City of Augusta 2007 Annual Report

Augusta (Me.). City Council

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MISSION 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.

VISION 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.
This annual report is presented in memory of Sylvia Viles Lund, a sitting member of the Augusta City Council when she passed away in the fall of 2007.

Sylvia was a life-long resident of Augusta and an inspiration to those with whom she served throughout a career of public service that included the Augusta Board of Education (which she chaired), the State Board of Education, the Maine Legislature, and the Augusta City Council.

She will be remembered for her intelligence and wit, for her devotion to good government and high ethical standards, for her compassion and for her generosity.

HER LEGACY IS REFLECTED IN HER SIX CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES AND THE HEALTHY AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY WHICH THIS REPORT DESCRIBES AND TO WHICH SHE MADE SO MANY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS.
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Listing does not include city/school officials and staff.
As I finish my first year as Mayor of this great city, I am happy to report that the state of Augusta city government is stable and strong. Our hardworking Council delivered a 2007-2008 budget that provides a continuing high level of municipal services with only a modest 1.4% tax increase. A survey of Augusta’s residents conducted in conjunction with our comprehensive planning effort shows that the vast majority of our citizens give high marks to our schools, police, fire, public works, recreation, and other important municipal functions. I continue to be impressed on a daily basis with the quality, work ethic, and attitude of our 240+ municipal employees who regularly go the extra mile to make this a great place to live. Their leader is City Manager Bill Bridgeo, who was recently named as Maine’s City Manager of the Year. That honor is well deserved.

2007 was quite a year for ribbon cuttings! The Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care elevates Augusta into a regional leader in outpatient cancer treatment. The new Augusta Crossing retail development provides a welcome infusion of new tax base and employment opportunities. The birth of the historic Arsenal Project on the east side of the river promises an exciting future. As important as all of those projects are, I am particularly delighted to see a modest boom in residential construction, as Augusta seeks to continue building its population following decades of modest decline. The downtown Cloutier apartments, the Cony Village, LLC single-family home development, and the new Fieldstone Place show that Augusta is on the move in creating new housing opportunities at all income levels.

As we do all we can to maintain the proper balance between commercial development and a livable community, I am particularly proud of two Council initiatives. First, we passed a new ordinance that gives our Planning Board review over smaller projects to ensure their appropriateness and neighborhood compatibility. Second, we acquired significant parcels of land adjacent to the Bond Brook Watershed and Central Maine Commerce Center, as well as at the Sidney Bog. Totaling over 336 acres, these purchases add to our inventory of land set aside for conservation and passive recreation that will serve our community well for generations to come.

Perhaps the most significant municipal event this year was the completion of Augusta’s new Comprehensive Plan, the result of almost a year of effort by dozens of Augusta’s best, capably lead by Les Wilkinson and Lisa Dickson. The words “comprehensive plan” may sound boring, but don’t be misled – this blueprint for Augusta’s next decade is dynamic,
thoughtful, and achievable. I plan to keep it beside me at the bench at Council meetings to help guide our future deliberations. I am particularly excited about the plan’s reminder to us that our “sense of place” – what makes Augusta special – is our historic riverfront and downtown. As we move into 2008, I am confident our community will seize the opportunities before us to showcase, improve, and develop this special part of our city. Can we increase the number of residents, restaurants, pubs, and boutiques along our river? You bet we can, and the effort begins now!

Hard decisions lie ahead. What is our best bet for re-development of the Cony Flatiron building? How do we plan for reuse of the magnificent but environmentally-challenged Statler Mill site? How can we address the needed renovations and expansion our beautiful Lithgow Library so badly needs? The questions are easy; the solutions more evasive. Fortunately, we are blessed with talented citizen committees looking at each one of these issues, and I am confident we will make the right choices as a community.

Fiscal challenges face us, as well. Municipal government is not immune from the budgetary pressures created by increasing health insurance and energy costs that impact us all. How will we maintain our high level of services while at the same time avoiding significant tax increases? While a big part of the answer depends on state (and even federal) policy, much of the solution lies with us. At least a piece of “doing things right” is exemplified by last year’s merger of the Augusta Sanitary and Water Districts (and the creation of a new cooperative entity with Hallowell Sanitary District), the result of hard work of many dedicated citizens. Hopefully, we will be smart enough and persistent enough to make this example of consolidation and regionalism the first of many.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE, I MUST SAY THAT I WAKE UP EVERY MORNING FEELING HONORED TO BE THE MAYOR OF THIS GREAT COMMUNITY AND EXCITED ABOUT HOW WE CAN WORK TOGETHER EACH DAY TO MAKE IT BETTER.
Anyone acquainted with our current mayor knows him to be a gracious fellow. So, typical of his style, when he and I were both preparing to write our contributions to this annual report, Mayor Katz asked me whether I’d like to go first and share a draft with him so that he would not be redundant in his message. Without much forethought – and wishing to give our new mayor some extra latitude – I declined his generous offer and asked him to go ahead first. Well, as you can see on the previous pages, the rookie has performed like Patriots’ quarterback Tom Brady coming in for Drew Bledsoe. He’s done a great job of chronicling the highlights of 2007 in Augusta city government and conveying the optimistic attitude that was a hallmark of his and the City Council’s stewardship of your community last year – and he hasn’t left much for me to add. Thus, I’m not going to try to replicate that effort. Rather, I’m going to take this opportunity to express some thoughts about the unique potential Augusta possesses from the vantage point of my upcoming tenth anniversary (April ’08) as city manager.

The afternoon I flew into Maine to interview for this job a decade ago, the tailwind pushing the plane along was also bringing the Great Ice Storm of 1998 with it. Two months later, on the evening of my first day at work, Governor Angus King paid a historic visit to the City Council at their business meeting and urged the City to agree to the removal of the Edwards Dam and to enter a partnership – manifested by something that would become the Capital Riverfront Improvement District – to move the capital city into the new millennium. Civic activity, from disaster recovery to a new economic model focused on downtown and the riverfront, was intense and consuming and hasn’t let up since.

In the intervening years, we’ve witnessed (and hopefully had a hand in) amazing commercial growth, stable city finances (with virtually no increase in the property tax bill of the average resident), wonderful new community assets like the Cushnoc Crossing (Third Bridge), Cony High School, YMCA, and Alfond Cancer Center, and a resurgence of healthy neighborhood spirit throughout the City. Continuing the momentum, we just completed a two-year effort to adopt the best comprehensive plan anyone who deals in such things can remember seeing. Beyond a thorough set of recommendations for future City land use, it presents an inspiring vision for our City in the years to come – achievable only with serious commitment on the part of all elements of the community, especially its elected leadership.
Which brings me to my point (to which my wife might typically add “finally!”). As I sat in Council Chambers a few nights ago, listening to Mayor Katz present his vision for revitalizing the riverfront and downtown, I thought about the talent and experience present on the Council bench.

THREE SEASONED AND RESPECTED LAWYERS, A RETIRED STRUCTURAL ENGINEER, A FORMER CHIEF OF SOCIAL WORK NOW DOING COMPUTER CONSULTING, A REAL ESTATE APPRAISER, TWO RESPECTED STATE EMPLOYEES, AND A FORMER BANKER TURNED TOWN MANAGER COMPOSE MY CURRENT GOVERNING BODY. THAT’S A FIRST-RATE CROSS-SECTION OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR CITY, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE SCOPE OF ISSUES THEY MUST GRAPPLE WITH ROUTINELY. THE COUNCIL’S MAKE-UP IS REFLECTIVE OF THE TALENT, ENERGY AND EXPERIENCE IN THE COMMUNITY AT-LARGE.

But more important than credentials is attitude and demeanor and here is where our real potential exists because all of these people (and the City staff who carry out their policy decisions) are deeply committed to open and inclusive local government where the best interests of the City is the overarching guiding principle. I’ve been in municipal management since 1976, and I believe that the team in place in Augusta today – both elected and appointed – could not be stronger. The combination of balanced experience, civility, and openness is an exceptional one, in my mind. It is what gives me my strong measure of optimism that Augusta will continue to thrive and grow going forward.

What is contained in the pages of this annual report (ably assembled and edited by my Executive Assistant, Jessie Shaw) is a summary of one good year – 2007. In that sense, it is a slice of the bigger continuum – an interesting snapshot of where we are. It shows that we continue to meet our basic mission to provide high quality basic municipal services cost-effectively and that we (like Tom Brady) are keeping our eye on the end zone and capitalizing on long-range opportunities. It is an exciting time to be a part of the civic life of Maine’s Capital City. I hope as you read this report, you share in that enthusiasm and find a way to get involved and join us. It’s a very satisfying feeling.
The Augusta State Airport is owned by the State of Maine through the Maine Department of Transportation. The airport is, however, maintained and managed by the City of Augusta under the terms of an Agreement of Lease and Option. As with previous agreements, it 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.

In 2007, the newly formed Airport Board developed a mission statement and established several goals to guide the airport over the next several years. The mission is to provide the City of Augusta, the Central Maine region, and the state government agencies, safe and efficient airport facilities, to promote economic growth by developing airport activities that will enable the airport to become more self-sustaining, while remaining responsive to the neighboring community. Goals were then established to assist the airport management staff in fulfilling its mission commitment. The goals are:

- Improve the airport’s ability to promote economic growth
- Provide additional capacity for corporate jet hangars and parking
- Continue to monitor airport master plan recommendations and implementation
- Determine if it is cost effective to continue to offer commercial service
- Improve the safety at the airport - runway safety capital improvements
- Develop airport with sensitivity to the neighboring community

One of the board’s first priorities was to focus on airport marketing to promote economic growth. The Airport Board was successful in receiving financial support from the City of Augusta and the Augusta Board of Trade in the form of matching contributions for a marketing grant. Although it was unsuccessful this year in receiving a Small Community Air Service Development Grant from the USDOT, the Airport Board will, with continued support from the City and ABOT, resubmit the grant request in 2008. The board also established a marketing subcommittee that has utilized several low or no cost marketing strategies that has provided much needed public awareness of the benefits of this airport. The Marketing Committee will continue its efforts to create a long-term marketing plan that will enhance our chances of receiving a SCASD grant this year.

The Augusta Airport Master Plan continues to move forward. HNTB Corp., the State’s consultant, continues to hold public meetings gathering vital input from the abutting business and residential neighborhoods. Several more meetings are scheduled for this year to continue gathering information from the City’s Airport Advisory Committee and the Master Plan Public Advisory Committee (PAC). These committees will review and recommend airport development for the next 20-year planning period.
Construction activity has continued to remain high over the past calendar year. Commercial activity remains a primary focus of our area with only a modest residential interest, which does seem to be on the upswing. Annually, we continue to note positive activity in the renovations and improvements of our residential property base.

Statewide the historic downtown areas continue to be an area of great interest, particularly in encouraging active renovation and revitalization of the inner cores of our communities. State agencies have begun reviewing a variety of issues often viewed as stumbling blocks to economical revitalization. Among these concerns, we see a strong desire to have a statewide building code, with a component to allow consideration of historic structures or districts. Augusta has already adopted the recommended International Code Council documents that appear to be the direction communities are being guided towards. Essential is the International Existing Building Code, which offers some measure of economic relief in the renovation or conversion of older properties, all while attempting to maintain a reasonable degree of safety for both our building occupants and property base. Further discussions are being contemplated to review provisions of the State Fire Codes, handicapped regulations, elevator, and sprinkler system codes.

Application of these complex standards is done on a site-by-site case. Code Enforcement staff work daily to assist architects/engineers, contractors, developers and property owners in the interpretation of these standards.

The potential licensing of contractors at all levels may be in our future as well. If this occurs, we should see the recognition of professional standing long overlooked in this segment of the construction industry.
The City of Augusta saw many significant developments come to completion in 2007. The long awaited “Augusta Crossing” shopping plaza opened for business late in the year with major retailers Lowe’s, Best Buy and Staples opening for the holiday season. The other major anchor of the development, Target, is planned to open in early 2008. This development added an additional 400,000 square feet of retail space in the City and will add an additional 595 full-time equivalent employment opportunities when all stores are operable. As part of this development, Western Avenue received a significant infrastructure upgrade with the addition of new turning lanes and signalized intersections.

The construction of other new structures was also evident around the City. With the assistance of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program, J.S. McCarthy was able to begin construction on a near doubling of its facility located within the Augusta Business Park off Civic Center Drive. J.S. McCarthy, a high-tech offset printer, was able to leverage these TIF proceeds and initiate the expansion project that will secure its competitiveness in the global market and maintain its existing workforce of approximately 140 individuals. The Fairfield Inn, a national hotel chain, added to the construction activity occurring within the Augusta Business Park by constructing an 85-room hotel on Darin Avenue. The construction of the Fairfield Inn marks the first time in well over two decades that a new hotel was constructed in Augusta. The year also saw the Central Maine Commerce Center add a new 16,000 square foot building on one of its newly approved lots within its 18-lot commercial subdivision. The building will host the United States Department of Agriculture.

The Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care became fully operational in 2007 to a very appreciative clientele. The stunning facility has immediately become a beacon for cancer care throughout the state and has won praise for its design and emphasis on its surrounding environment. On that same note, Hannaford Brothers made a significant announcement late in the year that their proposed new store, to be located adjacent to the Cony Circle, would be eligible to receive platinum level LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. This is the highest level of distinction granted within the LEED program and it is the first such grocery store planned within the country to attempt to receive this level of certification.
Several development projects that were announced in 2006 also began in earnest this past year. The Kenway Corporation, manufacturers of custom fiberglass industrial products and power boats, announced in 2006 its plans to double the size of its manufacturing facility and increase employment by approximately 25 employees. At the end of the year, the company finalized its financing for the project and successfully received bids for the construction of the facility. Another project proposed in 2006, the expansion of the hotel Quality Inn & Suites, was completed this past year. This expansion added an additional story to the Whitten Road hotel property and also included a complete renovation to the complex.

