Raymond School Students Shine at the Cumberland County Special Olympics Swim Meet

Raymond Elementary School’s Andrew Tanguay and Jordan-Small Middle School’s Kelly Handy and Patrick Huber had outstanding performances at the Cumberland County Special Olympics Swim Meet at Cape Elizabeth High School on Friday, March 24th. Andrew, entering in his first ever Special Olympics competition, received a 4th place ribbon in the 25 yard Freestyle Race. He achieved a personal best time by nearly 7 seconds. Kelly Handy swam personal bests in both the 15 and 25 yard Flutteration Races, placing 1st and 2nd, respectively. Patrick Huber also had personal bests and placed 1st in both the 15 and 25 yard Flutteration Races. Raymond Special Olympics Coaches John Keller and John Dionne would like to express their thanks to Beth Nadeau and Kate Lookas for their support at swim practices and to Carolyn Vail of the St. Joseph’s College Aquatics Department for the use of adaptive equipment. Thanks also to the families of Andrew, Patrick, and Kelly for their support at the swim meet. Congratulations Andrew, Kelly, and Patrick!!!

Municipal Budget Proposed at 3.18% Increase

By Don Willard, Town Manager

The Board of Selectmen and Budget/Finance Committee met over several weeks to consider six separate drafts of the fiscal year 2006-2007 Municipal Budget, which is now ready for town meeting consideration at a proposed increase of 3.18%. The total municipal budget before non-property tax revenues are subtracted stands at $3,421,857, as compared to the fiscal year 2005-2006 budget of $3,316,354. This is a difference of $105,503. This year’s budget deliberations were made particularly difficult by a shift in valuation that affected the town’s Tax Increment Finance District (TIF). Although property within the town’s business district increased in value, as did properties throughout the community, the rate of increase within the District was lower than other classes of property. This resulted in a shift of $97,791 of TIF qualified expenditures for existing improvements such as the Route 302 Improvement Project and Waterline Extension from the TIF budget to the general operating budget. Had this shift not occurred, the town’s municipal budget would be $3,324,066 or only $7,712 higher than last year’s budget for a percentage increase of approximately 2%. Non-property tax revenue is projected to increase at a rate of 1.28% which will generate a projected $1,844,957 versus last year’s $1,821,691. This is a dollar difference of $23,266. Under LD1, Property Tax Limiting Legislation passed by the Maine Legislature last year, a net budget of no more than $1,506,900 can be approved without specific voter authorization for an increase. The proposed municipal budget is $8,469 below the LD1 allowed maximum amount, which includes the General Assistance exemption provided by LD1965 in the amount of $2,000. In order to give local voters an opportunity to consider possible community improvement alternatives, separate warrant articles for new road paving funds and a Fire Department equipment reserve fund will be offered as LD1 increase articles. The current total estimate of the mil rate for the school, town, and county budgets combined is $9.42 versus $8.469.
Raymond Village Library News

At a Glance

Sunday, May 7 – Scrapbooking Workshop, 2-3:30pm, at the library.
Saturday, May 20 – Town Meeting, 10am.
Monday, May 29 – Memorial Day, library closed.
Wednesday, May 31 – Book Discussion Group, 7pm at the library.
Saturday, June 24 – Plant Sale and Paperback Book Sale.

Scrapbooking Workshop

Introduction to Scrapbooking Workshop will be held at the library on Sunday, May 7, from 2 to 3:30pm. This program is presented by Jennifer Hills, Creative Memories Consultant. If you take the time to take pictures, it is worth taking the time to properly care for, store and showcase them as well. Jennifer will demonstrate how to “scrap” or decorate with a variety of cutting tools and will help participants create a “short story card.” This project can be given as a card, put in an album or even set up as a picture type display – just in time for Mother’s Day! There is no cost, just bring 2-3 related pictures or copies of pictures. Please pre-register at the library by May 1.

Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting will be held Saturday, May 20, at the Jordan-Small Middle School gym beginning at 10am. We encourage all Raymond residents to attend and make use of this opportunity to participate in their community. The library appreciates your continued support.

Library Hours

In observance of Memorial Day, the Raymond Village Library will be closed May 29.

Book Discussion Group

The book group will meet Wednesday, May 31, at 7pm at the library. The book chosen for discussion is “Women of the Silk” by Gail Tsukiyama. For more information, please call the library at 655-4283.

Portland Museum of Art

Thanks to two library patrons who generously paid the renewal fee, the library continues to offer a one-day pass to the Portland Museum of Art. The pass admits two adults and up to six children. Please contact the library for more information.

Plant Sale and Paperback Book Sale

ATTENTION: All gardeners, plant and flower lovers, now is the time for cleaning out those flowerbeds, and dividing and replacing your favorite blooms. The Raymond Village Library’s Plant Sale on June 24, from 7am to noon, can use all those extra plants you will be thinning out or removing to make room for new seedlings. Please put these aside and plan to bring them to the library June 23, the day before the sale, from 4 to 7pm. Members of the Hawthorne Garden Club have planned to start seedlings for the plant sale, and we are excited to have their generous boost to the variety in the sale. Perennials are very popular, as well as groundcovers, herbs, flowering shrubs, vines, and bedding plants and other annuals. African violets are also welcome. For further information: Susan, 655-1010; Jane, 655-5354; Irene, 655-4711. In conjunction with the plant sale, the paperback book sale will begin on June 24 at the library. Donations for the book sale may be brought to the library during open hours.

Raymond Wins “Hannaford Helps Schools” Program!

Kids were treated to a big surprise at last Friday’s opening at RES. Pam Melville of Hannaford Supermarket in North Windham presented a huge cardboard check to the school for turning in the most school dollars. Hannaford supports local schools with a fundraising program called Hannaford Helps Schools. Customers are awarded “school dollars” based on their purchases of participating products. Last December we turned in $834, which resulted in Raymond winning an additional $1,000 for being the school that raised the most dollars! Our thanks to all of you for participating in this fundraiser and supporting your school and community.

Maine Wildlife Park Opens for the Season

One of Maine’s best-kept secrets is the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife’s Maine Wildlife Park off Route 26 in Gray. The park is open daily from April 15 to November 11 from 9:30am to 4:30pm, with visitors not having to leave the park until 6pm.

The 200-acre park has over 25 different species of wildlife on exhibit, including moose, black bear, fishers, lynx, mountain lions, white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, hawks, owls, otter, turtles and more.

Guests visiting the park will see the new, spacious coyote exhibit. White-tailed deer are enjoying their new 3-acre enclosure. The moose are comfortable in their spacious habitat, as well. Currently a brand new, state of the art eagle exhibit is under construction, as well as a new dual exhibit for the red and gray foxes.

In addition to the variety of wildlife displays, there are nature trails, a visitor center with a number of interactive wildlife and conservation exhibits, demonstration wildlife gardens, a show fish pool, picnic and grill areas, and a snack shack. Visitors can also walk to the Dry Mills Fish Hatchery to view brook trout. The Nature Store is always a popular stop for great wildlife gifts, books, t-shirts, hats and educational items. Guided tours are available for groups by appointment. For more information, call 207-287-8800 or 207-657-4977 x 1 to listen to the recorded message with current program information. The website is www.mainewildlifepark.com.

Admission is $5 for adults, $4.25 for ages 4-12, and is free for children 3 and under. There are special prices for groups of 15 or more, and those over age 60 pay $4 for admission.

There are many opportunities to volunteer at the Maine Wildlife Park, including Gate Attendants and Tour Guides. Training sessions have been scheduled for the different positions. Please call Curtis Johnson at the Maine Wildlife Park, 657-4977, to sign up or learn more about the volunteer opportunities.

The Maine Wildlife Park is located off the Maine Turnpike (I-95) at Exit 63 on Route 26 in Gray.

May 2006

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**Events and Meeting Schedule**

- **FB=Fire Barn**
- **JS=Jordan-Small**
- **KC=Conservation**
- **PS=Public Safety Bldg.**
- **RE=Raymond Elementary**
- **CL=Casco Library**
- **SC=Sheri Gagnon**
- **TG=Town Garage RT85**
- **TH=Town Hall**
- **VL=Village Library**
- **VC=Village Church**
- **VT=Village Tennis**
- **MB=Modular at JSMS**
Municipal News Brief

By: Don Willard, Town Manager

The Raymond Board of Selectmen recently took the following actions:

Tuesday, April 4, 2006:

1) Mrs. Betty McDermott, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, awarded a Certificate of Recognition to Gaia Cloutier for her Trout in the Classroom Project presented at the Fourth World Water Forum, Mexico City, Mexico. Ms. Cloutier’s project was most impressive and represented Raymond’s student body very well.

2) Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee proposed ordinances for consideration – Christine McClellan, CPIC Chairman and Mike Reynolds, Selectmen and CPIC Vice-Chairman.
   a) Residential Growth Management Ordinance;
   b) Land Use Penalties to Open Space Reserve Fund.

   The Selectmen voted unanimously to approve the addition of these articles to the annual town meeting warrant.

3) Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee request for consultant planner services, part-time – Christine McClellan, CPIC Chairman.

   The Selectmen felt that it was important to review and update our local ordinances to be consistent with the 2001 Comprehensive Plan and agreed that the CPIC be allowed to spend existing funds on a contract planner to help with their work.

