Road Runner Articles Due

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

Road Runner Articles Due
规范的 reference in the context of the document. It indicates that the article is due by June 15th. This information is crucial for the community to submit their contributions on time.

Investing In Our Future
By: The Raymond School Committee

Raymond is a wonderful and unique community. We benefit greatly from the involvement of many citizens who are engaged in activities designed to preserve and strengthen the richness of our community. When the Annual Town Report is distributed for us to read, we will have the opportunity to glimpse a snapshot of this work for the past year. Community citizens, who volunteer their time in support of a variety of committees, all set out to do what they believe are the right things. The budget articles that we will vote on at our Town meeting reflect all of those beliefs: what we believe we need for town services; what we believe we need for conservation and planning; and, what we believe we need for education services.

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

2002/2003 Fiscal Year Overview
By: Don Willard, Town Manager

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

First among these projects was the successful completion of the Raymond Public Safety Building. The new building, located on the corner of Main Street and Route 302, was completed during the latter part of the winter, and a community open house was held on February 1, 2003. Nearly 300 people toured the Raymond hall and received an overview of departmental operations. Citizens who were unable to take advantage of the open house are encouraged to contact Fire Chief Denis Morse at 655-7851 for a guided tour. This project, under development for nearly ten years, was successfully brought to fruition by a number of active volunteers and departmental officers. Fire Chief Denis Morse was key among this group, and through his leadership the project was completed under the original budget while building the highest quality facility possible. Bob Murray was hired as Clerk of the Works and provided construction supervision. Bob also served the Town as a member of the Building Committee during the planning phase of the project. Bob’s involvement contributed significantly to the overall quality of the building.

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

Balancing Budget And Priorities In Literacy And Mathematics
By: Sandra S. Caldwell, Superintendent Raymond School Department

In August 1997, the Raymond School Committee officially adopted its educational philosophy, which was created by citizens, parents, school staff and students. During that same window of time, State Learning Results, content standards and performance indicators were established. Our philosophy clearly identifies Raymond’s expectations for all students. We expect all students to be clear and effective communicators, critical thinkers and independent problem solvers, responsible global citizens, cooperative and productive workers and self-directed lifelong learners. It was at this time that school systems began to align their local curriculum and assessments with State Learning Results. For Raymond the priorities were unique. This was a time of school building and renovation projects and plans to have all of our classrooms R-8 within our community. Teachers were hired to staff additional grade levels at the Jordan Small Middle School. That exciting goal of having Grades 7 and 8 learners return was reached. It is now time for the curriculum, instruction and assessment work!

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

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

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

Reading Group
The book discussion group will be meeting on May 29 at 7pm. This month’s book is The Samurai’s Garden by Gail Tsukiyama. New members are invited. For more information, please call Jane at 655-3534.

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

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

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

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

“Building Success for Kids” is being offered free to the community on May 1, 7-9pm, at the Riverside Hall on Route 11 Naples. Chris Trout, the director of the Youth Resiliency Project in Portland, will be facilitating. Chris has extensive training experience and uses stories, humor, research and interaction to help us find ways to get the best from kids. To register, call Lori at 655-4277.

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

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

The Bureau and the Mole by David A. Vise
A Book Review By Charles Murray
The Bureau and the Mole is a real life spy thriller, which should give anyone who reads it reason to question what the FBI was doing in the matter of Robert Philip Hanssen a longtime FBI agent who caused more damage to the security of the U.S. than any other spy in the history of the country. The sad thing is that they were alerted several years prior to his apprehension, and if action had been taken at that time many Russian double agents would have been spared death. In addition, extremely sensitive information and espionage programs would not have been compromised. Untold millions of dollars were wasted on various programs such as a very expensive listening tunnel under the Russian Embassy, which due to Hanssen’s treachery was converted from a U.S. intelligence-gathering tool to a Russian disinformation tool.

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

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

May 2003

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Spring Fling Dance
May 3, 2003
The Remember When Lounge
Route 11 Naples
8pm - 12am
(A non-smoking event open to the public)
Door Prizes given away throughout the night
Tickets - $5.00 in advance - $8.00 at the door
Hosted by Raymond Rattlers, Crooked River Snowmobile Club and the Muddy River SnoSeekers
For more information, call Jeff Weeks 655-4400
Hazardous Waste Day August 2, 2003
Hazardous Waste Day will be Saturday, August 2, 2003, from 9am to 1pm at Raymond Elementary School. Again this year deliveries will be charged $50 of the cost is the refuse brought. If you have oil-based paint, antifreeze, insecticides, poisons, fluorescent bulbs or other materials that you can’t identify, this is the time to dispose of them. We will have more information in the June and July issues of the Raymond Road Runner.

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

Smart Tools And Strategies For Managing Growth In The Lakes Region
Are you concerned about runaway development, growth, and sprawl in your community? Members of area Lakes Region Comprehensive Planning Committees are sponsoring a timely workshop that may interest you.

Planning Board Needs You!
The Town of Raymond has an immediate opening on the Planning Board. The Board hears applications for subdivision and site plans under the Town’s Land Use and Shoreland Ordinances and the Subdivision Regulations. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, reside in Raymond, and be available the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings typically last two or three hours. The Board also has work sessions on an as needed basis. No experience is necessary, but an interest in understanding and planning growth, construction and environmental science is a plus.

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

* Maine National Guard Family Program: Money donated to the fund is used to support families of deployed Maine National Guard members. For more information, contact the Maine National Guard Office who has worked with Comprehensive Plans for several Lakes Region Communities.

The workshop will take place:
Tuesday, May 6 7:00-9:00pm
Songo Locks Elementary School
Naples

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

For more information, please contact Brad McMurtry at seabag1@maine.rr.com.

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

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

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

Little Sebago Lake Watershed Survey
The Little Sebago Lake Association is seeking volunteers to help with the upcoming watershed survey of Little Sebago Lake south of Lyon’s Point. Volunteers will be trained to identify and document sites where eroding soil is washing into the lake and will then be asked to return to these sites to report on the condition of the shoreline. Information collected through the survey will be used to help the association keep the lake clean for future generations to enjoy.

