

City of Auburn, Maine

Office of the City Manager



TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Howard Kroll, City Manager
RE: Weekly Report
DATE: Week Ending July 3, 2015

Assessing

- Staff has finished proofing 200+ deeds and declarations of value for property transfers through April 1, 2015.
- Katelyn has started proofing the personal property records for duplicates and assessed values.
- Joe has begun proofing the 2015 assessed values for properties in the TIF districts and listing all changes that have occurred since April 2, 2014.
- Karen is working on loading lot splits and merges that have occurred between April 2, 2014 and April 1, 2015 that have not previously been loaded in Patriot.
- Staff will continue to prepare for the commitment of taxes for approximately 3-4 weeks.

Auburn Public Library

- The Library will be closed on Fri., July 3rd, and Sat., July 4th, for the Independence Day holiday.
- The Wallace Family hosted their annual “Happy Birthday, America!” program at the Library on Thurs., 7/2. There was a record crowd to enjoy a “Yankee Doodle” story time, a parade around the inside the Library, a craft project, and – of course – a wonderful cake celebrating our country’s 239th birthday. In the words of one young participant, “This was the best birthday party ever!” making his point by jumping up and down on each word. It was a wonderful experience.
- Our new website will be up and running on Monday or Tuesday. Please check out our new crisp, clean, and mobile friendly site. Our web address will be the same - www.auburnpubliclibrary.org.
- Thanks to a grant from the Cornerstones of Science, the Auburn Public Library now has a telescope that Auburn Library cardholders can borrow for a one week period. The warmer nights provide an amazing opportunity to introduce yourself or family members to the wonder of astronomy. To reserve the telescope call 333-6640 Ext. 4 or visit us on the second floor of the Auburn Public Library. The first week the telescope will be available is the week of July 6th.

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- Mamie Ney was part of a panel presentation on STEM education in public libraries at the American Library Association's Annual Conference in San Francisco on Sun., June 28th. The trip to San Francisco was sponsored by COSLA, Maine State Library, and Cornerstones of Science.
- Our summer book sale will take place on Sat., 7/18, from 9 a.m. until Noon.
- Upcoming programs include:
 - KIDS! LEGO Showcase: Monday, 7/13, 1-4 pm: Kids are invited to show-off a favorite LEGO creation made at home. We will open up the Maggie Room for a public display of LEGO creations. Come be inspired by what neighbors and friends have created. Vote for a favorite project. The top 5 will win a free gift book. Our regular LEGO club will next meet on the first Friday of the August (8/7) from 4-5 pm.
 - Superhero Human Checkers: Tues., 7/14, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. It's a classic case of good guys verse bad guys in our human superhero checkers game to be held on the front lawn of the Auburn Public Library. Register and you can be part of a team where you get to be the moveable pieces. Masks will be provided for all our heroes and villains but feel free to add any costume extras. There will be two games with one starting at 11 and the other game starting at 12. Please specify which game you would like to play in. All ages are welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. Register on line or call the Auburn Public Library at 333-6640 Ext 4.
 - Teens Unmask! Comic Book Workshop: Tues., 7/14 and 7/21, from 1 to 4 p.m. Local artist Mike Jordan will return to the Auburn Public Library this summer for a two session comic book workshop as part of the "Teen Summer Reading Program: Unmask!" If you like to draw and/or write and are between the ages of 12-18, you can be part of the staff that writes and illustrates their own group comic book. Teens will invent their own character and page and introduce them into the story against a villain created by other participants. In the end, participants will go home with their own copy of the book, complete with everyone's work. Registration is requested. It is essential that you attend both sessions, so please check your schedule carefully before signing up. For more information, please contact Donna Wallace at dwallace@auburnpubliclibrary.org or 333-6640, ext. 4. To see creations of past comic books, visit Mike Jordan's website at bigredapress.com and click on the APL Presents tab. Please register on line or by calling the Library.
- Follow the Library on Facebook or link to our website at www.auburnpubliclibrary.org for more information about all of our programs, new books, and more library news.