4) Raymond Fire Department proposed Fire Protection Ordinance Amendments for consideration – Lt. Joshua Stevens, Raymond Fire Department.

   Josh Stevens, Fire Department Lieutenant and Assistant Code Enforcement Officer, asked that the Selectmen approve the addition of this ordinance to the annual town meeting warrant. The Selectmen stated that it was important to keep all fire alarms in town functioning properly and not causing costly false alarms to which the Department has to react. It was felt that having the Code Enforcement Office keep fire alarm records where they can be accessed by both departments would be useful. There was also a discussion as to fines and billing for false alarms. Lt. Stevens replied that if the alarm were maintained by a commercial entity, that business would be billed. However, if it were an owner-maintained alarm, the owner would be responsible. The Selectmen agreed to the proposed ordinance being on the annual town meeting warrant.

5) Recycling Committee request for trash compactor to promote school milk carton recycling – Phil Hammett, Recycling Committee Chair.

   Mr. Hammett asked that the town support the cost of a compactor for the school’s recycling efforts. The Selectmen agreed that the town would pay half of the cost with the understanding that the school would be asked to pay the other half. They felt milk carton recycling was a good educational tool for the students at the schools.

6) Consideration of 2006 ballot clerk appointments – Louise Lester, Town Clerk.

   Mrs. Lester provided a list of registered voters who are willing to act as ballot clerks and asked that the Selectmen appoint them for the next two years as stated in Maine law. The Selectmen appointed the voters on the ballot list.


   Mr. Reynolds explained that the Southern Maine Economic Development District was set up for the counties in the southern part of the state. However, it has become apparent that the needs and interests of these counties are not the same. Therefore, the Greater Portland Council of Governments is asking for Raymond’s approval to split the SMEDD group and have Casco Bay stand alone. This would make the group smaller and better able to achieve its goals including applying for grants. The Selectmen agreed to this change.

8) Town Manager Report and Communications.
   a) Resignation of GIS Coordinator/Town Manager Secretary position.

   Mr. Willard announced the resignation of Elisa Trepanier as the GIS Coordinator/Town Manager Secretary. He pledged to hire a part-time secretary for 25 hours a week and Networking Administrator Kevin Woodbury would be taking over the GIS functions.
   b) Budget formulation

   The Selectmen expressed their desire to work on a plan for future budget formulation at an upcoming workshop meeting.
   c) Clerk’s Office Personnel

   Mr. Gendron asked if the Clerk’s Office shouldn’t have a part-time person to help when the office gets very busy such as certain Saturday mornings. Town Clerk Louise Lester said that would be desirable but would be hard to find since that person would have to know the laws pertaining to a clerk’s duties and the computer systems we use daily. It was decided to study this further.
   d) Subdivision open space/public access request

   Mr. Gendron suggested that the town might encourage the Planning Board to look into making private common land in subdivisions publicly accessible. The Conservation Commission feels that this would be one way of obtaining more public land access in Raymond. Town Clerk Louise Lester noted that there is a precedent because the Planning Board can now require that existing snowmobile and multi-use trails remain public through new subdivisions.

Tuesday, April 18, 2006

1) Approval of FY 06/07 Municipal Budget for Annual Town Meeting Warrant

   The Selectmen voted to replace the $5,000 revenue addition to the budget (which was expected to come from the sale of trash bag stickers when the town went to a one-bag trash system) by taking that amount out of unassigned surplus. This change cannot be implemented in full for next year because of financial concerns related to the contractual obligation with service provider Pine Tree Waste. However, they decided to begin a policy on September 1, 2006, to have Pine Tree Waste stringently take only the contents of two 32-gallon barrels weekly.

   Mr. Willard announced that legislative bill LD1965, passed on March 28, 2006, allows towns to exempt 2005 Maine Residents from paying 2004 property tax if the property owner was a Low Income Senior. The 2005 Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund Program makes it possible for Maine residents who qualify to get property taxes and rent refunds part of your property tax or rent if you qualify. Qualifications are:
   a) You do not have a spouse or dependent(s) and your 2004 household income was $74,500 or less; or
   b) You have a spouse or dependent(s) and your 2004 household income was $99,500 or less and
   c) Your 2004 property tax was more than 4% of your 2004 household income; or
   d) The rent you paid on 2004 was more than 20% of your 2004 household income.

NOTE: Low-income seniors do not need to meet these requirements. You can pick up applications at the Town Office or file online at: www.maine.gov/revenue

For assistance call: 207-626-8475 weekdays 8am to 5pm
TTY: 207-287-4477 weekdays 8am to 4:30pm
Write: Maine Revenue Services
PO Box 9116
Augusta, Maine 04332-9116

Town Reports Available in May

Once again, as a cost-saving measure, the Annual Town Report will not be mailed to the citizens of Raymond. Copies of the Town Report will be available at: the Town Office, the Village Library, Clough’s Store, Sunset Variety, and Hilltop Market. They will be available shortly after the first of May in time for the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 20th, beginning at 10am at the Jordan-Small Middle School gymnasium.

Town Elections will be on Friday, May 19th, from 7am to 7pm at the Jordan-Small School. If you are registered to vote, but not registered to vote in the school district, you will need to bring a photo ID and originals of your Maine driver license or another form of identification to register to vote. If you are not registered to vote, you will not be able to vote on Friday, absentee ballots will be available from April 20th at the Town Office. If you would like to have an election ballot sent to you, the voter must request one from the Town Clerk’s Office (655-4742). If you wish to vote on the town budget, you must be present at Town Meeting.
The most significant change in this account group is a reduction of 14.71% in the general salary line to reflect the creation of the Code Enforcement Department as a separate line item in the Administration budget. This action is being taken to more clearly show administrative functions. A part-time town manager secretary position at $25,000 is being created to cover duties that were formerly performed by the full-time GIS/secretarial position, which is currently vacant and will not be filled. Postage cost continues to decline (-23.58%) with greater use of e-mail for external communications. The overall account group increase is $20,158 or 4.22%.

Assessing —
A decision was made to return to a contract one-day per week assessor and eliminate the full-time position of assessors’ agent. This decision necessitated the addition of a part-time assessor’s assistant position. Increases in assessed value over last year’s approval of $5,000 for legal assistance for the Board of Assessment Review to support the processing of abatement applications and a new appropriation of $4,000 for Vision Appraisal Technology software maintenance expenses. These new appropriations result in a $15,556 increase or 30.08%.

Town Hall —
An account group decrease of $294 is projected despite the markedly increased cost of heating oil and utilities at 124% and 52% respectively. Another significant change in this account group is the utilization of school custodian staff as recommended by the One Raymond Committee to perform routine and seasonal cleaning operations in the Town Office. This change resulted in the elimination of a part-time custodial position saving $6,200 per year.

Insurance —
An increase of 9.30% for employee health and dental coverage is anticipated. This reflects the increased cost of providing this insurance as well as the reduction of two full-time employee benefit packages as the town has moved to filling certain positions with part-time employees. The cost of general liability and public officials’ insurance provided by the Maine Municipal Association Risk Pool increased by 124% and 52% respectively. Another significant change in this account group is the utilization of school custodian staff as recommended by the One Raymond Committee to perform routine and seasonal cleaning operations in the Town Office. This change resulted in the elimination of a part-time custodial position saving $6,200 per year.

Analyzing the New Budget

Funding with part of the Network Administrator contract, the production cost for the Raymond Roadrunner newspaper, and GIS data services:

Community Development Services —
This account group is budgeted at a $62,563 increase, which includes a one-time appropriation of $50,000 to support the Comprehensive Planning Implementation Committee activities as well as an increase in the contract Planner position from 2.4 to 6 hours per week, and an increase in the Planning Board secretarial position to 17 hours from the present 16 hours.

Fire and EMS Department —
As was the case last year, the Fire Chief is requesting a flat increase at $576,346. These new appropriations reflect the citizen-initiated request to contribute to the cost of providing water safety services and maintenance activities related equipment between Raymond and the Town of Frye Island on Sebago Lake at a cost of $3,000.

Animal Control —
The Animal Control appropriation request is decreased 15.03%, related to a completion of 46.7% of the revenues are required by the state to be used for Animal Control work.

Infrastructure —
Streetlights are projected to increase 9% or 1,620 to reflect the Public Works Commission approved increase in electric utility rates.

Public Works —
Public Works reflects an account group increase of 3.24% or $14,934, due in major part to the increased cost of road salt by $5,000, gas and diesel fuel by $4,672, and the increased cost of employee benefits. A new removal contract with P&K Sand and Gravel of Naples is adjusted annually to reflect changes in the consumer price index. This year’s increase is $5,549.

Solid Waste —
Solid Waste is showing a decrease of 5.33%, the most significant portion being a $40,000 reduction in the cost of bulky waste disposal at the Lake Region Bulky Waste Facility in Casco. This year a partial “pay as you throw” system was implemented, limiting the cost of individual delivered waste at 1,000 pounds per household at town expense. This program is being maintained at the same level in fiscal year 2006-2007. One area of increase in the solid waste account group is a 15% adjustment to be paid for roadside pick up and recycling service provided by Pine Tree Waste to reflect a CIP increase, fuel adjustment, and to compensate for increased frequency of pickup necessary for the cardboard recycling area.