Little Sebago Lake Volunteer Training Sessions: Saturday, May 17, 2003, at the Windham Library
The training will run from 9-3. Please call Mary Gilbertson at 856-2777 to sign up or get more information.
Town Meeting 2003: Budgets, Governance, and Responsibility
Continued from page 1

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

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

On April 7, 2003, Raymond’s School Board, Board of Selectmen and Budget/Finance Committee met to finalize and vote on the Town’s comprehensive 2003-2004 Budget. Under the proposed budgets, Raymond’s current mill rate of $16.80 will increase by an estimated $2.87 per thousand of assessed value. The School portion of this increase is $2.13 mils with the remaining portion attributed to the Municipal Budget adjusted to reflect both increased non-property tax revenue and new property growth. The Budget/Finance Committee unanimously approved the budget as proposed. The Board of Selectmen approved the Municipal Budget, yet addressed concerns expressed by Raymond taxpayers by providing a separate warrant article for a proposed new department head position so that Raymond voters could approve or reject this cost without jeopardizing the entire budget request.

The duty of the Board of Selectmen is to represent all of Raymond’s citizens. Our government must guarantee the equitable and fair treatment of children, the elderly, voters, taxpayers, long time residents and transients alike. We are charged not only to provide for the common good but also to ensure fiscal responsibility, accountability and at times restraint. Raymond has invested millions of dollars in the past ten years to secure our future and the results are obvious. We are now at a crossroads where these investments are paying dividends while other new initiatives may need to be delayed or reconsidered. The current uncertainties of the national economy, coupled with the pending state and federal budget crisis, demands that all of Raymond’s expenditures meet the principles of sound financial management and line item justification. The Board of Selectmen do not differ with the School Board and Budget/Finance Committee over sound educational policies and practices; however, we do have serious concerns about the School Board’s planning process, spending priorities and the overall size of the present budget request. In an effort to represent all of Raymond’s citizens, we have voted not to recommend the proposed School Budget for 2003-2004 as presented. The Board of Selectmen has suggested and sincerely believes that changes can be made in this budget that will preserve the quality of education in Raymond while at the same time protecting Raymond’s taxpayers’ ability to pay.

Although the Town Meeting form of government represents the very special nature of direct democracy, it can also fall victim to complacency and indifference. Traditionally only 200-300 Raymond voters have decided how our government works in the coming year. Our free quality of education in Raymond while at the same time protecting Raymond’s taxpayers’ ability to pay.

What To Do When Your Pet Is Missing
By: Town Clerk Louise Lester

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

The purpose of the licensing is to be sure that all dogs are vaccinated for Rabies, which is a deadly vicious disease. Unfortunately Maine is one of the states, which always has a level of Rabies. Rabies not only kills dogs and cats and many other warm blooded animals but humans as well. If a rabid animal bites you, the medication for recovery is not pleasant. It is also imperative that all cats be vacci- nated as well, but they do not need to be licensed.

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

The use of licensing is to identify the dog and its owners when it becomes lost. If you are missing your dog or cat, please call Raymond Dispatch (655-7851) and have them notify Animal Control. You should then call our local shelters to see if an individual has taken your pet to them. There are times when a person will find a dog or cat and not notify Animal Control or Raymond contracts with the Animal Refuge League in Westbrook (854-9771) but your pet might have been taken to the Greater Androscoggin shelter in Auburn (783-2331). The shelters must keep dogs for 6 days before the ARL can allow them to be put up for adoption, but cats do not have the same limitations. The ARL can be adopted immediately. The Animal Refuge League wants everyone to know that they would like to see every dog and cat returned to their owners; but reality is that if the owner doesn’t call them to identify their lost pet, they won’t know that there is someone out there looking for it.

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

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

Applications have been mailed to all Raymond high school seniors. Applications are also available at the Town Office and at the Raymond Village Library. The completed applications should be returned prior to May 31 to: Raymond Lions Scholarship Committee PO Box 1057 Raymond, Maine 04071

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

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

Raymond Lions Club Student Scholarship
On Wednesday, May 21st, the Lions and Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive at the JSMV from 1:30-7:30. As you are all aware, our blood supply is always running close to 3 days worth, in the State of Maine. Donors are needed! Please donate 1 to 1/2 hours of your time to save the life of one or more fellow human beings. If you do not get called within the next 2 weeks asking you to donate, and if you would like to help others, please call 655-4412 or 655-7163 and leave your name, phone number and the time you will be able to donate. If you have any questions on whether you are eligible to donate, please call the Red Cross at 800-228-7177.

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE May 15

Raymond Lions Club Student Of The Month For March
Pictured are Lisa Kathy Jones, Chair of the Raymond Lions Club Student of the Month Program, Student of the Month for March. Ben Myhayver, and his Dad Jim Myhayver. The Lions are proud to present Ben with a Savings Bond and gift certificate to a local merchant. An eighth grade student at Jordan-Small Middle School, Ben plans on attending Windham High School, with an eye on a college degree in his future. Ben cheerfully helps around the house and regularly volunteers locally. An honor roll student, he is available to friends in school in need of help with studies. He enjoys basketball and football and takes part in programs at the teen center in Windham. The Raymond Lions wish him well in high school and college.
2002/2003 Fiscal Year Overview
Continued from page 1

implemented during the year ahead, subject to Town approval. Nearing maturation is the effort to revalue each community’s property for the purpose of maximizing each community’s capital and property costs by employing economies of scale while at the same time improving the quality of the services offered. We are confident, given the resources available to the Town and the output that by working together both objectives can be realized.

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

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

Throughout the year the Comprehensive Planning Committee has been very active meeting on a regular basis. The full range of municipal services, environmental and land use issues facing the Town have been discussed and new activities identified for the future. A proposal to acquire the former Post Office building at 51 Main Street was the subject of a Special Town Meeting on January 7, 2003. This proposal was defeated by a vote of 33 in favor to 45 opposed. The Selectmen wished to acquire the property with funding from municipal fund balance (surplus) to combine it with property already owned by the Library Club and Town in hopes that this location could support a future municipal and village center (Town Office, Library and public green space).

