

## Windham's oldest resident dies at 106

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

The Town of Windham's oldest resident has died at the age of 106.

Hazel P. Gilman, who was born July 20, 1918, passed away Oct. 9 in Gorham.

She was the daughter of Harry M. Plummer and Mildred Lord Plummer and graduated from Windham High School in 1935.

When Hazel was 2 years old, her parents moved in with her grandparents to help take care of them.

"My grandfather was deaf and blind, so my mom and dad wanted to be there and help them out in any way they could," Gilman told *The Windham Eagle* in 2021.

After high school she stayed in Windham and in 1941 she married Kenneth Gilman, and they enjoyed 55 years together until his death in 1996. The couple did not have any children of their own but helped to raise Hazel's three younger brothers in the family's home.

"My mother died at the age of 50, leaving my father a widower, so Ken and I stepped in to help raise my younger brother," she said.

Her father remarried and together, he and his new wife welcomed two more sons into their lives. But tragedy struck the family a second time



**Hazel Gilman, Windham's oldest resident, died Oct. 9 at the age of 106. She was a 1935 graduate of Windham High School and was married to her husband Ken for 55 years until his death in 1996.** PHOTO BY LORRAINE GLOWCZAK

when Gilman's stepmother died from cancer in her 50s. Once again Gilman and her husband stepped up to raise the two young sons.

Gilman was employed by Universal Watkins and National Medical

Care and upon her retirement she served as a volunteer at Brighton Hospital.

In 2018 at the age of 100, Windham Town Clerk Linda Morrell presented Gilman with the town's Boston Post Cane, for her being the oldest living resident of Windham.

She was reticent about receiving that distinction, saying "It's nothing I've done to deserve it. I just happen to be the oldest person alive in Windham."

The Boston Post Cane originated in 1909, when replicas were sent to the selectmen of 700 towns in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island. Made of ebony

imported from Africa and featuring a 14-carat gold head two inches long, decorated by hand, and with a ferruled tip, the canes came with instructions to be presented to the community's oldest citizen. When the re-

ipient died, it was to be given to the successor to the title. This tradition was the idea of Boston Post Publisher Edwin Grozier and continues in Windham and many towns across New England to this day.

When Hazel was young, community and neighborhood gatherings would often happen spontaneously, she told the newspaper in 2021.

"I remember one of our neighbors was a piano teacher," Gilman said. "In the evenings, he would practice and when he started playing, music came through the windows and the whole neighborhood would hear it, gather around, sitting on his lawn, listening, and singing to the songs we knew. We'd experience a concert right then and there."

Modern inventions she witnessed during her lifetime made life more convenient but detracted from the community's dependence upon one another, she said.

"I put laundry in the washing machine the other day and it dawned on me that I can have my clothes washed and dried in a couple of hours," Gilman said. "It would have taken my mom two days to do the same amount of laundry by the time she boiled the water, soaked the clothes, hung them out to dry and then ironed them. I

→ see **GILMAN** Page 4

## Town of Raymond welcomes new Finance Director

By Kendra Raymond

STAFF WRITER

Brenda Fox-Howard has hit the ground running as the newly hired Finance Director for the Town of Raymond. On board since late August of this year, Howard is busy learning the ropes and getting up to speed on the town's financial operations.

A seasoned veteran working in town government, Howard hopes to integrate her years of experience into her new role.

"I have over 15 years of government financial experience working with different municipalities in and outside of Maine," she said. "I enjoy the small community feel – it's just my preference."

Raymond Town Manager Sue Look said that she is pleased with the addition of Fox-Howard.

"Brenda has jumped in with both feet. She's doing a fantastic job," Look said. "We are thrilled to have her."

Fox-Howard says that she's optimistic about her new role and is enjoying getting to know folks from all walks of life in Raymond.

"There is a lot of vibrance here. Certainly, a lot of moving parts going on, and that is great," she said.

She said that she is quite familiar with the area, having served as the interim Town Manager of New Gloucester recently.

As the Town of Raymond's Di-

rector of Finance, Fox-Howard also serves as the town's Treasurer. She oversees a vast array of financial responsibilities associated with the town's operations. Fox-Howard says that some of her responsibilities include managing accounts payable and receivable, overseeing payroll and taxes, bank reconciliation, and a lot of general ledger management.

According to the position advertisement, the job description states, "This is a full-time position reporting to the Town Manager and is responsible for all activities and operations of the Finance Department. The Finance Director will be responsible for the collection and disbursement of all municipal funds. Duties include budgeting, investment of funds, financial forecasting, and capital planning. Also invoice payment, payroll management, cash receipts, bank deposits, any other financial transactions. The Finance Director is responsible for the preparation of the town's annual budget, while working closely with the Town Manager and all department heads. Will also work with financial advisor to prepare for bond financing. Must have the ability to prepare the required reports as mandated by Federal, State, and County agencies and serve as the chief liaison with the accounting firm. Will be responsible for seeking bids for all insurance and administer employee



**Brenda Fox-Howard is the new Finance Director for Raymond. She is currently working on formulating next year's budget for review by the Budget-Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen.** SUBMITTED PHOTO

medical insurance enrollment." Fox-Howard says that the town is currently conducting an audit, and along with that she is presently working on formulating next year's budget for review by the Raymond Budget-Finance Committee and the Raymond Board of Selectmen.

She's happy to report that the cur-

rent software system used by Raymond is "good to go for many years to come" and the town is working on a new purchase order system.

Originally from Connecticut, Fox-Howard has been a Maine resident for many years. She received her education at Colorado Technical University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Management. She has previously worked as the director of finance in several towns, including Peterborough, New Hampshire, Putnam, Connecticut, and Winchester, Connecticut. She's also served as a materials analyst at several companies in Connecticut including General Dynamics Electric Boat Division in Groton, Millstone Nuclear Power Station in Waterford, and Dow Chemical in Gales Ferry, where she was also a rail fleet manager, and as a Financial Manager III for the State of Vermont from 2012 to 2014.

