Comprehensive Plan Update: Vote Postponed
By: Jim Stephenson, Co-Chair, Comprehensive Plan Committee

The vote on the Comprehensive Plan revision will need to be tabled pending further review by the Comprehensive Plan Committee and State Planning Office (SPO). The Committee wanted the Town to have the opportunity to review the revised Comprehensive Plan at the annual town meeting. However, the State Planning Office informed the Committee just this week that the Plan contains certain inconsistencies with Maine’s Growth Management Act. Compliance with the Act is necessary to maintain validity and enforceability of any ordinances or policies the town may adopt based on the Plan. After conferring with the Town Manager and our planning consultant, it was determined substantive changes may be required based on the SPO review. The vote on the proposed Plan revision therefore will likely be postponed until after the SPO’s comments and recommendations have been addressed. Once that has been accomplished another public hearing will be held to explain any changes based on the SPO review, and a vote then scheduled for another town meeting.

Areas of concern as cited by the SPO include:
1. Not designating enough area or enough density in the area designated to accommodate the projected growth.
2. Not analyzing Raymond’s affordable housing situation from a regional perspective.
3. Not providing a justifiable basis for a town-wide residential growth cap.

The SPO review did however commend the work of the community in glowing terms. The SPO’s review stated, “... the plan is truly an impressive effort. The

Raymond Municipal Budget Proposed 5.48% Increase
By: Don Willard, Town Manager

After considerable review and discussion, the Board of Selectmen and Budget/Finance Committee have agreed on a proposed municipal spending plan for the 2004-2005 FY, which would result in a budget increase of 5.48%. This increase comes from the Town Budget alone, which is proposed at $3,134,370 as compared to the 2003-2004 FY Budget of $2,971,545. When all Budgets are combined (town, school and county) an estimated increase of 6.42% or approximately $141 on the property tax rate is projected. In an effort to provide as much information as possible in advance of the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Saturday, May 22, 2004, at 10am at the Jordan-Small Middle School Gymnasium, I am providing a brief overview of the areas of change in the proposed Municipal Budget.

2004-2005 FY Budget Overview

Administration: Salaries. The Selectmen approved, prior to last year’s Budget process, a three-year program to align Raymond’s municipal employee wages with the market average by position for our region. Data was collected from communities within a 20-mile radius of Raymond and a market average pay established. The 04-05 Budget draft includes the second installment of this pay adjustment.

For positions that were already aligned with market wages, a 3% Consumer Price Index increase is proposed. One of the primary reasons for making this change is to attract and retain quality employees by paying market wages. At the conclusion of the three-year adjustment process next year, my recommendation will be to maintain future wage and salary adjustments at the Consumer Price Index annual inflation level.

Other changes in the administration line include full funding of the Code Enforcement Officer’s (CEO) salary in administration. In prior Budget years, a portion of this salary was included in the Dispatch Budget in recognition of supervisory services provided. A downward adjustment in the CEO’s salary was not made to reflect the transition of staff that will include instructional strategies to ensure equitable learning opportunities to all students. This will be the first time in the memory of administration, staff and parents that a K-8 coordinated approach to teaching and learning in mathematics has been provided for our children. This is a critical priority, as our present eighth graders will have to show that they have met the mathematics standards in the Maine Learning Results as a requirement of graduation from any one of the area high schools they attend.

A large percentage of next year’s proposed budget ($733,343 or 89.9%) represents “fixed costs.” These costs include in negotiated salaries and benefits for all staff. Professional staff will be entering the second year of a three-year negotiated contract. We are currently involved in negotiations with all support staff, which includes educational technicians,

Raymond School Department’s Proposed Budget Up 6.8 Percent
By: Sandra S. Caldwell

The proposed 6.8% increase in the Raymond School Department’s budget will allow all students to learn and grow by assuring a safe, clean environment and by continuing to recruit and develop a highly competent workforce. These priorities are being addressed in this $8,128,353 budget with sensitivity to where the taxpayers of Raymond are. Since October we have worked to reallocate existing personnel to keep our student/adult ratios low and avoid staff cuts, both of which were priorities with the School Committee, parents and staff.

The major focus of our curriculum work supported by this budget is in the areas of mathematics and literacy. Next year, we will be piloting and selecting a K-8 mathematics program that is aligned with standards. This initiative will be supported by purchasing math curriculum materials and resources and providing training to

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Road Runner Staff:
Kevin Woodbury, Laurie Forbes,
Norma Richard, Elisa Trepanier
Visit Us on the Web
Make sure to see the on-line archives at the Raymond, Maine web site:
http://www.raymondmaine.org
Look under Events & News

Vote on Friday, May 14th, 2004, 7am-8pm, at Jordan-Small Middle School
Annual Town Meeting offers perhaps the most open form of democracy in existence. Bring your Town Report and help make Raymond a better place to live by participating and contributing your ideas.

Attend Town Meeting on Saturday, May 15th, 2004, 10am at Jordan-Small Middle School

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Continued on page 14

Dispatch supervisory duties to the Fire Chief, as the overall level of compensation for the CEO was appropriate for this position alone as measured by market indicators.

The Assistant CEO is a new position established by a stand-alone warrant article at last year’s Annual Town Meeting. This year, 16 hours per week is once again budgeted for this position and now included in the Administrative Budget. CEO Jack Cooper has found this position to be extremely helpful in meeting demands associated with the continuing active real estate and development environment.

Projected office equipment expenses have decreased as the Town was fortunate to obtain a good deal of modern, high quality office furniture and equipment from a larger private business through the efforts of Raymond citizen Bob Murray at a near donation total cost.

Assessing: In the 2003-2004 FY a transition was made from contract
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program

The GIS Program was initiated by the Website and Technology Committee and approved by the voters at Raymond’s 1998 Town Meeting. Since its implementation, a substantial amount of data has been collected. 2003 has been a productive year for the GIS Program. Some of the projects accomplished by the GIS Program this year include the following:

- Digital tax maps. Tax maps are available to the public at the Town Office and on-line at www.raymondmaine.org. These tax maps will be instrumental in the upcoming town-wide revaluation scheduled to begin in 2004.

- Raymond Comprehensive Planning Committee Maps.

- Implemented GIS within the Raymond Fire/Rescue Department. The Raymond Dispatch Office and Fire/Rescue now have Arc Explorer 2 which provides online access to a current Street Index as well as parcel and hydrant locations.

- Preparation of an Open Space Map for the Raymond Conservation Commission delineating 25 acre and 50 acre parcels.

- Raymond Railers Snowmobile Trails Map. The Town of Raymond website now features the Snowmobile Trail Map at www.raymondmaine.org.

- Raymond Street Index updates using Global Positioning System (GPS). Continued development in Raymond requires frequent updates to the Street Index to track new roads.

If you would like additional information regarding GIS in Raymond, please feel free to contact Elisa Trepanier, GIS Coordinator, at elisa.trepanier@raymondmaine.org or by telephone at 655-4742 ext. 61.

Raymond Village Library Seeks Your Support

The Raymond Village Library, a non-profit organization, needs continued municipal support in order to meet the service needs of our growing community. The library gratefully acknowledges the Raymond community’s past support, particularly the positive comments received during the neighborhood meetings conducted by the Comprehensive Plan Committee and the voters’ approval of its funding requests during past town meetings. This year, instead of being included in the Unclassified Account, the Raymond Village Library will be presented in its own warrant article. The Library’s Board of Trustees and staff encourage your attendance at town meeting and your vote of support.

The library’s mission is to provide quality services and resources to the entire community in a welcoming atmosphere. In addition to the town funding, the library also needs community involvement in a number of volunteer activities to fulfill this goal. Since the beginning of the year, the Board of Trustees has formed newly invigorated committees that are crucial to its operation. A new long-range planning committee in its initial stages is looking at the Raymond Comprehensive Plan’s details of the town’s demographics, both current and projections for the future, and how the population changes may impact library services. Realistically, the planning committee is addressing, for the next three to five years, the best utilization of space within the present building and a review of patron services. The fund-raising committee is exploring new ideas to supplement the current income sources of town funding, annual appeal and the annual plant, book, and bake sales. Volunteers who can devote three hours twice a month to staff the circulation desk are always welcome. Other volunteers are needed behind the scenes to assist the staff in processing new items for the collection. Persons interested in learning more about how they might help are asked to contact the library or any of the Board of Trustees.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome at the library at 655-4283 or by email at tblibrary@raymondmaine.org by Library Director Barbara Thorpe or Youth Services Coordinator Sue Ellen Gendron and by all members of the Board of Trustees:

Lori Murray, President, 655-7162 (cmurray1@maine.rr.com)
Laurie Forbes, Vice President, 655-4107 (lforbes@maine.rr.com)
Sandi Severn, Secretary, 655-3936 (imuever@jaoi.com)
Karyn Knights, Treasurer, 655-2926 (rknights@earthlink.net)
Charlie Hewson, 655-3658 (chewson@maine.rr.com)
Diane Cole, 655-6923 (dccole001@maine.rr.com)
Lori Rand, 655-4277 (lrand@prexar.com)

Planning And Appeals Board Vacancies

We are looking for people who would be willing to volunteer to serve on the Raymond Planning Board and the Board of Appeals.

The Planning Board holds their regular meeting the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Town Hall to review new subdivisions, commercial site plans, and ordinances. Site walks when needed are usually held on a Saturday.

The Board of Appeals meets the last Monday of the month at 7pm at the Town Hall to review applications for variances and waivers requested for Raymond’s ordinances on projects which owners want to do on their land. Their site walks are held on the Sunday the week prior to the meeting.

If you think you would like to volunteer or just want to know more, please call Louise Lester or Karen Strat at the Town office 655-4742 or email louise.lester@raymondmaine.org or karen.strout@raymondmaine.org.

May 2004

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Panther Pond Association Completes Watershed Survey

By: Ben Severn, Vice President, Panther Pond Association

The past year has been a busy one for the Panther Pond Association (PPA), an organization formed in 2002 by landowners concerned with protecting the long-term viability of Panther Pond and a desire to bring together residents, roadsides and neighbors. The association is cooperating with a local organization aimed at solving Panther Pond watershed issues.

PPA decided to forge the grant-funded process for watershed surveys to avoid a one-year delay. With help from technical staff from Maine DEP, Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District, and RWPA, in April 2003 the PPA began the initial watershed survey work with an enthusiastic group of 25 trained volunteers. This past fall, technical staff checked the original work and drew up recommendations for the identified problem sites.

PPA thanks all who assisted in the survey: the volunteers, the technical staff, and especially the landowners who let us walk their properties. For those who did not allow access to their properties, we naturally respect your decision, but hope it will not preclude you from participating in future PPA activities.

Watershed Survey Results

Volunteers and technical staff identified 84 sites in the Panther Pond Watershed that are currently affecting or have the potential to affect water quality of the lake. Almost half of these sites were found in residential areas. These sites tend to have less severe erosion and can be easily fixed at low cost. When added together, these smaller sites can have a big impact on water quality. The good news is only 17 of the 84 sites were considered high impact. We anticipate receiving conservation grant funds to help offset fixing some of the more expensive erosion sites.

Watershed Survey Reports

All PPA members and those landowners with an identified problem will receive a copy of the Panther Pond Watershed Survey Report this month. A copy of the survey is also available at the Raymond Library, or contact PPA or RWPA (671-3329 or lakes@raymondmaine.org) if you would like to see a copy.

