

2005

City of Augusta 2005 Annual Report

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Augusta



2005

ANNUAL REPORT



Vision Statement

Augusta is a world-class capital city: where entrepreneurs start, grow, and maintain a variety of businesses; where citizens pursue life-long learning in first-rate schools, libraries, historic, and cultural facilities; where residents, workers, and tourists circulate around and enjoy the Heart of Augusta – on both sides of the Kennebec River, along Water Street, and throughout the Capitol complex; where travelers appreciate the historic and natural scenery; where homebuyers and renters of all ages and incomes are drawn by safe and appealing neighborhoods, and where taxpayers enjoy competitive tax rates and superior services.

Mission Statement

The Augusta City Council shall achieve this vision by: acting as a model of teamwork and efficiency in its own deliberations; creating an ongoing partnership with state government; and organizing a responsive, flexible, and effective economic development program.



www.ci.augusta.me.us



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Mayor's Office



WILLIAM E. DOWLING
Mayor

From the Mayor's Office

Dear Resident,

The year just past has been one replete with accomplishments and developments in our community. I am happy

to report to you that your elected officials and City staff have conscientiously and energetically worked to make Augusta a better place – and been quite successful in doing so. We have, of course, contended with a variety of difficult issues and had a few disappointments but, on the whole, I feel very good about 2005.

Continuing a tradition of financial prudence, Council held the tax rate flat this past year, notwithstanding the increases in cost we all experience at work and home. We balanced the need to fairly compensate our several hundred employees with the recognition that the taxpayers' resources are limited. We completed a number of capital projects, like the reconstruction of Townsend Road; sustained the level of key services like police and fire protection, public works, parks and recreation and solid waste collection and disposal; and received substantial grant funds for homeland security, housing and community development programs.

In 2005, a number of economic development projects were advanced expanding our retail and commercial base and creating valuable new jobs. A top priority for 2006 will be to continue the momentum in this area.

As a community, we aided the hurricane stricken Gulf coast area; expanded our local resources to help the homeless and needy; worked with neighboring communities on cooperative ventures; and generously supported community betterment projects like the YMCA, Maine General Cancer Center, and new Cony High School.

As a lifelong resident of Augusta, I feel great pride in where we are at this point in our history and look forward to an exciting year ahead.

THOMAS SOTIR
WARD 1



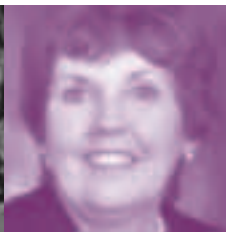
DONNA DOORE
WARD 2



DAVID GOMEAU
WARD 3



KAREN FOSTER
WARD 4



KIM DAVIS
ATLARGE



STAN KOSKI
ATLARGE



DONNA LERMAN
ATLARGE



SYLVIA LUND
ATLARGE

Many thanks to our committee members

Augusta Development Commission

John Bridge
Richard Dumont
Steve Levesque
Terrence McCabe
Jim Nimon (Chair)
Noreen Norton
Mark O'Brien
Gary Peachey

Assessment Review Board

James Chase
John Clark, Sr.
Maurice Fortin
William Leet
Anthony Pavone (Chair)

BOCA Board of Appeals

Julian Beale
Herbert Doten (Chair)
Paul Rodrigue
Stephen Roberge
Jeff Shostak

Community and Social Services Advisors

Rob Gordon (Chair)
Patricia Hutchinson
Mary Mayo-Wescott
Holly Stover
Richard Weiss
Jim Wood
Edmond Wurpel

Community Development Advisory Committee

Ellen McGuire
Gloria Morrisette
Melvin Morrison (Chair)
Anita Parent
Roger Pomerleau
Theresa Savoy
John Thiele
James Tierney, Sr.

Conservation Commission

Donald Cameron
Roberta Record
Debra Rollins
David Simard (Chair)
Rex Turner
John Harvey Versteeg

General Assistance Fair Hearing Authority

John Finnegan

Historic Preservation Commission

Tim Bolton
Richard Bridges
Anthony Douin (Chair)
Cecil Munson
Carl Smith
Phyllis von Herrlich

Housing Authority

Margaret Ayotte
Martin Cloutier
Raymond Foster
William Hanlon
Kenneth Lajoie
Donald Marchildon
Brian Marson, Jr. (Chair)
Joseph Roderick

Lithgow Library Trustees

Joan Callahan
Dr. Laurel Coleman
John Finnegan
Gabriella Howard
Susan LaCasse (Chair)
Paul Riese
Dr. Ansley Sawyer
Elizabeth Soares

Old Fort Western Trustees

Charles AuCoin
Kenneth Bryant
Linette Burns

Jeremy Jon Cameron
David Cheever
Thomas Doore
Rev. Richard Freeman
Kathy Fuller
Derek Gannett
E. Bruce Kirkham
Paul Lessard
Margaret O'Connor (Chair)
Frank O'Hara
Arlene Prescott
Genie Gannett Quist
Dorcas Riley
Mark Rohman
Daniel Stevens
Lance Tapley
Dennis Towle
Dennis Young

Parking District

John Finnegan (Chair)
Thomas Johnson
Kevin Mattson
Gary Peachey
Bruce Schatz

Planning Board

Robert Corey
Barry Cote
Steve Dumont
Richard Duncan
Paul Harris (Chair)
Andrea Lord
William McKenna
Gautrey Musk
Alison Nichols
Denise O'Toole
Paula Peddle Quirion
Gregory Scott
David Smith

Registration Appeals Board

Patsy Crockett
Linda Hadley-Rood

Frank Johnson
Louise Lerley
Joan Theberge (Chair)

Sanitary & Water Districts

Beverly Beaucauge
Diane Hastings
Kenneth Knight (Co-Chair)
Paul McClay
David Smith (Co-Chair)

School Building Committee

Bruce Boynton
Gary Burns
Raymond Halperin
Bob Moore
Richard Morin

Tree Board

Gerard Gaboury, Jr.
Virginia Goodlett
Charlene Hamiwka
David Hasselman
Richard Henry
Brian Marson, III (Chair)
Constance Packard
John Pucciarelli

Zoning Appeals Board

Chris Belanger
Tim Dennett
Peter Fortunato
Charlene Hamiwka
Paul Harris
Kenneth Knight
John Royce (Chair)
Thomas Simpson

Listing does not include
city/school officials
and staff.

City Manager's
Office



WILLIAM BRIDGEO
City Manager

Update from the City Manager

Dear Resident,

As I write this, it is a beautiful January afternoon. From my office window, I enjoy a panoramic view of the Kennebec River and downtown. Last night, the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce held its 29th annual awards dinner at the Augusta Civic Center. As I look out at the City today, I think about all the wonderful people from the greater Augusta community who were there last night and how they come together to make this the outstanding community it is. Augusta resident Norm Elvin of G&E Roofing received the Business of the Year award, former mayor and Bridgecorp president John Bridge received the Lifetime Achievement Award, and Wal-Mart general manager Gerard Tyler was named Businessperson of the Year. Downtown entrepreneur Mike Quigg, owner of Beale Street Bar-B-Q was cited as well. The businesses these men run exemplify the diverse character of the economic fabric of the City. Perhaps more important than their economic contributions, these leaders – like so many others here – place strong emphasis on giving back to the community. In 2005, Augusta progressed on many fronts. A new Cony High School has been under construction throughout the year and will open in September 2006. Ground was broken for a new \$10 million YMCA, which will also open its doors in September 2006. John Bridge has been the leader and the pace-setter for the record-setting fund drive for the Y and two dynamic Rogers – Katz and Pomerleau – led the effort to raise almost \$2 million for enhancements to the new high school. They and many others, including Linda Gagne and Mike Seitzinger, have set an inspiring example for all of us. Add to this the millions being raised locally for MaineGeneral's new Cancer Center on Old Belgrade Road (due to break ground this spring), and you're hard pressed to find a community our size undertaking so much.

The generosity and good will is not confined to home, either. After last September's hurricanes devastated the Gulf Coast, local residents formed an organization that has channeled thousands of dollars of donations to those in need, including residents of Waveland, Mississippi. Four members of the City's management team (Public Works



Director John Charest, City Engineer Lionel Cayer, Deputy Police Chief Bob Gregoire and Fire Department Battalion Chief Al Nelson) joined me in a ten-day relief mission to Waveland. While we were still in Waveland, Roger and Laurel Robillard of the Red Barn arrived with a truckload of donations that they had collected locally. A few weeks later, community volunteers Tracie Carolin and Lisa Poulliot also went there to establish contacts and help out. At Christmas, Fred Gagne and his aunt, Rita Lallemand, underwriting their own expenses, drove a truckload of presents from Augusta families to seventy grateful Waveland families. Many are determined that this is a long-term commitment.

“As I look out at the City today, I think about all the wonderful people from the greater Augusta community”

Residents' commitment to their community was also in evidence throughout last year in many other contexts. Volunteer boards and commissions addressed a wide array of complex and important issues. None worked harder, I am certain, than the Planning Board as they reviewed, studied and processed countless applications for land use permits and development projects, zoning regulations and neighborhood protection ordinance provisions. In conjunction with an ad-hoc committee created by the City Council, they drafted a comprehensive mineral extraction ordinance, approved a major expansion of the Marketplace at Augusta, worked hard on the review of another large (500,000 square feet) retail development off Western Avenue, and a dozen other major developments. In a very positive sign for the community, the Board has been working through review of the first major new housing subdivision proposal (the fifty-home Keiltyka project adjacent to the new Cony High School site) in many years – hopefully the first of a number of such middle class and upscale

housing projects we will see as the real estate market in Augusta continues to appreciate. Many other boards like the Historic Preservation Commission, Conservation Commission, Library Board and Community and Social Services Task Force worked hard throughout the year to improve the quality of life in Augusta.

The most challenging jobs from my perspective, however, come with election to the mayor and city council seats. Dynamic growth and development, balanced against a passion to protect the quality of residential life in the community, put Mayor Dowling and the City Council in the middle of a series of complex and passionate issues. In the end, June public referenda decided two of the more contentious (the Packard development proposal and the old Cony site as a Hannaford supermarket proposal) and compromise resulting from open dialogue settled others (the mineral extraction ordinance, Buker School reuse plan, elimination of soft-line zoning provisions, and Water Street Affordable Housing TIF, to name a few). The reward for dutifully dealing with those issues is, of course, a whole plateful of new issues facing them for 2006. Those include crafting a balanced budget in the face of a city-wide property revaluation that will be completed this spring; determining the extent to which supporting the restoration and reuse of the Kennebec Arsenal is appropriate; promoting the

development of the Riggs Brook area of the City; approving the finalizing of the merger of the Water and Sanitary Districts; adopting a plan for the restoration and expansion of the Lithgow Library; ensuring that the City is fully prepared to cope with natural and man-made disasters; and working with partners like the Capital Riverfront Improvement District and MDOT to address the many capital infrastructure needs Augusta has.

I feel very good about what we have accomplished as a City government in 2005. A full-service budget was passed with a zero tax rate increase – obviously in compliance with new state mandated property tax caps. Collective bargaining agreements were ratified with all our bargaining units (Firefighters are open again as of 12/31/05). Several capital improvement projects, including the reconstruction of Townsend Road by our own crews, were completed and almost \$1 million in categorical grant funds were secured (e.g. homeland security; CDBG; Fire Act). The following pages outline in greater detail, department by department, the year's progress. As in the past, I commend and sincerely thank the many dedicated City employees and community volunteers whose dedication and hard work made it all possible.



Augusta State Airport



JENI O'BRYON
Interim Manager

Augusta State Airport

The highlight of the year for the Augusta State Airport was obtaining the Airport Operating Certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This was the result of a new rulemaking, in which the Augusta State

Airport must now comply with similar safety rules that other larger, commercial service airports have in order for the airport to remain open to commercial passenger air service. The intent of this rulemaking was to insure to the traveling air passenger an equivalent level of safety during their travels, regardless of the airport they use.

The airport made many improvements during the year in order to attain FAA approval. Airport perimeter fencing was repaired, runway signage was replaced, a new beacon light was installed, fuel tank safety features were addressed, a wildlife plan was approved, the perimeter road washout was repaired, and a pavement repair project was undertaken.

In addition to these projects, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Airport, Colgan Air, and the City of Augusta Fire and Police Departments was signed. The Augusta Fire Department participated in fire drills to test the new agreement and attended an Airport Rescue and Firefighting training course offered by the airport.

The Federal Aviation Administration approved the Airport Operating Manual, also a requirement for compliance with the new rulemaking. The Transportation Security Administration approved the newly created Airport Security Plan as well.

The Airport Runway Safety Area study was completed. This study looked at the runway and its surrounding areas for compliance with additional Federal Aviation Administration safety rules. This study has been approved by the Maine Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration and recommends a runway safety area project to be undertaken in 2008. The Airport Vegetation Management Plan was also finalized. This plan identifies obstructions to the airspace the airplanes use to fly into and out of the airport, and outlines a plan for obtaining FAA waivers, easements or removal.



The Augusta Airport Master Plan was contracted to the aviation consultant firm from Boston, HNTB. This planning process, under the guidance of the Airport Advisory Board, will review and recommend airport development for the next 20-year planning period. Additionally, the airport will participate in the Maine Airport Economic Benefit Study in the upcoming year.

The Augusta State Airport is owned by the State of Maine through the Maine Department of Transportation. However, it is maintained and managed by the City of Augusta under the terms of an Agreement of Lease and Option. These terms will be re-negotiated in the upcoming year. This agreement entrusts the

operation of the airport to the City with a special provision that the City shall not be held liable for any financial deficit or obligations incurred by the airport.

Codes Bureau

The Codes Bureau has moved to the International Family of Codes and is working with both developers and designers in applying the codes within our community.

This year has seen the creation of a more complex mineral extraction ordinance and we are entering the first round of licensing on a municipal level here in Augusta.

The development of office space adjacent to the floodplain has proven to be a challenging project that has come to a successful conclusion.

The diverse commercial development continues to grow while residential subdivision activity is strengthening on several parcels as well.

Code Enforcement looks to be a very active bureau during the coming year.



City Services Department

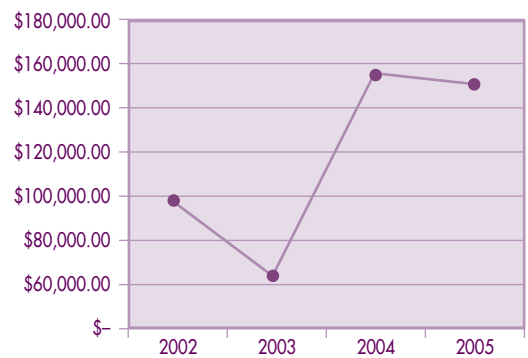


RICHARD DOLBY
Director

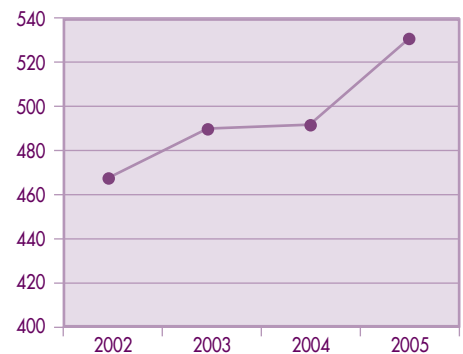
CONSTRUCTION VALUE



CONSTRUCTION FEES COLLECTED



BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED



**City Services
Department**



SCOTT KENOYER
Fleet Service Manager

Central Garage

The Central Garage operation is an Intrасervice Fund within the City budget. This means it runs like a business within City government, collecting the majority of its revenues from rental/maintenance of vehicles to various

City departments and sale of fuel (gasoline and diesel) to vehicles it owns and other agencies such as the Augusta Police and Fire Departments, Augusta School Department, and Kennebec County. These revenues are used for vehicle repairs and replacement of vehicles once they have exceeded their useful life. The goal of the Central Garage Fund is to be self-supporting, which means to be able to maintain the operating costs of the entire facility and to replace vehicles as needed with revenues collected from rentals, maintenance and the sale of fuel.

