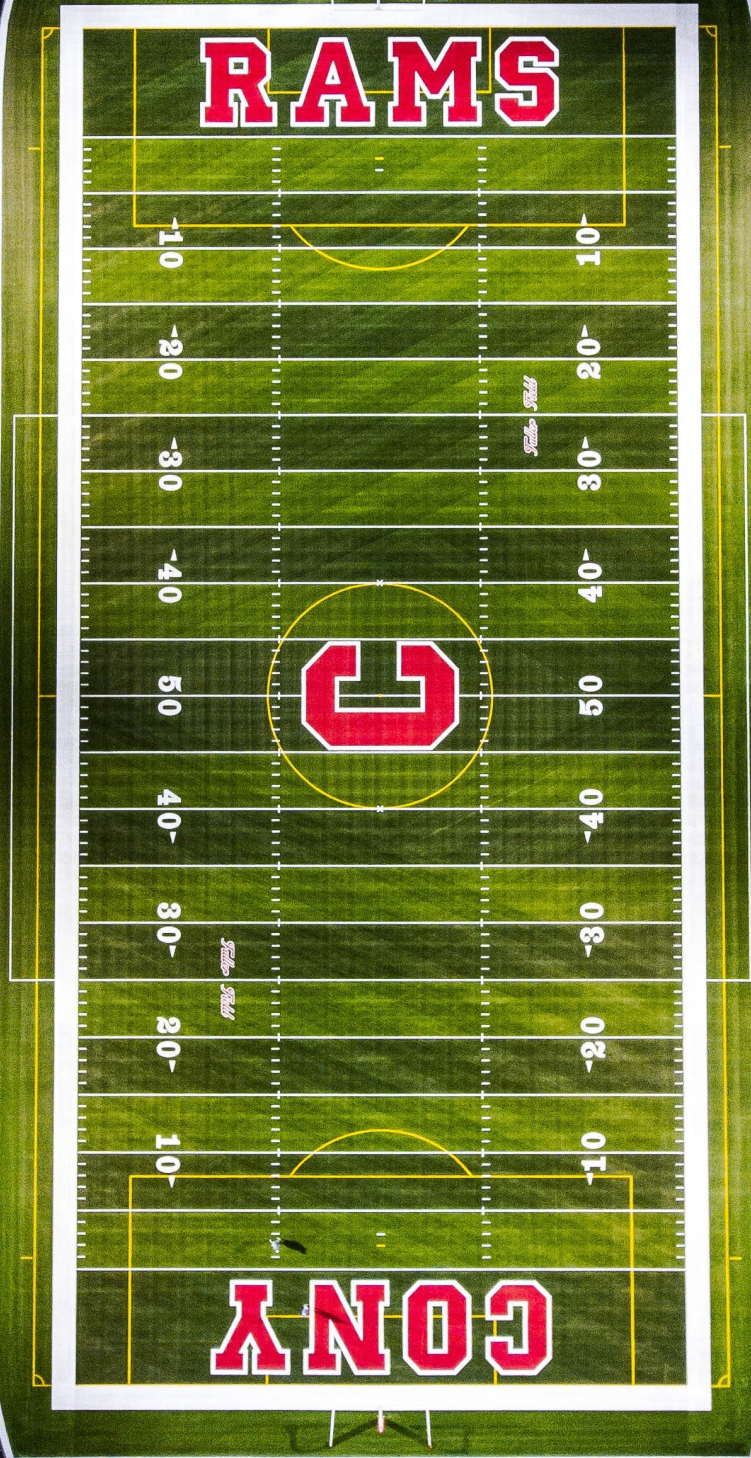


# CITY OF AUGUSTA



## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Executive/Legislative Department

Augusta City Council.....	3
Augusta City Council Goals and Strategies.....	4
Committee Members .....	7

## Development Services Department

Economic Development Bureau .....	8
Planning Bureau .....	9
Historic Preservation Commission .....	10
Code Enforcement Bureau .....	11
Airport .....	12
Facilities and Systems Bureau .....	13

<b>Civic Center</b> .....	14
---------------------------	----

## Community Services Department

Administration/Parks, Cemeteries, Trees, and Recreation.....	15
Childcare Bureau .....	16
Health and Welfare Bureau.....	18
Old Fort Western.....	19
Lithgow Public Library .....	22

## Finance/Administration

Audit Bureau .....	23
Assessing Bureau.....	24
City Clerk/Treasurer .....	25
Information Systems Bureau.....	27

<b>Fire</b> .....	28
-------------------	----

<b>Police</b> .....	30
---------------------	----

## Public Works Department

Administration/Streets.....	34
Engineering Bureau .....	37
Hatch Hill Landfill.....	38

<b>School Department</b> .....	40
--------------------------------	----

Kennebec Land Trust Letter.....	41
---------------------------------	----

<b>Maine Legislators and U. S. Congress Town/City Letters</b> .....	42
---	----

<b>State and Local Government Phone Directory and Information</b> .....	45
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Cover photos: A new turf playing field was installed at Cony High School and named Fuller Field in honor of Robert Fuller whose generous donation made this project possible. Photo credit to Dave Dostie Photography.

# AUGUSTA CITY COUNCIL



Mayor David Rollins took office on November 6, 2014. Mr. Rollins is an Augusta native and was serving his second term as At-Large City Councilor prior to being elected Mayor.

In November of 2018 he was re-elected to serve his second full term as Mayor.

During 2021 the following council members served our City (from left to right):

Ward Councilors:

Linda Conti, Ward 1  
Kevin Judkins, Ward 2  
Michael Michaud, Ward 3  
Eric Lind, Ward 4

At-Large Councilors:

Raegan LaRoche  
Heather Pouliot  
Marci Alexander  
Courtney Allen



**Business Meetings** are for establishing city policy by ordinance, order or resolve. They are held on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.

**Informational Meetings** are for the purpose of informal discussions of city issues between the City Council and staff. They are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 6:30 PM

All meetings are open to the public and the public is encouraged to attend. Those persons wishing to address the City Council about a specific topic not on an agenda, who have submitted a formal request in accordance with Section 2-61 of the Code of Ordinances, may do so at an informational meeting only and by contacting the City Manager's office at 626-2300 or by e-mail to: [info@augustamaine.gov](mailto:info@augustamaine.gov).

# City of Augusta City Council 2021 Goals and Strategies

*Final Draft 3/1/21*

At the January 30<sup>th</sup> City Council goal setting session, the Mayor and Council focused their three-hour discussion on a review and update of their 2020 goals and strategies; the recommendations contained in the latest draft of the soon to be released 2020 Comprehensive Plan; and what role City government should play in continuing to address the challenges associated with dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Senior staff were present to provide information and input as necessary.

The Mayor began the discussion by inviting each Councilor to speak to her or his individual priorities and ideas.

Councilor Alexander emphasized that the pandemic is a two-year event and that the Council needs to take stock in what is happening as a consequence in our community by reaching out to a broad range of businesses, people, and agencies. She said that, nonetheless, establishing long-term goals are still important and needed.

Councilor Pouliot stressed the importance of maintaining economic development as a high priority, stressing partnerships with private and non-profit economic development organizations. She said that the organization needs to continue to be concerned about succession planning. As co-chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, she identified an extensive list of priorities contained in the draft plan (discussed in more detail below).

Councilor Allen, in addition to supporting what Councilors Alexander and Pouliot spoke to, identified citizen concerns about the City's recycling program (and how it might be enhanced), about the possibility of a citizen survey to explore this and any other resident concerns, and her strong commitment to the work of the Substance Use Task Force and following up on that Committee's recommendations during the coming year.

Councilor LaRochelle stated that most of 2020's goals are still applicable (including the updates to the TIF policy that she has been engaged in), and that the Substance Use Task Force's recommendations are a top priority.

Councilor Lind emphasized the importance of completing the comprehensive plan and the importance of the Council looking out to the next five to ten years as it plans and acts. He also emphasized a desire for a facilities planning effort to understand needs at least ten years out. He spoke to the need for synchronized effort with the City's other boards and commissions. He identified the Police Department's goals as an example of where their development should come after and be consistent with Council's goals. He advised that the United Way of Kennebec Valley Affordable Housing Task Force was making good progress and that its work product will provide guidance for the Council.

Councilor Judkins stressed the need for Council to prioritize its work and do a few things really well. He reiterated his ongoing, strong support for the creation of a full-time in-house public/community relations staff person (as opposed to an outside contract firm).

Councilor Michaud said that housing, homelessness, and substance use issues are not merely goals to be addressed but crises in our community and need to be tackled as such. He said that building a new police station is an immediate high priority. Other priorities for him include promoting Augusta, exploring what can be done to advance the redevelopment of the Kennebec Arsenal, and strongly emphasized the need for a strategy to improve the Sand Hill neighborhood.

Councilor Conti reaffirmed her commitment as Ward One Councilor and that ward's issues are her primary concern including pedestrian safety with a need for infrastructure improvements such as sidewalk repair and replacement and cemetery maintenance. She cited the house at 57 Green Street as a prime example of why the City needs a strong vacant buildings ordinance. She stressed her support for the Planning Board and her belief that there should be a community dialogue about community safety (and that

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may mean different things to different people) as a precursor to the new police station process.

Mayor Rollins echoed his 100% support for City economic development efforts and recovery. On recycling, he said that the Council has had many in-depth discussions over the years about what the best approach to providing this service should be and his sense that what is currently offered meets the need. Perhaps it needs to be communicated more extensively. He expressed appreciation and support for the work of the substance use and housing/homelessness task forces and the City actions they will lead to in 2021. He said that moving forward on the new police station was the most immediate priority. Echoing Councilor Conti, he stressed the need for a new, strong vacant buildings ordinance.

After this round robin, the Council reviewed the 2020 Goals and Strategies document.

With regard to those 2020 goals (which are appended and incorporated by reference), there was broad consensus that under **Goal 1**, the issue of resolving remaining questions about development of a new police station is an immediate priority and that the process will begin with a special Council workshop meeting to be held on Tuesday evening, February 16<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting, all of the latest available information related to site options, design and cost estimates and any other variables will be reviewed and discussed. Ideally, a consensus as to how to move forward from there will emerge. Having a bond authorization question ready for the voters for either June or November would be advantageous. Prior to that meeting, the City Manager will meet with Councilor Allen to bring her up to speed on what has transpired so far with this project's process.

**Strategy 1-B**, working with the School Department to plan for the replacement of Hussey School was reinforced (and it was noted that once a new school is constructed, the old school site may become a good prospect for additional affordable housing).

**Strategy 1-C**, aimed at identifying the City's long-term capital asset improvement/replacement needs and a plan to address them, was reinforced and the white paper will be undertaken by the Department of Development Services.

**Goal 2** speaks to promoting pedestrian safety, walkability and public transportation. It was noted that in 2020 staff placed significant emphasis on pedestrian safety improvements (Memorial Drive, South Belfast Avenue and Howard Street and a number of collaborative efforts are in the works with MDOT State-owned arteries in the City). It was agreed that CAPITAL (the existing citizen group) advocating for pedestrian improvements is well suited to serve as the City committee to meet Strategy 2-A (creating an Ad-Hoc Committee) and 2-B (meeting with key partners to explore expanding services for public transportation).

**Goal 3** speaks to promoting Augusta as a place to live, work, and play. It appeared that there is a majority of Council that is ready to move away from the pilot project of retaining an outside public relations firm to address this in favor of a new full-time position budgeted for 2021. The City Manager will make a provision for that in his upcoming 2021/2022 proposed General Fund budget and Council will act on it from there.

**Goal 4** calls for efforts to stimulate development on Sand Hill and across the City. Ward Three Councilor Michaud reinforced his strong advocacy for this goal. The Development Services Department will prepare a menu of potential action items for informational meeting discussions in the coming months. They will include researching the feasibility of an effort to clear away some of the vegetation behind the properties within the view shed of the Kennebec River, possible public improvement grant opportunities (e.g. CDBG), and partnerships with private property owners interested in participating.

**Goal 4-B** calls for updating the Council's Tax Increment Financing policy and that work is underway by the Council's TIF Committee and nearing completion.

**Strategy 4-C** calls on the Development Services Department to research other municipalities' approaches to incentivize the occupancy and rehabilitation of older buildings. That effort is ongoing and will continue. Associated with it is the support during this process for strengthened municipal code provisions that address vacant buildings.

**Goal 4-D** calls on the Development Services Department to develop an interactive on-line map of available city-owned properties.