Upcoming Meeting May 22, 2004, from 1-3pm at the Public Safety Building

We invite all landowners and residents within the Panther Pond watershed, whether or not current members of PPA, to attend our upcoming meeting. We have a great deal to discuss including the nomination of officers, overview of the past year, millioli, and the watershed survey. Wendy Garland (Main DEP) and Noralee Raymond (RWPA) will discuss the watershed survey, the next steps for addressing sites identified, and answer any questions. RWPA will describe organization changes occurring, and how property associations such as PPA are essential to this effort. Non-PPA residents can contact PPA for a detailed agenda at pantherpondassoc@aol.com or Ben Severn at 655-3936. We look forward to seeing you there.

Join Us

Annual individual dues for Panther Pond Association are $20. These funds will help to produce and distribute the survey reports and provide the necessary local matching funds we will need when we apply this spring for the conservation project grants to fix erosion sites.

Write to PPA at PO Box 68, Raymond, Maine, 04071, or e-mail pantherpondassoc@aol.com for more information.

Why Are We Doing a Revaluation?

By: Ada Brown, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, and Amanda Simpson, Assessor

The Board of Selectmen approved a full revaluation of the town last year, and data collection work is to begin in June of this year. Many inquiries to the Assessing Office have been made regarding the revaluation and what its effect will be on property taxes. Hopefully the information outlined below will answer your questions. If not, we urge you to contact Assessors’ Agent Amanda Simpson at 655-4742 ext. 51 or amanda.simpson@raymondmaine.org for more information.

What is a Revaluation?

A revaluation is the process of equalizing the values of all properties within the town for the purpose of a fair distribution of the tax burden.

What is a Revaluation needed?

The State of Maine requires that cities and towns maintain average values that reflect no less than 70% of current market value. We are currently at 70% overall with the range in value from 20% to 80% depending on the type and location of the property. The last complete revaluation was performed in 1989, with an adjustment of waterfront land in 1998. Over time, Raymond has continued to grow, and the market value of properties has changed substantially in the last 15 years.

What is market value, and who determines my property value?

Market value is determined by the local real estate market and the general economy. Raymond sales will be the basis of determining market value. The value of property is based on an analysis of the entire market for the full two calendar years before the completion of the revaluation.

The revaluation includes research and analysis of values in any particular area or neighborhood. In effect, it is the same process that you would use to determine the selling price when putting your property up for sale. Specific guidelines from the State are followed, and include factors such as location, size, quality of construction, age of improvements, topography, utilities, and zoning restrictions.

Will a Revaluation increase taxes?

A revaluation may result in an increase or decrease of individual assessments; it does not mean that all property values will increase. Assessments are the base that is used to distribute the tax burden. The tax burden is the amount that the town must raise to operate the town and school, as well as pay the county tax assessment, minus all other revenue sources such as licenses, fees, and state revenue sharing. As an example, if the same amount of money is to be raised after the revaluation as the previous year and all assessments increase, the tax rate would be reduced proportionately.

Town meeting each year determines the amount of revenue that is generated through taxation. As the population increases in town, the demand increases for municipally provided services. Keeping property values current assures that each property owner pays their fair share.

Memorandum

To: Raymond Citizens
From: Robert F. Faunce

Shipping Containers, Storage Lots and In-law Apartments Amendments to the Land Use Ordinance: Articles 37 & 38 of the 2004 Town Meeting Warrant.

The shipping container amendment is intended to eliminate unnecessary and unsightly “shipping containers.” As you can see from the definition, they typically include old semi-trailers, “piggy-back” containers, boxcars, etc. They would be prohibited from residential zoning districts except that one could be kept if it was in use as of January 1, 2004, and the owner applies to keep it within 6 months of the effective date of the ordinance. If the owner has more than one shipping container, they would have to be removed. This section provides for the temporary use of shipping containers.

Shipping containers could be used in the commercial or industrial district with some restrictions, upon site plan approval by the Planning Board.

Also included is a change to the definition of a storage lot. It reduces the threshold of lot coverage by the listed materials. This change in the threshold area was not supported by the Planning Board or the Board of Selectmen.

The in-law apartment amendment is intended to permit it to be located in a separate building, such as a freestanding structure or the second floor of a detached garage. Currently, it must be located within the principal residence.
Meet The Candidates For Raymond Public Office

Board of Selectmen Candidates

Teddy Coffin
This candidate did not choose to submit an article.

Dana Desjardins
This candidate did not choose to submit an article.

Mark Gendron
I believe I have the skills and knowledge essential to the role of Selectman. My wife Sue and I have lived in Raymond for twenty-one years. It was a wonderful community to raise our two children Stacey and Matt. We now have the pleasure of seeing our grandchildren benefit from the Raymond schools and all the community has to offer. My wife is a dedicated educator who now serves our state as Commissioner of Education. I am the co-owner of Lake Region Imports, Inc. of Westbrook, Maine. My partner and I successfully developed a dealership specializing in Subarus over a twenty-five year period by providing competent, friendly and honest customer service. These are the very skills that will guide my leadership as a Selectman for Raymond. I believe it is necessary for individuals to demonstrate strong interpersonal skills when working for the public. Communication, listening, problem solving and commitment are some of my strongest qualities.

Raymond’s future will depend on individuals who can help define an affordable comprehensive vision for growth and development. My vision would include promoting housing for the elderly, continued recreational growth, and economic development that maintains the rural character of our community. Serving on the Raymond Ordinance Review Board in the nineties provided me with the insight to understanding the need for economic development, while maintaining a balance between residential and recreational areas with responsible access to our natural resources.

Having served on the Westbrook Fire Department for ten years, I understand the importance of community involvement. One of my first recommendations as Selectman would be to develop a comprehensive planning process that invites all citizens to offer their opinions about the future of our community. This process would help define our goals for the library, fire department, police services, schools, town hall, recreation, roads, technology and other initiatives desired by citizens. These goals would then help shape the annual budget for our town. It is imperative that as a Selectman I demonstrate the ability to help our community sustain its services in a fiscally responsible manner and insure that our residents can afford to live here.

I would be honored to serve our community as Selectman. Please feel free to contact me at 655-3452 or at markyski@maine.rr.com. Please remember to vote either by absentee ballot or on May 14, 2004, at Jordan-Small Middle School.

Charles Leavitt
Mr. Leavitt has been active in federal, state, and local public service programs and policymaking positions throughout his career. In 1979, as executive director of a federal and state funded non-profit organization, he developed and helped implement Maine’s Community and Worker Chemical Rights-to-Know Law. He has also served as both a gubernatorial and legislatively appointed member of several boards and task forces. As the City of Portland’s risk manager for 3 years, he was responsible for $20 million of health, workers compensation, and retirement accounts affecting nearly 4,500 employees and retirees. He has been working in the private sector for the past 15 years and is currently president of one of Maine’s leading asbestos, lead, and mold remediation firms.

Mr. Leavitt believes that public service, from voluntarism to elective office, is the responsibility of every citizen in a free democracy and the foundation of a healthy community. He wishes to thank the people of Raymond who donate their time and energy to make this town a great place to live for all our residents, and in particular our senior citizens and children. Raymond faces many future challenges. By utilizing our abundant natural and human resources, we, as a people and government, can meet the needs of our community in an efficient, compassionate, and responsible manner.

Mr. Leavitt has lived in Raymond for 22 years, resides on Raymond Hill with Maryann Amrich, and is the proud father of Amanda and Charles, graduates of the Raymond and Windham public school systems. He is honored to have served as your Selectman for the past three years and would appreciate your support for another term in office. Thank you.

Mike Reynolds
I would like to introduce myself to the town of Raymond. My name is Michael Reynolds, and I am running for Board of Selectmen. Some of you know me from coaching baseball and soccer, or through scouting. To most of you, however, my name probably does not ring a bell. I live in Raymond with my wife and son because we found a home in a beautiful rural setting that is convenient to all that Southern Maine has to offer.

Each of you has your own reasons for living in Raymond. Maybe you are one of the lucky ones who have lived here all your life. If so, you’ve witnessed lots of changes that overall have preserved Raymond’s rural character while consistently providing a level of service most communities would be proud to achieve.

Maybe you moved here or stayed here because of our excellent schools. Schools that have teachers, administrators and volunteers who really care about our kids. Or maybe you are here for the slower pace of life not offered by larger communities. Whatever your reasons for living here, you share them with many of your neighbors.

I have followed town politics since moving here and am compelled to run for the Board of Selectmen this year. I am running because I have seen a change in the direction of Raymond’s leadership that I feel will not provide our community with what we have come to expect and respect about our town in the long-term. The list below contains some of the issues I see as important to Raymond in the next few years.

- Infrastructure support for our town hall, fire & rescue and roads that is consistent and does not put off to tomorrow what should be maintained today.
- Environmental concern and action that respects all points of view, from both inside and outside of town boundaries.
- School resources at the level that once enabled us to be recognized as a National School of Excellence.
- A comprehensive land management program that continues to be citizen led.
- An approach to technology that allows Raymond to be viewed the way we were when we became the second community, after Portland, to receive high-speed internet access.

Is it possible to have all of this and more? The answer to that question lies with each of you. Recently I feel the citizens of the town have reacted to fear of the unknown and made decisions not based on the facts but based on what they fear. We have stumbled in our responsibility to our town and our neighbors by not taking the time to be informed and make fact-based decisions. I am running for Selecteman to do my part to change this slide toward apathy that is creeping into our community. I am running for Selecteman because I think more decisions have to be made with the future in mind not just the short term.

A little about by background: I am a General Manager for a small manufacturing and wholesale fundraising company. I am a former President of the Board of the Maine Publicity Bureau and Treasurer of the New England Ski Areas Council. I was appointed by the Governor to the Maine Tourism Commission and was a founding member of the Maine Tourism Coalition. I believe it will bring this leadership experience and my personal interest in the future of Raymond to the Board of Selectmen.

I believe I can help Preserve Raymond’s Future. Please vote for me either by absentee ballot, available at the town hall, or at the town election Friday, May 14th, at Jordan-Small Middle School.

If you have any questions, you can reach me at 655-2884 evenings or e-mail mikereyn@maine.rr.com.

Budget/Finance Committee Candidates

Leonard Adams
This candidate did not choose to submit an article.

Wilbur C. Bell III
3 Lyn Court, Raymond

Objective: To obtain a position on the Budget Committee.

Education: Former President of M.B. Born and Son, from 1971-1992
Former CEO of the following
- Pioneers Coating and Water Coating 1975-1985
- B&B Equipment and Supply 1971-1995
- Associated Septic Services 1980-1995

Maine Maritime Academy, B.S. Marine Engineering 1967

Qualifications:

- Former Selectmen of Windham Fire Department 10 years
- Former Windham Selectmen for 4 years (since residency)
- Windham Planning Board 5 years
- Windham Fire Department 10 years

Jean Carter
299 Meadow Road

Candidate for Budget Committee
Retired, Volunteer
Husband Tom Carter
Grown Children
Byear resident

I have a great fondness for Raymond, having summered many years at Crescent Lake while my children were young. Now a full time resident, I would like to give back a little. I find local government interesting and have over twenty years experience serving on various town boards from Town Councilor, School Committee, COG representative, etc. to Raymond Comprehensive Plan, Cemetery Committee and Fire Station Committee.

I would like to be a member of the Budget Committee because its oversight function is so important. The Committee reviews the annual town budget and other financial actions contemplated by the Town Manager and the Selectmen.

I believe we must be vigilant if we want to keep control of our town. It is necessary to assure that all town and school departments remain in balance if we want our town character to remain.

