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Jake Paris Lewiston's Employee of the Year

PRESS RELEASE: September 26, 2008

The City of Lewiston celebrated its municipal employees last evening with Lewiston Public Library Technician Jake Paris surprised as "2008 Employee of the Year."

City Administrator James A. Bennett presented him with the award, "**Jake is always ready to take on new assignments, always looking for ways to improve the workplace, and never fails to live up to the highest standards. In addition, not only is he a measure of success, but he also works to help co-workers succeed.**"

An employee since 2002, Paris works in the Library Children's Room where he provides services to children, parents, and care givers; conducts various programs, to include Story Time and the after-school Book Buddies program; and uses his arts abilities to create various informational and promotional materials. He also played a key role in re-designing the Library's web pages.

Rick Speer, Director of the Lewiston Public Library, noted, "**He regularly contributes to the children's section of the web pages, making them one of the best in the State.**"

In addition, Paris recently volunteered for two community-wide projects: designing the new joint Lewiston-Auburn library card which will be unveiled at an October 1st press conference and creating a logo for YADA, a youth/adult dialogue project.

He also taught himself to play guitar since working at the Library, as he believes guitar-playing enables him to better connect with visiting children. Paris is also an expressive storyteller and has initiated two annual sing-alongs: the August Campfire event and a holiday sing-along in December.

Other awards presented during the evening included Bennett presenting **Human Resources Assistant Irene Dostie with an Initiative Award**. Dostie coordinates the annual employee recognition event and was completely taken off guard when Bennett began talking about her professional interaction with employees and retirees. He added, "**I don't believe there's a person who cares more about those who work for the City of Lewiston than Irene Dostie.**"

Additional awards bestowed by Bennett during the evening were:

- **Customer Service Award**
 - **Debra Morin** (Lewiston Fire Department)
- **Professional Technical Award**
 - **Mark McComas** (Economic/Community Dev.); **Jon Elie** (PW)
- **Management Award**
 - **Ron DeBlois** - (MIS)

Department Heads also presented commendations to stand-out employees within their respective departments, to include: **Fire Private Don Lagrange, Fire Inspector/Investigator Paul Ouellette, City Treasurer Paul Labrecque, MIS LAN Administrator Moe Pelletier, Police Officer Tom Murphy, Police Officer Justin Kittredge, Public Works (PW) Solid Waste Worker Debbie Clark, PW Highway Worker Bob Bolduc, PW District Team Manager Marcel Roy, Public Services Pump Station Worker Jack St. Jean, and Public Services Water & Sewer Service Person Tom Freitas.**

Service awards for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years of service were also given to



Employee of the Year 2008 Jake Paris with his wife Monique

various employees, and **one retirement award** was given out to William "Safety Bill" Stretton, formerly of Human Resources. Upon receiving a service pin, each employee shook the hands of members of the Lewiston City Council and Lewiston department heads. Deputy City Administrator Phil Nadeau served as Master of Ceremonies for the annual event.

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