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Getting Ready for Presidential Election 2008

Louise Murray, Voter Registrar, asks that if any Raymond voter wants to change his name, address, party affiliation, or register to vote in Raymond, now is the time. Raymond’s voter registration information is now combined in the State’s Centralized Voter Registration System and any new information needs to be updated on a continual basis. The Presidential Primary will be June 10, 2008, and anyone wanting to vote in the primary must be enrolled in a party. If you are listed as unenrolled, commonly known as an “independent,” you will not be able to vote in the Presidential Primary. Currently, the official parties are Democrat, Republican, and Green Independent. Each party will have its own primary ballot. If you are in a party, that is the only ballot you will receive i.e. a Republican will get a Republican ballot and not the Democratic or Green Independent. Therefore, if you wish to vote for a candidate not in your current party, it will be necessary for you to join that party prior to the Presidential Primary.

A voter must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age at the time of the Presidential Election (17-year-olds who will be 18 prior to November 4, 2008, can vote in the June Primary), must have established and must maintain a voting residence in Raymond, must be registered to vote in Raymond, and must be enrolled in a party.

An unenrolled voter may select a party at any time including on the Primary Day. A party-enrolled voter may change his party not less than 15 days prior to the Primary day. Therefore, if you want to change parties, you will have to do it before Monday, May 26, 2008. If you have declared or changed to a party for the June Primary, you must remain in that party for 3 months before making any further party changes.

To vote in the November 4, 2008, Presidential Election, anyone of any party or unenrolled can vote for any candidate they wish regardless of party affiliation.

Road Runner Articles

Articles for the next edition of the Road Runner newsletter are due by Thursday, January 24th. Please provide them by any of the following methods:
- E-Mail: CD/DVD; Paper
- Articles should be submitted in RTF and pictures in JPEG format.

Raymond Rabies Clinic

Saturday, January 19, 2008 1pm to 3pm at the Town Office
401 Webb’s Mills Road (Route 85)

Eric Riddell, DVM, and his staff from Jordan Bay Animal Hospital will be administering the vaccinations. The fee is $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 on hand to license dogs for 2008.

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

Youngest Blue Belt

By Jani Cummings

On Monday, December 10, first-grader Miles Chapman achieved a great honor. After working very hard to learn 4 difficult kadas (karate routines), which he performed for an entire class of karate students and on-lookers, Miles was awarded his blue belt by his teacher, Sensei Lisa Magron of JFK Fitness in Casco. Miles, who is 7, is the youngest blue belt in RES and the youngest blue belt in the Casco dojo. As part of his training, Miles had to do the ‘Dragon 50,’ which is doing his kadas 50 times each! Miles is the son of Will and Holly Chapman, who live on Tenny Hill.

January Is National Mentoring Month!

One individual can make a powerful difference in the life of another – a difference beyond measure. Who mentored you? Perhaps a teacher? A coach? A neighbor? A caring adult? Take a moment this month to thank your mentors.

Become a mentor! You can help Raymond youth to make positive connections to our community, build social and life skills, explore personal or career goals, and experience a wide variety of new activities. To learn more about mentoring, call Christina or Candace at Raymond Mentoring Partnership. 655-8672, ext. 107.

Road Runner Staff:
John Hanley  Laurie Forbes
Norma Richard  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

Did you know the Raymond Road Runner can be mailed to your winter home or to an out-of-town relative or friend? A subscription is $8 per year. Contact: Louise Lester, Town Clerk, 401 Webb’s Mills Road, Raymond, ME 04071, 207-655-4742, x-21, louise.lester@raymondmaine.org
Raymond Village Library News
At a Glance
- Wednesday, January 2 – Storytimes resume
- Wednesday, January 30 – Book Discussion Group
Storytimes
The children’s storytimes will resume on January 2 after the short holiday break. Christy Zidle is the Storytime Coordinator, and the library hums with excitement, music and laughter Monday and Wednesday mornings when the “little ones” gather with parents and caregivers to share in the fun. On Mondays at 10am is Babytime; then at 11am the preschoolers come for their turn to see friends and hear new stories. On Wednesdays we have two storytimes for toddlers; one at 10am and another at 11am. At this time the 10am group is filled, but there is room in the 11am session. Please call the library at 655-4283 to get more information.

Thank You
The Holiday Bake Sale was a wonderful success. It raised almost $400 this year for the library. We wish to thank the those who purchased the special treats. We count on all of you to make this a successful fundraiser, and you never let us down. Many, many thanks and best wishes for a very happy, healthy New Year to all.

Compost Bin Order Deadline April 11th
You have until April 11th to place your order for the Maine Resource Recovery Association compost bin sale. Orders will be taken at the Town Office at $37.50 each (tax included). Checks should be written to “MRRRA” (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 37” 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 $8 each. And there is a new component of the composter, the wingdigger. This is a wand designed to stir the compost inside the bin. The price is $16.50.

