

# The Raymond RoadRunner

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## Getting Ready for Presidential Election 2008

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

The Presidential Primary will be June 10, 2008, and anyone wanting to vote in the primary must be enrolled in a party. If you are listed as unenrolled, commonly known as an "independent," you will not be able to vote in the Presidential Primary. Currently the official parties are Democrat, Republican, and Green Independent. Each party will have its own primary ballot. If you are in a party, that is the only ballot you will receive i.e. a Republican will get a Republican ballot and not the Democratic or Green Independent. Therefore, if you wish to vote for a candidate not in your current party, it will be necessary for you to join that party prior to the Presidential Primary.

A voter must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age at the time of the Presidential Election (17-year-olds who will be 18 prior to November 4, 2008, can vote in the June Primary), must have established and must maintain a voting residence in Raymond, must be registered to vote in Raymond, and must be enrolled in a party.

An unenrolled voter may select a party at any time including on the Primary day. A party-enrolled voter must change his party not less than 15 days prior to the Primary day. Therefore, this year if you want to change parties, you will have to do it before Monday, May 26, 2008. If you have declared or changed to a party for the June Primary, you must remain in that party for 3 months before making any further party changes.

To vote in the November 4, 2008, Presidential Election, anyone of any party or unenrolled can vote for any candidate they wish regardless of party affiliation.

**Town Office  
Holiday Schedule  
New Year's Day  
Closed  
Tuesday, January 1st**

## Raymond Rabies Clinic

Saturday, January 19, 2008  
1pm to 3pm  
at the Town Office  
401 Webbs Mills Road  
(Route 85)

Eric Riddell, DVM, and his staff from Jordan Bay Animal Hospital will be administering the vaccinations. The fee is \$10 cash per dog or cat. They will give you a certificate of Rabies Vaccination which will be your only record of vaccination. Town staff will be on hand to license dogs for 2008.

A representative from Blue Seal Feeds in South Windham will attend with free samples of dog and cat food, as well as lots of information about pet nutrition.

For more information call the Town Office at 655-4742 or e-mail [louise.lester@raymondmaine.org](mailto:louise.lester@raymondmaine.org).

## Youngest Blue Belt

By Jani Cummings

On Monday, December 10, first-grader Miles Chapman achieved a great honor. After working very hard to learn 4 difficult kadas (karate routines), which he performed for an entire class of karate students and on-lookers, Miles was awarded his blue belt by his teacher, Sensei Lisa Mageira of BKD Fitness in Casco. Miles, who is 7, is the youngest blue belt in RES and the youngest blue belt in the Casco dojo. As part of his training, Miles had to do the "Dragon 50," which is doing his kadas 50 times each! Miles is the son of Will and Holly Chapman, who live on Tenny Hill.



## January Is National Mentoring Month!

**One individual can make a powerful difference in the life of another – a difference beyond measure. Who mentored you? Perhaps a teacher? A coach? A neighbor? A caring adult? Take a moment this month to thank your mentors.**

*Become a mentor! You can help Raymond youth to make positive connections to our community, build social and life skills, explore personal or career goals, and experience a wide variety of new activities. To learn more about mentoring, call Christina or Candace at **Raymond Mentoring Partnership**, 655- 8672, ext. 107.*



### Road Runner Articles

Articles for the next edition of the *Road Runner* newsletter are due by **Thursday, January 24th**. Please provide them by any of the following methods:

#### E-Mail; CD/DVD; Paper

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

### Road Runner Staff:

John Hanley      Laurie Forbes  
Norma Richard      Kevin Woodbrey

### Visit Us on the Web

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

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

<http://www.raymondmaine.org>

On-line services now include:

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

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

# Raymond Village Library News

## At a Glance

- Wednesday, January 2 – Storytimes resume
- Wednesday, January 30 – Book Discussion Group

## Storytimes

The children's storytimes will resume on January 2 after the short holiday break. Chrissy Zidle is the Storytime Coordinator, and the library hums with excitement, music and laughter Monday and Wednesday mornings when the "little ones" gather with parents and caregivers to share in the fun.

On Mondays at 10am is Babytime; then at 11am the Preschoolers come for their turn to see friends and hear new stories. On Wednesdays we have two storytimes for Toddlers; one at 10am and another at 11am. At this time the 10am group is filled, but there is room in the 11am session. Please call the library at 655-4283 to get more information. These are wonderful programs for the youngsters, and we'd like all children to be able to enjoy them.

## Book Group

This discussion group will meet Wednesday, January 30, to share their opinions on Peter Mayle's book *A Good Year*. We invited anyone who is interested in attending to ask for the book at the library and join us in this discussion. Please call the library for more information.

## Thank You

The Holiday Bake Sale was a wonderful success. It raised almost \$400 this year for the library. We wish to thank the organizers, the workers and the bakers who gave their time and imagination in festively packaging and arranging the goodies prepared for this event. We especially wish to thank those who purchased the special treats. We count on all of you to make this a successful fundraiser, and you never let us down. Many, many thanks and best wishes for a very happy, healthy New Year to all.

## Annual Appeal

We also want to thank all those who have so generously responded to the library's Annual Appeal. The appeal is still going on, and there is time to make your tax -deductible donation. Your support allows us to continue to provide enjoyment, information and learning for patrons for all ages.

## Compost Bin Order Deadline April 11th

You have until April 11th to place your order for the Maine Resource Recovery Association compost bin sale. Orders will be taken at the Town Office at \$37.50 each (tax included). Checks should be written to "MRRA" (Maine Resource Recovery Association).



These bins have a 10-year warranty and are made of 100% recycled black plastic. They are approximately a 40-gallon size, 35" high and 33" wide. It is estimated that Raymond residents can save \$95 for every ton of waste they compost.



A covered kitchen scrap pail is also available for \$8 each.

And there is a new component of the composter, the wingdigger. This is a wand designed to stir the compost inside the bin. The price is \$16.50.

All these items are displayed at the Town Office.

These items will be available for delivery on or about May 10th.

For order blanks and ordering, please contact:

Louise Lester, Town Clerk  
 Raymond Town Office  
 401 Webbs Mills Road  
 Raymond, Maine 04071  
 655-4742 ext. 21  
 louise.lester@raymondmaine.org

## Are Your Outside Animals Comfortable?

Winter brings with it special problems for your animals that live at least part of the day outdoors. The advent of cold temperatures, the possibility of a wet environment, lack of protection from the wind, and the inability to have adequate water and food to keep them in weight are an animal's greatest adversaries in the winter.

Animals' needs don't change from summer to winter; they just get different. Whether it's a dog or cat, horse, cow or llama, they all need enough water to keep them hydrated and enough food to provide calories to keep them from losing weight. They also need shelter from the rain, snow and wind. When the weatherman talks about wind chill and temperature, that affects your animals as well. All animals also need enough room to move around especially in the cold. If you've ever stood outside waiting for a bus, you know how miserable cold and wind can be. Most animals can, if allowed, grow a wonderful winter coat, but once that hair/fur gets wet it can no longer insulate the animal and the animal will get cold very fast. If your pets don't grow a heavy coat or they live indoors most of the time, be assured that not even a nice, warm-looking blanket can keep them warm enough if they must stay outdoors in adverse conditions.

Remember that all animals need exercise. You will have happier pets if they are allowed some time outdoors to run and play, as long as they don't become cold. If you find your pet shivering, its body is trying to create heat to increase its core temperature. The shivering will use mega calories which must be replaced if the pet is to maintain his weight. Fresh water is also imperative so that the pet's body can maintain its functions. Without enough water, the pet can't digest its food, even if it gets lots of it.

Another consideration to those who use the electric underground fencing is that pets are insulated from the ground by the snow, and electronic fencing becomes inadequate or totally nonfunctioning. Alternate restraint may become necessary to keep them from straying.