PERSONNEL Central Garage operates with a Fleet Service Manager, four technicians and a working shop foreman. We also have a parts person who maintains our parts stock inventory and enters all our data entry for workorders and preventative maintenance schedules. This person also fuels our offsite equipment. This Intrасervice Fund also shares with Public Works and Hatch Hill landfill a Dispatcher/Clerk who handles a wide variety of tasks for each bureau. We maintain approximately 120 pieces of equipment belonging to Central Garage, along with the equipment owned by Hatch Hill and the Parks and Cemeteries Department. These requirements make it a challenge for personnel to keep everything up and running and in good, safe working condition.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES In 2005, the City Council authorized the expenditure of \$275,000 from the garage revenue account for vehicle and equipment replacement. The vehicles/equipment that have been purchased to replace existing equipment listed on the nine-year vehicle replacement schedule: (1) 3/4 Ton Pickup w/dump body, (1) Recycle Truck – Cab & Chassis, (1) Sidewalk Plow, (1) Grader (used), and (1) Rubber Tire Excavator (used).



EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT Preventative maintenance is essential to running a cost-effective operation and is key to minimizing unplanned breakdowns that can result in lost time and unbudgeted repair costs. Preventative maintenance is also key to maximizing the life cycle of our equipment. We have developed a three-tier preventative maintenance system that has been very important to meeting our goals of planned repairs vs. emergency repairs. The continued commitment to upgrading the central fleet has been a plus for our operation and all users of our vehicles and equipment. It has improved production, decreased downtime, and enabled us to keep up with the latest trends in the vehicle and equipment maintenance fields.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS This year, we continued to make improvements to the Public Works Facility located on North Street. This past spring, we enlarged the Fleet Service Manager's office. This office area improvement has created a much cleaner environment and workspace and also provided space for the Shop Foreman to do daily paperwork, schedule repairs and provided better access to Technical Manuals.

A new fueling depot was constructed and built this past fall. This project cost \$100,000 and consisted of removal of the existing system, which was over 20 years old, and relocating the new system further away from the garage entrance to prevent traffic congestion and a safer work environment. The new system allows for four vehicles to fuel at once and a new computer system that will track information that pertains to each vehicle. Unit number, mileage/hours, and vehicle operator all have to be entered when fueling. This information is used to determine the scheduling of preventative maintenance, fuel consumption and the billing of each department. The new fueling depot meets all new regulations for the State's Fire Marshall's Office and Maine Department of Environmental Protection and is a much needed improvement to the facility.

Engineering & Bureau

The Engineering Bureau provides professional/technical services to the City of Augusta for its infrastructure needs relating to buildings, parks, streets, and drainage. The Engineering Bureau is responsible for the design and management of City projects. Engineering plays a large role in the evaluation and approval of other private projects, such as residential and commercial developments which are being designed and built throughout the city. Presently, the bureau staff includes the City Engineer and a Technician.



Major city projects which took place over the last year are:

Design & Construction Management Projects

- Townsend Road redesign & reconstruction
- Neighborhood Street traffic calming
- Union Street Reconstruction preliminary design
- State Street sidewalks revitalization (continued)

Coordination of City's Interests in DOT Projects:

- Memorial Bridge Rehabilitation
- Bond Brook retaining wall reconstruction
- Eastern Avenue/Cony Road intersection and traffic signal design
- Mall at Augusta off-site traffic mitigation projects

Future Projects

City Projects:

- Mill Park Phase One design and construction
- Union Street final design and construction
- Pearl Street reconstruction
- Townsend Road Streetscape

DOT Projects:

- Memorial Bridge Rehabilitation
- Eastern Avenue/Cony Road intersection and traffic signal construction
- Bond Brook Retaining Wall restoration



Along with these projects throughout the city, the Engineering Bureau also provided technical assistance to other city bureaus and public support in the following areas:

Technical Assistance/Public Support

- Review of Subdivision Plans
- Coordination with Local Utilities for Projects
- Review of Commercial Site Plans
- Driveway Location and New Culvert Approvals
- Governmental Accounting Standards Board 34 (GASB 34) Survey Updates

Records of City Public Buildings and Streets

- Topographic Information
- Street Descriptions
- Right-of-Way Locations
- Horizontal and Vertical Datum
- 1939 Survey Map
- Computerized Aerial Mapping
- Street Numbering Maps



MICHAEL DUGUAY
Director

Economic & Community Development

The Office of Economic and Community Development enjoyed another busy year representing the city as it con-

tinues to navigate its way through a multitude of major development proposals that will undoubtedly help to shape the future of Augusta.

The city's extraordinary retail boom – which could produce nearly a million square feet of new development in the city's retail zones – continued in 2005, as two substantial projects moved forward.

At the MarketPlace of Augusta, activity was dominated by the planning and initial construction of the next phase of what has become the largest open-air shopping center in the state. When complete, 'Phase III' will add more than 500,000 new square feet of stores to the already impressive MarketPlace lineup. In 2005, developer SR Weiner completed construction on a new Kohl's department store, to be followed quickly by the opening of Dick's Sporting Goods, Circuit City, and Red Robin Restaurant. Preliminary approval for the next stage of 'Phase III' was also gained in 2005.



Just south of the MarketPlace on Interstate 95 will be the new 500,000 square foot 'Augusta Crossing' retail development, which is planned to feature noted anchors such as Target and Lowe's. In 2005, the proposed project continued to make its way through the City's planning process, as staff worked diligently with Packard Development to capture this new investment while working to mitigate its impact on the surrounding neighborhoods and traffic corridors. Late in the year, the project gained preliminary approval and it is anticipated that construction will commence in 2006.

Across the Kennebec River, to the east side of the city, a third major retail project continued to take shape. A proposal by Hannaford and Cony LLC calls for the construction of a 47,000 square foot supermarket on a portion of the site currently occupied by Cony High School, which will close its doors in favor of a new high school in 2006. In 2005, the developer submitted an application to rezone the parcels for commercial use and offered an initial concept of their site plan to the public. Again, city staff worked carefully with Cony LLC and Hannaford on aesthetics and traffic patterns to ensure the city gains this new investment while also protecting the interests of the surrounding neighborhoods, and perhaps as importantly, ensuring that the development only enhances the future reuse of the City's iconic and much valued Flatiron Building.

Growth in 2005 was not strictly limited to the retail sector. Two major proposals in the city's northwest quadrant foretold the continuing diversification of the local economy.

The Central Maine Commerce Center, familiar to most residents as the former Sanmina-SCI, continued its evolution throughout 2005 from a former manufacturing plant to a world-class business facility with a varied stable of tenants. State agencies, in particular, have taken advantage of the building's renaissance, as more government functions consolidate under the roof of the massive 300,000 square foot facility. Further, CMCC owners, Harper's Development, moved in 2005 to cement the site as one of the preeminent commercial locations in the state. Harper's gained preliminary approval from the City for an eighteen-lot business park subdivision (on the approximately 100 acres that surrounds the existing facility) that now becomes the newest frontier for commercial and industrial development in Augusta.

Just north of the CMCC, MaineGeneral Health received preliminary City approval for the construction of the Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care on the Old Belgrade Road. The planned 50,000 square-foot facility will be a state-of-the-art outpatient regional cancer center serving 180,000 people in 68 communities, testament to both MaineGeneral's comprehensive services and the City's role as a service center for the entire Central Maine region. Construction is planned to commence in early 2006, with a July 2007 opening expected.

Another area where significant gains were made in 2005 is the city's promising downtown, now becoming known as 'Augusta's Riverfront' thanks to the regional marketing efforts of a collection of downtown merchants.

The Riverfront Business Group continued to lead the way with collaboration on events and promotions aimed at reintroducing visitors to Augusta's unique downtown, including special sales promotions and critical support to such City programming as the annual Christmas tree lighting.

Businesses and agencies also flocked to the waterfront in 2005. One hundred twenty employees of the Maine State Housing Authority returned to the downtown after renovation and expansion of their Water Street home was completed. The popular Visage Salon relocated to a new storefront at 312 Water Street, and as the year ended, improvements were underway at the former Hazel Green's as it prepared for the opening of Delia's Irish Pub in early 2006.

To support the downtown's continued resurgence, City staff wrote a successful grant application in 2005 to the state's Community Development Block Grant program for \$125,000 to support the establishment of a matching grant program that helps to fund façade improvements to commercial properties on Water Street. As the year ended, the first improvement projects began, including attractive new storefronts for Pavlov's Music and the former Laverdiere's building. More projects are anticipated in 2006.

Staff also logged significant hours in 2005 on two major downtown housing projects that will unquestionably bring further vitality to the City's riverfront.



Realty Resources continued to advance its plans for a 24-unit housing project, supported by funding provided by the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA), to be located in the former Central Maine Power warehouse on north Water Street. In 2005, Realty Resources gained the support of the City Council, leading to the establishment of an Affordable Housing Tax Increment Financing District that will help fund the project. As the year progressed, the project won final approval of the Planning Board and, after local permitting is completed, construction is expected to begin in early spring of 2006.

Staff also worked closely with Neimann Capital of Durham, NC on its proposal to redevelop the historic Kennebec Arsenal on the eastern banks of the Kennebec River. Plans call for the full renovation of all existing buildings on the site, primarily for residential units, with a limited mixture of professional/commercial units. Long-term plans suggest the construction of additional residential buildings as well. The plan was accelerated in 2005 by the receipt of a federal grant aimed at the preservation of historic sites like the Arsenal; the funds were used to restore the riverbank that fronts the site, including the reestablishment of a stone wall.

Residential development, a longstanding goal of the City Council, also gained steam in other areas of the community in 2005, an extremely welcomed occurrence for a city that lost population in the 1990's.

Perhaps most notable of these is the proposed 'Fieldstone Place', a 58-unit single-family housing subdivision proposed by developer William Kieltyka on a site adjacent to the new Cony High School. As 2005 came to a close, the developer made preliminary presentations of his plans to the City's Planning Board, and it is envisioned the plan will go on to receive the necessary approvals so that initial construction can begin in 2006. Concurrently, on Leighton Road, construction is also expected to commence on a 35-unit MSHA-funded apartment complex.

As we move into the New Year, staff continues to receive and address further serious proposals on the development of as many as 75 residential units at various locations throughout the city, which would serve the needs of a broad array of income levels. We can be assured that with these community development activities, as well as our standard business retention, expansion and attraction duties, we'll have an equally busy and exciting 2006.

**City Services
Department**



MICHAEL DUGUAY
City Services Director

Facilities & Systems Bureau

The Facilities and Systems Bureau oversees the maintenance, repairs and required annual servicing of all the systems that are necessary to operate the buildings overseen by this bureau. The bureau oversees the City

Center, Lithgow Library, Police Department and the Fire Department buildings. This bureau also oversees the streetlights leased from Central Maine Power Company, the city-owned streetlights and also the oversight of the traffic signal maintenance throughout the city.

This past year, efforts were focused on making significant upgrades to the HVAC systems at both City Center and Augusta Police Department. In regard to City Center, the first steps were taken to replace the original heat pumps that make up the HVAC system and all system ductwork was professionally cleaned. The Augusta Police Department facility received a new central air conditioning system on the first floor, along with new heat controls, and the work to install air conditioning on the second floor was just about complete by the end of 2005. Both these projects were funded with 2005 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds.

The bureau also saw the addition of the Buker School to its portfolio. The City Council appropriated \$100,000 for substantial improvements at that facility ranging from the replacement of all fire extinguishers to the installation of a new boiler. These needed changes will allow Buker School to be utilized by the community to continue its commitment to educational and recreational programming. At the conclusion of the year, staff was working diligently to secure tenants to occupy Buker School by direction of the Buker School Reuse Committee.



The City took another step in telecommunication based maintenance services. More specifically, it saw the deployment late in the year of a fiber optic connection of traffic signal controllers starting from the Leighton Road, traveling up to State Street and down Cony Street to City Center. This will allow staff to remotely monitor that portion of the traffic signalization system for better coordination. On that same note, all of the major City buildings received upgrades in their heating automation systems so that critical elements of operations can be remotely monitored by staff.

The year also saw some changes in personnel as well. Thomas Reed, Manager of Facilities and Buildings, left late in the year to pursue other professional opportunities. Tom was instrumental in making structural changes in how the City contracted for maintenance services and instituted many systemized protocols. We were very fortunate to have his expertise and wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors. We were equally as fortunate to be able to hire back Robert LaBreck, who had previously held the position of Manager of Facilities and Buildings until 2003.

We also saw the retirement of Stefan Bidanec, who had provided custodial services to Lithgow Library for many years. Stefan's commitment and service to the City were greatly appreciated and we wish him the best of luck in his retirement! Michael Stebbins was hired to fill the vacancy left by Stefan.

Augusta Historic Preservation Commission

On December 17, 2004, commission member Mary Maher McCarthy passed away. Hully, as she was widely known, had a great love for Augusta and its rich history. She was an active member and generous benefactor to Old Fort Western and the Kennebec Historical Society. She was an active preservationist saving the historic Johnson-Baker-Shelton House at 61 Winthrop Street. Her death was a great loss to the City and this Commission. Tim Bolton, who is a member of the West Side Neighbors group, was appointed to fill the vacancy. Also joining the commission was Cecil Munson who filled a vacancy caused by the resignation of Carl Smith. Other members of the commission include Anthony Douin, Phyllis von Herrlich, and Richard Bridges.

Some of the activities of the commission during 2005 include:



■ Stabilization of the City-owned historic mill workers' house at 25 Bond Street. This structure was built around 1878 by the Sprague Mill and is symbolic of the type of dwelling Franco-American and other mill workers lived in while employed at the Sprague and later Edwards Mill. It forms a major part of the historic Bond Street neighborhood of mill workers' housing, which is on the Maine Preservation most endangered historic property list. The commission strongly advocated measures to stabilize and protect the building and the City Council appropriated \$5,000, including funds from the Historic Preservation for stabilization of the building. The Council established the 25 Bond Street Committee to oversee the work, which was done by John Kennedy Builders of Hallowell in 2004. As part of that stabilization effort, window murals were placed to secure the building and to provide a more pleasing appearance. These windows were painted by Jane Burke and volunteers.

- Rewriting the City's Historic Preservation Ordinance to make it easier to designate Historic Districts within the City and to streamline some of the administrative processes in the current ordinance. This process is currently ongoing and we hope to have the changes adopted during 2006.
- Develop a Museum in the Streets program. This will consist of at least 30 interpretive signs designating historic sites and landmarks in the City Center and downtown areas along a specified walking trail. There will also be two larger interpretive signs discussing the trail and the historic features of the trail. This project is scheduled to be completed by September 2006.
- A number of historic house marker plaques were placed this year. Those were granted at the owner's request.
- Three members of the commission attended a conference and workshop sponsored by Maine Preservation in Hallowell in February where nationally-known experts and consultants discussed historic preservation and its role as an economic development tool. The knowledge gained from that training has been used in our work with the community to help people see the value and promise of historic preservation for the City.

The Commission looks forward to working with the City Council, City Center staff and the community in the continuing enhancement of the City's historical sites and culture.



**City Services
Department**



BRUCE KELLER
City Planner

Planning Bureau

The following report summarizes the project review activities of the Planning Board and highlights major undertakings of the Planning Bureau during 2005.

Membership & Staff The Planning Board consists of up to nine members, all of whom are residents of the City appointed by the Mayor. Membership of the 2005 Board dropped to seven members during the first part of the year and was again up to full strength by the end of the year.

City Planner Bruce Keller provided professional staffing to the Board; and Linda Novak, Martha Burns, and Anita Whitehouse within the Department of City Services provided clerical support.