Housing projects that were proposed in 2006 also made monumental steps towards completion in 2007. The proposed 58-unit residential development titled “Fieldstone Place” celebrated a much anticipated groundbreaking late in the year, followed by the start of construction on the subdivision’s infrastructure. The 43-unit residential subdivision, “Cony Village,” located out on the Cony Road, ended the year with the full completion of the development’s infrastructure. At the end of the year, the developer was still working with the City Council to finalize an Affordable Housing Tax Increment Financing program that would make a portion of the houses available to families with moderate incomes that are currently unable to purchase homes in the City. The developer that purchased the Windy and Glen Street housing subdivision built three single-family homes this past year and had begun construction on the first duplex style condominium.

The City envisions that this level of growth and development will continue in 2008. For starters, the American Tissue Reuse Committee proposes to provide the City Council with its recommendations on the potential reuse of this abandoned facility following its public input sessions. The redevelopment of this complex would undoubtedly be one of the single largest developments in the City’s history. To that end, the City submitted a $350,000 assessment grant to the federal EPA to conduct further environmental inspections and to develop a reuse plan. On another project of equal significance, the Cony Flatiron Reuse Committee worked aggressively throughout the year with its consulting architect to finalize the proposed reuse plan for the Cony Flatiron. It is expected that this report and its recommendations will be delivered to the City Council in early 2008.

We believe that these projects, and the many others that are in the planning stages, will make the New Year a very exciting one for the City of Augusta and its residents!
The Engineering Bureau provides professional/technical services to the City of Augusta related to infrastructure needs for the growth and development of the City both residential and commercial. We provide design and management services for a variety of City projects. Engineering plays a large role in the evaluation and approval of other private developments which are being planned within the city. The Engineering Bureau staff includes the City Engineer and an Engineering Technician.

Some of the major city projects which took place over the last year are:

**DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**
- Union Street Reconstruction Phase Two
- Pearl Street Reconstruction Phase Two
- Neighborhood Street Traffic Calming
- Hartford Fire Station Site Upgrade
- Public Works Soil Stabilization

**COORDINATION OF CITY’S INTERESTS IN THE FOLLOWING DOT PROJECTS**
- Augusta Crossing Mall Off-site Traffic Mitigation Projects
- Traffic Signal System Overhaul

**FUTURE CITY PROJECTS**
- Winthrop Street Reconstruction Phase One
- Water Street Stairs Replacement

**FUTURE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**
- Bangor Street Paving Rehabilitation
- Safe Routes to School Project
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

RECORDS OF CITY PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND STREETS
- Topographic Information
- Street Descriptions
- Right-of-Way Locations
- Horizontal and Vertical Datum
- 1939 Survey Maps
- Computerized Aerial Mapping
The Facilities and Systems Bureau oversees the maintenance, repairs and required annual servicing of all the systems that are necessary to operate the City-owned buildings. The buildings include the City Center, Buker Community Center, Fire Department buildings, Flatiron building, Lithgow Library and Police Department. This bureau also oversees the streetlights leased from Central Maine Power Company, the City-owned streetlights, and the traffic signal system throughout the city.

During the past year, this bureau addressed two properties that were in need of clean-up or demolition. The clean-up project was on a City-owned piece of property on the Bolton Hill Road. The property had a significant accumulation of debris. The demolition was a building located at 10 Glendon Street. This building was deemed dangerous by the City Code Enforcement Bureau. Both projects went through the formal bid process and were cleaned up by outside contractors.

The Police Department parking areas had six new 30-foot parking lot pole lights installed. This greatly increased the visibility in the parking areas and created a safer environment for the staff and public at the building. During the upcoming spring/summer season, we will address the need for better wall lighting around the entire exterior of the building and fencing around the building will be repaired and replaced as needed.

At the Buker Community Center, this bureau completed replacement of the flooring in the front office area and installed a wall in a large office space to make two more usable office spaces.

Buker Community Center presently has lease agreements with Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC), Boys and Girls Club, and Healthy Communities of the Capital Area. KVCC leases four classrooms and office space on the first floor; the Boys and Girls Club leases all the usable basement level space; and Healthy Communities of the Capital Area has a lease for one of the newly-created office spaces. The Augusta Recreation Department occupies the west wing and the gym area. The south wing of the building, which has seven classroom spaces (approximately 6,000 sq. ft.), is presently unused space.

This bureau continues to maintain the Flatiron building, as other City facilities, as if the building was fully occupied. A portion of the facility is presently being used by the Parks and Cemeteries Bureau for equipment storage.
This bureau continues to develop underground conduit pathways and aerial pathways to install infrastructure (City owned and leased) to grow with the ever-expanding need for direct communications with all City facilities and traffic controllers.

This bureau worked closely with the State Department of Transportation on a signal upgrade project that encompassed all of Western Avenue and State Street. This project upgraded all the traffic controllers to the most modern, state-of-the-art control equipment. Also installed was a complete, fiber optic connection on all the new traffic control equipment and back to the Augusta City Center traffic management center.

The new Cony Village, located on Cony Road, brought 11 new ornamental pole lights into the mix with the existing pole light fixtures. The completion of the Union Street project by our Augusta Public Works Bureau added another nine existing ornamental pole lights.

The bureau saw a significant amount of personnel changes this year with the retirement of a ten-year employee, the replacement of that employee, and the addition of a second half-time employee at Buker Community Center. Chester Coston was hired to fill the position at Buker Community Center and Carrie Dancer and Bethany Dancer were hired to fill two different shifts at the Police Department.

At present, the Facilities Bureau is at full staff and is doing a great job at keeping the facilities clean and safe for the staff and public.

This bureau continues to work closely with the School Department and other bureaus in procuring long-term contracts for a variety of goods and services that benefit the City.

This bureau looks forward to continuing its efforts to keep the City buildings and street light and traffic signal systems operating properly and running smoothly.
MEMORIALIZING AUGUSTA’S PAST

The year 2007 was a year of memorializing Augusta’s rich history & planning its preservation for future generations of Augusta citizens.

In May, the Commission, along with the Kennebec Historical Society, the 3rd Maine Infantry Volunteers, Sons of Union Veterans and Ladies Auxiliary and the Tardiff Belanger American Legion Post 39, placed a federal government headstone at the grave of Civil War General Seth Williams at Forest Grove Cemetery.

The Commission worked to save the 1840’s American Gothic Sylvester Judd house from demolition to make way for parking spaces in a new development. This house is now to be maintained into perpetuity as stipulated in Planning Board approval documents. We were unable to save the Justice Whitehouse house on the West Side Rotary but the site will be memorialized with a bronze plaque to be placed by the developer, again as a condition of approval by the Planning Board at the request of the Commission.

The Museum in the Streets Program has moved forward with fundraising and is targeted for dedication early in 2008. The City has adopted this program for historic signage at the Mill Park site. The State Archivist is moving forward with plans to have this signage placed in the Capital District in observance of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. There have been discussions with the developer of the Arsenal to have this signage included in their restoration of the site. Further discussions have been held with the MITS organizers in Hallowell to tie the two cities’ MITS signage together along the Kennebec River Rail Trail.

The Commission placed seven historic house marker plaques during 2007 and has four more ready to be presented by the Mayor to the home owners in January 2008. These plaques are granted by the City upon application to the Commission and after having met certain criteria. The Commission will be encouraging homeowners to request these plaques for their historic homes moving forward.

The City Council’s committee to explore the revitalization and historic restoration of Bond Street, which includes the City-owned property at 25 Bond Street, has completed its work. Their recommendations have been forwarded to the City Council for consideration. The 25 Bond Street property is on the Maine Preservation list of most endangered historic properties.
The Commission has identified the need to preserve historic City records dating back to the early 1800’s in a safe and secure location with the goal to make them available to researchers of family and local history and city government. The location of a City archives is to be determined and will be based on an assessment of what records are available and what should be retained. The Commission has this as a continuing goal into 2008.

Another interesting project is the possibility of using the old Atlantic Hose Company fire station on Cony Street as a firefighters’ museum and interpretive center. The City Council has authorized a committee to explore this. A historical assessment of the property is indicated and the Commission has agreed to utilize funds from its budget to accomplish this. It will be a continuing initiative into 2008.

The Old YMCA building on the corner of Winthrop and State Streets was placed on Maine Preservation’s 2006 list of most endangered properties. The Commission, along with a private citizen, worked with Maine Preservation to have the building placed on this list. The City is very interested in preserving the streetscape of the State and Winthrop Street intersection with the YMCA, Lithgow Library and Kennebec County Court House and in supporting the new owner in maintaining the building’s exterior and, hopefully, restoring it to its original look. This is a continuing area of interest for the Commission into 2008.

A reform of the City’s historic preservation ordinance outlining changes in the way historic districts are determined continues to be of interest and concern for the Commission. The Commission has obtained the services of a historic preservation consultant to assist in the development of a demolition delay ordinance. This will lead to changing the existing ordinance language concerning the development of historic districts.

The Commission recommended increasing the size of the Commission from five to seven members. The City Council approved the ordinance change and two new members of the Commission were added, Sylvia Hudson and Richard Kelly. These new members have extensive knowledge and background in planning and program development.

The year 2007 was a year of memorializing Augusta’s rich history and planning its preservation for future generations of Augusta citizens. The Commission continues to look for ways to work with the Mayor and City Council, City staff and the business community and citizens in a partnership of preservation to enhance the historical assets of the City for the benefit of all.
The staff worked tirelessly to assist members of the public with projects being undertaken throughout the city. The planning bureau continued to be staffed by Matt Nazar, Deputy Director of Development Services, and a part-time Assistant Planner, Crystal Hitchings. The staff worked tirelessly to assist members of the public with projects being undertaken throughout the city, provided advice to the Planning Board on projects before them and on modifications to the Land Use Ordinance, and assisted the City Manager and City Council on land use related topics. The major issue in 2007 was the completion of the Mineral Extraction Ordinance and the licensing of 19 existing mineral extraction operations.

PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS
In 2007, the Planning Board held 25 meetings, which included a mixture of meetings on applications, site visits, and workshops regarding changes to the ordinance or long-term planning efforts. The board reviewed 61 applications and proposals this year, which is a few more than last year, but many of the applications reviewed this year were mineral extraction licenses, which were very complex. Many of the applications and proposals reviewed were ultimately approved, but several were not. The table to the right summarizes the applications reviewed by the board from 2003 through 2007.
Major projects approved during the year included a proposal to combine a number of parcels on Memorial Circle, demolish the existing structures and construct a Walgreen’s; a proposal to combine a number of parcels on Cony Circle, demolish the existing buildings and construct a CVS; a 67-unit expansion of the Loon Cove Rental community on Riverside Drive; a proposal to demolish and construct a new Unitarian Universalist Church on Winthrop Street; a proposal to expand the Kenway Corporation industrial building on Riverside Drive; a proposal to expand the J.S. McCarthy Company printing shop on Darin Drive; a proposal to demolish and construct a new Capital Area Federal Credit Union on North Belfast Avenue; and, most significantly, the review and licensing of all 19 existing mineral extraction sites in the city, which had previously not required licensing. These projects and others occupied a significant amount of the board’s time and effort.

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) were updated and unified into a single policy document for the City during 2007 by the Comprehensive Plan Committee, with the Planning Board joining the effort later in the year.

In November 2005, the City Council created a special ad-hoc committee called the Comprehensive Plan Update “Process” Committee. That committee recommended the overall process for updating the plan, including the structure of the committee that would draft the new plan, and, in early 2006, they handed off their work to the newly-formed Comprehensive Plan Committee. The Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) had 13 members in 2006, all interested in the future of Augusta. As 2007 started, four new members – two City Councilors and two Planning Board members – joined the committee and continued the work on the plan. The CPC and 11 subcommittees, including over 100 volunteers, worked throughout the year to finalize the new 2007 Comprehensive Plan for the City, which went to an official public hearing in late November 2007 and then on to City Council for adoption in the first week of 2008.

With the completion of the Comprehensive Plan in 2007, City staff, the Planning Board, and the Comprehensive Plan Committee which saw its effort completed, expect 2008 to be a year where the recommendations of the plan are acted on by the City. That means that the Planning Board, with staff assistance, will begin a complete re-write of the Land Use Ordinance to make it easier for residents, applicants, and staff to use. Anyone interested in that effort is encouraged to participate by attending workshops, contacting the City staff with comments, or writing to City staff regarding changes in the ordinances, which the Planning Board will then review and consider. The City Council will undoubtedly review the Plan in detail to identify projects or policies desired by the residents of the City that it can work on to make Augusta the best central Maine community in which to live and work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conditional Use/Special Exceptions (new-expanded/amended)</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rezonings (zoning map changes)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rezoning Petition/Waiver Requests</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Use Ordinance Text Amendments</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Subdivisions (final)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subdivisions (amended)/Resubdivisions</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Developments (new/amended)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Review</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral Extraction Licenses</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Upgrading the technology in our facility will enable us to attract more conferences, trade shows & conventions.

Fiscal year 2007 was a trying one for the Augusta Civic Center in regard to finances. We ended the year with a deficit of $65,076. Revenues were $2,833,792, down $109,346 from last year. Expenditures were also down by $29,484 for a total of $2,898,868.