I would like to introduce myself to the town of Raymond. My name is Michael Reynolds, and I am running for Board of Selectmen. Some of you know me from coaching baseball and soccer, or through scouting. To most of you, however, my name probably does not ring a bell. I live in Raymond with my wife and son because we found a home in a beautiful rural setting that is convenient to all that Southern Maine has to offer.

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- Environmental concern and action that respects all points of view, from both inside and outside of town boundaries.
- School resources at the level that once enabled us to be recognized as a National School of Excellence.
- A comprehensive land management program that continues to be citizen led.
- An approach to technology that allows Raymond to be viewed the way we were when we became the second community, after Portland, to receive high-speed internet access.

Is it possible to have all of this and more? The answer to that question lies with each of you. Recently I feel the citizens of the town have reacted to fear of the unknown and made decisions not based on the facts but based on what they fear. We have stumbled in our responsibility to our town and our neighbors by not taking the time to be informed and make fact-based decisions. I am running for Selecteman to do my part to change this slide toward apathy that is creeping into our community. I am running for Selecteman because I think more decisions have to be made with the future in mind not just the short term.

A little about by background: I am a General Manager for a small manufacturing and wholesale fundraising company. I am a former President of the Board of the Maine Publicity Bureau and Treasurer of the New England Ski Areas Council. I was appointed by the Governor to the Maine Tourism Commission and was a founding member of the Maine Tourism Coalition. I believe it will bring this leadership experience and my personal interest in the future of Raymond to the Board of Selectmen.

I believe I can help Preserve Raymond’s Future. Please vote for me either by absentee ballot, available at the town hall, or at the town election Friday, May 14th, at Jordan-Small Middle School.

If you have any questions, you can reach me at 655-2884 evenings or e-mail mikereyn@maine.rr.com.
Meet The Candidates For Raymond Public Office

Dennis Cole
This candidate did not choose to submit an article.

Frank McDermott
Age: 63
Address: 10 McDermott Road
Occupation: Director of Education, Elan School
Family: Wife Betty & 5 grown children
Previous political experience: School Board 6 years - various committees and boards
How long a resident of Raymond: 36 years

Presently, I am finishing my second term on the School Board. I would like to continue serving the citizens of Raymond in some capacity, and I feel that I have the knowledge and background to be a contributing member of this committee. As Raymond’s population continues to expand, the demands for services will continue to grow. We must set priorities and plan for controlled growth. Much more thought and discussion must be given to developing a Capitol Plan for spending which will allow us to meet the vital needs of the community. The Selectmen, School Board and the Budget / Finance Committee must spend much more time together planning effective and efficient ways to meet the needs of the community and its citizens. Together, the three boards have the capability to cut costs and develop better delivery systems that will allow us to continue to meet the demand for services as efficiently as possible.

Diana Pecoraro
This candidate has decided not to run at this time due to unforeseen circumstances.

Deborah Adams
My name is Deborah Adams, candidate for Raymond School Committee.

I am a 1988 graduate of Maranacook Community School in Readfield, Maine (just west of Augusta), and a 1992 graduate of the University of Vermont, where I earned a B.S. in Biomechanical Engineering and met my husband, David.

Following completion of my degree, I worked as a biomedical engineer at Organogenesis, Inc. in Canton, MA, where I contributed to the design and evaluation of implants for vascular and orthopaedic applications. I then accepted a position at Smith & Nephew, Inc., Endoscopy Division in Mansfield, MA, as a research and design engineer. My responsibilities included project management and efficiency studies as well as research activities in technological and materials science arenas.

Following the growth of our family to include Ellie and Michael, my professional objectives shifted, though my enthusiasm for science and math persisted. In 2001 I found an opportunity to utilize my experience and training while working a flexible schedule at Central Maine Community College. I currently enjoy teaching three courses in the Math & Science department.

When I am not in the classroom, I enjoy skiing, canoeing, camping, coaching Michael’s soccer team and cooking with Ellie.

As I watch my kids grow and learn, I know they will face challenges throughout their education. I also understand that the school leadership team and school staff face challenges as they endeavor to provide our students all the tools required for success and achievement.

As a parent and as a member of the Raymond community, I am proud of the quality of our school system and I realize this is something that takes a great deal of work to maintain. There are many challenges ahead—budget limitations, state and national standards requirements, and resource allocation. I believe we can model efficiency by maximizing creative use of technological assets and capitalizing on the expertise of our staff.

On May 14th, I ask you to trust in my abilities and devotion to realize the Raymond School Department vision to “prepare each child for a global society that is evolving and dynamic.”

Deborah Adams, candidate for Raymond School Committee.

Bridgton to Windham Shuttle Bus Pilot Project

Concept
Implement a six-month shuttle bus pilot program on Mondays between Bridgton and Windham, for use primarily by senior citizens.

Background
Regional Transportation, Inc. (RTP) currently transports clients in the Lakes Region. There exists an opportunity to operate a 9am to 3pm service between Bridgton and Windham on Mondays. Staff from RTP, the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) and several municipalities met in January 2004 and expressed support for such a project.

Vehicle
2004 Thomas Bus, 18+2 Passengers (18 seats, 2 wheelchair spaces)

Proposed Schedule, Mondays

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Afternoon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Bridgton</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:20am</td>
<td>Naples</td>
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<td>9:40am</td>
<td>Casco</td>
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<td>10am</td>
<td>Raymond</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Windham</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Windham</td>
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Proposed Project Timetable
June 1, to November 30, 2004
RES Students Show Great Community Spirit

We are always proud of the many ways our students and families are involved in community service throughout the year. In the past four years that we have been at the Raymond Elementary School our students have achieved the following accomplishments that demonstrate how much we care about our community.

- Raised over $22000 through the Pennies for Parks and Pledges for Parks programs. These funds were used to purchase a handicap beach chair for use at Tassel Top Park in Raymond.
- Raised over $12,000 to benefit the American Heart Association and raise awareness for heart disease prevention through Jump for Hearts.
- Supported over 150 Raymond families through Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets and toy drives.
- Donated over two vans full of pet food and supplies to the Harvest Hills Animals Shelter.
- Adopted 20 Maine servicemen in Iraq.
- Supported the Susan G Komen Foundation for breast cancer research.
- Collected funds for the flagpole at the new Raymond Public Safety building.

Grandparents’ Day On May 14

Grandparents’ Day is always a special event at the Raymond Elementary School. This year we invite grandparents to join students at school on Friday morning, May 14, from 8:30 – 11:30. Grandparents and other special guests will join the children in their classrooms for morning classes. They are also invited to attend a special Good News Assembly for grades K – 2 at 10am. We look forward to sharing our school with them, and thank all grandparents for supporting our students in their learning.

We Need Your Talents!

Are you interested in sharing a hobby, talent or interest with middle school students? JSSM’s Student Assistance Team is looking to organize after school activities for the 2004-2005 school year. If you would be interested in sharing your talents (carpentry, music, art, crafts, etc.), please contact Lynn Davis at JSSM. 655-4743.

Kids 2 Kids: Growing Through Mentoring

By: Lori Rand


These are skills our 7th and 8th Grade Kids 2 Kids mentors have been learning since last October. Mike Churchill, Kris Burgess, Brittny Byrnes, Erin Durkan, Chad Zawistowski, Shana Jones, Patrick Martin and Taylor Parker have spent two or more hours a week learning to work together as a group first, then as mentors to students at Raymond Elementary School. They’ve learned the value of diverse friendships, teamwork, and what it takes to support each other. These mentors also created the program name and logo to express what the program means to them.

In addition to many training hours, the K2K mentors spend about an hour a week planning for their mentoring time, practicing team building skills, and discussing and reflecting on their experience. They spend most of the second hour with their RES mentees, playing games, reading, drawing and writing. The mentees have benefited from these relationships as well; the mentors describe creative fund raising ideas! It will cost each team $4,000 - $5,000 to go to World Finals. Three of the five qualifying teams have taken on the challenge of raising the necessary funds to compete at the Worlds Competition. $15,000 is a great deal of money to raise by any standards, but it will be a real feat for our small town, with the World competition in only four weeks: from May 29th - June 1st.

The students have already planned a school dance, car wash, yard sale, public supper, candy sales, and teacher breakfasts as fundraisers, but would greatly appreciate the support of anyone interested in helping these creative, problem-solving teams achieve their goal! They would greatly appreciate contributions to their trip fund, and donations may be made to:

Odyssey of the Mind World Competition Teams
c/o Ellen Vanderselder
Jordan-Small Middle School
423 Webs Mills Road
Raymond, Maine 04071

About “Odyssey of the Mind”

The renowned Odyssey of the Mind program is celebrating its 25th year anniversary. The mission of the program is to promote divergent thinking, teamwork skills, and self-confidence in young people, by providing them the opportunity to participate in creative problem solving competitions. The program can boast some amazing results, with over 95% of kids who continue with OM going on to college.

There are five problems and three divisions for each problem, Div I (3-5th grade), Div II (6-8th grade), Div III (9-12th grade). Teams have 5-7 members, they compete with other teams who have solved the same problem in their division. Teams placing 1st and 2nd are invited to compete in World Finals.

About Raymond, Maine

Raymond is a small town, with a population of approximately 4,000 year round residents. Raymond Elementary School (grades K-4) holds 310 students, and Jordan-Small Middle School (grades 5-8) has 271 students. The High School students are dispersed to various area high schools. Considering the size of the town and their achievement at this year’s state competition, on a per pupil basis Raymond had the most creative kids in the State of Maine.

Raymond, Maine, “Odyssey of the Mind” Teams Come Away From State Tournament with Extraordinary 1st and 2nd Place Wins

~Problem The Teams Need to Solve Now Is Raising Money to Get to “Worlds”~

Raymond, Maine: April 24, 2004 – This year’s “Odyssey of the Mind” competition yielded extraordinary results for one small town – Raymond, Maine. There are 28 Maine teams qualified to go to World Finals this year, being held the last weekend of May, in College Park, Maryland. Five of the qualifying teams come from the small town of Raymond, Maine.

With 123 Maine teams competing this year at the State Tournament held at UConn, April 3rd, Raymond’s teams represented only 6% of the entrants, but accounted for nearly 20% of all teams qualifying for the World Finals. Raymond’s teams comprised 3rd graders through 9th graders. Two of their teams achieved 1st place standings, and 3 teams attained 2nd place standings, qualifying all of these 5 teams for Worlds. One of those 1st place teams accomplished an amazing 346.96 points, of a possible 350!

This is the 3rd year Raymond has entered teams into the Odyssey of the Mind competition in Maine. Two years ago, there were 2 middle school teams. Last year there were 2 elementary school teams and 3 middle school teams. One of Raymond’s middle school teams went on to Iowa, for last year’s World Finals.

“World Finals is not something to take lightly,” says Fern Brown, one of Maine’s state directors of the program. “These kids are going to a world-class competition. They are the top of the best’ from Maine. Competing with the ‘best of the best’ from around the world. It is an opportunity for these kids to get to meet children from as many as 20 different countries and compete with approximately 700 teams.”

Last year 100 teams competed in the Maine State Tournament. Maine kids won both the highest state! The number of trophies earned at last year’s Worlds. The states that received 1st, 2nd, and 3rd were all teams that had 1,200-1,500 teams within their states. You don’t need to spin that percentage to figure out these Maine kids certainly earned an “honorable distinction”.

“This program is about creative problem solving,” says Brenda McMackin, one the Raymond coaches. “Now, as team coaches and kids, we all have to figure out how to raise the money to take our kids to their next competition! We will offer companies and individual contributors sponsorship opportunities. The program will be publicized on www.raymondmaine.org very soon.”

