

The Raymond RoadRunner

A Raymond School District & Town of Raymond Publication
<http://www.raymondmaine.org>

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March 2007

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J.S.M.S. Successful at Math Meets

By Beth Shively

Over the past couple of months, Jordan-Small Middle School Math Teams have participated in two Pine Tree League math meets. The first meet was hosted by Raymond in November, and the second meet was held at Mechanic Falls in February. Though the questions were difficult, our teams worked very hard, and we were able to win many trophies and ribbons for Jordan-Small Middle School.

The participants for the Raymond meet were:

6th grade: Emma Laprise, Molly Miller, Brian Murray, Aaron Guisely, Ryan Carr, and Christine Pollard.

7th grade: Patrick LaChance, Rob Cave, Josh Waldron, Megan Hargreaves, Ryan Hoffman, and Lucy Algeo.

8th grade: Beth Shively, Molly Cloutier, Drew Gagnon, Haley Acker, Jenna Martin-Fisher, and Kyle Hargreaves.

In the most recent math meet our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade teams participated. The meet was run differently, but even though it was not what we were used to, we all did very well. The new members to the teams from the first meet were: Kris Darien, Spencer Smith, Ryan Szantyr, Erik Woodbrey, Sandra Carter, Lillie Reder, and Alan Wardwell.

Individual awards were won by Emma Laprise (3), Brian Murray, Molly Miller, Aaron Guisely, Patrick Lachance, Erik Woodbrey, Drew Gagnon (2) Beth Shively, Molly Cloutier, and Jenna Martin-Fisher.

Jordan-Small Middle School also won (9) team awards, which are now on display in the school office.

Congratulations on two great math meets!

Boat Registrations Due as of January 1st Expire December 31st

Boat registrations have not changed: 0-10 hp \$10; over 10-50 hp \$16; over 50-115 hp \$22; over 115 hp \$30; and personal watercraft \$30. Milfoil stickers are required for all motorized boats: resident \$10 and non-resident \$20 (boats not registered in Maine). Maine Sales Tax is collected at 5% of the purchase price.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife collects the milfoil sticker funds to use for programs to study and prevent these water plants, especially the Eurasian milfoil, from permeating Maine fresh waters. The Eurasian milfoil plant is an invasive plant that eventually chokes fresh water lakes, ponds, and rivers. Once established in a lake, it can become impossible to control. Maine

is trying to keep milfoil from its waters, and this program endeavors to keep our lakes, ponds, and streams from becoming clogged. For anyone with a non-motorized boat who wishes to participate, the stickers are also available at the established fee.

Second Half Tax Billing

The second half tax billing is expected to be mailed by March 31, 2007. The second half taxes are due April 30, 2007. If you haven't received a tax bill by April 15th, please call Donna Lovely, Deputy Tax Collector, at the Town Office, 655-4742 ext. 22.

All taxes for 2006-2007 are due by June 30, 2007. If property taxes are not paid by June 30th, the property owner(s)'s name will appear in the Town Report published before Town Meeting 2008.

Family Valentine Dance

The Family Valentine Dance was held on February 9th. This collaborative event was co-sponsored by the Raymond PTO, Mentoring Partnership and S.E.A.R.C.H. More photos on page 10. Photos by Lisa Davison



Road Runner Articles

Articles for the next edition of the *Road Runner* newsletter are due by Thursday, **March 22nd**. Please provide them by any of the following methods:

E-Mail; Diskette; Paper; CDROM

Articles should be submitted in RTF and pictures in JPEG format. E-mail articles and pictures to: roadrunner@raymondmaine.org or drop them off at the Town Office or at one of the school offices.

Road Runner Staff:

John Hanley Laurie Forbes
Norma Richard Kevin Woodbrey

Visit Us on the Web

Make sure to see the on-line archives at the Raymond, Maine, website: <http://www.raymondmaine.org>
Look under Calendars & News

To learn more about what's new in Raymond, visit our website at:

<http://www.raymondmaine.org>

On-line services now include:

- Automobile registration
- Hunting and fishing licenses
- Assessment information
- Property & other maps

Did you know the Raymond Road Runner can be mailed to your winter home or to an out-of-town relative or friend? A subscription is \$8 per year. Contact: Louise Lester, Town Clerk, 401 Webbs Mills Road, Raymond, ME 04071, 207-655-4742, x-21, louise.lester@raymondmaine.org

Raymond Village Library News

At a Glance

- Friday, March 2 – Dr. Seuss Party, 6:30pm, at Raymond Elementary School.
- Wednesday, March 7 – Library Board Meeting at 7pm, at the library.
- Wednesday, March 28 – Book Group at 7pm, at the library.
- Sunday, April 1 – Pajama Story Time at 6pm, at the library.

Dr. Seuss Party

This is the party of the year!! A not-to-be-missed event!! All those who have attended previous Dr. Seuss Parties know how much fun they are, and this year's party looks like it will be the Biggest and Best Party yet!! So remember Friday night, March 2, 6:30 at the Raymond Elementary School. No age limit, everyone is invited to enjoy the games and activities. Look for the pictures in next month's Road Runner. Maybe you'll be in them!

Book Group

The Book Group will meet on Wednesday, March 28, at the library at 7pm. The books chosen for discussion are My Mother's House and Sido by Colette. Copies of the books will be available by request at the library. If you have any questions, please call Jane at 655-5354.

Pajama Party

On Sunday, April 1, the Raymond Village Library will be filled with people of all ages in PJs listening to Jody Fein, a well-known storyteller. Jody is famous for her enthusiastic and fun-filled tale telling. This is such a great treat! Be sure to wear your pajamas and be ready to enjoy the songs and

stories. We have the Raymond PTO to thank for sponsoring this April Fools Day surprise at 6pm at the library. Be sure to mark your calendars.

Art Exhibit

The Third Grades of Raymond Elementary School have loaned some of their artwork to help brighten the walls of the children's area in the Raymond Village Library. Check out the colorful display the next time you are in the library.

Computer Workshops- Spring Schedule

No computer workshops will be offered in March; however, keep an eye out for "Creating a Newsletter" in April and "Working with Tables" in May. For more information, contact Doris at doris.horne@raymondmaine.org.

The Raymond Village Library Thanks You

We can't say thank you often enough to those who help keep our library as vital and up to date as it is today. This time we wish especially to thank those who gave so generously to our 2006 Annual Appeal. Your donations help us provide quality library collections, services and programs for both children and adults. Please stop by soon and see the improvements your contributions have made possible.

For information on the Raymond School Department, go online to the School's website. Complete school department information with links to Jordan-Small Middle School and Raymond Elementary School websites.

www.raymondmaine.org/rsd/welcome.html

Neighborhood Watch

Most people have heard about the Neighborhood Crime Watch program. More information can be obtained at www.ncpc.org. However, you might want to investigate a Neighborhood Watch for Animals. This program has been formed by the Humane Society of the United States – First Strike Campaign.

The Neighborhood Watch for Animals includes the following key points:

- Know your neighborhood's pets
- Pay attention to abuse, neglect, and abandonment
- Watch for pets in parked cars
- Watch for strangers in your area whether animal or human
- Be on the lookout for illegal organized animal fighting
- Be aware of domestic violence situations
- Help the elderly and their pets
- Designate a public dog-friendly area or yard
- Look out for wild animal neighbors
- Start education of our youth early
- Work together

Information on this program can be obtained at www.hsus.org or:

*The Humane Society of the United States
2100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
1-888-213-0956 fax 301-258-3074*

March 2007

Events and Meeting Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FB =Fire Barn JS =Jordan-Small KC =Kokatosi Campgnd PS =Public Safety Bldg. RE =Raymond Elementary CL =Casco Library TBD =To Be Determined	SG =Sheri Gagnon TG =Town Garage RT85 TH =Town Hall VL =Village Library VC =Village Church VT =Village Tennis MB =Modular at JSMS			1 6:30PM PS Raymond Lions Club Meeting 7:00PM MB One Raymond Committee	2 6:30PM RE Dr. Seuss Party	3
4	5 10:00AM VL Library Babytime 6:30PM RE School Budget Public Hearing	6 7:00PM MB Selectmen's Meeting	7 10:00AM VL Library Toddlertime 10:45AM VL Library Preschool Storytime 6:30PM RE School Committee Meeting 7:00 VL Library Board	8	9	10
11	12 10:00AM VL Library Babytime	13 7:00PM MB Tassel Top Board of Directors 6:30PM RE Parent Teachers Organization	14 10:00AM VL Library Toddlertime 10:45AM VL Library Preschool Storytime 7:00PM MB Planning Board Workshop	15 7:00PM MB One Raymond Committee 6:30PM PS Raymond Lions Club Meeting	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19 10:00AM VL Library Babytime 7:00 PM TH CPIC Public Hearing 7:00 PM MB Budget Committee	20 7:00PM MB Selectmen's Meeting	21 10:00AM VL Library Toddlertime 10:45AM VL Library Preschool Storytime 6:30PM RE School Committee Meeting	22 7:00 PM TBD Building Committee 7:00PM MB Selectmen's Budget Meeting 7:00 PM TH Cemetery Committee ROADRUNNER DEADLINE FOR APRIL ISSUE ARTICLES	23	24
25	26 10:00AM VL Library Babytime 7:00PM TH Zoning Board Appeals 7:00 PM MB Budget Committee	27 7:00PM TH Conservation Commission 7:00PM TBD Possible Board of Assessment Review	28 7:00PM VL Book Group	29	30	31

Municipal News Brief

By: Don Willard, Town Manager

The Raymond Board of Selectmen recently took the following actions:

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

- 1) Informational presentation on DEP grant awarded to the Town of Casco to address erosion issues in the Thomas Pond watershed – Heather True, Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District

The Town of Casco was awarded a grant by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to repair erosion problems within the Thomas Pond Watershed (located in both the towns of Casco and Raymond). Casco has hired Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District to oversee the implementation of this grant. This grant, the Thomas Pond Watershed Improvement Project, is a two-year project that started in the spring of 2006. It is the second grant awarded within the watershed to address problem sites based on a prior watershed survey that initially identified these sites. In addition to addressing key problem sites within the watershed, this grant also offers free technical assistance on conservation practices to watershed residents, 23 \$300 matching grants for residents to address erosion issues on their property, and a community forum to bring the watershed community together to discuss the future well-being of the Thomas Pond Watershed. All participation in this grant is completely voluntary, as the District's work with the towns, road associations, and residents is non-regulatory. The goal is to work with communities, offering technical and monetary assistance to improve their water resources' quality.