Planning Board Meetings In 2005, the Planning Board held 21 meetings, including 17 regular meetings, 2 special meetings, and 2 workshop meetings. The Board reviewed 53 applications altogether this year; about the same as last year. The table below summarizes the applications decided by the Board from 2002 through 2005:

Board Members
Paul Harris, Chairman
Robert Corey (starting May)
Barry Cote
Steve Dumont (starting November)
Richard Duncan, Vice Chair
Andrea Lord, Clerk/Secretary
Bill McKenna (starting July)
Gautrey Musk (ending March)
Alison Nichols (starting July)
Denise O'Toole (ending February)
Paula Quirion (ending May)
Gregory Scott
David Smith (ending September)

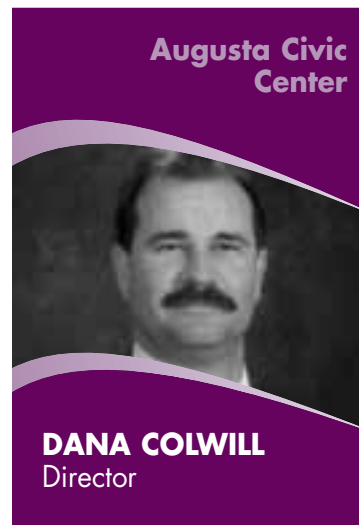
Planning Board Applications	2002	2003	2004	2005
Conditional Use/Special Exceptions (new/expanded/amended)	19	14	30	25
Rezoning (zoning map changes)	2	3	9	1
Land Use Ordinance Text Amendments	7	5	3	5
New Subdivisions (final)	4	5	1	5
Subdivisions (amended)/Resubdivisions	2	2	3	5
Major Developments (new/amended)	6	1	1	10
Petition/Waiver Requests	2	1	4	1
Design Review	-	-	-	1

Basic Population Tracking The most recent population estimate comes from the U.S. Census, which estimated that as of July 1st of last year (2004), Augusta had a nighttime population of 18,631. This is compared to a 2000 Census population of 18,560. Also, for the first time, the U.S. Census estimated the daytime worker population of Augusta, based on commuting questions from the 2000 Census. According to that data, in 2000, Augusta had a daytime worker population of 35,371.

Update of Comprehensive Plan Underway Augusta's existing plans: 1988 Growth Management Plan and the 1996 Capital Action Plan (which included a Transportation Plan and an Open Space, Public Access, and Outdoor Recreation Plan) need to be updated and unified into a single plan for the City. In November 2005, the City Council created a special ad-hoc committee called the Comprehensive Plan Update "Process" Committee, whose task is to recommend the overall "process" for updating the plan, including the structure of the committee that would draft the new plan. The new group, called the Comprehensive Planning Committee, would draft the new plan and their final draft would be turned over to the Augusta Planning Board. The Planning Board, which is designated as the City's Planning Committee, is ultimately responsible for Augusta's Comprehensive Plan. The Board will make any necessary changes to the final draft of the new Comprehensive Plan and present the new Plan to the City Council for adoption as formal city policy. The process is anticipated to take 18 to 24 months.

Augusta Civic Center

Our thirty-second year of operation was a very good one. After a very difficult 2004, the Augusta Civic Center bounced back with a positive operating budget in FY 05. This year the building generated a record revenue of \$2,883,512 versus \$2,755,937 in operating expenses; a surplus of \$127,575. Revenues for this year were up \$296,645 and expenses were down \$46,714 from FY 2004. Overall, 2005 was a very solid year for the Civic Center.



DANA COLWILL
Director

Main Auditorium Event Report (July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005)

	Events	Days Rented
July	5	13
August	4	7
September	13	20
October	9	19
November	10	16
December	9	13
January	14	21
February	6	20
March	11	19
April	9	26
May	16	21
June	8	17
TOTALS	114	212

Major events during fiscal year 2005

July:	Slipknot/Slayer Concert Boston Concert
August:	The Beach Boys Concert
September:	Kid Rock Concert Lynard Skynard Concert
December:	Boston Pops Christmas Concert Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker, Brad Paisley, Sarah Evans and Andy Griggs Concert
January:	Western Maine Cheering Competition, KVAC Cheering Competition
February:	State High School Basketball Tournament, State High School Wrestling Competition
April:	Shrine Circus
May:	Alison Kraus Concert
June:	Five High School Graduations

The following are informational items for the Civic Center from July 2004 through June 2005:

The civic center hosted eight concerts in fiscal year 2005, including Boston, Slipknot/Slayer, Beach Boys, Kid Rock, Lynard Skynard, Boston Pops, Brad Paisley/Sarah Evans and Alison Kraus. Retention of annual events, such as trade shows, banquets and conferences, remained strong thanks to the fine customer service provided by the ACC staff. The Civic Center has entered into a five-year contract with the Maine Principals Association to host the Eastern Maine High School Basketball Tournament beginning in February 2006. We will lose the Class B Western Maine Tournament to Portland, however, we are retaining the class C and D Western Maine Tournament. We exceeded \$50,000 in advertising sales inside the main auditorium and main lobby. Two full-time positions were eliminated during the 2005 fiscal year. We currently have 17 full-time employees. This change has had a large impact on the operating budget and is the main reason expenses were down from 2004. The auditorium usage decreased by 2 days compared to FY 2004 but auditorium revenues were up \$15,565.

**Community Services
Department**



LEIF ERIK DAHLIN
Director

Community Services Administration

What an exciting year it has been for the Community Services Department in 2005. City Council and the residents of Augusta made some very significant decisions this year and one of those was the disposition of

the former Buker Middle School. City Council, based on a dynamic public process, decided to keep Buker in the City's inventory and to utilize this facility consistent with the deed restrictions. The Buker School is now the Buker Center wherein the facility will serve and benefit the community as a recreation center through the City's Recreation Bureau, a new home for the Augusta Boys and Girls Club and a center for continued learning by providing educational opportunities through local community colleges and other institutions of learning.

The City's Eastside Boat Landing Park received a major face-lift this year with the removal of the old playground structure and installation of state-of-the-art playground structures. This was a major improvement to the Eastside Boat Landing Park.

The Lithgow Library Board of Trustees has renewed their efforts to move forward with the Library expansion project. City Council appropriated approximately half the funds necessary for the development of blue prints and building plans that take the concept that was presented to City Council several years ago to the next step. Developing detailed plans is a critical piece in taking the next steps to making the expansion project a reality.

The seven bureaus of the Community Services Department are: Childcare, Health and Welfare, Lithgow Public Library, Old Fort Western, Parks and Cemeteries, Recreation, and Trees and Landscape.

Boards and Committees: The Community Services Department staff works with a number of boards and committees made up (for the most part) of Augusta residents. It is through these boards and committees that we get much of our direction and input. These stakeholders provide us with a great deal of time, commitment, energy, expertise and perspective that helps us out immensely. Without these individuals and collective groups, it would be far more difficult to provide the services that we do. In addition to the following committees, the Community Services Department also works with numerous ad-hoc committees and external organizations:

Augusta Tree Board, Cable TV Committee, CARA (Capital Area Recreation Association), Conservation Commission, Lithgow Library Board of Trustees, Old Fort Western Board of Trustees, and Recreation Committee.

Mission of the Community Services Department:

Augusta Community Services Department believes recreational, educational, childcare, historical, health and welfare, cultural and leisure time activities enhance the quality of life for citizens of this community. We are dedicated to protecting, preserving and enhancing our park system and natural resources. We meet the demands of the community through effective use of financial and human resources. Our professional staff and volunteers design and deliver quality activities and services to all people. We are committed to sound fiscal policies. There are a number of administrative and operational functions and activities the staff of the Community Services Department does to carry out the mission of the department. The following is what we do and how we do it:

- Provide critical links between the City Manager's Office, City Council and Bureaus
- Provide clerical, administrative and budget support, as well as management oversight, to seven bureaus
- Work and coordinate activities with other City departments
- Assist in allocating human, fiscal, and physical resources
- Assist City Manager with project work
- Provide technical and professional support to City Council
- Communicate with the public, including taxpayers, residents, businesses, as well as social and service organizations
- Create an environment that enhances and encourages staff development and performance
- Provide support to various boards and committees
- Strive to provide the best possible customer service to the citizens of Augusta
- Strive to enhance the Quality-of-Life of the residents of Augusta.

Bicentennial Nature Park

Once again, I was blessed to bring the full service of community services to the residents of Augusta through the Bicentennial Nature Park. The warm summer sun and cool water of Three-Cornered Pond provided the backdrop for hours of fun and relaxation for over 5,000 Augusta residents, their children, friends and family. This was the fifth season of operation. By all accounts, this season was the most successful season to date even though the month of June was a complete wash, weather wise. The park saw the most visitors since it first opened, totaling just over 5,000, an increase of 25%. Group use rose significantly again this year and we plan to further accommodate those wishing to utilize the park's scenic values in 2006. Many new faces were seen at the park this summer and indications are that residents are still learning about the park's existence. Bicentennial Nature Park has established itself as Augusta's swimming hole for the locals.

Mission accomplished!

The park's summer season started off cold and chilly, which led to a slow start to the season. Work was carried out to insulate the park's waterline, as well as transfer the pressure tank and distribution lines into the park's new facility office. The consolidation of this infrastructure will free up space in the bathroom storage area, as well as provide a safeguard to the drinking water distribution system. The picnic area was increased to accommodate group use, and five new picnic tables were purchased. Park staff built new signs to denote trail heads and bathrooms. The park also built several new benches, one of which was incorporated into the new smoking area adjacent to the parking lot. The most sizable improvement undertaken this season was the replacement of the cabin's septic tank, which was outdated and in need of replacement before failure occurred. This task was carried out by the very professional staff at public works lead by Gary Tondreau and assisted by Huck Prescott, Mark White, and Tom Brown. Thanks guys! Mulch for the project was provided by Hatch Hill and labor by the Kennebec County Jail volunteers.



Special training was carried out with park staff Jessica Dow in order that she could return in 2006 with a leading role. Support staff from the Community Services Office also played a huge role in helping to coordinate park events throughout the summer. Thanks to Leif, Wendy, and Jackie!

With the increase in attendance, the staff is ever motivated to continue the professional effort they put forth to the residents and it shows

on the visitors' faces. The park employed three very capable college students full time: Evan Stout, Jessica Dow, Marc Turgeon; and Mike Beach worked part-time. Their experience, professionalism, pride, enthusiasm and dedication to the community played a key role in visitor satisfaction again this year.

We at Bicentennial Nature Park will continue to strive toward excellence as Augusta's premier nature park and local swimming hole. Take advantage of all we offer this coming summer, bring your friends and family out to the park and enjoy what thousands of residents already do.

Community Services Department



LEO ST. PETER
Park Manager

Accomplishments

Several other factors also played a role in the park's increased popularity, such as the park's improved facilities:

Bigger sites

Improved infrastructure

New grills and more tables, including one oversized site for group use

New ropes for the bigger swim area

A winter snowshoe clinic was again held at the park with over 20 participants



Community Services
Department



KAREN COX
Director

Childcare Bureau

The population of children that the city serves in the City of Augusta-Childcare Bureau are those children whose parents are either working or in training and would go home to an empty house. They are not the population of

children that are failing in school or in need of enrichment a couple times a week, which some After School Programs target. Care is offered anytime that school is NOT in except for federal holidays.

The City of Augusta-Childcare Bureau provides 60 children each day with Before School Programs and 120 children each day with quality After School Programs. Before and After School Programs are offered at Gilbert, Farrington and Lincoln Elementary Schools. Summer Care, which averages 100 children per week, has been offered at Buker Community Center.

The goal of the Childcare Bureau is to provide a safe environment where social and emotional development, as well as academic success, is supported. The Before and After School programs offer a safe place for students to spend time with adults and peers, engaged in fun and enriching activities and recreational sports.



After School programs are different depending on population, number of children, space, facility, type of program, staff training and leadership. In spite of these differences, people who work with children share an ultimate goal of helping all children develop to their fullest potential. Training of staff, increasing public awareness of the need, and advocating in local and state governments are a part of the work that must be done by school-age childcare professionals now and in the future.

In a recent report on the Municipal Leadership for Expanded Learning Opportunities Project, it was stated that recent surveys and interviews conducted by the National League of Cities document that municipal leaders are deeply concerned about the

availability of high quality after school programs in their communities. In a 2003 survey of 501 municipal officials, respondents indicated that if they had the resources to do more, they would focus on creating more after school and childcare opportunities, as well as recreation, enrichment and mentoring programs. After school programs have remained a constant concern for local elected officials since 1995.

Among the other key findings from the 2003 survey:

Twenty-two percent of local elected officials named After School Programs as the most critical need for children and families in their communities. Sixty-five percent of respondents in large cities (over 100,000) said their municipalities provided direct After School Services, up from 49% in 1996. Thirty-five percent of elected officials said their cities' offerings of After School Programs are less than adequate for local children and families. Mayors and city council members recognize the critical link between quality of life, the economic viability of cities, and the availability of high quality After School Programs. They want to know that city residents possess the skills needed to succeed in the 21st century workplace and, ultimately, to contribute to the tax base of their communities.



The City of Augusta's Childcare Bureau is funded through private fees (69%), Department of Human Services-Day Care Slot Grant (5%), A.S.P.I.R.E. (9%), and Childcare Voucher Program (17%). There are no direct tax dollars allocated for Childcare.

Health & Welfare Bureau

Always on call...

The City of Augusta, Bureau of Health and Welfare continues to serve as the "safety net" for those in our community who find themselves without the ability to provide basic necessities for their household either due to an emergency situation or an ongoing and unforeseen change in circumstances. We administer the General Assistance Program in offices located at Augusta City Center and are available to the public weekdays, Monday through Friday. We provide walk-in service – an appointment is not necessary. We can be reached by phone at 626-2325, or in an after-hours emergency situation, by calling the Augusta Police Department who will contact us with your message.



The current levels of General Assistance for the City of Augusta as of 10/1/05 through 9/30/06:

No. People/Per Month	1	2	3	4	5
Overall Maximum	\$415	\$519	\$622	\$840	\$898
Housing Maximum	\$375	\$455	\$560	\$764	\$816

Explanation: It should be noted the Housing Maximums stated include heat, hot water and electricity. The Housing Maximums are part of the Overall Maximums, which are the maximum amount of assistance a household can receive during a 30-day period. Any income available to the household during the 30-day period is deducted from the Overall Maximum in determining the net amount of assistance the household is eligible to receive.

Our concerns...

A year ago, our main concern for those in need in our community was the increasing difficulty in finding affordable housing in the Augusta area. This year, we are additionally and acutely concerned with the escalating cost of fuel for heating and gasoline for transportation. Every one of us is affected, but for low-income households, the burden is overwhelming, and for many, unsolvable without assistance.

The State, municipalities, businesses, churches and community and statewide organizations have all recognized that a major crisis exists and are swiftly gathering in funds and resources to help those most in need. The result is a vast network operating to assure that assistance will be available – that no one will need to be without a warm place to live during our cold Maine winters.

The Augusta Bureau of Health and Welfare will continue to offer direct and prompt services to eligible Augusta residents and will also continue to actively network with other agencies and programs to help our applicants access all other possible resources and services that may further assist them.

Augusta General Assistance Program Expenditures As Reported to Maine Department of Health and Human Service				
EXPENDITURES FOR CLIENT SERVICES:	FY 2005		FY 2004	
Housing, Energy, Fuel	\$59,664	80.0%	\$41,382	83.0%
Food, Clothing, Etc	\$7,475	10.0%	\$5,675	11.0%
Medical, RX, Burials	\$7,558	10.0%	\$2,924	6.0%
TOTAL:	\$74,697	100.0%	\$49,981	100.0%
FUNDING SOURCES FOR ABOVE:	FY 2005		FY 2004	
State of Maine, DHS	\$37,348	50.0%	\$24,991	50.0%
SSI Interim Asst. Reimb.	\$14,460	19.0%	\$5,648	11.0%
Net Cost to Augusta	\$22,889	31.0%	\$19,342	39.0%
TOTAL:	\$74,697	100.0%	\$49,981	100.0%

**Community Services
Department**



ELIZABETH POHL
Director

Lithgow Public Library

"A building committee was appointed, consisting of James W. Bradbury, Chairman; Charles E. Nash, Secretary;

Joseph H. Manley and Richard E. Goodwin. The senior member of the firm of architects, Joseph L. Neal, met the building committee on the 11th and 12th of December, with the amended design as accepted by the Trustees, and was commissioned to prepare and perfect working plans based thereon."

– Charles E. Nash, Secretary to the Lithgow Library Building Committee, 1896.



