

2015

# City of Augusta 2015 Annual Report

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# CITY OF AUGUSTA 2015 Annual Report



Pictured: The Coney Flatiron Building post renovation. Top: Outside looking at the new main entrance and the beautifully restored auditorium. Photos courtesy of Siri Blanchet of Blind Dog Photo Associates, York Maine.

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# Mayor's & Manager's Greeting



City Manager, Bill Bridgeo



Mayor, David Rollins

To the residents, business proprietors and visitors to our City:

The view to the west from City Hall provides plenty of inspiration for this introduction to the 2015 City of Augusta annual report. At this writing, work that was begun last year to replace the stockade fencing surrounding our historic Old Fort Western is approaching completion (a \$100,000 investment by the City that sparks our imaginations about what life must have been like on this site in the 1750's) and we are in the planning stages for an invigorated community Memorial Day observation ceremony –to include the execution of a community covenant committing ourselves to being a military-friendly city – to be held at the Fort. Beyond that national landmark site, the Kennebec River is now ice-free, flowing clean and majestically through downtown where much activity has taken place in the past year. The Augusta Downtown Alliance has hired a dynamic new director, Michael Hall and has spearheaded several important initiatives. Most importantly, private investment has been continuing on Water Street including new residential units on the upper floors. Much remains to be done downtown but it is clear that the continued investment taking place there is going to yield significant results.

Up the hill to the west, our new \$54 million Judicial Center opened in the fall of 2015 and across the street from it, the City broke ground (and is now about 80% complete) on the \$12 million restoration and expansion of the Lithgow Library. The tremendous generosity so characteristic of our residents and businesses made this project possible and we eagerly await its grand re-opening this summer.

For about eight years now, we have worked on the creation of one or more local historic districts in downtown and in the West Side neighborhood. In 2015, substantial effort went into the crafting of an historic district ordinance that would tie that work together and enable the city and commercial property owners to access grants and tax credits. That enabling legislation should soon be in place (as should be a companion ordinance that will strengthen our ability to enforce minimum property maintenance standards).

To the south beyond the West Side neighborhood lies the historic Howard Hill property. Last year, the Kennebec Land Trust, in collaboration with the City, closed on the purchase of the 184 wooded acre backdrop to the State Capitol dome – ensuring its permanent protection as open space. This coming year, City staff will work with the KLT to develop a program of public access and passive recreational use of this gem of a property.

Elsewhere in the City last year, the Augusta Housing Authority took over ownership of the former Hodgkins School and secured funding necessary to convert it into forty-four new units of senior housing. Construction is well under



## Mayor's & Manager's Greeting (cont.)

way and should be complete by the end of this year. In the same vein, restoration of the iconic Flatiron Building at Cony Circle was completed in 2015 by Cyndy Taylor of Housing Initiatives of New England (she of Old City Hall restoration fame) and now houses forty-eight very happy new senior residents. Augusta can take great pride in the manner in which it has preserved its old schools (including the Buker Community Center) and expanded its stock of safe and affordable housing.

Like so many other New England communities, we have in recent years experienced the scourge of opiate abuse and the crime that typically accompanies it. In 2015, your City government took aggressive steps to combat this terrible problem. On the enforcement side, we funded two new police detective positions to concentrate on drug enforcement. On the public education side, we initiated a series of community forums and related activities to enhance awareness and pro-activity. And on the treatment side, we are working with community partners in both the public and private sector to develop safe and sober housing and other treatment resources for those prepared to take advantage of them.

Since its founding as Fort Western, Augusta has been a center of commerce and a residential hub. Today, it boasts first rate educational institutions, the most modern medical facilities in the state, expansive shopping and dining opportunities, and enviable recreational facilities. Both of us can envision no better place to live. We hope that you enjoy reading this report and we encourage you to involve yourself in all of the good things happening in your City.

Augusta Maine, A Capital Opportunity!



Mayor David Rollins in period clothing and reading the Declaration of Independence during the 2015 Independence Day celebration at Old Fort Western.

# Augusta City Council



Linda Conti  
Ward 1 Councilor



Patrick Paradis  
Ward 3 Councilor



Darek M. Grant  
Ward 2 Councilor



Anna Blodgett  
Ward 4 Councilor



Jeffrey Bilodeau  
Councilor At-Large



Dale McCormick  
Councilor At-Large



Dan Emery  
Councilor At-Large



Cecil Munson  
Councilor At-Large

The City Council is composed of eight members, one member from each of the four wards of the city and four at-large members. Councilors serve three-year terms and can only serve in that position for three consecutive terms.

The City Council oversees all City government activities and establishes the legislative policies of the City, adopts and amends ordinances and local laws as necessary for proper management of the City government, provides for the exercise of all powers of local government vested in the City by Charter or State law, appropriates municipal resources and sets the tax rate for the provision of public services, and appoints qualified persons to vacancies on City Boards and Commissions.

The Council deals with legislative matters as a body and its policy decisions are implemented through the City Manager's Office.

The City Council is advised and the City is represented on legal matters by the law firm of Preti Flaherty in Augusta. Attorney Stephen Langsdorf is Corporation Counsel of record.

# Committee Thanks

Kudos go out to our committee members, whose contributions help make our hometown a better place.

## Airport Advisory Committee

June Cumler  
Paul McClay  
Gary Peachey  
William Perry  
David Smith  
Peter Thompson  
Paul Wade

## Alumni Field Committee

Dave Cheever  
James Goulet  
Bob Parquette  
Paul Rodrigue  
Katie Vose

## Assessment Review Board

Scott Benson  
Paul Castonguay  
Scott Emery, Chair  
Maurice Fortin  
William Leet

## Conservation Commission

Rachel Dyer  
Roberta Record  
Martha Muetzel  
Rex Turner, Chair  
Mikaela Ziobro  
John Harvey Versteeg

## Dog Park Advisory Committee

William Dunn  
Karen Knox  
Scott Lessard  
Patrick O'Connell  
Francois Roodman

## General Assistance Fair Hearing

John Finnegan

## Greater Augusta Utility District

Charlene Hamiwka  
Kenneth Knight, Chair  
Kristen Hebert  
Lesley Jones  
Donald Roberts  
David Smith

Kathleen Sikora

## Historic Preservation Commission

Gerald Bumford  
Andrew Loman  
Lorie Mastemaker  
Sylvia Hudson  
Phyllis von Herrlich  
Alison Sucs  
Dan Stevens

## Housing Authority

Margaret Ayotte  
Nate Cotnoir  
Raegan LaRochelle  
Nancy Fritz  
Amanda Frost  
Samantha Nowlin  
Joseph Umer

## International Code Council

John Butts  
Stephen Roberge  
Jeff Shostak

## Lithgow Library Trustees

Joan Callahan, Chair  
Sara Bangs  
Diane Doyon  
John Finnegan  
Kathleen Petersen  
Carol Saunders  
Andrew Silsby  
Keith Varner

## Old Fort Western Trustees

Jane Coryell  
Leon Cranmer  
Paige Tatum  
Thomas Doore  
Richard Freeman  
Dan Stevens  
Phyllis vonHerrlich

## Parking District

Thomas Johnson  
Tobias Parkhurst  
Steve Pekuconis

James Bass

## Planning Board

Tom Connors  
Steve Dumont  
William McKenna  
Alison K.B. Nichols  
A. Delaine Nye  
Peter Pare  
Justin Poirier  
Heather Pouliot  
Corey Vose, Chair

## Registration Appeals Board

Thomas Doore  
Linda Hadley-Rood  
Louise Lerley  
Joan Theberge, Chair

## Strategic Communications Committee

David Cheever, Chair  
Michael Tardiff  
Scott Milewski  
Nancy Bernier  
Laurence Ringrose

## Zoning Appeals Board

Tim Dennett  
Andrew Dunbar  
Peter Fortunato, Chair  
Roger Lessard, Sr.  
Patten Williams  
John Seed  
Aaron Stred  
Walter Zaccadelli



# Augusta State Airport

John Guimond, Airport Manager

The Augusta State Airport is operated and maintained by the City of Augusta under terms of a Management and Operating agreement entered into by the City and the State. In 2015 the City and the DOT renewed this agreement for another 5 years. Under this Agreement, the State of Maine Department of Transportation retains ownership of the Airport and its facilities while the City assumes full managerial and operational control. The State provides a financial subsidy to cover the operating deficit incurred by the Airport with an assurance that the City of Augusta will incur no financial liability in the costs of its operation.

The mission of the Augusta State Airport is to serve the aviation and air travel needs of the residents of the City of Augusta and surrounding communities, as well as those of aviators and air passengers traveling to Augusta. In meeting these needs, the Airport, its property and facilities are maintained in full compliance with applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Regulations.

The airport recognizes its role as a critical element in the physical infrastructure of the City of Augusta and its role as a tool for economic development. As such, the airport will encourage and promote usage of its facilities and of the services offered by its commercial tenants.

Cape Air, our commercial air service provider is contracted with the Maine Department of Transportation to provide scheduled air service through 2018. Cape Air continues to provide exceptional air service here in Augusta carrying as total of 9906 passengers, round trip, between Augusta and Boston. The DOT also signed a new 3 year lease with TSA and a 3 year off airport concessionaire's agreement with enterprise car rental.

Recent improvements were made at the Airport terminal this past summer to accommodate several tenants. An existing conference room was retrofitted to accommodate two FAA employees. TSA combined and renovated two adjoining spaces into a new office, training and break area. TSA old office area was then renovated into a small conference room.





Commercial and residential construction projects again increased in 2015 over 2014, and the volume of overall activity seen by the Codes Bureau was significant and continued to increase from past years. In the last 3 years this increase has become the norm, although with a few unusually large projects underway, a similar increase in 2016 is less likely. The Bureau of Code Enforcement saw \$79,232,000 of development projects apply for permits in 2015 with most beginning construction in the same year. That's a significant increase in the value of the projects being constructed, but there more projects under construction and more alterations to buildings than in the last 5 years. The number of projects reviewed and inspected by the Bureau of Code Enforcement continues to be large and on a continued economic growth pace.

With the completion of the Kennebec County Court facility in late 2015, the Code Enforcement office continued to work on new, large, complex projects being constructed in the city including, the new National Guard headquarters on Civic Center Drive, and new hotel on Western Ave, a new showroom at Darlings on Western Ave, and major renovations at the Ballard Center on Arsenal Street. Developers continue to show an interest in Augusta, and with the improving economy, city staff expects development and re-development proposals to increase.

The City continued to experience a healthy reinvestment from many businesses and residents, as much of the value of improvements made were additions and alterations to existing facilities and buildings. The number of new housing construction starts in 2015 is up from last year, and the City did experience another solid year in the housing category with 14 new homes permitted, and the prospect of quite a number of new residential apartments on the horizon in downtown and converted buildings near downtown, such as the Hodgkins School. The City continued to see a recent trend of new construction in some of its newest housing subdivisions such as in Cony Village, Fieldstone Place, and Stone Ridge Drive. As more individuals considering returning to service center communities, the expectation is that this positive trend of new housing in the city will continue to gain momentum. That momentum should increase with the introduction of natural gas to the city in 2014. This new energy source makes living in Augusta more attractive than ever.

The Code Enforcement office continued its significant efforts to enforce the State and City adopted Life Safety codes to ensure safe living conditions in multi-family residences in Augusta. The Code Enforcement Officers works closely with the Augusta Fire Department, the Augusta General Assistance office, and the State Fire Marshal's Office to identify serious deficiencies in the safety of a number of residential structures in the city. Deficiencies included lack of secondary means of escaping the building from upper floors, structurally unsound access decks, improperly sized egress windows, unsafe electrical and boiler equipment, among other violations. In most cases, property owners were given the opportunity to create a plan of action to correct the deficiencies. In a few cases, the buildings were determined to be unsafe to occupy during the violation correction period. In those cases the building was deemed unsafe for occupancy and the residents were moved to other living arrangements.

In the coming year the Code Enforcement Bureau expects to continue to work with residents and businesses to help them achieve their goals efficiently, effectively, and safely. Additionally, the Bureau hopes that proposed changes to the Land Use Ordinance will enable business owners and residents to more easily understand the requirements for developing property to enhance long term safety, prosperity, and livability in our beautiful city.

# Economic Development

Keith Luke, Deputy Director of Development Services

During the past year a number of priority projects for the city were completed – and still more were undertaken. The City of Augusta continues to set the pace for investment and development among peer communities in Maine, across a range of service, wholesale and manufacturing industries.

June saw the completion of 47 affordable senior housing units at the Cony Flatiron Building – at the close of 2015, the project was 80% occupied. Work also began on the former Hodgkins School – which will add an additional 47 units of affordable senior housing in the summer of 2016.

The summer of 2015 saw the completion of the Maine Judicial Center – a 120,000 square foot facility that has brought District, Family and Superior Court together in one facility for the first time.

The year also saw the opening of three new restaurants in the city – Elevation Burger at the Marketplace, Starbucks at Augusta Crossing and Pizza Degree on Western Avenue.

Maine Instrument Flight completed work on a new hangar facility at the Augusta State Airport and work neared completion on a new Homewood Suites hotel on outer Western Avenue.

Water Street and Augusta's Downtown District remains a dynamic – if challenging – business district. A summer's worth of programming at the renovated Haymarket/Market Square park brought new vitality to the downtown, along with other events sponsored by both the Augusta Downtown Alliance and business owners. The year also saw the transition of the building at 275 Water Street to Richard Parkhurst, who plans to make a considerable investment to facilitate street-level retail and restaurant uses, as well as upper story market rate apartments.

It is important to note that several of the city's largest and most important employers have extended their commitment to the city – NRF Distributors, with its recent consolidation and expansion, Kennebec Technologies with the decision to transition to an employee-owned company, Performance Food Group with their planned expansion, and Kenway Corporation's acquisition of Harbor Technologies and subsequent consolidation into their Augusta facility.

Continued low interest rates, steadily declining energy costs and rising consumer confidence provide good reasons to believe that the economy of Central Maine – and the City of Augusta – will continue its strong performance in 2016.



# Engineering Bureau

Lionel Cayer, City Engineer



School Street Construction during the summer of 2015.

The Engineering Bureau provides engineering services for the benefit of the residents and business owners in the City of Augusta. It provides design and management services for a variety of City projects and plays a large role in the evaluation and approval of other private development projects which are being planned within the City. The Engineering Bureau is staffed by the City Engineer.

Some of the City projects which were continued, completed or started this year were:

### Design and/or Construction Management Projects

- Upper School Street, complete rebuild
- North Aug. Fire Sta. enviro. permit
- KRRT trail connection/extension
- Civic Center Drive sidewalk extension

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
- Coordinate city interests in State road projects
- Coordination with natural gas company(s)

### 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

# Facilities and Systems Bureau

Robert LaBreck, Director

The Facilities and Systems Bureau continues to maintain a high level of safety at all city buildings, and is continuing to complete projects and routine maintenance that keep the buildings: laws and rules compliant, capture as much energy efficiency as possible, keep the existing building equipment maintained and operating properly, and keep the city's systems maintained and functional.

