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SEPTMBER 2006

The Raymond Lions Club Thanks You

The Raymond Lions Club extends its thanks and appreciation to Dr. and Mrs. Jim Stephenson at the Jordan Bay Animal Hospital and to the Town of Raymond for use of property for our redeemable bottle and can collection centers. We also thank residents of Raymond and visitors who donate the empty beverage containers.

These donations make possible a substantial sum of money being given out as scholarships to Raymond residents by both the Town and the Lions Club each year. The Lions use the balance of the proceeds, in part, to aid people with vision impairment through the purchase of large print books and audio books for the library and assistance in getting needed glasses. We also screen pre-kindergarten children for conditions that may lead to “lazy eye.” In addition, we give support to the IRS Network, a statewide organization that works directly with the blind, and to FIDELCO, which is the only certified program in New England to train and place guide dogs. This is a partial list of what we do with our funds. The Lions do not use any funds collected from the public for any of our own club purposes. All funds collected from the public are given back to the public.

The case of empty cola cans or six pack of adult beverage cans that you drop off, when combined with those donated by many others, goes a long way to making Raymond a better community. Thank you so much.

The Raymond Lions also collects used eyeglasses, including both prescription and non-prescription sunglasses, for recycling both in Maine and throughout Third World countries. Donations can be dropped off at the Town Office, Raymond Village Library and Key Bank.

For information on the Raymond Lions, its programs and membership, please call Dale Gilman at 655-4114.

P WD Awards $1,500 to Local Student

Brendan Koza of Raymond was the 2006 recipient of the $1,500 DiPietro Memorial Scholarship. He plans to study construction technology at Southern Maine Community College and ultimately own an environmentally-conscious construction company in the Sebago Lake area. Congratulations to Brendan Koza.

The Joseph A. DiPietro Scholarship was established in 2003 in memory of respected businessman and longtime Portland Water District Trustee Joe DiPietro.

New High School Advisory Committee Seeks Public Opinion

Raymond is an independent school district, without a high school within the town. The Raymond School District currently has a voucher system that allows Raymond high school students and their families to choose which school they attend. This system funds programming at any public school in Maine or a portion of non-parochial private school tuition. The School Board feels it is important to periodically review this school choice system. Therefore, an advisory committee has been established by the Raymond School Board to review high school programming options, needs and public preferences.

Our contract with the Westbrook School Department was initiated with the expectation that Westbrook High School would always have room for Raymond students as well as an interest in special programming offered at Westbrook High School. The contract with MSAD #15 was established to formalize our relationship with the system due to significant numbers of Raymond students choosing Gray/New Gloucester High School at that time. The MSAD #15 and Westbrook contracts are due for renegotiation in June 2008.

In 2002, our contract with the Windham School Department was re-negotiated, while Windham prepared for a renovation and addition at their high school, in a mutual effort to assure space for Raymond students within the Windham program. The Windham contract is due for renegotiation in June 2013.

While the majority of Raymond students attend contract schools, Raymond students have also attended schools such as Hebron Academy, North Yarmouth Academy, Poland Regional High School and Yarmouth High School.

The Raymond community has historically declined opportunities to join a CSD (Community School District), thus maintaining the family choice voucher system. Although the state is not currently offering district consolidation incentives, this topic continues to receive attention, as fiscal concerns remain a issue.

The high school focus advisory committee is charged with collection and dissemination of current public opinion with regard to high school programming. The initial task includes community participation in the public survey contained in this edition of the Raymond Road Runner (see page 7). The advisory committee has also been asked to research options to meet the needs of Raymond high school students over the next 5-10 years to further help with the upcoming renegotiation of the Gray/New Gloucester and Westbrook contracts. The committee is advisory in capacity and does not have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Board. Results of the public survey, as well as other committee work, will be presented at Board meetings and provided in later editions of the Raymond Road Runner.

Road Runner Articles

Articles for the next edition of the Road Runner newsletter are due by Thursday, September 21st. Please provide them by any of the following methods:

E-mail: Diskette; Paper; CDROM
Articles should be submitted in RTF and pictures in JPEG format. E-mail articles and pictures to: roadrunner@raymondmaine.org or drop them off at the Town Office or at one of the school offices.

Road Runner Staff:
John Hanley   Laurie Forbes
Norma Richard  Kevin Woodsky

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

To learn more about what’s new in Raymond, visit our website at:
http://www.raymondmaine.org

On-line services now include:
• Automobile registration
• Hunting and fishing licenses
• Assessment information
• Property & other maps

Did you know the Raymond Road Runner can be mailed to your winter home or to an out-of-town relative or friend? A subscription is $8 per year.

Contact: Louise Lester, Town Clerk, 401 Webb's Mills Road, Raymond, ME 04071, 207-655-4742, x-21, louse.lester@raymondmaine.org
Raymond Village Library News

At a Glance
Monday, September 4: Labor Day – library is closed.
Wednesday, September 27: Book Discussion Group, at the library at 7pm.
Thursday, September 28: Raymond Village Library Annual Meeting at the library at 7pm.
Wednesday, October 4: Native American Traditions and Music Program, at the library at 7pm.

Book Sale
We wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in the Annual Book Sale, either by donations or purchases or both. We always rely on the generosity of our patrons and are never disappointed. The book sale is one of our largest fundraisers of the year and once again this year you made it a wonderful success. Please remember that we accept gently used, clean books throughout the year. They can be brought into the library at any time.

Library Card Sign-Up Month
September is library card sign-up month. The Raymond Village Library encourages everyone to take advantage of this reminder, especially at the start of the new school year, because a library card is the most important school supply of all and costs absolutely nothing.

Chess Classes
Chess for ages 8-12 was offered at Raymond Village Library Sunday, August 13. Ryan Pridgeon of Raymond, an incoming 6th Grader, contacted RVL and asked if he could start a Chess Club. Ryan competes in many chess tournaments and was willing to teach chess skills to others who were interested.

Ryan started playing chess at his library where he lived because a library card is the most important school supply of all and costs absolutely nothing.

Recent chess class held at the Raymond Village Library taught by Ryan Pridgeon, an incoming 6th grader of Raymond.

Ojibwa and other Native American life and traditions. She will explain how native people were able to sustain themselves on small amounts of food. She will also introduce Frank Barber, of Cherokee heritage, who will discuss corn and its importance in the lives of Native Americans. Both Lynn and Frank, along with other people of native heritage, will sing songs and play the drum. This was a very popular program originally offered in November 2004. It will be a real treat for the entire family.

E-Newsletter
There has been a wonderful positive response to the library’s newly created e-mail newsletter. The advantage of receiving the information of upcoming events and news of new books and what is happening at the library by e-mail has aided many patrons. If you would like to be part of this information chain, just e-mail administrator@raymondvillegibrary.org to sign up.

Raymond Village Library

September 2006

Events and Meeting Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<td>3</td>
<td>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY</td>
<td>RVL Library closed</td>
<td>7:00PM TH</td>
<td>Library Toddler Time</td>
<td>10:00AM VL</td>
<td>6:30PM KC</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10:00AM VL</td>
<td>Library Babymtime</td>
<td>6:30PM JS</td>
<td>One Raymond Committee</td>
<td>10:00AM VL</td>
<td>6:30PM JS</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>10:00AM TH</td>
<td>Appeals Board Site Walk</td>
<td>7:00PM TH</td>
<td>Library Toddler Time</td>
<td>10:00AM VL</td>
<td>6:30PM TH</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>10:00AM VL</td>
<td>Library Babymtime</td>
<td>7:00PM TH</td>
<td>Possible Board of Assessment Review</td>
<td>7:00PM MB Conservation Commission</td>
<td>7:00PM TH</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7:00PM TH</td>
<td>Cemetery Committee</td>
<td>10:00AM VL</td>
<td>Library Toddler Time</td>
<td>10:00AM VL</td>
<td>7:00PM VL</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00PM TH</td>
<td>Library Toddler Time</td>
<td>10:00AM VL</td>
<td>ROADRUNNER DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER ISSUE ARTICLES</td>
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The Town Manager explained that Mr. Scangarella had moved from the original approved location at the Fisherman’s Net to The Fisherman’s Net – Louise Lester, Town Clerk.

