

The Raymond RoadRunner

A Raymond School District & Town of Raymond Publication
<http://www.raymondmaine.org>

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January 2007

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Town Office Holiday Schedule

New Year's – Closed Saturday, December 30th
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Road Runner Articles

Articles for the next edition of the *Road Runner* newsletter are due by Thursday, January 18th. 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.

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 Webbs Mills Road, Raymond, ME 04071, 207-655-4742, x-21, louise.lester@raymondmaine.org

Raymond Elementary School Principal's Report

I would like to share with the Raymond community the news that Wendy Thoren, RES receptionist, will be leaving her position at the Raymond Elementary School. Miss Wendy has worked for the Raymond school district for 21 years. During this time she has touched the lives of thousands of students as she has worked in the front office, first at the Jordan-Small School and now at the Raymond Elementary School. Miss Wendy has taken the position of secretary at Shaker Village in New Gloucester. She has volunteered for over 25 years at Shaker Village, and the opportunity to be a part of their community is an outstanding one for her.



Wendy receiving a hug from Mrs. Weeks's 1st graders at the Farewell Opening.

Children, teachers, staff, parents and friends joined together at the Friday, December 22, Opening to wish Miss Wendy all the very best in her new job. It was more than fitting for Miss Wendy and her family, including her special granddaughter Daphne, to have her many friends and coworkers at RES thank her for all she has done for children and adults in our community and celebrate over two decades of outstanding service to our schools. Each class presented Miss Wendy with a special farewell gift that included gift certificates to Borders, Paws and Claws, and local restaurants. Parent Robyn Vierra wrote and read a special poem, and Opening ended with a song written by Ms. Stinehour especially for this occasion fittingly titled "Wendy." A highlight of Opening was the presentation by Mrs. Hutchinson and the I Care Cats of a giant I Care Token to Miss Wendy.

As we thank Miss Wendy for her outstanding work at RES, I would like to welcome Mrs. Malinda McKinney (Miss Mindy) to our school as our new secretary. Miss Mindy was introduced to students at staff at Opening. She brings extensive experience in customer service to our school and will officially start her work at RES on January 2, 2007. Please give Miss Mindy a warm welcome and be sure to introduce yourself to her when you visit the school after vacation. Parents can be especially helpful to Miss Mindy during this transition by sending in all information



Miss Wendy and Miss Mindy - the passing of the desk at RES.

(changes in busing, permission slips, absences) in writing, and by respecting and following all of the procedures that are in place to help our schools run smoothly and safely. This is especially important during arrival and dismissal each day.

On behalf of the students and staff at the Raymond Elementary School, I want to wish all of our families only the very best in 2007.

Raymond Rabies Clinic

Saturday, January 20, 2007

1pm to 3pm at the Town Office
 401 Webbs Mills Road
 (Route 85)

Eric Riddell, DVM, and his staff from Jordan Bay Animal Hospital will be administering the vaccinations. The fee will be \$10 cash per dog or cat. They will give you a certificate of Rabies Vaccination, which will be your only record of vaccination. Town staff will be licensing dogs as well for 2007.

A representative from Blue Seal Feeds in South Windham will attend with free samples of dog and cat food as well as lots of information about pet nutrition.

For more information call the Town Office at 655-4742 or e-mail louise.lester@raymondmaine.org.

Veterans Memorial Update

By Howard Stiles

I'm sure many of you saw the work at the Panther Run Rest Stop during the end of the first week in December. Many thanks go to Bob Flynn, Dwayne Buzzell, Tim Pomerleau, P&K Sand and Gravel and our own Raymond Public Works crew for their work in getting the foundations for the monument and the flag pole in the ground. The plan is to let them set during the winter. The monument and the flag will be erected in the spring in time for the dedication on May 28.



Dwayne Buzzell with the BIG backhoe.



P&K Sand and Gravel pouring concrete.

Funding is coming along, but we are still short of our \$20,000 goal. I know people out there who have called or talked to me around town but still haven't written that check. Remember it's all tax deductible. Make a New Year's resolution to support the Raymond's Veterans Memorial. We'd like to publicly thank those who have donated since the last Road Runner article: Brad McCurtain, Rick, Sharon and Amanda Dodson, Hannaford-Windham, Pat Coughlin, and Dick Morris

Donations can be sent to the Town of Raymond/Vet Memorial, 401 Webbs Mills Road., Raymond, ME 04071. Questions: call Howard Stiles at 655-4193.



Bob Flynn working the concrete.



Serious discussion around the flagpole base.

Road Runner Staff:

John Hanley
 Norma Richard

Laurie Forbes
 Kevin Woodbrey

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

Raymond Village Library

News

At a Glance

Wednesday, January 3 - RVL Board Meeting, 7pm, at the library

Tuesdays, January 9 and 16 – Microsoft computer workshop, 6-8pm, at RES

Wednesday, January 24 – Create Valentine floral arrangement, 7-8:30pm, at the library

Wednesday, January 31 – Reading Group, 7pm, at the library

Creating, Formatting and Using Tables in Microsoft Word

This is a free, basic computer workshop sponsored by the Raymond School Department and the Raymond Village Library. It will be held on January 9th and 16th, from 6 to 8pm at the Raymond Elementary School computer lab. To register (space is limited), please call Doris at 655-8666 or e-mail doris.horne@raymondmaine.org

Please plan to arrive at least five minutes early so that the class can begin on time.

Create Your Own Valentine's Day Arrangement

Create a stunning Valentine's Day arrangement with Jessica Fay, owner of the Raymond Village Florist. This is a hands-on program. Jessica will provide all the materials, so there will be a \$10 fee for this class. You will make your own floral arrangement to take home with you. Due to limited space, registration is required. Please contact the Raymond Village Library at 655-4283 to sign up.

Maine Library Week

The week beginning January 7 is designated as Maine

Library Week. What a perfect time to pick up that book you've been planning to read, or a book on tape or CD to listen to while driving or walking! How about checking out the music CDs for enjoyable listening? There are so many choices, and it's such fun choosing!

Reading Group

The book group has chosen the book "The Devil in the White City" by Erik Larson for discussion this month. The meeting will take place on January 31, at 7pm at the Raymond Village Library. All interested persons are invited to attend.

In case of inclement weather (honest, winter really is here!), if there is no school, there will be no story time, although the library may still be open. The best thing is to call ahead to be sure.

We wish to extend a very special thank you to all those who participated in the Annual Holiday Bake Sale" those who did the baking and donated beautifully decorated packages of goodies, yummy pies and all kinds of treats, those who worked pricing and selling these items and especially those who purchased these items. You all made this our best bake sale yet! All proceeds go directly to the library.

Recycling Bins Available

Raymond's Recycling Committee has arranged for the Town Office to have blue recycling bins for sale. They would like to encourage recycling in Raymond and felt that having the bins available to the residents was one way to enhance the program. The price of a bin is \$6.15, which is the cost to the town. Bins are available at the Town Office during regular business hours.

Animal Control Report

November - December

11/18	Work on equipment
11/20	Administrative Meeting
12/2	Dog at large - gone on arrival
12/4	Dog chasing people walking
12/4	Stray dog in yard
12/4	Abandoned cat
12/5	Took stray cat to the Animal Refuge League
12/6	Barking dog complaint
12/8	Dog at large - gone on arrival
12/9	Dog taken to Windham
12/9	Dog impounded
12/12	Administrative work
12/12	Dog hit by cars - took to Warren Ave Emergency

Winter brings important changes to your dog and cat's ability to cope with the weather. Be sure that they can stay dry, warm and out of the wind if they are outside for prolonged periods so that they don't get chilled. Some pets, especially the senior members, will need extra calories to keep their weight. Check their body "score" for weight often. If you can feel ribs and backbone, then they will need more food or a higher "fat" content food. Their hair coat will also become dull and dry feeling if they need more calories. Possibly the most important need of all animals in the winter is sufficient water intake. Be sure that your pets of all sizes have access to clean, room-temperature water at all times. Without water, they can't effectively digest their food no matter how much they are offered.