The Bureau continues to keep the facilities and systems in a good state of repair, maintain a healthy clean environment within the facilities in which to work, and to establish quality maintenance programs and practices to accomplish these tasks. In an ongoing effort, the Bureau continues to review and upgrade existing contracts, establish new contracts for services, and supplies, and works closely with other city departments and entities to accomplish these goals.

The Facilities and Systems Bureau is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities' Life Safety systems, mechanical systems, electrical systems and equipment, plumbing systems, elevator equipment, roof and structure, and general building maintenance, as well as the street lighting, traffic signal systems, and the traffic signal communication infrastructure throughout the City.

The Bureau continues to review any potential energy savings via systems upgrades or replacements. The Bureau is presently working on the possibility of replacing the existing fluorescent and HID (High Intensity Discharge) lighting with more efficient types of lighting. An application to Efficiency Maine has been submitted, and if approved will upgrade lighting in city buildings and street lights.

The Bureau is also looking into the feasibility of generating electricity from the methane gas at the Hatch Hill Landfill site.

## Harford Fire Station

Energy work: A secondary/supplemental heating system was installed as a back-up system for the solar heat pump equipment. This system will allow for quicker heat recovery in the apparatus bays when the overhead doors are opened during an emergency call.

## Civic Center

Energy work: New boilers were installed and became fully operational before the onset of winter. The heating system upgrade project included the installation of water based heating system and the removal of electric heat equipment in the main lobby and the north wing lobby areas. The old propane fired domestic water heating equipment was replaced with new energy efficient natural gas fired boiler and new storage tanks. The existing roof top gas fired heating units were converted to natural gas. The kitchen area has the only equipment that remains operating on propane.



# Planning Bureau

Matt Nazar, Director

The Planning Board consists of up to nine (9) members, all of whom are residents of the City appointed by the Mayor. During 2015, the Chair of the Board continued to be Corey Vose. The Planning Bureau was staffed by Matt Nazar, the Director of Development Services, and a full-time Assistant Planner. In mid-2015, Susan Redmond left city employment as the assistant planner to pursue other work, and Betsy Poulin was hired in September. We warmly welcome Betsy and her broad mix of experience and skills that compliments others in the office.

The staff worked to assist members of the public with projects being undertaken throughout the city, including a major expansion to the Lithgow Library, which is expected to be a fixture in the city for many decades to come. This year continued to see a number of proposed modifications to the Augusta Land Use Ordinance in response to major changes on the east side of the city. The Planning Board reviewed recommendations for ordinance changes for land at the intersection of Church Hill Road and North Belfast Avenue, known as the Riggs Brook Village zone. Staff members also provide advice to the Planning Board on numerous projects before them, on many additional modifications to the Land Use Ordinance. Finally, staff assisted the City Manager and City Council on redevelopment of the Hodgkins School and facilitating the installation of natural gas at city properties and throughout the city.

<b>Planning Board Applications</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Conditional Use/Special Exceptions (new/expanded/amended)	8	10	7	8	12
Rezoning (zoning map changes)	2	4	7	1	2
Rezoning Petition/Waiver Requests	2	1	3	2	1
Land Use Ordinance Text Amendments	7	10	5	4	5
New Subdivisions (final)	3	2	2	4	1
Subdivisions (amended)/Resubdivisions	1	0	0	3	0
Major Developments (new/amended)	8	5	9	7	4
Minor Developments (new/amended)	7	6	12	12	12
Mineral Extraction (inc. Relicensing)	0	12	3	1	1

# Augusta Historic Preservation Commission

Matt Nazar, Director

The Augusta Historic Preservation Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. Membership fluctuated during 2015 due to individuals having other outside commitments and having to resign, and new people were appointed. The Commission meets monthly and the current chair is Lorie Mastemaker.

During 2015, the Commission:

1. continued administering the Demolition Delay ordinance and reviewed seven proposed demolitions of buildings more than 50 years old, of which 3 were found to be historically significant and a delay was imposed;
2. worked on the Historic District ordinance with a City Council subcommittee and helped create a Design Guideline document to help people understand the proposed ordinance;
3. reviewed and approved 2 historic building plaque applications; and

The Commission continues to work to maintain an awareness of Augusta's past as an effort to enrich its future.

Photos courtesy of Phyllis von Herrlich and the AHPC. Below is the Olde Federal Building and right is a detail of William's Block at 185 Water Street.



# Civic Center

Earl Kingsbury, Director

It is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to the fifth director of the Civic Center, Dana Colwill. On one hand we will miss Dana and his leadership, while on the other hand we are happy that Dana will have the much deserved time to enjoy himself. Dana guided the Civic Center through what will probably be the toughest financial decade, with the rising cost of energy and the lingering recession. Through Dana's leadership and guidance the Civic Center has pulled through and will see better times on the horizon.

The main auditorium was rented 176 days in 2015.

## **Major events in the Main Auditorium in 2015 included:**

- Mannheim Steamroller Christmas Concert, December 10, 2014
- Governor's Inauguration and Dance, January 7, 2015
- Harlem Globetrotters, March 30, 2015
- The Price is Right, April 3, 2015
- Third Day Christian Rock Concert, April 26, 2015

## **New Auditorium Events in 2015:**

- Kidabaloo
- Governor's Conference on Tourism
- Maine State Lottery 40 Million Dollar Event



## ***REVENUES/EXPENSES***

Revenues: \$2,592,338.00 (Up \$84,907.00 from FY 2014)

Expenses: \$2,712,050.00 (Up \$42,000.00 from FY 2014)

Difference: **(\$119,712.00)**

Although revenues were up over FY 14, unfortunately expenses were also up due much in part to the extended winter and heating season as well as unanticipated snow removal from the streets and the roof.

# Community Services

Leif Dahlin, Director

The Community Services Department had a busy 2015 providing staffing resources to City Council appointed committees. Council committee work included; Bicentennial Nature Park, Mill Park Advisory Committee, Strategic Communications Committee, Conservation Commission, Dog Park Committee and the Augusta Downtown Alliance.

The seven bureaus of the Community Services Department are: Childcare, Health and Welfare, Lithgow Public Library, Old Fort Western, Parks, Cemeteries & Trees and Recreation Bureau and CTV-7. The following is a list of what we do:

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

Boards and Committees:

The Community Services Department staff work with a number of boards and committees made up of almost all Augusta residents. Without these individuals and groups, it would be far more difficult to provide the services that we do. Additionally, the Community Services Department also works with numerous ad-hoc committees and external organizations:

- Augusta Trails
- Augusta Tree Board
- Strategic Communications Committee
- CARA (Capital Area Recreation Association)
- Conservation Commission
- Cunningham Park
- Mill Park Advisory Committee
- Dog Park
- Friends of Bicentennial Nature Park
- Healthy Communities of the Capital Area
- Lithgow Library Board of Trustees
- Old Fort Western Board of Trustees
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
- West Side Neighborhood Association



## Recreation Bureau

Bruce Chase, Director

The Recreation Bureau in 2015 continued to develop and expand our program offerings to the residents of Augusta. We offered a youth spring soccer program with 100+ kids playing on Sunday afternoons. Over the summer we had 300+ kids in our summer camps that included Robotics Camp, Science Camp, Art Camp, Theater Camp, and all our sports camps. In the fall we had over 235 kids playing in the Youth Soccer Program, along with 130 players in the youth football league. We had 45 teams in our co-ed and men's soft-ball leagues. This winter we had 200+ kids playing in our recreation and travel basketball league, and our 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys travel team won the Central Maine League Championship.

The Buker Community Center was full of activities daily and continues to provide a place for kids and families to go and participate in a number of exciting activities. Some of the offerings at the center are birthday parties for kids and meeting spaces for groups along with indoor soccer, youth softball clinics and baseball training programs.

## Childcare Bureau

Karen Hatch, Director

Childcare was faced with a dilemma for the summer of where to offer care due to no room being available at any of the schools due to natural gas being installed during the summer months. Working with Bruce Chase, the Recreation Director, space was made available in Buker Community Center for the summer. We were able to apply for and obtain a State of Maine Childcare License for the Buker Community Center in time to open summer care. Childcare staff came in and helped with the cleaning and setting up for the summer. The City's Park's Department helped with the move as well.

The summer was very successful. Enrollment peaked at 150 children per day. The program was able to run the full 10 weeks of the summer. When it was at a school the program had to end 2 weeks early due to the custodians needing to get the space ready for school to start.

During the summer the children were able to take a trip to DEW Animal Sanctuary in Mt. Vernon. While there, the children saw a new born white Siberian tiger up close, quite the experience for the children.

Considering Childcare would now have summer care at Buker, monies from the Childcare Budget were put into the Capitol Improvement Fund for a new school-age playground to be located by the tennis courts. We are hoping it will be finished for the summer 2015.

In January 2015 Childcare joined COA Afterschool Accreditation Cohort to begin the process of obtaining National Accreditation for the childcare program. Each site has to be accredited separately. We decided to start with the Gilbert Before and After School Program. We will know the results by September 2015.

In February of 2015 Childcare partnered with Snow Pond Community Music School, located in Sidney to offer music club as part of the After School program. SPCMS music teachers visit each of the after school sites every week, and offer a half hour music club for students in grades K-2 and grades 3-6. Students sing, dance, play percussion instruments, create percussion instruments from household objects, and explore elements of rhythm and pitch through many different activities.

During April Vacation, Cooking Matters, a collaboration through Healthy Communities of Maine, came in and offered a week long kitchen safety, nutrition and meal preparation education course for students grade 3-5. The children learned 5 new recipes and were given the supplies to take home and make the meals with their families.

# Parks, Cemeteries and Trees

Charlie McCann, Director

Bicentennial Nature Park had very good attendance with approximately 5,000 visitors using the Park in 2015. Our goal for park use is to stay within our mandate of resource protection while providing Augusta's families and residents a place to enjoy and make memories of outings at the lake.

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, swims, nature walks or spend time relaxing in the Park's natural and tranquil surroundings. First-time visitors to the Park are often astounded by the Park's natural beauty.

Hours of operation are seven days a week from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm.; sometimes later on those long hot summer evenings. Reservations for groups from Augusta can be made by calling the Buker Community Center at 626-2350.

In the spring of the year, as a Day of Caring project, approximately 150 Cony High School freshmen students come to the park and help prepare the grounds for opening day. The Bureau would like to extend an immense thanks to all who volunteered their time at Bicentennial Park in 2015.

Special thanks must go to our summer staff and full-time staff who provide the much needed support who did an excellent job in managing the Park this past summer. The team did their absolute best making the Nature Park the crown jewel of hospitality, cleanliness and visitor satisfaction.

In review, Bicentennial Park had a highly successful year. We would like thank you for your continued support and patronage and look forward to seeing the familiar faces, along with many new ones next year!



# Parks, Cemeteries and Trees

Charlie McCann, Director

After Jim Goulet's retirement the City hired Charlie McCann as the City's Director of Parks, Cemeteries and Trees. I am delighted with Charlie's performance and feel most confident he will provide many benefits to the City during his tenure with Augusta.

Mill Park in 2015 saw numerous improvements including; additional landscaping, and a new fence along the river's edge that has added both form and function to the park. There is more yet to be done at Mill Park over the next few years. City Council and the Mayor established the Mill Park Advisory Committee a couple of years ago and have accomplished much in 2015 and are poised to take on additional opportunities.

Parks staff installed two new significant playground structures at Williams Park and at the Buker Community Center. New fencing was installed at the Mount Vernon Ball Field park complex. A new digital scoreboard was installed at the Alumni complex as part of the on-going improvements to be made to this complex. Our pools continue to be worked on and improved. The pool's water quality in 2015 was the best it has been as compared to the past 15 years. Additionally, the City of Augusta received an incredible gift from the estate of Elsie Viles in the sum of \$250,000.00 to go towards additional improvements to the Alumni complex.

The Farmer's Market at Mill Park continues to thrive and make a mark on the Augusta community. A HUGE part of the market's success beyond their own drive and commitment is MaineGeneral Hospital. The on-going support by the Hospital for this endeavor has made a tremendous difference in the success of the market.





# Health and Welfare Bureau

Leif Dahlin, Director

The General Assistance Program is available at Augusta City Center Monday through Friday to assist eligible people who are in need of basic necessities such as rent, fuel, electricity, food and medication. Services are available on a walk-in and appointment basis.

Worthy to note is the terrific work of both Sara Russell and Debra Lymneos who have maintained the highest standards of work performance while assisting clients where need and eligibility were determined and disqualifying those who felt they had a need but in fact did not meet the assistance criteria established in State law. The great news with General Assistance is we have provided fewer dollars to support folks needs as it appears the economy is improving such that few needs are having to be met thru General Assistance. The bureau is seeing more legal and documented immigrants in need of assistance as compared to a few years ago.

The numbers tell it all with respect to the economy and the fact more people are not in as great a need of General Assistance as compared to 2014 and for several years prior as well. The financial assistance being provided to Augusta residents in need and eligible for assistance had grown significantly over the past few years and it appears we may have turned the corner as disbursements to those in need for FY 2015 decreased significantly. Plus the excellent work of the General Assistance staff, I am sure, also played a role in helping decrease the disbursements. The story of those in need goes far beyond the financial picture and the needs that go unmet. General assistance is a state-mandated program wherein the City of Augusta is reimbursed for 70% by the State of Maine and the taxpayers of Augusta pay the other 30% through the property tax.