**Goal 4-E** says that the City Manager will prepare a white paper on the Parking District and recommend changes if necessary. Over the past year, Parking District Trustees have determined that the District is no longer a viable entity and should be legislatively abolished and its assets and responsibilities absorbed into City government. The City continues to maintain the lots and signage. A study has been completed with recommendations for different parking fee scenarios to generate revenue from parking. This has been discussed with the City Council and efforts are underway to secure legislation that would accomplish this.

**Goal 4-F** calls for Council to consider supporting a state law change that would establish a local-option hotel tax. If a majority of this Council still supports that concept, it will be placed on a future Council informational agenda.

**Goal 4-G** (fondly referred to as the “Councilor Grant Goal”) calls for continued efforts to recruit a professional sports team into the City. Assuming this goal continues to enjoy Council support, those efforts will continue.

**Goal 4-H and 4-I** are both tied to the City working with outside partners to advance economic development in the City. 4-H says that the City will expand the role of the Augusta Downtown Alliance in promoting events and 4-I says the Council will hold a workshop to consider ways to partner with neighboring communities to promote the region. Staff will look to this Council to reaffirm these goals and follow-up accordingly.

**Goal 5** calls on Council and staff to enhance Augusta’s quality of life. Its first strategy (5-A) calls for the adoption and implementation of the new comprehensive plan. That is expected to occur in the coming weeks.

**Goal 5-B** indicates that the City will commission and conduct a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. As with much of 2020’s goals, this item has been funded but was deferred. It will be undertaken forthwith.

**Goal 5-C**, the drafting of an ordinance creating a Public Arts Council will be done over the next couple of months, as it remains a Council priority.

**Strategy 5-D** – a review of City gateway signage – was noted in this goal-setting workshop and an inventory of the signs and their condition will be done and a follow-up plan proposed to Council this spring.

**Goal 5-E** indicates that the Historic Preservation Commission will be provided with the resources to conduct an inventory of properties on the east side of the Kennebec River with an eye toward establishing an historic district there. Council should reaffirm its commitment to doing so and perhaps investigate if this could be refocused on Sand Hill as part of a revitalization effort there

**Goal 6** speaks to enhancing citizen involvement and trust in government. Its first strategy (6-A) indicates that the City will inventory its current committee structure and consider ways to streamline functions and recruit new participants. A Council committee undertook a similar task a few years ago and the recommendation would be for the same process to take place to address this strategy. This strategy also calls for tasking the new communications manager with using social media tools to recruit volunteers. Funding will be included in the City Manager’s upcoming budget proposal for this full-time position, subject, of course, to Council approval.

**Strategy 6-B** calls on the City to continue to support efforts to help homeless, immigrants and refugees, and children living in poverty. That remains a top priority in 2021 (including supporting the work of the United Way of Kennebec Valley Affordable Housing Task Force).

**Strategy 6-C** calls for City staff to look into enhanced systems to track and ensure response to citizen complaints. In 2020, significant research was done by City staff in this regard and new complaint receiving and monitoring software has been acquired. Staff is working with the vendor to set up this software with the goal of having this new complaint system ready in the early summer of 2021.

*This summary prepared by Bill Bridgeo with editing assistance from Department Directors.*

THE CITY OF AUGUSTA WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR CITIZENS FOR SERVING ON  
THE FOLLOWING BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.

ALTHOUGH STAFF MEMBERS ARE NOT LISTED HERE, YOUR SERVICE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED BY ALL!

**Assessment Review Board**

Scott Benson  
Paul Castonguay  
Scott Emery  
Maurice Fortin  
Bruce Holmes

**Community Development Advisory  
Committee**

Mae L'Heureux  
Luc Pepin  
Katie Smith

**Conservation Commission**

Rachel Dyer  
Roberta Record  
Rex Turner, Chair  
Dr. Ansley Sawyer  
Keith Lind

**Fort Western Trustees**

David Cheever  
Janet Doerr  
Thomas Doore  
Michael Hall  
Cheryl Swift  
Terrance McCabe  
Daniel Mitchell

**General Assistance Fair Hearing**

Sherry Emmons

**Greater Augusta Utility  
District Board of Trustees**

Kenneth Knight, Chair  
Kristen Hebert  
Bradley Sawyer  
Charlotte Warren  
Robert Corey  
Cecil Munson  
Pat Paradis  
Cary Colwell

**Historic District Review Board**

Gerald Bumford  
Lorie Mastemaker  
Jesse Patkus  
Amanda Taylor  
Cheryl Clukey  
Ashley Quirion  
Walter F. McKee

**Historic Preservation**

Chuck Mahaleris  
Janet Doerr  
Stephen Arbour  
Gerald Bumford  
Sara Squires  
Michael Hall

**Housing Authority**

Nate Cotnoir  
Martha Currier  
Leah Estey  
Nancy 'Fritz  
Amanda Frost  
Sarah Sachs  
Dawn Stiles

**Joint Audit Committee**

Michael McKenney

**Lithgow Library Trustees**

Jennifer Bechard  
Sara Bangs  
Dennis Curtis  
Diane Doyon  
Ami Bass  
Carol Saunders  
Gary Lapierre  
Michael Tardiff

**Planning Board**

Catherine Cobb  
Robert Corey  
Steve Dumont  
Katie McAllister  
Dorean Maines  
William McKenna  
Alison K.B. Nichols  
A. Delaine Nye  
Peter Pare  
Robert Trask

**Registration Board of  
Appeals**

Thomas Doore  
Linda Hadley-Rood  
Louise Lerley  
Dr. Ansley Sawyer

**Tipping Point Loan Review**

Michael Hall  
Meredith Schalk  
Bob Corey

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

James Bass  
Deborah Caldwell  
Peter Fortunato, Chair  
Hancock Fenton  
Gregory Jolda  
Cecil Munson  
Patrick Paradis

**Active Ad-Hoc Committees**

Martha Ballard Recognition Committee  
North Water Street/Sand Hill Neigh-  
borhood Improvement Committee  
Other Real Estate Owned Committee  
Copenhensive Plan  
Committee  
Substance Use Task Force

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUREAU

KEITH LUKE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The ongoing pandemic continued as an over-arching theme in the work of the Economic Development Bureau throughout fiscal year 2021-22.

The bureau managed the media relations contract with Nancy Marshall Communications. It facilitated a widely distributed and highly visible vaccination awareness campaign and promoted winter outdoor activities with the Parks and Recreation Bureau. In addition, the office worked with Marshall Communications to conduct a broad survey of business needs following the first wave of the pandemic in the summer of 2021.

The bureau secured a number of significant grants over the course of the year, including a \$263,320 Congressional Direct Funding request for Project Recovery that should begin in 2022, an \$18,000 Certified Local Government (CLG) grant for engineering work on the Colonial Theater, and worked closely with the Greater Augusta Utility District to secure a million dollar Northern Border Commission grant for utility work in the Kennebec River. The bureau also prepared and submitted American Recovery Plan Act applications to the Kennebec County commissioners. The office facilitated an Efficiency Maine grant which paid for the installation of four electric vehicle charging stations – two a City Center, and two in the Dickman Street parking garage.

A fifth tax increment financing plan for J.S. McCarthy was approved, along with amendments for affordable housing TIFs at Cony Village and Senior Living at the Marketplace.

One Tipping Point loan was approved – for Lanell Beckles Fitness.

The office played a critical role in bringing the leadership of the Calumet Club together with a private developer to facilitate the development of 260 units of market rate rental housing on property located behind the Calumet Club.

The office dispensed with tax acquired property at 48 Pullen Road and 82 Outlet Road by public auction and at 1 Park Street by agreement with the Augusta Housing Authority. The transfer of tax acquired property at 597 Riverside Drive to the Augusta Housing Authority is also in process.

The office also provided considerable support to the effort to provide emergency shelter to the city's unhoused population – coordinating the work between the Maine State Housing Authority, Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter and Community Services Department.

The bureau brought together the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Bureau of General Services and AIM Recycling to negotiate the sale of a land parcel that will provide necessary access for the redevelopment of the former Augusta Tissue site.

Throughout the pandemic the office managed the daily communication of HIP complaints and violation notices issued by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Maine Department of Economic and Community Development to local businesses.

The bureau also provided support to the city council's Sand Hill working group throughout 2021.



# PLANNING BUREAU

MATTHEW NAZAR, DIRECTOR

The Planning Bureau primarily works with applicants to navigate the standards of the Land Use Ordinance for development of new projects, alterations to sites, and changes to land uses at properties within the City. The pace of new development and redevelopment within Augusta has not slowed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Planning Bureau consists of the City Planner, Betsy Poulin, who works collaboratively with the Code Enforcement Bureau, Engineering Bureau and the Director of Development Services, Matt Nazar, AICP. Enhanced design of public and private spaces for both functionality and aesthetics is a goal for the Bureau, as Betsy is also a Landscape Architect.

The Planning Bureau oversees project review and other activities of the Planning Board, Augusta Historic Preservation Commission, and the Historic District Review Board. Holding meetings in 2021 evolved as the pandemic progressed, from an online format with Zoom to in-person at City Center in the Council Chambers. Members of these Boards and Commission are all members of the community who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council.

**Planning Board:** The Planning Board consists of up to nine (9) members, all of whom are residents of the City. In 2021, the Chair of the Board was Alison Nichols and the Board had full membership. The Planning Bureau was staffed by Betsy Poulin, City Planner.

The Planning Board met 17 times in 2021 for a variety of project reviews (55), zoning changes and land use ordinance text amendments. New construction reviews included three solar farms and four new commercial buildings: ConvenientMD, Jordan Equipment, Damon's Beverage Mart and an O&P Warehouse. Substantial project additions reviewed included JS McCarthy, The Children's Center, CarQuest at Quirk, and Albison's Printing. Conversions of existing buildings to new uses included two downtown office space conversions into 22 residential apartments at 187 and 333 Water Street, four medical marijuana caregiver retail stores and reuse of 33 Stone Street. Two existing medical marijuana caregiver retail stores were converted to registered dispensaries. Two previously approved projects required approval extensions due to the COVID pandemic, and those were the Saxon Development for 250 units of housing and Woodland Ridge Condominiums - Phase 2 on Stone Ridge Drive.

Several Land Use Ordinance changes were processed including revisions to the solar energy ordinance, the Riggs Brook Village (RBV) District uses and boundaries, reduced setback options in the Local Business (CB) and Kennebec District 2 (KBD2), and definition updates for manufactured housing, outdoor retail and automobile businesses. One new contract zone request was reviewed, favored by the Planning Board, and approved by City Council. Below is a summary of the Planning Board activities. Some Conditional Uses may also have been reviewed as a Subdivision and/or a Major or Minor Development.

<b>Planning Board Applications</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Conditional Use/Special Exceptions (new/expanded/amended)	11	23	27	23	28
Rezoning (zoning map changes)	4	2	2	1	1
Rezoning Petition/Waiver Requests	1	2	3	2	1
Land Use Ordinance Text Amendments	3	5	8	7	7
New Subdivisions (final)	1	1	6	0	3
Subdivisions (amended)/Resubdivisions	1	1	2	3	4
Major Developments (new/amended)	7	7	7	8	9
Minor Developments (new/amended)	4	4	4	7	6
Mineral Extraction (inc. Relicensing)	12	0	1	2	0
Shoreland				1	4

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION

BETSY POULIN, PLANNER

## **Augusta Historic Preservation Commission**

The Augusta Historic Preservation Commission can have up to seven (7) members. Jerry Bumford served as the Chair, the Commission had six active members, and met six times in 2021. The Commission was staffed by Betsy Poulin, City Planner. The Commission continues to work to maintain an awareness of Augusta's past as an effort to enrich its future.

During 2021, the Commission:

1. Continued administering the Demolition Delay ordinance and reviewed seven (7) proposed demolitions of buildings more than 50 years old;
2. Reviewed and approved two historic building plaque applications;
3. Maintained Museum in the Streets signage; and

Furthered efforts to preserve the Kennebec Arsenal, a National Historic Landmark.

## **Augusta Historic District Review Board**

The Augusta Historic District Review Board consists of up to seven (7) members. The Board must include one member of the Historic Preservation Commission, two residents within historic districts, and two business owners or representatives of business owners in the historic district. Amanda Taylor served as the Chair. The Board was staffed by Betsy Poulin, City Planner and Rob Overton, Director of Code Enforcement. The shared staffing provides a mix of building code and historic preservation knowledge, which is required for all project reviews.

Augusta has four local historic districts: Winthrop Street, Water Street, Bond Street and Crosby Street. Thirty two (32) applications were reviewed over the course of ten (10) meetings, which are held on the third Tuesday of the month. All the projects reviewed were located in either the Winthrop Street or Water Street Historic Districts. Projects reviewed included signage, windows, doors, fencing, siding, and mechanical equipment including exhaust vents and heat pumps. Two of the Water Street projects reviewed were also historic tax credit projects.