- 2) Discussion of fiscal year 2007/2008 Assessing Services Contract and billing for revaluation abatements – Contract Assessor Mike O'Donnell

Contract Assessor Mike O'Donnell is seeking a \$5,000 increase in the town's contract assessing services with John O'Donnell & Associates. He also presented and explained his billing for the work related to processing revaluation abatement requests and other work needed in follow-up to the town's 2005 revaluation project. The increase in contract services expense will be discussed as a part of the FY 2007/2008 budget process.

- 3) Consideration of abatements – Contract Assessor Mike O'Donnell, O'Donnell & Associates

This item was tabled until next meeting.

- 4) Discussion of possible replacement of heavy-duty plow truck – Public Works Director Nathan White

Public Works Director Nathan White would like to replace a 1995 plow truck with a newer one. Because of new EPA emission laws effective in 2007, it is financially advantageous to the town to buy a truck now and not wait until the next fiscal year. The Selectmen authorized Nathan White to seek bids for the possible replacement of the 1995 plow truck, to be considered at the next meeting on February 20, 2007. Further action will be decided at a later meeting.

- 5) Raymond Conservation Commission, Natural Resource Inventory/GIS funding request to support development of Open Space Plan – John Rand Co-Chair Raymond Conservation Commission

Mr. Rand requested funding to allow the RCC to finish the natural resource inventory/GIS work (this work will form the foundation for the Open Space Plan), and to do so will require an additional request of \$3,000 not currently budgeted. Draft maps have been prepared, and the remaining important work is to engage the public and gather comment and input on the resources

identified to date as most important to the town. They envision using this money to cover time for Contract Planner Hugh Coxe, for edits to the draft GIS maps, and to put together a brief but informative presentation for viewing on the public access channel. The Selectmen authorized the Conservation Commission to use \$3,000 from the Open Space Reserve Account to fund their planning work.

- 6) Appointment of Voter Registrar Louise Murray for two-year term – Town Clerk Louise Lester

Town Clerk Louise Lester would like to secure the appointment of Voter Registrar Louise Murray for another two-year term. The Selectmen approved appointing Louise Murray for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2007, as Voter Registrar.

- 7) Determination of 2007 town scholarship award levels – Town Clerk Louise Lester

The item was tabled until next meeting.

- 8) One Raymond Committee Update – Mark Gendron & Dana Desjardins, Co-Chairs

- a) Emergency dispatch – Information was presented about discussions with both Naples and Windham regarding options for possible regionalized dispatch service.

- b) New town office location – There was a discussion about the town-owned land behind the District Two/Public Works garage as a possible location for a new town office. It was the general consensus that consideration of any expert advice needed to support this idea should be included in the FY 2007/2008 budget.

- 9) Old (unfinished) business.

- a) Executive Session: Discussion of acquisition of real property as authorized under Maine Statutes Title 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(C).

It was stated that action should go forward with the land acquisition unless there is payment in full, including all related costs, by the former landowner before the court date.

- 10) Town Manager Report and Communications.

- a) New part-time employee – Mr. Willard announced that Susanne Carr of Raymond has been hired as a part-time Deputy Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector, working at the front desk in the Clerk's office.

- b) Petition related to Emergency Dispatch – Mr. Willard announced that a petition was submitted to the town which appeared to state that the signers wished to maintain an emergency dispatch in Raymond. He added that there were only 172 registered-voter signatures, which is short of the 211 signers needed for a binding petition requiring the Selectmen to act, if the intent of the petition signers were clear.

- 11) Fiscal Warrants – Payroll and Appropriation Warrants – February 6, 2007.

Approved payroll and appropriation warrants dated February 6, 2007.

Due to publishing deadlines, the February 20th Board of Selectmen meeting municipal news brief will appear in the April 2007 issue.

All Raymond meetings are public, and citizens are encouraged to attend. You may also watch live broadcasts of municipal meetings on Public Access Channel 2, which is the government channel. Channel 3 is the education/school channel. A program listing is available on-line at www.raymondmaine.org.

From the Tax Collector's Office

The second half of this year's taxes will be due April 30th. If you didn't receive a bill or are paying after that date, please contact the tax collector at 655-4742. Any balance left unpaid June 30th, 2007, in addition to any previous years' taxes, will be listed in the Town Report.

Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee Needs Help

The Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee is looking for a volunteer to help with their work of developing ordinances that will coordinate with the 2004 Comprehensive Plan. Meetings are at the Broadcast Studio on the third Thursday of the month at 7pm. Please visit the website at www.raymondmaine.org for updated meeting schedules and minutes.

For additional information, you may contact Town Clerk Louise Lester or Karen Strout, CEO secretary, 655-4742 x 21 or 43. All correspondence received in writing or by e-mail will be forwarded to the committee.

April 1st Deadline for Property Tax Exemptions

The Town of Raymond and the State of Maine provide the opportunity for residents to get certain exemptions from the property tax. These exemptions represent a certain amount of value, which will be subtracted from your total real estate property valuation. The values may vary from year to year. If you qualify, the exemption(s) will apply to the 2007-2008 tax year.

- Homestead Exemption: If the owner is a legal resident of Raymond, come to the Town Office and fill out an easy one-sided application.
- Veterans Exemption: If the owner is 62 years of age by April 1st, a veteran of a federally recognized war period, and can provide an honorable discharge DD214, come into the Assessing Office and apply.
- Blind Exemption: If the owner is legally blind and can provide a note from his/her doctor stating that fact, come into the Assessing Office and apply.

Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Boat Giveaway

If you have purchased through the MOSES system a 2007 IF&W license, Maine Moose Hunt Permit, or Maine Any Deer Permit, you are entered in a contest to win a 2007 Classic Rangeley Boat. You might enter at the town office, online or at any merchant who is on the IF&W MOSES system.

Deadline for entry is
September 20, 2007.

The winner will be notified
by October 15, 2007.

The Classic Rangeley Boat Drawing is open to all resident and non-resident qualified buyers who are 18 years or older at the date of purchase of application. Void where prohibited. For more information: www.mefishwildlife.com Information on the boat: www.rangeleyboat.com

Sand/Salt for Raymond Residents

Fire Lane 89 on the Plains Road at the Public Works shed.

Monday – Friday from 7:30am to 3pm

Saturday from 8:30am to 12pm

Public entry into the fenced area is prohibited. There is a limit of 5 five-gallon buckets a load.

NO COMMERCIAL USE IS ALLOWED.

Proposed Municipal Budget up .72%

By Don Willard, Town Manager

This year's draft municipal budget was developed through a process that is a significant departure from that utilized in years past. The Town Manager was directed by the Board of Selectmen to produce a first draft budget that achieves a number of performance objectives at the outset, rather than through the review process. Primary among these objectives is a draft budget that is compliant with the spending strictures imposed by LD1.

The state-mandated LD1 spending limit comprises two components. The first is the "average real personal income growth," which is set annually by the state. This year the level of increase was set at 2.47%. The second element is the "property growth factor," which is the percentage increase of taxable valuation from one tax year to the next by individual community. Comparing Raymond's 2007 increased value to the 2006 base yields an additional levy limit of 1%. When added to average real personal income growth, the total levy (from property tax) limit for the Town of Raymond was established at 3.47%.

In addition to compliance with LD1, the Board of Selectmen also directed that the following guidelines be adhered to in developing this year's budget.

1. Additional money should be dedicated to capital road improvement work.
2. Reliance upon undesignated fund balance (surplus) as a budget reduction mechanism should continue to be reduced.
3. The budget should reflect an emphasis upon provision of core services. A comprehensive review of current funding initiatives should be undertaken and recommendations made for reductions to programs that are outside the town's service mission.
4. Privatization and outsourcing of services should be explored for cost savings.
5. Savings realized through incorporation of services with the Raymond School Department or outside governmental entities, such as neighboring communities and Cumberland County, should be incorporated into the budget.
6. A priority should be placed upon maintaining the town's current solid waste collection system and supporting the activities of the Raymond Waterways Protective Association and the Raymond Village Library.
7. Investigate the merits of bonding for capital improvements vs. capital reserve budgeting.
8. In development of the budget the town should be mindful that Raymond citizens are seeking property tax relief as evidenced by the affirmative local vote for the recent Taxpayer Bill of Rights proposal (TABOR): 1136 in favor, 941 against.
9. The town, school and county budgets combined should be at a level to permit last year's mil rate of \$10.20 per thousand valuation to remain unchanged. As a point of information, last year the mil rate breakdown was as follows:

	Mil Rate	% of Total Tax Bill
School	\$7.34	72%
County	\$0.51	05%
Municipal	\$2.35	23%

The proposed **gross municipal budget** total of \$3,708,511 is an increase of \$26,654 or .72% over last year's budget of \$3,681,857.