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

The Town of Raymond has for several years been in a significant growth pattern. Over $14,000,000 in new valuation is expected this year alone generating at least 2.5% of the overall tax rate which is projected to increase this year and beyond. The proposed increase in this year’s Municipal Budget will result in an estimated 7.4% increase in the tax rate. Ultimately, changes in the Town’s budget are driven to a large extent by changes in the community. Raymond is among the fastest growing communities in Cumberland County. According to the 2000 U.S. Census Raymond’s population grew by 29.8% over the ten-year period.

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

From the 1996/1999 to the 2002/2003 fiscal years, the Property Tax Rate has increased from $14.32 to $16.80 per thousand valuation. This is an average increase of 4.9% per year for town, school and county expenditures over the five-year period. During the same time period there has also been a large increase in non-property tax revenues. These revenues include such collections as excise tax, license and application fees, state revenues and contract for service revenue.

The fiscal year 03/04 Municipal Expenditure Budget, not including school and county appropriations, is proposed at a total of $3,508,513, which represents a gross increase of $705,158 or 25.15% over the 2002/2003 budget of $2,803,355. Non-property tax revenues are projected to increase by $127,471 or 10%. The net increase of $532,687 is the difference between the expenditure budget increase and the growth in revenues. This is the sum that is proposed to be raised in additional property taxes required to fund Raymond governmental operations. To help offset an increase in the mil rate, $450,000 in undesignated fund balance (surplus) will be utilized. There will also be an estimated $14,000,000 in new valuation growth generating a minimum of $235,200 in new property tax revenue that can be applied to increases in expenditures in the town, school and county budgets. This new revenue will help reduce the overall impact of new spending and associated increase in the tax rate outlined above. The proposed municipal budget increase will require an estimated $1,24 increase in the mil rate or 7.4%, not including the new property tax revenue expected.

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

2003-2004 Budget Overview

- **Administration** – This department reflects a $64,935 increase. The increase is attributable to the addition of a new full-time counter/service employee at the Town Office, an increase in the Town Manager’s salary, as well as continuing efforts to gradually bring Raymond’s employee compensation to municipal area averages. Other increases include new equipment at the Town Office as a result of an ergonomic evaluation conducted by the Maine Municipal Association. This study yielded several worker health related recommendations for improvements in office equipment and furniture. An increase is also proposed in legal expenses, additional elections, purchase of new voting booths and postal rates.

- **Assessing** – Changes in the department are related to the proposal to move from a one day per week contract service supported by ten hours per week secretarial assistance to a single position of full-time Assessor’s Agent. This change will require a period of transition while a present employee obtains the necessary training and credentials and the current contract service agreement ends. An increase of $5,529 is proposed during the transition year.

- **Town Office** – The supplies budget line is increasing to reflect current actual use, which is a result of increased activity. Overall this account is decreasing by $2,200.

- **Insurance** – The major change in this account is the additional expenditure of $72,855 to reflect the cost of providing the option of 85% family health care coverage to the Town’s 20 full-time municipal employees (excluding the Technology Director/Assistant Code Enforcement Officer who is shown separately below) consistent with health insurance coverage offered to Raymond’s schoolteachers. This change was made after the Selectmen reviewed employee benefits survey data from the Cumberland and Androscoggin County municipal labor markets. Raymond has previously offered family health care insurance to most of its municipal employees. Other changes in this account group include an increase of $27,597 in retirement contribution match to reflect the Selectmen’s decision to provide 50% of the cost of the family health care benefit program to employees eligible for this benefit but who are otherwise covered by insurance and therefore decide to opt out of the program. Social Security is also increasing by $14,097 and Worker’s Compensation Insurance by $5,575. Total account increase is $123,906.

- **General Assistance** – This appropriation continues on a downward trend, which is a reflection of both the small number of qualified residents and a scarcity of affordable rental housing preventing lower-income individuals from moving to Raymond. A decrease of $1,000.

- **Technology Director/Assistant Code Enforcement Officer** – Technology Director is a new position with a salary of $45,860. This position will be combined with part-time Assistant Code Enforcement Officer duties at $16,640 for a full-time position with a salary of $62,500. Employee benefits (health, retirement, life and FICA) for this position are estimated at $17,012 for a total cost of $79,512. The position will coordinate, direct and improve the Town’s internal use of technology, maintain the existing computer network, as well as facilitate development of online services. The Assistant Code Enforcement component of the position will provide assistance to the CEO as needed as well as provide additional support for environmental compliance and review of residential and commercial development projects.

- **Technology Department** – The Technology Department supports the maintenance and upgrading of computer hardware and software which is necessary to operate the Town’s internal network, software licensing fees, website, e-mail, Raymond Road Runner, Annual Report, and a portion of the Information Systems Administrator’s salary. Cable broadcasting expenses are also included in this line item. This year there is a new request to provide five laptop computers to deliver information electronically to the Board of Selectmen. This account group is increasing by $24,921.

- **Community Development Services** – This account group is decreasing by $8,600. Major changes include a reduction of $12,000 to reflect the end of funding necessary for the Comprehensive Plan update. Another increase in the account group is the Milford Protection Program, which is now budgeted at $9,000, a $4,000 increase over last year’s appropriation. This issue is very important as the threat of invasive aquatic plans puts the value of approximately one-half of Raymond’s real estate tax base at risk.

- **Fire/Rescue Department** – Changes in this budget area include increases in hourly standby pay and daily per diem pay as well as the Fire Chief’s stipend. Another change in the Fire Department Budget is the cost of operating the new Public Safety Building. Although this building is new and has energy efficient systems, it is much larger than the old District I Fire Station, which results in higher operation costs. Total increase proposed: $75,358.

- **Dispacht** – An increase in this account of $4,480 is related to small adjustments to bring employee pay in line with area averages. Short-term plans include moving the Dispatch Center from the Raymond Town Office to the new Public Safety Building. Longer-range talks are underway with the Town of Naples and/or Cumberland County for consolidated dispatch services. Regionalized dispatching will likely yield much lower dispatching costs in 2004.

- **Emergency Management** – A slight reduction of $300 in local spending is proposed. New financial support is expected from Federal, State and County governments.

- **Animal Control** – A reduction in expenses of $4,146 is attributable to state law requiring certain animal control revenues to be dedicated for animal control expenditure purposes only.