# January 2008

## Events and Meeting Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>FB</b> =Fire Barn <b>JS</b> =Jordan-Small <b>KC</b> =Kokatosi Campgnd <b>PS</b> =Public Safety Bldg. <b>RE</b> =Raymond Elementary <b>CL</b> =Casco Library <b>TBD</b> =To Be Determined	<b>SG</b> =Sheri Gagnon <b>TG</b> =Town Garage RT85 <b>TH</b> =Town Hall <b>VL</b> =Village Library <b>VC</b> =Village Church <b>VT</b> =Village Tennis <b>BC</b> =Broadcast Studio	<b>1</b> <b>NEW YEARS DAY</b> <b>TOWN OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	<b>2</b> <b>10:00AM VL</b> Library Toddlertime Session I <b>11:00AM VL</b> Library Toddlertime Session II	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>10:00AM VL</b> Library Babytime <b>11:00AM VL</b> Library Preschool Storytime	<b>8</b> <b>7:00PM BC</b> Selectmen's Meeting	<b>9</b> <b>10:00AM VL</b> Library Toddlertime Session I <b>11:00AM VL</b> Library Toddlertime Session II <b>7:00PM BC</b> Planning Board	<b>10</b> <b>7:00PM BC</b> TENTATIVE One Raymond Committee	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>10:00AM VL</b> Library Babytime <b>11:00AM VL</b> Library Preschool Storytime <b>7:00PM BC</b> Budget/Finance Committee	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>10:00AM VL</b> Library Toddlertime Session I <b>11:00AM VL</b> Library Toddlertime Session II	<b>17</b> <b>7:00PM BC</b> Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee <b>7:00PM BC</b> Budget/Finance Committee	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>1:00 - 3:00PM TH</b> <b>RABIES CLINIC</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>10:00AM VL</b> Library Babytime <b>11:00AM VL</b> Library Preschool Storytime	<b>22</b> <b>7:00PM BC</b> Selectmen's Meeting	<b>23</b> <b>10:00AM VL</b> Library Toddlertime Session I <b>11:00AM VL</b> Library Toddlertime Session II	<b>24</b> <b>7:00PM BC</b> Building Committee <b>7:00 PM TH</b> Cemetery Committee <b>ROADRUNNER DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE ARTICLES</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>10:00AM VL</b> Library Babytime <b>11:00AM VL</b> Library Preschool Storytime	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>7:00PM VL</b> Book Discussion Group	<b>31</b> <b>7:00PM BC</b> Conservation Commission Meeting		

## Board of Selectmen Minutes

Town of Raymond

**Tuesday, October 16, 2007**

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

SELECTMEN ABSENT: None.

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Don Willard, Town Manager; and Will Cook, Assistant Code Enforcement Officer.

OTHERS: Many children and several mothers interested in the possible skateboard park and Barbara Loux, Jordan Small Middle School teacher; and Laurie Salamone.

1 Call to order. Mark Gendron called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm at the Broadcast Studio.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting dated October 2, 2007.

MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to approve the minutes. Seconded by Joe Bruno. CORRECTION: Mike Reynolds asked that on page 2 at the bottom under One Raymond that the wording be improved to show that the One Raymond Committee recommended that the department heads report to the Selectmen and Budget Finance Committee on a regular basis.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

3. New business:

a. Conversation regarding the land offered for the skateboard park effort – Raymond Skateboard Committee.

DISCUSSION: Barbara Loux explained that they had an offer from Tim Davison to lease a piece of his land off the North Raymond Road to Raymond for 5 years at no charge. She asked for the Selectmen's permission to proceed with the work. She noted that Pete Marcinuk said the land was suitable for the park and also security because it's close to the road. She asked about Cumberland County prisoners set up the half pipe. Mr. Marcinuk felt the half pipe might have to be cut down a bit for the children's skill level. Mr. Gendron suggested that their strategic obstacles could possibly be overcome with help on information and tips from a man from Windham who helped build Windham's park. This man said for security it should be in a populated area, not a rural one. Raymond's insurance carrier said they couldn't cover it if it was on private property. There is some town owned land which might be available. Mr. Willard said that having a landowner held harmless is almost impossible and would be very expensive. The park would need to be approved by the Raymond Zoning Board of Appeals and opposition to the plan by neighbors would be very detrimental to their approval. Mr. Gendron added that fund raising would have to be active before plans can be advanced. Mr. Willard said that land use would have to be approved by the Planning Board. Mr. Taylor added that the park would be built in phases, and the original site should be the final location. Mr. Willard suggested a reserve account with the school or town for the donations to be tax deductible and overseen by the finance office. Mr. Bruno asked if they had talked with the school committee. Mrs. Loux replied yes and they weren't interested. Mr. Marcinuk identified a piece of school property near the soccer field which he felt was his first choice. Mrs. Loux said that she would be talking with them again. Laurie Salamone asked for a list of what they needed to do. Mr. Reynolds handed her the suggested "to do" list from last year. Mr. Willard added that he would begin by helping them set a time line and set goals. Mr. Gendron charged the interested kids with getting their parents, grandparents, and friends involved in order to get this built. Mr. Gendron thanked Mr. Cook for his memo concerning this issue. Mr. Cook felt that no matter where the location is, the abutters would probably be the biggest roadblock.

b. Change to Raymond's fire Alarm System Ordinance – Chairman Mark Gendron. DISCUSSION: Mr. Gendron explained that there needs to be an ordinance change for the dispatch relocation. This may require a special town meeting to approve this change so that it is in force prior to our total shift to the Naples Dispatch. This could be done prior to a regular Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Willard felt that temporarily it could be a Selectmen policy change until a town meeting could be arranged. Mr. Reyn-

olds said it had been discussed and ratified through the budget passed at the last annual town meeting and could be a policy change now and prepare it for the annual town meeting warrant.

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the change in the Alarm System Ordinance, and then have it ratified at the next annual town meeting. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

c. Discussion on setting the date for the next municipal election and Annual Town Meeting – Town Clerk Louise H. Lester. DISCUSSION: There was discussion about whether to have the public town meeting prior to or after the election.

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to have the ballot election Tuesday, June 10, 2008. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

NOTE: Mr. Reynolds said his preference was Saturday, June 7th for the open town meeting. The other Selectmen concurred.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Mr. Gendron announced that the Selectmen have been invited to the November 7, 2008 School Board meeting beginning at 6:30 pm to discuss their quarterly finance report. They will also be discussion about the air quality project at JSMS which will have implications in this year's budget and possibly their need for undesignated surplus funds.

d. Discussion of bulky waste program's coupon booklets – Town Clerk

Louise H. Lester DISCUSSION: The Selectmen felt that they would maintain the budget as it stands and would not print further coupon booklets. Mr. Bruno felt that if the LRBWF couldn't run with the revenues coming in, maybe they should not keep the facility. Mr. Willard said that there was going to be a meeting tomorrow at the Public Safety Building to talk about the facility's financial planning for the future given what the coupon system has shown in savings to Raymond.

e. School consolidation information update – Selectmen Joe Bruno DISCUSSION: Mr. Bruno said it was crunch time and people are wary in which way the school consolidation choice will go. Westbrook and Windham have combined \$17 to \$18 million in debt, and he didn't want Raymond to pick up any of this debt because our voters didn't ratify it. He said the Legislature has to deal with the problems in the current law before we can go forward.

4. Old (unfinished) business.

a. None.

5. Town Manager Report and Communications.

a. ICMA Convention

Mr. Willard reported it was a very productive use of time.

b. Western Maine Town Manager meeting.

Mr. Willard attended the WMTM meeting today with Commissioner of Education Susan Gendron as speaker. He said that she related among other facts that a town would not have to pick up debt incurred by the other towns prior to consolidation.

c. MMA Legislative Policy Committee.

