

# The Raymond Road Runner

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## Town Meeting 2003: Budgets, Governance, and Responsibility

By: The Raymond Board of Selectmen

On May 17<sup>th</sup> Raymond voters will once again be afforded the time honored and cherished right to gather together in one place and at one time to decide the nature and extent of their local government. To this day there is no more direct form of government anywhere in the world than the Annual Town Meeting. As we stand witness to the historic significance of crumbling dictatorships, emerging

democracies, and our own 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, one cannot help but celebrate and rejoice in American freedom and liberty. As we are constantly reminded, freedom is not free and with liberty comes the responsibility of every citizen to be informed and to participate in and contribute to their community, its affairs and its administration.

Since the last Town Meeting, your elected representatives have worked many long hours with a committed group of appointed

officials, employees and volunteers to carry out voter decisions, meet the needs of our residents and answer the demands of public service. We have not and will not always agree on the details and methods that we, as a community, employ to meet our goals and obligations. However, the final results have been impressive. Raymond has one of the finest school systems in the state, with a new elementary school and renovated middle school. Our mostly volunteer fire and rescue service operates

at the level of most full-time departments and is housed in a new facility that will meet the needs of our community and the region for years to come. The Route 302 corridor, Raymond's "front porch," is undergoing a much needed facelift that signifies both pride in our town and our ability to merge private and public interests for the good of all. The water line, our recycling efforts, recreation and children's

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### Road Runner Articles Due

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

#### E-Mail; Diskette; Paper

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

#### Send School Related Articles To:

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

#### Send Town related articles To:

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

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### Road Runner Staff:

Kevin Woodbrey Laurie Forbes  
Norma Richard Elisa Trepanier

### Visit Us on the Web

Make sure to see the on-line archives at the Raymond, Maine, web site:

<http://www.raymondmaine.org>

Look under Events & News



## Investing In Our Future

By: The Raymond School Committee

Raymond is a wonderful and unique community. We benefit greatly from the involvement of many citizens who are engaged in activities designed to preserve and strengthen the richness of our community. When the Annual Town Report is distributed for us to read, we will have the opportunity to glimpse a snap shot of this work for the past year. Community citizens, who volunteer their time in support

of a variety of committees, all set out to do what they believe are the right things. The budget articles that we will vote on at our Town meeting reflect all of those beliefs: what we believe we need for town services; what we believe we need for conservation and planning; and, what we believe we need for education services.

The education landscape in Maine is rapidly evolving. Maine's Learning Results call for improved learning for all Maine

students. There is a serious effort to ensure equal opportunity and access to education for each child. As a school committee, we are responsible for not only ensuring that our curriculum is aligned with the State's Learning Results, but also that we have in place, by the end of the 2003-2004 school year, a local assessment system to measure student progress toward the achievement of those standards. A

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## Vote on Friday, May 16th, 2003, 7am-8pm, at Jordan-Small Middle School

Annual Town Meeting offers perhaps the most open form of democracy in existence. Bring your Town Report and help make Raymond a better place to live by participating and contributing your ideas.

Attend Town Meeting on Saturday, May 17th, 2003, 10am at  
Jordan-Small Middle School

## 2002/2003 Fiscal Year Overview

By: Don Willard, Town Manager

This past year has been a very active one for the Town with several major projects under construction and/or development simultaneously.

First among these projects was the successful completion of the Raymond Public Safety Building. The new building, located on the corner of Main Street and Route 302, was completed during the latter part of the winter, and a community open

house was held on February 1, 2003. Nearly 300 people toured the building and also received an overview of departmental operations. Citizens who were unable to take advantage of the open house are encouraged to contact Fire Chief Denis Morse at 655-7851 for a guided tour. This project, under development for nearly ten years, was successfully brought to fruition by a number of active volunteers and departmental officers. Fire Chief Denis Morse was key among this group, and through his leadership the project was

completed under the original budget while building the highest quality facility possible. Bob Murray was hired as Clerk of the Works and provided construction supervision. Bob also served the Town as a member of the Building Committee during the planning phase of the project. Bob's involvement contributed significantly to the overall quality of the building.

Another project with long-term benefits is the Portland Water District line extension

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## Balancing Budget And Priorities In Literacy And Mathematics

By: Sandra S. Caldwell, Superintendent  
Raymond School Department

In August 1997, the Raymond School Committee officially adopted its educational philosophy, which was created by citizens, parents, school staff and students. During that same window of time, State Learning Results, content standards and performance indicators were established. Our philosophy clearly identifies Raymond's expectations for all students. We expect all students to be clear and effective communicators, critical

thinkers and independent problem solvers, responsible global citizens, cooperative and productive workers and self-directed lifelong learners. It was at this time that school systems began to align their local curricula and assessments with State Learning Results. For Raymond the priorities were unique. This was a time of school building and renovation projects and plans to have all of our learners K-8 within our community. Teachers were hired to staff additional grade levels at the Jordan Small Middle School. That exciting goal of having Grades 7 and 8 learners return was

reached. It is now time for the curriculum, instruction and assessment work!

Our 2004 school system budget reflects our values, mission and beliefs and vision for our students' success and achievement. It reflects an aggressive plan to "catch up" on the work outlined by the State in 1997 and to move swiftly ahead to be in compliance with the 2003-2004 implementation of the Learning Results and a Local Assessment System which must be

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## News From The Raymond Village Library

### Holiday Hours

The library will be closed on May 26 to celebrate Memorial Day.

### Town Meeting

We ask library patrons to mark May 17 on their calendars for the Raymond Town Meeting. It would be great to have a large turn out of people to support funding for their library.

### Reading Group

The book discussion group will be meeting on May 29 at 7pm. This month's book is *The Samurai's Garden* by Gail Tsukeyana. New members are invited. For more information, please call Jane at 655-5354.

### Plant Sale

Spring is really, truly here, and we are all anxious to get our flower gardens going. The Raymond Village Library will be holding its annual plant sale on June 28. When you are cleaning out your flowerbeds and thinning your plants, please remember to set aside the extra ones for the plant sale.

Also, the paperback book sale will be on June 28, so we ask our patrons to bring in their gently used books, hard covers as well as paperbacks.

### The Importance of Making a Will

A special program, open to the public, will be held at the library on May 14, at 7pm. "Who Needs A Will? You Do!" Do you have minor children? Do you have an old will?

Are you recently divorced or remarried? Dying: no one likes to think about it, but sometimes we really need to. Join us as Attorney Lisa J. Friedlander presents information about simple wills, guardians and testamentary trusts for minor children, personal representatives, bequests, and more. There will be plenty of time for your questions at the end of the brief program. This very informative and important program is open to the public, so please join us and get your questions answered.

### Annual Raymond Village Library Club Meeting

The annual club meeting will be held on June 5 at 6:30 at the library. There will be a buffet and also the election of officers. New members are welcome.

### Nutritional Talk

Sarah Plummer, Nutrition Aide from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, will speak at the library, May 5 at 7pm. Sarah will discuss nutrition and growing up in the O generation. O stands for overweight. Parents, caregivers and anyone else interested in educating themselves in proper nutrition and establishing healthy lifelong habits are welcome.

### *The Bureau and the Mole* by David A. Vise A Book Review By Charles Murray

*The Bureau and the Mole* is a real life spy thriller, which should give anyone who reads it reason to question what the FBI was doing in the matter of Robert Philip Hanssen a longtime FBI agent who caused more damage to the security of the U.S. than any other spy in the history of the

country. The sad thing is that they were alerted several years prior to his apprehension, and if action had been taken at that time many Russian double agents would have been spared death. In addition, extremely sensitive information and espionage programs would not have been compromised. Untold millions of dollars were wasted on various programs such as a very expensive listening tunnel under the Russian Embassy, which due to Hanssen's treachery was converted from a U.S. intelligence-gathering tool to a Russian disinformation tool.

Hanssen maintained a low profile lifestyle and avoided attracting attention to himself. At the same time Aldrich Ames, who was being investigated, was spying for the Russians for the CIA, thus providing cover to Hanssen in that the information was coming from more than one source. These events allowed Hanssen to go undetected for a much longer period of time than if action had been taken when he was first considered a security threat.

Mr. Vise spends considerable time detailing the personality and character flaws in Hanssen, which led him to become the most destructive and expensive spy in U. S. history. This book is a well-written exposé of a national disaster, of which many people are not really aware. It provides an insight in how the intelligence communities were compartmentalized and may allow some insight into the intelligence failures that led to 9-11. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in espionage and its effects on the United States.

## Mentoring Program Sponsors Community Workshops

The Raymond Mentoring Partnership is all about relationship building. Two workshops have been organized to offer resources and information to parents, mentors, and other community members who want to improve their awareness and skills when interacting with youth.

"Building Success for Kids" is being offered free to the community on May 1, 7-9pm, at the Riverside Hall on Raymond Hill Road. Chris Trout, the director of the Youth Resiliency Project in Portland, will be facilitating. Chris has extensive training experience and uses stories, humor, research and interaction to help us find ways to get the

best from kids. To register, call Lori at 655-4277.

"Parent Effectiveness in Resolving Conflict" is a class for parents of teens and preteens, facilitated by Suzanne Cobleigh and Lynn Davis at the Jordan-Small Middle School. This series is designed to help parents understand and positively work with the nature of adolescence. Contact Suzanne or Lynn at JSMS, 655-4743, for more information.

Even though we are approaching the end of the school year, the Mentoring Partnership continually accepts applications for becoming a mentor. Contact us at 655-8672, ext 107, or at mentor@raymondmaine.org.

## Spring Fling Dance

May 3, 2003

### The Remember When Lounge

Route 11 Naples

8pm - 12am

(A non-smoking event open to the public)  
Door Prizes given away throughout the night  
Tickets - \$5.00 in advance; \$8.00 at the door  
Hosted by Raymond Rattlers,  
Crooked River Snowmobile Club  
and the Muddy River SnoSeekers  
For more information, call Jeff Weeks-655-4400

## May 2003

### Events and Meeting Schedule

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>FB=Fire Barn</b> <b>JS=Jordan-Small</b> <b>KC=Kokatosi Campgnd</b> <b>PS=Public Safety Bldg.</b> <b>RE=Raymond Elementary</b> <b>TG=Town Garage RT85</b> <b>TH=Town Hall</b> <b>VL=Village Library</b> <b>VC=Village Church</b>				<b>1</b> <b>9:15AM VL</b> Baby Time <b>9:45AM VL</b> Toddler Time <b>10:30AM VL</b> Preschool Story Time <b>6:30PM KC</b> Lions Club	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3:15-4:15PM RE</b> Dance Class <b>6:30-8:00PM VC</b> Troop 800 Meeting <b>7:00PM TH</b> Selectmen	<b>7</b> <b>12:30-1:45PM RE</b> Karate <b>7:00PM RE</b> School Committee	<b>8</b> <b>9:15AM VL</b> Baby Time <b>9:45AM VL</b> Toddler Time <b>10:30AM VL</b> Preschool Story Time <b>7:00PM PS</b> Building Committee	<b>9</b> <b>8:30AM RE</b> Grandparents Day <b>10:00AM RE</b> Good News Assembly	<b>10</b> Troop 800 Spring Court of Honor
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>1:30PM RE</b> Kindergarten Concert	<b>14</b> <b>12:30-1:45PM RE</b> Karate <b>7:00PM TH</b> Planning Board	<b>15</b> <b>9:15AM VL</b> Baby Time <b>9:45AM VL</b> Toddler Time <b>10:30AM VL</b> Preschool Story Time <b>6:30PM KC</b> Lions Club	<b>16</b> <b>7:00AM-8:00PM JS</b> <b>TOWN ELECTIONS</b> Troop 800 Spring Camporee School Progress Reports Home	<b>17</b> <b>10:00AM JS</b> <b>TOWN MEETING</b> Troop 800 Spring Camporee
<b>18</b> Troop 800 Spring Camporee	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>3:15-4:15PM RE</b> Dance Class <b>6:30-8:00PM VC</b> Troop 800 Meeting <b>4:00PM TH</b> Planning Board Application Deadline <b>7:00PM TH</b> Selectmen	<b>21</b> <b>12:30-1:45PM RE</b> Karate <b>9:00AM VL</b> Library Board Meeting <b>7:00PM JS</b> School Committee	<b>22</b> <b>9:15AM VL</b> Baby Time <b>9:45AM VL</b> Toddler Time <b>10:30AM VL</b> Preschool Story Time <b>7:00PM TH</b> Cemetery Committee	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>10:00AM TH</b> Appeals Board Site Walk	<b>26</b> <b>7:00PM TH</b> Appeals Board <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	<b>27</b> <b>3:15-4:15PM RE</b> Dance Class <b>6:30-8:00PM VC</b> Troop 800 Meeting <b>7:00PM TH</b> Comprehensive Plan Committee	<b>28</b> <b>12:30-1:45PM RE</b> Karate <b>7:00PM TH</b> Conservation Commission	<b>29</b> <b>9:15AM VL</b> Baby Time <b>9:45AM VL</b> Toddler Time <b>10:30AM VL</b> Preschool Story Time <b>6:30PM RE</b> Grade 3 Chorus Music Night	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>12:00PM TH</b> Board of Appeals Application Deadline

## Municipal News Brief

The Raymond Board of Selectmen recently took the following actions:

1. Reviewed and revised Committee Appointment Protocol.
2. Voted not to take a position on the Portland Water District legislation to opt out of PUC Regulation.
3. Discussed the establishment of the Cumberland County Charter Commission and public notice of candidate elections.
4. Authorized that nomination papers be prepared for the School Committee two-year term vacated by Tammy Acker.
5. Awarded 2003 Raymond Town College Scholarships. A list of all scholarships awarded will be included in the *Annual Report*.
6. Discussed a land use legal issue in Executive Session.
7. Discussed legal review issues in Executive Session.
8. Considered and approved the adoption of Community Development Week Proclamation.
9. Met with the Budget Finance Committee to vote on Budget items.
10. Approved placing a Selectmen recommendation on the 2003-2004 Raymond School Budget articles.
11. Approved a Selectmen's budget article for publication in the *Raymond Road Runner*.
12. Signed the 2003 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.
13. Considered whether to request bids for municipal solid waste curbside pickup and curbside recycling services or extend the existing contract with BBI Waste Industries.
14. Reviewed and authorized Treasurer's Warrants for April 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Planning Board Needs You!

The Town of Raymond has an immediate opening on the Planning Board. The Board hears applications for subdivision and site plans under the Town's Land Use and Shoreland Ordinances and the Subdivision Regulations. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, reside in Raymond, and be available the second Wednesday evening of each month. Meetings typically last two or three hours. The Board also has work sessions on an as needed basis. No experience is necessary, but an interest or knowledge of land use planning, engineering, construction and environmental science is a plus. Interested persons should submit a letter to the Board of Selectmen c/o Louise Lester, Town Clerk, at 401 Webbs Mills Road, Raymond, ME 04071, by Saturday, June 7, 2003, at 12:00 noon to be considered for this position. You may review the ordinances, regulations and Planning Board minutes on our website at [www.raymondmaine.org](http://www.raymondmaine.org) or contact Amanda Simpson at 655-4712 for more information. The next regular meeting of the Board is May 14, 2003, at the Town Hall.

## Support Our Troops

Since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, people from throughout Maine have been looking for ways to support the brave men and women of America's Armed Forces. In response to these requests for information, Representative Joseph Bruno of Raymond is distributing a list, compiled by the Maine National Guard, of organizations people can contact. The list includes:

\* Maine National Guard Family Program: Money donated to the fund is used to support families of deployed Maine National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. Potential uses of the fund include emergency loans to guardsmen and their families, youth activities for dependent youth, morale-boosting activities for families and Guard personnel. Questions can be answered by calling (207) 626-4410. Checks payable to "Family Programs" can be sent to the Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management, State House Station #33, Augusta, Maine 04333.

\* Operation Uplink: The VFW is sponsoring a program that allows people to make donations in order to provide calling cards to service members so they can stay in touch with loved ones. Contributions can be made on-line at [www.operationuplink.org](http://www.operationuplink.org) or by mailing a check to: Operation Uplink, VFW Foundation, 406 W. 34th Street, Suite 718, Kansas City, MO 64111. You can speak to a representative by calling 1-800-479-5228.

\* Operation USO Care Package: Security concerns have forced the military to suspend the "Any Service Member

## Hazardous Waste Day

### August 2, 2003

Hazardous Waste Day will be Saturday, August 2, 2003, from 9am to 1pm at Raymond Elementary School. Again this year deliveries will be charged 50% of the cost of the refuse brought. If you have oil-based paint, antifreeze, insecticides, poisons, fluorescent bulbs or other materials that you can't identify, this is the time to dispose of them. We will have more information in the June and July issues of the *Raymond Road Runner*.

## It's Not Too Late To Serve

On May 16, Raymond residents will vote to fill a number of town municipal positions. If you're feeling a little down because you really wanted to run but didn't take out the official nomination papers, there's still a chance for you! Simply talk to as many voters as possible and have them write your name in on the ballot on Friday, May 16, or on an absentee ballot now available at the Town Office. Positions to be voted upon are Board of Selectmen: one position with two candidates running, Betty McDermott and Tim Pomerleau; School Committee: two positions for three year terms with two candidates running, Frank Dexter and Lisa Friedlander; School Committee: one position for a two year term with one candidate running, Jerry Keane; and Budget/Finance Committee: three positions for three year terms with one candidate running, Louise Murray.

## Smart Tools And Strategies For Managing Growth In The Lakes Region

Are you concerned about runaway development, growth, and sprawl in your community? Members of area Lakes Region Comprehensive Planning Committees are sponsoring a timely workshop that may interest you.