The major reason for the decreased revenues was that concerts were down this past year. This was the case around the state when speaking with other venues. The shows we did have were The Steve Miller Band, Randy Travis and BB King.

As the Civic Center ages, the capital improvement budget increases. We spent $78,568 in capital improvements this past year:
- North Wing Roof - $69,755
- Portable PA System for banquet events - $3,325
- Repair of east side bleachers in the main auditorium - $2,900
- Kitchen Floor Scrubber - $2,588

A new 600 KW diesel generator was purchased and installed outside the Civic Center in October 2006. The $235,000 unit was acquired through homeland security funds and is large enough to operate the entire facility during a power outage. The generator has an automatic transfer switch and, when power is lost, there is only a six-second delay before generation power takes over. When electricity returns, it is literally a blink of the eye and barely noticeable. The purpose of the generator is to operate the Civic Center as a shelter in a natural or man-made disaster.

At the February 20th meeting of the Augusta City Council, Denis Bergeron, Efficiency Maine Program Director, presented me and Facility Director Steve Dowling with a plaque recognizing the Civic Center’s energy efficiency efforts. New lighting will lower the facility’s electricity usage by roughly 118,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per year – an estimated savings of $18,000 annually. The lowered kWh usage will also avert the production of 40 tons of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Our wireless internet system has been upgraded and now has the potential for 500 simultaneous users, which is double the capacity of a year ago. We are currently working with Information Systems to continue upgrading the technology in our facility that will enable us to attract more conferences, trade shows and conventions.
One of the highlight events this past year was the Governor’s inauguration and ball. The two-day event last January was a huge undertaking, but, thanks to the great work of ACC staff, it went off very well. It was quite impressive to see 2,500 people served food and beverages in a short period of time along with operating a coat check for those same people.

The high school basketball tournament attendance continues to be strong with the addition of Eastern Maine Class A teams. Attendance is up approximately 50% over two years ago prior to the A’s coming to Augusta. Last March, we hosted the State Class A Championships for the first time in 29 years. Players, coaches and spectators are very pleased with the change from Bangor to Augusta.

We were honored to host the New England Little League Baseball Tournament Banquet in June. Twelve hundred players, coaches and family members from all over New England gathered here for a spaghetti feed to kick off the festivities.
Bicentennial Nature Park had good attendance in 2007 as seen in a 30% increase in sales of season passes and group reservations. However, our goal is to stay within our mandate of resource protection while providing Augusta’s families and residents a place to enjoy and create memories of outings at the lake.

The founding vision for Bicentennial has come to fruition; residents are often amazed when they come to the nature park. Only minutes away from the hustle and bustle of city life, the park is a place where families and residents can have their traditional cookouts, nature walks, swims or spend time relaxing in the park’s natural surroundings.

New water slides were added this year replacing older and worn equipment. The slides have improved the park’s water recreation activities and opportunities. These new slides are far more durable than the replaced equipment. Park usage increased noticeably after the arrival of the new slides. I want to thank the City Manager, Mayor and City Council for supporting and funding these improvements.

Returning park staff includes Jessica Dow, Alex Kenoyer, Clint Peterson and Andrea Tyler. It is these employees who maintain the park’s facilities. The park is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Hours of operation are seven days a week from 10:30 am to 7:00 pm; sometimes later on those long hot summer evenings. Reservations for groups from Augusta can be made by calling 620-7010 or 626-2352.

Approximately 1,050 hours of volunteer work was completed this year at Bicentennial Nature Park making it one of the most volunteered areas operated by the City of Augusta. The hours volunteered were divided primarily among Cony’s annual Day of Caring event and China Lakes Region Alliance. During the spring, approximately 200 freshmen from Cony High School came to the park and helped prepare the grounds for opening day. The China Lakes Region Alliance also provided a crew of eight members who worked four days, doing various water-shed runoff projects. Bicentennial Nature Park staff would like to extend an immense thanks to all who volunteered their time at the park in 2007.

In review, Bicentennial Nature Park had a highly successful year due to the thousands of City residents who visited the park. We thank you for your continued support and patronage and look forward to seeing the familiar faces, along with many new ones, next year!
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.

This year over 200 children took part in Before-School Care, After-School Care, Vacation Care or a combination thereof. The fee structure was changed to average out the cost allowing the parents to pay one weekly fee throughout the school year. This allowed parents not to have to worry as to how much the added snow day would be costing them that week or having to come up with the full-time rate of care for three weeks of vacations.

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.

There was very little turn-over in the childcare staff this year. This is exemplary considering a childcare position can consist of working 6:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. or 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Part of this is due to the salaries being raised to attract experienced staff and then having staff that enjoys working with the children.

Summer Camp Staff did an excellent job offering a quality summer program with limited space. Due to school department needs, all summer school programs were offered at Lincoln along with Childcare. It was a bit confusing at first; especially considering the space that 100 children in childcare were using the cafeteria, music room and the gym. Thankfully, the school staff and childcare staff worked well together so schedules could be coordinated.
The year of land conservation in Augusta is how I can best describe what transpired with the Community Services Department. The City added 336 acres to our open space inventory and the Conservation Commission is evaluating other parcels for possible inclusion. The City acquired an invaluable piece of real estate in the heart of our City along Bond Brook. This 166 acres of magnificent landscape will be a real asset to our City for many years to come and will be protected in perpetuity. The City also acquired 100 acres of the Great Sidney Bog. This acquisition was added to 100 acres the City already owned. This is another area worth conserving and preserving as this bog plays a significant role in our City’s ecosystem. Lastly, the City added another 70 acres of land in North Augusta that is part of the Bond Brook watershed and is an area that will be enjoyed by our residents for generations to come. Much of the credit for the three significant acquisitions goes to the City Conservation Commission and City Councilor David Gomeau. These two forces lead the charge and did the right thing for all of Augusta’s residents, the environment, and the wildlife and plant communities.

The combined efforts of staff and leadership from the Recreation Bureau, Old Fort Western, Parks, Cemeteries and Trees Bureau and private individuals and businesses in our community made the 2007 Fourth of July festivities the very best in recent memory. The day-long celebration beginning with breakfast at Applebee’s, the parade, chicken barbecue and town baseball at Old Fort Western, the bands at Waterfront Park and the fireworks finale made for an incredible day to be remembered and appreciated by thousands of our residents and guests to our city.

The Lithgow Library took another step to determining a course of action to help meet the needs of the community and a facility that is in need of work.

It was a real joy to work with two young men in helping them realize their Eagle Scout dreams. Mr. Michael Lachance did an outstanding Eagle Scout project at Mill Park that improved access to the Kennebec River. Mr. Kevin Lind’s Eagle Scout project involved making significant improvements to the new Augusta Cony High School Cross Country running course located at the Augusta Nature Center. These two gentlemen and their families, as well as their scout troops and scout leadership, are to be commended for a job well done.

Over 200 trees were planted in Augusta this past year. More than 100 trees were planted at the new Cony Campus and a huge thanks must go to the Augusta Tree Board for their support. All trees were planted through the Parks, Cemeteries and Trees Bureau under the direction of Director James Goulet and our very capable Arborist Leo St. Peter.

The Buker Community Center continues to grow and mature as a facility and resource to Augusta. To the benefit of our residents, the Recreation Bureau, Childcare Bureau, the
Augusta Boys and Girls Club, and the Kennebec Valley Community College all share space at Buker Center.

Parks, Cemeteries and Trees Director James Goulet joined the City January 2nd and has proven to be a terrific asset to the City. Jim knows his “stuff” and we are exceedingly delighted he is on our team. Jim brings a wealth of knowledge, skills and a fabulous personality to our organization.

Each of the six bureaus of Community Services provides “quality-of-life” services. The six bureaus of the Community Services Department are: Childcare, Health and Welfare, Lithgow Public Library, Old Fort Western, Parks, Cemeteries and Trees and last, but not least, the Recreation Bureau. The City facilitated the establishment of the “Farmers’ Market at Mill Park.” The farm members were happy with the first year and will be back for the 2008 market season. This project was successful thanks to the Augusta City Council, the CRID Board, an incredibly generous donation and support from MaineGeneral Medical Center and the 100% commitment from the market members. The City thanks each and every market member for the time and commitment they made to this market. Through the drive and commitment of the City Council, the City Manager’s Office and the CRID Board, a significant dent was made into making some very nice improvements to the Edwards Mill Site Park, also known as Mill Park. The foundation has been set for additional improvements to occur over the next few years when funding becomes available.

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 a list (not all inclusive) of 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 the 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, visitors and businesses of Augusta

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.
Here to help….

We share with Augusta residents the increasing concern and fear caused by the continued escalating costs of heating fuel for our homes and gasoline for necessary transportation. These seemingly uncontrollable energy costs have, in turn, caused further increases in all our living costs including food, household needs and other services and goods. Every one of us is affected, but for low income households, the burden is overwhelming and, for many, unsolvable without assistance.

Please remember your city administers a “safety net” program known as General Assistance, which can provide immediate help to eligible people who are encountering hardship beyond their control leaving them without the means to obtain their most basic needs such as housing, fuel, utilities, food, clothing, medications and other essentials needed to maintain health and safety.

We are available to take applications for general assistance weekdays from 7:45 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Augusta City Center. Our phone number is 626-2325. Services are available on a walk-in basis. Anyone may apply who is present in Augusta with the intent to remain and to live in Augusta. All applications are confidential by law. A decision is made on each completed application within 24 hours and, if found eligible, assistance is furnished right away.

In addition, we network throughout the year with state departments, municipalities, businesses, churches, non-profit agencies, and community and statewide organizations who have all recognized that a major crisis exists and are earnestly working together to acquire funds and resources to help those most in need. The shared goal is to assure that adequate assistance will be available so no one will need to be without a warm place to live during the cold Maine winters. A lot of time and effort has been expended most willingly by all participating in this vast networking endeavor. Needed help has been provided to many of our fellow residents as a result of the on-going work of this dedicated group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August General Assistance Program Expenditures As Reported to State of Maine Department of Health and Human Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditures for Client Services:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing, Energy, Fuel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food, Clothing, Etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical, RX, Burials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding Sources for Above:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Maine, DHS (Reimbursement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSI Interim Asst. (Client Reimbursement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Cost to Augusta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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THE TRUSTEES THEREFORE ACCEPT THIS BUILDING WITH A DEEP SENSE OF GRATITUDE, BUT WITH A DEEPER SENSE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY IT IMPOSES. THEY ACCEPT IT AS TRUSTEES FOR THE PEOPLE, PLEDGING THEMSELVES TO CHERISH AND PROMOTE ITS INTERESTS AND TO TRANSMIT IT TO THEIR SUCCESSORS RICHER, STRONGER AND MORE POTENT. THEY ACCEPT IT TOO, WITH THE CONFIDENT HOPE THAT AS THE PAST HAS BROUGHT FORTH FRIENDS TO FOUND, ERECT AND EQUIP, SO THE FUTURE SHALL RAISE UP OTHER BENEFACnORS TO ENLARGE, TO INCREASE, AND TO ADVANCE.

– Leslie C. Cornish, Lithgow Library trustee, at the library’s dedication, 1896.

In its 112th year of service to the Augusta community, the Lithgow Public Library:

− Attracted 142,067 visitors, for a monthly average of 11,839 people.
− Circulated 177,124 books, periodicals and audiovisual items, an 8% increase over 2006.
− Answered 7,253 reference questions, 15% by telephone and e-mail.
− Provided 12,798 hours of usage on 10 public access computers.
− Created and produced programs for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, children and teens, including story times, knitting, theater, film and book discussions, and the annual summer reading program, attracting 4,226 people.
− Sponsored 30 musical and educational programs for adults, hosted two monthly book discussion groups, and provided free computer training to the public, with 1,933 attendees.
− Presented monthly outreach programs to residents of 6 elder care facilities.
− Participated in on-line requesting of materials through Minerva and Maine Info Net, resulting in 33,075 interlibrary loan transactions, a 71% increase from last year, and a 122% increase from 2004.
− Along with 5 other Augusta libraries, presented our fourth “one book” community program, A Capital Read 2007; over 2,000 people in the area read Mountains Beyond Mountains, by Tracy Kidder, and 500 people attended the 15 related programs in March, including a visit from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author.
− Reluctantly closed the library meeting room to the public to make room for processing interlibrary loan materials.
− Worked with the City Council-appointed Building Committee and architect Stew Roberts on an updated schematic design for an expanded library.
− Saw a $6.9 million bond referendum to finance the proposed renovation and expansion lose by 243 votes in a November election.
In addition to the public history services, Old Fort Western regularly provides City residents and visitors tours of the 1754 National Historic Landmark main house, the Fourth at the Fort and other special events, pre-scheduled school and other group programs, and the annual winter lecture series - the Fort launched its new Nineteenth-Century Initiative in 2007. The goal of the initiative is to extend the Fort’s interpretive end date from the current 1810, when William Howard died, to 1921, the year the main house’s “tenement period” ended. Doing so will not only bring more of the Fort’s history into view, it will also shed additional light on what was happening in Augusta in more recent times.

The initiative got underway last February when Office and Information Coordinator Patricia Violette and Trustee Janet C. Doerr presented the results of their research regarding the names of Fort occupants between the years 1840 and 1920. Using census records and City directories, they identified some 14 heads of households and related-family members who resided in the main house when it was first a three-family house and then, after 1870, a six-unit apartment building. The Fort is very anxious to talk with anyone descended from or with information about any of these individuals. The complete list of names may be found on the Bulletin Board page at www.oldfortwestern.org.

