

The Raymond Road Runner

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

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

OCTOBER 2004

How Would The Palesky Tax Cap Referendum Affect Raymond?

By: Don Willard and Sandy Caldwell

The tax cap analysis provided in this informational sheet is based upon 2004 property valuations. The complexity and associated expense of a complete analysis that incorporates 1996-97 valuations data is prohibitive so is not being provided at this time. If the tax cap measure were passed as written, resulting in a return to 1996 property values, the revenue loss would exceed the \$3.1 million projected in this impact analysis.

What is the Palesky Tax Cap Proposal?

It is a statewide referendum question on the November 2nd ballot that, if approved (and upheld by the Maine Law Court and Legislature), will:

- Turn back property values to 1996-97 assessed values for properties currently in the same ownership
- Limit property taxes to 1% (\$10 per \$1,000) of assessed value
- Limit increases of the assessed value of property at two percent per year or less depending on the CPI

The 2004 tax rate in Raymond is \$18.70 per \$1,000 assessed value. Under Palesky, property taxes would be limited to \$10 per \$1,000 assessed value plus certain debt allowed above the cap.

What does this mean for Raymond?

If the Palesky proposal passes:

- Property taxes will decrease
- Town & school services will sustain major reductions
- New & increased fees will need to be implemented for town and school programs

- Possible loss of local control if funding responsibility is shifted to state resources

What might state government do to help offset a loss of local property tax revenue?

- Restructure Maine's mix of taxation, including, raising sales and/or income tax rates
- Make cuts in existing programs
- Delay implementation of new spending proposals

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Road Runner Articles Due

Articles for the next edition of the Road Runner newsletter are due by the last Thursday of October. Please provide them by any of the following methods:

E-Mail; Diskette; Paper; CDROM Articles should be submitted in RTF and pictures in JPEG format. E-mail articles and pictures to:

kevin.woodbrey@raymondmaine.org or drop them off at the Town Office or at one of the school offices.

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If You Don't Know Where You're Going, Any Road Will Take You There...

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

On Thursday evening, October 14, Raymond residents will be asked to approve an update to our community's Comprehensive Plan. This Special Town meeting takes place at 7pm at the Jordan- Small Middle School. These updates will serve as a guide for community leaders to ef-

fect changes that help assure a wonderful future for our community.

Between now and then, your community's leaders ask you to familiarize yourself with the Plan update. The updated Plan reflects what you and your neighbors have shared with us about the community that we all love, Raymond, Maine:

1. What you like about Raymond,
2. Your concerns, and

3. What's important to you about the future of our community.

That's why it's called *Raymond Tomorrow!*

The Plan that you will be asked to approve on October 14 suggests goals and policies for our future. It also suggests tools to help the community achieve those goals.

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SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

7pm, Thursday, October 14, 2004

Jordan-Small Middle School Gymnasium

Draft copies of the Comprehensive Plan are available at the Town Office, the Village Library and on the web.

Local Cable TV Channels Proposed for Raymond

By: Selectman Mike Reynolds

On Thursday, October 14th, at 7pm during a Special Town Meeting at JSMS, Raymond voters will have an opportunity to greatly improve community communications. The second item before voters that evening will be a warrant article asking the town to approve an investment in a Cable Broadcasting Facility. The investment will allow Raymond to receive a \$48,000 matching grant from Time Warner Cable to be applied towards the startup costs of establishing a broadcasting facility. The matching grant was negotiated in 2001 as part of the Cable Franchise Agreement. At that time, Time Warner also agreed to provide two PEG (Public, Education and Government) channels for the town's use.

The Board of Selectmen has been discussing the possibility of building a broadcast facility in Raymond since the mid 90s. Ada Brown noted during the September 7th Selectmen meeting that this issue had been brought up about every year she had been involved, but that it never seemed to be the right time to bring it forward. That same evening the Selectboard decided unanimously that it was finally time to bring this issue to the voters for discussion.

The broadcast facility would control two channels, one for government related information and one for education related information. Given the potential cost of creating two separate editing and broadcast facilities and in keeping with the spirit of "One Raymond," the selectmen thought it

prudent to share one studio with our schools. The best current location for this studio is the former portable classroom building at the Jordan-Small Middle School.

This location meets the following functional requirements:

1. Space for one or more workstations for digital editing of program material.
2. Space for digital program storage and the equipment to schedule and transmit the programming on the cable system.
3. Space to be used for public meetings that will be broadcast live to the Raymond community on the cable

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Road Runner Staff:

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Visit Us on the Web

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

<http://www.raymondmaine.org>

Look under Calendars & News

To learn more about what's new in the Town of Raymond, visit our website at

<http://www.raymondmaine.org>

Online services now include:

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



PRESIDENTIAL AND GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday, November 2, 2004

Jordan-Small Middle School Gymnasium

7am to 8pm

See the Voter Registrar Office Hours on Page 3

Raymond Village Library News

Art Exhibit

Artist Dick Anzels of Raymond has a sample of his beautiful art works on exhibit at the library until the middle of October. Mr. Anzels has generously donated to the Annual Art Auction since its inception. Dick works in stained glass, oils and watercolors, and was honored when one of his paintings was presented to President Bush during his January 2002 visit to Portland. It is well worth a trip to the library to see these lovely works of art.

Upcoming Events

October and the beginning of November will be filled with varied happenings at the Raymond Village Library.

On Sunday, October 3, from 3pm to 4:30pm there will be a Craft Demonstration with 5 presenters showing their work and answering questions. Bob Wallace of Braveheart Leather will have some of his leatherworks on display. Joan Pappalardo will show her homemade embroidered quilts. Cinda Roy of Foxtail Lodge Art Shop has stained glass items on display. Jerry Rehm has wooden bowls and woodwork to show, and Kate and April of the Crafty Ladies have examples of paper cuttings and specialized paper crafts.

Samples of the work of these craft persons will be on display at the Raymond Village Library September 12 through October 3.

Wednesday, October 6, there will be another Adult Game Night at the library from 7pm to 8:30pm. This time Scrabble and Checkers are the featured games. Bring your boards, if you wish; otherwise, we have plenty to go around.

On Wednesday, October 27, 7pm – 8:30pm, there will be a Halloween Horror Reading for Adults. Celebrate Halloween with selected readings from traditional and non-traditional “horror” stories. Listen to, or read, your own favorite short selection. Halloween is for adults, also. Adult guests welcome.

Wednesday, November 3, 7pm – 8:30pm, Adult Game Night continues with Poker and Chips. Everyone with a playful nature is encouraged to join us for these fun evenings.

Wednesday, November 10, 7pm – 8:30pm, the Computer Series continues with instruction in Excel –

spreadsheets. This is a great way to learn a new computer skill or sharpen up your already existing knowledge. This is free instruction, and all interested persons are welcome. For more information, please call 655-4283.

Murder Mystery Dinner

The Murder Mystery Dinner will take place on Saturday, October 16. “The Auction” takes place in England in the early 1980s. Each participant plays a character in the plot. This is always a fun evening. For more information, call 655-4283.

Do You Know a Raymond Veteran?

The Raymond Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are working together with the Raymond Village Library on a program to honor our Raymond veterans – male or female, past or present, living or deceased. If you are a veteran or you know of a Raymond veteran, please contact us. The Scouts would like to do a short interview of the veteran and, if agreeable, obtain their picture. The project is to put together an “Honor” poster for each veteran, which will then be displayed in the Raymond Village Library during the month of May 2005. The Library will host a program honoring all our veterans on Monday, May 23, 2005, from 7pm to 8:30pm. During the program, those honored vets who volunteer will be asked to speak about their service and experiences. Please help us with this worthwhile community project.

For male veterans, please contact Tom Wiley at twiley2@maine.rr.com

For female veterans, please contact Jeri Keane at jkeane1@maine.rr.com

For any additional information, please contact Susan Rehm at srehm@maine.rr.com

Tassel Top Board Of Directors

The Tassel Top Board of Directors is looking for applicants for a position on the Board.. Please forward your letters of interest to Louise Lester, Town Clerk, 401 Webbs Mills Road, Raymond, ME, 04071, or e-mail louise.lester@raymondmaine.org. The Board meets about four times a year and is responsible for the organization and operation of Tassel Top Park. If you would like more information about Tassel Top Park, please contact Bob Metz at 627-7053.

Raymond Village Library \$1,000 Match Challenge: Help The Library Turn \$1,000 Into \$3,000!

The Raymond Village Library has received a very generous donation from a local family in the amount of \$1,000. And this gets even better — if the library receives additional donations totaling \$1,000 by October 31st, the family has agreed to double their amount! With your help and financial support, the Library could receive over \$3,000 of much needed funding by the end of the month.

If you are able to donate any amount to this match effort, the Library would appreciate your support, and all library patrons would be the beneficiaries of your gift. The deadline to raise the \$1,000 is October 31, 2004, so please mail your contribution today to Raymond Village Library, Attn: Match Challenge, P.O. Box 297, Raymond, ME, 04071, or stop by the library to make your contribution.

The entire library community of staff, trustees, and patrons sincerely thank the family who has offered this exciting opportunity.

Savings At The Library And By The Library (Taxes Included!)

By: Sandi Severn

Final of a Three Part Series

Taxes and Raymond Village Library? In the same thought? Absolutely! In addition to saving dollars by borrowing items from the library rather than purchasing them, your family can find additional assistance and savings at tax time through your support of the library. But first, let’s look again at your direct savings by using the library.

The previous articles in this series pointed to the average family’s savings of \$675 annually and provided a chart for you to estimate your family’s savings. OK, OK,