In its 110th year of service to the Augusta community, the Lithgow Public Library:

Attracted 123,625 visitors, for a monthly average of 10,300 people

Circulated 163,230 books, periodicals and audiovisual items, a 9.7% increase over 2004

Answered 6,500 reference questions, 15% by telephone and e-mail

Provided 10,750 hours of usage on 10 public access computers

Created and produced 240 programs for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, children and teens, including story times, knitting, theater, film and book discussions, and the annual summer reading program

Sponsored 30 musical and educational programs for adults, hosted a monthly book discussion group, and provided free computer training to the public

Presented monthly outreach programs to residents of six elder care facilities

Participated in on-line requesting of materials through Minerva and Maine Info Net, resulting in 14,935 interlibrary loan transactions, a 56% increase over last year

Along with five other Augusta libraries, presented our second "one book" community program, A Capital Read 2005. Over 1,500 people in the area read *The Lobster Chronicles*, by Linda Greenlaw, and 500 people attended the 16 related programs in March

Won the Judge's Choice award in the Fourth of July Parade, for the Book Cart Drill Team's amazing dragon

Worked towards the desperately-needed expansion and renovation by requesting the appointment of a Building Committee and funds to begin the design phase



Recreation Bureau

The City of Augusta Recreation Bureau offered a number of activities in 2005. We had 300 kids playing in our Youth Soccer Program, along with 225 kids playing in the fall football league. We also had 240 kids playing basketball this winter. Other programs offered through the Recreation Bureau are baton lessons, youth cheerleading, karate, judo, lacrosse, field hockey, adult volleyball, adult basketball league, Pee Wee Sports for children ages 3 – 5, and a number of adult trips offered monthly.

The Summer Playground Program was active again this year, with 150 kids registered at four local playgrounds (Williams Park, Cunningham Park, McCall Park, and Calumet Park). We also had a collaborative effort with the Kennebec Valley YMCA to operate our three city pools.

This past summer the Waterfront Wednesday concerts were a huge success with seven groups performing throughout the summer on the waterfront. In the fall, we had a collaborative effort with the Augusta Jaycees to offer the Haunted House at Buker School during Halloween.

A number of sports clinics and leagues were offered throughout the summer, including basketball, soccer, track and field, football, field hockey, golf, tennis, and lacrosse.

Community Services Department



BRUCE CHASE
Director



One of the new and exciting things happening in the Recreation Bureau is the opening of Buker Center (former Buker School). We have been able to offer a number of new program through the center. We have a Toddler Time Gym Program, Kids Night Out, Adult Open Gym, Home School Gym, Arts and Crafts Programs, Wrestling Program, along with a Game Room and Pre-School Room. The Boys and Girls Club Teen Center is also located at Buker Center for teens in the community. We also have meeting space at Buker Center for groups to hold meetings.

Many of our activities were made possible through the cooperation of the Augusta School Department, which makes the gyms available for use for recreational programs. We would also like to thank all of the volunteers that donated their time throughout the year to make our programs a success for everyone in our community. Cooperation with local sports associations and service clubs also help to expand program offerings through the sharing of facilities and other services.

In 2006, we have a number of new and exciting programs that we will be offering at Buker Center, and the Recreation Advisory Board will help us with the planning and development of more programs for the community.



Community Services
Department



JAY ADAMS
Director and Curator

Old Fort Western

Protect, preserve, interpret...

These are the first three words of the Fort's mission statement. They are the most important words in the

statement for they define the nature of the community service the Trustees, the Directors of the Old Fort Western Fund, the volunteers and the staff work to provide.

Protect means to safeguard one of the symbols of the City, the Fort's 1754 National Historic Landmark main house. Older than America, the main house represents more than 250 years of people and places, hopes and aspirations, continuity and change that bind the residents of Augusta into a civic body. During 2005, the main house, and the surrounding buildings and grounds, were better protected thanks to: **investments in improved and expanded electronic and physical security**, better drainage, **a stabilized upper riverbank in front of the Fort**, and the successful completion of a four-year project to lower moisture levels in the main house cellars.

A combination of local, state and federal funds was used to make these projects happen.

Preserve means to make certain that the main house, and again by extension, the associated buildings and grounds, are maintained using methods and materials that meet or exceed the highest standards for historic structures. Chief among preservation projects in 2005 was the installation of support timbers in the main house cellars to supplement the original first-floor frame. Done under the watchful eyes of the National Park Service and the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, with the assistance of Taylor Engineering Associates and members of the City's Engineering and Codes Bureaus, and funded in part by a grant from the National Park Service, the project brought the main house into structural codes compliance by supporting, not replacing, the original beams and joists.



Apprentice Program Graduates, August 18, 2005.

Preserve also means to locate, acquire if possible, and then conserve and care for military supplies, equipment and records, storekeeping records, and household furnishings associated with Fort history. To that end, during 2005, the Fort: **acquired through the kind donation of Bradley C. Maxim and family of Texas one of two card table inventoried in the main house in 1799**, using private donations, had the table professionally conserved and, **arranged to have a duplicate made to more accurately furnish the house exhibit.**

In addition, the Fort and the current Michigan owners teamed-up to conduct a conservation assessment of one of the four surviving account books from the Howard Store at the Fort. Final conservation decisions are pending.



Interpret means to help the public better understand the Fort's (and by extension, the City's) history against the backdrop of early Maine and New England and to connect that historical experience to our own as well as to future lives and times. During 2005, the Fort: devoted its Winter Lecture Series to an examination of how Maine has changed and is changing, provided free programming to 1,627 Augusta students (and paid programming to 13,437 students from out-of-town), saw 4,800 visitors from 45 states and five foreign countries, introduced a new Junior Interpreter's Club as a follow-up to the popular Summer Apprentice Program to train young people interested in history, research, and museum-education methods and, in association with the Parks and Cemeteries Bureau and the Kennebec Historical Society, conducted tours to other places of historical interest in and around Augusta using the Old Fort Western/Go Augusta Trolleys.



Volunteers spread mulch along upper riverbank in front of Fort. The project was partly funded by a Maine Department of Transportation Gateway Grant.

Very nearly all the cost of this interpretive programming was paid for using funds raised privately by the Old Fort Western Fund.

Thanks to Augusta resident Bruce Kirkham, who completed his term of service on the Board of Trustees during 2005. Congratulations to City residents Jeremy Cameron and Mark A. Rohman, who were appointed to the Board by the Mayor and City Council during the year. And thanks to the other Trustees, all Friends of Old Fort Western, City staff, and all other Augusta residents for their continuing aid, participation and confidence in support of providing community service by protecting, preserving and interpreting Old Fort Western.

Old Fort Western Learning Gallery, City Hall, Cony Street, Augusta
 All programs are free and all begin at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted

**Community Services
Department**



ANNA D. BLODGETT
Director

Bureau of Parks & Cemeteries

This bureau maintains the rotaries, parks, playgrounds, flower gardens, swimming pools, tennis courts, basketball courts, athletic fields and the city's 17 cemeteries. Under a contract with the School Department, we main-

tain all school grounds and prepare the fields for all middle school and high school athletics.

In October 2005, the Trees and Landscape Bureau was consolidated into the Parks and Cemeteries Bureau. **Leo St. Peter** is City Arborist under this bureau, as well as manager of Bicentennial Nature Park. The other full-time employees are: Foremen – **Dan Gerrard** and **Christopher Blodgett**. Skilled laborers – **Andy Chavarie** and **George Caret**. We hire approximately 35 seasonal employees for our busy three-season workload.

Parks

Our flower gardens were beautiful again this year with the oversight and planning by **Karen Cadwell**. In October, I presented Scott Longfellow of Longfellow Greenhouses in Manchester with a plaque in appreciation for his donations of the majority of our annuals for our flower gardens each year.

Two huge projects this year for the Parks Bureau were new playground equipment at the Eastside Boat Landing Park and the resurfacing of Buker athletic fields.

The playground, which was purchased from Miracle Playground Equipment Company, is a wonderful addition to the park. New benches were installed around the area for better supervision by parents. Another smaller playground will be installed during 2006 at Cunningham Park on North Street.

The Buker project was prompted by the loss of athletic fields due to the construction of a new YMCA at Capitol Park. The Buker field will now be our premier field and home to numerous school sports.

The Greenway Trail (between Eastside Boat Landing Park and beyond the Arsenal) was given much attention



this past fall. Brush cutting to widen the trail and new surfacing greatly improved this area. The numerous floodings on the Kennebec pushed the completion date to late fall. This work was done through funds from a Greenway grant. New signage and more benches will complete this project in the spring.





Other parks projects during 2005:

Holiday decorations throughout the City.
(Changes were made to enhance the rotaries this year. They may still be accident prone, but they did look better!)

Purchased new mowing equipment

Repairs at McCall and Calumet pools

Downtown Holiday Tree Lighting and Fireworks

Smokey's Greater Shows at Edwards Mill Site

4th of July Fireworks

Maintained Blaine Memorial Park by contract with the State

United Way Day of Caring

Earth Day city parks projects by Hannaford and Shaw's employees

Gage Street Skate Park Improvements

Ice Skating Rinks

Youth Memorial Park road and parking lot paved



Cemeteries

Our big accomplishment for 2005 was the new entrance to Mt. Hope Cemetery. This was an unplanned project necessitated by a truck backing into the columns and destroying them. With new cobblestone columns and rebuilt iron arches, this entrance looks beautiful.

Other cemetery projects during 2005 were:

Memorial Day preparations, Foundations for new monuments, Set government markers, Fertilized many areas, Paved two roads in Mt. Hope Cemetery, and Maintained Old St. Mary's Cemetery by contract.

There were 53 burials in City-owned cemeteries in 2005.

**Community Services
Department**



LEIF ERIK DAHLIN
Director

Bureau of Trees & Landscape

In 2005, the City of Augusta attained Tree City USA status for the 11th consecutive year. We also received our 6th consecutive Growth Award. These awards are presented by the National Arbor Day Foundation and

are based on four national standards. The standards for the Tree City USA Award include:

A Tree Board or Department

A Tree Care Ordinance

A Community Forestry Program with an Annual Budget of at least \$2/capita

An Arbor Day Observance

In order to achieve the Growth Award, the City needed to accumulate 10 points in four categories. The four categories are:

Category A - Public Relations

Category B - Partnerships

Category C - Planning and Management

Category D - Tree Planting and Maintenance

Our Arbor Month programs continue to be popular and benefit many school children. Augusta Tree Board members and the Bureau of Trees and Landscape visited many students in the Augusta School system, which is always a much-anticipated event.

A grant was awarded in the amount of \$3,000 to plant 26 trees on New England Road, which was successfully completed. This planting project was part of Tree Steward program students' graduation exercise.



Lastly, tish carr, in October of 2005, made a decision to seek out new opportunities and left the employment of the City of Augusta. tish's unrelenting advocacy for trees was greatly appreciated. Rather than fill the vacancy externally and hire another staff person, it was decided to fill the void from within City government by utilizing qualified City staff to fulfill the duties of the Bureau. It was a pleasure to name Leo St. Peter as the City's Arborist. Anna Blodgett, Director of Parks and Cemeteries, has assumed the administrative duties and responsibilities of the Trees and Landscape Bureau by virtue of folding those responsibilities under the Parks and Cemeteries Bureau.

Augusta Tree Board

The Augusta Tree Board exists to promote the preservation and expansion of Augusta's community forest for the environmental, economic, and aesthetic quality of our city. Board members Virginia Goodlett, Charlene Hamiwka, Constance Packard, Brian Marson, John Pucciarelli have worked on many projects during the year.

We continue to distribute helpful material on the care and value of trees in our city through the "Branching Out" monthly newsletter.



We appreciate the continued support of the City of Augusta in their recognition of the value of trees in the community through the declaration of May as Arbor Month. During this time, the Tree Board, in collaboration with the City of Augusta, coordinates programs to raise awareness about the urban forest:

- Arbor Day tree plantings at all city schools involving students and faculty
- Tree City USA Award - Augusta 11th year, 6th year Growth Award
- City-wide informational mailing, sponsored by the Augusta Tree Board and Kennebec Savings Bank, to promote awareness of the importance of our community forest
- Annual art exhibit at City Center by Cony High School students
- Tree Steward programs to train in the care of trees to neighborhood groups, individual residents, and students
- Annual tree seedling give-away at the Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony

The Tree Steward program provided a comprehensive classroom and hands-on resource for practical skills in tree planting and pruning and soil, insect, and tree identification.

The Memorial Tree program offered by the Tree Board is a unique opportunity to honor a loved one with the planting of a tree, symbolizing hope, strength, and beauty.

Currently, we are focusing on strengthening the board by filling all vacant positions as we prepare for all of our Arbor month activities, as well as looking forward to working closely with City staff in all aspects of maintaining and upgrading our community forest.



**Finance/Administration
Department**



DONALD CADWELL
Assessor

Assessor's Bureau

During the 2005 calendar year, this office processed 798 deeds and 806 mortgages. The majority of the sales were single-family homes with an average sale price of \$135,500. There were 417 residential sales

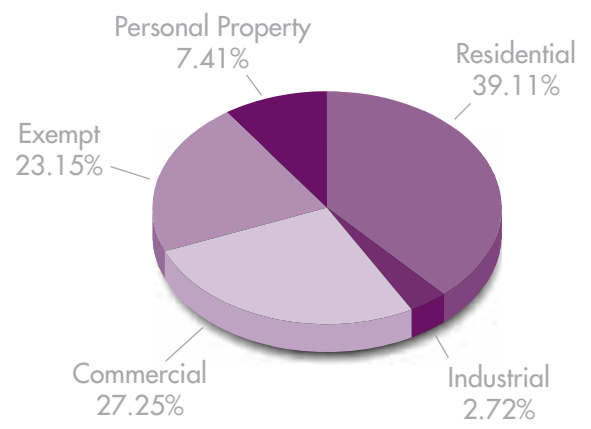
and 35 commercial sales during 2005. Based on the current ratio study for residential property, the average assessment ratio is 60% of market value. According to State property tax laws, municipalities must assess properties at an average ratio of 70% or greater. Therefore, this office is in the process of conducting a city-wide revaluation of all properties which will be completed in the spring of 2006.

This was the eighth year for the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption. The total number of exemptions for this program was 4,230. The total valuation of all tax exemptions, including veterans, blinds, parsonages and homesteads, was \$47,204,800. This increase in the exemption amount was due mainly to the increased Homestead Exemption.

This office oversees 8,424 taxable real estate accounts with a total taxable value of \$834,194,300 (after exemptions) and 987 taxable personal property accounts with a total taxable value of \$93,978,600. We also have 427 accounts, which are totally exempt, with a total value of \$293,655,300.

For the 2005-2006 tax year, there was an overall decrease in taxable valuation of \$5,138,400 as compared to the previous year's increase of \$2,145,700. The summary of valuation changes by category for the year is as follows:

2005-2006 Valuation by Category



INCREASES		DECREASES	
Commercial Properties	\$10,740,500	Commercial Properties	\$ 1,066,200
Residential Properties	1,791,800	Residential Properties	1,365,700
New Single-Family	2,305,400	Demolitions/Fire	504,100
New Mobile Homes	802,800	Taxable to Exempt	1,528,700
Miscellaneous Increases	3,323,600	Miscellaneous Decreases	17,651,300*
Personal Properties	6,827,900	Personal Properties	9,194,200
TOTAL INCREASES	\$25,792,000	TOTAL DECREASES	\$31,310,200

* Miscellaneous decreases represents increased Homestead Exemptions

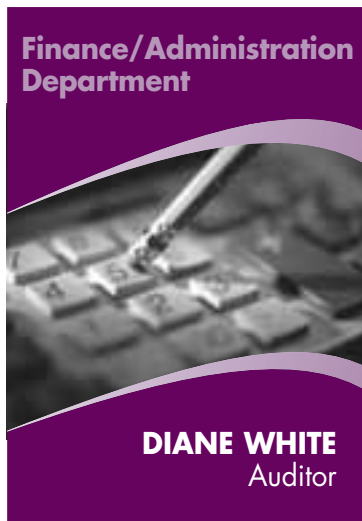
Information Systems

Information technology is one of the most critical tools used in the business operation of the City. It permeates every aspect of daily operations: dispatch at the Police Department, scale management at Hatch Hill, accounting, billing, payroll and property assessment at City Center, to name just a few. The desktop computer is a fundamental part of the daily life of nearly every employee and, without its proper functioning, operations grind to a halt.