- **Infrastructure** – Streetlights costs are up slightly to fund operating costs for new lights approved by the Selectmen including entrance lighting at the new Public Safety Building and five new streetlights on Cape Road. Hydrant rental is a new charge required of participant towns in the Portland Water District. It is based on the number of hydrants in the system. Currently that number is 23 at a total charge of $409.75 per month or $4,917 per year. Overall account increase $5,920.

- **Public Works** – The salary line reflects a total increase in wages of $17,820 for the five Public Works employees to align these wages with labor market averages. Operational budget lines are also projected to increase including supplies, materials, road signs, road salt, etc. These increases are related to the expansion of the Public Works crew last year. Additional staffing means a much greater amount of work can be completed. The cost of maintenance and utilities for the old District I Fire Station has been assumed by the Public Works Department. The current utilization of this building is for the Public Works Director’s Office, equipment storage, sign shop and general workshop space. Total increase proposed $31,322.

- **Cemeteries** – A $313 decrease in proposed spending.

- **Parks** – An increase of $2,710 to reflect the Town’s assumption of full financial responsibility for Sheri Gagnon Park and mowing Agawam’s field for use by Raymond Recreation.

- **Unclassified** – Reflects service provider requests to support social service programs and the Raymond Village Library. An increase of $4,830.

- **Capital Improvements Program (CIP)** –
  - o Digital Broadcast Studio equipment is proposed to increase from $20,000 to $40,000 to initiate live broadcast capabilities from the former Modular Classroom at Jordan-Small Middle School.
  - o Public Safety Building – The first year of principal and interest on the Public Safety Building is now due resulting in a total payment of $139,542.
  - o Revaluation – This is the second of four equal installments of $68,250 to facilitate a property revaluation or tax equalization project on all Raymond property.
Public Works Capital Reserve – This account group shows a substantial increase in funding for municipal roadwork and reconstruction. This year’s request of $275,000 is up from last year’s total of $150,000. The large change will help address the backlog of necessary roadwork. Major work is planned for Cape Road, North Raymond Road and Spiller Hill Road. There is also an appropriation of $83,333 for several pieces of new equipment.

Fire Department Capital Reserve – Will remain at last year’s funding level of $180,367, which will fund the gradual replacement and improvement of apparatus.

Town Office Reserve – A new reserve fund for future Town Office renovation or construction was established in the amount of $10,000.

Total CIP increase $282,175.

Tax Increment Financing District Budget – Total request $227,559. The TIF Budget supports Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staffing, training, software and hardware and the purchase of a projector for computer video presentations at meetings. Debt retirement on the Portland Water District Waterline Extension Bond and Route 302 Improvement Project Bond is contained within this budget. An appropriation of $10,000 is also included for support of the Lake Region Development Council. F.Y. 03-04 increase is $6,804.

County Tax – An increase of 7.34% to $405,202.

Non Property Tax Revenues – The Tower Lease revenue is projected to increase by $8,377 or 42.5%; excise tax on new vehicles by $50,000 or 8.3%; Municipal Revenue Sharing from the State is decreasing by $6,846 or 2.36%; CEO fees are increasing by $30,000 or 60%; Public Safety Income is decreasing by $50,600 or 80.70% (due to the loss of the Town of Poland Dispatch Contract); Interest Income is down $15,000 or 13.04%; the use of fund balance (surplus) is recommended at $450,000, an increase of $150,000 or 50%. Total revenue including other miscellaneous changes results in a projected increase of $172,471 or 10%.

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Don Willard
Town Manager

Elizabeth Cummings
Finance Director
Candidates For Elected Office Speak Out

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

Frank Dexter, School Committee Candidate

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

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

During the years in business, I also became involved in the town government where I lived. I was appointed to the Comprehensive Plan Committee. I was elected to the School Committee at a turbulent time. I was chosen to chair a year long Superintendent Search Committee. This took place just prior to the 1999-2000 school year in a district that had nearly 4,500 students and a budget in the range of $35,000,000. Two years after I moved here to Raymond, I read in the Road Runner that the School Committee was looking for members for its Superintendent Screening Committee. I volunteered for that committee because the ex-Civics teacher in me really does believe that we owe more than our taxes to the community. I felt I could lend a hand. It is the same motivation that has prompted me to accept the two month interim position on the School Committee and that is prompting me to run for election. I believe that experience does count and that I do have something to contribute. I can promise you that, if elected, I will do the best job I can.

Betty McDermott, Selectmen Candidate

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

Over the past three years Raymond has improved its infrastructure and added value to the town. Public water has added value to Rte. #302 and the village area and reduced insurance costs for all of us. The Public Safety building is now open and serving the public. The town should be proud of the fact that it has built this facility not only to meet its present needs but also for the future needs of the town. It is my hope that Raymond has bought another established business and proceeded to build a sellable house in the communities that surround us. It is common place for a home in Raymond to sell for $20,000 to $40,000 more than a like house in communities surrounding us, resulting of living in a desirable community.

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

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

Lisa Friedlander, School Committee Candidate, Democrat

Lisa has lived in Raymond for 9½ years with her husband, Tom Cloutier, and their two daughters, Molly and Gaia. The girls are both students at Raymond Elementary School. In my work as an attorney, I have served on the School Budget Committee since November of 1999. During the past 3½ years, we have had the foresight to plan for- our future. Raymond has.

I have lived in Raymond since 1996, with my husband Bill Dreyer, a dentist, and my daughter Molly, who is a 4th grader at RES. I am a registered nurse and currently working half-time practice in Windham. I am a Girl Scout Leader, a member of the Raymond Village Library Club and the P.T.A., and a volunteer at RES each week.

It has been my pleasure to have served on the School Committee since November of 1999. During the past 3½ years, I have come to greatly appreciate the time, effort, talent and creativity that is the Raymond School Department.

We are required to meet the mandates of Chapters 125 and 127 of Maine law, and the No Child Left Behind Act of the Federal Government. As a School Committee member, I will maintain the balance between fiscal responsibility to the residents of Raymond, while assuring our children the excellent education they deserve and meeting these mandates. We must also continue to address the needs of on-going and delayed maintenance of our school buildings and grounds for future generations of students.