Raymond's Town Planner Bob Faunce is among the panelists who will discuss smart tools and strategies for managing growth. Other panelists include Steve Flewelling, Esq. from the Maine Municipal Association and Matt Nazar, a Senior Planner at the State Planning Office who has worked with Comprehensive Plans for several Lakes Region Communities.

The workshop will take place:

Tuesday, May 6  
7:00-9:00pm  
Songo Locks Elementary School,  
Naples

While this educational event is aimed primarily at those who are drafting comprehensive plans for their communities, any citizen with an interest in the subject is encouraged to attend. Attendance is free and no reservations are necessary.

For more information, please contact Brad McCurtain at [sebagol@maine.rr.com](mailto:sebagol@maine.rr.com).

## Service Men And Women To Be Honored

The Town Office would like to honor the men and women who are Raymond residents and serving our country during this time of war. If you know of anyone now serving in the United States Armed Services who is a resident of Raymond, please notify the Town Office.

We would like to display a photograph of that person along with the unit he/she is serving with. We feel that anyone in the Armed Services, whether they are serving in the war zone or not, should be honored as helping to protect our country.

The photographs and information about them will be displayed in the Town Office.

Program" whereby citizens could send packages to service members. Nevertheless, people can still lend support by contributing to Operation USO Care Package, a program that delivers to military personnel everything from lip balm to playing cards. Contributions can be made on-line at <http://www.usocares.org/> or by phone at 1-866-USO-GIVE.

\* Military Aid Societies: People can make financial contributions to the military aid societies that exist for

## RAYMOND FIRE/RESCUE ACTIVITY LOG

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TYPE OF CALL
3/18/2003	231	MYRON HALL RD	GEN.ILLNESS
3/18/2003	1530	M/A NAPLES	DIFF. BREATHING
3/18/2003	2131	CONESCARD	ASTHMA PROBLEM
3/18/2003	2314	HANCOCK RD	DIFF. BREATHING
3/19/2003	110	M/A CASCO	DIFF. BREATHING
3/19/2003	1040	ROOSEVELT TRL	PANIC ATTACK
3/19/2003	2219	PATRICIA AVE	GEN.ILLNESS
3/21/2003	1228	WEBBS MILLS RD	FIRE STAND-BY
3/22/2003	2154	THOMAS POND TERR	CARDIAC ARREST
3/23/2003	728	ROOSEVELT TRL	GEN.ILLNESS
3/24/2003	2125	ROOSEVELT TRL	DIFF. BREATHING
3/26/2003	1234	M/A GRAY	REACTION TO MED
3/26/2003	1858	LEVY LANE	FIRE STAND-BY
3/28/2003	1255	M/A WINDHAM	DIFF. BREATHING
3/28/2003	1541	M/A CASCO	GEN.ILLNESS
3/30/2003	1540	WEBBS MILLS RD	CAR ACCIDENT
3/31/2003	711	ROOSEVELT TRL	CAR ACCIDENT
4/1/2003	1210	M/A CASCO	PERSON CHOKING
4/1/2003	1543	LEVY LANE	FIRE STAND-BY
4/1/2003	1708	M/A NAPLES	PARAMEDIC INTRCPT
4/1/2003	2207	M/A GRAY	CAR ACCIDENT
4/2/2003	1215	WEBBS MILLS RD	FIRE STAND-BY
4/3/2003	442	RAYMOND HILL RD	CARDIAC
4/4/2003	1516	OUTLAW RIDGE RD	DOG BITE
4/5/2003	709	WEBBS MILLS RD	CAR ACCIDENT
4/6/2003	1838	M/A GRAY	PSYCH PROBLEM
4/8/2003	1216	NO.RAYMOND RD	MEDICAL EMERGENCY
4/9/2003	1058	TOWER RD	CHEST PAIN
4/10/2003	1215	M/A CASCO	DIFF. BREATHING
4/12/2003	1730	VIOLA AVE	HEAD INJURY
4/12/2003	2157	EGYPT RD	POSS STROKE
4/13/2003	310	M/A WINDHAM	SEVERE TOOTHACHE
4/14/2003	1806	LOOKOUT LANE	POSS STROKE
4/15/2003	808	OUTLAW RIDGE RD	MEDICAL EMERGENCY
4/16/2003	1503	LEVY LANE	DIFF. BREATHING
4/16/2003	1708	LEVY LANE	FIRE STAND-BY
3/21/2003	1228	WEBBS MILLS RD	BOMB THREAT
3/22/2003	900	AROUND TOWN	FIRE PERMITS
3/22/2003	2213	THOMAS POND TERR	RESCUE ASSIST
3/23/2003	728	ROOSEVELT TRL	ODOR INVESTIGATION
3/23/2003	852	AROUND TOWN	FIRE PERMITS
3/26/2003	1858	LEVY LANE	SMOKE ALARM
3/26/2003	1810	M/A CASCO	COVERAGE 2
3/28/2003	800	GISELLE LANE	UNPERMITTED BURN
3/30/2003	830	AROUND TOWN	FIRE PERMITS
3/30/2003	1540	WEBBS MILLS RD	CAR ACCIDENT
3/31/2003	711	ROOSEVELT TRL	CAR ACCIDENT
4/1/2003	1543	LEVY LANE	SMOKE ALARM
4/1/2003	2207	M/A GRAY	CAR ACCIDENT
4/2/2003	1215	WEBBS MILLS RD	BOMB THREAT
4/5/2003	709	WEBBS MILLS RD	CAR ACCIDENT
4/5/2003	800	AROUND TOWN	FIRE PERMITS
4/5/2003	2353	M/A WINDHAM	STATION COVERAGE
4/6/2003	900	AROUND TOWN	FIRE PERMITS
4/9/2003	1058	TOWER RD	RESCUE ASSIST
4/12/2003	930	AROUND TOWN	FIRE PERMITS
4/12/2003	1010	MEADOW RD	UNPERMITTED BURN
4/13/2003	930	AROUND TOWN	FIRE PERMITS
4/14/2003	1807	LOOKOUT LANE	RESCUE ASSIST
4/16/2003	1503	LEVY LANE	RESCUE ASSIST
4/16/2003	1708	LEVY LANE	SMOKE ALARM

## Little Sebago Lake Watershed Survey

The Little Sebago Lake Association is seeking volunteers to help with the upcoming watershed survey of Little Sebago Lake south of Lyon's Point.

Volunteers will be trained to identify and document sites where eroding soil is washing into the lake and will then work in teams to survey assigned areas of the watershed. Information collected through the survey will be used to help the association keep the lake clean for future generations to enjoy.

Little Sebago Lake Volunteer Training Sessions-Saturday, May 17, 2003, at the Windham Library

The training will run from 9-3. Please call Mary Gilbertson at 856-2777 to sign up or get more information.

each branch of our Armed Forces. Websites for all the aid societies can be found by visiting <http://www.aerhq.org/links.asp>.

People who have additional questions about how they can help should contact Representative Bruno for assistance at 655-7443 or by e-mail at [jbruno1@maine.rr.com](mailto:jbruno1@maine.rr.com).

## Town Meeting 2003: Budgets, Governance, and Responsibility

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programs, the Library, Tassel Top, Raymond Beach and Morgan Meadow are just further examples of our unique and effective local planning and conservation efforts.

Raymond is also faced with many daunting challenges. For nine months of the year, we are a community of 4,200 people that must service a summer population of 12,000. As one of the fastest growing towns in Maine, our rural character is in jeopardy and our land, water and air resources are under intense pressure. The conditions of our roads are more suited to the days of our incorporation in 1803 than 2003. The burdens of unfunded state and federal mandates, the "taxation without representation" issue of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, threaten to collapse our fiscal institutions and taxpayers' ability to pay.

On April 7, 2003, Raymond's School Board, Board of Selectmen and Budget/Finance Committee met to finalize and vote on the Town's comprehensive 2003-2004 Budget. Under the proposed budgets, Raymond's current mil rate of \$16.80 will increase by an estimated \$2.87 per thousand of assessed value. The School portion of this increase is \$2.13 mils with the remaining portion attributed to the Municipal Budget adjusted to reflect both increased non-property tax revenue and new property growth. The Budget/ Finance Committee unanimously approved the

Budget as proposed. The Board of Selectmen approved the Municipal Budget, yet addressed concerns expressed by Raymond taxpayers by providing a separate warrant article for a proposed new department head position so that Raymond voters could approve or reject this cost without jeopardizing the entire budget request.

The duty of the Board of Selectmen is to represent all of Raymond's citizens. Our government must guarantee the equitable and fair treatment of children, the elderly, voters, taxpayers, long time residents and transients alike. We are charged not only to provide for the common good but also to ensure fiscal responsibility, accountability and at times restraint. Raymond has invested millions of dollars in the past ten years to secure our future and the results are obvious. We are now at a crossroads where these investments are paying dividends while other new initiatives may need to be delayed or reconsidered. The current uncertainties of the national economy, coupled with the pending state and federal budget crisis, demands that all of Raymond's expenditures meet the principles of sound financial management and line item justification. The Board of Selectmen do not differ with the School Board and Budget/ Finance Committee over sound educational policies and practices; however, we do have serious

concerns about the School Board's planning process, spending priorities and the overall size of the present budget request. In an effort to represent all of Raymond's citizens, we have voted not to recommend the proposed School Budget for 2003-2004 as presented. The Board of Selectmen has suggested and sincerely believes that changes can be made in this budget that will preserve the quality of education in Raymond while at the same time protecting Raymond's taxpayers' ability to pay.

Although the Town Meeting form of government represents the very special nature of direct democracy, it can also fall victim to complacency and indifference. Traditionally only 200-300 Raymond voters have decided how our government works in the coming year. Our free speech, free press, the right to vote and agree or disagree about the shape and form of our government are guaranteed. The Town Meeting is the most important forum for your expression of these rights. The Meeting is the final word on all town business presented in the warrants. There is no substitute. Voters may choose to accept or reject an article outright or vote to lower the dollar amount of any given article. There are no right or wrong answers. There are no winners or losers. Only by attending the Town Meeting can you influence the decisions that affect you and your community.



**RAYMOND LIONS CLUB**  
**BICENTENNIAL**  
**GOLF SCRAMBLE & LUNCHEON**  
**FAIRLAWN COUNTRY CLUB**  
**POLAND, MAINE**  
**JUNE 7, 2003**  
 SCHEDULE  
 8:00 AM Check in  
 9:00 AM Shotgun start-SCRAMBLE FORMAT  
 \$60.00/PERSON \$40.00/STUDENT  
 18 HOLES OF GOLF-POWER CART-LUNCHEON-PRIZES  
**ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT RAYMOND LIONS**  
**CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**  
 FOR INFO or APPLICATIONS CALL: 655-7163

### Lions Club & Red Cross

On Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, the Lions and Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive at the JSMS from 1:30-7:30. As you are all aware, our blood supply is always running close, 2 to 3 days worth, in the State of Maine. Donors are needed!

Please donate 1 to 1½ hours of your time to save the life of one or more fellow human beings. If you do not get called within the next 2 weeks asking you to donate, and if you would like to help others, please call 655-4412 or 655-7163 and leave your name, phone number and the time you will be able to donate. If you have any questions on whether you are eligible to donate, please call the Red Cross at 800-482-0743.

### Raymond Lions Club Student Of The Month For March

Pictured are Lion Kathi Jones, Chair of the Raymond Lions Club Student of the Month Program, Student of the Month for March, Ben Myhaver, and his Dad Jim Myhaver. The Lions are proud to present Ben with a Savings Bond and gift certificate to a local merchant. An eighth grade student at Jordan-Small Middle School, Ben plans on attending Windham High School, with an eye on a college degree in his future. Ben cheerfully helps around the house and regularly volunteers locally. An honor roll student, he is available to friends in school in need of help with studies. He enjoys basketball and football and takes part in programs at the teen center in Windham. The Raymond Lions wish him well in high school and college.



### Raymond Lions Scholarship

After several years of maintaining the bottle return receptacles at the Town Office and Route 302 for the Raymond Scholarship Fund, the Raymond Lions Club is pleased to announce its own Raymond Lions Club Scholarship.

This \$500 scholarship will be presented to a graduating Raymond high school senior, or a Raymond resident, that is actively pursuing a post secondary school education. The Lions Club is encouraging any Raymond resident that is currently enrolled in any post-secondary school including a vocational or trade school program to apply.

Applications have been mailed to all Raymond high school seniors. Applications are also available at the Town Office and at the Raymond Village Library. The completed applications should be returned prior to May 31 to:

Raymond Lions Scholarship Committee  
 PO Box 1057  
 Raymond, Maine 04071.

The Lions hope that in the future we will be able to enlarge our scholarship program to better serve the community. Please join with the Lions and bring your returnable beverage bottles and cans to the receptacles at the Town Office or at the Jordan Bay Animal Hospital on Route 302. We will continue to use the proceeds to help fund the Raymond Town Scholarship and the Raymond Lions Scholarship.

*The Lions congratulate all graduating seniors and wish them well in their future endeavors.*

### "NO PARKING ZONE" On Cape Road

Nathan White, Director of Public Works, announces that beginning May 15, 2003, there will be a no parking zone along the west side of the roadway beside the Riley Beach from approximately 340 Cape Road to the beginning of Wawenock Road. This has been ordered by the Board of Selectmen to keep the Town's right of way open for traffic.

### What To Do When Your Pet Is Missing

By: Town Clerk Louise Lester

We all love our pets and want to protect them. Maine has a few laws regarding our pets, mainly dogs, which are in place to help us take good care of them. The law, which the Town of Raymond must enforce, is the licensing of dogs. This tag and sticker, which is given the dog owner upon licensing his/her pet, is available at any time if the dog has lost it. Annually a dog owner is required to update the license before January 1st of the New Year. Traditionally the towns receive the New Year stickers in November so they are available from that time on. You don't have to wait until January.

The purpose of the licensing is to be sure that all dogs are vaccinated for Rabies, which is a deadly vicious disease. Unfortunately Maine is one of the states, which always

has a level of Rabies. Rabies not only kills dogs and cats and many other warm blooded animals but humans as well. If a rabid animal bites you, the medication for recovery is not pleasant. It is also imperative that all cats be vaccinated as well, but they do not need to be licensed.

Another reason for licensing is for Animal Control to be able to identify the dog by his license number. Our Dispatch Office has access to the Town's records for dog licensing and they can look up the license number and determine who the dog's owner is. In this case the dog will be returned to the owner directly by Animal Control. If Animal Control cannot determine who the owner is, the dog will be taken to the Animal Refuge League in Westbrook. At that point the owner will be responsible for proving that the dog has a current Rabies vaccination and there will be some fees charged for the care of the dog.

The use of licensing is to identify the dog and its owners when it becomes lost. If you are missing your dog or cat, please call Raymond Dispatch (655-7851) and have them notify Animal Control. You should then call our local shelters to see if an individual has taken your pet to them. There are times when a person will find a dog or cat and not notify Dispatch or Animal Control. Raymond contracts with the Animal Refuge League in Westbrook (854-9771) but your pet might have been taken to the Greater Androscoggin shelter in Auburn (783-2311). The shelters must keep dogs for 6 days before the ARL can allow them to be adopted, but cats do not have a time limit; they can be adopted immediately. The Animal Refuge League wants everyone to know that they would like to see every dog and cat returned to their owners; but reality is that if the owner doesn't call them to identify their lost pet, they won't know that there is someone out there looking for it.

## 2002/2003 Fiscal Year Overview

*Continued from page 1*

from Windham to Deep Cove Road. This project was also completed under budget and without any major difficulties. The availability of a reliable water source has significantly improved both public safety in the area adjacent to the waterline and substantially improved Raymond's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating. A better ISO rating translates into lower commercial and residential insurance premiums. Residents are encouraged to contact their insurance companies to obtain information about potential reductions in premium costs. Since the waterline enhances the Fire Department's capabilities, insurance costs are expected to decline across the entire community.

A major project under study for the past several years is the Route 302 Improvement Project. The formal project bid opening was held on January 17, 2003, with the low bidder, Pratt & Sons of Minot, Maine, submitting a bid in the total amount of \$1,810,188.25. This cost is substantially below the engineer's estimate of \$2,251,037. The State of Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) will contribute up to \$1,293,833 for the pavement improvement component of the work. The Board of Selectmen extended recognition and thanks to the Route 302 Improvement Committee, including Committee Chairperson and Selectman Christine McClellan as well as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Ada Brown for their leadership, support and advocacy of this project. The benefits of the project include: a curb-to-curb pavement overlay from the Raymond/Windham Town Line to the area of Hawthorne Road, greatly improved access management, including a reduction in curb cuts along the corridor; the installation of a sidewalk from the Raymond Shopping Plaza to Raymond Beach; landscaping including trees, shrubbery and various perennial plantings; and the installation of ornamental street lighting along a portion of the route of the sidewalk. The end result of this project should be better traffic flow and safety as well as both improved pedestrian access along the Route 302 corridor and improved aesthetic appeal. Work on the project is expected to commence in the early spring of 2003 and conclude before July 1st.

Other major activities of the past year include the Selectmen's final approval to seek proposals for a tax equalization project (revaluation). It is expected that competitive bids for the project will be solicited from qualified firms with bids due by April 21, 2003. A two-year revaluation project is envisioned with new values becoming effective for tax year 2005.

Discussions were held throughout the past year with Cumberland County and neighboring communities over the possibility of regionalizing public safety communications services. It is expected that a cost-sharing proposal for cooperative services will be developed and

implemented during the year ahead, subject to Town Meeting ratification. The overall objective is to reduce each community's operation and capital costs by employing economies of scale while at the same time improving the quality of the services offered. We are confident, given the resources within the region, that by working together both objectives can be realized.