Cemeteries —
Cemeteries will increase $624 or 3.72% to reflect the cost of contract services, which include mowing, seasonal cleanup, and the installation of veterans’ flags.

Parks and Recreation —
An increase of $100 or 64% for contract services is indicated for Parks and Recreation. Included are mowing at Sheri Gagnon Park and the rental of portable toilets.

Raymond Village Library —
The library has requested an appropriation of $26,500, which is a 6% increase over fiscal 2005-2006.

Provider Agencies —
This account has increased $2,026 or 9.93%, with the largest decrease being $500 for Senior citizen Meals and the largest increase $684 requested by Raymond Extended Day Care Program. The Raymond-Casco Historical Society request of $2,000 has been shifted from the TIF to provider.

CIP —
CIP shows a decrease of $85,043 or 16.89%, which accounts for the Public Works paving reserve appropriation of $75,000 being presented as a LID increase. Other areas of significant expenditure include: installation of an assessment update reserve account, which will accumulate funds for future revaluation updates to be done on a more frequent basis to eliminate large shifts in values that result from infrequent complete revaluations. The Public Works road construction bond payment and Public Safety bond payments are in year two of ten-year repayment cycles and are budgeted at 2.32% lower than last year’s appropriations according to the established debt retirement schedules.

Municipal Non-Property Tax Revenues —
An account group increase of $32,666 or 1.28% is projected. Areas of increase include interest income on investments, which are projected to increase by $50,500 due to stronger returns of rate for short-term investments, and an increased Office fee schedule, which is projected to generate an additional $12,000. The new schedule is based upon a survey of like fees charged in other local communities and represents an increase of 15% over last year’s budget line has 5% of the revenue from Board fees, which are budgeted at $28,000 due to the strong economic development activity presently occurring. Major areas of revenue decrease include municipal parking, which is based upon a review annually from the Maine Department of Revenue Services and is related to sales tax receipts. The decrease is $24,869 or 8.78%. Interest income from delinquent taxes is also projected to be less than last year by $9,500 or 34.55%. This is due to lower levels of delinquent taxes than in prior years. Present excise tax collections suggest a flat estimate for fiscal year 2006-2007 at $380,000.

Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) budget —
The proposed budget for the TIF is $53,703 or 5.58% less than the 2005-2006 budget. This is due, as explained previously, to a lower amount of tax revenue being generated by the TIF District as compared to prior years. This is a direct result of changes in value related to the revaluated project. Although the TIF District increased in value, the level of the value, as compared to the whole town, was smaller and when factored by the tax rate, there was a 18.42% decrease. Prior years’ TIF expenditures which were moved to the General Fund Appropriation Budget include GIS/data service salaries in the amount of $36,591; supplies, software maintenance, training, and memberships of $14,100; technology services in the amount of $32,106; Raymond-Casco Historical Society in the amount of $2,000; Raymond Waterways Protective Association milfoil eradication funds in the amount of $3,000; and the Communications Coordinator salary in the amount of $10,000. All these expenditures now appear in the appropriate budget outlined under various like budgetary categories.

County Tax Assessment —
This assessment increased 5.83%, which is $26,521 more than last year’s appropriation of $458,774, for a total of $481,299. For the past several years Raymond’s share of county expenses has exceeded the average rate of increase for the county due to Raymond’s rapid level of valuation increase as compared to other Cumberland County communities.

In closing, if I can provide any additional information or clarification of this material before Town Meeting, please contact me at 655-6994 ext 31 or by email at don.willard@ raymondmaine.org.

Recess Play Leaders
How would you like to come to school and play with the kids?
A Playground Oversight Committee made up of teachers, parents, staff and PTA members has been formed to see how we can make improvements to the RES playground. The committee has set some inexpensive goals that can be quickly implemented and has identified some more expensive and time intensive long-term goals. One of our quick and inexpensive ideas was for parent volunteers to come in during recess times to lead the students in simple games like marbles or kickball. As you probably know, there are two recess teachers on duty during every recess, and ideas to make recess more engaging, fun, and inexpensive are needed. This can be done in lots of ways. Please consider volunteering a little time and relieve boredom for many. We are in the process of putting together a games/activities idea book for recess leaders. The PTA will also provide you with games, equipment and toys. So please consider volunteering a little time at school and making a lot of kids happy. We hope to start this program after April vacation.

If you are interested, please contact Deb Cutten at school 655-9672 or dcutten@raymondmaine.org.
The Raymond Village Community Church (United Church of Christ) installed four of its longtime members as Elders of the Church on Sunday, April 30th, during the 11am worship service. Though uncommon among United Church of Christ churches, the Office of Elder has been part of the Raymond Village Church tradition for many years. It is a formal way to show respect and to honor those who have served the Raymond Village Church and the community of Raymond for a long period of time. Those honored were Pauline Cadotte, Rita Gerry, Wayne Whitney, and Marjorie Yanger. They received framed certificates and were congratulated at a special refreshment time following the service.

“The names of the new Elders were not publicly announced until Sunday morning. However, everyone agreed that those chosen have been enthusiastic and dedicated contributors to the life of the church for many, many years. It is an honor to recognize them for all the ways they have served the Raymond Village Church,” commented Rev. Nancy Form, church pastor. “They represent more than 100 years in total church membership, and I look forward to listening to their wisdom and counsel in the years to come.”

Elders are selected by the Deacons and must be members in good standing of the Raymond Village Church who have shown a sustained interest in the church, still actively participate in its community and worship life, and who have served the church in a variety of ways over the years.

Spring into Mentoring

By Christina Lamarre

The Raymond Mentoring Program has been busy ushering in spring. The mentors and mentees have enjoyed bowling at the YMCA at Pincelot in New Gloucester and swimming at the Colonial Mool Pool in late April. Other program activities have included baking pretzels, decorating Easter egg candles, and flying kites to celebrate April’s National activities have included baking pretzels, decorating Easter at the YMCA at Pineland in New Gloucester and swimming.

Raymond Village Church Installs Elders

Our Village Library

The Raymond Village Library has changed a great deal over the past ten years. Not long ago the organization was run entirely by volunteers and was supported by its own fundraising efforts. Gradually we’ve grown into a non-profit corporation run by a board of trustees. With the help of increased town support, the library now has professional staff, an updated collection and services that align with state standards and community needs. As we’ve changed, maintaining personal relationships and a “village library” feeling has been important to us.

Creating our Three-Year Plan (found at our website: www.raymondvillagelibrary.org) has been an exciting process of looking forward. We’ve already met several goals during the first year of our plan: creating a more welcoming and efficient facility; improving our communication through our electronic newsletter, and promoting early literacy through our popular children’s programming. Our collection is constantly improving but depends on budget constraints.

We’re also researching how to offer adult programming – computer skills in particular – in conjunction with our schools. Finally, evaluating our space requirements for the future is another priority.

Consistent funding and a need for volunteers continue to be our biggest challenges. Our official annual request to the Town covers about 40% of our operating expenses, both of which (the request and the expenses) are low compared to similar communities. Each year we are very thankful for the generous support of our friends and patrons during our Annual Appeal. Covering the remaining 60% of our expenses depends upon the success of the Appeal and other fundraisers, and those require the hard work of many volunteers.

A town’s library is a reflection of that community, and your response to the Annual Appeal tells us you value having a strong and up-to-date library. We are committed to providing those services you told us you wanted as we created our Plan (please keep telling us!) and appreciate any financial and volunteer support you are able to offer. Please join us at Town Meeting to support us there as well.

Raymond Village Church Installs Elders

Mount Everest Expeditionist Speaking at Jordan-Small Middle School

Lecturer, publisher, and photojournalist Ed Webster will give a presentation about his Mount Everest expedition to Jordan-Small Middle School students on Wednesday, May 3rd, at 3pm.

In 1988 Webster and three other climbers dared the never-before-attempted 12,000 vertical foot Kangchenjunga in the Himalayas. He climbed the North Face - one of the most audacious mountaineering feats of all time - with no bottled oxygen, without using radios, and with no Sherpa assistance.

Webster is the author of Snow in the Kingdom, an autobiog-raphy of his five “storm years” on and off Mount Everest following the climbing death of his girlfriend Lauren Maclean (Oakland). A mountaineer, co-captain Joshua Taylor (Raymond), and Bert Rousseau (Lewiston), and Cameron Gosney (Raymond); and back, Ro-

Hebron Academy Boys Recognized for NEPSAC Hockey Title

The Hebron Academy boys’ varsity hockey team received recognition from Governor John Baldacci and the Maine Senate and House of Representatives for their recent New Eng-land Prep School Ice Hockey Association Division II championship title.

Pictured above in the State House Hall of Flags are the members of the team from Maine, from front: Loren Joyce (Palmhurst), co-captain Erik Rousseau (Ri-vernay), and Cameron Gosney (Raymond); and back, Ra-

Husted in Colorado’s Black Canyon. He is the recipient of the American Mountain Foundation’s 1988 Seventh Grade Award for outstanding achievements in mountaineering; the American Alpine Club’s 1990 Literary Award; and American Alpine Club’s 1994 David H. Soules Award for saving the life of a fellow climber. He was a finalist for the 2001 Boardman Tasker Mountain Literature Prize in London and in the 2001 Banff Mountain Book Festival in Canada.