January 2007

Events and Meeting Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Library closed	2 7:00PM MB Selectmen's Meeting	3 10:00AM VL Library Toddler time 10:45AM VL Library Preschool Storytime 6:30PM RE School Committee Meeting 7:00 VL Library Board	4 6:30PM PS Raymond Lions Club Meeting	5	6
7	8 10:00AM VL Library Babysitter	9 6 - 8:00PM RE Microsoft Word Workshop 7:00PM MB Conservation Commission 7:00PM MB Tassel Top Board of Directors 6:30PM RE Parent Teachers Organization	10 10:00AM VL Library Toddler time 10:45AM VL Library Preschool Storytime 7:00PM MB Planning Board Workshop	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Day 10:00AM VL Library Babysitter	16 6 - 8:00PM RE Microsoft Word Workshop 7:00PM MB Selectmen's Meeting	17 10:00AM VL Library Toddler time 10:45AM VL Library Preschool Storytime 6:30PM RE School Committee Workshop	18 7:00PM MB One Raymond Committee 7:00 PM TH CPIC 6:30PM PS Raymond Lions Club Meeting ROADRUNNER DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE ARTICLES	19	20
21 10:00AM Appeals Board Site Walk	22 10:00AM VL Library Babysitter	23 7:00PM MB Selectmen's Meeting	24 10:00AM VL Library Toddler time 10:45AM VL Library Preschool Storytime 7:00 PM Building Committee 7:00PM VL Valentines Floral Arrangements	25	26	27
28	29 10:00AM VL Library Babysitter 7:00PM TH Zoning Board Appeals	30 7:00PM TH Conservation Commission 7:00PM TBD Possible Board of Assessment Review	31 7:00PM VL Reading Group		FB=Fire Barn JS=Jordan-Small KC=Kokatosi Campgnd PS=Public Safety Bldg. RE=Raymond Elementary CL=Casco Library TBD=To Be Determined	SG=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, November 21, 2006

- 1) Presentation from Cumberland County on sex offender notification process, ordinances, and law – Sheriff Mark Dion, Chief Deputy Kevin Joyce, Captain William Rhoads and Captain Don Goulet

The meeting room at the Modular Broadcast Studio was filled to capacity for a presentation by the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department on Maine's sex offender notification law. Chairman Mark Gendron opened the meeting, indicating that it had been prompted by a letter from citizens expressing concern that the state does not have adequate laws, programs and policies to protect the public from the risk presented by convicted sex offenders who may decide to locate into a community. The Board of Selectmen had given consideration to the possibility of a local ordinance similar to the one passed in the Town of Waterboro and now under legal challenge. Sheriff Dion outlined the priorities of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department, which included a first priority of protection of area children. He talked about the difficulty in providing a comprehensive notification to residents while at the same time balancing the need for due process and the rights of the offender. Each Sheriff's Department notification requires approximately 15 hours of staff time to complete all the necessary notifications and to process. An assessment tool is employed to identify the severity of the convicted sex offender and assign a numeric score, which helps to identify the degree and level of notification necessary. Offenders have the ability to request a hearing before a Sheriff's Department community notification is made.

Captain Goulet, Chief of Detectives, and Captain William Rhoads also made presentations at the meeting. Captain Goulet outlined the responsibilities convicted offenders have to register with their local law enforcement agency, for a lifetime in the case of more serious offenders, or a ten-year period for offenders convicted of lesser crimes. Reports kept on these individuals include fingerprints, mailing addresses, verification of domicile, and any other locations the individual might reside. This information is kept on file by the State of Maine and is sent to all law enforcement agencies. Captain Goulet also detailed the mechanics of a local sex offender notification. Sheriff Dion stated that there are presently three convicted sex offenders in Raymond. Two live in Raymond, and one works in Raymond. The state maintains a sex offender registry, which can be searched by name, ZIP code or address. None of the current Raymond offenders live near the schools. Captain Rhoads said that the Sheriff's office knows the offenders in the area and keeps close track of them. There is a regular checking process to make sure that offenders are still in the residential location that they have claimed. Any information from the public that would be helpful to the Sheriff's office is always appreciated.

The final presentation was made by Chief Deputy Kevin Joyce. He explained the hearing process by which an offender can seek to overturn a decision by the Sheriff's office regarding local notification. There has only been one hearing so far from a convicted sex offender seeking to overturn a notification decision. After the presentations, many questions were asked by the assembled citizens and the Board of Selectmen. Detailed information can be found regarding this discussion at the Raymond website located at www.raymondmaine.org under Selectmen Minutes.

The Board of Selectmen encouraged Representative John Robinson, along with State Senator Bill Diamond, to submit legislation to address present inadequacies in state law as soon as possible this legislative session. Representative Robinson told the Board of Selectmen that he is very interested and has been working on this issue in the legislature. A motion was made by Selectman Joe Bruno that the Town of Raymond Selectmen send a letter to Senator Bill Diamond and Representative John Robinson asking them to support state and/or local legislative authority to protect the residents of Raymond from convicted sex offenders. This motion was amended by Chairman Mark Gendron to include

the Governor in the mailing distribution list. This motion was approved unanimously.

- 2) Report on Tri-Town/County Meeting – Chairman of Board of Selectmen Mark Gendron

Chairman Gendron reported on the second meeting held in Windham between elected representatives from the towns of Raymond, Windham and Gray, as well as the Cumberland County Commissioners. One item the Selectmen feel strongly about is the need to restructure the way in which county taxes are levied and apportioned from community to community. Since the beginning of time, a valuation-based formula has been employed. This formula does not accurately measure use or demand for services and unfairly taxes smaller, high-value towns such Raymond. The formula presents great inequities between the level of taxation between communities. For instance, the Town of Raymond pays \$112 per capita, while Portland pays only \$67.50 per person; Windham pays \$50.63; and at the top of the scale the Town of Harpswell pays \$163 per capita. Any change in the county funding formula will require an act of the legislature. A motion was made to contact State Representative John Robinson and State Senator Bill Diamond to request that consideration be given to introducing legislation to amend the present funding formula through the legislature. This motion was unanimously approved.

- 3) Report on meeting with Dept of Education and Raymond School Department – Chairman of Board of Selectmen Mark Gendron

Chairman Gendron summarized the meeting, which was attended by state education official Jim Rier. Mr. Rier explained in detail the Essential Programs and Services model of educational funding and how the Raymond School Department compares with this benchmark guideline. Last year, school expenses were approximately \$940,000 higher than the EPS formula. Mr. Rier's presentation was very helpful in understanding the differences between EPS and Raymond spending. The presentation made by Mr. Rier may be viewed on Public Access Channel 2, which is the government channel.

- 4) Liquor License Renewal – (Class XI Restaurant/Lounge) – Vincenzo Raggiani, EJR Properties d/b/a Montebello Ristorante, 1227 Roosevelt Trail, and Craig Messenger, Fire Inspector

Mr. Messenger was unable to attend the meeting, so the town manager presented the Fire Department inspection report which was completed and is satisfactory. In checking with the Sheriff's Department, there are no police problems and no active complaints. The town manager therefore recommended approval. A motion was made and approved unanimously to grant a Class XI Liquor License renewal to Montebello Ristorante.

- 5) Consideration of abatements – Contract Assessor Michael O'Donnell, O'Donnell & Associates

This item was tabled as there were no abatement applications to consider at this time.

- 6) One Raymond Committee Update – Mark Gendron & Dana Desjardins, Co-Chairs

One Raymond Committee Co-Chair Gendron announced that the last meeting of the One Raymond Committee was canceled due to a conflict with the Tri-Town/County meeting. There will be another meeting scheduled within approximately a one week period.

- 7) Executive Session – Personnel Matter as authorized under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Annual town manager performance review

A motion was made to go into Executive Session for this purpose, which was approved unanimously at 9:01pm. The Board of Selectmen reopened the public meeting at 9:52pm. A motion was made to extend the town manager's current contract for a one-year period. There will be an additional review of the manager contract at the next Selectmen's meeting. This motion was approved unanimously.

- 8) Old (unfinished) business.

a) None

- 9) Town Manager Report and Communications

a) none

- 10) Fiscal Warrants – Approved payroll and appropriation warrants dated November 21, 2006.

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

- 1) Presentation of Proposed Zoning Map, Ordinance Changes & Revisions – Chris McClellan, Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee Chair; Pat Clark, Planning Board Chair; and Hugh Coxe, Contract Planner

Chairman Gendron introduced this agenda item, indicating that the CPIC has been working with Contract Planner Hugh Coxe to bring Raymond's land use ordinance into compliance with the 2004 Comprehensive Plan. Ordinance revisions will be brought before the Annual Town Meeting for consideration in May 2007.

CPIC Chairman Chris McClellan gave a broad overview of the changes the committee hopes to present at Town Meeting, including a list of priorities that have been worked on over the past two years. A study of the town's commercial zone and Route 302 corridor have been undertaken, as well as work done to bring the zoning map into compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. Mrs. McClellan envisioned that within approximately two years all elements within the Comprehensive Plan will have been offered to the Town Meeting for possible implementation.

Contract Planner Hugh Coxe talked about the work that he has completed for the CPIC. He noted that a GIS map will be necessary in the future in order to make revisions easier. He outlined environmental concerns related to resource protection areas within the town and proposed ordinance amendments related to these areas. He discussed road connectivity through a proposed new subdivision on land owned by Peter Busque on the end of Route 85 and work that has been underway by the Conservation Commission to formulate an open space plan for the community. At this time their work has been limited to completing an inventory of existing open space areas.

Mr. Clark reported that the proposed ordinances to be considered had three levels of change. 1) General housekeeping items that need correction, 2) inconsistencies in the ordinances and definitions, and 3) policy issues. Planning Board Chair Patrick Clark thought that many of the incomplete applications and waivers considered by the Planning Board were due in some part to problems with our current ordinances. Many housekeeping changes proposed will help to eliminate inconsistencies and problems in interpretation. CPIC member and Selectman Mike Reynolds noted that there would be public hearings on all proposed changes before the Annual Town Meeting.

- 2) Consideration of Patrick Clark's resignation from Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee

The Board of Selectmen made a motion to accept Patrick Clark's resignation from the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee with reluctance, regret, and with thanks for a job well done in presenting the Planning Board's perspective to this committee. This motion was unanimously approved.

- 3) Discussion and approval of request for proposals (RFP) for municipal curbside solid waste and recycling – Town Clerk Louise Lester

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Mark Gendron thanked Town Clerk Louise Lester for her preparation and work on the RFP, which will enable the town to seek competitive proposals for both curbside municipal solid waste pickup and recycling pickup for a three year period commencing July 1st, 2007. The town manager will send the RFP to interested vendors and place a newspaper legal notice on approval by the Board of Selectmen. A motion was made by the Board of Selectmen to accept the proposal as written and issue the RFP. This motion was approved unanimously.