The Board of Selectmen authorized the Town Manager to seek a Community Development Block Grant for planning services in the amount of \$10,000 to study the potential benefits of working with neighboring communities on regionalized public safety services including a centralized dispatch center

The Town made successful speed zoning requests to the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT). Reductions in speed were approved in the areas of Crescent Beach, Tower Road and a portion of Route 302 adjacent to Raymond Beach.

Throughout the past year the Comprehensive Planning Committee has been very active meeting on a regular basis. The full range of municipal services, environmental and land use issues facing the Town have been discussed and explored in great detail. Strong participation was demonstrated at several community meetings held during the early stages of the plan. Input from the community is always welcome and can be made at [compplan@raymondmaine.org](mailto:compplan@raymondmaine.org). The committee also produces periodic e-mail updates to keep interested citizens apprised of critical discussions and to solicit feedback on elements of the plan. Over the next several months a draft plan will be put together which will be subject to public hearings throughout the community. After this process a final plan will be written and considered for approval at Annual Town Meeting 2004. Given the Town's rapid growth and development, it is critical that good long and short range planning be undertaken. The Comprehensive Plan will offer goals, strategies, and a framework for implementation of policies that will help identify and preserve many of the elements we enjoy in our community today. The Comprehensive Plan is a vital tool to guide the critical decisions that will position Raymond to successfully meet the challenges of the future.

A Town Office/Library Building Committee was formed to study the possible renovation of the existing structures and/or construction of a new building(s) to serve the Town's future needs. Citizen participation and input is both welcomed and encouraged. Comments and suggestions can be made directly to the committee via e-mail at [townhall.building.committee@raymondmaine.org](mailto:townhall.building.committee@raymondmaine.org).

On December 3, 2002, the Selectmen held a Special Town Meeting to consider providing 85% family health care

insurance to Raymond's eligible full-time municipal employees through the remainder of the fiscal year. This proposal was approved and its continuation will also be considered at Annual Town Meeting 2003.

A proposal to acquire the former Post Office building at 51 Main Street was the subject of a Special Town Meeting on January 7, 2003. This proposal was defeated by a vote of 33 in favor to 45 opposed. The Selectmen wished to acquire the property with funding from municipal fund balance (surplus) to combine it with property already owned by the Library Club and Town in hopes that this location could support a future municipal and village center (Town Office, Library and public green space).

This year's Municipal Budget represents a significant increase over budgets presented in the past. The reason for this increase, which we do not anticipate repeating in the near future, is to enable Raymond to provide quality municipal services consistent with the needs of our growing community. Raymond has historically approved conservative municipal budgets. Since 1998 the average net annual increase has been 2.5%. Despite this year's increase, the Raymond municipal share of the overall tax rate has remained very stable and is projected to be 19% for fiscal year 2003/2004. An additional 3% of the tax rate is allocated to the Tax Increment Financing District. Education costs make up 73% of the overall tax rate with County taxes accounting for the remaining 5%.

The Town of Raymond has for several years been in a significant growth pattern. Over \$14,000,000 in new valuation is expected this year alone generating at least \$235,200 in new revenue. The new property tax revenue generated will help offset the increase in the tax rate. The proposed increase in this year's Municipal Budget will result in an estimated 7.4% increase in the tax rate. Ultimately, changes in the Town's budget are driven to a large extent by changes in the community. Raymond is among the fastest growing communities in Cumberland County. According to the 2000 U.S. Census Raymond's population grew by 29.8% over the ten-year period.

In closing, I would like to thank the Selectmen, our energetic volunteers and the other Town employees for their continuing support and dedication to improving the Town of Raymond. It is a true pleasure to work for the Town of Raymond. The sense of community and collaborative environment in which we work causes me to believe that virtually any challenge can successfully be met if we work together. I am always interested in creative ideas and suggestions on ways we may improve our operations and would encourage you to contact me directly at [don.willard@raymondmaine.org](mailto:don.willard@raymondmaine.org) or by telephone at 655-6994. Your involvement is critical to helping us fulfill our mission of delivering the best services possible.

## Route 302 Improvement Project Update

**By: Don Willard, Town Manager**

The Town of Raymond in partnership with the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) has started an improvement project on Route 302 commencing in Windham in the vicinity of Shore Road and extending through Raymond to a point just south of the Raymond/Casco town line. The construction is scheduled to start on March 31 and to be completed by the middle of June. The planned improvements will include a pavement overlay, the construction of a sidewalk, the installation of ornamental street lighting, access management improvements and extensive landscaping.

The Town of Raymond formed a Route 302 Improvement Committee that has worked for the past three years with the businesses and landowners along the Route 302 corridor to facilitate these improvements and beautification of the area.

The entire cost of the pavement overlay will be paid by (MDOT) with Raymond funding the cost of the additional improvements between the Raymond Shopping Center and

Raymond Beach from Tax Increment Finance District (TIF) revenue. A sidewalk will be constructed on the east side of Route 302 starting at Tire Warehouse, just south of Viola Avenue extending to Route 121. At the intersection of Route 302 and Route 121 the sidewalk will cross to the west side of the roadway and continue to the beach. At the intersections of Route 302/Route 85 and Route 302/Route 121 the traffic signals will be modified to include pedestrian signals.

The ornamental street lighting will extend along the sidewalk located on the east side of the Route 302. There will not be any lighting installed from Route 121 to the beach as part of this project due to budget constraints, but conduits will be installed for possible future lighting.

The project includes significant landscaping improvements on both sides of the roadway from just south of Viola Avenue to Route 121. The landscaping will include the planting of shade trees, ornamental trees, evergreen trees, shrubs and perennials. There will also be landscaping planted at Raymond Beach as well as landscaping and an earthen berm constructed on the opposite side of Route 302 from the beach.

As part of the improvements several driveways will be combined or closed to improve both access and safety. In addition, at some of the large curb cuts raised islands will be constructed to better define the driveways. The raised islands will be planted with perennials and low shrubs to add to the beautification of the corridor.

The construction will start with the installation of drainage structures in the vicinity of the Raymond Shopping Center and in the vicinity of Route 85. Soon after the start of construction the installation of the conduit and the foundations for the ornamental street lighting will be constructed. The pavement overlay is scheduled to start at the end of April with completion by the middle of June. In addition there will be minor grading and ditch work completed along the project during the first part of the construction. The sidewalk construction in Raymond will start in mid-April with completion in June.

Additional information may be obtained from Town Manager Don Willard at 655-6994 [don.willard@raymondmaine.org](mailto:don.willard@raymondmaine.org) or Project Administrator Ralph Norwood at Gorrill-Palmer Engineers in Gray at 657-6910.

## Municipal Budget Analysis and Financial History

Dear Citizens of Raymond,

From the 1998/1999 to the 2002/2003 fiscal years, the Property Tax Rate has increased from \$14.32 to \$16.80 per thousand valuation. This is an average increase of 4.9% per year for town, school and county expenditures over the five-year period. During the same time period there has also been a large increase in non-property tax revenues. These revenues include such collections as excise tax, license and application fees, state revenues and contract for service revenue.

The fiscal year 03/04 Municipal Expenditure Budget, not including school and county appropriations, is proposed at a total of \$3,508,513, which represents a gross increase of \$705,158 or 25.15% over the 2002/2003 budget of \$2,803,355. Non-property tax revenues are projected to increase by \$172,471 or 10%. The net increase of \$532,687 is the difference between the expenditure budget increase and the growth in revenues. This is the sum that is proposed to be raised in additional property taxes required to fund Raymond governmental operations. To help offset an increase in the mil rate, \$450,000 in undesignated fund balance (surplus) will be utilized. There will also be an estimated \$14,000,000 in new valuation growth generating a minimum of \$235,200 in new property tax revenue that can be applied to increases in expenditures in the town, school and county budgets. This new revenue will help reduce the overall impact of new spending and associated increase in the tax rate outlined above. The proposed municipal budget increase will require an estimated \$1.24 increase in the mil rate or 7.4%, not including the new property tax revenue expected.

This year's Municipal Budget is higher than those proposed in the past. For the last five years the Town has approved net budgets averaging 2.5% per year. This year's budget increase, while much larger, will address several long standing issues and needs and will also provide funding to meet the challenges facing Raymond in the future. In order to provide more detail on the changes they are briefly summarized by department as follows:

### 2003-2004 Budget Overview

- **Administration** – This department reflects a \$64,935 increase. The increase is attributable to the addition of a new full-time counter/service employee at the Town Office, an increase in the Town Manager's salary, as well as continuing efforts to gradually bring Raymond's employee compensation to municipal area averages. Other increases include new equipment at the Town Office as a result of an ergonomic evaluation conducted by the Maine Municipal Association. This study yielded several worker health related recommendations for improvements in office equipment and furniture. An increase is also proposed in legal expenses, additional elections, purchase of new voting booths and postal rates.
- **Assessing** – Changes in the department are related to the proposal to move from a one day per week contract service supported by ten hours per week secretarial assistance to a single position of full-time Assessor's Agent. This change will require a period of transition while a present employee obtains the necessary training and credentials and the current contract service agreement ends. An increase of \$5,529 is proposed during the transition year.
- **Town Office** – The supplies budget line is increasing to reflect current actual use, which is a result of increased activity. Overall this account is decreasing by \$2,200.
- **Insurance** – The major change in this account is the additional expenditure of \$72,855 to reflect the cost of providing the option of 85% family health care coverage to the Town's 20 full-time municipal employees (excluding Technology Director/Assistant Code Enforcement Officer which is shown separately below) consistent with health insurance coverage offered to Raymond's schoolteachers. This change was made after the Selectmen reviewed employee benefits survey data from the Cumberland and Androscoggin County municipal labor markets. Raymond had not previously offered family health care insurance to most of its municipal employees. Other changes in this account group include an increase of \$27,597 in retirement contribution match to reflect the Selectmen's decision to provide 50% of the cost of the family health care benefit program to employees eligible for this benefit but who are otherwise covered by insurance and therefore decide to opt out of the program. Social Security is also increasing by \$14,097 and Worker's Compensation Insurance by \$5,575. Total account increase is \$123,906.
- **General Assistance** – This appropriation continues on a downward trend, which is a reflection of both the small number of qualified residents and a scarcity of affordable rental housing preventing lower-income individuals from moving to Raymond. A decrease of \$1,000.
- **Technology Director/Assistant Code Enforcement Officer** – Technology Director is a new position with a salary of \$45,860. This position will be combined with part-time Assistant Code Enforcement Officer duties at \$16,640 for a full-time position with a salary of \$62,500. Employee benefits (health, retirement, life and FICA) for this position are estimated at \$17,012 for a total cost of \$79,512. The position will coordinate, direct and improve the Town's internal use of technology, maintain the existing computer network, as well as facilitate development of online services. The Assistant Code Enforcement component of the position will provide assistance to the CEO as needed as well as provide additional support for environmental compliance and review of residential and commercial development projects.
- **Technology Department** – The Technology Department supports the maintenance and upgrading of computer hardware and software which is necessary to operate the Town's internal network, software licensing fees, website, e-mail, *Raymond Road Runner*, *Annual Report*, and a portion of the Information Systems Administrator's salary. Cable broadcasting expenses are also included in this line item. This year there is a new request to provide five laptop computers to deliver information electronically to the Board of Selectmen. This account group is increasing by \$24,921.
- **Community Development Services** – This account group is decreasing by \$8,600. Major changes include a reduction of \$12,000 to reflect the end of funding necessary for the Comprehensive Plan update. An increase in the account group is the Milfoil Protection Program, which is now budgeted at \$9,000, a \$4,000 increase over last year's appropriation. This issue is very important as the threat of invasive aquatic plants puts the value of approximately one-half of Raymond's real estate tax base at risk.
- **Fire/Rescue Department** - Changes in this budget area include increases in hourly standby pay and daily per diem pay as well as the Fire Chief's stipend. Another change in the Fire Department Budget is the cost of operating the new Public Safety Building. Although this building is new and has energy efficient systems, it is much larger than the old District I Fire Station, which results in higher operation costs. Total increase proposed: \$75,358.
- **Dispatch** – An Increase in this account of \$4,480 is related to small adjustments to bring employee pay in line with area averages. Short-term plans include moving the Dispatch Center from the Raymond Town Office to the new Public Safety Building. Longer-range talks are underway with the Town of Naples and/or Cumberland County for consolidated dispatch services. Regionalized dispatching will likely yield much lower dispatching costs in 2004.
- **Emergency Management** – A slight reduction of \$300 in local spending is proposed. New financial support is expected from Federal, State and County governments.
- **Animal Control** – A reduction in expenses of \$4,146 is attributable to state law requiring certain animal control revenues to be dedicated for animal control expenditure purposes only.
- **Infrastructure** – Streetlights costs are up slightly to fund operating costs for new lights approved by the Selectmen including entrance lighting at the new Public Safety Building and five new streetlights on Cape Road. Hydrant rental is a new charge required of participant towns in the Portland Water District. It is based on the number of hydrants in the system. Currently that number is 23 at a total charge of \$409.75 per month or \$4,917 per year. Overall account increase \$5,929.
- **Public Works** – The salary line reflects a total increase in wages of \$17,820 for the five Public Works employees to align these wages with labor market averages. Operational budget lines are also projected to increase including supplies, materials, road signs, road salt, etc. These increases are related to the expansion of the Public Works crew last year. Additional staffing means a much greater amount of work can be completed. The cost of maintenance and utilities for the old District I Fire Station has been assumed by the Public Works Department. The current utilization of this building is for the Public Works Director's Office, equipment storage, sign shop and general workshop space. Total increase proposed \$31,322.
- **Solid Waste** – The most significant change in this account group is the cost of increased tonnage of bulky waste from Raymond to the Casco/Naples Bulky Waste Facility. The increase in bulky waste delivered reflects the growth and development activity in the Town. Total increase proposed is \$15,484.
- **Cemeteries** – A \$313 decrease in proposed spending.
- **Parks** – An increase of \$2,710 to reflect the Town's assumption of full financial responsibility for Sheri Gagnon Park and mowing Agawam's field for use by Raymond Recreation.
- **Unclassified** – Reflects service provider requests to support social service programs and the Raymond Village Library. An increase of \$4,830.
- **Capital Improvements Program (CIP)** –
  - Digital Broadcast Studio equipment is proposed to increase from \$20,000 to \$40,000 to initiate live broadcast capabilities from the former Modular Classroom at Jordan-Small Middle School.
  - **Public Safety Building** – The first year of principal and interest on the Public Safety Building is now due resulting in a total payment of \$139,542.
  - **Revaluation** – This is the second of four equal installments of \$68,250 to facilitate a property revaluation or tax equalization project on all Raymond property.

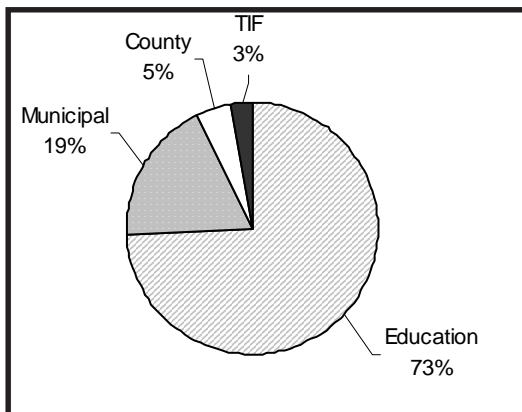
- **Public Works Capital Reserve** – This account group shows a substantial increase in funding for municipal roadwork and reconstruction. This year’s request of \$275,000 is up from last year’s total of \$150,000. The large change will help address the backlog of necessary roadwork. Major work is planned for Cape Road, North Raymond Road and Spiller Hill Road. There is also an appropriation of \$83,333 for several pieces of new equipment.
- **Fire Department Capital Reserve** – Will remain at last year’s funding level of \$180,367, which will fund the gradual replacement and improvement of apparatus.
- **Town Office Reserve** – A new reserve fund for future Town Office renovation or construction was established in the amount of \$10,000.

**Total CIP increase \$282,175.**

- **Tax Increment Financing District Budget** – Total request \$227,559. The TIF Budget supports Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staffing, training, software and hardware and the purchase of a projector for computer video presentations at meetings. Debt retirement on the Portland Water District Waterline Extension Bond and Route 302 Improvement Project Bond is contained within this budget. An appropriation of \$10,000 is also included for support of the Lake Region Development Council. F.Y. 03-04 increase is \$6,804.
- **County Tax** – An increase of 7.34% to \$405,202.
- **Non Property Tax Revenues** – The Tower Lease revenue is projected to increase by \$8,377 or 42.5%; excise tax on new vehicles by \$50,000 or 8.33%; Municipal Revenue Sharing from the State is decreasing by \$6,846 or 2.36%; CEO fees are increasing by \$30,000 or 60%; Public Safety Income is decreasing by \$50,600 or 80.70% (due to the loss of the Town of Poland Dispatch Contract); Interest Income is down \$15,000 or 13.04%; the use of fund balance (surplus) is recommended at \$450,000, an increase of \$150,000 or 50%. Total revenue including other miscellaneous changes results in a projected increase of \$172,471 or 10%.