Budgeted revenues are expected to decline significantly in 2007-2008. Because Raymond's overall valuation continues to grow, Municipal Revenue Sharing funds received from the State of Maine will continue to decrease. Revenue from excise tax, which is directly related to the number of new automobiles purchased, did not reach the expected projection last year, and it does not appear that it will again this year. Additionally, the draft budget uses a smaller amount from surplus to offset taxes in order to meet Selectmen goals to improve the Town's financial position. Due to this combined reduction in revenues, the net municipal budget increase becomes 3.40%. This results in a total **net municipal budget** (from property taxes) of \$1,827,398 or \$1212 less than the \$1,828,610 allowed by LD1.

My recommendation for this year's budget required eliminating funding in several areas that are not central to the

town's service mission. I have also added funds to address Selectmen priorities in an attempt to balance the need for fiscal restraint with achieving program and capital goals and objectives. It is possible to simply cut the budget and therefore reduce taxes, but to do so would stall progress in several areas needing attention, and in the longer run increase both costs and future property taxes. I believe this draft budget meets the objectives outlined by the Board of Selectmen and the short and long term needs of the town, and I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this proposal with the community. The Selectmen are seeking to hold the current mil rate of \$10.20 per thousand dollars valuation, meaning that the owner of a house valued at \$200,000 will still pay \$2040 in taxes annually.

Budget highlights by department

A decrease of 1.7% in the Administration budget was caused by the decrease from last year's appropriation for the Finance Director, the Deputy Finance Director, and the Front Counter position, as well as a reduction of 4 hours per week in the Deputy Tax Collector position. Included in this account group is an increase of 4 hours for the Assistant Code Enforcement Officer and pay adjustments for staff including a special adjustment for the Finance Director and Deputy Finance Director, to begin the alignment of their compensation with market average rates. The Selectmen also adjusted the pay and/or employee benefits for the Town Manager by 5% as a part of contract renewal. All positions not subject to special adjustments are budgeted at a cost of living increase of 3.4%. The actual average CPI-U for the past twelve-month period is 3.6%. Under Administration there is also an increase of \$5083 to the elections budget, which includes the first of two payments for a new voting machine, as the old one is over 20 years old and will no longer be supported by the vendor.

The Assessing budget has decreased 1.4% due to a slight decrease in the wage appropriated for the Assessor's Assistant compared to the wage appropriated for 2006-2007. The 2006-2007 software upgrade appropriation of \$5000 has been offset by an increase in the Contract Assessor request of \$5000.

The Town Hall appropriation increase of 41.7% reflects the new budget items of a security system for the Town Hall (\$4,200), its annual monitoring cost (\$648), and the proposed replacement of two of the five large windows needing replacement in the main part of the Town Hall at a cost of \$8,000.

The Insurance appropriation increase of 2.85% includes an estimated 13% increase in health and other insurances, while reflecting much lower increases in Social Security and ICMA, as well as a reduction of one full-time employee.

Technology, Data Services, and GIS have now been combined into a single Technology Department with a combined increase of 12.73%. This increase encompasses an appropriation of \$60,000 for the Department Administrator, as well as \$20,000 for contracted GIS services.

A decrease of 37.7% in the Community Development Account was due to a reduction in the CPIC request from \$50,000 to \$20,000, along with cutting the request for funding the Open Space Reserve, which was appropriated last year at \$20,000. Last year at Town Meeting it was voted to place all Tree Growth Penalties in the Open Space Reserve Fund. In the past several years that amount has ranged from \$14,000 to \$31,000.

The Fire/EMS and Dispatch budget has a zero net change for the third year in a row, but does reflect a transition and cost reduction by the dispatching function being assumed by Naples. The establishment of an evening Paramedic "Fly Car" and the retention of one dispatcher to provide administrative support are also included in the budget request.

Sebago Water Safety Watch is not being funded this year.

Animal Control reflects a 2.3% increase due to the increase in the contract with the Animal Refuge League, which is being offset in part by an additional \$600 from Animal Control fees being applied against this appropriation. These fees are required by state law to be used only for Animal Control.

Infrastructure is showing a slight increase due to additional streetlights, which increase usage of power, and an increase in electric rates.

Public Works shows an increase of 2.2% due in part to COLA salary increases, as well as a request from the contractor for an additional increase (outside the contract) in the P&K plowing contract to reflect a fuel cost adjustment.

The Solid Waste Account has increased 2.2%, reflecting a new three-year contract with Pine Tree Waste for curbside

trash and recycling pickup, and a further reduction in the Bulky Waste appropriation of \$10,000 (from \$60,000 to \$50,000) to reflect actual current usage.

There is no change to the Cemeteries Account. There is a .9% increase to the Parks account due to the increase in the mowing contract.

The Library has requested an increase of 5.7%, from \$26,500 last year to \$28,000.

Provider Agency funding has decreased a total of 11.3%. The Town Manager is not recommending any increases to last year's agency appropriations; Raymond Extended Day requested \$684 less than last year; and the Raymond-Casco Historical Society's request of \$2000 is being funded from the TIF account.

The Capital Improvement Program shows a total increase of 2.4% (after including the two line items added last year for road reconstruction and FD equipment), and includes an increased appropriation this year of \$215,000 for road reconstruction.

Much more detailed information, including the complete budget document, may be found at the Raymond website, www.raymondmaine.org, or you may contact me at don.willard@raymondmaine.org, or telephone 655-6994 x 31. Copies of the budget are also available upon request, and at the Raymond Village Library.

Moose Permits Available

The 2007 Moose Permit applications are available at the Town Office. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 2, 2007, or delivered to 284 State Street, Augusta, Maine, by 5pm. Apply online until 11:59pm, April 2, 2007, at: www.mefishwildlife.com

Season dates:

September 24 through September 29
(WMDs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 19) or

October 8 through October 13 (WMDs
1 through 14, 17, 18, 19, 27, 28)

Number of permits:

2,880 permits available.

For more information, call 207-287-8000 or e-mail ifw.online@maine.gov

Compost Bin Order Deadline April 2nd

You have until April 2nd to place your order for the Maine Resource Recovery Association compost bin. Orders will be taken at the Town Office at \$39.50 each (tax included). Checks should be written to "MRRA" (Maine Resource Recovery Association).

These bins have a 10-year warranty and are made of 100% recycled black plastic. They are approximately a 40-gallon size, 35" high and 33" wide. It is estimated that Raymond residents can save \$138 for every ton of waste they compost.



Again this year a covered kitchen scrap pail is also available for \$10.50. Both these items are displayed at the Town Office and Village Library. Deadline for orders is April 2nd.

These bins and pails will be available for delivery on or about May 10th.

For order blanks and ordering, please contact:

Louise Lester, Town Clerk
Raymond Town Office
401 Webbs Mills Road
Raymond, Maine 04071
655-4742 ext. 21

louise.lester@raymondmaine.org

Looking Back - Looking Forward

by Randy Crockett, J.S.M.S. Principal

I recently realized that it has been five years since JSMS became a fully implemented 5-8 middle school after many years of study, debate and planning. The J.S.M.S. eighth grade students from five years ago are currently seniors in high school! I wonder if the members of the development group that started the process of bringing the seventh and eighth grade students back to Raymond would be pleased with the results. In reviewing the original document that came out of the committee, one can easily recognize many of the components that are part of our program today. Other critical aspects of our current school organization, such as looping teams, were not part of the original design. Some committee suggestions, such as consumer science and "tech. ed.," have never been implemented. Of the original staff that worked on the transition during our one year as a 5 - 6 school, only five teachers are still on staff. I would guess that to most of our students it seems as if Jordan-Small Middle School has been here a long time. (Five years is an eternity to a 13 year old!) The days of one K-6 school are not part of the collective memory for most of the staff and many of the parents. Changes that have occurred in state and national education policy were not imagined when Raymond became a two-school town.

The bold initiative recently announced by Gov. Baldacci to restructure Maine's school districts will impact the details of our program in the near and long term. Regardless of the political decisions that will occur at the state level, I believe it is time for the staff and community to focus our thinking on the direction that the middle school should take over the next five years. What are the key ingredients we need to put in place to provide the best educational experience possible to J.S.M.S. students? What do we wish we could offer our students, and how much can we financially afford? Can we structure our time and resources differently to have greater impact? Are there programs we need to put in place to insure that our eighth grade students are as well prepared for high school as their counterparts from other middle schools?

I encourage everyone to consider what they believe is essential for a middle school education and to share their beliefs with our administration and school board. I am establishing an advisory group of community members to help provide a broad perspective of ideas. Please contact me via e-mail (randy.crockett@raymondmaine.org) if you are interested in providing input. The staff at J.S.M.S. will also be working to establish goals for the future during the remaining months of this school year. It is up to all of us to do our best to provide our current students with a solid foundation of skills and knowledge that will serve them well as they transition to high school.