Mr. Bruno said his presentation to this group was not well received. He felt that it was planned that he not be given time for his whole presentation. There was discussion about the Selectmen's negative view of the MMA Legislative Policy Committee.

6. Fiscal Warrants – Payroll and Appropriation Warrants – October 16, 2007.

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to accept the Treasurers Warrant in the amount of \$1,183,273.54. He noted this included bond payments and the County Tax.

Seconded by Joe Bruno.

VOTE: 3 in favor (Bruno, Taylor, Desjardins) 2 opposed (Gendron, Reynolds)

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$39,517.36. Seconded by Joe Bruno.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gendron reported that they had

notice from County about their dispatch services. Mr. Reynolds related that County had given a presentation to GPCOG for their bond issues being voted on November 6th. He said that they explained that the communication funding was for the Sheriff's Department to cover current dead zones with towers and a microwave system. They also said that it would allow better communications from and to member towns for emergency situations.

County's current budget includes the payments for the debt to be voted on with a split of 40% to the Sheriff's Department and 60% to the dispatch. Mr. Desjardins said that the microwave system will be a redundant system in case the original system fails.

Mr. Gendron noted a vote to increase the number of Cumberland County Commissioners. He felt that there had been very little publicity to date about this election item.

He continued that the bond issue on the County Jail infirmary was mentioned because the current facility is too small. He also noted that Mercy Hospital would not be charging by Medicaid rate but full rate for the jail. Mr. Bruno felt it was a safety issue as well.

Mr. Reynolds asked to have an agenda item the second meeting of the month for the GPCOG update.

7. Adjournment.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Joe Bruno.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

ADJOURNMENT: Mark Gendron adjourned the meeting at 8:47 pm.

Louise H. Lester Town Clerk

**Tuesday, November 20, 2007**

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

SELECTMEN ABSENT: Dana Desjardins

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Don Willard, Town Manager; Hugh Coxe, Town Planner; and Will Cook, Assistant Code Enforcement Officer.

OTHERS: Marshall Bullock and Charles Leavitt

1 Call to order. Mark Gendron called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm at the Broadcast Studio.

2 Minutes of previous meeting dated October 16, 2007

MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor

DISCUSSION: Mr. Reynolds said that he had trouble following the discussion about the skateboard agenda item that the paragraph was hard to read. No direction needed.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

3. New business:

a. Interview appointment budget/Finance Committee vacancy – candidates Charles Leavitt and Marshall Bullock.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Leavitt added to his submitted resume and noted linkage to the community through his previous municipal positions. He emphasized how the budget is involved with all community affairs and how the budget will affect the human element in the town. He wanted to work through any differences of the elected bodies for the good of the town. Mr. Bruno asked what his fiscal outlook and plan for the future of the town was. Mr. Leavitt felt there was more cohesion in the town than before and saw any programs and committees coming together for the betterment of the town. He added that long term planning was a necessity in all parts of the municipality. He felt he was a minimalist for public services and agreed that this appointment would be to the next municipal election. He felt that looking forward five years was more helpful than further out i.e. ten years. Mr. Reynolds asked if he would be running at the next election for this position. Mr. Leavitt believed his future was in Raymond, and he would continue to keep his interest and volunteerism here.

Marshall Bullock wanted to contribute to the community. He said he had some fresh ideas and energy. He felt that controlled growth is necessary. He indicated that if he were an asset, he would consider running for a position on the Budget/Finance Committee. Mr. Bullock gave a recitation of his resume upon request from the Selectmen.

All the Selectmen said it was a hard choice to make but this appointment would only be until the next election in 2008. They encouraged both candidates to run for office in the 2008 municipal election.

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to appoint Charles Leavitt to fill out the term of this position. Seconded by Mike Reynolds. VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

- b. Department Head Quarterly Reports – Contract Planner Hugh Coxe and Town Clerk Louise Lester

DISCUSSION: Hugh Coxe, contract planner, reviewed his written report. He noted that Karen Strout, Code Enforcement secretary, is invaluable to the department. Land Use and Subdivision updates are being reviewed for necessary changes. The Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC) has been focusing on the Commercial Zone looking at greater density and design guidelines. Open Space planning is also a part of their work. An open space presentation will be December 5, 2007. Conditional rezoning for the Busque house-a-minium development is also in the near future. He reviewed the budget objectives. He noted the long term goals as: electronic submissions, user friendly presented ordinances, consensus building with developers (briefing and discussion of new plans), and review and preparation for update of the 2004 Comprehensive Plan. He added that they need a new Planning Board member to fill a recent resignation. Mr. Reynolds asked if any new trends need consideration which we're not dealing with at this time. Mr. Coxe said there were two he could think of: 1) consensus approach for land use issues i.e. conditional rezoning and involve all people concerned with the application before the engineering begins; 2) forms of development should be considered which allow for more open space i.e. conservation subdivisions.

Mrs. Lester noted that the clerk's office is doing its best to serve the municipality. All deputy clerks are cross-trained to accomplish the work. Almost every duty has at least two clerks who can do the job i.e. BMV, IF&W, Animal Welfare, and other reports to the state. Rita Theriault is learning some of the duties of treasurer, Donna Lovely is the Deputy Tax Collector but the other clerks can accept tax payments and answer some tax questions. The Voter Registrar is Louise Murray, and Rita Theriault and Mrs. Lester are Deputy Voter Registrars. Mrs. Lester coordinates elections and town meetings.

- c. Proposed road names policy – Assistant Code Officer Will Cook

DISCUSSION: Will Cook presented the proposal including road name changes rather than just naming new roads. He felt that road name changes could be dealt with twice a year (June and December), and new development/subdivision road names would be done as needed to cover E911 and postal obligations.

MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to approve the road name policy change. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor. VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

- d. Public hearing – Consideration of adoption of 2007-2008 General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices.

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to adopt the 2007-2008 MMA General Assistance Ordinance. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard explained that this action would update our ordinance using Maine Municipal Association's 2007 survey. Mr. Bruno asked if there were any increase in GA applications. Mr. Willard replied yes, but not excessive at this time. VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

- e. School consolidation information update – Selectman Joe Bruno.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Bruno reported that the meeting November 19th was quite contentious with discussion about merging three ways Raymond, Windham, and Westbrook. It was decided that each town should define 3 to 4 barriers to consolidation for discussion at their next meeting. His first barrier would be that Raymond is debtless and would be expected to pick up debt from the other towns. He felt that Raymond pays the other towns tuition which more than pays for each student. Their next meeting is December 3, 2007 and anyone is wel-

come. Education of the process is necessary for the public. Westbrook and Windham have a problem with Raymond's ability to continue school choice and they can't. Mr. Gendron was surprised by the number of municipal officials who aren't informed of the consolidation program. Mr. Willard was surprised at the animosity between Westbrook and Windham.

Mr. Bruno explained that Revenue Sharing was discussed in legislative committee and the fact that many towns are getting funding as service centers which shouldn't.

- f. Greater Portland Council of Government (GPCOG) update – Selectman Mike Reynolds.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Reynolds reported that one item being discussed was a regional economic development office. This would be a policy shift for the participating cities and towns in not having individual offices. There will also be required policy training for municipal official certification. Mr. Willard thought it was probably a requirement for NIMS. Mr. Reynolds said this was a new state law that every elected official be certified by November 2008. He felt this training was necessary for GPCOG to apply for federal funds.

Mr. Reynolds added that CPIC was working on ordinance changes in the Commercial District i.e. a zero setback from the right of way on Roosevelt Trail (Route 302). Also looking at allowing 3 story buildings with mixed use: retail on the ground floor and residential on the 2nd and 3rd floors. These changes will be going to public hearing and the next annual town meeting.

Mr. Gendron reported that the Cumberland County Commissioner Budget Meeting in Raymond on November 6th announced an 8.07% increase for next year. There was one commissioner and 3 budget members attending. This taxation hit would not allow Raymond to meet its LD 1 limit without sacrificing some part of the municipal budget.