The Town Manager explained that Mr. Scangarella had moved from the original approved location at the Fisherman’s Net to The Fisherman’s Net – Louise Lester, Town Clerk.

The Board of Selectmen directed the Town Manager to send a letter to Mr. Scangarella requesting an explanation of the reasons for the move, and a list of his employees. It was determined that the business could continue operating in the intervening two weeks.

Reactivation of the Building Committee and addition of One Raymond Committee representatives – Mark Gandron, Chair of Selectmen.

The mission of this new committee will be to follow up on the work completed by the Building Committee and presented last year in a report by former Building Committee Chair Marcia Corradini. The previous Building Committee had identified potential sites and opportunities to address space needs at the Town Office. The new Building Committee will review the material completed to date and conduct further investigations for the Raymond Committee, which will then make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. Other areas of concern include future space needs at the Public Works Department and the Library. The Board of Selectmen approved the formation of a new Building Committee as a sub-committee of the One Raymond Committee.

The following seven members were appointed to serve: Roger Finn, Louise Lester, Emie Allen, John Brennan, Chris McLellan, Mark Gandron & Dana Desjardins. The application materials of three additional interested citizens will be kept on file for consideration as vacancies occur.

Discussion of lien release for Beth Ann Hurd, Raymond Hill – Ray Levesque, Chair of Judgment Lien for the one-year period beyond the revised date for compliance. The Board of Selectmen will consider this issue once again during September 2007.

Municipal News Brief

By: Don Willard, Town Manager

The Raymond Board of Selectmen recently took the following actions:

Tuesday, August 1, 2006

1) Appointments of Norman Fortin, John Brenan, Jean Carter and School Representative Roger Ginn to One Raymond Committee – Louise Lester, Town Clerk.

2) Sam Gifford appointment to CPC – Louise Lester, Town Clerk.

3) Peddler’s License location change for Jay Scangarella’s Peddler’s License for Jay Scangarella.

4) Board of Selectmen approved the formation of a new Building Committee, which will then make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. Other areas of concern include future space needs at the Public Works Department and the Library. The Board of Selectmen approved the formation of a new Building Committee as a sub-committee of the One Raymond Committee.

5) Mr. Roger Finn, Louise Lester, Emie Allen, John Brennan, Chris McLellan, Mark Gandron & Dana Desjardins. The application materials of three additional interested citizens will be kept on file for consideration as vacancies occur.

6) Discussion of lien release for Beth Ann Hurd, Raymond Hill – Ray Levesque, Chair of Judgment Lien for the one-year period beyond the revised date for compliance. The Board of Selectmen will consider this issue once again during September 2007.

7) Annual Election MMA Executive Committee Officers and Directors – Mark Gandron, Chair of Selectmen.

8) Old unfinished business

a) Recycling and municipal solid waste pick-up policy discussion – Phil Hammett, Recycling Committee Chairman.

b) Recycling Committee Chair Phil Hammett presented an overview of the recent conversations with the Town Manager and Pine Tree Waste (Pine Tree) about the possibility of the Town implementing a one-barrel weekly trash pick up limit in the future. Pine Tree is currently contracted to a two-barrel limit policy. Pine Tree believes that going to one-barrel will increase costs to Raymond due to the likely large increase in recycling volume. Currently the recycling trucks are at capacity and adding more recycling would become an added cost to Pine Tree that under the current contract could not be passed through to the Town. Pine Tree is looking, however, at utilizing Regional Waste Systems (RWS) for recycling under a stream program, which should be available by March of 2007. This will allow Pine Tree to carry more recycling material on their trucks by not having to separate the materials curbside. The sorting would be done at RWS. Under this scenario it may well be feasible from a cost standpoint to consider a one-barrel pick up limit. Pine Tree indicated that they were willing to try a one-barrel curbside pickup program in January as requested by the Recycling Committee, since Raymond’s overall MSW output is lower during the winter months. Several members of Selectmen had several concerns over this potential change including cost ramifications, which would need to be fully understood before the development of the fiscal year 2007/2008 municipal budget. There was considerable discussion about the real potential for recycling improvements and cost savings under a one-barrel limit versus the current program. Additional concerns were raised about the cost of a one-barrel curbside pickup program and the cost this program would likely impose upon summer residents and others who did not heavily utilize other existing Town services. The Selectmen’s conclusion was that any change in the recycling limit would include a substantially increased cost in the Town’s recycling rate, which translates into potential revenue and environmental improvement. Chairman Mark Gandren felt that the Board of Selectmen had to find the correct balance between fiscal responsibility, environmental concerns and proper service levels. It was agreed by all parties that additional research was necessary before a decision on a one-barrel limit is made, but that the Town’s overall goal should be to continue to contain costs and encourage recycling. All parties also agreed adequate advance notice and public education were necessary should any changes be made in the existing program. The Town Manager pointed out that a new recycling and MSW pick up contract will need to be negotiated prior to lower power production. It was decided that at the current time, the Town will actively pursue educating the public on complying with the existing two-barrel-per-week limit under the current MSW roadside pick up contract. Strict enforcement of the long-standing two-barrel limit will commence beginning November 1st, 2006.

9) Town Manager Report & Communications

a) The Town Manager announced that Raymond will be getting approximately $38,000 less this year in state revenue sharing due to revised projections received from the Office of the State Treasurer.

b) The Town Manager outlined the present status of a border discrepancy between the towns of Raymond and Casco. It was discovered during a recent property survey that there may be a need to correct a small portion of the present location of the town line between the two communities.

Cumberland County Communications Center – Selectman Dana Desjardins indicated that he had toured the County’s new facility and was very impressed. The Town Manager reported that Raymond will be approaching the Town of Gray with an offer to combine dispatch efforts for costs. Chairman Mark Gandron reported that the One Raymond Committee had discussed emergency radio dead spots in Raymond, which might be addressed by putting a public safety antenna on the WGME tower. The Board of Selectmen endorsed the Town Manager contacting WGME to request antenna space on the broadcast tower and also supported sending a letter to Gray regarding combining dispatch centers. Chairman Mark Gandron informed the Board of Selectmen that the One Raymond Committee will shortly be investigating the viability of combining Town and School insurance and seeking bids from the private sector in order to reduce combined insurance costs. Currently the Town is insured for property, casualty, general liability and public officials liability insurance through the Maine Municipal Association in Augusta. The School Department obtains similar coverages from private insurer Kyser Insurance of Farmington.

10) Fiscal Warrants - Approved payroll & appropriation warrants dated August 1, 2006

Tuesday, August 15, 2006

1) Constable appointment, Paul Barber – Louise Lester, Town Clerk.

The Town Manager made a conditional appointment of Mr. Paul Barber in order to provide traffic ordinance enforcement for the past weekend, since regular Constable Bill Bell was unavailable. The Town Manager briefed the Board of Selectmen on the current appointed Constables and requested that Mr. Barber be added in this capacity, which was unanimously approved by the Board of Selectmen.