RES Principal's Report for March

By Norma Richard, RES Principal

Last month was an exciting time for all students at the Raymond Elementary School with Circus Smirkus in residence. Kindergarten – grade 4 students had a great time in their gym classes working together and learning new skills under the direction of circus performer Christine Landon. Teachers further integrated the study of the circus through literature, writing and art activities in their classrooms. The grand finale was a school-wide performance held on Friday, February 16. I would like to thank Ms. Maria Parisi and Mrs. Betsy Stevens for their tireless efforts, organization, and enthusiasm in bringing Circus Smirkus to RES. The Raymond PTO's contribution to fund the program is also much appreciated. Recognition also goes to Mrs. Jesse Burton, art teacher, Mrs. Patti Gordan, music teacher, and Mrs. Deb Keef, librarian, for bringing the circus to life in their programs. I am sure that the children will remember this experience for many years to come.

Maine Educational Assessments will be held this month. Parents of RES 3rd and 4th graders have received the schedule for test administration in these grade levels: March 5 – 8 for grade 4 and March 12 – 14 for grade 3. All testing is done between 9am and 11am to provide the best testing experience for the children. Please be sure that your child is at school and on time during the MEA's. Remember that a healthy breakfast, nutritious snack, and a good night's sleep are important each day for your students, not only during the MEA's.

We hope that parents are receiving copies of the new RES NEWSLETTER. Mrs. Mindy McKinney, school secretary, is coordinating the newsletter, and the response from parents and the children has been very positive. We hope to keep up with our schedule to publish the newsletter every two weeks as a way to update parents on school and classroom events. Please e-mail Miss Mindy at mindy.mckinney@raymondmaine.org if you have any feedback or suggestions for future issues. We plan on posting the newsletters on the RES website.

Conferences are on the Raymond School District calendar for March 29. A teacher training day is scheduled for Friday, March 30. School will not be in session on these dates. This spring, students will be bringing their parents to conferences to share their learning and progress. RES parents have already received information from the school about the format of this spring's conferences. Students are collecting samples of their work and practicing their role in the conferences. Parent feedback from the fall conferences was very helpful in planning for this spring, and we look forward to receiving additional feedback this March.

Kindergarten Classes Visit the Raymond Post Office

The Kindergarten classes enjoyed a trip to the Raymond Post Office. The children were all involved in a "writing for purpose" writing lesson when they created special valentine cards and letters for their parents. They also helped address their own envelopes. Prior to going to the post office the children learned about the process of a letter going from the sender to the receiver, the various jobs and responsibilities of the postal workers, and the different modes of transportation they might use to get mail to where it needs to go. The children were asked to send in 39¢ to purchase their own stamp. This request lent itself to integrating our social studies and math, with the children identifying and counting coins. These activities were all part of the Kindergarten social studies curriculum on learning about "Goods & Services." You can imagine the joy the children have been expressing about waiting for and seeing their letters arrive at their homes!

We'd like to thank the Raymond Postal Workers for their continuing support of this activity and for the time they took to help and talk with our children. The children each worked on an art project of designing their own picture of a stamp. If you go to the post office, you might just see these in the window!

Raymond Schools Budget Hearing

There will be a public forum to discuss the proposed 2007 – 2008 school budget on Monday, March 5.

This meeting will be held at 6:30pm at the Jordan-Small Middle School.

Valentines from Hebron Academy Middle School Builders Club

By Christine Hemmings, Middle School Office Administrator

Members of the Hebron Academy Middle School Builders Club recently made valentines and delivered them to residents of the Pine Point Nursing Home in Scarborough, Maine. Of special

interest to the middle schoolers was visiting nursing home resident *Ciro Russo*, who graduated from Hebron Academy in 1948. The students brought him a yearbook, and Mr. Russo reminisced about his wonderful memories while at Hebron Academy.

Builders Club is the largest service organization for middle school students (ages 12 to 14), with more than 40,000 members worldwide. Builders Club is a "student-led" community service organization that operates under school regulations and draws its members from the student body. Don Malpass, of the Norway/South Paris Kiwanis, serves as the Middle School Builders Club advisor, and English teacher Jamie Fey serves as the faculty advisor. For more information about the Middle School, interested families should check the Middle School section of the Hebron Academy website at www.hebronacademy.org.



*Ciro Russo, HA '48, Gets a Visit and a Valentine from Current Middle Schoolers (l-r) Max Middleton (Hebron), Jamie Fey (Hebron), Mike Minigell (Norway), Harry Trask (Norway), Annalyn Bachmann (Auburn), Lindsey Hughes (Raymond), and (front) *Ciro Russo* (Scarborough).*

"No School" Announcements

The school cancellation procedures were published in the school calendar/handbook sent to all Raymond households in August. To review, in the event of no school due to weather or other emergency conditions, the cancellation announcements will be broadcast on the local television stations (Channels 6, 8 and 13) and radio stations (WPOR, WMGX, & WGAN) as soon as possible.

Safety is always the first consideration in cancelling or delaying the start of school. These are coordinated with the receiving school systems, Westbrook, Windham, Poland and Gray; so weather in these districts may affect busing for our elementary and middle school students. Buses will run their routes in the same order as on regular school days.

Alternative plans in the event of an early dismissal (either weather or emergency related) were included on your student's emergency sheet this year. Please alert the school office if there has been any change in these plans. We are unable to contact parents directly in the event of an early school closing, so it is very important that you have made alternate arrangements for your student in advance.

Please note that when school is cancelled, all afternoon and evening activities for school or the community held at RES or JSMS are also cancelled.

Pinewood Derby 2007

Pack 800 Cub Scouts participated in the annual Pinewood Derby competition in January at Jordan-Small Middle School. The gymnasium was prepared the night before, with the track laid out and computer technical support set up, ready for the races.

40 boys made their own cars with a provided kit, following Pinewood Derby regulations. While each car had to be the proper weight and made from the same basic kit, no two vehicles looked alike! Each boy put his own personal taste and style into his car with a wide variety of colors, shapes and designs.



After the opening Pledge of Allegiance, a patriotic song sung by Den 9, and the waving of the checkered flag, the races began. Three cars raced at a time, with only the three boys racing allowed into the track area to prevent confusion and to promote fairness, sportsmanship and safety of equipment. The other scouts waited patiently in the order of their race, watching on a large screen for the projection of the times for each car. Kevin Woodbrey and his two sons Kyle and Erik kept the times for each car via computers tracking each lane. Times were measured down to one/one thousandths of a second –such precision was necessary for accurate placement.



There were three rounds of racing, and the scouts were encouraged to have a break and/or snack between rounds. The local Girl Scouts offered snack-food items as a service as well as a fundraiser for their troop.

By 1pm the races were complete, and boys were recognized for best design, winning times over all, and winning times for each age group. Everyone walked away feeling the spirit of sportsmanship and fun.

The top winners will be heading to the Regional races to be held at Jordan-Small Middle School in April. Congratulations to Clayton Manchester, Zach Handy, Matt Cobb, Dustin Fisher, and Greg Meader as well as all the other racers for a great day a-racing!



PTO News

By Deb Cutten, Parent Teacher Organization

Request for Funds

The 8th grade team had requested \$500 to help fund the cost of admission to the Chamber Repertory Theatre's "Encore!!" performance on February 2nd. Since the performance was going to occur before our next meeting, and because it was felt that the Request would have been approved anyway, the request was granted. By supporting this project it helps us to fulfill our mission of enriching educational programs.

Fundraiser Update

We received a check from the Boxtops for Education program recently in the amount of \$1,165.31. The majority, \$1,119.50, resulted from the clipped box tops members have saved and submitted; \$4.42 resulted from the Online Marketplace; \$1.09 from using the The Boxtops for Education Visa Card; and \$40.30 was Bonus Box Tops Earnings. I'd like to thank Caj MacDonald for her continued dedication to running this program for the PTO. She organizes two contests a year, and her enthusiasm is what makes this such a successful fundraiser for us. The current contest ended Friday, February 16th.

Valentine Dance

The Valentine's Dance at JSMS on Friday, February 9th, was a big success. Lots of Raymond families braved the cold temperatures and came out to enjoy the festivities. The dance was the 3rd annual collaboration between The Raymond Mentoring Partnership and S.E.A.R.C.H. Thank you to all the people who donated food for the event. A very special "Thank you" goes out to Robin Harrison-Vieira, Catriona Sangster, and Beth Peavey for all their help pre-

paring, serving and cleaning-up. I couldn't have done it without you ladies.

Scholarship Committee Update

We have a new member on our scholarship committee. Coleen Laprise has been kind enough to step forward and offer to be a member of the Committee. Coleen will make a valuable addition to the Committee, as scholarships were very important in allowing her to go to college and they are something she cares very deeply about. Welcome aboard Coleen!

By-law Update

Article V, Section 1, of the By-laws was amended to allow for Co-chairs as Officers of the PTO rather than a President and Vice President. It was felt that the responsibilities of President were too much for one person, and the duties shall be shared equally by Co-chairs in the future. Co-chairs will serve a two-year term. The By-laws are also available on our website at www.raymondmaine.org/civicroups/pto. Please contact Vice-President Wendy Trask at wtrask1@maine.rr.com with any comments.