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October/November 2004

Events and Meeting Schedule

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FB =Fire Barn JS =Jordan-Small KC =Kokatosi Campgnd PS =Public Safety Bldg. RE =Raymond Elementary	SG =Sheri Gagnon TG =Town Garage RT85 TH =Town Hall VL =Village Library VC =Village Church VT =Village Tennis MB =ModularBuilding at JSMS				1	2
3 3:00-4:30PM VL Special Skills: Craft Display and Demonstrations	4 10:00AM VL Babytime 4:00PM Durham Soccer JSMS @ Durham	5 2:15PM Poland JSMS Golf 6:30PM VC Troop 800 Meeting 7:00PM TH Selectmen Meeting	6 10:00AM MB Beatification Committee 10:00AM VL Toddlertime 10:45AM VL Preschool Storytime 7:00-8:30PM VL Adult Game Night - Scrabble and Checkers	7 4:00PM RE Soccer Buckfield @ JSMS 6:30PM KC Lions Club Meeting	8 Denim Day at RES 2:15PM Poland JSMS Golf	9 9:00AM Monmouth JSMS X-Country
10	11 10:00AM VL Babytime NO SCHOOL COLUMBUS DAY	12 4:00PM Monmouth Soccer JSMS @ Monmouth 6:30PM VC Troop 800 Meeting 6:30PM RE PTA Meeting 7:00PM TH One Raymond Steering Committee	13 10:00AM VL Toddlertime 10:45AM VL Preschool Storytime 4:00PM JS JSMS X-Country 7:00PM TH Planning Board	14 4:00PM RE Soccer Pownal @ JSMS 7:00PM JS SPECIAL TOWN MEETING	15 BSA Fall Jamboree at Camp Hinds	16 BSA Fall Jamboree at Camp Hinds 6:30PM VL Murder Mystery Dinner
17 BSA Fall Jamboree at Camp Hinds	18 10:00AM VL Babytime	19 4:00PM Mechanic Falls Soccer JSMS @ Mechanic Falls 6:30PM VC Troop 800 Meeting 7:00PM TH Selectmen Meeting	20 10:00AM VL Toddlertime 10:45AM VL Preschool Storytime	21 4:00PM RE Soccer Richmond @ JSMS 6:30PM KC Lions Club Meeting 7:00-9:00PM JS BSA Merit Badge College	22 Raymond School District 1st Trimester Progress Reports	23 Troop 800 Day Hike with Webelos
24	25 10:00AM VL Babytime 4:00PM RE Soccer Minot @ JSMS 6:00-8:30PM RE Pack 800 Meeting 7:00PM TH Zoning Board of Appeals	26 6:30PM VC Troop 800 Meeting 7:00PM MB Conservation Commission	27 10:00AM VL Toddlertime 10:45AM VL Preschool Storytime 7:00-8:30PM VL Adult Halloween Horror Readings	28 4:00PM St. Joe's Soccer JSMS @ St. Joe 5:00-7:00PM Maine Star Realty - Sebago Chamber of Commerce After Hours 7:00-9:00PM JS BSA Merit Badge College 7:00PM TH Cemetery Committee	29 Road Runner Deadline NO SCHOOL K-4 Teacher Workshop 5-8 Parent Conferences	30 8:00AM VC Troop 800 Church Cleanup
31	1 10:00AM VL Babytime	2 7:00AM-8:00PM NATIONAL/STATE ELECTIONS 6:30PM VC Troop 800 Meeting 7:00PM TH Selectmen Meeting	3 10:00AM VL Toddlertime 10:45AM VL Preschool Storytime 7:00-8:30PM VL Adult Game Night - Poker and Chips	4 6:30PM KC Lions Club Meeting 7:00-9:00PM JS BSA Merit Badge College	5	6 2:00-4:00PM KC Scouting for Food Retired Flag Pickup

Municipal News Brief

By Don Willard, Town Manager

The Raymond Board of Selectmen took the following actions in September.

- Digital Broadcast Studio. The Selectman voted unanimously to approve bringing the longstanding issue of building a Raymond cable television broadcast studio to the voters at the October 14th Special Town Meeting. Consideration will be given to appropriating the necessary funds from unanticipated excess revenue collections that would otherwise lapse to surplus from the 2003/2004 year. The amount requested of \$58,000 would be matched by a grant in the amount of \$48,000 from Time Warner. The studio would allow local broadcast of live and prerecorded municipal, school and community events, as well as provide a valuable learning environment for our school children.
- Community Improvement Recognition. Chairman Betty McDermott presented a Certificate of Recognition to Peter and Kim Erskine, owners of Mexicali Blues, 1338 Roosevelt Trail, for the building improvements they have made to the former Sundancer Restaurant building located on Route 302.
- Approved Supplemental 2004, #6 Supplemental # 03-08, James and Patricia Ross, Map 16-Lot 45B - Assessors' Agent Amanda Simpson, CMA, AICP.
- Approved Abatement 2004, #5 - Abatement #03-20, Colin Greig, Map 4-Lot 28 - Assessors' Agent Amanda Simpson, CMA, AICP.
- Approved Abatement #03-21, Roger & Chris Francoeur, FOOOIP - Assessors' Agent Amanda Simpson, CMA, AICP.
- U.S. Postal Service – discussion of *Raymond Road Runner* delivery problems. Town Manager Willard announced that Paul Robinson, Acting Director U.S. Postal Service, declined a second invitation to meet in a public forum with the Board of Selectmen to discuss outstanding concerns. He instead offered to meet privately and indicated that the Postal Service would agree to a partial credit on the town's next mailing to account for the cost of the newsletters that were discarded in July. The Town Manager and Chairman of the Board of Selectmen will arrange to meet Mr. Robinson in order to resolve this issue.
- 2004 Cumberland County Tax Assessor's Return for signature. The Selectmen voted unanimously to pay Raymond's debt to Cumberland County in the amount of \$429,763.
- The Selectmen voted unanimously to execute Maine Bond Bank documents to facilitate receipt of the fire truck bond in an amount of \$550,000 and the road reconstruction bond in the amount of \$950,000, as approved at the May Town Meeting.
- Town Office painting. Town Manager Willard announced that the Windham Correctional Facility inmates would be painting the Town Office during the week of September 20th, weather permitting.
- A Workshop meeting was held on September 16th to discuss the possible development of Selectmen Bylaws and Policies. Consideration of adoption will be given at a future regular Board of Selectmen meeting.
- The Town Manager and Board of Selectmen met with the Budget/Finance Committee on September 20th to discuss and obtain a recommendation for the October 14th Special Town Meeting on the Digital Broadcast Studio and the establishment of a local Board of Assessment Review. In other business, information was provided regarding the potential financial impacts of the Palesky tax cap initiative upon the town and school. An update on "One Raymond" Committee meetings was also provided.
- Executive Session – An Executive Session of the Board of Selectmen with the Town Attorney was held to discuss a land use legal issue. No action was taken on this matter upon resuming regular session.
- The Selectmen voted unanimously to bring the creation of a Board of Assessment Review (BAR) to the October 14th Special Town Meeting. A local (BAR) would hear property tax appeals from Raymond taxpayers that are not resolved by the Assessors Agent and Board of Assessors. This panel would be appointed by the Selectmen from interested Raymond citizens and would replace the current appeal to the County Commissioners. The final level of appeal to Superior Court would remain unchanged.
- The Selectmen voted unanimously to set the 2004/2005 mil rate at \$18.70 per \$1,000 of valuation. The 18.70 mil rate includes an overlay of \$24,700 to cover abatements or uncollected taxes. This rate is an increase of \$.95 per \$1000 value over the 2003/2004 rate of \$17.75 per thousand.
- Tassel Top Board of Directors resignation, Linda Morin. The Selectmen accepted the resignation of Linda Morin who has moved from Raymond. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact the Town Office if you would like to serve on the Tassel Top Board of Directors.
- The Selectmen voted unanimously to recommend the Town of Raymond Comprehensive Plan 2004 article for placement on the Special Town Meeting Warrant on October 14, 2004.
- The October 14, 2004, Special Town Meeting Warrant was unanimously approved and signed.
- 2004 Maine Municipal Association Annual Convention Voting Delegate Credentials. Town Manager Don Willard and Town Clerk Louise Lester were unanimously appointed as voting and alternate delegates.
- Reviewed and authorized Payroll and Treasurer's Warrants dated September 7, 2004, and September 21, 2004.

Revaluation Update

Vision Appraisal Technology, Inc., data collectors have been working in the field since late May and have completed their work in the North Raymond area and on the Cape. Visits will continue through next spring and early summer. If your property was visited and the collector was unable to do an interior inspection, it may be next spring before they return.

The Assessing Office urges anyone that has a question about the process or a specific collector or visit to call the Assessor, Amanda Simpson, CMA, at the town office, 655-4742 ext. 51.

The following questions have been asked about the revaluation:

What information do the data collectors look for? Data collectors will examine the property, dwelling units, outbuildings and site improvements. They

measure all structures and note the quality and type of construction. Photos are taken of all significant structures. Undeveloped properties are visited as well.

Why don't the data collectors make appointments? The data collectors make many visits and travel many miles in a day's work. In order to make efficient use of their time, appointments are too difficult to schedule as the time for any given visit and travel time cannot be accurately estimated.

What happens if the data collector visits my property and I am not home? Data collectors will attempt to make both an exterior and interior inspection during the first visit. If you are not home the collector will make exterior measurements and collect information about the property. They will return one additional time to attempt an interior inspection. If they are unsuccessful a notification letter will be mailed and an appointment arranged.

What happens if the data collector visits my property and I am home?

If you are home, the collector will ask for an interior inspection. If an interior inspection is refused, the collector will ask to return at a future date. If the homeowner refuses outright, they will be contacted by the Assessor to attempt to gain cooperation. Refusal of an interior inspection may affect the right to appeal value.

How long will data collection occur? Data collection will occur through the fall spring until all parcels are visited.

When will values be set? The process of value determination is not performed by data collectors. Professional appraisers will go through a process of sales analysis and review of properties next year. It is expected that values will be set sometime in the summer and review meetings with property owners be conducted as necessary during the summer.

Voter Registrar Office Hours

Until October 22 nd	Normal
Tuesday, October 26	Noon - 7pm
Wed. - Fri. October 27-29	8:30am - 4pm
Saturday, October 30	8:30am - noon

The Voter Registrar will also be in attendance on Election Day from 7am to 8pm.

When registering to vote, please appear with two forms of identification, one photo, and both stating your physical address in Raymond.

Seniors Welcome

Thanks to the generosity of the Raymond School Department, the Raymond Mentoring Partnership, Raymond Village Florist and community volunteers, we are able to offer a monthly dinner at Jordan-Small Middle School.

The third Wednesday of every month at 5:30pm in the cafeteria a special meal is prepared for the seniors in our community. Reservations are requested; please call 655-4743 a day or so in advance. A menu description will also be available. This helps our staff be better prepared to serve you. A \$2 donation per meal helps defray some of the cost.

As winter approaches, keep in mind if school is cancelled due to inclement weather, the dinner will also be cancelled.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, October 20th.

The Raymond - Casco Historical Society Question Corner

We were intrigued this month by a question on what is the oldest house in Raymond that is still being used as a dwelling. The Historical Society would like to identify the oldest home in Raymond. If you think that your home is one of the older homes in town and have documentation to verify its age, we would like to hear from you.

Contact Betty McDermott at 655-4646 or write her at 10 McDermott Road, Raymond, 04071. The Historical Society meets monthly from May thru October on the 3rd Monday of the month; please come and join us. Check the www.raymondmaine.org website for time and place.

Absentee Voting

Absentee voting is now going on at the Town Clerk's Office at 401 Webbs Mills Road. If you do not think you will be able to vote on November 2, 2004, for the Presidential/General Election, you are invited to vote beforehand. If you are a registered Raymond voter, come into the Town Office and vote. If you are a resident of Raymond and haven't registered to vote in Raymond, please bring two forms of identification showing your street address to the Town Office and you can register and vote absentee.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Town Clerk's Office at 655-4742 or visit the website (www.raymondmaine.org) for information, instructions, and applications.

Representative Urges All Registered Voters To Cast A Ballot At Upcoming Election

Representative Joe Bruno of Raymond wants every eligible citizen to have the opportunity to vote. "Even if you are unable to get to the polls on Election Day," said Representative Bruno, "absentee voting allows you to cast a ballot. You don't need a specific reason to apply for an absentee ballot."

Any registered voter may cast an absentee ballot instead of voting in person at a polling place on Election Day. Just complete an absentee ballot application. When the ballot is mailed to you, fill it out and deliver it back to the municipal clerk. To be counted, voted absentee ballots must be received by the municipal clerk by 8:00 pm on Election Day, November 2, 2004.

