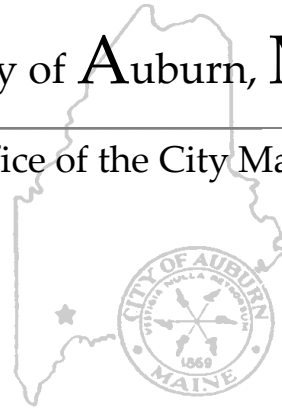


# City of Auburn, Maine

## Office of the City Manager



**TO:** Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Clinton Deschene, City Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Report  
**DATE:** Week Ending August 22, 2014

### Auburn Public Library

- The Library has received a \$400 grant from the Camden Conference for programming and materials in support of this year's conference, "Russia Resurgent," to be held in February in Camden. Last year APL and Portland Public Library were the only libraries outside of Camden to participate. With APL's program, directed by Adult Services Librarian Marty Gagnon, being used as an example of how libraries can participate, the number has risen to seven libraries throughout Maine.
- The new book club, "Auburn Page Turners," will meet on Thurs., 8/28, at 11 a.m. to discuss Amy Tan's novel, "Valley of Amazement." The Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature "The One-Hundred Foot Journey" by Richard C. Morais, which has been made into the currently popular movie of the same name that stars Helen Mirren. For more information call 333-6640 x 4 or link to our website calendar.
- There are two special programs for teens next week. On Weds., 8/27, at 4 p.m. the Media Center will be available for teens to explore making movies, podcasts, creating music and more. On Fri., 8/29, there will be a teen gaming hour at 4 p.m. in the Androscoggin Community Room. Games and snacks!
- The final session of Yoga Storytime with Tisha Bremner will be held on Thurs., 8/28, at 11:30 a.m. Children ages Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to attend. Please register online or call 333-6640 x 3.
- The Library will be closed on Monday, 9/1, for the Labor Day holiday. Fall hours will resume Thurs., 9/4, with the Library open until 8 p.m. Thursday evenings and until 5 p.m. on Saturday afternoons.
- Regular children's programming resumes on Weds., 9/3, and Sat., 9/6, with the return of our popular storytimes. Each Wednesday morning we offer our Pre-School Storytime program at 10:00 am. All gather in the Children's Room and the children ages 3-5 (and experienced listeners who are almost three) move to the program room while their grown-ups and siblings remain behind to chat, choose books, and make friends. Wednesday morning story programs are designed for children who are comfortable being in a group

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without their parent. This program is for families; agencies and childcare groups may contact the library to schedule group visits at another time.

- Sprouts occurs each Saturday morning from 10:30-10:50 babies from birth through 24 months and their parents gather with Miss Heather on the story quilt for a rollicking good time with nursery rhymes, songs, board books, finger plays and each other. Siblings are welcome to join us. Please call the library at 333-6640 ext.3 for more information.
- Two book discussion sessions featuring the finalists for the 2014 Maine Readers' Choice Award will be held on Thurs., 9/4. Join MRCA committee member Mamie Anthoine Ney to review "TransAtlantic," "The Golem and the Jinni," "Benediction," and "The Goldfinch." The discussions will be held at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. For more information on the Maine Readers' Choice Award visit [www.mainereaderschoiceaward.org](http://www.mainereaderschoiceaward.org).
- "Why Quilts Matter" is an 8-week program, led by quilter Betty Bell. This quilting group for all levels will feature technique demonstrations, show and tell times, and lots of laughter and companionship. In addition, each week will feature short clips from the Kentucky Quilt Project television series Why Quilts Matter. Episode by episode this series takes you on an amazing journey and uncovers the depth of quilt culture. There is no cost to take part in program but please use the online form to register or call us at 333-6640 Ext. 4.
- If you're a fan of movies, stop by the main circulation desk to see what's coming to our collection. If you see something that you like, let the staff know and we'll put it on hold for you so you can have first crack at it.
- Follow the Library on Facebook or link to our website at [www.auburnpubliclibrary.org](http://www.auburnpubliclibrary.org) for more information about all of our programs, new books, and more library news.

**CDBG**

- The property at 78 Second Street was sold to an income qualified homebuyer at full market value. The buyer was fortunate to have a father that contributed \$20,000 towards the project making it affordable for her to pay the asking price.
- The City, through its partner Auburn Housing Development Corporation, purchased 132 Spring Street for \$4,000. This building will need a substantial renovation. Through a cooperative arrangement with Goodwill Industries, the youth enrolled in Take 2/Youthbuild will begin the project this week by removing all of the overgrown shrubbery, then working in the building to remove the debris and wall surfaces. The project will take approximately 6 months of construction activity.
- A contract was signed with Planning Decisions Inc. for development of the City's Consolidated Plan. Their work will begin in September.
- The Consolidated Plan is under way. A press release was issued July 9 with a deadline of August 15<sup>th</sup>. The date was extended to August 29 due to lack of applications. To date, 14 applications have been received covering all categories that were approved by the City Council in the Citizen Participation Plan.
- A meeting was held with Bates College staff to discuss a study to be done by students in conjunction with the Consolidated Plan. We anticipate students will conduct a survey of people living in the Downtown, New Auburn and Union Street target areas to solicit

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responses to quality of life issues. The result of the interviews will be presented to the Citizen's Advisory Committee in December.