2) Consideration of abatements – Contract Assessor Mike Chiarelli, O’Donnell & Associates (Don Willard representing for him)

After discussion of the twenty-seven abatements and two denials the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the recommendations of Contract Assessor Mike O’Donnell.

3) One Raymond Committee Update – Mark Gandron & Dana Desjardins, Co-Chairs.

Co-Chair Mark Gandron told the Selectmen that a One Raymond Committee update will be a likely part of regular Board of Selectmen agendas moving forward for the foreseeable future. The One Raymond Committee is very active in pursuing strategies to both improve Town services and reduce costs by sharing resources between Town departments, including the School, and neighboring communities. Co-Chair Dana Desjardins discussed the possibility of scheduling monthly update meetings after both the Selectmen and School Board meetings each month in order to make scheduling easier. He suggested holding meetings the last Thursday of each month. Future topics to be discussed include the direction of Public Safety Communications, outsourc

ing payroll services and the possibility of privatizing municipal insurance. It is also expected the One Raymond Committee will discuss the possibility of soliciting input from Raymond residents on the quality of all public services. A draft Citizen Satisfaction Survey has been completed by Technology Committee Chair Laurie Forbes, Town Manager’s Secretary Laurie Cook, and Town Manager Don Willard.

4) Executive Session – Discussion of confidential records pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(F) Tax acquired property & disposal.
Chairman Mark Gendron requested a report on the employees that were working at this business, given that one was not available and was observed by him. Mr. Scangarella had originally said that he would be the sole employee. Mr. Scangarella said the Fisherman’s Net continued his business at their site, and one of their employees had worked for him for three days a week but has now returned to school. The business will be open five days, Monday through Friday, with Mr. Scangarella manning the stand from 10:30am to 3pm. The Selectmen discussed Mr. Scangarella’s move and the need to notify the Town in the future of any changes to an issued Peddler’s License. Selectman Joe Bruno felt that the confusion was partly the Town’s fault because the Peddler’s License wasn’t specific as to locations and the process for making changes in the future. The Town Manager said that improvements in the application form and administration of Peddler’s Licenses will be forthcoming from the Town Clerk. Mr. Scangarella told the Board of Selectmen that he would shortly be moving his fish to the Arcadia Building in New Gloucester and would no longer be doing business in Raymond.

6) Town Manager Report and Communications.

a) The Town Manager provided an overview of the proposal that he had submitted to the Town of Gray to provide dispatch services. Gray officials have decided to postpone a decision on alternative proposals for dispatch services for a 60 day period in order to study the merits of a change from the Gray dispatch center to Cumberland County, the Town of Raymond or the State Police. A final option that Gray has is to continue to maintain their own standalone dispatch center. According to the Gray Town Manager, the Gray Council will be making a final decision on the future direction of Gray Public Safety dispatch services during October 2006. Selectman Dana Desjardins asked the Town Manager to explain the dispatch proposal that Raymond made to Gray. The Town Manager outlined that the proposal would be for a one year period only and would be revenue neutral to Raymond, given that the amount of $7,775 for the Planning Board for the period.

b) Request for establishment of capital reserve funds

- The Town Manager announced that Planning Board Chairman Patrick Clark and Conservation Commission Chair John Rand requested that funds previously approved for specific activities by their respective committees be carried forward to complete the objectives originally approved. After discussion the Board of Selectmen approved the request for the Raymond Conservation Commission to establish a capital reserve account in the amount of $2,930 to complete the Open Space Plan, and in the amount of $7,775 for the Planning Board for technical assistance related to ordinance revisions. This motion was approved unanimously.

c) Lake Region Bulky Waste – Town Clerk Louise Lester informed the Board of Selectmen that the Bulky Waste facility will be installing new scales and equipment at the facility on September 26th and 28th, and from September 30th to October 8th. During the installation of the new scales, the use of bulky waste coupons will be impossible since accurate weights cannot be determined. After the installation of the new scales is completed on October 10, coupons will once again be able to be utilized at the facility. Deliveries will be charged at an estimated rate (cash only) during the construction period.

7) Fiscal Warrants – Approved payoff and appropriation warrants dated August 17, 2006.

All Raymond meetings are public, and citizens are encouraged to attend. You may also watch rebroadcasts of municipal meetings on Public Access Channel 2, which is the government channel. Channel 3 is the Education/School channel. A program listing is available on-line at www.raymonddmaine.org.

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**Mentors Needed**

Mentors for youth in grades K-8 in Raymond schools

What is mentoring? It’s a caring, consistent, long-term relationship between a younger person and an older one.

**Qualifications:**

- Can be high school age through 65+
- Reliable friend
- Good listener
- Positive role model
- Supportive
- Patient
- Encouraging
- Good sense of humor
- Like to have fun

**Commitment:** 1 hour per week during the school year

The Raymond Mentoring Partnership has over 15 students currently on a waiting list for mentors. We need both men and women to come and make a difference in these students’ lives. An hour a week is all it takes to help students increase their self-esteem, confidence, social skills, academic success, and positive connection to our community.

We need you! For more information, please call Christina Lamarr or Candace Woolston at 655-8672 ext. 107, e-mail us at mentor@raymonddmaine.org, or visit us at our Raymond Elementary School Office Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

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State Rep. John Robinson has been honored for “economic excellence” by the Maine Economic Research Institute, in recognition of his strong pro-business voting record during the 122nd Maine Legislature. His MERI “score” of 86.5 puts Rep. Robinson in the top echelon of legislators whose voting records show their support for pro-business Maine economy to help create jobs and opportunity in the state.

Rep. Robinson also registered one of the strongest overall voting records in the entire Legislature. He was present for 96 percent of the 584 roll call votes held during Legislature’s first and second sessions and two special sessions.

“I consider it my duty, having been elected to this office, to be present when votes are held,” said Rep. Robinson, a first-term lawmaker whose House district includes Raymond, Frye Island, and parts of Poland and Standish. “Representing the people of my district is an honor and a responsibility I take very seriously. If I’m not present to vote, my constituents lose their voice in Augusta.”

Rep. Robinson’s rating by the Maine Economic Research Institute earned him a certificate of economic excellence from the organization, a non-partisan group based in Augusta. MERI scores legislators based on their votes on issues considered important to job creation, business survival, and economic growth.

The certificate reads: “This recognition is for your extraordinary performance during the 122nd Legislature, dealing with issues with extremely difficult economic policies affecting our state. Maine is fortunate to have citizens, such as you, willing to devote the time and energy needed to ensure that our government serves us well. You are the true champions of Maine’s economy.”

“It is clear to nearly everyone that Maine has severe economic challenges,” said Rep. Robinson, president of Robinson Manufacturing Co. “We have the highest tax burden in the country and a low per capita income level. Our health insurance costs are much higher than people pay in other states, for the same coverage. “We learned recently that Maine’s economy went backwards last year. We were one of only two states that saw economic deterioration,” Robinson added. “Too many of our kids have to leave Maine to find work. None of this is accidental and a direct result of poor economic policy out of Augusta. We’re now well-known for a hostile business climate and for our extreme taxation. That is not a prescription for a healthy economy. We need to get things turned around.”

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**Absentee Voting Available**

The Town Clerk’s Office is accepting absentee voting. If you find that you will not be in Raymond on November 7th for the General Election, you can vote at the Town Office before that date. You must have your ballot sealed in official envelopes and voted by the elections staff on Election Day. Your ballot will be handled in such a way that it will remain a secret ballot.