Fox-Howard says she has a positive outlook about her new position in Raymond.

"Everybody has been very nice to work with. It's such a great group," she said. "Even though I been very busy, I am enjoying the small-town feel here in Raymond." <

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# INSIGHT

## Humility doesn't need to be noticed

I recently read a magazine article which drew distinctions between a sense of humility and having excessive pride in an achievement that you've accomplished.

The article's author mentions that humility is a character trait of self-esteem and suggests that lofty achievements do not require you to brag or gloat about them, while pride is a personal quality of recognizing that you've personally done something significant and are happy about it.

In the article, it cited a survey saying that most Americans found that humility was not a character trait that translated to life satisfaction and not something sought in a leader, a great athlete or a movie star. Results of the survey indicated that Americans look at our culture as a competition where only the best person lands the job, wins the Olympic medal, is elected to a government position, or can afford the purchase of an \$8 million home.

The author related that in the day and age that we live in, it's tough to understand the need for humility in our society and how we all deal with each other every day.

This made me think of some of the people I have admired in my lifetime, and what made them special to me.

I'll start with my father, who was a World War II veteran. He never wanted to be a soldier, in high school he had his mind set on becoming a mechanical engineer and designing things to make people's lives better. Yet on his 18th birthday in 1943, his draft notice from the U.S. Army arrived in the mail.

Trained for the infantry, he was assigned to a combat unit bound for Libya and Morocco and then to an outfit participating in the liberation of Anzio, Italy from the Germans. During that battle, a vital communications line at a forward outpost had been severed, so a volunteer was sought to see what had happened to it and to restore it. When that volunteer didn't come back, a second volunteer was sought. Again, hours passed, and it was determined that a third volunteer was needed to find out what had happened and repair the broken communications line.

That third volunteer was my father. He followed the line all the way to the outskirts of a small village where he saw the bodies of the two volunteers from his unit laying on the ground by the broken line. He determined that they were dead and worked quickly to fix the broken communications line. Suddenly, he heard a gunshot and felt pain in his back. A German sniper in a church bell tower had shot him and my father lay still and played dead hoping that when darkness fell in a few hours, he could get to safety.

Within 15 minutes, my father noticed the German sniper walking toward him. He bent over and started going through the pockets of the other two dead volunteers from my father's unit. In great pain and bleeding profusely, my father raised his rifle and shot the sniper. He crawled to the communications line and restored it to operational status. Medics transported my father for treatment and he survived. Not long after, he was awarded the Bronze Star medal for bravery and heroism for his actions in combat.

Years later when I asked him about his time in the U.S. Army, he told me it was "nothing special." He told me about traveling across the Atlantic Ocean on a troop ship and what the American encampments were like in Libya, but he left out the combat details of his military service. I found after his death about the specifics from paperwork he had stashed away in his closet.

I attribute his not wanting to talk about his experiences in combat to humility. He grew up during the Great Depression and coming from a family of eight kids, he had set a goal to be the first in his family to graduate from college and to own a home. The way he viewed it, his military experiences were necessary to preserve our American way of life and protect everyone's future freedom to pursue our goals in life.


Many of the military veterans I've had the privilege to meet and interview in my journalism career have similar stories. It's like they have compartmentalized their combat experiences, put them in the rearview mirror and hit the gas pedal to move forward. They have not forgotten seeing good friends and colleagues lose their lives but choose to live in the present day with humility, rather than relive the horrors of war.

The same thing can be said of Hall of Fame National Football League and Major League Baseball players that I've interviewed through the years. For the most part they are nostalgic about their achievements, but do not brag or gloat about them. As one college basketball player I interviewed once told me, his greatest thrill was in making the college team when only a select few players are chosen to compete at that level.

To me, genuine humility is something we all should strive for. It's a willingness to forego pretense and accept that we are all human deep down inside. <

~ Ed Pierce

*Today in*  
**HISTORY**



**OCTOBER 18**

**1767** – The Mason-Dixon line is agreed upon as the boundary between MD and PA.

**1851** – The novel "Moby Dick" by Herman Melville is published for the first time.

**1867** – The U.S. takes formal possession of Alaska from Russia for a total purchase price of \$7 million.

**1873** – The first rules for intercollegiate football are drawn up by representatives from Rutgers, Yale, Columbia and Princeton Universities.

**1898** – The American flag is raised in Puerto Rico shortly before Spain formally relinquishes control of the island to the U.S.

**1921** – Charles Strite of Minnesota is granted a patent for the electric toaster.

**1967** – The Soviet space probe Venera 4 enters the atmosphere of Venus and sends back info. to Earth for about 90 minutes before losing contact with scientists.

**1977** – Reggie Jackson ties Babe Ruth's record for hitting three homeruns in a single World Series game.

# ON THE SPOT

## What's your favorite high school memory?

"Losing my voice sitting in the Eagles Nest cheering the boys on! Or hockey nights at USM."  
– Steve Hatt

"The day somebody (not me) put a burning stink bomb in the jacket pocket of a kid they called Baboon. My taste in humor has matured, thankfully."  
– Janet Paul

"Graduating."  
– Tommy Matthews

"Getting my final full leg cast off after knee injury and surgeries."  
– Julie Mallett

"Competing in track and field."  
– Stephen Signor

"Being chosen as Homecoming Queen in the fall of my junior year."  
– Sarah Singer-Miller

"Mixing up the wrong chemicals and causing a fire during Chemistry class."  
– Dean A. Smalley

"Making a prom dress with my mom and her friends one year."  
– Chris Macklin

"Playing basketball in gym class with my friends."  
– Mitchell B. Robinson

"Going to the sectionals in basketball during my junior year. Our team overcame a lot during the season just to get there."  
– Ed Pierce

"Eating lunch in the cafeteria with my classmates and suddenly there was a flash mob performing the song Flashdance."  
– Tawny Lamabe-Punto

"Learning to drive in Drivers' Ed class."  
– Deirdre Schulte

"Jumping on the trampoline in Gym class and nearly fell off."  
– Lois Fuller

"Algebra class with Mr. Coates during my sophomore year. I never liked math, and that class was simply the worst. How I passed I'll never know."  
– Lollie Gomez Nunez

"Getting my tongue pierced at the Fryeburg Fair when I skipped school with my friends."  
– Jennifer Orrantz

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# Voters to decide fate of five statewide referendums

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

There are five statewide referendum questions on the November 2024 General Election ballot and voters across Maine will determine if they pass or fail.