McMackin continues, “The kids have come up with some
Clear out closets, basements, and garages to make room for the new treasures you find.
Support the Raymond Teams who have won the honor to go to World Finals Drop off your donations Thurs May 13 and/or Fri May 14 at 5-8pm

Wonderful Raffle Prizes
Table Rentals---$25

Irish Supper
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Enjoy a corned beef and cabbage dinner with Irish music and friendly leprechauns.

Adults------------------------$6.00
Children under 12----$3.00

For more information contact Melinda Zimmer-Rankin @ 655-2547 mzimmerr@maine.rr.com

Jordan-Small Middle School
2nd Trimester Honor Roll

5th GRADE HIGH
HONORS
Megan Stevenson
Justin Terry
Chelsea Tsvanian
Haley Acker
Julia Trepanier
Molly Cloutier
Ethan Ward
Drew Gagnon

7th GRADE HIGH
HONORS
Elizabeth Shively
7th GRADE HONORS
Cassandra Gordan
Colin Gordan
Kyle Kurgavezes
Olivia Hard
Mollissa Keane-Dreyer
Lydia Manchester
Jenna Martyn-Fisher
Weston Masi
Christopher McDonald
Connor McGlue
Abigail Mornault
Alexander O’Neill
Alyssa Orsini
Bryan Peterson
Madison Rankin
Amanda Ross
Abigail Streeter
Lauren Trickey
Lindsay Webber
Deanie Weeks
Cameron White
Tyler Winde
Samantha Zawistowski
6th GRADE HIGH
HONORS
Andrew O’Neill
Jacob Perry
Kaitlyn Chandler
Brittany Plummer
Dean Darien
Elizabeth Prout
Haley Desjardins
Patrick Martin
Emily Dodge
Nina McNally
Debbie Weeks
Alyssa Delony
Lauren Lentine
Katherine Lentine
6th GRADE HONORS
Robert Allen
Jordan Baker
Abigail Brocklebank
Anthony Dighello
Jordan Flynn
Maria Fusco
Nicole Fusco
Lindy Haycock
Patricia Haycock
Samuel Hutchinson
Zachary Knights
Emma Levinsky
Katelyn Lloy
Chantelle Lydick
Devin MacKenzie
Abigail McIvor
Nathaniel Ohman
Arthur Olsen
James Plummer
8th GRADE HONORS
John Atwood
Jordan Baker
Anthony Dighello
Jordan Flynn
Maria Fusco
Nicole Fusco
Lindy Haycock
Patricia Haycock
Samuel Hutchinson
Zachary Knights
Emma Levinsky
Katelyn Lloy
Chantelle Lydick
Devin MacKenzie
Abigail McIvor
Nathaniel Ohman
Arthur Olsen
James Plummer
John Atwood
Harmony Brown
Kurt Crockett
Allison Gagnon
Alexandra Gordan
Travis Guerette
Sidney Hethcoat
Danielle Holman
Amy McNamee
Lucas McNally
Brittany Michaud
Michael Orsini
Douglas Remick
Robyn Stillings
Elizabeth Stevenson
Justin Woodbrey

Candidates Night
On Monday night, May 3rd, Raymond voters were given the opportunity to meet, and ask questions of, many of the candidates running for municipal office.
The Raymond Lions sponsored and moderated this event, which was videotaped for rebroadcast on the Public Access Channel. Be sure to catch the broadcast and to vote on election day, May 14th.
Music Man Junior Plays To Packed Houses

A cast of 43 students from Jordan-Small Middle School presented The Music Man Junior to packed houses on Friday and Saturday evenings, April 9th and 10th. Between 400 and 500 people attended each night as students in grades 5-8 presented rousing performances.

“These students were real professionals,” commented a spectator after Friday’s performance. “They showed a great deal of energy and engagement. This was truly a wonderful show.”

Culminating almost two months of daily practice and hard work, the performances included ten dramatic scenes, solo, small-group, and large chorus musical numbers, detailed choreography, colorful sets, and lively costumes typical of the early 1900s. Accompanying the show were Henry Kramer, 11th grade pianist from Cape Elizabeth, drummer Patrick Nyon, Scott Gordon on trumpet, and Randy Crockett playing trombone. Patricia Feeney coordinated special choreography for two of the musical numbers.

Directors Marilee Dunklee and Mary Thornton expressed pride in all the students and appreciation for all who made the show such a smashing success.

“The best thing of all is how the kids felt about themselves,” said Dunklee. “All the cast members invested so much time and energy to achieve a high standard of excellence. They wanted to knock the socks off the audience and felt terrific when they did.”

“We could not have done such a show without the help of a dynamite parent support group,” said Thornton. “Parents brought food throughout the rehearsal season as well as for the shows, built set pieces, provided publicity and costumes, put together the program, held raffles, worked backstage, and did myriad other tasks. The show was the result of a huge combined effort on the part of students, staff members, parents, and other community members.”

The Music Man Junior is the second large-scale musical production presented by Jordan-Small students, following Annie Junior presented in the spring of 2003. Students and parents are already asking, “What are we going to do next year?”
Raymond Waterways Protective Association Gears Up for 2004 Season

By: Noralee Raymond, Executive Director, Raymond Waterways Protective Association

Raymond Waterways Protective Association has been very busy over the winter months preparing for the upcoming season and incorporating many of the ideas developed at the Watershed Forum in April 2003 into our goal of providing comprehensive water quality protection on all of Raymond’s lakes and ponds.

**Strategic Development**

In order to clarify what services RWPA provides and to support this mission we have developed the following five objectives:

- Train and coordinate volunteers who monitor lake water quality on all lakes and ponds and publish water quality monitoring data.
- Provide technical support to towns, lake associations, and homeowner associations – updated annually to provide a “central clearing house” for information sharing between lakes, road associations, and individuals.
- Foster partnering with existing state and local watershed protection groups and assist in the formation of lake and road associations on all the lakes and ponds.
- Develop outreach and education programs to promote public awareness of all watershed issues.
- Assist lake associations in conducting watershed surveys and implementing lake protection projects to document and control erosion and polluted runoff.

**Milfoil Protection**

Protect our lakes and a fossil and invasive aquatic species education and prevention through the milfoil ranger program by conducting boat ramp inspections and annual lake plant surveys and developing milfoil management plans.

**Watershed Stewardship**

A central task of lakes associations is conducting watershed surveys and implementing lake protection projects to document and control erosion and polluted runoff.

**Technical Support**

- Provide technical support to towns, lake associations, and individual landowners.

**Education & Outreach**

- Create a directory of contacts for lake associations, road associations, and homeowner associations – updated annually to provide a “central clearing house” for information sharing between lakes, road associations, and individuals.
- Foster partnering with existing state and local watershed protection groups and assist in the formation of lake and road associations on all the lakes and ponds.
- Develop outreach and education programs to promote public awareness of all watershed issues.

**Milfoil Prevention Program**

RWPA will once again be hiring two part time Lakes Protection Rangers to inspect boats and trailers at the five primary sites including the Raymond Beach access off 302 and the Crescent Beach launch. Our rangers inspected over 400 boats and trailers last summer at four sites, which is a 40% increase from 2002 inspections. Look for our rangers and volunteers at these sites throughout the summer during peak launch times on weekends and weekdays.

In 2003 shoreline surveys were completed on Panther Pond, Crescent Lake, and Raymond Pond with no milfoil found. Thank you to all volunteers on those lakes for helping to complete surveys. Without our own boat or trailer it is essential we have trained volunteers on all our lakes. We plan to complete the milfoil surveys on all four lakes this year.

RWPA is working with the Jordan Bay Marina to coordinate a removal effort of a colony identified in our detailed shoreline survey of the northeast shore of Jordan Bay. On May 16th, divers trained by the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants (MCIAP) come to identify invasive plants using live plant samples of both native and invasive species. Proper identification is essential to keeping these plants out of our lakes. An RSVP is appreciated so that VLMP can bring enough materials.

**Great Outdoor Summer Job! Two Lakes Protection Rangers Needed $13/hour on Raymond Lakes**

The Raymond Waterways Protective Association (RWPA) is seeking applications from environmental professionals, conservation minded College level students, graduates, teachers or other qualified people for a summer position based in Raymond, Maine. Milfoil and other Invasive Aquatic Plants (IAP) pose a real and substantial threat to Maine’s lakes. Raymond’s lake resources support a major portion of the local economy and the milfoil/IAP threat can not be ignored. Stewardship and active management are essential to preserving the quality and character of our waterways.

The primary duties of this position will include:

- Inspecting boats and trailers at launch sites in Raymond during busy times.
- Educating all users of our waterways (boaters, residents, friends/relations, renters, rental agencies) about the risks of milfoil/IAP and the importance of cleaning boats and gear.
- Working with trained volunteers to identify plants and properly report and manage any confirmed plant colonies.
- Monitoring our lakes for milfoil and other IAP. Identifying safe, convenient locations where boats can wash off.

It is anticipated that the Rangers would each spend about 25 hours per week on boat ramp inspection and education (six hours on each Saturday, three hours each Sunday, and several hours per day three days per week), during July and early August. A reduced level of effort is anticipated for June and September, focusing coverage on weekends. Five hours per week would be allotted to on water patrolling, coordinating volunteers and town wide education.

Compensation for this position will be in the $12 to $14/hour range, according to experience. Prior experience with milfoil/IAP is preferred but not required. The RWPA will pay for the cost of training (boat inspection, plant identification). Experience or familiarity with lake water quality issues (i.e. Non-Point Source Pollution/Erosion Control/Vegetated Buffers and Camp Road Care) or other natural resource/Ranger experience will be considered a benefit. A home computer with email would be beneficial, but not required. Actual work hours will depend on available funding. Interested people should send a resume including a list of related experience and references to:

Raymond Waterways Protective Association
P.O. Box 1243
Raymond, ME 04071-1243
ATTN: Lakes Protection Ranger

With help from the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Raymond Conservation Commission with 20 high priority sites on Raymond and Oberlin and their technical assistance, RWPA will once again be seeking federal grant money. In their last season of a federal grant, Thomas Pond Improvement Association will find 34 sites with help from CCSWCD. Panther Pond will apply for the same federal money this spring to address sites identified in their 2003 survey. Now that RWPA has the technical capabilities, they will provide the project management for this grant.

This season RWPA will be contacting landowners to stabilize sites identified in each of the completed surveys that have not yet been fixed in one of the federal grant conservation projects. Our goal is to fix five sites on each lake. If you are aware of a site on your property and would like assistance, please contact Noralee at lakes@raymondmaine.org or 671-3329.

Support RWPA has greatly appreciated the ongoing support of the Town of Raymond and the community. The rangers for this program are employed through the Town with 100% reimbursement from RWPA funds, which includes $9,000 from the Town, grant funds, and donations. RWPA appreciates all and any support from the community in helping to protect our valuable lake resources.

Help us develop a directory of contacts for information sharing between lakes, road associations and individuals. Please write at RWPA, PO Box 1243, Raymond, Maine, 04071, or e-mail lakes@raymondmaine.org and let us know who you are, how to contact you, and what role you take in protecting your lake. We are also looking for lake representatives on our board for Raymond Pond and Thomas Pond. Help keep residents on your lake informed and have an active voice in the protection of your lake.
Math Budget Priorities
By: Principal Norma Richard
The proposed 2004-2005 school budget includes priority funds in the textbooks and professional development lines to support K – 8 math instruction. Last year the faculty reviewed the math curriculum to align it to Maine’s Learning Results. Key mathematical ideas in each content strand were identified for each grade level. We then provided grade level math standards to elementary parents and provided feedback on each child’s performance in meeting the standards with report cards. These were important conversations for both teachers and parents.