All these items are displayed at the Town Office. These items will be available for delivery on or about May 10th. 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@raymonddmaine.org

Are Your Outside Animals Comfortable?
Winter brings with it special problems for your animals that live at least part of the day outdoors. The advent of cold temperatures, the possibility of a wet environment, lack of protection from the wind, and the inability to have adequate water and food to keep them in weight are an animal’s greatest adversaries in the winter.

Animals’ needs don’t change from summer to winter; they just get different. Whether it’s a dog or cat, horse, cow or llama, they all need enough water to keep them hydrated and enough food to provide calories to keep them from losing weight. They also need shelter from the rain, snow, and wind. When the weatherman talks about wind chill and temperature, that affects your animals as well. All animals also need enough room to move around especially in the cold. If you’ve ever stood outside waiting for a bus, you know how miserable cold and wind can be. Most animals can, if allowed, grow a wonderful winter coat, but once that hair/fur gets wet it can no longer insulate the animal and the animal will get cold very fast. If your pets don’t grow a heavy coat or they live indoors most of the time, be assured that not even a nice, warm-looking blanket can keep them warm enough if they must stay outdoors in adverse conditions.

Remember that all animals need exercise. You will have happier pets if they are allowed some time outdoors to run and play, as long as they don’t become cold. If you find your pet shivering, its body is trying to create heat to increase its core temperature. The shivering will use mega calories which must be replaced if the pet is to maintain his weight. Fresh water is also imperative so the pet’s body can maintain its functions. Without enough water, the pet can’t digest its food, even if it gets lots of it.

Another consideration to those who use the electric underground fencing is that pets are insulated from the ground by the snow, and electronic fencing becomes inadequate or totally nonfunctioning. Alternate restraint may become necessary to keep them from straying.

Jan 2
Library Toddlertime
7:00PM BC
Selectmen’s Meeting
Session I
10:00AM VL
Library Toddleftime Session I
11:00AM VL
Library Toddleftime Session II
7:00PM BC
Planning Board

Jan 3
10:00AM VL
Library Toddleftime Session I
11:00AM VL
Library Toddleftime Session II
7:00PM BC
TENTATIVE One Raymond Committee

Jan 4
7:00PM BC
RABIES CLINIC

Jan 5
1:00 - 3:00PM TH
RABIES CLINIC

Jan 6
10:00AM VL
Library Babytime
11:00AM VL
Library Preschool Storytime
8
7:00PM BC
Selectmen’s Meeting

Jan 7
10:00AM VL
Library Babytime
11:00AM VL
Library Preschool Storytime

Jan 8
10:00AM VL
Library Toddleftime
11:00AM VL
Library Toddleftime
7:00PM BC
Budget/Finance Committee

Jan 9
10:00AM VL
Library Toddleftime Session I
11:00AM VL
Library Toddleftime Session II

Jan 10
7:00PM BC
TENTATIVE One Raymond Committee

Jan 11

Jan 12

Jan 13
10:00AM VL
Library Babytime
11:00AM VL
Library Preschool Storytime
7:00PM BC
Budget/Finance Committee

Jan 14
10:00AM VL
Library Babytime
11:00AM VL
Library Preschool Storytime

Jan 15
10:00AM VL
Library Toddleftime
11:00AM VL
Library Toddleftime
7:00PM BC
Budget/Finance Committee

Jan 16
10:00AM VL
Library Toddleftime Session I
11:00AM VL
Library Toddleftime Session II

Jan 17
7:00PM BC
Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee
7:00PM BC
Budget/Finance Committee

Jan 18

Jan 19
1:00 - 3:00PM TH
RABIES CLINIC

Jan 20
10:00AM VL
Library Babytime
11:00AM VL
Library Preschool Storytime
22
7:00PM BC
Selectmen’s Meeting

Jan 21
10:00AM VL
Library Babytime
11:00AM VL
Library Preschool Storytime

Jan 22
7:00PM BC
Selectmen’s Meeting

Jan 23
10:00AM VL
Library Toddleftime Session I
11:00AM VL
Library Toddleftime Session II

Jan 24
7:00PM BC
Building Committee
7:00 PM TH
Cemetery Committee
ROADRUNNER DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE ARTICLES

Jan 25

Jan 26

Jan 27
10:00AM VL
Library Babytime
11:00AM VL
Library Preschool Storytime

Jan 28
10:00AM VL
Library Babytime
11:00AM VL
Library Preschool Storytime

Jan 29
7:00PM VL
Book Discussion Group

Jan 30
10:00AM VL
Library Babytime
11:00AM VL
Library Preschool Storytime

Jan 31
7:00PM BC
Conservation Commission Meeting

February 2008
At a Glance
- Monday, February 4 – Selectmen’s Meeting
- Thursday, February 28 – Library Toddleftime
Storytimes
Please call the library at 655-4283 to get more information.

Thank You
Thank you for a wonderful Winter Reading Program this year. We hope you’ve been able to find all of the great reads out there for you and the children. The children’s reading programs and the Book Group will resume on February 1.

Book Group
This discussion group will meet Wednesday, February 1, to share their opinions on Peter Mayle’s book 4 Good Year. We invited anyone who is interested in attending to ask for the book at the library and join us in this discussion. Please call the library for more information.