Next, Ms. Doerr found a newspaper article from the September 9, 1882 Kennebec Journal that described the death of Fort resident, Mrs. James Carlin. The poor woman was engulfed in flames when she attempted to catch a kerosene lamp upset by a gust of wind after she had placed it in an open window. Stories such as this one, tragic as they might be, help to link the present with past in a human interest way.

Finally, and most important, Ms. Violette and Office Assistant Rae Murphy took it upon themselves to search behind the knee walls in the main house attic for possible artifacts relating to the tenement period. The skeptics (including this writer) notwithstanding, the erstwhile explorers found a treasure trove of material, including the items pictured here. These items must now be inventoried, catalogued, and conserved for exhibit and/or interpretation. In addition, the Fort is planning for a comprehensive analysis of its 19th-century archaeological collection.
In the meantime, other initiatives were also underway throughout the year. The Fort’s education committee oversaw the complete overhaul of the Fort’s school programs in light of the adoption by the State of new social studies standards. Fort staff, with support from the Oak Grove School Foundation, began to lay the groundwork for a series of workshops for teachers on Maine Indians, economics, and civics and government.

The Fort also played host last summer to members of the Schlosser and Maxim families from Michigan and Texas respectively, donors of furniture and other items over the past several years originally belonging to William and Samuel Howard at the Fort. In addition to lunch and an in-depth tour of the Fort, the families were further honored when Mayor Katz presented Bradley C. Maxim and Betty Schlosser with the first-ever Keys to the City of Augusta, which are modeled after the key to the Fort’s main house.

Lastly, thanks to the good work of these Public Works employees (see photo below), as well as other members of the department, the Fort’s parade ground was re-graded and laid down to grass to present a cooler, more pleasant aspect to visitors and staff alike.

Thanks to Trustees Paul Lessard, Dennis G. Towle, and Kenneth I. Bryant, all of whom completed terms of service on the board during 2007. Congratulations to City residents Terrence F. McCabe and former Chief Justice Daniel E. Wathen, who were appointed to the Board by the Mayor and City Council during the year. And as always, thanks to the other trustees, all Friends of Old Fort Western, City staff, and all other Augusta residents who visited and/or helped to make Old Fort Western better protected, preserved and interpreted than ever.
January 2, 2007 was my first day here at the Bureau of Parks and what an exciting year it has been. I am fortunate to work with an excellent team of dedicated employees.

The bureau is responsible for the management and maintenance of 17 cemeteries, 18 parks and playgrounds, including 3 swimming pools, basketball and tennis courts, a track, athletic fields, 26 flower gardens, a riverfront, community forest areas, city street trees, nature trails and Bicentennial Nature Park. We are also under contract with the School Department to maintain their grounds and athletic fields. Approximately 200 +/- acres are mowed weekly.

There are 2 full-time foremen, an Arborist/Bicentennial Park Manager, 2 skilled laborers and approximately 22-24 seasonal employees are hired to help during spring, summer and fall schedules.

HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN
I would first like to take the opportunity to thank and recognize Mr. Scott Longfellow for his generosity. All the annuals for our City gardens were again donated by Longfellow’s Greenhouse in Manchester. This generous gift of flowers contributes so much to the City’s landscape and enriches our lives.

Mr. Laurence Harty has filled the Horticulturist position once held by Karen Cadwell. Mr. Harty attended the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and University of Massachusetts where he received a BS degree in Landscape Architecture in 1991. Mr. Harty has an exceptional amount of landscape design talent and hands-on experience he brings to the position. Our flower gardens, perennial beds, spring bulb planting, and landscape designs are examples of his expertise.

ARBORIST AND BICENTENNIAL PARK MANAGER
City Arborist Leo St. Peter was very busy this year overseeing numerous tree planting projects, with a total of 206 new city trees planted this year. Leo also oversees Bicentennial Nature Park, the tree nursery and all tree take downs whether done in-house or contracted out. The City did host two regional safety seminars for New England Arborists at the Civic Center and Bicentennial Nature Park. Leo’s high energy and expertise is appreciated.

PARKS AND CEMETERIES
Chris Blodgett, Parks and Cemeteries Foreman, oversees the City’s cemeteries, parks, green spaces and athletic fields. It is Chris who schedules the mowing, maintenance and athletic layout and striping. He also oversees all burials and special events, which the City hosts. Chris is also an active planner in the annual Day of Caring, Earth Day, Holiday Tree Lighting and Riverfront Fourth events. His contributions are many.
BUREAU ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2007

- Tree planting projects were at Cony High School, New England Road, Youth Memorial, Blaine Memorial, Civic Center, Williams Park, New England Road, Mill Park, Union Street, Leighton Road and other areas. A total of 206 trees were planted.

- Over 40 large stumps throughout the City were contracted out for grinding/removal and approximately 30 diseased or damaged trees were removed.

- We have 26 flower gardens, located at high visible locations throughout the City.

- Over 2,000 dutch bulbs were planted this fall. Look forward to seeing them this spring at City Center, Old Fort Western, Lithgow Library and the Police Station.

- A comprehensive City Street Tree inventory was completed in 2007. This report outlines the City’s urban forest infrastructure from which all maintenance and management strategies will proceed.

- Receipt of a Project Canopy grant from the Maine Forest Service for tree planting on Mt. Vernon and Northern Avenue.

- Granite fencing and landscape at Wall Cemetery. All the granite for columns came from surplus re-cycled curb and were split in-house.

- Extensive maintenance program on athletic fields, aeration, application of amendments, overseeding and irrigation.

- Regrade and gravel roads in six cemeteries.

- Extensive in-house repairs were done on Williams pool.

- McCall’s playground received a new swing set and playground safety mulch was installed under all playground equipment at Calumet Park and McCall’s Park.

- Electrical service was installed at Mill Park increasing the park’s utility.

- Reconstruction and paving of Calumet Park’s parking lot.

- Electrical upgrade/overhaul at Waterfront Park.

- Extensive repairs to Alumni Field’s irrigation system.

- Day of Caring events.

- Memorial Day preparations.

- Capital City Riverfront Fourth Celebration.

- City of Augusta Holiday Tree Lighting and Fireworks.

- There were 51 burials in City-owned cemeteries in 2007.

OTHER BUREAU ACTIVITIES

New Toro commercial mower was purchased replacing a 15+/- year old mower. Water wheel for athletic field irrigation. Irrigation system was installed at tree nursery. Zero turn mower was purchased for use in cemeteries. Water slides were installed at Bicentennial Park. Tree forks were purchased to unload and load heavy trees reducing the manpower needed from four people to one person when handling heavy trees.

ALL OF US WHO WORK FOR THE BUREAU HAVE A DEEP APPRECIATION OF THE BEAUTY THAT IS SO UNIQUE TO THE CITY OF AUGUSTA. WHAT A WONDERFUL PLACE TO WORK AND LIVE.
The City of Augusta Recreation Bureau had a wonderful year in 2007. We offered a number of new and exciting programs for the residents of Augusta. Some of the new programs were Home School Gym, Pre-School Gym, Fun Time, Start Smart Tennis and Golf for children ages 4 – 6, Birthday parties, Youth Baseball Training, Indoor Walking program, Senior Fitness classes, and a number of special events held monthly.

We had 240 kids playing in our Youth Soccer Program, along with 225 kids playing in the fall football league. We had 38 teams in our summer adult softball leagues with 600 participants. We also have 250 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, adult flag football, Pee Wee Sports for children ages 3 – 5, and a number of monthly adult trips.

The Buker Community Center was full of daily fun and exciting activities and continues to provide a place for families to go and participate. The Senior Clubhouse is full of activities for our 55+ population, with weekly cribbage, bingo, and other games going on, as well as monthly entertainment and birthday parties. The center continues to grow and, in 2008, we will have a wellness area for youths and adults.

The summer playground program was again held at Buker Center, and this year it was called the Kids’ Clubhouse. We went to each playground in the morning and bused the kids to Buker Center for a fun-filled morning of activities. In the afternoon, we bused the kids back to the playgrounds where they could use the pools. This program had over 130 kids registered and our average daily attendance was 65 kids. Again this year, we had a collaborative effort with the Kennebec Valley YMCA to operate our three city pools.

New this past year was the 1st Annual Capital City Riverfront Fourth of July. A number of events took place on this day that included a pancake breakfast, the Fourth of July parade, Fourth at the Fort, Chicken BBQ, Vintage Baseball game on the Fort grounds, two local bands played at Waterfront Park, and the day ended with a huge fireworks display.

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

This year’s Annual Holiday Tree Lighting in November was a huge success and I think everyone that attended had a wonderful time. We offered Santa’s workshop, hay rides, visit from Santa and had a number of local dance groups performing. What a great day it was!
In 2007, the Augusta Tree Board overachieved in living up to its mission statement, as it has done every year since it was founded in 1993. In 2007, The Augusta Tree Board and the Bureau of Parks, Cemeteries and Trees recognized the value of its trees to the community by working cooperatively on several projects throughout the city.

Once again, the City of Augusta declared the month of May as Arbor Month in the City of Augusta. Events included: (1) Arbor Day plantings were held at each city school. Students from each school assisted in digging holes and planting a tree, as well as being educated on the benefits of trees in our community. Approximately 70 trees have been planted on school grounds in the last 10 years. (2) The City of Augusta received its 13th consecutive Tree City USA award, given by the National Arbor Day Foundation. (3) The Augusta Tree Board Annual Art Exhibit was held at City Center. The exhibit featured artwork created by Cony High School Art students. Students’ works were exhibited for the month of May. The exhibit was a great success for the students and the Tree Board. (4) Lastly, two more trees were planted in Savage Park; the city-owned park off Riverside Drive. The trees were planted by the Cony High School functional skills class. A pizza lunch was provided to the hard working students when the job was done.

The Augusta Tree Board assisted the Bureau of Parks, Cemeteries and Trees in developing a Private Property Tree Planting Policy which was recently approved by the City Council. Basically, the policy sets guidelines, criteria, and procedures in place to allow for those times when it is in the best interest of the city and neighborhood to provide and plant a tree on private property.

The Cony High School Canopy Tree Program was a huge success. The Augusta Tree Board, the Bureau of Parks, Cemeteries and Trees and the Capital Area Technical Center partnered in a successful effort to plant over 100 trees around Cony High School. The area was in desperate need of more trees. The new plantings look great and will be a huge asset to the school grounds for years to come. I can’t wait to see how they look ten years from now.

The significance of these projects is that the City of Augusta has a very strong tree planting program. Many communities struggle to plant even 100 trees a year, yet we did it in just one planting. We have planted at least 200 trees this year, which is fantastic. A tree planting program like Augusta’s can only be attributed to the hard-working and dedicated employees of the Department of Community Services, Bureau of Parks, Cemeteries, and Trees, and the Augusta Tree Board. Tree Board members are: Brian Marson, III (Chair), Charlene Hamiwka, Tom Doore, Margaret O’Connor, Judith Kypragoria, Connie Packard and Rene Albison.

The Augusta Tree Board is looking forward to continuing to work closely with City staff in all aspects of maintaining and improving our community forest in an effort to make Augusta one of the best looking communities in the state.
### Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds

**June 30, 2007**

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>General</th>
<th>New Cony High School</th>
<th>Other Governmental Funds</th>
<th>Total Governmental Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>14,605,013</td>
<td>11,787</td>
<td>319,053</td>
<td>14,935,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>9,343,367</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>478,629</td>
<td>9,821,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>862,763</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>862,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax liens</td>
<td>460,883</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>460,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due from other governments</td>
<td>362,173</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>940,675</td>
<td>1,302,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable, (net of allowance for uncollectibles)</td>
<td>93,877</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>201,959</td>
<td>295,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes receivable</td>
<td>–</td>
<td></td>
<td>191,571</td>
<td>191,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfund loans receivable</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>477,009</td>
<td>3,910,741</td>
<td>4,387,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>6,938</td>
<td></td>
<td>35,838</td>
<td>42,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid items</td>
<td>492,801</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>2,371</td>
<td>495,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>26,227,815</td>
<td>488,796</td>
<td>6,080,837</td>
<td>32,797,448</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Liabilities and Fund Balances

**Liabilities:**

- Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities: 1,602,095
- Accrued payroll and benefits: 2,395,908
- Escrow payable: 10,800
- Deferred revenue: 1,068,128
- Taxes received in advance: 41,505
- Interfund loans payable: 9,726,340

**Total Liabilities:** 14,844,776

**Fund Balances:**

- Reserved for:
  - Encumbrances - City: 437,635
  - Encumbrances - School: 82,460
  - Noncurrent receivables: –
  - Inventory: 6,938
  - Nonexpendable trust principal: –
- Unreserved, reported in:
  - General fund:
    - City designated: 2,924,766
    - School designated: 1,181,777
    - City undesignated: 5,448,042
    - School undesignated: 1,301,421
    - Special revenue funds: –
    - Capital projects funds: 414,650
    - Permanent funds: –
- **Total Fund Balances (Deficits):** 11,383,039

**Total Liabilities and Fund Balances:** 26,227,815

#### Notes

- 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.
  - Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds.
  - Internal service funds are used by management to charge the cost 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.
  - Long-term liabilities that are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.