To apply for an absentee ballot, contact the municipal clerk in the town or city where you are registered to vote. You may make a telephone request for your absentee ballot, or make a written request by completing an absentee ballot application. Completed applications can be mailed, faxed or delivered in person to the municipal clerk.

For more information or answers to questions you may have regarding absentee voting, contact Representative Bruno at 627-4979 or your local municipal office. Information is also available at www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec.

Make sure you have a voice in your future. Cast a ballot in the November 2, 2004, General Election.

Raymond Lions Club Sponsors "Meet The Candidates" Evening

The Raymond Lions Club, continuing a 10 year tradition of supporting the belief that an informed electorate will make the correct choice, is sponsoring a "Meet the Candidates" evening. This will be held at the Jordan-Small Middle School Cafeteria on Monday, October 11th, 7pm.

We have invited the 2 candidates for State Representative and the 2 candidates for State Senator to attend, and anticipate that all will be there. Voters in Raymond are urged to attend and take advantage for the opportunity to ask the candidates questions on where they stand on the issues.

The program calls for up to 5 minutes of opening remarks by each candidate, followed by the question and answer period. The candidates will then be given the opportunity to make a 3 minute closing remark. They have been asked to stay after the formal part to meet one on one with voters and share some cider and snacks.

We urge all who are able to attend. If you cannot attend but have a question you would like asked, please mail your question to the Raymond Lions Club, PO Box 1057, Raymond, ME, 04071. Representative questions from those submitted in writing will be asked by the moderator.

How Would The Tax Cap Referendum Affect Raymond?

Continued from page 1

- Change the initiative despite limiting language contained therein to the contrary

Maine vs. California

The Palesky proposal is essentially the same as California's Proposition 13 enacted in 1978. At that time the State of California had a large surplus that helped blunt the immediate impacts of local property tax reductions. In Maine's case, the state is currently facing a \$785 million dollar structural gap between planned spending and current revenues. This also does not take into account the \$260 million cost of funding Question 1 passed in June to assist towns with local educational costs.

State funding of local services vs. local control

Using California as a model, it is likely that passage of the Palesky Tax Cap will reduce local control, as significantly greater amounts of funding will likely come from state sources to fund local services.

How much money would have to be cut from the town budget?

If the referendum passes, Raymond's combined town and school budgets will be required to be cut by approximately \$3,103,419 or 36.3% based on 2004 assessment values. As the referendum is written, which may prove to be unconstitutional, assessed property values would be turned back to 1996-97 levels, so the proposal's fiscal impact could actually be much greater. A rough estimate of the impact is a \$3.85 million loss or 45%. The potential impact of the tax cap in Raymond as determined above is realistic after extensive analysis of data.

What is the Town of Raymond's current property tax requirement?

For fiscal year 2004 it is approximately \$8.4 million.

School:	\$ 6.4 million
Municipal:	\$ 1.6 million
County:	\$.4 million

How would \$3.1 million be cut from the town and school budgets?

Town and school officials would seek citizen input and then be required to make cuts. If the current town/school budget ratio (18% town and 82 % school) were applied to the cuts, the school would have to cut approximately \$2,544,803, and the town would have to cut \$ 558,615. County government is exempt from the Palesky proposal, so the towns would be required to pay this tax in full before any local town and school expenses are considered. The current county tax obligation for Raymond is \$429,763.

What changes in town services would we see?

There is no way to know exactly what would change until the actual cuts are determined, but it is anticipated that many services may be reduced or eliminated.

- Aid to community services including library and recreation would likely have to be greatly reduced or eliminated
- Less frequent road plowing and maintenance
- Stop issuing motor vehicle plates and performing other state licensing services
- Increase in customer waiting time for remaining core services due to possible departmental reductions in staff
- Delayed fire and ambulance response related to above
- Delayed capital equipment acquisition and replacement
- Reduced or eliminated aid to social service organizations
- Increased fees or new fees for:
 - Solid waste disposal
 - Building Permits
 - Inspection Fees
 - Planning / Development
- More regionalized programs and services

What changes in our Schools would we see?

As is true with the town, there is no way to know exactly what would change until the actual costs are determined. Over 89% of the school budget goes to fixed costs, 52% of which are salaries and benefits and 26% of which are High School tuition costs. It is anticipated that the following changes may occur:

- Educators and support staff would lose their jobs
- Average class sizes would increase to 25 students in the lower grades and 30 students in upper grades
- Programs like sports and extracurricular activities would be eliminated or funded by fees
- Possible fees for supplies
- Less attention to individual students
- Less remedial help for students
- Reforms such as standards and assessments determining whether students have met standards would be threatened
- Tuitioning of our High School students would be facing many challenges and unknowns
- Schools as we know them that attract residents to Raymond would no longer exist

Will any town fees be deductible from my income tax?

No, your property tax is a deductible item, but fees are not.

Can Raymond vote this proposal down or override it in some way?

No. It is a statewide referendum, so even if the referendum is defeated in Raymond but passes statewide, it will apply here. There is no local override provision in the proposal, unlike the tax cap in Massachusetts - Proposition 2 1/2, which does have a local override option.

How will the revaluation be affected by the tax cap if it passes?

The data collected for the revaluation will be valuable, as the last town-wide inventory was completed in 1989. Since it is unclear what values will be used under the cap, the sales analysis and value setting may have to be adjusted.

Can this bill be passed now and fixed later?

Section 356 of the initiative states that the Legislature may not amend Palesky. Passage of the bill would be by simple majority, but amendment or repeal would require a 2/3 vote of support at a statewide referendum. Both of these provisions may be proven unconstitutional if tested before the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

Are these all just scare tactics, or will services and programs really be eliminated in Raymond?

These are not scare tactics, but realistic estimates of reductions that would have to be made in the budget. The 2004 valuation estimate, if the proposal passes, is a \$3.1 million loss of revenue from town and school budgets, and will require very real sacrifices.

How does all of this fit in with Question 1, which passed in June?

Question 1 requires the State of Maine to increase its portion of school funding from approximately 43 percent to 55 percent. This additional funding would allow towns to lower property taxes since there would be more money for education available from the State.

Other states have tax caps. What have been the results?

Some other states have tax caps. Each state is unique, and the success of these respective caps is subject to debate and interpretation. The Palesky referendum is modeled after California's Proposition 13, and there is data to substantiate that education in California has suffered as a result.

Continued on next page

Local Cable TV Channels Proposed for Raymond

Continued from page 1

system. This space will also be used to broadcast live programming from the School Department.

These requirements dictate two rooms be used for the facility. One would be a large meeting room and the other a smaller editing and transmission room. The second room could also contain a conference table for meetings that require executive sessions, such as the School Committee and the Selectmen.

Highlights of the proposal include:

1. Digital editing capability – Digital editing is the process of using a computer to create or edit video data. All prerecorded programs that will be broadcast on the two cable channels will be in digital format.
2. Program broadcasting – Program broadcasting is the broadcast of prerecorded video. All prerecorded video will be broadcast from a computer that has an attached hard disk library of at least 100 hours of programming. This computer will schedule the video source for the two cable channels. In addition this computer can also broadcast from other sources, including live broadcast, web broadcast, or other video feeds. A second computer will be used for the conversion of existing analog video programming (VHS, SVHS, and 8mm video tapes) to digital video format on DVD.
3. Live broadcasting – Live broadcasting will initially be done from the large room in the portable. The location of the portable will also make live broadcasting from the school possible. Larger live meetings will be broadcast from the JSMS cafeteria and gym.

4. Student education - Provide students with the opportunity to use broadcast production techniques as a means of learning technological and other skills that they will help them succeed throughout life. The student broadcast station would provide instruction in every aspect of digital broadcasting. They will also learn about proper sequencing, working as a team, planning a broadcast, creating a finished product and receive hands-on experience with state of the art equipment.

The town cost to bring this broadcast studio to life would be \$58,000. To fund the local share of the capital costs the Selectmen proposed using a portion of the \$73,000 in unanticipated revenues received during the 03-04 fiscal year. Additional costs include ongoing staffing expenses which will be low given that the present Network Administrator will serve as the Station Manager and the cost of the part time Videographer necessary is already budgeted for to cover many municipal meetings on the present delayed broadcast analog basis. The Cable Broadcast Studio operating Software will require periodic updates, but expensive hardware will have a long useful life and not require replacement for several years. If approved by the Special Town Meeting the studio should be operational within a time frame of approximately three months.

Additional information regarding the Cable Broadcast Studio proposal may be obtained at the Town Office by contacting either Town Manager Don Willard at 655-6994 ext. 31 don.willard@raymondmaine.org or Network Administrator Kevin Woodbrey ext. 62 kevin.woodbrey@raymondmaine.org.

Qualified Individuals May Obtain Disability Special Veteran License Plate

Representative Joe Bruno of Raymond is pleased to announce the availability of a new registration plate for veterans who have a disability. According to Secretary of State Dan A. Gwadosky, the new plate authorizes access to designated disability parking spaces and features both the veteran and disability symbols.

“This plate recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of individuals who have served in the United States Armed Forces while providing necessary access to designated disability parking,” said Representative Bruno.

Veterans interested in obtaining the plate must submit an Application for Disability Plate/Placard, or currently have one on file with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). The application is available at BMV

offices or online at www.maine.gov/sos/bmv.

Veterans Commemorative Decals, which highlight some military awards as well as all branches of the Armed Forces, can also be displayed on the Disability Special Veteran Plate. Veterans with disabilities are encouraged to review information about this registration option. If the applicant does not already have standard veteran registration plates, evidence of honorable discharge from the United States military is required by submitting a copy of the DD 214 (report of separation or discharge from active duty).

More information about the Disability Special Veteran Plate may be obtained by visiting a BMV office or calling the BMV Registration Section at 624-9000, extension 52149.

How Would The Tax Cap Referendum Affect Raymond?

Continued from previous page

Palesky and taxpayer equity

Under the Palesky proposal, variable rates of taxation would be established based upon longevity of property ownership. It is probable that some owners of more valuable real estate will pay less property tax than owners of less valuable real estate.

What is the Town of Raymond's current undesignated fund balance or surplus? Could this amount of money make up for the property tax losses projected under the Palesky initiative?

Raymond's current fund balance is \$1,484,552. As can be clearly seen from the impact analysis of the Palesky proposal, the present surplus would be inadequate to bridge the expected property tax revenue shortfall for even one year. It would also be very unwise to spend down the town's surplus accumulated over many years to fund a portion of one year's budget expenditures. Fund balance is basically a municipal savings account. It is used in a variety of ways, including paying for unexpected

expenses resulting from natural disasters such as 1998's ice storm. It can also be used as a source to help offset the cost of non-recurring major capital acquisitions, such as certain expensive equipment, or as a catalyst for supporting building projects, as well as being used in a more limited way on a year-to-year basis to help reduce property tax rates. In order for a community to maintain a healthy financial position, which in part determines the cost of municipal borrowings, it must have an adequate fund balance. The highly respected Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends that, at a minimum, general-purpose governments, regardless of size, maintain an undesignated fund balance (surplus) of 12 - 15% of regular combined town and school general fund expenditures. At \$1,484,552, Raymond's surplus is only slightly more than the GFOA's and auditor's absolute minimum recommendation of \$1,300,000. Undesignated fund balance is presently under the control of the town's legislative body. In Raymond's case, this means the town meeting, so the people themselves have control over expenditures from the fund.