If you would like to vote in this manner, come to the Town Clerk’s Office during regular business hours beginning September 26th. You can vote the ballot at that time, or if you wish to vote, go home for your deliberation, you will be asked to fill out an application and then a clerk will guide you to the ballot envelope. You may pick up your ballot envelope at the Town Office by person or by mail. If a voter cannot come to the Town Office, please call the Clerk’s Office at 655-4742 and ask to have a ballot sent to you. A clerk will fill out your application and promptly mail you a ballot and return envelope. If you wish to have a ballot sent to an immediate family member come to the Clerk’s Office and fill out an application and the clerk will mail the ballot and return envelope to the voter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Clerk’s Office at 655-4742.
Maine Residents Can Now Take Advantage of Tax Rebate Program

Homeowners receive 71 percent more money from expanded program

AUGUSTA—Bill Diamond of Windham (D-Cumberland County) today announced that Maine homeowners and renters can once again take advantage of the Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund Program commonly known as the “Circuit Breaker.” In 2005, legislators expanded the program, increasing the number of eligible Maine homeowners and renters to more than 200,000.

According to Maine Revenue Services, the State of Maine paid out more than $43 million to homeowners and renters who applied in the last application cycle that ran from August 1, 2005, through May 31, 2006. The average Maine homeowner or renter received $469 towards reducing their property taxes, while some received checks as high as $2,000.

The Legislature had expanded the program to include more than 200,000 Maine homeowners and renters and 92,000 took advantage of the program that ran from August 2005 to May 2006.

“We saw the Circuit Breaker Program as a direct pipeline for distressing homeowners and property tax relief to Mainers,” said Senator Diamond. “You can’t argue with a check in the mail when the cost of living continues to rise.”

“What we need to do now is to continue to spread the word about the Circuit Breaker program. Even though an additional 100,000 people would have been eligible for the tax relief program, I remain impressed that homeowners and renters overall saw a 71 percent increase in funds paid out by the state,” said Senator Diamond. He added, “I encourage everyone to apply. Even if you didn’t qualify in years past, you may find you qualify in the expanded program.”

To help inform Maine renters and homeowners that thousands more people are eligible for Circuit Breaker, Maine Revenue Services is sending out more than 200,000 applications to previous rebate recipients and to those who have expressed an interest. Television commercials will also run this fall to help educate people about the program. In addition, legislators are in the process of distributing applications, and forms can be filled out online as well. Information about Circuit Breaker can also be found online at www.mainsenate.org/taxreform.

Below is additional information and data about Circuit Breaker


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<tr>
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<td>$43,121,186</td>
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<td>Average Refund</td>
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About Circuit Breaker

The Circuit Breaker program (also known as the Maine Tax and Rent Refund Program) was expanded by law from a rebate check of up to $1,000 to a rebate of up to $2,000 for homeowners and renters who apply to the program and meet the following conditions:

Single Homeowners

A single homeowner whose 2005 income was $77,000 or less is eligible for the program if their 2005 property taxes exceeded four percent of their income.

For example, a single person with income of $15,000 a year, who pays $2,900 in property taxes, would receive a $2,000 rebate check.

Married Homeowners

A married couple or homeowner with dependents is eligible for the program if their combined income for 2005 was $102,000 or less and if their 2005 property taxes exceeded four percent of their income.

For example, a married couple with income of $49,500, but paying $4,300 in property taxes, could be eligible to receive more than a thousand dollars back from the state.

Renters

Those paying more than 20% of their 2005 income in rent could also see money back from the state under the program. In one example, a single person making $30,000, who pays $13,200 in rent (with heat included), could receive a rebate check back from the state in the amount of $522.

The program is administered by Maine Revenue Services and bases your eligibility on your 2005 household income and your 2005 property taxes or rent. In order to receive the benefits, renters and homeowners must apply for the program by filling out an application.

Maine Revenue Services estimates that over 200,000 taxpayers are eligible for the program compared to just over 100,000 taxpayers last year.

Income requirements are based on Maine Adjusted Gross Income plus the addition of a number of items that are not taxed by the state. Please refer to the Application Instructions and the Maine Revenue Services Guidance Document on Household Income.

Additional information and requirements about the program can be found by going to the Maine Tax and Rent Refund Program website. You may also call Maine Revenue Services at (207)-626-8475 for assistance. Application forms are available online, at your local municipal office, or by calling Revenue Services.

Completed applications for the program are due by May 31, 2007.

RES Principal’s Report

by Norma Richard

The Raymond School District calendar has been published and sent to all Raymond homes. The district school handbook is published in this calendar to provide all families with current information about the Raymond School District. The Raymond Elementary School and the Jordan-Small Middle School. I encourage all parents to become familiar with the handbook and to share this information with your children, especially the pages focusing on student conduct and behavior. Don’t forget to check the monthly calendar for special events that are happening at school or in the community.

Learning is a partnership between school and home. Children are most successful when there are shared expectations for behavior and quality of work. Student responsibility is a key to establishing good habits that start in the early elementary grades and continue through middle school. Our staff provide the framework for reinforcing student responsibility through the use of the green folders in the primary grades and student responsibility grades 4-8. Both the student folders and agendas are concrete ways to develop organizational skills, even as early as kindergarten. Parents, please expect these to come home each and every day. Review papers and assignments with your child, and use your child’s agenda as a way to communicate with your child’s teacher(s). Encourage your student to take responsibility to place all homework, notes, and other papers back in their folder or agenda and then in their backpack. Parents are important organizational skills while benefiting from your continuing involvement.

Parents will be receiving a stack of forms, brochures and other materials during the first few weeks of school. It is very, very important that you check your student’s information sheet when it comes home to be sure that the data is accurate and updated. You need to contact the school office any time information, such as your work or cell phone number, changes during the school year. It is especially important that all parents have emergency plans in place in the event that school is dismissed early due to weather or other emergencies. With nearly 600 children in our schools, we are unable to call parents directly when there is an emergency. Some storm related emergencies might result in a loss of power leaving us unable to use the phones to call parents. Parents should discuss emergency plans with their children and provide the school with a written copy of any change in busing plans.

Safety continues to be a major concern in schools nationwide, and we are extending our efforts to assure that all of our students are safe at our schools. This includes having all drivers enter the school through one door, and locking all other exit doors during the day. All visitors to the school, including parents and volunteers, are required to sign in at the office immediately upon entering the building. We will provide badges or passes as a way to clearly identify those adults who are school visitors. Parents at RES will wait in the library when picking up a student at the end of the day. Please be sure to let the office know in WRITING if there is any change in busing for your child.

Safety is so very important at arrival and dismissal times. I want to remind all parents and school visitors that the speed limit in our driveways is 15 MPH and that fines are doubled in a school zone. The parking lots get very busy at both schools during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. If picking up or dropping off your child, please be respectful of other parents and be sure that your vehicle is not blocking access to the parking lot or to the bus drive-way. I want to thank all community members and parents in advance for their cooperation to assure the safety of all children at school.

A major focus this year is to improve student behavior on the school bus. Student misbehavior, such as getting out of an assigned seat, turning around, standing while the bus is in motion, or being loud and disruptive, can distract the bus driver and students deserve a safe ride to school. All students are expected to follow bus rules and to follow the directions given by the driver. Please note that students who lose bus privileges for inappropriate behavior. I would like to ask all parents to review with your child frequently the bus rules for Safety and Respect. On behalf of our bus drivers, I thank you for your support.

I look forward to seeing all of our students when they arrive back at school on Tuesday, September 5.
Raymond-Casco Historical Society
Reported by Anne Miller

The featured speaker for the June 19, 2006, meeting of the Raymond-Casco Historical Society was Adam Grant, who shared reminiscences about the history of the Watkins Family. The Watkins were among the early pioneers settling in South Casco on the north and west shores of Thomas Pond on Quaker Ridge Road in 1800. Today one of the last remaining working farms in Casco is the Watkins Farm on Route 302.