Notice of Public Meeting

A Public Hearing on the Proposed School Budget will be held on Monday, March 5th, at 6:30pm in the RES gym. One of the issues that will be discussed is the School Nurse position. A proposal has been made to reduce the position to a .2 full-time equivalent and two half time health aide/half time clerical positions. There is also a regular school board meeting on March 7th.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, call Deb at 655-2877 and leave a message or e-mail at PTO@raymondmaine.org



Raymond PTO Scholarship Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Parent's Name, Address and Telephone number: _____

How many years did you attend Jordan-Small School? _____

How many years have you been a Raymond resident? _____

Are you currently a Raymond resident? _____

What college or university do you plan to attend? _____

Please attach the following:

1. Three personal recommendations from teachers, employers, coaches, etc.
2. High school transcripts.
3. A brief description of school-related extracurricular activities and community-related activities. Describe in detail your involvement in at least three of these activities.
4. Write an essay stating your reason for pursuing a college education and include a description of your personal and career goals. Include the following in your essay:
 - a. State why you have chosen the college(s) listed above and how you decided on your career goals.
 - b. Explain how your past experiences (extracurricular and community activities) have helped you develop your career goals.
 - c. Describe how the college you have chosen will help you attain your goals.
 - d. Identify barriers that could affect your ability to achieve your goals and how you plan to overcome these obstacles.
 - e. Describe why your achievements and values would make you a good candidate for receiving a PTO scholarship.

DEADLINE: May 1st, 2007

Please send your completed application to:
 Raymond PTO Scholarship Committee
 c/o Raymond Elementary School
 434 Webbs Mills Road
 Raymond, ME 04071

Recipients of scholarships will receive the scholarship money after the PTO receives their first semester college transcripts indicating an overall GPA of 2.5 or above.

The Giving Tree

By Deb Cutten, Parent Teacher Organization

These are items teachers and staff need for their classrooms. If you have extra at home or would be willing to pick something up when you are out shopping, please bring/send in items and put them in the drop boxes near the school front doors labeled "Giving Tree," or you can leave them in the Office. We will deliver them to the teachers within 2 days. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, call Deb at 655-2877 or e-mail at dcutten@maine.rr.com

RES

- Ms. Stinehour needs – 2 or 3 rolls of transparent scotch tape
- Mrs. Blanchard needs – a dozen little plastic "do-dads" that you use to hold a single sheet of paper while you type at the computer.
- Mrs. Wiley needs - Spell checkers, CD players with headphones.
- Mrs. Weeks needs – portable CD/cassette player.
- Mrs. Gorham needs – 3 or 4 heavy-duty sound blocking headsets.

JSMS

- Ms. Griffin needs - two sets of speakers for the projector/DVD carts. These carts are used for presentations in class, and the sound on the projectors is not loud enough for entire classroom viewing. If anyone has any speakers they would like to donate, we could really use them.
- Ms. Worth needs – 22-25 inexpensive calculators (nothing with moving parts); the small dollar calculators from Wal-Mart would be fine!
- Ms. Stokes needs - new and/or used books for ages 9-12 for her classroom library.
- Ms. Irish needs – 100 inexpensive 1-gallon zip lock storage bags for air-tight overnight storage of 7th grade projects. She also needs a Play-Doh sample pack, one Silly Putty egg and an Etch A Sketch.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, call Deb at 655-2877 and leave a message or e-mail at PTO@raymondmaine.org

Raymond-Casco Historical Society News

By Anne Miller

The Raymond-Casco Historical Society met Monday, February 12, at the Raymond Public Safety Building. Members were updated on the RCHS Endowment Fund. It was reported by Treasurer Betty McDermott that an anonymous donor has kindly donated \$2,000 to the Society. It is a generous gift that will greatly help with the plans the RCHS has for a permanent museum. In addition, Don and Christine McClellan donated a framed poster that belonged to Randy Andrew of the former Sundancer Restaurant. The poster is about an opera company presenting "Hansel and Gretel" that came to Raymond some time during the summer of 1920 from New York.

Thanks were given to Rose Symonds who kindly donated filing cabinets for the museum.

Members were sad to learn of the passing of a longtime former member, Lois Varney. Her knowledge of books was an asset to the society.

The next meeting of the RCHS will take place on Monday, March 12, at 7pm at the Casco Public Library. Mr. Files, from Massachusetts, will be bringing along the Files Family Bible dated 1852 for members to look through. He will discuss the history of the Files family, a well-known family from Raymond. This meeting is open to the public.

Raymond Road Runner Deadline Reminder

Articles for the April issue are due
Thursday, March 22nd.

2006-07 Supplemental Budget

Rep. John C Robinson



As a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, my fundamental responsibility lies in dealing with the budget and the fiscal policies of the State of Maine.

I was pleased to see that the supplemental budget, closing out the gaps from 2006-07 fiscal year, was reported unanimously out of the Appropriations Committee. Once moving onto the full legislature, the budget was passed overwhelmingly. It was passed by a 138-5 margin in the House and 34-0 in the Senate, thus signaling the first 2/3rds budget in several legislative sessions.

It is a testament to the hard work on both sides of the aisle that the Legislature voted for a 2/3rds budget for the first time in recent years. It was once a long-held tradition in the Legislature to pass budgets with a 2/3rds vote, but this tradition was lost over the last two legislative sessions. By passing such a budget, we ensure that negotiations are comprehensive and represent the priorities of all Mainers, not those of just one party.

This budget resolved problems created by past budgets that left our state hospitals with a mass of unpaid bills. We made commitments to pay debts the state owes to community hospitals and made provisions to make sure that the state does not fall behind in payments to providers going forward.

It was also refreshing to see a budget that did not include tax and fee increases, gimmicks, or the use of one-time money. This budget does not just look for good on paper—it is balanced and responsible.

I am hopeful that the spirit of bipartisanship that made this budget acceptable to 2/3rds of my colleagues will continue as we work on the upcoming 2008-09 biennial budget.

I believe the people of Maine expect no less from us than to spend their tax dollars wisely. I stand committed to my constituents to do my best to make a 2/3rds biennial budget possible while holding to my principles to be as fiscally responsible as possible

State Rep. John C. Robinson (R-Raymond) serves on the Appropriates and Financial Affairs Committee and is the Republican Lead on the House Ethics Committee. He can be contacted via phone at 655-8657 or e-mailed at RepJohn.Robinson@Legislature.Maine.Gov

Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

E-mail Newsletter Available

If you want up-to-the minute information about Maine's hunting and fishing, Warden Mark Latti produces a weekly e-mail newsletter with current information about what is happening in Maine. The information about safety on ice in last month's *Raymond Road Runner* came from one of these newsletters.

You can be added to Warden Latti's list by e-mailing him and requesting to be included at: mark.latti@maine.gov

Red Cross Babysitting Instructor Training

It would be wonderful to have a certified Red Cross Babysitting Instructor right here in Raymond. Instructors may be contracted to teach in many surrounding communities as well. You can teach as often as you wish.

The Instructor's course will include preparation and administration of the course, reviewing materials, equipment and supplies to be used in the course, lesson plans, reviewing the video, policy and procedures of Red Cross courses and more.

The basic Babysitting course targets 11 to 14 year olds teaching them information on Leadership: Safe and Responsible Babysitting; Basic Care: the Heart of Babysitting; Stop: Think Safety, Safe Play and Basic First Aid. This basic course is approximately a 6+ hour program.

Dates of Instructor Course:
March 27, 1:30 – 3:00 and
March 29, 9:00 – 3:00

FMI call Pat Smith, President Raymond Rec:
655-4657

To Register call Bridgton Community Services:
647-3116

Ballot Clerks Needed

If you would like to participate in the democratic process, the Town of Raymond needs ballot clerks. The schedule would be for a four-hour session to be assigned by the Town Clerk. Depending on when you work, you will receive a light breakfast, lunch or dinner. This job also pays minimum wage, if you don't want to volunteer your time. Ballot clerks may be used to check off the names of voters as they enter the polling place, process absentee ballots, supervise the ballot box/machine, or be available to answer questions and aid the voter as needed.

To qualify you must be at least 18 years of age, registered to vote and a resident of the municipality. You need not have enlisted in a party; however, the town needs to have registered Democrats and Republicans of equal number working at the polls. Those in a party must be chosen to work first.

Household Trash Pickup

By: Louise Lester, Town Clerk (the trash lady)

As a reminder, Raymond provides curbside household trash pick and recycling. Pine Tree Waste is our contract trash hauler. If you wish to call them about an issue, their phone number is 888-857-0800. If you have any complaints, you can call them directly or call the Town Office at 655-4742 ext. 21. You can also e-mail me with complaints or suggestions at louise.lester@raymondmaine.org. Your day of pickup for the western and southern parts of town is Tuesday and the northern and eastern parts is Wednesday. If you have a question about your day of pickup, please call the Town Office or look at the map on our website www.raymondmaine.org.

Each household is allowed two 32-gallon containers (each not more than 50 pounds) per week. It is necessary that you have your street address on your trash barrels along with an orange sticker which you can get at the Town Office free of charge. You can recycle as much as you wish. A list of recycling items is available at the Town Office, as are blue recycling bins for \$6.15 each. If you have more than the two 32-gallon containers for a week, there are bag stickers for sale at the Town Office for \$1 each. You may put out as many stickered bags as you wish. All trash and recycling must be curbside in barrels by 7am on the day of pickup.

The household waste transfer station in Casco is NOT for our use. We are a part of the Lake Region Bulky Waste Facility but not the Casco/Naples Transfer Station.

Want to Learn about Digital Broadcasting?