## **EXPENDITURES OF CLIENT SERVICES**

<b><u>Line Item</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2014</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2015</u></b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
Telephone	\$ 603.28	\$ 0.00	\$ (603.28)
Electricity	\$ 9,225.73	\$ 7,827.00	\$ (1,398.73)
Transportation	\$ 957.95	\$ 2,066.22	\$ 1,108.27
Transients	\$ 0.00	\$ 246.50	\$ 246.50
Medical Supplies	\$ 1,770.92	\$ 0.00	\$ (1,770.92)
Dental	\$ 735.00	\$ 1,195.00	\$ 460.00
Housing	\$191,337.18	\$ 157,168.29	\$ (34,168.89)
Rooms	\$ 26,564.56	\$ 28,256.38	\$ 1,291.82
Emergency Shelters	\$ 5,934.64	\$ 4,023.26	\$ (1,911.38)
Special & Misc.	\$ 2,639.16	\$ 313.46	\$ (2,325.78)
Burials	\$ 7,325.00	\$ 10,010.00	\$ 2,685.00
Fuel Oil	\$ 13,545.32	\$ 3,974.17	\$ (9,571.15)
Bottle Gas	\$ 197.97	\$ 0.00	\$ (197.97)
Food/groceries	\$ 23,066.25	\$ 17,247.73	\$ (5,818.52)
Wearing Apparel	\$ 647.07	\$ 412.74	\$ (234.33)
RX	\$ 8,265.11	\$ 5,208.52	\$ (3,056.59)
Household items	\$ 10,986.71	\$ 12,235.49	\$ 1,248.78
Diapers	\$ 1,054.83	\$ 2,707.29	\$ 1,652.46
OTC Meds.	\$ 9.80	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$304,866.48</b>	<b>\$252,932.15</b>	<b>\$ (51,934.33)</b>



## In its 120<sup>th</sup> year of service to the community of Augusta, Lithgow Public Library

- Attracted 102,658 visitors, a monthly average of over 8,500 visits
- Circulated 139,714 books, periodicals, audiovisual items
- Recorded 4,528 checkouts from the Maine InfoNet Download Library (digital audio books and eBooks)
- Provided 11,469 hours of usage on 8 public computers, plus walk-in wireless access
- Created and produced 305 programs for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, children and teens, including story times, author events, craft programs, Lego events, concerts and intergenerational book discussions, attracting 5,576 children, parents and caregivers
- Signed up 442 participants (mainly children) for our Summer Reading Program
- Sponsored music, poetry, craft and educational programs for adults; hosted book discussion groups and author events, and provided free computer and e-reader training to the public, with 1,757 participants
- Presented monthly outreach programs to residents of 6 elder care facilities, and 2 daycare centers, and the Augusta Farmer's Market, bringing library services to people unable to access the facility on their own
- Participated in on-line requesting of materials through Minerva and Maine Info Net, resulting in 34,115 interlibrary loan transactions
- Presented **A Capital Read 2015**, featuring two books by acclaimed author Paul Theroux, programs about African animals and cultures, and culminating with a visit and lecture from the author
- Worked with city committees to select a construction management firm for the library building project and then as part of the team responsible for the construction
- Planned and implemented the April move to temporary quarters at the Ballard Center, re-opening one month later
- Watched, along with the rest of the community, as the new Lithgow building took shape

Anticipated the grand opening of the modernized and expanded Lithgow Public Library in the summer of 2016!

# Lithgow Library (cont.)



Pictured clockwise: A beautiful example of the stained glass restoration project, the Lithgow Library at its temporary home in the Ballard Center, the construction site as it was in early 2015.



# Old Fort Western

Linda Novak, Director

By 2014 the palisade fence surrounding the fort had decayed to the point of becoming a safety hazard. Much of 2015 was devoted to planning and implementing the Old Fort Western Land Improvement Project which included plans for replacing the entire palisade. The City approved CIP funds to replace the entire palisade fence surrounding the Garrison and connecting the watchboxes and blockhouses. Using the archaeological findings of Fort Western, Fort Halifax, Fort Richmond and Fort Shirley in conjunction with the Johnston Map of 1756, plans were drawn to rebuild the palisade as accurately as possible. Aroostook Fence Company was awarded the project and the new posts arrived in November 2015. The weather held long enough to get all the kingposts set. Completion date of this project is May 15, 2016. When done, the footprint of the fort will closely resemble the Johnston Map of 1754.

2015 Visitation	
Admissions	3507
Winter Lecture Series/Fort Specials	721
Summer App/Jr Interpreter	38
Pre-Scheduled Programs	6592
	<b>10858</b>

**Admissions.** The 2015 Visitation Season brought about 3,507 visitors to Old Fort Western. The major point of origin of visitors coming to see Old Fort Western is still Maine and New England followed by the southeastern and mid-Atlantic United States and Western Europe.

**Special Events.** These are events put on by the Fort, free-of-charge to the public to promote community and goodwill. Among the special events held at the Fort this year, were the traditional Memorial Day Opening Weekend, the Declaration of Independence July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration, Armistice/Veterans Day Celebration and the Augusta Holiday and Treelighting Event. Other events included Old Hallowell Day, Fort Halifax Celebration, and the Arnold Encampment Weekend.

**Summer Apprentice/Junior Interpreter.** During the summer of 2015, 38 individuals participated in the Junior Interpreter and Apprentice Program. These programs have been reworked to help prepare future generations for stewardship of the fort. In the Apprenticeship, children 8 to 12 years of age come to Fort Western in the morning for an entire week and learn about the different aspects of 18<sup>th</sup> century life. Once children have taken the Apprentice Program and have become 13 years old, they can participate in the Junior Interpreter Program. The Junior Interpreter assists the Historic Interpreter in the morning and then works with them in the afternoon to learn the historic interpretation of Fort Western - "the living history museum". When Junior Interpreters turn 16, there are job opportunities for summer employment.

**Pre-Scheduled Programs.** During 2015, 6,592 Maine school students and summer campers visited the fort and participated in one or more of our many programs. *Daily Life in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century*, *A Day in the Life of a Fort Western Soldier*, *Going Shopping in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century*, and *Fort Western, a Timeline Spanning three Centuries*, our most popular programs. These hands-on and interactive programs engage all the senses and showcase the importance of Fort Western to Maine and New England history.

## Thank You

Fort Western's greatest strength is its staff and volunteers. These individuals tirelessly promote the Fort and teach the public its importance in Maine and New England History. The reviews below tell it all... To all the Historic Interpretive Staff, Huzzah and Thank You!

["A remarkable fort and historic story"](#)

Reviewed August 17, 2015 [via mobile](#), Tripadvisor.com, Northernneckinn from Tappahanoock, VA

Had the privilege of an almost private tour with docent Roger who did a marvelous job of explaining the historical importance of the fort and its role in the colonization of Maine. Visited the corner blockhouse around the stockade and



the main store house, looked over the register of trading transactions in pounds shillings and pence! Well worth an hour...

“Great way to portray Maine history”

Reviewed July 29, 2015, Tripadvisor.com, IslandRandR. From Victoria BC

*I loved the interpreters dressed in period costume and really appreciated the amount of dedicated work that went into recreating the fort using original pieces and documents. It's clear that the team cares about its fort and protecting its history. I learned a lot about the region and its early settlers and growth. Highly recommend this gem!*

During special events the Fort comes “alive” through the efforts of dedicated volunteers who donate their time as the James Howard Company reenacting the French & Indian War: Roger Collins, Shelby Carver, Zachariah Hoyle, Hannes Moll, Peter Morrissey, Stan Novak, Benjamin Pierce, Richard Pierce, Judy Sample, Maria Sorois, Melissa Tobin and Whitethunder McBride. This year Fort Western was able to obtain the brand of “Daniel Savage Company” allowing it to expand its reenactment program to include the Revolutionary War. The fourteen individuals who serve in the Howard Company also serve in this new company and collectively donated 1,974 hours of their time. To the reenactment companies, Huzzah and Thank You!

An additional 582 hours were donated by volunteers Jane Coryell, John Dearborn, Marjorie Dearborn, Tom Door, Peter Morrissey, Stan Novak, James Patenaude, Judy Sample, Daniel D. Stevens, Stephanie Thibodeau, Phyllis vonHerrlich, Ramona Whitaker, and Irma J. Wilhelm doing everything from archaeological artifact processing, to office and coordination work, to garden cultivation and planting, to cooking hotdogs. To all these volunteers. Huzzah and Thank You!

Fort Western hosted its Annual Silent Auction for the Old Fort Western Fund once again in December. Participation from the Augusta area businesses, especially the downtown, continues to grow and businesses from downtown Hallowell & Gardiner donate as well. Through donations of goods and services and monetary donations \$2,347 was raised towards school programming. To all the business, friends and staff who contributed and to all the participants, Huzzah and Thank You!

To all the Trustees, the Mayor and City Council, Friends of the Fort, and all the residents of the City of Augusta who faithfully support Old Fort Western, Huzzah and Thank You!

Finally a special tribute needs to go to the “Grand Dames” of Fort Western; Jeanne Payson, Donna Porter and Judy Sample have collectively devoted nearly 60 years working for the Fort as Historic Interpreters, Seamstresses, and Volunteers. We hope they will be around for many years to come. Huzzah and Thank You!



Jeanne Payson



Donna Porter



Judy Sample



## Auditing Bureau

Tracy Roy, Deputy Finance Director

The Audit Bureau oversees and administers the city's financial and accounting systems. This bureau is staffed by the Deputy Finance Director, a Deputy Auditor and a Clerk II. The Clerk position is budgeted under the Finance & Administration Department and works in both the Audit and City Clerk's office.

The bureau is responsible for reconciling bank statements, procurement cards, accounts receivable, accounts payable, capital assets, and other balance sheet accounts; as well as, monthly closing, training on the financial accounting system (Munis), and preparation for the audit.

During 2015 the bureau processed 3,903 accounts payable checks (5,203 processed in 2014 and 7,137 in 2013), 392 EFT's, 257 wire transfers and 174 1099's. Accounts payable checks continue to decrease due to the use of city-wide purchasing cards. There were 4,499 transactions on the purchasing cards from March through December of 2014. During 2015 there were 5,969 transactions.

The bureau worked with the Information Technology Bureau on preparing to accept debit and credit cards in the Tax Office. The RFP went out to prospective bidders and was opened in July of 2015. The Tax Office began taking credit cards on December 8, 2015. From December 8<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup> there were 71 transactions.

Our goals are to continue to assist bureaus with the tracking of their financial information, to continue to receive a clean audit and to keep accounting controls in place as required by the city charter and federal and state laws. We always strive to ensure that accurate records are maintained for all city transactions.

## Assessing Bureau

Lisa Morin, Assessor

During the 2015 calendar year, this office processed 648 deeds. The majority of the sales were single-family homes with an average sale price of \$128,460. There were 136 residential sales and 15 commercial sales during 2015. Based on the current ratio study for residential property, the average assessment ratio is 98% of market value.

This was the seventeenth year for the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption. The total number of exemptions for this program was 3,925. The total valuation of all tax exemptions including veterans, blinds, parsonages and homesteads was \$42,857,900.

This office oversees 8,964 taxable real estate accounts with a total taxable value of \$1,609,474,900 (after exemptions) and 980 taxable personal property accounts with a total taxable value of \$119,753,100. In addition, \$25,731,400 in personal property now qualifies under the Maine Business Equipment Tax Exemption Program. We also have 467 real estate accounts, which are totally exempt with an assessed value of \$555,786,400.

**BALANCE SHEET  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
June 30, 2015**

Account	General	Library Expansion	Other Gov. Funds	Total Gov. Funds
<b>ASSETS:</b>				
Cash	\$30,374,383		\$4,468,846	\$34,843,229
Investments	\$10,928,699		\$488,954	\$11,417,653
Receivables:				
Taxes	\$1,068,311			\$1,068,311
Tax Liens	\$461,244			\$461,244
Due from other governments	\$404,846		\$701,646	\$1,106,492
Accounts receivable (net)	\$422,177	\$297	\$44,375	\$466,849
Notes receivable			\$146,000	\$146,000
Interfund loans receivable		\$10,443,374	\$5,424,259	15,867,633
Inventory	\$109		\$22,472	\$22,587
Prepaid Items	\$116,693		\$3,895	\$120,588
<b>Total Assests</b>	<b>\$43,776,442</b>	<b>\$10,443,671</b>	<b>\$11,300,447</b>	<b>\$65,520,560</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Accounts payable and other accrued	\$1,140,225	\$210,703	\$136,659	\$1,487,587
Accrued payroll and benefits	\$2,303,732	\$137	\$207,516	\$2,511,385
Escrow Payable	\$6,624			\$6,624
Taxes paid in advance	\$89,713			\$89,713
Interfund loans payable	\$23,040,069		\$228,073	\$23,268,142
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$26,580,363</b>	<b>\$210,840</b>	<b>\$572,248</b>	<b>\$27,363,451</b>
Unavailable revenue — property tax	\$1,021,650			\$1,021,650
<b>Total deferred inflows of resources</b>	<b>\$1,021,650</b>			<b>\$1,021,650</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>				
Nonspendable	\$116,802		\$674,613	\$791,415
Restricted	\$5,742,799	\$10,232,831	\$3,109,544	\$19,085,174
Committed			\$7,104,196	\$7,104,196
Assigned	\$3,890,718			\$3,890,718
Unassigned—budget stabilization	\$1,200,000			\$1,200,000
Unassigned	\$5,224,110		(\$160,154)	\$5,063,956
<b>Total fund balances</b>	<b>\$16,174,429</b>	<b>\$10,232,831</b>	<b>\$10,728,199</b>	<b>\$37,135,459</b>
<b>Total liabilities, deferred inflows and fund balances</b>	<b>\$43,776,442</b>	<b>\$10,443,671</b>	<b>\$11,300,447</b>	
<b>Net Position</b>				<b>\$34,157,890</b>

**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**For the year ended June 30, 2015**

Account	General	Library Expansion	Other Gov. Funds	Total Gov. Funds
REVENUES: Taxes	\$30,944,004		3,860,093	34,804,097
Licenses and permits	198,356			198,356
Intergovernmental	17,666,951		4,511,902	22,178,853
Tuition and other	823,964			823,964
Charges for services	1,968,509		597,820	2,566,329
Fees and fines	50,155			50,155
Unclassified	672,841	2,222,950	1,888,231	4,784,022
Investment Earnings	155,269	34	5,087	160,933
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>52,480,049</b>	<b>2,222,984</b>	<b>10,863,133</b>	<b>65,566,166</b>
EXPENDITURES				
Legislative and executive	575,171			575,171
Finance and administration	1,593,453		1,675,923	3,269,376
Development Services	1,478,250		944,975	2,423,225
Community Services	2,264,006		862,812	3,126,818
Public Safety	8,381,626		279,692	8,661,318
Public Works	3,791,819		175,969	3,967,788
Education	27,164,722		4,011,191	31,175,913
Retirement and insurance	1,638,345			1,638,345
Utilities	2,464,731			2,464,731
Unclassified	1,429,518		1,950	1,431,468
Debt service (excluding education)	943,301		490,219	1,433,520
Capital Outlay	405,845	935,713	2,849,253	4,190,811
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>52,130,787</b>	<b>935,713</b>	<b>11,291,984</b>	<b>64,358,484</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues</b>	<b>349,262</b>	<b>935,731</b>	<b>11,291,984</b>	<b>1,207,682</b>
Issuance of debt		8,000,000	3,090,000	11,090,000
Refunding bonds issued	24,470,000			24,470,000
Payment to refunded bonds agent	(26,853,996)			(26,853,996)
Premium of issuance of debt	2,383,996		382,046	2,766,042
Lease proceeds	367,396		1,366,010	1,733,406
Transfers from other funds	1,575,944	945,560	435,041	2,956,545
Transfers to other funds	(1,289,285)		(1,534,612)	13,338,227
Total other financing sources (uses)	654,055	8,945,560	3,738,612	13,338,227
<b>Net Change in fund balances</b>	<b>1,003,317</b>	<b>10,232,831</b>	<b>3,309,761</b>	<b>14,545,909</b>
<b>Fund balances, beginning of year</b>	<b>15,171,112</b>		<b>7,418,438</b>	<b>22,589,550</b>
<b>Fund Balances, end of year</b>	<b>16,174,429</b>	<b>10,232,831</b>	<b>10,728,199</b>	<b>37,135,459</b>