Here in Maine, citizens have the power to initiate state statutes and to veto state referendums. Voters approved a constitutional amendment for initiative and referendum powers in Maine in 1908.

For a citizen's initiative to make the 2024 ballot as a Maine referendum, the number of valid signatures required for an initiative to make the ballot is equal to 10 percent of votes cast for governor in the previous gubernatorial election.

The Maine Legislature can also place statewide ballot measures in the form of constitutional amendments and state statutes on the ballot. The most common form of this type of referred statute are statewide bond issues.

Maine is one of 16 states that requires a two-thirds vote in each legislative chamber during one legislative session to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot. That amounts to a minimum of 101 votes in the Maine House of Representatives and 24 votes in the Maine Senate. These types of constitutional amendments do not require the governor's signature to be placed on the ballot.

Statutes, including bond issues, require a simple majority vote in each legislative chamber during one legislative session and the governor's signature to appear on the ballot.

The Maine Constitution also re-

quires that state bonds exceeding \$2 million be placed on the ballot for voter approval.

Here are this year's five statewide referendum initiatives for 2024:

**QUESTION 1:** An Act to Limit Contributions to Political Action Committees That Make Independent Expenditures. Do you want to set a \$5,000 limit for giving to political action committees that spend money independently to support or defeat candidates for office?

**QUESTION 2:** An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development and Commercialization. Do you favor a bond issue of \$25,000,000 to provide funds, to be awarded through a competitive process and to leverage matching private and federal funds on at least a one-to-one basis, for research and development and commercialization for Maine-based public and private institutions in support of technological innovation in the targeted sectors of life sciences and biomedical technology, environmental and renewable energy technology, information technology, advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture, aquaculture and marine technology, composites and advanced materials and precision manufacturing?

**QUESTION 3:** An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Restore Historic Community Buildings. Do you favor a \$10,000,000 bond



Voters around the state will be presented with five referendum questions on the Nov. 5 ballot. Nonpartisan details about each question are available at [www.lwvme.org](http://www.lwvme.org) and sample ballots can be viewed on town websites. COURTESY PHOTO

issue to restore historic buildings owned by governmental and nonprofit organizations, with funds being issued contingent on a 25 percent local match requirement from either private or nonprofit sources?

**QUESTION 4:** An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Promote the Design, Development and Maintenance of Trails for Outdoor Recreation and Active Transportation. Do you favor a \$30,000,000 bond issue to invest in the design, development and maintenance for non-

motorized, motorized and multi-use trails statewide, to be matched by at least \$3,000,000 in private and public contributions?

**QUESTION 5:** An Act to Restore the Former State of Maine Flag. Do you favor making the former state flag, replaced as the official flag of the State in 1909 and commonly known as the Pine Tree Flag, as the official flag of the State?

The order of referendum questions on the November 2024 General Election ballot was established through a public lottery held by Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows and Maine Deputy Secretary of State for Corporations, Elections

and Commissions Julie Flynn in July.

Under Maine Law, questions must be arranged in the following order: carry-over measures from a previous election; people's veto questions; initiated measures; bond issues; constitutional amendments; and other legislatively proposed referenda. Within each grouping, questions must be arranged in a random order determined by a selection process conducted in public. All questions must be numbered sequentially on ballots distributed to voters. <

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# VFW's annual essay competition for students opens

**By Ed Pierce**  
STAFF WRITER

Two popular essay competitions for students sponsored by Windham's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10643 are back and promise up to a \$35,000 college scholarship to the national winner.

This year's VFW Patriot's Pen and the VFW Voice of Democracy essay competitions are open to any student in the area in grades 6 to 12, said VFW Post 10643 Commander Willie Goodman.

The topic for grades 6 to 8 is "My Voice in America's Democracy" and the topic for grades 9 to 12 is "Is

America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"

Goodman said that the Patriot's Pen essay competition is open to all middle school students from Windham and Raymond attending Windham Middle School, Jordan-Small Middle School in Raymond, Windham Christian Academy, Baxter Academy for Technology and Science, and other public and private schools and home-schooled students, in grades 6 to 8. Middle school students are invited to write a 300- to 400-word essay about this year's theme and what it specifically means to them.

He said that the Voice of Democra-

cy competition is open to all high school students from Windham and Raymond, in grades 9 to 12, including those who are home-schooled. Students are asked to write and record a 3- to 5-minute essay (on an audio CD) on this year's theme and the meaning it holds for them.

"Students in the Windham area and surrounding towns are all welcome to participate and are given the opportunity to compete in these VFW annual essay competitions with a chance to win thousands of dollars in college scholarships in either competition," Goodman said. "This VFW-sponsored youth essay competition encourages students to use their minds and knowledge of America's history and their experience of today's American society to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme."

The first-place VFW state winner for Maine in each competition receives a four-day trip to Washington, D.C.

The first-place winner nationally receives \$5,000 for the Patriot's Pen winning essay and the first-place winning essay nationally for the Voice of Democracy receives a \$35,000 college scholarship.

According to Goodman, students begin on the path for a national title competing at the local post level here in Windham. The VFW Post 10643 winners then advance to compete at the district-level. District winners

compete in the VFW's annual state competition while trying to secure a berth in the national competition next spring.

"These scholarships are dedicated to promoting patriotism and investing in our future generation," Goodman said.

