

The Raymond RoadRunner

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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 that 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 2008-2009 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.

Raymond Community Assistance Fund a Success

Since the creation of the Raymond Community Assistance Fund by the Selectmen on December 18, 2007, several Raymond residents and businesses have donated to the fund. At present the fund holds over \$10,000. The Selectmen want to thank these people wholeheartedly.

This fund is intended to help those people whose incomes exceed the guidelines of the General Assistance program. If you know of anyone having difficulty purchasing heating oil or meeting other household expenses, please have them call or come in for an application. It will be necessary to have a personal interview with Donna Lovely, Assistant General Assistance Administrator, which takes about half an hour.

For more information, please call Mrs. Lovely at 655-4742 ext. 22 or email donna.lovely@raymondmaine.org.

Of course you can always come into the Town Office during regular office hours, which are Tuesday through Friday from 8:30am to 4pm. The appointments to meet with Mrs. Lovely can be made at that time.

JSMS Music News

The Quartessential Brass, a local brass quartet made up of University of Southern Maine graduates and students, visited JSMS on January 3rd. Comprising two trumpeters, a French hornist, and a euphonium (mini-tuba) player, they performed a variety of classical and new music for the fifth and sixth grades. Also, the brass quartet spent an hour with the seventh and eighth grade band members, giving tips on warm-ups and breathing exercises useful for any wind instrumentalist. In the session for the older students the quartet also played several arrangements of popular songs including Michael Jackson's "Thriller." This musical experience was generously made possible by the Raymond PTO.

The leader of The Quartessential Brass is Patrick Nyren, a local private guitar and drum set teacher and euphonium player, who also spent some time as an intern at JSMS. Patrick headed to Texas the day after the performance to continue his education by getting his Masters degree in music performance. We wish him the best of luck!



RES Music Teacher Honored for Outstanding Work

by Norma Richard, Principal

I am delighted to announce that UNUM and the Portland Pirates are recognizing Mrs. Patricia Gordan, our elementary music teacher, as one of Maine's outstanding teachers.

Mrs. Gordan has been selected as one of the UNUM EDUCATORS HALL OF FAME STARTING 6. As one of this year's inductees, she will be honored at the Friday, February 1, Portland Pirates vs. Manchester Monarchs hockey game. She will receive a personalized Pirates uniform, have her picture taken with the team, and assist with the ceremonial first puck. She will also receive an honorarium from UNUM for her recognition as a teacher who "embodies the true meaning of being an educator."

We are all delighted that Mrs. Gordan is being recognized publicly for the outstanding work she has done for many, many years in the Raymond School District. The quality of her teaching and her dedication to music education has made a positive impact on literally thousands of children. She has truly made a difference in the lives of Raymond students.

I know that Mrs. Gordan will have a large group of family, colleagues, students and friends at the February 1 Portland Pirates game. This will be a very special evening for Mrs. Gordan, and we are happy to be able to join in the fun and recognition.

Selectmen Meeting for February 19th Cancelled

Because most of our Selectmen will be away Tuesday, February 19, 2008, during school vacation week, they have decided to cancel this meeting. The next Selectmen's Meeting will be February 5, 2008, for the Special Town Meeting and regular Selectmen's meeting. The following meeting will be March 4, 2008, at 7pm at the Broadcast Studio.

Notice of Party Caucuses

REPUBLICAN:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2008
RAYMOND TOWN OFFICE
401 Webbs Mills Road (Route 85)
Voter Registration begins at 11am
Caucus begins as Noon

DEMOCRATIC:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2008
RAYMOND PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
1443 Roosevelt Trail (Route 302)
Voter Registration begins at 1pm
Caucus begins at 2pm

Road Runner Articles

Articles for the next edition of the *Road Runner* newsletter are due by **Thursday, February 21st**. Please provide them by any of the following methods:

E-Mail; CD/DVD; Paper

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

- Sunday, February 10 – Valentine’s Craft, 3pm at the library
- Wednesday, February 13 – Non-fiction Book Group, 7pm at the library
- Wednesday, February 27 – Reading Group, 7pm at the library
- Friday, March 7 – Dr. Seuss Night, 6:30pm at JSMS

Valentine Craft

Children from K through grade 3 are invited to come to the library on Sunday, February 10, to hear a story and make a Valentine card. It will start at 3pm. The number of youngsters participating is limited, so please register early at the library. For more information call the library at 655-4283.

Non-fiction/ Classics Book Group

This book group will be meeting on Wednesday, February 13, at 7pm to discuss James Joyce’s *The Dubliners*. This is a series of short stories and is available on request at the library. This discussion group is open to all interested readers. Please join us and share your opinions on this classic.

Reading Group

The reading group will meet on Wednesday, February 27, at 7pm at the library. The book chosen for discussion is *The Memory Keeper’s Daughter* by Kim Edwards. This has been a very popular novel, and the discussion should be interesting. This book is available at the library upon request at the desk. We all seem to read more during the cold winter months, and it is fun to share our thoughts about the books we read. Please feel free to join us, if you are interested in

reading this novel.

Looking for Overdue Items

OK, so you’re not like the person who made the news earlier this month by finding at home a book due back to a public library in 1942! However, if you do have overdue items, whether by 5 days or 5 years, please return them to the library. Overdue items are costly to the library in staff time both to follow-up with the patrons and to purchase replacements. The library’s main concern with overdue items is that the materials be returned so other patrons may use and enjoy them. All materials, with the exception of DVDs, may be returned via the book drop. Please return DVDs to the desk during normal library hours.

When overdue items are returned, the library’s normal procedure is to direct you to the “conscience jar” to make a donation. However, from now to the end of February the library would like to support Raymond families using the Food Pantry, which has current needs for facial tissue, bathroom tissue and paper towels. In one of the many ways we coordinate with other community organizations, the library is asking patrons who are returning overdue items to please bring along a donation of one of these paper products.

Even if you don’t have any overdue items, if you’d like to contribute to the Raymond Food Pantry’s needs and it’s more convenient for you to drop the paper products off at the library, please do so.

As a reminder, if material you borrowed is now due but you are unable to visit the library, you may call us at 655-4283 to renew.

CLYNK

Did you know you are able to support the Raymond Village Library every time you clean out your returnables? Pick up a bag at the library and when it’s full, drop it off at the CLYNK counter at Hannaford in Windham. The CLYNK folks sort and count: all you do is drop off the bag. The library gets

credit for the bottles returned. It’s that easy, and you have made a contribution to your library!!

Winter Weather

This is certainly something we have experienced this year. In case of inclement weather, please call ahead, as the library may be closed. If the Raymond schools are closed or delayed, then Storytime will be cancelled for that day; however, the library may still be open.

Lunch with a Lion

The Raymond Lions Club is now holding lunchtime meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Public Safety Building on Rte 302. We are offering this meeting time to people who cannot or do not wish to go out in the evenings.

This is an open invitation to anyone who might wish to become involved in a community service group. The next meeting is scheduled for February 11 and will run from noon until 1pm. It will be an informational meeting with a regular business meeting to follow.

The Raymond Lions Club provides scholarships to our students, holds blood drives and supports things like the Food Pantry, the Library, and Raymond Baseball, as well as helping people with eye-sight problems. We provide a way for people to be involved in the community in a supportive role.

If you can spare a couple of hours a month, we can give you an opportunity to help your community in a positive way.

Bring your lunch and come join us on the 11th for an hour and learn more about what the Raymond Lions Club is about.

Just show up on the Feb. 11th or call Dale Gilman at 655-4114 for more information.

February 2008

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 BC=Broadcast Studio				1	2
3 2:00PM PS Democratic Caucus	4 10:00AM VL Library Babytime 11:00AM VL Library Preschool Storytime	5 7:00PM BC Selectmen’s Meeting	6 10:00AM VL Library Toddlertime Session I 11:00AM VL Library Toddlertime Session II 6:30PM BC School Committee 7:00 VL Library Board	7 7:00PM BC TENTATIVE One Raymond Committee	8	9
10	11 10:00AM VL Library Babytime 11:00AM VL Library Preschool Storytime 7:00PM BC Budget/Finance Committee	12 7:00PM BC Tassel Top Board of Directors	13 10:00AM VL Library Toddlertime Session I 11:00AM VL Library Toddlertime Session II 7:00PM BC Planning Board 7:00PM VL Nonfiction/Classics Reading Group	14 7:00PM BC Budget/Finance Committee	15	16 1:00 - 3:00PM TH RABIES CLINIC
17	18 10:00AM VL Library Babytime 11:00AM VL Library Preschool Storytime	19 7:00PM BC Selectmen’s Meeting	20 10:00AM VL Library Toddlertime Session I 11:00AM VL Library Toddlertime Session II	21 7:00PM BC One Raymond Committee 7:00PM TH Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee ROADRUNNER DEADLINE FOR MARCH ISSUE ARTICLES	22	23
24	25 10:00AM VL Library Babytime 11:00AM VL Library Preschool Storytime	26 7:00PM BC Conservation Commission Meeting	27 7:00PM VL Book Discussion Group	28 7:00PM BC Building Committee 7:00 PM TH Cemetery Committee	29	

Board of Selectmen Minutes

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

ATTENDANCE: Mark Gendron, Chairman; Joe Bruno; Lonnie Taylor, and Mike Reynolds.

SELECTMEN ABSENT: Dana Desjardins

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Don Willard, Town Manager; Nancy Yates, Finance Director; Denis Morse, Fire Chief; Bruce Tupper, Deputy Fire Chief; and Kathy Gosselin, Deputy Fire Chief of EMS

OTHERS: David Willauer, GPCOG Planning Director

1. Call to order. Mark Gendron called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Broadcast Studio.

2. Minutes of previous meeting dates November 20, 2007

MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Joe Bruno

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

3. New business.

a. Discussion of insurance review/summary report – Finance Director Nancy Yates.

Mrs. Yates reported that Scott Simmonds, independent insurance agent, reviewed our insurance and found two places where we could reduce our expense: 1) public officials liability could see a \$1,500 savings; 2) Increase our deductible from \$2,500 to \$5,000. He also found that the Route 302 ornamental streetlights are not insured (\$700 cost per year), but Mrs. Yates said that Raymond has put money away in the TIF for replacement. He also suggested a \$1million liability increase for i.e.. coverage for auto accidents out of state. Mrs. Yates recommended increasing the deductible from \$2,500 to \$5,000, not cover the streetlights, and not get the additional \$1mil in liability. Mr. Simmonds also suggested not going to bid this year but wait another year when bids may be more competitive. Mrs. Yates said Raymond has never had a public officials claim to her knowledge. She added that any liability in State covers us by the Maine Tort Claims Act. Mr. Willard added that trips out of state are very rare. Mr. Bruno asked if she liked Mr. Simmonds? Mrs. Yates replied yes, and he thought of things she wouldn't have. Mr. Bruno felt we should go to bid again this year. Mr. Reynolds asked if he had any comments about how we went out to bid. Mrs. Yates replied that Mr. Simmonds didn't have a problem with it and felt that changes weren't necessary. Mr. Willard said that he felt we were within the current market. Mr. Gendron also felt we should go to bid.

