

**To: Mayor Isganifis and Members of the Council**  
**From: James D. Chaousis II, City Manager**  
**Date: August 28, 2015**  
**RE: City Manager's Weekly Report**

#### **OFFICE OF THE CITY ASSESSOR**

- Processed Real Estate Transfers, updating parcel cards, sales book, and property splits.
- Processed Personal Property accounts, updating ownership, owned items, depreciation, State BETR'S 801 returns, BETE exemptions.
- Processed building permits, reviewing, updating property cards and assessments.
- Analyzing qualified sales of all properties and neighborhoods for a fair and equitable assessment.
- Completing State forms and returning for processing.
- Updating GIS with the new splits and merging parcels.
- Listening and reviewing properties at the property owner's request.
- Updating Tax Maps and posting to the web site.
- The commitment date is August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Tax Bills were in the mail this week.

#### **OFFICE OF THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

- Catinka Knoth's Children's class drew scenes of a Maine Country Fair; the theme for the Adult class was a lobster boat heading home by Marshall Point.
- This was an on week for the Lego™ Club.
- Keith hosted the Monday evening Drop-in Tech Help.
- Thanks so very much to Public Services for re-hanging a mirror, which somehow wandered off the wall of the restroom in the old wing.
- Tim Curran, from Maine Controls, fixed an issue with the Building Automation System which runs the HVAC, at no charge to the Library.
- I met with Alexis Iammarino (Arts in Action) to discuss the conception of a community-created mural in the Library stairwell. Arts in Action is a project to create opportunities for youth and community members to put Arts in Action through public and mural art projects. Teaching artist Alexis Iammarino collaborates with local artists, organizations, businesses, and schools like the Rockland After-School Alliance, and city departments, such as Parks and Recreation. Arts in Action is supported by RSU13 Adult & Community Education. Mural Arts paints supplies are made available for these projects through SaturdayStudio at the Rockland Rec. Art supplies are donations from the community.
- The Library co-sponsored an event with Area Interfaith Outreach, Knox County Meals on Wheels, and St. Bernard's Soup Kitchen. This program included the powerful documentary "A Place at the Table" featuring actor Jeff Bridges, who founded the End Hunger Network, as well as a six-minute AIO video created by Maine Media Workshops about the impact of hunger on Knox County school

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children. If you've not already seen the statistics, 91% at South Elementary School in Rockland live in food insecure homes. Almost all. At Rockland District Middle School, it's 65%. Two out of three. Representatives of the sponsoring food pantry discussed the rising need for food they are witnessing, invited discussion of what is being done, and elicited ideas for how to stem this tide. Here's a link to the 6-minute [film](#).

- For Wednesday Storytime, Jean Young's program was all about fishing. Books read included *Going Fishing*, by Bruce McMillan, *Jack's New Boat*, by Sarah McMenemy, as well as non-fiction titles *Freshwater Fishing*, by Carol K. Lindeen and *The Young Fishing Enthusiast: a Practical Guide for Kids*, by John Bailey. Following the reading, Jean brought out two fishing poles and lots of colorful fish to catch for the bucket. Half hour later and they were still "fishing."
- Mark was on site to gather some additional information for the engineering report from Casco Bay and Resurgence Engineering, which we are still awaiting.
- Friends' Board Member Jeanie Schaden was this week's storyteller at the Rockland Farmers' Market Storytime. Jeanie reported that this was a record day.
- The Thursday Evening Arts and Cultural Event was the Nature Documentary: *Winged Migration*, hosted by local film maven Erika Pfander. Three years of shooting were needed by five teams in order to follow bird migrations flying over the seven continents: from one pole to another, from the seas to snow-capped mountains, from the canopy of heaven to mangroves and swamps.
- Upcoming: Award-winning music producer, critic and translator Lawrence Schulman, who lives on Mount Desert Island, will give a talk on Judy Garland, entitled "Moments of Magic; also, a talk on quarries, co-sponsored with the Georges River Land trust.

