

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF AUBURN**



PROCLAMATION

FOOD DAY FOR THE CITY OF AUBURN

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of our citizens is of primary concern for the City of Auburn; and

WHEREAS, promoting safer, healthier diets is a critical factor in improving citizens' overall health and quality of life and local organizations such as the St. Mary's Nutrition Center are supporting area residents in learning how to create healthier, locally sourced meals at home; and

WHEREAS, supporting sustainable family farms, farm stands, farmers' markets and local agriculture benefits the local economy and Auburn is home to many including Valley View Farm, Bell Farms, South Auburn Organic Farm, Wallingford's and others in addition to farm stands and local food markets like the well-known Blackie's and 4 Season Farm Market and access to nearby markets like the blossoming Bates Mill 5 Farmers' Market in Lewiston; and

WHEREAS, Auburn's investment in market analysis and business assistance needs for local food, agricultural, and natural resource-based enterprises is further demonstration of the importance of this sector to growing our local economy; and

WHEREAS, obtaining fair pay and safe conditions for food and farm workers, and supporting the training and development of that workforce, is beneficial for both the producer and consumer so that the food we produce and consume is safe and accessible; and

WHEREAS, community-centered efforts like those of Lewiston-based Lots to Gardens, which supports management of Auburn's community garden near the PAL Center, Portland-based Cultivating Community and the Auburn School Department to connect the science and business planning of agriculture to students will help build the foundation for Auburn's local food efforts into the future;

WHEREAS, expanding access to food and reducing hunger is of critical importance to aid those who live in food deserts and efforts led by Good Food Council of Lewiston-Auburn, Auburn-based Good Shepherd Food Bank, and the growing food BackPack initiative in our locals schools are modeling the way to support our local residents in overcoming this challenge;

WHEREAS, the Auburn City Council has passed a resolve to consider in decision-making the food system values in the LA Community Food Charter created by the Good Food Council of LA;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jonathan P. LaBonte, Mayor of the great City of Auburn, do hereby proclaim Monday, October 24, 2016 as **FOOD DAY** in the City of Auburn, and I urge all citizens to participate in the activities in Lewiston-Auburn planned by Healthy Androscoggin and Lots to Gardens or consider visiting a local farm stand.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto Set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Auburn, Maine to be fixed this 17th day of October, 2016

Mayor Jonathan P. LaBonté