The Technology Committee and Kevin Woodbrey, Network Administrator, are looking for interested people who would like to learn how to operate the digital broadcasting studio and run the cameras for meetings in Raymond. If you would like more information, please e-mail Kevin at kevinwoodbrey@raymondmaine.org or call Louise Lester at the Town Office at 655-4742 ext. 21.

Raymond Village Community Church News

Church Raises Scholarship Money

The Raymond Village Church recently raised over \$375 for scholarships for youth to attend Christian summer camps. At the annual Sweetheart Brunch on February 11, over 60 people gathered after worship for a delicious full breakfast prepared by the Sunday School staff, children, and youth.

Monies will primarily support youth who are attending Pilgrim Lodge, a United Church of Christ summer camp located on 100 acres on Lake Cobbosseecontee in West Gardiner, Maine. Twenty cabins along the lakeshore are connected by an extensive boardwalk on each side of the Main Lodge.

Campers come to Pilgrim Lodge for one week in the summer, and every week is geared toward a particular age group. The youngest campers have finished third grade, while the oldest campers are in high school. Campers enjoy swimming, boating, hiking, crafts, sports, and singing while broadening their understanding of God and the world through Bible study, daily chapel services, and mission projects.

Area Churches Sponsor Lenten Discussion Group

All are invited to attend a Lenten Discussion group sponsored by the Raymond Village Community, Windham Hill, North Windham Union, and East Windham Community churches from 7-8pm on Wednesdays in March. Reading material is from "Mysteries of Faith: The Prophets." Dates and locations are as follows:

- March 7 – North Windham Union Church Topic – Old Testament
- March 14 – Windham Hill Church Topic – New Testament
- March 21 – East Windham Community Church Topic – Islam
- March 28 – Raymond Village Community Church Topic – American Religions

FMI – Call the RVCC Church Office at 655-7749.

Lenten Worship Services

The Raymond Village Community Church invites everyone to attend its worship services during Lent and Holy Week.

Sunday, March 4, 11, 18, 25

- Worship and Sunday School at 10am

April 1 Palm Sunday

- 9:30am Hot cross buns and juice in the Vestry
- 10:00am Congregational Procession and Worship with Youth Singers doing songs from the musical "Godspell"

April 5 Maundy Thursday

- 5:30pm Fellowship meal with Seder and communion
- 7pm Candlelight Tenebrae Service

April 6 Good Friday

- The church will be open in the morning for reflection and prayer

April 8 Easter

- 6:30am Daybreak Service with Casco Village Church
- 10am Celebration Worship

Shalom Club for 5th and 6th graders

Shalom Club is a new group for 5th and 6th graders at the Raymond Village Community Church. It's a chance to get together for lunch and to put faith into action by working on service projects together. Shalom Club will meet once a month with Rev. Nancy on Sunday after church from 11:30-1:00 in the Youth Room. Bring a friend – or two – or three. After all, the more the merrier! Call the Church Office at 655-7749 for the date of the March meeting.

Dean's List Congratulations

Erin Dodge, daughter of Cathy and Gary Dodge of Raymond, made the Dean's List at the School of Visual Arts (SVA) in New York. A 2006 graduate of Gray-New Gloucester High School, Erin is a freshman at SVA, majoring in Illustration.

Do Something That Is Good for You AND Good for the Community!

Save the date: Friday, April 6, 2007

Calling all walkers, runners and exercise enthusiasts: Are you looking for ways to jump-start an exercise program this spring? Would you like to contribute to the community? We can provide the opportunity to do both at the same time.

The Raymond Village Church, in partnership with the Casco Village Church, is continuing the tradition of the Friday Hunger Walk on Good Friday, April 6, 2007. Everyone is invited to participate!

This year's walk starts at 8am at the Raymond Village church and travels up Rte 121 to the Casco Village Church, a distance of about 8 miles. For those exercise enthusiasts, some walk both ways starting at 5:30am from the Casco Church and then join the one-way walkers in Raymond. There is a wonderful soup lunch provided upon your arrival at the Casco Church.

Why would you do this?

- Help us raise money for the Raymond Food Pantry, so they can continue their important work feeding those community families in need. Yes, there are people right here in Raymond who need some extra help putting food on the table.
- Enjoy the fellowship in walking with friends and family. We live in a beautiful area; take a few moments from your busy life to enjoy the outdoors and even some views of Panther Pond along the way. Ask your friends to join you.
- Get some exercise! You can walk at a leisurely pace or quicken that pace and get those heart rates up. Some will even jog. There will be support vehicles along the route.
- Some people have their best thoughts when they're walking. When did you last have time to take a contemplative journey and explore the messages of Good Friday and Easter?

Whatever your reason - mind, body or soul - join us in this journey and feel good about yourself for helping to feed those in need. Please consider taking the morning off from work to participate. We really need your support!

If interested, call Leigh Walker at 655-2135, e-mail the Raymond Village Church at rvccme@fairpoint.net or call the church at 655-7749 for a pledge sheet. Any donation amount is appreciated! We do need to know how many walkers we will have, so please contact Leigh or the church. Many thanks.

Tassel Top Park / Beach

Did you know that Raymond has a secret? Windham does, Casco does, the towns around Sebago Lake do, and so do many people from out of state. The secret is Raymond's amazing resource Tassel Top Park Beach, which boasts 900 feet of sandy beach, picnic tables, grills, walking paths and benches for those who like to view the water as they relax in the shade. All are handicapped accessible, and beach wheelchairs are offered free of charge to those in need. A well-maintained and peaceful Nature Trail winds through the woods at the upper level of the park, and there is also plenty of space to jog.

A fully equipped Snack Shack offers ice cream, candy, drinks, snacks, ice and sundries as well as souvenir hats, visors and colorful T-shirts, and is open daily from 10-4.

Are you 21 or older?

The best-kept secret of all is the cabin rentals. The complex consists of a main cabin that has a huge living room with views and a fully functional eat-in kitchen, two 2-bedroom sleeping cabins and a bathroom cabin with a shower. A fenced-in front yard and private back yard with picnic tables, grill and campfire pit for your marshmallow toasting complete the scene. There is private parking on the lower level, and the end of the beach is reserved for renters only. A boat mooring is available for an additional charge. This is rented either weekly or by the day for small business meetings, yoga classes, etc.

NEW THIS YEAR: To show our appreciation to Raymond residents for their support, we are deducting \$100 off the weekly rent for year-round Raymond residents with proof of residency. All rentals may be scheduled by leaving a message for the head ranger at the Town Office at 655-4742 ext 32.

Keep your eye on future Road Runners for other new things at the park this season. The April edition will have a coupon for a raffle to be drawn at the Town Meeting in May. Someone will win a free weekend in the Tassel Top cabins - maybe you!

We are looking for someone who might like to use a jigsaw and would be interested in cutting out some life-sized wildlife for our new play area this season. Do you like plants and trees? Would you be interested in making some informational charts for our Nature Trail? We may also be looking for a few outstanding people to join our upbeat work force. If you are interested in any of these, please call Ranger Sue at 655-4441 or leave a message at the Town Hall at 655-4742 ext 32.

We look forward to seeing you this season!

Ranger Sue

Tassel Top Park Rangers Needed

The Tassel Top Board of Directors is seeking applicants for rangers at Tassel Top Park during the summer of 2007. A ranger's duties would include but not be limited to collecting admissions, overseeing the beaches, operating the snack shack and maintaining the park.

Deadline for applications is April 6, 2007, at 4pm.

Applications can be found on the town's website:
www.raymondmaine.org.

or obtained at the Town Office.

[At the website, choose Government from the dropdown list, then Employment Opportunities, and then the municipal application.]

Please submit application materials to: Sue LaMarre, Tassel Top Head Ranger, Town of Raymond, 401 Webbs Mills Road, Raymond, Maine 04071. For more information, please call the Town Office at 207-655-4742 ext. 21.

The Town of Raymond is an equal opportunity employer.

Town Nomination Papers Available

The 2007 Annual Town Meeting will be Saturday, May 19th, at 10am at the Jordan-Small Middle School gymnasium. On Friday, May 18th, our Town Elections will take place at Jordan-Small Middle School gymnasium from 7am to 8pm. The positions that will be available for candidates are Budget/Finance Committee 3 seats, School Committee 1 seat, and Selectmen 2 seats.

The Budget/Finance Committee reviews the Annual Town Budget, with its primary "season" being from January into March to be ready for the Annual Town Meeting in May. Usually the Committee meets twice a month during those months and during the rest of the year as needed. The School Committee has two regular meetings a month, and the Selectmen also have two regular meetings per month.

If you wish to run for an office, please obtain a nomination form at the Town Office during regular office hours beginning February 23rd. You will need to obtain not fewer than 25 but not more than 50 Raymond registered voter signatures. The deadline for submitting the completed nomination form will be Wednesday, April 4, 2007, at 4pm.

Property Tax and Rent Relief "Circuit Breaker" Program

DEADLINE MAY 31, 2007

Applications are available at the Town Office or online at www.maine.gov/revenue or write to:

Maine Revenue Services
PO Box 9116
Augusta, Maine 04332-9116

General Information:
207-626-8475 weekdays 8am to 5pm

Call for forms: 207-624-7894

Refund Information: 207-626-8461

(Have your Social Security number and total income amount available.)

NexTalk (TTY service):
888-577-6690 weekdays 8am to 4:30pm.