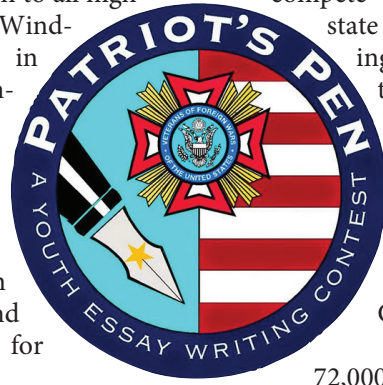
Each year, more than 72,000 students in grades 6 to 8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards. The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society and express their own unique viewpoints.

Established in 1947, the VFW's Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with a special opportunity to express themselves in a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. Each year, nearly 48,000 students in grades 9 to 12 from across the country enter the "Voice of Democracy" contest to win their share of more than \$2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the program.

The deadline for all student essay entries in Windham this year is Oct. 31, Goodman said.

Interested students and/or teachers with questions about the contests should contact VFW Post 10643 by phone at 207-228-4329. Entries may be submitted to VFW Post 10643 by mailing them to P.O. Box 1776, Windham, Maine 04062.

Local winners will be announced during the annual Veterans Day Observance at the Windham Veterans Center on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. <



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**GILMAN** Cont. from page 1

think we were much better off when we had to work together to get things done. It created a sense of community among families and neighbors that doesn't seem to happen today. It felt as if we were all in the same boat and we simply had fun, despite the challenges and hard work it took to live."

Along with her parents and husband, Hazel was predeceased by her sisters, Murial Forbes and Idolyn Plummer, and a brother, Harry Plummer Jr. She is survived by her brothers Richard Plummer and wife Nancy, David Plummer and wife Mary, and sisters Neola Brown and Janice Morrell. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews; grandnieces and grandnephews, including her nephew Peter Forbes, who visited her often.

A memorial service for Gilman was held Wednesday, Oct. 16 at the Dolby, Blais, and Segee Windham Chapel with private interment at Arlington Cemetery in Windham. <



# New shelter manager joins HART adoption center

The Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART) of Maine, an adoption center and shelter for cats in Cumberland and serving Windham and Raymond, has announced that Claudia Meyer-Maaseidvaag has joined the team as its new shelter manager. She will focus on volunteer coordination and shelter operations.



**Claudia Meyer-Maaseidvaag has joined the Homeless Animal Rescue Team of Maine as shelter manager.** COURTESY PHOTO

kittens of Maine," said Meyer-Maaseidvaag. "I see unlimited opportunities for HART in our future and look forward to meeting more members of our community."

Lisa Gamage, long-time volunteer and President of the HART Board of Directors said she is excited to have Meyer-Maaseidvaag join the HART non-profit organization.

Meyer-Maaseidvaag joins HART from the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, where she was responsible as the organization's Manager of Lifesaving. Her impressive background includes work with Thoroughbred Aftercare Retirement and volunteer experience with the nonprofits Forgotten Cats and Stray Cat Blues.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy and Nonprofit Management from the University of Delaware.

"I am excited to be working with the incredible volunteers, staff, and Board of Directors to continue expanding our programs and services, growing our volunteer base, and providing the highest-quality care to the cats and

have Claudia join our organization. She brings compassion and knowledge of animal welfare to help us achieve our mission. We look forward to her fresh perspective on shelter management and collaboration with our Medical Manager and volunteers to help as many cats as possible."

The Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART) of Maine is a no-kill shelter and adoption center for cats in Cumberland. Its mission is to provide refuge, comfort, and comprehensive medical attention for all surrendered, abandoned, injured, or abused cats and find them placements.

To learn more about HART, visit [hartofme.org](http://hartofme.org) <

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# Windham's Trunk or Treat event promises spooky fun

By Masha Yurkevich

STAFF WRITER

As the leaves change color and the weather gets cooler, preparations begin for a social and fun annual event for Windham: Trunk or Treat. This year, the event will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26 in the parking lot behind the Windham Mall off Route 302.

"Since 1999 the Town of Windham put together an annual Halloween event for kids called 'Halloween Adventure,'" says Kelsey Crowe, Deputy Director for the Windham Parks and Recreation Department in Windham. "This event continued until the first Trunk or Treat was created in 2016, and it was a great way to get more families, local businesses and organizations involved in the event as trunk hosts. As the event grew, we moved from Manchester School to Windham Middle School and by 2019 we outgrew Windham Middle School. We had to move the event to the parking lot behind the Windham Mall and each year the event grows, and we continue to add to it to make it fun and excited for the kids."

As the Parks and Rec Deputy Director, Crowe is responsible for



This year Trunk or Treat in Windham will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26 in the parking lot located behind the Windham Mall. Participants must register for the free event at [www.windhamrecreation.com](http://www.windhamrecreation.com) SUBMITTED PHOTO

planning and organizing the larger community events for Windham like

Trunk or Treat.

"Of course, our events would not

be successful without the help of my director Linda Brooks, the Parks and Recreation staff, local businesses and organizations and volunteers from the community," she says.

Trunk or Treat has become a popular event nationwide, either as an alternative to or in addition to conventional trick-or-treating at neighborhood homes.

According to Crowe, for those who choose to host a trunk, they decorate and serve candy out of the trunk of their vehicles. For the businesses and community organizations that participate, it is a way to spotlight their mission and give back to their communities. For individual families it is often their way to give candy to trunk-or-treaters who might not otherwise visit them if their homes are in a rural setting, or they just want to have fun.

Trunk hosts are required to pre-register by Monday, Oct. 21. To do so, register on the Parks and Rec website at: [www.windhamrecreation.com](http://www.windhamrecreation.com), call 207-892-1905 or in-person at 8 School Road in Windham.

Crowe said the trunks are judged for creativity, originality and effort, and it is amazing to see what some of the trunks end up looking like. With the arrival of COVID-19 in 2020, they were forced to modify the event to be a Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat at the Windham Mall. Since then, the event has been growing and is guaranteed to be a one-of-a-kind event this year.

The evening promises to be lots of fun and participants should expect an enjoyable, family-friendly event with lots of inflatables, spooky trunks and treats for everyone.