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to accept Scott Simmonds recommendations with the exception of going to bid in 2008. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

b. Proposed Lake Region Transit service – GPCOG Planning Director David Willauer.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willauer explained that there had been a 2001 Windham to Portland bus service study. He said that they now wanted to implement bus service from Bridgton to Portland via Gray and New Gloucester with 4 or 5 trips a day, 5 days a week. He was seeking town monetary participation for each serviced town. The service would be managed by METRO with the bus contracted from a private vendor. Raymond's contribution of \$3,848 annually would be for a 2-year commitment. This is a two-year pilot program with extension if the sponsors and users like the service. There was discussion of route. Their survey results in 2001 showed 200 riders a day. Mr. Willauer said the fare would be recommended by the Selectmen which they foresee being between \$3 to \$5. There would be a transit committee of member towns to help make policy. There are \$30,000 grant funds available to help with fare passes i.e. senior citizens, and handicapped citizens. Mr. Bruno asked why \$50,000 from the participating towns. Mr. Willauer replied it was determined by federal funding of \$150,000 available for matching funds. He added that they used population for the use of the service and applicable town payment, but there are other ways to determine this. Mr. Bruno suggested using mileage as well. There are no written commitments from

any town at this point. The earliest it might begin is September 2008. Mr. Bruno asked when it would begin if not all the towns participate. Mr. Willauer felt that if half or more contribute, they could do a scaled down service. He noted that all buses would have to be ADA approved vehicles. He added that they have the ability to provide off-hour transportation for commuters who need to off-schedule travel i.e. for emergency travel which would be provided by car rental or van service. The revenue from fares represents only 25% of the operational cost. Mr. Willard noted that if Raymond voted to go into it with \$3,848 annually, and the other towns didn't join the service, would there be an added cost to cover the amount not received from those non-participating towns. Mr. Willauer said that it would be a two-year program and the amount of service would reflect the amount of financial participation. Mr. Gendron thought it appeared to be a good value. Mr. Willauer said that the Lakes Region Coalition Committee meets monthly, and the Selectmen were welcomed to attend. Mr. Reynolds felt that this should be a consideration in the budget process. Mr. Bruno said it was a good idea but was skeptical that people would use it.

c. Department Head Quarterly Reports – Fire Chief Denis Morse

DISCUSSION: Chief Morse opened by asking that his Department talk about rescue this evening and have separate discussions about fire and CIP. Chief Morse offered a brief history of the department. He discussed mutual aid (other towns are called in to help); automatic aid (towns come in automatically); and full service (the other town doesn't participate in any way). He had concern that Raymond was providing full service to Gray's area off Brown Road, and Gore Rd without any compensation or service from Gray. Chief Morse explained the personnel we have in Raymond number about 20 people most of whom are part-time and only 3 of those have been with the department for more than 3 years. He felt that we need to have a flat fee charge plus the call fee for mutual aid calls. Mr. Gendron wanted to address this issue now. Mr. Willard suggested having a meeting with the mutual aid towns because the governing bodies have changed somewhat since our last meetings. Mr. Gendron felt that they know they have had a free ride, and we should set our cost to them. Mrs. Gosselin said that State law says that the closest responder must take the call, and we're closer to those Gray roads than the Gray Fire Department is. 8:13 pm

Mrs. Gosselin presented a PowerPoint program on EMS. Her report stated that there has been an increase of 147 rescue calls in 2 years. This year showed 800 calls combined for fire and rescue. She explained that 4 am to 8 am is the most critical time for personnel coverage. Sixty percent of their calls require advanced life support skills. Raymond is EMT licensed, but the trucks are supplied for paramedic work.

They felt the resolution would be to send a letter from Raymond's Selectmen requesting a meeting with the Gray Town Council. The similar situation with Frye Island was also discussed. There has to be a way found to have compensation to support our Fire/Rescue Department. Chief Morse said he's had the idea of regionalization with surrounding towns in order to have enough funding to keep the departments viable, and he would like to pursue it. He summarized that the end result is that cost increase, lack of personnel, state mandates, and lack of collectable revenue will cause the budget to increase.

d. School consolidation information update – Selectman Joe Bruno

Mr. Bruno announced that last week's meeting was rescheduled for December 17 where they will discuss the items each town presents which they feel will hinder consolidation.

4. Old (unfinished) business.

a. None

5. Town Manager Report and Communications.

a. Dispatch

Doreen Leighton resigned after 30+ years to take a

job with another dispatch.

b. January Selectmen's meetings

Selectmen meeting dates are set to the second and fourth Tuesday in January because the first Tuesday is the first.

c. Egypt Road

Egypt Road has been designated as a State aid collector road which the state will maintain and towns will plow. The state will take it over in June 2008. The state said that there would be major maintenance in 3 to 5 years.

6. Fiscal Warrants – Payroll and Appropriation Warrants – December 4, 2007.

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$51,753.16. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrant in the amount of \$42,765.97. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

7. Adjournment.

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

ADJOURNMENT: Mark Gendron adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm.

Louise H. Lester, Town Clerk

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

ATTENDANCE: Mark Gendron, Chairman; Joe Bruno; Lonnie Taylor, Dana Desjardins; and Mike Reynolds.

SELECTMEN ABSENT: None.

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Don Willard, Town Manager

OTHERS: None.

1. Call to order. Mark Gendron called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Broadcast Studio.

2. Minutes of previous meeting dates December 4, 2007.

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the Minutes of December 4, 2007 as written. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

VOTE: 4 in favor (Gendron, Reynolds, Taylor, Bruno) 1 abstention (Desjardins)

3. New business.

a. Consideration of appointment to the Recycling Committee: Eileen Stiles, 94 Deep Cove, Rd., - Town Clerk Louise Lester

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to approve the appointment of Eileen Stiles to the Recycling Committee. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

b. Consideration of new road name (White Tail Lane) – Code Enforcement Officer Jack Cooper.

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the new road name White Tail Lane. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

c. Consideration of abatements – Contract Assessor Mike O'Donnell

Abatements and supplements for approval:

Abatements:		
Map 74, Lot 14	2005	\$1,301.07
Map 4, Lot 80	2007	\$1,208.70
Map 4, Lot 80	2006	\$1,208.70
Map 18, Lot 27B	2007	\$578.34
Map 18, Lot 27B	2006	\$578.34
Map 4, Lot 68B	2007	\$1,050.60
Map 41, Lot 26	2007	\$893.52
Map 54, Lot 44	2007	\$548.76
Map 32, Lot 3	2007	\$132.60
Map 4, Lot 75	2007	\$183.60
Map 18, Lot 34	2007	\$118.32
T0015P	2007	\$38.25
I0500P	2007	\$73.83

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A0030P	\$93.50
F0115P	\$187.00
A0090R	\$37.40
A0008P	\$58.59
A1001P	\$97.65
C0300P	\$647.38
C0230P	\$71.06
C0002P	\$460.41
E2000P	\$68.90
F0001P	\$163.25
H0001P	\$9.28
H1122P	\$158.95
K3001P	\$539.46
K0001P	\$140.25
K0010P	\$9.28
L0065P	\$280.50
M0005P	\$130.90
M3001P	\$232.39
M0020P	\$74.40
P0009P	\$57.66
F0140P	\$935.00
R0008P	\$17.19
S0340P	\$331.70
T0003P	\$3.84
W0145P	\$185.13
W3276P	\$30.77

Supplemental Taxes:

Map 78, Lot 5	2007	\$626.28
Map 3, Lot 17	2007	\$9,300.36
Map 11, Lot 41E	2007	\$1,649.34

MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to approve the 39 abatements and 3 supplemental taxes as submitted. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

d. School consolidation information update – Selectmen Joe Bruno

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bruno reported that the Consolidation Committee met December 17th and frustration was showing. He felt the consolidation discussion would be just Windham and Raymond for now and in a couple of years possibly Westbrook. They need more information from the State. Mr. Bruno noted that the debt responsibility is still a big question.

e. Greater Portland Council of Governments (GP-COG) update – Selectman Mike Reynolds.

No meeting in December.

f. General Assistance (GA)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard reported that there are more GA applications coming into the town office with most of them being a request for heating oil. He asked if the Selectmen would approve a dedicated fund for this which would be donated funds by the townspeople to add to our small GA fund of \$2,000. These charitable donations would be tax deductible because our municipality is considered 501(c)3. He felt that the situation would increase because federal and state funds have run out and the promise of more from the Federal Government is not here yet. Mr. Reynolds wanted to be sure the funds would stay in the designated account from year to year.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to approve the formation of a continuing designated fund for General Assistance known as the Raymond Community Assistance Fund. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

4. Old (unfinished) business.

a. None.

5. Town Manager Report and Communications.

a. Public Safety

Mr. Willard announced that the Fire Department would be applying for a 100% grant to gain an off road vehicle. The vehicle would be helpful in carrying equipment for fire/rescue service.

b. Mutual Aid

Mr. Desjardins said that he was disturbed by an article in last week's Lake Region Suburban News about Gray's unwillingness to pay for public safety service by Raymond. Mr. Gendron noted that dis-

cussion has been going on for three years and Raymond would like to continue discussion to relieve the situation because of the cost of this service. Mr. Willard noted that they have a new town manager and fire chief who have been approached since they took office but nothing has been forthcoming to date. He added that the Raymond Fire Chief wanted to continue discussion with them on this subject.

c. County Budget Meeting

Mr. Gendron reported that he had attended the last meeting a week ago, and he encouraged them to look at their budget more closely to help the towns.

6. Fiscal Warrants – Payroll and Appropriation Warrants – December 18, 2007.

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the Treasurers Warrant in the amount of \$618,918.30. (\$500,000 is to be invested in a 3 month CD) Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$53,242.09. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

Unanimous 5-0

ADJOURNMENT: Mark Gendron adjourned the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Louise H. Lester, Town Clerk

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

ATTENDANCE: Mark Gendron, Chairman; Joe Bruno; Lonnie Taylor, Dana Desjardins; and Mike Reynolds.

SELECTMEN ABSENT: None.

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Don Willard, Town Manager; and Nancy Yates, Finance Director;

OTHERS: Bob Gosselin, Budget/Finance Committee member.

1. Call to order. Mark Gendron called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Broadcast Studio.

2. Minutes of previous meeting dates December 18, 2007.

MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to approve the minutes of December 18, 2007 as written. Seconded by Joe Bruno.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

3. New business.

a. Liquor License renewal (Class XI Restaurant/Lounge) – William & Kimberly Hines, Whines Ent. Inc d/b/a Café Sebago, 1248 Roosevelt Trail

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to approve the liquor license for Café Sebago. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gendron noted that the Fire Department letter indicated that the alarm system was to have been repaired by today, but we don't know whether it has been done. Mr. Reynolds read the letter from Craig Messinger, Fire Department Inspector. Mr. Reynolds wanted to condition the motion to say that it would be approved upon satisfactory reinspection.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: Mike Reynolds amended the motion that the liquor license would be approved after the Fire Department has verified that the alarm is in compliance. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Unanimous 5-0

MOTION AS AMENDED: Joe Bruno motioned to approve the amended motion. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

b. Department Head Quarterly Reports – Finance Director Nancy Yates.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Yates noted that she had submitted a report previous to the meeting. She ac-

knowledged that Rita Theriault, Assistant Treasurer, does the payroll, BMV reports, check reconciliation and other jobs as requested. She announced that they would be producing a RFP for insurance bids for next year. Mr. Desjardins thanked her for the monthly appropriation control reports. Mr. Reynolds asked how Raymond is doing with revenues. Mrs. Yates replied we're at 46% to 48% with interest rates falling. Excise tax is behind as well. Mr. Reynolds asked about property tax delinquency. Mrs. Yates replied they don't seem excessive. Mr. Desjardins asked about our investment risk. Mr. Willard said that towns are very limited as to what kind of investments can be used. Mrs. Yates said that we're using investments which are very secure i.e. CD's and money markets.

c. Discussion of 2008 Scholarship Funding – Louise Lester, Town Clerk

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to keep the level of scholarships the same as last year for a total of \$3,000. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

d. School consolidation information update – Selectman Joe Bruno.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bruno reported that the last two meetings have been cancelled. The next meeting will be Monday, February 4, 2008 at 5:00 pm at Windham High School.