RAYMOND FIRE/RESCUE CALLS FOR SEPTEMBER

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TYPE OF CALL
9/1/2004	1540	MEADOW RD / MAIN ST.	2-CAR MOTOR VEHICLE
9/2/2004	1127	CASCO	SMELL OF SMOKE
9/2/2004	1221	CASCO	BACK PAIN
9/2/2004	1748	WEBBS MILLS RD	BARK MULCH FIRE
9/3/2004	1636	EGYPT RD	CARDIAC CALL
9/4/2004	552	KINGS GRANT	NECK PAIN
9/4/2004	947	WHARF RD	AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION
9/4/2004	1517	FRYE ISLAND	BROKEN ARM
9/4/2004	2121	WEBBS MILLS RD	MALE COLLAPSED
9/5/2004	1533	FRYE ISLAND	POSS. DISLOCATED HIP
9/5/2004	1812	ROOSEVELT TRAIL	CHEST PAIN
9/5/2004	1835	MEADOW RD.	UNPERMITTED FIRE
9/5/2004	1931	AUTO-AID GRAY	FIRE ALARM SOUNDING
9/6/2004	1512	TWIN PINES	AMPUTATED FINGER
9/8/2004	1201	LEVY LANE	FIRE ALARM SOUNDING
9/10/2004	2216	TENNY HILL RD	1-CAR MOTOR VEHICLE
9/13/2004	704	ROOSEVELT TRAIL	2-CAR MOTOR VEHICLE
9/13/2004	1031	COLE RD	MEDICAL EMERGENCY
9/13/2004	1506	GRAY	OVEN FIRE
9/13/2004	1702	CAPE RD	VEHICLE LEAKING OIL
9/13/2004	1811	ROOSEVELT TRAIL	2-CAR MOTOR VEHICLE
9/14/2004	713	ROOSEVELT TRAIL	MALE UNCONSCIOUS
9/14/2004	957	THOMAS POND TERR	CARDIAC CALL
9/14/2004	1633	VALLEY RD	DIFF.BREATHING
9/14/2004	1704	MEADOW RD	SUBJ. UNCONSCIOUS
9/17/2004	2307	CARRIAGE HILL RD	DIFF.BREATHING
9/18/2004	1430	LOOKOUT LANE	GEN.ILLNESS
9/19/2004	59	NO.RAYMOND RD	VEHICLE FIRE
9/19/2004	1628	MEADOW RD	MEDICAL EMERGENCY
9/20/2004	49	EGYPT RD	STOMACH PAIN
9/20/2004	1852	WEBBS MILLS RD	CARDIAC CALL
9/21/2004	1105	BALL DR.	CO DETECTOR ALARM
9/22/2004	1003	GRAY	OVERDOSE
9/22/2004	1900	ROCKY POINT RD	UNPERMITTED FIRE
9/23/2004	1625	GRAY	3-CAR MOTOR VEHICLE

Raymond Fire/Rescue HOT SPOT

“KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE THROUGH EDUCATION”

Hello, Raymond residents!! This new section of the Road Runner will appear every month with tips, updates and general information from your Fire/Rescue Department. This section will also be used as an “Open Line” between you and the department members. Each month we will have a different topic or issue to discuss. This will allow us to help get important information out to you about upcoming events, changes in our ordinances, and current information on both fire and rescue issues, such as how to prevent chimney fires or how to prevent and treat frostbite, hypothermia, etc. We will also be looking for feedback and suggestions for upcoming articles. Please send any requests or comments to josh.stevens@raymondmaine.org

The Raymond Fire/Rescue Department will be having a Haunted House at Camp Hinds this year on Sunday, October 31, starting at 6pm and ending at 9pm. There will be no charge. This event is being held to offer you and your children a safe and fun place on Halloween. Due to this event, we will not be passing out goodies at our fire stations.

I would also like to remind people that October 3-9th is National Fire Prevention Week. The Fire Department will be visiting both the schools and the child care centers in town. Please help to keep your children and family safe by having an emergency escape plan for your house. (Your children will be able to tell you what this is!!)

In closing I would encourage all of you to send your comments and suggestions to me and *HELP US HELP YOU* by making sure your house is clearly marked with your street number. This number should be clearly posted on your house and mailbox and should also be reflective, so it can be seen at night. Also remember that your help could be coming in both directions so place this number on both sides of your mailbox!

Where can I get more information?

- A complete copy of the Palesky proposal is available at: www.memun.org/resources/Public/news/pp/question.htm
- Additional information from the Town Clerk or Town Manager's office: 655-4742
- www.news.maine.com/indepth/taxreform
- <http://www.umaine.edu/mcsc/TaxCap.pdf>

Panther Pond Association Notes

By: Ben Severn, PPA President

- PPA celebrates two successful years with announcement of 319 Grant Approval to fix runoff problems identified in recently completed Watershed Survey
- PPA sets challenges to protect the pond's water quality and thwart the milfoil threat
- PPA elects new slate of officers for two year terms
- PPA announces special october meeting

PPA Accomplishments

At the Annual August Meeting held at the Raymond Public Safety Building, it was noted that in less than two years' existence PPA took actions that have led to the completion of a Comprehensive Survey of the entire Panther Pond Watershed, the application for a federal grant to support fixing the runoff problems cited in the Survey, and ultimately the recent award of the \$83,770 federal 319 grant, formally titled, the "Panther Pond Conservation Project – Phase 1." In addition, early on, the Town and State responded to the preliminary Survey findings and fixed some of the identified runoff problems under their respective jurisdictions. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of the PPA volunteers and the unselfish and close collaboration of staffs from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD), and especially the Raymond Waterways Protective Association (RWPA), who have shepherded and continue to guide our effort.

Future Challenges

319 Grant Challenge to reduce runoff pollution

The immediate challenge is to assure that as many as possible of the sites with significant runoff problems are improved over the next two years and that all the funds provided by the grant are used effectively. We have worked hard to identify the runoff problems and to obtain funds to fix them. We now must rise to the challenge to provide volunteer assistance to those landowners that are receptive to the suggested fixes but either physically or financially cannot do all of it alone. We are quite fortunate to have as project manager Noralee Raymond, the RWPA Executive Director. With Noralee's experience, dedication, and boundless energy to push and guide us, fortified with assistance from the DEP and others, we can look forward to realizing our goal of improving the water quality of Panther Pond through the effective and efficient use of the 319 Grant funds. *Be sure to read next month's PPA Notes for specific details regarding the grant award.*

Invasive Plant Challenge

At the same time we must not forget that we have an invasive plant problem right at our front door. Not in Vermont, not in New York, not in Michigan, but right here in the Songo River, Little Sebago, and Sebago Lake—Bay

View Estates, Jordan Bay, and below the dam toward 302 in Panther Run, to identify three specific spots on the lake. There are more sites, but this should give an idea of how close to home the problem lies.

One only has to see pictures of lakes to the west of us to gasp at and grasp the consequences of not being vigilant and not taking action to eradicate the invasive plants that exist in the bodies of water around us. For rivers, ponds and lakes with significant portions less than 20 feet deep, the danger that they could become choked with variable milfoil requiring harvesting or mowing is very real. The economic impact of such a change needs no discussion.

While there is always the danger of being accused of being another Chicken Little, the evidence seems fairly clear. If left unchecked, variable milfoil (and other invasive plants) can take over lakes and create economic hardship and, as importantly, can destroy the indescribable beauty that we take for granted and presumably hold so dear.

Although no milfoil has been seen in Panther Pond, we have, as noted earlier, milfoil all around us. Many groups in this region are taking action: the Raymond Waterways Protective Association, the Town of Raymond, the Little Sebago Lake Association, the Bay View Estates people themselves, and LEA, just to name a few. Those who launch their boats from Raymond and Crescent beaches have undoubtedly encountered the Courtesy Inspectors who are there to educate and get people to inspect their boats for milfoil. Funds for these inspectors come from the milfoil sticker we all pay for.

To truly get on top of this apparently growing variable milfoil problem, more volunteers, and, ultimately, I suspect, more State and local funds will be needed to protect our lakes and ponds—the very foundation of and reason for our existence here in the Lake Region. More volunteers will be needed to pull milfoil, lay down benthic barriers, monitor the vegetation along the shoreline, and so on.

Fortunately, the solution to much of the problem is fairly clear and straightforward: *(1) careful inspection of one's boat, motor, trailer, fishing gear, etc., before putting it into a new body of water; (2) monitoring of the shoreline every August/September to determine whether or not variable milfoil has taken root; and (3) eradication programs to deal with existing growth.* While the identification of the solution set may be fairly obvious and easy, the execution is more difficult because it requires a cadre of dedicated volunteers and the coordination and cooperation of various organizations involved in protecting and improving the water quality of our rivers, lakes and ponds.

Vanquished Milfoil will be our victory if we can arouse enough volunteers to take up the challenge, and if we figure out how to bring the various groups together in an albeit loose but coherent relationship that makes the whole

greater than the parts. As I have talked with people, I sense that we are on the cusp of being able to wage a battle that will control, if not rid us of, the invasive milfoil. The next year or two will be critical.

Election of New Slate of Officers

At the Annual August Meeting, the following officers were elected to the Board of Directors for a 2 year term:

Ben Severn, previously the Vice-President, was elected President. Brian Walker was elected to the Board for the first time as Vice President. Ira McLain and Ginger Wallace were reelected to their positions as Treasurer and Environmental Officer respectively.

Gary Cox, the first president of PPA and one of the founding fathers of the Association, had announced earlier that he would not be available for a second term due to an increased workload. He tendered his resignation to be effective after the Annual Meeting in order to allow the current slate to assume their offices immediately and not wait until January 1, 2005, as stipulated in the by-laws.

Gary has promised that he will continue to be actively involved in specific PPA projects. The new Board assured him that it would hold him to his word.

As Gary moves on, we would be remiss if we did not recognize publicly the service he has rendered to those around Panther Pond in having the energy, some would say stubbornness, and above all, the vision to see the concept of a pond association move from abstraction to reality. Thanks for a job well done. We will keep your vision forever in our sights.

Special October Meeting, October 16, 2004

In conformance with the by-laws, a special meeting has been called by the new Board of Directors to amend the by-laws in order to conform to the changes suggested by the membership at the past May and August meetings. The meeting will be held at the Public Safety Building in Raymond at 9am Saturday, October 16, 2004. In the May and August meetings, the membership indicated that:

1. The number of meetings per year should be reduced from three, as currently stipulated, to one, with the one annual meeting to be held in August. As currently stipulated in the by-laws, Special Meetings can be called by the Board. That stipulation will remain and give the PPA the flexibility it may need to meet at some additional times other than the Annual August meeting.
2. The newly elected Board of Directors should assume its duties immediately following the August meeting rather than waiting until January 1 of the ensuing year, as currently stipulated in the by-laws.