"This is a wonderful community event that brings so many different groups together to celebrate Halloween in a safe way," Crowe said. "We do ask that participants pre-register so we have a better idea of how much candy the trunk hosts will need. Registration and information about the event can be found at [www.windhamrecreation.com](http://www.windhamrecreation.com)."

This event is most certainly worth attending, she said.

"Personally, this is my favorite event of the year, not only because of all the lights, decorated trunks, inflatables and its fun for the whole family, but this event brings our community together," says Crowe. "Local organizations and businesses decorate trucks and pass out candy, such as the Windham Police Department, Fire Rescue, Library, Summerfest, Drifters Snowmobile Club, Windham Raymond SACC, Girl Scouts of Maine, Lions Club, Varsity Cheerleading, Cumberland County Federal Credit Union, Maine Community Bank, and many more. It's a great way for these local business and organizations to connect with their local community members."

Attendance for the event is free and all who want to be a part of the Trunk or Treat are asked to register at [www.windhamrecreation.com](http://www.windhamrecreation.com) <

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House District #107

### About Mark Cooper

- Owner/President of LC Cooper Co. Inc. Building Contractors; 3rd generation family business
- Farm Owner/Operator, with wife of 41 years, Gaylene, Cooper's Maple Products, Greenhouse, and Royal Heritage Farm (American Aberdeen Cattle)
- Cumberland Farmers Club, Fair Director, and Livestock Superintendent., 8 years
- Maine Maple Producer Assoc., Director, 15 years
- Former Cumberland County 4-H Club Leader, 23 years
- Graduate of Windham High (1981) and UNH (1983)
- Father of sons, Craig and Eric; Grandfather of Brian and Reagan



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# PRLT celebrates exceptional year in conservation

By Abby Wilson  
STAFF WRITER

Presumpscot Regional Land Trust (PRLT) celebrated an extraordinary year in conservation last month during its annual meeting at Randall Orchards in Standish. Nearly 70 people were in attendance to listen to PRLT staff and board members speak about the past fiscal year for the land trust and all their accomplishments.

One major highlight is the opening of the East Windham Conservation Area, which is 700 acres, roughly the size of Bradbury State Park and features eight miles of multi-use trails.

Will Sedlack, PRLT Executive Director, said that the opening of this property is a major milestone for our community.

“This was more than just a ribbon cutting,” Sedlack said. “It was the culmination of years of hard work and collaboration, demonstrating what’s possible when municipalities and land trusts work together for the benefit of communities.”

Toby Jacobs, PRLT Program Manager, reviewed trail projects and stewardship of conserved lands saying that with the East Windham Conservation Area work finishing up, the organization’s focus has shifted.

The Rivermeadow Preserve, adjacent to downtown Westbrook, has a trailhead at the Cornelia Warren four season rink on Lincoln Street. Trail construction is underway for a 1.5 mile accessible trail and boardwalk there.

“The first 300 feet of that trail are go-



Presumpscot Regional Land Trust’s annual meeting was held last month in Standish with more than 70 supporters in attendance and capped a memorable year in conservation for the organization. PHOTO BY ABBY WILSON

ing to be boardwalk to a viewpoint and that will be a fully ADA accessible trail” says Jacobs.

Deer Woods Preserve in Gorham is another new trail project for PRLT. It is located a mile southeast of downtown Gorham on Day Road. Originally owned and donated to the trust by Kathleen Ashely, the property will feature a short half-mile loop trail.

By the spring, Jacobs said that both of these trail projects will be completed, and grand opening events will be scheduled. Brenna Crothers, PRLT Community Engagement Manager, reported on the outreach efforts of the organization. Several programs focused on youth education including story times and vernal pool exploration.

In partnership with Gulf of Maine Research Institute, the land trust created an alewife migration guide.

“The hope for the future is that we will be able to bring that into some of the local schools and get some more field trips out on the trails,” Crothers said.

PRLT’s Summer Trail Challenge

numbers reflected an increase in participants. Nearly 250 people completed this year’s Summer Trail Challenge, an increase from the initiative’s first year. In total there were 71 registered families with children, ranging from one to five kids who participated. The ages ranged from infants to 15 years old.

Most of the participants of the Trail Challenge were from Windham, with many others from Portland, Westbrook, and Gorham. Some traveled from as far away as Lewiston, Naples, or Newcastle to participate, Crothers said.

Land trust staff also discussed the organization’s future goals during the meeting. A Story Walk at Rivermeadow Preserve in Westbrook in partnership with Walker Memorial Library is a future educational project.

“We are hoping to provide some story walks with books in multiple languages which will be a new resource that we have never done before,” said Crothers.

Sedlack spoke of the land trust’s intentions to focus on accessibility. Riv-

ermeadow and Mill Brook Preserve, in particular, were mentioned.

“Our focus on making sure Rivermeadow is accessible ties into one of my guiding principles as Executive Director. Accessible design is good design, that supports us in every stage of our life, ensuring that we can all enjoy nature” said Sedlack.

Migratory fish species will also be a future focus.

“We decided we needed to do more with the alewives. More people needed to know about how incredible it is, how unique it is, how this is a story of re-emergence” Sedlack said.


Frame Media is in the process of producing a film about alewives. Currently a trailer can be viewed on the PRLT YouTube page. Stay tuned for the finished product.

PRLT has asked the community to participate in this ongoing strategic planning process. At the meeting, an activity was completed where attendees were asked to identify which issues were most important to them. Topics included preserving environmentally and recreationally valuable lands, effective stewardship of land, sustainable impact expansion, and welcoming and responsive community engagement.

This activity and a community survey which ended on Oct. 14, will provide insight for the land trust’s future and its priorities.

“We need your guidance on where to invest,” says Sedlack.

To learn more or get involved visit the PRLT website at [www.prlt.org](http://www.prlt.org). <

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# PWD completes review of lead mains service lines

The Portland Water District has successfully completed its comprehensive lead inventory, confirming that there are no lead mains or service lines within its water system.