4. Old (unfinished) business.

a. None

5. Town Manager Report and Communications

a. Air Quality at Jordan Small School.

Mr. Gendron reported that Teresa Sadak, Chairman of the School Board, called to say that there would be a meeting tomorrow about the situation. Mr. Desjardins said that the School Department had some money but would probably need more from the town through a special town meeting. He felt that there might be a less expensive remedy than the ideas he has heard so far. He thought it should be sent to bid. Mr. Bruno assured people that the school is safe at the present time.

b. Raymond Community Assistance Fund

Mr. Willard announced that there was now \$7,500 in the fund and today the first award was granted. Applications can be made at the town office. Mr. Desjardins asked about payment for oil. Mr. Willard said that the town would be paying the oil company direct. Any other funds would be done through a voucher system. Mr. Bruno asked about the price for oil. Mr. Willard said he would be looking to get a special price from the town's vendor hoped to be less than retail.

c. CIP review

Mr. Willard noted that it had been released today and is down about \$10,000 from last year's budget. The CIP meeting will be next Monday, January 14th 7:00 pm at the Broadcast Studio.

d. Raymond Baseball

Mr. Taylor announced that the next baseball meeting would be Thursday, January 10th at JSMS at 7:00 pm to get volunteers to run the program. He noted that several current volunteers would be leaving the group and without volunteers the program can't be maintained.

e. LRBWF

Mr. Willard announced that the next meeting would be on Thursday, January 10th. Mr. Willard and Bruno will attend with Mrs. Lester.

f. MMWAC

Mr. Desjardins said that their next meeting would be on January 23rd for the election of officers, budget etc.

g. Snow Plowing.

Mr. Gendron offered congratulations to Public Works and P&K Sand & Gravel for their work keeping our roads well maintained.

6. Fiscal Warrants – Payroll and Appropriation Warrants – January 8, 2008.

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$58,381.45. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrant in the amount of \$117,425.57. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor

ADJOURNMENT: Mark Gendron adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Louise H. Lester, Town Clerk

Animal Control Report

December - January

by Don Alexander, Animal Control Officer

Dec 18	Large dog in yard - Gone on arrival
Dec 19	Investigation on large dog complaint
Dec 20	Investigation on large dog complaint
Dec 21	Investigation on large dog complaint
Dec 26	State Animal Welfare request to investigate well being of dog
Dec 26	Stray dog pickup - Returned to owner
Dec 28	State Animal Welfare request to update on well being of dog
Dec 29	Reported to State Animal Welfare
Dec 29	Dog barking - Collar battery dead; owner will replace
Jan 3	Information given on kennel license
Jan 4	Court case
Jan 6	Dog at large - Returned to owner
Jan 7	Large dog dumping trash - Ticket issued
Jan 7	Large dog in yard - Gone on arrival
Jan 9	Large dog in yard - Gone on arrival
Jan 10	Dog in car
Jan 15	Dog at large - Dog went home
Jan 19	Rabies Clinic
Jan 20	Two dogs in yard
Jan 21	Court case information

With cold weather, please be sure that your outside animals have shelter and access to food and water at all times. For your inside animals, be sure that their water intake is sufficient. Possibly give them wet food to encourage hydration.

2008 Dog Licensing is now available at the Town Office. Please bring in your dog's current rabies certificate and neutering certificate (if we don't have it on file). The Rabies vaccination is now good for three years, unless it was a puppy shot which is good for one year. If you were licensed in Raymond for 2007, because you are licensing after the January 31st deadline, there will be an extra \$15 charge.

Some Homes in Raymond Need Help

Because of the high price of heating oil, the Town Office has been getting more calls for heating assistance than normal. In the 2007-2008 budget only \$2,000 was set aside for General Assistance, which in years past has been enough.

General Assistance funding is for emergency help to people who can't heat their homes and/or feed their families, etc. Usually PROP (People's Regional Opportunity Program) has been of great assistance to Raymond in helping people in need. However, this year they have more than normal requests, and their funds are dwindling.

In this light, the Board of Selectmen has asked that a special ongoing charitable account be formed to accept tax-deductible donations to enhance our General Assistance account. These funds will be disbursed for emergency aid or to those families who don't quite qualify for General Assistance.

If you wish to help, please forward donations to Nancy Yates, Finance Director, Town of Raymond, 401 Webbs Mills Road, Raymond, Maine 04071.

My Apology for Incorrect Information

By Louise Lester, Town Clerk

In my January notice about voting for a Presidential candidate, I was mistaken about the process. The candidate a voter wishes to nominate will be done exclusively at caucuses and not by ballot in June. The rest of the information was correct, but I'll repeat it here in case it is of interest.

Louise Murray, Voter Registrar, asks that if any Raymond voter wants to change his name, address, party affiliation, or register to vote in Raymond, now is the time. Raymond's voter registration information is now combined in the state's Centralized Voter Registration system, and any new information needs to be updated on a continual basis.

Currently, the official parties are Democrat, Republican, and Green Independent. Each party will have its own caucus. The Republican Caucus will be February 2, 2008, at the Town Office from noon to 3pm. The Democratic Caucus will be February 10, 2008, at the Public Safety Building on Route 302 at 2pm. I have not heard when the Green Independent caucus will be. If you wish to vote for a candidate not in your current party, it will be necessary for you to join that party not less than 15 days prior to the caucus. I apologize for the late warning about this stipulation. My January article described this scenario but in the other context.

A voter must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age at the time of the Presidential Election (a 17-year-old who will be 18 prior to November 4, 2008, can vote in his/her caucus), must have established and must maintain a voting residence in Raymond, must be registered to vote in Raymond, and must be enrolled in the particular party for that caucus. An unenrolled voter may select a party at any time including the caucus day. A registrar will be at the caucus to register unenrolled voters into that party. If you have changed to a party for the caucus, you must remain in that party for 3 months before making any further party changes.

Anyone from any party or unenrolled can vote for any candidate they wish regardless of party affiliation in the November 6, 2008, Presidential Election.

2008 Raymond Rabies Clinic

by Louise Lester, Town Clerk

On Saturday, January 19th the Town of Raymond Animal Control Office sponsored a Rabies Clinic for pets. Dr. Eric Riddell, with the help of his wife Kim and staff from Jordan Bay Animal Hospital, vaccinated 67 dogs and cats. Licensing was also available for the Raymond dogs.

I wish to thank Dr. and Mrs. Riddell, and we welcome their continuing association with the Town of Raymond. Also helping with the clinic were Tacy Hartley and Don Alexander, Animal Control Officer, who helped pet owners control their dogs and cats.

Public Transportation Service Through Raymond

The Raymond Board of Selectmen has been asked to participate in a new venture sponsored in part by the Greater Portland Council of Governments. This program would be for a public bus service between Bridgton and Windham on Route 302, over Rt. 115 to Gray, Route 95 to Falmouth and Rt. 295 to Portland and would include the towns "on the line" if they wish to participate. If possible, one direction would go over Route 302 from Windham to Portland to make a circle. The schedule will be determined by a council of the participating towns, but the thought now is to make four or five return trips a day, five days a week.

The fee for the service would be minimal for the travelers because it would be supported by grants and the participating towns. The initial donation by Raymond would be \$3,848, with another donation for the second year of the pilot program. Stops on the route would be determined by the locations each supporting town advised.

Because the success of this venture is dependent on the number of people using the service, we are asking people who think they might avail themselves of the service to contact Louise Lester, Town Clerk, to let her know so that she can compile some information for the Board of Selectmen to decide whether to participate.

Mrs. Lester can be reached by phone at 655-4742 ext. 21, e-mail at louise.lester@raymondmaine.org, or at the Town Office, 401 Webbs Mills Road, Raymond, Maine 04071.

Notes from the Code Enforcement Office

Who is that guy?

By Will Cook

It is a pleasure to announce that on January 1 I joined Jack and Karen as a full time member of the Code Office staff. You may have seen me with Jack or in the office, but I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am happy to be part of the town's Code Office because I can use my education and my job experiences to preserve Raymond's natural beauty and protect the health and safety of its residents.



I studied ecology in college, so I understand how human activities affect habitats and water quality. I am an environmentalist, but I also believe that people have the right to do what they want with their land, so long as it does not degrade water quality or habitat. I know when an activity impacts the environment and when it does not. I hope to actively prevent activities that degrade the natural beauty of Raymond, while being lenient on activities that do not affect Raymond's character.

For 15 years, I worked for the Department of Environmental Protection as both a licenser and enforcer of land use laws. Land use laws protect both the natural environment and human aesthetics, but adherence to the rules in all situations can restrict an individual's use of their land. I will use my experience in land use regulation to work with the residents of Raymond to utilize their property and achieve their individual goals while substantially complying with the town's ordinances.

Unfortunately, there are activities that impact the environment and impact the quality of life in Raymond. The Code Office's first objective is to help the residents stay in compliance, or come into compliance when they are outside the requirements of the ordinance; but enforcement actions are necessary when violations have a significant impact on the environment or the residents' quality of life. My experience with DEP has taught me how to be firm in enforcement actions when necessary.

As a certified Building Inspector and Local Plumbing Inspector, and with my training in residential wiring and energy-efficient construction, I am excited to be able to protect the health and safety of the current and future residents of Raymond. I have learned a lot working at Jack's side for the last year. Twenty years of inspecting construction gives Jack unmatched experience. I have learned more from him than I could possibly get from a training seminar. I am looking forward to learning more from him during my second field season.

Currently, I live in Webbs Mills. Although I don't live in Raymond, I can see Raymond from my dooryard, and I am close enough to ride a bike or walk to work. It takes an hour to walk to work, but it sure beats a commute to Portland! I live with my wife Laurie (yes, she is the Town Manager's Executive Secretary), a flock of chickens, and the rulers of the house: our four cats. I am looking forward to serving the residents of Raymond for many years!

Happy Valentine's Day and enjoy President's Week

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, 2008, in addition to any previous years' taxes will be listed in the Town Report.

Paper Cranes in Grade 3 Help Children Overseas

Ms. Mariya Barankevich's third grade class has been reading Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr. This is a true story of a courageous Japanese girl who tried to overcome the Atom Bomb Sickness (leukemia) by making a thousand paper cranes. According to an old Japanese superstition, if a sick person made a thousand paper cranes, the gods would grant her wish and make her healthy again. As the children read the book, they considered ways to use Sadako's message of hope to help other children who suffer in the world. They decided to attempt to make 1,000 paper cranes, and ask friends and family members to make a pledge for each crane to support the victims of the tragic Beslan school shooting that occurred on September 1, 2004. Many of these school children are still suffering from the burns and shrapnel wounds they received during that tragedy. Funds raised through the creation of the paper cranes will hopefully grant the gift of health to at least one Beslan child. We are proud of the children's work and their deep sense of caring about others in the world.