From the Board of Directors to all our members and supporters, a hearty "Thank You"!

Raymond Tomorrow With Raymond's Comprehensive Plan

By: Harold N. Burnham

If you were following the progress of developing the Comprehensive Plan for Raymond's future, you may be interested in how your particular visions or concerns for the future were being addressed. To guide you through examining the results, here is a short list of the most frequently expressed visions and concerns (* below) which the Committee heard in our Neighborhood Gatherings and in the regular open public monthly meetings over the last three years. The references given are taken from the Final Draft for 2004 and are ones which either directly or indirectly address those personal concerns. You will find them in the last chapter, titled 12. GOALS, POLICIES, AND STRATEGIES on page 12-1

- * A Small town atmosphere and rural characteristics need protection
Natural Resources: (page 12-2) 1. 11. 12
Economy: (pg. 12-7) 1.f. 2.d. 3.a, b, c 11.

Public Facilities and Services: (pg.12-11) 1., 4., 6., 7., 8., 9.a,c 11.

Finances: (pg. 12-16) 4,a

Land use: (pg. 12-16) 1,2,3,4

- * B Community morale, caring and volunteering
Historic and Archaeological Resources: (pg. 12-1) 1.,2 b
Natural Resources: (pg. 12-2) 1., e, f, j 6., a, b 7., a, b 8., a, b, c 9., a 10., b 11.
Housing (page 12-6) 1., e
Economy (page 12-7) 1., e 3., a 4., b
Transportation: (pg. 12-8) 2.c
Public Facilities and Services: (pg. 12-11) 1.e 3., a,b 4., a,b,c 5., b 7., a 8., a,c,d 9., a,c 10., a 12., a 14., a

- * C Preserving Natural Features, lakes, forests, watersheds, and scenic views

See *A and *B above

- * D Slow pace of residential development and sprawl
Land Use (pg. 12-16) 1. a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j 2. 3. a 4. a,b,c, 5. a,b,c

- * E Safer roads for traffic, bikes, and walking
Transportation (pg. 12-9) 2. a,d 3. a 4. a,b

- * G Commercial services selected for local needs and for low impact on scenic views, traffic, and noise
Economy (pg. 12-7 +) 1. a,b,c,d,e 2. a,b,c,d, 3. a
Transportation (pg. 12-10) 4. a,b
See A above.

Lake Protection Efforts Into The Fall Season

RWPA Topics

- Thomas Pond Grant Funds Available for Buffer Plantings
- Volunteers Needed for Dingley Brook Milfoil Removal
- Invasive Plant Surveys Completed
- Preliminary Results of the Boat Inspection Program

Native Plants Available to Thomas Pond Property Owners

Property owners around Thomas Pond can receive grant funds to purchase plants to improve their property and help protect the lake. The Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District is finishing up the Thomas Pond Conservation Project this fall. Contact Betty Williams at 856-2777 or betty-williams@me.nacdnet.org. Fall is a great time for planting so take advantage of this opportunity today! See more information in their notice in this issue.

Dingley Brook Milfoil Removal on Sunday, October 17th

Volunteers are needed to assist RWPA with hand removing variable milfoil from Dingley Brook on Sunday, October 17th. RWPA has been working with landowners to put together a management plan to eliminate the milfoil colonies present in the brook from its outlet into Sebago Lake up to the Thomas Pond dam. No previous experience in milfoil removal is required. For more information please contact Noralee at 671-3329 or lakes@raymondmaine.org.

Variable milfoil is one of the eleven invasive aquatic species in Maine and poses a serious threat to our lakes, threatening the aesthetic and ecological integrity and interfering with recreation. Variable milfoil can only grow to a maximum depth of 15 feet, so it will never overtake a lake like Sebago that is dominated by deep water habitat. But it can become a significant nuisance in coves and near

shore areas and streams, interfering with boating and swimming and causing property values to decline. We are already witnessing its negative impact in several Sebago coves, canals, and streams in Raymond.

As we all know, Sebago Lake is one of the most popular boating lakes in Maine and New England. Given that boats are a primary way these plants move from lake to lake, invasive milfoil found in Sebago is a potential threat to every other lake in the region. On Sunday, October 17th, we hope to see volunteers come together from all the lakes in Raymond to help us remove one of the existing colonies established in Dingley Brook. Give us a call or e-mail for more information.

Invasive Plant Surveys Completed

As you may recall from our September article, RWPA staff and volunteers were nearing completion of the 2004 lake plant surveys. A plant survey involves inspecting the lake bottom along the shore out to a depth of 15 feet with detailed attention to boat launches and areas with established native vegetation. The shoreline surveys are now 100% completed on all Raymond's Lakes. As you can see from the table below, no invasive aquatic plants were found in any of the lakes, with the exception of the known variable milfoil colonies in Sebago Lake.

Table 1: 2004 Invasive Plant Survey Results

Lake	Shoreline Surveyed	Invasives Found
Crescent Lake	100%	No
Thomas Pond	100%	No
Raymond Pond	100%	No
Panther Pond	100%	No
Tenny River	100%	No
Notched Pond	100%	No
Sebago Lake	Unknown	Variable milfoil

Conservation In Raymond

On Wednesday, September 29, the Raymond Conservation Commission resumed its regular meeting schedule and set a course for the year and beyond. The agenda included updating our mission and focus, and laid out our major project areas. This year we will continue with land and water education efforts, but we have added several new initiatives and communication outlets.

The RCC meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 7pm in the Portable Classroom. All meetings are wide open to Raymond Residents. From time to time we will have guest speakers or joint meetings with other towns (such as Casco) on shared resource issues. We encourage your participation and are always interested in bringing on new members to help move our initiatives forward. Come and try us out! We look forward to seeing you on October 27th. For more information, feel free to contact John Rand at 655-4277 or jbr@prexar.com.

(Note: The September meeting agenda is provided below so folks can see where we are headed for the coming year).

Raymond Conservation Commission
September 29, 2004 Meeting Agenda

A. Focusing our Vision and refreshing our Mission:
Helping Raymond sustain traditional land use, protect its natural resources, and move toward renewable and efficient energy use.

B. Project Planning for September 2004 through June 2005 and Beyond:

1. Open Space (planning, education, funding)
2. Watershed Stewardship and Invasive Aquatic Plant Management (supporting RWPA)
3. Endangered/Threatened plant identification (mapping and education)

4. Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation (education)

5. Municipal Support
- Comprehensive Plan * (see below)
 - Planning Board meetings
 - Select Board meetings

C. Communications

1. RCC on the Raymond Web site
2. Road Runner Articles
3. Raymond Village Library as an educational resource
4. Raymond School Department

Action Items, sign ups, commitments – making things happen

* To provide continuity with the Comprehensive Plan process, the following items have been listed from the Policies/Strategies Action Matrix of the 2004 Final Draft of the Town of Raymond Comprehensive Plan. Only the High and Medium priority items have been included.

1. Protect or improve the quality of surface water (education, milfoil)
2. Protect shared watershed resources (work with other towns)
3. Conserve prime forest land (education)
4. Preserve the Town's scenic areas (develop criteria, inventory)
5. Increase open space (create open space plan for priority projects/purchases)
6. Encourage agriculture (education)
7. Recycling education (work w/ recycling committee)

The RCC has been active on a number of these issues over the last decade. With an executive director now managing watershed and invasive plant issues for RWPA (Noralee Raymond), it may be possible for the Conservation Commission to focus more on land and other issues.

If you have any questions about the shoreline surveys or wish to become a trained volunteer, please contact us at 207-671-3329 or lakes@raymondmaine.org. Thank you to all our trained volunteers for making the 2004 lake surveys a success!

Launch Inspections

The Lakes Ranger Program was a tremendous success in 2004. Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, our Lake Rangers inspected a total of 1,882 boats at four Raymond launch sites. This is a tremendous increase from our 2003 total of 401 boats. Our Lakes Rangers Mark Dixon and Deb Cutten did a tremendous job at the ramps to ensure that invasive plants are not entering Raymond's lakes and in educating boaters of the importance of inspecting their own boats, props, anchors and trailers when entering and exiting all lakes. Variable milfoil fragments were removed from 10 boats exiting Sebago, and rangers spent time removing fragments that washed up onto Raymond Beach each shift. Be sure to read next month's Road Runner article for more detailed results from the boat inspection program.

**RWPA Milfoil Removal Project
Volunteers Needed
Dingley Brook, Sebago Lake
Sunday, October 17th
No experience necessary
FMI: contact us 671-3329**

Plants For Thomas Pond Property Owners -What A Deal!

Property owners around Thomas Pond are eligible to receive grants for plants on their properties and shoreline areas. The Thomas Pond Conservation Project is nearing completion, and we still have \$1200 left in our plant fund. Here's how the program works:

1. Contact Betty Williams at 856-2777 or betty-williams@me.nacdnet.org.
2. She will visit your property and help you select attractive plants that are suited to your sun and soil conditions.
3. The Grant will split the cost with you – up to \$100.
4. The plants can be delivered directly to your house.
5. You plant the shrubs. This will enhance your property and protect the lake.

We encourage all property owners around the pond and watershed to take advantage of this program and help protect the pond. Everyone's property can use even just a few more plants, and fall is a great time for planting. So don't delay. Contact Betty Williams today at 856-2777 or betty-williams@me.nacdnet.org.

Gray – Answering those Probing Septic Questions

How do I know when my septic system needs to be pumped? Should I buy additives for my septic? How do I know if my system isn't working?

Get the answers to these and other frequently asked questions at a Septic System Workshop for homeowners being held at Stimson Hall in Gray on Thursday, October 7th, at 6:30pm.

The workshop will cover basics including how septic systems work and how to keep them working. Participants will also learn how to extend the life of their septic system and save thousands of dollars. Those attending may also be eligible to receive discounted rates on septic pumping.

The cost of the workshop is \$5. To register for the workshop or for more information, contact Jami Fitch at the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District at 856-2777 or e-mail jami-fitch@me.nacdnet.org.

Raymond School District's Program for Advanced Learning

The seeds for this program were planted two years ago and cultivated by a dedicated group of people that included administrators, teachers, parents, students, and consultants from within and beyond the state of Maine. The program is designed to meet state guidelines for gifted and talented programming while benefiting all students. You will be able to find information about the advanced learning program on the Raymond School District's website in the near future. A brochure is also in the works which will be available at both the Raymond Elementary School and Jordan-Small Middle School. Gail Casson was hired as the consulting teacher for the gifted and talented program and can be reached at either school.

Raymond Schools Support National Denim Day

If you come to school on Friday, October 8, and find that the staff looks a bit more casual than usual, it is because they are participating in Lee National Denim Day. Last year students and staff raised over \$700 to support the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. This year the staffs at the Raymond Elementary School and the Jordan-Small Middle School again invite students to join them by donating \$1 and wearing denim on October 8. All proceeds will benefit breast cancer research, education efforts, and screening and treatment projects in communities around the world.

