

The Raymond Road Runner

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

FEBRUARY, 2003

Public Safety Building Open House, Saturday, February 1, 2003, 10am To 5pm

By: Denis Morse, Fire Chief

As many of you may have read in the Portland Press Herald, the Raymond Fire/Rescue is opening the doors of our new Public Safety Building for a public tour and informational day on Saturday, February 1, 2003, from 10am to 5pm.

Although not all aspects of the building will be complete and functioning, it will provide an opportunity to answer

questions and show the public our new building as well as the different pieces of apparatus during a personal visit.

The Dispatch Center is scheduled to move from the Town Hall to the new facility in late spring.

The building is being completed on budget and with only minor issues. We are excited and thankful for the continuing support

and commitment from the community.

Once complete with Dispatch and full activity, we will have a public dedication to "Chief Reg Brown and Family" and the raising of the flag. The flagpole was improved from a small 30' pole to a 50' pole with the help of Raymond's school children at their 9/11 Memorial Ceremony where they raised funds to recognize our "local heroes". Once again, the public will be

invited to celebrate the Brown's generosity and the true meaning of community spirit.

Hopefully you will all have a chance to visit the facility on February 1st or the spring dedication and see for yourselves the foundation of our future Raymond Fire/Rescue Department.

Thank you and may you have a healthy and happy New Year.

Road Runner Articles Due

Articles for the next edition of the Road Runner newsletter are due by February 15th. Please provide them by any of the following methods:

E-Mail; Diskette; Paper

Articles should be saved in Rich Text Format (RTF) on diskette or as e-mail attachments.

Send School Related Articles To:

norma.richard@raymondmaine.org
charles.miller@raymondmaine.org
or drop at a Principal's Office

Send Town related articles To:

elisa.trepanier@raymondmaine.org or
drop at Town Hall

In This Issue

News From The Raymond Village Library	2
Raymond Village Library Thursday Programs	2
Municipal News Brief	3
Food Pantry Looking For Volunteers	3
Founders Day Comm. Looking For Members .	3
Volunteer Reporters Needed	3
Raymond Needs You!	3
From The Tax Collector's Office	3
Got Extra Trash?	3
A Budget Solution	4
Balancing The Budget	4
Raymond Tomorrow!	4
Raymond Lions Club Student Of The Month..	5
Mentoring Program Featured on Channel 13	5
Raising The Bar	5
Did You Know?	5
School Budget Reflects Data Collection	6
Boston Post Cane Award Ceremony	6
JSMS Students In Leadership Workshop	6
Southern Maine Agency On Aging	6
RES Principal's Report	7
JSMS Library Receives Donations	7
NYA Honor Roll	7
PTA College Scholarships Available	7
Three Cheers For Mr. And Mrs. Stevens!	7
7th & 8th Grade Dance	7
Raymond Baseball/Softball	7
Raymond Rattlers	7
Benefit Dance	7
Girl Scout News	8
Troop 800 Report	8
Lions Club News	8

Road Runner Staff:

Kevin Woodbrey Laurie Forbes
Norma Richard Elisa Trepanier

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<http://www.raymondmaine.org>

Look under Events & News



Early morning at the new Public Safety Building

Voters Turn Down 51 Main Street Purchase At Special Town Meeting

Raymond voters gathered at the Town Office on January 7, 2003, to consider a warrant article authorizing the purchase of 51 Main Street (former site of the Post Office). The purpose of this purchase was to obtain additional property adjacent to the Library and the old District One Fire Station lot for possible use in the future as a location for either a combined Town Office / Library building or separate buildings. The article read as follows:

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to ratify the Option Agreement between the Town of Raymond and Parson's Realty Company, Inc. dated November 21, 2002; appropriate the sum of \$79,500 from Municipal Fund Balance (undesignated surplus) to purchase the former Post Office building located at 51 Main Street, Raymond, Maine; and grant the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen authority to execute any necessary documents to facilitate the purchase.
Amount requested: \$79,500.

The Selectmen recommend the amount requested.

The Budget Finance Committee * _____ the amount requested.

* The Budget Finance Committee has no recommendation due to the lack of a majority vote.

Explanation: The purpose of acquiring this property is to obtain additional land in Raymond Village for the potential future construction of improved Library and Town Office facilities. The Town presently owns the lots occupied by the Raymond Village Library and the old District One Fire Station. The property located at 51 Main Street abuts the Library lot.

The Selectmen had hoped to secure the 51 Main Street property in order to provide an additional option for future study. The Selectmen were interested in the possibility of establishing a Village Green / Town Center and in studying the feasibility of both the Town Office and the Library being located in the Village.

Special Town Meeting voters rejected this idea by a vote of 45 to 33. Several speakers felt that a comprehensive plan for the site should be developed before voter consideration regarding the purchase of any property. Other voters expressed concern over the cost of the property given its small acreage (.20) and that the building itself would be removed to create green space. Some residents felt the Town could acquire the property at a later date if it was deemed to be in the Town's interest.

Town officials acknowledged these

shortcomings in the timing of the purchase proposal but countered that the property may not be available for sale in the future, and based upon established rental income, would provide positive cash flow to the Town while options were being studied. In the event that the Village concept proved unpopular or not feasible, the 51 Main Street property could then be resold and the Town's investment recovered. Another argument supporting the location of Town facilities in the Village was the availability of public water and the associated significant savings by avoiding a well and holding tank sprinkler system.

Before the Special Town Meeting, the Selectmen formed a Town Office / Library Building Committee which will meet on a regular basis and study all available options. The first meeting of the new Town Office / Library Building Committee will be on January 30th at 7pm at the Town Office. This meeting will be organizational in nature, and subsequent meetings will be posted at the Town Office along with other Town Meeting notices, as well as on the Internet at www.raymondmaine.org. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Building Committee Meetings to share their ideas and concerns so that we can achieve the best solutions to future municipal facilities needs.

News From The Raymond Village Library

Winter Blahs or Cabin Fever getting you down? Then check out the exciting programs offered by your library. Programs include crafts for school children, travel programs and an educational reading/discussion group for adults. Read on for more details.

Let's Talk About It

The Casco and Raymond Libraries have been selected by the Maine Humanities Council to offer "Let's Talk About It", a free reading and discussion group with copies of books available through the libraries. This program is provided by the Maine Humanities Council's Maine Center for the Book in cooperation with the Maine State Library.

The series, Exploring Human Boundaries, begins Sunday, January 26, at the Casco Public Library in Casco, and continues for five sessions, through March 30. This is also available for those who may not be able to participate in all five meetings. You can join at anytime and attend whatever sessions possible.

Books to be read and discussed in this series include: *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman, *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *The Plague* by Albert Camus, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* by Jean-Dominique Bauby, and *Wit* by Margaret Edson. The discussions will be facilitated by a scholar provided by the Maine Humanities Council— Claire Knox, who formerly taught English at Northeastern University in Boston and currently teaches literature courses at Senior College at the University of Southern Maine.

"Exploring ideas and issues through literature has always been exciting, and fun," said Lizz Sinclair, director of "Let's Talk About It." "We find that there is a great interest among adults in getting together to discuss what they've read with others. Having a discussion leader like Claire Knox, who is both excited about the readings and skilled in facilitating, can help to deepen this experience."

Books for the program are available for loan at the libraries. Please call the Casco library at 627-4541 or the Raymond Library at 655-4283 to register and come in to pick up the first book of the series.

This program is offered to Maine libraries through the Maine Humanities Council by a grant from the Belvedere

Fund of the Maine Community Foundation.

For Children

The Toddler Time and Story Time themes on Thursdays will include Valentines Day, Groundhog Day and Dental Health. Check out the additional article in this edition of the Road Runner regarding the children's Thursday morning programs.