This significant achievement prior to an Oct. 16 deadline set by the new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule, which mandates Public Water Systems to thoroughly document the materials of both public and privately owned service lines.

Over the past 18 months, PWD has diligently reviewed its water service records and conducted physical inspections, when necessary, of over 56,000 privately owned service lines. This exhaustive process was undertaken to ensure the health and safety of the community by identifying and replacing any lead or unsafe service lines.

During the inventory, PWD dis-

covered and promptly replaced one lead service line and three galvanized service lines, which were removed because they can be a source of lead if they were ever down-stream of lead pipes.

"We are proud to report the completion of our lead inventory ahead of the EPA's deadline," said Chris Crovo, Acting General Manager for the Portland Water District. "This achievement reflects our ongoing dedication to water quality and public health." The Portland Water District's efforts align with its mission to protect public health and the environment through delivering high-quality water services.

The recent EPA rule is part of a nationwide effort to eliminate lead contamination in drinking water, a move that the Portland Water District fully supports and has proactively addressed with its latest inventory. PWD



A comprehensive review has confirmed that there are no lead mains or service lines within the water system operated by the Portland Water District. COURTESY IMAGE

reviewed paper and digital records going back more than a century and visually inspected thousands of services in the field.

Crovo said that this inventory and replacement work underscores PWD's commitment to providing safe, clean drinking water to its customers.

The Portland Water District is a century-old company, rich in history and experience. That tradition forms a solid foundation for delivering quality products, while forward thinking provides innovative approaches to combat emerging issues within the water industry. It is an independent quasi-municipality, serving nearly 200,000 people – 50,000 customers – in 11 Greater Portland communities. PWD delivers water service to Falmouth, Raymond, Scarborough, South Portland, Standish, and Windham, and provide both water and wastewater service to Cape Elizabeth, Cumberland, Gorham, Portland and Westbrook.

Portland Water District maintains a 1,000-mile network of water mains ranging from 60 inches to 2 inches, pump stations, and reservoirs that bring water from Sebago Lake to home and businesses in Maine.

Large mains for transmission extend from PWD's treatment facility near Standish to Westbrook and Portland.

The district operates four wastewater treatment plants, providing treatment and collection services to customers in Cape Elizabeth, Cumberland, Gorham, Portland, Westbrook, and Windham.

The water district keeps about 25 million gallons of water in storage to help maintain proper pressure and allow for a water reserve in case of an emergency, like a fire or a flood. It serves about 200,000 people across 11 communities and because of that, PWD must ensure that Sebago Lake water quality is of utmost importance.

Sebago Lake itself is more than 300 feet in depth and contains nearly 1 trillion gallons of water which is considered of excellent quality. The source of water in Sebago Lake originates in the Sebago Lake Watershed, which is more than 50 miles long, stretching from Bethel to Standish and includes parts of 24 towns including the towns of Windham and Raymond.

The excellent water quality of the Sebago Lake Watershed is attributed to surrounding forest lands that act as a natural filter for the watershed.

The Portland Water District uses a combined \$60.1 million water and wastewater operating budget and a \$48.6 million capital budget to accomplish its mission in 2024. <

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## 'Haunted Hawthorne House' Halloween Party nearing

Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home at 40 Hawthorne Road in Raymond will host a free, B.Y.O.B. "Haunted Hawthorne House" Halloween Party starting at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26.

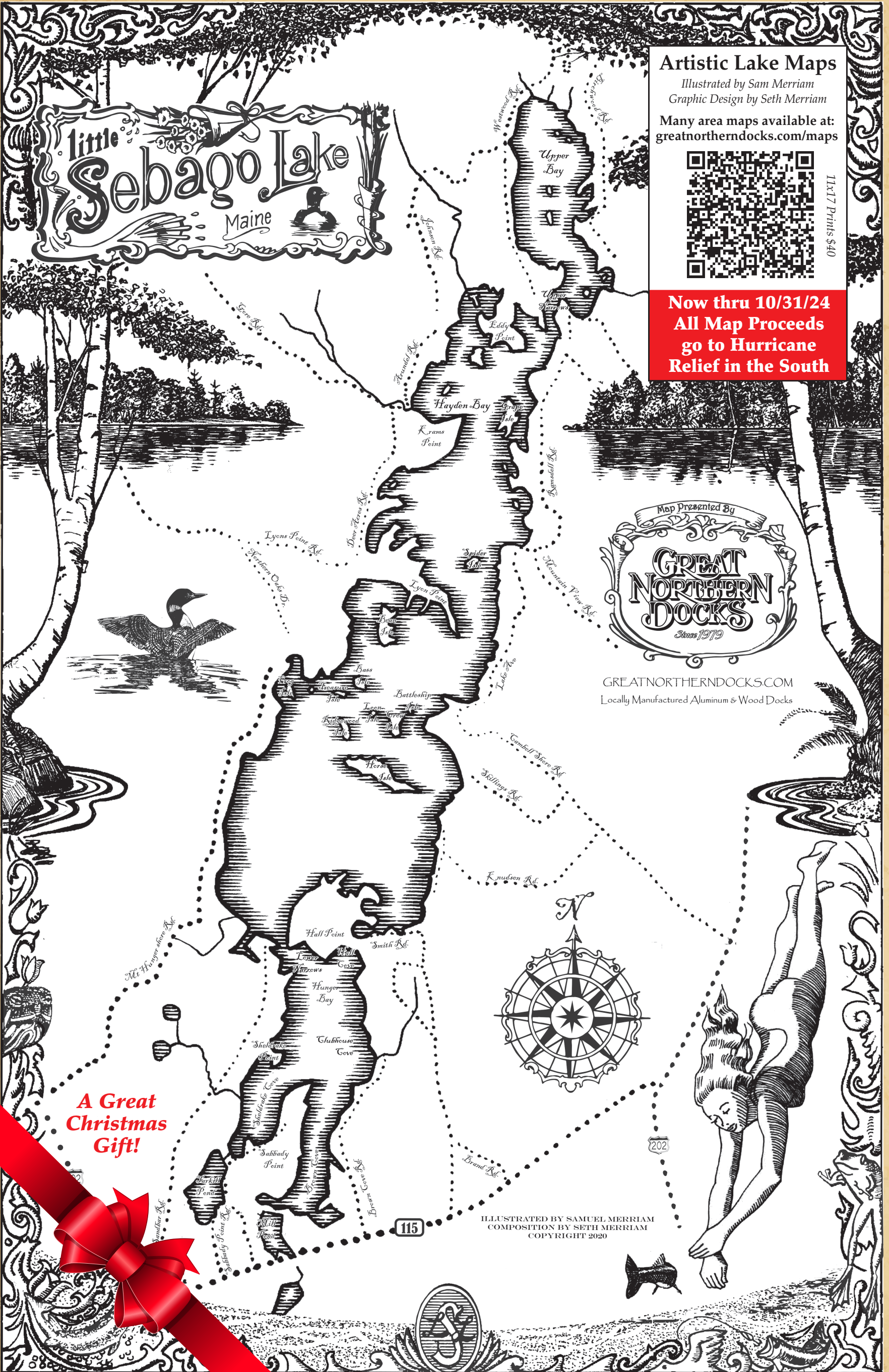
The party is primarily for adults, but participants should feel free to bring children or grandchildren, too.