An annual report was submitted by the City Planner to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to maintain the City of Augusta's Certified Local Government status, which is fulfilled by the Historic District Review Board.

# CODE ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

ROBERT OVERTON, DIRECTOR

## **Purpose/Mission Statement**

The purpose of the Bureau of Code Enforcement is to manage the growth and maintenance of the built environment within the City of Augusta through the application of standards adopted for the safety and welfare of its citizens and businesses.

## **Goals and Objectives**

Maintain a safe and sanitary housing stock through the application of state and municipal standards applicable to rental housing. The Code Enforcement has worked diligently to pursue violations of the City's Life Safety code. Verifying complaints and contacting owners with notices of deficiencies to affect timely and appropriate responses is a continuing effort. This effort is ongoing and is expected to ensure that the existing building conditions are safe.

Rigorously enforce the various property maintenance and vacant building rules in order to reduce the number of neglected properties and to improve the conditions of our neighborhoods. The addition of a fourth code officer position will greatly expand our ability to achieve this.

Establish and maintain an efficient construction permit process, which coordinates the application of standards adopted by the City Council and state and federal regulations applicable to the City of Augusta. The Code Enforcement staff received and processed building/plumbing permits for projects totaling tens of million in value on an annual basis. These projects will undoubtedly generate continual value for the taxpayers and provide locations where our residents will live, shop and work. The new electronic permitting system will assist in tracking, inspecting, and follow up.

Maintain and coordinate the timely inspection of municipally licensed facilities. Code Enforcement staff participated in many pre-construction and pre-development code application reviews throughout the year, creating a more streamlined process for the applicant once construction actually starts.

Maintain a technically proficient staff. The Code Enforcement staff completed routine training and maintained their familiarity with local, state and federal codes, and a minimum of fourteen technical certifications applicable to the City. In April 2021, we hired a new code officer who is now fully trained and certified.

# AUGUSTA STATE AIRPORT

JOHN GUIMOND, MANAGER

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.

The Airport completed several projects in 2021 funded by the Maine DOT:

MeDOT finished surveying for the taxiway C & E reconstruction project. The project is schedule for construction beginning in the spring of 2022.

An underground aviation fuel tank warranty extension project was completed. The system was giving an extended 10 year warranty by the DEP. During the fuel tank inspection we were advised by the DEP that new state regulations required us to do immediate environmental upgrades to the 15,000 gallon underground oil water separator (OWS). That project was also completed and certified by the DEP

MeDOT also negotiated a 5 year lease with a new restaurant tenant. The new name is, Thai with us, and is open for business. The lunch time crowd is growing every week.

The Airports Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) was updated and approved by the DEP. MeDOT hired Walsh engineering who work with airport staff to update the plan. The airport is now in compliance with new state regulations.

We hired a new permanent part time employee Ross Hughes. He started June 1<sup>st</sup> and is already proven to be a great hire for the airport.

2021 ended with SprintBach, an Idaho based Aviation Company, purchasing Maine Instrument Flight (MIF). After 76 years as a Perry family business, MIF is now under new ownership. Maine Beechcraft will still be owned and operated by the Perry's and will be based here at the airport.

Passenger counts for Cape Air are nearing normal annual counts. In 2020 they flew 1735 passengers compared to 5413 in 2019. Their 2021 passenger count was more than double that of last year, flying 3987 passengers from Augusta to Boston. In speaking to Cape Air, this is great sign that passengers are finally feeling comfortable flying again. Cape air has maintained their normal schedule offering service to Boston with 3 flights a day 7 days a week.

# FACILITIES AND SYSTEMS BUREAU

BOB LABRECK, FACILITIES & SYSTEMS MAINTENANCE MANAGER

The Facilities Bureau has the responsibility to maintain the facilities at the highest level of maintenance possible. The Bureau continually evaluates the process by which vendors and contractors are hired to ensure that the best practices of maintenance of the all the facilities and infrastructure systems are being addressed. Safety of the general public, employees, and vendors and contractors is top priority. The Bureau continues to ensure that all the facilities are: laws and rules compliant, can 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 Facilities 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 is still focused on thoroughly disinfecting the buildings and continues to evaluate different cleaning processes and procedures in an attempt to maintain the highest level of cleanliness during this continuing pandemic.

- Working with Maine DOT on a city wide traffic signal upgrade project
- Started process to install a generator at the Lithgow Library
- Electric vehicle charging stations located at City Center, and the Parking Garage are fully operational.
- Continue to work with the street light installation contractor regarding non-operational lights
- Worked with Community Services Department related to work on the Fuller Field and the multi-purpose field projects
- Started preparations for the process to prepare Request for Proposals for parking garage repairs, Facilities Master Plan, and HVAC controls systems upgrade

# CIVIC CENTER

MARGARET NOEL, DIRECTOR

Built in 1973, the Augusta Civic Center is a convention, exhibition and special high impact event venue owned and operated by the City of Augusta. The specific purpose of the Augusta Civic Center is to promote and facilitate various events that will enhance area trade and commerce and help foster the image of the City as a high quality destination. Our mission is to provide quality service in a safe, clean environment to all patrons and tenants of the building while continuing to remain financially solvent.

As COVID-19 and its variants continue to wallop the hospitality and event industry, the Augusta Civic Center continues to be affected directly by its impact. At the beginning of 2021, we were still limited to small events and very few staff to execute them. The Maine State Legislature continued to utilize the building to conduct critical business that could not be done in chambers due to space issues, and in February, we partnered with the Maine CDC & MEMA to open one of the state's largest vaccination clinics run by MaineGeneral Health. The vaccination clinics were scheduled through June 2021.

As COVID-19 restrictions were lifted at the end of May, we were immediately flooded with calls for bookings and by the end of July, we were booked with 70% occupancy for September and 100% for October for events in the main Auditorium. There were also increases in booking for November and December.

Just as we were ramping up staffing levels to be able to successfully host these events, the Delta variant was upon us, followed by the Omicron variant and 90% of those bookings canceled.

As dismal as that may seem and though this impacted our financials negatively for the short term, the great news is that 90% of the cancellations simply postponed to a later date in 2021.

These unprecedented times have not only shown us how something so unpredictable can have such a direct impact on the business, but it has shown us how resilient we are as a team! It has also shown us that we are doing a lot of things right because our clients aren't forgetting us and they want to come back as soon as they can!

Throughout this pandemic, the Augusta Civic Center still remains a staple in the community as **THE** place to hold an event, a place where the community can come together and do great things, and a place that our community counts on to support area events and activities!

# COMMUNITY SERVICES

EARL KINGSBURY, DIRECTOR

Augusta Community Services Department believes recreational, educational, childcare, historical, health and welfare, cultural and leisure time activities enhance the quality of life for citizens of this community. We are dedicated to protecting, preserving, and improving our Park system and natural resources. We meet the community's demands by effectively using financial and human resources. Our professional staff and volunteers design and deliver quality activities and services to all people. The team is committed to sound fiscal policies.

The Community Services Department is responsible for overseeing seven bureaus and their respective boards, the Conservation Commission, and the Cable TV and Telecommunications Committee. The Department provides oversight and management of the Cable TV Franchise Agreement with Spectrum.

After enjoying a 14-year career at the City-owned Augusta Civic Center, I decided to change and transition from the Director of the Civic center to the Director of Community Services when my predecessor, Leif Dahlin, retired. I knew the change would be challenging, and although it was, it has also been the most rewarding and fulfilling job of my career.

While not inclusive of all that Community Service Administration does; below are some of the highlights I have enjoyed and hated in my first eight months at the helm;

**Phase three completion of the Skate Park** is truly a gem for the city and enjoyed year-round by area residents. The crew that designed and built the park are avid skateboarders and added some "custom" touches to the project, enhancing the experience. Tobias Parkhurst spearheaded the fundraising, and the park is dedicated in memory of Chris Thompson, a local skateboarder who was killed in an automobile accident.

**Fuller Field** – After a few years of fundraising, a generous donation from Robert Fuller made it possible for the city to move forward with this state-of-the-art synthetic turf field. The infill is Brockfill, a 100% organic wood particle specifically designed to improve traction and reduce summer heat, unlike black crumb rubber typically used in synthetic fields. The addition of the artificial field will allow the sports teams to begin their season earlier and practice longer. It will also enable the city to offer more recreational events and host more significant state events, bringing people and revenue to the community.

**Doe Farm/Lawson Farm/Babcock cemetery** – This, perhaps, is the highlight of the year for me. The cemetery, which was deeded to the city in the mid 1800's, has been known by the three names mentioned above. We have identified 45 graves, including Henry Lyons, a Civil war veteran killed in the battle of Gettysburg, and Robert Deneston, a Revolutionary war veteran. There is still much work left to carefully restore and create access to this historic cemetery.

**Brown Tail Moth** – I guess you have to take the good with the bad. After being in the position for only three weeks, I was greeted with this caterpillar known as Brown Tail Moth (BTM). Make no mistake...the hairs on these caterpillars are pure evil! We were not prepared for the infestation that fell upon Augusta and most of central Maine. Fortunately, BTM is cyclical and will soon run its course. Unfortunately, we are in the beginning stages, and this year is projected to be worse than 2021. In 2022 we will take action and attack the nests in city recreation areas before they hatch as well as work to educate the community on how best to treat BTM on private property.

# CHILDCARE BUREAU

BETHANY SPROUL-LEBRUN, DIRECTOR

Childcare welcomed 2021 off and running while enjoying as much outside time as mother-nature allowed. Childcare held a special “flurry frenzy” day filled with snow related games and activities in the field at Buker; with snowman contests, sledding, snow paint and hot cocoa. We continued to stay busy outside with a very special February vacation field trip to Mill Park. The children all tried ice skating, the “fast hill” and even had s’mores over a small fire pit all thanks to the work and coordination of the Augusta Parks & Recreation staff. Augusta Police Department even joined in on the fun and “raced” Parks & Rec Director Bruce Chase down the sledding hill. It was a fun day for all and a great resource in our community!

Staff continued to work hard with the children on remote learning as the school year was coming to a close. Over the 10 months of this school year, Childcare staff worked with over 40 teachers on a weekly basis to ensure the kids were successful in completing virtual and independent learning assignments. This was no small feat but was certainly satisfying to see the growth and development of these amazing students. School Year childcare wrapped up and came to a close on Friday June 11<sup>th</sup>. By the end of school year, childcare had approximately 80 children enrolled, which allowed the average classroom size to remain at 16 students or fewer in each room. It was helpful for both social distancing as well as remote learning assistance to have smaller group sizes and was undoubtedly part of the success the Childcare Bureau saw during such challenging times.

Summer had childcare off and running with 10 full weeks of summer camp for 100 children. Although, aspects (State Park trips) of the summer program still were modified to remain diligent with COVID risks for young children, most of camp was “back to normal”! The kids spent the weeks engaged in cooperative gym games, water play, arts & crafts and messy science experiments. Childcare was fortunate to collaborate with Parks & Recreation to utilize the local pools twice a week, Bicentennial Nature Park and the North Street water mushroom. Children enjoyed participating in programming at Old Fort Western, with Mr. Drew and his Animals too and bowling. The days were busy and weeks flew by!





# CHILDCARE BUREAU

BETHANY SPROUL-LEBRUN, DIRECTOR

After a long 18 months, children returned to school full time in the last week of August. Childcare reopened with our traditional before school and after school for 110 children. Morning care has permanently moved to the Buker Center instead of returning to being held inside the Augusta Schools. Staffing shifted as we reduced the additional full time staff to part time hours with the start of school.

A breath of fresh air came in the completion of enrollment for the continued grant funding by the federal government for childcare centers using Covid Relief Stabilization funding sources. Our childcare bureau qualifies and anticipates to receive \$228,000.00 as part of monthly reimbursement for providing care during the pandemic. These payments will be broken down into monthly direct payments of approximately \$19,000 for 12 consecutive months which will be transferred directly into childcare's federal pass through account. These additional monies can be used to help offset the hardship on families of cost of care, to help cover additional staffing expenses due to Covid school closures or to supplement the program's loss of revenue from reduced enrollment due to Covid.