**Net Assets of Governmental Activities:** $27,047,666
## Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

**Budget and Actual General Fund for the Year Ended June 30, 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budgeted amounts</th>
<th></th>
<th>Variance with final budget positive (negative)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Original</td>
<td>Final</td>
<td>Actual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>25,735,652</td>
<td>25,735,652</td>
<td>26,040,229</td>
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<tr>
<td>Licenses and permits</td>
<td>116,395</td>
<td>116,395</td>
<td>293,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental</td>
<td>15,500,264</td>
<td>15,500,264</td>
<td>15,710,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and other charges - education</td>
<td>2,179,473</td>
<td>2,179,473</td>
<td>2,038,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges for services</td>
<td>274,953</td>
<td>266,953</td>
<td>275,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees and fines</td>
<td>58,000</td>
<td>58,000</td>
<td>51,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclassified</td>
<td>497,811</td>
<td>497,811</td>
<td>597,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment earnings</td>
<td>631,850</td>
<td>762,350</td>
<td>990,043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUES</strong></td>
<td>44,994,398</td>
<td>45,116,898</td>
<td>45,996,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURES:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative and executive</td>
<td>601,961</td>
<td>636,770</td>
<td>607,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance and administration</td>
<td>1,513,803</td>
<td>1,520,035</td>
<td>1,462,484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City services</td>
<td>1,387,353</td>
<td>1,573,764</td>
<td>1,469,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community services</td>
<td>2,129,321</td>
<td>2,134,190</td>
<td>2,115,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public safety</td>
<td>5,668,789</td>
<td>5,676,086</td>
<td>5,462,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public works</td>
<td>3,125,429</td>
<td>3,266,047</td>
<td>2,985,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>25,929,975</td>
<td>25,780,870</td>
<td>25,334,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement and insurance</td>
<td>1,627,009</td>
<td>1,708,500</td>
<td>1,702,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>2,046,173</td>
<td>2,057,173</td>
<td>2,045,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclassified</td>
<td>1,359,690</td>
<td>1,369,610</td>
<td>1,399,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt service (excluding education)</td>
<td>1,302,821</td>
<td>1,302,281</td>
<td>1,224,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td>46,691,784</td>
<td>47,045,326</td>
<td>45,808,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td>(1,697,386)</td>
<td>(1,928,428)</td>
<td>188,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budgeted utilization of surplus - City</td>
<td>803,781</td>
<td>1,657,126</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budgeted utilization of surplus - School</td>
<td>845,000</td>
<td>845,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of carry forwards - City</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>221,238</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of carry forwards - School</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>330,894</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating transfers to other funds - City</td>
<td>(554,000)</td>
<td>(1,256,435)</td>
<td>(1,297,086)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating transfers to other funds - School</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(480,000)</td>
<td>(480,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating transfers from other funds</td>
<td>602,605</td>
<td>610,605</td>
<td>611,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</strong></td>
<td>1,697,386</td>
<td>1,928,428</td>
<td>(1,165,910)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - BUDGETARY BASIS</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(977,853)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RECONCILIATION TO GAAP BASIS:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add back: encumbrances expended in budgetary - City</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>437,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add back: encumbrances expended in budgetary - School</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>82,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers to reserves from undesignated fund balance</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(60,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in reserves</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>64,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - GAAP BASIS</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(453,301)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balance, beginning of year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11,836,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balance, end of year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11,383,039</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Statement of Net Assets Proprietary Funds

### June 30, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds</th>
<th>Governmental Activities - Internal Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Augusta Civic Center</td>
<td>Hatch Hill Landfill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>9,405</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>725,523</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable, net</td>
<td>121,949</td>
<td>96,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfund loans receivable</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>5,711,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>14,663</td>
<td>36,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>23,113</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td>894,653</td>
<td>5,845,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NONCURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, plant, and equipment:</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>390,000</td>
<td>38,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings and improvements</td>
<td>7,476,494</td>
<td>23,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment and vehicles</td>
<td>1,415,253</td>
<td>868,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatch Hill landfill system</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>14,685,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less accumulated depreciation (4,048,130)</td>
<td>14,685,287</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL NONCURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td>5,233,617</td>
<td>6,639,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>6,128,270</td>
<td>12,484,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIABILITIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>31,948</td>
<td>22,012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued wages and benefits payable</td>
<td>16,835</td>
<td>6,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued compensated absences</td>
<td>104,476</td>
<td>56,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refundable deposits</td>
<td>44,637</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current portion of bonds payable</td>
<td>226,315</td>
<td>485,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfund loans payable</td>
<td>213,059</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</td>
<td>637,270</td>
<td>569,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NONCURRENT LIABILITIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonds payable</td>
<td>2,942,110</td>
<td>5,820,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued landfill closure and postclosure costs</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>4,281,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL NONCURRENT LIABILITIES</td>
<td>2,942,110</td>
<td>10,101,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIABILITIES</td>
<td>3,579,380</td>
<td>10,671,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invested in capital assets, net of related debt</td>
<td>2,065,192</td>
<td>334,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>483,698</td>
<td>1,478,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL NET ASSETS</td>
<td>2,548,890</td>
<td>1,813,071</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Entire financial report may be viewed in the City Manager's Office.
### Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets
#### Proprietary Funds for the Year Ended June 30, 2007

#### Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Augusta Civic Center</th>
<th>Hatch Hill Landfill</th>
<th>Airport</th>
<th>Ambulance</th>
<th>Enterprise Fund Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATING REVENUES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental income</td>
<td>1,092,440</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>54,176</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1,146,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>2,527,928</td>
<td>72,174</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>3,859,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and beverage sales</td>
<td>1,500,809</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>1,500,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Maine</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>323,650</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>323,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>204,637</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>204,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,797,886</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,527,928</strong></td>
<td><strong>450,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,259,633</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,035,447</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### OPERATING EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Augusta Civic Center</th>
<th>Hatch Hill Landfill</th>
<th>Airport</th>
<th>Ambulance</th>
<th>Enterprise Fund Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel services</td>
<td>1,376,300</td>
<td>361,018</td>
<td>265,175</td>
<td>751,116</td>
<td>2,753,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractual services</td>
<td>417,397</td>
<td>437,962</td>
<td>165,625</td>
<td>73,242</td>
<td>1,094,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies and materials</td>
<td>542,880</td>
<td>79,257</td>
<td>42,914</td>
<td>72,991</td>
<td>738,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed charges</td>
<td>13,964</td>
<td>21,569</td>
<td>7,471</td>
<td>253,240</td>
<td>296,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital outlay</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>4,514</td>
<td>1,998</td>
<td>5,549</td>
<td>13,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>288,977</td>
<td>667,310</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>42,405</td>
<td>998,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,640,517</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,571,630</strong></td>
<td><strong>483,183</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,198,543</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,893,873</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Augusta Civic Center</th>
<th>Hatch Hill Landfill</th>
<th>Airport</th>
<th>Ambulance</th>
<th>Enterprise Fund Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</strong></td>
<td><strong>157,369</strong></td>
<td><strong>956,298</strong></td>
<td><strong>(33,183)</strong></td>
<td><strong>61,090</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,141,574</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### NONOPERATING REVENUE (EXPENSE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Augusta Civic Center</th>
<th>Hatch Hill Landfill</th>
<th>Airport</th>
<th>Ambulance</th>
<th>Enterprise Fund Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>35,907</td>
<td>2,251</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>38,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest expense</td>
<td>(197,162)</td>
<td>(382,967)</td>
<td>(6,002)</td>
<td>(7,477)</td>
<td>(593,608)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain (loss) of sale of equipment</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>(14,897)</td>
<td>(14,897)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### NET INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE OPERATING TRANSFERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Augusta Civic Center</th>
<th>Hatch Hill Landfill</th>
<th>Airport</th>
<th>Ambulance</th>
<th>Enterprise Fund Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE OPERATING TRANSFERS</strong></td>
<td><strong>(3,886)</strong></td>
<td><strong>575,582</strong></td>
<td><strong>(39,185)</strong></td>
<td><strong>38,716</strong></td>
<td><strong>571,227</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### OPERATING TRANSFERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Augusta Civic Center</th>
<th>Hatch Hill Landfill</th>
<th>Airport</th>
<th>Ambulance</th>
<th>Enterprise Fund Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from (to) other funds</td>
<td>(57,176)</td>
<td>(59,664)</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>(22,121)</td>
<td>(138,961)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### TOTAL NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Augusta Civic Center</th>
<th>Hatch Hill Landfill</th>
<th>Airport</th>
<th>Ambulance</th>
<th>Enterprise Fund Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,609,952</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,297,153</strong></td>
<td><strong>115</strong></td>
<td><strong>287,380</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,194,600</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### TOTAL NET ASSETS (DEFICITS), END OF YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Augusta Civic Center</th>
<th>Hatch Hill Landfill</th>
<th>Airport</th>
<th>Ambulance</th>
<th>Enterprise Fund Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET ASSETS (DEFICITS), END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,548,890</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,813,071</strong></td>
<td><strong>(39,070)</strong></td>
<td><strong>303,975</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,626,866</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During the 2007 calendar year, this office processed 757 deeds. The majority of the sales were single-family homes with an average sale price of $134,700. There were 230 residential sales and 27 commercial sales during 2007. Based on the current ratio study for residential property, the average assessment ratio is 92% of market value.

This was the tenth year for the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption. The total number of exemptions for this program was 4,179. The total valuation of all tax exemptions, including veterans, blinds, parsonages and homesteads, was $58,040,600.

This office oversees 8,904 taxable real estate accounts with a total taxable value of $1,402,015,000 (after exemptions) and 997 taxable personal property accounts with a total taxable value of $104,047,300. We also have 440 accounts, which are totally exempt with a total value of $410,424,800.

For 2007-2008 tax year, there was an overall increase in taxable valuation of $37,467,200. The summary of valuation changes by category for the year is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Increases</th>
<th>Decreases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Properties</td>
<td>$19,369,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Repricing</td>
<td>22,104,300</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Single-Family</td>
<td>3,619,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mobile Homes</td>
<td>620,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Increases</td>
<td>7,866,900</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Properties</td>
<td>15,487,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL INCREASES</td>
<td>$69,067,800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Properties</td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,584,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Properties</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,021,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demolitions/Fire</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,291,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxable to Exempt</td>
<td></td>
<td>519,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Reprice</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,697,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Properties</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,755,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL DECREASES</td>
<td></td>
<td>$24,868,900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Information Technology Bureau continued to make a significant contribution to the effective operation of city government in 2007. Our dedicated staff of four worked to keep all City departments working efficiently with appropriate technology. We supported city operations ranging from the public safety department to building automation controls and phone systems. We provided our services on a 24-hour basis to support essential services – including the installation, repair and use of computers. We continued our ongoing training program to improve staff computer literacy.

In August, Director Jim Anderberg retired with more than 29 years of dedicated service. Jim was responsible for many innovations and for creative management of the bureau. He was highly regarded by his staff and will certainly be missed. Jim is fond of saying that he originally applied, as a young man, for a custodian’s position, but with a Masters Degree in electrical engineering, the City Manager at the time thought him overqualified but needed someone to help sort out the confusing, everyday world of data processing and related technology. Jim thought he would give it a trial period of a year or so and the rest, as they say, is history.

In looking forward, we are currently involved in the consolidation and centralization of information technology services between the city and school department. This challenging objective provides an opportunity for both to maximize efficiencies in the way services are delivered. This represents dramatic cost savings due to the reduction in equipment redundancies that were necessary in the past.

Also in 2007

– Used Geographic Information System (GIS) tools to update the accuracy of our city maps database.

– Continued the planning and implementation of network upgrades between city facilities, including new network wiring at our Public Works and Hartford Fire Station facilities.

– Centralized critical backup processes of computer systems.

– Used the web to provide online access to city government services for residents, businesses, and visitors.
The following are the annual reports for the Offices of the City Clerk and City Treasurer for the period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

Vital statistics represented are births, deaths, marriages, State of Maine and City of Augusta licenses and permits; as well as, election and voter registration statistics following the Referendum Election held June 12, 2007 and the Referendum and Municipal Election held November 6, 2007.

In November, the voters approved the creation of a Charter Commission, the merger of the Augusta Water and Sanitary Districts (to include Hallowell Sanitary District) and the bond for City improvements, but turned down the bond to fund the renovation of the Lithgow Public Library.

Collection statistics represented include the revenues from the boat, ATV and snowmobile taxes and fees collected in 2007. 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.

