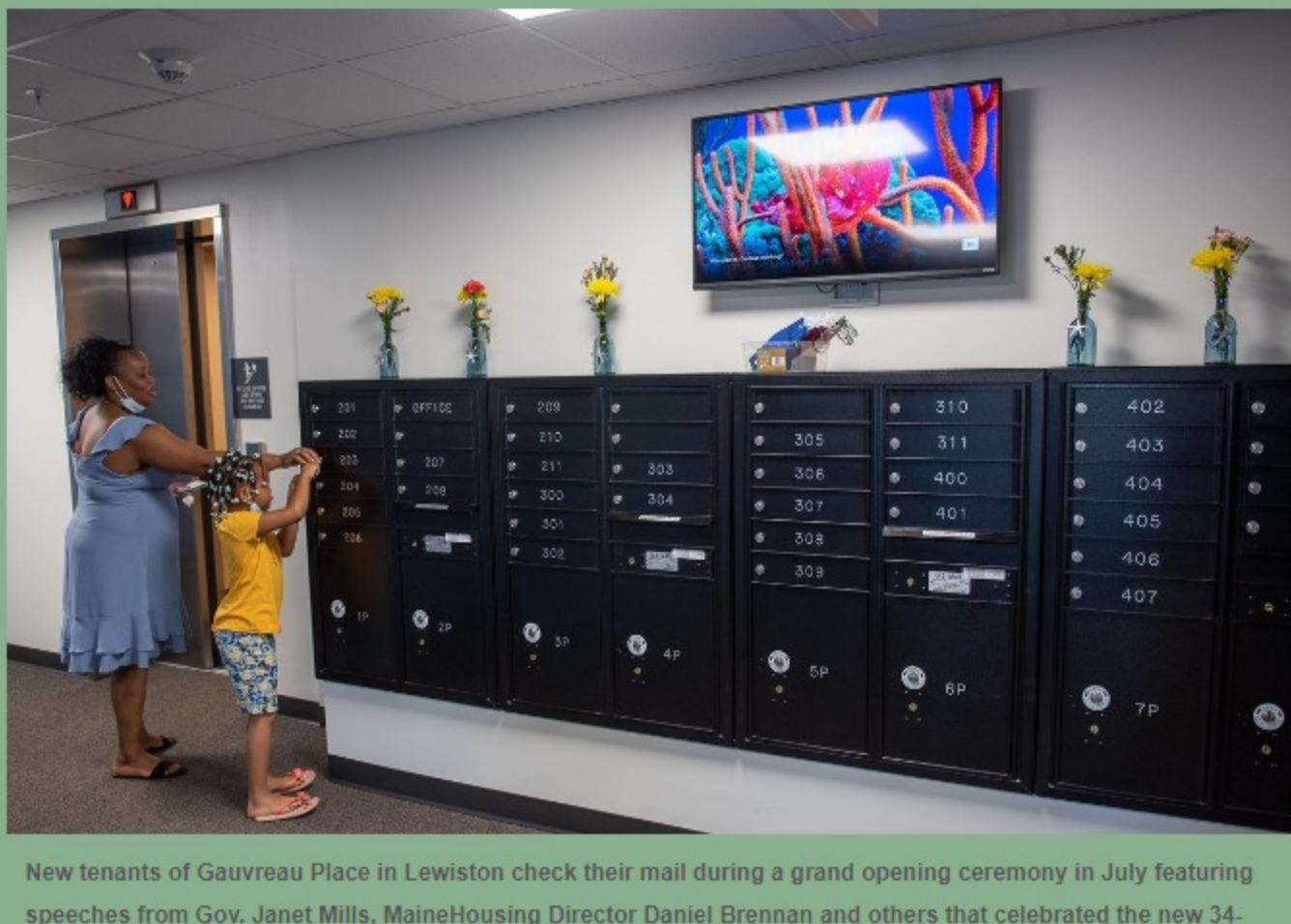


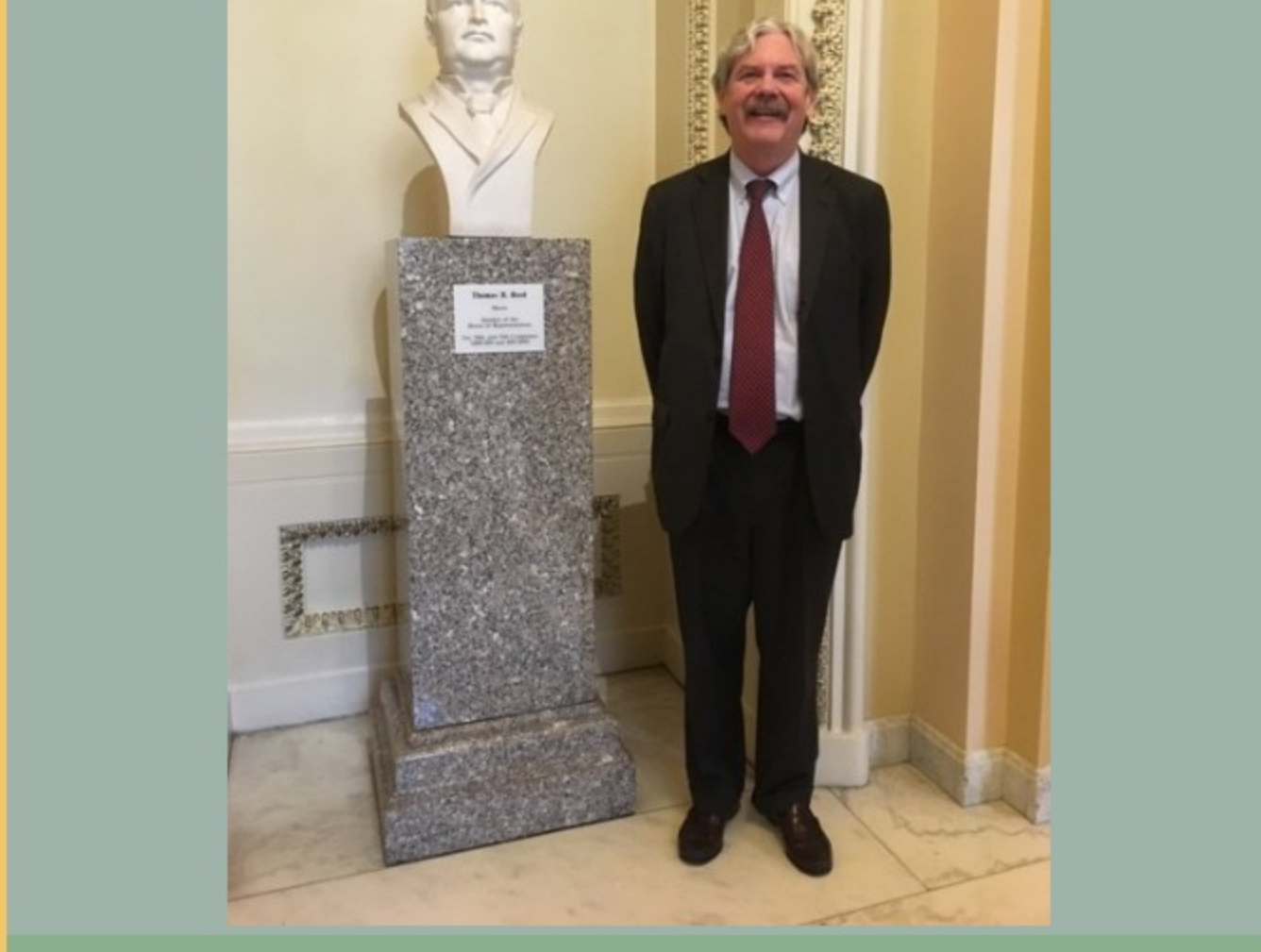
MaineHousing News Summer 2022



New tenants of Gauvreau Place in Lewiston check their mail during a grand opening ceremony in July featuring speeches from Gov. Janet Mills, MaineHousing Director Daniel Brennan and others that celebrated the new 34-unit development in the city's downtown. The development is named in memory of the late attorney Paul Gauvreau, a Lewiston native and long-time advocate for affordable housing. (Photo courtesy Russ Dillingham/Sun Journal) See the Sun Journal's complete photo gallery from the event [here](#).

MaineHousing Staff News

Merrill to Retire in September of 2022



In July, long-time MaineHousing Deputy Director **Peter Merrill** announced he would be retiring in September. Among the dozens of roles Peter has played with the agency since joining it in 1995 he is widely known as MaineHousing's chief advocate at the State House in Augusta. "He has steadfastly guarded our finances and programs against legislative and congressional invasion, and has led us as Acting Director more than once, during the best of times and the worst of times, always with steady, strong and loyal leadership," MaineHousing Director Daniel Brennan wrote in an email to staff announcing Peter's retirement. In one of his final meetings with MaineHousing's leadership team, Peter reminded them of his high standards for accomplishment. "Don't try your best," Merrill said. "Solve the damn problem."

Janotta Promoted to Chief Counsel



In April, **Ashley Janotta** took over as Chief Counsel for the agency following the retirement of Linda Uhl, who served as the agency's lead attorney and Chief Counsel for 25 years.