- 4) One Raymond Committee Update – Mark Gendron & Dana Desjardins, Co-Chairs

a) Recommendation to undertake feasibility analysis of the 7.84 acre parcel located behind District 2 Fire Station for potential municipal usage.

One Raymond Committee Co-Chair Mark Gendron explained that this work was necessary in order to evaluate the quality and quantity of building land available on this parcel and whether it could be utilized by the town for any potential future project. An estimate has been received from Sebago Technics

Continued on page 4

Municipal News Brief continued from page 3

Engineering firm in the amount of \$5,000. A motion was made to allocate a sum not to exceed \$5,000 from the town's annual reserve from undesignated fund balance to engage Sebago Technics to evaluate the land located within the 7.84 acre parcel and bordered by Egypt Road, Route 85 and Raymond Hill Road. This motion was approved unanimously.

- b) Recommendation to issue RFP for municipal insurance commencing at expiration of existing policies on June 30, 2007.

Co-Chair Gendron outlined the One Raymond Committee recommendation that the town seek competitive bids for municipal insurance as a cost savings alternative to the present Maine Municipal Association Risk Pool. The One Raymond Committee is hopeful that by seeking competitive bids from private sector insurance companies, the cost of municipal insurance will be decreased. The present carrier, MMA, will also be invited to participate in this process. A motion was made to authorize the town manager to create an RFP to solicit competitive quotations for municipal insurance coverage. This motion was approved unanimously.

- 5) Consideration of abatements – Contract Assessor Michael O'Donnell, O'Donnell & Associates

This item was tabled, as there were no abatement applications to consider at this time.

- 6) Executive Session – Personnel Matter as authorized under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Annual town manager performance review

A motion was made to go into Executive Session with the town manager at 8:22pm to discuss issues related to the town manager's employment contract. The public meeting was reopened at 9:08pm. A motion was then made to form a three-member Selectmen sub-committee to meet with the town manager and put his contract in a form consistent with present day standards. This motion was approved unanimously. Chairman Mark Gendron appointed Selectmen Lonnie Taylor, Joe Bruno and Mike Reynolds to work with the town manager on his contract using the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) model agreement as a base.

- 7) Old (unfinished) business.

- a) Sign in front of town office

Chairman Gendron announced that Kyle Woodbrey's Boy Scout Eagle Project is a new reader sign in front of the town office. A presentation will be made by Kyle Woodbrey as a part of the Selectmen's December 19th meeting. He noted that all the money for this project had been raised from private sources. The town manager added that the sign is constructed in such a way that it could be relocated should that become necessary in the future, and it is also being designed to accommodate future electronic componentry when technology and budget allow.

- b) Maine Municipal Association Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) report

Chairman Gendron asked LPC member Joe Bruno to update the Selectmen's Meeting on MMA Legislative Policy Committee work. Mr. Bruno reported that MMA's Legislative Policy Committee is working on several bills. The first is tax reform under "the state chamber plan" and also the formation of a study committee on revenue sharing. Mr. Bruno was not optimistic about the chances of success of these two MMA proposals, but would continue to provide his perspective and input into the legislative policy committee process. Chairman Gendron felt that on the state level tax reform will be moving forward as a top priority.

- c) 2007/2008 Budget Formation

The Board of Selectmen instructed the town manager to stay below the LD1 mandated level of increase for FY 2007/2008 of 3.47%, or a gross dollar increase of \$61,312. They agreed with his perspective to evaluate the budget from a core mission vs. discretionary service basis. The town manager will separate essential and/or legally mandated town service functions from other activities and build the budget with a priority upon legal requirements. The

Selectmen indicated their strong desire to maintain the current tax rate and reduce spending within the upcoming budget wherever possible. The town manager will be meeting very shortly with town department heads to communicate this message and work toward that end.

- 8) Town Manager Report and Communications.
a) None
- 9) Fiscal Warrants – Payroll and Appropriation Warrants – December 5, 2006.

Tuesday, December 19, 2006

- 1) Eagle Scout town office sign update – Kyle Woodbrey, Troop 800

Kyle Woodbrey came before the Selectmen to offer an update on his town office sign project. The sign posts have been set upon concrete footings, and construction of the sign itself is well under way. Mr. Woodbrey is still waiting for some parts to come in. The project has been moved to the Public Works building on Main Street for the winter and hopefully will be ready to be installed next year. This project is almost completely paid for, but the amount of \$705 still needs to be raised to complete the project. Those interested in making a financial contribution can send a check to the Eagle Scout Sign Project in care of the Town Office.

- 2) Discussion about technology related to secretarial support for committee meetings – Town Clerk Louise Lester

Given that Raymond has reached another technological plateau with the live broadcasting of most meetings on cable television, Town Clerk Louise Lester believes it is time to re-address the issue of what is considered the official record for Raymond meetings. Presently, the official record has been an audiotape, and the recording secretaries have then produced a written record of the meeting from that audiotape. A recommendation was made to make the videotape the official record for Raymond meetings and instruct the various meeting secretaries to capture only the motions and actions for paper recording. A motion was made to approve the suggested changes and to apply this policy to all of the town's committees, unless a committee asks for a waiver of this condition. A lending copy of each meeting's videotape will be available to borrow from the town office and also from the library. In addition to the live broadcast, which will play while the meeting is on-going, the cable television channel will replay each meeting according to a schedule that can be found on the Raymond website. For \$14, a copy of the DVD may also be purchased.

- 3) Consideration of Quit Claim Deed for John and Lori Michaud

A motion was made to approve the Quit Claim Deed for John and Lori Michaud to return interest in their property to them as all property taxes, interest, penalties and costs have now been paid in full.

- 4) Public hearing – Consideration of adoption of 2006 General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices

The Board of Selectmen, after holding a public hearing, unanimously approved amending the town's General Assistance Ordinance to incorporate the 2006 Maine Municipal Association Appendices. These appendices establish the rates of financial support for basic necessities within the ordinance, according to a survey conducted of the cost of basic necessities.

- 5) Resignation of Louise Van Winkle, Conservation Commission – Town Clerk Louise Lester

Ms. Van Winkle's resignation from the Conservation Commission was accepted with regret, and the town manager was instructed to write a letter of thanks for her years of service. Town Clerk Louise Lester will see that a vacancy on the Conservation Commission is advertised for interested applicants.

- 6) One Raymond Committee Update – Mark Gendron & Dana Desjardins, Co-Chairs

One Raymond Committee Co-Chair Mark Gendron outlined the progress to-date on studying the feasibility and possibility of a joint town/school facilities manager position.

- 7) Consideration of abatements – Contract Assessor Michael O'Donnell, O'Donnell & Associates

This item was tabled, as there were no abatement applications to consider at this time.

- 8) Executive Session – Personnel Matter as authorized under 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(A) Annual town manager performance review

The Board of Selectmen went into Executive Session at 7:43pm to discuss the annual town manager performance review and contract. At 8:03pm the Selectmen returned to regular public session and reported that a tentative contract agreement with the town manager had been reached.

- 9) Old (unfinished) business.

a) The town manager reported that he has been monitoring the progress of the town's request to acquire a surplus Coast Guard boat for use by Raymond Fire/Rescue and neighboring communities on Sebago Lake. He has been in touch with the offices of Senator Collins, Senator Snowe, and Representative Tom Allen and expects that a decision may be reached shortly regarding the town's request.

- 10) Town Manager Report and Communications.

a) None

- 11) Fiscal Warrants – Payroll and Appropriation Warrants – December 19, 2006.

All Raymond meetings are public, and citizens are encouraged to attend. You may also watch live broadcasts 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.raymondmaine.org.

'Tis the Season for Increased Teen Alcohol Use

by Steve Danzig, LSW, LADC

According to statistics published by the Maine Office of Substance Abuse, the number of teenagers using alcohol for the first time is among the highest in the months of December and January. Perhaps this is because parents are caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season preparations and therefore aren't keeping as close an eye on their teens. Perhaps it is because families have more alcohol in the house for their holiday entertaining making it easily accessible to their teens. Perhaps it is because teens have a long school vacation with more free unscheduled time on their hands when they can more easily get into "trouble". Or perhaps it is a combination of ALL of the above reasons. Who knows? Why these are the higher risk months is unimportant. What is important is that you be aware that once a teen has tried drinking, they are more likely to do so again, especially if no negative side effects were experienced during their first try.

Unfortunately, the statistics also tell us that parents are often unaware of when their teen is using alcohol. In 2002, 65% of teens reported using alcohol in their lifetime but only 17% of their parents thought their teens had ever engaged in that type of behavior. Furthermore, when asked about their recent use, 38% of teens said they drank in the past month while only 2% of their parents thought that they did.

So now that you know your teens are at greater risk for drinking in the next few months, you are probably wondering how you will know if they are. Here are a few tips:

- Ask your children where they are going, who they will be with, and what their plans are. Most importantly, don't be afraid to check up on what they tell you.
- Be suspicious of subtle changes in behavior such as sleeping, eating, change of friends, and/or elaborating on details of their activities that seem insignificant.
- If you suspect your son or daughter has been drinking, ask them. Surprisingly, many kids will tell the truth when asked directly. If you suspect your teen is lying about their alcohol consumption, it may mean that they are simply avoiding a lecture/being grounded from you but it could also mean that they are trying to hide a very real problem. Trust your parental instincts and know that there are therapists specializing in alcohol/drug counseling that can help you and your family with this issue.