Please contact us through the City’s website at www.augustamaine.gov, by telephone 207-626-2310 for the City Clerk/Registrar; 207-626-2316 for Tax Collector/Treasurer or fax 207-626-2304 for assistance.
Januar y - December, 2007 Statistics

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Transactions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boat Excise Tax</td>
<td>$14,050.40</td>
<td>874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat Registration Fees</td>
<td>$11,133.00</td>
<td>731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Protection Fees</td>
<td>$6,247.00</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATV Registration Fees</td>
<td>$3,333.00</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile Registration Fees</td>
<td>$6,369.00</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agent Fees</td>
<td>$1,718.00</td>
<td>1,718</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bureau of Motor Vehicles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Transactions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auto Excise Tax</td>
<td>$2,744,385.71</td>
<td>16,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fees (BMV)</td>
<td>$487,655.13</td>
<td>*15,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agent Fees</td>
<td>$51,183.83</td>
<td>10,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales Tax</td>
<td>$161,151.00</td>
<td>1,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title Fees</td>
<td>$28,014.00</td>
<td>1,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapid Renewal Program (RRP)</td>
<td>$239,446.84</td>
<td>1,655</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*New Registrations – 4,122; Renewals – 11,564

Property Taxes Assessed April 1, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate</td>
<td>8,904</td>
<td>$23,413,650.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Property</td>
<td>997</td>
<td>$1,737,589.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9,901</td>
<td>$25,151,240.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tax Clubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tax Clubs</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>$575,788.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Liens</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>$454,808.72</td>
</tr>
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</table>

VOTER REGISTRATION REPORT OF REGISTERED VOTERS - JUNE 12, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WARD</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>806</td>
<td>686</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>2,352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1,220</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>1,125</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>3,314</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>1,383</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>1,319</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>3,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,034</td>
<td>3,854</td>
<td>4,860</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>14,106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VOTER REGISTRATION REPORT OF REGISTERED VOTERS - NOVEMBER 6, 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WARD</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>U</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>811</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>2,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1,231</td>
<td>890</td>
<td>1,134</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>3,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>1,391</td>
<td>904</td>
<td>1,334</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>3,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>2,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1,517</td>
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<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,071</td>
<td>3,890</td>
<td>4,914</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>14,240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(D) Democrat (R) Republican (U) Unenrolled (G) Green Independent (99) ACP Voters/Missing Addresses

FISH AND GAME LICENSES

(Continued):

Resident Small Game 2
Supersport 0
Superpack 1
Turkey Permits - Fall 18
Turkey Permits - Spring 55
Waterfowl Permit - Complimentary 1
1-Day Fish 10
3-Day Fish 4
7-Day Fish 3
15-Day Fish 4

BUSINESS LICENSES/PERMITS

Address Transfers 0
Automobile Graveyard 1
Beano (Yearly/Special) 6
Billiard 5
Body Piercing 3
Bottle Club 1
Bowling Alley 1
Burial Permits 587
Coin-operated Amusement Device 14
Dancing 16
Food Sellers 34
Games of Chance – Blanket Letters 9
Games of Chance – Single 1
Going Out of Business 1
Going Out of Business Extension 0
Junkyard 3
Liquor Spirituous and Vinous 27
Liquor Vinous 6
Liquor Malt 34
Lunch Mobile 10
Massage Therapist 0
Micropigmentation 2
Name Transfer 0
Off Premise Catering 10
Pawnbroker 1
Roller Skating Rink 0
Special Amusement 9
Tattoo 6
Taxi Driver 61
Taxi Operator 13
Transient Sellers 1
Victualers 156
The bureau, a shared resource between the City and the Greater Augusta Utility District, is responsible for supporting city and district departments in a number of key areas including employee recruitment, compensation and benefits, employee development, employee relations, labor relations, records management, payroll, supervisory counseling, and health and safety. These functions are performed for an employee population of 300 regular full- and part-time employees and approximately 150 seasonal/temporary employees.

**Accomplishments in 2007 included:**

**Building and managing effective employee relations.** With three unions, employee and labor relations is always a priority. Collective bargaining efforts in 2007 resulted in three-year agreements with the majority of the labor contracts. Agreements achieved met management’s goals of being responsive to the needs of our employees while addressing the need for responsible fiscal management.

**Celebrating employees.** April 27 marked the date of this year’s employee recognition ceremony. Over 150 people attended the ceremony to recognize the 28 award recipients. On behalf of the City Council, Mayor Katz expressed his thanks and appreciation for all of the hard work done by City staff.

**Collaborating on hiring.** Throughout the year, 25 permanent employees and 123 seasonal workers were hired to help deliver important municipal services.

**Encouraging employee wellness.** Applied for and received over $7,000 in grant funding. Through this funding, the wellness program provided numerous services focused on improving the health and wellness of our employees. Over 50 employees took advantage of the programs offered and we ended the year with a well-attended Commit to Get Fit! Program, paving the way for a healthy 2008.
FACILITATING DISTRICT MERGER. It has been the third and final year of work merging the Augusta Water District and Augusta Sanitary District. With the legislation passed in June and the public vote approving the merger, this work has resulted in the fully merged Greater Augusta Utility District. All employment policies and practices, including union contracts, compensation practices and employee benefits, have been combined.

CAPITALIZING ON SAFETY. Efforts by employees and supervisors to work safely continue to be a high priority. Coordinated 21 safety programs focused on improving job knowledge and safe work practices. Notice of employee injuries reported: 68.

SUPPORTING EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT. In addition to departmental training, Human Resources continued to provide and coordinate training in certain key areas of mandatory compliance, including supervisory orientation and sexual harassment. Numbers of employees receiving training this year were in excess of 200.

ADMINISTERING BENEFITS. Joining forces with the School Department and the District, Human Resources conducted a RFP process for an employee assistance provider. As a result, we welcomed a new provider this November which offers a host of services to our employees and supervisors.

LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY. During 2007, Human Resources enhanced data sharing and communication with departments by increasing supervisory access to the HRIS and decentralizing key payroll functions.

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!
We, the members of the Augusta Fire Department, are dedicated professionals committed to safely serving our community by protecting life, property and the environment through prevention, education and emergency services.

**Chief’s Message**

I am proud to serve as your Fire Chief and continue to be proud of my employees. The Augusta Fire Department pledges a commitment to preserving the quality of life in the City of Augusta. We will protect lives, property and the environment with compassion, vigilance and dedication.

Over the last several years, we have realized that Augusta has changed dramatically with the new retail development in the northern and western parts of the city. Managing growth and change in our great city will be a critical process. The Fire Department needs to manage change effectively so that response times for fires and emergency medical calls are within national standards. Adequate response times equate to lives saved and reduced property damage. You can be assured that the Fire Department is working on short- and long-term plans to address the increased demands for services. Currently, the Fire Department has five fire stations. One of our goals for the New Year is to complete an independent study on the current fire facilities and come up with a plan to renovate and/or build a new station that will address our operational needs for the future.

**Department Training**

In 2007, the Fire Department worked toward achieving goals in the areas of Officer Training, Firefighter Training, Critical Care, Hazardous Materials, Life Safety Education, and Cold Water Rescue.

– Two officers and one firefighter completed the Fire Officer 1 and 2 Program at the Hutchinson Center in Belfast, Maine.
– Two firefighters/paramedics completed the Critical Care Transport Program at SMTC.
– Three firefighters completed the Fire Officer I and II Program in Belfast, Maine.
– Two firefighters completed the Firefighter-1 Program.
– All members completed the Hazardous Materials Operations Program.
– All members completed an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course.
– All members completed National Incident Management System (NIMS) training at two levels, IS-700 and IS-100. Officers completed levels IS-200, IS-300 and IS-400.
– Twenty firefighters completed Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) training.
– Four firefighters completed a Health and Fitness Train the Trainer Program.

The members of the Augusta Fire Department, in addition, attended 166 classes totaling 3,250 hours of training.
FIRE PREVENTION
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.

PERSONNEL
– Firefighter Larry Brann retired after 25 years of service.
– Firefighter/Paramedic Josh Cail left the department for an EMS job in New Brunswick, Canada.
– Firefighter James Worcester returned from active duty in Iraq.
– Two new Firefighters/Paramedics were hired in 2007:
  • Jeff Dunn, an Augusta native, works on Rescue-1 at Hartford Station.
  • Kurt Gordon from Wilton, Maine works on Rescue-2 at Wells Station.
    Kurt is a second-generation firefighter who joins his father, Randy, as active members of our department.

RESPONSE STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Responses</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>1,017</td>
<td>1,034</td>
<td>982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Responses</td>
<td>4,097</td>
<td>4,303</td>
<td>5,189</td>
<td>5,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>4,755</td>
<td>5,320</td>
<td>6,223</td>
<td>6,245</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The estimated dollar loss in 2007 is $720,000. Major incidents included the Patriots’ Day storm, a dramatic water rescue of a jumper from the new Cushnoc Bridge and second alarm fires on State Street, Wade Street, Riverside Drive and Togus Pond.

Emergency Management was another focus area in which we made significant progress in 2007. Funding from the Homeland Security Program provided $242,000 in 2007, which was used to purchase generators for the Augusta Civic Center and the Public Works Department. Top City administrators and department supervisors completed training programs in Incident Management and Disaster preparedness.

IN CLOSING, I WANT TO THANK ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AUGUSTA FIRE DEPARTMENT WHO WORK HARD DAY IN AND DAY OUT TO PROVIDE THE MOST VALUABLE SERVICE IN THE CITY. THEIR PRIDE AND PROFESSIONALISM IS DEMONSTRATED ON EVERY RESPONDED CALL. I AM PROUD TO REPRESENT SUCH A FINE GROUP.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS
– A new contract was secured with the firefighters’ union.
– A new ambulance was placed in service replacing an aging ambulance at Hartford Station.
– Battalion Chief Charlie Squires has taken an active role as the department Codes Officer performing apartment inspections and approving new construction permits.
– Enhanced partnerships with other fire departments in Central Maine as part of a two-county Hazardous Materials Response Team.
– Received grants from the Homeland Security Program and the Maine Municipal Association.
OUR MISSION IS
TO ESTABLISH
AND MAINTAIN A
PARTNERSHIP WITH
GOVERNMENTAL
AGENCIES,
BUSINESSES, &
CITIZENS OF THE
COMMUNITY TO
PROVIDE A SAFE
ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THE
QUALITY OF LIFE MAY BE IMPROVED
THROUGH THE DELIVERY OF
COMPETENT, FAIR AND IMPARTIAL SERVICES.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

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. We are committed to respect human dignity and to a strong ethical code as guardians of law and order. Members of the department are encouraged to exercise the highest degree of public service in their daily contacts with our citizens and to enforce the law with compassion, resolve and strength of character. I am proud to serve the community of our State Capital with the men and women of the Augusta Police Department as your Police Chief.

Throughout the year, the Police Department experienced a change in personnel and assignments within the department. New employees of the department are Police Officers Nikolas Hample, Michael Lothrop, Eric Bronson, Curtis Gray and John Lacoste. Patrol Officer Tori Cummings was promoted to Detective, Detective Sergeant Jared Mills and Patrol Sergeant Kevin Lully were promoted to Lieutenant. Lieutenant Peter Couture retired after 27 years with the department and Police Officer Jeffery Pomerleau left the department to pursue a law enforcement opportunity with another Police Department. Civilians Carrie Dancer and Beth Dancer have been hired to provide the department with custodial services.

Training of all department personnel continues to be a priority within the Police Department. In our efforts to train officers with the Special Response Team, seven officers received rigorous two-week tactical training by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. SWAT instructors from the Los Angeles Police Department trained Lt. Kevin Lully, Lt. Chris Read, Lt. Jared Mills, Det. Jason Cote and Officers Eric Dos Santos, Jay Languet and Don Whitten as certified SWAT I and II trained.

The department has completed the eighth successful year of partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services that provides the Police Department with a daily eight-hour presence of a Mental Health Intensive Case Manager. Gregory Smith works full time between the day and evening shifts to assist and provide crisis intervention immediately during citizens’ mental health crisis situations. James Jarosz and Vicki Tourtelotte complete the team in supporting the Police Department on a part-time basis.

The Police Department received seven grants and awards during the year. The State Bureau of Highway Safety awarded the department three grants: (1) A Seat Belt Safety Enforcement grant in the amount of $2,000 to aggressively enforce child safety seats and restraints, and (2) An O.U.I. Enforcement grant in the amount of $5,000, and (3) A Speed Enforcement grant also in the amount of $5,000. A Bureau of Justice Assistance grant in the amount of $19,107 was awarded for the purchase of Crime
Scene Forensic Mapping Equipment, Discrete Surveillance Earpiece Units, Flat Screen LCD HDTV and Superglue Fuming Tank. Additionally, the department received a second Bureau of Justice Assistance grant through the Bulletproof Vest Partnership for $3,300 for Police Officers Bulletproof Vests. The Maine Vest-a-Dog program, through a Prudential Spirit of Community Award, awarded a canine Bullet Proof Vest valued at $850 to K-9 Koda. And, lastly, the State Bureau of Highway Safety judged the department first place in the Maine Law Enforcement Challenge for our efforts in our community traffic safety programs. We received a Watchguard DV-1 Overhead In-Cruiser Video System, Laser Radar Unit and Turbo Flares from the bureau for our efforts.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crimes</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>926</td>
<td>952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>1,246</td>
<td>1,241</td>
<td>1,236</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the above crimes reported, the Police Department cleared 46% for 2007, 38% for 2006, 44% for 2005.

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 ratings applications.

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.

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 it 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.
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 a timer on a light in your home.
Be aware of your child’s internet activities.

EMERGENCY
911
NON EMERGENCY
626-2370
THE GOAL OF THE CENTRAL GARAGE FUND IS TO BE SELF-SUPPORTING, WHICH MEANS TO BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE COSTS OF OPERATING THE FACILITY, PROVIDE REGULAR PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE, MAKE EFFICIENT AND LASTING REPAIRS AND REPLACE VEHICLES AS NEEDED WITH COLLECTED REVENUES

Central Garage is an Intraservice Fund with an annual operating budget of $1,513,827. This means it runs like a business within city government, collecting the majority of its revenues from rental and maintenance of vehicles to various city departments and from the sale of fuel (gasoline and diesel) to vehicles it owns and other agencies such as the Augusta Police/Fire Departments and the Augusta School Department. These revenues are used for vehicle maintenance/repairs and replacement of vehicles once they have exceeded their useful life.

Central Garage maintains approximately 120 pieces of equipment along with several pieces owned by Hatch Hill, Parks and Cemeteries Bureau, Augusta State Airport and other City departments.