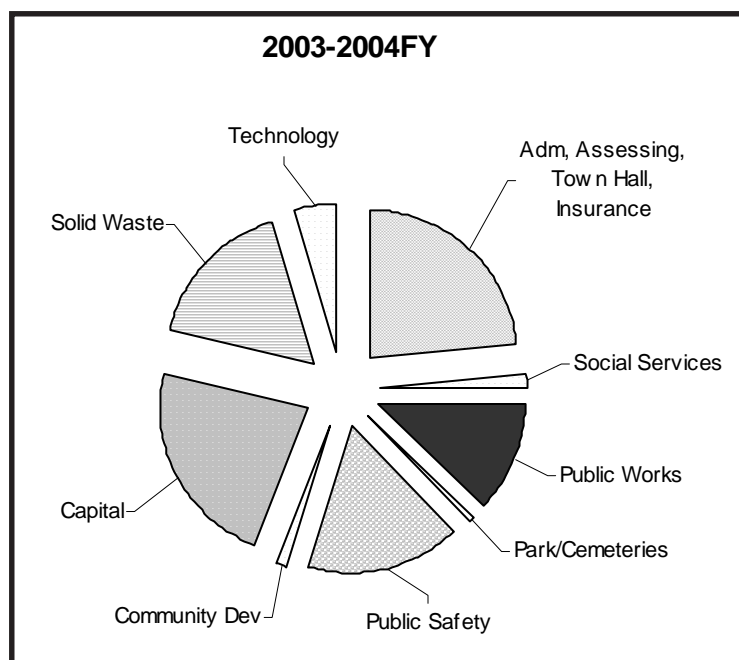
**Total Property Tax Dollar Impact**

The following pie chart represents a breakdown of the apportionment of tax dollars between the Town, School Department and County as proposed in the 2003/2004 Budgets.

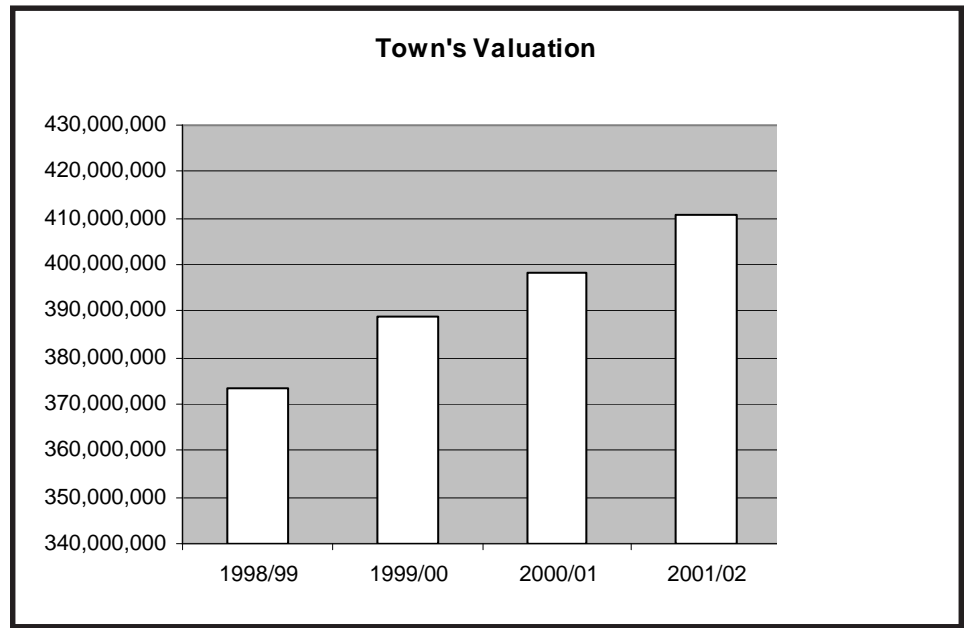


**Municipal Expenditure 2003/2004 Fiscal Year**  
How each major category compares to the whole.

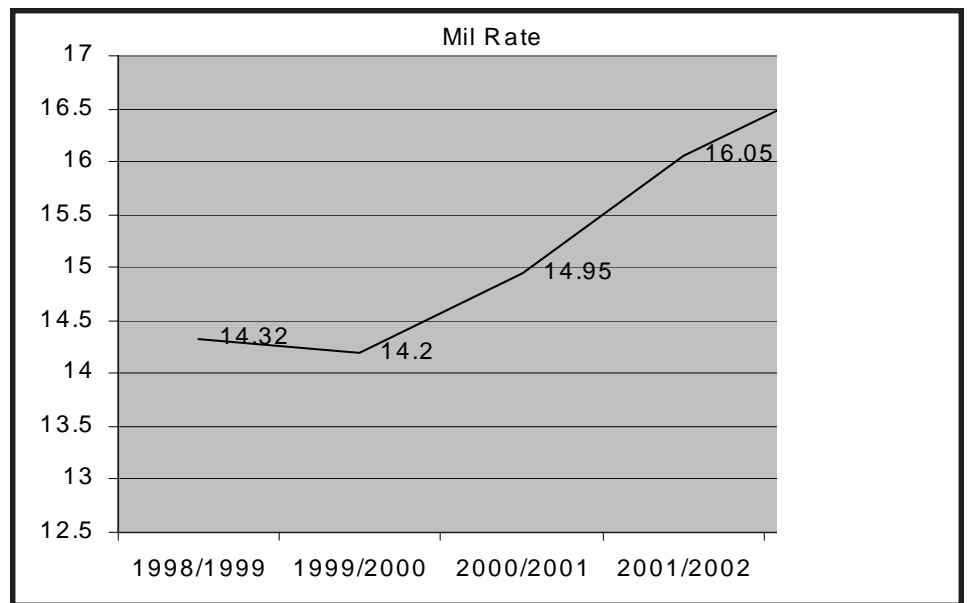
Accounts of municipal (Town) spending can be grouped into major categories and then compared to one another to provide a perspective on where the tax dollars go. The following is a good representation of how major municipal services compare.



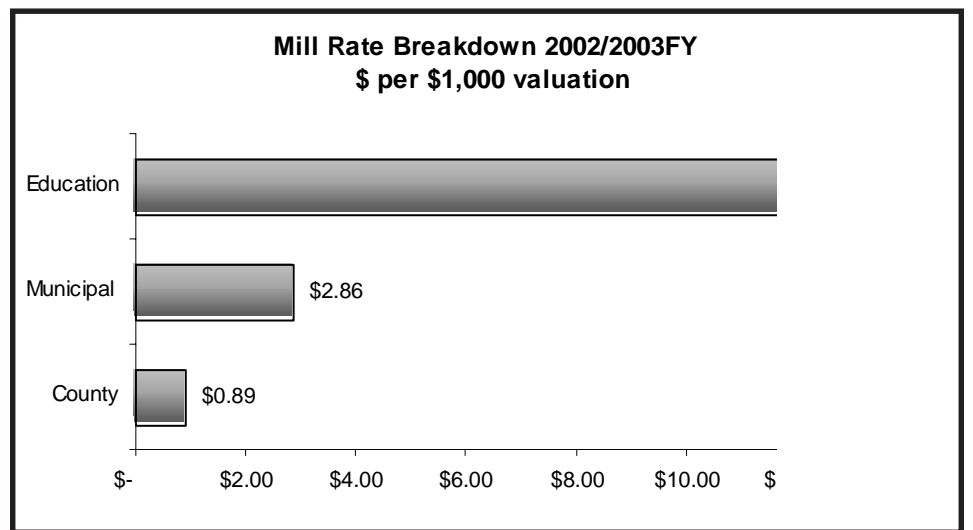
The graph below shows how the Town’s Valuation has increased.



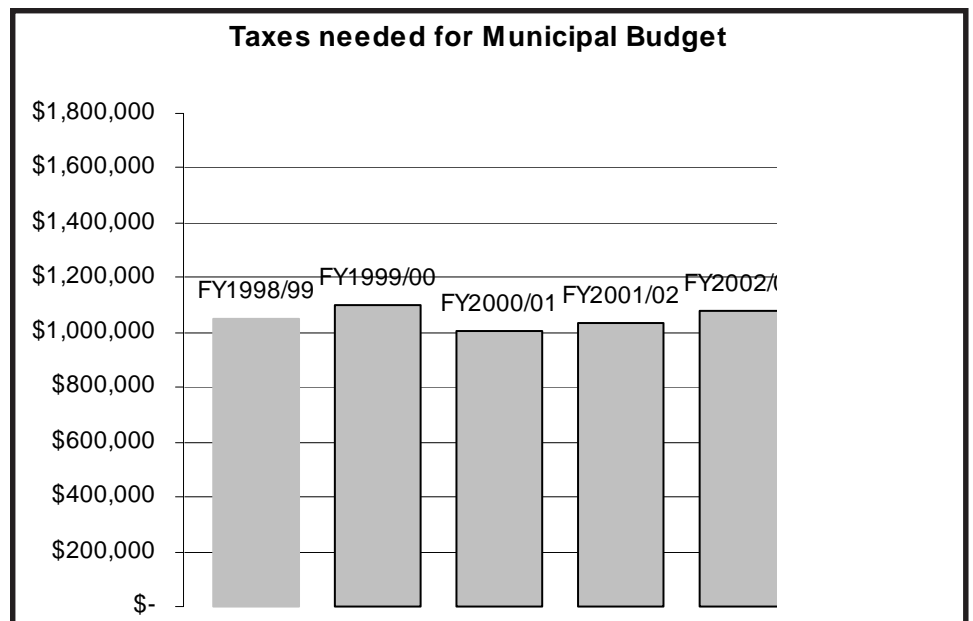
The following graph depicts mil rate history since 1998.



The graph shown below depicts how each major category of spending is impacting the tax rate during the 2002/2003 FY. The amounts are as follows: The mil rate is 16.80 of which \$.89 is for county taxes, \$2.86 is for municipal services and \$13.05 is for education.



This graph depicts the amount of taxes that must be levied to support municipal (non-school and county) services in Raymond.



Respectfully submitted,

Don Willard  
Town Manager

Elizabeth Cummings  
Finance Director

## Candidates For Elected Office Speak Out

All of the candidates for any of the Raymond elected public official positions were given the opportunity to voice their views and give you a brief biography. Here are the submissions from those who chose to participate.

### Frank Dexter, School Committee Candidate

My wife and I moved to Raymond in 1999 although we have been coming to the area for some years because of family nearby. Our decision was to retire here because we love the Lakes Region. We have four grown children and two grandchildren. The youngest is a teacher in Northfield, MA; another is a minister in New Haven, CT; the third is a research scientist in Syracuse, NY (but commutes in this electronic age to his job at the University of Iowa); and the oldest is an environmental geologist who travels broadly but calls Olympia, WA his home. Our grandchildren are on the west coast, so we travel there as often as is practical.

I was a teacher and principal for most of my career in both public and non-public schools. I started teaching at the secondary level and over the years migrated toward the elementary level. The preponderance of my experience was at the middle and elementary levels where I worked in curriculum development and supervision. For the last ten years or so before retiring, I was a publisher of materials for teachers. I, and three partners, started an educational management consulting firm, Educational Directions, Inc. As part of those efforts, we published a newsletter for educators meant to network ideas that might be of interest. The newsletter had such success that the company bought another established business and proceeded to link services to these publications and others that it created. I was the editor of these efforts and served as the facilitator to the network of schools that we developed. However, as the company moved increasingly toward personnel and leadership recruiting, I found that I was being pulled away from my passion which was curriculum work. I finally ended up leaving the company with one of the newsletters we had started. I continued to publish Educators Newsletter until I retired.

During the years in business, I also became involved in the town government where I lived. I was appointed to the the Comprehensive Plan Committee. I was elected to the School Committee at a turbulent time. I was chosen to chair a year long Superintendent Search Committee. Thereafter, I was elected Chair of the School Committee in a district that had nearly 4,500 students and a budget in the range of \$35,000,000. Two years after I moved here to Raymond, I read in the *Road Runner* that the School Committee was looking for members for its Superintendent Screening Committee. I volunteered for that committee because the ex-Civics teacher in me really does believe that we owe more than our taxes to the community. I felt that I could lend a hand. It is the same motivation that has prompted me to accept the two month interim position on the School Committee and that is prompting me to run for election. I believe that experience does count and that I do have something to contribute. I can promise you that, if elected, I will do the best job I can.

### Betty McDermott, Selectmen Candidate

My name is Betty McDermott and I am completing my second term as a selectman and am presently running for a third. I have lived in Raymond for over 40 years and have watched our town change and grow for the better.

Over the past three years Raymond has improved its infrastructure and added value to the town. Public water has added value to Rte. #302 and the village area and reduced fire insurance rates for all of us. The Public Safety building is now open and serving the public. The town should be proud of the fact that it has built this facility not only to meet its present needs but also for the future needs of the town. Few towns have had the foresight to plan for their- future. Raymond has.

Construction has begun on the Rte. #302 improvement project. Upon completion this project will make a very positive statement about our town to surrounding communities as well as to anyone that drives through our town. I am proud to have been a part of these efforts and pledge to continue to be a part of other needed

improvements that our town needs to consider in the future. We are presently studying the need of a new town hall as well as working with the Library Club to study the needs of an expanded library. I look forward to taking part in that process.

Raymond is a community that cares about its schools and municipal services. Most people want excellent schools that are respected for the quality of education that they offer to all of their children and they want municipal services that best serve the needs of the citizens. People that choose Raymond as a place to live, for the most part, pay a premium to do so. The price of housing in Raymond is higher than in many of our surrounding towns because of the reputation that Raymond has for the "Quality of Life" that it offers its citizens as well as its summer people. The value of one's property in Raymond grows at a higher rate than comparable properties in neighboring communities. When it comes time for people to sell and move on they find that their property values are much higher than if they were selling a comparable house in most of the communities that surround us. It is common place for a home in Raymond to sell for \$20,000 to \$40,000 more than a like house in communities surrounding us; result of living in a desirable community.

We could cut corners when it comes to the municipal budget, not provide the services that most of our citizens want and expect from the town and support a run of the mill school system. Doing so will begin to erode the reputation that Raymond has built for providing good schools and services to its citizens. In turn the higher values that we now enjoy on our property will begin to fall. It might save us a hundred dollars on the tax bill, but we would pay for it in decreasing property values. I believe that the citizens of Raymond are not pennywise and pound-foolish. As your selectman I will continue to make sure the money we spend brings added value to the town and serves the best interest of all of its citizens.

It has been a pleasure for my family and I to be part of the Raymond community, and I hope that the voters will let me continue serving them for the next three years.

### Lisa Friedlander, School Committee Candidate, Democrat

Lisa has lived in Raymond for 9 1/2 years with her husband, Tom Cloutier, and their two daughters, Molly and Gaia. The girls are both students at Raymond Elementary School. Lisa, an attorney, spent the past five years as a Case Management Officer for the Maine District Court Family Division. She is now taking some time off from law and concentrating on her family and volunteer projects within the community. Lisa was the creator of the Summer Reading Program at the Raymond Village Library, and she continues to coordinate the program. Lisa served on the Raymond Extended Day Program's Board of Directors and was a member of Communities for Children before going to work for the State of Maine. Recently, Lisa has been substituting at both JSMS and RES, giving her a first hand view of the Raymond school system. She will bring her strong commitment to education, as well as to fiscal responsibility, to the School Committee. Lisa will work to ensure that Raymond's students continue to be prepared for the life challenges required to succeed in this new century.

### Jeri Keane, School Committee Candidate

I have lived in Raymond since 1996, with my husband Bill Dreyer, a dentist, and my daughter Molly, who is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader at RES. I am a licensed psychologist with a half-time practice in Windham. I am a Girl Scout Leader, a member of the Raymond Village Library Club and the P.T.A., and try to volunteer at RES each week.

It has been my pleasure to have served on the School Committee since November of 1999. During the past 3 1/2 years I have come to greatly appreciate the time, effort, talent and creativity that is the Raymond School Department

We are required to meet the mandates of Chapters 125 and 127 of Maine law, and the No Child Left Behind Act of the

Federal Government. As a School Committee member, I will maintain the balance between fiscal responsibility to the residents of Raymond, while assuring our children the excellent education they deserve and meeting these mandates. We must also continue to address the needs of on-going and delayed maintenance of our school buildings and grounds for future generations of students.

I look forward to the opportunity and privilege of serving the residents of Raymond for 2 more years.

## Investing In Our Future

### *Continued from page 1*

tremendous amount of work has been undertaken this year by the staff in the Raymond School District, but the task is only just begun. The majority still lies ahead.

As a school committee, our planning for the '03-'04 target date began this past September. We identified short-term and long-term goals and then set out to ensure that all our work aligned with our mission/vision and goals. The Superintendent applied for and received a grant which allowed us to begin some work that had not been previously funded for this year. Therefore, as we entered the formal budget process, we began with a budget that addressed the top 15 priorities. Analyzing, weighing, cutting, re-prioritizing and rebuilding led through multiple reviews, iterations and finally culminated in a budget that reflects our top 10 priorities. We feel that it is critical to address these priorities district-wide next year. We have made the decision to not pursue funding for the other identified priorities.

In weighing and discussing all of the program needs, it became evident to the School Committee that a full-time Superintendent is required. We have created an updated job description which delineates our expectations for this role. The superintendent is the CEO and Administrative Manager for a \$7M + Organization. The key responsibilities of the superintendent in this community include: Leading Curriculum & Instructional Development; Director of Personnel; serving as Business/Finance Leader; Director of Testing/Student Evaluation; Community Relations/Communication and Liaison to the serving high schools for Raymond's high school students. Balancing all of this key work cannot be achieved on a part-time basis.

Over the years, the community has invested in the development of the education program we have today. Our average class size in grades 1-4 is 18 students; while the average class size in grades 5-8 is 19 students. This year, we will have our students complete their 8th grade education in Raymond. We must continue our commitment to a robust curriculum program while also providing a variety of co-curricular activities to supplement classroom learning. Our budget increases reflect:

- Salary (contracted commitments) & benefit increases (we continue to be impacted by rising health insurance costs)
- Facilities operations expenses (increases in utilities, fuel, repairs, etc.)
- Instructional Program needs (increased position time; shifting of grant funded work to our regular budget and staff development. See article by the Superintendent for more details in this area)

There is so much that draws residents to Raymond. The location and natural environment, the level of community involvement, and certainly the strength of the Education System in this community. Recognized as being a community school of excellence in the past, we are working to preserve that status for our children's future. We invite you to become familiar with the School Department Budget and with the increases that we are bringing forward to the community at Town Meeting. (The Raymond Web Site contains a significant amount of information for you to review.) We want the residents of the town to understand the investments being made for our children. Feel free to contact a member of the school committee with any questions you might have.