Connecting the desktop machines and central servers is a complex network of equipment, which must be properly running to assure smooth daily operations of the City.

It is the function of the City's IT Bureau to keep this complex system running properly so that City employees may effectively provide services to the Augusta citizens. When equipment fails, the IT Bureau must be able to quickly assess the failure and make timely repairs so that business may continue. In addition to equipment failure is the constant threat of viruses and other exploits to the system's integrity that the Internet presents.

The IT Bureau also provides planning and training in the use of information technology. If there is anything constant about information technology, it is change. It is important to upgrade tools and acquire new, more effective ones that save time, money and effort, as well as re-train individuals in the use of these new tools.



Audit Bureau

The Audit Bureau oversees and administers the City's financial and accounting system for the General Fund, Special Revenues, Grants, Capital Projects, Enterprise Funds, and Interservice Fund.

Bureau staff includes the City Auditor and the Deputy Auditor. In the past year, we have continued with the implementation of our new accounting system. In the coming year, we are planning on adding the Purchasing Module, which will aid in cash flow management.

Our primary goal is to continue to receive clean audits and to keep accounting controls in place as required by City Charter, Federal and State Law.

CITY OF AUGUSTA, MAINE
Balance Sheet Governmental Funds
June 30, 2005

	General	New Cony High School	Other Funds (Governmental)	Total Funds (Governmental)
ASSETS				
Cash	16,297,414	18,686,799	938,428	35,922,641
Investments	8,499,103	-	23,281	8,522,384
Receivables:				
Taxes receivable	225,853	-	-	225,853
Tax liens	882,190	-	-	882,190
Due from other governments	474,562	-	369,688	844,250
Accounts receivable, net	73,899	-	94,074	167,973
Notes receivable	-	-	115,505	115,505
Interfund loans receivable	-	-	3,718,097	3,718,097
Inventory	3,099	-	27,755	30,854
Prepaid items	133,847	-	6,410	140,257
TOTAL ASSETS	26,589,967	18,686,799	5,293,238	50,570,004
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities	3,073,991	-	235,281	3,309,272
Accrued payroll and benefits	2,034,327	-	85,904	2,120,231
Escrow payable	1,500	-	-	1,500
Deferred revenue	952,796	-	-	952,796
Taxes received in advance	37,306	-	-	37,306
Bond anticipation notes payable	-	26,725,000	-	26,725,000
Interfund loans payable	8,799,419	756,858	2,474	9,558,751
TOTAL LIABILITIES	14,899,339	27,481,858	323,659	42,704,856
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)				
Reserved for:				
Encumbrances - City	206,004	-	76,018	282,022
Encumbrances - School	223,140	-	-	223,140
Noncurrent receivables	-	-	115,505	115,505
Inventory	-	-	27,755	27,755
Nonexpendable trust principal	-	-	604,093	604,093
Unreserved, reported in:				
General fund:				
City designated	3,163,315	-	-	3,163,315
School designated	856,777	-	-	856,777
City undesignated	5,278,078	-	-	5,278,078
School undesignated	1,963,314	-	-	1,963,314
Special revenue funds	-	-	1,417,910	1,417,910
Capital projects funds	-	(8,795,059)	1,527,002	(7,268,057)
Permanent funds	-	-	1,201,296	1,201,296
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	11,690,628	(8,795,059)	4,969,579	7,865,148
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	26,589,967	18,686,799	5,293,238	
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:				
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.				37,653,828
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds.				952,796
Internal service funds are used by management to charge the costs of fleet management to individual funds. The assets and liabilities of the internal service funds are included in governmental activities in the statement of net assets.				1,843,095
Long-term liabilities that are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds:				
Accrued compensated absences				(2,992,333)
Accrued interest				(273,206)
Capital leases				(171,755)
Bonds payable				(21,399,330)
NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES				23,478,243

CITY OF AUGUSTA, MAINE
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Budget and Actual General Fund for the year ended June 30, 2005

	Budgeted amounts		Actual	Variance with final budget positive (negative)
	Original	Final		
REVENUES				
Taxes	25,968,869	25,968,869	26,166,249	197,380
Licenses and permits	115,725	115,725	228,753	113,028
Intergovernmental	13,330,530	13,330,530	13,521,824	191,294
Tuition and other charges - education	1,877,500	1,877,500	2,033,618	156,118
Charges for services	263,125	260,075	287,306	27,231
Fees and fines	36,000	58,000	63,645	5,645
Unclassified	439,555	420,605	520,503	99,898
Investment earnings	366,751	366,751	453,846	87,095
TOTAL REVENUES	42,398,055	42,398,055	43,275,744	877,689
EXPENDITURES				
Current:				
Legislative and executive	608,586	608,971	610,324	(1,353)
Finance and administration	1,403,989	1,406,542	1,374,810	31,732
City services	1,172,571	1,220,863	1,166,265	54,598
Community services	2,022,862	2,033,422	2,003,704	29,718
Public safety	5,219,516	5,222,388	4,903,819	318,569
Public works	2,720,531	2,798,140	2,787,275	10,865
Education	24,290,454	23,810,454	23,037,625	772,829
Insurance and fringe benefits	1,565,964	1,565,964	1,458,605	107,359
Utilities	1,947,257	1,947,257	1,891,239	56,018
Unclassified	1,334,006	1,334,006	1,220,418	113,588
Debt service (excluding education)	1,403,359	1,073,359	1,065,492	7,867
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	43,689,095	43,021,366	41,519,576	1,501,790
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(1,291,040)	(623,311)	1,756,168	2,379,479
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)				
Budgeted utilization of surplus - City	720,000	862,271	0	(862,271)
Budgeted utilization of surplus - School	420,000	420,000	0	(420,000)
Operating transfers to other funds	(440,200)	(1,250,200)	(1,506,154)	(255,954)
Operating transfers from other funds	591,240	591,240	600,567	9,327
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	1,291,040	623,311	(905,587)	(1,528,898)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - (budgetary)	0	0	850,581	850,581
RECONCILIATION TO GAAP BASIS				
Add back: encumbrances expended in budgetary - City			206,004	
Add back: encumbrances expended in budgetary - School			223,140	
Transfers to reserves from undesignated fund balance			(1,372,509)	
Change in reserves			1,521,204	
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - GAAP BASIS			1,428,420	
Fund balance, beginning of year, as restated			10,262,208	
Fund balance, end of year			11,690,628	

Copies of entire financial report may be viewed in the City Manager's Office.

CITY OF AUGUSTA, MAINE
Statement of Net Assets Proprietary Funds
June 30, 2005

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds					Governmental Activities - Internal Service
	Augusta Civic Center	Hatch Hill Landfill	Airport	Ambulance	Totals	
ASSETS						
Current assets:						
Cash	36,834	0	0	0	36,834	0
Investments	645,773	0	0	0	645,773	0
Accounts receivable, net	99,794	150,509	121,305	287,438	659,046	3,606
Interfund loans receivable	219,239	5,127,032	0	0	5,346,271	632,173
Prepaid expenses	9,122	40,737	2,035	10,202	62,096	4,564
Inventory	17,285	0	0	0	17,285	132,276
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,028,047	5,318,278	123,340	297,640	6,767,305	772,619
NON-CURRENT ASSETS						
Property, plant, and equipment:						
Land and buildings	7,598,000	62,322	0	0	7,660,322	0
Equipment and vehicles	1,344,747	852,722	0	385,245	2,582,714	3,456,672
Hatch Hill landfill system	0	14,685,287	0	0	14,685,287	0
Less accumulated depreciation	(3,483,332)	(7,601,497)	0	(217,477)	(11,302,306)	(2,254,950)
Total noncurrent assets	5,459,415	7,998,834	0	167,768	13,626,017	1,201,722
TOTAL ASSETS	6,487,462	13,317,112	123,340	465,408	20,393,322	1,974,341
LIABILITIES						
Current liabilities:						
Accounts payable	27,962	202,334	19,107	31,954	281,357	43,977
Accrued wages and benefits payable	35,714	11,668	3,947	20,090	71,419	9,413
Accrued compensated absences	95,441	47,108	5,160	20,700	168,409	23,183
Refundable deposits	62,517	0	0	0	62,517	0
Current portion of bonds payable	226,315	485,000	0	0	711,315	0
Current portion of leases payable	28,802	0	0	0	28,802	54,673
Interfund loans payable	0	0	95,126	42,664	137,790	0
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	476,751	746,110	123,340	115,408	1,461,609	131,246
NONCURRENT LIABILITIES						
Bonds payable	3,394,740	6,790,000	0	0	10,184,740	0
Capital leases payable	22,804	0	0	0	22,804	0
Accrued landfill closure and postclosure costs	0	4,150,000	0	0	4,150,000	0
Total noncurrent liabilities	3,417,544	10,940,000	0	0	14,357,544	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,894,295	11,686,110	123,340	115,408	15,819,153	131,246
NET ASSETS						
Invested in capital assets, <i>net of related debt</i>	1,786,754	723,834	0	167,768	2,678,356	1,147,049
Unrestricted	806,413	907,168	0	182,232	1,895,813	696,046
TOTAL NET ASSETS	2,593,167	1,631,002	0	350,000	4,574,169	1,843,095

CITY OF AUGUSTA, MAINE
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Assets
Proprietary Funds for the year ended June 30, 2005

	Business Type Activities - Enterprise				Enterprise Fund Totals	Governmental Activities Internal Service
	Augusta Civic Center	Hatch Hill Landfill	Airport	Ambulance		
OPERATING REVENUES						
Rental income	1,109,846	0	38,548	0	1,148,394	0
Fees	0	2,401,559	71,966	1,203,594	3,677,119	1,157,499
Food and beverage sales	1,510,967	0	0	0	1,510,967	0
State of Maine	0	0	278,727	0	278,727	0
Miscellaneous	250,905	40,886	31,455	0	323,246	10,577
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	2,871,718	2,442,445	420,696	1,203,594	6,938,453	1,168,076
OPERATING EXPENSES						
Personnel services	1,347,805	352,514	220,330	665,364	2,586,013	333,540
Contractual services	377,896	513,630	151,911	72,042	1,115,479	51,742
Supplies and materials	523,922	114,136	26,196	52,490	716,744	455,762
Fixed charges	18,817	49,312	8,417	147,848	224,394	0
Capital outlay	0	3,612	0	1,672	5,284	11,610
Depreciation	274,957	719,913	0	43,257	1,038,127	262,910
Miscellaneous	0	29,448	0	0	29,448	0
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	2,543,397	1,782,565	406,854	982,673	5,715,489	1,115,564
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	328,321	659,880	13,842	220,921	1,222,964	52,512
NONOPERATING REVENUE (EXPENSE)						
Interest income	11,795	2,443	0	0	14,238	0
Interest expense	(212,540)	(430,117)	(4,824)	(6,009)	(653,490)	(13,530)
Gain of sale of equipment	0	0	0	0	0	(885)
TOTAL NONOPERATING REVENUE	(200,745)	(427,674)	(4,824)	(6,009)	(639,252)	(14,415)
NET INCOME <i>before operating transfers</i>	127,576	232,206	9,018	214,912	583,712	38,097
OPERATING TRANSFERS						
Transfer to other funds	0	(50,000)	0	0	(50,000)	(56,504)
TOTAL OPERATING TRANSFERS	0	(50,000)	0	0	(50,000)	(56,504)
Change in net assets	127,576	182,206	9,018	214,912	533,712	(18,407)
TOTAL NET ASSETS, beginning of year	2,465,591	1,448,796	(9,018)	135,088	4,040,457	1,861,502
TOTAL NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	2,593,167	1,631,002	0	350,000	4,574,169	1,843,095

**Finance/Administration
Department**



BARBARA WARDWELL
City Clerk/Treasurer

City Clerk/Treasurer

The following is the annual report for the Office of the City Clerk/Registrar and Treasurer covering the period from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005.

City Clerk's Office: Vital statistics represented are births, deaths, marriages, State of Maine and City of Augusta licenses and permits, as well as election results and voter registration statistics following the Special Municipal Election held on June 14, 2005 and the State Referendum and Municipal Elections held November 8, 2005.

The past year was very busy for this bureau. Both the June and November Elections were special events. The June ballot contained two initiative questions and the November election was followed by a ballot inspection, which led to a recount hearing in December. In addition, we worked on the republication of the City Code of Ordinances and on preparing our voter lists for the Central Voter Registration being rolled out by the Secretary of State in 2006.

1/1/2005 – 12/31/2005 STATISTICS

Gender Change	0	Military Dependent Fish	0	Food Seller's Permits	20
Adoptions/Legitimations	30	Military Dependent Hunt	0	Games of Chance – Blanket Letters	11
Annulment	0	Muzzleload Licenses	66	Games of Chance – Single	0
Births Recorded	563*	Non-Resident Combo	0	Going Out of Business	0
Deaths Recorded	563**	Non-Resident Duck	0	Going Out of Business Extension	0
Delayed Birth	0	Non-Resident Fish	2	Junkyard Permits	2
Depositions	61	Non-Resident Hunt/Small Game	2	Lunchmobile Licenses	7
Fetal Deaths	3	Non-Resident Jr. Hunt	1	Malt Liquor Licenses	34
Marriages	170	Resident Combo Licenses	475	Massage Therapist	0
Dog Licenses:		Resident Fish Licenses	588	Micropigmentation License	1
Males/Females	226	Resident Hunt Licenses	259	Name Transfer	3
Spayed Females/Neutered Males	873	Resident Jr. Hunt Licenses	50	Off-Premise Catering	7
Kennels	2	Resident Small Game Licenses	3	Pawnbroker License	1
Hearing/See Guide Dogs	1	Supersport Licenses	4	Roller Skating Rink License	0
Replacement Licenses	17	1-Day Fish	2	Special Amusement Permits	13
Service/Search/Rescue Dogs	2	3-Day Fish	9	Spirit. and Vinous Liquor Licenses	25
Transfers	2	7-Day Fish	0	Tattoo Licenses	6
Archery Licenses	55	15-Day Fish	1	Taxi Driver Licenses	25
Archery/Expanded Season	20	1/3/7/15-Day Exchanges	14	Taxi Operator Licenses	11
Archery/Fish Combo	4			Transient Sellers	2
Bear Permits	18	Address Transfers	0	Victualer's Licenses	149
Complimentary Bear Permit	0	Automobile Graveyard Permit	1	Vinous Liquor Licenses	5
Complimentary Fish/Hunt Licenses	15	Beano Permits (Yearly/Special)	8		
Complimentary Muzzleload	4	Billiard Licenses	6	*Augusta Residents – 145	
Coyote Night Hunt	9	Body Piercing Licenses	3	Augusta Residents Out of Town – 68	
Duck Stamps	58	Bottle Club License	1		
Duplicate Licenses	3	Bowling Alley	1	**Augusta Residents – 234	
Fall Turkey Permits	17	Burial Permits	628	Augusta Residents Out of Town – 27	
Military Combo	5	Coin-operated Amuse. Device Licenses	14		
Military Dependent Combo	0	Dancing Licenses	14		

voter registration statistics ✓✓✓

REPORT OF REGISTERED VOTERS - JUNE 14, 2005

WARD	DISTRICT	D	R	U	G	X	TOTALS
1	56	349	282	251	14	0	896
1	57	847	758	869	65	0	2,539
2	56	1,295	949	1,238	81	1	3,564
2	57	41	27	48	7	0	123
3	57	1,449	953	1,354	77	0	3,833
4	56	779	677	851	43	0	2,350
4	58	541	472	554	34	0	1,601
T O T A L S		5,301	4,118	5,165	321	1	14,906

D = Democrat R = Republican U = Unenrolled G = Green Independent X = Party Ineligible

SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION - JUNE 14, 2005

		WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3	WARD 4	C.P.P.*	TOTAL	
QUESTION 1	YES:	344	309	271	375	372	1,671	Absentee Voters: Ward 1 290 Ward 2 280 Ward 3 231 Ward 4 296 Total: 1,097
	Storey Street NO:	618	764	703	973	727	3,785	
		962	1,073	974	1,348	1,099	5,456	
QUESTION 2	YES:	439	471	382	626	501	2,419	
	Cony High School NO:	525	607	589	723	607	3,051	
		964	1,078	971	1,349	1,108	5,470	

*Central Polling Place

MUNICIPAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 8, 2005 FINAL RESULTS: DECEMBER 5, 2005

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3	WARD 4	C.P.P.*	TOTAL
At-Large	Edward Coffin	364	483	347	550	434	2,178
	Kimberly Davis	423	471	314	478	398	2,084
	Michael Hein	105	61	299	82	102	649
	David Rand	119	58	64	58	107	406
Ward 1	Michael Byron	540				148	688
	Arthur Lerman	504				162	666
Ward 4	Cecil Munson				597	130	727
	Mark O'Brien				591	145	736
Chair	William Burney	903	932	899	1,040	879	4,653
At-Large	Helen Nasberg	306	320	361	405	327	1,719
	Kimberly Silsby	633	676	578	689	612	3,188
Ward 2	Susan Campbell		733			164	897
	Judith Johnson-Marsano		278			76	354

ABSENTEE BALLOTS - NOV '05: Ward 1: 316 Ward 2: 271 Ward 3: 220 Ward 4: 291 TOTAL: 1,098

*Central Polling Place

**VOTER REGISTRATION
REPORT OF REGISTERED VOTERS - NOVEMBER 8, 2005**

WARD	DISTRICT	D	R	U	G	TOTALS
1	56	349	275	263	14	901
1	57	850	737	874	65	2,526
2	56	1,286	950	1,232	82	3,550
2	57	42	26	47	7	122
3	57	1,442	951	1,359	80	3,832
4	56	781	670	854	43	2,348
4	58	532	468	550	32	1,582
T O T A L S		5,282	4,077	5,179	323	14,861

D = Democrat R = Republican U = Unenrolled G = Green Independent

Treasurer's Office: Statistics represented include the revenue from the boat, ATV and snowmobile taxes and fees collected in 2005. Also included is the number of new motor vehicle registrations, renewals, along with the number of vehicle registration renewals completed on line through Rapid Renewal. In addition, we are responsible for the billing and collection of property and real estate taxes. All City transactions such as wires, transfers, bond payments, Automated Clearing House (ACH), and investments are processed by us.