Adam, a member of the Watkins family, has an impressive collection of postcards showing scenes from Casco, Raymond, and Naples dating back to late 1800’s. He talked about the Albert Watkins Farm and Charley Watkins Cabins and showed items saved from these past businesses.

He has Little Rigby original racing cards from early 1900 when Casco had its own racecourse located on the corner of Routes 11 and 121.

He passed around a collection of ladies’ dance card programs from the days when Casco and Raymond ladies wore gowns and white gloves. The gentlemen asked ladies at the beginning of an evening of dancing to pencil in for a certain dance. It could be a schottische or to make up a foursome for the quadrille. Those were the days of good manners and respect.

Adam also displayed several other early items saved from the Watkins family possessions.

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Adam also displayed several other early items saved from the Watkins family possessions.
By Anne Miller

The Raymond-Casco Historical Society held its open house Saturday, July 29, 2006, during Casco days at the 1849 Friends Schoolhouse. Members dressed in costumes of that era to lend an atmosphere to the occasion. Holly Ihloff and Anne Miller served as teachers for the day. Theo Dean aged 7, Ansell Critchfield aged 9, home schoolers from Casco, and Sarah Vincent aged 6 from New Jersey pretended they were in school in 1849. Among the many Casco Days visitors to the school was a New York fashionable lady of 1890 complete with parasol to ward off the sun.

Visiting children were interested to know that children in those days attended this school for eight years. The youngest ones sat in the front row; the eldest children sat in the back. The boys were responsible for bringing in the wood for the stove and fetching water from the well. One metal dipper cup was used for all the children to drink from.

Holly showed visitors a few pieces of the society’s vintage clothing collection. They were impressed by the fine needlework used in making clothing. Many stories were told by Marshall Tenney, who wore the costume of a Casco gentleman of 1869. As children, he and his sister attended this school when it was on its original site on Quaker Ridge. It was moved to its present home in Casco in the early 1970s.

Casco Days visitors to the schoolhouse enjoyed a close-up inspection of Phil Cole’s collection of 100-year-old working engines. One of the engines was actually used to make soda water in the old Casco Inn. Phil has lovingly taken care of these ancient mechanical workhorses for many of his 88 years. He says that keeping them in running order is quite a challenge. Phil has had his engines in the Casco Days Parade since its beginning in 1935.

On hand throughout the day at the schoolhouse to answer questions were RCHS members Joseph Webber, President; Carmen Lone, Secretary; Frank Vierling; Adam Grant and Phil Cole. The next RCHS meeting will be a potluck picnic on Hacker Hill, Casco, on Monday, August 21, at 6pm. If raining, it will be held at the Raymond Public Safety Building on Route 302.

Community Survey - Options for Raymond High School Students

Dear Community Members,

Over the years we have seen the placement options for Raymond’s high school students fluctuate, and ‘choice’ has been an important element of the educational system in Raymond. The purpose of this survey is to help the School Board better understand residents’ views about our district’s school choice system. Your participation will help us make informed decisions. We value the views of all residents.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

The School Board

Please check the statement that best completes the sentence:

1. While living in Raymond, I/we ……. 
   - have chosen an area high school for my child within the last 5 years.
   - have chosen an area high school for my child 5 years ago or earlier.
   - have not yet had the chance to choose an area high school for my child, but will in the future.
   - have not had or will not have to choose an area high school for my child.

2. Maintaining high school choice in Raymond ….
   - is VERY important
   - is a good idea
   - is a bad idea
   - should not happen
   - does not affect me

3. Maintaining all of the current high school contracts to insure space and options … (current contract schools: GNG, Windham, Westbrook)
   -

4. Exploring options to send all Raymond students to one high school …
   -

5. I understand the reason(s) for having contracts with specific schools.
   - Yes
   - No
   - Don’t need/want to know

6. Rank order the following advantages of school choice, 1 being MOST significant.
   - Provides a broader range of educational and co-curricular opportunities than a single school could offer
   - Encourages parents to be better informed about local schools
   - Offers financial benefits for families seeking non-sectarian private education
   - Broadens students’ social networks and opportunities
   - Other {specify: ________________}

7. Rank order the following disadvantages of school choice, 1 being MOST significant.
   - Separation from friends - Raymond students end up in different places
   - Transportation issues
   - Receiving school options may be limited or change from year to year
   - No Raymond representation on receiving district education boards
   - Family transition to new community atmosphere
   - Other {specify: ________________}

For those who currently have, have had, or will have a student attend high school through the Raymond School District please continue with question 8. All other residents are invited to include additional comments at the end of the survey.

8. What are the 3 main characteristics you looked for / will look for in choosing a high school? (Check up to 3 choices)
   - overall academic strength & diversity
   - extra curricular programs and/or philosophy
   - friends or family attending the same high school
   - bussing available
   - student / teacher ratios
   - post secondary school attendance
   - school facilities (buildings, technology & grounds)
   - quality of staff
   - location
   - school size
   - strong parental involvement in the school
   - vocational program accessibility
   - accreditation status
   - OTHER

ENDOWMENT DONATIONS

Here’s how to participate in the Society’s Endowment Fund. Make your tax-deductible contribution by check made out to Raymond-Casco Historical Society and designate it for investment in the Society Endowment. Mail to:

RCHS, P.O. Box 1055, Raymond, ME 04071

http://www.raymondmaine.org

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10. Please rate the following aspects of your student’s high school (Select one answer for each item)

- Academic program-curriculum
- Extra curricular program/philosophy
- Principal/Teachers/Staff
- Facilities
- Instruction that responds to my child’s needs
- Academic standards
- Parent involvement opportunities
- Community acceptance of Raymond students
- Student / Teacher Ratio
- Transportation
- Student diversity

11. Overall, how satisfied are you with the high school your son or daughter attends/attended?

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Unsatisfied
- Very unsatisfied

12. How influential were each of the following individuals or groups in your high school selection process?

- Limited
- Moderate
- Extensive

Parent(s)
Student
Student’s friends
Parent’s friends
Raymond teachers / staff
Elder sibling
High school staff

Any additional comments you would like to offer about high school choice in Raymond:

Thank you!

Please return the survey by October 1, 2006.

Completed surveys can be returned to: High School Survey, c/o Superintendent of Schools, 434 Webb Mills Road, Raymond, ME 04071 or dropped off at one of the following locations: RES, JMSM, the Town Office or the Raymond Village Library.

Panther Pond Association Notes

By Ben Severn, PPA President

- A Busy Week in July
- Election Results
- Water Level Action Plan
- A Reminder: Getting Educated in the Fall

A Busy Week in July

The last week in July was a busy one with the 4th annual meeting on Tuesday and the second annual boat tour and picnic following on Saturday. Attendance at the annual meeting was the largest ever, though never with as many people as one would hope. On the bright side, we added new members and had some lapsed members come back to the fold. As for the boat tour and picnic, we had a great turnout for the second year in a row, with Mother Nature giving us a beautiful day to first enjoy the pontoon boat visits to the Conservation Project sites and later, with help from Hannaford’s, to chat over hamburgers and hot dogs at Brian and Leigh Walker’s.

Once again, many thanks to Chase Rand and Judy Richards and to Duncan and Nancy Reed for piloting us all around the pond in their beautiful floating pontoon machines, and to the wonderful Walker hospitality and barbecuing skills. If you ever have wanted to know how to incorporate a water pistol hose into your barbecuing skills, you must see Brian in action. It surely is worthy of Ripley’s attention. I would also like to thank the members of King’s Grant Association (of which I am a member) for letting us invade their premises in order to board the pontoon boats. And finally, I would like to thank all of you, those who attended the various events and those of you who, through your membership support, were here in spirit if not body. Thank you.