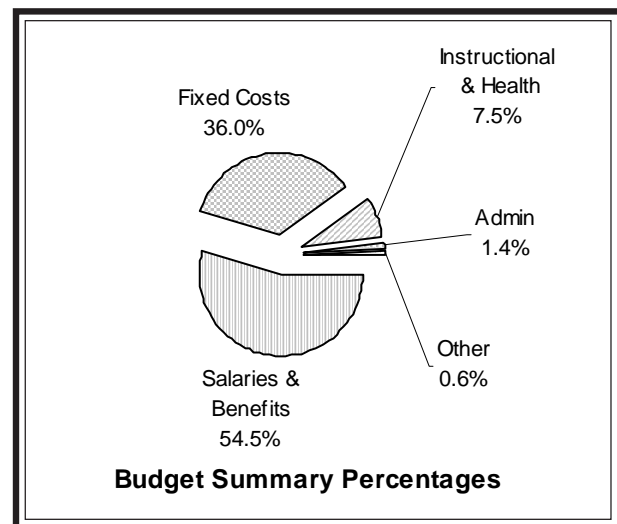


# Balancing Budget And Priorities In Literacy And Mathematics

*Continued from page 1*

certified in five content areas by '03-'04. Our present seventh graders will be the first class to have their 2007 High School diplomas based on the following five content areas: English, mathematics, science, social studies, and health/PE.

The School Budget can be broken down into four major categories:



The School Budget for '03-'04 is \$7,916,976. This represents a 7.4% increase over last year, impacting the town share by 16.3%. Raymond is one of the towns in the state impacted by a reduction in state subsidy. That reduction at the present is approximately \$59,000.

This budget will move our K-8 system ahead with state statutes and "No Child Left Behind" federal mandates. It will enable us to design and align our K-8 curriculum in the five content areas of English Language Arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and health/PE. A Local Assessment System will be developed and ready for implementation by June 2004. The items in the budget that build the capacity to complete this work are as follows:

Item	Increase	Capacity Building
Full time Superintendent	\$ 40,250	Job description on website
15 Learning Results Facilitators	\$ 21,400	Alignment of curriculum and assessments in five content areas
<b>Training &amp; Professional Development</b>	<b>\$ 26,100</b>	<b>Literacy &amp; math priorities</b>
Course Reimbursement	\$ 8,123	Advanced literacy coursework in district
Printing Curriculum	\$ 3,500	To all K-8 staff
Assessments	\$ 30,295	Student achievement data
Data Strategist & Trainer	\$ 38,348	Training all K-8 staff in collecting and recording data electronically
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 168,016</b>	

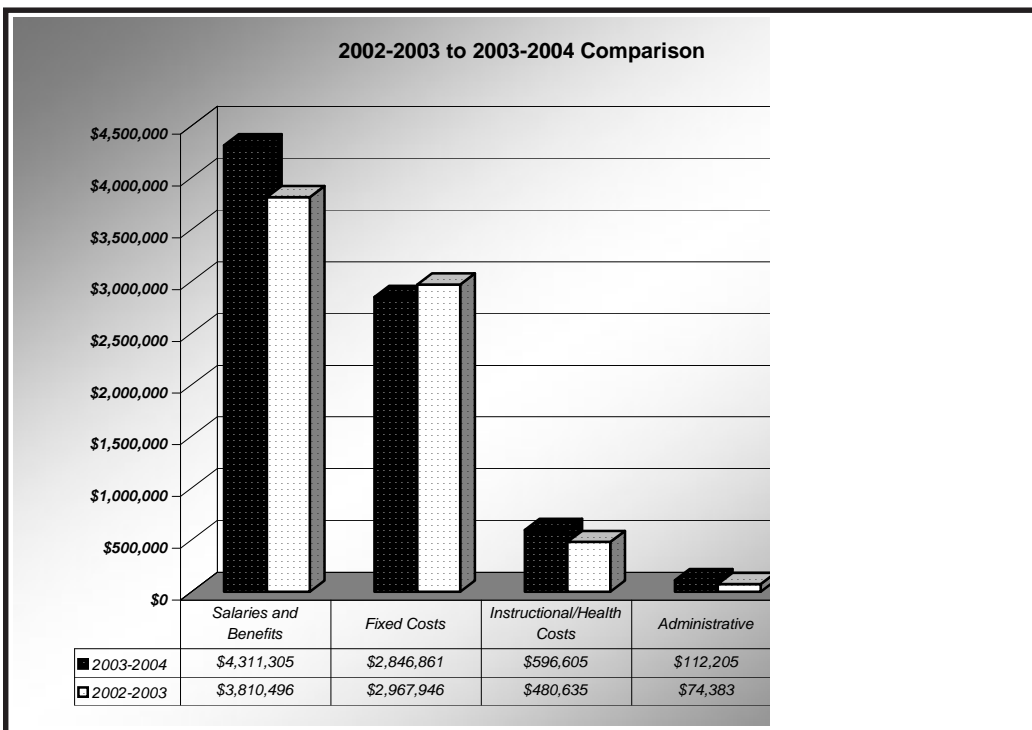
The above package will begin to move our school system ahead with state statutes and "No Child Left Behind" federal mandates. It will also address all of the recommendations from a K-8 literacy review (see report on web) conducted this fall by an outside consultant which include the creation of a method of systematic literacy data collection for grades K-12, the creation and implementation of reading and writing assessments K-8,

the creation of a reading and writing reporting system, the review of current instructional practices used at the two schools and the creation of consistent practices and environments to ensure a seamless experience K-8 and to provide common staff development experiences that support consistent instructional practices.

Other needs in the school budget are addressed by increases in time to existing positions. The Accounts Payable position is being increased by .4 resulting in an increase of \$9,699. This increase is a recommendation in the '02-'03 auditors' report to support a change in the accounting system that the school system is using. The nurse position is increased by .8 resulting in an increase of \$19,948. This position will help us to address the needs of our growing medically fragile student population. A nurse aide position has been eliminated to support this need. The Director in Maintenance position is being increased by .5 resulting in an increase of \$16,893. This position will be shared with the Town of Raymond to support our One Raymond concept. A .5 Receptionist position is being added at Jordan-Small Middle School to meet the increased demands on that office with the addition of seventh and eighth grade students, staff and parents.

The increase for this position is \$9,122. An elementary position at Raymond Elementary School is being eliminated due to decreased enrollment. The themes of literacy, mathematics, a commitment to continuous improvement and our best thinking about meeting timelines for state statutes and "No Child Left Behind" federal mandates are the cornerstones of this

budget. We invite you to visit the website for more detailed information regarding Raymond School Department's budget. We will continue to do our best to provide all available information and answer your questions. We encourage everyone to attend our Town Meeting on Saturday, May 17, 2003, at 10:00am at Jordan-Small Middle School.



**Informational Meeting  
School and Town Budget  
Overview  
Raymond Elementary School  
Thursday, May 8, 2003  
7:00pm-9:00pm  
Sponsored by the Raymond PTA**

## Raymond Recreation Offers DaVinci Experience: Science & Arts Summer Programs

A series of exciting summer day camps will be held this summer at Jordan-Small Middle School. The DaVinci Experience: Science and Arts Camps will be held Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 3:00pm for children ages 5-12 years old. The enrollment is limited. Children of similar ages will be in groups of 16 campers. The staff to camper ratio is 1:8. Each week is a new theme with hands-on science experiments, art projects, games and stories related to the theme. There will be a variety of activities and both indoor and outdoor play each day. This is Judy Crosby's fifth year as the director of The DaVinci Experience: Science & Arts Programs which are offered in several areas throughout Cumberland County. She is an experienced, certified teacher and has had many years of experience directing summer camps. Tuition is \$160 per week.

### Themes and Dates

Castles and Knights	July 14-18th
Amazing Africa	July 21-25th
Lightning, Lava, & Landslides	July 28-Aug. 1st
Critters & Creatures	Aug. 4-8th

### Teachers needed

The DaVinci Experience Camps are hiring teachers with experience in education, science and/or art to work with children at the campsites in Raymond, Falmouth, Yarmouth and Freeport. Teen-age assistants are also needed. All positions are available on a weekly or whole summer basis. The hours are 8:45am -3:15pm or until the last child is picked up. It's also a great opportunity for students to do community service and get valuable work experience.

Brochures or more information may be obtained in any of the following ways:

- Web: DaVinciExperience.com
- Email: davinci@maine.rr.com
- Call: Judy Crosby at 878-7760

If you have questions, you can also contact Ellen van Haasteren at 655-4282 or evanhaas@maine.rr.com.

## Hike Pismire Mountain With The Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission invites you to join us on May 4<sup>th</sup> for a tour of the flora, fauna, geology and history of Pismire Mountain. This 800 foot rocky, south-facing hill stands on the east shore of Crescent Lake and provides stunning views of Rattlesnake Mountain, Crescent Lake and seemingly uninterrupted forest beyond.

Much of this mountain belongs to Hancock Land Company. Hancock and the Forest Society of Maine have teamed up to secure a conservation easement on this parcel, ensuring that recreational and ecological values are preserved and that no further development will occur on this scenic piece.

Our Conservation Commission member, Mike Cline, whose real jobs are "Environmental Educator," "Naturalist" and "Forester," will guide us to and teach us about the rare and special species and features found on this slope.

We will meet on Conesca Road at 1:00pm., near the trailhead (look for cars parked along the east side of the road). Call Elizabeth Algeo (655-6965) with any questions.

## Representative Joe Bruno Has Moved

Representative Joe Bruno has moved and wants to make his constituents aware of his new contact information. He can now be reached by phone at 627-4979 or by mail at 4 Christina Court, Raymond, Maine, 04071. Representative Bruno's office number and e-mail address remain unchanged at (207) 287-1440 and jbruno1@maine.rr.com .

## Raymond Tomorrow! ... Today More Than Ever!

By Brad McCurtain, Co-Chair, *Raymond Tomorrow!*  
Raymond's Comprehensive Plan Committee

You might have received the same e-mail that I did recently. It was a message of concern regarding the proposed tax increase, which will be voted upon at this year's Town Meeting. The e-mail was nothing short of alarming. While it's easy to dismiss notes like that as being from the uninformed or from someone kooky, in this case the message came to me from a well-respected friend, and I saw that other respected friends were in the loop, also.

After digesting what the message said, it was tempting for me to react without first thinking and to point the finger at our Town Manager, Town Selectmen, Budget Committee, and School Committee. I confess. The e-mail was making me wonder just what kind of dope they had all been smoking when they put that budget together. And yet many of these very people who were being accused are also people who I know and respect. I also know that they pay taxes in Raymond, just like I do.

The reality, though, is that this year's huge proposed tax increase is the result of many factors, many of which are growth-related—both past and future. According to US Census figures, Raymond has been one of the fastest growing communities in one of the fastest growing counties in Maine. Our Code Enforcement Officer tells us that since that 2000 census, Raymond's development has not just continued at levels of the past. It has increased significantly these past three years!

In fairness to our Town officials, we're the ones who did little or nothing while this unchecked growth overtook our community. We didn't urge them to take the bold actions along the way that perhaps should have been taken. Or maybe we all thought that we were acting boldly, and the regulations just didn't work. What matters now though is that we have to accept the consequences of that past development.

### What we do and who we are...

To address the future, the State requires that communities prepare a comprehensive plan for the future. That plan is approved by the State and then must be approved by the community's citizens.

That Plan must be updated every ten years or so. Every Lakes Region community presently happens to be at one stage or another of either beginning or concluding its Plan update process, as you read this. Frye Island completed its Plan last year and is now beginning to implement it. But all of us in the Lakes Region are trying to work together to effect regional solutions to our many regional issues.

Here in Raymond, there are about a dozen of us on the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Trust me on this. Among us, there are often at least a dozen different opinions on any given subject. We live in all sections of Raymond. Some of us work. Some are retired. We're fairly equally dispersed by sex and by age. Early on, we decided to call our mission, *Raymond Tomorrow!* Many of our committee members serve on other committees for Raymond, including two who are Selectmen. Our Town Manager, Fire Chief, and a representative from the Planning Board are frequent guests and valuable contributors. Occasionally, members of the public even show up. We wish it were more often.

All of us on the Comprehensive Planning Committee live here, love our community, and plan to stay here forever in Raymond, just like you. And, very importantly, we are volunteers. We meet on our own personal time. And the most that any of us has ever received for our work is a free trip to the water cooler in the hallway at the Town Office. Many of our meetings don't even offer that. We've probably been forced (for lack of available meeting rooms) to hold more meetings in a portable classroom than anywhere else.

### Rapid Development brings a new school...a new Public Safety Building...more to come?

As a result of past growth we had to build a new elementary school and a new fire station. We've had to hire more

workers at the Town Office to process increased motor vehicle, snowmobile, and boat registrations, fishing licenses, beach permits, transfer station permits, and to answer your phone calls when you want to know what hours the Town Office is open and what days to set out your trash. You wanted your kids to have the best education that our community could afford. Smaller classes and newer classrooms cost money and also require more administrative personnel to take care of the teachers and the new, larger facilities. And, the growing population means more fire and rescue calls. It also means more trash to collect and dispose of. And let us remember that trash pickup and bulky waste disposal are both still free in Raymond, even though more and more towns in Greater Portland now charge their residents.

### Deferred Maintenance...

Because we wanted to keep our taxes low, reducing the road maintenance budget and putting off other non-urgent funding accounts helped us to balance the budgets in prior years. The result of that is that many of our roads are now badly in need of repair. Transportation experts from MDOT recommend a 10-15 year schedule. Raymond's roads are on schedule to be repaved once every 40 years. The Town's road maintenance equipment has a median age of 12 years. Our road grader and street sweeper are far older than that.

Even more importantly, the median age of our fire and rescue vehicles is 16 years at the new fire station. At the Webbs Mills Station, the median vehicle age is 14 years. Even though our population has grown significantly over the past twenty years, one thing that hasn't grown is the number of volunteers willing to help out on fire and rescue. So as the number of homes that your town needs to protect increases year after year, as they get built in more and more difficult areas to safely access, our fleet ages and our volunteers dwindle. So we hired a fire chief. And it is becoming apparent that the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department, on whom we have relied for years, may no longer be sufficient to meet our security needs—particularly in the summer months when traffic can make it a nightmare for a deputy who has to travel from another community to respond to an urgent call for a Raymond resident in need.

So we can expect more big line items in the public safety budget just to catch up to the growth of the past...let alone what lies ahead.

Your Comprehensive Planning Committee has been meeting for nearly two years now looking at just these kinds of issues. How do we address today's needs and also plan for the future? How do we control growth so that Raymond doesn't become a community in which only the wealthy can afford to live?

### Listening to you

You would have every right to be disappointed in us if we didn't present some bold strategies to you for managing Raymond's growth. But these can't just be our thoughts. We need to know what you value, what you want, and what you won't accept.

Over these past couple years, we've listened to you as you've told us what you value about our community. We've also looked at the threats that might challenge those values that you hold dear. In addition to pent-up deferred maintenance, we're really not far from losing many of the qualities that make this community such a special place in which to live: the still-pure lakes and streams, vast open space and wildlife, the ability of our town workers to know us by name rather than by our address, and much more.

To plot our direction, your Comprehensive Plan volunteers have listened carefully to what you have to say about Raymond and Raymond's future. Comprehensive Plan Committee members set up a table at last year's Town Meeting to help distribute information and to answer your questions. A survey was distributed to all of the 100-plus residents who attended last year's Town Meeting. Approximately 40 of you took time to complete our brief questionnaire, in order that we could hear your thoughts.

After the Town Meeting, we conducted what may be the first-ever mailing to virtually every Raymond stakeholder.

We conducted that by working with the Assessor's Office to assemble a list of all Raymond property owners, wherever they may live and/or receive their mail. We also worked with the Raymond Post Office to be able to reach every Raymond address, whether that be a post office box or rural delivery—citizen or business. That helped us to reach our residents who may not own property in Raymond. We believe that we reached nearly every Raymond resident and taxpayer with that mailing.

The purpose of that mailing was to announce a series of neighborhood meetings that were held at strategic points throughout the community last year. And at those meetings, we listened to what our residents had to say and to their vision of Raymond's future. We even got the schoolchildren involved in making posters for us as you can see on our web page.

Those mailings reached more than 4,000 people. More than 100 citizens made time to attend those neighborhood meetings and tell us what was on their minds.

For those and all who were unable to attend any of the meetings, we invited you to send your comments to us via [compplan@raymondmaine.org](mailto:compplan@raymondmaine.org), to visit the Comp Plan's section of Raymond's website, and to subscribe to our periodic e-mail updates. More than 200 stakeholders signed up for these free e-mail updates. Many more have sent us their comments via e-mail. Later this month, we'll be back again at this year's Town meeting with another survey. And this summer we're hoping to have one or more town-wide meetings to get your thoughts on our work-to-date, which is pretty far along.

### What you've told us you want...

What you have told us loud and clear is:

1. You love your community
2. You are concerned about the development and growth and its resultant problems.
3. You want us to do something to slow down and manage the growth.
4. Among other things, you want us to protect the quality of life, open space, scenic vistas, Raymond's waterways and address transportation and safety issues.

### Bold actions required

What all of your comments really mean is that you want us to be leaders and to effect bold policies that will help manage growth and protect what we have. Effective leadership means making tough decisions, some of which may negatively impact what you may wish to do with developable land. But if the policies and tools can help to manage growth and if they are applied equitably, isn't that what we all want?

