

FALL 2021

NEW BRANDING

In 2021, the City of Lewiston unveiled a new logo and branding campaign. The reimagined logo, in a honeycomb shape, pays homage to the beehive found on top of the original city seal, and represents Lewiston's industrial history, bustling activity, and architecture.

The Lewiston Public Library, as a department of the City of Lewiston, also adopted a new logo. The process included input from City Administration, Library staff, the Board of Trustees, as well as the Friends of the Library Board. Our new logo merges the new City honeycomb shape and the people silhouettes from our previous logo, a symbol of the Library's role in bringing the community together.

New banners which match the branding and colors were hung on the exterior of the Library building, and thanks to generous support from the Friends of the Library, the website (lplonline.org) was modified and modernized to match the new style.

SMILE ON THE FRIENDS AT AMAZON.COM

When you shop online at Amazon.com for books (or anything!), you can support the Friends of LPL while doing that shopping. Just go to Smile.Amazon.com and type in 'Lewiston Public Library' as your organization to support. By doing so, a small donation from each sale comes to the Friends without adding one penny to the price of your purchase!

FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING & BOOK SALE

The annual meeting of the Friends of LPL will take place on Saturday, December 4th at 10 AM in the Library's Callahan Hall. Our business meeting will include the election of new officers. All are invited to attend.

The meeting will be followed by a book sale, which will run until 3 PM. The sale will include a large selection of fiction and nonfiction items across all ages and media; including print books, audiobooks, music CDs, and DVDs.

Shoppers will be able to fill bags of varying sizes for

flat pricing. Payment will be accepted in cash or check only. More details about the sale will be available at the Library's website (lplonline.org).

RENEW YOUR FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP TODAY

Included in this Friends Focus mailing is our annual membership appeal. Please consider joining or renewing today. Your donation really makes a difference and goes directly towards expanding Library programs and resources for the entire community.

Did you know that you can make a one-time or recurring donation through PayPal using the Library website? Visit <http://lplonline.org/about/support-the-library/friends/> to find out more. Thank you for your gifts!

FRIENDS PANDEMIC ASSISTANCE

Throughout much of 2021, the Library has offered a robust and professional slate of virtual programming, largely due to access to its own professional Zoom webinar account. This account was subsidized by the Maine State Library, with the balance covered by the Friends of the Library. The highly popular Great Falls Forum series has benefited greatly by this because, in its virtual format, the average attendance has been over 60 viewers per program, many of these first-time attendees. Our programs can be viewed live on Zoom or Facebook, and they all are archived on the Library's YouTube page for later viewing. This series will continue in its virtual format at least through January. A decision for February through May location will be pending further pandemic developments.

LEWISTON PUBLIC LIBRARY COVID-19 STATUS

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Library staff have followed research updates, CDC bulletins, and have been in regular contact with colleagues at other libraries, both in Maine and throughout the country. Any change to Library services were made carefully and deliberately, with a commitment to providing as many services as possible while keeping Library patrons and staff safety in mind.

Over the course of 2021, the Lewiston Public Library

restored browsing access in the building initially in short blocks to minimize transmission risk. As vaccination availability increased and staffing levels were restored to pre-pandemic levels, normal operating hours were able to return in August.

In September, however, due to the surge in cases driven by the delta variant of the virus, the decision was made to once again require masks in the Library. This will allow the many children who visit the building (and are not yet eligible for vaccination) to be better protected. Masking inside will remain in effect whenever community transmission levels for Androscoggin County are classified by the U.S. CDC as Moderate, Substantial, or High, mirroring the policy passed by the Lewiston School Committee.

FALL PROGRAMMING—IN PERSON, AND VIRTUAL, AND ASYNCHRONOUS—OH MY!

Our fall has included a mix of in-person, virtual, and asynchronous self-led programs as staff endeavor to meet different comfort levels and interests. An in-person “Do It Yourself Pickling” program, presented in partnership with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, and sponsored by the Friends of the Library, was so popular that a wait list had to be created! Other in-person programs have included a game night for adults, a crafting program, and for children, a pumpkin decorating program, in partnership with the Lewiston Recreation Department. We also had an outdoor theater performance, in Kennedy Park, presented by LPL and the University of Southern Maine.

Our virtual programs have included an overview of the *Artemis Project* presented by a NASA communications strategist and our Great Falls Forum; while our asynchronous programming includes October’s 2 *Sentence Horror Story* contest and a *Teen Manga Battle* contest.

The most current information on all LPL programs, is available at our website lplonline.org.

SUMMER 2021

This year’s Summer Reading Program, themed *Tails and Tales*, was streamlined across kids, teen, and adult age groups to encourage whole-family participation. All three programs used a “passport” system to track reading and participation in various programs, outdoor or virtual, held throughout the summer. All child and teen participants received a free book (funded by the Friends of the Library) every time they

completed a passport, and all participants were entered into end-of-summer prize giveaways.

The Children’s Department hosted several programs using Kennedy Park as our site. This series was sponsored entirely by funds from the Friends of the Library budget. Programs included two animal shows: *Mr. Drew and His Animals Too*, as well as *Sparks Ark*. Our finale featured musical storyteller Judy Pancoast.

Teen programming largely took place virtually, over Instagram Stories and used the new Teen Discord server, a safe online gathering space for teens, supervised in partnership with the Portland Public Library.

Summer programming for adults kicked off with a storytelling evening with Phyllis Blackstone. This program was presented in person while being streamed live. This allowed us to reach a variety of Library patrons at their comfort level during the pandemic. The Center for Wildlife presented a virtual program on nocturnal animals, and the Southworth Planetarium led attendees in a stargazing program one evening in Kennedy Park. Friends of LPL funds were able to cover presenter fees across all age groups, while also supporting the purchase of tables and chairs which staff can use at outdoor events as needed.

MAINE STATE PARKS—MAINE WILDLIFE PARK—CHILDREN’S MUSEUM & THEATER PASS PROGRAM

Did you know that free admission passes to Maine State Parks are available to check out through the Library? In 2021, these passes were sponsored entirely by the Friends of the Library. Each State Parks pass provides free admission for a car load; an LPL cardholder may check out a parks pass for 24 hours. Discounted passes to the Maine Wildlife Park and the Children’s Museum & Theatre of Maine are also available. Contact the Children’s Department at 513-3133 for more information.

LPL FULL-TIME STAFF DIRECTORY

Administration: Marcela Peres and Rosey Davis
Lending Services: Katherine Webber and Alex Richey
Adult & Teen Services: Steve Bouchard, Harper Chance, and Izzy Ruta
Children’s Services: Sara Turner, Ian Cunningham, and Ivy Moser
Collection Services: Karen Jones and Josh Gauthier 🌍