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

Investing In Our Future

Continued from page 1

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

As a school committee, we are planning for the ‘03-’04 target date began this past September. We identified short-term and long-term goals and then set out to ensure that all our work aligned with our mission/vision and goals. The Superintendent applied for and received a grant which allowed us to begin some work that was not previously funded for this year. Therefore, as we entered the formal budget process, we began with a budget that addressed the top 15 priorities. Analyzing, weighing, our agenda. It is the same motivation that has led to our current Superintendent is required. We have created an updated job description which delineates our expectations for this role. The superintendent is the CEO and Administrative Manager of a $7M + Organization. The key responsibilities of the superintendent in this community include: Leading Curriculum & Instructional Development; Director of Personnel; serving as Business/ Finance Leader; Director of Testing/Student Evaluation; Community Relations/Communication and Liaison to the serving high schools for Raymond’s high school students. Balancing all of this key work cannot be achieved on a part-time basis.

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

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

There is so much that draws residents to Raymond. The location and natural environment, the level of community involvement, and certainly the strength of the Education System in this community. Recognized as being a community school of excellence in the past, we are working to preserve that status for our children’s future. We invite you to become familiar with the School Department Budget and with the increases that we are bringing forward to the community at Town Meeting. (The Raymond Web Site contains a significant amount of information for you to review.) We want the residents of the town to understand the investments being made for our children. Feel free to contact a member of the school committee with any questions you might have.
The Conservation Commission invites you to join us on May 4th for a tour of the flora, fauna, geology and history of Pismire Mountain. This 800 foot rocky, south-facing hill stands on the east shore of Crescent Lake and provides stunning views of Rattlesnake Mountain. Crescent Lake and seemingly uninterrupted forest beyond.

Hike Pismire Mountain With The Conservation Commission

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

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

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

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

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Raymond Tomorrow! Today More Than Ever!

By Brad McCartney, Chair, Raymond Tomorrow!

Raymond’s Comprehensive Plan Committee

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

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

The reality, though, is that this year’s huge proposed tax increase is the result of many factors, many of which are growth-related—both past and future. According to US Census figures, Raymond has been one of the fastest growing communities in one of the fastest growing counties in Maine. Our Code Enforcement Officer tells us that since its Plan last year and is now beginning to implement it. But all of us in the Lakes Region are trying to work together to effect regional solutions to our many regional issues.

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

All of us on the Comprehensive Planning Committee live here, love our community, and plan to stay here forever in Raymond, just like you. And, very importantly, we are volunteers. We meet on our own personal time. And the members of this committee are here, for the most part, because we are informed and motivated. Many of our meetings don’t even offer that. And let us remember that trash pickup and bulk trash pick up are still free in Ray-

We were also looking at the threats that might challenge those values that you hold dear. In addition to pent-up deferred maintenance, we’re really not far from losing many of the qualities that make this community such a special place in which to live: the still-pure lakes and streams, vast open space and wildlife, the ability of our town workers to know us by name rather than by our address, and much more.

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

The purpose of that mailing was to announce a series of neighborhood meetings that were held at strategic points throughout the community last year. And at those meet-

ings, we listened to what our residents had to say and to their vision of Raymond’s future. We even got the schoolchildren involved in making posters for us as you can see on our web page.

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

For those and all who were unable to attend any of the meetings, we invited you to send your comments to us via complan@raymondmaine.org. To visit the Comp Plan’s section of Raymond’s website, and to subscribe to our periodic e-mail updates. More than 200 stakeholders signed up for these free e-mail updates. Many more have sent us their comments via e-mail. Last year’s final meeting was held here again at this year’s Town Meeting with another survey. And this summer we’re hoping to have one or more townwide meetings to get your thoughts on our work-to-date, which is pretty far along.

What you’ve told us you want...

What you have told us loud and clear is:

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

Bold actions required

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

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

Tough choices and tools of hope...

Here are the choices and tools that we have identified:

1. Do nothing. Keeping things pretty much as they are will appease those who own developable tracks of land in the community. It will allow these stakeholders—many of whom are not even Raymond residents—to continue Raymond’s rapid growth. Since most of this growth is single-hosing lots, for the most part, they escape Town review and subdivision regulation. If you favor this option, expect significantly higher taxes in the years ahead and a diminished quality of life as we know it.

2. Building Cap. A building cap would limit the number of building permits in our community to a pre-determined number each year. This won’t change the ultimate pattern of growth, but it will postpone it. There are several approaches to build-

Continued on top of next page
Raising The Bar
By Marilée Dunkler, Gifted-Talented Consulting Teacher

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

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

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

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

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

Amanda Hammett, eighth grade student and member of a team going to international competition, reflected on her experiences. She said, “Odyssey of the Mind is a wonder-
ful experience because it involves creativity and various intelligences including art, logical/mathematical, and dra-
matic.”

When asked what was the most fun about O-M, she quickly replied, “Basically the whole thing was fun – developing our plans and watching them appear.” For Amanda, the hard-
est thing was “when the vehicles didn’t work, and we were running out of time.”

Like in a democracy! Don’t just sit there and do nothing. Refrain from personal attacks against one another.

The Raymond Rattler Snowmobile Club would like to thank our trail system. We appreciate your help in making this happen.

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

By: Laurie Forbes, Technology Committee Chair

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

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

From “grass roots” beginnings with home computers and volunteers, Raymond has seen its technology grow, improve and change from a simple webpage to a highly-praised, content-rich website; a well-designed, many-scaled system of servers, network and printers; the GIS/GPS mapping system for residential and commercial town properties; the Road Runner newspaper, the town’s annual report; e-mail system for all town departments; the television system for dispatch and the municipal buildings in general; and an electronic calendar system for all town entities from committees to clubs to classrooms to sports teams. Work proceeds on bringing the cable TV station to life, digitizing the town’s government meetings, archiving important town documents, and introducing the flexibility of e-commerce for certain town transactions.

All of this requires continuous work: monitoring, troubleshooting, upgrading, repairing, configuring, and licensing. It also continues to be run and managed by volunteers, which is becoming increasingly clear to us, the volunteer. Too often, we neglect the faculty with the opportunity to take advantage of the benefits that the technology provides, and therefore the town, stand to gain from the creation of a specialized position devoted to technology.