Events and Meeting Schedule

Raymond Village Library Preschool Storytime
Notice from County about their dispatch services. Mr. Reynolds related that County had given a presentation on how the PFCOGF for their bond in Yarmouth would be handled. Mr. Desjardins noted that this would mean that all communications would be handled locally with the Sheriff’s Office.

County’s current budget includes the payments for the debt to be voted on with a split of 40% to the Sheriff’s Department and 60% to the dispatch. Mr. Desjardins said that the microwave system will be a redundant system in case the original system fails.

Mr. Gendron noted a vote to increase the number of Cumberland County Commissioners. He felt that there had been very little publicity to date about this election issue.

He continued that the bond issue on the County Jail infirmary was mentioned because the current facility is too small. He also noted that Mercy Hospital would not be charging by Medicaid rate but full rate for the jail. Mr. Bruno felt it was a safety issue as well. Mr. Reynolds asked to have an agenda item the second meeting of the month for the PFCOGF update.

7. Adjournment.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Joe Bruno.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

ADJOURNMENT: Mark Gendron adjourned the meeting at 8:47 pm.

Louise H. Lester Town Clerk

Tuesday, November 20, 2007

ATTENDANCE: Mark Gendron, Chairman; Joe Bruno; Lonnie Taylor; and Mike Reynolds.

SELECTEN MEMBERS ABSENT: Dana Desjardins.

STAFF ATTENDANCE: Don Willard, Town Manager; Marc Bullock and Charles Leavitt.

1. Call to order. Mark Gendron called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm at the Broadcast Studio.


MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

VOTE: 3 in favor (Bruno, Taylor, Desjardins) 2 opposed (Gendron, Reynolds).

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of $39,517.36. Seconded by Joe Bruno.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gendron reported that they had
DISCUSSION: Mr. Bruno reported that the meeting is December 3, 2007 and anyone is welcome to attend. He felt that Raymond pays the other towns tuition and new development/subdivision road names would be required. He felt that road name changes could be a policy shift rather than just naming new roads. He felt that road name changes could be a policy shift rather than just naming new roads. Mr. Willard felt that naming new roads could be a policy shift rather than just naming new roads. Mr. Willard felt that road name changes could be a policy shift rather than just naming new roads.

Mr. Willard replied yes, but not excessive at this time. VOTE: Unanimous 4-0


DISCUSSION: Mr. Reynolds reported that one item being discussed was a regional economic development plan. This plan would be a policy shift for the participating cities and towns in not having individual offices. There will also be required policy training for municipal official certification.

Mr. Willard thought it was probably a requirement for NIMS. Mr. Reynolds said this was a new state law that every elected official be certified by November 2008. He felt this training was necessary for GPCOG to apply for federal funds.

Mr. Reynolds added that GPCOG was working on ordinance changes in the Commercial District i.e. a zero setback from the right of way on Roosevelt Trail (Route 302). Also looking at allowing 3-story buildings with mixed use retail on the ground floor and residential on the 2nd and 3rd floors. These changes will be going to public hearing and the next annual town meeting.

Mr. Gendron reported that the Cumberland County Commissioner Budget Meeting in Raymond on November 6th announced an 8.07% increase for next year. There was one commissioner and 3 budget members attending. This tax rate would not allow Raymond to meet its LD 1 limit without sacrificing some part of the municipal budget.

Mr. Taylor motioned to write a letter to the County Commissioners telling them that Raymond expects to stay within the annual LD1 limit and not seek additional credits from other years.

Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard felt the letter should tell them that they should stay to the LD1 limits for the current year. Mr. Bruno noted that Raymond would have to make dramatic cuts in our budget to allow us to stay under the LD1 limit in order to cover the County increase. Mr. Reynolds had a problem with the County increasing its budget under LD1 limit if it really isn’t for their actual current year limit rather adding other year’s “credits.”

Mr. Bruno noted Raymond’s limit is 3.04 for next year 2008-2009.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

4. Old (unfinished) business.
   a. None

5. Town Manager Report and Communications.

a. Beautification Committee Sharon Dodson asked if they could accept charitable contributions for a Beautification Committee Fund and have a designated fund which would be a non-profit/tax deductible donation.

   MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to approve a dedicated account for the Beautification Committee. Seconded by Mike Reynolds. VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

b. Donations from the Pink Tulip Project from Maine Cancer for a town garden.

   c. 2004 Chevrolet half-ton 2-wheeler drive truck.

   Mr. Willard announced that they had sold at a small profit a public works pickup truck. He said that they would look for a replacement at State Surplus.

   MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to approve. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor. VOTE: Unanimous 4-0


   MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of $38,839.98. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

   VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

   MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Warrant in the amount of $189,739.75 Secended by Mike Reynolds. VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

7. Adjournment. MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to adjourn.

Seconded by Lonnie Taylor. VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

ADJOURNMENT: Mark Gendron adjourned the meeting at 8:39 PM.

Louise H. Lester Town Clerk

Notes from the Code Enforcement Office

Wood If I Could

With the high cost of fossil fuels and the concerns about global warming from burning them, many people are considering installing wood burning heaters. Wood is renewable, relatively cheap (even free with a little work), and does not contribute to a carbon footprint.