MOTION: Mr. Taylor motioned to write a letter to the County Commissioners telling them that Raymond expects them to stay within the annual LD1 limit and not seek additional credits from other years. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard felt the letter should tell them that they should stay to the LD1 limits for the current year. Mr. Bruno noted that Raymond would have to make dramatic cuts in our budget to allow us to stay under the LD1 limit in order to cover that County increase. Mr. Reynolds had a problem with the County advertising their budget under LD1 limit when it really isn't for their actual current year limit rather adding other year's "credits". Mr. Bruno noted Raymond's limit is 3.04 for next year 2008-2009.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

4. Old (unfinished) business.
- None
5. Town Manager Report and Communications.
- Beautification Committee Sharon Dodson asked if they could accept charitable contributions for a Beautification Committee Fund and have a designated fund which would be a non-profit/tax deductible donation.  
MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to approve a dedicated account for the Beautification Committee. Seconded by Mike Reynolds. VOTE: Unanimous 4-0
  - Donations from the Pink Tulip Project from Maine Cancer for a town garden.
  - 2004 Chevrolet half-ton 2-wheel drive truck.  
Mr. Willard announced that they had sold at a small profit a public works pickup truck. He said that they would look for a replacement at State Surplus.  
MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to approve. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor. VOTE: Unanimous 4-0
6. Fiscal Warrants – Payroll and Appropriation Warrants – November 20, 2007.  
MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$38,839.98. Seconded by Mike Reynolds. VOTE: Unanimous 4-0  
MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the Treasurers Warrant in the amount of \$189,739.75.

Seconded by Mike Reynolds. VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

7. Adjournment. MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor. VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

ADJOURNMENT: Mark Gendron adjourned the meeting at 8:39 PM.

Louise H. Lester Town Clerk

## Notes from the Code Enforcement Office

### Wood If I Could

With the high cost of fossil fuels and the concerns about global warming from burning them, many people are considering installing wood burning heaters. Wood is renewable, relatively cheap (even free with a little work), and does not contribute to a carbon footprint.

However, building codes may not allow the use of wood in some homes.

In Raymond, as in some other towns, a solid fuel stove must be vented to a masonry chimney. Metal insulated chimneys are not allowed for use with wood or coal. Wood pellets are not considered to be solid fuels and may be vented to a metal insulated chimney; check with the owner's manual to see if your pellet stove requires a masonry chimney. So, if you do not have a masonry chimney, you may not have a wood stove in your house.

The town is currently reevaluating the Chimney Ordinance. When enacted, metal chimneys could withstand normal burn temperatures, but could become damaged by a chimney fire. At that time, the manufacturers required that a metal chimney be dismantled and inspected following a chimney fire. The town was concerned that chimneys were not safe following a chimney fire. Currently, metal insulated chimneys can be purchased that will not fail due to a chimney fire. The Chimney Ordinance may be revised to reflect the new technology.

If you do have a masonry chimney and would like to install a wood stove, you must meet clearance distances to combustible materials. Generally, all parts of the stove must be 36 inches, and the stove pipe must be 18 inches, from combustible materials. Some stoves may have reduced clearances, check the manufacturer's specifications to see if less than 36 inches is allowed for your stove. The clearance may also be reduced by installing a barrier between the stove and the combustibles. Remember that the clearance also applies to the thimble where the stove pipe enters the chimney flue. A good source of information on wood stove installation can be found on the State Fire Marshal's office website ([maine.gov/dps/fmo/articles.html](http://maine.gov/dps/fmo/articles.html)).

If you do not have a masonry chimney, you may also consider installing an outdoor wood boiler to provide hot water heat. Recently (as of November 9) there are new regulations affecting outdoor wood boilers, known as Chapter 150. The new rules prohibit nuisance smoke from a wood boiler. If you have a wood boiler, you may not have visible emissions (over 30% opacity) leaving your property. If you are installing a new wood boiler after April 1, you must meet setback and smokestack height requirements in the new law. More information can be found at the DEP website [maine.gov/dep/air/regulations/recentlyadopted.htm](http://maine.gov/dep/air/regulations/recentlyadopted.htm)

Also, any wood used as fuel must be free of paints or other chemicals. This includes the use of plywood and particle board. Household waste should never be burned in a wood stove.

For real warmth and comfort, nothing beats a wood stove. It warms you many times: when you cut it, when you stack it, when you carry it in and when you burn it. Just be sure to install your stove so that it is safe. You don't want to warm the members of the fire department by causing your house to catch fire.

### Snowmobile/ATV Sticker Application Instructions

"For best results, please apply stickers to a clean, dry surface at temperatures above 10 degrees Fahrenheit." If you are putting the stickers on a cold machine, there is a good chance the adhesive will not set up. If the stickers are lost, you will need to purchase a duplicate registration and stickers.

## GAME NIGHT

Friday, January 4, 2008, 7pm

(Cribbage, Scrabble, Yahtzee, etc.)

will be held at  
Faith Lutheran Church

988 Roosevelt Trail, Windham.

Everyone welcome, refreshments.

FMI: Marcia 650-3972 or  
Dee 839-4357

## Maine Forest Service: Cold Weather Still No Time to Haul Firewood

No matter how cold it gets, it's never a safe time to haul firewood far from home. That's the message the Maine Forest Service is reminding hunters, skiers and other outdoor enthusiasts who pack warm clothes and firewood for trips this season.

Like summer campers, autumn and winter recreationists often pack firewood from home when they travel to hunting camps and ski chalets. The long-distance movement of firewood can bring with it long-distance movement of tree-killing pests.

"Some people think it's safe to move firewood when it's cold out," said Maine Forest Service Entomologist Charlene Donahue. "But that's not true."

"If unused firewood gets left here in the winter, the insects inside the logs will come out next spring. Freezing temperatures rarely kill insects. After all, they live outside," she added.

The Maine Forest Service is asking winter outdoor enthusiasts to do their part for forest health – today and every day -- by leaving firewood at home. Local or kiln dried wood is best for the hearth, stove, and forest, they say.

The U.S. Forest Service says invasive species is one of the top threats facing America's forests. The emerald ash borer, a particularly harmful invasive insect, has already killed more than 20 million ash trees in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. If brought to Maine via firewood and left unburned, it would emerge to threaten Maine's ash trees.

EAB is moving Eastward across the United States. Just last month, forest health experts found EAB in West Virginia – at a campground. The bug has also been found near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

"It's only a 12-hour drive from there to here," said Donahue. "It's not that far at all, only a day's drive to Maine."

Donahue added that forests throughout Maine, the nation's most forested state, are currently experiencing a relatively healthy period.

"We haven't had any new major insect infestations recently," said Donahue, "and the public's help regarding firewood movement will help keep it that way."

To view a video message about the firewood invasive species issue, visit: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/nanews/archives/2007/archives07.shtm>

Taken from the MMA e-mail newsletter.

## Sand/Salt

### Available at Plains Road Facility

Raymond residents can obtain two 5-gallon pails of sand for use on their stairs and walkways at the Public Works area on Plains Road (FL 89) from 7am to 3pm Monday through Friday only.

This area has video security and will be monitored. This sand/salt is not for commercial use. It is a convenience for our residents.

## Project AWARE Is Coming! Project AWARE Is Coming!

Christina Lamarre  
Raymond Mentoring Partnership

Okay, I may not be riding through Raymond on a horse to announce this, but I do want to let people know of a powerful program occurring at JSMS in January. Barbara Harding-Loux, MSW, has arranged to have Project AWARE come to the middle school to conduct its acclaimed Youth Empowerment Workshops. Raymond Mentoring Partnership is proud to sponsor these workshops. Project AWARE will work with a group of students on January 8th and 22nd, and then this group will in turn put on the performance they have created on the evening of February 6th for Raymond middle school students and parents, as well as any interested community members. Look for more details to come home with JSMS students in January, and mark your calendars for February 6th.

