A Preview to the March 18th Town Meeting

By: Nathan Poore, Town Manager

It’s difficult to believe that its finally starting to feel like winter and its also hard to believe another March Town Meeting is approaching. In addition to my office being busy in preparation for the big event, the Board of Selectmen and several other boards and committees have been working diligently. I am writing this article to provide the voters with a preview of some of the issues that will probably be on the Town Meeting warrant. The meeting has been scheduled for March 18, 2000 at 10:00 AM in the Jordan Small School gymnasium. Local Elections will be held March 17, 2000 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Jordan Small School gymnasium.

Municipal Budget: The Board of Selectmen and Budget - Finance Committee will have nearly finished their work on the proposed Fiscal Year 2000 Budget by the time this paper is pub-lished. As of January 24, 2000, the proposed budget includes both an increase in expenditures and an esti-mated increase in non-property taxes such as excise taxes and state revenue sharing. The FY2001 proposed munici-pal expenditure budget (not including school and county appropriations) includes an increase of 10% over last year’s expenditures are up $212,662 while non-property tax revenues are projected to increase by $309,000 (including the use of $150,000 from current fund balance) which is a 30% increase. The net decrease of $96,338 is the difference in gains from the expenditures and the gain in revenues. Net municipal expenditures are remaining fairly level because of the significant increases in non-property tax revenues over the past few years. The projected increase in gross municipal expenditures is spread somewhat evenly among various service delivery areas with the exception of one significant proposal that includes spending $115,000 to continue the design efforts for a new fire station to replace District One Station located on Main Street.

Jones’ Beach a/k/a Raymond Beach Proposal: It has been several years since the Town has considered taking any action on this property located along Route 302 and Jordan Bay. The Town is working with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW), Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) and several other entities including the owner of the property, St. Joseph’s College. The proposal calls for DFW to purchase the property and make substantial improvements to provide for a safer facility that can also be managed and controlled. Under the proposal, the Town will be required to manage and maintain the public facilities. However, it is not strictly manage-able, so it’s understandable why the Town opposed past proposals.

Route 302 Development and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District: The citizen committee overseeing this effort has had great success during the past year. They managed to hire an experienced consulting team, which includes civil engineers and landscape architects. The committee and consulting team convinced the Maine Department of Continued on page 3

Principal’s Corner

By: Norma Richard

In today’s Roadrunner we are outlining the first fund-raising campaign for the Raymond Elementary School Play-ground. The anticipated costs for the playground equipment are $52,000. We are looking to our community for assistance in raising these funds. The first campaign is the CENTURY CAM-PAIGN. Our goal is to have 250 dona-tions of $100 purchase the equipment and have it installed on the school site. We would like to recognize our first generous contributors, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ritter and the Raymond PTA. The PTA will be designated the distinction of being MILLIONNIUM contribu-tors with their $1,000 donation. On behalf of our students and staff I want to thank all community members and friends for in advance for their support for the CENTURY CAMPAIGN.

We are currently researching the feasibil-ity of initiating a full-day kindergarten program next fall as we move into the Raymond Elementary School. A full-day program would have the kindergarten children attending school from 8:30 to 3:15 each day, following the half-day schedule on Wednesday. Parents who prefer to have their child attend for a half-day only would be given the option of picking up their child at school at midday. Due to current space restrictions we are unable to offer a full-day program at Jordan-Small. The new elementary school has wonderful classrooms for kindergarten program and the space to extend the program to full-day. In our research we are discovering some very positive benefits of a full-day program. These benefits include more time for instruction, more opportunities for creative play and exploration, more time for language and math activities, and increased opportunities for socialization. Kindergarten students would have a more consistent schedule, and there would be fewer transitions due to the child care issues with a half-day pro-gram. Parent input is valuable to us as we research this issue. We will be surveying kindergarten and preschool parents, as well as inviting them to meet with the kindergarten staff to discuss this issue. Parents can call me directly if you have questions concerning a full-day kindergarten program.

We would like to remind parents and visitors to Jordan-Small that the exit doors leading into the cafeteria/gym area will be locked between the hours of 8:45 and 3:00. Please check in at the office when visiting the school.

Raymond Recycling Committee Makes Recommendation

Curbside: The current curbside recycling program is working quite well. Because materials are monitored by the collection workers, we are able to successfully unload quality recyclable materials to the Lewiston recycling facility. With the extra materials that Lewiston accepts, we have increased our recycling tonnage within this program. Compared to 5.3 tons per month in 1998, we are currently averaging 12.7 tons/ month.

Drop-offs: On the other hand, we must recognize that the drop-off recycling program is not functioning acceptably in its current state. Rejection of drop-off loads was always a potential problem, but now that problem has become even more acute. Some loads are immediately rejected because of contamination, and because of changed. The long term solution appears to be to gain a contract with the RWS facility in Portland, where recycling loads are dumped, spread, and combi-nated. Nathan Poore has negotiated with the town to plan for a typical load down to their facility. Decontamination was possible with less load, so it appears that this facility will be able to handle our drop-off bins. However, it will probably be another three months before a contract can be established.