There will be a special Dr. Seuss night at the library on March 5 from 6:30 – 7:30, it will be hosted by Kim Copperthwaite, who works with Margaret Mains – Title I specialist at the Raymond Elementary School. There will be stories, games and fun for the whole family.

On Wednesday, February 15, from 2:30–3:30, during school vacation week, Sue Carr will conduct a craft workshop for school children. Please call the library 655-4283 for more information and to register.

Museum Passes

Another adventure for winter and especially vacation week would be a trip to the Children's Museum and the Art Museum in Portland. Through the generosity of a library patron, we have free passes to these museums. Please contact the library to obtain these passes which accommodate up to six people.

The Flying Carpet Travel Series

The Raymond Village Library presents The Flying Carpet Series: three programs of travel beyond snow banks into spring. There will be no long lines, search wands or ID proofing. However, inclement weather may demand rescheduling. Scheduled point and time of departure for all three destinations will be the library on Wednesdays at 7pm. The trips will include slides and treasures with commentary, question and answer time, and simple refreshments complementing each country visited.

The itinerary is as follows: February 26 – *Face to Face with Thailand*, with Charlie and Roger Hewson; March 12 – *England's Popham Colony: Great Expectations and Unknown Hazards*, with John Bradford and Al Morrison; April 9 – *Kenya- More than Elephants*, with Sandi and Ben Severn.

Roger and Charlie Hewson have lived year round in Raymond since 1970 when Roger founded Sabre Yachts. Recently they have had more time to enjoy visiting parts of the world where Roger can study the history and the people, and Charlie seeks out photographic opportunities. An unexpected bonus in Thailand was the incredible shopping. They even had to purchase an extra suitcase in order to bring home all the treasures they collected.

Book Group

The reading group will be discussing Jack Finney's, "Time and Again". This novel deals with a unique way to travel back into time and how it affects a modern day man living in New York City in the 1970's. This is a cleverly imaginative, wonderfully written, fun read. The discussion will take place Thursday, February 27, at 7 PM at the library. For more information, please call 655-4283.

The Raymond Village Library will be closed Monday, February 17, Presidents Day.

Times Are A Changin' At The Raymond Village Library For Thursday Morning Programs

By: Sue Ellen Gendron

Due to the growing number of babies and toddlers participating in the Thursday morning programs at the RVL, it was decided an actual Toddler Time would be beneficial to all. In order to accommodate the program addition, times for each program were altered as of late October 2002. The times were changed to: **Baby Time-9:15AM, Toddler Time-9:45AM, and Story Time-10:30AM.**

For those who may not be familiar with Thursday mornings at the RVL, or those who have not visited lately, here is a brief description of what each program offers:

Continued on next page

February 2003

Events and Meeting Schedule

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FB=Fire Barn JS=Jordan-Small KC=Kokatosi Campgnd RE=Raymond Elementary TG=Town Garage RT85 TH=Town Hall VL=Village Library VC=Village Church						1
2	3 4:00PM SABATTUS JSMS vs Sabattus Basketball	4 3:15-4:15PM RE Dance Class 6:30-8:00PM VC Troop 800 Meeting 7:00PM TH Selectmen	5 12:30-1:45PM RE Karate 12:30-5:00PM Wednesday Ski Program Grades 4-6 7:00PM RE School Committee	6 9:15AM VL Baby Time 9:45AM VL Toddler Time 10:30AM VL Preschool Story Time 1:30PM RE Grade 2 Music Assembly 6:30PM KC Lions Club	7 4:30-10:30PM Friday Night Ski Program Grades 7-12	8 Klondike Derby
9	10	11 3:15-4:15PM RE Dance Class 6:30-8:00PM VC Troop 800 Meeting	12 9:00AM VL Library Board Meeting 12:30-1:45PM RE Karate 12:30-5:00PM Wednesday Ski Program Grades 4-6	13 9:15AM VL Baby Time 9:45AM VL Toddler Time 10:30AM VL Preschool Story Time	14 4:30-10:30PM Friday Night Ski Program Grades 7-12	15 TOWN OFFICE CLOSED
16 10:00AM TH Appeals Board Site Walk	17 PRESIDENT'S DAY VACATION NO SCHOOL	18 7:00PM TH Selectmen VACATION NO SCHOOL	19 9:00AM VL Library Board Meeting 7:00PM JS School Committee VACATION NO SCHOOL	20 9:15AM VL Baby Time 9:45AM VL Toddler Time 10:30AM VL Preschool Story Time VACATION NO SCHOOL	21 4:30-10:30PM Friday Night Ski Program Grades 7-12 VACATION NO SCHOOL	22
23	24 7:00PM TH Appeals Board 7:00PM TH Selectmen and Budget/Finance Committee	25 3:15-4:15PM RE Dance Class 6:30-8:00PM VC Troop 800 Meeting 7:00PM TH Conservation Commission 7:00PM TH Selectmen and Budget/Finance Committee	26 12:30-5:00PM Wednesday Ski Program Grades 4-6 12:30-1:45PM RE Karate 7:00PM RE School Committee Budget Public Hearing	27 9:15AM VL Baby Time 9:45AM VL Toddler Time 10:30AM VL Preschool Story Time 7:00PM TH Cemetery Committee	28 4:30-10:30PM Friday Night Ski Program Grades 7-12 (Makeup day if necessary) School Progress Reports Home	

Municipal News Brief

The Raymond Board of Selectmen recently took the following actions in January 2003:

1. On January 7, 2003, the Selectmen held a Special Town Meeting to allow residents to vote on a proposal to see if the Town will ratify the Option Agreement between the Town of Raymond and Parson's Realty Company, Inc. dated November 21, 2002; appropriate the sum of \$79,500 from Municipal Fund Balance (undesignated surplus) to purchase the former Post Office building located at 51 Main Street, Raymond, Maine; and grant the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen authority to execute any necessary documents to facilitate the purchase. The Article failed by a vote of 33 in favor and 45 opposed.
2. Reappointed Louise Murray as Voter Registrar.
3. Executive Session. Discussion with Town Attorney regarding land use issues and possible Administrative Consent Agreement. The Consent Agreement between the Town of Raymond and Carol and Earl Kline and Stephan and Yolanda Catir was subsequently approved.
4. Final approval of Request for Proposal – Tax Equalization Project (Revaluation) was granted. Competitive bids for this project will be solicited from qualified firms with a bid due date of February 24, 2003.
5. Executive Session. Discussion regarding a Planning Board personnel concern.
6. Town Office Asbestos Abatement Project. The Selectmen awarded a bid for the removal of asbestos from the Town Office to the low bidder Abatement Professionals of Portland for the sum of \$4,869.99.
7. Route 302 Improvement Project. The Town Manager reported on the bid opening of January

17, 2003. Four general contractors submitted proposals with the low bid received from Pratt & Sons of Minot, Maine, in the total amount of \$1,810,188.25. This bid is substantially below the Town's consulting engineer's original estimate. Gorrill-Palmer of Gray, Maine, had projected the project at \$2,245,537. Upon thorough review of the bid proposals received and contract award, it is expected that work will commence during early spring and conclude before the peak summer season. Recognition and thanks were extended to Chairman of the Route 302 Committee and Selectman Christine McClellan, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Ada Brown, and the members of the Route 302 Improvement Committee for their many years of hard work and dedication in planning for this important project.