Maine Blues Festival Returns in 2007

By Mike McClellan, Greater Bridgton Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce

The Maine Blues Festival returns for the second year of this event in Naples, Maine, on Saturday June 16. The Maine Blues Festival is the creation of Mike Bray of Bray's Brew Pub and Restaurant in Naples. He has assembled a hard-working committee of local business people and volunteers to make Naples the Blues Capital of Maine for one weekend each year. We are extremely excited that first-year



sponsors Norway Savings Bank and P&K Sand and Gravel have returned at the Event Sponsor level. Evergreen Credit Union moves up to a Platinum Sponsor and the Greater Bridgton Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce and Mark Babbitt, Massage Therapist, also return as sponsors. The Maine Blues Festival is an all-day event (some locations will offer Friday and Sunday activities), with 10 or more music venues, over 30 awesome Blues acts and a family-oriented area at the Naples Village Green. Many thanks to the committee overseeing this event as well as to the Town of Naples for their support in this endeavor. Tickets are now on sale at Bray's Brew Pub and Restaurant and the Greater Bridgton Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce Information Center. Tickets are only \$10 and support this event. Your purchase gives us the confidence to add more to the Maine Blues Festival. Learn more about the events and sponsors at www.mainebluesfestival.com.

Maine Prisons Seriously Overcrowded

By Senator Bill Diamond

After a series of on site visits to many of Maine's prison facilities, my committee, the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, was surprised to learn of the serious inmate overcrowding that exists in some of these facilities. For example, at the Maine Correctional Center in Windham, in one of the male "Pods" (housing sections) it is not uncommon to have cell capacity maximized, resulting in more inmates than available cells, thus creating conditions that can become very dangerous.

During these periods of overcrowding, inmates roam in the common area of the Pod and are unable to be locked in cells for security reasons even during the overnight hours. Instead, they have to be placed on mattresses on the floor in the common area of the Pod. Also, during the overnight hours two cells have to be kept open to provide bathroom facilities for those without cells, resulting in the loss of two additional bunks. At first blush these conditions may be seen as simply an inconvenience for the inmates and therefore, in some people's opinion, not a major concern; however, the consequences of this serious overcrowding go well beyond the fact that the inmates have to sleep on the floor.

First and foremost, this situation presents a very real safety and security risk for the staff and Correctional Officers who are responsible to maintain order and guard these inmates. Not being able to place certain inmates in a locked cell when needed results in a less stable environment for the staff and the inmates. It is difficult enough to maintain control over certain prisoners under "normal" conditions; however, when the inmate population gets to this level of overcapacity, everyone is at risk including the staff, Correctional Officers and other inmates.

Another consequence resulting from severe overcrowding is the potential of costly lawsuits, which is not uncommon in these situations. It is well known that basic levels of safety and living conditions are expected to be maintained

within state and federal penal institutions; and when those conditions are continually violated, then federal and state courts could intervene by instituting specific mandates with definite timelines for change. History has shown that such an intervention costs taxpayers dearly, and we should be doing all we can to avoid being put in that situation.

The female section of the Maine Correctional Center is also severely overcrowded. All female inmates in the state are housed at the MCC by design, since obviously they have to be completely segregated from the various male populations. The female facility was built to house 70 inmates, and currently that population is at 141, more than double the designed capacity. This is a crisis waiting to happen.

As you can see, dealing with the overcrowding problem in Maine prisons is a much more serious problem than merely an inconvenience to the inmates. We need to be looking for a long-term solution to this problem, which could include some type of partnership with the county jails, as in some cases they have extra capacity for inmates. Cumberland County Sheriff Mark Dion has some interesting ideas regarding possible solutions, which will be brought forth in the near future.

And as long as we agree that serious offenders need to receive long-term sentences, we must be ready to provide cells in which to put them. We also need to provide conditions that are relatively safe for those who are charged with guarding these inmates, and to avoid court interventions we need to provide conditions that meet basic housing expectations.

Stay tuned as this issue is discussed and debated throughout this legislative session. I would be interested in your comments and suggestions.

State Senator Bill Diamond (D-Windham) can be contacted via phone at the Senate Chamber, Augusta, ME 04333, Tel.: 1-800-423-6900 or e-mailed at diamonddollyd@aol.com



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! ~ LET'S PLAY BALL!

Raymond Baseball/Softball Register for 2007!

JSMS Cafeteria from 6-8pm

Tuesday, 3/6/07 and Thursday, 3/8/07

Raymond Baseball & Raymond Softball jackets will be available for order

NEED TO REGISTER BY 3/17/07!

Programs Offered

	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL	
T-BALL (Coed)	Ages 5-7 as of April 30 th , 2007		
ROOKIE	Ages 7-9 as of April 30 th , 2007	U9	Age 9 & under as of Dec. 31, 2006 (may place with Minor teams)
MINOR	Ages 9-12 as of April 30 th , 2007	MINOR	Age 12 & under as of Dec. 31, 2006 (typically 7, 8 and 9 yr olds)
MAJOR (tryouts required)	Ages 9-12 as of April 30 th , 2007	MAJOR (tryouts required):	Age 12 & under as of Dec. 31, 2006 (typically 10, 11 and 12 yr olds)
SR LEAGUE	Ages 13-15 as of April 30 th , 2007		

Please use above dates to see which level your child would be eligible for. Typically, children will spend two years at each level.

**** Placement Sessions will be Held on Saturday afternoon, March 17th, JSMS GYM ****

ALL PLAYERS trying out for a new team must attend.

(T-Ball does not attend placements)

Baseball		Softball	
Rookie, Minor, Major Saturday March 17th JSMS Gym		U9, Minor, Major Saturday March 17th JSMS Gym	
Ages 7-9	1:00 - 2:30	Age 9 & under	4:00 - 5:00
Ages 10-12	2:30 - 4:00	Age 12 & under	5:00 - 6:00

Don't forget to bring your glove & great attitude!

Tball \$30, All others \$45 (\$40, if more than two in one family)
Sr League \$85 (no family fee)

Questions? Contact Lonnie Taylor, 655-3013, or Bonnie Flynn, 655-5339/ Bflynn1@maine.rr.com
www.raymondmaine.org/recreation/baseball

More Family Valentine Dance Photos

Continued from page 1. Photos by Lisa Davison



Aquatics Programs at St. Joseph's College

Swim Classes - Starting the week of March 19

Event: Swim Lessons

Registration is taken by mailing in registration before walk-in registration starts by retrieving a form from our website www.sjcme.edu and sending in payment. You may also register February 27, 28, March 1 at the Alford Center from 9am to 7pm. Classes will start the week of March 19th. There will be no classes the week of April 2nd. This session will be a 6-week session.

Place: St. Joseph's College
Harold Alford Center - POOL

Time: Classes are offered Tuesday through Saturday during the mornings, after school, and evenings for 6 weeks. A variety of class options are available. We have classes for infants, toddlers, pre-school, school age and adults.

Fees: The classes for infants, toddlers and pre-school age children are ½ hour class for 6 weeks and the fee for the program is \$ 47. Youth age six years through and including adults meet for 1 hour once a week for 6 weeks and the program fee is \$ 52.

About the Program: St. Joseph's College offers swim classes for infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers, youth and adults. The classes available are to teach a range of skills from water adjustment to basic swimming skills. Our instructional goal is that swimmers who have finished the lesson program will demonstrate proficiency in those skills designated by the American Red Cross, while having fun in a safe, comfortable atmosphere. Certificates are also offered as a record of course completion.

Classes are also available for more advanced children who wish to have more of a challenge. These programs are: Basic Rescue, Water Safety Aide, Lifeguard Readiness, Lifeguard Training and Water Safety Instructors Program.

Event: Water Aerobics

Date: (On-going classes throughout the year)

Time: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 8-9AM - Mondays & Wednesdays 8-9PM

Fee: \$5 each class or a punch card of 12 passes for \$45.

About the Program: For the swimmer and non-swimmer alike. Participants will receive fantastic low impact aerobic exercises without the joint stress common with land aerobics, while giving a good cardiovascular workout. Emphasis is on an overall body workout while having fun! Those who would like to do deep-water exercises during this program are encouraged to do so.

Event: Arthriticise

Date: (On-going throughout the year)

Time: Tuesday & Thursday 11-11:45AM

Fee: \$5 each class or purchase a punch ticket for \$45 with 12 passes.

About the Program: Range of motion exercise program aimed at increasing muscle and joint flexibility. This program is great for those suffering pain of Arthritis, other debilitating joint diseases and any health condition needing help with range of motion. This will not be an aerobic or a cardiovascular program.

Event: Lap & Open Swim Time

The following times are: Monday through Friday

- 7-8am Lap Swim
- 9-11am Lap swim
- 12-1:30pm Lap & Open Swim
- 5-6pm Lap & Open Swim (Tuesdays & Thursdays)
- Starting March 5th, Lap/Open, 5- 6pm Monday thru Friday
- Saturdays/Sundays, 1-4pm, Lap & Open Swim

Event: Splash Parties (Private Pool Parties for your group)

Times: Fridays 6:30-7:30pm

Saturdays/Sundays 12- 1pm or 4 - 5pm

* We have our climbing wall open before or after the splash parties upon request.

* We have a party room that can be available after the swim.