Food Service Honor Roll

Kim Williams, Raymond School District food service manager, and Tammy Baker, JSMS kitchen manager, recently completed a required sanitation course. We know that our school kitchens are in good hands, as both Kim and Tammy received a perfect score of 100 on a very rigorous final exam. Congratulations to Kim and Tammy!

Final Days To Order Innisbrook Gift Wrap

Innisbrook Wraps presents the ultimate gift wrap collection this fall at the Raymond Elementary School. Our fall Innisbrook sale will end on October 4. Don't miss out on this year's collection!

- *Award Winning Gift Wrap Designs
- *Great Gift Products for Kids of All Ages
- *Gourmet Food and Chocolates Galore

Proceeds from our Innisbrook sale are used to support classroom programs and the Raymond PTA. These funds have had a direct impact on your child's classroom and our school program.

Innisbrook Schools can also order on the web 365 days of the year at www.innisbrook.com. The Raymond Elementary School customer # is 104999. Families and out of town friends can order and re-order over 150 Innisbrook products on-line all year long! Products will be delivered right to your door, and your child's school will receive the 50% profit.

R.E.D. Board Members Needed

The Raymond Extended Day Program is currently seeking new members to be on its Board of Directors. If you have a couple of hours per month to be part of our team, we would love to hear from you. Please write a letter of interest, or contact Kristi Curtis at 655-3203.

Calling All Listeners!

By: Jani Cummings, Title I Literacy Teacher

One of the best ways to show children the importance of reading is to let them read to you. In my years of teaching, I have seen many wonderful technologies emerge, but I don't think there is anything that can ever take the place of that one-to-one time with a child, enjoying a book together. The delight of a first grader as she masters *The Fat Cat Sat on the Mat*; the giggles of a kindergartner's echoing, "I do not like them, Sam-I-am! I do not like green eggs and ham!"; or the tears in a 4th grader's voice as he manfully tells you the ending of *Stone Fox* ...these are the magic moments in education and in life.

In our busy day-to-day, finding that special time to really listen to our children read is difficult, and yet there is no better way to show them how much it matters in everything we do as "grown-ups." Beginning on Friday, October 1, we are starting The Literacy Lounge in my room at RES. After the Opening Assembly (so around 9:15), I would like to have lots of adult listeners come in to listen to a variety of children, K-4, read or share books. Some of them won't be able to read yet, and they might just want to share the beautiful pictures with a caring adult, but the point is that you will be modeling the excitement of reading to a young person who will remember that you took time for them, longer than you can imagine.

ALL listeners are welcome. Retired listeners, parent listeners, teacher listeners, working listeners, famous listeners... ANY listeners. On October 22, Bill Diamond will be a listener. The Literacy Lounge will be open every Friday that we are in school, from 9:15-10:30. Coffee will be served. For further details, or to confirm our calendar, please call Jani Cummings at 655-8672, ext 126; or check the website.

Hope to see you.

Hannaford Helps Raymond Schools

From now through December 24, 2004, you can earn cash for our schools by purchasing the participating General Foods products at Hannaford and earning school dollar certificates at the register. Every purchase of 4 participating products earns our school 3 school dollars. Please turn in your school dollar certificates at the school offices at RES or JSMS. These school dollars will be used by the Raymond PTA to support our school programs. Look for over 750 participating products at your local Hannaford grocery store.

Pre-school Literacy?

Need some information about reading with your child? Want to hear about exciting new and wonderful old books? Jani Cummings, the Lead Literacy Teacher at the Raymond Elementary School, will be having some book and reading talks throughout the school year...before, during, and after the school day.

Call 655-8672, ext 126, if you are interested, and we'll set up a few times to get together.

Boy Scouts to Collect Flags for Retiring and Food Donations for Pantry

Troop 800 Boy Scouts will again be participating in Scouting for Food on Saturday, November 6th. The food collected is used to help the food pantry. This year's event will have a twist. Scouts will also be collecting worn United States flags for the purpose of a proper flag retirement ceremony. Scouts will be canvassing neighborhoods on Saturday morning. If no one visits your area, you may drop off flags or food at Kokatosi Campground between 2-4. A flag collection receptacle will also be located at Raymond Village Community Church from Sunday, November 7, through Tuesday, November 9.

It is anticipated that a flag retiring ceremony open to the public will occur on Veterans Day beginning at 3 pm at Sheri Gagnon Field. Final details will be announced in next month's Raymond Road Runner.

Please Don't Throw Money Away!

Welcome to another great year at our Raymond schools! Last year Raymond schools raised over \$1,800 with the Box Tops for Education program, all from clipping box tops! Our goal is to increase that amount this year with even more ways to earn money, including getting community members and local businesses involved.

The three ways to earn money for our schools are:

CLIP

- Do you buy Progresso soups? Cut out the box top logo.
- Do you buy General Mills (&) cereals? Cut out the box top logo.
- Do you buy Betty Crocker baking mixes and icing? Save the box top logo.
- Clip out box top logos (see above) found on participating products such as General Mills cereals, Pillsbury products, and Betty Crocker baking supplies.
- Each box top earns our schools 10¢. There are collection boxes at the Raymond Elementary School, Jordan-Small Middle School, Town Hall, and the Raymond Village Library for box tops.

BECOME A MEMBER

- One of the easiest ways you can help is to join the Box Tops for Education Booster ClubSM at boxtops4education.com. Signing up takes only a few minutes and our school will receive Box Top credits.
- As a Booster Club member you will receive periodic e-mails including money-saving coupons on Box Top products, recipes, children's book recommendations, and exclusive access to the Box Tops for Education MarketplaceSM, which leads us to the third way you can help earn money for our school...

SHOP ONLINE

- If you or your business shop online, please access your favorite online merchants through the Box Tops Marketplace.
- Up to 8% of each qualifying purchase is donated to our schools.
- It's easy: simply start at boxtops4education.com and go to Box Tops Marketplace. Once registered, you can choose from the over 200 online merchants to access their individual websites.
- Participating merchants include L.L. Bean, Land's End, Staples, Office Max, Sears, JC Penney, eBay, Barnes & Noble.com, and many, many more. Our schools will automatically be credited.

If everyone helps, we can earn more cash for our school than ever before. The money we raise goes to help pay for needed programs and school supplies. Please remember to tell your friends and family near and far to sign up, too, and help us reach our goal by clipping, becoming booster club members, and shopping online through the Box Tops website. More information on these programs is available at www.boxtops4education.com, or you can contact Christina Lamarre with questions at PTA@raymondmaine.org, or 655-3380.

Thank you for making a difference for our schools!



Notes From the Middle of Things

Jordan-Small School

By: Charles Miller, Principal

As September comes to a close Jordan-Small Middle School has started to hum like a well oiled machine. Our soccer teams have remained undefeated, and every player is getting a big kick out of the experience. The field hockey team and the golf team are in full swing. The cross country team is running smoothly. Mr. Elder has a chess club that can't be matched, and the fifth and sixth graders will be having volleyball soon. We have a number of students working on the yearbook and snapping pictures.

Our Parents' Night Open House went well, giving everyone a chance to meet the new staff and to see the great job our staff has done refurbishing the building. We would also like to acknowledge the beautiful flowers and displays around the building which were done by the town Beautification Committee led by Mary McIntyre, Sharon Dodson and including Mary Lentine, Kevin Woodbrey, Paul Lentine, Steve Lentine, and Kyle Woodbrey.

The teachers have been working on their curricula this fall and are preparing for the first installment of state and local assessments to match the Learning Results. The work has been arduous, but the spirit of the teachers is determined and the work is getting done. The goal is to

assess all of our students and to be able to identify student achievement and needs.

Take a look at the calendar for October and note the upcoming sports events. We will be introducing our eighth graders to the choices for high school on the 28th. Don't miss that. There will be two days when school is closed: one for Columbus Day holiday on the 11th and one for parent-student-teacher conferences on the 29th. You might also keep your eye out for the mid-trimester reports coming home near the 22nd of the month.

We are especially interested in gathering input from parents of eighth graders concerning end of the year ceremonies, field trips and other important topics. Contact Debra Martin to help us plan for the first of our parent meetings with the principal. Your contributions are important to us. We also would like to meet with parents of fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students for similar discussions. Please contact us.

Finally, thank you for all the support, both financial and volunteer, that have made this school a better place for kids. We have a two day a week salad bar, a great used television for a classroom, a field hockey program, and many, many other gifts from the community. You truly make the walls of the school stretch out into the community.

"Notes" From The Music Room

Jordan-Small M.S. continues to have high percentages of its students involved in the performing arts. Over one third of the student body participates in band or chorus, or both! The beginner band started the last week of September with 27 fifth graders enrolled. Eighth grade students were offered guitar class as an option to meet the fine arts requirements this year. The class is filled to capacity and very motivated. Some of the seventh and eighth grade chorus and band members are "going the extra mile" to prepare for the Maine Music Educators Honors chorus and band audition in October. Our first concert of the year will be on Thursday, December 9, 2004, in the JSMS gymnasium. We hope to offer new after school enrichment programs in the arts this year thanks to the grant funds secured by Mrs. Davis Stay tuned for more info.

KIDS 2 KIDS Mentoring at JSMS

Early October also brings the sign-up time for Kids 2 Kids, a mentoring program between Jordan-Small Middle School and Raymond Elementary School students. Last year, eight 7th and 8th grade students learned teamwork and mentoring skills by doing creative activities as a group and with their younger friends. Kids 2 Kids meets from 2:00-4:00pm on Mondays this year. After a few weeks of training, JSMS mentors will start weekly meetings with 3rd and 4th graders later in the fall. Do you know a 7th or 8th grader who enjoys being with younger kids and could be a reliable friend and role model? Contact Debra Martin, JSMS Program Facilitator, at 655-4743, ext.143.

Salad Days At JSMS

The JSMS Salad Bar Project is off to a great start! The first couple of Wednesdays and Thursdays saw lots of students lined up to select items from the salad bar. The salad bar is included with hot lunch, but also can be purchased separately at \$.75 for a small salad and \$1.50 for a large salad. Many items have been featured, including pasta salad, croutons, tomatoes, olives, jalapenos, hard boiled eggs, cheese, peas, ham, lettuce,

cucumbers and lots more. We appreciate the donations of produce and croutons, as well as the volunteer help staffing the salad bar – your efforts are truly appreciated by the students and staff at JSMS. Kim, Tammy, Sandie and Jaine from the kitchens are doing a great job getting this project started, and Mr. Dale is assisting with clean up after lunches are over. Give us your feedback, and if you have any extra produce, feel free to bring it by one of the school offices!



RES Principal's Report

By: Norma Richard

The September 14 Parents Night was a great success at the Raymond Elementary School. We had over 200 parents join the professional and support staff for this annual event. I was so pleased to share with both parents and staff our focus on interdependence as we combine both home, school and community resources and efforts to assure that all students are successful. Teachers also appreciated the opportunity to share classroom schedules, grade level topics, and expectations for both work and behavior in their classrooms. I want to thank all of the parents who shared time from their busy schedules to attend Parents Night. Your continuing support of our elementary school program is much appreciated and always valued.