Frankly, few communities have been very successful at managing growth. That's because to effectively manage growth, those who own developable land often feel threatened when they can no longer develop it as they wish without first addressing the resultant consequences to the remainder of the community.

### Tough choices and tools of hope...

Here are the choices and tools that we have identified.

1. **Do nothing.** Keeping things pretty much as they are will appease those who own developable tracks of land in the community. It will allow these stakeholders—many of whom are not even Raymond residents—to continue Raymond's rapid growth. Since most of this growth is single housing lots, for the most part they escape Town review and subdivision regulation. If you favor this option, expect significantly higher taxes in the years ahead and a diminished quality of life as we know it in Raymond.
2. **Building Cap.** A building cap would limit the number of building permits in our community to a pre-determined number each year. This won't change the ultimate pattern of growth, but it will postpone it. There are several approaches to build-

*Continued on top of next page*

## Continued from page 10

ing caps. We could apply them only to the non-designated growth areas, which would mostly impact those with developable land in the non-designated growth areas of the community, i.e. those areas where growth is deemed to be detrimental to the community. A building cap in the non-designated growth areas could slow down both growth and sprawl. Building caps alone will probably not be effective.

3. **Lot size changes.** By increasing the minimum lot size in non-designated growth areas, growth could be permanently limited. The 1991 Plan set out to do that but clearly was not effective in slowing the growth in our community. What it did do was to spread the growth out over the community rather than concentrate it.
4. **Zone changes.** Expand our designated growth areas and implement incentives for building within them and make it less appealing to build outside of them.
5. **Other tools:** Other tools could include requiring municipal review of all development. Presently, subdivisions require review, but approximately 80% of Raymond's growth has been single home new construction on previous open space. The Town does not currently review that kind of growth. The Town could limit back lot development, require that neighbors share curb cuts onto major access roads, require that all roads be built to Town standards, not accept any private roads unless they are in designated growth areas, and introduce impact fees for new building that takes place outside of designated growth areas. We could also provide incentives to those who build in the growth areas. We could establish a fund to purchase development rights from property owners who wish to recognize some of the value from their property, while allowing the original owners to continue to live in their homes and work the land.

### We still want to hear from you...

You are encouraged to weigh in with your thoughts on these. We will be focusing on Land Use throughout the month of May. Attend one or more of our meetings. The meeting schedule appears on the Town website's committee calendar, or you can call the Town Hall. Just remember that our meeting places move around due to the lack of available meeting space. So best to check in on the day of the meeting. Or you can e-mail me at brad@mainesec.com, and I will let you know.

### Mark your calendar...

And very importantly, if you are available on the evening of Tuesday, May 6, why not join citizens from all Lakes Region communities as we discuss Smart Strategies and Tools for Managing Growth in the Lakes Region? The workshop takes place from 7-9:00pm at the Songo Locks School in Naples.

Whatever positions you take on these issues, please just make sure that you take a position. As they say, don't just stand there, do something. Because the Raymond of today and the *Raymond Tomorrow!* may look vastly different if we don't begin to manage this development, rather than allowing the development to manage us. This isn't just about us. It's about our children and our children's future and the stewardship that we practice for future generations. That's what it's really about.

## Kora Shriners Sponsor Screening Clinic

A no-cost screening clinic will be held to identify children in your area who can benefit from the expert orthopedic and burn care provided by Shrine Hospitals. All care provided at Shriners Hospital is absolutely free of charge: Date: May 10, 9am – 12. For information or appointment call: 1-800-782-KORA. The Clinic will be held at Windham High School.

## Raising The Bar

By Marilee Dunklee, Gifted-Talented Consulting Teacher

Like to think creatively? Try this problem: design, build, and run three small vehicles to transport needed items from an orbit area to an earth scene. One vehicle must carry its energy source, while the other two run from different energy sources. The items transported must bring about changes in the earth scene, and, as all this transporting and changing are going on, you must present a humorous performance about the scene and its changes.

Perhaps you would prefer designing and building a small structure of balsa wood and glue (according to strict specifications) that balances and supports a tremendous amount of weight. Then there is the option of creating and presenting a performance that includes at least five illusions, one of which becomes real.

If you enjoy such creative problem solving, then you would be a perfect candidate for Odyssey of the Mind – as were more than 30 students from Raymond Elementary School and Jordan-Small Middle School. That's right! Beginning last fall, three teams of students from Jordan-Small and two from Raymond Elementary devoted endless hours of work developing solutions to their O-M problems, work that culminated March 29<sup>th</sup> in the state Odyssey of the Mind competition at Bates College. At the state tournament, each team presented its solution in dramatic format. The competition also included a spontaneous problem-solving component in which five team members pitted their quick wits against teams from all over Maine.

As overall coordinator for Raymond, I was able to race around Bates and watch first one Raymond team and then another. At each performance I was blown away by the incredible creativity, poise, and confidence exhibited by OUR kids!

Odyssey of the Mind is an international program that fosters creative thinking and problem-solving skills among students from elementary through college age. As the O-M website explains, "through solving problems, students learn lifelong skills such as working with others as a team, evaluating ideas, making decisions, and creating solutions while also developing self-confidence from their experiences."

Amanda Hammett, eighth grade student and member of a team going to international competition, reflected on her experiences. She said, "Odyssey of the Mind is a wonderful experience because it involves creativity and various intelligences including art, logical/mathematical, and dramatic."

When asked what was the most fun about O-M, she quickly replied, "Basically the whole thing was fun – developing ideas and watching them appear." For Amanda, the hardest thing was "when the vehicles didn't work, and we were running out of time."

## Letter To The Editor

It appears likely that this year's Annual Town Meeting will include a lively exchange of opinions. Let's remind ourselves that this is a great thing - it's a stellar example of how a democracy works!

As a professional facilitator, I urge everyone to follow two simple ground rules during the meeting:

- **Refrain from personal attacks against one another.** If you make personal attacks while presenting your viewpoint, your key message will get lost, and you will likely incur the wrath of the "revenge syndrome" (a subsequent personal attack against you!).
- **Remember that, ultimately, we all share a common goal:** to continue Raymond's wonderful 200-year tradition of outstanding schools and town services, delivered in a way that is most cost effective.

If we do not, we risk damaging neighbor relations that will last long after the Annual Meeting has passed.

Brian Walker  
Plains Road

Coaches work hard also, providing transportation and meeting places (and, of course, food!) as well as facilitating the process and procuring needed materials. Many coaches say that perhaps their greatest challenge is the "hands off" rule because EVERYTHING – every decision, every design, every bit of the building, every word of the script – must be accomplished by the students. Perhaps that is also the greatest value of O-M: it is 100% kid-completed!

All of the Raymond students performed magnificently amid stiff competition, and three of our teams placed in the top three. Two captured 2<sup>nd</sup>, a place that earned them the right to compete in the World Odyssey of the Mind Tournament at the University of Iowa the last of May. One of these teams is working hard to raise funds to attend. If you would like to contribute to this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a group of deserving students, contact Deb DeDeo at Jordan-Small (655-4743).

Pulling together high level thinking, creativity and social skills, teamwork and self-esteem, Odyssey of the Mind takes "raising the bar" right off the charts. Congratulations to every student and coach for your hard work and indubitable success! I can hardly wait to see what Raymond students come up with next year!

Hats off to these students from Raymond Elementary School and Jordan-Small Middle School who recently competed in the State Odyssey of the Mind Tournament at Bates College. Read more about Odyssey of the Mind in "Raising the Bar."

### Raymond Elementary

Gaia Cloutier  
Weston Masi  
Tyler Winde  
Molly Keane-Dreyer  
Kyle Hargreaves  
Madison Rankin  
Aaron Guisely  
Molly Cloutier  
Cassi Gordan  
Alex O'Neill  
Ian Dixon  
Rob Cave  
Natalie Sukhi

### Jordan-Small

Alison Remalia  
Dan Chute  
Megan Harding  
Harmony Brown  
Lyzzy Stevenson  
Courtney Bruno  
Katie Lentine  
Zachary VanBaars  
Bridget Byrne  
Amanda Hammett  
Jake Witcher  
Andrew O'Neill  
Keegan Brown  
Alison Gagnon  
Hannah Witcher  
Alyse Bartholomew  
Tasha Carson  
Ali Gordan  
Hillary Orr

### Coaches

Phil Hammett  
Deb DeDeo  
Barbara Loux  
Linda O'Neill  
David VanBaars  
Fred Masi  
David Guisely  
Melinda Zimmer-Rankin

## Foster Parent(s) Wanted

Work at Home – Make a Difference  
SMART Child and Family Services

Full-time foster parents needed.

Benefits include: daily stipend, respite, training, case management, foster parent support groups, and 24/7 emergency services.

Must be at least 21 years of age and have at least one year of foster parenting experience or six months experience working with moderate to severe behavior/emotional disorders in children.

For more information, call Robin Morrison, SMART Program Director, at 893-0386 or browse to [www.smartagency.org](http://www.smartagency.org).

## Attention Landowners

The Raymond Rattler Snowmobile Club would like to thank the landowners for allowing us to use their land for parts of our trail system. We appreciate your help in making this a great winter season.

## Raymond And The Information Superhighway

By: Laurie Forbes, Technology Committee Chair

At Town Meeting on May 17, voters will be charged with making decisions about Raymond's budget for the upcoming year. People need information in order to make good decisions of any kind, and there are usually a number of ways to get it. For Raymond's citizens, access to information about the town is most often provided by "technology" in some form or other – as managed, supported and maintained primarily by the volunteer Technology Committee.

It is always a challenge to stay well informed on town issues, and seems particularly so this year where a number of important needs are competing for limited resources. One of the competitors is "technology" itself and the way it is delivered in its many and various forms to the citizens of Raymond. Specifically, the Technology Committee supports the hiring of a town Technology Director.

From "grass roots" beginnings with home computers and volunteers, Raymond has seen its technology grow, improve and change from a few simple web pages to a highly-praised, content-rich website; a well-designed, multi-location municipal network of servers, workstations and printers; the GIS/GPS mapping system for residential and commercial town properties; the Road Runner newspaper; the town's annual report; an e-mail system for all town employees and volunteers; telecommunications for dispatch and the municipal buildings in general; and an electronic calendar system for all town entities from committees to clubs to classrooms to sports teams. Work proceeds on bringing the cable TV station to life, digitally archiving important town documents, and introducing the flexibility of e-commerce for certain town transactions.

All of this requires continuous work: monitoring, troubleshooting, upgrading, repairing, configuring, and licensing. It also continues to be run and managed by volunteers, and it has become increasingly clear to us (the volunteers) that this is no longer appropriate or advisable. Raymond needs a full-time, paid, municipal position responsible for overseeing all aspects of its technology. We need someone accountable to the town for research and development of cost-effective new opportunities, as well as someone able to support and troubleshoot the various (and often incompatible) "solutions" presently in place in our municipal facilities. We need someone with the vision to develop a sound technology strategy and the energy to coordinate and manage the efforts of a talented mix of other employees and volunteers.

The Technology Committee has had the following reactions to and questions about this municipal position and technology in general:

### What is the point of telling everyone this, i.e. of listing everything the Technology Committee does?

The point is to make people aware of how many aspects of life "technology" touches, and that it has reached such a level of complexity and sophistication, it can no longer be managed and run, dedicatedly but inconsistently, by volunteers. This is not to minimize the efforts and

achievements of the volunteers, nor to say that they are no longer necessary; but we need to recognize that over the past two or more years the town has lost its edge, technologically speaking, and is now beginning to fall behind. It is important to show people what kinds of areas we're falling behind in.

### Let's just forget it and go back to doing what we did before we had the website or the network.

Times have changed, and so have citizens' expectations. Nothing that Raymond has in place for technology right now is outlandish or unusual - most places do what we do, and many are now doing it better for their residents, as in "Visit our Virtual Town Office at [www.anytown.org](http://www.anytown.org)." The pressure to provide people with "techno-flexibility" comes from two directions: the citizens themselves are demanding it and so are the entities with whom they do business, including state and federal government. In fact a town "Technology Plan" was required as long ago as 1997 in order to participate in certain state and federal programs, including funding and reduced-rate opportunities for something as mundane as good old telephone service.

### Let's keep things the way they are - with the volunteers managing everything - and consider payment to volunteers when they have to draw upon certain specialized knowledge or expertise.

No one would benefit from an arrangement like this. The town would be paying for the limited-time attention it is now getting for free, and the volunteers' focus would continue to narrow toward "putting out fires" as opposed to centralized management, development and improvement. If the town is going to pay for anything, it needs to pay a little more to get a lot more, rather than paying something to get nothing.

**Let's carve up what the volunteers can't get to and hand the pieces off to present town employees.** Along with their other duties, these town employees would need to be trained in areas they would never become proficient enough to be self-reliant in, due simply to how rapidly technology changes. This is because, willing as they might be, they're already pretty much spoken for, full-time.

### Then let's just keep things going the way they are right now, without changing anything and without the volunteers.

**If something breaks, we'll call someone in the Yellow Pages.** If you decide right now to stop filling your car up with gas or to stop replacing the tires or changing the oil, your car is going to get you where you need to go for ..... how long? Everything electronic that can be included under the heading of "Technology" has its own life expectancy and maintenance and upgrade requirements, not to mention official (legal) licensing requirements. Having something actually "break" will be the least of the dangers. Calling expensive repair people in to deal with something that someone simply didn't understand ("Is it plugged in?") is much more likely. And which system or piece of equipment can we do without, while the troubleshooting is going on?

**It's too expensive... tough times..... tight budget.** Cost can be measured, easily or not, in a number of ways. We can see in black and white what appears to be a rather large

annual salary, plus benefits, but we would also know that Raymond's technology – in all its very many aspects – is being taken care of. And this means professionally, properly, innovatively and cost effectively. The alternative is not to see the big salary number in front of us but instead to have the cost hidden and stretched and spread and multiplied through inefficiencies, lack of knowledge, duplication of effort, waste, unnecessary service calls, ruined equipment and missed/lost opportunities.

### Let's not do everything now. The technology can be phased in over time.

For the most part, the technology is already here. Over the last 6 years, the technology volunteers have put in a lot of effort, which includes not only technical expertise but also "deal-finding" and even personal expense, to create a secure, professional network of outstanding equipment for the Town of Raymond. Almost all of this hardware and software has either been donated or has been acquired at a tiny fraction of its retail cost. Either it can be properly cared for — repaired, maintained and upgraded — or it can disintegrate. As an ever-changing group of volunteers, the Technology Committee's ability to coordinate and handle all of this has been slipping for several years now, and the Town has been aware of this for at least that long.

### Then the Town made a mistake in letting the technology get too complex and cumbersome to maintain.

Again, nothing that Raymond has is particularly "cutting edge" or unusual. What Raymond needs in order to keep its technology going is a combination of expertise and focus. A lot of the complexities arise from security issues, which a network ignores at its peril. As hackers find more creative ways to invade networks and computers, the challenge is to stay one step ahead of them – without, any more than absolutely necessary, affecting or complicating the lives of the people who rely on the technology.

### So is this what's going to happen every time a volunteer decides he/she wants to get paid?

We can't speak for all volunteers, but in this particular situation money is not the issue. What the Technology Committee volunteers, and therefore the town, stand to gain from the creation of a paid municipal technology position is some badly needed centralized focus and authoritative direction.

### What is the rationale behind combining the full-time Technology position and the part-time Code Enforcement position?

Simply that we already have at least one person willing and able to do both. Jobs and duties are often split, assigned and re-assigned, with people performing in several capacities, as need dictates and ability allows.

Technology in all its various forms may be complex, but there are people right here in town who understand it. The town needs to hire one of these people, and that person will then manage both the short term needs and the "what's the future going to bring?" concerns. This can be done in an exceptionally professional, well-planned and cost-effective manner. Technology is mainly about *information* – sharing it, providing access to it, and protecting it; and people need information in order to make good decisions.

## Raymond Elementary School Report

By: Norma Richard

Two of my favorite events of the school year are the September Open House and the Academic Fair in March. Open House provides the faculty with the opportunity to set the stage for learning and to develop some very important partnerships with parents. Academic Fair showcases classroom performance and provides students with the opportunity to share their learning with their parents and their families. This year's Academic Fair was a wonderful evening and, if the number of cars in the parking lot is an indicator, a rousing success. I want to thank parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors who took the time to join our staff on March 26. Your continuing support of our school program is always valued and much appreciated. It was also wonderful to meet many preschool families who will be joining the Raymond Elementary School community in the coming years.

It has taken a while, but spring weather is finally here. The yearly discussion about "what to wear to school when the

weather turns warmer" is now upon us. I encourage our students to dress comfortably. Clothing should not be distracting or interfere with the learning environment at school. That is why I request that students wear shirts that are long enough to cover their bellies, and that shorts are long and baggy. Students also need to wear shoes that are safe for the stairwells and for the playground. Due to the number of injuries in past years, I am asking that students wearing sandals have shoes with a strap around the back so that they remain securely fastened when walking up and down stairs. Clogs, slides, flip-flops, and other such summer footwear can be unsafe, especially at recess. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call. Our dress code at the elementary level is reasonable. We want the children to be comfortable and safe.

This is only the second year that Raymond Elementary School students have competed in Odyssey of the Mind. We are so proud of our two teams, as both placed at the

Maine State Tournament. That is an amazing accomplishment for these students and their coaches. I want to congratulate Fred and Cindy Masi and their team of Molly Keane-Dreyer, Weston Masi, Cassie Gordan, Alex O'Neill, Tyler Wende, Gaia Cloutier and Molly Cloutier for their 2nd place performance. David Guiseley and Melinda Rankin and their team of Natalie Sukhi, Rob Cave, Aaron Guiseley, Madison Rankin, Kyle Hargreaves, and Ian Dixon are also to be congratulated for their 3rd place finish. The results of both teams are extraordinary.