8. Fire Chief Denis Morse discussed a proposal received from Cumberland County to provide communication services. No action was taken on the proposal, but a letter will be sent to the County Manager indicating Raymond's willingness to consider County services as part of a possible larger and more comprehensive agreement between Raymond and neighboring towns.
9. Town Clerk Louise Lester recommended the award of the Boston Post Cane to Raymond's oldest citizen Ernest Knight. A formal presentation of this award will be made as a part of the regular Selectmen's Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 18 at 7:00pm at the Town Office.
10. The Selectmen signed an amended Town of Raymond Personnel Policy to reflect changes made at a Special Town Meeting held on December 3, 2002.
11. Selectmen reviewed and authorized the January 21, 2003 Treasurer's Warrant in the amount of \$126,769.85.

Thursday Morning Programs

Continued from page 2

Baby Time: for babies 0-18 months. With a large blanket to sprawl out upon, babies enjoy songs, finger plays, rhymes, and rhythms. Parents/caregivers are able to interact playfully with their little one. Participants enjoy watching the responses of all the babies to the different sights and sounds each week. This group is a great resource for new ways to play with babies as well as meet others with babies.

Toddler Time: 18months-3yrs. Toddlers need to move, so this program includes many action songs and rhymes. Also included is an age appropriate story for the toddlers to listen to with their parent/caregiver. While this program is geared for the physical needs of toddlers, it also readies the children for the next level of program: Story Time!

Story Time: 3-5 yrs. (preschool). This program has returned to a quiet listening experience for preschoolers. Of course we get their energy out of their systems by starting each Story Time with an action song: Zoom, Zoom, Zoom! Following the starting song, the children choose a mat to sit on while listening to the carefully selected stories. After the stories are finished, mats are put away and the group prepares to participate in making a craft or doing an activity together. As with the other two Thursday morning programs described, Story Time is a wonderful free activity to do **with** your child. Guest readers are invited to read at Story Time throughout the year to enhance the program. Past guests include: Norma Richard of RES, Deb Keef of RES, Sandy Wilkas, Elaine from the Raymond Post Office, Lori Rand, Linda Manchester, and Carol Meader.

If you have a child and are looking for something fun to do on Thursday mornings, the Raymond Village Library is the place for you!

Food Pantry Looking For Volunteers

The Raymond Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help distribute food to the needy. Duties would include stocking shelves, meeting with and packing bags for the recipients, and helping Diane with appointments.

If you are interested, please call Diane Goosetrey at 428-3206 or Louise Lester at 655-4742.

Founders Day Committee Looking For New Members

The Raymond Founders Day Committee is experiencing fatigue in trying to begin plans for Raymond's Bicentennial Celebration. This very small group of determined people has produced a Founder's Day for several years until 2002 when their strength ran out.

Since that time they have been concerned that without additional help they won't be able to have a birthday celebration for Raymond. If you have some time and energy to devote to this endeavor, please call Sheri Huff at 655-5373 or Betty McDermott at 655-4646.

If you have any interest in putting on an event, the Committee would be most appreciative. A meeting is set for Thursday, February 13, 2003, at 7:00pm at the Town Office.

Volunteer Reporters Needed

In an effort to broaden the *Raymond Road Runner's* coverage of Town government and community events, we are seeking individuals interested in serving in the capacity of Volunteer Reporter. Reporters would attend local government meetings and/or community events and provide copy for inclusion in upcoming issues of the *Raymond Road Runner*. Interested individuals may contact Road Runner Staff Member Elisa Trepanier at elisa.trepanier@raymondmaine.org, Town Manager Don Willard at don.willard@raymondmaine.org or Kevin Woodbrey at kevin.woodbrey@raymondmaine.org, or call the Town Office at 655-4742.

Raymond Needs You!

By: Amanda Simpson

The Town of Raymond has an immediate opening on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA hears appeals to the Town's Land Use and Shoreland Zoning Ordinances. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, reside in Raymond, and be available the last Monday of each month. No experience is necessary, just an interest in the well being of the community. Contact Amanda Simpson at 655-4712 or amanda.simpson@raymondmaine.org for an application and more information.

RAYMOND FIRE/RESCUE ACTIVITY LOG

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TYPE OF CALL
RESCUE			
12/15/2002	1241	MEADOW RD	ATTEMPTED SUICIDE
12/16/2002	1536	ROOSEVELT TRAIL	CAR ACCIDENT
12/16/2002	1536	WEBBS MILLS RD	DISLCTD SHOULDER
12/18/2002	1837	LEAVITT RD	MEDICAL EMERGENCY
12/19/2002	1038	GORE RD	CAR ACCIDENT
12/20/2002	738	TOWER RD	HAND INJURY
12/21/2002	716	WEBBS MILLS RD	CAR ACCIDENT
12/21/2002	1059	MEADOW RD	DIFF. BREATHING
12/22/2002	1328	DEEP COVE RD	HEAD INJURY
12/23/2002	2142	M/A GRAY	PSYCH PROBLEM
12/24/2002	832	M/A CASCO	CARDIAC PROBLEM
12/24/2002	1119	M/A CASCO	CARDIAC PROBLEM
12/26/2002	1132	M/A WINDHAM	CAR ACCIDENT
12/26/2002	1831	MEADOW RD	FIRE STAND-BY
12/28/2002	1334	WEBBS MILLS RD	CAR ACCIDENT
12/28/2002	1425	LEVY LANE	FIRE STAND-BY
12/28/2002	1752	M/A GRAY	PSYCH PROBLEM
12/28/2002	2155	LEVY LANE	MEDICAL EMERGENCY
12/29/2002	1254	CANAL RD	HIGH FEVER
12/31/2002	822	RAYMOND HILL RD	OVERDOSE
12/31/2002	1135	ROOSEVELT TRAIL	CAR ACCIDENT
1/1/2003	1551	VOGEL RD	CAR ACCIDENT
1/1/2003	1551	VOGEL RD	CAR ACCIDENT
1/2/2003	1226	CRESCENT SHRS RDR	FIRE STAND-BY
1/3/2003	1047	VALLEY RD	BACK INJURY
1/3/2003	1822	N. RAYMOND RD	CAR ACCIDENT
1/4/2003	2344	SWANS RD	FIRE STAND-BY
1/5/2003	935	ROOSEVELT TRAIL	CAR ACCIDENT
1/6/2003	109	HAWTHORNE RD	PUBLIC ASSIST
1/6/2003	1526	M/A WINDHAM	CAR ACCIDENT
1/8/2003	2152	M/A GRAY	PSYCH PROBLEM
1/9/2003	141	M/A NAPLES	CAR ACCIDENT
1/9/2003	804	LEVY LANE	FIRE STAND-BY
1/9/2003	906	M/A CASCO	HIGH FEVER
1/9/2003	1416	MAIN ST	CARDIAC PROBLEM
1/9/2003	1520	LEVY LANE	FIRE STAND-BY
1/9/2003	1612	DAGGETT DR	OVERDOSE
1/10/2003	2134	FOREST RD	STOMACH PAIN
1/11/2003	1635	M/A GRAY	CAR ACCIDENT
1/11/2003	1759	ROOSEVELT TRAIL	ABDOMINAL PAINS
FIRE			
12/19/2002	1038	GORE RD	CAR ACCIDENT
12/21/2002	716	WEBBS MILLS RD	CAR ACCIDENT
12/21/2002	900	AROUND TOWN	FIRE PERMITS
12/21/2002	1059	MEADOW RD	RESCUE ASSIST
12/22/2002	1328	DEEP COVE RD	RESCUE ASSIST
12/23/2002	1611	CANAL RD	UNPERMITTED FIRE
12/26/2002	1831	MEADOW RD	FIRE ALARM
12/28/2002	1334	WEBBS MILLS RD	CAR ACCIDENT
12/28/2002	1425	LEVY LANE	SMOKE ALARM
12/28/2002	1752	M/A GRAY	RESCUE ASSIST
12/29/2002	1008	ROOSEVELT TRAIL	FIRE ALARM
12/30/2003	1644	FURLONG RD	UNPERMITTED FIRE
12/31/2002	1135	ROOSEVELT TRAIL	CAR ACCIDENT
1/1/2003	1551	VOGEL RD	CAR ACCIDENT
1/2/2003	1226	CRESCENT SHRS RDS	SNOWMOBILE FIRE
1/3/2003	1822	N. RAYMOND RD	CAR ACCIDENT
1/3/2003	1902	M/A CASCO	FIRE ALARM
1/4/2003	2344	SWANS RD	SMOKE IN BUILDING
1/5/2003	935	ROOSEVELT TRAIL	CAR ACCIDENT
1/9/2003	804	LEVY LANE	SMOKE ALARM
1/9/2003	1520	LEVY LANE	SMOKE ALARM

From The Tax Collector's Office

By: Donna Lovely, Deputy Tax Collector

Foreclosure notices for delinquent property taxes have been mailed out. If you have received one and are making payment after 2/21/03, please do so by cashiers check or money order.