Election Results

Elected to serve for 2 years:
- Ben Severn, President;
- Phil Boissonneault, Vice President
- Sharon Cox, Secretary
- Ginger Wallace, Treasurer
- Brian Walker, Environmental Officer.

Water Level Action Plan

While there were several topics covered at the annual meeting, the one that the group focused on was the continuing concern about the pond’s water level and how we might get better control over it. For the rest of the topics discussed, the full minutes to the annual meeting will be posted to the website by the end of August.

The pond’s water level continues to worry many people. Some worry because the water is too high, while others worry because it is too low. People wonder who is in charge of the dam, is it the IF&W office at Gray? The answer is the IF&W, but not the Gray office. As the Board started to deal with this issue last fall, we sought advice from other associations, especially LEA. The bottom line was that it is a “no win” situation for a lake association. I leave it alone, they said. We decided we couldn’t because there are some legitimate questions that we should have answers to, so we proceeded. The members at the annual meeting agreed. The discussion at the meeting made clear that this is not about high and low water levels, because what is one person’s high water is another’s low water. Rather, the purpose of the effort is to collect information about the water level so that we can separate fact from fiction, better understand the water level constraints imposed by the type of dam that is in place at Mill Street, and understand what we can and can’t expect to be able to control. We might not like the answers, but we at least will know what is and isn’t possible.

We are fortunate to have Phil Boissonneault as a PPA member and as our Vice President. Phil recently retired from PWD with many years of experience with the water level issues on Sebago. He agreed to lead the effort to collect facts about the water level on Panther.

As a start, and following suggestions from an IF&W draft proposal, we anticipate that we will have a volunteer or two responsible for recording the water level at the dam about twice a week and transmitting this information to the Casco IF&W office that is responsible for opening and closing the dam. While we don’t know where the data will lead us at this time, and while we recognize that weather forecasts do not always prove to be correct, we hope that when the weather forecasts are combined with more current water level data due to the greater frequency of data collection, we may be able to avoid water level extremes more often than has occurred in the past.

As noted above, the IF&W has submitted a draft proposal to PPA regarding the data collection effort. A copy of the proposal will be sent to all members with e-mail addresses and will be made available on the PPA website within the Town’s website by the end of the month. Stay tuned over the course of the next few months as Phil pushes forward with the effort and publishes his findings here and at our website.

Because its staff at Casco is pretty thin, the IF&W has asked anyone who wants to request a change in the flow of water through the dam to contact the PPA Board and have the request come from the Board. We can be reached at ppa@raymondmaine.org. Or if it is an emergency, you can contact me at 655-3936. Some of you have already had the experience of being referred from the Gray office to PPA. Obviously, we are all free to call whomever we choose, but in this case, IF&W is being quite helpful and positive regarding the dam.

Try us first. If we can’t give you a good answer, then make your call directly to IF&W in Casco.

A Reminder—Getting Educated in the Fall

Watershed Stewards Program

Do you want to learn what you can do to help protect Panther Pond and make a difference to our watershed for years to come? Then you need to sign up for the Watershed Stewards Program you’ve read about before. It’s at the Raymond Public Safety Building starting Tuesday September 12th and ending October 24th—6:30pm to 9pm. It is free. See the August Road Runner or the RWPA newsletter for details.

To register: Contact Laura Wilson of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension at 207-581-2971 or at Lwilson@umext.maine.edu
Macy’s “Shop for a Cause”

Fourth grade teachers at the Raymond Elementary School invite you to participate in this year’s Macy’s “Shop for a Cause” fundraiser on September 16, 2006, at Macy’s at the Maine Mall in South Portland. Macy’s, to support local community and school organizations, created this unique one-day shopping event.

This year Macy’s “Shop for a Cause” will support the fourth graders’ trip to the Maine Conservation School this fall.

The concept is simple. Macy’s will provide our school with shopping passes to sell for $5 each. Every dollar we make will go directly to our camping fund. The more shopping passes we sell, the more we will make to support this great educational field trip. By purchasing a shopping pass to this event, you can support our school while enjoying a day of special sales, discounts, entertainment, special events and thousands of dollars worth of fabulous prizes. Passes can be purchased at the RES or JSMS school offices, or from any fourth grade student. Mrs. Blanchard, Mrs. Crockett, Mrs. Potter and Mrs. Spencer would like to thank you in advance for supporting their students through Macy’s “Shop for a Cause.”

Veterans Memorial Update

In a recent interview with Howard Stiles, chairman of the Veterans Memorial Committee, he stated that progress was being made, but slowly. He believes that there are many veterans and families with veterans in their families who haven’t taken the time to honor themselves or their relatives. Stiles believes every veteran in Raymond should have a granite paver to honor his/her service. The smallest paver costs only $50. Larger ones are $100 and $150.

He stated individual contributions are just below $2,000. He is thankful, especially for the contributions from the Raymond Founders Day group and the Lions Club. Stiles said the committee needs to raise at least $15,000.

Howard would like to see more of the business community making contributions. Stiles is offering all businesses the opportunity to put their business name on a paver to show support for the town project.

Stiles thanks all who have contributed to date and hopes more will join the effort. Check out the Veterans Memorial link on the Raymond website.

More info can be had by calling Howard at 635-4193.

J.S.M.S News

The teaching, custodial, kitchen and office staffs are all busy preparing for the students’ arrival on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2006. We are pleased to welcome Greg Carter to this school. Please contact the main office at J.S.M.S. for more info.

DHSS Computer System Failure Costs Taxpayers Tens of Millions

Rep. John C. Robinson

The computer debacle at the Department of Health and Human Services is quietly becoming the biggest fiscal disaster in the history of Maine State government. It has already cost our overburdened taxpayers $56 million for the system and assortment of fixes, with tens of millions more looming, basically for nothing in return but a failed computer system. It has thoroughly disrupted Maine’s medical “safety net” for the poor. It has created a massive stores of redundant medical bills and accounts of physicians, dentists and other health care providers. And it serves as a stark reminder that mismanagement at the top of state government inflicts a punishing cost on all of us.

It might come as a shock to taxpayers, but Maine’s Medicaid program accounts for one-third of the entire state budget. As the brand-new system to process Medicaid claims went “live” in January of 2005, it was praised as an awesome marvel that would expedite the $2 billion in annual claims and payments, do the job better and faster than the aging Honeywell mainframe that had been a reliable workhorse. Indeed, this new system appeared to be so superb that DHHS didn’t bother to run a parallel system as a backup in case something went wrong, which is an inexcusable blunder in the world of computers.

Within days of turning it on, the new system was rejecting one claim after another. It soon became clear that the program had gone haywire, leaving Maine’s system of reimbursing providers for Medicaid work in total disarray. By March 2005, approximately 390,000 claims were suspended and thousands of new claims were arriving daily. With no payments going out, some doctors stopped accepting Medicaid patients, knowing they might never collect. Others had to take out loans to stay afloat and meet payrolls. Medical offices all over the state were thrown into fiscal disorder.

The fallout resulted in the resignation of DHHS commissioner Jack Nicholas and has drawn frequent hearing of the Legislature’s Health and Human Services Committee. We have now learned that DHHS went with the low-cost bidder for the project, hiring a company called CNSI for $15 million, even though CNSI had no experience in building Medicaid claims processing systems. Another bidder Keane had already developed such systems and had even worked on the Maine system for Medicaid eligibility. Keane’s bid was $30 million. In retrospect, hiring Keane would have been a stroke of genius, saving taxpayers millions of dollars. In April, COBIS, a national magazine recently chronicled the fiasco under the title “Massive Project, Massive Mistakes,” offered this grim assessment: “Today, more than a year later, it’s fair to say that the Maine Medicaid Claims System has been a disaster of major proportions.