New Kindergarteners Wanted!

Raymond Elementary School is looking for all children who will be entering school next fall 2008. If your child will be 5 years old on or before October 15, 2008, and you are a Raymond resident, please call Ivy Jordan at 655-8672 ext 108 to pre-register today! Miss Ivy, Home-School Coordinator, is currently screening all children eligible for next year's kindergarten. Raymond Elementary School's Kindergarten Screening will be scheduled this year for Thursday, May 15, and Friday, May 16.



JSMS Principal's Report

Jordan-Small Middle School is blessed with many dedicated staff members who go above and beyond in developing exciting learning opportunities for our students. In the last month, we have had an archeologist with our fifth and sixth grade students, a fifth grade field trip to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, a National Geographic geography bee, community service students volunteering at the soup kitchen in Portland, and a USM brass ensemble performance for the band students in grades 7 & 8 and the entire fifth and sixth grade classes. As this goes to publication, seven of our chorus and band students will be participating in the District II music festival; the basketball teams will be wrapping up an outstanding season; the cheerleaders will be preparing for competitions; the Lego Robotics groups will continue to create amazing robots; one of our students will be returning from the Special Olympics; and the Math Teams will be traveling to competitions. None of these exciting expansions of our curricular program would exist without the commitment and dedication of the JSMS staff!



As many of you may know, we have been dealing with air quality and heating issues at Jordan-Small for over a year. I am pleased that a comprehensive, well-developed plan is now being brought to a special town meeting to correct the problems within the building. This plan will bring our facility up to current standards and improve the control and efficiency of the heating system. In addition to trying to provide the best physical environment possible for our students, we have reviewed our safety plans at the district level. A more refined code system has been developed, and practice drills of various scenarios will continue throughout the school year. The students and staff have done a great job of adapting to these updates and following crisis procedures.

I urge all Raymond residents to become informed about the current budget decisions facing your elected officials. The school administrators are faced with maintaining and improving the quality of our programs, while enrollments and state funds decline. Cuts have been made in all cost centers to build a budget that is fiscally responsible and responsive to student needs. The proposed budget is currently being reviewed by the School Board, Budget & Finance Committee and the Selectmen.

At a recent staff meeting, I collected responses from our teachers and Ed. Techs. on questions related to our school mission and purpose. Many of the staff indicated how important it is to have a positive, safe learning environment for all students. We constantly strive to create a school that holds students academically accountable, is supportive of the highly diverse needs of our students and maintains the excellent school climate we currently have. All the topics mentioned in this article contribute to that vision for our middle school.

RES March Schedule for Grades 3 & 4 MEAs

The Maine Educational Assessments are very important to our school district, providing information about our K - 8 programs. They also provide parents with information about their child's individual performance on these assessments. You can assist your child in doing his/her best work on the MEA's in the following ways.

- **Be sure that your child is in school and on time when we administer the MEAs. Please schedule appointments after 11:30am on the days your child is testing so that he/she does not miss any testing.**
- **See that your child comes to school each morning well rested and having a good breakfast. Send a healthy snack with your child each day to boost his/her energy level during the breaks.**
- **Keep a positive attitude about the testing. Let your child know that you value the MEAs, and emphasize to your child that you expect him/her to do his/her best work.**

Please do not hesitate to contact your student's teacher if you have any questions. We anticipate that MEA scores will be made available to parents and the schools next fall.

GRADE 4: Testing from 9am – 11:30am	
Monday, March 3	1A Reading (40 minutes), 1B Reading (40 minutes)
Tuesday, March 4	1C Reading (40 minutes), 2A Math (35 minutes)
Wednesday, March 5	2B Math (35 minutes), 2C Math (35 minutes), 3A Science (30 minutes)
Thursday, March 6	3B Science (30 minutes), 3C Science (30 minutes), Questionnaire (10 minutes)
Friday, March 7	Snow Day/Make Ups
GRADE 3: Testing from 9am – 11am	
Monday, March 10	1A Reading (40 minutes), 1B Reading (40 minutes)
Tuesday, March 11	1C Reading (40 minutes), 2A Math (35 minutes)
Wednesday, March 12	2B Math (35 minutes), 2C Math (35 minutes), Questionnaire (10 minutes)
Thursday, March 13/ Friday, March 14	Snow Day/Make Ups

CHIP at RES

Once again the Freemasons of Maine will be working with the Raymond Elementary School to offer CHIP (CHild Identification Program) on Thursday, February 7. This is a free program created to address the growing national problem of child abduction.

This program has been very, very successful, with the majority of our students participating over the past years. Last year CHIP moved to a digital format to make it easier for families to store their children's ID information and fingerprints. It also improves the effectiveness of the program by allowing information to be shared electronically and quickly, a key in getting data to law enforcement in the event of a missing child or child abduction.

The Raymond Elementary School would like to thank Wendell Graham and the Freemasons of Maine for offering this valuable service to Raymond families. We hope that all children in grades K - 4 participate in CHIP. Look for permission slips and updated information forms coming home in the RES responsibility folders, and be sure to return the information to school in plenty of time for the February 7 program.

RES Principal's Report

It is always amazing to see the progress that students are making as we reach this mid-point of the school year. This is especially true when I visit kindergarten and first grade classrooms and observe the children working with letters and numbers in many different ways, writing those first sounds, words and sentences, and gaining skill and confidence as early readers. I am very proud of the hard work that the children demonstrate each day, for learning is hard work. I am also very, very proud of the combined efforts of our teaching and support staffs who work tirelessly to meet the needs of all students. It takes all adults in our building to educate our students. Most importantly, it takes the support and guidance of parents at home to make learning a life-long habit. After nearly 30 years in this profession I still am passionate about my work with children, staff, and parents and the successes we have when we work collaboratively and make learning a priority. Raymond Elementary School is a very special school, and it is hard to believe that we are in our eighth year in this building.

Students and teachers are now preparing for the mid-term conferences that are scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, and Friday, February 8. Students, parents and teachers will meet together to discuss progress to date, to review academic and social goals that were set earlier in the year, and to revise goals to make the remainder of the year both challenging and successful. Three-Way or Student Led Conferences provide students with the opportunity to present their learning to their parent(s) and their teacher. It makes students much more accountable for their work, and it helps them to recognize the quality of their efforts. Conferences are always an exciting time at RES, and we want to be sure that all families are able to attend. Please call the office if you have yet to schedule your conference, and Miss Mindy will be happy to work with the teachers to schedule a convenient time.

Our February Opening will be held on Wednesday, February 13. Openings are held each month to celebrate the learning community at RES. It is a fun time to recognize achievements, celebrate birthdays, share news and coming events, and sing, sing, and sing. Parents and families are always welcome to visit us from 8:45 – 9:15. Please don't forget to stop in at the office and sign in before going down to the gym.

How to Build a Snowman

Ideas by Mrs. Allen's Kindergarten

First, you have to make one big snowball. Then you have to make a medium-sized one and then you have to make a small-sized one. Then you give it buttons with, like, raisins or something. Then you give it a black top hat, stick arms and a scarf and, like, a carrot for the nose. A raisin mouth. Maybe, like, stick legs, like boots. And I don't know what else. Mittens! ~Alex Markonish

Make a little snow ball. Then a big one. You roll it to make a big one. Put it where you want it. Make a teeny one and roll it and put it on top. Then you put a carrot nose. Put eyes made of raisins, mouth out of raisins, buttons out of raisins. You could make little shoes and arms with sticks. ~Brooke Proctor

Three balls and a carrot nose. Buttons for eyes. Buttons for a mouth. Buttons for buttons that go down and a hat, scarf and mittens. Sticks for the arms. ~Kylie Rhoades

A circle and another circle and another circle with eyes and mouth and nose and mittens. Arms. ~Emily Beisel-Bolen

Make it white. Make a snowcat with branches and leaves with snowballs. Big and medium and small. ~Amber Goss

Make three circles with snow. Make eyes and mouth with buttons and stuff. Put a scarf on. Put on stick arms. Put a hat on. That's all I can think of. ~Jamie Louko

Make snow balls. You make a medium, big, small. You put sticks on the arms. You take, like, rocks to do eyes and the nose. You find rocks and make it as a mouth. You find rocks for the buttons. You find other sticks to make hair. That's what I would do. ~Tucker Lamontagne-Willoughby

You first make a snowball. You roll it up. You make another smaller one. Roll it up. Then another. Roll it up. Put 'em, the big one, under the large one in the middle. The little tiny one goes on the top. Then you get a carrot for the nose. You put some buttons for the mouth. Sticks for the arms. Eyes, you can use buttons or something. Put a hat on him. Then you're finished. ~Lindsey MacDonald

You make some big thing of snowballs. I don't know why. Then a carrot belongs to a nose. A lot of circle things for the mouth. A circle thing for eyes. You don't make a tongue. That would be mean. The big size for the bottom. Make the hat. Do the hat on top of the snowman. Then you make a square thing on the top of the hat. Then make the face. ~Riley Scarpa

You make one big ball. Then one large ball. Then one small ball. Then sticks for arms, if you can find them. Then a carrot for a nose. Then a couple raisins for the mouth, if you can stick them on. Some more raisins for the eyes. Then a hat and a scarf and that's all. ~Whitney Wilson

Use three big snowballs. Big, medium and a small. Then you get two sticks for the arms. Then you get a carrot for the nose. Then you get two raisins for the eyes and one black string for the mouth and one black hat. That's it. ~Ben Childs

Snowballs and a carrot nose and some coal eyes and coal dots for a smile. Buttons and a hat and scarf. And that's all. ~Liam Conner-Schaefer

Take three balls. Then put them together. Put buttons on it. Then a hat. Then a scarf. Then put arms on it. Sticks. Then a carrot nose and coal eyes and a leaf or something for the mouth. Then you look at it when it's done. ~Jason Farmer

Hebron Academy Names First Trimester Honor Roll

Provided 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 following are the students from Raymond:

Highest Honors (A- or higher)

Calvin Moisan
Ashley Waldron

High Honors (B+ or higher)

Jenna Martyn-Fisher

Honors (B or higher)

Elijah Hughes
Alysha Orsini
Michael Orsini
Kees van Haasteren
Erik Wisutskie

Jordan-Small Middle School Trimester 1 Honor Roll

Grade 8 High Honors

Ryan Hoffman, Patrick LaChance, Timothy Morris, Georgia Noonan, Jeremy Peavey, Natalie Van Baars.

Grade 8 Honors

Lucy Algeo, Chynna Blaney, Samuel Brockelbank, Kelsea Carter, Marissa Cerino, Gaia Cloutier, Jacob Desjardins, Abbey Gillis, Casey Hutchinson, Tyler Nadeau, Bailey Odum, Jordan Parker, Allison Rand, Spencer Reynolds, Cory Schweitzer, Sarah Small, Sasha Van Baars, Joshua Waldron, Alan Wardwell, Riley Williamson.

Grade 7 High Honors

Sandra Carter, Phoebe Hurd, Emma Laprise, Dalton Lorenz, Lillie Reder.