Let’s keep the things we already have – with the volunteers managing everything, and consider payment to volunteers when they have to draw upon certain specialized knowledge or expertise. No one would benefit from an arrangement like this. The town would be paying for the limited-time work of one volunteer, and the volunteer itself is not a sustainable model. The town would need to continue to move toward the entire cost of the technology, not just the part-time salary, but the time and effort involved. It’s too expensive... tough times..... tight budget.

Having something actually “break” will be the least of the issues and the costs. Technology in all its various forms is complex, but people who use it don’t want to understand it – that’s why they hire people to do it for them. The expectation and maintenance and upgrade requirements, under the heading of “Technology” has its own life expectancy and is not sustainable, affecting or complicating the lives of the people who rely on the technology.

Along with their other duties, these town employees would need to be trained in areas they would need to be proficient enough to be self-reliant in, due simply to how rapidly technology changes. This is because, will they need to be, they’re already pretty much spoken for, full-time.

Let’s carve up what the volunteers can’t get to and hand the pieces off to the Technology Director. Along with their other duties, these town employees would need to be trained in areas they would need to be proficient enough to be self-reliant in, due simply to how rapidly technology changes. This is because, will they need to be, they’re already pretty much spoken for, full-time.

If something breaks, we’ll call someone in the Yellow Pages. If you decide now to stop filling your car up with gas or to stop replacing the tires or changing the oil, your car’s going to get you where you need to go for how long? Everything electronic that can be included under the heading of “Technology” has its own life expectancy and maintenance and upgrade requirements, and to mention official (legal) licensing requirements. Having something actually “break” will be the least of the dangers. Calling expensive repair people in to deal with something that someone simply didn’t understand (“It’s plugged in?” is a well known and therefore disastrous to a network ignores at its peril. As hackers find more creative the volunteers who rely on the technology. There are ways to invade networks and computers, the challenge is to stay one step ahead of them – without, any more than absolutely necessary, affecting or complicating the lives of the people who rely on the technology.

We can’t speak for all volunteers, but in this particular situation money is not the issue. What the Technology Committee volunteers, and therefore the town, stand to gain from the creation of a paid municipal technology position is some badly needed centralized focus and authoritative direction. The Technology in all its various forms may be complex, but there are people right here in town who understand it. The town needs to hire one of these people, and that person will then manage both the short term needs and the “what’s the future going to bring?” concerns. This can be done in an exceptionally professional, well-planned and cost-effective manner. Technology is mainly about information sharing, providing access to it, and protecting it; and people need information in order to make good decisions.

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

Raymond Elementary School Report

By: Norma Richard

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

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

This is only the second year that Raymond Elementary School students have competed in Odyssey of the Mind. We are so proud of our two teams, as both placed at the Maine State Tournament. That is an amazing accomplishment for these students and their coaches. I want to congratulate Fred and Cindy Masl and their team of Molly Keane-Dreyer, Weston Masl, Caise Gordon, Alex Neill, Tyler Winde, Gaia Cloutier and Molly Cloutier for their 2nd place performance. David Guiseley and Melinda Bickford at the Odyssey of the Mind, at the Chamber of Commerce, and at the Odyssey of the Mind. Madison Rankin, Kyle Hargreaves, and Ian Dixon are also to be congratulated for their 3rd place finish. The results of both teams are extraordinary.

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

It’s too expensive... tough times..... tight budget. Cost can be measured, easily or not, in a number of ways. We can see in black and white what appears to be a rather large annual salary, plus benefits, but we would also know that Raymond’s technology – in all its very many aspects – is being taken care of. And this means professionally, properly, innovatively and cost effectively. The alternative is not to see the big salary number in front of us but instead to have the cost hidden and stretched and spread and multiplied through inefficiencies, lack of knowledge, duplication of effort, waste, unnecessary service calls, ruined equipment and missed/lost opportunities. Let’s not do everything now. The technology can be phased in over time. For the most part, the technology is already here. Over the last 6 years, the technology volunteers have put in a lot of effort, which includes not only technical expertise but also “deal-finding” and even personal expense, to create a secure, professional network of outstanding equipment for the Town of Raymond. Almost all of this hardware and software has either been donated or has been acquired at a tiny fraction of its retail cost. Either it can be properly cared for — repaired, maintained and upgraded — or it can be consigned. As an ever-changing group of volunteers, the Technology Committee’s ability to coordinate and handle all of this has been slipping for several years now, and the Town has been aware of this for at least that long.

Then the Town made a mistake in letting the technology get too complex and cumbersome to maintain. Again, what has happened here is that Raymond is typical of people who rely on the technology. There are ways to invade networks and computers, the challenge is to stay one step ahead of them – without, any more than absolutely necessary, affecting or complicating the lives of the people who rely on the technology.

So is this what’s going to happen every time a volunteer decides he/she wants to get paid? We can’t speak for all volunteers, but in this particular situation money is not the issue. What the Technology Committee volunteers, and therefore the town, stand to gain from the creation of a paid municipal technology position is some badly needed centralized focus and authoritative direction. Technology in all its various forms may be complex, but there are people right here in town who understand it. The town needs to hire one of these people, and that person will then manage both the short term needs and the “what’s the future going to bring?” concerns. This can be done in an exceptionally professional, well-planned and cost-effective manner. Technology is mainly about information sharing, providing access to it, and protecting it; and people need information in order to make good decisions.
Plaid Scolastic Book Fairs
Set Event Sales Record!