PERSONNEL
• A Fleet Service Manager
• A Chief Mechanic who is a working shop foreman
• Four Garage Technicians with various areas of expertise
• A parts person who: maintains the parts stock inventory/does data entry for workorders/tracks preventative maintenance/fuels our offsite equipment
• A shared Clerical position and additional staff from Public Works on an as-needed basis.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE
In 2007, the City Council authorized the expenditure of $292,807 from the garage reserve account for vehicle and equipment replacement. Listed below are the vehicles/equipment purchased to replace equipment listed on the vehicle replacement schedule:

• 1 - class 6 4x4 dump truck plow & wing
• 1 - rubbish truck
• 1 - ¾-ton pickup w/rack body
• 1 - 4x4 compact tractor
• 1 - wide-area mower

Vehicle replacement is determined based on a ten-year vehicle replacement plan. This plan is updated each year to reflect changes in the fleet, new technologies that may make a listed purchase unnecessary or obsolete and the needs of the various departments which can change from year to year.
The Preventative Maintenance Program, which we have been using for the last five years, continues to show that well-maintained equipment is essential to running a cost effective operation and minimizes unscheduled breakdowns. As part of this program, we developed the following three-tier preventative maintenance system:

- **Checklist A=Pre-Season Maintenance**
- **Checklist B=Preventative Maintenance**
- **Checklist C=Quick Check (i.e., lubricants, lights, brakes, etc.)**

This three-tier program has been instrumental in minimizing down time of equipment and has shown that planned repairs vs. emergency repairs work. Examples include:

During a winter snow storm when all the plow and sanding equipment are on the roads, it is common to walk into the garage and not have any pieces of equipment being repaired. This saves personnel costs. In the past, we used to have three to four technicians working in the garage during a storm. Now when the storm starts, we bring in one mechanic and a second one is called in later, if needed. No equipment in the garage for repairs means the equipment is out on the job opening up the streets for the traveling public, an operator is not waiting in the garage for the equipment to be repaired and less garage personnel is needed during the storm.

The Parks Bureau has seen significant savings in repair costs to the equipment they use in the summer for mowing and maintenance of the parks and cemeteries. Again the three-tier system is used. The mowers and small power tools (weed wackers, push mowers, etc.) are serviced prior to being used in the spring and regular maintenance is continued all season. The benefit to the Parks Bureau is less down time. In the past, when equipment broke down out in the field, the crew had to return to the shop and wait while repairs were made. This, along with better equipment, has reduced the number of seasonal workers and repair costs to the bureau.

**IN CLOSING, WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR WORKMANSHIP, THE VEHICLES WE PROVIDE AND THE IMPROVEMENTS WE HAVE MADE OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. THIS HAS IMPROVED OUR IMAGE TO THE PUBLIC, THE MORALE AMONG THE WORKFORCE, AND EVERYONE MAKES AN EXTRA EFFORT TO KEEP THE FLEET CLEAN AND RUNNING SMOOTHLY.**
The Public Works budget for fiscal year 2007 totals $3,126,429. Major services provided include:

- Rubbish/Recycling curbside collection
- Winter maintenance of streets and sidewalks - plowing, sanding and snow removal
- Maintenance of all city streets and roads - sweeping, patching and some minor repairs and reconstruction
- Striping of streets and crosswalks
- An annual paving program
- Maintenance of street and regulatory signs within the city

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

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 23rd, two weeks later than usual due to a snowy April. The main arterials are the first priority, and once these are completed, three sweepers work on the remaining areas within a five-week schedule.

In addition to street sweeping, 34 miles of sidewalks on the arterial routes are swept by hand and with a motorized sidewalk sweeper or power broom. Many of the residential walks are 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 plowing/removal operations.

This year the Kennebec River overflowed its banks into Front Street twice in late April resulting in clean-up of debris and silt and power washing the parking lot.

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 L & D Safety Markings Corp. of Barre, Vermont, with a branch in Hallowell, received the bid. Straight ahead painting (truck mounted) was started on May 13th and finished on May 29th. On May 4th, hand crews started on the 250 crosswalks and 500 directional arrows with the majority of these completed by the end of June.
SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Construction and Paving Season: This year was another busy season for construction and paving, starting in early May and ending in late November. Some of the projects included: Ganneston Drive: Reconstructed 1,000 feet of roadway, new curb, esplanade and sidewalks on both sides. Hartford Fire Station: Reconstructed paved area in front of the station • Installed underground drainage and new catch basins • Regraded base gravel and new pavement • Installed traffic island with granite curb to control traffic in this area • Landscaped Union Street – 2nd Phase: Total reconstruction from the entrance to the Police Station and new YMCA north to Gage Street • Installed drainage and catch basins • Built new eight-foot wide concrete sidewalks • Placed all overhead utilities (electric, phone and cable) underground • Installed new guardrail for scenic turn-outs. North Belfast Avenue Culvert Replacement: Replaced a section and extended a five-foot diameter stone arch under North Belfast Avenue that had collapsed. Public Works Slope Failure: Fixed a major slope failure on the northeast side of the Public Works property that abuts Bond Brook • Brought in 5,000 yards of soil fill (most of it excess material from the Packard Development) to fill in the eroded areas and stabilized the banking by constructing shelves • Installed 600 feet of rip rap channel (rocks 12 inches in size and larger) with check dams to prevent further erosion from the runoff leaving the Public Works property and to protect Bond Brook • City completed this work in lieu of paying a fine for Maine Department of Environmental Protection violations at the City’s Kling Pit on the West River Road. Canal Street Boat Ramp Extension: Installed a 25’ concrete ramp extension onto the carry-in/carry-out boat ramp installed last year for ease in loading and unloading kayaks and canoes. Pearl Street: Completion of the 2nd phase of the total reconstruction of Pearl Street, including new storm drains, new sidewalks and narrowing of the street. This was done by a private contractor.

Sidewalk Construction and New Curbing – totaling 1.8 miles:
Ganneston Drive – 4,000 ft • Higgins Street – 700 ft • Union Street – 2,000 ft (concrete) • Marlboro Lane – 550 ft • Ridgewood Drive – 1,500 ft • Gage Street – 200 ft (concrete)

FALL HIGHLIGHTS

Preparations for Winter:
➤ 1,500 cubic yards of sand/salt were mixed for winter ➤ All construction projects were either completed or buttoned up for the winter by the end of November ➤ By November 1st, all plows and sanding equipment were ready for the winter season ➤ City street sweepers worked to keep the streets clean from the fall foliage drop ➤ Training of new and existing employees on proper plowing/sanding procedures.

PAVING – THE FOLLOWING LIST OF STREETS AND ROADS (7.1 MILES IN TOTAL) WERE PAVED THIS YEAR FROM THE ANNUAL PAVING PROGRAM OR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP):

Bridge Street
Carlisle Avenue
Cathy Street
Cecile Avenue
Claire Street
Congress Street
Cross Hill Road (5,000’)
Dean Court
Dumont Drive
Fairfield Street
Grand Street
Greenwood Court
Greenwood Street
Higgins Street
Julianne Lane
Manley Street
Marlboro Avenue
Marlboro Lane
Mt. Vernon Road (2,000’)
Muriel Street
North Street Place
Pet Haven Lane
Quirion Street Place
Southern Avenue
Weeks Mills Road
Windsor Lane
Wyman Street

Funded from other sources:
Pearl Street – CIP
Civic Center North Parking Lot
Western Avenue (sections) – Packard Development off-site improvements for Augusta Crossing
**WINTER HIGHLIGHTS**

**Winter of 2006-2007:** This winter season started out very slowly. By the end of January, we had received only 16” of snow. Christmas Day was 49° and the ground was bare. This slow start changed in February, when we received 18 ½” of snow in both February and March. April ended up being the biggest snow month with 25.” The winter ended up being just a pinch over the average of 77,” with a total snowfall of 78.”

We continued to use “salt priority” (75/25 salt/sand) to treat our roads with excellent results. Some liquid calcium is used when the conditions warrant it. Most of our sand/plow trucks have computerized salt/sand spreaders which dispense a pre-determined amount of salt/sand per lane mile based on pavement temperature and storm conditions. This scientific method of spreading this expensive mixture allows us to spread the right amount for the conditions, saving money while keeping the roads safe for motorists.

**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. Trash can be picked up during the recycle week with a paid rubbish sticker. 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, with 10% of the City’s residential waste is either recycled or composted.

**Household Hazardous Waste Day:** On another wet Saturday, May 19th, we held a special Household Hazardous Waste (HHHW) Collection Day, in conjunction with KVCOG and nine other communities. This year it was held here at Public Works. We had an excellent turnout, despite the weather; 306 units (6 more than last year) were collected, keeping these hazardous items out of the normal waste stream. Eighty-eight Augusta households participated in this year’s event bringing in a total of 99 units. For Augusta residents, the first unit (5 gallons) was free and any additional units were $25.00 per unit. We would like to extend a thank you to everyone who made the effort to responsibly dispose of these wastes. This program is made possible with:

- The guidance of the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments, which sets up this regional event and others like it
- Cooperation of volunteers and workers from the following communities: Augusta, Belgrade, Fayette, Gardiner, Hallowell, Manchester, Monmouth, Readfield, Wayne and Winthrop
- Environmental Projects, Inc. of Auburn, Maine, a strong business supporter of Household Hazardous Collection Programs in Maine
- Residents making the effort to set these materials aside and bring them to the special collection day event to properly and safely dispose of them
HATCH HILL REGIONAL RECYCLING PLANNING GRANT STUDY

The Hatch Hill region continues to maintain a high recycling rate. The recycling rate in our region for the past 10 years consistently averages around 42%. We continue to work towards the State’s goal of 50% recycling.

The success of recycling in this region is a combined effort of bulky material (wood, metal, asphalt shingles and tires) recycling at Hatch Hill, composting, universal waste recycling, commercial/business recycling, and household recycling. Over the past several years, residential recycling has leveled off and it is time to look at options to improve both residential recycling and commercial recycling. Much has changed in the recycling industry since we first started the curbside recycling program back in 1991. To assist us with this effort, the City signed a contract with Renaissance Planning Associates of Albion, Maine. Renaissance is a planning consultant that will work with us to look at the existing recycling programs in the region and make recommendations for improvements. This regional recycling planning study is being funded with a $28,000 grant from the State of Maine ($20,000 of grant money and $8,000 local match from the Hatch Hill budget). The committee is made up of members of the Augusta and the contracting communities. We anticipate the final report will be completed this fall and will provide a list of available options, advantages and disadvantages of each, costs (both capital and annual operations) and recommend further analysis of one or two of the most viable options. This is an exciting project and we look forward to bringing increased recycling opportunities to the region in the near future.

HATCH HILL REGION RECYCLING RATES 1997 – 2006

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION AND UPDATES ON HATCH HILL PROGRAMS AND OTHER CITY PROGRAMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE CITY’S WEB PAGE www.augustamaine.gov
The $2.58 million collected in revenues was used to pay for the expenses of the operation. The chart to the right shows how the money was spent.

Daily operations account for the money spent on contractual services and personnel services. This totals $1,042,396 or 42% of the facility’s budget. Daily operations include the following:

- Weighing customers in and out at the Scale House and charging the correct disposal fees.

- Inspecting loads for separation of recyclables and monitoring for unacceptable materials. This is done to save landfill space by recycling and for compliance with our Maine Department of Environmental Protection operating license.

- Placing and compacting the waste received in the correct area of the landfill with the landfill compactor and covering the waste daily with soil to minimize wind blown litter and rodents.

- Keeping clean stormwater separated from dirty landfill water (leachate). Stormwater drains into the natural waterways and leachate is separated and collected through a piped drainage system. Leachate is then pumped to the Greater Augusta Utility District wastewater treatment plant. This year 14.6 million gallons were pumped for treatment. On average, 9 million gallons of leachate are pumped annually to the treatment plant.

- Completing various inspections of the landfill operating systems to make sure they are working correctly, again a requirement of our operating license. Tasks include:
  - Measuring the level of the leachate pond
  - recording runtimes of pumps and making sure they are operating correctly
  - checking closed areas of the landfill for signs of erosions or damage by burrowing animals
  - inspecting the leachate piping
  - measuring flows in the leak detection systems
Highlights of the Year

- Revenues of $2.58 million – from user fees (disposal fees, permit fees, etc.), per capita fees and sale of recyclables
- 2,465 Hatch Hill permits were sold
- 1,363 3-trip passes issued to eligible Augusta residents
- 40,067 transactions handled at the Scale House
- 25,834 tons of waste landfilled in Expansion III

Materials recycled:
- 1,180 tons of asphalt shingles
- 1,058 tons of wood waste
- 454 tons of tin cans, clear glass, newspaper mix and milk jugs
- 573 tons of leaves, grass and garden waste for composting
- 61 tons of Universal Waste (old TV’s, computer monitors and mercury items)
- 2 tons of old propane tanks
- 10+ boxes (42 pounds ea.) of alkaline and rechargeable batteries

- 326 tons of compost or wood chips given to customers for use around their homes

A regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day
- At Augusta Public Works on Saturday, May 19th
- 10 communities participated with assistance of KVCOG
- 300 units (5 gallons per unit) of HHW collected and either recycled or incinerated

We are pleased with the progress we have made in the past year and look forward to the continued operation of a customer friendly, efficient and environmentally compliant solid waste facility in the years ahead.
As Superintendent of Schools for the Augusta School Department, I respectfully submit my ninth Annual Report.