His photographs have been published worldwide in publications ranging from Climbing Magazine and Rock & Ice, to Popular Mechanics, Rolling Stone, and the New York Times Sunday Magazine.

Webster’s presentation is made possible through Ray-mond’s FTA and Mentoring Partnership. The public is invited to attend his presentation at Jordan-Small Middle School, however, please remember to check in at the office and get a visitor’s pass.

Mount Everest Expeditionist Speaking at Jordan-Small Middle School

Lecturer, publisher, and photojournalist Ed Webster will give a presentation about his Mount Everest expedition to Jordan-Small Middle School students on Wednesday, May 3rd, at 3pm.

In 1988 Webster and three other climbers dared the never-
Project Graduation March Madness Winners

Here is list of lucky winners from the GNG HS Class of 2006 Project Graduation March Madness calendar!

1. Lori Fowler - Shawnee Peak tickets
2. Rachel Blais - Saddleback tickets
3. Loree Bernardini - Mr. Abrams tickets
4. Thedy MacDonald - Lyric Music Theater tickets / Cloutier’s Market gift certificate
5. Maureen Mingo - Marios pizza / Sea Dogs tickets
6. Cheryl Ryan - Solutions gift certificate / Mary Kay products
7. Julie Hartig - David’s Restaurant gift certificate / Winter Warm Up basket
8. Wendy Gallagher - Gray Market Place gift certificate / Windham Chiropractic water pillow
9. Dave McCutchins - Gray Rec. Dept. gift certificate / Lonnie Dogs gift certificates
10. Karen Stewart - Cafe Sebago gift certificate / Aubuchon Hardware gift certificate
11. Conrad Begin - Touchstone Bodyworks
12. Charlene Myers - Marios pizza / Sea Dogs tickets
13. Shannon Caron - Nonells'a Hair Design gift certificate / Final Touch
14. Cathy Roy - Dave Gutter’s gift certificate / Cricket’s Corner
15. Jen Whitten - Hutchings Hardscapes rock wall
16. Sharon Caron - Raymond Village Florist / Bull Moose gift certificate
17. Carol Ayers - The Inn on Peaks Island
18. Rick & Vicki Travers - Beech Ridge Speedway tickets / Raymond Laundry gift certificate
19. Michelle Bedigan - Sea Dogs tickets / Marios pizza
20. Tim Whelden - Planet Sun unlimited tanning gift certificate
22. Maggie Miller - Westbrook Saturn / Wallbow’s Yard Care
23. Kathy Mitchell - Good Life Market gift certificate / Westbrook Saturn
24. Julie Poulin - Raymond Village Florist / Danielle’s Diner
25. John Taplin - Oxford Plains Speedway tickets
26. Diane Gordan - Sea Dogs tickets / Mains Pizza
27. Scott Walker - Dead River Heating Oil
28. Mike Corrier - Spring Meadows gift certificate / Mad Monkey Cafe
29. John Cooper - Creative Memories gift basket
30. Ken Pratt - Spring Meadows gift certificate / Cook’s Hardware
31. Barbara Morton - Shawnee Peak season pass 2006-07

Giving Tree Requests - April 2006

Help Improve the Playground at RES
Raymond PTA

Teachers, parents, staff and PTA members have joined together to see how we can make the playground more fun and exciting for all the students at RES. We’ve brainstormed ideas for immediate additions, and we’ve set some long-term goals. What we’re looking for right now are some of those immediate additions to the playground equipment supply such as:

- sidewalk chalk
- Nerf balls
- Frisbees/lying disks
- jump ropes
- tennis and other types of balls
- bean bags
- squash mitts
- baseball mitts
- marbles

We are also looking for an “artistic” person who could paint a simple mural on the pavement behind the school. If you are interested, please contact Deb. If you can pick up one of these items when you are out shopping, please bring/send it into school and put it in the drop box labeled “Giving Tree”. We will add them to our recess “fun box.” Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, call Deb at 655-2477 or e-mail at dcutten@maine.rr.com

Raymond Lions and the Red Cross Sponsor
Blood Drive

Jordan-Small Middle School is the site for the next blood drive in Raymond. The local Lions Club and the Red Cross are holding a blood drive on Wednesday, May 24th, from 1:30 to 7:30.

If you have been listening or watching the news, you know that the blood supply is tight. There is only a couple of days’ supply available in Maine. And summer is coming.

There are few immediate additions we are looking for:

- sidewalk chalk
- Nerf balls
- Frisbees/lying disks
- jump ropes
- tennis and other types of balls
- bean bags
- squash mitts
- baseball mitts
- marbles

Our long-term goals are:

- new playground equipment supply such as:
  - sidewalk chalk
  - Nerf balls
  - Frisbees/lying disks
  - jump ropes
  - tennis and other types of balls
  - bean bags
  - squash mitts
  - baseball mitts
  - marbles

Compost Bins Available at Town Office

If you ordered a compost bin or scrap pail this year, they are available for pick up at the Town Office.

Town Office hours are Tuesday, 8:30am to 7pm; Wednesday through Friday, 8:30am to 4pm; and Saturday, 8:30am to noon.

Cardboard Recycling

The Town of Raymond recycles corrugated cardboard at the District II Fire House/Public Works Garage on Webb Mills Road. Because of limited space, it is imperative that you break down the boxes left at the site. If the boxes are left without breaking down, you may be charged with littering.
JSMS Honor Roll - Trimester 2

We are pleased to report that 139 of our 271 students have earned a spot on the 2nd Trimester JSMS Honor Roll. This means that over 50% of our students were able to reach and maintain their teachers’ highest standards. We are proud that our kids are successfully learning and achieving! Most assuredly a super job is in progress by our kids and staff!

Name Grade
Carolyn Blake 8 High Honors
Haley Desjardins 8 High Honors
Emily Dodge 8 High Honors
Zachary Knights 8 High Honors
Mary Wiley 8 High Honors
Molly Coutant 7 High Honors
Daniel Connor 7 High Honors
Drew Gagnon 7 High Honors
Cassandra Gordan 7 High Honors
Olivier Hur 7 High Honors
Mollissa Kean-Dreyer 7 High Honors
Lydia Manche 7 High Honors
Elizabeth Shively 7 High Honors
Deanna Weeks 7 High Honors
Lucy Alger 6 High Honors
Kelsea Carter 6 High Honors
Gia Cloutier 6 High Honors
Lindsey Hughes 6 High Honors
Patrick LaChance 6 High Honors
Robert Lentine 6 High Honors
Timothy Morris 6 High Honors
Tyler Nadeau 6 High Honors
Jeremy Peavey 6 High Honors
Allison Rand 6 High Honors
Spencer Reynolds 6 High Honors
Clare Valente 6 High Honors
Natalie Vanbaars 6 High Honors
Aaron Guiseley 5 High Honors
Jack Haskell 5 High Honors
Emma Laprise 5 High Honors
Dalton Lorenz 5 High Honors
Ian McGhee 5 High Honors
Molly Miller 5 High Honors
Marybeth Noonan 5 High Honors
Lillie Reder 5 High Honors
Benjamin Algeo 5 Honor Roll
Calista Allen 5 Honor Roll
Abigail Brockelbank 5 Honor Roll
Kaitlyn Chandler 5 Honor Roll
Anthony Dighello 5 Honor Roll
Jenna Eastman 5 Honor Roll
Jordan Flynn 5 Honor Roll
Amber Gillis 5 Honor Roll
Hannah Lachance 5 Honor Roll
Katherine Lentine 5 Honor Roll
Joshua LeViness 5 Honor Roll
Dustin Libby 5 Honor Roll
Chantelle Lydick 5 Honor Roll
Devin MacKenzie 5 Honor Roll
Nathaniel Ohman 5 Honor Roll
Arthur Olsen 5 Honor Roll
Stephanie Spaulding 5 Honor Roll
Megan Stevenson 5 Honor Roll
Justin Terry 5 Honor Roll
Chelsea Tevanian 5 Honor Roll
Julia Trepanier 5 Honor Roll
Ethan Ward 5 Honor Roll
Haley Acker 7 Honor Roll
Andrew Bennett 7 Honor Roll
Spencer Brown 7 Honor Roll
Joshua Christie 7 Honor Roll
Jennifer Cobb 7 Honor Roll
Alyssa Elbjaji 7 Honor Roll
Colin Gordan 7 Honor Roll
John Grondin 7 Honor Roll
Kyle Hargreaves 7 Honor Roll
Christopher MacDonald 7 Honor Roll
Jenna Martyn-Fisher 7 Honor Roll
Weston Masi 7 Honor Roll
Abigail Morncoul 7 Honor Roll
Name Grade
Alex Parker 7 Honor Roll
Cory Parker 7 Honor Roll
Andrew Sousa 7 Honor Roll
Dylan Taylor 7 Honor Roll
Lindsay Webber 7 Honor Roll
Tyler Windes 6 High Honors
Dylan Bolduc 6 High Honors
Sam Brockelbank 6 High Honors
Alex Buckley 6 Honor Roll
Robert Cave 6 Honor Roll
Marissa Cerino 6 Honor Roll
Justin Chim 6 Honor Roll
Jacob Desjardins 6 Honor Roll
Ian Dixon 6 Honor Roll
Parker Gendron 6 Honor Roll
Abbey Gillis 6 Honor Roll
Ryan Hoffman 6 Honor Roll
Casey Hutchinson 6 Honor Roll
Jacob McCune 6 Honor Roll
Hallie Mitchell 6 Honor Roll
Georgia Noonan 6 Honor Roll
Jenna Norman 6 Honor Roll
Bailey Odum 6 Honor Roll
Jordan Parker 6 Honor Roll
Shannon Pike 6 Honor Roll
Jenna Richardson 6 Honor Roll
Nicholas Rodriguez 6 Honor Roll
Cory Schweitzer 6 Honor Roll
Sarah Small 6 Honor Roll
Ryan Santry 6 Honor Roll
Courtney Tardiff 6 Honor Roll
Lawrence Taylor 6 Honor Roll
Joshua Waldron 6 Honor Roll
Alan Wardwell 6 Honor Roll
Ashley Webster 6 Honor Roll
Riley Williamson 6 Honor Roll
Erik Woodbrey 6 Honor Roll
Ella Ashton 5 Honor Roll
Emma Bartholomew 5 Honor Roll
Ryan Carr 5 Honor Roll
Sandra Carter 5 Honor Roll
Corey Cole 5 Honor Roll
Ashley Cormier 5 Honor Roll
Isobel Cunningham 5 Honor Roll
Kristopher Darien 5 Honor Roll
Tyler Davidson 5 Honor Roll
Connor Flynn 5 Honor Roll
Christopher Gagne 5 Honor Roll
Cassidy Gaudet 5 Honor Roll
Malenka Geantaff 5 Honor Roll
Alana Grunin 5 Honor Roll
Adria Hughes 5 Honor Roll
Phoebe Hurst 5 Honor Roll
Madison Masi 5 Honor Roll
Kevin McLean 5 Honor Roll
Cameron Patch 5 Honor Roll
Hunter Perkins 5 Honor Roll
Christina Pollard 5 Honor Roll
Grace Pomery 5 Honor Roll
Linden Rankin 5 Honor Roll
Paige Richards 5 Honor Roll
Colleen Sadak 5 Honor Roll
Ryan Schweitzer 5 Honor Roll
Spencer Smith 5 Honor Roll
Brook Stevenson 5 Honor Roll
Whitney Walton 5 Honor Roll
Briyanah Waterhouse 5 Honor Roll