Attendees are cordially invited to don their favorite scary or silly Halloween costume and join in the tons-o'-fun festivities, which will include music, food, contests, and valuable prizes!

Voluntary donations for the ongoing repair and preservation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home in Raymond will be gratefully accepted but are not mandatory.

Reservations at [mmyatt01757@gmail.com](mailto:mmyatt01757@gmail.com) are preferred, but walk-ins are also welcome. You can also email for more details or questions about how to donate to Nathaniel Hawthorne's Boyhood Home or call 908-962-4450. <





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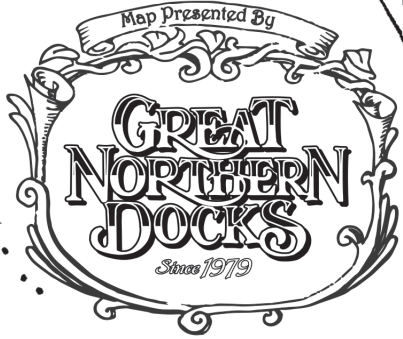
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# Mills signs executive order establishing commission to review school construction funding

Maine Gov. Janet Mills has signed an executive order establishing a commission to conduct a comprehensive review of school construction and renovation financing in Maine.

Since 2019, the governor, in partnership with the Legislature, has made record investments to update and modernize Maine's public schools – dedicating \$580 million for the renovation and construction of schools and for the debt service associated with school construction loans. Despite these record investments, available funding continues to outpace construction and renovation needs, and Maine's aging school infrastructure is expected to require additional investment in the years ahead.

The Governor's Commission on School Construction will bring together state, municipal, and education leaders to review Maine's approach to school construction financing and offer policy recommendations to en-

sure the state is equitably supporting the needs of Maine students and communities. The State of Maine has not conducted a comprehensive review of school construction financing in more than 25 years.

Governor Mills has appointed former Maine Department of Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry, an experienced management, strategy, and organizational consultant, to serve as Chair of the Commission.

"Every child in Maine should be able to attend a safe, modern, efficient, and accessible public school -- regardless of the community in which they live," said Mills. "It's time for a new look at how Maine pays for school construction. I look forward to reviewing the commission's findings and working with the Legislature to see if we can improve how the state supports the needs of Maine's children and communities."

Other state officials agree.

"The condition of school buildings in Maine is a crucial issue, not only for students and teachers, but for the future of our state," said Valerie Landry, Chair of the Governor's Commission on School Construction. "I look forward to working closely with members of the Commission and others to find a longer-term solution to this problem."

Children learn best in classrooms and schools that are safe, welcoming, engaging, and accessible, said Pender Malkin, Maine Education Commissioner.

"While educators work to transform every environment into a safe and nurturing space, we know that many communities across our state face significant barriers to modernizing and updating their school buildings and providing 21st-century learning environments," Malkin said. "Through the work of this Commission, we can develop sustainable ways

to respond to the needs of our students and educators and create the learning environments that enable all students in Maine to thrive."

The new commission established by the governor is consistent with a similar body proposed in legislation (LD 2285) during the 131st Maine Legislature. That bill, crafted with the support of the Governor's office, would have established a commission "to find the most fiscally responsible and equitable method of funding public school construction." The Legislature adjourned sine die in May 2024 without passing the bill.

Recognizing that many schools across Maine urgently require upgrades or construction to enhance safety, energy efficiency, or community access, the Governor used her executive authority to establish a similar commission, tasking members with issuing a final report to the Governor

→ see **FUNDING** Page 18



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# Land Trust offering free hikes and outdoor activities in Windham and surrounding communities this fall

As the crisp autumn air settles in, the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust is thrilled to announce a variety of community events designed to immerse participants in nature, foster environmental awareness, and celebrate conservation efforts across the region.

From forest bathing to fall foliage hikes, these events offer something for everyone. Mark your calendars and join representatives of the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust in experiencing the beauty of Maine's fall landscapes.

Here's a listing of some of the upcoming community events on the schedule:

### Guided Hike/Bike

Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lowell Preserve & Hadlock Community Forest

Falmouth Land Trust and Presumpscot Regional Land Trust (PRLT) are teaming up for a guided hike through PRLT's Lowell Preserve and onto the connecting Cross Falmouth Trail! Greater Portland Northeast Mountain Biking Association will also lead a guided mountain bike ride as well. Choose between a guided hike and a guided mountain bike ride for your morning adventure. The hiking group will go all the way to the parking lot



**A guided hike and bike ride connecting Lowell Preserve in Windham and Hadlock Community Forest will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19. The seven-mile trip for hikers includes a shuttle to return hikers to the starting point.** COURTESY PHOTO

of Hadlock Community Forest for a 7-mile adventure. A shuttle will then take hikers back to the start so everyone can do a fun point-to-point hike. The biking association will lead a medium-paced no-drop 7- to 8-mile ride, as well as a faster-paced (but no-drop) ride of 12 to 14 miles out to Hadlock Community Forest and back.