A message worth repeating from the December 2005 issue of the Raymond Road Runner, thanks Steve!

Town Office Has Door Decorating Contest

In celebration of the holiday season, the town office employees were each assigned a door to decorate. On Friday, December 22, judges Betty McDermott and Chris McClellan acknowledged the "Door Decorator of the Year."

The doors were covered by a multitude of designs from the traditional wreaths and bells. We have a Florida-inspired flamingo door by Assessing Assistant Elizabeth Cummings, a Victorian present door by Town Clerk Louise Lester, a traditional present door by Deputy Clerk Lee Ann Shand, a gingerbread and peppermint door by Assistant Treasurer Rita Theriault; a Christmas doggie door by Finance Director Nancy Yates, a Mickey Mouse door by Technology Director Kevin Woodbrey, a balsam/ribbon/lighted garland door by Code Enforcement Officer Jack Cooper, a Remember the Soldier door by Deputy Tax Collector Donna Lovely, a snowflake door by Code Enforcement Secretary Karen Strout, a baubles and bangles door by Town Manager's Secretary Laurie Cook, a reindeer door by Voter Registrar Louise Murray, a creative wreath door by Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Will Cook, and the Town Manager Don Willard's door decorated with original artwork by Holden Willard.



Will Cook's door:



Some of our "town office crew."

To find out who's the "Door Decorator of the Year," turn to the back page.



Don Willard's door:



Donna Lovely's door:



Elizabeth Cummings's door:



Jack Cooper's door:



Karen Strout's door:



Kevin Woodbrey's door:



Laurie Cook's door:



Lee Ann Shand's door:



Louise Lester's door:



Louise Murray's door:



Nancy Yates's door:



Rita Theriault's door:

History of Raymond's Present Town Office Building

Prepared by John Brenan, a member of the Town Office Building Committee

This is a picture taken in 1925 of the original building that now houses our Town Office. This building started its life as a one-room schoolhouse, funded and built by Miss Ellen J. Small and presented by her to the town in December 1908. Subsequent additions expanded the building to include a kitchen, toilets and central heating. When the present Jordan-Small School was built in 1950, this building was discontinued as a school and then converted to Town Office use. In 1988 a portable school building was added to the rear to provide space for a dispatch center. This center was relocated to the new fire station in 2004, and the vacated space was used to expand the code enforcement department.

Over the years this building has served the town well, but it is now showing its age of 98 years in many ways. Its antiquated wiring, inefficient heating system, fire safety issues, structural defects, extensive water damage and lack of space for present and future personnel needs have brought it to a point where it needs replacement. In 1999, the cost to correct all the existing building's deficiencies and update it to meet current code requirements was estimated to be \$643,000. This amount would be considerably more today. The small size of the existing lot prevents any appreciable expansion, which is needed to meet our current and future personnel needs, so a Search Committee was appointed in 2003 to find a suitable lot of land that could accommodate a new Town Office, library and community center, preferably in one building. This committee looked at all of the properties owned by the town, plus a few non-town-owned ones, to determine what could be used. A majority of the properties were ruled out because of size, location, current use, deed restrictions or difficult terrain.

This committee presented several possible candidates, which are now being evaluated by a new Building Committee that is part of the One Raymond Committee. The first candidate is the site consisting of the present library and old District #1 fire station. However, this site has an irregular shape and is not large enough, so additional land would need to be purchased from abutters. Also, an alternate location for the library would be needed during the construction period.

Another site is a parcel of land behind the East Raymond fire station and public works garage. This land is of sufficient size but is partially wet, so a feasibility analysis by a soils scientist will have to be made to determine if it is suitable.

The final site being considered is the playing field next to the Jordan-Small Middle School. Either a stand-alone building or one attached to the school could be located here. A feasibility analysis of this site will also have to be made. The displaced playing field would need to be relocated, possibly to town-owned land on the Egypt Road.



East Raymond School, ca. 1925. Picture provided through the courtesy of the Maine Memory Network of the Maine Historical Society

Peru Experiences

Rev. David Thorp of Faith Lutheran Church, 988 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, will share his experiences as a missionary for 10 years with his family in Peru.

Friday, Jan. 5th, 6:30pm, at the church.

Everyone welcome. Refreshments.

FMI: 892-3769

Maine's Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program Continues

The Maine Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) has been serving Maine citizens since 1997 with a program that answers the public's questions regarding forestry and timber harvesting practices in Maine. They have responded to questions ranging from water quality issues to visual impacts of a timber harvest. When they receive a call regarding a specific site, they, as an industry, will respond by sending forest resource professionals out to investigate. They wish to work with all concerned people by sharing techniques and knowledge to encourage the best possible outcomes. The SFI is not an enforcement program but a device to identify problem areas where they can develop education and training programs that can be delivered to loggers, foresters and landowners.

For more information: call 1-888 SFI GOAL (1-888-734-4625), Patrick T. Sirois, Director. Website: www.mainesfi.org

2007 Dog Tags Available

Dog licensing can now be done for 2007. If you have a dog over the age of 6 months, it should be licensed. A rabies certificate must be produced and if neutered, a neutering certificate, if the Town Office doesn't have it on file. The fee for a neutered dog is \$6 and non-neutered \$10. All dogs must be licensed by January 31, 2007. Dogs licensed after January 31 will incur an additional \$15 late fee.

Please understand that by having your dog licensed, anyone finding your stray pet will be able to trace it to you, thereby alleviating the possibility that it will go to a shelter. Licensing funds contribute to stray animal care in the town and state and support the State Veterinarian Laboratory in Augusta, as well as Maine State Humane Agents who investigate animal abuse cases.

There will be a Rabies Clinic on Saturday, January 27, 2006, from 1pm to 3pm at the Town Office. See the "Rabies Clinic" notice elsewhere in this edition.

Thoughts from the Principal's Office

By Randy Crockett, Interim Principal, Jordan-Small M.S.

One of the main goals of Jordan-Small Middle School is to prepare our students to be successful in high school. Over the last few years, there has been a focused effort at the Maine Department of Education to encourage high schools across the state to raise the aspirations of our young people. The new requirement that all high school juniors take the SAT, a test previously only taken by students applying to colleges, is one outcome of this initiative. With each passing decade, opportunities for young adults to find employment that does not require post-secondary education and pays a living wage have declined. Employers have high expectations of entry-level staff, as they compete in global markets. Access to education in many emerging countries, such as India and China, creates workers with training and motivation equal to or greater than their U. S. counterparts.

Expectations and standards in all subject areas are increasingly complex as the students move through the middle school program. Seventh and eighth grade students often do not understand that the skills and knowledge in our middle school curriculum set the foundation for opportunities at the high school level. Incomplete and partial learning at the middle school level leaves them at a disadvantage they will struggle to overcome when they become freshmen.

I believe it is the responsibility of school staff, parents, and the entire Raymond community to help our teenagers begin the process of setting academic and career goals. Students need to identify their areas of strength and interest before they choose a high school. As part of this process, the eighth grade students have been working with their teachers and the guidance staff on a number of activities. When they have a general idea of the types of career tracks that are of interest, they can "plan in reverse" to learn which subject areas they need to master. It is crucial that adolescents understand how their current efforts will "pay off" in the future. Most middle school students have difficulty relating their current daily existence to their future potential. Every adult in an adolescent's life can assist in defining choices and setting measurable goals to help students focus their efforts.

Creating Child Safety Zones

By Senator Bill Diamond

For many of us there is an urgent desire to find a solution to the problem of keeping high-risk sex offenders who have been convicted of a sex crime against a minor from hanging around or having an extended presence where children gather, such as at schools, day care centers, etc. The most common solution offered to date has been to place a residency restriction on where these types of sex offenders can live. For example, a couple of towns in York County have passed local ordinances that actually state that a sex offender cannot live within 2000 feet of a school. The local citizens' desire to protect their children to the best of their ability is indeed understandable. Since Maine does not have a state-wide law regarding residency restrictions for sex offenders, some communities felt a need to act because a known serious sex offender was living in or near their communities.

I have been reviewing the research which the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee has gathered over the past year, and what I have found is eye opening in many ways and worthy of your consideration and contemplation as we move forward with this issue.

Establishing a residency requirement for sex offenders may not provide the proper protection that we all feel is necessary. Restricting where a sex offender can live does not prohibit this person from leaving his residency and going to the local playground or other child gathering places and hanging out. The ultimate goal is to prevent the high-risk sex offender from being near where children gather. Restricting where the sex offender lives does not address the real problem of where that person may go when he/she leaves his residence. So passing a residency restriction law or local ordinance may be giving a false sense of security to the community and in some ways may be doing more harm than good.

For example, a major concern with relying on a residency restriction law is that the unintended consequence could very well be the pushing of sex offenders from the high-density population areas like Portland to the more rural areas. In the city it would be very difficult to find a residence that was not within 2000 feet of a school, church (Sunday School), day care center, park, etc. So in order to meet the distance requirement, the only option for the sex offender would be to move to a less populated area (smaller towns), where there are fewer law enforcement agencies. The other problem being experienced in many states that have these laws is that in an effort to avoid being restricted as to where they can live, many sex offenders are refusing to register and thus going underground, which makes them more difficult to detect and thus potentially more dangerous.