- Reine Mynahan held an orientation session with Christopher Brann, new member of the Community Development Loan Committee.

**City Clerk**

- August 21<sup>st</sup> was the deadline for nomination papers to be returned to the Clerk's office. One person has taken out nomination petitions for the Ward 4 School Committee seat. We certified the petitions and the candidate had 26 valid signatures.
- This week, we've issued 6 birth certificates, 53 death certificates, 4 marriage licenses, 17 disposition permits, and 12 garage sale permits, 1 Taxi Driver license.

**ICT**

- Last week we upgraded our ESRI GIS software from version 10 to version 10.2.2. This week we reviewed and tested the new and enhanced software features. Among the many new features, a number of new tools will make the data quality control for mobile data collection much easier.
- Researched project management and project portfolio software packages including customizable Access database templates.
- Worked with Androscoggin County Emergency Management to create a new street locator for Androscoggin County. They will use this to map a number of their databases. We are working with Androscoggin EMA to map and share this emergency data with the Auburn's Police and Fire departments. For example, those locations with hazardous materials. Additionally, EMA is using this information to assist with preplanning for Auburn and the surrounding communities.
- The network upgrades are nearly complete. The core switching is in place, and several older pieces have been retired. This may resolve some of the issues that the Schools were experiencing this past Spring. We hope to have the project complete before the Schools' network load jumps back up as students return.
- The new elevator/door control software is in place, and we are learning how to use it and configure cards for it. The next step will be to phase in new lock-sets in Auburn Hall to match the ones deployed at the Fire Stations.
- The roll-out of the Kaspersky anti-malware continues, with the Fire Department and selected Police Department PCs this week. All new PCs that we configure will have Kaspersky added, so as the Window 7 transition continues so will the anti-malware deployment.

**Health and Social Services**

- I'm closely watching the new direction DHHS is going with 3 months of food supplement for able bodied adults. This will impact our budget greatly.
- In FY 13-14 we had 101 individuals that fell in that age group, 18 to 49 years old. A number of the individuals would be exempt due to medical problems and part time employment. However we had 57 single individuals which most likely will be losing food supplement assistance from DHHS come January 2015. This will put a substantial burden on our budget as we rely on the food supplement program to meet that basic need.

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**Police**

- The department handled 655 calls for service this week. Officers conducted 138 motor vehicle stops and 53 field interviews. Officers investigated 102 offenses of which, 11 of which were felonies, generating 22 arrests, 23 criminal summonses and 3 juvenile arrests. Officers responded to 42 motor vehicle crashes.
- The Balloon Festival went smoothly for Auburn. Officers worked the festival all weekend. This was the first time that Main St. remained open, but was reduced to one lane. Officers reported that vehicle and pedestrian traffic proceeded smoothly through the area. There were only three vendors on the Auburn side and fewer performances in Festival Plaza. Pedestrian traffic remained heavy as people parked in Auburn, then walked to Lewiston. Total personnel costs for the Festival were \$2,999.68, Overtime \$2,306.65, Staff planning \$129.28 (regular time), Volunteer hours \$563.75.
- Detectives assisted Rangeley Police with recovering a \$6000 mountain bike that was being sold on Craigslist. A buy/bust operation was conducted and the suspect was charged with the theft.

**Public Services**

- Mill Street- gravel shoulders
- Whitney Street- granite curb, sidewalks
- Lake Street- project walkthrough
- Hotel Road- drainage structures
- Holbrook Road- shoulders
- Turner Street Sidewalks- project to begin 8-28
- Stormwater Compliance- ongoing
- Pavement Manager- ongoing
- Clean Parks Maintenance (at several locations)
- Paint Fields
- Infield Groomer Setup
- Sign Work
- Hot Patching around the city
- Maintenance – repair of city equipment
- Mowing around the city
- Cleaning catch basins
- Drainage project(s)
- Permits; excavation (private/right-of-way), fill, drive opening, pole permits etc.
- District inspections
- Replace culvert(s)
- Pit Work
- Graffiti removal
- Downtown Maintenance
- Portable Ladders training
- Proper Lifting Technique training

**Recreation**

- Registrations continued for Youth Football, Flag Football, Pee Wee Soccer, and Adult Dodgeball.

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- Youth Football practices (3-6<sup>th</sup> grade) continued.
- Youth Football practices (7-8<sup>th</sup> grade) began.
- Adult Softball Coed playoffs concluded.
- Adult Softball Player's League, Middle Division regular concluded.
- Adult Softball Player's League, Lower Division playoffs began.
- Planning completed and information released on a new program offering: Pickleball, for adults 40+
- Planning for Fall programming continued.
- Staff attended a public info session on repurposing of Ingersoll Arena on Wednesday evening.
- The Hasty Community Center gym floor was refinished on Thursday.
- Staff worked on website updates, press releases, news items and e-alerts.