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

Grandparents’ Day At The Raymond Elementary School

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

Local Students Receive Honors At State PTA Reflections Program
This year the Raymond PTA sent seven winning entries from our local Reflections Program on to the State level to compete. The State of Maine PTA has announced their winning entries. Raymond students receiving honors are:

- Shannon Sutton, Fourth Place – Literature Grades K – 2
- Cassandra Gordon, Honorable Mention – Literature Grades 3 – 5
- Molly Keane-Dreyer, Outstanding Interpretation – Music Grades 1 – 5
- Daniel Connor, Third Place – Visual Arts Grades 3 – 5
- Bryan Connor, First Runner Up – Visual Arts Grades 6 – 8

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

Next year’s theme for the Reflection Program is “I’m really happy when...”
It’s Bicentennial Time In Raymond

Raymond: Then & Now: A Bicentennial Celebration

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

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

Next on the agenda is the Fair at the Jordan-Small Middie and Raymond Elementary Schools from 11:30am to 4:30pm. The Jordan-Small Middie School will be the site of our Then events. The Raymond-Casco Historical Society will sponsor Ernie Knight’s Then & Now slide show, a movie about the making of the Raymond Cape Road, Linda Griffin’s slide show of Antique Homes, and several private collections of historic items will be on display. Step back in time as you watch people in bicentennial garb stroll around the fairgrounds. Demonstrators will be on site to show us how crafts from the past such as spinning, quilting, weaving, caning, basket making, tatting & lace making, herbal crafts, Coopering, woodworking with early tools, woodcarving and making rustic furniture were done. Come and watch (or better yet participate) in old-fashioned games like Hoop & Stick, Sack and Three-legged Races, and Frying Pan and Rolling Pin Tosses. Try your arm at Log Sawing or Splintering. All participants will receive a gift just for taking part, and there will be additional prizes for the winners. Revisit your musical roots with live performances by four popular bands.

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

Have You Heard?

What? We are having a parade!

When? June 21st, 10:00am

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

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

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

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

What else should I know? There will be Floats & Fire Trucks, Clowns & Scouts, Music & Horses and a special appearance by “Slugger”! If you’re lucky, you might catch a trick on you? Do you know of somebody that just needs some cheer in their life? We want to make your day special! Please contact Karyn Knight at 655-3926 (knight@pivot.net) or Sue Ellen Gendron at 655-4463 (karynsknights@me.com)

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

Displays Needed

The Raymond-Casco Historical Society would like anyone who may have old items, collections, or whatever, that they would like to display at a secure place for people to view during Raymond’s Bicentennial on June 21st to please get in touch with Betty McDermott at fmcderm1@maine.rr.com, 655-4466, or Wayne Holmquist at wholmqui@maine.rr.com, 655-7672.

Give Someone A Special Dip

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

Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Phone #</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 7th</td>
<td>Lions Club Golf Tournament</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bob Jones</td>
<td>655-7163</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 14th</td>
<td>History Tour &amp; Picnic</td>
<td>Race Route</td>
<td>Deb Blanchard</td>
<td>655-8672</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 21st</td>
<td>Founders Day Celebrations</td>
<td>Raymond Village Church</td>
<td>Deb Cuten</td>
<td>655-2877</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Sk/10k Road Race</td>
<td>Main Street</td>
<td>Sue Ellen Gendron</td>
<td>655-4463</td>
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<td>7:30-9:30</td>
<td>Pancake Breakfast</td>
<td>Raymond Village Church</td>
<td>Brenda McMackin</td>
<td>655-7909</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-11:00</td>
<td>Parade</td>
<td>Main Street</td>
<td>Brenda Olsen</td>
<td>655-4670</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-11:30</td>
<td>Dedication Ceremony</td>
<td>Fire &amp; Safety &amp; JSMS</td>
<td>Karyn Knight</td>
<td>655-9206</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30-4:30</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>RES &amp; JSMS</td>
<td>Dennis Morton</td>
<td>655-2725</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30-6:30</td>
<td>Pig Roast</td>
<td>Raymond Village Church</td>
<td>Deb Cuten</td>
<td>655-2877</td>
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<tr>
<td>-7:00</td>
<td>Boat Regatta</td>
<td>Jordan Bay</td>
<td>Sue Ellen Gendron</td>
<td>655-4463</td>
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<tr>
<td>-9:00pm</td>
<td>Fire Works Display</td>
<td>Jordan Bay</td>
<td>Phil Michaud</td>
<td>655-2722</td>
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<td>12-4</td>
<td>Riverside Grange</td>
<td>Raymond Hill Rd.</td>
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<td>12-4</td>
<td>Clough’s Store</td>
<td>Webbs Mills Rd.</td>
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<td>12-4</td>
<td>Baptist Church</td>
<td>Raymond Hill Rd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-4</td>
<td>East Raymond Chapel</td>
<td>Webbs Mills Rd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 28th</td>
<td>Hawthorne House Strawberry Social</td>
<td>John Manoush</td>
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<td>655-7660</td>
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Raymond Bicentennial Birthday Cake Contest

Prepared by John and Kim Manoush, April 12, 2003

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

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

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

For Best Decorated – Originality; appropriateness to the Raymond Bicentennial theme, attractiveness.

For Best Tasting – Texture and flavor of frosting; Texture and flavor of cake.

Following the contest, the cakes will be served as refreshments, so every entry will be helping the Town raise money from this event. To enter, simply jot down the following information: your name, phone number, flavor of cake and frosting, and a brief description, such as size and decoration, and bring it along with your masterpiece.

If you have questions call John and Kim at 655-7660 or by e-mail at jmanoush@pivot.net

Live Entertainment

Keep Saturday, June 21st, open for the Town of Raymond’s Bicentennial Celebrations. There will be live entertainment appearing on two stages: one stage dedicated to our musical roots with appearances by the Breast Family Show Band, including Dennis Breau; his famous mom, B.C.A. recording artist Betty Cody; “Genial” Gene and Flo Hooper; and a cast of talented family and friends. Dennis and family will also do a tribute to their patriarch and country music legend, the late Hal Lone Pine. Also be on the lookout for Turkey Hollow, a contemporary roots trio playing both original and traditional music, as well as the Muddy Marsh Ramblers, a most-excellent bluegrass band. The second stage will be dedicated to “more current” music including sets by hip-hop-infused funk rock band, The Kingpin Wrecking Crew; contemporary singer-songwriter, Carole Wise; R&B, blues and rock masters, SOU!Lution; and much, much more. Look for further updates next month!
Celebrate 200 Years Of Raymond History

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

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

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

- **Judges for the Best Bicentennial Garb and the House Decoration Contests and for the Parade.**
- **Volunteers to staff the following games/competitions/races:** Dart Toss, Duck Pond, Bean Bag Toss, Cheerio, Ring Toss, Bouncy House, Pin the Tail on the Donkey, Ring Toss, Scavenger Hunt, Hoop ‘n Stick Race, Potato Sack Race, 3-legged Race, Log Splitting Contest, Log Sawing Contest.
- **Other Positions:** ticket booth attendants, ballroom fillers/distributors, and a photographer. People to help set-up on the evening of Friday, June 20th, and the morning of Saturday, June 21st. People to help take-down & clean up on the afternoon of June 21st. More organizations and/or businesses to sponsor food booths.