City Clerk

- Alison Pepin, Deputy City Clerk met with the Appointment Committee on Wednesday, June 24, 2015
- Sue Clements-Dallaire, City Clerk attended Notary Public for Municipal Clerk training in Augusta on Thursday, June 25, 2015
- Certified 36 petitions validating 457 signatures
- Prepared, distributed and posted the July 6, 2015 Agenda packet
- Issued 15 birth certificates, 72 death certificates, 14 marriage certificates, 5 marriage licenses, 32 burial permits
- Business licenses – received 2 new business license applications and 7 renewal applications. We issued 26 renewal licenses and 9 new licenses

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- Issued 23 garage sale permits
- Issued 3 Taxi Driver permits
- Received 1 application for banner space
- The new Ward lines went into effect on July 1, 2015. Staff worked with the Secretary of State's office to make and proof the changes in the Central Voter Registration system
- Worked on nomination papers which will be available on Monday, July 6, 2015
- Received mailing from the Secretary of State's office with Voter Registration updates, new, cancelled, and address changes

Fire

- FPO O'Connell performed a final C of O inspection at the new hair salon on Turner Street.
- FPO O'Connell and DC met with Bill Hunter of the School Department and Mark Stambach to review proposed room changes at Sherwood Heights School.
- Crews responded to a structure fire at the Washington Street Trailer Park where an unoccupied trailer was on fire. Crews did a quick extinguishment of the fire. The fire was investigated by FPO O'Connell and City Electrician DeAngelis. The investigation remains open.
- Crews responded to Mechanic Falls to assist with our swift water rescue equipment to provide a rescue of two juveniles stuck on a rock in the middle of the river. They were assisted by Chief Roma and his Drone, which was utilized to deliver a tag line to get life vests to the victims.
- Chief Roma entertained several new organizations who interviewed him regarding the use of the Drone in the river rescue. Additionally, he was interviewed by phone from several national and international news organizations. This event is getting world wide exposure for the Auburn Fire Department.
- Crews continue to provide ongoing training for our 3 new hires with different areas covered each day.
- Chief Roma hosted a Planning and Operational Discussion Retreat at the Auburn Airport with his senior staff to work on short term, medium term and long term planning and goals for the AFD. Assistant City Manager D'Auteuil also attended this meeting.
- For the week of June 25th to July 1st, we responded to 80 calls for service. These include, but are not limited to: 2 Fire Calls (1 structure and 1 woods), 4 Fire Alarms, 53 Emergency Medical calls, 11 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 9 with injuries, 4 service calls, and 2 Hazardous Condition calls, and 1 River Rescue. We provided 1 mutual aid call to Mechanic Falls and received 1 mutual aid assist during this period. We provided 3 EMS Mutual Aid assists during this period.

Police

- The department handled 567 calls for service this week. Officers conducted 103 motor vehicle stops and 16 field interviews. Officers investigated 65 offenses of which, 8 of which were felonies, generating 19 arrests, 22 criminal summonses and 9 juvenile arrests. Officers responded to 30 motor vehicle crashes.
- S/A Gagnon conducted several investigations during the month of June. Two investigations resulted in the arrest of two suspects involved in two different investigations. In each investigation, the suspect was arrested on charges of Aggravated Trafficking in Heroin, Class A. Both incidents occurred in residential neighborhoods in Auburn.

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- Det. Syphers assisted patrol in the processing of a burglary at 14 Elm St. where a 55" flat screen LG television was stolen. Later in the day, Det. Syphers was at a local pawn shop following up on another investigation when he observed three people pawning a flat screen television. Once he was done with his follow up he looked into the television that he observed the people pawning and was able to confirm it was the television that had been stolen from 14 Elm St. The case will be brought forward to the Androscoggin County Grand Jury for indictment against two suspects for burglary and theft charges.
- DOT has agreed to install signs that say "truck route" in various locations around Hotel, W. Auburn and N. Auburn roads. This will hopefully reduce the number of commercial vehicle using this stretch of road as a by-pass to avoid Route 4.