October is Bus Safety month, and we want to remind students, parents, and the community that it takes all of us to assure that your children are transported to and from school safely. Please remember that the school zone is 15 mph when students are being discharged or picked up. Fines double in a school zone and the minimum fine is \$232, so please observe the speed limit when you are leaving our driveway. We also need to remind parents and visitors to always enter the parking lot through the first entrance on the right, the one immediately following the parking sign. This way you will not run the risk of passing through a bus's red lights while it is picking up students at the front entrance. All of our students will be participating in bus safety, including bus evacuations, this month. It is important that you review with your child on a regular basis our bus rules for Safety, Respect, and In Bounds.

I want to recognize the efforts of Paul Godwin, bus supervisor, and our bus drivers for managing a very tough busing schedule each and every day. There may be occasional days during the school year when bus runs are later than normal. This may be due to a late high school run, sports run, or drivers being out and our needing to place students on a different run. If you have a concern about a later than normal run and can not contact the school office, please call the dispatch office at 655-7851. Dispatch is in contact with all of the buses, and the dispatch staff is very helpful in locating children and getting that information to parents.

Parents and community members are encouraged to share their interests, talents and expertise with our students and staff by volunteering. Please complete a volunteer application or call the school office at 655-8672 if you would like to be involved in any way with the Raymond Elementary School volunteer program. I want to thank Lisa Friedlander for spearheading efforts to expand volunteer efforts in both of our schools.

Hebron Academy Honor Roll

The following Raymond students were named to the Hebron Academy Honor Roll in the spring of 2004.

High Honors

Kevin Crockett
Katrina Draper
Cameron Lao-Gosney
Roman Lao-Gosney
Kelly Stanley
Stephen Wisutskie

Honors

Lura DeSorbo
Elliot Watts

Harvest Festival Dinner & Hayride

On Saturday, October 16th, the Raymond Village Community Church at 27 Main Street will offer ham, hot dogs & beans, chili, coleslaw and homemade pies. To get everyone in the mood there will also be a hayride beginning at 4:30pm. Dinner will be served from 5 - 6:30pm. Adults \$5.50, children \$4, or you can feed the whole family plus get a hayride for \$20! A great value! Proceeds will benefit Raymond Village Church programs.

For more information please contact the church office at 655-7749 or via e-mail at rvccme@pivot.net.

Calling all Raymond School District Parents and Community Partners:

We need you! Will you please consider becoming part of the school environment in which Raymond children spend so much of their day? Your time and talents give all our children additional opportunities for meaningful encounters that enhance their learning

experiences. You don't have to be a trained teacher to be a school volunteer; all you need is what you already have - a love for children, an interest in their education, and willingness to help. Any training or instructions you need will be provided. There are a variety of opportunities

available. If you have a special area of interest or talent, please let us know so our children can benefit from your experience. We hope you can find time to volunteer in Raymond Schools this year. You can make a difference!

-Sandra Caldwell, Superintendent

WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY DO TO VOLUNTEER IN THE RAYMOND SCHOOLS?

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| * Listen to children read | * Work with underachievers | * Prepare teaching materials | * Help with special projects in classrooms |
| * Conduct flash card drills | * Help students select library books | * Data entry for homework assignments | * Work with groups to beautify the schools |
| * Provide individual help | * Assist with field trips | * Record grades | * Serve as chaperone at school activities |
| * Assist with learning centers | * Make puppets | * Reinforce learning of alphabet | * Help in cafeteria |
| * Reproduce materials | * Dramatize a story | * Reinforce recognition of numerals | * Help with Salad Bar |
| * Provide technology and computer assistance | * Set up experiments | * Help children learn foreign languages | * Help in office |
| * Play games with students at recess | * Read to children | * Help with handwriting practice | * Fundraising |
| * Grade papers | * Work on perpetual activities | * Assist in the library | * Grant writing |
| * Prepare bulletin boards | * Inventory classroom resources | * Practice math skills | * Teacher appreciation lunch |
| | | * Assist teachers in gathering resources for units of study | |

* Lots of other activities – only limited by your imagination!

RAYMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT Volunteer Application Form

First Name _____ MI ____ Last Name _____

Address _____

Date of Birth _____ Gender M F

Phone (home) _____ (work/cellular) _____

E-mail _____

Do you require any special accommodations in a work environment? Yes No If yes, please describe.

Please indicate what type of volunteer opportunity you are seeking:

___ Academic assistance (i.e. one to one tutor, small group support, classroom assistance)

___ Curriculum enrichment (i.e. drama, arts & crafts, music)

___ Clerical / Non Academic Support (i.e. office support, library support, grant writing)

___ Lunchroom or playground supervision

In order to make an effective match for you, it is important for us to know of any special skills or talents you would like to bring to your volunteer work. If so, please describe.

Is there a particular school in which you are interested in working? If so, please indicate.

___ Elementary School

___ Middle School

___ Outside of School

Please indicate what days and times you have available.

Day(s)

Best time(s)

Volunteers should know that academic and personal information they know about the students should be shared only with the appropriate teachers and school staff. Unless special arrangements are made with the teacher and principal, the teacher should handle all communication with parents and other students. In addition, while we appreciate volunteers speaking to others in the community about their positive work at the school, information about individual students should not be shared and any concerns or problems should be addressed with the appropriate people at the school.

___ I understand the confidentiality policy of the Raymond School District

Signature

Date

ID Verification (Driver's License or other ID with name and birth date) Initials _____

Raymond Baseball/Softball

There will be a meeting on October 13, 2004, at 7 pm at the Jordan-Small Middle School Cafeteria to elect Board members for the Raymond Baseball/Softball Board of Directors. Anyone who is interested in being on the Board of Directors, please attend this meeting. There are openings on the Board. If you cannot attend this meeting and want to be on the Board, please give Teresa a call (655-5411).

Raymond Recreation News

By: Pat Smith

At this writing we are enjoying early fall weather that sure beats the weather of summer for sunshine and beauty! This is great for our fall soccer program that is off and running under the leadership once again of Dana Desjardins and many volunteer coaches. I'd like to remind all who participate that Agawam offers use of their fields to the RRA soccer program through a partnership between Raymond Recreation Association, the town of Raymond, and Camp Agawam.

Fall Karate run by Bushido Karate Dojo and a Drama program directed by Lisa Friedlander are also in full swing.

Watch for notices on plans for an Indoor Swim Program to begin in November for 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders after school on Wednesdays.

We want all who have been involved in the RRA basketball program to know that Dave McGowan and Jeff Weeks are stepping out of leadership roles for that program. At this time no one has come forward to take on the leadership. The RRA Board of Directors offers full support to anyone or to a group who would like to work on a basketball program this winter.

News of the winter ski programs is printed elsewhere in this edition of the Road Runner.

We anticipate another successful year of recreational programming. You may join by volunteering time in a support role or in coaching. For our major fundraiser, we will be selling oranges and grapefruit again this year in time for Christmas.

If you have any questions or want to volunteer, please call Pat Smith at 655-4657.

Raymond Recreation Winter Sports Signup

Raymond Recreation winter sport signups Wednesday, Nov. 3, from 6-8pm at the Jordan-Small Middle School gym.

- Tuesday Skiing (Grades 5-8) Director Beth Clark (627-3173)
- Wednesday Skiing (Grades 3-4) Director Bob Murray
- Friday Skiing (Grades 7-12) Director Peter Walgreen (627-4504)
- Basketball

Turn The Things Sitting In Your Garage Into Tax Deductions!

The PTA has developed a giving tree program where the teachers request things they need for their classrooms. Usually they spend their own personal money for these things not covered in the school budget. Maybe you can help.

- Do you know anyone who has a wheel chair but no longer needs it?
The middle school needs one
- Are you upgrading your electronics?
The middle school needs a 27" TV for viewing health videos.
The elementary school music program is looking for a TV, video camera and VCR to record and play back classroom music performances.
- Are you redoing your living room and giving away old throw pillows?
The middle school is looking to create a comfortable place for reading in a classroom and wants a few throw pillows.
- Do you have extra middle school age appropriate novels collecting dust on your shelves?
We have a 5th grade teacher and a new 8th grade teacher in the middle school who are both trying to build their classroom libraries.

Please take a moment to check out this link and see if you have any of the things they need: www.raymondmaine.org/civic_groups/pta/default.htm

Feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions.
Leigh Walker 655-2135 or pta@raymondmaine.org

Sea The World - Read

Students at the Raymond Elementary School were greeted at the start of this school year with a beautiful new blue wall in the library. Mrs. Keef, with the help of Mrs. Lisa Schadler, is transforming this wall into a sea display. For every three books that students read, or have read to them, students will get a fish to put in the "sea." When they get ten fish, they will get a bonus sea creature to add to this display. We want each child to add to this display and to "SEA THE WORLD" by reading lots of books this year.

"Walk your Child to School Day"

Representative Joe Bruno encourages citizens of Raymond and surrounding communities to join others around the world in celebration of "Walk Your Child to School Day" Wednesday, October 6.

According to Representative Bruno October 4-8 has been designated International Walk to School Week. Each October, millions of children, parents, teachers and community leaders across the globe walk to school to celebrate International Walk to School Day. Many communities are transitioning from a single day to a week-long celebration of bringing visibility to walking and biking conditions and inspiring positive change.

"This event serves as an opportunity to focus on the importance of physical activity," said Representative Bruno. "It enhances the health of kids and adults, while improving air quality and the environment by reducing car trips to school. It also reminds parents and children of the enjoyment and benefits of simply walking. If you live too far from your child's school to walk, drive part of the distance, then park and walk the rest!"

"Not only is walking to school with your children healthy, it creates some private time to actually talk with our children that we normally do not have in the morning rush to get to school and work," said Representative Bruno.

In 2003 all 50 states, along with Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, participated in Walk to School Day. An estimated 3000 schools in the United States participated in the 2003 event.

Walk to School activities can become a catalyst for ongoing efforts to increase safe walking and bicycling all of the time. For more information visit www.walktoschool-usa.org.

3RD ANNUAL RAYMOND PTA HOLIDAY FAIR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2004
6:00 - 7:30 PM
RAYMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Holiday SHOPPING
A HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP
ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN
ALL GIFTS - \$2
SHOP FOR FAMILIES, FRIENDS
AND PETS!
PROCEEDS BENEFIT YOUR PTA

CAKE WALK
JOIN THE FUN AND WIN A CAKE!!!!!!!

THANKSGIVING PIE SALE
YUMMY DESSERTS FOR
THANKSGIVING
COME EARLY FOR THE BEST
SELECTION

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR
SHOP FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR
FAMILY AND FRIENDS
(BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS
FOR TEACHERS!)

MOVIES
STOP IN FOR A FREE MOVIE
AND POPCORN

HOLIDAY FUN FOR YOUR FAMILY

Annual Raymond Fire/Rescue Department Haunted House

Camp Hinds
Halloween night
Oct. 31st from 6pm - 9pm

Free admission for all Raymond kids and their families!

Camp Hinds is on the Plains Road.

Please bring a flashlight and come prepared to be spooked!

Sponsored by the Raymond Fire / Rescue members with support from Boy Scout Troop 800 and local businesses!