For those of you who are not familiar with it, Project AWARE comprises a group of middle and high school students from Saco and was created in 2003 in response to the epidemic of youth prescription drug abuse. The program has expanded its mission to include all issues of concern to youth. Accomplishments include reaching over 4,500 young people across the state through direct presentations, including 80+ Youth Empowerment Workshops (YEWs) to over 1,200 young people using in-depth educational and awareness-raising activities to engage youth in discussions and taking action. Project AWARE techniques and methods, such as games, interactive theater, and group discussions, create a safe space – emotionally and physically – for young people to speak up about sensitive subjects. Students then create skits to address these issues from their perspective. When possible, we encourage young people, with adult support, to engage in additional awareness-raising activities in their communities by performing their skits for community groups, doing presentations, and/or producing commercials for the public access TV. If you would like further information on Project AWARE, please visit their website at: [www.projectaware.net](http://www.projectaware.net), or contact Christina Lamarre at 655-8672 x 107 or via e-mail at [mentor@raymondmaine.org](mailto:mentor@raymondmaine.org).

## Raymond Road Runner Deadline Reminder

Articles for the February issue are due  
Thursday, January 24th.

## Raymond Extended Day Program News

We had a great holiday season at the RED Program. The children enjoyed various activities from decorating ornaments to making gifts for family. We ended the month with a holiday party and a gift exchange. We would like to thank all of the families who donated food and gifts for the program.

*We currently have open enrollment. To get more information on our rates or to see a list of activities for the RED program, please visit us online at:*

<http://www.raymondmaine.org/schools/red/default.htm>  
or call Kristi Curtis at 650-4470.



Nick Rose decorating an ornament for home.



Meagan Griffeth decorates holiday ornaments

## Recycling Bins Available

Raymond's Recycling Committee has arranged for the Town Office to have blue recycling bins for sale. They would like to encourage recycling in Raymond and felt that having the bins available to the residents was one way to increase the program. The price of a bin is \$6.50, which is the cost to the town. Bins are available at the Town Office during regular business hours.

## January Selectmen's Meetings

Tuesday, January 8th, 7pm, and

Tuesday, January 22nd, 7pm,

at the Broadcast Studio next to the Jordan-Small Middle School and on Cable Channel 2

## Animal Control Report October – December 2007

- Oct 16 Checking registered kennels
- Oct 19 Checking registered kennels
- Oct 20 Cat to lab – Rabies test results negative
- Oct 20 Dog at large
- Oct 25 Meeting with dispatch
- Oct 26 Animal Control Seminar – Scarborough
- Oct 26 Pit Bull in yard
- Oct 29 Golden Retriever missing
- Oct 30 Recheck on missing dog
- Nov 1 Loaned Havahart trap
- Nov 2 Skunk acting strangely
- Nov 6 Problem with skunks
- Nov 8 Dog barking in AM
- Nov 10 Dog running on roadway
- Nov 11 Barking warning
- Nov 11 Dog at large - warning given
- Nov 12 Stolen dog - turned over to Casco
- Nov 13 Watching for dog in road
- Nov 13 Talked with stolen dog's owner
- Nov 15 Equipment maintenance
- Nov 16 Civil Problem
- Nov 16 Cat bitten - quarantine for 45 days
- Nov 16 Dog at large - ticket issued
- Nov 16 Statements for court
- Nov 17 Statement for Casco case
- Nov 20 Cat bitten by unknown animal - quarantine for 45 days
- Nov 21 Information about stolen dog
- Nov 26 Cat bitten by unknown animal - quarantine for 45 days
- Nov 26 Cat to Animal Refuge League
- Nov 27 Three dogs at large - all returned to owner
- Nov 28 Lost cat found at Animal Refuge League
- Nov 29 Fox in yard - called Warden Service
- Nov 30 Equipment maintenance
- Dec 2 State warden called about dogs chasing deer
- Dec 2 Stray feral cat
- Dec 7 Possible dogs being abused - investigated
- Dec 7 Advised complainant of findings
- Dec 7 Met with North Windham veterinarian
- Dec 9 Neighbor "A's" dog in yard - gone on arrival
- Dec 9 Neighbor "B's" dog in yard - gone on arrival
- Dec 10 Dog missing
- Dec 10 Two dogs missing
- Dec 10 Sent letters on unlicensed dogs
- Dec 12 Neighbor "A's" dog in yard
- Dec 13 Information on missing dog
- Dec 14 Found missing dog
- Dec 14 Reunited missing dog with owner  
*Merry Christmas*
- Dec 17 Two setters missing from  
New Gloucester
- Dec 18 Guard dog loose

## RES Principal's Report

By Norma Richard

I want to express my sincere thanks to our students, their families, the RES staff, and the Raymond community for their outstanding efforts during the holiday season to collect and distribute toys and food to our community. It was such a pleasure to see the students maneuver the shopping cart each Monday and Friday, and to see the wonderful donations that were brought into school. Everyone who worked on these projects, including the Harvest Hills Animal Shelter collection, which will continue through January, should feel a lot of community pride.

I want to recognize the hard work done each and every day by our bus drivers. They have one of the most difficult jobs in our school district. The poor road conditions due to the ice and snow make their work even more difficult. Children riding the bus are expected to stay seated at all times (remember the rhyme, "Bottom to bottom, back to back, with my backpack on my lap"). Children who do not stay in their seats, who are not sitting properly, or who are moving when the bus is in motion put themselves and others at risk for an injury. Parents are asked to review bus procedures with their children on a frequent basis and to recognize the great efforts of our bus drivers.

We have had a lot of snow in December, and we all know that there will be more to come in the next few months. Our bus drivers want to remind parents to have their children wait in their driveway and not at the side of the road. The roads are very narrow and the snow banks are getting higher, and we want all students to be safe while waiting for the bus.

Often we get feedback that parents find the school phones to be busy when trying to call the school. We only have three phone lines to handle all of the calls to phones in classrooms and offices. In the event of a busy signal, you can always contact the school in one of the following ways:

- E-mail our front office at [mindy.mckinney@raymondmaine.org](mailto:mindy.mckinney@raymondmaine.org). This is the easiest way to get messages regarding a change in busing or an early pick-up to the office. Please e-mail well before 3pm to be sure we get your message to your student.
- If your phone call is an emergency or priority, call the Jordan-Small Middle School at 655-4743, and they will get a message to RES.
- As our fax is a separate landline, you can always send a fax to RES at 655-8664.
- E-mail your child's teacher directly with any questions, concerns or information that needs to go to the teacher.

In closing, have you made your New Year's Resolution yet? If you set a goal of reading with your children every day, you can improve their success at school. Research shows that your children will be even more successful if they also see the adults in their lives reading. Spend some time over vacation visiting the library together. The Raymond Village Library is open every Sunday, Monday and Wednesday from 10am to 7pm.

## News from the Health Office

By Kristina Truesdale, RN  
School District Nurse

Fall semester has indeed been busy here in the health office at Raymond Elementary School. No two days are ever the same! As the district school nurse, I have attended multiple trainings this year, including several sponsored by the Maine Association of School Nurses and the Department of Education, as well as the American Association of Pediatrics and Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center. These conferences keep me updated on the latest information in pediatric care. In the new year we will be hosting Preventive Partners here at Raymond Elementary School. Preventive Partners will provide oral health services for those students in need. If your child has not received dental care in the previous 6 months and you are interested in learning more about this preventive dental program, please contact Kristina at 655-8672 during school hours or [kristina.truesdale@raymondmaine.org](mailto:kristina.truesdale@raymondmaine.org). We will also continue our on-going screenings for scoliosis, vision and hearing, and head lice in 2008. And lastly, with recent cases of mumps, chicken pox and even pertussis in Maine, we are carefully reviewing the immunization status of students. We would greatly appreciate parental cooperation in this process to better ensure the health and safety of all our Raymond students and to avoid unnecessary exclusions. Happy New Year!