Grade 7 Honors

Kaylee Ayers, Ryan Carr, Isobel Cunningham, Kristopher Darien, Tyler Davison, Rebecca Grondin, Cameron Hewins, Sarah Libby, Kevin McLane, Molly Miller, Brian Murray, Marybeth Noonan, Leah Orsini, Hunter Perkins, Grace Pomeroy, Rosalee Rainsford, Paige Richards, Ryan Schweitzer, Brock Stevenson, Corey Stevenson.

Grade 6 High Honors

Sara Hoffman, McKenzie Larson, Bradley Meader, Erick Schadler.

Grade 6 Honors

Robert Blair, Emily Callahan, Nicholas Cerino, Mathew Cobb, Zachary Conley, Caleb Dexter, Eben Dexter, Sara Doyon, Brandon King, Hailey Melvin, Jarron Nadeau, Mary Odum, Nicholas Pittman, Morgan Richmond, Shannon Sutton, Natasha Thoits, Jakayla Varounis, Travis Winde.

Grade 5 High Honors

Muriel Adams, Emily Algeo, Jesse Catir, Kaitlyn Dostie, Noah Estey, Emily Gagne, Chase Gendron, Emma Gresh, Clayton Manchester.

Grade 5 Honors

Tiffany Anderson, Nicholas Ball, Drew Bernier, Caitlyn Brannen-McCoy, Alana Cobb, Jenna Cole, Mariah Cranston, Madison Cutten, Kara Davison, Kelina Demers, Megan Doughty, Callie Drew, Katelyn Dudley, Dustin Fisher, Madeline Gillespie, Crystal Handy, Zoi Handy, Daniel Hanson, Rachel Hethcoat, Hannah Keisman, Marissa Kelly, Gavriella King, Julie Lent, Mitchell Lorenz, Aiyanna Maciel, Madison Millette-Gagnon, Hunter Mitchell, Emily Monahan, Shelby Peavey, Parker Perkins, Julia Rand, Grayson Sailor, Sandra Shannon, Kristina Smith, Brady Southerland, Andrew Tanguay, Joshua Tanguay, McKenzie Watkins, Joseph Wilmot.

Area Resident Named to Dean's List at University of New England

Alyse Bartholomew, daughter of Ralph and Kim Bartholomew of Raymond, Maine, has been named to the Dean's List for the 2007 fall semester at the University of New England. Dean's List students have attained a grade point average of 3.30 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

A 2007 graduate of Windham High School, Alyse Bartholomew is majoring in Occupational Therapy.

Hebron Academy Middle School Presents Fall Honor Roll

Provided by Christine Hemmings

Hebron Academy Middle School Director Paul Brouwer and Headmaster John King recently presented certificates for the fall trimester honor roll to the following Raymond students.

Highest Honors (A- average or higher): Adria Hughes and Rosalyn Moisan.

High Honors (B+ average or higher): Lindsey Hughes and Jennifer Walker.

Honors (B average or higher): Cassidy Gaudet

These students were honored for academic achievement at the Middle School, which includes history, English, math, science, and languages supplemented by music, art, outdoor skills, and physical education.

Grade 4 Students Receive New Books from PTO

What started out as a unit project in Ms. Stinehour's ELA 4th grade class ended up as a presentation by the students at the January PTO meeting to request funding for new books.

The 4th graders read *The Sign of the Beaver* as part of their Maine Studies unit. This is a wonderful story of people coming to Maine to settle and the interaction one particular boy had with the Native Americans and how it influenced his life in the Maine woods without his family. The books have been around for many years, and with the popularity of them being read over these years, the books are coming apart. Realizing this, Brodrick Gillespie and Philip Henry created a presentation about why new books were needed. They mentioned the historical value of reading the book and researched online what were the best prices for both soft and hard cover books. Their presentation involved a well developed written request supported by posters depicting the book and its background.

After the two students did their presentation to the class, the rest of the students got on the bandwagon with enthusiasm and support for their peers. Posters were made for their cause, and letters were sent out to the parents letting them know about the PTO meeting.

Other students who were able to attend the meeting and speak on behalf of the request were Alexis Walker, Cora Dykens, and Maelah Nadeau.

The PTO was very happy to see students involved and appreciated the effort they made in their convincing presentation. After asking questions, the members voted to fund the buying of twenty hardcover copies of the book. This will be most beneficial to next year's fourth grade class. It was a wonderful learning experience for the students.

At a recent school assembly, Mrs. Shriver, PTO president, made a formal presentation to the class in the form of a check for \$300. Congratulations to all the students on a job well done!

Come One, Come All: Project AWARE Presentation

Project AWARE and its Youth Empowerment Workshop has been working with a core group of 8th graders here at JSMS in January to create skits about issues kids face with substance abuse and other sensitive topics. These students will be presenting their skits on Wednesday, February 6th, at 6:30pm in the JSMS cafeteria. Parents, middle/high school students and interested community members, please come and support these students and the work they have done to raise awareness about the issues young people face today. If you would like further information on Project AWARE, please visit their website at: www.projectaware.net, or contact Christina Lamarre at 655-8672 x 107 or via e-mail at mentor@raymondmaine.org.

Harvest Hills Has Friends at RES

Animals at the Harvest Hills Animal Shelter in Fryeburg will once again be a little happier during this winter season due to the efforts of some very caring children at the Raymond Elementary School. Ms. Parisi's 2nd grade class was delighted to send a donation of \$228 to support the shelter's efforts to place orphaned dogs and cats. They would like to thank students and staff for their kind contributions and donations.

Moose Lottery Permits Available

The 2008 Moose Permit applications are available at the Town Office. Applications must be sent in no later than April 1, 2008. The applications are also available online at

www.informe.org/ifw/moosepermit.html

The online deadline is April 1, 2008, at 11:59pm.

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

Greetings from Title I

The Title I staff this year consists of Deborah Shaw and Margaret Mains, Literacy Specialists, Louise Carpenter, Ed Tech III, and Ivy Jordan, Home-School Coordinator and Title I Ed Tech III. This year the Title I program has become the "Pre-referral" agent for Special Ed. You may have read or heard the term RTI (i.e. Response To Intervention) that is a new requirement for Special Ed. It involves collecting data and making sure that students receive research-based lessons and assessments and interventions before being referred for Special Ed, and documentation needs to reflect those activities. The Title I staff, therefore, has been searching for newer, researched activities and materials, along with surveying teachers to determine what they are already doing that is supported with research. Thankfully, we have a highly qualified staff, all of whom have received professional development in many research-based techniques, and they are already using these activities within the classroom.

In response to our need to collect appropriate data for pre-referral, we are concentrating our attentions on the most critical students at our schools to help them become independent learners who can meet grade level standards. With the small class sizes at our schools, it has been possible to provide consultation and resources to help classroom teachers provide special attention to those students who are "partially" meeting the standards. Therefore, these children will continue to make progress even though they no longer receive Title I tutoring.

A Title I Parent Night was held on Tuesday, January 15, for K-2 Title I students and parents. All who attended were encouraged to wear silly, crazy slippers. Most of the activities were designed with a "slipper" theme. It was held at Raymond Elementary Library with the assistance of our new librarian, Sue Ellen Gendron.

Grade 3 & 4 students who are not meeting the standards are receiving tutoring through a program we are calling "LITERACY AND MATH LABS." Later in the year the Title I staff will be hosting a Parent-Student Activity Night for these students, who have been working on various research projects connected to Raymond and Maine history. Math students at this level have been trying to nail down basic skills and math language so they can understand the Everyday Math concepts they are being taught in the classroom.

Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Carpenter attended a conference this fall, the Mid-Maine Conference sponsored by Maine ACHIEVE (a statewide Title I networking group). They both enjoyed learning some essential techniques to use with the Title I students. They have found these activities to be effective in helping their students make progress toward the standards. Mrs. Mains was on the Planning Committee for this conference and enjoyed helping to provide tutors all over the state with key strategies and current researched programs and assessments from dynamic and experienced Literacy and Math local and national presenters. Data collection is becoming an essential element of professional development. The keynote speaker at this conference, Dr. Julie Meltzer, was able to make an otherwise dull and challenging topic, Data, more interesting and useful with her "Data Is Your Friend" workshop. NWEA (the new assessments we are using in this district) was also discussed at this conference.

Enjoy the rest of the winter out there, and we wish you a healthy and happy spring.

Raymond Village Community Church Rocks Through the Night!

By Vicki Gordan

Anyone driving by the Raymond Village Community Church on Saturday night (January 19) and early Sunday morning would have seen the church rocking off its foundation! The Youth Group of the Church participated in an all-night Rockathon to support a local charity as well as their activities. Ten students participated in the Rockathon, which was a fun-filled and mostly sleepless night, rocking in rocking chairs from 7pm to 8:30am the next morning. The students watched movies, played games, did crafts, and ate snacks to pass the night away. The event was a great success raising more than \$600, \$450 of which they will be contributing to "Keep Raymond Warm," our local fuel assistance program. The Youth Group is a wonderful group of middle and high school students, who participate in service projects, have lots of fun, and enrich the life of the church. They are always looking for more friends to join them!

Raymond Democrats to Hold Caucus

To Select Presidential Nominee

Raymond, ME – On Sunday, February 10th, at 2pm at the Raymond Public Safety Building, 1443 Roosevelt Trail (Route 302), Democrats in Raymond will caucus to select delegates to the Democratic State Convention, elect Municipal Officers and County Committee members, and discuss policy issues affecting all Maine people.

"America is at a crossroads. After eight years of a failed Republican Administration, we have the opportunity to chart a new direction for our country. On February 10th, Democrats from across the State of Maine will caucus to choose who they want to be the Democratic Party's nominee for President. Caucuses are a time to make your voice heard. Together, we will work from the grassroots to build a strong party framework. I strongly encourage all Democrats to attend their town's caucus and make their voices heard," said John Knutson, Chairman of the Maine Democratic Party.

People not currently registered in a political party, who would like to enroll as Democrats may do so immediately at the town office or at the caucus at 1:30pm prior to the beginning of the meeting. Those registered in a different political party must switch their enrollment to Democrat before January 26th, 2008, in order to be eligible to vote in the February 10th Caucus.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Cheryl Lunde at 655-3614.

Community Service Updates

By Barb Loux

The community service classes at JSMS have been busy. There have been several classes that continue to work with RES on a regular basis. Everyone enjoys this, and it is a positive way to keep connected to the younger children. We successfully ran a Talent Show in December. This was to benefit our American soldiers serving in the war. This involved around 50 children either participating in the show or working behind the scenes. We raised money to shop for items to pack into many boxes to send to the soldiers. This felt like a nice thing to do at Christmas, and the kids felt like they were really helping.

We went Christmas caroling at local nursing homes. This was a fun afternoon and the second year in a row that we were able to do this. Thank you to The Good Life Market who provided hot chocolate and cookies to the carolers.

We continue to go to the Wayside Soup Kitchen twice a month. One time is for 7th and 8th graders, and one time is with local Raymond high schoolers. This is a positive experience for the children. They work hard and are learning how important it is to help provide for others. The high school trip is open to any Raymond teenager. It is the first Monday of the month, and we meet at JSMS at 4pm. Please join us if you are interested or if you need some community service hours for your high school.

