



TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Howard Kroll, City Manager
RE: Weekly Report
DATE: Week Ending August 19, 2016

Auburn Public Library

- Happy birthday, Auburn Public Library! Tizz Crowley and Leroy Walker invite you to attend a special birthday party in honor of the Library's 125th birthday on Mon., 8/22, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Please stop by for cake and punch on the Library Ave. lawn. (In case of rain the event will be moved to the Maggie Trafton Room.) The staff and the trustees appreciate this special recognition. We hope you will attend.
- The Library Trustees held their regular monthly meeting on Weds., 8/17. Agenda items included September's annual meeting and policies regarding the use of our newly acquired 3D printer.
- Upcoming programs include:
 - DIY Teens! Media Club – Fri., 8/26, at 4 p.m. Movies! Music! Graphic Arts! If you can imagine it, you can create it in our Media Lab. Teens, ages 12-18, can join our Media Club. Make trailers, podcasts and more that we can share it on our Facebook page and website. Location: Media Lab
 - Library Book Sale/ArtWalk – Fri., 8/26. The Library will hold a used book sale during the August Friday ArtWalk. Come and pick up some fabulous book bargains while enjoying the ArtWalk! Susan Raymond Geismar, photographer and APL staff member, will exhibit her photographs of Maine, Africa, and more during the ArtWalk. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of her photographs will benefit the Library. The book sale will continue on Saturday from 9 a.m. to Noon.
 - Red Table Picnic – Fri., 8/26, at 5:30 p.m. The Library will have a special display at this ArtWalk event in Festival Plaza.
 - Teens! Back to School Ice Cream – Fri., 9/2, at 3 p.m. Teens! Join us in the Teen Space for an ice cream social to celebrate the start of another school year! This program is just for teens, ages 12-18. Location: Teen Space

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- Kids! Homeschoolers Meet-Up – Tues., 9/6, at 10 a.m. Area homeschoolers are invited to meet other homeschooling parents and their children at the Auburn Public Library on Tuesday mornings. This informal group will be led by Christina Helms, a local homeschooling parent. This will be an opportunity for children to interact with other children and for parents to find support from each other. For more information please contact Christina at (207) 212-5101 or email at christina.helms@hotmail.com. Location: Maggie Trafton Room
 - Book Discussion – “Elephant Company” – Mon., 9/12, at 12:30 p.m. The Auburn Page Turners is always looking for new members to join our boisterous and fun group of avid readers. The September discussion is on the non-fiction title “Elephant Company: The Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who Helped Him Save Lives in World War II.” Part biography, war story, and wildlife adventure, “Elephant Company” is the story of James Howard “Billy” Williams whose rapport with the world's largest animals transformed him into the charismatic war hero known as “Elephant Bill.”
 - The Irish of the Androscoggin – Mon., 9/12, at 6 p.m. Local historian and author, John Henderson will present his new book, “Na Eireannach Na hAndroscoggin: The Irish of The Androscoggin.” His newest book goes deeper into the story of the Irish in Lewiston and Auburn than did his previous work and has been expanded to cover Lisbon, Minot, Poland, Wales, Leeds, and Greene. New topics include Irish women, newspapers, John Murphy homes, theater, the military, and more. The new book also presents ten boldly colorful plates of Lewiston and Auburn architecture closely associated with the Irish and created by the author himself.
- Follow the Library on Facebook or link to our website at www.auburnpubliclibrary.org for more information about all of our programs, new books, library news, and online registration.

City Clerk

- We Issued the following:
- 4 birth certificates
 - 74 death certificates
 - 11 marriage certificates
 - 9 marriage licenses
 - 24 disposition permits
 - 20 garage sale permits
 - 2 taxi driver license

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- 6 business licenses
- Staff attended the 8/15/2016 City Council Meeting
- Prepared and posted the 8/22/2016 City Council Workshop agenda packet
- Received 60 Voter Registration Applications/Change cards from the Secretary of State's office
- Worked on filing and reconciling disposition permits
- To date, we've received 38 requests for absentee ballots for the November election
- We continue to work on staffing the polling places for the November election. We've filled 51 positions but still have several left to fill.
- Completed the State Vital Share for July
- We are still looking for volunteers to serve on various Boards and Committees. The deadline to submit applications for this round of appointments is Tuesday, August 30th
- Staff has been organizing the records room in the Clerk's Office and will be purging election materials from previous elections that have been held for the required period of time

Economic and Community Development

- The City Planner attended a ground breaking ceremony for the New Roots Cooperative Farm in Lewiston on August 11. A large crowd learned about the efforts of Somali/Bantu farmers in helping be part of the local food economy. They are also looking for good farmland to lease, possibly in Auburn.
- The Staff is working on minor changes to the grant agreement from the Northern Borders Regional Commission and will get the City Manager to sign it in the near future.
- Planning Staff presented a Zone Change Request for Evergreen Subaru to the City Council at public hearing and 1st reading on August 15th.
- Planning Staff has made plans for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Barker Mill Extension Trail on August 22nd at the Barker Arm Apartment entrance. A press release will be going out and flyer has been distributed around New Auburn.
- The Planning Staff led a Plan Review meeting on Wednesday, August 17th. The PRC reviewed renovation plans for the Hasty Recreation Center and proposed senior center at Pettengill Park and a proposed residential development
- The Staff has reviewed the latest plans for the New Auburn Village Center Plan and is working on refining them with the project consultants.
- As was reported last week the Planning Board approved modifications to the 62 Spring St. mixed use building project at their August meeting. The modifications include the following:

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1. Eliminate parking at the rear and under the first level of the building
2. Add 1 unit to total 40-41.
3. Add landscaping to the rear of the parcel along residential abutters to soften appearance and provide open space for tenants.
4. Relocate parking from rear to sides of the structure.
5. Eliminate the patio/courtyard space at the rear of the Engine House parcel.

The modifications were intended to reduce per unit costs of the project to assist the scoring in the LITC competition. Staff is currently reviewing TIF and HOME approvals to determine if the modifications need to go back to Council review. The Current budget includes reserved HOME funds in the amount of \$100,000.00 that may or may not be needed by the project and a TIF CEA of 75% between 2017 and 2032.

- Worked on possible layouts to locate and retain businesses in the intermodal facility. This will be discussed at next Monday's executive session.
- We prepared packages for the City Council Workshop.
- Worked with foreign investors on property acquisition and zoning issues.
- We continue to review current TIFs for possible amendments to meet the City Council's goals/directives.
- Reviewed with Pan Am the process of designating the downtown rail portion of Auburn, Maine a Quiet Zone.
- We continue to work on closing out the AIP project including the income reutilization plan, mitigation and work order changes.
- Update on the first Auburn Community Garden Project, Webster Street: The garden beds are bursting with vegetables. The garden coordinator is doing a fantastic job of working with each of the gardeners teaching them gardening skills such as bug/pest identification, pruning and harvesting. The committee is currently seeking a kiosk to locate outside the garden fence for distribution of information to participants and other interested parties. Each Thursday during open garden time the Good Food Bus, a re-purposed school bus turned mobile food market with stops at the PAL Center, located near Webster Street Community Garden to bring fresh vegetables, fruit, and other essential food items directly to this neighborhood. The Good Food Bus is a project of St. Mary's Nutrition Center, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation, and Cultivating Community. People are able to use their SNAP EBT Cards and earn vouchers that are double the value of their SNAP purchase. People who may not have had access to good, healthy foods now have two sources in their neighborhood. The garden is a continuing success story.
- The Gorman Foundation donated funds to the Cities of Auburn and Lewiston for assisting the fire victims of Lewiston fires from several years ago. The funds were

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not spent for the intended use and so Gorman allowed the Cities to use the funds to supplement the Security Deposit Loan Program. Recently, due to the increased demand for relocating families who are displaced because of lead paint issues the Security Deposit Loan committee is amending the program to include assistance for these households. Assistance will be for security deposits and utility connections.

- The City has identified a property to purchase and rehab using HOME funds. Once the rehab is complete the property will be sold to an eligible homebuyer.
- There has been a C of O issued for the residential board and care located at 30 Sacred Heart.
- The influx of permits has been heavy this week with a total of 86 permits so far for this month, including excavation permits. Excluding Excavation permits we have issued we have issued 65 permits at the halfway point of the month and normally average a total of 81 for the entire month. The numbers look good for a record breaking month if this keeps up.

Fire

- Crews responded to 5 fire calls.
- Staff attended a meeting with the Balloon Festival Staff to discuss fueling and food vendor fuel services.
- Crews attended a Make-A-Wish program held at Mac's Grill.
- Staff performed a final C/O inspection.
- Crews assisted in the UL testing of the Aerial Truck.
- Staff met with the Maine Fuel Board and a representative from Suburban Propane to discuss Balloon Refueling procedures and safety.
- Crews did 8 Life Safety Inspections, 5 for licenses.
- Crews participated in ongoing Platoon and Department training.
- Staff continued to deal with an ongoing property owner issue,
- Staff attended the monthly Plans Review Committee meeting.
- For the week of August 11th to August 17th, we responded to 109 calls for service. These include, but are not limited to: 5 fire calls, 1 Elevator Rescue, 65 Emergency Medical calls, 8 Motor Vehicle Accidents - 2 with injuries, 3 Hazardous Condition calls, 12 Service calls and 13 fire alarm call. We received 0 mutual aid responses during this period and we provided 0 mutual aid response. We provided 3 Paramedic intercepts and transported 2 patients from Lewiston for UAS during this period.

IT

- The new version of our MUNIS Financial software entered a Test environment. Staff will now test and troubleshoot the new version. We expect to enter a Live environment in September.
- Staff worked with Cardinal Software to troubleshoot issues with the Police's TicketTrak software.
- New property photos were sent to Patriot Properties, for the WebPro website. WebPro, which is hosted by Patriot, provides a "property card" resource available to anyone – without having to tie up Assessing staff.
- The entire GIS staff was on vacation this week, and therefore accomplished very little in terms of City-related productivity. Presumably, their home and landscaping are now in much better order.
- GFTV staff began recording the Great Falls Balloon Festival on Friday. Footage acquired will be edited into a new production which will air on GFTV's cable channels.
- Staff continued to improve the cabling in the Council Chambers, eliminating much of the floor clutter and potential trip hazards.