Prior to foreclosure, monthly payments can be arranged on any existing liens. Please call 655-4742 and ask for the Tax Collector.

If you are not receiving your tax bills, please call for verification of your correct mailing address. The Town does not mail tax bills to mortgage holders; that is the responsibility of the property owner. Please allow enough time for mailing of your payment, since interest begins accruing the day after the due date. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your property taxes, feel free to give me a call.

Got Extra Trash?

Trash policy for pickup in Raymond is two 32 gallon containers. If you have extra, you can purchase blue trash bags at the Town Office for \$1 each. BBI Waste will pick up as many blue bags as you want beyond your two 32 gallon containers weekly.

A Budget Solution We Can Live With

By: Representative Joe Bruno (R-Raymond)

All the talk of shortfalls and structural gaps coming out of Augusta may have people wondering about the true nature of the fiscal challenges facing State Government. If you are willing to stick with me for just a few paragraphs, I think I can explain what is really going on and present a sensible solution.

When the Legislature enacts biennial budgets, it does so based on projections developed for both tax revenue and government expenditures. Because the Constitution mandates the budget be balanced at the end of each biennium, the Legislature will sometimes have to enact supplemental budgets when actual revenues or expenditures are different from the projections used to write the initial budget. The Legislature has already passed two supplemental budgets for the biennium ending this June 30 but still has a \$43.6 million shortfall to contend with.

Looking ahead to the 2004-2005 biennium, there is a \$1 billion difference between the expected costs of maintaining current services and projected tax revenue. This 'structural gap' constitutes approximately 17 percent of the \$5.9 billion current services budget for the next biennium.

The size of our projected structural gap is not based on dire predictions about the economy and the impact a deep recession will have on tax revenue. The fact is a recovering economy is expected to expand state revenues 2.5 percent in 2004 and another 4 percent in 2005. Why then the \$1

billion structural gap?

Despite increasing tax revenues we are facing a substantial structural gap because of the Legislature's willingness to ignore sound fiscal advice in a rush to over commit General Fund tax revenue. Consequently, appropriations have increased by almost 50 percent over the last eight years and will require a 13.5 percent increase to maintain current services for next year alone.

For much of the last eight years unexpected economic growth has picked up the tab of the Legislature's spending appetite. Now that the economy has cooled, the Legislature has chosen to take the easy way out, tapping reserve accounts and draining lapsed balances rather than make real changes in the level of state expenditures.

The supplemental budget the Democrats enacted last November is a prime example of a leadership opportunity lost. Two-thirds of the so-called solution (\$150 million) was merely one-time adjustments that cannot be counted on in the future.

I have met with Maine's new Governor to talk about our budget mess and heard him speak publicly on the issue a number of times. The message from him is always the same – we are going to balance the books without raising taxes. I am glad to hear the Governor make this commitment and am ready to work with him to get it done.

Now for the sensible solution I promised. We are expecting to take in \$4.983 billion in revenue over the next biennium.

To get expenditures to that level we have to start by flat-funding state spending over the next two years. Based on FY 2003 appropriation levels, that equates to \$5.137 billion in spending for the biennium. On top of that, we've got to find about \$153 million (2.9%) in additional savings.

Anyone who has managed a family or small business budget knows that there are some expenses, like the cost of health care, that are difficult to control. At the state level we need to try to absorb as many of these increases as we can by finding savings in the way we do business.

Savings and efficiencies are a good start but will not be enough to balance our budget. I would propose we take a "last in, first out" approach when looking for actual program cuts. I do not think you can make judgments solely on the age of a program, but the fact remains that people are least likely to depend on newer services.

When looking to prioritize the budgets of state agencies, it also makes sense to calculate unit costs. Once we know, for instance, what it costs an agency or bureau to deliver a service to an individual citizen, we can make informed decisions on how to prioritize.

Maine's fiscal challenges are significant but not insurmountable. The important thing to remember is that we spend too much, not tax too little. Consequently, I will be working hard over the course of this legislative session to see that the solutions to our budget problem are found on the expenditure side of the equation.

Balancing The Budget Without Tipping The Scales

**By: Rep. John Richardson,
House Majority Leader**

As the 121st Maine State Legislature begins to take up the work of the people of our state, the overriding issue that we face is the budget shortfall. The Constitution of our state requires, and the people demand, that we balance this budget. It will not be easy, but we are up to the task.

The shortfall in the budget for fiscal biennium 2004-2005 now stands at almost one billion dollars, or twenty percent of the total budget. Last year the Legislature enacted a budget based on estimations of tax revenue and expected growth in some segments of State Government. It is now clear that those estimations were far too optimistic and now we will have to scale those programs back.

Some have argued that State government has overspent since the late 1990s and spent in an irresponsible manner. Are we spending too much on education? Are we spending too much on healthcare for our most vulnerable citizens? Because those two areas of state spending make up 75% of the state budget. In fact half of the state's \$5.3 billion biennial budget is returned directly to cities and

towns across the state in the form of state General Purpose Aid to education (GPA), municipal revenue sharing and support for law enforcement.

The State of Maine makes a very strong commitment to educating our children, and we have one of the best educational systems in the nation as a result. Each town is responsible for funding its schools, and towns raise those revenues through the local property tax. In an effort to alleviate the pressure of the property tax, the state of Maine distributes funds to municipalities through the General Purpose Aid to education program. That alone represents 36% of state spending this year and funds, on average, nearly half of every local school budget in the state. A cut to GPA would leave it up to town councils and school boards around the state to either gut their school systems or raise their property taxes.

We need to move forward on re-examining how Maine delivers services and find ways to be more efficient. To that end, Legislators on both sides of the aisle overwhelmingly passed a law last spring creating a Government Oversight Committee to oversee the analysis,

audit and evaluation of all state programs.

The State of Maine does run a tight ship – we have ten percent fewer state employees today than we did just ten years ago. And their workload has not lessened or gotten less complicated in that time. They are doing more with less. In fact, only 13 percent of the General Fund budget is used to pay state employees – state troopers, game wardens, the folks who plow the highways, prison guards, the people who take care of our mentally ill and watch out for our most vulnerable citizens. We could fire every one of them and still not fill one-third of the budget shortfall..

This budget shortfall is a symptom of our outdated tax codes. Our 19th century tax system is not working in a 21st century economy. It is too antiquated, too narrow and there are far too many exemptions. Reform cannot be accomplished overnight. We look forward to working with the Maine Municipal Association, citizens groups, the governor, legislators on both sides of the aisle, and the people of Maine to find a better system for raising the funds necessary for good governmental services and for maintaining some of the best schools in the nation.

Raymond Tomorrow! —Means Good Neighbors Today!