We have the opportunity to work with Project AWARE this month. This program is sponsored by Raymond Mentoring. Project AWARE is a group coming from Saco who work with youth around issues of substance abuse prevention and anti-bullying. There were 33 8th graders who participated in this so far. Hopefully, you have seen their PSA announcements on our local TV station! We will be doing an evening for the parents on Feb. 6th at 6:30 in the JSMS cafeteria. Please come and watch skits that the children have prepared and give your support to a very positive program.

I have been having a lot of questions about the ice rink. My apologies for being so slow this year. It started snowing so early that it was making it difficult. The town has offered some help in that department, but given the fact we have just had another foot of snow, I am not sure what will happen in the next few weeks.

We have had no progress on the skate park. Mr. Crockett and I were the only ones that attended an information session in order to move forward with any plans. I know there are interested parents and students. Although I do not want to abandon this project, I cannot do it by myself. Please call me at the school if you are interested in helping.

As always, my continuing gratitude for the teachers' flexibility in accommodating various programs that the community service kids are doing. If anyone has a project that they would like us to tackle in the community, please call me at 655-4743 x107.

Compost Bin Order Deadline April 7th

You have until April 7th to place your order for the Maine Resource Recovery Association compost bin sale. 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 \$95 for every ton of waste they compost.

A covered kitchen scrap pail is also available for \$10.50 each. Both these items are displayed at the Town Office.

These bins and pails will be available for delivery on or about May 5th.

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

Town of Raymond

Nomination Papers Are Available

Saturday, March 15th

FOR THE OFFICES OF

SELECTMAN (2 positions),
SCHOOL COMMITTEE (2 positions),
and BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE
(4 positions)

Nomination paper return deadline is
Friday, April 25, 2008, at 4pm

For more information:

Louise Lester, Town Clerk,
655-4742 ext.21 or

louise.lester@raymondmaine.org

Boston Post Cane Candidates Requested

The town is interested in finding the oldest resident of Raymond in order to award the Boston Post Cane certificate.

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 head inscribed thus:

Presented by

THE BOSTON POST
to the
OLDEST CITIZEN
of
Raymond, Maine
to be transmitted

This cane has been in continuous use since 1909. Today the cane remains in the Town Hall for its protection, and the recipients receive a certificate of recognition.

If you are a candidate or know someone who might be, please contact Louise Lester at the Town Office at 655-4742 or louise.lester@raymondmaine.org Proof of age will be requested.

Property Tax and Rent Relief "Circuit Breaker" Program

DEADLINE June 2, 2008

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; and also at the Raymond Town Office

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.

Decision Coming on County Jails

By Senator Bill Diamond

Last week I was the keynote speaker at the Maine Sheriffs' Association annual meeting in Portland. The meeting also included deputy sheriffs, jail administrators and county commissioners. This was an especially important and timely meeting, considering the proposal that has been presented by Governor Baldacci for the state to take over the control and responsibility of all county jails. The governor's proposal has obviously generated much discussion and concern as well as support from different interest groups and the public. The sheriffs and county officials have presented their own proposal for improving the county jail system, which will be considered as well.

The Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, of which I serve as the Senate Chair, will hold public hearings on both bills on January 28, 2008, beginning at 10am in Room 211 at the State House. These proposed changes to the county jail system and the county structure in general are the most dramatic since the county government system was first created.

Knowing that these county jail proposals would be coming to my committee, I decided that I should visit and talk with every sheriff and examine every jail in Maine, which I did this past November and December. My learning curve resulting from these visits and in-depth discussions was significant and will be helpful as we study and carefully review these proposals.

Our committee will closely examine both proposals down to the finest details so that we will have a total understanding of each. Preliminary review of each proposed bill reveals that there are many unanswered questions in both proposals, and it appears that some assumptions that were included in the bills lack factual support. Funding components, which are key to both proposals, seem to be less than complete, and that issue will need to be studied further. Clearly, there is much more research to be done before the committee can make a final recommendation.

Included in my remarks to the sheriffs and jail administrators last week, I mentioned the fact that during my visits around the state every sheriff told me that there are significant problems with the current county jail system and that improvements need to be made. In spite of the fact that there are two opposing sides to the jail consolidation issue, everyone seems to agree that changes are needed to improve efficiencies, reduce costs and still keep the public safe.

The committee will start with that sound premise and proceed to take the best parts of each proposal, and based on our research during the work sessions, will no doubt make substantial changes resulting in our final recommendations.

It is important that all sides wait for the committee to do its work before making any final decisions regarding either proposal. There are many facts to verify and assumptions to challenge in both proposals, and this will take time.

If you have thoughts or opinions, the committee would be eager to hear from you; so please don't hesitate to contact me.

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 diamondbillyd@aol.com

Is State Government Finally Listening to Reason?

Rep. John C Robinson

New buzzwords are heard with increasing frequency in the marbled corridors of the State House. "Streamlining government" and "prosperity" are two of the most common terms of shorthand for the growing realization that Maine's economy is in trouble. And trouble for the economy means trouble in Augusta, as tax revenues decline.

Given the most recent revenue forecast, Maine is facing a \$105-million budget deficit, and we're only halfway through the first year of a two-year budget cycle. The governor has promised to fill that gap without raising taxes, although his supplemental budget must first run the gauntlet in the Legislature, where his social service cuts are already raising eyebrows.

Economist Charles Colgan, who teaches at the University of Southern Maine, gave a sobering talk this month to Portland-area business executives. He warned that Maine's economy is on "thin ice," as a number of factors converge to create a sense of foreboding: high energy prices, the housing slump, rising unemployment and the mortgage crisis. "The ice is cracking, so step gingerly," he remarked. Colgan forecasts that a mild recession, such as the downturn of 2001, would see 6,000 jobs lost in Maine. But if a recession turned severe, he said, "all bets are off."

Already this year, sales taxes are down \$6.3 million. Maine families are curtailing purchases of things they can forgo in order to pay skyrocketing bills for heating oil, which is not taxed. Corporate income tax revenues are \$7.5 million below projections. The cigarette tax is short of expectations by \$6 million. Even so, there is talk in the State House that the governor might propose another dollar increase in the cigarette tax, bringing it to \$3, to pay for his Dirigo health program, currently funded by a tax on health insurance policies.

Against this ominous backdrop, the so-called Prosperity Committee recently issued a report on ways to keep Maine's economy viable. I was gratified to discover that two bills I sponsored found their way into the report, or at least the ideas in those bills.

The first bill is LD 1434, An Act to Lower Maine Income Tax Rates. I offered this bill on the grounds that Maine's high income tax rate, 8.5 percent, is one of the greatest obstacles to economic development. High taxes penalize productivity and stifle job growth, which helps explain the exodus of our educated young people, who have to leave Maine to find work.

My bill, LD 1434, would have reduced the top two income tax rates over a four-year period, beginning with tax year 2007. The initial decreases would have gone from 8.5 percent and 7 percent to 8 percent and 6.5 percent. Rates would have progressively fallen to where, by 2010, Maine's highest

income tax rate would be 5 percent.

Unfortunately, this bill was killed by the Taxation Committee before it could even come up for a vote by the Legislature. But the principles of the bill live on in the Prosperity Committee's report. (That report, incidentally, was endorsed 16-0 by the bipartisan group of legislators who comprised the committee. It provides a blueprint to guide the state to a healthier economy and a sustainable spending rate for state government.)

The committee report, entitled "Time for Change," recommends gradually reducing Maine's top income tax rate to 4.5 percent. In a commentary on taxation, the authors explained their rationale: "Maine's high ranking on national tax burden lists is frequently cited as one of the reasons businesses are discouraged from relating to the state. Maine's combined state and local tax burden of 13 percent was the fourth-highest in the nation in 2004, making it critical that Maine reduce its tax burden and increase the average personal income if it is to achieve sustainable economic growth, improve its ability to compete with neighboring New England states and spur business and population growth."

My second idea adopted by the Prosperity panel calls for creation of a government efficiency panel to help streamline and modernize Maine government. A group of nine private sector experts in financing, government operations and business would be charged with recommending spending reductions and even a more fundamental restructuring of government.

Under my plan – and now in the official prosperity report – any recommendations from this efficiency commission would all be voted up or down by the Legislature: either they all pass or they all fail. My model was the federal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission, which worked the same way: All bases on the list would be closed, or none would be closed.

One component of the prosperity report package contains a bill that would, if passed by the Legislature, formalize the recommendations and create the Government Efficiency Commission to identify government expenditures that can be eliminated or reduced by consolidating entities, increasing efficiency in providing services and eliminating duplication.

These actions are good for Maine's government, for our economy and for our future.

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



What Does Conservation Mean To You?

The rate at which we are losing precious wetlands resources is disturbing. According to Ducks Unlimited (www.ducks.org) the United States loses approximately 80,000 acres of wetlands per year. Yes, 80,000!

If you would like to help in the effort to protect wetlands, Ducks Unlimited could use any assistance you are willing to give. Ducks Unlimited is a national wetlands conservation organization, and the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited will be holding its annual dinner auction fundraiser on March 15th at 5pm in Gray. If you would like information on becoming a volunteer or would like to attend this fundraiser, please call Tony Costigan at 998-5783. If you cannot attend and would like to make a donation, you can make checks payable to Ducks Unlimited and mail to me at the address below.

PO Box 1326
Gray, ME 04039

Raymond Planning Board Needs Help

The Raymond Planning Board is looking for two positions to be filled. This board meets once a month applying Raymond's ordinances to residential and commercial development. It also prepares ordinance changes to come before the Town Meeting. They need your help.

Please forward your letters of interest including a short resume to:

Louise Lester, Town Clerk, 401 Webbs Mills
Road, Raymond, ME 04071
or e-mail louise.lester@raymondmaine.org.

You can also apply through our website
www.raymondmaine.org
Look for the Volunteer Application.

2008 Dog Licensing

Dog licensing was due January 31st. All dogs over the age of 6 months should be licensed. A Rabies Certificate must be produced and if neutered, a Neutering Certificate, if the Town Office does not have it on file. The fee for a neutered dog is \$6 and non-neutered is \$11. Dogs previously licensed in Raymond will incur an additional \$15 late fee after January 31st.

Please understand that by having your dog licensed, anyone finding your stray pet will be able to trace it to you thereby alleviating the possibility that it will go to a shelter. Licensing funds contribute to stray animal care in the town and state and support the State Veterinarian Laboratory in Augusta, as well as Maine State Humane Agents who investigate animal abuse cases.

Speedy Vegetable Barley Soup

It can be challenging to put a healthy meal on the table these days. Most of us don't even get home until dinnertime: between work, kids, meetings, and sheer exhaustion, homemade meals tend to be relegated to the back burner in favor of processed, fast foods. But delicious, nutritious meals don't need to be time-consuming. The following soup can be prepared in 30 minutes, is low in calories, high in healthy ingredients, and just plain yummy. Double the recipe and freeze for an even speedier future meal.

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

Serves: 4

- 1 c quick cooking barley
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 2 small-to-medium onions, chopped
- 2 c sliced fresh mushrooms (a mild variety such as cremini)
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 celery stalks, sliced (include leaves for extra flavor)
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh oregano
- 4 c vegetable broth
- 3 tbsp tomato paste
- Salt and black pepper to taste

Bring 2 cups water to a boil in a medium saucepan. Stir in the barley. Reduce the heat and simmer, covered, until tender, about 10 minutes. Set aside.

Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the onions, mushrooms, carrots, celery, garlic, and oregano. Sprinkle in a pinch of salt and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in the broth and tomato paste and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cook, covered, until the vegetables are tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in the barley and heat through. Taste, adding more salt and some freshly ground black pepper if desired.

Serve hot with warm, crusty bread. Enjoy!

Per serving (generous 1 cup portions): 309 calories, 8 grams fat, 2 grams saturated fat, 0 grams trans fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 56 grams carbohydrates, 12 grams fiber, 8 grams protein.

Provided by the Wellness Committee

Poison Control

The Northern New England Poison Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The center is located in Portland at Maine Medical Center and manages calls from Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. The staff at NNEPC comprises nurses, pharmacists and others trained in emergency medical services.

The staff is available at 1-800-222-1222 to help with emergencies and to answer general questions about:

- Exposures
- Medication safety
- Drug interactions
- Pill identifications
- Side effects
- Pet exposures

Information, updates and newsletters are available on the website at: www.nnepc.org

Shalom Club Children Give to Hospitals

The children of the Shalom Club of the Raymond Village Community Church (United Church of Christ) have been collecting items for the Happy Hospital Kids Kits they are making. The kits will be given to bring cheer to children in the hospital. Inside the hand-sewn drawstring bags are small games, puzzles, sock puppets that the Shalom Club members made, and small stuffed animals. The children have also written cards and are enclosing a return envelope in the hope that the hospitalized children might write back.

Shalom Club meets once a month and is open to any child in grades 4-6. For more information, contact the Raymond Village Community Church at 655-7749 or visit the church website at www.rvccme.org.

Local Daycare Receives Quality Certificate

Congratulations to Creative Kids Family Child Care and Preschool for receiving a Quality Certificate from the Office of Child Care and Head Start. Quality Certificates are given to child care programs who meet specific criteria. Diane La Pierre, owner and director of Creative Kids, received her Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education last June and has gone above and beyond the Maine State Licensing Guidelines to provide the children in her care and their families with quality child care and early education. Learn more about Quality Certified Programs at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/occhs/quality.htm>.

Free Children's Clothing Share

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church
151 West Gray Road - Gray, ME
Route 115 just west of Marden's (same side)
Saturday, February 9th, 8am - noon

All clothing is for KIDS, (infants through size 16) and all is FREE. Bring your outgrown kids' clothing in **good condition** (no rips, holes or stains, please) and trade for what you need. The Children's Clothing Share is a ministry of our church and is open to all. It is not necessary to bring in clothing in order to take. This ministry helps provide families with needed clothing and also allows an opportunity to reuse and recycle. Bring only clothing, shoes and outerwear in good condition. If you have donations for pickup or any questions about the Children's Clothing Share, please contact Bethany Smart at 829-4207 or the church at 657-2009.

A Journey of Biblical Greece and Turkey

Friday, February 1, 2008, at 7pm

Members of Faith Lutheran Church, 988 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, will present a 'Journey of Biblical Greece and Turkey,' following in the footsteps of St. John. They will share photos and memories of this trip.

Refreshments.

For more information, call Marcia 650-3972

Did You Know? It's at Your Library!

Magazines: Check Them Out

Yes, literally! You can check magazines out of the library for the normal circulation period of two weeks. Are you using your winter indoor time to plan more energy efficiency for your home, design your spring garden, reorganize your closets, consider a major appliance purchase, or explore possibilities for your next vacation? If so, the next time you're in your library, take a moment to see which of the magazines available will help you with these or other projects. A sample of the magazines available are:

<i>Real Simple</i>	<i>Consumer Reports</i>	<i>Birds & Blooms</i>
<i>Cooking Light</i>	<i>Portland Magazine</i>	<i>Cottage Living</i>
<i>Smithsonian</i>	<i>Health Magazine</i>	<i>Down East</i>
<i>Home Power</i>	<i>Travel & Leisure</i>	<i>People, Places & Plants</i>

Which Comes First for You : The Book or the Movie?

Which camp are you in? Do you prefer to read the book before seeing the movie? Or does seeing the movie entice you to read the book? Whichever is your style, the library can help you out with books in its collection that were made into recently released movies:

<i>P.S. I Love You</i>	<i>The Golden Compass</i>	<i>Charlie Wilson's War</i>
<i>Atonement</i>	<i>No Country for Old Men</i>	<i>An Inconvenient Truth</i>

Also, on display through the end of the month are previously acclaimed movies and the books on which they were based. Examples, which can be checked out for your enjoyment, are *Dead Man Walking*, *All the Pretty Horses* and *Absolute Power*.

Music CDs: Take One Home and Enjoy

Music CDs are also available for your enjoyment during the normal two week circulation period. It is said that music is good for the soul; it can relax you and it can soothe you. So fill your world with music on CDs from the following musical categories:

Classical	Jazz	Popular	Hymns/Gospel	Country and Western
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Of particular note in the music collection are the CDs featuring Raymond's own Dave Rowe. Check out his CD and appreciate the talent of one of our own!

"Free Basket": Always Different, Always Free

In the entry to the library, there's a basket of free magazines and a box of free books. You never know what you'll find—maybe this week *Architectural Digest*, a Stephen King novel, a collection of old *National Geographic*, or foreign language tapes. Maybe the following week, the one Clive Cussler novel you're missing for your collection, several car mechanics magazines, or jigsaw puzzles. It's fun to stop and look, and the "free" part is a nice enticement. These items are made available by other library patrons who are "green" and prefer to see the items reused for someone else's enjoyment. As always, the library thanks the community for its support in so many ways.

Book Sale: Nice Selection of Items Available at \$1 or \$2

Do you need novels for beach reading during your mid-winter getaway to warmer climes? Are you facing a long business trip and know that you can't return a book or audio cassette in the normal circulation period? The library has a sale of books and other items in progress. There's an excellent selection of books, mostly paperback, by the most popular fiction writers. These are supplemented with a variety of non-fiction titles, children's books, audio and video cassettes, and jigsaw puzzles. Since the average new paperback books now cost about \$8, the \$1 and \$2 price for most sale items is definitely appealing—one might say an absolute bargain! All proceeds from book sales go directly into the library's budget for the purchase of new books for the collection.

So, now you do know: it's at your library. We hope to see you soon at the library to enjoy all these offerings.

Pears: The Fruit of Raymond, Maine

by Elizabeth Bullen, Vice President Raymond-Casco Historical Society

The pear was frequently grown in Maine during the 1700 & 1800s and as a result, different varieties of pears were produced locally. In the 1800s, the town of Raymond became the ancestral home of two pear varieties: the Raymond and the Beurré Preble.

The Raymond was a pear variety raised from seed in the 1820s by Dr. Joseph Wight of Raymond. Reviews of the pear were mixed through the 1800s. The Pomological Manual (1832) said the Raymond was "deemed of fine quality and good flavour," while the Magazine of Botany and Gardening (1837) said it was "...decidedly of first rate quality...[but] the growth of the tree is weak." Elliott's Fruit Book (1858) went so far as to designate the Raymond as "unworthy of cultivation." As late as 1897, a source described the pear as "flesh buttery, melting, excellent..." Its color was yellow, tinged with red, and the fruit ripened in September and October.

Beurré Preble was a pear that also originated in the town of Raymond. Named after Maine's naval Officer Edward Preble, this pear variety was raised from seed by Elijah Cook in the 1840s. Like its predecessor, Beurré Preble also received mixed reviews. The American Fruit Culturist (1849) described it "sweet, rich, with high flavor, but varying to second-rate." In 1860, the Magazine of Horticulture, Botany, and All Useful Discoveries and the Fruits and Fruit Trees of America both rated the Beurré Preble pear as both "large" and "excellent." Its skin was greenish-yellow, and the fruit ripened in October and November.

In the 1700 and 1800s, the pear was a fruit commonplace to Maine, and a variety of pears were cultivated locally. The Raymond and the Beurré Preble were pears that originated in the town of Raymond during the 1800s, although neither variety is believed to exist today.

Raymond Road Runner Deadline Reminder

Articles for the March issue are due
Thursday, February 21st.

Edict for Trash Barrels

Since Raymond's curbside trash and recycling program began years ago, the per household weekly limit for free pickup has been two 32-gallon barrels. Over the years questions about barrels have been entertained by the Town Clerk's Office, supported by information from the vendor.

The fact that all residents need to put their trash in bags and then put them curbside in barrels has caused some frustration from the residents as well as the vendor. Trying to keep our roadsides clean is an ongoing effort, and residents who don't use barrels are taking the chance of littering our streets. Some residents are eager to help the system by using lids on their barrels but have the problem of how to keep the lids on the barrels with the nimble paws of some of our local wildlife taking them off. Pine Tree Waste has asked that all barrels have self-locking lids rather than the addition of bungee cords or rope holding them down. The added time it takes to untie barrel lids with cold hands covered by bulky gloves makes the pickup day very long.

Raymond continues to ask that everyone use the orange stickers on their barrels. We have lots of them at the Town Office, and residents can pick them up free of charge during regular business hours. We understand that they are not holding up well but by using ingenious methods of attachment, people have been quite successful in marking their barrels. One of the easiest is wrapping them around a handle of the barrels.

Marking your barrels with your street address is also appreciated. It can be done with Magic Marker® or paint. With your address on your barrels, it is easy for the pickup men to be sure that no one puts out more than they are allowed, which keeps our trash budget in check.

If you have more trash to discard than the 2-barrel limit, stickers for your overage bag(s) are available at the Town Office for \$1 each, which pays for the extra tipping fee. You can purchase as many of these as you wish. Just attach a sticker to the bag, and it will be picked up. These extra bags should be in a barrel as well.

For more information, please call
Louise Lester, Town Clerk, at 655-4742 ext. 21
or e-mail louise.lester@raymondmaine.org

All are welcome! Ash Wednesday Worship Service

February 6th at 7pm
Raymond Village Community Church
United Church of Christ
27 Main Street
Raymond

This will be a brief service of readings, songs, and reflections on the meaning of the upcoming Season of Lent. Ashes will be used but not in the traditional marking of the forehead.

When Valentine's Day Isn't What It Used To Be

by Steve Danzig, LMSW-CC, CCS, LADC

How do couples know when they need professional counseling to help their relationship? Hopefully, one of them will realize it and encourage the other to go to counseling together. But more often couples think that they can handle any difficulties in their relationship themselves. Many think that their difficulties are just a rough patch or that there are temporary valid reasons for their loss of closeness. And sometimes they are just that. But when a rough patch drags on too long, it provides a fertile landscape for those couples to start growing apart. Unfortunately, there is no definition for "too long" - it can be different for each person in the relationship.

Part of the problem for the delay in seeking therapy is that a romantic couple shares a unique level of intimacy with each other. Consequently, there is a tendency to assume that you know what your partner is thinking. Unfortunately, you might be wrong. Another problem is that couples tend to gauge the success or failure of their relationship by comparing it to others in their social circle. The problem with that is no one truly knows the complexity of someone else's relationship except the people within that relationship. Similarly, everyone has a different boiling point where they say enough is enough and walk away. Your friends may accept things about their partners that you may not know about and could not live with. A more recent cultural problem is that many couples have skipped the friendship phase of a relationship because they have fallen in love so fast. When the love is in trouble, you have to rely on your friendship with that person to sustain the relationship. If there is no friendship, it's the same as no net under a high wire act. They might not fall, but if they do...it's over.