Public Services

- 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 basin cleaning crew is working diligently on 15 and 36's run, this week they cleaned approximately 40 basins.
- 2015 MPI Project- Broad Street Mill & Overlay. AWSO is upgrading the water main from Mill Street to Eighth Street. The paving portion of the project is scheduled to begin in July.
- 2014 MPI Project- Lake Street (Park Ave to the CUL). Surface pavement is scheduled for June 22-23.
- 2015 Reclamation Project- Valview Dr, Summer St. (Park Ave to Mount Auburn Ave) Project awarded to Gendron and Gendron. Anticipated start date mid July.
- 2015 Reconstruction Project- Davis Ave, Seventh St and Tyler St. Drainage and box-cut completed on Tyler Street. Base pavement scheduled for Friday. Work to start on Davis Ave next week.
- Perkins Ridge Road Culvert Replacement- Test borings were drilled last week and a bearing capacity for the existing soil will be determined.
- Stormwater Management- DEP audit was held on 5/6/2015, waiting for feedback within 45 days.
- 2015 Demolition Project- hazardous material removal is partially complete. Demolition contract is out to bid, opening date June 23rd.
- 2015 Construction on Riverside Drive has begun and will continue all summer, the contractor awarded the job is Saint Laurent.
- Crews were also watering flower beds, visiting the numerous sites to empty trash cans.
- Crews mowed/weeded flower beds in the Downtown Area, West Pitch, Riverwalk, Main St., Drummond Park, Za Pizza, Bonney Park, Moulton Park, Little Andy Park, Raymond Park, Festival Plaza, Union St. Area, Old Police Station, Washington St. and Drummond Park.
- Tree crew worked at Chestnut Park, Veterans Bridge
- Sign work has been done at Merrow Rd., Coot St., Hotel Rd., N River Rd., Miller St., Neighborhood Watch, Old Danville Rd.
- Crews were working on sweeping on 16's and 7's run
- Crews finished up the project at 440 Washington St. N. (sinkhole) replaced pipe
- This week the fleet crew had 18 work orders 16 were APS and 2 were PD. 16 are complete APS and 2 are complete PD
- Two of Public Services trucks are going to Messer for warranty repairs.

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- One of the Public Services truck is still at Morrison & Sylvester having work done and one at Berube's having body work done.
- Roadside mowing has begun within the City's intersections.
- Our supervisor kept a close eye on a sink hole on Hampshire St. after exploratory dig, the issue was found and repaired.
- On Saturday, also called in by 911 for a stop sign down. Called in Sunday for tree down and to check Hampshire St.
- The crew did a great job and had to work overtime to get the street open that afternoon. We went back Tuesday to remove the road plate and compacted the area completely. It is now ready for asphalt. The men in facilities crew completed the safety w/o's that we received from our last inspection. Also DJ Sjostrom and Walter Reynolds installed a new concrete step that had been damaged over the winter. Well done! Facilities man Mike Reed continues his tasks also well done!
- The Assistant City Engineer worked on tax map updates for the past tax year. Splits, merges, right of way takings, and corrections. Produced CAD files and sketches for updating of GIS and assessing records. This is an ongoing task.
 1. Worked on additional Temporary Construction Rights needed on South Main St.
 2. Attended the LA Bike/Ped Committee meeting.
 3. The ATRC's "Bicycle/Pedestrian Study 2014", which has a component of providing a BMP manual to complement the our Complete Streets Policy, has been put on hold.
 4. I have been assigned a task of contacting realtors and property owners of certain properties within the City to determine a potential cost of acquisition.