**City of Augusta Maine**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position**  
**Proprietary Funds**  
**For Year Ended June 30, 2015**

	Augusta Civic Center	Hatch Hill Landfill	Totals	Gov. Activities In- ternal
<b>Operating Revenues</b>				
Rental Income	\$1,183,101		1,183,101	
Fees		2,633,014	2,633,014	2,073,699
Food and beverage sales	1,409,237		1,409,237	
Miscellaneous		9,253	9,253	7,570
<b>Total operating revenues</b>	<b>2,592,338</b>	<b>2,642,267</b>	<b>5,234,605</b>	<b>2,081,269</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>				
<b>Nonoperating revenue (expense):</b>				
Personnel Services	1,283,797	444,232	1,728,029	474,562
Contractual Services	388,185	551,197	939,382	46,006
Supplies and Materials	548,925	85,163	634,088	961,010
Fixed Charges	29,731	380,158	409,889	3,197
Capital Outlay	6,578	875	7,453	3,904
Depreciation	309,047	233,097	542,144	402,969
<b>Total operating expenses:</b>	<b>2,566,263</b>	<b>1,694,722</b>	<b>4,260,985</b>	<b>1,891,648</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>26,075</b>	<b>947,545</b>	<b>973,620</b>	<b>189,621</b>
Interest Income		173	173	
Interest Expense	(84,536)	(153,443)	(237,979)	(1,628)
Gain (loss) on disposal of equipment	(88,825)		(88,825)	(10,319)
<b>Total nonoperating Revenue (expense)</b>	<b>(173,361)</b>	<b>(153,270)</b>	<b>(326,631)</b>	<b>(11,947)</b>
	(147,286)	794,275	646,989	177,674
<b>Net Income (loss) before transfers:</b>				
Transfer to other funds	(56,000)	(48,477)	(104,477)	(28,298)
Capital contributions				867,659
<b>Total transfers and contributions</b>	<b>(56,000)</b>	<b>(48,477)</b>	<b>(104,477)</b>	<b>839,361</b>
<b>Change in net position</b>	<b>(203,286)</b>	<b>745,798</b>	<b>542,512</b>	<b>1,017,035</b>
<b>Total net position, end of year</b>	<b>\$1,702,194</b>	<b>2,021,878</b>	<b>3,724,072</b>	<b>3,683,562</b>



# City Clerk/Treasurer's Office

Barbara Wardwell, City Clerk and Treasurer

## Clerk's 2015 Statistics

Births Records	1060	179*
Deaths Records	639	276*
Burial Permits	738	
Marriage Intentions filed	145	
Business License	253	
Dogs Registered	1,940	

\*Augusta residents

## Treasurer's /Tax Collector's 2015 Statistics

<b>Inland Fisheries and Wildlife</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Transactions</b>
Boat Excise Tax	\$12,414.11	690
Boat Registration & Milfoil Fees	\$21,881.00	630
ATV Registration Fees	\$5,777	150
Snowmobile Registration Fees	\$6,796	148
Fish & Game Licenses	\$18,083	

<b>Bureau of Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Transactions</b>
Auto Excise Tax	\$3,961,325.27	14,131
Registration Fees (BMV)	\$559,852.88	14,171
Sales Tax	\$204,075.77	1,326
Title Fees	\$45,032	1292
Rapid Renewal Program (online excise)	\$366,305.92	2,346

<b>Property Taxes Assessed April 1, 2015</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Real Estate	8,964	\$31,223,813.06
Personal Property	<u>980</u>	<u>\$ 1,824,020.98</u>
	9,944	\$33,047,834.04
Tax Clubs	437	\$982,047.56
Tax Liens	401	\$607,239.10

# Human Resources

Kristy Gould, Director

The Human Resources Bureau is responsible for supporting a number of key areas including employee recruitment, compensation and benefits, employee development, employee relations, labor relations, records management, payroll, supervisory counseling, and health & safety. These functions are performed for 251 regular full and part-time employees and 200± seasonal and intermittent part-time employees.

The Bureau also provides contracted payroll, benefits and general HR services to the Greater Augusta Utility District and the Augusta Housing Authority.

Significant priorities and projects of Human Resources in 2015 included:

**Labor relations.** Our priority is to address any issues between management and labor as quickly and positively as possible, and this resulted in only a handful of formal grievances being filed again this year.

**Benefits Administration.** The focus in 2015 was on education and assisting employees with understanding and best utilizing their new benefits in a cost-effective way. We plan to continue these efforts in 2016 and will look for additional ways to control costs and increase employee wellness. We also continue to monitor developments related to the Affordable Care Act and other factors that impact the City, our employees and our retirees.

**Focus on safety.** Again this year the efforts of our employees have been recognized by achieving a very low injury rating, high risk management audit scores and have a great deal of positive feedback. This has been an important factor in maintaining stable worker's compensation premiums. The dedicated representatives on the city-wide safety team have continued working diligently to keep our employees safe and our costs low, and all employees deserve thanks for their efforts to keep safety a high priority.

**Recruiting and hiring.** Human Resources continues to see a high volume of candidates for each available opening, indicating that we are seen as a favored employer in our area. Recruiting and selecting the most talented workforce to perform the City's needs is a high priority. In 2015, we received and processed 885 applications for 42 different open positions. Human Resources is involved in every step of the hiring and recruitment process, from researching the most effective search methods to orientation of newly hired employees.

**Development of staff and supervisors.** Despite a limited training budget, Human Resources continues to provide and coordinate training in certain key areas of development and mandatory compliance, including supervisory orientation and sexual harassment prevention. In 2015, Human Resources continued to facilitate a number of classes which were previously outsourced, such as supervisory development and many safety-related topics. We use all possible resources to offer a wide variety of training at very little cost.

The mission of the Human Resources Bureau is to provide effective, positive support to our employees in a friendly manner. We continue work to strengthen the relationships that will allow us to assist management and employees with the valuable work they do for the City of Augusta every day.

# Information Technology Bureau

Fred Kahl, Network Administrator

## Purpose/Mission Statement

The purpose of the Information Systems Bureau is to provide City employees with the productivity tools offered by current information technology in a cost effective manner while protecting them from the risks involved in the use of that technology.

The Information Technology Department has spent the year working hard to support City services as well as the School Department. We spent our time supporting ends users, maintaining hardware, software and planning for the future.

### Some notable projects recently completed or currently underway are:

- Ongoing infrastructure upgrades
- Purchase, inventory and distribute 1275 Chromebooks to all students in grades 4-6 & grades 9-12
- Install new video/audio system at the Augusta Police Department
- Configure and install **Public Information System** in City Center, Police Department and Buker Center
- Redesign City Web Site (in Progress)
- Full implementation of **Google Docs** for School Department
- Install new security system for the Augusta School System
- Replace and upgrade all mass storage devices
- Continue to move **end users** from Computer Workstations to Thin Client stations to both save money and easy maintenance procedures
- Complete replacement of City/School Phone system
- Continued **consolidation** of the computer networks shared by the City and School Department
- Complete the construction of a back-up **Dispatch Center** located at City Center
- Work in emergency situations to keep **all vital communications** operational

We look forward to another year of innovation, change and challenge. The entire IT staff is always looking for ways to do more with less while improving service. Fortunately the Information Technology field creates an environment that promotes this ability. We are anxious to see what next year has in store.

# Fire Department

Roger Audette, Fire Chief

## **Mission Statement**

*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.*

We are pleased to summarize the activities of the Fire Department for the year 2015. The past year was busy with preparation of our upcoming Station in the North Augusta area of the City where call volume has increased by 37% in the last two years. Call volume has remained flat for 2015 with 1400 fire calls and 4900 EMS calls.

## **Department Training**

- Four Officers completed a Fire Officer III/IV Program (First Program in this State)
- Four firefighters completed a Fire Officer I/II Program
- AFD Members received recertification in Pediatric and Adult life support training
- Met the goals of 100% trained in Tactical Combat Casualty Care
- AFD members completed Training in Fire and EMS totaling a cumulative 7000 hours
- Eight members received Certification in NFPA Fire Inspector Certification 1

## **Employees**

- Six new hires in 2015
- Retirements of Steve Robillard and Craig Marshall

## **Other events**

- Public Education/Prevention with over 3200 people contacted
- Continue to promote AEDs in the community
- Participated in the National Red Cross Free Smoke Detector program with the state record of 140 detectors installed in one day.
- Code enforcement, worked closely with them to continue a positive change in the life-safety code of our buildings.
- 18 -CPR programs provided within the community
- Crews Attended over a dozen community events with over 1000 people contacted.

## **Response Statistics:**

Fire 2014 = 1475    Fire 2015 = 1410  
EMS 2014 = 4625    EMS 2015 = 4900



# Fire Department (cont.)

## Department Projects:

- North Augusta Station has been designed and should be ready for construction in the spring.
- The new aerial truck specifications are complete and the bid has been awarded, truck should be here in the fall off 2016.
- Received additional grants from Homeland Security and the Maine Municipal Association. These grants will make our city a safer place to live and work.

Our Department wishes to thank the Citizens of Augusta for all of their support. If there is anything we can do for you to make our community a safer place, please contact us by phone or email. We are here for you!



# Police Department

Robert Gregoire, Police Chief

**Mission Statement:** To establish and maintain a partnership with governmental agencies, businesses and 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.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Augusta Police Department is to provide, without prejudice, the highest degree of service and commitment to the citizens and visitors of Augusta. Foremost in this mission, is the protection of life and property. Specifically officers are responsible for the maintenance of peace; enforcement of laws and ordinances; the detection, identification and apprehension of criminals; the prevention and investigation of crimes; regulations of traffic and the performance of any service that will improve the quality of life by providing for the security and safety of Augusta citizens.

**Message from the Chief:** Heroin/opiate use and abuse continues to be at the forefront of criminal activity in the State of Maine for 2015. Kennebec County and specifically Augusta are the areas hardest hit by this trend. Drug use and abuse appears to be major causation of the current crime trends of robberies, burglaries and thefts. As we ended 2015, drug related violence escalated resulting in a homicide in Augusta as well as two homicides of Augusta citizens just outside of Augusta. Domestic Violence and Abuse is still an ongoing issue in our community. We as a police department are active in our intervention and enforcement of domestic violence crimes and quality of life issues. I am proud of the quality of personnel we have and the work product that the police department staff produces.

## **Crime Statistics at a Glance:**

The crime statistic below are not all inclusive of crimes handled by the Augusta Police Department, but crimes that are required to be reported to the FBI. \* Not required to be reported to FBI. These numbers are drawn from the APD record management system and may not reflect the final totals reported by the State of Maine.

<u>2013</u>		<u>2014</u>		<u>2015</u>	
Homicide	1	Homicide	0	Homicide	1
Rape	22	Rape	20	Rape	16
Robbery	16	Robbery	24	Robbery	21
Aggravated Assault	51	Aggravated Assault	74	Aggravated Assault	44
Assault	485	Assault	493	Assault	482
Burglary	220	Burglary	136	Burglary	147
Theft	950	Theft	974	Theft	792
Motor vehicle theft	32	Motor vehicle theft	21	Motor vehicle theft	12
*Arson	5	*Arson	10	*Arson	4
*Domestic Violence	209	*Domestic Violence	209	*Domestic Violence	206
*Drug Offenses	182	*Drug Offenses	269	*Drug Offenses	141
*Vehicle Stops	4450	*Vehicle Stops	4615	*Vehicle Stops	6054

# Police Department (cont.)

## 2013 Reports

Investigative	3886
Arrest	1794
Crash	1210
Traffic Summons	1312

## 2014 Reports

Investigative	3816
Arrest	1835
Crash	1190
Traffic Summons	1543

## 2015 Reports

Investigative	3824
Arrest	1827
Crash	1190
Traffic Summons	2199

## Award of Valor

Sgt. Eric Lloyd  
 Officer Benjamin Murtiff  
 Officer Kyle Sheridan  
 Officer Scott Taylor  
 Detective Nathan Walker

## Award of Merit

Detective Christopher Blodgett  
 Lieutenant Christopher Massey  
 Officer Christopher Hutchings

## Commendatory Letter

Sgt. Christian Behr  
 Officer Christopher Guay

## Other Awards

National Alliance of Mentally Ill Award – Detective Matthew Estes  
 Red Cross Heroes Breakfast – Sgt. Eric Lloyd, Off. Benjamin Murtiff, Off. Kyle Sheridan  
 Maine Chiefs of Police Association – Award of Bravery - Sgt. Eric Lloyd, Off. Benjamin Murtiff, Off. Kyle Sheridan  
 Crisis and Counseling Public Safety Award – Sgt. Vicente Morris

## Community Events and Participation

The police department assisted in planning and/or participated in the following events:

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Fourth of July Parade and Fireworks            | Salvation Army Kettle Drive      |
| Day in the Park                                | Special Olympics Maine           |
| United Bikers of Maine - Motorcycle Toy Run    | Prescription Drug Collection Day |
| Kennebec River Rail Trail Half Marathon and 5K | Downtown Autumnfest              |
| Salvation Army Christmas Adopt-a-Family        | Holiday Tree Lighting            |
| Book Readings at schools/children's centers    | Career Night at Hussey School    |
| Credit Union Day                               | Downtown Expo                    |
| Motorcycle escorts                             | Tip-a-Cop                        |
| Cony Middle School Football coach              | NAMI golf tournament             |
| Howls and Hounds                               | Lights on After School           |
| Kennebec Valley Humane Society film project    | Taco Challenge                   |
| Super Run                                      | On Track Recovery 5k             |
| Cops and Kids on Campus                        | 1 in 5 5k                        |
| Battle of the Badges basketball game           | Law v. Saints basketball game    |
| Maine Law Enforcement Explorer Program         | Kids Day in Capitol Park         |
| Hot Spot Community Meeting in Mill Park        | Kennebec Leadership Institute    |
| Rabies vaccination clinic                      | KV Credit Union Safe Kids Day    |



# Police Department (cont.)

Rise-N-Shine 5K  
 Safer Seniors  
 Make-A-Wish Foundation Motorcycle Ride  
 Taught Distracting Driving Course at Driving Schools  
 Taught Prevention of On-Line Bullying in the schools

Crisis & Counseling 5K  
 Stranger Danger

## **Honor Guard**

Augusta Little League opening ceremony  
 Boston Red Sox (pictured)  
 Law Enforcement Memorial wreath lighting