I had the pleasure of attending the April 12 performance of *Annie, Jr.* at the middle school. The production was fabulous! Mrs. Marilee Dunklee, Mrs. Mary Thornton, the cast members, and the parent volunteers should be very proud of their efforts. I would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to each of them for providing such a wonderful evening for the entire community.

## Books Arrive At The School Libraries!

In March the school librarians, Ms. Griffin and Mrs. Keef, happily received a delivery of books valued at over \$2100. The books, donated by the Raymond PTA, consist of both fiction and non-fiction.

In December the PTA hosted a special Holiday Book Fair to raise money for the Jordan-Small Middle School Library for much needed non-fiction books. With its success, the PTA was able to use every penny of the profit to purchase books for both schools.

## Raymond Elementary School 3rd Quarter Honor Roll

The faculty would like to congratulate the following students for achieving Honor Roll status for 3rd quarter.

### Grade 3 Honors

Morgan Knights  
Tianna McInnis  
Kevin Sutton  
Lindsey Hughes  
Casey Hutchinson  
Bailey Odum  
Jordan Parker  
Jeremy Peavey  
Shannon Pike  
Elliot Valente  
Natalie VanBaars  
Kelsea Carter  
Angelica Demers  
Nicholas MacDonald  
Zuri Murphy  
Tyler Peterson  
Spencer Reynolds  
Jenna Richardson  
Cory Schweitzer  
Riley Williamson  
Alan Wardwell  
Ian Dixon  
Travis Fisher  
Timothy Morris  
Joshua Waldron  
Erik Woodbrey  
Abbey Gillis  
Clare Valente

### Grade 3 High Honors

Natalie Sukhi  
Corrie Van Haasteren  
Sarah Small  
Sasha VanBaars  
Robert Cave  
Gaia Cloutier  
Ryan Hoffman  
Tyler Nadeau  
Georgia Noonan  
Robert Lentine  
Allison Rand  
Lucy Algeo

### Grade 4 Honors

Daniel Connor  
Molly Keane-Dreyer  
Alyssa ElHajij  
Drew Gagnon  
Kyle Hargreaves  
Lydia Manchester  
Weston Masi  
Tyler Winde  
Jackie Guiseley  
Haley Acker  
Cassandra Gordan  
Olivia Hurd  
Spencer Brown  
Deanna Weeks  
Bryan Peterson  
Christopher MacDonald  
Abby Streeter  
Connor McGhie  
Lauren Trickey  
Molly Cloutier  
A.J. Edgecomb  
Jenna Martyn-Fisher  
Alysha Orsini  
Jennifer Cobb  
John Grondin  
Delaney Kenny  
Alex Parker  
Benjamin Sadak  
Bernd Hartig  
Lindsay Webber  
Justin Winslow

### Grade 4 High Honors

Abigail Morneault  
Elizabeth Shively  
Samantha Zawistowski

## March Scholastic Book Fairs Set Event Sales Record!

By: Leigh Walker and Karyn Knights

We asked people to support reading in Raymond...and they DID! The March Book fairs at both JSMS and RES sold more books than ever before. At RES almost 30 books were purchased for the library by generous parents and students through the teacher-created library wish list. Many books were also donated directly to teacher classrooms through a teacher wish list at JSMS and the purchase of gift certificates. Clearly with so many books being bought, we have readers in this community! A big thank you to Mrs. Keef and Ms. Griffin for allowing us to have the book fairs in the libraries, to the volunteers who worked the book fairs, as well as all those who bought books.

## Grandparents' Day At The Raymond Elementary School

Students and staff would like to invite grandparents to join us on Friday, May 9, for the annual Grandparents' Day festivities from 8:30 - 11:30am. A special Good News assembly for grades K - 2 and Ms. Cummings's class will be held in the gym at 10:00am. We look forward to another wonderful visit from grandparents and special guests.

## Local Students Receive Honors At State PTA Reflections Program

This year the Raymond PTA sent seven winning entries from our local Reflections Program on to the State level for competition. The State of Maine PTA has announced their winning entries. Raymond students receiving honors are:

Shannon Sutton, Fourth Place – Literature Grades K – 2  
Cassandra Gordan, Honorable Mention – Literature Grades 3 – 5  
Molly Keane-Dreyer, Outstanding Interpretation – Music Grades 3 – 5  
Daniel Connor, Third Place – Visual Arts Grades 3 – 5  
Bryan Connor, First Runner Up – Visual Arts Grades 6 – 8

Also competing at the state level were entries by Jennifer Walker and Kees Van Haastern. Congratulations to all of you!

Molly Keane-Dreyer's musical entry will advance to the National PTA level of competition. We wish her the best of luck!

Next year's theme for the Reflection Program is "I'm really happy when..."

## Raymond Recreation Association Board of Directors Meeting:

There will be a Raymond Recreation Association Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, May 29, at 7pm at Jordan-Small Middle School. All are welcome to attend.

## Camp Raymond

Girls: Looking for a week of fun in the sun, swimming in cool water and drama in the pines? Well, Camp Raymond has it all. We still have a few openings for girls ages 6-12. Camp Raymond will run from August 11 through August 15 from 8:30am to 4:30pm. The cost is \$100 per girl for the week. A \$50 deposit is due upon registration. Hurry and register because the deadline is May 9.

If interested, please call Teresa Sadak, 655-5411, Candi Tardiff, 655-6926, or Belinda Hughes, 655-4523.

## Raymond Recreation Summer Swim Program

We are still seeking applications for another instructor or instructor aid as described below. We are delighted that Grace Leavitt will return to instruct. To insure that the program will run this summer, please help us find someone to assist her.

We are moving ahead with plans at this point. Course dates are: June 30 to July 25. Fees remain the same as in 2002.

Mark your calendars for registration on Wednesday, May 4, from 6 to 7:30pm in the Jordan-Small Middle School cafeteria. We request that all sign-ups happen at this time so classes can be planned. Questions or offers to volunteer or instruct, call Pat at 655-4657.

## Swim Instructor Needed For Raymond Recreation Summer Program

We are asking for help in spreading our message through your community network. We believe that "word of mouth" advertising through our community may produce candidates for the job. Please tell others about the following:

Summer job available for Red Cross Water Safety Instructor: Great summer opportunity for Raymond youth, minimum age 18.

- \$10 per hour
- WSI training paid by RRA

Also seeking:

- Non-teaching parent volunteers to help.
- Paid instructor aids - minimum age 16 and must have lifeguard or water safety aid certification

Contact Pat at 655-4657 for more information.

## Raymond Rattlers Snowmobile Club

For having such a long, hard winter, the snow certainly melted too fast for all us diehard snowmobilers. We cannot complain, though, as the Raymond Rattlers certainly had a tremendously spectacular season. There are not enough thanks to be given for all the help we had during this very busy season. Please keep in mind we begin our winter season early in the fall.

This past year we were proud to have volunteers build a bridge to help improve the connecting trail up to Black Cat Mountain. We hope everyone had a chance to take a ride up to this wonderful scenic view. We cannot forget the volunteers who also devoted many hours to get our trails into tip top shape clearing trees and branches, or building ramps across streams, before the season began. With the early snow certainly came the many hours, which continued all winter long, for our trail grooming crew. We appreciate Casco letting us hire their groomer to help groom the Raymond end of the Pipeline. We will definitely utilize their service again next year. What a difference the Tucker made on the trail. The children in our club this year certainly

had fun at our Halloween party which included evening hay rides. They were also amazed at our Christmas party when Santa Claus came and paid our club a visit and gave all the children a gift. We were proud to host the Raymond Holiday Helpers for our community. Many families were blessed with the magic of Christmas. Our Poker Run was a huge success, and we cannot wait to plan another one for next season. We may even plan a second. We had around 75 snowmobilers travel on part of our trails for an 18-mile loop. Even our club Fun Ride took three families on a 75-mile ride from Raymond to Bridgton. We all had a great time being involved in this year's Rotary Ice Fishing Derby. Our concession stand was a huge success with hot chili and chowder for all to enjoy. We even had a lot of our members participate in the Derby. Not too long after the Fishing Derby we had our 2nd Annual Pig Roast. We still had enough snow and were thrilled to see so many people arrive by snowmobile. This was a great time to be had by all. We were proud to host, along with Maine Wildlife and Inland Fisheries, a snowmobile/ATV safety course in our area and had 48 people in attendance. This

was the largest safety course hosted so far in all of Southern Maine. Our next event for this season will be a Spring Fling Dance. This event is being hosted by the Raymond Rattlers, Crooked River Snowmobile Club, and the Muddy River SnoSeekers on May 3rd. Please join us as we celebrate a super winter! With any active club comes the many hours devoted by the club members who volunteer their time.

We are very proud of our efforts this year and had some wonderful comments shared about the trail system. We continue to look for ways to keep improving our trail system, so each season is safer and more enjoyable than the winter before. Club memberships in Raymond are a vital part of financing our club to help with maintaining and updating our equipment, as well as grooming, maintaining, and improving our trail system. We want everyone to have a great summer and rest up! We look forward to seeing everyone renew their membership as well as welcoming new members into our club.

# It's Bicentennial Time In Raymond

## Raymond: Then & Now: A Bicentennial Celebration

Please join your friends, family and neighbors on Saturday, June 21st, for a day of harkening back to our past, celebrating our Town, and looking forward to our future.

The day will begin bright and early with a 5K/10K Road Race starting at 7:30am at the Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park on Mill Street. The Raymond Village Church will provide a Pancake Breakfast for early risers and race watchers beginning at 7:30 and finishing around 9:30, or whenever the pancakes are gone. Stay put right there on Main Street and watch the Parade go by; it promises to be one of the best ever. The Parade will culminate at an Open House at our new Public Safety Building at 11:00am, where a Flagpole Dedication ceremony will be held. The ceremony is to recognize the school children's donations, which allowed for the purchase of the flagpole. The Boy Scouts will also perform an official Flag Retirement ceremony there as well. Partake of refreshments while you explore our new facility.

Next on the agenda is the Fair at the Jordan-Small Middle and Raymond Elementary Schools from 11:30am to 4:30pm. The Jordan-Small Middle School will be the site of our Then events. The Raymond-Casco Historical Society will sponsor Ernie Knight's Then & Now slide show, a movie about the making of the Raymond Cape Road, Linda Griffin's slide show of Antique Homes, and several private collections of historic items will be on display. Step back in time as you watch people in bicentennial garb stroll

around the fairgrounds. Demonstrators will be on site to show us how crafts from the past such as spinning, quilting, weaving, caning, basket making, tating & lace making, herbal crafts, coopering, woodworking with early tools, wood carving and making rustic furniture were done. Come and watch (or better yet participate) in old-fashioned games like Hoop & Stick, Sack and Three-legged Races, and Frying Pan and Rolling Pin Tosses. Try your arm at Log Sawing or Splitting. All participants will receive a gift just for taking part, and there will be additional prizes for the winners. Revisit your musical roots with live performances by four popular bands.

The Raymond Elementary School will be host to our Now site, and performances of more "current" music will be staged there throughout the day. In addition to the musical entertainment there will be a magic show, a dance demonstration and face painting. Games will include dart toss, beanbag toss, football toss, Cheerio, duck pond, a bouncy house, basketball type games, a dunk tank and prizes galore. If you want something to commemorate the day, we will have T-shirts, travel mugs, water bottles, beach balls, Frisbees and other items to purchase. Come and sample the entries in our bicentennial birthday cake contest. Observe how many pies can be consumed by one person given the proper incentive. Enjoy a variety of foods prepared by various organizations in town.

Ever wondered about some of the historic buildings in East Raymond? Here is your opportunity to view the interiors of some of these structures. From noon until 4:00pm the Riverside Grange and the Baptist Church on Raymond Hill Road will be open to the public. The East Raymond Church on Webbs Mills Road will also host an Open House as will Clough's Store, which will feature a special penny candy sale.

If you're still hungry, go on back down to the Raymond Village Church for their famous Pig Roast. Word is you better get there early (4:30pm), as it is a very popular event and the food goes fast.

Now that your hunger has been satisfied, stroll on down to Raymond Beach at Jordan Bay and pull up a seat for several extraordinary visual events. The first will be a Boat Regatta: relax and enjoy a parade of boats as they glide through the still waters of the Bay at dusk. And then, after the sun sets over Sebago Lake, on this the longest day of the year, watch as the night sky bursts into color with a spectacular fireworks display.

We hope you have enjoyed today's festivities and that this day will linger on in your memory for years to come.

## Have You Heard?

**What?** We are having a parade!

**When?** June 21st, 10:00am

**Where?** Main Street, Raymond, from Canal Road to the new Fire Station So there's plenty of space; just bring your own chairs and enjoy!

**Why?** This is part of the celebration of Founders Day, Raymond's 200th year, in conjunction with many other activities of the day.

**Can I participate?** Absolutely! We are looking for all organizations, businesses, neighborhoods, community services, recreation groups, etc.

**What do I have to do?** For more information about the parade, or if you're interested in being in the parade, please contact Brenda Olsen at 655-4670 (olsen@pivot.net) or Karyn Knights at 655-3926 (knights@pivot.net).

**What else should I know?** There will be Floats & Fire Trucks, Clowns & Scouts, Music & Horses and a special appearance by "Slugger"! If you're lucky, you might catch a balloon or some candy!

There will be prizes! We will be offering a prize for floats based on quality, enthusiasm and community spirit. First prize \$100, Second prize \$75 and third prize \$50.

## Displays Needed

The Raymond-Casco Historical Society would like anyone who may have old items, collections, or whatever, that they would like to display at a secure place for people to view during Raymond's Bicentennial on June 21st to please get in touch with Betty McDermott at fmcderm1@maine.rr.com, 655-4646, or Wayne Holmquist at wholmqui@maine.rr.com, 655-7672.

## Give Someone A Special Dip

Have you ever wanted to get back at someone for playing a trick on you? Do you know of somebody that just needs a "cooling off"? Or do you know somebody that loves to just have fun??? Well, we have just the answer for you. On Founders Day, there will be a dunk tank that can take care of that special "someone" for you. E-mail Teresa Sadak at tsadak1@maine.rr.com to let her know who you would like to see in the dunk tank. Or you can mail a paper note to 207 Webbs Mills Road, Raymond.

## Calendar of Events

When	What	Where	Contact	Phone #
June 7 <sup>th</sup>	Lions Club Golf Tournament		Bob Jones	655-7163
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	History Tour & Picnic		Deb Blanchard	655-8672
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	Founders Day Celebrations		Deb Cutten	655-2877
7:30am	5k/10k Road Race	Race Route	Sue Ellen Gendron	655-4463
7:30-9:30	Pancake Breakfast	Raymond Village Church	Louise Lester	655-4224
10:00-11:00	Parade	Main Street	Brenda McMackin	655-7909
11:00-11:30	Dedication Ceremony	Fire & Safety Building	Brenda Olsen	655-4670
11:30-4:30	Fair	RES & JSMS	Karyn Knights	655-3926
			Denis Morse	655-2725
			Deb Cutten	655-2877
			Sue Ellen Gendron	655-4463
4:30-6:30	Pig Roast	Raymond Village Church	Brenda Olsen	655-4670
~7:00	Boat Regatta	Jordan Bay	Phil Michaud	655-2722
~9:00pm	Fire Works Display	Jordan Bay	George Bartlett	892-5914
	<b>Open Houses</b>			
12-4	Riverside Grange	Raymond Hill Rd.		
12-4	Clough's Store	Webbs Mills Rd.		
12-4	Baptist Church	Raymond Hill Rd.		
12-4	East Raymond Chapel	Webbs Mills Rd.		
June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Hawthorne House Strawberry Social		John Manoush	655-7660

## Raymond Bicentennial Birthday Cake Contest

Prepared by John and Kim Manoush, April 12, 2003

The Town's birthday party would not be complete without a cake – or several cakes. We are holding a contest and awarding prizes in two categories, as shown below. The prizes will be free season's passes to Tassel Top Beach.

To enter, prepare your best-decorated cake, fill out the entry form and bring both to the judging table at the Raymond Elementary School before 12 Noon on June 21. No candles, please. Cakes will be numbered to keep the identity of contestants secret, and the winners will be announced at 1:30.

A panel of local food experts will judge the cakes based on the following criteria:

For Best Decorated – Originality, appropriateness to the Raymond Bicentennial theme, attractiveness.  
For Best Tasting – Texture and flavor of frosting; Texture and flavor of cake.

Following the contest, the cakes will be served as refreshments, so every entry will be helping the Town raise money from this event. To enter, simply jot down the following information: your name, phone number, flavor

of cake and frosting, and a brief description, such as size and decoration, and bring it along with your masterpiece. If you have questions call John and Kim at 655-7660 or by e-mail at jmanoush@pivot.net

## Live Entertainment

Keep Saturday, June 21st, open for the Town of Raymond's Bicentennial Celebrations. There will be live entertainment appearing on two stages: one stage dedicated to our musical roots with appearances by the Breau Family Show which will include Denny Breau; his famous mom, RCA recording artist Betty Cody; "Genial" Gene and Flo Hooper; and a cast of talented family and friends. Denny and family will also do a tribute to their patriarch and country music legend, the late Hal Lone Pine. Also be on the lookout for Turkey Hollow, a contemporary roots trio playing both original and traditional music, as well as the Muddy Marsh Ramblers, a most-excellent bluegrass band. The second stage will be dedicated to "more current" music including sets by hip-hop-infused funk rock band, The Kingpin Wrecking Crew; contemporary singer-songwriter, Carole Wise; R&B, blues and rock masters, SOULution; and much, much more. Look for further updates next month!