We are currently researching standards based math programs that have been identified to improve student achievement in mathematics. Teachers will be visiting area schools that have implemented these programs. Plans are underway to pilot a math curriculum strand next year in all math classrooms for all students at all grade levels. Ongoing staff training and support is essential as we preview curriculum materials, pilot the identified math strand, and select a standards based program to implement the following year. Parent forums will also be coordinated next year to help our families understand the goals of the new math curriculum.

As we continue this important work to improve math instruction for all of our students, it is essential for teachers to have access to the resources and instructional materials to support the curriculum. These may include a variety of textbooks, manipulatives, math kits, and assessment materials. Some of these resources will need to be purchased during next year’s pilot stage. Other program materials will be purchased next spring in order to implement the full math curriculum when we start school in the fall of 2005.

I value a strong math program that provides many opportunities for all children to reach high levels of achievement through a high-quality curriculum and high-quality instruction. This is important and exciting work for our teachers, and I encourage your support of this work.

Internet Book Buddies
By: Ann Marie Malnati and Judy Tounge
We have been teaching in Raymond for more than twenty-seven years and have been enjoying our participation in a program we developed called “Internet Book Buddies.” Our two third grade classes at the Raymond Elementary School have been personally e-mailing their assigned college freshman book buddy from Saint Joseph’s College in Standish, Maine. The students at the college are enrolled in a children’s literature course.

Before actual discussion of the book takes place, both groups of students exchange biographical information. This builds a comfortable relationship between the elementary student and the college freshman.

Each student participates in a weekly e-mail book chat relating to the assigned literature, which has been selected by the supervising teachers. The program lasts one college semester, beginning in mid-January and ending in late April. Because elementary children are contacting college students, the children develop an excitement for reading and writing while the college students experience their first teaching contact with elementary students.

In February, after the program has been in place a month, the freshman come to visit the elementary students to direct a small project relating to the book. E-mailing contacts continue through the months of March and April, until a culminating activity between the two groups occurs at Saint Joseph’s College. The students share a lunch, a final group discussion including an evaluation, and some hands-on activities relating to the chosen texts. This year the children participated in a variety of group directed activities about their books, Charlotte’s Web and The Trumpet of the Swan, both by E. B. White.

This is the third year we have been involved with Internet Book Buddies. It has evolved into an exciting, meaningful, educational experience for all the participants. In January after applying to SEED, an educational organization in Maine, we were awarded a grant to recognize our usage of technology in the classroom. Our project will be on their website with other Maine teachers’ ideas. These ideas and projects will be available to be shared with other teachers throughout the world.

Health Curriculum In The Works
By: Jerilyn Ward RN
With the expansion of our schools to include 7th and 8th grade we have found ourselves in need of revising and developing a K-8 comprehensive health curriculum. Presently the process is at the beginning stages and will continue over the next 3 years. Involved in the curriculum work will be a team of administrators, teachers, health professionals and community members. Our goal is to provide students with the health information and support they need to be independent, responsible and healthy young adults.

Extending health information and education to the Raymond community is also a goal that we share as educators. Forming a wellness committee is a step in that area. This would allow us the opportunity to exchange ideas to benefit both children and adults. So many of us need to be aware of the ever-changing world in which we live. Educating one another on health, physical activity, disease, aging, medical advances, nutrition, wellness, alternative treatments, and the impact of making healthy lifestyle choices will keep us informed and in charge of our own well being.

I would like to invite you to be a part of this work as we seek to bring health to the forefront of our school and community over the next few years. To be a part of the wellness committee, or to be involved at any level, feel free to call Jerilyn Ward RN at the Raymond Schools or email: jward@raymondmaine.org.

Dr.Seuss Night
The RES gym was teeming with odd creatures, and over 125 children, on March 3 as we celebrated Dr. Seuss’s 100th birthday. Dr. Seuss Night was a great collaborative effort between the Raymond Elementary School and the Raymond Village Library. It was a wonderful example of how community organizations can work together to share resources and to have a great time. The efforts of Deb Keef, RES librarian, and Sue Ellen Gendron, Youth Services Coordinator at the Raymond Village Library, are to be recognized, along with the many school and library volunteers who helped to plan and present an outstanding program. We look forward to next year’s celebration!
The Value Of Professional Development

By: Patricia Allen, kindergarten teacher

I would just like to express a few thoughts on how vital I believe professional development is to the creation of excellence in our schools. I have a photo I found once tucked inside my closet door that inspires me every day. It’s of a Kindergarten student going off to school on the first day with sweater and lunch box in hand, standing beside a very elderly woman dressed the same way off to face a new day out in the world or maybe even going back to school. I labeled it, “Learning, a goal for life.”

If we expect to be the best we can be, then we need to open our minds and our traditional tried and true ways to learning new things every day. Isn’t that what we hope for our students, that they leave us every day with new knowledge, inspiration and feelings of success? I look forward to and value the opportunities to attend professional conferences or observe other teachers and teaching in other schools each year. It provides me with that time to learn new ideas and current methods and weave them into my curriculum and teaching style. It gives me time with outside peers to discuss problems and frustrations and learn about successes and solutions. Sometimes it teaches me that others are learning from my shared experiences, and that’s a great reward. I always come back refreshed, with new ideas to try and share with my teammates, along with new excitement for just being a teacher.

I always feel that spark of joy to see my students whom I realized I really missed and that they’ve missed me, too. It’s not easy for a teacher to just go to a conference and not be in attendance at school. It takes a lot of extra time and planning for the classroom and students the next day. So I carefully select conferences that I feel will benefit my teaching. The process of preparing for a sub always makes me more fully realize how much I’m doing every day to know and understand my students’ needs down to the last detail. It makes me value the time away.

Yes, we can all learn from books, publications, and each other by staying “in-house” but, as teachers, we well know that students (people) learn better from active hands-on activities, a variety of materials, different styles and new experiences. Shouldn’t we expect and demand the same for ourselves? The field of education is changing more than ever today. Let’s continue to be schools and teachers of excellence by staying informed and motivated both to always strive to be learners among learners. Teachers need professional development to be professionals in their jobs.

Comprehensive Plan Update: Vote Postponed

Continued from page 1

community took great care to identify issues that would be of concern and carefully crafted a variety of regulatory and non-regulatory strategies to achieve a notable set of goals. The detail with which the community described land use and the wide variety of non-regulatory strategies to implement the future land use pattern is exemplary. This aspect of Raymond’s plan will serve as an example in other communities in the state regarding the variety of non-regulatory techniques that can be employed in its plan to augment the important regulatory techniques.”

The CPC will resume meeting to examine the concerns and recommendations of the SPO.

Raymond Lions Scholarship Application

The Raymond Lions Club is pleased to announce that an application for its 21st annual scholarship has been mailed to all graduating seniors that live in Raymond.

Applications are also available at the Raymond Town Office, the Raymond Village Library and on the town’s website for those currently attending post-secondary school.

The Lions encourage those attending trade and 2 year schools and those who have gone back to school to improve their life to apply.

The deadline for postmarking the application is May 15. It should be mailed to Raymond Lions Club, PO Box 1057, Raymond, ME, 04071. Any questions can be referred to Dale Gillman at 655-4143 or Bob Jones at 655-7163.

A Lesson In Interdependence

By: Nicole Beers

First graders have a lot of energy and zest for life. As a teacher, I try to help them find things to be passionate about, ignite a spark that will inspire on the change to do great deeds. I never thought that I would do that for a parent, but that is what happened early in December.

With the holiday season already here, I began thinking of activities that I could do with my class. I focused on community type projects. I had a brief conversation with a volunteer, Gail Cole, and mentioned that it would be nice to adopt some soldiers to send care packages to. Given the short time frame, I was sure it couldn’t be done. Mrs. Cole seized on my idea and went right to work. By the next day, she had made lots of contacts to try to get addresses of troops in Iraq. We quickly realized it wasn’t as simple as going to the phonebook. Luckily, she visited the Maine Mall where a woman named Nadine Molley-Tingley was promoting her Send, Show and Share holiday campaign for troops overseas. A Christmas tree was brimming with names and addresses of area soldiers. She chose 20 names, one for each student in my class.

Mrs. Cole worked tirelessly making numerous phone calls and visiting local businesses looking for donations to make up our care packages. My role was to communicate with parents and organize all the incoming donations while marveling at Mrs. Cole’s energy. After two weeks, we had more than enough items to pack 20 shoe boxes. With help from older siblings, parents and even a grandfather, we were able to have everything packed up before December’s vacation. Firefighter Josh Stevens stopped in to tell us what it’s like to be in the military and that he was coming to town and would be happy to have the care package while stationed out of the country. We made sure to include a letter from our class, a questionnaire and children’s artwork.

After Mrs. Cole carted away the boxes to the post office, I felt very privileged to be a part of this experience. We decided that we would try to send more packages in March with the leftover donations. Vacation came and went. Near the end of January, we received five letters from soldiers from the 94th Military Police. We were thrilled to read them, and they are still proudly displayed outside our classroom.

In March we sent out 20 more packages, but not to the 94th M.P. because they were due home in April. We were excited at the prospect of having a few of the soldiers visit our classroom and maybe let them know about some families to gather information about these men. Again, she secured some special donations as welcome home gifts. Unfortunately, on a weekend, we found out from watching the local evening news that their tour was extended. These individuals and their families continue to need our support, and I would encourage people to write to them.

Not being from a military family or having any loved ones overseas, I couldn’t comprehend what it’s like to have someone away at war. This has truly been an eye-opening endeavor and brought the reality closer to me and every other involved, including my students. When they remember back to this time in history, they can feel proud that they did their part. Thank you to all who contributed in any way to this project and to Gail, you have been an inspiration to me. I am forever grateful.

Presenters

Last month Mrs. Gosselin and Ms. Feeney presented at the New England League of Middle Schools annual conference in Providence, Rhode Island. Middle level educators from around New England received CEUs for attending their presentation, “History Lives,” which shares their methods of planning and organizing a two yearlooping social studies program for fifth and sixth grades. While there, our teachers also attended various workshops by national speakers. Both Mrs. Gosselin and Ms. Feeney agree it was a worthwhile and inspiring experience.

JSMS 7th Graders To Attend Camp Kieve

On May 12, 13, and 14, Jordan-Small Middle School’s seventh grade students will be attending the Camp Kieve Leadership Decisions Institute (LDI) at their facility in Nobleboro.

The Kieve Leadership Decisions Institute provides programming that supports the basic principles of a sound character building philosophy. The curriculum is directly tied to the Maine Learning Results.

The core classes they offer are:

1. Interpersonal Skill Building: verbal and listening skills, conflict resolution skills.
2. Relationships: skills to build positive relationships—school, friends, family and romantic relationships.
3. Adventure: using the ropes course and the climbing wall, students practice skills learned in classes.
4. Decisions: Information on the effect of alcohol and other drug use, strategies to avoid using drugs.
5. Teambuilding: skills necessary to be a positive, contributing member of a classroom or any other group situation.
6. Solo: students examine “internal” communication—the messages we send ourselves and their effect on our decisions.

All of these skills are critical components to a sound character education. Some communities utilizing both the outreach and residential programming from Kieve are Bar Harbor, Old Orchard Beach, Falmouth, Damariscotta and in Yarmouth, N.Y.

The staff at Camp Kieve LDI is creating a three-day program for the Raymond students that best meets their needs. We are very fortunate to have secured a great grant from the Cole Family Foundation to help offset the cost of this valuable program.

If you have questions about this trip, please feel free to contact the main office at JSMS.