**By Brad McCurtain, Co-Chair, Raymond's
Comprehensive Planning Committee**

In addition to our own community, all of our neighboring Lakes Region communities are updating their comprehensive plans. Frye Island, whose plan was approved by residents last summer, is probably the most advanced in the process. Windham is not far behind. Bridgton, Naples, and Harrison are just starting out.

Here in Raymond, your committee, which has named its project, Raymond Tomorrow!, is better than half way through the process. It is a process that began with the naming of the committee in the spring of 2001 and our first meeting, which took place in July of that year.

In looking ahead, please know that your committee understands that managing growth and protecting our incredible natural resources in the Lakes Region is not just up to those of us in Raymond, but also very much dependent upon the efforts and actions of our neighbors. Accordingly, representatives from Lakes Region

Comprehensive Planning Committees got together informally for the first time ever and have begun a dialog with one another.

The purposes are as follows:

1. To share experiences with one another on lessons learned in the process of updating comprehensive plans.
2. To explore and work together on regional solutions to common issues that have regional impact, such as significant development and growth in the Lakes Region, transportation, housing, public safety, and protection of natural resources, among others.
3. To hold regional workshops to help educate Comprehensive Planning Committee members on comprehensive planning topics of mutual interest.

Representatives from the towns of Bridgton, Casco, Harrison, Naples, Raymond, Sebago, Standish, Waterford,

and Windham have all participated in the group. Frye Island representatives, whose Comprehensive Plan was approved last summer, is following along by e-mail and their (out-of-state) representatives hope to join us when they return in the spring.

Our first regional meeting was held in December, and another meeting was held in January.

The first of what we hope will be a series of educational workshops for the Lakes Region took place on a cold January evening at the Songo Locks School in Naples. The subject was "Transportation Issues in the Lakes Region". The workshop was well attended.

I was honored to moderate at the first workshop. The panel consisted of four transportation experts. Those individuals were:

- Jack Day, Chairman of the Route 302 and You Committee

Continued on page 6

Raymond Lions Club Student Of The Month

By: Bob Jones

Pictured is Raymond Lions Club Student of the Month for January Nicole Gagne and her parents David Gagne and Kathi Jones. Nicole divides her time between homes on Gore Road and Webbs Mills Road.

Nicole has been an honor roll student for all her years at Jordan-Small School. She has been a participant in District



II in both band and chorus. Nikkie is a member of the Jordan-Small Middle School Band and Chorus. Nicole will be attending Westbrook High School next year and is already working with the marching band, having been in parades with the band during the holiday season.

When she isn't studying or playing her clarinet, Nicole enjoys cross-country skiing, horseback riding, swimming, field hockey, or tennis depending on the weather. She enjoys reading and surfing the Net.

Mentoring Program Featured on Channel 13

January has been designated by President Bush as National Mentoring Month. As part of the Portland area's promotion about mentoring, Mark Van Winkle and Adam Coro were featured in a news story during the Mentor Match-up Telethon on January 22. Doug Rafferty of WGME Channel 13 came out to Raymond to interview Mark and Adam about their relationship, which began a year ago. Program staff also participated in the telethon by answering phones at the WGME studio.

In addition, the Raymond Mentoring Partnership participated in a statewide bottle drive in collaboration with Rotary Clubs and Shaw's. The Raymond Lions Club generously donated a large amount of bottles to help us raise funds for both mentoring and polio vaccinations in Maine.

We welcome new staff member Debra Martin, who is stepping in as Eileen Stiles transitions to well-earned retirement. Debra joined us in January and will help us to keep supporting these important friendships between adults and youth. Please call us at 655-8672, ext. 107, to learn more about mentoring in our community. We offer training and support for mentors and activities for all program participants.



Doug Rafferty with Adam and Mark

Raising The Bar

By: Marilee Dunklee, Consulting Teacher for Gifted & Talented Services

Walk into Kelly Gosselin's or Patricia Feeney's sixth grade classroom at Jordan-Small Middle School and one of the first things that will catch your eye is a flowerpot filled with gigantic blossoms. But wait a minute! Rather than petunia, geranium, or impatiens, these blossoms bear the labels Knowledge, Comprehension, Application, Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation. That is because in these classes thinking "Blooms."

The six "blossoms" greeting students daily represent Bloom's six levels of thinking, from the acquisition of rote knowledge to higher – and more difficult – levels of analyzing, synthesizing, or evaluating that knowledge.

Not long ago I had the privilege of visiting Ms. Feeney's and Mrs. Gosselin's reading classes where we discussed Bloom's levels, named for the man who developed the taxonomy. Students quickly recognized that it is fairly easy, for example, to define the word "simile" (knowledge level), more challenging to analyze how its parts create a word picture (analysis), and even tougher to create an effective example (synthesis). Soon they also discovered that, as questions or tasks move to higher thinking levels, the more different our answers become. Enter creativity! While there is only one definition of the word "simile," literature abounds with thousands of vivid and unique examples.

So how does knowledge about Mr. Bloom and his thinking categories serve to better educate students? Gosselin and Feeney are quick to explain. "To begin with," explained Mrs. Gosselin, understanding Bloom's taxonomy "makes me analyze the kinds of questions I ask students to be sure I'm hitting the higher levels."

Ms. Feeney agreed. "I am always looking beyond knowledge and comprehension to stretch kids' thinking to higher levels," she said.

Ms. Feeney's reading students recently "Bloomed" into

action through independent book projects that required them to create a cube. For the six sides, each student designed questions or tasks appropriate for each of Bloom's thinking levels, AND they provided effective responses for all levels.

Was the project a challenging one? "Absolutely," responded student Ali Knight, and she added, "To think up questions was definitely harder at the higher levels."

Effective carryover is a good measure of meaningful learning, and Knight affirmed that such is the case with Bloom's. "Now, if I'm doing projects," she said, "I'll think back to the Blooms to help me challenge myself."

In my first year with the Raymond School District, I am learning many things - for instance, that many teachers, like these two in sixth grade, leave few stones unturned to raise the bar of learning for their students.

Join me next month for more good news!



Alyson Schadler and Lauren Weeks, sixth graders at Jordan-Small Middle School, hold the cubes they designed as an independent book response in Patricia Feeney's reading class. Each side of the cube highlights one of six increasingly difficult levels of thinking, seen on the flower "blooms" in the background. Read more in "Raising the Bar."

Did You Know?

By: Hannah Huber

Editor's Note: Beginning with this issue of The Road Runner, "Did You Know?" will spotlight individuals in Raymond with talents or interests the public may not be aware of. Each feature will be authored by writers of excellence from Jordan-Small Middle School. This month's student author Hannah Huber is a sixth grader whose interests reach beyond writing and superior academic achievement. Hannah is also a talented speaker and performer and was featured as a host in last fall's middle school talent show. She recently auditioned and received the part of Toodles in Windham Community Theater's upcoming production of "Peter Pan."

If you go to a music store, you might see a CD labeled "From the Roots Up." As any kid from the middle school knows, our own sixth grade teacher, Mr. Doug Elder, is in the band that recorded this album!

Mr. Elder's band, the Kingpin Wrecking Crew, has been around for about four years. There are five members in the band. Mr. Elder plays guitar, his brother Darren plays drums, Ty Monroe plays bass guitar, Karl Anderson is the keyboard player, and Joe McCann does the turntables.

The Kingpin Wrecking Crew has played in 200 live shows, going as far west as Illinois and as far south as Maryland. "We are hoping to go to Florida and to Nashville and other towns," he said. Containing only original songs, their CD took nine months to make.

Mr. Elder was inspired to start playing guitar in the fourth grade by listening to records of Elvis and Chuck Berry. There were also a number of talented people in his town

whom he admired.