However, building codes may not allow the use of wood in some homes.

In Raymond, as in some other towns, a solid fuel stove must be vented to a masonry chimney. Metal insulated chimneys are not allowed for use with wood or coal. Wood pellets are not considered to be solid fuels and may be vented to a metal insulated chimney; check with the owner’s manual to see if your pellet stove requires a masonry chimney. So, if you do not have a masonry chimney, you may not have a wood stove in your house.

The town is currently reevaluating the Chimney Ordinance. When enacted, metal chimneys could withstand normal burn temperatures, but could become damaged by a chimney fire. At that time, the manufacturers required that a metal chimney be disassembled and inspected following a chimney fire.

If you do have a masonry chimney and would like to install a wood stove, you must meet clearance distances to combustible materials. Generally, all parts of the stove must be 36 inches, and the stove pipe must be 18 inches, from combustible materials. Some stoves may have reduced clearances, check the manufacturer’s specifications to see if less than 36 inches is allowed for your stove. The clearance may also be reduced by installing a barrier between the stove and the combustibles. Remember that the clearance also applies to the thimble where the stove pipe enters the chimney flue. A good source of information on wood stove installation can be found on the State Fire Marshal’s office website (maine.gov/dep/fire). Any wood used as fuel must be free of paints or other chemicals. This includes the use of plywood and particle board. Household waste should never be burned in a wood stove.

For real warmth and comfort, nothing beats a wood stove. It warms you many times: when you cut it, when you stack it, when you carry it in and when you burn it. Just be sure to install your stove so that it is safe. You don’t want to warm the members of the fire department by causing your house to catch fire.
Maine Forest Service: Cold Weather Still No Time to Haul Firewood

No matter how cold it gets, it’s never a safe time to haul firewood far from home. That’s the message the Maine Forest Service is reminding wood enthusiasts who pack warm clothes and firewood for trips this season.

Like summer campers, autumn and winter recreationists often pack firewood from home when they travel to hunting camps and ski chalets. The long-distance movement of firewood can bring with it a long-distance movement of tree-killing pests. “Some people think it’s safe to move firewood when it’s cold out,” said Maine Forest Service Entomologist Charlene Donahue. “But that’s not true.”

“If unused firewood gets left here in the winter, the insects inside the logs will come out next spring. Freezing temperatures rarely kill insects. After all, they live outside,” she added.

The Maine Forest Service is asking winter outdoor enthusiasts to do their part for forest health — today and every day — by leaving firewood at home. Local or kiln dried wood is best for the hearth, stove, and forest, they say.

The U.S. Forest Service says invasive species is one of the top threats facing America’s forests. The emerald ash borer, a particularly harmful invasive insect, has already killed more than 20 million ash trees in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. If brought to Maine via firewood and left unburned, it would bring to Maine via firewood and left unburned, it would.

For those of you who are not familiar with it, Project AWARE comprises a group of middle and high school students from Saco and was created in 2003 in response to the epidemic of youth prescription drug abuse. The program has expanded its mission to include all issues of youth. Accomplishments include reaching over 4,500 young people across the state through direct presentations, including 80+ Youth Empowerment Workshops (YEWs) over 2,000 young people using in-depth educational and awareness-raising activities to engage youth in discussions and taking action. Project AWARE indicates that,”

Program News
We had a great holiday season at the RED Program. The children enjoyed various activities from decorating ornaments to making gifts for family. We ended the month with a holiday party and a gift exchange. We would like to thank all of the families who donated food and gifts for the program. We currently have open enrollment. To get more information on our rates or to see a list of activities for the RED program, please visit us online at:

http://www.projectware.net, or contact Christina Lamarre at 655-3672 x 107 or via e-mail at mentor@raymondmaine.org.

Raymond Road Runner
Deadline Reminder
Articles for the February issue are due Thursday, January 24th.

Raymond Extended Day
Program News
We had a great holiday season at the RED Program. The children enjoyed various activities from decorating ornaments to making gifts for family. We ended the month with a holiday party and a gift exchange. We would like to thank all of the families who donated food and gifts for the program. We currently have open enrollment. To get more information on our rates or to see a list of activities for the RED program, please visit us online at:

http://www.projectware.net, or contact Christina Lamarre at 655-3672 x 107 or via e-mail at mentor@raymondmaine.org.

Sand/Salt Available at Plains Road Facility
Raymond residents can obtain two 5-gallon pails of sand for use on their stairs and walkways at the Public Works area on Plains Road (FL 89) from 7am to 3pm Monday through Friday only.

This area has video security and will be monitored. This sand/salt is not for commercial use. It is a convenience for our residents.

Recycling Bins Available
Raymond’s Recycling Committee has arranged to have the Town Office to have blue recycling bins for sale. They would like to encourage recycling in Raymond and fell that having the bins available to the residents was one way to increase the program. The price of a bin is $6.50, which is the cost to the town. Bins are available at the Town Office during regular business hours.