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

**Best Bicentennial Garb Contest**

Please join in on the fun and dress up for our Bicentennial Celebration. On Founders Day, June 21st, we will be having a 200th year birthday party for our town. A Fair will be held at the schools from 11:30am to 4:30pm. To celebrate the history of our Town and to lend atmosphere to the celebration, we’d like as many people as possible to dress in period clothing. The Town was founded in 1803; however, any type of Colonial or Victorian style clothing would be appropriate. All those dressed up will gather for a group photo (on our new bandstand hopefully?) at 12:30 pm. Prizes will be awarded for Best Costume-Adult Male & Female and Best Costume-Child Female & Male. Prizes will include $10 gift certificates for the adults and season passes to FunTown/Splashtown USA for the children.

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

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

**Raymond Bicentennial Planning Committee Meeting Notice**

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

- **Where:** Raymond Elementary School
- **When:** Wednesday, April 30th
- **Time:** 7:00pm

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

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**Founders Day Flag Raising Ceremony**

By: Fire Chief Denis Morse

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

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

Join Joni Merrill, JSMS Physical Education Instructor, in helping to organize some fun competitions.

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

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

**House Decoration Contest**

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

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

Please send your name, address, phone number, and directions to your home to the following address by June 15th:

Debbie Cutten
11 Over Drive
Raymond, ME 04071

**Pie Eating Contest**

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

Two winners will be chosen: one from the Adult Competition and another from the Child Competition. Whoever eats the most pies in the allotted time in each competition will win. If you would like to participate, please send your name, address, phone number, age and how many pies you think you can eat to the address below by June 15th. The contest will be held at the Bicentennial Fair at RES on June 21st at 2:00. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Cutten at 655-4677 (dcutten@maine.rr.com) or Sue Ellen Gendron at 655-4463 (jeffsueellen@pivot.net).

**Red Cross Blood Drive**

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

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

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

If you would like to enter before race day, please contact Louise Lester, 403 Webb's Mills Road, Raymond, Maine 04071, or by e-mail at louise.ester@raymondmaine.org, or visit our website at www.raymondmaine.org.

**Win A Week At Tassel Top Cottage!**

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

**Attention Raymond Businesses**

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

**How:**

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

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

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

If you would like to participate in the celebrations, or if you have any questions, please contact Deb Cutten at 655-2877 (dcutten@maine.rr.com) or Sue Ellen Gendron at 655-4463 (jeffsueellen@pivot.net).
Bicentennial Lecture on Hawthorne
By: John Manoush, April 14, 2003

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

In recognition of Raymond’s Bicentennial, the Hawthorne Community Association, in cooperation with the Raymond Village Library, has invited a speaker to inform and entertain us on June 28 at 6:30 PM after the Founders Day celebration. Trudy Riesenberg of Harpswell has studied Hawthorne extensively and has graciously agreed to share some of her knowledge with us.

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

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

Information about the Hawthorne House and Association may be found on its website, www.pivott.net/hawthorne. Please come and learn about this piece of history in our backyard.

History Tour & Picnic
A walking history tour of the Main Street area of Raymond will be held on Saturday, June 14th, from 10:00 till noon followed by a picnic. This is an opportunity to preview one of Deb Blanchard’s new Letterboxing History Trails that will not officially open until the following weekend. Participants will meet in the Village at 10:00am and board a bus that will deliver them to each of the stops on the tour. Following the tour, a picnic lunch will be served at a yet-to-be-determined site. The tour and picnic are free, but space is limited to the first 50 people who reserve a place. More information will be found in the June Raymond Road Runner.

To reserve your seat, or for more information, please contact Deb Blanchard at 655-8672.

Raymond Village Library Reading Group, March 2003
One Man’s Meat: A Collection of Essays written by E.B. White from 1938 to 1943 (Review by Claudia trend)

So what’s the story on E.B. White, and why do we have to call him E.B.? Was his mother in such a hurry that she couldn’t even puzzle out what his name really was? How about calling him Elwyn? Sorry, “E.B.”, visits his own childhood through a carefully kept boyhood journal, which he likes to quote yet dismisses as “childish rumination.”

Next month on the third we have:

Our final orienteering session to be held at St. Joseph’s College
Craft fair at RVCC where we will sell scout-made birdhouses built under the supervision of Mr. Lockwood (Pete), candy bars, and candles.

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

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

NYA Honor Roll For The Second Trimester
HIGHEST HONORS
Alison White, Grade 9
Renee Fortin, Grade 10
Benjamin White, Grade 12
HIGH HONORS
Kevin Caine, Grade 8
Elizabeth Crockett, Grade 12
Amanda Dodson, Grade 10
Shawn Gagne Grade 12
Abby Hutchinson, Grade 12
William Yates, Grade 11

Box Tops/Labels Program Raises Over 10,000 Box Tops And 10,000 Labels!
By: Leigh Walker, Raymond PTA

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

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

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

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

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

Troop 800 Report
By: Elijah Hughes, Troop Scribe

Last month we started to convert the Pack 800’s Arrow of Light candleholder to electric as a service project with Mr. Hughes. The Arrow of Light is the highest award a cub scout can earn before becoming a boy scout. Four new boy scouts are now meeting with us. We held a fitness day where we ran a 1/4 mile from the Raymond Village Community Church (RVCC) to the old fire department garage by the library. Also on that day we did sit-ups and jumping jacks. On that favorable Tuesday of 80°F, we held our meeting outside. We also designed outdoor lashed furniture for our spring camporee May 16th-18th.

Next month on the third we have:

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

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

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

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

East Raymond Stars and Stripes
By: Elisa Trepanier

Raymond Road Runner