JSMS Entertainment!

On Saturday, June 5th, 2004, the Jordan-Small Middle School in Raymond, Maine, will be hosting an elaborate all day affair with music and other varieties of entertain-ment. The purpose of this event is to raise money for the performing arts program at the school and to get the school and community better connected through music and the arts. The show will consist of students, teachers, and willing, generous community members. If you or someone you know would like to participate in this event, or if you think you would like to contribute to the cause in any way, please contact Jordan-Small Middle School directly at 655-4743, or contact Patrick Nyren for more information at 655-4114 or Bob Jones at 655-7163.

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Road Runner

When my wife and I moved to Raymond, it was Road Runner that provided us with a running commentary about what was going on in Town. We had no children or grandchildren in the schools. We did not know many people in Town. We did not know the members of the Town government, nor did we know any of the Town employees.

Road Runner and the Town web site introduced us to Raymond.

Last year Road Runner was cut from the budget. I thought that was a mistake then, and I do so again now. When the suggestion was made to publish this special issue of Road Runner, I felt it was essential that there be a forum for Town Meeting so that those coming could make informed decisions and could understand why/how recommendations were being brought forward to citizens.

I volunteered to try to raise sufficient funds to publish this issue. Some 18 families contributed the $1,500 that was needed. My personal thanks goes to those who let me twist their arms because they understood how important this issue is for public dialogue.

However, at the same time that I was raising funds for this issue, the majority of the Select Board voted 3-2 to recommend that the Road Runner budget be cut again. One Selectman flippantly said that if there was so much success in getting donations, then let it be done that away again next year. Ironically, that Selectman was the first candidate to submit a statement to the Road Runner for publication in this issue.

We strongly disagree with the position taken by 3 members of the Select Board. The Road Runner and the web site are the primary ways that residents can learn what is going on in their Town - before it happens. Recommendations for improving Road Runner are a separate issue. First, we, as a Town, must decide to support the concept of communication any way we can.

I therefore ask that you DO NOT support the recommendation of the 3 Select Board members that would have us “know less” about what is going on in Town.

Thank you,

Franklin Dexter

Technology: It’s Working for Raymond

“Technology Director Hired Against Your Vote”; “technology terrorists”; “illegal this” and “non-standard that…” If you’ve been in Raymond for the past year or so, you’ve probably heard some of these remarks. I can’t explain to you why anyone would say such things, but “accuracy of information” does not appear to be part of the criteria.

I’m writing to make a case for one of the best deals, from any perspective, that I’ve ever seen the Town in danger of passing up. Why wouldn’t you already know what a good deal we’re all getting? Well, the rumor mill grinds inex- plicably but effectively on, and we, the Technology Committee, can’t seem to nail down the basis or source of the rumors or of the contention.

The issue here is the Town’s Network Administrator position, presently held by Kevin Woodbrey (part-time, $40,000, no benefits). According to his contract, Kevin is supposed to work less than 30 hours per week main- taining the network. In fact he takes care of practically everything that plugs in - at all of the Town’s facilities; deals with software, hardware and training way beyond the scope of “network administration”; puts in way more hours than he’s being paid for and is on call 24/7. His expertise and knowledge are legendary.

That’s only part of the “good deal,” but let’s step back for a minute. You may recall that one of the items which was supposed to be “hot stuff” at last year’s Town Meeting was the position of Technology Director. We never got a chance to talk this over at Town Meeting because of the vote to forego discussion of individual warrant articles and instead limit the municipal budget to an overall 6% increase over the previous year’s budget. (Paraphrasing) “We’ll let each department figure out how they’re going to stay within the 6% because they are the experts.”

So we removed the “Technology Director” position and a number of other items from the Technology Budget, and at the request of the Selectboard, we advertised and sent out an RFP for Network Administration Services, which was not a bone of contention - someone has to do this for us. We received 5-6 bids, selected what we thought was the best offer (Kevin’s), brought it to the Selectboard, and in September they voted 3-2 to approve our choice.

This is when we started hearing, among other inaccurate things, that the Town had hired a Technology Director. Are we splitting hairs here? What’s the difference, if any, between a Technology Director and a Network Administrator? Here are some examples: an ob-gyn specialist vs. a delivery room nurse; an architect vs. a drywall installer; a librarian vs. a circulation desk clerk. Positions on the left side of the “vs.” require people who have broad and deep expertise, officially recognized by the appropriate licensing and degrees. The people on the right side of the “vs.” may have deep knowledge and official credentials, but their knowledge is not broadly applicable to all as- pects of the discipline. You don’t consult the delivery room nurse on infertility issues; you don’t ask the drywall in- staller to design a building; you don’t ask the circulation desk clerk to set collection development policy. The “left side” people have more responsibility and accountabil- ity; expectations of them are greater; they’re usually paid more.

 Rumors... rumors... Talk now is the Town should get rid of Kevin when his contract expires in June. We would then hire a consultant to assess the network, form a com- mittee to write a proposal for network services, accept bids, Kevin’s win the best and we would hire him as a consultant. That’s one rumor. And doesn’t that sound an awful lot like what we’ve already done? (Minus the part where we know ahead of time it will be Kevin, which we didn’t know last September.) The difference between what’s in place and what’s being proposed is that Kevin is presently a loyal, dedicated Town employee instead of a “stick to my contract” consultant. Kevin has paid for his salary over and over since coming on board last Septem- ber and has otherwise saved the town a fortune, not only in money, but in time, frustration and headaches.

Kevin has a ton of work in progress, involving many people. For example, the next phase of “functionality vs. expense” is a hard look at proprietary software and appli- cations and an exploration/assessment of open source op- portunities. Is this something you ask Network Adminis- trators to do? Nope. Kevin is also working on his own time to teach people, including folks from the Historical Society, how to use the web editor so that they can main- tain their own pages of the Town’s website. We have other applications (GIS/GPS, for example) that we’ve barely scratched the surface of. A recent accomplishment there for Emergency Services is a Dispatcher’s ability to im- mediately view a map to a caller’s location.

But another rumor is that we should get rid of all the “tech- nology.” I’m not sure what this means because I’m not sure how the people who are considering such action define “technology.” To me, “technology” is like “electricity”; there are that many diverse applications and uses. Maybe they’re thinking, “I don’t use e-mail myself, so let’s get rid of e-mail.” Never mind that hundreds of people in town do use e-mail. Or “Let’s take the website down.” This would not only be a giant step backward but would fly in the face of the spirit of state and federal guide- lines for, say, Americans with Disabilities Act and its web component, Section 508, is heart- warmingly egalitarian; and it goes without saying that any one of us might someday have to “benefit” from its exist- ence. Compliance with such legislation is an obligation and a privilege, and we on the Technology Committee are ready to help with the “technical” aspects of it.

Back to “good deals.” We’re running elegantly simple and lean, thanks to Kevin. It is my opinion that we can afford not to have the Network Administrator position with him in it. Anyone who’s ever been on forays with him to the State Surplus facility in Augusta knows a magician when they see one. He can turn $100 into many thousands of dollars worth of useful, usable equipment. (He cut the AC cord off an old printer with his Leatherman before he let me take it to the dump! We can use that!) Yes, but what is Kevin making out of all these spare parts? A bunch of weird, nerdy stuff that only a few people ben- efit from? Nope, again. But we don’t like secrets or in- sider knowledge, so come see for yourself! We want to offer Raymond citizens training, or at least overviews, in whatever “technology” topic you want to know more about, including showing you the nuts and bolts of your Town network. Whatever else “technology” means, it also means “freedom” and “opportunity” for all of us. Information is empowering, and we’re here to help you get it. Find out from us how. We’re available any time.

Do you like statistics? According to Augusta, the most frequently asked question of a town by prospective resi- dents is “Do you have broadband?” The current “best thing” a Town can provide for its citizens, according to a recent ADA seminar, is a well-designed website. Raymond has those things, and we can make them better. The Technology Committee thinks that helping people stay informed and safe is fun. Saving money is fun. Coming up with creative and innovative solutions is fun. Looking over our shoulders and listening to sarcasm, unfounded accu- sations and rumors is not fun. We’re Raymond citizens, too, and it’s our goal to do a wonderful job - for everyone in Raymond. I think we should be high-fiving one another in the halls of the Town Office and celebrating our many successes at Selectboard meetings. Instead we’re fight- ing not to be discouraged. We’re counting on your sup- port at Town Meeting.

Laurie Forbes, Technology Committee Chair
School Department’s Budget Up 6.8 Percent

Continued from page 1

transportation, food services, maintenance and secretarial personnel. High school tuition for both regular and special education students represents 26% of the budget. The remaining 11% of “fixed costs” includes debt service, contracts and leases, utilities and transportation costs.

The impact of cuts that had to be made in last year’s budget following our first town meeting was assessed and taken into consideration with this proposed budget. The summer school program is included in this proposal, which will allow our learners to once again have the extended learning time needed to support them in meeting standards. Academic fieldtrips will which enhance learning for all K-8 students and that support curriculum work have been returned to both the Raymond Elementary School and Jordan-Small Middle School’s cost centers.

The supply and textbook accounts had to be cut last year and have been increased in this proposal to support the curriculum work that is being done to meet the timelines for state and federal requirements. We postponed the purchasing of the necessary tools to support the seventh and eighth grade laptop initiative. These teaching tools are needed in all grades of the school. We cannot send our eighth graders to area high schools not having had the same technology opportunities as their peers.

When the administrative team began its budget work in October of 2003 we vowed to be extremely sensitive to the taxpayers of Raymond. We pledged to look at only the critical needs, as opposed to “what might be nice to have.” We used this approach as a roadmap to guide the work that has been done over the past five months with the School Committee, Finance Committee, Select Board, School Board, parents, staff and community members. Special consideration was also given to the Special Education Utilization Review that was conducted last spring and to the Essential Programs and Services Funding Model, both of which you can visit at our website. In November we were initially looking at an 8.9% increase with an 11.6% increase in the town share. With hard work, creativity, and “our collaborative best thinking” with many folks, we were able to reduce our proposed budget to 6.8% with a 6.9% increase in the town share, representing a 4.7% decrease in the town’s share from the initial thinking in November to the collective best thinking at the end of March. We encourage all of the citizens of Raymond to recognize these efforts and to support our children and our schools by attending our May 15th Town Meeting and supporting our school budget.

Raymond Fire/Rescue

By: Denis Morse

In less than two years you, the citizens, will be asked to attend the Town Meeting to decide the direction and funding level of our different services. This past year you were emphatic in your approach to the bottom line increase. Thus this year the Fire and Rescue Department’s operational budget has kept the increase to just under 5%, and our scheduled Capital Improvement Budget was slashed by over 2/3 by a creative bonding message recommended by the Town Manager.

Four years ago we recommended, and you accepted, a CIP Budget that would allow for level funding of our needed Apparatus Replacement Program. This was to be a planned, scheduled replacement of a very aging and necessary fleet of trucks. The planned purchase of ambulances every fourth year would allow a fifteen year rotation of our ambulances, thus reducing the high maintenance cost while providing a reliable, safe means of rescue services. Rescue Two is a 1986 patient compartment refurbished onto a 1995 Ford chassis. This unit’s wiring continues to fail, putting the Rescue out of service and costing thousands in on-going costs. It has served our community for 18 years and is scheduled to be replaced in next year’s budget.