The Recycling Committee recommended that the Board of Selectmen remove the drop-off bins until a contract with RWS can be established. On January 18th the Board of Selectmen agreed with the recommenda-tion.
Raymond Village Library

Storytime
Storytime for toddlers and pre-school children is on Thursday mornings at 9:30. February’s theme is Friendship and Family. There will be no Storytime during February school vacation.

If you are interested in helping with Storytime, please contact Lori Rand at 655-4277.

Writing/Bookmaking Workshop for Children
The library would like to offer a writing/bookmaking workshop for young school-aged children during February vacation. Elizabeth Roundy, a published author, will lead the group in a one-hour bookmaking project tailored to age and ability level. Children will brainstorm, write, edit, draw and bind the book, according to their ability. The age groups targeted for this workshop are Kindergarten and grade 1, and grades 2 and 3. If there is sufficient interest, other age groups are possible.

The workshop will be offered Wednesday, February 23 in the early afternoon (a specific time will depend on sign-up numbers). Please call or sign up at the library if your child is interested in attending. There is no fee, but donations are welcome. For more information call Lori at 655-4277.

Reading Group
There will be no reading group in February. The next meeting will be March 2 at 7 pm at the library. The book being discussed at this time is “Iron in the Fire”, by John McPhee.

Other Items of Interest
The library will be closed on February 21, in honor of President’s Day. There will be no Storytime on February 24, due to school vacation. Remember the library is closing at 7 PM on Monday and Wednesday during January and February.

CMP Handbook Explained
Did you receive your Power Handbook in the mail, telling you everything you need to know about the changes in Maine’s electric industry? And are you just telling you everything you need to know about the CMP Handbook Explained January and February.

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American Legion Winter Fest
The Ladies Auxiliary Group of the American Legion Post 155 in Naples, Maine, along with the cooperation of the Son’s of the Legion and the American Legion itself, are having a Winter Carnival 2000. This is to celebrate the new millennium and also to show appreciation for the people who live in surrounding communities. This is an event for people of all ages, and it is being especially geared to the youth of our communities.

The Winter Carnival will start with a dance for adults on February 19th from 8:00 PM to midnight. The main events for the carnival will be starting at 10:00 AM on February 20th and include broom hockey, snowmobile poker rally, snowman contest, and face painting. There will also be a dance on the 20th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM for kids ages 8 and up. The American Legion will be creating a non-profit youth fund, and all money donations will be set aside for this fund and will be spent on the many different youth events in the community. Any and all donations, no matter what they are, will be accepted and appreciated immensely.

For further information regarding this event, please contact Julie Michaud at the American Legion @ 693-6285 or at home 655-3564 before 2:00 PM; Marty Driscoll at home @ 693-5013 after 7:00 PM; or Randy Shane at 647-3646.

Kindergarten Screening
Screening for children who will be entering Kindergarten in September (five years old or before October 15) will be held Wednesday afternoons on March 8 and 22 from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Please call Chrystal at the school (655-4743) to set up an appointment for one of the two dates.

An Informational Parent’s Night for Screening will be held on Tuesday, February 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

NYA Athletic Recognition
Two Raymond students were recognized for their contributions to the fall sports teams at North Yarmouth Academy at the recent Athletic Recognition Evening.

Senior Amy Stone was named a Western Maine Class C All Star in Field Hockey.

Freshman Abby Hutchinson received the Coach’s Award for JV Field Hockey.

To All Contributors to Raymond’s Holiday Helpers Program:

The Holiday Helpers Thanksgiving and Christmas Food and Gift Baskets volunteers would like to thank the many individuals, organizations and local businesses that helped make the holidays better for some of Raymond’s families. The list of supporter is so overwhelming that it is far too long to acknowledge publicly (over 50 families and groups!), but we are grateful to all who participated in the effort. Many children, young adults, and parents have now food and some holiday treats to get them through some of our most challenging months.

The outpouring of support from fellow Raymond citizens and surrounding communities confirms our belief that we live in a great region filled with caring people. We have learned a great deal about the Christmas spirit from them and from everyone involved. Thank you again for your participation, and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,
Lisa and Laurie

Hebron Academy

Fall Trimester Honors
The Hebron Academy Upper School Director of Studies, Silver Moore-Leaman, announces the honor roll for the Fall Trimester of the 1999-2000 academic year.

Raymond students achieving honor roll status include:

Highest Honors - Jamie Fey, Gisselle Pomerleau and Timothy Curtis; High Honors - Erica Sanchez and Kevin DeSorbo; Honors - Benjamin Krauter and Seth Conger.