Early in 2006, for those residents who prefer to be on line rather than in line, we plan to have on line access to register boats and purchase Lake and River Protection stickers, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with a debit or credit card. Just click on the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game icon located at www.ci.augusta.me.us.

FISCAL 2005 STATISTICS

Bureau of Motor Vehicles	Amount	Transactions	Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	Amount	Transactions
Auto Excise Tax	\$2,509,857.15	17,097	Boat Excise Tax	\$13,597.00	864
Registration Fees (BMV)	\$430,443.60	16,382*	Registration Fees (IF&W)	\$10,181.00	785
Agent Fees	\$54,394.00	16,382	Water Protection Fees	\$6,716.00	746
Sales Tax	\$126,194.73	1,962	ATVs	\$4,554.00	138
Title Fees	\$29,853.00	1,302	Snowmobiles	\$4,226.00	128
Rapid Renewal (excise)	\$194,596.03	1,301	Agent Fees	\$1,793.00	1,793
*New Registrations – 1,962 Renewals – 14,420					

To my staff... I want to take this opportunity to thank my staff for their support and determination to successfully overcome all the challenges faced in 2005.

The City's website www.ci.augusta.me.us will direct you to the City Clerk's office, as well as the City Treasurer/Tax Collector's Office, for your requests and answers to your questions.

Human Resources

Finance/Administration
Department



ELLEN BLAIR
Director

It is with pleasure that I present to you our seventh annual report. The bureau, a shared resource between the City, the Augusta Sanitary District and the Augusta Water District, is responsible for support functions associated with employee and labor relations, classification and compensation, payroll, recruitment, benefits, training, and health and safety.

Major initiatives in 2005 included:

Building and managing effective employee relations. With three unions, employee and labor relations is always a priority. Collective bargaining efforts in 2005 resulted in agreements with six of the eight bargaining units.

Celebrating employees. April 9th marked the date of this year's employee recognition ceremony. On behalf of the City Council, the Mayor expressed his thanks and appreciation for all of the hard work done by City staff.

Preserving competitive compensation programs. In keeping with the City's goal of offering competitive wages and benefits, components of the package were reviewed with an eye toward getting better use of limited dollars. Results achieved included a restructuring of the compensation package and a change in health plan for a number of employee and retiree groups.

Streamlining payroll. As a result of the collective bargaining process, additional best practices were incorporated in the payroll process. As an example, City employees are now paid through electronic direct deposit of their paychecks.

Collaborating on hiring. Throughout the year, 29 permanent employees and 194 seasonal workers were hired to help deliver important municipal services.

Encouraging employee wellness. Through grant funding, the wellness program provided numerous services focused on improving the health and wellness of our employees. Good employee health is critical as we strive to keep insurance costs down.

Supporting employee development. This year, employees took advantage of up to 18 programs focused on improving job knowledge and safe work practices.

Facilitating district merger. As merger efforts of the Augusta Water and Sanitary Districts continue, this year proved to be no less challenging. By the end of the year, most operations had merged and the two unionized employee groups jointly selected one new representative. Collective bargaining with the new agent began in the fall and is expected to conclude early in 2006.

Capitalizing on safety. Efforts by employees and supervisors to work safely continue to net results. This year, the City saved 15%, approximately \$37,000, off its annual workers compensation premium costs.

My sincere thanks and appreciation go to our very talented and energetic team, June and Theresa. With their hard work and combined sense of humor, the office continues to be a great place to work.

**Fire
Department**



ROGER AUDETTE
Fire Chief

Chief's Message

The Augusta Fire Department is in its 206th year of service to Maine's Capital City. We are proud of our long history and continually look into the future as Augusta experiences a period of economic growth never seen

before. Fire has changed the face of our great city many times and we recognize that prevention and education is the most important aspect of our job. Every year there are over 400,000 residential fires in the United States claiming on average 2,700 civilian deaths. Smoke detectors continue to save lives and property by providing early notification and a quick response by the Fire Department. Please make sure your detectors are in good working order and change the batteries twice a year at daylight savings time. If you have elderly friends, neighbors or relatives, please don't forget that they may need help maintaining their detectors. Practice fire safety with your kids and make sure they understand what to do in the event of a fire. Candles continue to be one of the most common causes of fires, so please make sure they are used in a safe manner. If you burn wood, make sure your chimney is cleaned once a year. Oil and kerosene heaters present a danger of high levels of carbon monoxide if they are not running properly, and they should be cleaned and inspected annually by a licensed technician. We maintain a full compliment of fire prevention and educational materials at Hartford Station and ask that you stop in or give us a call if we can help in any way.

Department Training

In 2005, the Fire Department worked toward achieving goals in the areas of Officer Training, Firefighter Training, Weapons of Mass Destruction, Arson Investigation, Life Safety Education and Emergency Medical Services. **Two officers and one firefighter completed the Fire Officer 1 program at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast, Maine.** Two firefighters and two police officers completed the Fire/Arson Investigation program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. **Three firefighters completed the Presenting Effective Public Education programs class at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD.** Four firefighters completed the Firefighter 1 and 2 Program. **All members completed the Weapons of Mass Destruction Operations program.** The Augusta and Pittston Fire Departments trained together in Rapid Intervention teams to learn how to safely and effectively rescue a trapped and/or injured firefighter. **The Fire Department, in conjunction with the Kiwanis Club and KVEMS, sponsored a Pediatric Education for Pre-hospital Providers program.** The members of the Augusta Fire department attended 181 classes totaling 3,798 hours of training.



“Fire has changed the face of our great city many times and we recognize that prevention and education is the most important aspect of our job.”

Fire Prevention

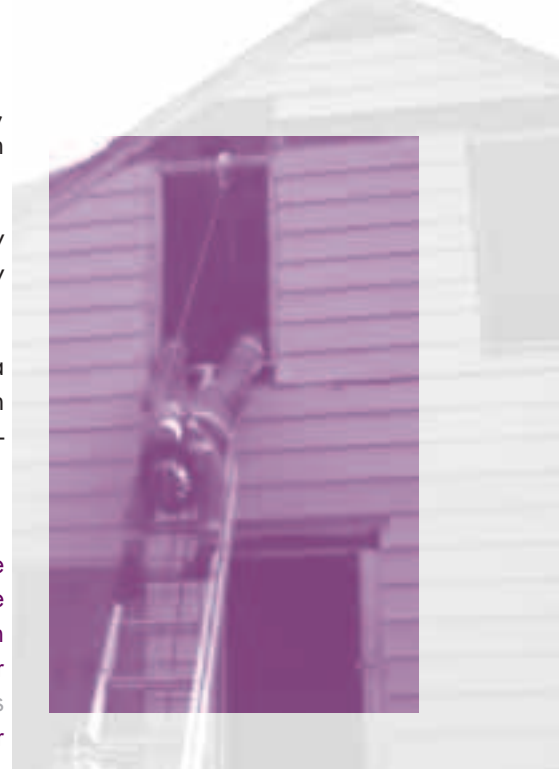
The Life Safety Education Team consisting of Tom Feeney, Bob MacMaster, Art True, Greg Coniff, Adam Pilon, Jason Mills and Al Nelson have lead the injury prevention efforts in 2005.

This group has had a positive effect on all areas of our population by providing injury prevention programs, fire extinguisher training and evacuation planning in many facilities around our community.

We submitted and received a grant in the amount of \$9,000 for the purchase of a Fire Safety Robot. This robot (named Pete the Paramedic) has made appearances in the elementary schools and at our open house. He has been well received everywhere he has gone. Be on the look out for "Pete" at events in 2006.

Personnel

Chief James Farrell retired on September 11, 2005 after a career that spanned three decades in the Fire Service. Chief Farrell served as a Chief in Illinois and New York State prior to coming to Augusta. He was a true professional and was very successful in upgrading the department's trucks and equipment. We are proud to have served under him and wish both him and his family a safe and happy retirement. Roger J. Audette was appointed Chief of the Department on December 19, 2005. Firefighter/Paramedic Peter Allen left the department to work for another ambulance service.



RESPONSE STATISTICS

Fixed Property Fire Responses	2002	2003	2004	2005	2005 Fire Loss
Private Dwellings	13	11	12	9	\$175,000
Apartments	7	12	8	8	15,000
Hotels and Motels	1	0	0	2	15,000
Other Residential	5	1	1	1	1,000
Public Assembly	0	3	2	2	0
Schools and Colleges	2	0	0	0	0
Health Care	1	0	1	1	0
Stores and Offices	1	2	1	1	2,000
Industrial	0	0	0	1	0
Storage	2	2	1	1	1,000
Other Fixed Property	1	0	0	2	0
Total	33	31	26	28	\$209,000
Other Fire Responses					
Highway Vehicles	22	22	29	24	\$63,000
Other Vehicles	5	5	3	7	2,000
Brush and Grass	37	26	40	46	0
Rubbish	11	3	1	27	0
Boat Fire	-	-	-	1	5,000
Other Fires	26	24	24	64	18,500
Total	101	80	97	169	\$88,500
Non-Fire Responses					
Rescue	171	85	153	153	
EMS	5,245	4,135	4,097	4,303	
False Alarms/Malfuncions	213	188	225	246	
Mutual Aid Received	9*	9*	9*	11*	
Mutual Aid Given Fire	5	7	3	1	
Hazardous Materials	32	21	34	57	
Other Hazards	46	31	58	66	
Assistance/Other Agency	-	-	-	112	
All Other Responses	132	254	185	382	
Total	5,844	4,721	4,755	5,320	\$297,500

*Mutual Aid received is not included in table.

Other Highlights

The Hazardous Materials Decon Strike Team participated in two disaster drills in Kennebec and Somerset Counties.

The Decon Strike Team obtained a new Ford F-550 Utility Truck through funding from the Department of Homeland Security.

Hartford Station received electrical upgrades.

In closing, I want to thank every member of the Fire Department for their hard work and dedication, answering 5,331 calls for help in 2005. I especially want to thank all of the citizens for their support and kind letters of appreciation we receive throughout the year. **Be safe!**

Police
Department



WAYNE McCAMISH
Police Chief

Message from the Chief

As our State Capital, we continue to be fortunate that we are not faced with the levels of crime that other state capitals or cities are experiencing across the country. We have experienced an increase in the presence of Heroin,

Crack Cocaine and Crystal Methamphetamine abuse in the City. Crimes that we report annually for federal statistics increased 9% over the previous year. Although we have faced these increases, our citizens are continuing to take an active role in assisting the Police Department in addressing this, as well as all crimes. As a community, we refuse to let our streets, neighborhoods, and the city as a whole to be taken away from us and our way of life. Augusta continues to be a great place to live, work and raise a family. I am proud to be part of our city as both a family man and as your Police Chief.

Throughout 2005, the Police Department experienced a change in personnel and assignments within the department. New employees of the Police Department are Police Officers Thomas Bartunek, Nelson Unger, Shawn Fennell, Charles Theobald, Eric Lloyd, Brian Wastella and Natasha Nadeau and Dispatchers Joseph Robideau, Tiffany Wells, and William Van Orman. Jill Eugley accepted the position of Parking Enforcement and Dispatcher Edith Caswell transferred to the position of Records Clerk. Employees who have left this year to pursue other employment are Police Officers Thomas Bartunek, Nelson Unger and Shawn Fennell, as well as Dispatchers Christina Gagnon and Joseph Robideau.

The department has completed the sixth successful year of partnership with the Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services that provides the Police Department with a full-time evening shift presence of a Mental Health Intensive Case Manager. Gregory Smith works full time assigned to officers on the evening shift to assist and provide crisis intervention immediately during crisis situations. Buster McLellan and James Jarosz complete the team in supporting the Police Department on a part-time basis.

Training of all department personnel continues to be a priority within the Police Department. A Lieutenant and two Detectives are members of the Maine Computer Crime Task Force and are trained in the investigation of computer related crimes. The department continues to expand training in computer crimes, as well as forensic examination of computers, due to the rapidly increasing demands placed on the department as a result of Internet crimes. As the only department accessible to the public twenty-four hours a day, three hundred sixty-five days a year, we are committed to provide the best possible assistance to our citizens and the public at large.

The Police Department received six grants during the year 2005. The State Bureau of Highway Safety awarded the department: an O.U.I grant in the amount of \$5,000 that was to be utilized for the detection and apprehension of impaired drivers, as well as a Seat Belt Safety Enforcement grant in the amount of \$2,000. An additional award of \$2,000 to purchase Stinger Spike Mats was received from the Bureau of Highway Safety for aggressively enforcing child safety seats and restraints. Maine Municipal Association awarded the department \$1,475 toward the purchase of a Rolling Safety Ladder and 44 traffic safety vests. A Justice Assistance grant in the amount of \$25,663 was received for the purchase of an off road Tracked Personnel Transport and Evidence Recovery Vehicle, Computer Crimes Investigation Computer, Recording Equipment and Crime Scene Digital Cameras. The Justice Assistance Program also awarded the department \$5,175 towards the purchase of Bullet Proof Vests.

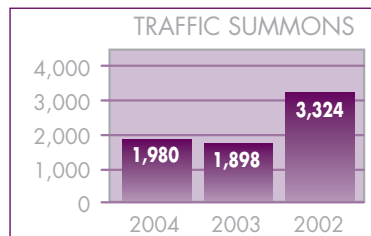
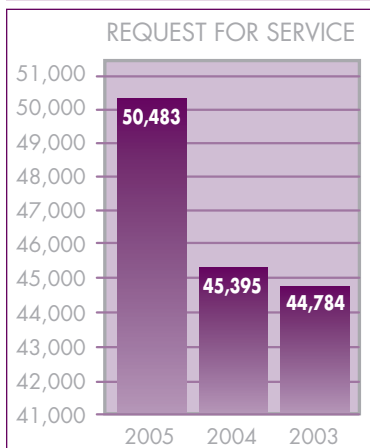
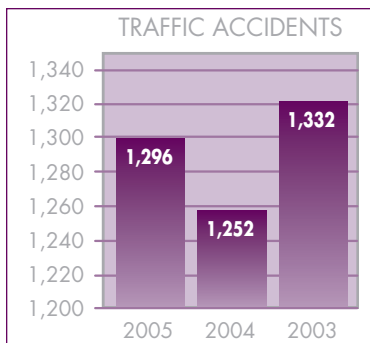


The following figures show a comparison of crimes reported for national statistics, by number.