"Listening to them play and how they could reach people without talking made me want to play," said Mr. Elder. He started out playing an old Sears model electric guitar of his dad's. Currently he plays guitar and experiments with bass, drums, keyboard, and other electronic music equipment.

He enjoys writing music most and tries to make his music inspiring, uplifting, and thought-provoking. When asked how he associates music with teaching, he said, "There are times when I look at music and teaching as two different worlds, but songs get important messages across to people — and that's sort of like teaching."

Maybe some of Mr. Elder's music will have to wait a while because these days he and his wife Angie stay busy with another important job – being brand new parents to their baby girl, Olivia Anne.



Teacher, song writer, and accomplished musician, Doug Elder strums guitar in his sixth grade classroom at Jordan-Small Middle School.

School Budget Reflects Data Collection and Vision, Mission and Beliefs

**By: Sandra Caldwell, Superintendent,
Raymond School District**

The state regulations regarding Learning Results and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 have had an effect on our budget work this year. The rules and legislation have provided us with technical maps and assessment language that is new to all of us. We welcome this opportunity to share the process with our entire community using a language that is new to each and every one of us.

This year's budget process for the Raymond School Department is informed by the Maine Department of Education's regulations for the implementation of the system of Learning Results, Chapter 125 Basic Approval Standards for Public Schools and Chapter 127 Instructional Program, Assessment and Diploma Requirements. These maps are guiding the statewide journey towards the implementation of a standards-based education system in all of Maine's public schools. The Federal regulations in the No Child Left Behind Act provide another map for the journey. Through the budget development process our energy locally has been generated by the concepts underlying these regulations:

- Teaching all children to their highest level
- Improving student learning
- Success for all learners

We have kept these very concepts at the heart of our work.

In September the School Committee and Superintendent participated in a Saturday Retreat. This provided us with an opportunity to reconnect with the Raymond School Department's vision, mission and beliefs, to explore our Board, Superintendent, and Team Leadership standards, to review the State and Federal mandates, to examine the District's current reality and to identify major work for 2002-03. The major work we identified was as follows:

- To be in compliance with State and Federal Mandates / No Child Left Behind / Chapter 125 and 127.

- To establish short-term "emergency" goals.
- To create systems for data collection and analysis.
- To begin an aggressive design of our Local Comprehensive Assessment System.
- To develop a strategic plan for the next five years.
- To revisit Raymond School Department's Vision, Mission and Beliefs and create a Design Team.
- To create a budget for 2003-04 that reflects and scaffolds the major work.
- To increase communication about our work and progress in the schools and community.

A professional development day this fall gave our entire K-8 staff an opportunity to "unpack" Chapters 125 and 127, to inventory "what we had" so that that data could help us identify "what we need". Federal funds were used to create teacher leadership positions, Learning Results Facilitators, to fuel the curriculum, assessment and instruction work that needed addressing. We defined the work for our Learning Results Facilitators so that we would be in compliance with State and Federal guidelines. Teacher leaders have worked tirelessly to align our local K-8 curriculum in English / Language Arts and mathematics with Maine Learning Results.

There is an immediacy to this work. The present eighth graders at Jordan-Small Middle School will have to demonstrate achievement of the content standards in the Maine Learning Results in the areas of English / Language Arts and mathematics as a requirement for graduation. As a requirement for graduation from any public high school in Maine, our present seventh graders will have to demonstrate competency in the following five content areas: English / Language Arts, mathematics, science, social studies and health / physical education. Locally, we have a responsibility to send our eighth grade learners to area high schools with a collection of evidence that represents the standards in those five content areas that have been met.

The gifted and talented plan that was originally approved by the state must near completion in a year. The budget reflects the commitment to an identification process, staff development and support for a differentiated curriculum that will raise the bar for all learners.

Data collection has been high priority on our fall agenda. We have worked with a literacy consultant who has surveyed all K-8 literacy teachers, visited classrooms, interviewed teachers, administrators, and literacy teachers, and collected data regarding our literacy resources. A report was presented to the School Committee that outlined this study's literacy data. The data in the report is reflected in our budget for 2003-04.

Professional Development and training in the area of writing, literacy and math will be a focus of adult learning K-8. On-going assessment training is another high priority in the budget. As a result of this training, feedback to parents, children and teachers will measure and report student progress in relationship to the standards. Annual assessments will be administered in literacy and math that provide individual student achievement data towards meeting standards. An Early Intervention Literacy Program will be developed in grades K-3.

Our school budget is designed to build the capacity to meet our State and Federal guidelines. Priorities in the budget are data driven. Some of the human resources included in the budget that will assist in the development of our Comprehensive Education Plan and Local Comprehensive Assessment System include a full time superintendent, a data strategist and trainer, a health teacher, an early intervention literacy consulting teacher, and teacher leaders' stipends. Reallocation of existing human resources will enable us to make these changes in the most fiscally responsible way possible.

Visit our website to better understand the requirements and timelines for the state and federal mandates.

Raymond Tomorrow!

Continued from page 4

- Scott Duncanson, Senior Planner, Gannett Fleming, Inc, and Project Manager for Rt. 302 Corridor Study
- Marty Rooney, Maine Department of Transportation
- David Willauer, Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG)

Members of your Comprehensive Planning Committee believe strongly that regional cooperation with our neighbors is essential if we are to manage growth, protect our resources, and maintain the qualities that make the Lakes Region such a special plan in which to live.

As always, please feel comfortable visiting the Comprehensive Planning Committee's section of your community's website. You can find us at: http://www.raymondmaine.org/committees/comprehensive_plan/default.htm Or, just go to the "Committees" section of Raymond's website and you will find us.

And remember, to get on Raymond Tomorrow's! e-mail news briefings, just send an e-mail to: compplan.interest.group-subscribe@raymondmaine.org

Boston Post Cane Award Ceremony

Tuesday, February 18, 2003, 7:00pm at the Town Office during the Selectmen's meeting

To be presented to ERNEST H. KNIGHT as the oldest resident in Raymond, born September 28, 1905.

In 1909 the Boston Post Cane was donated by the Boston, Massachusetts, newspaper the BOSTON POST to any New England town that qualified for and requested a cane to be held by the town's oldest citizen. Originally there were 431 canes throughout New England. The cane is ebony with a 14 carat gold inscribed head.

JSMS Students Participate In Leadership Workshop

By: Lynn-Eve Davis, JSMS Guidance Counselor

When Steve Wessler worked for Maine's Attorney General's office prosecuting hate crimes, he noticed a pattern. Every case that erupted into a violent act began with the use of degrading language and harassment. Together with Attorney General Steve Rowe and the University of Southern Maine, Mr. Wessler founded the nationally recognized Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence (CPHV) to try to do something to break the pattern of violence.

The guidance program at the middle school includes many components that stress the power the students have to create a safe, healthy learning environment for all students. Students have classroom lessons as well as presentations from outside groups on topics such as respect, diversity and peer mediation.

On January 8th forty Jordan Small students from the sixth, seventh and eighth grade participated in an all day workshop called the Student Leaders Project put on by the CPHV.

The Student Leaders Project fits right into the goals of our middle school. A group of students, picked for their leadership abilities in a variety of settings, are selected to participate. The process of selecting only forty leaders from our school was a difficult one; we certainly have a lot of students with great leadership skills. We selected

representatives from each homeroom in grades 6-8, trying to include those who have had some leadership opportunities and some who haven't.

The students spent the day doing a variety of activities that helped them to understand the impact of school-based bias, prejudice, and harassment. They were taught about the Maine Civil Rights Law and how the attorney general's office handles hate crimes.