Twenty-two states have sex offender residency restriction laws, and many are now considering repealing those statutes because of the above-stated consequences and because there are many costly court challenges being submitted based on constitutional questions.

There may be a better way. I am sponsoring a bill to be considered by the legislature that will create Child Safety Zones. This bill would first identify who the high-risk sex offenders are based on their crime of being convicted of a sex offense against a minor. Of course, if our system worked properly, high-risk sex offenders would still be incarcerated in some type of institution and not be a threat to our citizens, but that is not the reality at this time.

Once the high-risk sex offenders are identified, they would not be allowed to go near, hang out or have an extended presence at places where children gather. These Safety Zones go right to the heart of the problem by keeping a potential threatening force away from the children, as opposed to simply relying on the fact that restricting where sex offenders live will determine where they go and what they do. This information regarding risk-level assessments would be available on the Maine Sex Offender Registry. This is important to the public because many people listed on the Registry are not serious threats and could easily be classified as very low risk, such as the young man who twenty years ago had consensual sex with his girlfriend, who was just shy of 16 years old at the time, while in high school. They have since married and have children and are living productive lives, but because of the federal guidelines he must register as a sex offender.

There are more details to be considered for this bill; however, I wanted you to be aware of and involved in all of the options as they are developed over the next several months in the legislature. This is one of the most important issues we as a legislature will be facing. I look forward to your thoughts and ideas.

Barking Dogs Are Not Happy Dogs

When you come home and your dog(s) barks in greeting, that dog is a happy dog. However, when you're not there or when the dog is left alone, that barking dog is a very unhappy dog. Dogs generally bark because they are uncomfortable, possibly cold, wet, hungry, or afraid. They also bark to give warning. When a dog is left alone, whether he/she is in a yard or tied, he feels unable to protect himself or his territory – his yard. The resolution is to try to keep your dog(s) happy.

The Town of Raymond has a Barking Dog Ordinance, which was enacted to help neighborhoods be peaceful. Our Animal Control Officer is ordered to react to all complaints concerning domestic animals in our town. Part of that job is to answer calls regarding barking dogs. If you have had a complaint that your dog(s) is barking whether it be a formal complaint by the Animal Control Officer or from a neighbor, please take it seriously and find a way to make your pet comfortable and happy.

RES Kindergarten Classes Learn about Multicultural Celebrations

All the Kindergarten students of RES have been involved in very special learning and celebration throughout the past few weeks. Each classroom has studied one European country and learned about that country's culture, customs and holiday celebrations, from language, to geography and climate, to historical people and famous buildings, to songs and literature, and to holiday legends and fun. After learning so many things and making many projects to display about their particular country, each class presented their wealth of new-learned knowledge to the other Kindergarten classes and parents. Every child had something to individually tell about. The children enjoyed having the chance to be the teachers to their friends and guests. We learned how our countries' customs are the same and different. They also learned that even though children around the world are different from us, there are also ways in which we are the same. We spent time learning the special ways that each country uses light during their winter celebrations. This was such a fun learning activity!

The teachers would like to thank all the parents who helped make this experience so successful by contributing materials, coming in to help with projects and sending in food for our special Multicultural Luncheon. We so appreciate all the support.

So we'd like to say, "Happy Christmas!" from Mrs. Allen's "Ladybugs" in England, "Fröhliche Weihnachten!" from Ms. O'Donnell's "Teddy Bears" in Germany, "Joyeux Noël!" from Mr. Seymour's "Frogs" in France, and "Gleðileg Jól!" from Mrs. Gillis's "Cottontails" in Iceland!

Be a Buddy

Second grade students, under the direction of RES guidance counselor Deb Hutchinson, presented some very important information to the school at the December 8 Friday Opening. The children shared their posters that demonstrated how important it is to BE A BUDDY, NOT A BULLY. The posters showed the strategies that they are learning if another student is bullying them at school or in the community. These strategies include telling the bully to stop, walk away, or tell a teacher or an adult. We hope that all students and all adults will do their very best in 2007 to BE A BUDDY.

Aluminum Can Tabs

Hold onto the can tabs from aluminum cans! These tabs mean money for a child sponsored by Pack 800 of Raymond. Scouts continually collect these tabs and turn them in to their Den leaders to be brought for processing, where they can be turned into cash for a child who is in great need. It is really a simple task to remove these tabs prior to throwing them into a recycle bin, and it can mean improved quality of life for a young child who is physically and mentally challenged.

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Ellen at 655-4463. Don't know where to bring the tabs? Contact any Cub Scout in Raymond. Don't know any Cub Scouts? Call Sue Ellen at the number given above.

Aquatics Programs at St. Joseph's College

SWIM CLASSES - Starting the week of January 16

Event: SWIM LESSONS

Registration is taken by mail before walk-in registration starts by retrieving a form from our website (www.sjcme.edu.com) and sending in payment. You may also register January 2, 3, and 4 at the Alfond Center from 9am to 7pm. Classes will start the week of January 16th. There will be no classes the week of November 20th. This session will be a 4-week session.

Place: St. Joseph's College
Harold Alfond Center - Pool

Time: Classes are offered Tuesday through Saturday during the mornings, after school, and evenings for 7 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 one half-hour each week for 7 weeks, and the fee for the program is \$50. Youth aged six years through and including adults meet for one hour once a week for 7 weeks, and the program fee is \$60.

About the Program: St. Joseph's College offers swim classes for infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers, 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 as 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, Lifeguard Readiness, Lifeguard Training and Water Safety Instructors Program.

Event: WATER AEROBICS

Date: (Ongoing classes throughout the year)

Time: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays from 8-9am - Mondays & Wednesdays from 8-9pm

Fee: \$5 each class or a punchcard of 12 passes for \$45.

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 body workout while having fun! Those who would like to do deep-water exercises during this program are encouraged to do so.

Event: ARTHRITICISE

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 \$45.

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 times are: Monday through Friday, 7-8am Lap Swim (starting January 17th) - 9-11am Lap swim - 12-1:30pm Lap & Open Swim - 5-6pm Lap & Open Swim (Tuesdays & Thursdays) - Saturdays/Sundays - 1-4pm Lap & Open Swim

Event: SPLASH PARTIES (Private Pool Parties for your group)

Times: Fridays 6:30-7:30pm - Saturdays/Sundays 12-1pm or 4-5pm

- 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 January 18th

Place: St. Joseph's College
Harold Alfond Center - Pool

Time: Thursdays, 5-9pm

Fee: \$175/10 weeks

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: Participant must be at least 15 years of age, perform a 500-yard swim, retrieve a ten pound object from nine feet of water, and tread water for two 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: January 16th

Place: St. Joseph's College
Harold Alfond Center - Pool

Time: Tuesdays 5-9pm

Fee: \$275/14 weeks

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, sidestroke, breast stroke, elementary backstroke and butterfly.

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

Want to Learn about Digital Broadcasting?

The Technology Committee and Kevin Woodbrey, Network Administrator, are looking for interested people who would like to learn how to operate the digital broadcasting studio and run the cameras for meetings in Raymond. If you would like more information, please e-mail Kevin at kevinwoodbrey@raymondmaine.org or call Louise Lester at the Town Office at 655-4742 ext. 21.

PTO News

The Holiday Fair on December 8th was a festive event for Raymond families! There were 6 Make & Take craft tables where kids could make simple holiday craft items, a Cookie Stroll which had at least a dozen varieties of delicious cookies to choose from, a Present Walk with a pile of tantalizing wrapped gifts as prizes, Face Painting for young and old, a Café with yummy treats and a Gift Shop provided bargain shopping opportunities. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this the wonderful and memorable occasion that it was. Without the generous help of our volunteers, the PTO could not do all that it does.

At our December 5th meeting we discussed several things we could do to support our mission to advocate for children, enrich educational programs, support faculty and staff in their work, and collaborate with community organizations.

Requests for Funding

We received one Request for Funding (RFF) by Marilee Dunklee. The request was for \$500 for the seventh graders to attend the Chamber Repertory Theatre's Encore presentation on April 5, 2007. The ticket price is approximately \$15 per person, and the total cost for tickets would be \$1,062 for students and chaperones. Students will be asked to pay a portion of the admission price, but it is the hope of the seventh grade team that the PTO will be able to assist in the costs. The PTO President Deb Cutten was unable to be at the meeting due to an injury, and because there was some question as to the status of our Cultural Enrichment budget, the vote was tabled until further review of our financial status. The vote will take place at the January meeting.

In order to help clarify how we determine our budget for the school year, the process is described as follows: The Officers of the PTO meet prior to the start of school. We review our yearly fundraisers and conservatively estimate how much they will bring in over the year (est. \$11,550). Next we look at the balance in our accounts and project how much money we will have available to fund projects over the school year while still leaving a healthy contingency balance. Then we subtract from that balance any Committed Funds such as Service Learning monies or other long-term financial commitments we have made. Next we review what we have spent in past years in the following categories: Enrichment

of Educational Programs at RES, Enrichment of Educational Programs at JSMS, Cultural Enrichment Programming at both schools, Supporting Faculty & Staff, Collaborating with the Community, Hospitality, Odyssey of the Mind, College Scholarships, March for Parks and Miscellaneous. Based on the above considerations, we set the funding allocations for the 2006/2007 school year as follows: \$3,000 for Enrichment of Educational Programs at RES, \$3,000 for Enrichment of Educational Programs at JSMS, \$3,000 for Cultural Enrichment Programming at both schools, \$2,000 for Supporting Faculty & Staff, \$1,500 for Collaborating with the Community, \$1,500 for Hospitality, \$1,000 for Odyssey of the Mind, \$3,000 for College Scholarships, \$40 for March for Parks and \$300 for Miscellaneous.