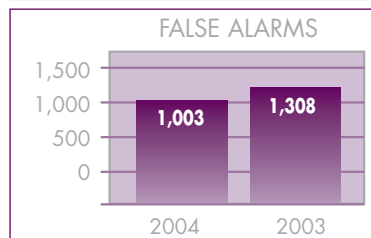
CRIMES	2005	2004	2003
Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	17	9	16
Robbery	7	13	3
Agg. Assaults	18	16	14
Burglary	206	154	201
Theft	952	869	873
Auto Theft	22	28	28
Arson	14	15	3
Totals	1,236	1,104	1,138

Of the above crimes reported, the Police Department cleared 38% for 2005, 44% for 2004 and 41% for 2003.

The Police Department responded to 68.1% of our total requests for service calls in less than five minutes. We do so with safety ever on our minds and with the intent to provide you with the best possible service.



Please remember to obey all traffic laws, especially posted speed limits in our school zones and residential areas.



In closing, I want to express my appreciation to the citizens who continued to support the activities of the Police Department throughout the past year. I especially thank all the other city departments that have cooperated and provided support to the Police Department that assist in enabling us to deliver the quality of service to our community.

BASIC RULES OF ONLINE SAFETY FOR TEENS

Keep your identity private.

Never get together with someone you "meet" online.

Never respond to e-mail, chat, comments, instant messages, or newsgroup messages that are hostile, belligerent, inappropriate, or in any way make you feel uncomfortable.

Talk with your parents about their expectations and ground rules for going online.

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS OF TEENS ONLINE

Talk with your teens about what they can and cannot do online.

Be open with your teens and encourage them to come to you if they encounter a problem online.

Learn everything you can about the Internet.

Check out blocking, filtering, and rating applications.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Be sure your street address number is clearly visible to responding emergency personnel.

Lock your home when you're away and especially at night.

Be aware of people lingering in your neighborhood who do not live there.

Be sure to lock your car doors, even when your car is parked outside overnight at your residence; do not leave valuables in your car. If necessary, secure them in your trunk.

If you witness suspicious activity, try to get a description of the individual(s) and any vehicle(s), and a license number, if possible.

NEVER give your credit card, phone card, social security, or bank account numbers to anyone over the phone. It is illegal for telemarketers to ask for these numbers to verify a prize or gift.

If away on vacation, discontinue newspapers and mail; leave a key with a friend or relative; leave a car in the driveway if possible; ask a neighbor to watch your home; put timer on a light in your home.

Public Works
Bureau



JOHN H. CHAREST
Director

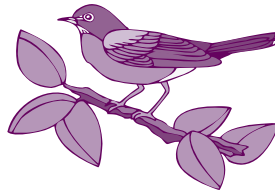
Bureau of Public Works

The Public Works budget for fiscal year 2005 totals \$3,000,387. Some of the major services provided include rubbish/recycling curbside collection; winter maintenance of the streets and sidewalks (plowing, sand-

ing and snow removal); maintenance of all city streets and roads, including sweeping, patching and some minor repairs and reconstruction; maintenance of street and regulatory signs within the city; striping of streets and crosswalks; and an annual paving program.

Seasonal Highlights:

First robin sighted on February 1st!



Spring

Street and Sidewalk Sweeping: This annual event to clean the streets (300-lane miles) of the winter sand accumulation is scheduled to start once the snow and ice have melted. This year, it began on April 11th with the arterials being the first priority. Once these were completed, our three sweepers worked double shifts on the remaining five-week schedule. This year, we finished a week late due to a very wet spring.

In addition to street sweeping, 34 miles of sidewalks on the arterial routes were swept by hand and with a motorized sidewalk sweeper or power brooms. Many of the residential walks were swept by individual homeowners, prior to the sweeper coming in their area, which is greatly appreciated. Included in the annual spring sweeping are all of the parking lots for both the Augusta Parking District and the School Department.

Spring Repairs: As in every year, this is when repairs from the winter operations are completed. Crews worked into late May repairing lawns, guardrails, fences and any other damages that resulted from snow removal operations.

Street and Crosswalk Painting: Once the weather warmed up and the streets had been swept, a street-striping firm was hired to repaint centerlines, edge lines and white skips on the city streets and roads. This year, Pine State Safety Lines out of Topsham, Maine started the striping contract on June 5th, a month later than usual due to 17 days of rain in May. On May 20th, hand crews started on the 250 crosswalks and 500 directional arrows, with the majority of these completed by the end of June.



Summer

Construction and Paving Season: The construction season began in May and finished up in late November when the paving plants closed and frost set in. Again this year, it was a very busy and productive season. Some of the projects we completed include:

Dalton Road: Regrade and address drainage problems. New base and surface pavement of 300' of roadway as it approaches the railroad crossing
Calumet and Mt. Vernon Playgrounds: Prepare and pave the parking lot and the area around the new bath house at Calumet playground. Prepare and pave the bleacher areas at Mt. Vernon playground
Farrington School: Install drainage to remedy ground water problems. Enlarge and pave existing parking lot
Green Street: Excavate for new gutter and curb line on west end and reshape this area to eliminate severe crowning. Install new curb to control water
Annual Maintenance/Ditching on Country Roads: Church Hill Road, Piggery Road and Ward Road
Westside Neighborhood Speed Tables: Install paved speed tables on Green Street, North Chestnut Street, Summer Street and Winter Street
Sidewalk Construction and New Curbing: Green Street – (upper end) 600 feet, Northern Avenue – 1,100 feet, South Chapel Street – 400 feet, State Street – (Winthrop Street to West Side Rotary) – 2,000 feet surfaced and imprinted
State Street – (West Side Rotary southward): 500 feet – temporary sidewalks on both sides due to a 30+ foot deep excavation that was done by Augusta Sanitary District to replace a collapsed sewer line. New granite curbing and sidewalks will be installed next spring once the majority of the settlement is done
State Projects: MDOT had one project in Augusta this season. This was the reclamation of Whitten Road, which consisted of widening and adding paved shoulders. This was a much-needed improvement. Another project that MDOT started and is ongoing at this time is major renovation work to the Memorial Bridge. This will continue through the winter and should be completed in the summer of 2006.
Paving: We had 5.29 miles of city streets and roads that were paved this year and include Chapel Street (south), Cony Road (south), Fuller Street, Glenwood Avenue, Glenwood Street, Green Street, Kennedy Street, Lafayette Street, Linwood Avenue. Funded from other sources: Glendon Street (ASD), Townsend Road (Mall Developers), Whitten Road (MDOT), Maine Street, Malta Street, Maureen Drive, Newland Avenue, Rodrigue Heights, Roseanne Avenue, State Street (Winthrop-Chandler), Townsend Street, Valley Street



Townsend Road: This project was done to address concerns of residents of the Townsend Road area which included: Reducing the amount of traffic using Townsend Road as a direct route to the Market Place Mall, reducing the speed of this traffic, and changing the look of the street from a major thoroughway to a more aesthetically pleasing residential neighborhood.

To accomplish this, the street was narrowed from 32 feet to 26 feet. Islands were installed at key intersections with a slight horizontal alignment in the roadway at these locations for the specific purpose of slowing down traffic. New curbing was installed along with 3,300 feet of new sidewalks. In certain areas, a five-foot grass esplanade was put in. Plantings of shrubs and trees will be put in these areas and in the islands this coming spring. At the same time, we were also able to address groundwater issues by installing 600 feet of underdrain, 900

feet of stormwater piping and 10 catch basins. This was a good project with some very innovative thinking from everyone involved. Another positive side to this project is that the funding was all paid for by the developers of the Market Place. These offsite mitigation measures were required as part of the permits from the City and MDOT.

Fall

Preparations for Winter: City street sweepers worked to keep the streets clean from the fall foliage drop. All construction projects were either completed or buttoned up for the winter. A total of 5,000 cubic yards of sand/salt were mixed for winter. By November 1st, all plows and sanding equipment were ready for the winter season. Training of new employees on proper plowing/sanding procedures.

Winter

The winter season started off on December 3rd with a 3.5" storm. The season ended up being 8" over the average season. This winter, we continued refining our road treatment policy using the 75/25 mixtures of salt, sand, and liquid calcium with very good results. I think most everyone will agree that after a storm, Augusta roads were mostly bare.

Some statistics for the winter season

December 3rd	Date of first plowable snow
85"	Total snow for the season
14"	Biggest snow event on February 10th
3,900	Tons of salt
3,500	Cubic yards of sand
8,000	Gallons of Liquid Calcium
16	Full plowing operations (over average)
28.5	Nights snow was hauled

Year Round

Rubbish/Recycling and other special curbside collections: Collection services are offered by providing recycling one week of the month with rubbish collection provided on all other weeks. These services, along with the five-week Fall Leaf Collection, were offered again to residents free of charge. The Spring Clean Up of bulky items and Spring Leaf Collection were offered as a "fee-for-service." We produced a rubbish/recycling calendar that highlights special events and schedules. Residents continue to be dedicated recyclers, 10% of the city's residential waste is either recycled or composted.

2005 Collection Statistics

Curbside rubbish collection	5,729 tons
Curbside recycling collection	399 tons
Spring Clean Up – Metal	8 tons
Spring Clean Up – Wood	17 tons
Spring Clean Up – Miscellaneous	8 tons
Spring Leaf Collection	3 tons
Miscellaneous Wood	10 tons
Fall Leaf Collection (curbside pickup)	123 tons
Fall Leaf Drop-off	84 tons
Christmas Tree Recycling Drop-Off	1 ton

Household Hazardous Waste Day: On a very wet and cold Saturday, May 7th, we held a special Household Hazardous Waste (HHHW) Collection Day, in conjunction with KVCOG and 11 other communities. A total of 158 people braved the nasty weather to take advantage of this collection and 42 of these were Augusta residents. This was an excellent turnout; 296 units were collected, keeping these hazardous items out of the normal waste stream. We want to thank the Augusta State Armory for letting us use their upper parking lot for this day and the advertisement on the kiosk out front; this was all at no charge. We would also like to extend a thank you to everyone who participated: residents, KVCOG, volunteers and workers from the following communities: Augusta, Chelsea, Gardiner, Hallowell, Manchester, Monmouth, Readfield, Richmond, Wayne, Windsor and Winthrop. I think you will see this become an annual or bi-annual event if funding is available. This event was funded 50% by the State.

Request for Services: During 2005, 1,384 telephone calls requesting services were logged between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The requests vary depending on the time of the year and can be summarized as follows:

- 508 calls Plowing, sanding, snow removal
- 399 calls Potholes, sidewalk damage, and debris in road
- 236 calls Rubbish/recycling related
- 122 calls Crosswalk painting, sweeping, and lawn damage
- 86 calls Washouts, plugged culverts/catch basins
- 19 calls Thank you's
- 14 calls Patching/paving

Bureau of Solid Waste

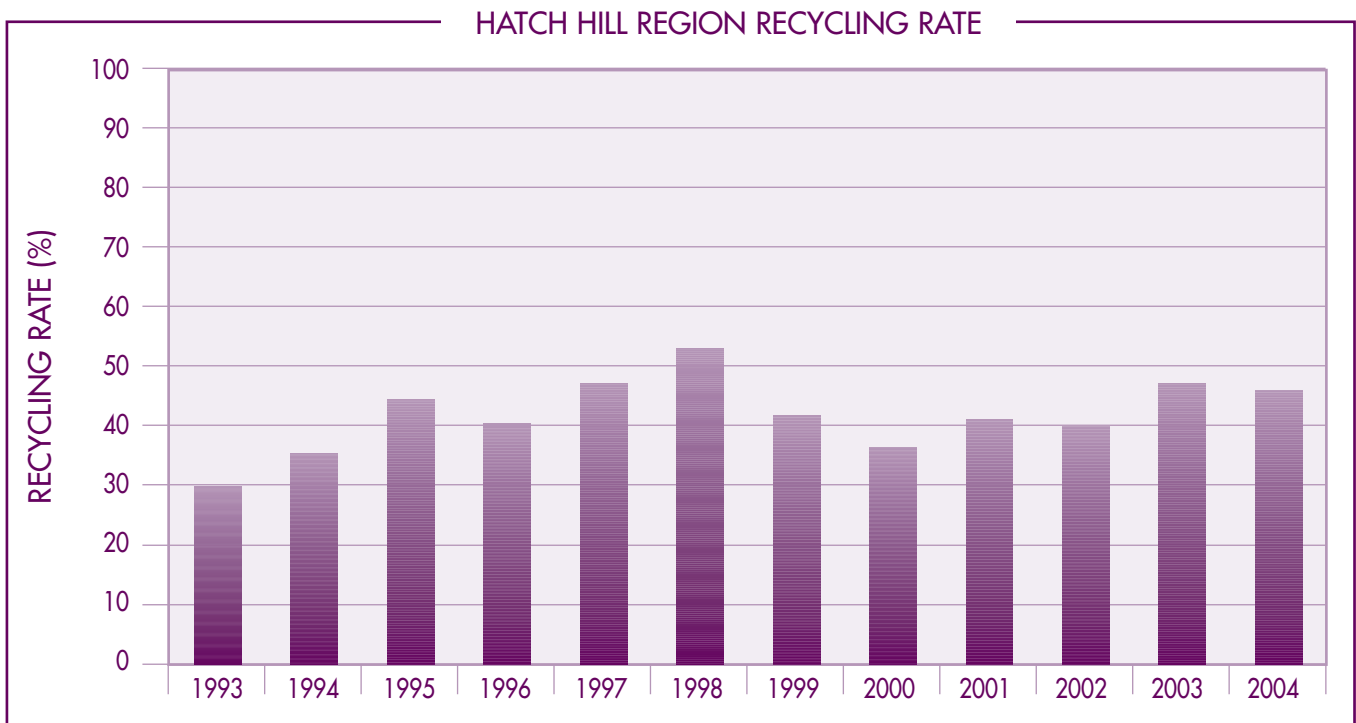


RECYCLING: The Hatch Hill region continues to recycle over 45% of the waste generated in the area. In 2005, nearly 15,000 tons of material were diverted from the landfill waste stream and reprocessed into useable materials. Of this, about 5,000 tons were recycled through the Hatch Hill program and includes:

1,046 tons of asphalt shingles; 2,096 tons of wood waste; 655 tons of scrap metals and white goods; 565 tons of tin cans, clear glass, OCC, newspaper mix and milk jugs; 442 tons of leaves for composting; 2 loads of Universal Waste; and 296 tons of compost or wood chips were given away to residents.

The remaining 10,000 tons of recyclables were generated by local businesses that contracted directly with recycling firms for the materials they generate. These recyclables consist mainly of old corrugated cardboard (OCC), office paper, scrap metal and food waste.