## At Your Library -- Armchair Traveler Reading for Long Winter Nights

### Current Times, Olden Times -- Truth Can Be Stranger than Fiction

Yes, the truth can be stranger than fiction, and non-fiction can be as enjoyable a read as well! With the long hours of winter darkness ahead, before the daylight hours start extending significantly, curling up with a good book and your favorite beverage at hand may just be the way to combat some of those seasonal doldrums.

The library's long range plan includes the goal to expand Current Titles and Topics. Therefore, it's not surprising that Raymond Village Library Director Barbara Thorpe has researched best seller lists, read reviews and made critical selections to add books on current topics to the non-fiction collection. The newly acquired non-fiction books are in the window nook area to the right of the front door, both on the table and window shelf. Next time you visit the library, see which of the many titles pique your curiosity.

For the armchair traveler with a bent to current events and world politics, that world can quite literally be an open book. Some of the newly acquired non-fiction titles that illustrate this point are:

*The Elephant and the Dragon—The Rise of India and China and What It Means to All of Us.*

*Mirrors of the Unseen*, a 2007 Pulitzer Prize winner, where a frequent traveler to Iran provides an eye-opening look at ordinary Iranians. The "Providence Journal" states that its author Jason Elliot "writes like a dream."

*Overthrow—America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq*

*Imperial Life in the Emerald City*, a journalist's view of the first year of the United States of America's presence in post-Saddam Iraq.

*Power, Faith and Fantasy: America in the Middle East 1776 to Present.*

For the armchair traveler who wants to stay closer to home, your main attraction might be, well, Maine! From Native American history to past political figures to its locales, some of the newly acquired non-fiction titles on Maine are:

*Katahdin, A Historic Journey: Legends, Exploration and Preservation of Maine's Highest Peak*

*Algonquin Spirit: Translation of Algonquin Literature*

*L.L. Bean: The Making of an American Icon*

*Continental Liar from the State of Maine: James G. Blaine*

*Creating Portland*

*Sir John Popham*

While the above illustrates only two areas of non-fiction, the library's growing non-fiction collection is broad, with books from do-it-yourself topics to biographies, from history to space travel, from anatomy to zoology. On your next visit, take some time to browse and discover what's available on a non-fiction topic of your interest. Barbara and the staff of volunteers will gladly help you find what you're looking for. If a specific title you're hoping to find is not available, the Raymond Village Library can obtain it for you for free through the Inter-Library Loan program.

As an armchair traveler, or if you just enjoy reading while sitting in armchair, please stop by the library, make your book selection and then stay for awhile. The chairs are comfortable and the atmosphere is friendly. Enjoy your winter reading. Enjoy your library.

## Raymond Planning Board Needs Help

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

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

Louise Lester, Town Clerk  
401 Webbs Mills Road  
Raymond, ME 04071

or e-mail [louise.lester@raymondmaine.org](mailto:louise.lester@raymondmaine.org).

You can also apply through our website [www.raymondmaine.org](http://www.raymondmaine.org)

Look for the Volunteer Application.

## The Healing Power of Kindness

By Kimberly Post Rowe  
The Wellness Committee

One kind word can warm three winter months.

- Japanese proverb

You're stuck in traffic, and someone keeps honking. Or you're out to dinner with friends, and the person at the next table is talking loudly on his cell phone. Whatever happened to being nice?

Rudeness is on the rise. We all have our bad days, but where does a snarl get anyone? Being courteous instead of caustic will not only make your life easier, but it can also lower your stress levels and improve your health.

If you've ever been surly, chances are you were trying to get something or go somewhere. When you couldn't, you got frustrated, and bad manners probably got the better of you. Blame evolution, in part.

"The brain is outfitted to pursue and protect our basic needs of food, shelter, and control over our lives," says Gregory Fricchione, M.D., director of the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine in Boston. That's true whatever the need, even if it's something as simple as getting to the grocery store before it closes. "When your needs are thwarted, there's a tendency to become irritable and frustrated, which can lead to being unkind."

Most of us don't want to spend the rest of our lives feeling this way. Fortunately, there is a simple way to change: kindness. Small acts of kindness can have big effects. They also have healthy ones, physically and mentally. "People who commit kind acts feel generous, optimistic, and co-

operative; and they look at others more charitably," says Dr. Fricchione. Recent studies support this, showing that generosity is associated with improved mental health and decreased mortality.

When you're compassionate, your brain releases chemicals that make you feel good. Your brain's reward and motivation circuitry is stimulated. This not only makes you want to continue being loving and altruistic, but it also controls the way you respond to stress. Since stress is at the root of many health problems, being kind can potentially make you less vulnerable to illness and disease.

### Kindness Tips

To exercise your kindness muscle, try practicing these 10 tips:

- Smile more often — it's contagious.
- Look for acts of kindness so you can become more aware of them.
- Choose to be nice, especially when you feel pressured.
- Offer help before others ask for it.
- Volunteer in your community or make a charitable donation.
- Let someone get in front of you in line.
- Leave a large tip.
- Water an elderly neighbor's garden.
- Be gracious when others are kind to you.
- Teach your children kindness by example.

## Legislative Update

Rep. John C Robinson



The New Year is upon us, and new financial problems abound in Augusta. It is often joked in the State House that the budget is built like a house of cards. It is balanced so precariously that any small problem could bring the whole thing tumbling down. Unfortunately for Maine taxpayers, the joke is no longer very funny.

The state is facing a \$95-million deficit in its current biennial budget. You might wonder how a two-year budget could already be in such a deep hole when it is less than six months old. Part of the "credit" goes to State Treasurer David Lemoine, who told the state revenue projectors last spring that he could bring in \$28 million from unused gift cards. That's right: he said the state could seize huge sums of money by laying claim to unused gift cards from retail stores headquartered in other states. The administration "booked" the money to help close a budget gap and end the legislative stalemate surrounding the budget.

The money booked by the revenue forecasting committee never materialized, and this one lost revenue stream accounts for nearly a third of the current budget crisis.

On May 1 of this year a new tax policy went into effect that required all out-of-state retailers to turn over 60 percent of the value of any gift cards they sold in Maine that had gone unused for two years. The policy already had applied to businesses in the state, such as L.L. Bean and Marden's. With the recent explosion in the sale of gift cards nationally, however, the state figured it could tap into a gold mine by going after companies all across the country.

The expectation of \$28 million in revenue was based on wishful thinking. There are few records kept about unused gift cards; the retailers only know the monetary value of their gift cards sold nationally and how many have been redeemed. How many were sold exclusively in Maine and, more importantly, how many were given as gifts to Maine residents is all conjecture. The treasurer estimated that since Maine makes up half a percentage of retail sales for national chains, we must make up about half a percent of their total gift card sales, too. This ill-conceived assumption is about to cost Maine taxpayers \$28 million – and another \$20 million in 2011.

Right after the law went into effect in May, Treasurer Lemoine sent letters to between 40 and 50 national retailers, including Best Buy, J.C. Penney and Home Depot. He informed them that they were now required to calculate how much money they owed under the new scheme. They were

instructed to send their checks in as quickly as possible. The result is best explained in Treasurer Lemoine's own words: "I can tell you nobody responded with money."

What they did respond with were plenty of letters from corporate lawyers questioning Maine's claim to the unused funds and outlining their legal challenges to the new law. It shouldn't have been a surprise to Lemoine that the checks didn't come rolling in. In fact, Maine is only the second state to try to claim these funds from out-of-state retailers. The only other state was Connecticut, but they abandoned the practice after finding it impossible to enforce. Maine, of course, was not deterred by that precedent.

