

City of Lewiston Press Release

Members of the Media: Below please find a press release highlighting **Lewiston & Auburn's fair housing outreach, to include a middle school student poster contest – awards to be presented on April 15th**. Any media coverage you could render to help “get the word out” would be greatly appreciated. Thanks, Dottie

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEWISTON: The Cities of Lewiston & Auburn, the Lewiston Housing Authority, and the Auburn Housing Authority have partnered with the Lewiston and Auburn School Departments to help raise awareness of fair housing issues in conjunction with April being Fair Housing Month.

As such, 51 students in the 7th & 8th grades recently participated in a poster contest with a first-year theme of “***Will You Be My Neighbor?***” Thirteen (13) finalists were selected. The contest activity is part of a five-year strategy identified in the ***Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice*** and adopted by the Lewiston and Auburn City Councils.

On April 15, 2014, all contest participants will be celebrated at the Lewiston YWCA, and one first place and two second place prizes will be awarded, as well as movie certificates presented to the other 10 finalists. The first place winner will receive an IPAD, and the two second prize winners will receive an IPOD Touch—all compliments of the Auburn/Lewiston Fair Housing Alliance. In addition, the first prize poster will “***go on tour***” as LA fair housing outreach continues.

The finalists’ posters are currently on display on the first floor of Lewiston City Hall, will be at Auburn City Hall the week of August 7th, and will be featured throughout the year at fair housing workshops and various LA community locations, to include both municipal web sites. The finalists’ posters will also be featured in a fair housing calendar.

Lewiston Community Development Coordinator Jayne Jochem notes, “***As our community becomes more diverse, it is important to understand, accept, and appreciate what fair housing is all about. The poster contest was designed to increase awareness of the state and federal laws which say that all residents of this country should have equal access to housing regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, and status as a recipient of federal, state, or local public assistance.***”

Yvette Bouttenot, Auburn’s Community Development Coordinator, adds, “***The City of Auburn is excited to share the artwork created by students from Auburn and Lewiston. Through their artistic vision, a very important message of acceptance of all people and fairness in housing choice has been demonstrated. Congratulations to all the students who participated.***”

To further bring awareness to fair housing, Mayor Robert E. Macdonald proclaimed Fair Housing Month in Lewiston at the April 1, 2014, City Council meeting, and Mayor Jonathan LaBonte will do the same in Auburn on April 7th. ###