The Director of the Hebron Academy Middle School, Leslie A Guenther, announces the following Raymond students achieving honor roll status: High Honors - Katrina Draper; Honors - Bethaney Cayer.

Raymond PTA

February Meeting
The Raymond PTA will meet on Thursday, February 10 at 7 PM in the JSS library. Child care will be available. We hope that you can attend.

February 2000 Events and Meeting Schedule
Dog Licensing

Beginning February 1st and until April 1st there will be an additional $3.00 charge for licensing your dogs. If you are renewing a license in Raymond and the Rabies Certificate is current in the year 2000 or later, you do not need proof of your Rabies vaccination. If your dog has not been licensed in Raymond before, you will need a current Maine Rabies Certificate and if neutered, a Maine Neutering Certificate. The fee for neutered dogs is $5.00 each and non-neutered dogs $8.50 each plus the $3.00 late fee. After April 1st the late fee will be $10.00.

Please remember that the licensing fees are used by the Town’s Animal Control Officer to take care of the animals which are found as strays. The State’s share of the money is used to fund the Animal Welfare Office and the Maine State Veterinary, his office and laboratory.

Town Hall Drop Off Mail Box

The Town Office is still looking for responses from people who would like to drop off mail box at the Town Office. So far we have received only eight requests and feel that would not be enough to impress the Post Office. If you feel this would be an advantageous addition to the Town, please let the Town Office know by phone (655-4742), in person, or by mail (401 Webbs Mills Road).

Direct Care Position

Progressive people wanted to work part time or per diem with a 19-year-old woman with autism and mental retardation.

An idyllic setting in Raymond on a 200 year old, 3 acre farm with gardening, animal care, baking, recycling, and arts and crafts as some of the highlights.

We are looking for people who believe we all have a right to choices and that every one of us has a gift within ourselves to offer others.

Come join us as we assist this young woman and others like her to reach her full potential in a natural home-like setting and with an educated holistic approach to their well being.

When interested, please call 655-3196 any day 6a.m.-10p.m. for an interview. Please ask for Donna Thi-bodeau or Jane Gagnier.

SENIO R CITIZEN DINNER FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2000

Baked Lasagna - Mixed Vegetable Tossed Salad Hot Yeast Rolls and Italian Breadsticks Cherry Crisp with topping

Raymond’s Food Pantry

By: Diane Goosetrey

The Raymond Food Pantry is now well stocked because of so many donations by Raymond residents. Bright Beginnings Daycare on Roosevelt Trail, Jordan Small School, students and teachers, and many others as Chris Lums have been so generous with their food donations. Also Joyce and Norman Headl have donated their time and effort in sorting and storing the food in the Pantry.

If you know anyone who needs assistance, please let them know that this Pantry is available. Food can be received during regular office hours at the Town Office. Anyone can also meet with the Pantry manager by appointment who will pack bags of food to their choosing which can include meat, bread, fruit and fresh items. The Pantry food can be held in confidence and they can get their food at a time convenient for the recipient and the Pantry manager.

Coats for Kids has given a bag of cleaned children’s winter coats to keep them warm during the cold weather. These coats are available to any child who needs one. The food and coats are available by calling 428-3206, or the Town Office at 655-4742.

Jordan-Small Teachers

Awarded Seed Grants

The Maine Center for Excellence has awarded a Project SEED Grant for the proposal “ASK+” to Ann Marie Mahlani, Judy Toungue and Norman Hjort. This year’s SEED grants focused on innovative uses of technology in Maine’s schools. ASK+ is a newly expanded version of last year’s ASK - Accessing Scientists to Kids. Students have the opportunity to pose questions to a variety of professionals, including scientists, politicians, economists and educators, via the Internet. These professionals respond to the students’ questions and return their responses via email. ASK+ also provides students with a wide variety of professional role models who take a unique interest in their learning. This program has been endorsed by Maine’s Commissioner of Education and is a wonderful example of the use of technology in expanding and enhancing learning at Jordan-Small. We would like to congratulate Mrs. Mahlani, Mrs. Toungue and Mr. Hjort on the grant award and on this fine program.

Presidential Primary Election

By: Louise Lester, Deputy Town Clerk

On March 7th there will be a Presidential Preference Primary from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Jordan Small School gymnasium.

The Town staff has met with the MDOT who has agreed to upgrade their overlay project to include a full survey and limited drainage improvements. This resulted in savings to Raymond in excess of $20,000 and improved coordination with MDOT.

A consulting Team has been retained to develop construction plans implementing the recommendations contained in the Traffic and Access Management Plan. This team will work closely with the Town and the MDOT to develop plans.