Fourth of July Parade  
 Maine Honor Flight  
 State basketball tournament



## **Grants awarded to the police department**

Bulletproof Vest Partnership	\$ 6,737.24
2015 Justice Assistant Grant	\$20,770.78
2015 IF&W Spring Round of ATV Enforcement	\$ 3,000.00
2015 IF&W Fall Round of ATV Enforcement	\$ 1,000.00
2015 Bureau of Highway Safety-OUI	\$ 9,000.00
2015 Bureau of Highway Safety-Seatbelt	\$ 3,040.00
2015 Bureau of Highway Safety-Speed	\$20,000.00
2015 Bureau of Highway Safety-Safe Communities	\$ 5,000.00
2015 Southern Kennebec Underage Drinking (Multi-Agency)	\$19,000.00



# Police Department (cont.)

## **Accomplishments 2015:**

- Created an E-Commerce Zone
- Neighborhood Watch partnership where a patrol sergeant and detective are assigned to the watch as contacts
- Initiated Instagram to coordinate information released on Twitter and Facebook
- APD added some new items to the history collection. The Marshal Donovan badge from Keith Bushey (1906), The Chester Burns Badge found in a coffee can by a family member (1929) and the badge of Abraham Lacasse (1940)
- The summer saw 4 "Hot Spot" details conducted with a collaborative effort by State, County and Federal Agencies. The details focus was on the Downtown, Sand Hill area of the City in an effort to reduce drug and violent crime in the area. The Details ended with a community meeting at the Farmer's Market, which was attended by approximately 20 people
- Departmental flag adopted
- Completed APD back-up dispatch center at City Center
- Capital Recovery Program – opiate addiction recovery referrals
- Maine Criminal Justice Academy and Mentoring Program
- Developed a part-time dispatch pool to alleviate dispatchers from getting ordered to work overtime.
- Member of Homeland security Investigations Task Force
- Member of the Kennebec/Somerset Human Trafficking Task Force
- Conducted prostitution sting to combat Human trafficking
- Four APD Detectives deputized by U.S. Marshal Service for the investigation and prosecution of pharmacy robberies. Only five investigators have been deputized statewide
- Introduced a solvability chart and detective case tracking chart

## **Goals for 2016**

- Implement a Community Resource Officer
- Maintain our Intensive Case Manager Ride-along Program.
- Continue with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and Mentoring Program
- Drug recognition K-9
- Continue with Hot Spot Details
- The 2 new Detective's positions collaborating with Probation and Parole to do bi-monthly probation and bail checks on drug offenders and other violent offenders living in the community.
- Seek law enforcement training opportunities for Crisis Intervention to better serve our mental health community.

# Central Garage

Scott Kenoyer, Fleet Service Manager

The Central Garage operation is an Intraservice Fund. The majority of revenues come from rental of fleet owned vehicles to various city departments, vehicle maintenance to those non-central garage owned equipment, as well as the sale of fuel. These revenues are used to pay for the labor and other related maintenance costs of running Central Garage as well as for vehicle maintenance & repairs while monthly depreciation, which is factored into the rental rates, pays for vehicle replacements when they reach the end of their useful life. The Fleet Service Manager is responsible for all aspects of the Central Garage which includes the fleet itself and the buildings and grounds at the Public Works Facility. Other Central Garage personnel include a working foreman, four (4) technicians, a parts-person and an Administrative Assistant who's time is also shared equally within the Streets and Solid Waste Bureaus.

Central Garage is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of approximately 120 pieces of their own equipment, plus equipment owned by Solid Waste and Parks & Cemetery Bureaus. Decisions on what vehicles will be purchased are based on an equipment replacement schedule which is used as a guide. This schedule evaluates which vehicles are due for replacement based on the actual condition of the vehicle and the needs of the various departments we serve which can change depending on the services being provided to our citizens. Central Garage purchased the following replacement vehicles/equipment this year, including two major pieces of equipment (which has modernized our winter snow removal equipment considerably). One is a new snow blower that is mounted on a front end loader for nighttime snow removal at a cost of \$103,000. This new snow blower replaces the 2004 snow blower that will now be our back-up blower. Previously our back-up snow blower was a vintage 1972 blower that can now be sold as surplus property. The other major piece of equipment was a new grader at a cost of \$188,501. This piece of equipment replaced two older (years 1995 and 1998) graders.

Other items purchased, totaling \$188,112, include:

- ¾ ton pickup w/utility body
- Class 8 plow truck w/side dump body
- SUV
- Fork Lift (used)

# Street Bureau

Jerry Dostie, Street Superintendent

The budget for fiscal year 2015 totaled \$3.56 million. Major services provided include: Rubbish/Recycling curbside collection, year round maintenance of all city streets and sidewalks – plowing and sanding, sweeping, patching, street and regulatory signs, street and crosswalk striping as well as the annual paving program.

**Street and Sidewalk Sweeping** This spring program involves the cleanup of winter sand that has accumulated on the 300+ lane miles of streets from the winter. This year it began on April 21 and was completed in early June. The main arterials are the first streets swept and then the remaining streets are swept on a four-week rotating schedule. In addition to the roadways, the sidewalks on the main arterial roadways are also swept.

**Spring Repairs** The pothole season in 2015 was once again a difficult one as the pavement on many of the city's main thoroughfares was nearing the end of its expected life. This, combined with numerous "spring" freeze/thaw cycles, produced an above normal pothole season. Two of the more problematic roads included Western Avenue and Stone Street. Fortunately these roads (and Hospital Street) were repaired by the Maine Department of Transportation in 2015 which will significantly reduce pothole calls and allow crews to focus efforts elsewhere. Crews also worked into early June repairing lawns, guardrails, fences and any other damages that resulted from snow plowing/removal operations associated with the significant snowfall received over the winter. Much of this work could not be done until the snow melted and this year we had snow on the ground into early May!

**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 started in mid-May. The contractor and Public Works crews also painted all crosswalks, arrows and parking stalls, this was completed by mid-summer.

**Street signage** Upgrades to street signage continued with replacing old signs to meet current federal standards which includes larger signs with bigger letters and increased reflectivity.

**Construction and Paving Season** The construction and paving season started in early May and ended in mid-November. Some of these projects included:

**Patterson Street** – surface pavement on the section of street between Bangor and Pearl Street that was reconstructed in 2014.

**School Street** – from Pearl Street to South Belfast Avenue. This project was again a joint effort with the Greater Augusta Utility District which installed new utilities in the roadway in the spring and Public Works rebuilt the street in late summer/early fall.

**Water Street** – The work done in 2015 included the application of the surface pavement to the road and sidewalks. This completed the beautification project which included reconstructed sidewalks and ornamental street lights.

**Street Paving** – new surface pavement was installed on the following roads: Cony Street (South Belfast to Haskell), Haskell Street, Pine Street, Water Street, Green Street (Water to State Streets), Cony Road (Village Circle to the Chelsea Line), Swan Street, and New England Road.

**Street paving with New Sidewalks & Curb** – installed on Windsor Avenue, Hancock and Charles Streets.

**Alternative Pavement Treatments** – A chip seal was installed on another section of Eight Rod Road (from Dumont Drive to the end of the pavement) as a continuation of the chip seal that was done on the first section of this road in 2014. This technique involves applying a layer of liquid asphalt on top of the existing pavement followed by a layer of crushed stone that is then compacted. This creates a new wearing course and is less costly than traditional hot mix pavement.

**Crack Sealing** – Extends the life of pavement by preventing water from entering the road base and causing damage. This work was performed on Spring Road, Maureen Drive, Rodrigue Heights, Roseanne Ave, Dumont Drive, Cathy Street, and Wilson Street.

**Significant Road “Patches”** – In 2015 we continued the use of the wheel rut patch unit (nicknamed “the WT1000”) to fill severe wheel ruts in an attempt to extend the life of the roadway pavements and reduce maintenance costs by providing a smooth surface for winter plowing and reducing the potential for potholes. The unit was used on Cony Road, 8 Rod Road (prep work for the chip seal), Airport Road, Middle Road, Old Belgrade Road (by the Veterans Memorial Cemetery), and Tobey Street.

**Roadside Vegetation Control** – Improves the safety of the roadways by increasing sight lines and allows more sun to reach the pavement in the winter time which helps with the melting of snow and ice. This is also done to protect the pavement from the damage that is caused by weeds growing in pavement cracks. A contractor was hired to provide herbicide control for city streets and sidewalks. This year all the main thoroughways were done and the East side neighborhoods. The city also mowed the side of the roads with a sickle bar mower and also rented a unit that provided further reach to prevent encroachment into the right of ways by trees and brush.

**Other Miscellaneous Projects** – City crews replaced culverts and completed ditching on Church Hill Road, Mount Vernon Road and Wade Road to improve drainage issue. This year for the first time we participated in a demonstration project where an existing culvert on the Wade Road was slip lined in place to rehabilitate it rather than replace the existing culvert which would have required closing the road (which is a dead-end road) to accomplish the work. A short piece of underdrain was installed on Gray Birch Drive to address an ongoing drainage/icing problem on that road. This winter was delayed in its arrival which allowed our crews to work on some delayed maintenance projects including the repair to shoulders on the Bolton Hill Road, Mud Mill Road, Mount Vernon Road, Church Hill Road, Weeks Mills Road, and Cony Road. The City was fortunate as we had several heavy rain events in June and close to a historic rain event in October (6 inches of rain in less than 24 hours) and sustained very little damage as a result of these events. This can be attributed to our focus on maintenance and ditching over the past years.

**Work for other City Departments** - Public Works assisted the City's Parks and Cemeteries Bureau with new playgrounds at Williams School on Bangor Street and at the Buker Community Center on Armory Street. We also completed some paving for the School Department at Farrington Elementary School and rebuilt the walkway into City Center from Arsenal Street. The City also worked with the Greater Augusta utility District on additional smaller projects such as replacement of a short section of storm drain on the West River Road and repairs to Child Street caused by the repair of a frozen water main from the previous winter.

**Winter of 2014-2015** - This winter season can be summed as being a “long cold winter” with several Polar Vortex blasts of cold air and 109 inches of snow, with the last winter event occurring on April 9. There were 35 events which ranged from freezing rain to a few large snow events, including a 22” blizzard. We had 20 full plowing operations and 38 nights of snow haul. Because it was such a snowy cold winter we had little melting for several weeks. As a result many of our roads became very narrow. In response to concerns expressed by citizens and our public safety officials, contractors were hired to remove snow on most streets in the core of the City. The city used these contractors for about a month. This along with the cold weather and amount of snow caused the snow budget to be overdrawn by \$466,000.



**Rubbish/Recycling and other special curbside collections** - Collection services (through the property tax) have historically been offered by providing recycling one week of the month with rubbish collection on all other weeks along with a four (4) week Fall Leaf Collection. In response to citizen demand to provide more recycling opportunities, the City started a single sort drop-off program in March of 2015. Roll-offs for single stream recycling are located at Augusta City Center, Public Works and Hatch Hill. Residents have embraced this program full force and frequently on the weekends the container at City Center is full. To help meet the demand on weekends a fourth container has been located at the Buker Community Center. As a result of the success of the drop-off recycling program and the cost to replace the existing recycling truck, the City's old style source separated curbside will be eliminated effective May 2016.

**Household Hazardous Waste Day** — On Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Household Hazardous Waste (HHHW) Collection Day was held at Public Works, in conjunction with KVCOG and ten other communities. 238 units of HHHW were collected as well as unwanted medications and Universal Waste (TV and computer monitors).



**Request for Services** — 936 telephone calls requesting services were logged between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The requests vary depending on the time of the year from plowing/sanding to floods to questions related to the rubbish and recycling collection.

## Public Works

Lesley Jones, Director

This was another productive year for Public Work. We survived one of the longest and coldest winters that I remember in my 29 years working for the City. Snow started in early November and the last storm was in April. There was snow on the ground into May which is a rarity in recent years. Once all the snow melted, we moved onto construction and maintenance with a focus on rebuilding or paving sidewalks, especially in the residential neighborhoods. This often involves replacing 40 year old "rolled" sidewalks on both sides of the street with a sidewalk on one side of the street. The modern sidewalk has a distinct curb and is compliant with disability laws providing for better pedestrian safety and eliminating the ability for vehicles to park on the sidewalk like they could with the old "rolled sidewalk".

This year also included some major changes to the City's recycling program with the addition of three single stream



# Hatch Hill Landfill

Lesley Jones, P.E., Director

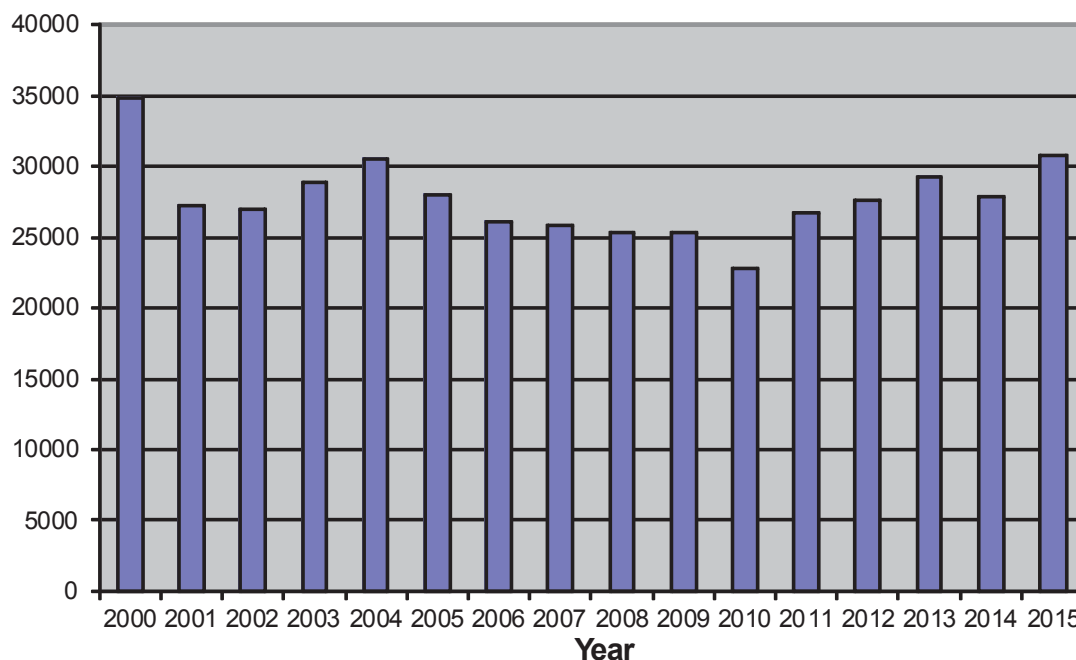
drop-off locations (Public Works, City Center and Hatch Hill). In 2016 the source separated curbside recycling program will end and the curbside collection service will revert to rubbish collection every week along with a fourth drop-off container at the Buker Community Center.