# Celebrate 200 Years Of Raymond History

## Time is Running Out! Bicentennial Planning Committee Needs Volunteers For Fair!

*Fair Date: Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, from 11:30 am to 4:30 pm*  
*Location: Raymond Elementary & Jordan-Small Middle Schools*

It's not too late to get involved, and it doesn't have to take a lot of your time. The Fair will be operated from 11:30 – 4:30, but that doesn't necessarily mean you will be needed for the entire time; just a few hours of your time would be appreciated. Volunteers are still needed for the following positions:

Judges for the Best Bicentennial Garb and the House Decoration Contests and for the Parade.

Volunteers to staff the following games/competitions/races: Dart Toss, Duck Pond, Bean Bag Toss, Cheerio, Ring Toss, Bouncy House, Basketball-type games, Dunking Booth, Scavenger Hunt, Hoop 'n Stick Race, Potato Sack Race, 3-legged Race, Log Splitting Contest, Log Sawing Contest

Other Positions: ticket booth attendants, balloon fillers/distributors, and a photographer. People to help set-up on the evening of Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, and the morning of Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. People to help takedown & clean up on the afternoon of June 21<sup>st</sup>. More organizations and/or businesses to sponsor food booths.

If you can help, please contact Deb Cutten at 655-2877 (dcutten@maine.rr.com) or Sue Ellen Gendron at 655-4463 (jeffsueellen@pivot.net) as soon as possible.

## Best Bicentennial Garb Contest

Please join in on the fun and dress up for our Bicentennial Celebration. On Founders Day, June 21<sup>st</sup>, we will be having a 200th year birthday party for our town. A Fair will be held at the schools from 11:30am to 4:30pm. To celebrate the history of our Town and to lend atmosphere to the celebration, we'd like as many people as possible to dress in period clothing. The Town was founded in 1803; however, any type of Colonial or Victorian style clothing would be appropriate. All those dressed up will gather for a group photo (on our new bandstand hopefully?) at 12:30 pm. Prizes will be awarded for Best Costume-Adult Male & Female and Best Costume-Child Female & Male. Prizes will include \$100 gift certificates for the adults and season passes to Funtown/Splashtown USA for the children.

P.S. We'd love for you to show off your Bicentennial Garb in the parade earlier in the day as well. If interested in being in the parade, please contact Brenda Olsen at 655-4670 (olsen@pivot.net) or Karyn Knights at 655-3926 (knights@pivot.net).

If you have any questions please contact Deb Cutten at 655-2877 (dcutten@maine.rr.com) or Sue Ellen Gendron at 655-4463 (jeffsueellen@pivot.net).

## Raymond Bicentennial Planning Committee Meeting Notice

To find out how you can take part in our Town's history or hear what is being planned for our Bicentennial Celebration please attend the following meeting:

**Where:** Raymond Elementary School  
**When:** Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>  
**Time:** 7:00pm

For more information, or if you have ideas and cannot make the meeting, please contact:  
Sue Ellen Gendron: jeffsueellen@pivot.net, 655-4463 or  
Deb Cutten: dcutten@maine.rr.com, 655-2877

## Founders Day Flag Raising Ceremony

By: Fire Chief Denis Morse

On June 21, 2003, there will be a flag raising ceremony in memory of Lloyd Thompson, a lifetime member of the Fire/Rescue Department. Lloyd's flag will be raised on the flagpole given, in part, by the students of Raymond at a fundraiser held on September 11, 2002. The flag raising will be held at the Public Safety Building located on the eight and one-half acres of land donated by former Fire Chief Reginald Brown's family. The parade will end at this location, and the formal dedication of the new Public Safety Building will follow with the cutting of the Town of Raymond's birthday cake and a ribbon or two. Come join us!

## Good Old-Fashioned Fun And Games On June 21st At The JSMS Field!

Join Joni Merrill, JSMS Physical Education Instructor, in helping to organize some fun competitions. There will be Hoop 'n Stick races, 3 -Legged races, Potato Sack races, a Scavenger Hunt, Frying Pan Toss and a Rolling Pin Toss. If you want to be involved in the Bicentennial Celebration but don't want a huge time commitment, this is the perfect way to take part! Choose one event to organize, meet great people, have fun, and give out prizes. You'll even get a free Bicentennial T-shirt just for participating!

Contact Joni Merrill at joni.m@raymondmaine.org or call 650-5416 for more information.

## House Decoration Contest

Help dress the Town for its Bicentennial, and you might win a \$100 gift certificate to True Value Hardware!

We're having a contest for the *Best Decorated House* in Raymond. Whether your home is new or old, on a busy road or in a more remote spot, we want Raymond dressed in her best finery for her 200<sup>th</sup> year birthday party. Decorate the exterior of your property with bunting, flags, ribbons, balloons, or whatever you feel appropriate to celebrate the Town's birthday, be it of historical significance or patriotic in nature. Send in this entry form by June 15<sup>th</sup> and a bicentennial committee member will come view your decorations on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The winner will be announced at the Bicentennial Fair on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Photos of all entries will also be displayed at the celebration

Please send your name, address, phone number, and directions to you home to the following address by June 15<sup>th</sup>:

Debbie Cutten  
11 Over Drive  
Raymond, ME 04071

## Pie Eating Contest

How many blueberry pies can you eat?  
Win the contest, and you'll win a free season's pass to Funtown/Splashtown USA or a \$100 gift certificate to True Value Hardware!

Two winners will be chosen: one from the Adult Competition and another from the Child Competition. Whoever eats the most pies in the allotted time in each competition will win. If you would like to participate, please send your name, address, phone number, age and how many pies you think you can eat to the address below by June 15<sup>th</sup>. The contest will be held at the Bicentennial Fair at RES on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00. If you have any questions about the contest, please call Teresa Sadak at 655-5411.

Mail entry form to:  
Teresa Sadak  
207 Webbs Mills Road  
Raymond, ME 04071

## 5K And 10K Founders Day Race June 21st

On Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, FairPoint Telephone Company will once again sponsor a 5K and a 10K Road Race. There will also be a 1K Fun Run for children. The entry office will open at Sheri Gagnon Field on Mill Street at 6:30am for sign ups, if you haven't entered before that time. The races will begin simultaneously from different starting lines at 7:30am on Mill Street in Raymond.

If you would like to enter before race day, please contact Louise Lester, 401 Webbs Mills Road, Raymond, Maine 04071, or by e-mail at louise.lester@raymondmaine.org, or visit our website at www.raymondmaine.org. Pre-registration fees for youth (18 and under) \$6, adults (18 and over) \$9, or families (parents & children) not to exceed \$26. On race day the adult fee will be \$10 and families (over three members) \$30. The 1K Fun Run is free to children under the age of 16 and will begin after the last racer is off the official course.

## Win A Week At Tassel Top Cottage!

Raffle tickets will be sold throughout the summer for a one-week stay in the cottage at Tassel Top Beach (a \$749 value). The Bicentennial Committee has reserved the week of 7/17/04 through 7/24/04 for one lucky winner to be chosen on Labor Day weekend. Tickets will be sold at the Town Elections on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, the Bicentennial Celebration on June 21<sup>st</sup> and by Bicentennial Committee members throughout the summer. The price of the raffle tickets will be \$1 each or six tickets for \$5. For more information about the raffle, please contact Betty McDermott at 655-4646.

## Attention Raymond Businesses

Would you like to contribute to Raymond's Bicentennial Celebration?

How:

- Donating goods and/or services to be used in the celebration or given as prizes
- Sponsoring an event at the celebration
- Making a cash donation to be used to purchase goods, services or prizes

If you don't feel you could do any of these things, perhaps you'd consider participating in the event by having some kind of birthday celebration at your business either on Founders Day or sometime during this summer. Some ideas might include having an open house and serving light refreshments, having a sale and/or specials in honor of the Town's Bicentennial, or even having employees dress in period garb.

Your contribution will be listed in our publicity, event program and announced on the day of the celebration. If you choose to do something at your place of business, we will mention that as well.

If you would like to participate in the celebrations, or if you have any questions, please contact Deb Cutten at 655-2877 (dcutten@maine.rr.com) or Sue Ellen Gendron at 655-4463 (jeffsueellen@pivot.net).

## Red Cross Blood Drive

The Raymond Fire/Rescue Department is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Founders Day, June 21, from 8am to 1pm at Jordan-Small Middle School. Our goal is 40 – 50 pints of blood. The Red Cross has a new Mobile Donation Center. For a donation time, please call Raymond Dispatch at 655-7851.

## Bicentennial Lecture on Hawthorne

By: John Manoush, April 14, 2003

One of Raymond's most historic buildings is the boyhood home of the famous author Nathaniel Hawthorne, which is cared for by volunteers who comprise the Hawthorne Community Association.

In recognition of Raymond's Bicentennial, the Hawthorne Community Association, in cooperation with the Raymond Village Library, has invited a speaker to inform and entertain us on June 28 at 6:30 (the Saturday after the Founders Day celebrations). Trudi Riesenbergh of Harpswell has studied Hawthorne extensively and has graciously agreed to share some of her knowledge with us.

Following the talk, the Association will hold its annual Strawberry Festival at 7:30. The Festival celebrates the start of the summer season with a dessert featuring homemade shortcake and 100% fresh ingredients. Both events will be open to all and will be held at the Hawthorne House itself, which is located at the junction of Hawthorne Road (just west of and across Route 302 from Mains Pizza) and Cape Road. There is no charge for the lecture, but strawberry shortcake and a beverage will be \$5 per adult or \$3 per child (12 and under).

To ensure that we order plenty of strawberries and fixings, please reserve a spot by calling John Manoush at 655-7660, e-mail to [jmanoush@pivot.net](mailto:jmanoush@pivot.net) or drop a note to 42 Sebago Road, Raymond, 04071.

Information about the Hawthorne House and Association may be found on its website, [www.pivot.net/~hawthorne](http://www.pivot.net/~hawthorne). Please come and learn about this piece of history in our backyard.

## History Tour & Picnic

A walking history tour of the Main Street area of Raymond will be held on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 till noon followed by a picnic. This is an opportunity to preview one of Deb Blanchard's new Letterboxing History Trails that will not officially open until the following weekend. Participants will meet in the Village at 10:00am and board a bus that will deliver them to each of the stops on the tour. Following the tour, a picnic lunch will be served at a yet-to-be-determined site. The tour and picnic are free, but space is limited to the first 50 people who reserve a place. More information will follow in the June *Raymond Road Runner*. To reserve your seat, or for more information, please contact Deb Blanchard at 655-8672.

## Raymond Village Library Reading Group, March 2003

*One Man's Meat*: A Collection of Essays written by E.B. White from 1938 to 1943 (Review by Claudia Trend)

So what's the story on E.B. White, and why do we have to call him E.B.? Was his mother in such a hurry that she could only give him initials? I had no luck finding out what E.B. means on my own, so I consulted our Librarian and she knew off the top of her head: Elwyn Brooks.

E.B., with his wife and young son, left the concrete canyons of New York City for a coastal farm in the State of Maine. His intimate descriptions of farm life and animals show why this long-time employee of the "New Yorker" magazine could also write children's books such as "Charlotte's Web" and "Stuart Little." In this collection of essays Elwyn, sorry "E.B.," visits his own childhood through a carefully kept boyhood journal, which he likes to quote yet dismisses as "childish rumination."

What else is there to E.B. White? He's a shepherd, or likes to pretend he is. He's rustic but only self-consciously so. He seems to be happy most of the time, occasionally angry, and it's his love and curiosity about life that carry you on from essay to essay. E.B. missed getting yanked into WWI by a hair, when he turned 18 just as it ended. He was then too old for WWII; otherwise, we might not be having this discussion.

Here is a quotation that seems essential E.B. White to me: "Since coming to the country I have devoted myself increasingly to the immediate structural and surgical problems that present themselves to any farmer, be he ever

## The Bicentennial Tree

In 1903 the teacher at the Mountain School in East Raymond went to California and returned with a gift for all the students in the school. Each student was presented with a catalpa seedling that was taken home to be planted. The catalpa flowers in early July here in Raymond. It is covered with white flowers that fill the air with a sweet fragrance. The tree in turn grows 2-foot long seedpods that resemble string beans. The pods cling to the tree throughout the winter and shed their feathery seeds in early spring.

Amy Strout Segars set her tree out in her front yard in the year of Raymond's centennial, 1903. That tree is now a great example of its type. It measures more than 6 feet at the base, is over 50 feet high and has a spread of over 50 feet. There is speculation that it may be the record holder for its type in Maine.

In the 1950's there were seven left in the neighborhood. They could be found at the homes of Nancy and Bob Yates, Ivan and Rita Gerry, Sherman Plummer, Marolyn Gerry and Frank and Betty McDermott. Today there are only 4 left. Ten years ago, after many years of trying, Betty McDermott figured how to get the seeds of their catalpa (the one that Amy planted) to germinate. The McDermotts are donating a 4-year old tree that will be planted at the Jordan-Small Middle School as our Bicentennial Tree. A dedication and planting ceremony will be held in mid-May. Please watch for announcements in the local papers and on the Town's website.

## East Raymond Stars and Stripes

By: Elisa Trepanier

If you have driven through East Raymond lately in the area of the Town Office, you may have noticed nine new American flags mounted on the utility poles. The Raymond Board of Selectmen: Ada Brown, Chairman; Betty McDermott; Chris McClellan; Charles Leavitt; Dana Desjardins; and Town Manager Don Willard donated these beautiful flags. The idea of displaying flags at various locations to show Raymond's patriotism was first raised by resident Tami Knights. The Selectmen supported this idea and sought interested individuals to form a committee to work on this community project. A special thank you is extended to our Public Works Department for installing the brackets and flags. If you are interested in sponsoring a flag, please contact Louise Lester at the Town Office, 655-4742.

so comical in his methods and his designs. I have drifted farther and farther from my muse, closer and closer to my post hole digger." He then belies himself by creating one of the most stunningly beautiful pieces of writing I have ever read. It's called "Once More to the Lake," and I would fail if I tried here to describe it except to say that he explores anew the haunts of his own youth through the eyes of his son, and his (now deceased) father.

The Reading Group agreed that this was one of the most enjoyable assignments we've had. I was surprised to find that we all had a different favorite essay. This is the wonderment of literally having a bag of essays to choose from: like penny candy, we can have root beer barrels, Bit-O-Honeys, or spearmint leaves, but we all agree it's darn good! E.B.'s prose isn't a lot of taffy, mind you, for he does call this collection "One Man's Meat," alluding to the old expression that one man's meat is another man's poison (we presume). There is plenty of meat to his essays, as well as candy. In fact we were surprised at the places where meat suddenly showed up unannounced, making an amusing essay suddenly as serious as death itself. Point of fact: E.B. White was among the first to write a book for children that dealt straightforwardly with the subject of death and actually used the word "death" and not some euphemism (in "Charlotte's Web").

The feeling in the group was one of excitement and intensity, co-mingled with lots of cozy chuckles. We left our discussion reluctantly, but happy that we can visit "E.B." again, any time we want to, on the library shelves.

## Box Tops/Labels Program Raises Over 10,000 Box Tops And 10,000 Labels!

By: Leigh Walker, Raymond PTA

Every label earns one point and every box top is worth a dime. It doesn't seem like much. But when you get 500 students, parents, friends and community members to work together, it adds up!

With the Box Tops program we were able to raise \$1189. These funds are used to support PTA programs like bringing illustrator Kevin Hawkes to RES, and help purchase equipment for the JSMS snowshoe and x-country ski program. With the Labels for Education program, we have collected over 10,000 labels this year and are saving up our points at this time.

So if there is a box top or label sitting in a drawer and you are thinking it isn't "worth it" to send it in, I am telling you...IT IS! Keep saving those box tops and labels.

We will have our back to school ice cream party participation contest this summer. Every student who saves their box tops and labels this summer and brings them in the first week of school will receive an invitation to an ice cream party at the end of September. A collection bag and reminder notice will go home with students at the end of the school year.

A special thanks to those community members who are dropping off their labels/box tops at the Raymond Village Library and Town Hall. Thank you so much for contributing!

## Troop 800 Report

By: Elijah Hughes, Troop Scribe

Last month we started to convert the Pack 800's Arrow of Light candleholder to electric as a service project with Mr. Hughes. The Arrow of Light is the highest award a cub scout can earn before becoming a boy scout. Four new boy scouts are now meeting with us. We held a fitness day where we ran a ¼ of a mile from the Raymond Village Community Church (RVCC) to the old fire department garage by the library. Also on that day we did sit-ups and jumping jacks. On that favorable Tuesday of 80°F, we held our meeting outside. We also designed outdoor lashed furniture for our spring camporee May 16th-18th.

Next month on the third we have:

Our final orienteering session to be held at St. Joseph's College

Craft fair at RVCC where we will sell scout-made birdhouses built under the supervision of Mr. Lockwood (Pete), candy bars, and candles.

Only two months left to raise money for Gettysburg, and we only have \$7,000 out of the \$10,000 needed for our trip! We are selling candy bars to raise money, and look forward to hearing about our carwash! Don't forget to drop your bottles off at Patman's Redemption center on route 115.

If you are interested in joining or have any questions, comments, ideas, or concerns, call Mr. Tom Wiley at 655-2048.

## NYA Honor Roll For The Second Trimester

### HIGHEST HONORS

Alison White, Grade 9  
Renee Fortin, Grade 10  
Benjamin White, Grade 12

### HIGH HONORS

Kevin Catir, Grade 8  
Elizabeth Crockett, Grade 12  
Amanda Dodson, Grade 10  
Shawn Gagne Grade 11  
Abby Hutchinson, Grade 12  
William Yates, Grade 11