By October of 2021, the children were ready to celebrate Halloween and stayed busy with decorating our hallways and classrooms. In collaboration with Recreation and a local Boy Scouts club, a very successful Haunted House was set up free to the public in the gym at Buker. Childcare staff assisted in the event by having additional rooms set up with games and crafts for kids of all ages. Childcare staff always rise the occasion when offered a chance to lead community events for local children and this event was no different! Fun had by all. As soon as we cleaned up from Halloween, Childcare Director Bethany Sproul-LeBrun and Recreation Clerk Whitney Leonard hit the ground running with planning the 12 Days of Augusta Holiday celebration featuring over 14 fantastic community events centered on our favorite Christmas character- the GRINCH! Families from all around Augusta enjoyed visits with Santa, crafts and story with the Grinch and even a neighborhood tour with 7 vehicles filled with friendly holiday characters!

With great excitement Childcare found themselves to be teaming up with the newly formed Greater Augusta Back to School Program and its literacy initiative. Monthly, our children have enjoyed a local community reader joining our classrooms to share a new book in which the kids get to keep and continue to enjoy at home. Thus far, Childcare has had visits from Senator Matt Pouliot, small business owners from Merkaba Sol and Augusta Council member, Mike Michaud. We look forward to continuing this partnership and its efforts to spread a love for reading with Augusta children.

It is with the highest of hopes that our community continues to stay diligent in its efforts to restore "normalcy" for the children of Augusta despite the looming stress of Covid-19. City of Augusta Childcare Bureau will continue to strive to meet the needs of families while offering high quality childcare, outstanding opportunities and lasting memories in 2022 and beyond.



# HEALTH & WELFARE BUREAU

NICHOLE MULLENS, 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.

I am pleased to report that Nichole Mullens has been appointed as the Director of Health and Welfare. Nichole started her career with the City three years ago as a senior case worker technician. Her attention to detail and knowledge of the programs made it an easy decision for the appointment. General Assistance can be very challenging but with the seasoned staff of; Debra Lymneos, Bruce Boynton and Lorie Mastemaker the department maintains 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. Staff work with numerous agencies and not-for-profit groups providing services and programs to meet the needs of those less fortunate.

The numbers tell it all with respect to the economy and the fact there are people in need of General Assistance. The financial assistance being provided to Augusta residents in need and eligible for assistance has grown significantly in FY 2021 as compared to FY 2020 which was also a growth year for General Assistance clients. The excellent work of the General Assistance staff ensures those eligible receive the needed benefits. 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 taxation.

## EXPENDITURES OF CLIENT SERVICES

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Telephone	\$53.00	\$62.00	\$ 9.00
Electricity	\$4,200.00	\$3,521.00	\$(679.00)
Transportation	\$1,395.00	\$954.00	\$(441.00)
Transients	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Medical Supplies	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$(300.00)
Dental	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$(400.00)
Housing	\$140,347.00	\$144,510.00	\$4,163.00
Rooms	\$286,796.00	\$524,444.00	\$237,648.00
Emergency Shelters	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Special & Misc.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Burials	\$15,632.00	\$13,920.00	\$(1,712.00)
Fuel Oil	\$1,641.00	\$3,608.00	\$(1,967.13)
Bottle Gas	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Food/groceries	\$11,321.00	\$17,725.00	\$6,404.00
Wearing Apparel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RX	\$3,371.00	\$3,748.00	\$377.00
Household items	\$5,819.00	\$9,729.00	\$3,910.00
Diapers	\$219.00	\$139.00	\$(80.00)
OTC Meds.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$471,494.00</b>	<b>\$722,240.00</b>	<b>\$250,746.00</b>

# OLD FORT WESTERN

LINDA NOVAK, DIRECTOR

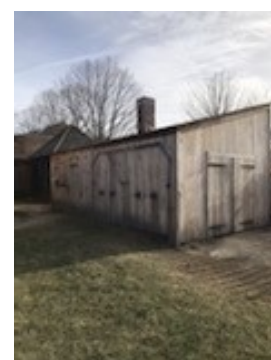
2021 was once again a unique and different year. Despite the challenges imposed by Covid-19, the Fort had a banner year in terms of visitation, and a very successful revamped Bicentennial lecture series chronicling Maine's early history. Prescheduled education programming remained at an all-time low. This past year we continued Old Fort Western's mission to protect, preserve, and interpret this National Historic Landmark Fort, Store, House, and Tenement, but with only a slightly modified schedule than in the past.

## To Protect, Preserve, and Maintain the Buildings and Grounds

Preservation and maintenance work continued on the garrison and its surrounding outbuildings. 2020 was the 100th anniversary of the City of Augusta's ownership of the Fort and the beginning of its restoration by Guy P. and William H. Gannett. In the spirit of the Gannetts', work continued:

The Window Preservation Project. John Leek, Preservation Consultant came for two weeks to train Fort Western staff on how to preserve and restore the garrison's windows. During the two weeks, staff learned how to document, assess, and restore period windows. There are 63 windows in the garrison and work has begun on the five windows assessed to be in the worst shape. This is and will be an ongoing project. It is our hope to do five windows a year.

Pictured Below: North exterior parlor window restoration (left) and blacksmith shop construction (right):

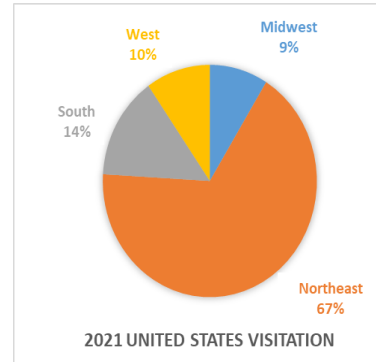
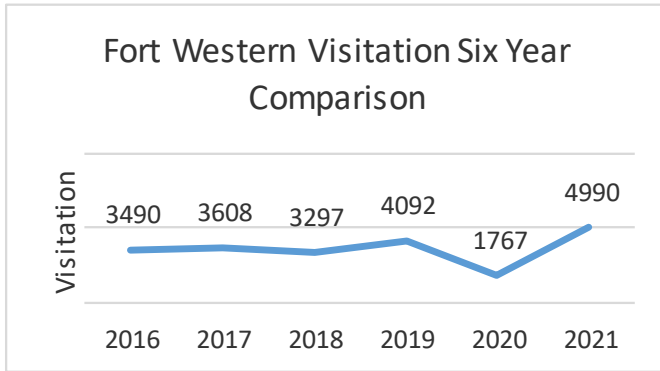


Blacksmith Shop Construction, Jeffrey Miller of Flintlock Forge with the help of Fort Western Staff and volunteers, finished the new blacksmith shop including the shop building, forge, and chimney. This shop will add to the ambiance of the Fort and will be a welcomed hands-on station during school programming.

## To Interpret and Educate the Public

Fort Programming. In a typical year, most of our energy goes towards public education through tour admissions, special events, and scheduled educational programming. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, spring and fall school programs and adult outreach programs remained low. However, our summer youth program returned to former numbers. Thirty-two children were able to participate in the Apprenticeship and Junior Interpreter programs in three one-week sessions.

Tour Admissions. Fort Western opened for the 2021 Visitation Season with a pre-COVID schedule. Protocols developed during 2020 remained in effect and included a linear tour route and mask mandate within the main garrison. Visitation to the Fort nearly tripled from the 2020 figures. 2021 has the highest visitation totals on record. Visitors were predominately from the US (97%), with the vast majority from the Northeast United States (58%). Every state in the union was represented except Alabama. There was also a rise in visitors from Augusta; more than a quarter 28% of all Maine visitation was from Augusta. As expected only 1% of the visitors were from foreign origins.



**Fort Specials.** These are events put on by the Fort to promote community and goodwill. This year we were able to have our annual July 4th at the Fort celebration including the reading of the ‘Declaration of Independence’ and cannonade for the 13 original colonies; a one-day French & Indian War Encampment at Fort Halifax in August to help celebrate the town of Winslow’s 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and an expanded “Victorian Christmas at the Fort.”

**Bicentennial Events and Specials.** The Bicentennial Lecture Series funded in part by the Maine Bicentennial Commission (\$5000) was originally to be fifteen live lectures chronicling Maine’s early history. In its final form, it became eleven lectures, ten of which were filmed by CTV-7 in the Lecture Hall at Augusta City Hall and then aired on social media platforms. This format was very successful with 3248 views of the lectures. The direct link to all these lectures is <http://www.vimeo.com/showcase/oldfortwestern>; or, they can be reached through the City of Augusta/Old Fort Western Web Page through the Bicentennial Lecture Series button on the left navigation panel. Many of these lectures had a live ‘meet and greet’ scheduled for the Lecturers to come to the Fort after their lectures were aired. There was only one lecture “live” by Alan Taylor, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, held at Central Church in Augusta. All the live events, unfortunately, were poorly attended.

**Old Fort Western Bicentennial Lecture Series  
Funded in Part by the Maine Bicentennial Commission**

Speaker	Posting Date	Talk Title
Dr. Arthur Spiess	6/30/2021	Maine Native Americans: An Archaeological Perspective Covering 13,000 years of Native American History in Maine
Dr. Bruce Bourque & Fred Koerber	6/30/2021	Merrymeeting Bay Pioneers Project: Tracing the Lives of the Area's First European Settlers
Ken Hamilton	6/30/2021	French Privateers Along the Maine Coast
Leon Cranmer	7/1/2021	The 17th Century Trading Posts on the Kennebec
Michael Dekker	7/1/2021	The French & Indian Wars in Maine
Dr. Leith Smith	7/1/2021	The Archaeology of Fort Richmond
Leon Cranmer	7/1/2021	The Archaeology of Fort Halifax
Linda Novak	7/29/2021	How We Know What We Know: The Archaeology of Fort Western
Alan Taylor	8/6/2021	Freedom, Slavery, and Maine Statehood, 1820 Live: Central Church
Tom Desjardin	11/14/2021	Benedict Arnold's March Through Maine
David Cheever	11/16/2021	Rummaging Through Maine's Familiar Civil War
		Total Views

Membership Renewal and Annual Campaign. Preliminary plans were begun to create a full and vigorous schedule to celebrate Fort Westerns' 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fort Western Museum (July 4, 1922). As one of his last acts as Mayor, David Rollins proclaimed 2022, The Year of the Fort.

## Thank You!

Fort Western's greatest strength is its staff and volunteers. These individuals tirelessly promote the Fort and teach the public the importance of the Fort in Maine and New England History. To all Historical Interpretive staff who helped keep Old Fort Western open for tours: Cindy Arnold, Andrew Askins, Lance Brown, Nicholas Bucci, Cathy Chapman, Roger Collins, Gregory Edwards, Thomas Fisher, Dorothy Ives, Hannes Moll, Stan Novak, and Sage Viets-Aughton, **Huzzah, and Thank You!**

Many of the Historical Interpretive Staff also donate time on behalf of the fort to work on building projects, social media projects, and administrative assistance. To Cindy Arnold, Cathy Chapman, Roger Collins, Stan Novak, **Huzzah, and Thank You!**

Over the last year, a lot of effort has gone into rehousing artifacts and rearranging archaeological collections.

Thanks go to Dorothy Ives and Scott Boyington for donating their time and enthusiasm to continue the daunting and never-ending backlog of archaeological cataloging. To Dorothy and Scott, **Huzzah, and Thank You!**

A special thank you goes to this summer's Intern, Hunter Sholtz, whose infectious laugh and affable nature was a joy to have work at the Fort. To Hunter, **Huzzah, and Thank you!**

Thank you goes to Terry Derosier, for behind-the-scenes sewing projects. To Terry, **Huzzah, and Thank You!**

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



# LITHGOW LIBRARY

SARAH SCHULTZ-NIELSEN, DIRECTOR

Lithgow Library celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2021. February 3rd quietly marked an important day for the community of Augusta and Maine libraries. 125 years ago that day according to Charles Nash, the author of *The Lithgow Library and Reading Room*, "The Trustees invited the contributors toward the building fund to meet in Library Hall, on Monday, February 3rd, at four o'clock in the afternoon, to celebrate the completion of the building, and in a simple and appropriate manner to formally dedicate it."

Library Trustees, the Mayor, area clergy and others presented from a platform in what we now know as the historic wing. In his invocation, the Reverend E.E. Newbert proclaimed, "We...now come to dedicate and consecrate this beautiful building, the work of our hands, the pride of our hearts, the proof of our culture... We dedicate it to the public weal, to the intelligence of all our people, to the well-earned supremacy of intellect, to the broadest culture and the largest, freest education. We dedicate it to the highest scholarship, to free inquiry, to the progressive spirit, to the very all of truth, goodness and beauty..."

We celebrated the Library the entire year by sharing 125 facts through social media, provided a library specific Take and Make, designed by a staffer, and hosted a library open house in December.

During the first half of 2021, we operated under Covid protocols, offering computing in the Community Meeting Room, browsing by appointment, online only programming, take and make activities for all ages, and Lithgow-to-Go, our curbside library material pickup. We provided 3,418 to-go transactions. Starting in June, the library fully opened to the public, with less furniture, continued social distancing but no longer the need to make an appointment to access the collections. The to-go transactions dropped drastically, but are still offered for those who feel more comfortable picking up their materials.