The replacement of Engine One, a thirty year old failing pump, is scheduled for this year. The engine as well as the compartments have been rebuilt and refurbished once already. The worn out truck was pump tested by an outside vendor and not only failed the needed ISO ( Insurance rating) pump test due to engine wear but was basically condemned as too old to keep spending major funds on. The importance of passing the pump test can not be ignored because of our use of drafting (the act of sucking) water from our lakes and streams. As our engines wear out, drafting becomes more difficult, if not impossible. To complicate the matter, the test could not even happen at all without two garden houses placed running into the radiator to eliminate overheating. This obviously can’t happen during a fire.

Most front line fire apparatus has a rotation of 15 to 20 years depending on use. Engine One has lasted 23 years, and has served the community well, but every truck has an end to its use. Our second engine, Engine Two, is a 1991 Pumper and is beginning to cost more in maintenance, but again it is 13 years old and has been moved into a more active role with Engine One’s ongoing problems.

These two pieces of apparatus are essential to maintaining our continued service and would be bowed over ten years, eliminating our CIP funding for six years, thus reducing the overall costs for the next six years. Our ongoing CIP Budget was approximately $150,000 per year. The new bond related to apparatus would be approximately $65,748.70 or a reduction of $84,000 per year for six years.

Any questions can be answered by Chief Morse at his home at 655-2725 or at the Town meeting May 15+. Please attend and support our needed funding and long term success.

How Did This School Budget Get Developed?

By: Brenda Stevenson, School Committee

The development of the school budget, a long and arduous process, began in January when the administrators (working with input from staff members) began looking at their current budget and projected needs for the next school year. This “first pass” was presented to the Superintendent, and the administrative team reviewed and prioritized the district’s needs and the relationship of these needs to the budget requests. All of the prioritized items were linked to district goals as they pertain to student achievement, our facilities, personnel and programs.

This first budget was presented to the School Committee in January. Multiple versions of the budget have been considered over the 3-month period. These versions were discussed in regular school committee meetings along with special school committee meeting specifically focused on the budget. A Public Forum on the budget was held in February as well as meetings with the Town Budget and Finance Committee. As new information has become available (for example, updated projected health benefit costs) or decisions regarding reallocations were made, the budget numbers would be re-run to reflect these changes. During the initial budget consideration in January, the increase in the town share was at 11.6%. By the end of February, that number had moved to 8.3%; and when the budget committee voted on our proposed budget, the increase in town share was at 6.9%. This budget reflects our commitment to allowing all students to improve and grow in a safe and pleasant environment, while at the same time being sensitive to the taxpayers in Raymond.

Town of Raymond Paving Bond

By: Nathan White, Public Works Director

The Town of Raymond’s road reconstruction program is funded through CIP budget appropriations. Each year it becomes increasingly difficult to appropriate adequate funding. As a result we cannot keep up with the deterioration of paved roads.

There are 39.32 miles of town roads, 1/2 a mile in gravel and 38.57 miles in asphalt. Currently, with the crew and equipment available, the Public Works Department prepares an average of 2 miles of road for reclamining and base pavement or 2 to 3 miles for surface pavement per year. This equates to approximately $65,000 per mile or $150,000 per year. Using these calculations, it would take approximately 19 years and $2.5 million to complete the 38.57 miles of road. Not every road needs to be reclaimed and/or rebuilt, and we have completed several miles of paving. Many of the roads need surface pavement, and a majority need to be rebuilt.

Facing the 2004/2005 budget year, we need to consider how our paving needs can be met without raising the mil rate and still maintain a good road maintenance program. There are several of options:

1. Continue funding at the present rate of 2.5 miles a year, with very little surface pavement; or
2. Increase the CIP Paving Budget by $170,000 to $200,000 per year.
3. Bond enough money to pay for a 3 to 4 year plan.

Public Works has planned on incorporating the following roads into this year’s pavement management plan: Raymond Hill, North Raymond Road, Mountain Road, Carriage Hill Road.

The Bond would give Public Works a jump-start to the paving program. We anticipate that by mid-August we will have a Paving Management Program (Maine Department of Transportation model) in place. The program is designed to maintain an inventory of all roads, support data on condition and past repairs, and will be used to prioritize long-term paving/road maintenance.

FAQ’s

Q What benefit is there to paying for a 3 to 4 year paving plan over 10 years?

A A proposed bond will cost $110,000 per year for 10 years. At the end of the 3 to 4 year plan it will be necessary to add $150,000 a year to CIP in order to continue the same level of maintenance of the roads. Therefore, by the fourth year the overall road reconstruction/ paving cost would increase to $260,000 a year. Without the assistance of the bond the Town would spend up to $320,000 a year in the first year four years.

Q What is the advantage of overlaying as compared to rebuilding all the roads?

A Many of the roads will only need resurfacing. However, some have deteriorated to the point that resurfacing would actually be a waste of money, due to increased traffic volume and the need for widening.

Q Will we reach a point where reclaiming and rebuilding will not be necessary?

A Eventually, after all major work is completed, annual paving will be used largely for resurfacing and maintenance.
Raymond Municipal Budget Proposed at 5.48% Increase continued from page 1

Assessor Michael O’Donnell who worked one-day per week at the Town Office to a 32-hour per week in-house Certified Maine Assessor position filled by Amanda Simpson. The Assessing salary account includes the second installment of the market salary adjustment outlined under Administration. The contract assessor Budget line was eliminated. O’Donnell and Associates were paid $25,000 for their one-day per week contract and had expressed the need for additional hours to continue, given the growth in the demands for their services. In the past, the Town also assumed the cost of secretarial support for the contract assessor as well as coverage of the office during the week when the contract assessor was not available. Combining the cost of additional contract assessor time with secretarial support would have met or exceeded the assessing proposal in the Budget proposal for substantially fewer hours of coverage. At a time when the Town is embarking on a town-wide property tax equalization project (revaluation), it seems prudent to have professional technical support available for Raymond citizens on a more regular basis.

State law requires that communities maintain assessed values that represent a minimum of 70% of market value. Raymond’s current value ratio is 71% and will fall below the required 70% this year.

In the 03/04 FY Budget, 85% family health care insurance coverage was approved by the Town Meeting, consistent with coverage offered to many of the Raymond School Department employees. This change was also consistent with the Cumberland/Androscoggin Counties Municipal Labor Benefits Survey. This year, although the number of full-time employees will increase by one due to a retirement and replacement by part-time employees, an estimated increase in health insurance premiums of 10% and a 5% increase in dental insurance premiums results in one of the areas of increase ($10,845) in the account group. Other increases include Social Security $10,111; Workers Compensation $9,805; and Municipal Risk $7,813.

General Assistance: The General Assistance Officer and Finance Director have begun to notice an upward trend in the number of requests for assistance. Although no major expenditures have been made to support qualifying residents experiencing extreme levels of poverty, the likelihood does exist that the Town may have to provide individual or family assistance at some point in the future. In order to have an adequate funding available for this purpose, the account group with estimates for utilities and heating oil. After seeking competitive proposals, the Selectmen did decide to accept a part-time employment agreement with former Town and Technology Committee volunteer Kevin Woodbury based upon an annual salary of $40,000 for a 24-hour work-hour. In an effort to be as fiscally responsible as possible, no change was proposed in the Town’s contractual arrangements. It is also important to note that competitive private sector proposals were solicited through an RFP process that yielded no acceptable proposal to provide the level of service for the Town within the existing Budget appropriation approved by Town Meeting and at the recommendation of the Web & Technology Committee.

Tech Department: This area received a great deal of scrutiny in the 03/04 FY Budget and due to the Budget cap was changed (reduced) significantly from last year’s original Budget proposal. The major cost center is the appropriation to support the Raymond Network Administration salary. After seeking competitive proposals, the Selectmen was increased and the proposal was approved.

In the 03/04 FY Budget the Budget include the creation of the EMA/Daytime Deputy Chief position to help improve management of staff, training and coverage levels. This position was funded in the 03/04 FY Budget by utilizing funds that had existed to support other part-time departmental positions. The change required the elimination of the Assistant Chief position and reallocation of funding effort to the EMA/Daytime Deputy Chief. The other central element of the Fire/Rescue Department Budget request is the continued reliance upon standby pay to forestall the creation of any additional full-time permanent positions.

Fire/Rescue Department: Changes in the Fire Department Budget include the creation of the EMA/Daytime Deputy Chief position to help improve management of staff, training and coverage levels. This position was funded in the 03/04 FY Budget by utilizing funds that had existed to support other part-time departmental positions. The change required the elimination of the Assistant Chief position and reallocation of funding effort to the EMA/Daytime Deputy Chief. The other central element of the Fire/Rescue Department Budget request is the continued reliance upon standby pay to forestall the creation of any additional full-time permanent positions.

Infrastructure: This account supports the cost of all municipal street lighting except the ornamental lamp on Route 302, which are part of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Budget. The monthly charge for the Town’s 110 street lights from Central Maine Power is $1,499 with an annual cost in FY 04-05 of $17,988.

Public Works: In the area of salaries, a proposal is being made to establish the Public Works Director/Assistant Town Commissioner position as a salaried position. In the past, the Town has paid wages in excess of the proposed salary due to the inability to precisely control the use of overtime that is largely governed by weather and emergency conditions. If the Public Works Director position were established at a salary, personnel costs could more accurately be projected in the future. The recommendation is that this position be established at an area market salary and adjusted in subsequent years based on the Consumer Price Index. Very few communities continue to maintain an hourly public works supervisor position.

In the supplies and uniforms Budget line, a $3,500 increase is projected to pay the cost of uniforms previously paid by the Raymond School Department. In prior years, there has been an exchange of services between the Town and School, with the Town receiving uniforms in exchange for school swimming uniforms. A meeting was recently held between the Town and School to discuss all existing budgetary connections and to set a goal of establishing more equitable financial arrangements. Other areas that could potentially be impacted in the future include the School’s use of the District 2 Public Safety/Public Works Building, disparity in school and government facilities in Raymond, and various smaller agreements that have historically existed between the parties for provision of services. Year two of the Public Works five-year snow removal contract with P & K Sand and Gravel reflects a 4.25% increase or $5,127.

Solid Waste: Reductions in recycling pickup and hauling as well as roadside pickup are a favorable consequence of entering into a new three-year contract with Pine Tree Waste Industries. The largest area of increase continues to be utilization of the Casco Bulk Waste Facility. Each year a much greater level of materials are being taken to the facility. One conclusion that can be drawn is that use of the bulky waste facility is aligned with the increased building and development growth Raymond continues to experience.

Cemeteries: An increase of $1,048 to reflect actual 04/05 FY contract-moving services.

Parks: The Raymond Beach operations expenditure of $2,540 has been moved to the Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) Budget.

This chart delineates how each major category of Town spending relates to the total.

This chart represents a breakdown of the apportionment of tax dollars between the Town, School Department and County as proposed in the 2004/2005 Budgets.

Town Office: Actual expenses are reflected in this account for heating oil, electricity and telephone.

Infrastructure: County

Insurance: Municipal 19%

Optional Expense: Education 10%

This area received a great deal of scrutiny in the 03/04 FY Budget and due to the Budget cap was changed (reduced) significantly from last year’s original Budget proposal. The major cost center is the appropriation to support the Raymond Network Administration salary. After seeking competitive proposals, the Selectmen did decide to accept a part-time employment agreement with former Town and Technology Committee volunteer Kevin Woodbury based upon an annual salary of $40,000 for a 24-hour work-hour. In an effort to be as fiscally responsible as possible, no change was proposed in the Town’s contractual arrangements. It is also important to note that competitive private sector proposals were solicited through an RFP process that yielded no acceptable proposal to provide the level of service for the Town within the existing Budget appropriation approved by Town Meeting and at the recommendation of the Web & Technology Committee.