Recreation

- The 2015 Wednesdays in the Park schedule has been released. This joint program offers various FREE performances throughout the summer. Be sure to visit the programs & special events section of www.teamsideline.com/auburnme for program details, performance locations and times!
- Want to keep playing pickleball this summer? Auburn Recreation has teamed up with Lewiston Recreation to offer Outdoor Pickleball. Now you can still play when the indoor season is over! Outdoor Pickleball is a tennis-styled sport that is played on a badminton sized court indoors or outdoors. The "Pickleball" is a plastic ball with holes that is served, volleyed, and rallied back and forth over a net using a wooden paddle. Beginning on June 25th, Pickleball will take place every Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30am-12:30pm at the Lewiston High School tennis courts on 156 East Avenue.
- Registrations continued for Eddies Youth Football Camp, grades 1-8. This one day camp is instructed by ELHS Varsity Football Head Coach, Dave Sterling and staff and will focus on preparing players for the fall football season through instruction in football fundamentals, skills and techniques.
- Registrations continued for Flag Football, grades 1-2. Flag football is a fun game that introduces children to the basics of football. Participants learn the basics of offense, defense, the line of scrimmage, and other key elements of the game. Players will practice twice a week in preparation for games that begin in Early September and run through mid October.
- Registrations continued for Youth Football, grades 3-6. The Youth Football program is designed to develop the young players' knowledge and skills of the game through instruction in proper techniques, fundamentals, conditioning, and terminology. Competitors participate

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in the Mid Coast Youth Football League (MCYFL) which is comprised of teams from: Bath, Brunswick, Gardiner, Lewiston, and Turner. Teams will have a weekly practice schedule beginning in early August, and a full game schedule which will run through the end of October.

- Registrations continued for Youth Football, grades 7-8. The Youth Football program is designed to further develop the young players' knowledge and skills of the game through instruction in proper techniques, fundamentals, conditioning, terminology, and offensive and defensive schemes. Competitors participate in the Mid Coast Middle School Football League (MCMSFL) which is comprised of teams from: Turner, Oxford Hills, Brunswick, Bath, Mt. Ararat, Lewiston, Gardiner, and Mt. Valley. Teams will have a weekly practice schedule beginning in mid August, and a full game schedule which will run through early November.
- Registrations continued for Falcons Football Camp, grades 5-8. This week-long camp is a chance to dust off the cleats and hit the gridiron before the season begins! The camp focuses on football specific conditioning drills, skill and technique development, basic offensive and defensive schemes, as well as football terminology. This program is a great opportunity to prepare for the upcoming football season.
- Registrations continued for July Soccer Camp, ages 3-15. The GPS Portland Phoenix are coming back to Auburn this Summer! International licensed coaching staff and PDL players will work through a curriculum which includes: shooting, dribbling, passing, and control during this week long camp.
- Registrations continued for Golf Lessons, ages 8-16. Bob Darling, Golf Pro at Fox Ridge Golf Club will teach the fundamentals of golf in this great instructional program. These lessons are designed with a focus on the beginner and intermediate golfer. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about a sport that will last a lifetime!
- Summer Day Camp, grades Pre K – 8, began on Monday. Each day, the Summer Day Camp offers campers structured activities, games, reading and arts & crafts. One day each week, campers will go on a beach trip, where they will enjoy organized activities and swimming. Additionally, campers will have supplemental excursion days/special events. This season, camp will take place 5 days a week (Monday-Friday), and will begin June 29th and conclude on August 14th for a total of 7 weeks. At this time, 253 children are registered for the program.
- Practice & meets continued for Youth Track & Field, ages 7-14. Coach Tom Menendez is back for his 21st season to guide the athletes through another fun-filled season. Tom brings to the program over 20 years of coaching experience at all levels. This program will provide instruction and training in traditional track & field events such as: sprinting, running, hurdles, relays, high jump, long jump and throwing events. Competition is offered through Maine USA Track & Field meets each Thursday beginning in late June. Five developmental meets will be followed by a division qualifying meet and the state meet in early August. A total of 118 children are registered for the program.
- A congratulations goes out to two former Auburn Track & Field participants: Kayla Allen and Sydney Sirois who placed 5th and 7th respectively in the women's 10,000-meter race walk at the USATF outdoor championships held in Eugene, Oregon. With her finish, Kayla secured a spot as a member of the USA Junior Track & Field Team!
- Adult Summer Basketball continued. The league is comprised of an A division and B division, with a total of 14 teams, and approximately 140 players registered.

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- Adult Softball (Players and Co-ed leagues) continued. A total of 29 Players League teams and approximately 435 players are registered this season. A total of 21 Co-Ed teams and approximately 315 players are registered this season.
- Planning for upcoming youth and adult programs continued.