To date Maine has paid out more than $56 million for the program. The Legislature’s Health and Human Services Committee was told recently that the program wouldn’t be fully functioning until some time in 2008. Gov. Baldacci recently signed an additional financial order for $24 million, transferring money from Medicaid medical care accounts to the computer repair effort. In early August, the state decided to hire 50 more “temporary” workers to try to fix the system. But those costs pale in comparison to the $580 million Maine sent out to providers as so-called “interim payments.” As the computer meltdown unfolded, DHHS began mailing out checks hellish-skeeter, hoping to keep doctors, dentists, therapists and social workers in the Medicaid network. Now the state is trying to recover that money, but it’s not having great success.

According to an August report by the Legislature’s Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, DHHS has collected only $251 million, leaving $275 million as the “outstanding accounts.” Getting the rest of the money will prove to be much harder. Indeed, it is likely that the state will have to battle many of these providers in court, at an even greater expense to taxpayers.

State Rep. John C. Robinson (R-Raymond) serves on the Business Research and Economic Development Committee, and on the Advisory Committee on Legislative Ethics, and can be contacted via phone at 655-8657 or e-mail at RepJohnRobinson@Legislature.Maine.Gov

“The Rally Day” for Sunday School Classes

The Raymond Village Community Church (Unit ed Church of Christ) is calling all children from toddlers to teens…

All are invited to join us for Sun day School every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

We have classes for preschool and kindergarten aged children, grades 1-3, and grades 4-6. We also have a very active youth group for children in grades 7 and above. This group meets at 10am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, in addition to service projects and other fun gatherings.

Nursery Care is available during worship as well.

If you are looking for a family-oriented and friendly church where everyone is truly welcome, please come and join us! Rally Day is Sunday, September 10th, at 10am. Come see what it’s all about!

2006-2007 RVCC Sunday School Calendar

Rally Day – September 10th

First Day Sunday School – September 17th

Halloween Party and Parade – October 28th

Hanging of the Greens, Pot Luck Lunch & Caroling – December 3rd

Christmas Pageant – December 17th

Sweetheart Brunch – February 11th

Children’s Sunday – June 3rd

Lake Region Bulky Waste to Get New Scale

The Lake Region Bulky Waste Facility will be closed September 26th and 28th for the removal of the old scale. During the week of September 30th through October 8th the facility will be open, but the scale will not be operational. Therefore, Raymond residents will not be able to use their bulky waste coupons. The facility will be estimating the loads of bulky waste and charging accordingly. Because of this, the Raymond Board of Selectmen felt that since the loads cannot be weighed, the coupons would not be accepted in that the coupons represent weight of waste.

The scales are expected to be installed and working by Tuesday, October 10th, and coupons will be welcomed thereafter.

Cemetery Committee Needs Help

The Raymond Cemetery Committee needs volunteers to help with their work. Most especially needed are people who are willing to get their hands dirty and their backs worked. During the summer and fall the committee works on projects in the cemeteries to keep them looking their best including cleaning grave markers, resetting old head stones, and generally keeping the grounds in good repair. If you are interested in helping a little or a lot, please contact Linda Alexander, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee, at 655-4464 or Louise Lec ter, Town Clerk, at 655-4742. You don’t have to become an active member of the committee to help.
Raymond Road Runner
Deadline Reminder
Articles for the October issue are due Thursday, September 21st

Animal Control Report
July-August

- 7/19 Stray cat - picked up
- 7/19 Dog at large - owner picked up
- 7/20 Stray kitten - took to Animal Refuge League
- 7/21 Dog at large - impounded owner unknown
- 7/21 Above stray - took to Animal Refuge League
- 7/22 Information on stray cats
- 7/24 Dead bird - killed by cat
- 7/24 Report of missing dog
- 7/24 Information on stray cats
- 7/25 Information on rabies
- 7/25 Information on dogs not on the beach
- 7/25 Information on stray cats
- 7/25 Stray cat - picked up stray cat
- 7/25 Information on stray cats
- 7/25 Dog at large - in yard most of the time
- 7/26 Strange acting rabbit
- 7/26 Call to state lab
- 7/26 Returned cat crate
- 7/26 Dog at large - impounded
- 7/27 Dog at large - dog picked up by owner
- 7/27 2 dogs at large - both impounded
- 7/27 2 dogs at large - verbal warning-owner picked up
- 7/28 Dog at large - impounded, aided by Casco
- 7/28 Dog at large - returned to owner
- 7/29 Dog at large - verbal warning - returned to owner
- 7/30 Bat in bedroom
- 7/30 Picked up loaned Havaheart trap
- 7/30 Picked up loaned Havaheart trap
- 7/30 Removed dog from beach
- 7/31 Information only
- 7/31 Bat taken to state lab
- 7/31 Stray dog chased another dog and its owner
- 8/1 Bat at lab proved rabies negative
- 8/2 Dog information
- 8/2 Information on bat houses
- 8/3 Dog at large
- 8/2 Missing cat
- 8/3 Administrative work
- 8/3 Dogs information
- 8/3 Dog at large - owner found
- 8/4 Administrative work on rabies case
- 8/5 Reposted "No Dogs" signs
- 8/6 Dog in road
- 8/7 Stray dog on deck
- 8/9 Sick raccoon reported
- 8/11 Stray dog
- 8/11 Stray dog - took to Animal Refuge League

Please remember that when you are away from home and your dog(s) are tied or penned outside, their barking may disturb your neighbors. Be aware of your dog’s comfort level and don’t leave it/them in a situation where they must bark in frustration or discomfort.

Don Alexander, Animal Control Officer

Trash Barrels Required in September

Beginning in September all residents will be required to put their trash bags in solid trash barrels. Any trash bags left on the ground will not be picked up. Barrels must also have a sticker on each barrel which can be picked up at the Town Office. Each household is allowed two (2) 32-gallon trash barrels per week for collection. All trash must be secured in plastic bags in the barrels. Raymond does not have a location where you can take your household trash; it must be picked up curbside. If you have more than the two 32-gallon barrels, stickers can be purchased at the Town Office for $1 each for each bag of overage.

Beginning November 1, 2006, Raymond’s longstanding curbside trash pickup policy allowing only two (2) 32-gallon barrels per household will be strictly enforced. Remember, if you have more than the two (2) 32-gallon barrels, stickers can be purchased at the Town Office for $1 each for each bag of overage. If you have any questions please call the Town Office 655-4742 or e-mail louise.lester@raymondmaine.org.

Most materials that are not considered household trash can be taken to the Lake Region Bulky Waste Facility in Casco. Vehicle stickers can be picked up at the Town Office at no charge. Annually coupons for 1,000 pounds of acceptable bulky waste paid for by the town are available at the Town Office for $5. Bulky waste disposal questions can be answered at the Town Office 655-4742, ext. 21, or at the Bulky Waste Facility 627-7585.

Please remember that when you are away from home and your dog(s) are tied or penned outside, their barking may disturb your neighbors. Be aware of your dog’s comfort level and don’t leave it/them in a situation where they must bark in frustration or discomfort.

Don Alexander, Animal Control Officer

Raymond PTA

“Advocating for children, enriching educational programs, supporting faculty and staff in their work, and collaborating with community organizations.”