We began offering wifi hotspots in the fall, which has been a popular offering and provides more access to library users, beyond the walls of the library. We also began offering our small study rooms for use.

We hosted 38,869 visitors in 2021, with the bulk of them coming in the latter half of the year. Our cardholders were thrilled to be back in the building, and we were thrilled too!



# AUDIT BUREAU

TRACY ROY, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Audit Bureau oversees and administers the city's financial and accounting systems. This bureau is staffed by the Finance Director, Deputy Auditor, Finance Clerk II and a Payroll Specialist.

The bureau is responsible for reconciling the bank accounts daily, procurement cards, accounts receivable, accounts payable, 1099's, W2's, bids, capital assets, payroll, 941's, payroll projections, budget, grants, tax liens, foreclosures, tax lien discharges, tax bills and reconciling other balance sheet accounts; as well as, monthly and fiscal year closing, training on the financial accounting system (Munis), and preparation for the audit.

The Deputy auditor prepares the 1099's for City and School. This year she mailed out 144. The City is required to send out a 1099 form to individuals/companies who has received at least \$600 or more in non-employment income during the tax year. She prepared and sent out 52 bids for the year. Audit took over the bid process during 2021.

During 2021 the bureau processed 3,299 accounts payable checks (3,452 processed in 2020, 3,954 processed in 2019, 3,747 processed in 2018, 3,865 processed in 2017, 3,722 processed in 2016, 3,903 in 2015, 5,203 in 2014 and 7,137 in 2013), 570 EFT's, 366 wire transfers. The City is doing more electronic payments every year which is the reason for the decrease in checks. City – wide purchasing card transaction were 6,498 during 2021, 6538 in 2020, 7,501 in 2019, 7,863 in 2018, 7,520 in 2017, 7,601 in 2016, 5,969 in 2015 and 4,499 transactions on the purchasing cards during March – December 2014. The total transactions have gone down again from 2020 to 2021. There were less purchases being done due to COVID-19. This City receives a rebate at the end of the fiscal year. Fiscal Year 2021 the City received \$26,289 which is \$4,355 less than 2020.

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. During 2016 there were 1,865 transactions with the average transaction of \$223. During 2017 there were 3,014 transactions with the average transaction of \$225. During 2018 there were 3,852 transactions with the average transaction of \$254. During 2019 there were 4,389 with the average of \$240. During 2020 there were 4,311 with the average transaction of \$276. In 2021 there were 5,077 transactions with an average transaction of \$262. Over the years it we continue to see an increase in the use of debit/credit card transactions.

The Payroll Specialist emails all direct deposits to employees who have a personal e-mail account. This has reduced the number of direct deposit forms that need to be purchased. This year 396 W-2's were sent to employees as mandated by the IRS this is 128 less than last year. This shows the decrease in employees hired during 2021 which is attributed to COVID-19.

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

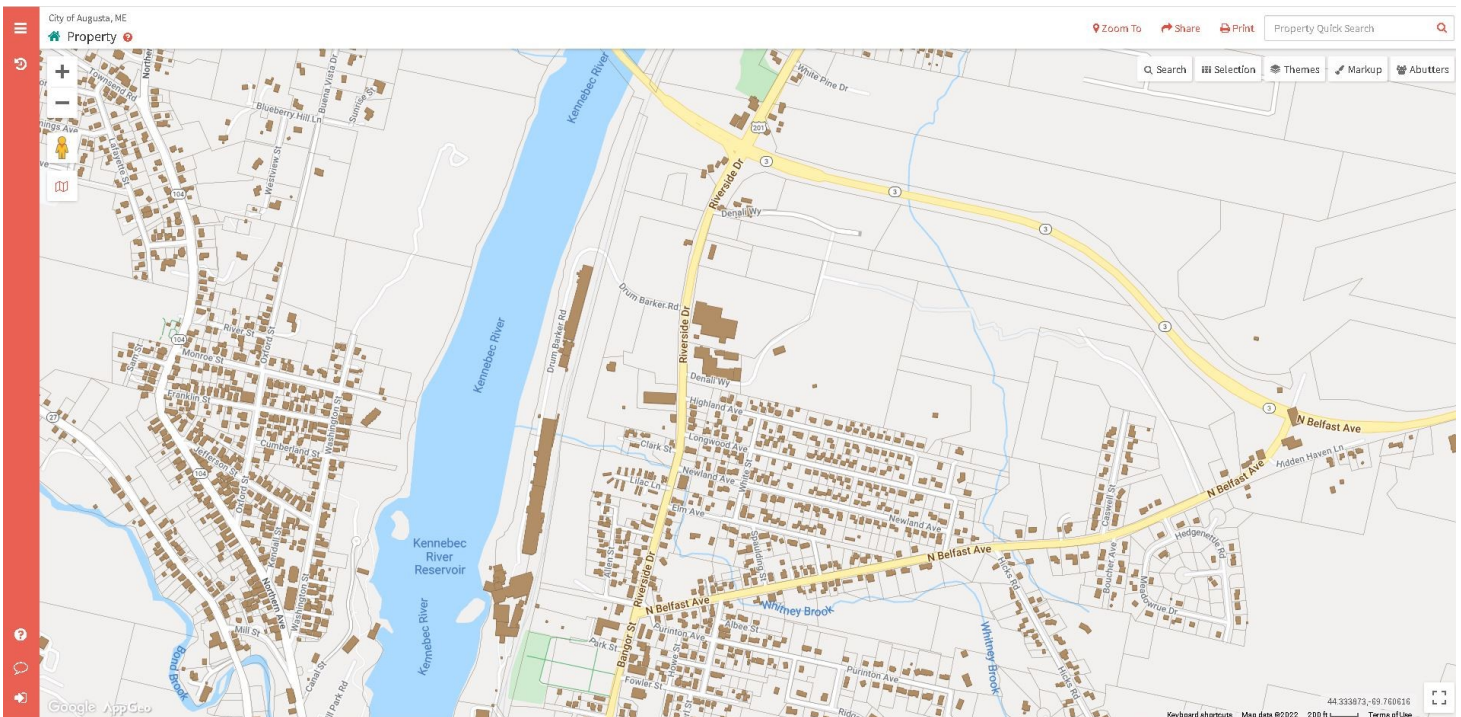
LISA MORIN, ASSESSOR

During the 2021 calendar year, this office processed 1,348 deeds and mortgages. The majority of the sales were single-family homes with an average sale price of \$175,598. There were 222 residential sales during 2020. Based on the last ratio study for residential property, the average assessment ratio, conducted by the State, is 88% of market value.

This was the 22nd Year for the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption. The amount of the exemption for FY2023 in Augusta is \$23,800. The total number of exemptions for this program was 4,008. The total valuation of all tax exemptions including veterans, blinds, parsonages, solar, and homesteads was \$97,704,300.

This office oversees 8,393 taxable real estate accounts with a total taxable value of \$1,625.858,800 (after exemptions) and 962 taxable personal property accounts with a total value of \$261.612.800. In addition, \$43,148,500 in personal property qualifies under the Maine Business Equipment Tax Exemption Program. We also have 472 real estate accounts, which are totally exempt with an assessed value of \$630,384,100.

Have you tried our new mapping software, pictured below, to look up City of Augusta property information? Check it out on the homepage of our website at [augustamaine.gov](http://augustamaine.gov).





# CLERK'S BUREAU

KELLY GOOLDRUP CLERK

Treasury Office consists of a combined staff performing customer service activities for the City Clerk, Tax Collector and Treasurer. The office of the City Clerk is the official keeper of city records. The clerk's position is required by state statutes and by the city Charter and Code of Ordinances. The office of the Tax Collector/Treasurer receives all payments for taxes and other various revenues for the city. The City Clerk, Tax Collector and Treasurers offices were merged years ago, providing stream lined customer service and cost savings to the citizens of Augusta.

This Bureau collects revenues and provides services for vehicle registrations, excise, real estate and personal property taxes, land fill permits as well as other general billing fees. We are agents for various state agencies such as Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (hunting, fishing, snow sled, ATV and boat licenses); Animal Welfare (dog licenses); Vital Statistics (birth, death, marriage certificates, issuing marriage licenses and burial permits); Bureau of Motor Vehicle (vehicle registrations); Secretary of State, Corporation and Elections (state and federal elections and voter registration). These services are provided as to the citizens of Augusta following strict rules and regulations of each agency.

The Bureau is staffed by the City Clerk, as well as six full-time clerks all dedicated to provide excellent customer services. In 2018 increased the available online services to include tax payments, in addition to online dog licenses, which are available online from October 15<sup>th</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup> each year and vital records, which are available year round. Both services are provided in partnership with InforMe.gov.

The Bureau is the first point of contact if you are interested in starting or operating a business in Augusta. We issue licenses for food, liquor, entertainment, taxicab companies and drivers, pawnbrokers and door to door sales, as well as certificates of proprietorship. Please contact our office we will be happy to help you determine what state and city business licenses are necessary for your business.

Have you had a life event within the last year, did you get married/divorced or move to a new home. You will need to update your voter and/or vehicle registration, stop by or give us a call and we will be happy to help.

The following is an over view of the activities in 2021.

## STATISTICS FOR JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021

<b>Vital Records Statistics</b>	<b>Issued</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Filed</b>
Births Certificates Issued	624	\$ 9,184	Birth Records Filed 1,098
Deaths Certificates Issued	178	\$ 1,374	Death Records Filed 742
Marriage Certificates Issued	290	\$ 3,022	Marriage Licenses Filed 139
Burial Permits Filed	391	\$ 5,474	
Marriage Licenses Issued	135	\$ 4,860	
Online Vital Record Orders	59	(included above)	

## **Registered Voters** **14,927**

Democrat	5,399
Green Independent	646
Republican	4,185
Unenrolled (registered but not in party)	4,697

# CLERK'S BUREAU (CONT.)

KELLY GOOLDRUP, CLERK

## Dog Licenses

Dogs Registered	4,294	Online dog licenses began October 2020.
Online Dog License 2020	487	(included in total)
Exempt Dog Licenses	9	
Dog Kennel Licenses	5	
Late Fees		\$725
Total City Revenue		\$5,798

## Business Licenses

Food and Beverage	131	\$18,915
Lunch Mobile	7	\$ 350
Coin-operated Device	17	\$ 595
Dancing	5	\$ 450
Taxi	17	\$ 1,075
Pawnbroker	1	\$ 100
Billiards	1	\$ 50
Tattoo/Body Piercing	6	\$ 900
Marijuana Business License	11	\$ 15,400

## Treasurer's /Tax Collector's Statistics

<b>Inland Fisheries and Wildlife</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
Boat Excise Tax	\$12,987	
Agent Fees Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	\$2,071	
<b>Bureau of Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Transactions</b>
Auto Excise Tax	\$3,551,481	12,916
Rapid Renewal Program (online excise)	\$817,900	4,258
Agent Fees (BMV)	\$46,112	14,004
Aircraft Excise Tax	\$19,433	40
<b>Property Taxes Assessed April 1, 2021</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Real Estate	8,393	\$34,045,483
Personal Property	<u>962</u>	<u>\$ 4,574,642</u>
Total	9,214	\$38,620,125
2021 Tax Liens Filed	251	\$510,348

# INFORMATION SYSTEMS BUREAU

FRED KAHL, DIRECTOR

The Information Technology Department has spent the year working 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. Our two most important concerns this year has been security and Backups.

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

- Implement end user security training and begin spam testing to see if users are responding to spam email and malware scams system wide.
- Improve data backup systems to generate more secure vaults in case of breaches.
- Work in emergency situations to keep all vital communications operational.
- Continue to Support remote access for all users.
- Add new computer technician position and train.
- Replace 700 end user devices for School Department.
- Configure PD Vehicles for e-Ticket system.
- Selected Staff completed 14 week security course.
- Implantation of repair ticketing system so request can traced.
- Improved e-mail filtering system.
- Move all phone connectivity to new carrier.
- Update City Virtual Server farm from Hyper-V to VMware.
- Plan to relocate all serve equipment from City Center to new secure Police Station.
- Work with APD & AFD to continue with radio repeater replacement for Public safety radios.
- Added 25 new Security cameras system wide.
- Working with State DOT on Traffic light control network.
- Upgrade all server from Window 2012 to 2019.

