

Lewiston-Auburn

Raise-Op Housing Cooperative holds its grand opening

Russ Dillingham, Chief Photographer

[Lewiston-Auburn](#) | Saturday, October 22, 2016 at 7:20 pm

LEWISTON — Several dozen people, including Mayor Robert Macdonald, turned out and braved a light drizzle to stand in front of 145 Pierce St. in Lewiston Saturday afternoon for the grand opening of Raise-Op Housing Cooperative.

The downtown location will be used for resident meetings as well as the headquarters for the Somali Bantu Community Association of Lewiston-Auburn.

The event also recognized the achievements of the New Roots Cooperative Farm, which recently started a 30-acre farm in Lewiston.

The Cooperative Development Institute will announce the release of a new report *Cooperatives Build a Better Maine*, detailing the growth of the cooperative economy throughout Maine and looks at ways we can increase prosperity through cooperatively owned businesses.

October is International Co-op Month.

A variety of food was served and a discussion of the Cooperative Development Institute report was held. Participants listened and shared ideas about how to grow the cooperative economy, specifically with regard to housing, food, and employee-owned businesses.

For more information about this program, contact Jonah Fertig, Cooperative Development Institute, 207-615-9970, jfertig@cdi.coop; or Craig Saddlemire, Raise-Op Housing Cooperative, 207-312-3640, raiseop207@gmail.com.