For all of these reasons it is important to be aware that separation starts long before an actual break-up and is typically ignored as a rough patch. Most research on couples' separation indicates that the couples had been in trouble for at least months if not years before they realized that they couldn't handle the problem by themselves. At this point it can often be too late. Before actually starting therapy, one or both of the people have already made up their mind and were simply seeking professional counseling for permission to end their relationship. How frustrating for everyone! Especially since couples counseling can be very successful when couples notice a "rough patch" in their relationship and commit to getting help to work through it. When that happens, the therapist can help the couple understand each other's feelings, resolve conflicts, and improve their relationship. The therapist can give the couple the tools to communicate better, negotiate differences, problem solve, and even argue in a healthier way. This process allows each person in the relationship to be heard, to feel important, and ultimately be reminded that they are loved by their partner. A couples counselor can also help couples that may have skipped the friendship phase to start over (within the relationship) to build a solid friendship that can weather the ups and downs inherent in a romantic relationship.

Couples counseling is a good investment for a healthy, loving relationship. Counseling doesn't necessarily last that long, but the benefits definitely do. Even though you typically find a couples counselor under "marriage and family counselors" in the Yellow Pages, many couples counselors work with dating, engaged, cohabitating, and married couples. Simply ask the therapist about their practice when you call to inquire about couples counseling for you and your loved one.

Raymond Baseball/ Softball Register for 2008!

JSMS Cafeteria 6-8pm

Thursday, 2/28/08, (snow day Monday 3/3/08)
and Thursday, 3/6/08

Raymond Baseball & Raymond Softball jackets will be available for order

NEED TO REGISTER BY 3/15/08

Programs Offered

BASEBALL	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL	SOFTBALL
T-BALL (Coed)	Ages 5-7 as of April 30 th , 2008		
ROOKIE	Ages 7-9 as of April 30 th , 2008	U9	Age 9 & under as of Dec. 31, 2007 (may place with Minor teams)
MINOR	Ages 9-12 as of April 30 th , 2008	MINOR	Age 12 & under as of Dec. 31, 2007 (typically 7, 8 and 9 yr olds)
MAJOR (tryouts required)	Ages 9-12 as of April 30 th , 2008	MAJOR (tryouts required):	Age 12 & under as of Dec. 31, 2007 (typically 10, 11 and 12 yr olds)
SR LEAGUE	Ages 13-15 as of April 30 th , 2008		

**** Placement Sessions Will Be Held on Saturday, March 15th, at the JSMS Gym ****

ALL PLAYERS can attend. Players moving up to a new level or new to the league must attend.
(T-Ball & Senior League do not attend placements.)

Baseball		Softball	
Rookie, Minor, Major		U9, Minor, Major	
Saturday, March 15th		Saturday, March 15th	
Snow date 3/29		Snow date 3/29	
Ages 7-9	9:00 - 10:30	Age 9 & under	12:00 - 1:30
Ages 10-12	10:30 - 12:00	Age 12 & under	1:30 - 3:00

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

T-ball \$30, All others \$45 (\$40 each if two or more in one family)
Sr League \$85 (no family fee)

Questions? Contact Bonnie Flynn at Bflynn1@maine.rr.com

Our website is currently under construction.

Check back for updates and registration capabilities!

www.raymondbaseballsoftball.com

Lobster Dip Thanks

Jordan-Small Middle School staff Mr. Keller, Mr. Dionne, Mr. Fitch, Mr. Carter, and Mrs. Thornton would like to thank the Raymond Community for sponsoring their New Year's Day Lobster Dip at Old Orchard Beach. Your donations contributed \$2,500 towards Special Olympic programs in Maine. Special Olympics Maine noted that 316 dippers raised \$40,000 from their icy cold Atlantic Ocean Dip.



A Bit of the Old West Comes to Raymond

By Patti Gordan

On Friday, December 21st, the students and staff welcomed Skip Gorman to Raymond Elementary School. Skip is a professional folk musician. He performed songs, stories, and poems from the "old days" in the American West. He also played a variety of instruments, such as minstrel banjo, cross tuned fiddle, harmonica, guitar, cow bones and the 'limberjack.' He was dressed in old fashioned "cowboy clothes" and has had real cowboy experiences.



Dressed in his historic cowboy garb, Mr. Gorman then performed for the entire RES student body. He invited students on stage to play the limberjack, a wooden figure on a stick that dances and makes tapping sounds to the music.

The students had a wonderful time listening to the ballads and singing along with the old cowboy tunes. It was a great way to finish 2007!



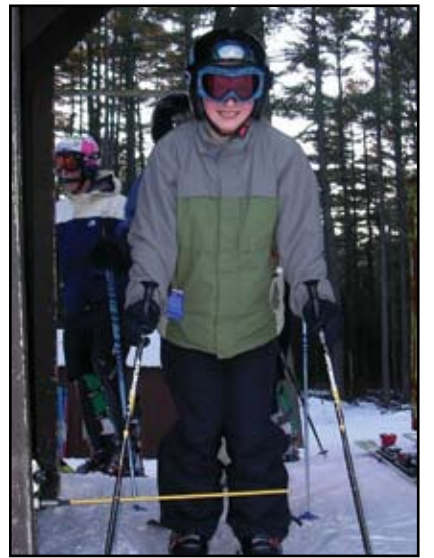
Skip met first with the second grade students, who are presently working on their pioneer unit in Social Studies. Skip was very impressed with the 2nd graders' knowledge of Lewis and Clark, the Louisiana Purchase, and the lives of early pioneers. He taught them about cowboys and the cattle drives of the 1800s.

Hebron Academy Middle School Ski Team Results

By Christine Hemmings, Middle School Secretary

The Hebron Academy Middle School Ski Team recently competed in their first race of the season, a giant slalom at Sunday River. In a combined field of 110 racers, Isabel Kannegieser (Minot) finished in second place among the entire field and turned in the day's fastest run on the Blue course. The girls' field included 44 racers. Julia Schneider (Durham) had a solid 16th place finish, **Rosalyn Moisan (Raymond)** followed in 20th place, and Paige Kenison (Casco) scored a 29th place finish. Though she had a bobble in the second run, Phoebe Chamberlin (Auburn) turned in a solid first run.

In a boys' field of 65 competitors, **Corrie van Haasteren (Raymond)** led the way with his 5th place finish. Brooks Layman (Auburn) followed in 12th place; Sawyer Harkins (South Paris) was 18th, and Josh Hews (Poland) finished 32nd. Jake Irish (Buckfield) had a solid first run before a bobble in the second run, and Paul Webster-Pact (Wales) completed two runs on this dual giant slalom course.



Downhill Skiing: Rosalyn Moisan

Boys Do Dance

By Carrie Colby

A group of elementary school boys is proving that boys can indeed dance. Known as the Hip Hop Boys, six young men ranging from first- to third-graders worked exceptionally hard this fall, and that hard work paid off at the second annual Talent Show to Benefit the Troops at the Jordan-Small Middle School on December 7th. They performed to "I Don't Dance" from High School Musical II and placed second among more than 20 acts, which consisted primarily of adolescents and teenagers.

The Hip Hop Boys (CJ Kelly, Jacob Melvin, Billy Brousseau, Kurt Heywood, Andrew Wing and Blake Colby) have been participating in an all boys hip-hop class offered at Center Stage Performing Arts in Raymond and owe all their cool moves to their instructor Dee Dee St. Peter.

With the amazing popularity of the High School Musical movies, it has once again become cool for young men to know how to move as well as their female partners on the dance floor. That effect has worked its way down to the lower elementary school grades, as is evidenced by



Back L-R: Andrew Wing, Jacob Melvin
Front L-R: Blake Colby, CJ Kelly, Billy Brousseau
Missing: Kurt Heywood

the fun that the boys are continuing to have learning how to dance. Many members of the class are in their second year.

The Hip Hop Boys followed up their performance with an encore at the Center Stage Performing Arts Studio's Bruce Roberts Toy Fund Benefit on December 12th, and once again they were a crowd favorite.

Congratulations, boys! Keep up the good work

Honoring Those Who Served

Maine Veterans Are Entitled to Military Funeral Honors

By Mr. Frank R. Norwood, Maine Military Funeral Honors Coordinator

Military Funeral Honors is now an entitlement for all honorably discharged veterans. There are no costs whatsoever associated with this program.

The rendering of Military Funeral Honors for United States Armed Forces veterans is a tribute that our veterans and their families justly deserve and in fact are now entitled to. It is a way to show our nation's deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country. Section 578 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2000 requires the Department of Defense to provide, upon request, Military Funeral Honors for eligible veterans.

The Maine Military Funeral Honors Program began performing Military Funeral Honors Ceremonies for Maine's veterans in late 2004. Since its inception, we have performed over 2300 ceremonies from Fort Kent to Kittery and eastern Canada.

According to the Maine Veteran's Administration, Maine is losing nearly 4000 Veterans a year, (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Army Air Corps and Merchant Marines). This rate is expected to continue with very slow reductions through the year 2030.

Any person, Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve and Merchant Marines, who received an honorable discharge is now entitled to an appropriate Military Funeral Honors Ceremony performed by US military active duty service members.

Before the law passed, many veterans did not receive a Military Funeral Honors Ceremony or acknowledgement and appreciation for their service to their country. The Maine Military Funeral Honors Team is prepared to right this wrong by providing appropriate Military Honors to any honorably discharged veteran who was not honored at the time of death. A family member need only call and request



this service.

Standards: The currently-serving US military members of the Maine Military Funeral Honors Team are trained to the highest possible standards. Military Funeral Honors is their full time duty. The service members selected to perform these ceremonies for Maine's veterans are extremely proud of what they are doing. They have the utmost respect and admiration for those who served before them.

We have six Military Funeral Honors Trainers on the team, who have all attended a two-week course and have been certified as instructors by Arlington National Cemetery. Veterans of Maine will receive a Military Funeral Honors Ceremony performed to the same high standard as those ceremonies being performed at Arlington National Cemetery. Maine veterans deserve no less than perfection.

I strongly encourage all veterans residing in Maine to allow these dedicated members of the United States Military to perform this ceremony and to simply express our appreciation for your dedicated service to our country.

Whenever individuals decide to join the Armed Forces of the United States, they promise to put themselves between the people of the United States and those who would harm us. To honor this promise and sacrifice, we are committed to doing all that we can to support our veterans and the families of those veterans.

For more information about the Maine Military Funeral Honors Program or Military Funeral Honors in general, families and veterans may visit our website at www.funeralhonors.org or call the State Coordinator in Augusta at 1-800-958-5967 toll free.

2007 Town Report Cover Picture

Louise Lester, Town Clerk, is asking anyone who might have special Raymond pictures taken in the town's fiscal year July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007, to submit them for consideration for use in the next Annual Report. The deadline for submissions will be March 1, 2008.

Please send it in by mail, in person, or by e-mail. We can use photographs or digital format. Louise's e-mail address is:

louise.lester@raymondmaine.org
or mail to: 401 Webbs Mills Road,
Raymond, ME 04071