

City of Lewiston Press Release

Members of the Media: Below is a press release announcing a day of celebration in Lewiston, with an itinerary that includes a an 11 a.m. press event and various meetings on **November 15th** – Lewiston has won \$60,000 in universally accessible playground equipment and design, development, and educational programming assistance from Landscape Structures and Shane’s Inspiration. **Please spread the word – community involvement is welcome!** Thanks, Dottie

PRESS RELEASE
November 7, 2011

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEWISTON: On **November 15th**, the City of Lewiston will host an **11 a.m. press event** to accept a \$60,000 check towards the development of a **universally accessible playground at Marcotte Park—where children and families of all abilities can play together!**

The reason being is that the City of Lewiston is a regional winner of a Shane’s Inspiration **“Together We Play”** contest, whereby it will receive \$10,000 in universally accessible playground equipment from Landscape Structures and \$50,000 in design, development, and educational programming assistance from Shane’s Inspiration. **Special out-of-state guests in attendance at all gatherings on November 15th will be Shane’s Inspiration CEO/Co-Founder Tiffany Harris, Director of Project Development Brad Thornton, and Director of Design Virginia Hatley, as well as a representative from Landscape Structures.**

In July, 2011 when considering a contest application, Lewiston invited community stakeholders to the table, namely those who interact with children and families who could benefit from a universally accessible playground. After much discussion, a supportive Lewiston City Council resolution, a 1000-word essay, a YouTube video, and multiple support letters were submitted as a contest entry on July 29, 2011. First notified as a **“Top Ten”** regional winner on September 20th, Lewiston received the **“WIN”** call on September 27th.

Lewiston, Maine, was part of the region that consisted of Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. Other regional winners were: South Elgin, Illinois; Keller, Texas; Gig Harbor, Washington; and Elmira, Ontario – Canada.;

Since then, municipal staff has been regularly communicating with Shane's Inspiration regarding the November 15th announcement, check presentation, and day of community engagement, all focusing on the forthcoming playground. **The November 15th itinerary is below, and all meetings will occur in the Lewiston City Council Chambers, 1st Floor, 27 Pine Street.**

At **8:30 a.m. a site visit** will occur at Marcotte Park, Lewiston.

At **9:15 a.m., "stakeholders"** who participated in the application process will meet to discuss their collective vision for the project.

At **11 a.m., the press event with a check presentation** will occur with Shane's and Landscape Structures representatives speaking, along with Mayor Laurent F. Gilbert, Sr., and staff. Next steps in the process will be highlighted.

At **1:00 p.m.** the reps will meet with **Lewiston's Planning, Public Works, and Engineering staff** in regards to the actual design of the playground, of which Shane's Director of Design Virginia Hatley will thereafter prepare a visionary rendering.

Then at **2:30 p.m., a Community Options & Priority Session** will take place, whereby members of the community can discuss how the park, once developed, can be sustained for the long term. **Members of the public who have an interest in this new opportunity for Lewiston are welcome to attend the 2:30 p.m. session, to include children who may want to bring drawings of what their "dream universally accessible playground" would entail.**

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