LIFE ALERT: When Lightning Strikes
By Ronny Keeler, Paramedic

Have you ever heard the saying, “When thunder roars, go indoors”?? Well, this is the best advice you can receive when talking about lightning. There are more deaths caused by lightning than any other natural phenomena, including floods, hurricanes and tornadoes (except in 2005). The average range a year in the United States is from 100 to 600 people killed (William Hark, MD). But these incidents are not well publicized because they happen to individuals or small groups and are not connected to large-scale property damage. With summer coming up and it being the peak season for lightning, we all need to be aware of how dangerous it is to be out in a thunder and lightning storm and ways to prevent getting hit with this killer in the sky.

First, let’s talk about these beautiful but deadly phenomena. One bolt of lightning holds up to 30,000 amps or 1,000,000 volts of electricity. In one year in our country there are 25 million cloud-to-ground bolts. Lightning itself is a buildup of electrical energy. The bolt is heated to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. It is this heat that produces the shock wave which results in thunder, and the discharge of this electricity results in a lightning bolt.

There is more than one way to be struck. The most severe is a “direct strike” either on a person or on some object the victim is holding. A “side flash” occurs when lightning hits a nearby object and then bounces to the victim. And then there is “ground current strikes” where the bolt hits the ground near the victim, and it moves to injure the person through the earth.

The chances that any one of us will be struck in our lifetime are 1 in 3,500. So how can we prevent this deadly event from happening? First, you must know when you are in danger. If you see lightning or hear thunder, you can be hit. If you hear loud static on your AM radio or hear buzzing sounds on your radio antenna, you can also be in danger.

Another safety tip is using the 30-30 rule. The first 30 minutes after a thunderstorm has passed means that over 50% of our students were able to reach and maintain their teachers’ highest standards. We are proud that our kids are successfully learning and achieving! Most assuredly a super job is in progress by our kids and staff!

When these storms start growing upward, it is an early sign of a developing storm. If you are outside and any of these things occur, seek shelter — and not under a tree!!! If you can, get inside a building or inside a vehicle with rubber tires and a roof; if not, do not be the highest object in your area. If you are stuck outside, avoid touching or being near metal objects. If you feel the hair on the back of your neck stand up, immediately crouch on the balls of your feet with your head down and while not touching the ground with your hands. This position helps decrease your height and exposure to ground current. Injury will still occur. Do not ever lie flat on the ground.

If you are ever hit by lightning or have seen another hit, you should immediately call 911. You need medical attention. All kinds of symptoms can occur if you survive the strike. Some signs and symptoms are stroke, abnormal heart rhythms, paralysis, shortness of breath, cold extremities, memory loss, burns, deafness, blindness, dementia, fractures, and brain damage, just to name a few. The scary thing is some of these symptoms don’t show up right away, so please seek medical attention if such an event ever occurs.

Another safety tip is using the 30-30 rule. The first 30 represents 30 seconds. If the time between when you see the flash and hear the thunder is 30 seconds or less, the strike is 30 seconds. If the time between when you see the flash and hear the thunder is 30 seconds or more, the strike is far away.

When these clouds start growing upward, it is an early sign of a developing storm. If you are outside and any of these things occur, seek shelter — and not under a tree!!! If you can, get inside a building or inside a vehicle with rubber tires and a roof; if not, do not be the highest object in your area. If you are stuck outside, avoid touching or being near metal objects. If you feel the hair on the back of your neck stand up, immediately crouch on the balls of your feet with your head down and while not touching the ground with your hands. This position helps decrease your height and exposure to ground current. Injury will still occur. Do not ever lie flat on the ground.

If you are ever hit by lightning or have seen another hit, you should immediately call 911. You need medical attention. All kinds of symptoms can occur if you survive the strike. Some signs and symptoms are stroke, abnormal heart rhythms, paralysis, shortness of breath, cold extremities, memory loss, burns, deafness, blindness, dementia, fractures, and brain damage, just to name a few. The scary thing is some of these symptoms don’t show up right away, so please seek medical attention if such an event ever occurs.

Another safety tip is using the 30-30 rule. The first 30 represents 30 seconds. If the time between when you see the flash and hear the thunder is 30 seconds or less, the lightning is close enough to hit you. SEEK SHELTER!!!!

The second 30 stands for 30 minutes. After the last flash of lightning, wait 30 minutes before leaving your shelter. The statistics show that more than one half of lightning deaths occur after a thunderstorm has passed.

So remember, “When thunder roars, go indoors!!!! Don’t become a statistic for lightning strikes. Stay and play safe!!

For more information:
www.nws.noaa.gov
www.struckbylightning.org
www.lightningtalks.com

Senior Citizen Supper
The next Senior Citizen Supper will be May 18th at the Jordan-Small Middle School. The time is 5:30 pm. Please call 655-4743 for reservations before 11am.
Alcohol Awareness Month

By Steve Danzig, LSW, LADC

When many people think of alcohol abusers, they picture teenagers drinking at unsupervised parties or old scruffy men on the street with their paper bag covered bottles of alcohol. However, over half of all Maine residents struggle with problems caused by alcohol and other substance abuse. Anyone who abuses alcohol can be men, women, and children from every part of the state, from every type of demographic background. They could be college students who binge at the local bar. They could be professionals who drink after a long day at work. They could be senior citizens who drink out of loneliness.

To help people recognize the serious problem of alcohol abuse, April is designated as “Alcohol Awareness Month.” The following is a simple quiz highlighting some warning signs of alcohol abuse:

- Do you drink alone when you feel angry or sad?
- Does your drinking ever make you late for work?
- Does your drinking worry or scare your family?
- Do you ever drink after telling yourself that you won’t?
- Do you ever forget what you did or said while drinking?
- Do you get headaches or have a hangover after drinking?
- Do you drink often (more than several times a week)?
- When you drink, do you consume more than one or two drinks?
- Do all of your leisure activities revolve around drinking?
- Do you find excuses to drink (using good times, bad times, and social occasions as an excuse - for example: our sports team won, let’s celebrate!; we’re going to a BBQ, gotta bring some beer!; it’s the holiday season, must stock the bar!; had a stressful day, need a drink to unwind!)?

If you answered “yes” to any of the above questions, you may have a problem with alcohol.