Each section of the workshop helped the students to build skills, confidence and courage in order to speak up when others engage in harassing conduct toward their classmates. The workshop facilitators stressed that these skills should be used only in a way that is safe for all concerned.

Dr. Lelia De Andrade, Assistant Director of the CPHV and one of the facilitators, praised the students for their hard work and commitment to making Jordan-Small Middle School the best school it can be.

This workshop would not have been possible were it not for the support of some specific people. Those people include Dielectric Company, the Raymond PTA, the Mentoring Program, JSMS's staff members Mark Cyr, Suzanne Cobleigh, Susan Irish and Mary McIntyre. Any questions about this workshop should be directed to Lynn-Eve Davis, JSMS guidance counselor.

Southern Maine Agency On Aging

Compliments of the Southern Maine Agency on Aging, a new book in the Raymond Village Library collection is: *Family Caregiver Guide*. This handbook for skilled and sensitive caring for a relative or neighbor who is home bound is written with clear explanations and instructions; it specifically avoids overwhelming medical terminology

or complicated procedures. The Agency on Aging also provided the library with a small supply of brochures such as "Services Provided" and "Caregiver Support Programs" as well as the agency's November-December issue of "Senior News."

Raymond Elementary School Principal's Report

By: Norma Richard, Principal

We have now reached the half way point of our school year at the Raymond Elementary School. This is a great time for children and their families to make the second half of the school year even better than the first. I want to encourage all of our school parents to keep connected with school. Ask your child daily to share one thing about his/her school work. Look over your child's homework, and review the work and papers in the green Raymond Elementary School responsibility folder. Parents of children in grade 4 should check agendas each evening for homework assignments and communications from their child's teacher. The responsibility folders and agendas are wonderful tools to assist all of our students in developing organizational skills and improving personal responsibility. These are also important ways to help parents stay in close contact with school.

I have been very, very pleased with both the work effort and the behavior of our students. We often have parents and visitors comment about the fine behavior of the children at the Raymond Elementary School. I attribute this to several factors. The first is the outstanding work of our parents. We appreciate your support and the high expectations you have for your children. Our character education program also has a significant positive impact on all aspects of our school. This is our third year of implementing a school-wide conflict resolution program that is highlighted by the I-CARE rules. These rules are: We listen to each other. Hands are for helping, not hurting. We use I-Care Language. We care about each other's feelings. We are responsible for what we say and do. The rules provide consistency for all children throughout the school. We reinforce them on a daily basis through classroom activities, morning announcements, guidance lessons, and even have them printed on our green responsibility folders. Many parents have even extended these rules to the home. Caring for each other and supporting all children in their learning is one of the reasons that our school is such a special place for students, staff, and the Raymond community.

I want to extend a very special thank you to Dielectric for their \$500 contribution to our school. These funds will be used to support our work in meeting the challenges of No Child Left Behind and Maine's Learning Results. Dielectric's support of our school program is much valued and much appreciated.

JSMS Library Receives Donations

The Jordan-Small Middle School Library has recently been the recipient of several generous donations from members of the local community. We would like to thank Jeri Keane, Cathy Dodge, Mary Jane Vandersluis and Ronald and Dolores Ritter for their generous support. Their gifts allowed for the purchase of a variety of recreational and curriculum based titles for the 5th-8th grade students.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Raymond PTA for their fundraising efforts. The holiday book fair, organized by the PTA, raised over \$1,300 in support of the middle school library.

The generosity of the Raymond community who have donated both funds and time is greatly appreciated by the JSMS staff and students.

NYA Honor Roll

North Yarmouth Academy announces the Honor Roll for the First Trimester of the 2002-2003 school year.

HIGHEST HONORS

Renee Fortin, Grade 10
Benjamin White, Grade 12

HIGH HONORS

Elizabeth Crockett, Grade 12
Amanda Dodson, Grade 10
Shawn Gagne Grade 11
Abby Hutchinson, Grade 12
Alison White, Grade 9
William Yates, Grade 11

PTA College Scholarships Available

The Raymond PTA is offering two \$1,000 college scholarships to Raymond high school students. Any Raymond resident who will be graduating from high school this spring and planning to attend college in the fall is encouraged to apply. Scholarships are awarded to individuals who have been actively involved in community

and extracurricular activities and demonstrate academic achievement.

Applications can be obtained on the Raymond website or by calling the Raymond Elementary School at 655-8672. All applications must be submitted by March 1, 2003.

7th & 8th Grade Dance

Raymond Baseball & Softball will be having a 7th & 8th grade dance

Saturday, February 8, from 6:30 to 9:30 at the Jordan-Small Middle School

Tickets are \$4 at the door

There will be a DJ, light show, refreshments for sale, and door prizes

Any questions, please call Teresa Sadak
655-5411

Three Cheers For Mr. And Mrs. Stevens!

Just recently Jordan-Small Middle School has welcomed a new family into the community. The Stevens moved here from New Jersey and their daughter Jess is now in Mr. Power's seventh grade class at JSMS. Jess has jumped right in and is also a member of the cheerleading squad.

As we welcome the Stevens into the community, we must also take the time to say thank you. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens have made a generous donation to the cheerleading squad. The donation will allow us to purchase poms for the entire squad!

Words cannot express how much we appreciate their thoughtfulness and what the Stevens have done for us.

From the bottom of hearts, "THANK YOU", from the JSMS cheerleading squad:

Debbie DeDeo, Coach
Jess Stevens
Amy Cobb
Ashlee Daggett
Jess Barry
Harmony Fontes
Nicole LLOY
Tasha Carpenter
Jenna Morse
Casey Crouse
Sharla Benedetto
Jaimie Sevene
Kaz Powell

Raymond Baseball/Softball

Baseball/Softball season is just around the corner. Registrations will be on Tuesday, February 25, and Thursday, February 27, from 6:30 to 8:00 at the Jordan-Small Middle School cafeteria. (Snow dates will be Tuesday, March 4, and Thursday, March 6). 2003 fees are:

T-ball \$25
Regular \$35
Family \$60
Seniors \$65

Anyone who is interested in coaching or helping out, please come and sign up. All Little League Coaches will have to undergo a background check per the new regulations of Little League Baseball. (Softball coaches are the only ones who are under Little League Guidelines for Raymond).

The Raymond Rattlers Are Off To A Busy Start In The New Year

By: Jeff Weeks, President

Thank you Scott Gardiner, Tom Cobb, Tim Pomerleau, Larry Wood, and Jeff Weeks for keeping our trails groomed. We appreciate your dedication and long, hard hours in keeping up with the grooming with so many snowmobilers traveling the trails. Thank you to all club members who are helping to keep branches trimmed or who have posted signs to help out.

We have several events coming up in the next few months. Mark your calendars! On February 1st we will take our first club Fun Ride. If you are interested in taking a trip with the club, show up at Kokatosi Campground by 9am. We will depart from the campground to begin our journey. Many people may not be aware of all the trails we have to offer in our Town and the surrounding Lake Region Area.

On February 22nd and 23rd the Windham Rotary 3rd Annual Fishing Derby will be taking place. Look for the Raymond Rattlers on the lake with our "Mobile Food Cart." We will be offering chili and chowder to help keep you warm. There will also be a concession stand located at Raymond Beach. We will be raffling off our club 1979 Ski-Doo Alpine sled. Tickets will be \$2 each and available for purchase at our concession stand. What a great sled for ice fishing! Did you know that John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band will be playing at Raymond Beach on the evening of the 22nd? The Raymond Rattlers will be selling tickets. Get your tickets soon!

On March 15th we will be hosting our 2nd annual Pig Roast at Kokatosi Campground. Tickets must be purchased in advance and will be available mid-February. All the events listed are open to the public. Come join the fun! If you have any questions, please contact Club President Jeff Weeks, at 655-4400.