Uhl retired to pursue a second career as a licensed clinical mental health counselor. In announcing Uhl's retirement Brennan said, "She has really helped shape this agency for the last quarter century and will be hard to replace, for sure!"

Janotta is a University of Maine Law School graduate and joined MaineHousing in June of 2021.

Some Day Soon We May Be Printing The Affordable Homes We Need For Maine

With a record number of developments in the pipeline, our Development Department continues to find creative and innovative ways to stretch our subsidy dollars. But beyond all the visible deals they are bringing to the table each week, MaineHousing Development Director Mark Wiesendanger and his team have played a key role in the development of some cutting edge housing technology in collaboration with the University of Maine at Orono. An idea that was seeded in an email from Mark to Habib Dahger, the Executive Director of the UMaine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center, more than two years ago, is literally starting to take shape in the form of a 3-D printed house. Known as "additive manufacturing", ASCC's team believes they will be able to fully print a two-bedroom home in less than 80 hours. The kicker being the resin the home is printed from is made from residual wood fiber and corn-based binder making a material that's not only environmentally sound but many times stronger than concrete. A small group of MaineHousing employees toured the lab in early July to see parts of the house being printed and to learn about the technology up close. The experience left all in awe of the potential this technology may have in helping create affordable housing more quickly in the future with homegrown materials and technology developed by the best and brightest from Maine. "This homegrown technology coming from our own University of Maine is something we can all be really proud of," MaineHousing Director Daniel Brennan said. "Not only does it put our state at the front of the pack in solving the housing crisis, it will also directly make housing more attainable and affordable for thousands of Maine families."

Meanwhile, Mark's role in the work also made him a sought out source by the state's media including Maine Public and the Maine Sunday Telegram. You can read more about it [here](#) or listen to the report on Maine Public's website [here](#).



AT THE LAB: MaineHousing staff joined about two dozen others, including state lawmakers, during a tour of the University of Maine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center as they learned more about how the center is using the world's largest 3-D printer to print a house. Here ASCC's Executive Director Habib Dahger looks on as the center's Chief Operations Engineer Evan Gilman explains how it all works. Can you spot anyone you recognize? (Photo courtesy University of Maine System)

First Home Program On Blistering Pace

As of mid-August our Homeownership team was on track to far outpace loan production year over year with more than \$74 million in the homeownership loan pipeline compared to \$47 million for the same period in 2021. While mortgage interest rates have almost doubled since this time last year, MaineHousing's rate remains well below the market rate in Maine, which will help a projected 900 households find their way to homeownership this year alone. Additionally, in April, MaineHousing [boosted its closing cost and down payment assistance](#) for eligible buyers from \$3,500 to \$5,000. You can see all of our First Home production numbers [here](#).

MaineHousing Development:

Units under construction: 974

Units in the MaineHousing pipeline: 3,671

All development data can be viewed on the development [dashboard](#).



Wessex Woods in Portland, a MaineHousing-financed affordable housing development with 40 units, was one of 16 developments and 605 new units of housing that came on line in 2021. (MaineHousing photo)



In June, MaineHousing joined the Bath Housing Authority and leaders from the Szanton Company in celebrating the groundbreaking of the Uptown development on the corner of Front and Summer Streets, which will create 50 new affordable housing units for older Mainers. (MaineHousing photo)



From left, Avesta Housing's Dana Totman, MaineHousing Direct Daniel Brennan, Lewiston Mayor Carl Sheline, and Maine Governor Janet Mills share a moment during a ribbon cutting ceremony at Gauvreau Place, a 34-unit building, that opened in downtown Lewiston in July. (MaineHousing photo)

MaineHousing's 2021 Annual Report

The 2021 Annual Report is available [online here](#). You can also pick up a hard copy of the report at our offices at 26 Edison Drive in Augusta.



Looking Ahead to Fall And Heating Season

In July and August, MaineHousing has been working closely with the state's U.S. Congressional delegation and the Governor's Office in an effort to secure additional Home Energy Assistance Program funding to offset the staggeringly high price of heating oil. And while news of whether those efforts will be successful or not is yet to be known, MaineHousing has begun rolling out several program changes aimed at making the HEAP application process more streamlined and easier for clients to access. These changes include a new online application portal set to launch in early fall and new categorical eligibility that will make the program more easily available to households already eligible for other public benefits.



Data Dashboards

To see all the current data on MaineHousing programs visit our program dashboards [here](#).



MaineHousing has helped Maine people own, rent, repair, and heat their homes since 1969. MaineHousing is an independent state authority created to address the problems of unsafe, unsuitable, overcrowded, and unaffordable housing. MaineHousing is a \$2.1 billion financial institution with a staff of over 190 people. MaineHousing assists more than 90,000 Maine households and invests more than \$300 million in the Maine economy annually.



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