January Selectmen’s Meetings
Tuesday, January 8th, 7pm, and Tuesday, January 22nd, 7pm, at the Broadcast Studio next to the Jordan-Small Middle School and on Cable Channel 2

Animal Control Report
October – December 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 16</td>
<td>Checking registered kennels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>Checking registered kennels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>Cat to lab – Rabies test results negative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 25</td>
<td>Meeting with dispatch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 26</td>
<td>Animal Control Seminar – Scarborough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 26</td>
<td>Pit Bull in yard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 29</td>
<td>Golden Retriever missing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 30</td>
<td>Recheck on missing dog</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 01</td>
<td>Loaned Havahart trap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 02</td>
<td>Skunk acting strangely</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 06</td>
<td>Problem with skunks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 08</td>
<td>Dog barking in AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>Dog running on roadway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>Barking warning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>Stolen dog - turned over to Casco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 13</td>
<td>Watching for dog in road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>Talked with stolen dog’s owner</td>
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<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>Equipment maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>Civil Problem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>Cat bitten - quarantine for 45 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>Dog at large - ticket issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 16</td>
<td>Statements for court</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 17</td>
<td>Statement for Casco case</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 20</td>
<td>Cat bitten by unknown animal - quarantine for 45 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Information about stolen dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 26</td>
<td>Cat bitten by unknown animal - quarantine for 45 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 26</td>
<td>Cat to Animal Refuge League</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 27</td>
<td>Three dogs at large - all returned to owner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>Lost cat found at Animal Refuge League</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>Fox in yard - called Warden Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 30</td>
<td>Equipment maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 02</td>
<td>State warden called about dogs chasing deer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 02</td>
<td>Stray feral cat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 07</td>
<td>Possibly dogs being abused - investigated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 07</td>
<td>Advised complainant of findings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 07</td>
<td>Met with North Windham veterinarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 09</td>
<td>Neighbor &quot;A’s&quot; dog in yard - gone on arrival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 09</td>
<td>Neighbor “B’s” dog in yard - gone on arrival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 10</td>
<td>Dog missing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 10</td>
<td>Two dogs missing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 10</td>
<td>Sent letters on unlicensed dogs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 12</td>
<td>Neighbor “A’s” dog in yard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 13</td>
<td>Information on missing dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 14</td>
<td>Found missing dog</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 14</td>
<td>Reunited missing dog with owner</td>
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<td>Dec 17</td>
<td>Merry Christmas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 17</td>
<td>Two settlers missing from New Gloucester</td>
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<td>Dec 18</td>
<td>Guard dog loose</td>
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At Your Library -- Armchair Traveler Reading for Long Winter Nights

By Kimberly Post Rowe

Current Times, Olden Times -- Truth Can Be Stranger than Fiction

Yes, the truth can be stranger than fiction, and non-fiction can be as enjoyable a read as well! With the long hours of winter darkness ahead, before the daylight hours start extending significantly, curling up with a good book and your favorite beverage at hand may just be the way to combat some of those seasonal doldrums.

The library’s long range plan includes the goal to expand Current Titles and Topics. Therefore, it’s not surprising that Raymond Village Library Director Barbara Thorpe has researched best seller lists, read reviews and made critical selections to add books on current topics to the non-fiction collection. The newly acquired non-fiction books are in the window nook area to the right of the front door, both on the table and window shelf. Next time you visit the library, see which of the many titles pique your curiosity.

For the armchair traveler with a bent to current events and world politics, that world can quite literally be an open book. Some of the newly acquired non-fiction titles that illustrate this point are:

- The Elephant and the Dragon--The Rise of India and China and What It Means to All of Us.
- Mirrors of the Unseen, a 2007 Pulitzer Prize winner, where a frequent traveler and renowned, eye-opening look at ordinary Iraqis. The “Providence Journal” states that its author Jason Elliott “writes like a dream.”
- Overthrow--America’s Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq
- Imperial Life in the Emerald City: a journalist’s view of the first year of the United States of America’s presence in post-Saddam Iraq

Power, Faith and Fantasy: America in the Middle East 1776 to Present.

For the armchair traveler who wants to stay closer to home, your main attraction might be, well, Maine! From Native American history to past political figures to its locales, some of the newly acquired non-fiction titles on Maine are:

- Katahdin, A Historic Journey: Legends, Exploration and Preservation of Maine’s Highest Peak
- A chunk of Algonquin Sprits: Translation of Algonquin Literature
- L.L. Bean: The Making of an American Icon

Continental liar from the State of Maine: James G. Blaine

Creating Portland

Sir John Popham

While the above illustrates only two areas of non-fiction, the library’s growing non-fiction collection is broad, with books from do-it-yourself topics to biographies, from history to space travel, from anatomy to zoology. On your next visit, take some time to browse and discover what’s available on a non-fiction topic of your interest. Barbara and the staff of volunteers will gladly help you find what you’re looking for. If a specific title you’re hoping to find is not available, the Raymond Village Library can obtain it for you for free through the Inter-Library Loan program.