If so, you are not alone. Alcohol dependence is a medical condition that can be effectively treated. Millions of Americans and their families are in healthy recovery from this disease. The first step to recovery is to be honest about the problem and to seek professional help. An assessment can help identify the seriousness of your alcohol problem. If you feel strongly that they should be riding the bus the whole way to school, please let their bus driver know. Also, due to the number of different high schools involved in the bus transport, it is not the drivers’ responsibility to question drop-offs at friends’ houses. Again, please communicate with your children so that you know where they are going after school. Thanks for your help with this. (Paul Godwin, Raymond School Department Bus Supervisor)

Digital Phone Access Update

By Rep. John C Robinson

Last fall I submitted a bill entitled “An Act to Allow Digital Phone Service to Customers in Rural Areas.” The legislation would have allowed Time Warner Cable to provide digital phone service to areas where their digital cable television service was available. As we researched the issue, it became clear that any potential legislation would come in conflict with the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1994. The Federal Act supersedes any state law concerning phone service. The law protects companies such as FairPoint from competition in hopes of preventing another telecommunications giant from dominating as the Bell System once controlled the market.

Since the original bill conflicted with federal law, Time Warner representatives and I discussed how the process might be sped up to bring digital phone service to Raymond. The thought was to create a resolve asking the PUC to expedite the negotiations between Time Warner and FairPoint, and if those negotiations broke down, to quickly intervene on behalf of the consumer. This entire situation rested on the value Time Warner is going to charge FairPoint per customer lost to digital phones. This is standard business practice in these situations, as Time Warner presently has similar agreements with carriers such as Verizon, compensating them for lost revenue.

At the public hearing, I was assured that Time Warner and FairPoint would reach an agreement for access in Raymond in the near future. The legislative committee of oversight, the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy, felt that since the two companies were in negotiations, it was appropriate to “kill” the bill, with the understanding that service would be coming soon to Raymond. I also felt confident that a resolution would be reached through these discussions and therefore did not feel the need to push for further action. It was enough to know that the original bill had brought the companies together and that a solution was in the works.

As the legislative session wound down last week, I was told by a Time Warner representative that Time Warner was working to complete their negotiations with FairPoint so that the Raymond market would be opening up later this summer or fall. The process has to go through approval with the Federal Communications Commission and the Wisconsin Competition Bureau. These federal agencies develop and recommend policy concerning “wireline” telecommunications, and once these agencies sign off on the agreement, Time Warner’s digital phone service will finally be available.

I hope you have seen some light on this issue, and I want to thank everyone in the community who has communicated with me and the other stakeholders in this process.

Attention, Parents of High School Students!

It has come to our attention that many students are not making the transfer in the mornings to the buses going to their high schools. They are getting into cars with other high school students and being transported that way. There is no way for the bus drivers to be able to monitor where every student goes. Please talk to your children and let them know what your expectations are about how they are transported to school. If you feel strongly that they should be riding the bus the whole way to school, please let their bus driver know. Also, due to the number of different high schools involved in the bus transport, it is not the drivers’ responsibility to question drop-offs at friends’ houses. Again, please communicate with your children so that you know where they are going after school. Thanks for your help with this. (Paul Godwin, Raymond School Department Bus Supervisor)

2006 Maine Spring Wild Turkey Hunter’s Guide

Season A:

Week #1 - May 1 through May 6
Week #4 - May 22 through May 27

Season B:

Week #2 - May 8 through May 13
Week #3 - May 15 through May 20

All Permit Holders: Week #5 - May 29 through June 3

Youth Spring Turkey Day: April 29

Hunters must have a big game hunting license and pay $13 for a turkey permit.

Animal Control Report, March - April

March 21 Stray cat on deck - set trap
March 21 Cat dumped in yard
March 21 Dog bothering neighbor
March 22 Dog at large- gone on arrival
March 23 Dog leaving on yard - gave written warning
March 25 Dog at large- owner found
March 26 Dog in yard - gone on arrival
March 26 Dog in yard
March 27 Dog to Animal Refuge League
March 28 Written warning to dog owner
March 28 Dog in road - gone on arrival
March 28 Dog defecating in yard - warned owner
March 28 Dog running in road - gone on arrival
March 29 Dogs at large
March 29 Dogs at large - summons issued
March 29 Attended District Court
April 1 Stray cat - delivered to Animal Refuge League
April 2 Pit bull in yard - gone on arrival
April 6 Neighbor’s dog looking in window
April 6 Dog barking - lonesome
April 7 Dog tangled in bushes
April 7-8 ACO meeting/school in Bangor
April 9 Dogs chasing joggers
April 9 Dog attacked by muskrat
April 9 Dog defecating on lawn
April 9 Set trap for muskrat
April 11 Stray dog in yard
April 11 Horse loose in road
April 12 4/11 stray dog - took to Animal Refuge League
April 12 Information only
April 14 Kennel inspection
April 14 Set trap for stray cat
April 14 Barking dog - verbal warning
April 15 Check on trap
April 15 Dog assaulted cat
April 15 Cat hit by car - burial
April 15 Dog bite - processed papers
April 17 Stray dog dragging leash - found owner
April 17 Dead bird
April 17 Information given

With wonderful weather coming, please remember that your animals need extra water whether they are inside or out. Also, shelter from the hot sun is imperative for those animals outside. Please assume that if you wouldn’t want to be out in that weather, your pets don’t want to be there either.

Maine has a leash law, so please don’t allow your dogs to run at large. The porcupines and skunks are now out and are just waiting to meet your pets, which can act at best be a nuisance with the smell and at worst trip to the veterinarian’s to have quills pulled. We also had two episodes of rabies in Raymond last year, so we know it’s present here. Please protect your animals.
Panther Pond Association

Notes

By Ben Severn, PPA President

Support PPA and RWPA

Boat Access

Conservation Project’s 2nd Year

Support PPA Directly and Through RWPA

In the past week or so, many of you will have received the April Road Runner, possibly with a note from me as one of the Directors. In the April Road Runner, I endeavored to explain the role of PPA and the relationship between PPA, or any lake association, and RWPA. In that discussion, I made part of its overall mission program this year, RWPA will finance some pulling of milfoil and laying of benthic barriers in Panther Run this summer. Without going through the long list of activities that RWPA supports and provides to all the bodies of water within its reach, and the enormous value of having a paid professional Executive Director in the form of Noralee Raymond, the work on milfoil alone is reason enough for each of us to contribute to RWPA. I urge you to do so.

For those who read the above and ask, “Why, then, oh why PPA?” As I have in the past, I respond by saying we need PPA because in the long run PPA will garner a greater feeling of ownership and accountability and ultimately a cleaner lake. It is that simple. How can Noralee Raymond or RWPA provide to meet our cleaning needs, small loads, large loads, dry cleaning, Ultimate Hair and Tanning, AC Docks, Cafe Sebago, and You” to Danielle’s Diner, North Windham Paint and Framing, Ultimate Hair and Tanning, AC Docks, Cafe Sebago, Daniels Equipment, The O’Neil Co, Community Pharmacy, Custom Design Graphics and Montebello. We are prepared to meet your cleaning needs, small loads, large loads, dry cleaning and wash and fold. If you haven’t had a chance to come in and see us, please stop by; the coffee is always hot. Thanks to the Board and the town hall at any time. The top collecting class at RES and JSMS will enjoy a special recognition.

Raymond Flea Market

Raymond Village Community Church

April 17, 2006: Just in time for spring cleaning, the Raymond Flea Market Community Church is accepting donations for the Raymond Flea Market, a community event that includes a large flea market in the church parking lot and vesture, as well as a silent auction and a simple lunch menu. The event will be held at the Raymond Village Community Church, 27 Main Street, on Saturday, April 8, 2006, from 8am to 1pm.

The church will accept items that are in good working order—no clothes please. Donations may be dropped off at the church on Sunday mornings or during its office hours, which are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30am to 11:30am.

To sell your items at the flea market, tables and spaces are available to rent: a table is $15 for the day, a space is $10 for the day. Availability is limited, so please reserve your table or space as soon as possible. This year we will be offering a special consignment section for larger pieces of furniture, rugs, water sports equipment, and other larger items. The church will include your item in the sale, staff the area where it is sold and send the seller a check for half of the sale price. If you are interested in learning more about renting a table or space, or selling an item on consignment, please contact Shannon Nichols at shannon@maine.rr.com or 776-4866.

Raymond Village Community Church is a United Church of Christ and welcomes all visitors to join them for worship Sunday mornings from 10 to 11am. Sunday school classes and a nursery are offered during the worship service. The sanctuary is handicapped accessible. The church was built in 1879 and has been an important part of the Raymond community ever since.

Boat Access

Conservation Project is entering its second year. If you did not get the April Road Runner, find it at the town’s website, www.raymondmaine.org, or in your e-mail box if you have provided us the e-mail address. When you register your boats, the regular fees will be charged but in addition a $10 fee will be charged for those that wish to participate in this ongoing program.

Part of the ongoing program in Raymond is supporting rangers, paid or volunteer, who check boats being used in the local communities. Your welcoming words displayed under the section on Committees. There you can find the Conservation Project brochure, the by-laws, the Watershed Survey, and some quite helpful DEP websites.

Thank You Letter

Raymond Laundry would like to express our greatest appreciation to the residents of Raymond and the local communities. Your welcoming words displayed on your signs made us glad we chose Raymond for our new venture. Everyone made us feel so welcomed and sent such wonderful words of encouragement. A special “Thank You” to Danielle’s Dinner, North Windham Paint and Framing, Ultimate Hair and Tanning, AC Docks, Cafe Sebago, Daniels Equipment, The O’Neil Co, Community Pharmacy, Custom Design Graphics and Montebello. We are prepared to meet your cleaning needs, small loads, large loads, dry cleaning and wash and fold. If you haven’t had a chance to come in and see us, please stop by; the coffee is always hot. Thanks to the Board and the town hall at any time. The top collecting class at RES and JSMS will enjoy a special recognition.