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

CHIEF, DAVID GRODER

## Chief's Message:

The members of the Augusta Fire Department have been steadfast in our mission to protect the citizens of our City and its visitors. We have responded to our city's emergencies, as well as assisted our neighboring communities through fire and EMS support. At the same time we have supported our community with vaccination clinics to our City staff, schools and citizens, even as the region worked through an immense staffing shortage for responders.

We spent the year focusing on the wellbeing of our members, we provided training classes on Compassion and Trauma Fatigue, Self-Care, and PTSD. Our members are our most important asset both mentally and physically. COVID has not been our friend through the last year, with added budgetary impacts and impacts on staffing through workload and illness, but as an organization we survived and showed no impact to the end users of our services. We cherish the community, citizens and visitors we serve.

## Staffing:

The previous year brought us a change in leadership in our organization, starting with the promotion of a Chief, a Deputy Chief, a Battalion Chief and two Lieutenants.

Chief of Department – Dave Groder

Deputy Chief /Health Officer– Steve Leach

Battalion Chief – Brian Chamberlin

Lieutenant – James Carroll

Lieutenant – John Robertson

## Call Volume for Fire:

**2019** - 1418 Calls      **2020** – 1426 Calls      **2021** – 1392

## Calls by Category: 2021

(100 Series) Fire/explosions	129
(200 Series) Over pressure/rupture	1
(300 Series) Rescue/EMS	583
(400 Series) Hazardous Condition	69
(500 Series) Service call	108
(600 Series) Good intent Call	192
(700 Series) False Call	293

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF, DAVID GRODER

(800 Series) Severe Weather

The Cities property loss for buildings and structures was \$322,677 dollars. The total for all fires within the City of Augusta was \$379,052.

## Call Volume for EMS:

**2019** – 5399 calls      **2020** – 5162 calls      **2021** – 6015 calls

## The top five classifications of EMS call types are:

Falls                    927

General Illness   883

Breathing            506

Psychiatric        404

Chest Pain          363

## The three primary rescues (ambulances) responded to the following calls:

Rescue 1 (Hartford Station)      2412 calls

Rescue 2 (Wells Station)        1997 calls

Rescue 3 (North Station)        1545 calls

## COVID-19 Review:

In addition, during 2021 our staff was involved in COVID-19 vaccinations and testing. Vaccination clinics were conducted at the Hartford station, our schools, some assisted living complexes, as well as directly to some of our shut-in population in their homes. During these clinics, we administered 2,898 doses of the vaccine and provided testing for 195 people. A big thank you to our COVID-19 Vaccination team for their commitment to the community.

As an organization we continue to provide public education, CPR programs, fire prevention and other activities as COVID restrictions will allow. We are here for our citizens.

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF, JARED MILLS

## Message from the Chief:

The Augusta Police Department continues to seek ways to build positive relationships with all of our community members while providing the highest level of service to keep our citizens safe. As the Chief of Police, I will continue to foster a culture within our police department that is one of fair and equitable service delivery. The Pandemic has certainly been a challenge for all of us and the Augusta Police Department has certainly felt the effects. Our team has worked extremely hard to keep everyone safe during this time but, like many other professions, we are seeing an increase in retirements and a decrease in qualified applicants to replace our tenured staff. We continue to study our call volumes so that we do not burn our existing staff out while searching for the best future employees in places we have not traditionally solicited. The Augusta Police Department is dedicated to reaching the highest standards of professionalism through policies, procedures, hiring, training and technology and we will be laser focused on hiring, retaining and officer wellness in the year to come.

## Crime Statistics

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>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Homicide 0	Homicide 1	Homicide 1
Rape 19	Rape 19	Rape 16
Robbery 12	Robbery 16	Robbery 11
Aggravated Assault 16	Aggravated Assault 32	Aggravated Assault 28
Assault 508	Assault 560	Assault 607
Burglary 58	Burglary 76	Burglary 57
Theft 522	Theft 522	Theft 466
Motor Vehicle Theft 8	Motor Vehicle Theft 17	Motor Vehicle Theft 31
Domestic Violence 192	Domestic Violence 198	Domestic Violence 238
*Drug Offenses 360	*Drug Offenses 255	*Drug Offenses 280
*Vehicle Stops 6468	*Vehicle Stops 6060	*Vehicle Stops 4406

<u>2019 Reports</u>	<u>2020 Reports</u>	<u>2021 Reports</u>
Investigative 3435	Investigative 3715	Investigative 3856
Arrest 1541	Arrest 1508	Arrest 1123
Crash 1300	Crash 982	Crash 1046
Traffic Summons 1371	Traffic Summons 1437	Traffic Summons 1115

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF, JARED MILLS



**Communications Center:** The Augusta Police Department communication center services Augusta Police and Fire/EMS as well as Hallowell Police and Fire. "Calls for service" only reflect the calls where a call entry is made and do not reflect the total calls coming into the communications center that do not generate a call entry.

<u>2019 Calls</u>		<u>2020 Calls</u>		<u>2021 Calls</u>	
Calls for service:	41,700+	Calls for service:	48,500+	Calls for service:	48,464+
Augusta Police:	30,900+	Augusta Police:	34,000+	Augusta Police:	36,618+
Augusta Fire/EMS:	5,500+	Augusta Fire/EMS:	5,900+	Augusta Fire/EMS:	8,086+

The Augusta Police Calls for service does not reflect all the work of the Augusta Police Department.

## Grants Awarded to the Police Department

### Grants Awarded to the Police Department

2021 Bulletproof Vest Partnership	\$ 6,398.00
2021 Justice Assistance Grant	\$ 17,566.22
2020 Justice Assistance Grant COVID	\$ 77,591.00
2021 IF&W Spring Round of ATV Enf.	\$ 850.00
2021 IF&W Fall Round of ATV Enforcement	\$ 500.00
2022 BHS-Impaired Driving	\$ 20,304.00
2022 BHS-Seatbelt	\$ 10,000.00
2022 BHS-Speed	\$ 25,000.00
2022 BHS-Distracted Driving	\$ 25,000.00
2022 BHS-Pedestrian	\$ 11,958.00
2022 BHS-DRE	\$ 6,000.00
2020 Dirigo Safety Underage Drinking Grant	\$ 24,000.00
2020 Homeland Security Grant (police portion)	\$ 30,000.07

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF, JARED MILLS

## Community Events and Participation

Ride to School in a Police Car Certificate Program  
Crisis and Counseling 1 and 5K  
Sexual Assault and Crisis Celebrity Dinner  
National Drug Takeback Day  
Chat with the Chief on YouTube  
No Shave and pink line flags for charity  
Color Guard Events  
Wanderers Program  
Fallen Officer Vigil  
Capitol Clubhouse  
Car Seat Checks and Installations  
Wreath Laying at Mount Hope Cemetery  
Clear Paths Program  
Salvation Army Christmas Adopt-a-Family  
Law v. Saints basketball game  
Thanksgiving / Holiday Celebration Fireworks  
Home Heating oil Council  
Cop Camp  
Bigs and Badges mentoring  
YMCA community cookout  
Sexual Assault Celebrity Dinner

Vo-Tech Advisory Board LE  
Cony Active Shooter Training with Staff  
Save Your Breath 5K  
Turkey give away we were part of times 2  
KCJ Knitting/Crocheting with Inmates  
Cops on Top Hike  
Blue Lives Matter Tournament  
Corporal Cole Memorial Run  
107.9/B 98.5 Coffee with a Cop  
Civilian Police Academy  
Augusta Age Friendly  
Lobby e-commerce zone  
Virtual Cony Middle School tour of APD  
Halloween Downtown  
Food Giveaway @ Civic Center  
Backpack Giveaway @ Civic Center  
Fishing Derby for Cony High Project Graduation  
Dare and Dare Graduations  
Special Olympics awards ceremony  
Hot Spot in downtown area (August)  
Cpl. Cole softball tournament

## Awards and Commendations

SSgt Christian Behr (Ret)  
Dolores Steverman-Daoust  
Lieutenant Christopher Massey  
SSgt Jesse Brann  
Officer Christopher Hutchings  
Chief Jared J. Mills  
Officer Chad Webster  
Lieutenant Vicente Morris  
Officer Simon Yorks  
Officer Sabastian Guptill  
Officer Troy Worster  
Officer Jeff Gotreau  
Officer Seth Johnson

Commendatory Letter  
Commendatory Letter  
Commendatory Letter  
Administrative Award Of Merit  
Administrative Award Of Merit  
Administrative Award Of Merit  
Life Saving Award  
Life Saving Award  
Life Saving Award  
Life Saving Awards (2)  
Life Saving Award  
Life Saving Award  
Life Saving Award



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF, JARED MILLS

## Accomplishments 2021

Building Improvements-getting the new police station approved.

Expanded our Community Policing model.

Continued focus on drug enforcement against the high-level drug dealers while supporting our rehabilitation partners and embracing opportunities for education to reduce our drug epidemic.

Traffic/Pedestrian Safety continued to be a priority in regards to enforcement and collaboration with our partners to improve traffic safety in the city.

Enhance our community involvement with events like Conquer the Capital, Civilian Police Academies, Day-care visits, DARE and National Night Out

Implemented more in house and in person training within our department focusing on impaired driving mechanics of arrest and other high liability areas.



## Focus for 2022

Support the City Council goals that are set at the beginning of 2022 ensuring we are doing everything in our power to facilitate their achievements.

Continued focus on drug enforcement against the high-level drug dealers while supporting our rehabilitation partners and embracing opportunities for collaboration to reduce our drug epidemic.

Traffic/Pedestrian Safety continued to be a priority in regards to enforcement and collaboration with our partners to improve traffic safety in the city.

Staying focused on Domestic Violence follow-up and outreach.

Embracing the new Attorney General's Office protocol on homelessness to help those who do not have a place to live. Support efforts to help immigrants, refugees and children living in poverty through our partnership with the United Way.

Our role with parking enforcement not that the parking district has been dissolved.

Continue to enhance our community policing programs to include our elderly population.

Continue to study our call volume for new innovative ways for response.

Improve on our training sessions at briefing.

# PUBLIC WORKS

LESLEY JONES, DIRECTOR

In December our Fleet Services Manager, Scott Kenoyer, retired after working for us for 21 years. During his time here, with the support of upper management, he was able to develop a vehicle replacement schedule and a preventative maintenance program allowing us to modernize and upgrade our fleet therefore increasing the reliability of our “rolling stock”. This has allowed us to provide better service to our residents as trucks and equipment are “on the road” providing services and not in the garage waiting to be fixed. We will miss Scott’s sense of humor and dedication but wish him a long and happy retirement filled with family time, gardening and adventures.

We continue our work on the following important goals:

A focus on safety and reducing workplace injuries. In addition to ongoing training, we do weekly “Tool Box Talks” on safety and other subjects. This has helped raise awareness for safety and other important aspects of our work, leading to a safer and better trained workforce. On November 5, 2021 we celebrated the one-year mark with no lost-time injuries.

Recruitment and retention of a competent and well trained work force.

Focus on improvements for pedestrian safety.

## Year-Round Services

### Rubbish and Recycling

Curbside rubbish collection continues to be a popular, efficient and valuable service provided to our citizens. In 2021 we picked up 5,450 tons of curbside rubbish which is slightly higher than the 5,377 tons we picked up in 2020.

The single stream recycling drop-off locations at Public Works and Hatch Hill provide recycling opportunities for our residents. We recycled 154 tons of single stream at Public Works, 120 tons at Hatch Hill, along with 63 tons of old corrugated cardboard. The recycling container at Public works has extended hours for residents on Wednesdays until 6 p.m. Residents can also use Hatch Hill for their recycling. Hours at Hatch Hill are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday. In August 2020, we signed a new two-year contract with ecomaine, which includes a tipping fee of \$99.30 per ton and revenue sharing when recyclable materials are sold for a profit.

We typically schedule a Household Hazardous Waste (HHHW) Drop-off Day in May which includes recycling and/or disposal of old paint, batteries, universal waste (items containing mercury), used oil and prescription drugs along with paper shredding. We cancelled the 2020 event due to the pandemic and held one on August 14 of 2021. It was again a popular event, with about 200 residents dropping off the following items to be recycled or disposed of properly:

- 305 units of HHHW
- Enough old paint to fill 6 totes, with a tote being about the size of a washing machine
- 3,000 pounds of paper to be shredded
- 200 pounds of household batteries and 10 larger lead-acid batteries
- 3 items containing Freon and 33 propane tanks
- 231 fluorescent light bulbs, and
- 100 pounds of medications

This fall we offered a curbside Bulky Waste collection to our residents. We picked up materials at 240 homes and collected 283 units of bulky waste. We also offered a four week leaf collection program and picked up 65 tons of leaves for composting.