At the time the 7th grade RFF was made, the Cultural Enrichment Programming budget had already been depleted, as had the Enrichment of Educational Programs at JSMS budget. It does not mean, however, that we reject a Request automatically if the budget in that particular area has been depleted. If the PTO members deem the Request a valuable and worthwhile cause, we will try to find the monies to support it. The Funding Budget is a set of guidelines only; they are not set in stone.

We're Saying Good-bye to Miss Wendy

Wendy Thoren, the school secretary, will be leaving her position at RES after 20+ years. Activities to honor Miss Wendy are being scheduled for the week of December 18th. The Friday morning opening assembly held on December 22nd will be dedicated to her. Parents, students and staff members are contributing to gift cards, gift baskets and other memorabilia. After a short discussion, the PTO decided to honor her years of service to Raymond families with a 2007 season pass to the Portland Stage Company, since Miss Wendy is an avid theatergoer. The gift will be presented to Miss Wendy at the Friday morning Opening. There will also be a special day-long Open House for her from 10am - 3pm. Parents and friends are invited to stop in to say good-bye and wish her well in her new endeavors.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9th, in the RES library at 6:30. Everyone is invited to attend.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, call Deb at 655-2877 and leave a message or e-mail at PTA@raymondmaine.org.

Some of the Sights from the Holiday Fair



Make & Takes are fun



Facepaint and a present!

Conservation Commission Looking for Members

The Conservation Commission is looking for volunteers who are interested in helping to develop Raymond's open space plan, trail mapping, water quality endeavors, and other pertinent issues. Meetings are held from September through May on the last Tuesday of the month. For more information, please call John Rand at 655-4277 or jbr@fairpoint.net. You can also apply on Raymond's website www.raymondmaine.org from the volunteer link on the front page.

Sand/Salt for Raymond Residents

Available beginning
Monday, December 4th

Fire Lane 89 on the Plains
Road at the Public Works
shed.

Monday – Friday
from 7:30am to 3pm

Saturday from
8:30am to 12pm

Public entry into the fenced
area is prohibited. There is a
limit of 5 five-gallon buckets a
load.

**NO COMMERCIAL USE IS
ALLOWED.**

Skate Park for Raymond

By Nick Rodriguez

Raymond has been around for many years, and lots of things have grown around our community. Things have come and gone from this land. We have gotten new buildings, playground equipment, baseball fields and soccer fields. But there's one thing that many kids have wanted in the Town of Raymond, and that is a skate park. Lots of kids love to skateboard in this town, but we have no skate park. So now we're asking for a skate park, and we would be very thankful for this. It would make many kids in the Town of Raymond very proud. It would also make a great addition to the Town of Raymond, so would we be very thankful if the Town of Raymond approves a skate park.

The Circus Smirkus Residency Comes to RES

Circus Smirkus, the award-winning international youth circus, will bring its Smirkus School Residency program to the Raymond Elementary School from February 5 – 16, 2007. A professional circus coach, Christine Landon, will come to RES for a two-week program to share circus skills, goal setting and enthusiasm with the entire school community.

Circus Smirkus, a nonprofit organization based in Greensboro, Vermont, provides a format for children and adults to collaborate in the life-enhancing adventures of the circus. Kids at every grade level are encouraged to participate in juggling, unicycles, human pyramids, clowning and balance skills. In the age-old circus tradition, competition takes a back seat to cooperation, allowing everyone to succeed at their own level.

Circus Smirkus was founded in 1987 and is well known for its summer-long New England based Big Top Tour. Smirkus school residencies began in 1984, by clown and Smirkus founder Rob Mermin. Today, the popular program reaches more than 7500 youngsters, through 25 schools, every year.

RES teachers Maria Parisi and Betsy Stevens are coordinating Circus Smirkus. All K – 4 students will participate in two workshops during the residency. Class teachers and Academic Enrichment teachers will further the experience by making the circus a part of their curriculum this winter. As a grand finale, a performance will be scheduled for the entire school on Friday, February 16.

The RES staff would like to thank the Raymond PTO for their financial assistance in sponsoring the Circus Smirkus residency. Additional donations to pay for Circus Smirkus can be made to the Raymond Elementary School.

Community Service News

By Barbara Loux, LCSW

The 6th grade groups, the Ommpa Luumpas and the Tutti Frutti, have finished their drive for the foster children of Maine. They helped to pack over 70 baby bags for children going into foster care. They were recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Department of Human Services. Thanks to all who contributed, particularly Babies R Us and local hospitals. Also, thanks to Alex Jackson for helping to organize this event. Way to go, kids!!

The Talent Show was a HUGE success! Thank you to all the participants and helpers at the show. There were things collected for the animal shelter, the food pantry, Preble Street and the skateboard park. Special thanks to Randy Crockett for his support in setting up the lights and sound. Also, thanks to Mary Thornton for helping with the sets and to Laurie Hargreaves, Wendy Brum and Pam Hartig for their extra efforts! The night was a blast!! Such wonderful talent and audience enthusiasm!!

It looks like a possible ice rink is on its way! We are fine-tuning details and could use helpers to make this happen! Also, for those of you not aware, Don Willard, our Town Manager, has found a free skateboard half pipe that we are hoping to use as a kick-off for a skateboard park for Raymond. This is an amazing donation, and the kids are beyond grateful. Thank you, Don, and the Selectmen for your support of this dream for the kids!

We have several groups that are writing and sending cards to servicemen and women serving in the war. If you know of anyone who would benefit from a card or a thought, please let me know.

Thanks for any and all community support of all the projects. They are learning wonderful lessons. The following are some quotes from a classroom reflection:

"We have learned about heroes, decisions and different ways we can help the community, and that it's not all about you, it's about other people and making them happy like you."

"I learned how to respect how everybody is different and how some people have different needs for different things."

"I like community service because we've learned that it is not always about you. It gives us a chance to think of someone else for once. After we do something nice, it feels good."

"I've learned to think of others, not just myself, and I feel more confident in helping others who are less fortunate than I am."

"I want to be a better person, and I want to meet new people and make new friends, and I want to go to new places that I have never been, and mostly I want to help people in my community. I have learned to be a better person and a better citizen."

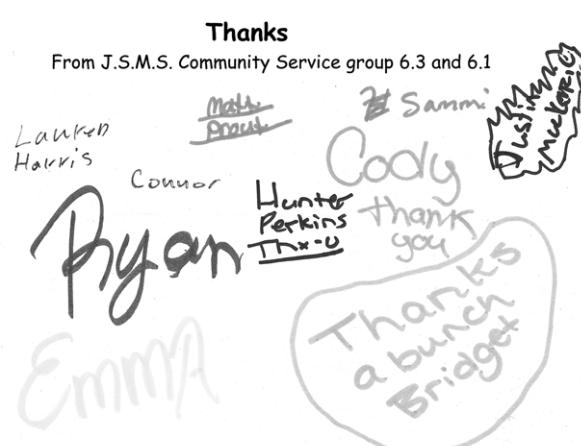
A group of ten 7th and 8th graders from Community Service went to the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in Portland. They were Meghan Hargreaves, Dillon Taylor, Claire Valente, Tyler Winde, Hallie Mitchell, Billi Joe Lamb, Bernd Hartig, Chynna Blaney, Abby Streeter and Marissa Cerino. They decorated cookies and sang songs for the sick children. It was a very powerful experience. Thanks to Social Work Intern Micheale Cadman and Wendy Trask for helping me with this adventure!

A group of 26 students both from mentoring and community service went Christmas caroling at some local nursing homes and to some shut-ins. This was another wonderful experience for a group of children. Thanks to Michele Masse for driving an "enthusiastic" busload of children! We are hoping to make this an annual event!

Any questions? Please call Barbara Loux, LCSW, 655-4743, x107.

**Hannah
Marie
Bolduc**
Raymond Road Runner

Thank you so much, everyone in Raymond, for donating your old/new babies supplies. The babies in the foster care program usually end up at their guardians' doorsteps with nothing on their backs, but thanks to every one in Raymond, the foster babies will arrive with diaper bags donated by you. We appreciate this selfless act you have done.



Pack 800 Pinewood Derby

By Dave Hanson

Pack 800 from Raymond will be holding a "Pinewood Derby" on January 20th, with a snow date of January 27th. It is to be held at the Jordan-Small Middle School on Webbs Mills Road (Route 85) in Raymond. The day will kick off at 7:30am with the Lions Club cooking a pancake breakfast. The cost is \$3 per individual or \$12 per family. Race registration begins at 8am, with racing beginning at 9:15am.

All the cars being raced will be built by the Cub Scouts themselves in a clinic to be hosted at the Raymond Village Community Church prior to race day. There will be a concession stand open all day during the race with snacks and drinks available. Racing will wrap up around 12:30, with the awards and trophies presentation to follow. The top five racers will be advancing to the Pine Tree Council District race, which will also be held at the Jordan-Small Middle School in April 2007. It's a great day of family fun, and there is no cost for admission. The public is invited to come and see our scouts show off their racing savvy and craftsmanship at car building.

For more information, contact Dave Hanson at 207-615-4484.

Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee Needs Help

The Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee is looking for a volunteer to help with their work of developing ordinances, which will coordinate with the 2004 Comprehensive Plan. Meetings are at the Broadcast Studio on the third Thursday of the month at 7pm. Please visit the website at www.raymondmaine.org for updated meeting schedules and minutes.

For additional information, you may contact Town Clerk Louise Lester or Karen Strout, CEO secretary, 655-4742 x21 or x43. All correspondence received in writing or by e-mail will be forwarded to the committee.

Compost Bin Order Deadline March 30th

You have until March 30th to place your order for the Maine Resource Recovery Association compost bin sale. Orders will be taken at the Town Office at \$39.50 each (tax included). Checks should be written to "MRRA" (Maine Resource Recovery Association).

These bins have a 10-year warranty and are made of 100% recycled black plastic. They are approximately a 40-gallon size, 35" high and 33" wide. It is estimated that Raymond residents can save \$95 for every ton of waste they compost.



A covered kitchen scrap pail is also available for \$10.50 each. Both these items are displayed at the Town Office, Raymond Elementary School, Jordan-Small Middle School and the Village Library.

These bins and pails will be available for delivery on or about May 7th.

For order blanks and ordering, please contact:

Louise Lester, Town Clerk
Raymond Town Office
401 Webbs Mills Road
Raymond, Maine 04071
655-4742 ext. 21
louise.lester@raymondmaine.org

Raymond - Casco Historical Society

President Wayne Holmquist
Vice President Elizabeth Bullen
Treasurer Betty McDermott

Founded in 1973, our mission is to preserve the history of Raymond and Casco. We are a charitable, educational and non-profit organization. We are planning to develop a permanent museum for future generations to visit and enjoy. We need your help! Your financial support is needed to make this dream a reality.



Please send your tax-deductible gift to the Raymond-Casco Historical Society,
P.O. Box 1055, Raymond, ME 04071

Name.....

Address.....

City

State ZIP

Email.....

Yes, I fully support the Raymond – Casco Historical Society.
Enclosed is my donation in the amount of:

\$10 \$15 \$20 Other \$ _____

I wish to remain an anonymous donor.

Please send me more information about the Raymond – Casco Historical Society.

Your gift is fully tax deductible. RCHS is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

Who Mentored You?

January is National Mentoring Month, a time to explore ways our community can work together to increase the number of mentors to our youth and thereby assure a brighter future for our young people. It is also a time to celebrate the success of many mentoring relationships.

It has been five years since Deb Murray joined Raymond Mentoring Partnership and became a mentor to Callie, a 4th grader at Raymond Elementary School. Deb and Callie do a variety of things in their time together, including scrapbooking, a wide range of crafts, and playing games. Callie really looks forward to Tuesdays with her mentor, the day she knows she gets to do "a lot of fun things." She fondly remembers a special moment in their friendship when the two went horseback riding together, the first time for both. Callie feels that having Deb with her made the challenge less intimidating. Deb apparently felt the same way, recalling, "I never would have gotten on that horse except for Callie."

Callie and Deb also shared a special moment when they hiked up Rattlesnake Mountain this fall, another first time for Callie. Deb was so impressed by the fact that Callie never once complained that she couldn't make it. The sense of accomplishment on Callie's face at the end of the hike was a real inspiration for many of us that day.

When asked what she has gained from her mentoring experience, Deb was quick to emphasize that it is not just what she does for Callie. "It's gone both ways. It's not just me teaching her something like scrapbooking. She teaches me."

Deb has shared the satisfaction and joy she has found through her mentoring experience over the years with her daughter, who just recently became a mentor herself through Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Portland.

Who mentored you? Perhaps a teacher? A coach? A neighbor? Take a moment this month to thank someone who mentored you at some point in your life. And please consider becoming a mentor to a child in Raymond. For more information, call Christina Lamarre or Candace Woolston at 655-8672, ext. 107.

Raymond Village Community Church

Epiphany Celebration Planned at Raymond Village Church

Did you know that the Wise Men came to Bethlehem with their gifts AFTER Christmas? Tradition has it that they arrived on Epiphany, which churches celebrate on the Sunday closest to January 6th.

This year, on January 7th, the Raymond Village Church will be celebrating the Coming of the Wise Men with a special service beginning at 10am. Who knows? You might even witness an appearance by the Wise Men themselves, seeking the Child born in Bethlehem!

Raymond Village Church to Participate In Lock-in for High School Youth

Youth from the churches of the Old Presumpscot Union Parish are joining in an overnight lock-in at Windham Hill UCC from 8pm on Friday, January 12, to 10am on Saturday, January 13th. There will be very little sleep, many good movies, excellent refreshments, and lots of surprises!

This event is based on an idea from the young people and has been planned by the pastors of the Raymond Village Church, Casco Village Church, East Windham Community Church, North Windham Union Church, and Windham Hill Church.

The pastors are requesting that one adult chaperone accompany every five high-schoolers from each church. For more information, call the Church Office at 655-7749.

Area Clergy Plan Camden Snow Bowl Trip for Middle School Youth

The Old Presumpscot Union Parish clergy are planning a day trip on Saturday, February 10th, to the Camden Snow Bowl for youth in grades 6-8. Participating churches are Raymond Village Church, Casco Village Church, East Windham Community Church, North Windham Union Church, and Windham Hill Church.

Everyone will meet at 11:30 at the Camden Deli for a quick and inexpensive lunch and spend the afternoon skiing, tobogganing, tubing, and just having fun. The Snow Bowl closes at 4:30, so folks will be home by 6:30-7pm. For more information, call the Church Office at 655-7749.

"No School" Announcements

The school cancellation procedures were published in the school calendar/handbook sent to all Raymond households in August. To review, in the event of no school due to weather or other emergency conditions, the cancellation announcements will be broadcast on the local television stations (Channels 6, 8 and 13) and radio stations (WPOR, WMGX, & WGAN) as soon as possible.

Safety is always the first consideration in canceling or delaying the start of school. These are coordinated with the receiving school systems, Westbrook, Windham, Poland and Gray; so weather in these districts may affect busing for our elementary and middle school students. Buses will run their routes in the same order as on regular school days.

Alternative plans in the event of an early dismissal (either weather or emergency related) were included on your student's emergency sheet this year. Please alert the school office if there has been any change in these plans. We are unable to contact parents directly in the event of an early school closing, so it is very important that you have made alternate arrangements for your student in advance.

Please note that when school is cancelled, all afternoon and evening activities for school or the community held at RES or JSMS are also cancelled.

News from RES 2nd Grade

Pioneer Studies

The 2nd grades have been learning about children and families during the 1850s and the western expansion of the United States. In each class, the children were divided into "families" and did a cooperative activity of packing the family wagon for the trip. The items couldn't exceed 2000 pounds. The children wrote daily in a journal as a pioneer family member, telling about what the family was experiencing on the trail. We read many books during reading group and "read aloud" time that emphasized the long, tiring and dangerous trip along the Oregon Trail. The children made their own versions of covered wagons, and added a paper doll family to each wagon. Each classroom cooked a food that was familiar to the pioneers. It was shared with families at the Grade 2 Breakfast on Dec. 22. As an independent project, children interviewed a family member

about a family heirloom and presented a report in class.

Donations for Harvest Hills

Ms. Parisi's 2nd grade would like to thank everyone for their donations to Harvest Hills Animal Shelter in Fryeburg. Your gifts will help the dogs and cats that live at the shelter to have a healthier, happier holiday. Thank you!

Reading Buddies Celebrate

Reading Buddies in Ms. Parisi's, Ms. Stinehour's and Mrs. Crockett's classes celebrated the winter with the book The Night Tree. In this story, a family decorates a tree in the forest for the animals during the winter holiday time. We gathered in the RES cafeteria and made our own decorations for the animals with birdseed, bread, bacon fat, cereal, and other edibles. Then the 3 classes enjoyed part of the afternoon outdoors, decorating trees around the playground, sipping hot chocolate and singing songs.

Raymond Recreation Association

Winter Kids Snowshoe Program

Raymond Recreation Association will offer an intro Snowshoe program to children in the **3rd and 4th grades**. Sessions will run on Wednesdays, Jan. 24, Jan. 31, and Feb 7. There is \$5 donation per student for the entire program.

Sessions will be held at Raymond Elementary School and will begin after school dismissal at 12:30 and run until 2pm. Children may take the 2pm Middle School bus home, or parents should arrange for pick up at R.E.S. at 2pm. Participants must have warm clothing, hat, mittens and boots. Snowshoes are provided.

!!! NOTE REGISTRATION PROCESS !!!

Registration forms will be available at the RES office and online at raymondmaine.org during the week of Jan. 15th and must be returned by mail, postmarked by Jan 19th. Registration is limited to 20 participants (in the order registration is received) unless the student provides his or her snowshoes. Registrations will not be accepted after Jan 19th.

If you are able to help with the program, or for more information, please call Pat at 655-4657

Kindergarten Workshop

- Please join Ms. Norma Richard, Raymond Elementary School Principal, and Ivy Jordan, Early Childhood Coordinator, for a Kindergarten Workshop designed especially for parents with children entering school next fall!
- Date: Saturday, February 3rd
- Time: 10am until noon.
- Location: Raymond Elementary School Library
- ✓ A presentation and discussion about the school's Kindergarten curriculum and how parents can help get their preschooler ready for Kindergarten.
- ✓ Great handouts and a great way to meet other parents.
- Please call Ivy Jordan to register today at 655-8672, ext. 108. If you need childcare, please call for arrangements before January 25th. We look forward to seeing you!