Hatch Hill is the city owned solid waste disposal and recycling facility that operates as an enterprise fund and relies on revenues from waste brought to the facility to pay for day-to-day operations, bond payments and provide reserve accounts for vehicle replacement and post closure monitoring and maintenance of the landfills once waste is no longer accepted. Hatch Hill is a regional facility that provides waste disposal and recycling services to Augusta and seven surrounding communities as well as the State and Federal operations that operate in the region.

## Tonnages and Revenues

The graph below shows that tonnages have increased over the past few years but are still within the annual tonnage amounts that were projected when the landfill was originally built in 2001 with an anticipated life of 20 years. The life expectancy of the landfill has been increased due to a few years where tonnage landfilled was lower than expected, waste settlement and good compaction of the waste as it is placed in the landfill. At this time, it is projected that Hatch Hill has approximately 15 years of life remaining. The increase in tonnage along with the use of auto shredder residue as "alternate daily cover" (the City receives a revenue for this material), has resulted in a positive cash balance again at the end of this fiscal year - June 30, 2015. Revenues in excess of expenses are accounted for in the fund balance to be used for future unanticipated expenses.

**Hatch Hill Tons of Waste Landfilled**



# Hatch Hill Landfill

Lesley Jones, P.E., Director

In addition to the landfill, Hatch Hill also operates a recycling program. The table below summarizes the materials brought into Hatch Hill for disposal in the landfill or for recycling.

<b>2015 Hatch Hill Annual Tonnage Report</b>			
<b><u>Materials recycled</u></b>		<b><u>Materials being landfilled</u></b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>tons</b>		<b>tons</b>
Tin Cans	16	Rubbish	28127
Old corrugated cardboard	33	Rubbish- mixed	2626
Glass	11	Auto shredder residue	4170
Newspaper/magazine mix	110	(used as alternate daily cover)	
Milk jugs	8	Special wastes	496
Single stream recycling	25	<u>Total tons into landfill</u>	<u>35419</u>
Scrap metal	233		
Old propane tanks	2		
Old asphalt shingles	1519		
Old Tires	84		
Universal waste (old TV's and e-waste)	68		
Wood chips for mulch	430		
Demolition Wood	554		
Compost given to residents	248		
<u>Total Recycling</u>	<b>3341</b>	<b>Recycling rate at Hatch Hill</b>	<b>8.6%</b>

# Augusta School Department

James Anastasio, Superintendent of Schools

## Augusta School Department

The Augusta School Department continues to be a vibrant organization that employs over 600 full and part time individuals and provides educational opportunities to just over 2,200 students in four Elementary Schools and one 7-12 Secondary Campus. In addition, approximately four hundred students attend the Capital Area Technical Center and Adult and Community Education provides programming for 3,721 adult learners. The students represent the entire socio economic spectrum, speak 16 different languages, and represent all age groups. The opportunities and challenges presented by such a diverse population are welcomed by the extremely professional employees that are found at all levels of the School Department. Teaching and learning is the focus as the school department addresses the needs of students and adults that attend programs from Pre-K through adulthood. The citizens of Augusta should be proud of the educational opportunities that exist for all learners in the Augusta School Department, Capital Area Technical Center, and Adult and Community Education.

## Cony Middle and High School

The past year 2015 was a "Ramtastic" year at Cony. As a 7-12 school, we try to create a sense of pride for our school in our students, staff, and community. Cony offers a strong academic program which helps to prepare students for their futures. Last year our graduation rate was 81.58% and our dropout rate was 2.81%.

We sing our school song at every event to show the pride that we have about Cony. The climate of acceptance and appreciation improves with every year through the amazing work of our staff and students. We welcomed more students from Iraq over the year which has enriched the student body.

The state of Maine continued its emphasis on proficiency-based education and diplomas. As with last year, our staff has been working on aligning our curriculum to the Maine Learning Results (with the Common Core embedded in them). The staff is also working toward creating a system of instruction and assessment for students to demonstrate their proficiency in each of the eight content standards and Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results. The first class of students to graduate with these standards will be the Class of 2021.

In addition, the state of Maine has decided to move to different statewide assessments than last year. Students in grades 3-8 will take a test sponsored by Measured Progress and students in grade 11 will take the SAT. All students need to take these assessments to demonstrate their proficiency on state standards.

We hosted the 124<sup>rd</sup> Chizzle Wizzle last year which was a HUGE success. We are looking forward to the 125<sup>th</sup> Chizzle Wizzle on March 14-18 where the theme is "Timeless." It is a big year for Chizzle Wizzle because of the historic nature of the year.

As stated last year, we created a "Cony MS and HS" page on *Facebook*. Other ways to get information about the school is on the front page of Cony's webpage, the announcements under the student tab on Cony's webpage, and/or the kiosk at the South Belfast entrance to Cony.

We are always appreciative of our parent and community involvement at Cony through our Sports Boosters, Music Boosters, Team Representatives, and the Middle School parent group. We welcome the support and involvement of all of our families.

As we reflect on 2015, we look forward to 2016 with excitement and inspiration. The staff at Cony love working with our teenagers because they inspire us about the future. It is a privilege to help to shape the leaders of tomorrow.



## Cony Athletic Awards 2015

### FALL

#### CHEERING

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Micaela Caron, Morgan Daoust, Cierra Harding, Krista Lee**

#### CROSS COUNTRY

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Noah Aube, Andrew Keithley, Alison Laplante, Andrew Levesque, Lindsay Watts**

KVAC ALL CONFERENCE FIRST TEAM – **Andrew Levesque, Talia Jorgensen, Anne Guadalupi**

CLASS A NORTH GIRLS SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

CONY GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY – 3<sup>RD</sup> KVAC; 3<sup>RD</sup> NORTHERN REGIONAL; 7<sup>TH</sup> CLASS A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP (BEST FINISHES BY OUR GIRLS IN 17 YEARS).

FIRST KVAC CHAMPIONSHIPS; 1<sup>ST</sup> NORTHERN REGIONAL; 5<sup>TH</sup> STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS; KVAC GIRLS RUNNER OF THE YEAR; KENNEBEC JOURNAL GIRLS RUNNER OF THE YEAR –

**Anne Quadalupi**

FOURTH CLASS A NORTHERN REGIONAL; 10<sup>TH</sup> CLASS A STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS; 6<sup>TH</sup> KVAC CHAMPIONSHIPS – **Talia Jorgensen**

KVAC ALL CONFERENCE SECOND TEAM – **Lindsay Watts**

#### FIELD HOCKEY

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Savanna Poulin, Abigail Silsby, Lindsay Watts**

KVAC FIRST TEAM – **Delaney Keithley, Abigail Silsby, Kami Lambert**

KVAC SECOND TEAM – **Lindsay Watts**

Maine Field Hockey Association ALL STATE Team – **Delaney Keithley**

Maine Field Hockey Association ALL STATE Academic Team – **Lindsay Watts**

**2015 Field Hockey team advanced to the Eastern Maine semi-finals.**

#### FOOTBALL

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Joel Bennett, Anthony Brunelle, Tim Edwards**

ALL PINE TREE CONFERENCE FIRST TEAM – **Reid Shostak – Running Back & Defensive Back; Benaiah Willhoite – Defensive End**

SECOND TEAM – **Anthony Brunelle – Wide Receiver & Defensive Back; Nicolas Caron – Guard; Tyler Dular – Defensive Tackle**

FITZY SEMI-FINALIST – **Reid Shostak**

#### GOLF

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Justin Rodrigue, Brandon Tardiff**

ALL KVAC TEAM – **Justin Rodrigue**

#### BOYS SOCCER

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Connor Osborne, Connor Perry, Bret Sproul, Tyler Sproul, Aaron Tyler**

KVAC FIRST TEAM – **Connor Perry**

KVAC SECOND TEAM – **Tyler Sproul**

NORTHERN REGIONAL ALL STAR TEAM – **Connor Perry**

**GIRLS SOCCER**

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Anna Brannigan, Ariana Cousins, Elizabeth Dennison, Kasidy Turgeon, Allyson Waller, Skyler Watson**

KVAC FIRST TEAM – **Autumn Sudsbury**

**VOLLEYBALL**

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Selena Garside, Hailey Greene, Lexi Lettre, Jessica Rollins**

**WINTER**

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Liam Stokes, Jonathan Christie (Manager)**

FIRST TEAM; ALL-STATE ACADEMIC TEAM; CLASS A/B SENIOR ALL-STAR GAME; HONORABLE MENTION ALL STATE – **Liam Stokes**

KVAC SENIOR ALL-STAR GAME – **Ben Leet; Tyler Tardiff**

KVAC SECOND TEAM – **TJ Cusick**

KVAC CLASS "A" COACH OF THE YEAR – **TJ Maines**

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Rebecca Coniff**

KVAC ALL ROOKIE TEAM – **Haley Ward**

**CHEERING**

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Katelyn Bilodeau, Christina Claudel, Hope Hoang**

**BOYS ICE HOCKEY**

PLAYER OF THE YEAR; SECOND ALL-STATE TEAM – **Spencer Buck**

COACHES AWARD – **Andrew Keithley**

**SWIMMING – GIRLS & BOYS**

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Bradley Beeckel, Ryan Dumont, Mary-Margaret Kirschner**

KJ SWIMMERS OF THE YEAR – **Anne Guadalupi, Noah Aube**

GIRLS/BOYS SWIMMING ALL CONFERENCE – **Abby Lenko, Anne Guadalupi, Annie Brannigan, Molly Silsby, Abby Silsby, Tara Jorgensen, Abreal Whitman; Noah Aube, Logan Testerman, Bradley Beeckel, Dakota Douglas**

MPA Sportsmanship Award - Boys/Girls Swimming

**TRACK – INDOOR – BOYS & GIRLS**

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Brandon Emerson, Courtney King, Madeline Reny**

**WINTER WRESTLING**

FIRST CLASS "A" STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, PORTLAND PRESS HERALD MAINE WRESTLING ALL-STAR TEAM – **Zeko Caudill**

SECOND CLASS "A" STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – **Elias Younes**

FIRST TEAM EASTERN REGIONAL – **Zeko Caudill, Max Storey**

SECOND TEAM EASTERN REGIONAL – **Devon Connor, Elias Younes**

THIRD TEAM EASTERN REGIONAL – **Tre Caudill, Victor Tapia-Smith**

**SPRING**

**BASEBALL**

KVAC SECOND TEAM – **Kobe Merfeld**

# School Department (cont.)

## BOYS LACROSSE

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Liam Stokes**  
CONY PLAYER OF THE YEAR – **Tyler Sproul**  
CONY COACHES AWARD – **Joel Bennett**

## GIRLS LACROSSE

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Jillian Beland, Katelyn Bilodeau, Christina Claudel, Rebecca Coniff, Meghan Foye, Mary-Margaret Kirschner**  
KVAC FIRST TEAM – **Rebecca Coniff**  
KVAC SECOND TEAM – **Katelyn Bilodeau, Elizabeth Dennison**  
FIVE U.S. LACROSSE ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICANS – **Jillian Beland, Katelyn Bilodeau, Christina Claudel, Rebecca Coniff, Mary-Margaret Kirschner**

## SOFTBALL

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Arika Brochu**  
KVAC FIRST TEAM – **Arika Brochu, Sydney Cheever**  
KVAC SECOND TEAM – **Autumn Sudsbury**

## TENNIS – BOYS

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Devin Beckim, Bradley Beeckel, Robbie Buck**

## TENNIS – GIRLS

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Melanie Calicchio, Jazzmyne Gregoire, Courtney Harrington, Erica Laplante, Sydney Partridge, Kelsey Rohman, Emily Russell, Sydney Sansouci, Miette Savage**

## TRACK & FIELD

### BOYS

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Jonathan Christie, Aaron Bernier, Ryan Dumont, Brandon Emerson**  
FOURTH KVAC JAVELINE – **Kyle Stevens**  
FIFTH KVAC 300M HURDLES; FIFTH KVAC HIGH JUMP – **Jeffrey Bilodeau**  
SEVENTH KVAC 200M DASH; SEVENTH KVAC 400M DASH – **Brandon Emerson**  
BOYS 4 X 100M RELAY; FOURTH KVAC – **Jeffrey Bilodeau, Brandon Emerson, James Hunt, Jordan Roddy**  
BOYS 4 X 400M RELAY; FOURTH KVAC – **Jeffrey Bilodeau, Dakota Douglas, Brandon Emerson, Jordan Roddy**

### GIRLS

KVAC ALL ACADEMIC – **Brandi Connor, Courtney King, Madeline Reny**  
FIFTH CLASS A 100M HURDLES; SECOND CLASS A 300M HURDLES; SECOND KVAC 300M HURDLES; THIRD KVAC 100M HURDLES – **Madeline Reny**  
FIFTH KVAC HIGH JUMP – **Alison Laplante**  
GIRLS 5 X 800M RELAY; FIFTH CLASS A W/SCHOOL RECORD TIME OF 10:22.54 – **Tara Jorgensen, Courtney King, Anne Guadalupi, Lindsay Watts**  
GIRLS 4 X 400M RELAY – SIXTH CLASS "A"; SECOND KVAC – **Courtney King, Anne Guadalupi, Kailiana Lutz, Madeline Reny**

# School Department (cont.)

## **Capital Area Technical Center (CATC)**

When people hear about all that happens at the Capital Area Technical Center (CATC) they are surprised. "Active Learning" is the expression that begins to describe CATC. Approximately 360 students from Cony, Erskine Academy, Gardiner, Hall-Dale, Maranacook, Monmouth, Richmond, and Winthrop High Schools come to CATC each day.

Programs at CATC include architectural drafting, auto collision, auto technology, business academy, building construction, computer technology, culinary arts, early childhood education, electrical technology, graphic design, health academy, law enforcement, plumbing and heating, and machine tool/welding.

Instruction at CATC is highly engaging and the student climate is very positive. In addition to classroom instruction, students also do authentic work projects. Students in the Early Childhood Education Program run a pre-school of 16 students three days each week. The building trades programs which include electrical technology, carpentry, and plumbing are building a warming shed near Bond Brook for cross country skiers in the community. In the spring building trades will be doing a remodeling project at the new Chamber of Commerce building on Western Avenue.

The auto collision and auto technology programs make repairs on vehicles for people in the community. The auto programs are always looking to receive donated cars that will support their programs. The culinary arts program prepares food for off-site and on-site meetings. Every month culinary students prepare lunch for the Augusta Nature Club that meets in the CATC cafeteria. Certified Nursing Assistant students work and gain experience in Augusta health care facilities.

This year we have four new faculty members who are bringing some fresh ideas to CATC programs. Darryl Nadeau is our new machine tool instructor and he will be introducing computer numeric controlled (CNC) machinery to the program. Michael Parent, CATC's new electrical technology instructor will be introducing students to electrical instrument control technology this spring. Robert Sherman, CATC's new architectural design instructor is encouraging students to add artistic elements of light and color to their designs. And students in Angela Dostie's business classes can earn as many as thirty college credits in the two year program.