Box Tops Spring Contest

Doing any spring cleaning? Gather up your Box Tops and send them to the school. Raymond PTA will be hosting a contest from May 1-19 encouraging students at RES and JSMS to bring in their clipped box tops. Your community has collectively turned in over $1500 in box tops during this school year alone! Please remember that this is a year-round fundraiser, and clipped box tops can be dropped into collection boxes at RES, JSMS, RVL, and the town hall at any time. The top collecting classroom at RES and JSMS will enjoy a special recognition. If you wish for a specific classroom to receive credit for your donation, be sure to write the teacher’s name on the box top. Thank you for helping to make this a successful fundraiser. Please contact Cj MacDonald at 655-4783 or cmacdon3@maine.rr.com with any questions.

Registering Boats Requires Milfoil Stamp

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife is continuing the milfoil stamp program on all motorized boats that will be using Maine inland waters. This money will be used for programs to study and prevent the water plants, including milfoil, from permeating Maine’s fresh waters. The Eurasian milfoil plant is an invasive plant that eventually chokes fresh water lakes, ponds, and rivers. Once established, it is very difficult and expensive to control. Many communities have collectively turned in over $1500 in box tops during this school year alone! Please remember that this is a year-round fundraiser, and clipped box tops can be dropped into collection boxes at RES, JSMS, RVL, and the town hall at any time. The top collecting classroom at RES and JSMS will enjoy a special recognition. If you wish for a specific classroom to receive credit for your donation, be sure to write the teacher’s name on the box top. Thank you for helping to make this a successful fundraiser. Please contact Cj MacDonald at 655-4783 or cmacdon3@maine.rr.com with any questions.

Women’s Mountain Biking

Women’s mountain biking will resume Monday nights beginning May 1, 6pm to 8pm.

Laurel Bernier at 627-4561 to get to the e-mail list and to get more information.

Why don’t you join us?

Registering Boats Requires Milfoil Stamp

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Raymond Rec Tennis

Date Change

The Raymond Rec Tennis program will begin after school on Wednesday, May 10, a week later than originally publicized. Sessions will run through Thursday, June 1.

Any questions? Call Pat at 655-4657.
Session Ending and Term Limits

By Senator Bill Diamond

When you read this article, the Second Regular Session of the 122nd Maine Legislature should have completed its work. As you know, the First Regular Session essentially started in January 2005 and concluded its work in June 2005. That six-month session dealt with a variety of issues including passing the state’s two-year budget. The Second Regular Session started this past January and will end some time around the first part of May this year. This much shorter session also designs and passes a Supplementary Budget which is kind of a “fill in the holes” adjustment to the two year budget passed in the first session.

In Maine, state senators and state representatives are elected for a two-year term, with the first session being the longest and most involved and the second session being somewhat shorter and usually designed to deal with the issues which didn’t get settled or were not presented during the first session.

Aquatics Programs at St. Joseph’s College

Event: Swim Lessons

Registration is taken by mailing in registration form and payment or by coming in person on April 25 – 26 – 27 at the Alfond Center from 9am to 7pm. Classes will start the week of May 15th. There will be no classes on May 29th.

Place: St. Joseph’s College

Harold Alfond Center - POOL

Time: Classes are offered Monday through Friday during the mornings, after school, and evenings for six weeks. A variety of class options are available. We have classes for infants, toddlers, pre-school, school age and adults.

Fees: The classes for infants, toddlers and pre-school-age children are a ½ hour class each week for six weeks, and the fee for the program is $40. Youth aged six years through and including adults meet for 1 hour each week for six weeks, and the program fee is $50.

About the Program: St. Joseph’s College offers swim classes for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, youth and adults. The classes available are to teach a range of skills from water adjustment to basic swimming skills. Our instructional goal is that swimmers who have finished the lesson program will demonstrate proficiency in those skills designated by the American Red Cross while having fun in a safe, comfortable atmosphere. Certificates are also offered upon a record of course completion.

Classes are also available for more advanced children who wish to have more of a challenge. These programs are: Basic Rescue, Water Safety Aide, Guard Start, Lifeguard Training and Water Safety Instructors Program.

Event: Water Aerobics

Date: Ongoing classes throughout the year

Time: (Mornings) Tuesdays thru Fridays 8-9am (May to August)

(Eventings) Mondays & Wednesdays 7-8pm (May to August)

Fee: $5 each class or a punch card of 12 passes for $40.

About the Program: For the swimmer and non-swimmer alike. Participants will receive fantastic low impact aerobic exercises without the joint stress common with land aerobics, while giving a good cardiovascular workout. Emphasis is on an overall workout, while having fun! Those who would like to do deep water during this program are encouraged to do so.

Event: Arthritisce

Date: On-going throughout the year.

Time: Tuesday & Thursday 11-11:45am

Fee: $5 each class or purchase a punch ticket with 12 passes for $40.

About the Program: Range of motion exercise program aimed at increasing muscle and joint flexibility. This program is great for those suffering the pain of arthritis, other debilitating joint diseases and any health condition needing help with range of motion. This will not be an aerobic or a cardiovascular program

Event: Lap & Open Swim Time

The following times are:

Monday through Friday

6:30–8am Lap Swim Only

9–11am Lap Swim only

12:13:00pm Lap & Open Swim

5–6pm Lap & Open Swim

Saturday

1–3pm Lap & Open Swim

(Cancelled from May to end of August)

Sunday

1–4pm Lap & Open Swim

(Changes to 5–8pm starting May 21)

Event: Splash Parties (Private pool parties for your group)

Times: Fridays 6–7pm

Sundays 4–7pm

*We have our climbing wall open before or after the splash parties upon request.

*We have a party room that can be available after the swim.

For more information, call Carolyn Vail at 893-6669

Event: Lifeguard Training

Date: (Starts when 10 participants have registered)

Place: St. Joseph’s College

Harold Alfond Student Center - Pool

Time: Thursdays, 4-9pm, May 18 to June 22

Fee: $175

About the Program: In this program, participants learn about the duties and responsibilities of a lifeguard and how to carry them out. Lifeguarding techniques will be taught both in the water and in the classroom. Prerequisites are tested on the first day of class. They are as follows: Partici- pant must be at least 15 years of age, perform a 500 yard swim, retrieve a 10-pound object from 9 feet of water, and tread water for 2 minutes. Upon requirement completion of the course, participant will receive Lifeguard Training, CPR for the Professional Rescuer and a First Aid Certificate.

Event: Water Safety Instructor

Date: TBA

Place: Saint Joseph’s College

Time:

Fee: $275

About the Program: In this program the participants learn all aspects of how to teach swimming to all ages. Candidates will learn how to use teaching material and how to conduct swim classes. Prerequisites for the participants are demonstrating the ability to swim front crawl, back crawl, side stroke, breast stroke, elementary backstroke and butterfly.

For more information, call Carolyn J. Vail at 893-6669

There are valid arguments on both sides of the term limits law. Some believe that term limits require a constant turn-over of legislators and prohibit the building of power by long-time serving legislators. Others feel that term limits take away the rights of people to elect whom they choose to represent them.

Term limits tend to put small towns, which may have only one representative, at a disadvantage as opposed to larger cities, which usually have several representatives. For example, Portland has eight state representatives and two state senators, and among that large a group will always have some experienced and influential legislators to represent them even with the term limits law. As you know, usually the more experience and influence a legislator has, the bet- ter the immediate results will be for the community.

Oftentimes, a small town will only have one representa- tive and one senator and will usually have to share those legislators with other towns. So when term limits prohibit their representative or senator from continuing to serve these towns could lose their only experienced legislator and have to start over with a first-timer.

I might add that there are exceptions to this overall concern, and Representative John Robinson of Raymond is a good example. Even though Robinson was a quick learner and hard worker that Raymond didn’t suffer what some other small communities have due to term limits.

I look forward to hearing from you over the spring, summer and fall if you have needs or questions.

Have a safe and fun summer.

Raymond Lions Club

Sponsors

Candidates Night

The Raymond Lions are sponsoring a candidates night for those on the ballot for the May 19th election. It will be held at the Jordan-Small Middle School on May 8th at 7pm.

All candidates on the ballot have been invited, and we anticipate that most of them will be there.

The program will start with each candidate making an opening statement. These will be followed by up to an hour and a half of questions from the audience to each or all of the candidates. When the questioner have run their course, each candidate will have the opportunity to make a brief closing statement.

The Raymond Lions believe that an informed elector- ate will have the leaders it deserves. Please become informed. Be present to ask your questions. If you are unable to attend, be sure to watch the replay on Ray- mond Access TV. Remember that this election and the following Town Meeting will determine the near and long term future of the community of Raymond.

If anyone has any questions about the program, please contact Bob Jones at 655-7163. Leave a message, and you will be called back. We hope to see a great turnout on May 8th.