123rd Legislature Sworn In

Rep. John C. Robinson

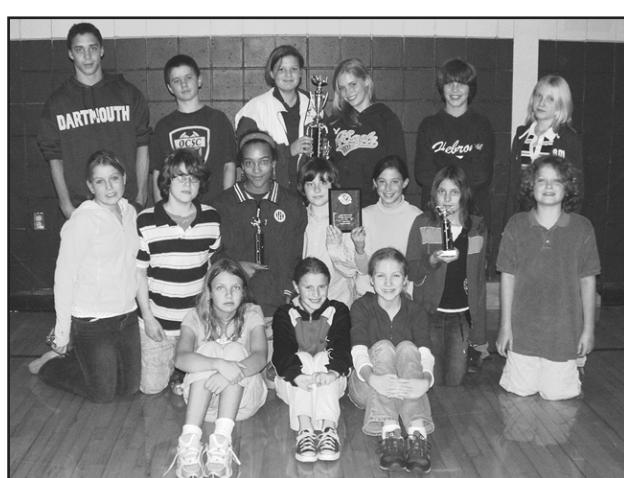
December 6th was "Swearing In Day" for Maine's 123rd Legislature. It marked the first official day for the new Legislature. It primarily is a day for Legislators and their families to enjoy the ceremony, but it is also a day to elect three of four State Constitutional Officers: the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and the State Treasurer. These three offices are all slated for two-year terms. The fourth office, the State Auditor, is a four-year term. These four state officers are elected by a majority of both bodies of the State Legislature. After the elections, the Legislature is adjourned until January.

The 1st Session of the 123rd Legislature is slated to resume Jan 4th. The 4th not only marks the first day for the Legislature, but also is the Inauguration Day for the Governor. After all the pomp and circumstance, the Legislature will begin dealing with a number of important issues including tax, healthcare, and ethics reforms.

I have submitted a number of bills that touch on all three topics as well as a number of local issues that required legislative action. In the upcoming months, as the Legislature gets fully underway, I'll take time to go over many of these issues to help keep the people updated on the events in Augusta.

It has been a great honor representing Raymond in the Legislature, and I am humbled by the opportunity to serve the people for another two years. I want to thank everyone who contacted me over the last two years with suggestions, comments, and advice. It is critically important that I continue to hear from people on issues that are important to the community. I also wanted to take the time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

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



Front row: Adria Hughes (Raymond), Roslyn Moisan (Raymond), Sydney Randall (New Gloucester); Middle row: Annie Bachmann (Auburn), Harry Trask (Norway), Rebekah Jett (Norway), Eli Gabrielsen (Norway), Isabel Kannegeser (Minot), Lindsay Hughes (Raymond), Max Middleton (Hebron); Back row: Garrett Van Wie (New Gloucester), Tom Cummings (Norway), Laura Dow (Norway), Malorie Johnson (Minot), A.J. Keith (Bethel), Polly Drown (Leeds).

For more information, please visit www.hebronacademy.org or call 207-966-2100.

For information on the Raymond School Department, go online to the School's website

Complete school department information, with links to Jordan-Small Middle School and Raymond Elementary School websites

<http://www.raymondmaine.org/rsd/welcome.html>

Town of Raymond

Lake Region Development Council Board

The Town of Raymond is requesting applicants for a position on the LRDC board. This volunteer position would be to represent Raymond in this regional organization to promote the town and the lakes region. It would require a monthly meeting the third Wednesday of the month at 1:30pm at the LRDC office on Route 302 in South Casco. There would also be an opportunity to be involved in committee work associated with the interests of the LRDC.

Please forward your letters of interest, including a short resume, to Louise Lester, Town Clerk, 401 Webbs Mills Road, Raymond, ME 04071 or e-mail louise.lester@raymondmaine.org. A volunteer application is also available on our website www.raymondmaine.org which will be automatically forwarded to Mrs. Lester.

Hebron Academy Middle School Places Second Overall in Math Meet

Hebron, ME (November 28, 2006) -- Hebron Academy Middle School's Math Team recently participated in the Pine Tree League's Fall Math Meet. Hebron placed second overall in the meet. There were nine schools participating. The seventh grade team placed first in the team competition with 7th graders Rebekah Jett and Lindsey Hughes placing first and second respectively in the individual competition. The 8th graders also finished first in the arithmetic portion. For more information about the Middle School, interested families should check the Middle School section of the Hebron Academy website at www.hebronacademy.org

Hebron Academy Middle School Math Team

Public Access Computer in Town Office

The Town of Raymond has installed a public access computer in the research/map area of the Town Office. Some of the things that are accessible through this recycled computer are: the town website (including ordinances, tax maps, zoning requirements), the Vision Assessing Database, the Cumberland County Deed search function, and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles Rapid Renewal.

Next time you're in the Town Office, pop around the corner to check out this new addition. We're excited about being able to offer this option to our residents who don't own computers or even to our residents who do but would like to check out something on-line while visiting the Town Office.

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.



S.E.A.R.C.H. Supports Our Students and Schools

S.E.A.R.C.H. is a 21st Century Learning Center grant that funds after-school programs for children, K – 8. We provide academic tutoring and enrichment programs at Raymond Elementary School and Jordan-Small Middle School. This year we have had 212 students participate in one or more of our programs!

Some of the S.E.A.R.C.H. funds go toward keeping the library at JSMS open after the school day ends. Our librarian, support staff and student teachers work in the library to help students with homework and school projects. Other programs at JSMS include: small-group tutoring by subject area, art mini-camps, fitness activities, French Club and recycling, to name a few.

Small group tutoring happens at Raymond Elementary as well. Our first trimester enrichment activities included: Art & Crafts, Orienteering, Tae Bo, and gym activities. When we return from the December break, we will start a new round of activities!

Something new we are doing this year is offering a Saturday program once a month. In September kids enjoyed a trip to the Laudholm Land Trust for a hayride, pumpkin picking and a corn maze. The drenching rains in October prevented us from taking our planned trip to Old Fort Western; however, we enjoyed the Maine State Museum and seeing close up the giant globe at DeLorme Maps. We switched gears in November and learned about the famous Maine artist Marsden Hartley. In December we stayed right here in Raymond and had a great day making holiday crafts. We were treated to some beautiful harp music performed by two members of the Maine Harp Society. A number of students played one of the harps, too! A special thank you goes to Sharon and Dewey Lloy. They own Balsam Ridge Trees and Wreaths on the Egypt Road and donated several large bunches of pine boughs for us to use to make the wreaths.

Back by popular demand is S.E.A.R.C.H. Safari. S.E.A.R.C.H. Safari is a three-day program during school vacations. The December safari will revolve around unique professions. Activities will include: trips to see a sausage maker, a metal smith, and Pineland Farms. We will tie flies



Brandon King and Emily Callahan show off the wreaths they made.

Door Decorator of the Year is...



Elizabeth Cummings, with her "Flamingo Christmas" theme.

Read the whole story on page 5.

with Sharon Andrew and make pizzas and learn how to decorate cakes with Sandy Cook.

We would like to thank all the staff members who work for S.E.A.R.C.H. Our after-school hours, Saturday programs and vacation programs would not be possible without their efforts.



Anita Emery plays a Celtic harp.



Caleb Dexter works on his gingerbread house.

Mrs. Weeks's Grade One Classroom

The children in Mrs. Weeks's Grade One classroom got a head start on relaxing before school vacation. They had worked very hard on following the I-CARE rules and were able to fill up their classroom bead jar. They voted on having a Pajama Day. It was a fun celebration.



Raymond Road Runner Deadline Reminder

Articles for the February issue are due Thursday, January 18th.

Cub Scout Pack 800 Advancement Ceremony

Bobcats Advancement Ceremony welcomes newcomers to the Cub Scout Pack in Raymond!

By Sue Ellen Gendron

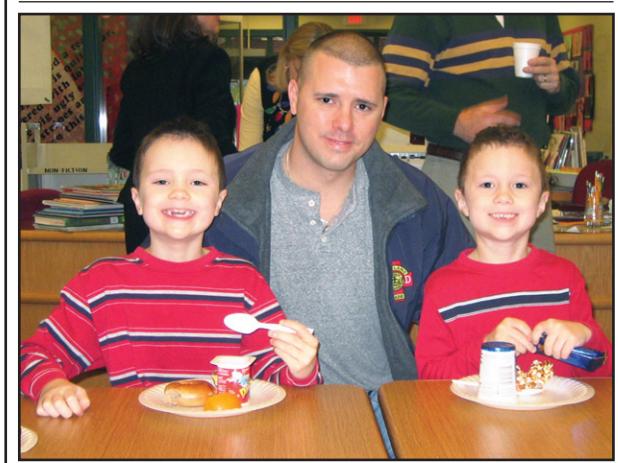
Each color painted on their faces symbolized different strengths of a Cub Scout. Blue represents the spirit of the Bobcat, yellow to help see the light of the Scout Trail, white for purity to know right from wrong, red is for courage to speak the truth, and green symbolizes living in harmony with nature. Parents were also painted purple representing loyalty to their scout.



Photos from PTO Breakfast



Rachel and Meagan share their Pioneer projects at the PTO breakfast.



David and Deven Young at the PTO breakfast with their dad.