Much of what happened in the School Department for school year 2006-2007 was overshadowed by Maine’s new School Consolidation Law, Part XXXX of Chapter 240 of the Public Laws of 2007. After considerable debate, negotiation, and compromise, the law that finally emerged from the legislative process states that there will be no more than 80 Regional School Units. It required School Units to exercise due diligence and good faith to achieve consolidation by July 1, 2008, but did allow School Departments to take an additional year through July 2009 if they needed extra time. School Units were required to organize into Regional School Units with at least 2,500 students, but were allowed an exception to this numerical requirement based on several factors. The law also required a local referendum vote in order to approve reorganization plans and provided substantial financial penalties for School Units that voted not to participate.

The Augusta School Department sent letters to all communities that send students to the Capital Area Technical Center and invited them to come and discuss what measures might be considered to increase efficiency in the delivery of educational services to students.

During the summer of 2007, representatives from the Augusta Board of Education (School Board Chair William Burney and School Board Members Darek Grant and Kim Silsby) met with representatives from SAD 11, Unions 132 and 133, Union 51, and, specifically, the Chelsea School Department. After extensive discussion and financial analyses were completed, in any scenario, it would end up costing Augusta taxpayers a considerable amount of money to join with any of the aforementioned communities. Additionally, Union 133 (Palermo, Somerville, Windsor) notified the Augusta School Department in mid-August that, “They had little or no interest to enter into a formal consolidation partnership with Augusta.”
In late August, the Augusta School Board, in compliance with the requirements of the School Consolidation Law, filed a Request to Submit to the Commissioner an Alternative Plan. This request was denied.

The School Board went back to the table with representatives from Chelsea and Unions 131 and 132, again, trying to find a way to consolidate the communities contiguous to Augusta. As with the previous financial analyses, any consolidated School Department would end up costing City taxpayers here in Augusta more money.

The Augusta Board of Education decided in late November to file an Alternative Plan with the Commissioner.

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

The Board of Education has prioritized literacy acquisition in reading, writing, and math skills over the past three years. The district has purchased new reading and math programs at the K-6 level. It has focused staff development on the teaching of reading, writing, and math skills. During the past year, we have begun to use the assessments to inform our instruction. All 3rd through 10th grade students take a NWEA test in the fall and spring of each year. This test gives teachers specific data on essential skills students need for reading, comprehending, and interpreting informational text. The math test tells us how students do with number sense, computation, data analysis and statistics, geometry, measurement, patterns and relationship, and mathematical reasoning. With this information, teachers have been able to identify areas of strength and areas of weakness for each student and can then individualize instruction. Our mentors have been meeting with all teachers to go over results and help teachers identify students who need remediation.

A second project that is ongoing at the Middle and High School levels is work on strategies for reading in all content areas. We were fortunate to be included in a statewide grant from the University of Maine for the last two years. This grant has provided money to support literacy audits at both the Middle and High School and 15 hours of staff development for all staff on issues related to adolescent literacy. Teachers have also had the support of mentors as they have tried out new teaching practices.

The district is beginning to see the results of all of this hard work. In reading, there were two elementary grade levels that had no students in the does not meet category last spring, and three grade levels that had only three to five students in this category. In math, we also had two grade levels that had no students in the does not meet category. All of our elementary schools met Adequate Yearly Progress on last year’s MEA test. Gilbert School, a Reading First School, showed the most growth of 14 schools across the state. Improvement starts at the lowest level and will continue if the teaching remains strong. We are very gratified with these results and expect even greater growth this year.

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**ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS**

Cony High School Girls’ Basketball team won the State Championship at the Augusta Civic Center, defeating McAuley H.S. of Portland. It was the first time in many years that the State Championship games for Class “A” were played in Augusta instead of Bangor.

In the fall of 2007, the Cross Country team held practice and ran their home meets on the new trails behind the high school, bringing the sport on campus and ending a long history of traveling to UMA to run and practice.

Bethany Dumas was the State Champion in the Pole Vault in Indoor Track and Spring Track. She is three time State Champion and is the New England Champion in the Pole Vault (Spring Track). She was also the State Champion in the Javelin last spring.
This year, the state has recently accepted revised Maine Learning Results in the core subject areas including Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science, Health and Wellness, and World Languages. Work on revised curriculum is an ongoing aspect of teaching each year and the Augusta Public Schools has begun the process of bringing current curriculum in alignment with the new standards. In addition to curriculum design, the school district must assure that students who graduate can demonstrate proficiency in the Learning Results. There will be state assessments like the MEAs, SAT and Maine High School supplemental assessments in science and math. In addition, the state will begin to require all students to demonstrate additional proficiency through web based adaptive tests, portfolios, position papers, and demonstrations. The direction of the future for all students graduating from our school system is that they will need to be college, career, and citizenship ready.

School Department Technology Improvements

The Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) continues to supply Apple ibooks for all 7th and 8th grade students in the State of Maine. New programs and updates to currently installed software are sent each spring for installation and our technicians complete the process over the summer. Our high school and technical school teachers each received an Intel based MacBook from the state this fall and are attending sessions that target collaboration and integration throughout the year for teacher growth. The laptops these teachers formerly used have been collected and are being reformatted for student use. Teacher support and professional development are offered year round for our 7-12 teachers who participate in the MLTI program. Two links that provide additional information about these initiatives are: http://www.maine.gov/mlte/ and http://mainelearns.org.

We deliver technology instruction and support for all students in grades K-12. Every elementary school has two mobile computer labs, each equipped with a printer and projector. Since Apple is no longer supporting their integrated package, AppleWorks, we are installing a new integrated package on all K-8 Apple computers. The new package includes the following programs: Keynote (presentation), Pages (word processing) and Numbers (spreadsheet). The features that are available through this package are outstanding and very easy for our school community to utilize. Our largest technology project for this year is the implementation of the Senteo Interactive Response System for the elementary grades. Smart Technology has this to say about the system: “The system allows frequent questioning and feedback, which engages students more actively in the material being studied. When the data is used to provide relevant in-class feedback, and to adjust instruction according to identified needs, then large gains in student understanding can be achieved.” Four carts of computers are available for teacher and student use at the high school and are used extensively as an integrated part of the curriculum.

Athletic Highlights

In its first year of operation, the new Cony High School was the host site for the 2007 MPA Eastern Regional Wrestling Meet, the 2007 State Class “A” Wrestling Championships, and the 2007 State Softball Championship game. Cony hosted the 2007 State Volleyball Championship and will be hosting the 2008 KVAC Wrestling Championships and the 2008 KVAC Class “A” Basketball Championships. Cony will also host the 2008 MPA Class “A” Wrestling State Championships and the 2008 MPA Class “A” East Regional Championship game.

The Maine Principals’ Association is considering Cony as a potential host site for either the Regional or State Championship Cross Country races. Cony’s central location in the State and the new and well-maintained facilities are, in large part, responsible for the interest that the Maine Principals’ Association has shown in using our school for Regional and State competitions.

In the fall of 2008, Field Hockey will join the teams that practice and play on campus. The Lacrosse teams will be playing on campus in the spring of 2009.
The IT Department has stayed busy with both major projects and daily support. All the older, desktop iMacs in the K-5 classrooms have been replaced with iBooks and are delivering the Lexia reading program (http://www.lexialearning.com/) as well as supplementing teacher instruction.

Communication is a critical component of our school operation. Currently, we are working with the Augusta Police Department to utilize their Reverse 911 system to deliver school notices via telephone/email and that system should be operational by the time you read this. Access to student grades has expanded to include student access at the high school and parent access in the elementary schools. Reports from parents who are using this option are positive and appreciative.

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

This year, staff from the Augusta Public Schools were again honored and recognized for their achievements.

- Brenda Weis, Cony High School Physical Education Teacher, was selected as the “2007 Health Education Teacher of the Year.”

- The Veterans of Foreign Wars of Maine awarded the Teacher of the Year plaque to Carolyn Van Horn of Cony H.S. in their Grades 9-12 category.

- Barbara Nichols (Raymond) – recognized by the School Nutrition Association for her participation in Trend-Setters, an exclusive panel of school nutrition directors representing approximately 150 school districts across the country.

- Shannon Baker-DiGiulio – Received National Teacher Board Certification.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Augusta Board of Education works diligently on behalf of all students enrolled in the Augusta School Department. Each member contributes long hours to standing board committees, such as Personnel, Finance, and Education, as well as ad-hoc committees, such as the Building and Strategic Facilities Committee. Additionally, each Board Member spends time in the schools attending school functions and being visible community members.

School Board Members: Chairman Bill Burney, Gregg Bernstein (Ward 1 Member), Sue Campbell (Ward 2 Member), Jane Dennison (Ward 3 Member), Suzanne Allarie-Dowling (Ward 4 Member), Dick Barnes (At-Large Member), Darek Grant (At-Large Member), Kim Silsby (At-Large Member), and Bill Stokes (At-Large Member).
District 58
State Representative: Hon. William P. Browne
Home Address: 793 Webber Pond Road
Vassalboro, ME 04989
Residence: 207-622-3096
Business: 207-377-2228 ext. 143
E-Mail: RepBill.Browne@legislature.maine.gov
Capitol Address: House of Representatives
Capitol Telephone: 207-287-1400 (Voice)
Year-Round Toll Free House of Representatives Message Center: 1-800-423-2900
Maine Legislative Internet Web Site – http://www.state.me.us/legis

District 57
State Representative: Hon. Patsy Garside Crockett
Home Address: 14 Smith Street
Augusta, ME 04330
Residence: 207-623-3641
Business: 207-377-2228 ext. 143
E-Mail: RepPatsy.Crockett@legislature.maine.gov
Capitol Address: House of Representatives
Capitol Telephone: 207-287-1400 (Voice)
Year-Round Toll Free House of Representatives Message Center: 1-800-423-2900
Maine Legislative Internet Web Site – http://www.state.me.us/legis

District 56
State Representative: Hon. Kimberly E.W. Silsby
Home Address: 32 Colony Road
Augusta, ME 04330
Residence: 207-623-6395
Business: 207-377-2228 ext. 143
E-Mail: RepKim.Silsby@legislature.maine.gov
Capitol Address: House of Representatives
Capitol Telephone: 207-287-1400 (Voice)
Year-Round Toll Free House of Representatives Message Center: 1-800-423-2900
Maine Legislative Internet Web Site – http://www.state.me.us/legis

District 24
Senator: Hon. Elizabeth H. Mitchell
Home Address: 277 Cushnoc Road
Vassalboro, ME 04989
Telephone: 207-622-2629
E-Mail: SenLibby.Mitchell@legislature.maine.gov
Year-Round Toll Free Senate Message Center: 1-800-423-6900
Capitol Address: Senate Office
Capitol Telephone: 207-287-1515 (Voice)
Maine Legislative Internet Web Site – http://www.state.me.us/legis

Maine Congressional Delegation

Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R)
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1903
Tel: 202-224-5344
Term Expires: January, 2012
District Office: 3 Canal Plaza, Suite 601
Portland, ME 04101
Tel: 207-874-0883

Senator Susan M. Collins (R)
314 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1904
Tel: 202-224-2523
Term Expires: January, 2009
District Office: 202 Harlow Street, Suite 204
P.O. Box 655
Bangor, ME 04402
Tel: 207-945-0417

Representative Thomas H. Allen (D-1st District)
1127 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1901
Tel: 202-225-6116
Term Expires: January, 2009
District Office: 57 Exchange Street, Suite 302
Portland, ME 04101
Tel: 207-774-5019

Representative Michael H. Michaud (D-2nd District)
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1902
Tel: 202-225-6306
Term Expires: January, 2009
District Office: KeyBank Plaza, 23 Water Street, Suite 205
Bangor, ME 04401
Tel: 207-942-6935
### City of Augusta

#### Police and Fire Emergencies

- **Directory of City Employees**: 620-8199
- **Adult Education**: 626-2470
- **Airport**: 626-2306
- **Audit**: 626-2340
- **Bicentennial Park (seasonal)**: 620-7010
- **Childcare**: 626-2350
- **City Clerk**: 626-2310
- **City Manager’s Office**: 626-2300
- **Civic Center Administration**: 626-2405
- **Civic Center Ticket Office**: 626-2400
- **Civil Emergency Preparedness**: 626-2421
- **Codes**: 626-2366
- **Community Services Administration**: 626-2352
- **Cony High School**: 626-2460
- **Development Services**: 626-2366
- **Education & Government Channel (Channel 7)**: 626-2542
- **Engineering**: 626-2365
- **Farrington School**: 626-2480
- **Fire Department Non-Emergency**: 626-2421
- **Fort Western Museum**: 626-2385
- **Gilbert School**: 626-2491
- **Hatch Hill Landfill**: 626-2440
- **Health and Welfare**: 626-2325
- **Hodgkins School**: 626-2490
- **Housing Authority TDD**: 623-2511
- **Housing Authority**: 626-2357
- **Human Resources**: 626-2353
- **Hussey School**: 626-2461
- **Information Systems**: 626-2345
- **Kennebec Learning Center**: 626-2528
- **Lincoln School**: 626-2483
- **Lithgow Library**: 626-2415
- **Mayor & City Council Office**: 626-2300
- **Parking District**: 626-2362
- **Parks, Cemeteries & Trees**: 626-2352
- **Planning**: 626-2368
- **Police Department Non-Emergency Business**: 626-2370
- **Police Department TDD**: 626-2370
- **Public Works**: 626-2435
- **Recreation**: 626-2350
- **School Superintendent’s Office**: 626-2468
- **School Transportation/1st Student**: 626-5569
- **Solid Waste**: 626-2435
- **Tax Assessor**: 626-2320
- **Technical Center**: 626-2475
- **Treasurer/Tax Collector**: 626-2316
- **Voter Registration**: 626-2360