Registered Nurses Wanted to Sub at the Raymond Schools. If interested, please contact Jerilyn Ward at 655-8672 ext:402

Thank You

How do you say thank you to a person and his family who contributed so much to the town of Raymond over nearly 30 years?

Thank you, Rick, for being an integral part of our community. Your generosity and friendship has meant a lot to us. Good luck with all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely, the Martin Family
Michael, Debra, Valerie and Patrick

Mentoring Floats into Fourth Year

The Raymond Mentoring Partnership is kicking off another program year with an October paddle trip on the Tenny River. One of our goals is to help our mentoring pairs experience what the community has to offer. In the process, we hope the mentees have fun learning about canoeing with their mentor, gain a bit of confidence by trying something new, and come away with a greater appreciation of our beautiful natural resources.

Mentors, who range from high school students to "grandparents," will continue to meet with their mentees for an hour or two a week over the school year. The pairs plan their one on one time with support from us, and we plan occasional group events to bring everyone together. For more information about mentoring in the Raymond Schools, call Lori Rand at RES: 655-8672, ext. 107.

Savings At The Library

Continued from page 2

I know no one likes to be called "average" - and I hope in this case, you were way above the typical household in the amount you determined you could save or do save by using the library. There can also be a significant difference, perhaps twofold or more, between your actual savings by borrowing rather than purchasing items when compared to the value of the services you receive - whether books, magazines, videos, music, puzzles or audio books. What wasn't mentioned was that certain benefits of using the library come without a price tag - helping to instill the love of reading and learning in children and pursuing that same joy in adulthood. Another "priceless" (a.k.a. "free") benefit of the library is bringing you together with others in the community.

The buying power of the library was also previously cited. With available discounts of up to 44% on most items in the adult collection and 22-44% savings in the children's area, the library gets tremendous value for each dollar it spends to update the collection. The library can purchase more items for the same amount of money than you can, than your neighbor can, than I can. If you, your neighbor and I each contribute to the library's Annual Appeal just a portion of what we save by using library services, not only do we each benefit but the whole community does as well . . . and your contributions are tax deductible.

Because the Raymond Village Library is a non-profit organization, donations to the library are tax deductible. It's not just the Annual Appeal donation or other direct monetary donations that are tax deductible. Donations of gently used books, videos, audio tapes, children's books, jigsaw puzzles, and music CDs also qualify. The library staff will gladly provide you with a form for filing with your income tax on the value you declare for the donated items.

Need tax forms during the filing season? Need tax forms to complete during an extension period? Look no further than your library for assistance - it stocks both federal and state tax forms. And from Feb to April 15th next year, a library near you could save you money with free tax counseling and free preparation of forms through the Tax-Aide program. As in the past, Raymond Village Library will have literature on the program available early in the tax season.

As we've learned in this series, all borrowers of library materials realize savings, and tax deductible donations to the non-profit, non-municipal Raymond Village Library give an excellent return on the donor's "investment" due to the library's buying power. While working on this series of articles, I learned, as I hope you have, that regardless of the amount my family and I have given in the past to the library, the library has always given us more in return. I'll be thinking of that when responding to the library's Annual Appeal in the next several months. Won't you?

Comprehensive Plan Continued from page 1

You can find a copy of the Plan on the Town's website. Or you can pick up a hard copy at the Town Office or at the Raymond Village Library. They've been circulating for months. All of this has been aired at three public hearings over the past year. And all of your comments were evaluated. Many of those comments led to changes in the Plan that will soon be before voters.

In the words of one of America's great philosophers, Yogi Berra,

"The future ain't what it used to be."

Sometimes, even when we know where we want to go, we wind up somewhere else. When the Town's present Comprehensive Plan was first written in the early 1990s, the committee that authored it did its best to put forward tools and suggestions for managing and directing the growth that was ahead from then to now. That committee was made up of many talented, experienced community volunteers who listened to the community and who worked diligently to create a plan for the 1990s. Unfortunately, growth management tools were still pretty new at that time. Raymond was primed for continuing as one of Southern Maine's fastest growing communities. The growth continued to happen. And we're still growing at a pace that causes concern.

What was particularly surprising to all of us about the original plan was that more than 70% of Raymond's subsequent growth occurred outside of the parts of town in which the Plan attempted to direct the growth. The reason? Nearly 80% of our growth was the result of citizens who broke off a lot from a larger parcel that they owned and then sold these lots off as single house lots. That seems innocent enough. After all, what is one more house lot in the community? But, "just one more lot" is where our growth came from. Your neighbor probably did it. Your neighbor's neighbor did it. You might have even done it yourself. Mostly, those lots didn't require Planning Board review or approval. That is the price that a community pays for the right of some of its citizens to do whatever they want. Now, where once there were majestic meadows, pristine forests, and scenic views, there are houses. And with those houses have come more people, more traffic, more burdens on municipal services, and higher taxes for all of our citizens.

As your Comprehensive Plan Committee started along this journey of creating a plan for the next ten years, it was apparent to your committee that the final document needed to reflect the community's views. An effective Comprehensive Plan is not a committee's plan. It should reflect a community's vision. Our mission was to put your opinions and your vision of tomorrow down on paper, consolidate the opinions, and then suggest tools to help us reach where the majority of us want to go.

Getting there won't be easy. This is about assuring future generations that the Raymond we all love and call home will be here for them also. It's about stewarding Raymond as a great place to raise families and a great place for kids to come back home to. It's about keeping the living affordable so that our citizens won't have to sell their homes and move because they can no longer afford to live here.

"Nobody goes there anymore; it's too crowded."
Yogi Berra.

There is a price to pay for maintaining what makes Raymond so special. The tools to manage change aren't always popular. There will always be individuals who feel that they have something taken away from them any time that their the community strives to act for its betterment. But a comprehensive plan for tomorrow is about all of the community, and not just about a few of its people. This is a time when differences need to be set aside and compromises reached for the overall benefit of the community and for future generations. How can we possibly expect not to look like other more crowded communities, if we don't act to preserve the treasures that we still have?

A brief history of the process...

This process began by what might be the Town's first ever mailing to all stakeholders. We wrote and mailed a newsletter to every Raymond resident, every Raymond taxpayer, and every known Raymond business. That newsletter invited every stakeholder to follow the Committee's

KeyBank's "Neighbors Make the Difference Day"

By: Sharon Dodson, Beautification Committee Member

On Tuesday, September 14, Raymond KeyBank employees Jeff Myers, Susan Lowberg and June Palmer spent the afternoon weeding gardens, turning mulch and removing litter in the recently improved Route 302 business district. "Neighbors Make the Difference Day" is an opportunity for people who work at the bank to reach out to the community in innovative ways and get to know their town from a little different perspective. On this their 15th annual "Neighbors Make the Difference Day," they joined 8,500 KeyBank volunteers who participated in more than 800 projects nationwide. That's a donation of 34,000 hours and more than \$1 million in salaries.

The Raymond Beautification Committee sincerely appreciates the generous contribution of time and hard work made by KeyBank and their employees. When a community looks neat and well maintained, it is more inviting to visitors and creates a pleasant atmosphere for residents. We are also very grateful to the members of Boy Scout Troop 800 who worked many hours last month bark mulching and edging the gardens at JSMS and RES; students, staff and visitors are greeted by cheerful surroundings as the school year begins.

The results of the Beautification Committee's recent "survey" visits to the Route 302 businesses have been very positive, with approximately one third of the managers or owners agreeing to adopt garden spaces adjacent to their locations or offering to make a donation toward their maintenance. Participation of volunteers, businesses and community groups will ensure the long term future of the project. If you, or any group with whom you are associated, are interested in adopting a garden for a season, weeding for a few hours or contributing funds for materials/plants/tools, please contact Mike McClellan, committee chairman, during the day at 647-

progress through the Town's website, through a special e-mail list, as well as to attend the meetings. Very importantly, it announced several neighborhood meetings. Everyone with a stake in the future of our community was invited to attend one or more of these meetings. We also surveyed residents at the Town Meeting in 2002.

Here is a summary of what those of you who took time to share your feelings shared with us at those meetings:

- **You love the natural resources in our community, specifically the lakes and ponds;**
- **You love the rural feeling that Raymond offers you when compared to communities that are closer to Portland**
- **You love the open space and appreciate not having buildings and homes built up throughout the community.**
- **You feel that we have excellent fire and safety protection and you are proud of our public schools.**

The most overwhelming concern that you shared with us was about growth—trying to manage it, so that it doesn't manage us. With growth comes encroachment into our backyards, overcrowded public services, congested roads, threats to the natural resources such as our lakes and drinking water, and, of course, higher and higher taxes.

You expected us to come up with solutions to help manage the growth so that we can all preserve what we love about our community.

As the Comprehensive Plan process advanced, committee members surveyed residents at the 2003 Town Meeting. You were asked for your opinion on a variety of growth management tools. What you told us more than anything was that you felt it was time for our community to initiate a building cap and to try other tools to help direct and manage the growth. You wanted the community to put in place policies to preserve our open spaces, forests, and natural resources before they were forever turned into house lots. You wanted us to assure that our lakes and ponds would remain clean and that our drinking water would be safe. You wanted to live in a community where your children could receive a quality education and where you could feel safe from the crimes of more populated areas.

Along the way, you were invited to attend regional meetings in which State and County "experts" discussed what other communities around the region and country are doing to address similar concerns. You were invited to interact with leaders from other neighboring communities who were in the process of updating their plans also.



Left to right: KeyBank employees Jeff Myers, June Palmer and Susan Lowberg

8104. By working together, we can all "make a difference."

And of course, you were invited to attend our own meetings.

This past winter we sent our draft plan to the State Planning Office for its required review. That was the next to final step after three years of gathering and evaluating community input while attempting to address just about everything we could imagine for Raymond's future. The State requested some small changes. Those changes were made and shared with the community at another public forum last month. Now there is a final document that we put forth for the community to ratify and approve.

"If the world were perfect, it wouldn't be." Yogi Berra

I believe that I speak for every Committee member when I write that not one of us feels that this is a perfect document. Far from it. Every one of us had favorite items that didn't pass the vote of the majority of members and also saw items included that we didn't like. The will of the majority is what prevailed. Now in our fourth year, there has come a time when the Plan needs approval so that work can begin. While we deliberate upon small differences, the growth continues at near record levels and threatens what we love so dearly about our community.

Please come and be part of the plan for Raymond's future.

**Special Town Meeting
Thursday, October 14, 7pm
Jordan-Small Middle School**

We sincerely hope that you will join us to help approve the Plan. This is your community's plan for the future. Will your vote make a difference? It is not uncommon for special interests to show up and vote against something that is in their own interest, but not necessarily that of the community. Not all plans pass. Based upon attendance at prior Town Meetings, it's logical to expect that attendance at this Special Town Meeting will be somewhere between 100-400 citizens. That is out of more than 2,000 citizens who are eligible to vote. A simple majority of those in attendance is all that it takes to determine our future. Please be among the 51% or more who assure a bright future for us, our families and our community.

Thank you, Raymond, for all of your support. Please remember to thank your Committee members for all of the time and devotion that they have so unselfishly given toward this effort for more than three years. Working together we are indeed an incredible community!