In addition to the special projects listed below, Public Works is responsible for year-round maintenance of our streets and sidewalks. Routine tasks include:

Street and sidewalk sweeping

- Street sign upgrades, repair and replacement
- Roadside ditching and culvert repairs
- Brush cutting and roadside mowing
- Respond to emergencies, such as both summer and winter storms, bringing damage to our roads and sidewalks

<b>2021 City of Augusta Public Works Paving and Chip Seal Program</b>	
<u>STREET</u>	<u>STREET</u>
<u>SHIM AND SUFRACE</u>	<u>SHIM AND CHIP SEAL</u>
BROOKLAWN	BUNNY STREET
CUSHING	COLONY
DEAN CT	EDGEWOOD/TALLWOOD
MONROE	GAGNE
PENOBSCOT	HUTCHINSON
PINEHURST	SIXTH
RIDGEWOOD	WESTWOOD
RIVERTON	WILDWOOD
SUNSET	
<b><u>TOTAL COST:</u></b>	<b><u>\$381,569</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL MILES:</u></b>	<b><u>3.2 MILES</u></b>

Special Projects

- Removed the old tennis courts for the Fuller Field synthetic turf project at the Cony Complex. This area is now the multipurpose practice field area for the new facility.
- Managed to complete the majority of our centerline and shoulder line street striping work, along with the hand painting of the crosswalks and arrows. Some of our striping and painting was delayed this year due to paint shortages, which was a problem nationwide.
- Slip lined the big culvert at the Mount Vernon Avenue end of the Bond Brook Road. This culvert had deteriorated and needed to be repaired or replaced. A slip line is sections of a plastic culvert pushed through the existing culvert. This method minimized construction in the streambed, repair duration, and was less disruptive to traffic.
- Continued our sidewalk work on South Belfast Avenue which included rebuilding small sections of the sidewalk or placing a new layer of pavement over the existing surface. Additionally, we installed new pedestrian landings where the sidewalk crosses another road.
- Removed the pavement on Cushing Street (which is a short street off Eastern Avenue that connects to Davenport Street), placed the base pavement and added a new sidewalk and a storm water structure. This project will be completed in 2022.

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### Special Projects (cont.)

For roads that typically are in the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) and have not yet been funded we often fill the ruts, replace culverts or do other heavy patching. One of those roads is Church Hill Road where we spent several days replacing culverts and filling in wheel ruts. We also replaced some culverts and did some ditching on the Bog Road in preparation for the planned reconstruction of that road in 2023. The Bog Road project will be a Municipal Partnership Initiative (MPI) Project that is funded with both City and State funds.

Replaced damaged guardrail on Mount Vernon Road, Bond Brook Road, rail bed parking lot at Commercial Street, and Memorial Drive.

### Pedestrian Safety Projects

For pedestrian safety we have been trying some new techniques at different crosswalks around the City. One is the “See Me” pedestrian flags. The purpose of these flags is to let a pedestrian wave the orange flag while standing, ready to use the crosswalk to show clear intent to cross and to gain the attention of motorists so they stop.

Another program the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) is trying is the placement of some “Stop, Look and Wave” signs on the sidewalk to remind pedestrians that they need to stop, look and wave before trying to cross the street. 3M has donated the materials that are being used for this project.

Finally, the Bicycle Coalition of Maine (BCM) installed some temporary bollards and other visual enhancements to crosswalks on Water Street. The goal of these enhancements is to bring more visibility to the crosswalks, increase the yield compliance of motorists, and help prevent illegal parking.

### Winter Highlights

Mother Nature was kind to us again in the winter of 2020/2021 with the exception of several icing events. A few statistics of the winter are:

38 inches of snow

29 winter weather events

13 “all plows out” events

10 icing events

3,476 cubic yards of salt/sand mixture applied to the roads, typically “pre-wetted” with liquid brine

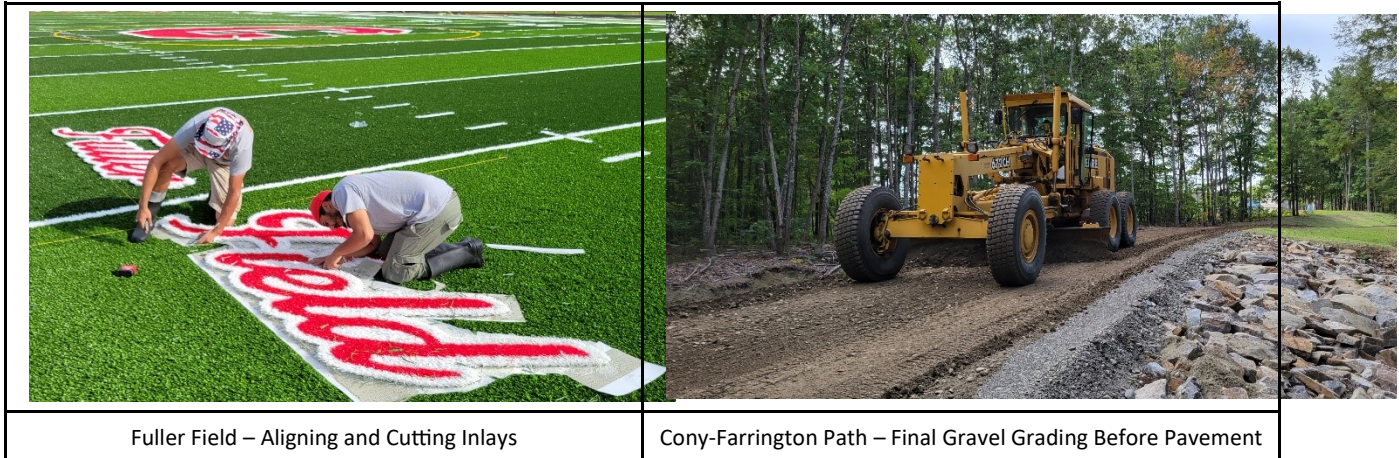
22 nights of snow haul

As I sit here on February 4, 2022 finishing my annual report it is snowing outside, the second big snow storm in seven days. In total we received over 30 inches of snow between the two events. As a point of comparison, last year we had a total of 38 inches of snow for the entire winter season.

# ENGINEERING

TYLER PEASE, ENGINEER

The Engineering Bureau provides design and management for construction and other City projects that benefit residents, visitors, and business owners in the City of Augusta. The Bureau also provides engineering support to other city departments.



Fuller Field – Aligning and Cutting Inlays

Cony-Farrington Path – Final Gravel Grading Before Pavement

Construction projects that were started, continued or finished in 2021 include the following:

- Cony-Farrington Path & Pierce Drive Sidewalk	-Cushing Street Rehab and Sidewalk
- Fuller Field and Multi-Purpose Field Construction	-Downtown Stair Evaluation and Repairs
- Culvert Repair on Bond Brook Road	-Street Condition Analysis by iWorQ

Projects that involved pedestrian safety included some sidewalk repairs and pedestrian landing upgrades along South Belfast Avenue by the Public Works crews. Pedestrian flags were added to five crosswalks throughout the City to aid pedestrians’ visibility and intentions when crossing the street. MaineDOT chose Augusta as one of their locations to place “STOP, LOOK, WAVE” signs that are attached to the sidewalk with adhesive in three locations around the City. Lastly, the Bicycle Coalition of Maine completed a demonstration project along Water Street to help delineate the crosswalks for improved pedestrian visibility.

The following projects are in the design phase, planned for construction starting in 2022, or part of the five year work plan:

- Cushnoc Drive Reconstruction	- Downtown Pedestrian Safety Demo. Project
- Highland Avenue Reconstruction	- City-Wide Pedestrian Safety Improvements
- Brooks & St. Catherine Streets Reconstruction	

The Bureau will continue to work with the Maine Department of Transportation to identify areas and projects to improve our roads, sidewalks and pedestrian safety. Additionally, the Engineering Bureau continues to provide guidance to the Planning Board on developer projects via plan review, review all new driveway locations, advocate for City interests in State projects, and assist any interested parties with issues pertaining to the public right-of-way.

# HATCH HILL LANDFILL

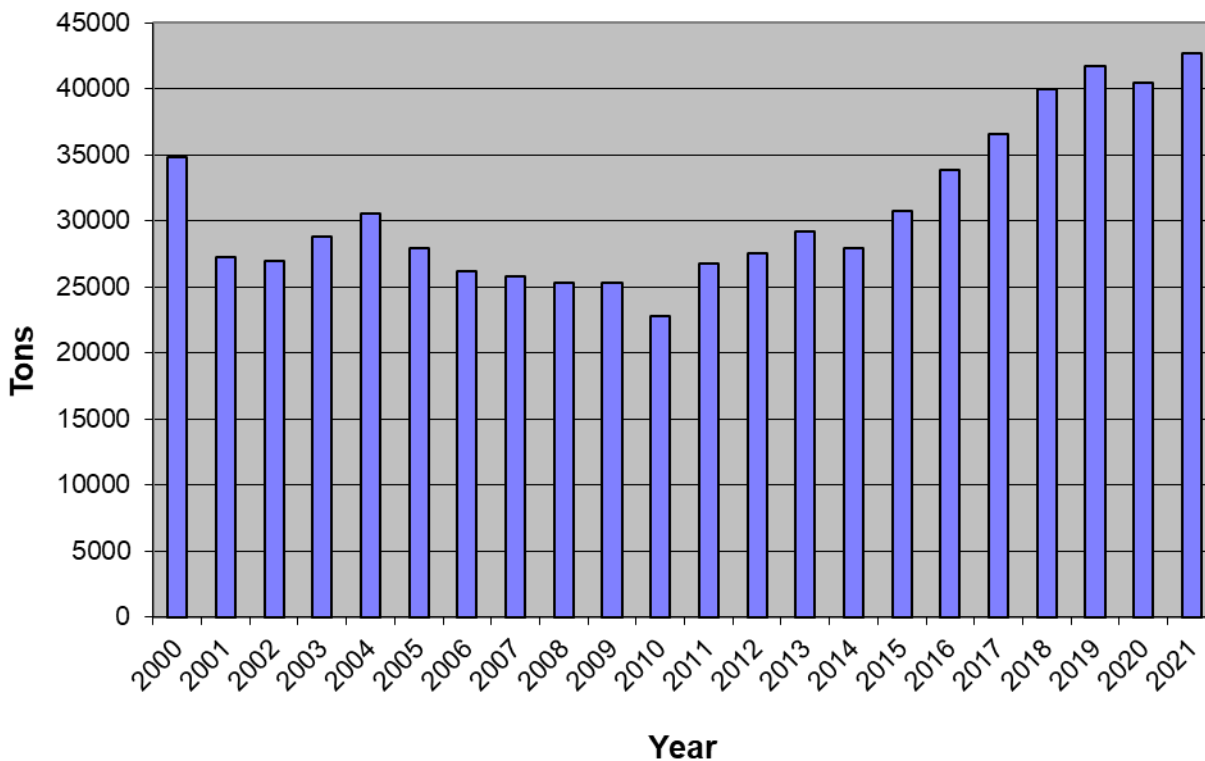
JONATHAN CHALMERS, SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR

Hatch Hill is the City owned solid waste disposal and recycling facility that operates as an enterprise fund. It is a regional facility that provides waste disposal and recycling services to Augusta and eight surrounding communities as well as the State and Federal agencies that operate in the region. All users pay to use Hatch Hill and revenues pay for day-to-day operations, provide reserve accounts for capital equipment (vehicles and future solid waste disposal) and post closure monitoring and maintenance of the facility once waste is no longer accepted.

## Tonnages and Revenues

The graph below shows that tonnages have increased over the past few years but are still within the annual projections when the landfill was originally built in 2001 with an anticipated life of 20 years. At this time, it is projected that Hatch Hill has approximately 5 years of life remaining.

**Hatch Hill Tons of Waste Landfilled**



Budgeted revenues for FY2022 are \$3.77 million with expenses budgeted at \$3.52 million. Tonnages increased slightly in calendar year 2021 compared to previous year. However, revenues exceeded expenses in FY2022 leaving the fund with a positive cash balance. Revenues in excess of expenses are held in the fund balance to be used for future unanticipated expenses as well as providing the “savings account” to close the landfill and for post closure monitoring and maintenance which needs to be done for at least 30 years after the facility stops accepting waste for landfilling. We need to “save” a total of \$11.9 million dollars before the landfill reaches capacity and is closed. At this time we have \$8.1million “saved” and will save the rest over the remaining years that the landfill accepts waste.