In addition to local funding, CATC has been very fortunate to receive grant funding to purchase those items that don't fit into the local budget. CATC has been able to purchase expensive equipment such as lathes, an alignment machine, a state of the art printer that can make banners, computers, and other state of the art equipment.

The Capital Area Technical Center is a great place for students to learn.

## **Adult Education**

The folks at Augusta Adult and Community Education are pleased to be able to assist citizens of the Greater Capital area to achieve goals that lead to college and career pathways. Augusta Adult and Community Education's mission is to provide opportunities for citizens that meet their academic, career, and enrichment needs. We partner with many organizations in the Augusta area to create opportunities for our citizens to do just that. We are a destination point for our citizens who are seeking services that create opportunities for them to capitalize on. We provide classes that include basic reading and math skills, English as a Second Language, high school completion, and College Transitions that enhance acceptance to post-secondary training and credentials for obtaining employment. We use tried and proven methods of instruction that include supportive technology.



## School Department (cont.)

Augusta Adult and Community Education is always looking for more ideas for programming from the community. Please feel free to contact us with your thoughts. If you have ideas for new programming please don't hesitate to bring them to our attention. For more information in regards to our program and services, please feel free to call us at (207) 626-2470 or go to our website [www.augusta.maineadulted.org](http://www.augusta.maineadulted.org) or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/augustaadulted](http://www.facebook.com/augustaadulted).

### **Farrington Elementary School**

Farrington Elementary School promotes a positive school and learning environment at all times. The cornerstone of our community, "Respect yourself, Respect others and Respect our school," is reinforced in all that we do. Every Friday is a pride day with both staff and students wearing their Farrington Respect t-shirts. Student achievements toward this goal are celebrated each month at our school wide Respect assemblies presenting Students of the Month, Golden Awards for Unified Arts, and the "Prize Patrol" awards for classrooms who have exceeded our monthly data goals in positive behaviors. We applaud our Farrington students who consistently follow the rules and strive to make our school an amazing and safe place to learn!

Farrington offers a wonderful and diverse opportunity for all of our students. We house district programs, which promote the acceptance of a diverse student population. Unique to Farrington School is the English as a Second Language Program, which consists of 48 students from seven different countries, the majority of which are Arabic speaking. This enables all of our students to experience these different cultures first hand as well as giving a rich perspective of the world around us.

We strive to include parents in our school community, welcoming them for conferences in fall and spring. Here all Farrington teachers are available to discuss the students' successes and challenges, welcoming the parents as partners in their child's education, setting goals for the year in all academic areas as well as work habits and social growth. Throughout the year, we continue to reach out in as many ways as we can to keep parents an informed part of the children's education. Our Facebook page posts events and news. "Take Home Folders" go home at the beginning of each month with current calendars, informative newsletters, lunch menus and various handouts to keep parents connected in a consistent manner.

The sense of a "Farrington Family" is evident in our caring and giving to others in the community. Our students participate in "Coats for Kids," "Stuff a Truck," the Red Cross Blood Drive and a wide variety of service learning projects. For Hat Day, students donated \$1 to wear a hat with proceeds going to the Alford Center for Cancer Care in memory of a classmate's mother. Our Key Club is a junior version of Cony's K Club and meets each month to plan and sponsor many of these and other initiatives.

Proficiency based learning has occupied much of our professional development time as we align State Standards to our new Report Card System. Grade level meetings across the school department have fostered rich conversations about the standards and expectations for each grade. Our staff is eager to learn any strategies that will assist our students to meet their learning targets. Interventions to help individual students to be successful are done in a myriad of ways. Homework Club is offered in the morning and the afternoon as a place where students can get homework help, academic help or a quiet place to read. In our Child Study Process, a team consisting of teachers, school personnel and parents, meets every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning. The team develops plans to address individual student struggles and incorporate accommodations and strategies that can help each student improve academically and behaviorally. The plan is monitored and revisited throughout the year to ensure student success.

The Farrington Elementary staff, students and parents take great pride in their learning community and work tirelessly to make it the best it can be for all!

# School Department (cont.)

## **Gilbert Elementary School**

Gilbert School continues to be a great learning environment for all students. The staff at Gilbert continues to have goals around increasing student achievement in the areas of reading, writing, and math. If you visit our classrooms you will see objectives posted, teachers using every minute of available time for instruction, and actively engaged students. Our staff and students are continuously working to improve our school community.

This school year we have added a new afterschool program called *Girls on the Run. Girls on the Run (GOTR)* inspires girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident. The curriculum and program is for girls in grades 3 – 5. During the 10-week session, the girls make new friends, build their confidence, and celebrate what makes them special. Volunteer coaches guide the girls through fun lessons that help them understand who they are, the importance of team work, and how they can positively shape the world. Physical activity is woven in to inspire an appreciation of fitness and to build healthy habits. The season ends with the girls completing a GOTR 5k, which provides an understanding of the confidence that comes through accomplishment as well as a framework for setting and achieving life goals.

As part of a continuing effort to improve our school community, we continue to focus on school wide behaviors. Gilbert School has continued working on implementing a School Wide Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports model (PBIS). This means that we have been focusing on our school rules (Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible) and developing consistent school wide language and expectations for areas not only in their individual classrooms, but throughout the school in common areas such as hallways, cafeteria, and playground. Students have been involved by creating posters, skits, and modeling these expectations. Part of this process includes the students earning Falcon Slips from staff members throughout the school. When students are displaying behaviors that are Being Safe, Being Respectful, and Being Responsible they earn a Falcon Slip. During the Student of the Month assembly each class reports out their total of slips so that they can be added to the school wide total. The total of Falcon Slips for the month is then posted in the main lobby for all to see how the PBIS system is making a positive difference at Gilbert School.

At Gilbert School we not only care about each other, we care about our community. We continue to have many outreach initiatives in place. Some of these programs enable our students to give back to the Augusta community. Others help Gilbert School children receive the assistance they need. We have continued our connection with Chateau Cushnoc, the housing complex next door where many elderly people reside. Classes have continued to visit several times during the year to provide cards and entertainment for the elderly. We also support the Penquis Foster Grandparent Program. From this organization we have one Grammie that volunteers daily in our pre-school, kindergarten and first grade classrooms. Gilbert School continues to participate and host the Big Brother/Big Sister Program with Cony students coming to Gilbert every Tuesday afterschool. Other groups that continue to be a great help to our school include the C-Port Credit Union (aspirations), Elks Club (volunteer in – service time and donate food and clothes for students in need), and the Good Shepard Food Bank Back Pack Program (weekly donations of back packs filled with food for students in need to take home for the weekend). Gilbert School's Student Council has worked hard to give back to the students by organizing food drives in order to make up food baskets to send home to families in need during the holidays. At Gilbert School we have an ongoing *Food Challenge* for staff to donate nonperishable items between school vacations. When the students go home for break the less fortunate are given

## School Department (cont.)

food boxes filled with nutritious items. We believe that our donations will help our students have a healthier, happier school break.

All of these programs introduce our students to the important concept of caring about others. We are always looking for opportunities to expand our community outreach initiatives and consider them a vital part of educating our students.

### **Hussey Elementary School**

Hussey Elementary School is an exciting environment for children K through sixth grade. With an influx of eighty new students into our school last year and significant building renovations, our staff has risen to the challenge, supporting our increased student body by continuing to strive for excellence. By following our Hussey Code: Safe, Respectful and Responsible - students are engaged in making their school environment a welcoming setting for old and new students alike.

Now in our second year of adopting Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS), we are starting to see significant improvements in student behavior. Data shows a 10% decrease in behavior reports from last year. By using the Hussey Code, we have established school-wide expectations for all common areas. This year we even involved the bus drivers in developing behavior expectations during the first week of school. Faculty acknowledges positive student behaviors by giving out PAWS-itive Slips when students demonstrate the Hussey Code throughout the building. Clear well defined expectations are developed with students and celebrated daily and monthly in PAWS-itive assemblies.

In conjunction with developing a behavior curriculum, teachers are busy supporting student academic and artistic achievement. This year, students scored well on the MEA Smarter Balance test. Also, students performed in numerous band and coral concerts; demonstrating their grasp of instrumental and vocal music.

Numerous programs support academic and social growth of students at Hussey School. These programs include: Kennebec Behavioral Health (KBH), C-Port Credit Union (Aspirations) and the Good Shepard Food-bank program. The gracious support of these outside organizations enhances our mission at Hussey School and ultimately supports the community at large.

### **Lincoln Elementary School**

At Lincoln, our staff strives to create a positive and safe learning environment for students to learn and grow. This school year, we have a focus around targeted interventions to support students in the areas of reading, writing, and math. Through the Response to Intervention Process (RTI), students are identified with a specific concern, an intervention is put into place, data is collected and monitored over a select period of time, and the teacher reports out the student's progress with the new intervention in place. This year, an RTI Leadership team has been established to look closely at our implementation process to make modifications. We have restructured our second staff meeting to focus on student achievement data.

In addition to RTI, our professional development has been around the new standards based report card, K-6. Teachers have worked with their district colleagues in identifying language with the new reporting system, consistent evidence pieces, and common assessments. As a school, we are also looking at refining best practices to enhance our instruction in the classroom. An example of this is Number Talks, a focus on increasing student mathematical fluency and a Writer's Workshop, providing differentiated instruction with writing skills.

This year, Lincoln is starting to learn about the components around PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention

Supports). We are at the very early stages of implementation, but have started to rethink our behavior system. Some targeted areas we have looked at are how students exit and enter the building as well as the cafeteria. The new expectations in place have a focus around respect and responsibility. The premise behind PBIS is for staff to model and teach the expected behaviors, reinforce consistently these behaviors, and to provide positive praise along the way. In just a short time, we have seen some significant changes in these areas and are looking forward to fully implementing PBIS in the coming school year.

Community collaboration is a goal at Lincoln. We are fortunate to have a very active PTC that brings educational enrichment opportunities for our students. This year, our 5<sup>th</sup> grade visited the Norlands, students heard a presentation from an illustrator, and some of our students will see the stars through the Super Dome traveling Planetarium. We continue to work with CPort Credit Union through the College Aspirations program. Each year, several of our students in grades 5 and 6 receive a \$100 scholarship to be applied to their college of choice. It is never too early to start thinking about college dreams! Lastly, we were blessed this year to receive two significant community donations. The first arrived prior to the start of school with Ruth's Reusable Resources providing all students with a backpack full of school supplies. More recently, the Pathway Vineyard Church is supplying our Weekend Food Bags, which supports 21 students and their families.

### **Title I Program**

The Augusta School Department is very fortunate to receive federal funding to support Title 1 programming in our 4 elementary schools. These important resources provide supplemental instruction for students in the areas of literacy and math, plus literacy support at St. Michael's School, and assistance for students who are identified homeless in all schools across the Augusta School Department. The grant funds 4 literacy specialists, 1 literacy and math coach, 11 educational technicians, a McKinney-Vento homeless liaison, and Director of Title 1.

The Title 1 staff works extremely hard to support student literacy and math growth, kindergarten through grade 6. They have specialized training to provide intense targeted instruction with small groups of children, or in some cases 1-1, to best meet students' individual needs. Our caseload currently includes literacy support to 224 children and 52 children in the area of math. To make the most of our time with students, Title 1 coordinates instruction with classroom teachers, to provide a double dose of instruction for children. Our literacy specialists and coach work hard to communicate with teachers, and attend IEP, child study, and RTI meetings to best meet student needs.

Again this past summer, any student who received Title 1 services throughout the school year was invited to attend our Title 1 summer reading camp. The purpose of this camp is to continue building the joy of reading, and alleviate the "summer slide." Summer slide refers to that time where students' reading abilities tend to drop since they are not in school. Title 1 works with children in a classroom setting and then pulls them for small group tutoring sessions. Access to the library to choose books and special programming through the LC Bates museum was provided to those children in attendance. Our pre and post data showed that the 42 students who came 8 or more days, 100% maintained their reading level. Furthermore, 64% of students moved up one reading level, and 21% moved up 2 or more levels. This opportunity certainly benefitted this population of students.

In the 2014-15 school year our McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison helped support 101 students. These are students who do not have a fixed, adequate or regular nighttime residence. The homeless liaison identifies homeless children and youth, disseminates public notice of educational rights, ensures school enrollment, makes referrals to appropriate services, and ensures students have full opportunity for success in school by receiving educational services they are eligible for. In addition, the liaison informs families and youth about transportation services and assists them in accessing transportation so students can consistently attend school. Students currently identified homeless in the 2015-16 school year include 44 students.



## School Department (cont.)

This school year, in partnership with the Augusta Food Bank, the Good Shepherd Food Bank, and Pathway Vineyard Church, we are supplying 128 weekend food bags to our students K-12 who have food insecurity.

Family involvement is weaved throughout the Title 1 program with ongoing communication and events. We have a Title 1 web page on the ASD website where we post all of our monthly newsletters with upcoming dates to remember. We have a Facebook page that can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/AugustaSchoolsTitle1> and a Title1 parent advisory board who helps promote literacy and math achievement. It is through collaborations with our community Literacy For ME team that we have joined forces to promote literacy in the greater Augusta area. We now have 6 Little Libraries around the city for people of all ages to share books. The team holds an annual preschool family fun night at the Buker Center, provides books for students to read on buses, and books for students who are recipients of our weekend food program. It is amazing when we all work together, how beneficial it is to our children!



# Augusta Board of Education

The Augusta Board of Education is a diverse group composed of nine members; one member from each of the four wards of the city, four at-large members, and the chairperson. They are tasked with overseeing Policy Development, Financial & Facilities Management, Student Direction, and Curriculum Standards for the Augusta School Department.

A key focus of the Board of Education in 2015 was increased community involvement and awareness of positive happenings within our schools. Providing quarterly updates at City Council meetings, advocating at the Legislative level for the needs of our students and staff, and working collaboratively with community organizations (focusing on community concerns such as Childhood Hunger, Homelessness, and Opiate addiction) has been a positive force in making our schools a strong asset to the Augusta community.

The Board of Education has worked hard to set, and maintain, a budget that meets the needs of our students and staff, while continuing to be fiscally responsible with the funds provided by Augusta's residents. The continued support of the Augusta community is valued by this Board, and we are excited about the continued success of our Schools in the year to come!



Chair, Kimberly Martin



Ward 1 Jennifer Day



Ward 2 Deborah "Debi" Towle



Ward 3 Nicole Desjardins



Ward 4 Katie Vose



At-Large Amanda Bartlett



At-Large Laura Hamilton



At-Large Jennifer Neumeyer

# Friends of the Kennebec River Rail Trail

Lesley Jones, Treasurer

## **Accomplishments:**

Installed new lighting under the Maine Avenue bridge in Gardiner and repaired conduit.