As far as the state is concerned, the shakedown isn't over yet. The treasurer has put the state attorney general on the case to see if the state should take legal action against the likes of Home Depot and Dick's Sporting Goods. But suing those big national chains could chew up millions in legal fees and send a signal that big retailers should be careful before building a store in Maine. It is clear that the Legislature will have to repeal this law during the next session.

Combine this with the \$20 million that Treasurer Lemoine lost when he made a risky investment backed by sub-prime mortgages, and he has single-handedly created a \$48-million dollar hole that will now have to be filled.

The taxpayers of Maine cannot afford to have future budgets formulated with fuzzy math and backed with overly risky investment strategies. Maine has been one of the highest-taxed states for the past decade, and our current policies are ruining our economy. The whole gift card scheme is the epitome of business unfriendliness.

The state should be thanking Best Buy, Home Depot and others for opening stores in Maine during recent years. Many Maine residents are now employed by these businesses. And it is a good thing, too, because overregulation and high taxation have already shut down many local businesses.

The State Treasurer and the administration picked the wrong fight on this one, and it looks as if the retailers involved are girding for a showdown in court. If this law is not repealed, Maine taxpayers could be on the hook for more money as the attorney general wages an expensive legal battle to collect these funds. It's also unfortunate that Maine has been reduced to a kind of beggar status, trying to scratch up money wherever it can.

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

## Come and Meet the Three Kings

at

Raymond Village Community Church  
United Church of Christ

**Epiphany Sunday**  
January 6th at 10am

All are invited to come and meet the Three Kings, who followed a star and searched for the Christ Child. Join us in worship and hear "first hand" about their journey from the East and the gifts they brought to the Baby!

## Tips for Trash/Recycling

Keeping in mind that snow is here, and it won't be spring for a few months, Pine Tree Waste would like to impart a few tips for successful trash/recycling pickup.

1. Have your trash/recycling curbside by 7am.
2. Have your street address written on your barrels along with the orange town stickers.
3. If you are on a private road, be sure the road is plowed by 7am.
4. If the road is icy, please have the road sanded.
5. Be sure that the snow banks in the road and turnaround are pushed back, giving the trucks full space to maneuver.
6. If your road is not safe for the trash/recycling trucks to traverse, your trash/recycling will not be picked up until the following week, providing the road is then passable by the trucks.
7. Prepare a location for your trash barrels/recycling containers that is not in a travel lane i.e. in your driveway.
8. If you need to leave your trash barrels curbside, have a shed marked as "trash" to store them in so that they aren't "floating" around during the week.
9. Put your trash cans/recycling containers in plain sight and not behind a snow bank.
10. If it's snowing, don't put out paper recycling – only plastic, cans, and glass.
11. Separate your recycling types into different containers i.e. brown paper bags in one recycling bin. The bags will be returned to you in the recycling bin for further use.
12. Cardboard is recycled at the Public Works/Fire Station on Webbs Mills Road (Rt. 85) in East Raymond. Please break down your boxes and put them inside the dumpsters. Leaving cardboard on the ground will make it into "trash" because it gets wet and is then non-recyclable.
13. Get involved with our recycling program – join the Raymond Recycling Committee. Contact Louise Lester, the trash lady, at the Town Office 655-4742 or [louise.lester@raymondmaine.org](mailto:louise.lester@raymondmaine.org)

## Boston Post Cane Candidates Requested

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

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

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

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

If you are a candidate or know someone who might be, please contact Louise Lester at the Town Office at 655-4742 or [louise.lester@raymondmaine.org](mailto:louise.lester@raymondmaine.org)

*Proof of birth date will be requested.*

## 2008 Dog Tags Available

Dog licensing can now be done for 2008. If you have a dog over the age of 6 months, it should be licensed. A Rabies Certificate must be produced and if neutered, a Neutering Certificate, if the Town Office doesn't have it on file. The fee for a neutered dog is \$6 and non-neutered is \$11. All dogs must be licensed by January 31, 2008. Dogs licensed after January 31 will incur an additional \$15 late fee.

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

*There will be a Rabies Clinic on  
Saturday, January 19, 2008,  
from 1-3pm at the Town Office.*

## Raymond Little Leaguers Get “Tips” from a Pro

Thomas “Tip” Fairchild, minor league baseball player for the Houston Astros, conducted a pitching/throwing clinic for local youth in Raymond. The clinic was divided into two Wednesday evenings, November 28th and December 5th. This is Tip’s second time teaching in Raymond.

Nineteen players from Raymond participated in the clinic, which was made up of 25 Sebago Long Lake Cal Ripken players ages 9 to 13. Coaches chose participants based on their ability, sportsmanship and commitment to baseball.

The program included proper techniques for safety, agility, warm-ups, pitching and throwing, all geared to their age group.

Tip brought with him a wealth of knowledge and experience

that he has gained while in the minors. Earlier this year, he was one of only 6 minor league players invited to attend Nolan Ryan’s elite pitching camp. While there, he was coached by Nolan Ryan himself, as well as Roger Clemens and Dave Wallace (former Red Sox pitching coach).

Tip was also selected to play in the minor league Allstar game. He pitched to rookie Red Sox player Jacoby Ellsbury and against rookie pitcher Clay Bucholtz.

Tip wrapped up the clinic by giving all participants individual coaching on how to work on their new skills. Before they left, Tip personally autographed baseballs and pictures for each boy in attendance.

After being sidelined by an injury, Tip has been doing



months of physical therapy and training to get ready for the upcoming season. He leaves for Houston in February to start training for the 2008 season. If all goes well, he may be slated to play some major league games for the Astros!

## Raymond Conservation Commission

### Report on the December 5, 2007, Open Space Plan Public Workshop

On December 5th the Raymond Conservation Commission (RCC) held a public workshop in the Jordan-Small Middle School cafeteria to unveil its inventory of Raymond’s open space and natural resources. The committee has been compiling data and creating maps over the past two years. The workshop was open to the public, but written invitations were also sent to owners of larger parcels since most of the resources identified in the inventory are on those larger parcels. Over 40 people with varied interests and perspectives attended and participated in discussions and activities designed to gauge the concerns and values of the community.

The 2004 Comprehensive Plan sets out town policies for safeguarding water quality, protection of shared natural resources, conservation of prime forest and agriculture land, preservation of the Town’s scenic areas, increasing open space, and the creation of trails. The plan gives the RCC responsibility for implementing strategies to achieve those policies. It also identifies the all-important task of creating an Open Space Plan for prioritizing open space purchases. Creating an inventory of Raymond’s natural resources is the first step in that planning process.

### The Workshop

The workshop provided an opportunity for citizens to view the six inventory maps (water resources, habitat resources, recreational resources, environmental, health & safety

resources, community character resources, and productive lands); to learn how the maps were developed; to learn what information was collected for the inventory; and to discuss the planning process and the goals of the RCC.

The evening began with an opportunity to informally view the maps and meet with committee members and other attendees. The committee then made a presentation on the functions of open space and natural resources, the historic and recent growth patterns in Raymond, and the planning process and results to date. The presentation focused on selected inventory maps to show how computerized mapping (Geographic Information Systems or GIS analysis) allows for identifying land areas that have multiple open space values.

Following the presentation everyone broke into smaller groups to discuss topics relating to open space planning such as:

- What is it about life in Raymond that is valued the most and that should be passed on to your children and/or grandchildren?
- How do people feel about increasing the amount of open space in Raymond to protect natural resources through prioritized public open space purchases?
- How do people feel about each of the three basic sets of strategies for protecting/ conserving land:
  - Acquisition/ Easement
  - Regulation and Zoning
  - Incentive/ Voluntary programs
- What are your highest priorities for conservation/protection and what values do you believe are most threatened?

Participants were also asked to indicate their conservation priorities through a “value voting” exercise in which everyone had 20 make-believe \$5000 bills to put on any or all of the inventory maps representing the six categories of resources.