As a armchair traveler, or if you just enjoy reading while sitting in armchair, please stop by the library, make your book selection and then stay for awhile. The chairs are comfortable and the atmosphere is friendly. Enjoy your winter reading. Enjoy your library.

Raymond Planning Board Needs Help

The Raymond Planning Board is looking for two positions to be filled. This board meets once a month applying Raymond’s ordinances to residential and commercial development. It also prepares ordinance changes to come before the Town Meeting. They need your help.

Please forward your letters of interest, including a short resume, to:

Louise Lester, Town Clerk
401 Wells Mills Road
Raymond, ME 04071
or e-mail louise.lester@raymondmaine.org.

You can also apply through our website www.raymondmaine.org.

Look for the Volunteer Application.

The Healing Power of Kindness

By Kimberly Post Rowe

The Wellness Committee

One kind word can warm three winter months.

-Japanese proverb

You’re stuck in traffic, and someone keeps honking. Or you’re out to dinner with friends, and the person at the next table is talking loudly on his cell phone. Whatever happened to being nice?

rudeness is on the rise. We all have our bad days, but where does a snarl get anyone? Being courteous instead of caustic does a snarl get anyone? Being courteous instead of caustic will not only make your life easier, but it can also lower your stress levels and improve your health.

If you’ve ever been surly, chances are you are trying to protect your children. Parents who commit kind acts feel generous, optimistic, and cooperative; and they look at others more charitably,” says Dr. Frischione. Recent studies support this, showing that generosity is associated with improved mental health and decreased mortality.

Kindness Tips

To exercise your kindness muscle, try practicing these 10 tips:

- Smile more often — it’s contagious.
- Look for acts of kindness so you can become more aware of them.
- Choose to be nice, especially when you feel pressured.
- Offer help before others ask for it.
- Volunteer in your community or make a charitable donation.
- Let someone get in front of you in line.
- Leave a large tip.
- Water an elderly neighbor’s garden.
- Be gracious when others are kind to you.
- Teach your children kindness by example.

RES Principal’s Report

By Norma Richard

I want to express my sincere thanks to our students, their families, the RES staff, and the Raymond community for their outstanding efforts during the holiday season to collect and distribute toys and food to our community. It was such a pleasure to see the students maneuver the shopping cart each Monday and Friday, and to see the wonderful donations that were brought into school. Everyone who worked on these projects, including the Harvest Hills Animal Shelter collection, which will continue through January, should feel a lot of community pride.

I want to recognize the hard work done each and every day by our bus drivers. They have one of the most difficult jobs in our school district. The poor road conditions due to the ice and snow make their work even more difficult. Children riding the buses are expected to stay seated at all times (remember the rhyme, “Bottom to bottom, back to back, with my backpack on my lap”). Children who do not stay in their seats, who are not sitting properly, or who are moving when the bus is in motion put themselves and others at risk for an injury. Parents are asked to review bus procedures with their children on a frequent basis and to recognize the great efforts of our bus drivers.

We have had a lot of snow in December, and we all know that there will be more to come in the next few months. Our bus drivers want to remind parents to have their children wait in their driveway and not at the side of the road. The roads are very slippery and the snow banks are getting high, and we want all students to be safe while waiting for the bus.

Often we get feedback that parents find the school phones to be too busy when they call school. We only have three phone lines to handle all of the calls to phones in classrooms and offices. In the event of a busy signal, you can always contact the school in one of the following ways:

- E-mail our front office at mindy.mckinney@raymondmaine.org. This is the easiest way to get messages regarding a change in busing or an early pick-up to the office. Please e-mail well before 3pm to be sure we get your message to your student.
- If your phone call is an emergency or priority, call the Jordan-Small Middle School at 655-4743, and they will get a message to RES.
- As our fax is a separate landline, you can always send a fax to RES at 655-8664.
- E-mail your child’s teacher directly with any questions, concerns or information that needs to go to the teacher.

In closing, have you made your New Year’s Resolution yet? If you set a goal of reading with your children every day, you will improve their success at school. Research shows that your children will be even more successful if they also see the adults in their lives reading. Spend some time over vacation visiting the library together. The Raymond Village Library is open every Sunday, Monday and Wednesday from 10am to 7pm.

News from the Health Office

By Kristina Truesdale, RN
School District Nurse

Fall semester has indeed been busy here in the health office at Raymond Elementary School. No two days are ever the same! As the school district nurse, I have attended multiple trainings this year, including several sponsored by the Maine Association of School Nurses and the Department of Education, as well as the American Association of Pediatrics and the Maine Children’s Hospital and Maine Medical Center. These conferences keep me updated on the latest information in pediatric care. In the new year we will be hosting Preventive Partners here at Raymond Elementary School. Preventive Partners will provide oral health services to all students in the Raymond School District. Happy New Year!
Legislative Update

Rep. John C Robinson

The New Year is upon us, and new financial problems abound in Augusta. It is often joked in the State House that the budget is built like a house of cards. It is a small problem that could bring the whole thing tumbling down. Unfortunately for Maine taxpayers, the joke is no longer very funny.