“The Vision”

The plan will articulate the Town’s vision of a uniform theme throughout the corridor. Some of the improve-ment which are being designed include various changes to driveways to improve safety, crosswalks at appropri-ate locations, additional signalization at certain loca-tions, sidewalks in selected locations, and drainage improvements. In addition to these improvements, a major focus of the plan will be to develop landscaping and signage changes to improve the visual character of the corridor.

This will be the second year voters will be asked to fund a budget under the Tax Increment Financing District. As with last year, voters will be asked to fund the program that will enable the Town to continue to move forward with the Route 302 effort, now in partnership with the State of Maine. Funding through this program is different than other budgetary items because all the money in the TIF program is sheltered from formulas the State uses when determining revenues to the Town through the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program and General Purpose Aid to Education. The TIF budget is also sheltered from County Taxation.

There will be other issues at Town Meeting such as the standard articles that are voted on each year. The Planning Board will be presenting several proposals to make changes to the Land Use Ordinance and the Town will be asked to vote on the School Department Budget.

As is always the case, I welcome anyone and everyone to contact me if you would like more information on any of the issues discussed in this article. The Town Report will contain additional information and will be mailed in early March. The final warrant for Town Meeting will be available no later than March 11, 2000. For more information contact Nathan Poore at 655-4742.

Raymond Fire/Rescue Honor Night

The Raymond Fire/Rescue Honor Night took place on November 6, 1999 at Ryan’s Seafood in Raymond. The night consisted of a wonderful Buffet put on by Ryan’s Seafood. We would like to honor the following members who received the awards:

Most Improved Firefighter: Shawn Hebert
Most Improved Rescue Member: Tina Whitney
Rescue Member of The Year: Theresa Skillings
Firefighter of The Year: Lloyd Thompson
Can do Attitude: Cheryl Bailey
EMS Officer of The Year: Bob Yates
Fire Officer of The Year: Jeff Christopher
Dispatcher of the Year: Sandy Salomonsen
Support Services of the Year: Bill Parker and Sign Co.
Community Service Award: Bennett Electric

The members of the Raymond Fire and Rescue Depart-ment would like to thank Ryan’s Seafood for a wonder-ful evening of food, and dancing; Action Music; owner, Dave Binon for the excellent job as a DJ; and All Star Trophy and Awards, owner Don Ferry for the beautiful awards.

NYA Winter Honor Roll

The following Raymond residents were recognized at the recent Honors Assembly for their academic achieve-

Highest Honors:
Amanda Dodson, Renee Fortin, Ben White, William Yates

High Honors:
Colin Bumby, Lizzie Crockett, Matt Fortin, Bridget Gagne

Honors:
Zachary Fey, Ben Hutchinson, Amy Stone

P.R.O.P. REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

The Board of Selectmen are asking for a volunteer to be Raymond’s delegate to the People’s Regional Opportunity Program (P.R.O.P.). This person would sit on P.R.O.P.’s Board of Directors which oversees the goals of the agency in caring for low-income citizens in the Greater Portland area which includes Raymond. The meeting commit-

ment would be every second Tuesday of the month from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the Portland office. If you are interested, please call Nathan Poore at 655-4742.

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Poland Middle School Committee Update

Our first meeting was canceled so this update centers on the 1/10/00 meeting. In attendance were Principal Soychek, Dean of Faculty Pierce, many of the 7th and 8th grade staff and 5 parents (including myself). The group began by setting an agenda and planning the time needed for each item of which there were five. I began by giving a brief discussion of the current challenges faced by the Raymond community in terms of our future middle school and the desire by some to start the middle school one year early.

Next we discussed the Poland Middle School scheduling issues. Due to the influx of students into the school the “specials” such as music and gym do not have enough options yet to provide as rounded a program as desired. My son is one of those affected in that he cannot fit his participation in band. Poland will hire the staff necessary to open up the schedules for next year. Also in this meeting two parents were quite upset that the Middle School and High School were quite upset that the Middle School and High School with these scores as they can be converted if needed to more traditional ratings. At this meeting two parents were upset at the last 10/00 meeting.

Through this process as strong and informative as possible. This grading process is stressful to some and at best, new practice to others. The reports also are not traditional A, B, C’s but use defined words like Exemplary, Accomplished, Competent, Novice and Unacceptable. Students are given a chart that defines each and thus students know how to get to an Exemplary level or what Unacceptable is. It really challenges all of us to be a part of our kids education. I understand that colleges do not have issue with these scores as they can be converted if needed to more traditional ratings. At this meeting two parents were quite upset that the Middle School and High School use different ratings. The Educators felt that this reflected the unique differences in the schools. This discussion grew heated at times but was talked as time ran down. All seemed to be aiming toward making the reporting process as strong and informative as possible.

The next meeting will be on January 24th at 2:20 and I plan to attend. In a sense I am representing Raymond at this point. Feel free to let me know any problems or positives you would like to convey to this committee.

Mike McClellan