Community Development and Services: The most significant increase is a request for additional legal and planning services needed to help facilitate anticipated Land Use Ordinance revisions. The Planning Board has requested funding to undertake major revisions to the Land Use Ordinance as set forth in the anticipated new Comprehensive Plan and other necessary changes in order to both clarify and improve the existing ordinances. The Open Space Reserve Fund is recommended at $15,000 or an increase of $10,000 over the sum which was approved in the 03/04 FY Budget.

Fire/Rescue Department: Changes in the Fire Department Budget include the creation of the EMA/Daytime Deputy Chief position to help improve management of staff, training and coverage levels. This position was funded in the 03/04 FY Budget by utilizing funds that had existed to support other part-time departmental positions. The change required the elimination of the Assistant Chief position and reallocation of funding effort to the EMA/Daytime Deputy Chief. The other central element of the Fire/Rescue Department Budget request is the continued reliance upon standby pay to forestall the creation of any additional full-time permanent positions.

Dispatch: The salary line was increased 3% over 2003/2004 and the Dispatch supervisor wages were moved to Administration. In the area of dispatch services, there is great potential for reduction of costs by regionalization and through merger with one of Raymond’s neighboring communication centers. It is possible to move at least two shifts of dispatch service to the Naples Communication Center. Talks regarding such a cost saving arrangement were somewhat slowed by the receipt of a citizen initiated petition to maintain the Raymond stand-alone dispatch center at the new Public Safety Building. Fire Chief Denis Morse and I are now exploring alternative communications plans. In my view, it is inevitable that Raymond will be faced with having to consolidate/organize dispatch services with neighboring communities and/ or Cumberland County in the near future. It is also likely that any change will engender a level of adverse public opinion in that some residents may believe that combined dispatching will not be as reliable. It is possible to move such dispatching would not be as reliable as the present locally based services.

Animal Control: State law requires certain animal control expenditure revenues to be dedicated for animal control expenditure purposes only. Last year more funding was available to support animal control than this year, resulting in a $2,100 increase directly related to the 41.18% reduction in revenue available.
Town of Raymond's Valuation

This graph shows how the Town's property valuation has increased.

Unclassified: Social service and provider agencies were flat funded at $384 FY levels. The Raymond Village Library request was increased by $900 and moved to a stand-alone Budget category.

Capital Improvements: The principal change in this account group is the proposal to finance the capital road program ($260,500) to support a replacement ambulance and fire engine through utilization of municipal bonding as opposed to a "pay in full as you purchase" or a capital reserve (TIF) program. The proposed $950,000 road reconstruction bond will meet capital construction objectives for a three-year period, and the $550,000 Fire/Rescue bond will address equipment needs until 2011 with repayment on both bonds based upon a ten-year amortization schedule. The first expenditure out of the Public Works bond will be a professional pavement management program at an approximate cost of $100,000 including inventory, analysis and a comprehensive work plan by year. The Town of Windham recently completed a plan and bonded over $5,842,000 in road improvements. In year one, FY 04-05 interest only accrues and is due and payable. In subsequent years, the appropriation for the proposed improvements is outlined in an estimated amortization schedule available from the Town Office. The advantages of bonding include historically low interest rates and the ability to implement Budget savings and realize the desired improvements in the short term while spreading the cost over a longer time frame. Another advantage is that bonding avoids the diminishing purchase power of the capital reserve Budgetary approach in a time when inflation and the future cost of goods and services outpace the interest earned while saving over a period of years for improvements.

Another capital improvement returning in this year's Budget and being removed from the 03/04 FY Budget to meet the Town Meeting spending cap is the Revaluation Project. Given that a contract between the Town and Vision Appraisal Technology, Inc. has recently been executed contingent upon the remaining funding being raised by this and next year's Annual Town Meetings, an appropriation of $137,750 will be necessary in the 04/05 Budget. The reason for the appropriation is that in order to have the project complete by the 2005 tax year, this is the level of funding that will be necessary to make progress payments. An appropriation of $47,000 to complete the project is anticipated in the 05/06 fiscal year Budget. Work on the project will commence with the first $85,250 available in a capital reserve fund and raised originally in the 02/03 Budget. The total cost of the contract portion of the revaluation is $260,500, with computer equipment, telephone, and other office materials budgeted at $12,580, for a total revaluation cost of $273,000.

County Tax: A 6.6% increase over last year's appropriation of $405,202. Even though the County's Budget grew by only 2.49%, Raymond’s share increased at a rate due to our relative level of increase in valuation as compared to other Cumberland County communities.

Tax Increment Financing District: The Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) account group includes Geographic Information System (GIS) and data management services, technology services, including computer hardware and software supplies and upgrades as expenses under the original TIF development plan filed with the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. Both the waterline and the Route 302 Improvement Project bond payments are in the second year of fifteen-year repayment schedules. Maintenance and operations costs including ornamental street lighting for the Route 302 corridor from Raymond to the Business District are outlined in detail and contained in the TIF Budget.

Two new fire hydrants will be installed along a section of Route 85 located off Route 302 to support a proposed new residential subdivision. All costs of actual in ground infrastructure including purchasing the hydrants will be borne by the private developer. The total cost of hydrant rental from the Portland Water District is $5,345 for the 25 fire hydrants in the Raymond system. Since its inception, the TIF has supported the Lake Region Development Council in a $10,000 appropriation. A state economic development entity in the TIF this year is the Greater Bridgton Lake Region Chamber of Commerce with a request for $1,000 in annual membership dues. Another new request is a $2,000 appropriation to support the Raymond/Casco Historical Society.

Municipal Non-property Tax Revenues: An overall decrease is projected at $187,022 or negative 9.85%. The reason for the decrease is the low level of undesignated fund balance or surplus now available to help offset increases in expenditures. In the 03/04 FY Budget a larger than typical level of surplus, $450,000, was proposed in order to offset what was planned to be a one-time larger than typical increase in expenditures. Although the town meeting capped expenditures at 6%, the fund balance contribution from surplus was not reduced. For this reason, the total level of surplus was decreased to $1,484,552. Best management practice would suggest a surplus level of $1,706,938 to $2,437,781 depending upon the calculation method chosen. On a more positive note with respect to revenues, motor vehicle excise taxes continue to increase. An increase of $80,000 or 12.31%. Most other municipal revenues appear to be relatively stable with the exception of interest income. Given the present low rate of return on short-term investments, it is unrealistic to project interest income at historic levels of receipts. The Budget recommendation projects a reduction in interest income by $45,000 or 45%. Inter-governmental revenue sources from the State of Maine such as municipal revenue sharing and local road assistance are being budgeted at flat funding levels. Maine Municipal Association typically provides detailed estimates to communities on an annual basis. With the great uncertainty over the state Budget situation, accurate estimates are next to impossible to project this year. The best information at this time is that significant decreases from last year's levels will not materialize. A $10,000 increase is projected in Fire/Rescue income based upon actual collections and increased activity levels.

A new revenue is Raymond Schools - Public Works Service $5,886. In order to fairly charge for services provided (as outlined previously) to the schools and services received, an effort has been undertaken by the Town and school to assign a cost value to respective services. Raymond Schools - Public Works Service includes plowing and sanding in the winter as well as spring clean up and sand spreading.

Other new revenues include Sebago Water Safety Watch ($1,000) which are funds to be received from private contributions to help offset the cost of a proposed Public Safety/Rescue initiative that will be considered as a part of the Fire/Rescue Department Budget.

GIS Revenue ($2,000) is a new category to reflect charges for mapping services and/or other geographic data requested by the public. Clerk Fees are projected to increase by 86.6% or $1,300 to reflect increased activity. The most significant revenue decision made annually is to determine the level of undesignated fund balance or surplus to use to offset increases in expenditures. Two hundred thousand dollars ($200,000) was allocated this year. Unfortunately, the decision to utilize a high level of undesignated fund balance or surplus last year ($450,000) placed the Town in an unfavorable revenue position this year. Had last year's budget increase been approved, it was expected that the revaluation would be well underway by now and that the resulting captured new value would have helped to stabilize the Town's finances moving forward. The good news is that after the revaluation is complete, I do expect in closing, I would like to encourage you to contact either me at 655-6994 ext. 31 or Finance Director Elizabeth Cummings ext. 32, or by e-mail don.willard@raymondmaine.org or elizabeth.cummings@raymondmaine.org if you wish to receive any additional information or clarification. We will make every effort to provide any information you may require so you can evaluate the recommended 04/05 FY Municipal Budget.
Art Abounds At JSMS

The third trimester is in full swing. I wonder why the year is passing so quickly. I think part of the reason is the amount of work we have been doing in the art room at Jordan-Small Middle School. Time flies when you are busy?

We had a huge, well attended, and interesting Japanese Pageant in January. People explored Japanese culture and met our Japanese teacher. There were demonstrations, Japanese food, and music.

In March the Academic Enrichment Team hosted the annual Academic Enrichment Night with performances and artwork. Every square inch of the school was transformed into gallery space to exhibit the student achievements.

Fifth grade recently explored clay by transforming bowls into creatures. We made pinch pot tea bowls of clay for our Japanese Pageant. Using this new skill, the students made bowls that sprouted legs and other animal parts. Now, they are using these creatures as the subject of a comic strip. Drawing a comic is a great way to learn to communicate. The pictures need to be clear, specific, and detailed to express an idea. Some of them are very funny, too. Do we have a future cartoonist in our school?

Sixth grade had been painting in an ordered manner like decorative and mathematical artist, M.C. Escher. Then they let loose with expressions and impressions as we learned about other artists and styles of painting. The results are beautiful tributes to Van Gogh and Renoir. They are on display to brighten the main hallway to the office. A nice harbinger of spring, 6th grade is now creating masks of paper mache. They will be stylized to reflect the cultures of Australia, Alaska, or Africa.

Seventh grade students have completed the sculpture unit and are studying perspective drawing. This is traditionally one of the most difficult units, but they are learning and seeing the depth. This will afford so many new possibilities for drawing and composition. All students are excelling, but this is the project that the future engineers and mathematician enjoy the most.

As eighth grade prepares to move on to high school, the students are concentrating on reflective projects, literally and figuratively. We are using chalk and clay to create self-portraits. With years of foundation laid and careful instruction, the students are able to create images that really resemble their own faces.

I try to foster self-direction and responsibility. Many students visit the art room instead of study hall to work on independent projects.

Student art work is on display at the State House, Auburn Mall, Good Life Market, and often at the Portland Jetport.

If we removed all the art in the lives of our children, there is no way that adding more math, increasing more reading, requiring more science, or buying more computers could replace what they have lost. This is National Art Education Association philosophy.

Troop 800 Donates To Animal Refuge League

By: Jamie Wiley, Troop Scribe

On Monday April 19th, a group of scouts from Boy Scout Troop 800 went to the Westbrook ARL, which stands for Animal Refuge League, to give them a check for the money we raised during the fishing derby on Sebago Lake on the 21st of February. The group of scouts included Jamie Wiley, Josiah Coyle, Kyle Woodbrey, and Erik Woodbrey.

Before we gave them the check, the ARL representative, Carol Ann, gave us a tour that included a room for cats that are short term residents, a room for cats that had been there for a long time, a room for the small animals such as hamsters and guinea pigs, and last but not least a two level room for dogs. After the tour we presented Carol with a check for $420 which surprised her greatly. It was a worthwhile trip in my mind as well as a noble cause supported.

From left to right: Kyle Woodbrey, Jamie Wiley, Erik Woodbrey, Josiah Coyle, and a representative from the Animal Refuge League.