PTA Donates $2,500 for New RES Playground Equipment

At their April meeting the PTA unanimously agreed to fund purchase of $2,500 to purchase new equipment for the RES playground. The request was made by the Playground Oversight Committee; a group of teachers, staff, parents and PTA members whose goals are to form short- and long-term plans for improvements to the playground and to enrich recess activities. The Raymond Mentoring Partner- ship volunteered to donate $200 towards the playground equipment, as well. The purchase of new equipment was most of the committee’s short-term goals; they hope to add a recess walking program and also have parents come in and lead the children in games. With the PTA money, the committee will purchase a portable basketball system, tetherball, a funnel ball, hockey/soccer goals and nets, bases, a mono-fling, 6 swing balls, a Grip Star Chute, a 9 hole disk golf course, 2 portable storage units, two picnic tables and miscellaneous small equipment such as balls, mitts and jump ropes. The PTA also agreed to paint hop- scotch and four-square games on the pavement.
Raymond Town Election Candidate Profiles

To view all available Candidate Profiles on the web, go to: www.raymondmaine.org/2006profiles.htm
To submit a profile, e-mail your information to: webmaster@raymondmaine.org

Candidate for Selectman - Betty Y. McDermott
To the Citizens of Raymond

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as your selectman for the past nine years. Over the past three years the present selectboard has taken many constructive steps which are heading our town in a more productive direction. We have set a course for positive change and controlled growth. I hope that you will re-elect me to serve another three-year term as your selectman, so I can continue to be an effective force in this endeavor.

The best way to ensure that Raymond continues to move forward in a favorable direction is to ensure that all of our citizens have access to information. Good and intelligent decisions can only be made by people who are informed on the issues that we face as a community. Everyone that I know, from the young families struggling to find the time to devote to their children’s activities and also earn a living, to our senior citizens who find that they cannot slow down and donate much of their time to volunteering in the community, finds it hard to stay informed on the local issues. For that reason I have supported and continue to support both the Road Runner newsletter, which is now delivered in the Lakes Region Suburban Weekly on a monthly basis at no cost to the town, and the local digital broadcasting system which is now on the air. We will shortly have the ability to broadcast the Selectmen’s and School Board meetings live, and we will also broadcast live all the meetings of our local boards. Many times these other town boards cover issues and make decisions that affect our lives and our property. Unfortunately, it is only too late to hear our voices heard. Through these modes of communication, I hope that all of our community members will feel better informed and more willing to take part in the public debate on the issues they face.

The schools will have their own educational channel. Tune to channel #9 on Time Warner to see its menu of broadcasts. Channel #2 is the government channel. By fall, both of our channels should have enough hours of material that will help to keep all of us up to date.

As a selectman I represent the town on the Library Board of Trustees. Our local library faces a number of important issues that need to be addressed over the next couple of years. They range from how to better serve the needs of the community, from preschooolers to senior citizens to our summer population. A greater concern may be the need to build a larger facility for the library. Much thought and discussion will be required to solve the space problem that it now faces. We must all stay informed and become part of the solution.

Because the village serves as the conduit for traffic going up Route 121, it has never been considered a real village in modern times. If one tries to walk Main Street, they are in very poor condition, and the ones that are in fair to good shape may begin to deteriorate unless we are willing to do something about them. We must face the fact that over the past few years we have not put the money that was needed into reclamation and paving. The town commissioned a professional engineering study of the condition of our roads, and now we need to implement the recommendations of that study. We will have a chance at this year’s annual Town Meeting in May to begin improving the condition of our roads.

As these and other issues come to the forefront over the next three years, I believe that a well-informed citizenry will make the right decisions to preserve the Raymond in which we all want to live. I want to be a part of that process and would be delighted to have you elect me to another three-year term.

Sincerely,
Betty Y. McDermott

Candidate for School Committee - Gail Cole

My name is Gail Cole, and I am running for School Commit- tee. My husband and I have been residents of Raymond for 19 years and have an eight-year-old daughter in the third grade. I have been self-employed for 22 years doing business as Creative Windowee. I work out of my home, making custom window treatments as well as meeting other decorating needs for my clients.

I have been an active volunteer in the schools for four years now and have been involved in other student activities along the way. I was a planner and co-coordinator for last year’s annual Dr. Seuss Night, held in March at the elementary school. I also have been involved in the Raymond Village Library for many years. I volunteer my time doing various things at the library on a weekly basis, as well as serving on the Planning Committee in 2005 and the Fundraising Committee, 2005/2006.

From the experience gained due to my school involve ment and in talking with other parents in neighboring towns, I realize first hand the quality of our schools here in Raymond. Our teachers and school coordinators work very hard and care very deeply about the education our children are getting each year. We also have an unusually high number of involved parents. My goal in running for School Committee is to continue to maintain this high level of education we currently enjoy, and to do so in a caring as well as a responsible and efficient way. I am open-minded and willing to listen, and I promise to do my best to make the right decisions for our children’s education moving forward in 2006 and beyond.

Raymond Elementary School
Kindergarten Screenings are May 3rd & May 10th, 2006

Parents of children entering Kindergarten at Raymond Elementary School must contact Crystal at 655-8666 to schedule their child’s kindergarten screening.

2006 Boat Registrations Available
The Town Clerk’s Office has received the 2006 boat registration and milfoil stickers. There has been a change in the registration cost. All boats which run under power other than a paddle or oar must be registered and have a freshwater milfoil sticker.

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If you wish to register your non-powered boat for security and identification purposes, that is available for $10.

Raymond Village Church Plans “Church Birthday”
The Raymond Village Community Church will be celebrat ing the birthday of the Christian Church with special activi ties on June 4th, which is Pentecost Sunday. This festival will be combined with Children’s Sunday and will also be a time to honor and recognize the Sunday School children, their teachers, and graduating high school seniors. Some of the children will also be receiving Bibles.

Everyone is asked to wear the color red that day as a sym bol of Pentecost. In addition, there will be red geraniums decorating the church sanctuary, which people can purchase for their own gardens after the worship service. Finally, following worship all are invited to attend an all-church picnic right at the church.

“Pentecost is a high energy day in the church, and to combine it with Children’s Sunday will be wonderful,” said Rev. Nancy Foran, church pastor. “Our teachers have been so dedicated in offering an excellent Sunday School program for our children. They deserve to be honored as do all who participate in that aspect of the life of our church.”

The Raymond Village Church is part of the United Church of Christ, a progressive Protestant denomination formerly known as the Congregational Church. All are invited to worship on Sundays at 11am. Sunday School is held at the same time.

Wherever you are on your life’s journey, you are welcome at the Raymond Village Church!
Academic Enrichment Night and “Mission Nutrition” Health Fair Huge Success!

There was an incredible turnout at JSMS for the Academic Enrichment Night that included a 6th grade-sponsored Health Fair. Many of the students’ academic work was displayed in the areas of art and Spanish. Band concerts and chorus performances were held throughout the evening with the assistance of Music teacher and Band director Mr. Randy Crockett. There was also student, community member and parent participation in the promotion of maintaining a healthy lifestyle through nutrition and exercise. Special thanks to Denise Plummer and Debra Pittman for taking blood pressure readings and distributing information. Also thanks to Lisa Magiera from BKD Fitness Center who led demonstrations on tai chi, Pilates and yoga. With the making of fruit smoothies, healthy Spanish cooking appetizers created by Spanish teacher Ms. Eva Pacine and gifted and talented teacher Ms. Gail Casson, the evening was a big hit. Many students paraded around in costumes resembling fruits and vegetables. The evening ended in a group line dance led by health and physical education teacher Ms. Joni Merrill. Thanks to all who made the night a huge success!

Tom Noonan Receives Commendation

The Board of Selectmen at their Selectmen’s meeting March 21st awarded Tom Noonan and the Sebago Lake Rotary Club a certificate of commendation for their efforts in creating and sustaining the annual Derbyfest event in Raymond and around Sebago Lake. Mr. Noonan accepted the certificate of appreciation along with his wife Ann and their daughters and a friend.

Anne and Jack Spiegel Create Morgan Meadows Endowment

At the March 21st Selectmen’s meeting, Anne and Jack Spiegel offered to donate $25,000 to the Town of Raymond to hold in trust for the benefit of the Morgan Meadows Wildlife Management Area. Mr. Spiegel asked that the town consider, if the opportunity arises, using the interest from this fund to purchase abutting land to increase the size of Morgan Meadows, improve recreational access, and promote wildlife and forest management education.

Hebron Academy Snowboarders Place in League Championships

The members of the Hebron Academy Snowboarding Team closed a successful season in February at the Maine Association of Independent School Athletic Directors (MAISAD) League Championships, held at Sugarloaf Mountain.

Kayak Demo Days

Port Harbor Marine is sponsoring its second annual Kayak Demo Days through their location here in Raymond, Jordan Bay Marina. The event will take place on Saturday, June 3rd from 10am to 3pm at the Panther Run Rest area on Route 302 in Raymond. Representatives will be on hand from Old Town and Ocean Kayaks as well as Heritage Kayaks. It’s a great opportunity to try out the many different styles and models available and to answer your questions. Free hot dogs and hamburgers as well as snacks and drinks will be available for all those attending.

For more information please contact the Jordan Bay Marine Store at 655-3845.

This gift will come before the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 20th, at 10am at Jordan-Small Middle School for the voters’ consideration of acceptance.