RAYMOND PTA MEMBERSHIP FORM
2005 – 2006 SCHOOL YEAR

Name __________________________

Address _________________________

Phone __________________________

E-mail ___________________________

Children (name and grade) ___________

Parent _____ Business _____ Teacher _____ Community Member _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Annual Membership is $5

DONATIONS: A portion of your annual membership goes to support the State PTA.

Any additional donations will remain in Raymond to support our local efforts.

Total Enclosed: _______

Please fill out the form and send it to school through your child’s folder or mail it to:
Raymond PTA, c/o RES
434 Webbs Mills Road
Raymond, ME 04071

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail pta@raymondmaine.org or call: Deb Cutten, Pres., 655-2877 • Wendy Trask, V.P., 655-4446

For more information on the Raymond PTA, please check our website at http://www.raymondmaine.org/civic_groups/pta/default.htm

We generally meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month during the school year; however, our first meeting this year will be on Tuesday, September 19th.

Please join us at a PTA meeting in the Raymond Elementary School Library
6:30 pm
This Is What You Said

By Senator Bill Diamond

In last month’s Raymond Road Runner I mentioned that I had sent a citizen survey to Raymond and all of the towns in my state senate district, which also includes Windham, Casco, Standish, Hollis and Frye Island. The purpose of the survey was to find out which issues mean the most to you and your family so that I can better serve you as your State Senator. I want to thank the many people who responded to the survey, including those who completed the survey on-line through my website, www.mainesenate.org/diamond. Others preferred using the U.S. Postal System, which worked well too.

The survey responses clearly showed that property tax relief was the top issue on the minds of those who responded. I share those concerns and will continue exploring and advocating for property tax relief for Mainers who are struggling under this burden.

The data also showed, however, that many property taxpayers have not yet discovered the new and expanded Circuit Breaker Program, which actually provides money to taxpayers to help pay their property tax bill. The maximum refund is now $2000 up from the previous $1000.

Additional information and requirements about the Circuit Breaker Program can be found by going to the Maine Tax and Rent Refund Program website or by going to www.mainesenate.org/taxrefund. You may also contact my office at 207-287-1515, or you can call the Maine Revenue Services at 207-626-8475 for assistance. I have applications for the program, which I can send to you, or you can ask the Maine Revenue Services for an application. The Raymond Town Hall will have applications as well.

It doesn’t cost anything to apply and it’s relatively simple, so if your household income is not over $100,000 then consider sending in an application. Many people find that they qualify even when they originally thought they wouldn’t.

The survey included several other questions and the results of those inquiries are as follows:

1. 76.5% felt that Maine should invest more in economic development initiatives.
2. 85.2% felt that more should be done to improve access to health care.
3. 74% felt that we should not increase the state’s Rainy Day Fund beyond the current $100 million.
4. 58.7% felt that lowering taxes is a top priority even if it means cutting funds to other programs like higher education, etc.

Once again, I thank everyone who took the time to respond to the survey, and I appreciate the seriousness of the responses and the heartfelt additional comments as well.

On another matter, the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee of which I serve as the Senator chair, will be holding a public hearing focusing on what, if any, changes that should be made to Maine’s Sex Offender Registry. The public hearing will be September 12, 2006, at 10am in Room 436 at the State House.

If you have any comments that you would like included as part of the committee’s record, just let me know and I will make sure your thoughts are part of the committee’s consideration when final recommendations are made.

Have a safe early fall.

Kindergarten Visit Day at RES

Kindergarten Visit Day will be held at the Raymond Elementary School on Wednesday, September 6, starting at 9am. Parents are asked to bring their kindergarten students to school on that day. The children will have the opportunity to meet with their teachers, do an activity in the classroom, have snack and recess, and take the first of many bus rides.

Parents will have the chance to meet with principal Norma Richard and discuss the routines and procedures that are in place for our youngest students. The first school day for kindergarteners will be on Thursday, September 7. If your child will be 5 on or before October 15, is a Raymond resident, and is not yet registered for kindergarten, please call the school office at 655-8672.
Five Generations of Plummers

Twins were born to Danielle MacDonald and Ian Hebert of Gray on July 4th. They are: Noah Riley Hebert (6 lbs, 9 oz and 19 1/2” long at birth) and Aidan Marshall Hebert (7 lbs, 9 oz and 20” long at birth). They are shown here with their mom Danielle MacDonald, grandmother Thedy MacDonald (upper left), their great-grandmother Diane Randall and their great, great grandfather Alton Plummer of Raymond, 96 years old (center).

Are You “Up-To-Date”??

Does your town department or organization have webpages on the Raymond website?  
Be sure your organization’s meetings and events are up-to-date on the Raymond website’s Events Calendar and review your organization’s webpages to see if all the information is current. The webmaster regularly receives inquiries about outdated or lack of information for a variety of things; people are visiting the website, so staying current ensures they’ll return again.  
If you need assistance or have questions contact: webmaster@raymondmaine.org - there is a small number of us working at maintaining webpages, so additional volunteers with web editing experience are welcomed.

Fire and Rescue Responses

The month of July was full of hot days, people swimming and 9-1-1 calls. The Fire/Rescue Department responded to 95 calls this month. Calls ranged from car accidents, structure fires, assisting area towns and medical emergencies. The day ranged from 3 calls in 24 hours to as many as 9 calls in 24 hours. These calls required just over 456 hours from our members.

- Medical emergencies - 52
- Gas spill/leaks - 3
- Structure fires - 4
- Vehicle accidents - 10
- False alarms - 5
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- Gas spill/leaks - 3
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Raymond Area Summer Baseball Round-up

Sebago Long Lake

District II 12U Champions

Congratulations to the SLL 12U All Star baseball team. This team put in an awesome performance at the tournament in Gorham and became District II Champions for Cal Ripken 12U. They went on to the Cal Ripken State tournament in Eliot, Maine, and were bumped out by River Valley, losing 10-7. These kids displayed great teamwork, played some great ball and were truly good sports. This All Star team represented Sebago Long Lake, which comprises teams from Bridgton, Casco, Harrison, Naples, Raymond, Sebago and Waterford.

The 12U team was coached by Lonnie Taylor, Patrick Flynn, Ron Willey and SLL President Larry Carter. A big thanks to Applebee’s for sponsoring the 12U team!

Sebago Long Lake Cal Ripken 9U

Allstars

The Sebago Long Lake Cal Ripken “9 and under” Allstars came in 3rd in the State Tournament held in Richmond, Maine. The baseball team consisted of players from Raymond, Casco, Bridgton, Harrison and Waterboro. One or two players from each regular season team were chosen based on their outstanding ability and sportsmanship. The team had a great time, played some great baseball and made a lot of new friends along the way!

Fourteen-Year-Olds Win District Championship

The 14-year-old All Star team won the district championship in Harrison on July 17th. The team went undefeated and will be playing in the State Championship in Westbrook on July 26-30. The team, Tri-County East, has boys from Raymond, Lovell, Naples, Bridgton, Harrison and Sebago. This is the second time in two years that a team coached by Russ Hutchinson, Ron Fox and Dave McGowan has made it to the state championship. Two years ago the team won the state championship and went on to compete in the New England Tournament.

Cub Scout Yard Sale and a Bake!

The Cub Scouts of Pack 800 are having a Yard Sale to raise money for their 2007 Spring Trip aboard the Battleship USS Massachusetts.

When: Saturday, September 2nd, 2006 from 9am until noon.
Where: Raymond Village Community Church
Main Street, Raymond

What: Books, jewelry, toys and household items as well as a bake sale and hot dog lunch.

If you would like to donate items, you may drop them off at the Raymond Village Church Friday evening from 5 to 8pm.