Event: Lifeguard Training

Date: Starts: April 5th

Place: St. Joseph's College
Harold Alford Student Center- Pool

Time: Thursdays, 5-9pm

Fee: \$175/10 weeks

About the Program: In this program, participants learn about the duties and responsibilities of a lifeguard and how to carry them out. Lifeguarding techniques will be taught both in the water and in the classroom. Prerequisites are tested on the first day of class. They are as follows: Participant must be at least 15 years of age, perform a 500 yard swim, retrieve a 10 pound object from 9 feet of water, and tread water for 2 minutes. Upon requirement completion of the course, participant will receive Lifeguard Training, CPR for the Professional Rescuer, and a First Aid certificate.

Event: Water Safety Instructor

Date: March 20th

Place: Saint Joseph's College

Time: Tuesdays 5-9pm & Saturdays 12-1pm

Fee: \$300/7 weeks

About the program: In this program the participants learn all aspects of how to teach swimming to all ages. Candidates will learn how to use teaching material and how to conduct swim classes. Prerequisites for the participants are demonstrating the ability to swim front crawl, back crawl, side stroke, breast stroke, elementary backstroke and butterfly.

For more information, call Carolyn Vail at 893-6669

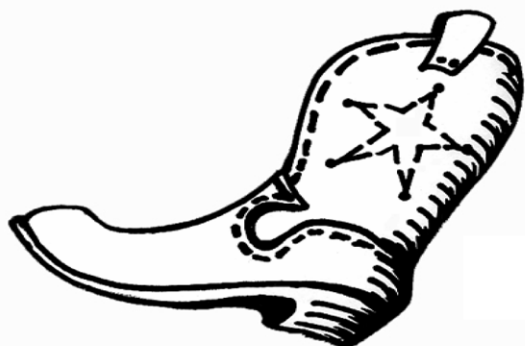
Jordan-Small Middle School Drama Club

Presents:



Getting To Know...Rodgers & Hammerstein's

Oklahoma!



- An Adaptation for Pre-High School Students
- Music by Richard Rodgers
- Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Directed By: Marilee Dunklee and Mary Thornton

Friday April 6, 2007 7pm
Saturday April 7, 2007 7pm

**Jordan-Small Middle School
Raymond, Maine**

Tickets Available at the Door
Adults and Students: \$5
Children Under 5: \$2

Doors Open at 6pm

Hebron Academy Honor Roll Students

By Susan R. Geismar, Hebron Academy Publicity Liaison

Hebron Academy Head of School John King recently recognized the students who have attained honors for the fall trimester. The students from Raymond are:

Highest Honors (A- or higher)

Calvin Moisan

High Honors (B+ or higher)

Taylor Fey

Elijah Hughes

Joshua Taylor

Ashley Waldron

Stephen Wisutskie

Honors (B or higher)

Roman Lao-Gosney

Erik Wisutskie

Great Job!

Raymond Rec Summer Swim Program

Summer Job Opening for a Lifeguard/Assistant Instructor

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Supporting Instructor in organizing classes
- Developing and implementing Emergency Action Plan for Swim Classes
- Managing equipment
- Assisting with Instruction of Levels 1 through 6
- Answering questions from parents

Certification Required:

- Minimum age 17
- Current ARC Lifeguard Training

Optional: current ARC Water Safety Instructor

Compensation: Depending on experience begins at \$10 per hour of guarding/teaching

Dates: July 2 – 27, 2007 (no class July 4), Monday through Friday from 9am to 1pm (pending registration numbers)

Registration for students at JSMS on Wednesday, June 6

FMI Contact Pat at 655-4657 or pat@campwawenock.com

Raymond Boy Scout Troop 800

ITALIAN DINNER

Saturday, March 10th, 2007, 4:30pm to 6pm

Raymond Village Community Church
Main Street - Raymond Village

Lasagna, Baked Ziti, Meatballs, Salad, Bread, Beverage and a Dessert

\$6 per person - \$20 for a family of four

Troop 800 Scouting Achievement Awards Ceremony

By John Hanley, Troop 800 Committee Member

Boy Scout Troop 800 of Raymond held their 2006 Troop 800 Scouting Achievement Award Ceremony on Sunday, January 7th, 2007, at the Raymond Village Community Church. The award is presented to Raymond Boy Scouts attaining Eagle or Life rank and reaching their 18th birthday within the previous year. Troop 800 has created this award to recognize those Scouts for the time and work to attain their rank and for their contributions to improving Troop 800 and to wish them the best as they move on to a new stage of their lives. This was the fourth year of the award and we had four recipients, Eagle Scout John Shively, Life Scout Andrew Jordan, Life Scout Christian Gordan and Eagle Scout Ian Hanley. Presentation of the awards was by

2005 SAA recipient Sam Levinsky. All the honorees were "immortalized" with a roasting in true Troop 800 fashion, with stories of their scouting exploits followed by a slide presentation of photos from throughout their Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting careers. The Master of Ceremonies was Senior Patrol Leader Jonathan Cosgrove. Speakers for the evening included Scoutmaster Tom Wiley, Life Scout Ian Levinsky, Troop Committee Chair Rolf Olsen, with remarks and Benediction by Committee Member Jim Fisher. The slide presentation was prepared by Junior Assistant Scoutmaster James Wiley.

After the ceremony the honorees were congratulated in a reception line, followed by a social time with cake and refreshments.



Recipients of the 2006 Raymond Troop 800 Scouting Achiever Awards: (L-R) Eagle Scout John Shively, Life Scout Andrew Jordan, Life Scout Christian Gordan and Eagle Scout Ian Hanley.

Jordan-Small's Patrick Huber Shines at the Special Olympics Maine Winter Games

By Coach John Keller

Congratulations to Patrick Huber on his outstanding performance at the recent Special Olympics Maine Winter Games held at Sugarloaf, USA from Jan. 28th to Jan. 30th. Patrick, competing in the Jr. division, won first place gold medals in the 25 and 50 meter snowshoe events. Thanks go out to Pat's parents, John Dionne, Pat Menzel, Joni Merrill, Dennis Woodruff, Denise Cline, the Crockett family, and the many J.S.M.S. students who supported Pat!



Community Service News

By Barb Loux

Classes have once again been busy with many projects. The biggest project that got completed was the ice rink. It was a very cold day, but we still had many volunteers helping



to set up the community ice rink. It looks wonderful! We had Channel 6 and Channel 8 there, as well as the Portland Press Herald.

Thanks to all the parents who showed up to help. Special thanks to Home Depot for the great wood donation, the Emerys for picking up the wood, Greg Mayer for taking charge, the Good Life Market for treats, the Richmonds for hot chocolate, Mark Jeffrey for plowing, the town officials and school board for their support, the King family for their "fire truck organizing," Roy Loux (my dad) for making and donating benches, and all the families that made this project successful. I cannot express the pleasure it gives to see so many children and families using the rink.



This week there were cross-country skiers using the field while children skated. Starting on Wednesdays, S.E.A.R.C.H. is sponsoring a "learn to skate" program with a community service class. The response was so big we had

to turn children away. We have 7th and 8th graders teaching kids to skate as well as students helping the younger ones with their skates and getting them hot chocolate.

The skateboard park is still looking for a home. We are also looking for parent volunteers who are willing to take on some of the fundraising. The thermometer sign will be put up very soon in front of JSMS for measuring donations.

I have had a class of 5th graders that has successfully been matched up with some younger students at RES. This has been quite successful so far, as most children love getting one-on-one attention from an older child. These 5th graders have been using after school time to do this mentoring, and I am very proud of their efforts.

A 6th grade class took a field trip to the Preble Street Resource Center in Portland. We delivered bags of clothing for the homeless and then had a tour of the shelter. This was an eye-opening and somewhat scary experience for some of the kids. We learned a lot. We then helped to sort the clothes and organize their free clothes closet. The staff at the shelter says this is an area where they need a lot of volunteer help. We were glad to do it and hope to make this a more regular field trip.

Many of the classes made Valentine cards for children who are sick. We used the website of MakeaChildSmile.org and learned about the featured children and made them cards. We also learned about childhood leukemia and will start our big drive for this very soon. Another class will be going to the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital for another visit.

One class made placemats for the senior citizens dinner. They are getting quite creative. Hope that they were enjoyed. Another class is still trying to gather more contributions for local animal shelters. The box for donations is located outside the office at JSMS.

Finally, we have a 6th grade class helping at the ice derby. They will be selling popcorn for leukemia and helping the children on and off the giant slide outside. Let's hope there is good weather!

Annual Blue and Gold a True Celebration for Pack 800!

In addition to the annual dinner celebrating the birthday of Cub Scouts, scouts and their families were treated to a ceremony honoring Jim Fisher, Cub Master of Pack 800, with the Wood Badge. This is a distinctive achievement in the scouting world, and all of Pack 800 is very proud of and happy for Jim.

The theme for the dinner this year was Mardi Gras, which lent itself to interesting table centerpieces and colorfully decorated cakes made by each scout. The boys clearly enjoyed the Mardi Gras theme, as many donned masks and hats while enjoying the foods brought by all the families attending.

Second Year Webelos participated in their Arrow of Light ceremony, signifying their completion of 2nd Year Webelo requirements and their moving on from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. This is a special ceremony for these boys and their families. Parents gave their son an Arrow of Light plaque, made by the parents out of wood with a burnt inscription.

There was an appearance by Dutch the Clown, who added to the evening's fun. Many thanks to Ivy Jordan and to all others who helped ensure the success of this fun annual program!