The state is facing a $95-million deficit in its current biennial budget. You might wonder how a two-year budget could already be in such a deep hole when it is less than six months old. Part of the “credit” goes to State Treasurer David Lemoine, who told the state revenue projectors last spring that he could bring in $28 million from outstanding gift cards. That’s right: he said the state could seize huge sums of money by laying claim to unused gift cards from retail stores headquartered in other states. The administration “booked” the money to help close a budget gap and end the legislative stalemate surrounding the budget.

The money booked by the revenue forecasting committee never materialized, and this one lost revenue stream accounts for nearly a third of the current budget crisis. On May 1 of this year a new tax policy went into effect that required all out-of-state retailers to turn over 60 percent of the value of any gift cards they sold in Maine that had gone unused for two years. The policy already had applied to businesses in the state, such as L.L. Bean and Marden’s. With the recent explosion in the sale of gift cards nationally, however, it became apparent that any tax into a gold mine by going after companies all across the country.

The expectation of $28 million in revenue was based on wishful thinking. There are few records kept about unused gift cards, the retailers only know the monetary value of their gift cards sold nationally and how many have been redeemed. How many were sold exclusively in Maine and, more importantly, how many were given as gifts to Maine residents are now employed by these businesses. And, it is a good thing, too, because overregulation and high taxation have already shut down many local businesses.

The State Treasurer and the administration picked the wrong fight on this one, and it looks as if the retailers involved are girding for a showdown in court. If this law is not repealed, Maine taxpayers could be on the hook for even more money as the attorney general wages an expensive legal battle to collect these funds. It’s also unfortunate that Maine has been reduced to a kind of beggar status, trying to scratch up money wherever it can.

State Rep. John C. Robinson (R-Raymond) serves on the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee and is the Republican Lead on the House Ethics Committee. John can be contacted via phone at 655-8657 or e-mailed at RepJohn.Robinson@legislature.maine.gov

Tips for Trash/Recycling

Keeping in mind that snow is here, and it won’t be spring for a few months, Pine Tree Waste would like to impart a few tips for successful trash/recycling pickup.

1. Have your trash/recycling curbside by 7am.
2. Have your street address written on your barrels along with the orange town stickers.
3. If you are on a private road, be sure the road is plowed by 7am.
4. If the road is icy, please have the road sanded.
5. Be sure that the snow banks in the road and turnaround are pushed back, giving the trucks full space to maneuver.
6. If your road is not safe for the trash/recycling trucks to traverse, your trash/recycling will not be picked up until the following week, providing the road is then passable by the trucks.
7. Prepare a location for your trash barrels/recycling containers that is not in a travel lane i.e. in your driveway.
8. If you need to leave your trash barrels curbside, have a shed marked as “trash” to store them in so that they aren’t “floating” around during the week.
9. Put your trash cans/recycling containers in plain sight and not behind a snow bank.
10. If it’s snowing, don’t put out paper recycling – only plastic, cans, and glass.
11. Separate your recycling types into different containers i.e. brown paper bags in one recycling bin. The bags will be returned to you in the recycling bin for further use.
12. Cardboard is recycled at the Public Works/Fire Station on Webb’s Mills Road (Rt. 85) in East Raymond. Please break down your boxes and put them inside the dumpsters. Leaving cardboard on the ground will make it into “trash” because it gets wet and is then non-recyclable.
13. Get involved with our recycling program – join the Raymond Recycling Committee. Contact Louise Lester, the trash lady, at the Town Office 655-4742 or louise.lester@raymondmaine.org

Boston Post Cane Candidates Requested

The town is interested in finding the oldest resident of Raymond in order to award the Boston Post Cane certificate.

In 1909 the Boston Post Cane was donated by the Boston, Massachusetts, newspaper the BOSTON POST to any New England town that qualified for and requested a cane to be held by the town’s oldest citizen. Originally there were 431 canes throughout New England. The cane is ebony with a 14 carat gold head inscribed thus:

Presented by THE BOSTON POST to the OLDEST CITIZEN of Raymond, Maine to be transmitted

This cane has been in continuous use since 1909. Today the cane remains in the Town Hall for its protection and the recipients receive a certificate of recognition.

If you are a candidate or know someone who might be, please contact Louise Lester at the Town Office at 655-4742 or louise.lester@raymondmaine.org

Proof of birth date will be requested.

2008 Dog Tags Available

Dog licensing can now be done for 2008. 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 $5 and non-neutered is $11. All dogs must be licensed by January 31, 2008. 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 19, 2008, from 1–3pm at the Town Office.
Raymond Little Leaguers Get “Tips” from a Pro

Thomas “Tip” Fairchild, minor league baseball player for the Houston Astros, conducted a pitching/throwing clinic for local youth in Raymond. The clinic was divided into two Wednesday evenings, November 28th and December 5th. This is Tip’s second time teaching in Raymond.

Nineteen players from Raymond participated in the clinic, which was made up of 25 Sebago Long Lake Cal Ripken players ages 9 to 13. Coaches chose participants based on their ability, sportsmanship and commitment to baseball.

The program included proper techniques for safety, agility, warm-ups, pitching and throwing, all geared to their age group.