Public Services

- 2016 Reclamation Project (Townsend Brook Road, Pettingill Park)- surface paving scheduled for next week in Pettingill Park. Gravel has been placed on Townsend Brook Road, base pavement scheduled for Friday, August 19th.
- 2016 Reconstruction Project (Highland Ave) - roadway has been box cut and gravel placed. Base pavement scheduled for August 20th.
- 2016 MPI Project (South Main Street)- stormdrain and water main installation continues
- Barker Mill Trail- project complete
- Stormwater Compliance- on-going
- 2017 Hampshire Street Reconstruction- Landscaping and lighting plan being developed.
- Crack Seal Contract- project will be out to bid next week
- Turner Street Sidewalk Reconstruction Project- project being developed
- Crews continue maintenance on all fields including lining, dragging, mowing, weed-whacking, checking the bases, even general maintenance on stands if needed.
- Roadside mowing continues throughout the city.
- Residents along with the Com Center continue to call to have deceased animals picked up as well as for potholes, large pieces of road debris (TV's, couch, chairs) etc.

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- Crews were out and about cleaning up graffiti at some of the Parks that were reported.
- The Excavation Technician was busy marking out dig safe's, inspecting both private and street excavations, reviewing and issuing Fill, Drive Opening permits as well as billing and continues GIS work.
- The tree crew were busy inspecting the many complaints about old trees, trees causing visibility and on Sunset Ave, Harris St. Steel and Hotel Rd.
- Crews continue to water and maintain the many flower beds around the City
- Litter patrol continues around the Veterans Bridge, Downtown area and Parks
- Crews continue to inspect the many complaints for sinkholes which are being investigated of cause and fixed as needed.
- Contractors are busy working at the Highway Garage on the new Salt Brine Unit, as soon as it's up and running, training will commence
- Crews continue to repair drainage issues around the City
- The basin crew have been repairing and investigating loose basin tops
- Crews mulched the Riverwalk and West Pitch areas
- Crews are busy cleaning the Down Town area for this weekend's Annual Balloon Festival

Recreation

- Ongoing Programs:
 - Fall Youth Football practices have begun. We are still accepting registrations. We currently have: 1-2 grades Flag Football (8 signed up) 3-4 grade (26 signed up) 5-6 grade (31 signed up), and 7-8 grade (50 signed up).
 - Senior Walking happens every Tues/Thurs in the Ingersoll Turf Facility from 9am-10am.
 - Men's Slow Pitch Softball Games have entered play-off season, regular season champions were J-Mac/Sea 40 for Monday Men's Lower Division, Average Joes for Tues Men's Lower Division, East Auburn Tailgater's for Men's Middle Division.
 - Coed Slow Pitch on Sunday's will have play-offs for the next two weeks. Our Regular season champions were Grow Depot for COED Minor Division, Electrical Systems of Maine (ESM) for COED Major Division.
 - Discounted Ticket Sales are a hot item right now; Funtown/Splashtown combo ticket for \$28, Aquaboggan \$15 per, and York Wild Kingdom combo pass for \$14 per.

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- Ending Programs:
 - Men's Basketball League–Season is over, congratulations to Task Force for winning Men's Division A, Shooters for Men's Division B.
 - Summer Track and Field – Out of 80 participants we had a total of 48 qualified for states which was held last weekend where we had several participants medal including 3 State Champions and our Girls 9-10 Division team brought home 1st place in the State!
 - Summer Rec Camp – This was the last week of camp.
 - Summerfest – Went very well for its first year, the Fireworks were a big hit! Thank You to all the sponsors, partners, businesses, volunteers, and vendors who participated and help put on a great event.
 - Farmer's Market –Wednesday Farmer's Market will hold the last session on Wed Aug 31.
 - Sebago Lake State Park – we had 2 participants show up of the 8 signed up due to extreme heat and humidity that day.
 - Old Orchard Beach – We had a full van with 13 participants.
- Special Projects/Events:
 - Art Walk – 4th walk is Friday Aug 26th, LA Arts will be putting a banner up across the road at city hall to help increase participation. August walk will be partnered with the Annual Red Table Picnic Event and the Veayo Twins will be performing in Festival Plaza.
 - River Day in New Auburn – Sat. Sept 17th time 10am-2pm as part of the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend. Planning stages have begun for this event. More info will be coming in the next week or two.
 - The Hasty Gym will be shut down for its annual cleaning of the gym floor and refinishing from Aug 22 – Sept 2.
- Co-Sponsored Programs/Events:
 - Community Gardens – All 23 plots are being utilized and tons of fresh veggies are sprouting up.
 - Community Band – Great weather and turn out with over 300 people coming out each week to pack festival plaza.
- Upcoming Programs:
 - Fall Programs are being entered into our online registration system and the Fall Brochure is in the final stages!