### Citizen Input

Although the results of the voting exercise should not be viewed as statistical certainty, they do provide insight into the preferences, values and concerns of Raymond citizens. “Water quality” was far and away the resource category receiving the most “money,” with 50% of the total. “Rec-

reation resources” and “environmental, health and safety resources” garnered the next most support with 16% and 15% respectively. “Habitat protection” received 11%, and “productive lands” and “community character” received 4% each.

Finally, the participants were given the opportunity to identify areas in town that are exceptional to them in some way, whether it be where they walk, ride or ski, a dramatic view, a quiet spot, a choice fishing hole or any other place that has special significance. These locations will be mapped and will become part of an inventory of places that give the community its character and its appeal.

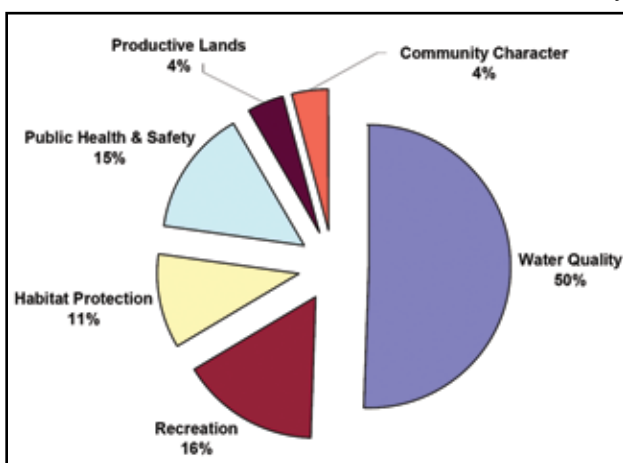
Several themes arose in the small group discussions and during other opportunities for public comment. Many people identified the water quality of Raymond’s lakes, and its streams and rivers, as the greatest asset of the town for reasons of health, natural beauty, habitat quality, economic opportunity, property value and more. As one person put it “everything else in town follows from pristine water.” Some felt that water quality was also the resource most at risk in town.

Many people observed that as the town has changed, the attitudes and practices concerning access to land have changed. There were interesting and important discussions concerning the rights of landowners and how those might balance with community interest in retaining its character and access to open lands and waterfronts. Concepts around location of development were also a frequent topic of discussion, particularly how the town might find ways to encourage development to occur in such a way that the most highly valued open space resources are preserved.

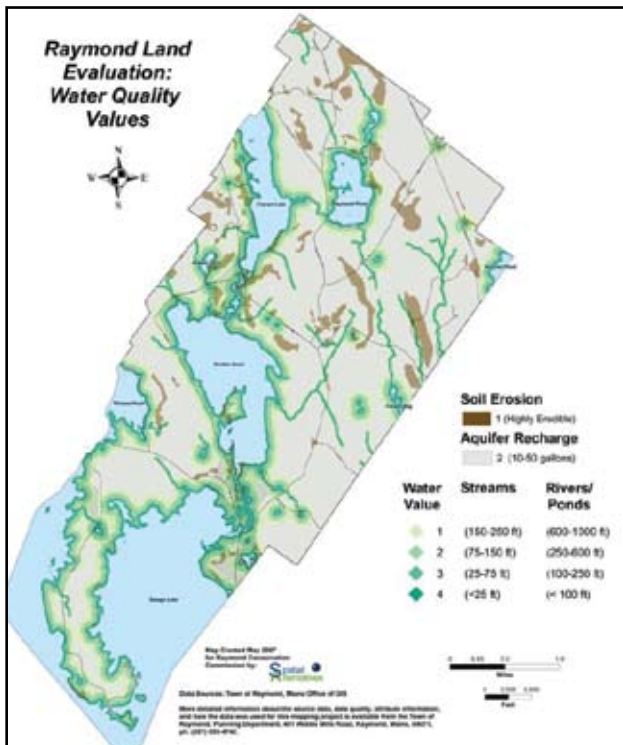
### Next Steps

The RCC will take the information from the workshop and create summary maps that seek to reflect the open space values provided by Raymond citizens and that identify high priority areas. The next phase of planning will be to develop policies, strategies, tools and, with public input, a funding plan for protecting valuable areas that meets the goals of the planning process.

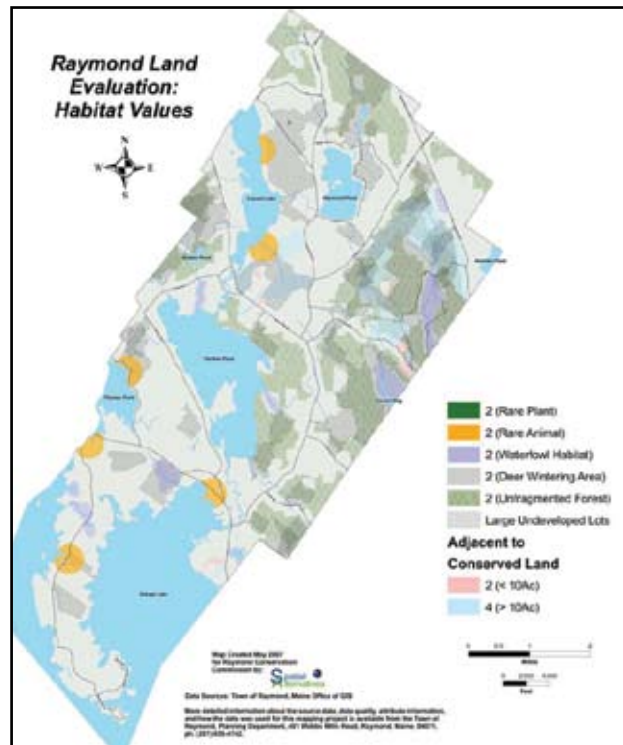
For more information on the Open Space planning process or the Raymond Conservation Commission contact John Rand at 655-4277 or jbr@fairpoint.net. RCC meetings are open to the public and are held the last Tuesday of each month, September through May, in the Broadcast Studio (Portable Classroom) at 7pm.



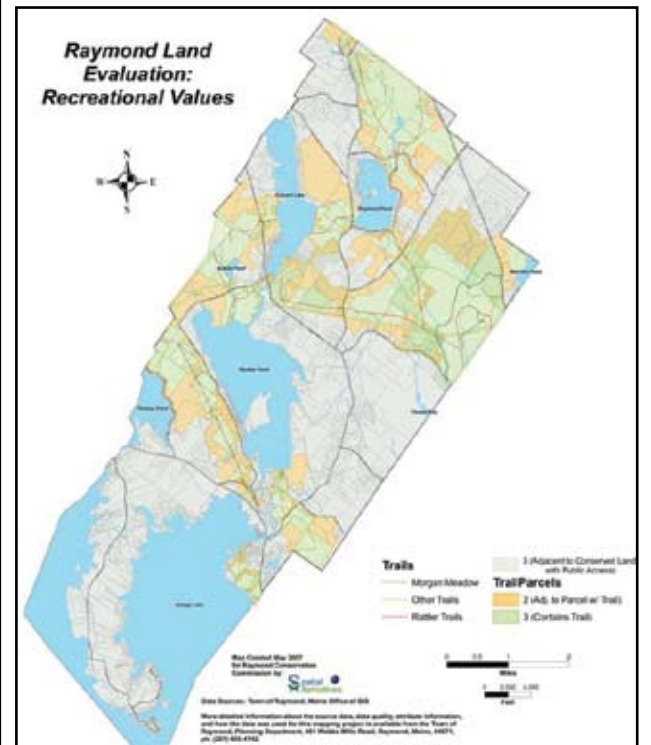
Open Space Categories - Voting Results.



Raymond Land Evaluation: Water Quality Values.



Raymond Land Evaluation: Habitat Values.



Raymond Land Evaluation: Recreational Values.