Winter Wonderland Dance

Saturday, February 15, 2003
8pm - Midnight

At The Windham Veteran's Center
(Behind the Windham Mall/Hannaford)

Fundraising event for Jordan-Small Middle School 8th Grade End-of-the-Year Celebrations

Music by the unforgettable "SOLUTIONS"

Cost \$15 per person or \$25 per couple
B.Y.O.B.

Live Music, Live Auction, Raffle, Munchies, Ice

For Ticket Information, Contact:
Beth @ 627-3173 or Julie @ 655-8723
(Please contact the above to donate auction items)

Girl Scout News

Apple Unit – Girl Scouts

December was our first annual Christmas party. It was a very busy night. We had 9 different troops attend. There was an ornament swap and lots of different cookies to eat. Santa Claus was our very special guest. Ms. Richard and Lily surprised us all by stopping in for a visit. Thank you to all the volunteers and leaders for making this a big success. If anyone is missing any dishes, please call Teresa Sadak, 655-5411.

It is also cookie time again. If anyone is interested in purchasing any cookies, please see any Girl Scout, Brownie, leader or you can call Teresa Sadak, 655-5411, or Candy Tardiff, 655-6926. The orders must be in by the end of January.

Troop 859: Janet Dean, Leader

This month we are working on our Manners Try-it badge. We are learning how to write thank your notes and using our manners when selling Girl Scout cookies. We are also going to learn about table manners and telephone manners.

Troop 99: Pat Hutchinson and Candy Tardiff, Leaders

Thank you to everyone who helped us collect for Coats for Kids. Our troop collected a total of 109 coats. Please keep us in mind and save your coats for next year. We enjoy doing this and want to do it again. We also adopted a Youth Alternatives home for Christmas and were able to help them with some items. They have ongoing needs so anyone interested in helping can call anytime.

Some of us recently joined Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, and Seniors participating in a prestigious Gold Award Ceremony in Casco. Three Senior scouts earned this outstanding award and were honored for their hard work. It gave us a chance to see what others are doing and where they are going through Girl Scouts. We're now talking about what we need to do to go to big places ourselves.

We're busy selling our annual Girl Scout cookies. Anyone who doesn't see a Girl Scout and would like cookies can call us at 655-2246 or the Council office at 772-1177 to place an order before January 28. Mostly we're having fun and learning lots and looking forward to flying up to Juniors.

Troop 148: Belinda Hughes, Teresa Sadak, Diana Grondin and Val Downs, Leaders

Our troop is working on the Make It Eat It, Around the World and Playing Around the World Try-its. We are having guest speakers come in to talk to us about different parts of the world that they have visited or are from. We also took advantage of all this wonderful snow and had a sliding party. Thanks to Ron LaPrise, our troop will be going skiing in February.

Troop 1748: Leader - Robyn Harris Co-Leaders - Donna Berube, Melissa Ayers

This is the first year for our Brownie troop. We are very fortunate to have a great group of girls and parents to share the Brownie Girl Scout experience. We are currently working on several badges: Caring and Sharing, Cookie Count and Around the World. We have been assigned Aruba as our country for Thinking Day (Feb 22). We're excited to be first time presenters and dees of "Thinking Day". The girls are really enjoying learning about the Brownies around the world. We would like to thank all of our parent helpers who make our troop a team and the Raymond community for all of your support.

Troop 576: Leader - Lisa Levinsky

In December we went on a trip to Portland visiting both the Portland Museum of Art and Victoria Mansion. We had a quick but great tour of the Art Museum, where our bubbly tourguide taught us all about light and the way it affects color. At Victoria Mansion we were amazed at how ornate and beautiful the mansion was, especially decorated for the holidays. We are continuing to work on our "Making Hobbies" badge, doing some final painting on our book racks with Mrs. Wiley. Mrs. Allen has started the "Aerospace" badge, and Mrs. Levinsky is starting the "First Aid" badge.

Raymond Lions Club Hears About Used Eyeglasses

By: Bob Jones

Dr. Thomas Gordon, pictured here with Raymond Lions Sight & Hearing Chairman Bob Fitzgibbons, recently spoke to the Raymond Lions Club about his experiences as a volunteer with Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH).

A major project of all Lions Clubs is refurbishing and distributing used eyeglasses to areas in the United States and third world countries. Dr. Gordon gave some insight into just what it is like to serve people who have no idea what good sight is. Under conditions not common to the volunteers, they would see hundreds of people in a day, providing the glasses that would improve eyesight.

This group, and others like it, obtain a portion of the glasses they are able provide to these needy individuals from Lions Clubs through out the U.S. If you have glasses that are no longer in use, please drop them into one of the Lions collection boxes around Town. They can be repaired and cleaned up if needed. They can then be recycled to one of the millions of people who are unable to afford new glasses, or are in areas where they must rely on volunteer missionaries for sight care.

You can find these receptacles at the Raymond Town Hall, Key Bank, Raymond Village Library, Raymond True Value Hardware and at Dr. Thomas Gordon's office. The Raymond Lions thanks everyone for their donations of glasses. If you have any questions about Lions Sight Conservation, please contact President Dale Gilman, Secretary Bob Jones or Sight & Hearing Chair, Bob Fitzgibbons.

Raymond Lions Vote To Start Loan Program For Home Use Medical Equipment

At a recent meeting, the Raymond Lions Club voted to establish a loan program of medical equipment for local residents. The club will be in need of items such as wheel chairs, walkers, crutches, potty-chairs, etc. Local resident are asked to check attics, basements and other storage areas for items of this nature that they would like to donate to this worthy cause. Note: due to lack of space we will not be able to accept hospital beds.

To make donations or request the use of items, please contact Kathi Jones at 655-3635, Betty McDermott at 655-4646 or Morgan Willis at 655-6787.



Troop 800 Report

By: Elijah Hughes, Troop Scribe

A busy month is ahead for Troop 800. On the 8th we will compete in the Klondike derby at Camp Hinds. It will include several scouting skills and snow games. On the 16th Mr. Shively will lead some of us on a snowshoe trip at the State Arboretum in Augusta. A Court of Honor is being planned, and we will be setting up a concession during those Raymond Recreation basketball sessions. The profits will go toward our trip to Gettysburg. I've heard that we officially have our reservations and are trying to set up transportation plans. We still have a lot of fundraising to do to make our goal. The bottle drive in January was

snowed out. If you still saved your bottles, let us know and we can get them from you.

Speaking of snow, 8 scouts and 3 adult leaders went to Camp Bomazeen in Belgrade and went sledding for 3 hours and played a marathon UNO game. Also at meetings in January, we have been decorating our patrol staves. A staff is like a decorative walking stick that each patrol can hang their award ribbons on. We also worked on setting up the troop computers and updated the Troop 800 website which is on a link at the Raymond home page. If you are interested in joining or helping Troop 800 or can help in our Gettysburg fundraiser, contact our Scoutmaster Mr. Tom Wiley at 655-2048.



Eight Scouts and 3 adults from Raymond Troop 800 spent the weekend of January 10-12 at Camp Bomazeen in the Belgrade Lakes region. A combination of practicing Scout Skills and just having fun were on the agenda that included cooking, building snowball catapults, cross country skiing, sledding, board games and capture the flag. To read more about their weekend, visit our webpages on the Raymond website at www.raymondmaine.org/civic_groups/boy_scouts. (Front row: Senior Patrol Leader Bill Yates, Scoutmaster Tom Wiley, Chad Zawistowski, Josiah Knights, Steve Lentine; back row: John Hanley, Jamie Wiley James Fisher, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader Ian Hanley, Christian Gordon, Paul Lentine).