Tip brought with him a wealth of knowledge and experience that he has gained while in the minors. Earlier this year, he was one of only 6 minor league players invited to attend Nolan Ryan’s elite pitching camp. While there, he was coached by Nolan Ryan himself, as well as Roger Clemens and Dave Wallace (former Red Sox pitcher coaching).

Tip was also selected to play in the minor league All Star game. He pitched to rookie Red Sox player Jacoby Ellsbury and against rookie pitcher Clay Buchholtz.

Tip wrapped up the clinic by giving all participants individual coaching on how to work on their new skills. Before they left, Tip personally autographed baseballs and pictures for each boy in attendance.

After being sidelined by an injury, Tip has been doing months of physical therapy and training to get ready for the upcoming season. He leaves for Houston in February to start training for the 2008 season. If all goes well, he may be slated to play some major league games for the Astros!

Raymond Conservation Commission

Report on the December 5, 2007, Open Space Plan Public Workshop

On December 5th the Raymond Conservation Commission (RCC) held a public workshop in the Jordan-Small Middle School cafeteria to unveil its inventory of Raymond’s open space and natural resources. The committee has been compiling data and creating maps over the past two years. The workshop was open to the public, but written invitations were also sent to owners of larger parcels since most of the resources identified in the inventory are on those larger parcels. Over 40 people with varied interests and perspectives attended and participated in discussions and activities designed to gauge the concerns and values of the community.

The 2004 Comprehensive Plan sets out town policies for safeguarding water quality, protection of shared natural resources, preservation of prime forest and agriculture land, preservation of the Town’s scenic areas, increasing open space, and the creation of trails. The plan gives the RCC responsibility for implementing strategies to achieve those policies. It also identifies the all-important task of creating an Open Space Plan for prioritizing open space purchases. Creating an inventory of Raymond’s natural resources is the first step in that planning process.

The Workshop

The workshop provided an opportunity for citizens to view the six inventory maps (water resources, habitat resources, community character resources, productive lands); to learn how the maps were developed; to learn what information was collected for the inventory; and to discuss the planning process and the goals of the RCC.

The evening began with an opportunity to informally view the maps and meet with committee members and other attendees. The committee then made a presentation on the functions of open space and natural resources, the historic and recent growth patterns in Raymond, and the planning process and results to date. The presentation focused on selected inventory maps to show how computerized mapping (Geographic Information Systems or GIS analysis) allows for identifying land areas that have multiple open space values.

Following the presentation everyone broke into smaller groups to discuss topics relating to open space planning such as:

- What is it about life in Raymond that is valued the most and that should be passed on to your children and/or grandchildren?
- How do people feel about increasing the amount of open space in Raymond to protect natural resources through prioritized public open space purchases?
- How do people feel about each of the three basic sets of strategies for protecting/conserving land:
  - Acquisition/Easement
  - Regulation and Zoning
  - Incentive/Voluntary programs
- What are your highest priorities for conservation and protection and what values do you believe are most threatened?

Participants were also asked to indicate their conservation priorities through a “value voting” exercise in which everyone had 20 make-believe $5000 bills to put on any or all of the inventory maps representing the six categories of resources.

Citizen Input

Although the results of the voting exercise should not be viewed as statistical certainty, they do provide insight into the preferences, values and concerns of Raymond citizens.

“Water quality” was far and away the resource category receiving the most “money,” with 50% of the total. “Recreation resources” and “environmental, health and safety resources” garnered the next most support with 16% and 15% respectively. “Habitat protection” received 11%, and “productive lands” and “community character” received 4% each.

Finally, the participants were given the opportunity to identify areas in town that are exceptional to them in some way, whether it be where they walk, ride or ski, a dramatic view, a quiet spot, a choice fishing hole or any other place that has special significance. These locations will be mapped and will become part of an inventory of places that give the community its character and its appeal.

Several themes arose in the small group discussions and during other opportunities for public comment. Many people identified the water quality of Raymond’s lakes, and its streams and rivers, as the greatest asset of the town for reasons of health, natural beauty, habitat quality, economic opportunity, property value and more. As one person put it “everything else in town follows from pristine water.”

Some felt that water quality was also the resource most at risk in town.

Many people observed that as the town has changed, the attitudes and practices concerning access to land have changed. There were interesting and important discussions concerning the rights of landowners and how those might balance with community interest in retaining its character and access to open lands and waterfronts. Concepts around location of development were also a frequent topic of discussion, particularly how the town might find ways to encourage development to occur in such a way that the most highly valued open space resources are preserved.

Next Steps

The RCC will take the information from the workshop and create summary maps that seek to reflect the open space values provided by Raymond citizens and that identify high priority areas. The next phase of planning will be to develop policies, strategies, tools and, with public input, a funding plan for protecting valuable areas that meets the goals of the planning process.

For more information on the Open Space planning process or the Raymond Conservation Commission contact John Rand at 655-4277 or jrand@fairpoint.net. RCC meetings are open to the public and are held the last Tuesday of each month, September through May, in the Broadcast Studio (Portable Classroom) at 7pm.