Removed approx. 2000 feet of wood rail fencing in Gardiner and Farmingdale.

Replaced 80 feet of new black chain link fence and repaired several locations of existing chain link fence in Farmingdale and Hallowell.

Replaced posts in the stockade fence in Farmingdale.

Advertised for a two year snow removal contract and received three bids.

Repaired one very large washout and one very deep sink hole in Farmingdale with the financial help of the Maine Department of Transportation.

Adopted a "Tobacco Free" policy on the Trail as part of the Healthy Maine Communities program and installed signs.

There were about seventeen non-profit organizations that used some portion of the Trail to raise money. Each application has to be approved by the Kennebec River Rail Trail Board of Supervisors.

The Friends of the Kennebec River Rail Trail had the Seventh Annual Rail Trail Half Marathon, 5K and Half Marathon Relay in 2015. The race was a great success, despite the driving rain that welcomed the runners the morning of the race. The race is our largest annual fund raiser. We were able to raise over \$10,000 for the Friends of the Kennebec River Rail Trail. The success of our races has always been our fabulous volunteers. Our volunteers continue to support us year after year because they know the benefit the Rail Trail has provided for our four communities and beyond. We look forward to another successful Race on June 26th of 2016.

## **To Do and continuing:**

Repair and/or repave the trail section in Augusta from the Capital Connector to the Hallowell town line, and plan for additional pavement preservation on the aging sections of the trail.

Remove a large amount of the old wood rail fencing in Hallowell and Farmingdale. Some of this will be replaced with black chain link fence.

Remove unsafe overhead tree limbs and dead trees along trail.

Replace old wood benches along trail.

Replace all deteriorating top tier of blocks on all retaining walls in Farmingdale.

Continue to be active in the permitting and construction of the north one quarter mile of the Trail to Waterfront Park in Augusta.

Two members of the Board of Supervisors are on the Bike/Ped Committee in Hallowell and continue to be involved in the planning of the Trail through downtown Hallowell.

Continue to be active in the planning of the south one quarter mile of the Trail to Depot Square in Gardiner.





## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
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TTY: (207) 287-4469

### Matthew G. Pouliot

99 Winthrop Street  
Augusta, ME 04330  
Direct: (207) 441-9418  
Matt.Pouliot@legislature.maine.gov

February, 2016

Dear Neighbor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the privilege of serving as your State Representative in the 127th Maine State Legislature. It is a true honor to be your voice at the Capitol and I can assure you I have been working diligently on your behalf. We are making progress, but much more needs to be done to encourage job growth and to ensure that Maine taxpayers' money is being used responsibly.

In the second session, I will continue my work on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs to ensure that Maine students are given sufficient educational opportunities and choices. On this panel, the other members and I oversee issues regarding the Maine Department of Education, the State Board of Education, the University of Maine System as well as the Maine Community College System.

I will continue to send out weekly e-newsletters to keep you informed on state news. If you would like to begin receiving these updates, please send me your e-mail address. For me to do my job effectively, it is vital I hear from the people of Augusta and encourage you to contact me by phone (287-1440) or email (Matt.Pouliot@legislature.maine.gov) with any concerns or questions you have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew G. Pouliot".

Matthew G. Pouliot  
State Representative

District 86 Augusta (part)

Printed on recycled paper





## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
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### Lori A. Fowle

305 Taber Hill Road  
Vassalboro, ME 04989  
Residence: (207) 872-7268  
Cell Phone: (207) 649-4863  
Lori.Fowle@legislature.maine.gov

Dear Augusta Residents,

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative. As I enter my fourth year in office, I want you to know that I am working to retain your trust through my work at the State House and in the community.

This year the Legislature's agenda will be limited mostly to emergency legislation and bills carried over from 2015. We are scheduled to adjourn by the end of April.

Among the issues we intend to work on are finding ways to increase hiring and wages, support senior citizens, promote veterans issues, keep down energy and heating costs and improve schools.

We have already begun to respond to Maine's drug addiction crisis with a bill boosting enforcement, treatment and prevention. The House and Senate passed it unanimously, and the governor signed it.

I will also be continuing my work as House chair of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. It's important that we all work together to keep Mainers safe – particularly when it comes to issues like drug addiction, domestic violence, human trafficking and bullying, both in person and on the internet.

Whether we are dealing with the above issues or any other topic, I stand ready to work with all of my colleagues, regardless of party affiliation, to make sure we're doing the best work we can for the people of our district and all the people of Maine.

Please contact me if I can be of any help or if you want to discuss or testify on any legislation. My email is [lori.fowle@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:lori.fowle@legislature.maine.gov), and my phone number is 872-7268. I also send out e-newsletters from time to time. Let me know if you would like to receive them.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Fowle".

Lori Fowle  
State Representative

District 80 Augusta (part), Somerville, Vassalboro and Windsor, plus the unorganized territory of Hibberts Gore  
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**Donna R. Doore**  
49 Pleasant Hill Road  
Augusta, ME 04330  
Residence: (207) 592-6849  
Donna.Doore@legislature.maine.gov

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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### LETTER TO THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

Dear Neighbors:

It is an honor to continue to serve as your State Representative. As your voice in Augusta, I will continue to work to create more economic opportunities for the people in the community I serve and to ensure that our schools, hospitals, public infrastructure and natural resources are sustained and protected.

During the 2016 legislative session, we will discuss urgent legislation and bills carried over from 2015. All legislative work is scheduled to be completed by mid-April.

Our top priorities for this session include strengthening the economy, growing good-paying jobs and solving the state's drug crisis. We are also committed to ensuring the release of the voter-approved Land for Maine's Future bonds, growing the agricultural sector and investing in broadband and renewable energy so we can boost Maine's economy.

Whether we are dealing with the above issues or any other topic, I stand ready to work with all of my colleagues, regardless of party affiliation, to make sure we're doing the best work we can for the people of our district and all the people of Maine.

If you have questions about state government or if you need assistance, please feel free to email me at [Donna.Doore@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Donna.Doore@legislature.maine.gov) or call me at 592-6849. I also send out e-newsletters from time to time. Please let me know if you would like to receive them.

Sincerely,

Donna Doore  
State Representative

District 85    Augusta (part)

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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES

CHELLIE PINGREE  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT, MAINE

Dear Friend,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. I appreciate the opportunity to give you an update on my work in Maine and Washington. It continues to be a great honor to serve the people of Maine's 1<sup>st</sup> District in Congress.

Over the last year, I have introduced a number of bills to address the problems my constituents face. One of the most concerning issues is hunger. Nearly 50 million Americans don't have reliable access to enough food. At the same time, 40 percent of the food produced in the country goes to waste. That is why I introduced the Food Recovery Act, comprehensive legislation to cut food waste while providing more food to the people who need it.

The Safe and Affordable Drugs from Canada Act takes on another serious concern for Maine families—the high cost of prescription drugs. Just over the border in Canada, the same medications are available at half the price on average. My bill would lift a ban that prohibits consumers from importing those medications. Other bills I introduced touch on a number of issues, from helping veterans secure benefits to protecting our coastal economies. For more information on all my legislation, go to [www.pingree.house.gov](http://www.pingree.house.gov).

My seat on the House Appropriations Committee—which has a powerful role in setting federal funding levels—has also put me in a position to influence policies and programs that affect Mainers. A couple of examples from the last year include pushing to make Lyme disease a higher federal priority and working to protect funding for a program that has extended pre-school to hundreds of Maine children.

But not all my work takes place at the Capitol. Here at home, I had the chance to visit many communities to help celebrate their victories and discuss their concerns—critical feedback to take to Washington. And over the last year, my hard-working staff has helped hundreds of constituents on their issues with federal programs and agencies.

I hope the last year has been a good one for you and your family. As we head into another year of challenges and opportunities for our nation, I promise that your interests will continue to guide my work. Please contact my office if there's ever anything I can do for you.

Best wishes,

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

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ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
BUDGET  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
INTELLIGENCE  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Dear Friends of Augusta:

It has been a privilege to serve the State of Maine since being sworn into the U.S. Senate.

Much of my time in Washington this past year has been devoted to the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Select Committee on Intelligence. Protecting our homeland and the people of Maine from terrorism and violence remains one of my top priorities. Through my work on the Armed Services Committee, I was able to secure several provisions in the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act that benefit Maine. The legislation authorizes the construction of an additional DDG-51 Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer that could be built at Bath Iron Works and expands the HUBZone program to stimulate economic growth at former military installations like the former Brunswick Naval Air Station.

Returning control to teachers, school districts, and states has also been a primary concern of mine. I am encouraged that the Every Student Succeeds Act has become law. It eliminates the burdensome requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and ensures access to a quality education for all students. A provision I helped author in the bill will give states the opportunity to pilot the use of their own proficiency-based assessments in lieu of federally-mandated standardized tests. Also included in the bill are several measures I secured to promote local input, fund education technology initiatives, and explore new strategies to increase student access to the internet outside of school.

Communities across Maine have taken bold action to improve their broadband connectivity, and I have been proud to foster federal support for these types of projects. My amendments to the Every Student Succeeds Act will promote the type of work already occurring in Washington County, where students who lack broadband access are able to check out mobile hotspots from their local libraries. Additionally, a bill I co-sponsored, the Community Broadband Act, helped pave the way for the FCC to enact rules protecting the ability of municipalities to invest in better broadband. I am excited by Maine's leadership on this important economic development issue and will continue to support local efforts in this area.

After extensive negotiations, the Senate passed a five-year transportation bill that will increase highway and transit funding in Maine and provide stability to improve our transportation infrastructure. The legislation contains provisions I cosponsored to cut red tape and improve predictability and timeliness by streamlining the federal permitting process for large infrastructure projects. Also incorporated in this bill are my provisions to relieve financial regulations on Maine's community banks and credit unions and to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, a critical tool that supports communities and small business across the state.

Following my inquiries in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the National Park Service has announced they will begin exploring strategies to allow park visitors to purchase electronic passes online and will pilot the program at Acadia National Park. These passes would improve access to our nation's most treasured landscapes and would generate resources for years to come. I remain deeply engaged in preserving Maine's natural beauty and strengthening our outdoor recreation economy.

It is with solemn responsibility that I have focused my energy addressing the opioid epidemic in Maine. This work includes convening roundtables with a wide-range of health care and law enforcement professionals to combat addiction; introducing a proposal to safely dispose of excess prescription drugs; cosponsoring a

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Senate-passed bill that addresses mothers struggling with addiction and the alarming effect it has on newborns; cosponsoring the TREAT Act, which expands the ability of medical specialists to provide life-saving medication-assisted therapies for patients battling heroin and prescription drug addiction; and calling on the Commander of U.S. Southern Command to increase efforts to stop the flow of heroin at our southern border.

I like to think of Maine as a big small town – and in a small town, the leaders are accessible and eager to listen. In that spirit, I’ve made it a priority to stay connected with people from all over Maine who e-mail, write, and call with suggestions or questions. If I can ever assist in your interaction with a federal agency, or you have thoughts, concerns, or personal input on a matter that is currently before Congress I hope you will contact me, let me know where you stand, and engage in this critical part of democracy. Please call my toll-free line at **1-800-432-1599** or one of my offices: Augusta (207) 622-8292, Presque Isle (207) 764-5124, Scarborough (207) 883-1588, or Washington, D.C. (202) 224-5344. You can also write me on our website at [www.king.senate.gov/contact](http://www.king.senate.gov/contact).

As always, I am honored to represent the people of Maine and look forward to working with you for the betterment of our great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angus S. King, Jr." in a cursive style.

Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

SUSAN M. COLLINS  
MAINE

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COMMITTEES:  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON AGING,  
RANKING MEMBER  
APPROPRIATIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to represent Maine in the United States Senate. I am grateful for the trust the people of our State have placed in me and welcome this opportunity to share some key accomplishments from 2015.

Growing the economy by encouraging job creation was and remains my top priority. The tax-relief bill signed into law at the close of last year contains three key provisions I authored to help foster job creation and provide small businesses with the certainty they need to invest, grow, and, most important, hire new workers. Another provision I authored that became law last year gives a boost to both Maine's economy and traffic safety. This provision permanently changed the federal law that previously had forced the heaviest trucks onto our country roads and downtown streets, rather than allowing them to use Maine's federal Interstates. In addition, I was glad to help secure another significant award for the University of Maine's deepwater offshore wind initiative, which has the potential to advance an emerging industry and create thousands of good jobs in our state.

Maine's historic contributions to our nation's defense must continue. In 2015, I secured funding toward a much-needed additional Navy destroyer, likely to be built at Bath Iron Works. Modernization projects at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard that I have long advocated for were also completed, as were projects for the Maine National Guard.

I was also deeply involved in crafting the new education reform law to better empower states and communities in setting educational policy for their students. The law also extends a program I co-authored that provides additional assistance to rural schools, which has greatly benefitted our state. A \$250 tax deduction I authored in 2002 for teachers who spend their own money on classroom supplies was also made permanent last year.

As a result of a scientific evaluation of the nutritional value of potatoes required by a law that I wrote, the wholesome fresh potato finally was included in the federal WIC nutrition program. I also worked on other issues important to Maine's farmers and growers, including research on wild blueberries and pollinating bees.

As Chairman of the Housing Appropriations Subcommittee, I have made combating veterans' homelessness a priority. This year's housing funding law includes \$60 million for 8,000 new supportive housing vouchers for homeless veterans. Since this program began in 2008, the number of homeless veterans nationwide has dropped by one third. Maine has received nearly 200 vouchers to support homeless veterans.

Last year, I became Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee. My top three priorities for the committee are retirement security, investing more in biomedical research, and fighting fraud and financial abuses targeting our nation's seniors. I advocated for the \$2 billion increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health to advance research on such diseases as diabetes and Alzheimer's. The Senate also unanimously passed my bill to support family caregivers. The Aging Committee's toll-free hotline (1-855-303-9470) makes it easier for senior citizens to report suspected fraud and receive assistance and has already received more than 1,000 calls.

A Maine value that always guides me is our unsurpassed work ethic. As 2015 ended, I cast my 6,072<sup>nd</sup> consecutive vote, continuing my record of never missing a roll-call vote since my Senate service began in 1997.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve Augusta and Maine in the United States Senate. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact my Constituent Service Center in Augusta at (207) 622-8414 or visit my website at [www.collins.senate.gov](http://www.collins.senate.gov). May 2016 be a good year for you, your family, your community, and our state.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

# Legislative Members

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In September the Augusta Historic Preservation Commission, in conjunction with the Fire Department and the Augusta Downtown Alliance, marked the 150th anniversary of the Great Augusta Fire which burned many buildings in the downtown on September 17, 1865. The event was very well attended and included a parade and demonstrations. (Photos courtesy of Andrew Loman of the AHPC.)