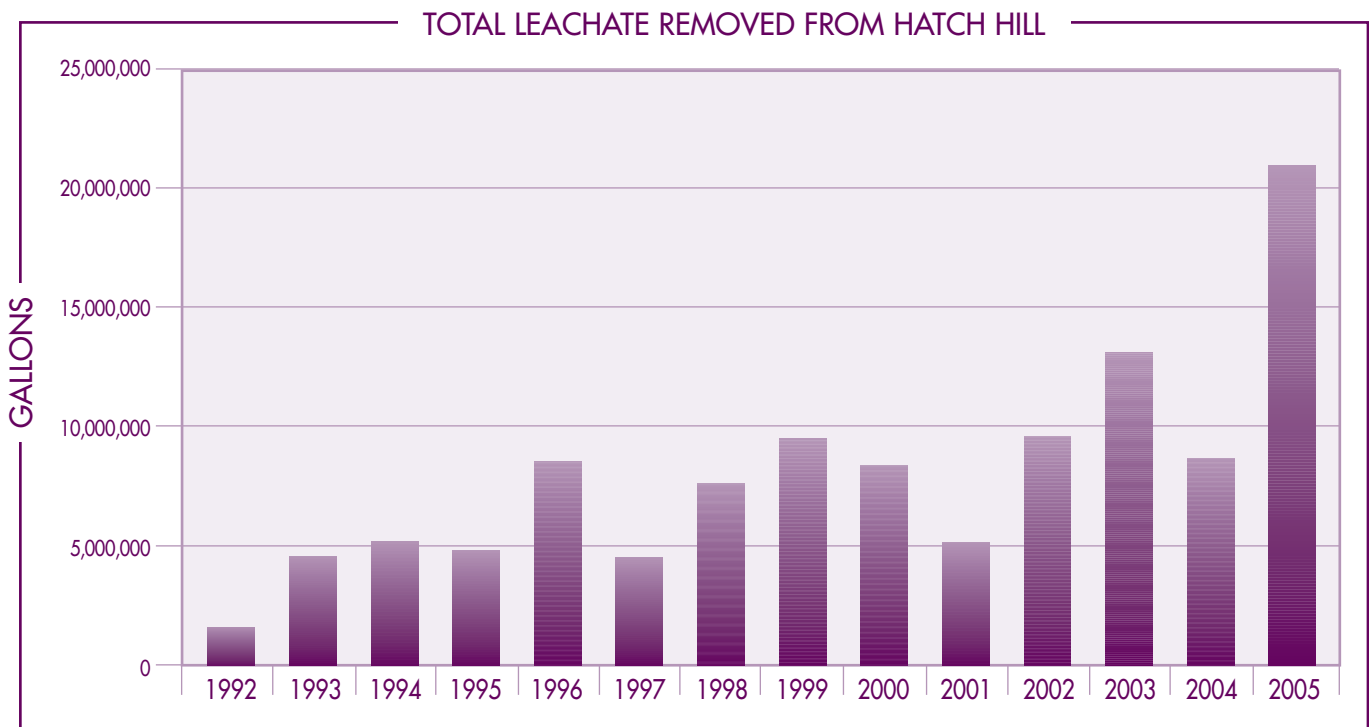
The graph below shows a history of our recycling rates since we began recycling in the early 1990s. These figures are determined from the recycling report we submit to the State every year.



LANDFILL OPERATIONS: In 2005, 27,930 tons of rubbish were landfilled in Expansion III, which was constructed in 2001, and has a life expectancy of about 20 years. At the end of every day, the waste is covered with soil to minimize windblown litter, control odor and discourage the birds from scavenging. This year, approximately 10,000 yards of soil were used as

daily cover. A “by-product” of the landfill operation is leachate. A lot of people ask, “What is leachate?” Leachate is a special term used in the landfill business that means any liquid that comes in contact with garbage. Using today’s technology, leachate is collected through a system of pipes and treated before it is released into the environment. At Hatch Hill, the leachate is collected and stored in the Leachate Pond then pumped to the Augusta Sanitary District Treatment Plant (ASD) where it is treated through their system prior to being released into the Kennebec River as clean water.

The amount of leachate generated from the operation is dependent on two major factors, the amount of landfill area “on-line” collecting leachate and Mother Nature (the amount of precipitation). The graph below shows the yearly leachate generation since 1992 when we began collecting and treating leachate. This year marked our biggest year ever with over 20 million gallons of leachate pumped to the ASD through the force main and another 758,000 gallons trucked to the ASD via the transfer station on Cony Street Extension. This record quantity of leachate is the result of a very wet year with 58.18 inches of precipitation (rain and snowmelt) being recorded at the weather station we maintain at Hatch Hill for the National Weather Service. The average annual precipitation for this area is 44 inches. Another factor was the large area of landfill space we had open and collecting leachate. We reduced this area significantly in the fall by placing a temporary clay cover on five acres of Expansion II. Any rain and melting snow that falls on this temporary clay cover is shed into the natural drainage as clean storm water. K & K Excavation, Inc. of Auburn, Maine was awarded a contract in the amount of \$315,404 for this work, which was completed in November. This project is considered part of the permanent closure of Expansion II and funded from the Closure Fund.



CORRECTIVE ACTION: For the past few years, the City and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection have been working together on a Corrective Action Plan at Hatch Hill to address the groundwater quality at the site. This corrective action plan identified three areas of waste believed to be the primary sources of groundwater degradation. This rubbish was “dumped” at Hatch Hill back in the 1950s and 1960s and is outside the limits of the closed “Old Landfill.” In a nutshell, what this means is that, when the “Old Landfill” was closed with a clay cap in the 1980s, some areas of waste were not covered with the water-shedding cap. These areas of uncapped waste have leached water into the groundwater.

In 2004, we completed corrective action of Area 3 (by the old tire pile) using Public Works crews and equipment at a cost of \$140,000. This year, we shifted our focus to Area 2, which is under and around the metal and wood recycling areas and involved digging up some of the old waste and placing it in one of the secure landfills, covering another area of waste with pavement and a clay/synthetic liner and installing a toe drain to collect leachate coming out of the “Old Landfill” and piping it into the Leachate Pond. K & K Excavation, Inc. of Auburn, Maine was awarded their second contract with us in the amount of \$467,475 to complete this work. The project was started in May and “substantially completed” in August. To help reduce

the cost of the project, Public Works cleared the trees and brush from the site and provided some of the backfill material from the City pit. Public Works also paved the area using the City's paving contractor. Concrete blocks were purchased directly from the manufacturer and placed around the perimeter of the site to keep the wood and metal areas contained on the paved surface. In October, we moved the wood and metal recycling operations back onto this newly paved area, to the delight of our customers (our staff is also grateful to be working on this neat organized area).



UNIVERSAL WASTE RECYCLING: This is a relatively new program required by Federal law mandating most items containing mercury and other heavy metals be recycled. This year two loads of universal waste were shipped out for recycling. These two shipments consisted of: 770 fluorescent lamps, 58 television sets, 173 computer monitors, and 117 miscellaneous mercury devices; i.e., thermostats and thermometers.

In addition to these Universal Waste shipments, over 100 pounds of alkaline and rechargeable household

batteries were recycled and 115 of the old style (now illegal), 20 pound and larger propane tanks were shipped back to the manufacturer to be refurbished or recycled.

Two changes to the Universal Waste program will be occurring in 2006. The first is that recycling of all televisions and computer monitors will be mandatory regardless of whether they are residential or commercial waste. Secondly, the State has developed a program that requires manufacturers to share in the cost of recycling televisions and computer monitors generated from households only. What this means is that Hatch Hill will be developing a program to reduce the cost for homeowners to recycle televisions and computer monitors.

More information and updates on this and other Hatch Hill programs can be found on the City's web page, www.ci.augusta.me.us.

OPERATIONS BUDGET AND CLOSURE FUND: In the past few years, Hatch Hill had been using Retained Earnings to bridge the gap between revenues and expenditures. In February of 2005, most fees to use Hatch Hill were raised to reflect market conditions and the true cost of the solid waste operation, including budgeting for future landfill closures. As a result of the revised fees, Hatch Hill received \$2.4 million in revenues in FY 05 resulting in a net income of \$182,000. This income will help offset the \$600,000+ worth of unfunded remediation work that has been done over the past two years.

An important part of the budget includes the Landfill Closure Reserve Fund. Funds are placed in the Closure Reserve annually to provide sufficient monies to close the landfills and to provide 30 years of post-closure monitoring and maintenance once a site is no longer used as a landfill. To date, \$4,150,000 has been placed in this reserve account. Our goal is to have over \$10.5 million in this fund when Expansion III is full. To put this in perspective, nearly \$13 of every ton of landfilled waste goes to the Closure Fund.

Trees Limited of Sidney provided an educational opportunity for 100 students from the Sidney-Augusta area by holding a three-hour tour of the woodlot. This was a highly successful educational venue for the students and it is hoped that this site will continue to be used as an educational site for the other groups in the future.



CONCLUSION: In closing, we continue to look for ways to improve our operations and are proud to serve our customers in a friendly, efficient and environmentally compliant manner.

School
Department



DR. CORNELIA BROWN
Superintendent of Schools

Augusta School Department

As the Superintendent of Schools for the Augusta School Department, I submit my seventh annual report.

NEW CONY HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

After ten years of planning, analyzation of our school facilities, public discussion, and two submissions to the State Board of Education, clearing of the site for our new Cony High School began on November 9, 2004. During November site work, which entailed the rough grading of the new entrance drive from route 105, the footprint of the new building, and the layout of the site for blasting began. By December 6, our first blasting of ledge occurred.

The site work on this project is extensive. New parking lots will contain 391 spaces, 52 of which will be for visitors, in addition to 18" drop off" spaces. A bus loop will facilitate the flow of traffic and protect our students as they are coming and going. Three ponds to accept all drainage had to be constructed to the west of the existing Capital Area Tech Center. These ponds are served by 36-inch drainage lines. New water lines for domestic service and a sprinkler service were installed. Grading for two all-purpose fields and a new softball facility has been started. Retaining walls have been erected. All of this work began in December and will continue until its scheduled completion in the fall of 2006.



On January 5, 2005, the first section of footings was poured. Our contractor, Wright-Ryan, has been vigorously executing the work. Ground heaters and insulating blankets permit the pursuit of timely completion of the construction of our new 170,000 square foot high school. Work progressed throughout the winter. Concrete block bearing walls were poured in February and, by April, roof steel was being erected. Roofing began in the spring.





During this time period, underslab electrical, heating, venting, and air conditioning work were taking place. Once the roof was made tight to the weather, all interior electrical, plumbing, heating, air conditioning, and finishes could begin in earnest. At this time, only the locker rooms remain without a tight roof. The installation of a new boiler, which is being used for temporary heat, now permits vigorous attention to completion of all finishes. This is what Wright-Ryan has strived to accomplish.



The project is now 67% complete. This includes the installation of a sprinkler system in the trade wings of the existing CATC building, including new acoustical ceilings where applicable. The attention to detail and quality of workmanship is excellent.



“We will soon be occupying a new high school of superb quality, which will be “state of the art,” with the capacity to meet the challenges of supporting our educational goals for the next century.”

WELCOME TO A NEW CONY HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

In February 2005, the Augusta Board of Education supported the nomination of Mr. James Anastasio as the next principal of Cony High School. Mr. Anastasio has been a principal for 22 years, with experiences at Buckfield High School, Summit High School in Colorado, Brunswick High School, and most recently Camden Hills Regional High School.

In 2002, Mr. Anastasio was recognized by the Maine Principals' Association and the National Association of Secondary School Principals as being named Maine Principal of the Year. Mr. Anastasio states, "I wanted to be part of the excitement that always accompanies new schools. My experiences may help maximize the improvement in education as a result of the opportunities presented for school and community through new construction. I have found the students, staff, and community to be welcoming, friendly, and ready for positive change. Cony is already an exciting place, where professional educators provide excellent educational opportunities for students, while exploring ways to improve and meet the needs of all students."



CURRICULUM AND EDUCATION

The curriculum and instruction arena has a major focus on three goals. All of these goals connect with each other. The lynch-pin for all goals is achieving reading, writing, and math proficiency for all students. In order to do that, we must develop and give common assessments that test whether students know and are able to do the things we are teaching them to do. Finally, we are using the assessment data to inform our instruction and enhance teaching practice in all classrooms.

Reading and math acquisition are the cornerstones of education and the foundation of lifelong learning. If children are not independent readers by the end of third grade, it is unlikely that they will be successful in the middle grades and beyond. If children are not skillful in developing problem solving strategies that can solve an equation or a set of numbers, then their success in the technological future is limited.

The Augusta Board of Education has made literacy and math acquisition a priority for the district; in the past two years, much has been done in these areas. It became very clear that a significant percent of our students were not able to read at grade level when we began standardized testing for reading acquisition, and, as we examined the data, we knew that work in this area needed to be a priority. In 2003-2004, we hired one literacy mentor and one math mentor. These master teachers work in the schools with faculty helping them acquire new skills, modeling lessons, helping with students who are not succeeding, and doing specific training in their area of expertise. Their work has been invaluable to staff and administration alike. In 2004-2005, the Board of Education supported the hiring of two additional mentors, and this year, we have seen all elementary schools and the middle school being served by their expertise.

At the end of last year, Gilbert Elementary School applied for and received a Reading First Grant, which supplied the school with a set program that incorporates all of the elements necessary for success in reading. This grant provided for an interventionist to work with students who were having problems with reading and a Reading First coach for teachers to consult on a daily basis. Teachers in grades K-3 were required to attend the Reading First skills workshops. Because this program has been shown to be so successful, many teachers in the district also joined them to learn more about reading acquisition. At the time of this writing, we are about to present information that shows how students who are involved in this program are progressing.

In 2004-2005, the district began the implementation of a new standards-based math program K-5 called Math Trailblazers. This program links directly to the middle school CMP Program and also the high school Math Connections program.

The district math mentor moves from school to school helping teachers use the new materials, offer training, and helps teachers in the classroom through modeling and co-teaching. All elementary teachers agreed, at the end of the year, the new program was a significant improvement. This year, the district is focusing its efforts on gathering baseline data and using that data to help teachers know what students need more support, what concepts are not being understood, and how children are thinking about the problems they are presented with. We have also seen, after one year, a common language that is much easier for students to grasp and follow throughout their elementary years.

A by-product of the assessment data has been a long-term plan in the areas of reading and math. Initiatives at the middle level include a school literacy audit and follow-up plans which will address any weakness. The district is also working on a plan to assess all 9th and 10th graders' reading and literacy skills and then offer specific remediation for students who are not at grade level in an attempt to help them meet graduation requirements.

In the real world, we are required to understand and process substantially higher levels of reading and more complex problem solving issues than most students possess. This fact requires the district to increase the amount and complexity of reading that students do at all levels. We have initiated a pre K-12 literacy plan in all schools with a strong emphasis on reading in the content area. We also are working on extensive training for all teachers in math and reading and will continue to expand our data collection so that all teachers can individualize and differentiate programs for all students.

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS AND STAFF

Luci Levesque was awarded first place in the National Biotechnology Teacher Leader competition. This was held in Philadelphia, PA. The Biotechnology Teacher Leader award recognizes exemplary teaching at the high school level that has positively impacted students' understanding of biotechnology's promises and challenges. The winners received cash awards of \$10,000, \$5,000, and \$2,500, respectively, and are chosen by a panel of judges from academia, research, and the industry.

The Augusta Rotary recognized Tom Wells as their Teacher of the Year. Tom graduated from Bates College in 1976 with a major in English and a minor in Psychology. He started with the Augusta School Department in 1976 and, in the 2005-2006 school year, will celebrate 29 years with the Augusta School Department. He started teaching at Hodgkins Middle School and has since moved to Cony High School, teaching English and language arts.

Judy Carlton received the State of Maine Adult Education Distinguished Service award, presented to her at the Adult Education Conference in September 2005.

The Maine ASBO magazine, the official publication of the *Maine Association of School Officials*, featured James Jurdak, the Augusta School Department Business Manager, in an article titled, "A Profile in the Switch from Private to Public Sector."

The achievements of students are too numerous to list in the short span of this report. Elizabeth Adams was selected as a semi-finalist in the National Merit Scholarship program. Ben Bosman was selected to participate in the National Young Leaders Conference, a program for students who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit. The Maine Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Talent Search program selected Joe Faucher, Kevin McMahon, and Kyle Poulin as recipients in this prestigious award program.

The Cony Envirothon Team placed 15th out of 44 states and eight Canadian province teams, while representing the State of Maine at the Canon North American Envirothon competition in Missouri. The Capital Area Technical Center won several medals, including a gold by the Opening and Closing Team at the Skills USA VICA Championships in Bangor. And, lastly, the Cony girls' basketball team was the 2005 State of Maine champions.



THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Augusta Board of Education works diligently on behalf of all students enrolled in the Augusta School Department. They contribute long hours to standing board committees, such as Personnel, Finance, and Education, as well as the Building Committee and the Strategic Facilities Committee. Additionally, they spend time in the schools, attending school functions and being visible community members. Board members for the 2004-2005 school year are Chair Bill Burney, Members Kim Silsby, Larry Ringrose, Bill Stokes, Sue Campbell, Darek Grant, Sue Allarie-Dowling, Gregg Bernstein, Dick Barnes, and Cony Student Representative Bill Adams.

Members of the 122nd Legislature

(terms expire December, 2006)

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