### **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

#### **D/C Young –**

- Met with Patrol Sergeants regarding the start of the school year. Emphasis was placed on radar details in school zones and school visits as the school year for RSU 13 begins on 08/31/15.
- Is in the processes of coordinating the department computer upgrade with Don Fowles.
- Preparing for Chris Milne's (new hire) arrival to Rockland P.D. on 08/31/15 and working with the Criminal Justice Academy to make sure that he completes all of the prerequisites necessary to attending the Academy in January of 2016.
- Worked with Gordon Page of Rockland Main St. Inc. to educate the downtown business owners as to why the pedestrian crosswalk signs cannot be placed in the middle of the road. According to D.O.T. it is against the law to place the signs in the middle of a one way street that has two or more lanes.

#### **C.I.D –**

- Det/Sgt. Thompson and Det. Neal went to all of the elderly/assisted living facilities in Rockland to hand out literature regarding identity theft and fraud. The Detectives are also working with representatives from these facilities in order to

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conduct speaking engagements that will reinforce the information contained in the literature.

### **Patrol Division –**

- Sgt. Finnegan attended a two day training on supervising critical incidents.
- Patrol Sergeants continue to deploy motorcycle, bicycle and foot patrols as weather and staffing allows.
- Radar details are being conducted at various locations throughout the city.
- This week the patrol division handled 181 complaints and conducted 18 traffic stops. This resulted in 11 people being arrested or summonsed for various violations.

### **OFFICE OF THE HARBORMASTER**

- A good week – the fog and consistent drizzle slowed the amount of boat traffic in and out of the harbor. It meant a busier than normal weekend on our rental moorings and at the dock, like so many businesses in Maine we enjoy the lowery weather.
- With the start of school, our summer dock stewards are all flying the coop and going to their chosen schools – two to college and one back to high school. We'll muddle on without them.
- I think we've got all of our Department of Labor projects taken care of, mostly small repairs and some written procedures. I will say that all of their rules make sense, safety really is important, and in the hubbub of day-to-day work it is easy to let compliance slide.

### **OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF**

Over the past week, in addition to the general response to 44 Fire and EMS calls, conducting apparatus checks, daily cleaning, routine repairs and maintenance to the fleet and of the quarters, the following occurred:

- While Tower 3 passed its inspection there were a few items that were flagged to be addressed. Our mechanic found a bad brake cam that had to be replaced.
- All three shifts spent about one hour each passing out flyers informing people about the Red Cross Home Fire Preparedness Campaign. We were able to target three neighborhoods so far and hand out about 150 flyers. We intend for each shift to do the same over the next three days. The response has been very positive and we're optimistic that many residents will take advantage of the program.
- I attended a meeting of the local EMS Service Chief's. This is a group that has not been very active over the past decade but is finally starting to come together to work on common issues.
- On Wednesday our personnel trained with our new Thermal Imagers. While the basic operation and function is the same, due to the environment they are used in, being very familiar with how they work and what looks normal can be extremely important when things are anything but normal.

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### **OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR**

- Trash pick-up City-wide.
- Culvert repair on Oliver Street.
- Watered flowers.
- Cold patching.
- Basin repairs and ditching on Oliver Street.
- Road side trash pick-up.
- Helped out with miscellaneous projects at Library.
- Weed trimming on Mechanic Street.
- Hauled loam to landfill.
- Brush trimming around street signs.
- Sink hole repair on Grove Street.
- Brush cutting along walking trail at treatment plant.
- Landfill mowing, compost, repair around tire pile.
- Swept streets.

### **OFFICE OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

- John met with a person interested in selling used cars at 734 Main Street.
- John and Dave have spent a considerable amount of time recently dealing with complaints ranging from overgrown grass and excessive rubbish/trash, to bed bugs and pigs.
- There were five complaints filed this week.
- The following permits were received by the Code Office this week:
  - 5 Building permits
  - 2 Electrical permits
  - 2 Plumbing permits
  - 1 Sewer Connection permit
  - 2 Street/Sidewalk Encumbrance permits

### **OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL FISH PIER DIRECTOR**

- No fish were landed this week. All herring caught are landed in Boothbay Harbor, Portland or Portsmouth. The fish are schooling off the Isle of Shoals.
- Normal maintenance, trash pick-up, washing down of pier, etc.
- ECO-Analysts Inc. has submitted the sample analysis plan request for off shore disposal to the Army Corp. We have been provided with a copy of the sample analysis plan.