# HATCH HILL LANDFILL

JONATHAN CHALMERS, SOLID WASTE 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>2021 Hatch Hill Annual Tonnage Report</b>			
<b>Materials recycled</b>		<b>Materials being landfilled</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>tons</b>		<b>tons</b>
Single stream recycling	124	Rubbish	34902
Scrap metal	356	Rubbish- mixed	8139
Old Paint	3	Special wastes	<u>144</u>
Old corrugated cardboard	72	<u>Total tons into landfill</u>	<u>43185</u>
Old propane tanks	2		
Old asphalt shingles	0	Auto shredder residue	9228
Old Tires	145	Ground wood chips	0
Universal waste (old TV's and ewaste)	45	(used as alternate daily cover)	
Natural Wood chips for energy	0		
Demolition Wood chips for energy	0	Total into landfill	52413
Compost and wood chips given to resi-	378		
<u>Total Recycling</u>	<u>1127</u>	<b>Recycling rate at Hatch Hill</b>	<b>2.6%</b>

Since the landfill has less than five years of capacity remaining, future solid waste management alternatives are being reviewed and discussed. Several City Council informational meetings with Woodard and Curran's Practice Area Leader for Solid Waste have occurred. During which, he has presented solid waste disposal and handling alternatives available to the City of Augusta. These options are being refined as the Council considers the service needs of the City and region.

# AUGUSTA BOARD OF EDUCATION



2021 Augusta Board of Education members: pictured at top - Chair; Amanda Olson Board Members : Ward 1-Staci Fortunato; Ward 2, Martha Witham; Ward-3 Jan Michaud (not pictured) Ward 4, Kati McCormick and At-Large Board Members (row 3): Kevin Lamoreau, Kimberly Martin, and Pia Holmes, one at-large seat was vacant in 2021.





207.377.2848 | PO Box 261 - 331 Main Street  
www.tkl.org | Winthrop, Maine 04364

January 2022

**Board of Directors**

Janet Sawyer (P)  
Matt Mullen (1st VP)  
Paul Kuehnert (2nd VP)  
Amy Trunnell (T)  
Bob Marviny (S)  
Jordan Beall  
Sue Bell  
Susan Caldwell  
Mary Denison  
Tom Ferrero  
Craig Garofalo  
Ben Godsoe  
Marty Keniston  
Howard Lake  
Jean Scudder  
Deb Sewall  
Kim Vandermeulen

**Advisory Board**

Jim Connors  
Hon. Kenneth Curtis  
Elizabeth Davidson  
Eric Doucette  
Caroline Farr  
David Gibson  
Glenn Hodgkins  
Charlie Jacobs  
Mark Johnston  
Ron Joseph  
Kevin Kane  
Martha Kent  
Robert Kimber  
Ken Laustsen  
Gloria Ladd  
Barbara Libby  
Andy Lilienthal  
Scott Longfellow  
Jon Lund  
Jessie & Douglas  
Macdonald  
Bob Mohlar  
Patricia Mooney, Ph.D.  
Jeff Pidot  
Dave Rocque  
Norm Rodrigue  
Dianne E. Ryan  
Reade & Joan Ryan  
Rebecca Stanley  
Jym St. Pierre  
Bob Weston

**Staff**

Baylee Bachelder  
Tyler Keniston  
Theresa Kerchner  
Marie Ring  
Jean-Luc Theriault

Dear Augusta Residents,

Since 1988, with the support of 1,100 member households and over forty Maine businesses, the Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) has worked cooperatively with landowners and communities to conserve our region's natural resources. KLT holds conservation easements on, accepts gifts of, and purchases significant lands to further the mission of the organization.

Over the past two years, KLT experienced a marked increase in interest from people who recently discovered our close-to-home lands and 55 miles of trails. As our communities faced physical and mental health challenges associated with the pandemic, we heard many times that nature provided solace.

In 2020 KLT published the second edition of our popular hiking guide – *Take a Hike!* which features thirty-two of our properties including the Howard Hill Conservation Area. These hiking guides continue to be popular with community members and visitors. You can purchase your own copy on our website at [tklt.org/merchandise](http://tklt.org/merchandise).

During the summer of 2021, KLT volunteers worked to maintain the trails and control invasive plant species at Howard Hill. Previously, directional signs were installed at trail junctions, and twenty benches were built by a team led by a local Eagle Scout candidate. In the past year, over 16 volunteers, including the Kennebec Valley Board of Realtors volunteered over 130 hours at Howard Hill.

As the owner of the Judy Kane Preserve, KLT also contributes to Augusta's local tax base through the open space tax program.

KLT offers a great selection of outings and educational programs for the public and we collaborate with schools and other organizations to engage youth and share our conservation knowledge with the community. Please call our office for information about our 2022 field trips and programs.

We welcome this opportunity to communicate with Augusta residents and the Selectboard about our conservation work. Everyone is welcome to visit our properties and trails and to attend our public programs.

Do not hesitate to contact us for more information, 207-377-2848 or [info@tklt.org](mailto:info@tklt.org). You can also visit our website, [www.tkl.org](http://www.tkl.org) for trail maps, directions, and more information about our organization. Thank you to all those in Augusta who have chosen to support KLT as members or volunteers.

Sincerely,

Janet Sawyer  
President

Theresa Kerchner  
Executive Director

Marie Ring  
Director of Membership  
and Programming



**Raegan LaRochelle**

102 Hemlock Terrace  
Augusta, ME 04330  
Phone: (207) 624-2668

[Raegan.LaRochelle@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Raegan.LaRochelle@legislature.maine.gov)

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Dear Augusta Neighbors:

It is an honor to serve you in the Maine House of Representatives. I am proud to be your advocate in the State House.

In 2021, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, my now-colleagues were able to deliver big victories for the people of Maine. They passed a two-year state budget with overwhelming bipartisan support that will stabilize property taxes, keep free breakfast and lunch available to all students and protect our natural resources. They also took steps to make health care more accessible, made much-needed investments in our infrastructure and allocated federal relief funds to help small businesses, fill workforce shortages and expand access to child care.

As I write this, I am newly elected to the Maine House and join my colleagues for the second year of the two-year term in January 2022. In the coming months, I will be working to build on these successes and focusing on the areas where more work is needed. That includes expanding access to affordable housing, combatting the opioid epidemic and strengthening our workforce, among other issues.

I am proud to be serving on the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee, where we oversee legislation related to economic development, student debt relief, consumer protection, research and development and occupational licensing. I am thrilled to be immersed in these policy areas and look forward to all the work we have ahead of us this session.

Whether we are dealing with the above issues or any other topic, I am committed to working with all of my colleagues, regardless of party affiliation, to make sure we are doing the best work we can for the people of Augusta and all the people of Maine.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance or if you would like to discuss or testify on any legislation. My email is [Raegan.LaRochelle@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Raegan.LaRochelle@legislature.maine.gov). My phone number is 207-624-2668. I also send out periodic email newsletters. Please let me know if you would like to receive them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raegan LaRochelle".

Raegan LaRochelle  
State Representative

District 86: Augusta (part)

ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
MAINE

133 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 224-5344  
Website: <https://www.King.Senate.gov>

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 3, 2022

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
CHAIRMAN, STRATEGIC FORCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
BUDGET  
ENERGY AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL PARKS  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
INTELLIGENCE  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Dear Friends,

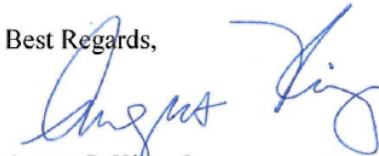
On the heels of 2020's challenges, 2021 brought us both amazing progress and frustrating setbacks. The incredible rollout of several effective, FDA approved COVID-19 vaccines helped reduce the risks of this deadly pandemic – but vaccine hesitancy, combined with the dangers of new variants, have prolonged this crisis and created new risks for Maine people. The challenges raised tension levels to boiling points during the fallout of the 2020 presidential election and the January 6<sup>th</sup> Capitol attack. But despite that, Congress was able to deliver for a nation gripped by an unprecedented pandemic. As we reflect back on the year, we see the important action that will make a difference for Maine people – as well as work still unfinished.

As COVID-19 continued to impact communities across our state and the country, Congress's first priority this year was to confront the pandemic's health threats and economic toll. We immediately got to work on the *American Rescue Plan*, crafting an emergency bill to meet the moment and get our nation back on stable footing. The legislation delivered essential support to businesses facing crises, households in need, and the medical professionals on the front lines of this fight. The funds helped get vaccine shots in arms, while also confronting the damage done to our economy. All told, the *American Rescue Plan* is bringing billions of dollars to Maine, helping the state continue to push through this crisis and bounce back stronger than ever.

After passing the *American Rescue Plan*, Congress turned its attention to a longstanding but unfulfilled priority: infrastructure. Through hard work and compromise, both parties came together to pass a bipartisan bill that finally addresses key infrastructure needs. For Maine people, the bill means an estimated \$1.5 billion to repair crumbling roads and out-of-date bridges, \$390 million to improve access to clean drinking water, and more. I am most excited about the significant funding for broadband – because, as we have seen during the pandemic, broadband is a necessity to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. The historic investments in the bipartisan infrastructure bill, combined with additional funding I pushed for in the *American Rescue Plan*, will bring an estimated \$400 million for broadband home to Maine. These funds will be nothing short of transformational, creating new opportunities across our state.

These two bills have made and will continue to make a real difference for Maine people, helping to both address the challenges of COVID-19 and lay a foundation for long-term success. I am proud of what we've accomplished this year – but I know there is still a lot of work to do and that the road ahead is challenging. Even still, I am filled with optimism because I know the true nature of our citizens, though challenged, has not changed. Despite every hardship, people in towns and communities have stepped up with strong local leadership, a willingness to help, and a Maine 'neighborhood' spirit. It is why I truly believe we can and will get through anything together. Mary and I wish you a happy, healthy, and safe 2022.

Best Regards,



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

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Dear Friends:

I am deeply honored to serve the people of Maine in the U.S. Senate, and I welcome this opportunity to share some of the areas I have been working on over the past year.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose enormous challenges for our state and our country. When the pandemic began, I co-authored the Paycheck Protection Program that helped small businesses remain afloat and keep their employees paid. In Maine, our small businesses received more than 47,000 forgivable loans totaling \$3.2 billion. I also led efforts to provide relief for loggers, lobstermen, and bus companies.

In addition, I helped secure \$700 million to assist Maine's overwhelmed hospitals and nursing homes, and a new law I led prevented Medicare payment cuts to help further ease the financial strain on our hospitals. I also urged the CDC to update its recommendations so that our students and teachers could safely return to their classrooms, and I pressed the Administration to end the closure of the U.S.-Canada border.

While addressing the pandemic has been a major focus, I've also worked hard to ensure Maine's other needs are met. A group of 10 Senators, of which I was a part, negotiated the landmark bipartisan infrastructure bill that was signed into law in November. I co-authored the section of the bill that will provide Maine with as much as \$300 million to expand high-speed internet in rural and underserved areas.

Soaring inflation is another crisis, particularly when it comes to the cost of heating oil. I have strongly supported federal programs that help Maine families stay warm. In November, Maine was awarded \$35 million to help low-income Mainers pay their energy bills. And the bipartisan infrastructure bill included \$3.5 billion to help families make energy efficiency improvements that would permanently lower their heating costs.

As a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, I have supported investments in Maine's communities. This year's funding bills include \$265 million I championed for 106 projects across Maine. These projects would help create jobs, improve workforce training, address the opioid crisis, and increase access to childcare and health care services. In addition, I worked to reverse proposed cuts to our Navy in order to help protect America and keep the skilled workers at Bath Iron Works on the job. The bills also include \$475 million for the construction of a new dry dock at Maine's Portsmouth Naval Shipyard that will allow the Navy to continue to carry out its submarine missions. I will keep working to get these important bills enacted.

No one works harder than the people of Maine, and this year I honored that work ethic when I cast my 8,000<sup>th</sup> consecutive vote, becoming the only Senator in history to do so without ever having missed a roll call vote. The Lugar Center at Georgetown University once again ranked me as the most bipartisan Senator for the eighth year in a row.

In the New Year, I will keep working to solve problems and make life better for the people of Maine and America. May 2022 be a happy, healthy, and successful one for you, your family, and our state.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

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Assistant City Manager  
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4. Eric W. Lind  
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Economic Development Director  
Keith Luke  
626-2365

Airport Manager  
John A. Guimond  
626-2306

Codes Director  
Robert Overton  
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Facilities Manager  
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Child Care Director  
Bethany Sproul  
626-2350

CTV-7  
Andrew Collar  
626-2542

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626-2325

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Sarah Schultz-Nielsen  
626-2415

Old Fort Western Director/Curator  
Linda Novak  
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Jared Mills  
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Solid Waste Director  
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