### Four Seasons Walk with Wild Seed Project:

Thursday, Oct. 26, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Black Brook Preserve, Windham

Explore native plants and how they change throughout the seasons with Nell Houde, Wild Seed Project's education lead at PRLT's Black Brook Preserve in Windham. This leisurely one-

mile walk is the third in a four-part series, allowing participants to deepen their knowledge of plant identification and native ecology. This event is free, but registration is required due to limited space.

### Around the Hill Hike:

Sunday, Nov. 3, 10 a.m. to noon

East Windham Conservation Area

Led by experienced hike leaders Natalie and Casey Skovran, this 5-mile hike will explore the beautiful East Windham Conservation Area. With views of the White Mountains and Little Duck Pond, this hike offers a challenging climb through the forest-

ed and hilly landscape. East Windham Conservation Area is owned by the Town of Windham with a conservation easement held by PRLT.

### Wednesday Walk at Little River Preserve:

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Little River Preserve, Gorham

Explore the rolling hills and diverse plant life of PRLT's Little River Preserve on this guided walk. Wednesday Walks are held monthly, focusing on local flora and fauna. Registration is required for this free event.

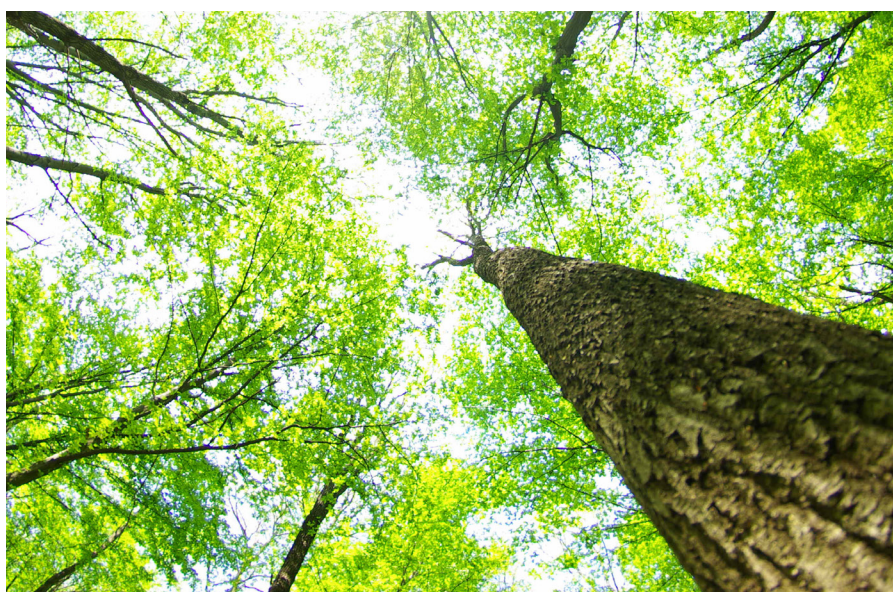
To learn more or to register for any of these events, visit [prlt.org](http://prlt.org) <

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# Southern Maine Agency on Aging to offer free vaccination clinics through AgeWise Maine Initiative

The AgeWise Maine Initiative, a collaboration of Maine's five Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in partnership with Northern Light Health, will offer statewide vaccination clinics this fall, including one in Windham.

Launched in 2023 and powered by USAging grant funding, AgeWise Maine offers vaccine clinics in communities across Maine with the goal of ensuring that thousands of residents get immunized to stay healthy and focused on doing the things they love.

The CDC recommends getting the updated 2024-2025 COVID-19 and Flu vaccinations in Fall 2024 to protect yourself and your community. Both vaccinations are currently available and offered at AgeWise Maine clinics across the state. It is safe to receive COVID-19 and flu vaccines at the same visit.

"One of the best things you can do to keep yourself and your family healthy is to get vaccinated early on. We've heard of people who prefer to



'wait it out' and see how the flu season is playing out, but it's important to remember that vaccines are the best way to prevent serious illness before you get sick," said Carly Williams, Director, AgeWise Maine. "We're glad we have the opportunity to support Mainers through a second vaccination season this fall, and we hope many of them will take advantage of visiting one of our upcoming clinics."

Upcoming vaccination clinics include one from 10:30 am. to noon Monday, Oct. 28 at Unity Gardens, 124 Tandberg Trail in Windham.

The AgeWise Maine Initiative is a partnership between Maine's five Area

Agencies on Aging. Funded through a grant from USAging, the Area Agencies on Aging will be working to ensure older adults and adults with disabilities in Maine have increased access to vaccines through education efforts and immunization clinics. More information can be found online at AgeWiseMaine.org.

The AgeWise Maine Initiative is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)) through USAging as part of a financial assistance award to USAging totaling \$74,999,835 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. <

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# Maine Bureau of Insurance approves 2025 health insurance rates for individuals and small groups

Maine Bureau of Insurance Superintendent Bob Carey has announced approval of the 2025 health insurance rates for Maine's individual and small group market.

The new rates will take effect on or after Jan. 1, 2025. Over the past few months, the bureau has worked with health insurers to lower their initially proposed rates, Carey said. As a result, the approved rate increases were reduced from an initial rate increase of 14.2 percent to an approved rate increase of 8.6 percent for individuals, and from 14.5 percent to 9.4 percent for small employers including those with 50 or fewer employees.

"The bureau works hard to minimize increases in the cost of health insurance by scrutinizing annual health insurance rate filings and only approving rate changes that reflect medical trends and the projected cost of health care," Carey said. "However, the underlying drivers of health care costs continue to push rates higher. These cost drivers include higher prices for hospitals and health care providers, accelerating prescription drug costs, and increased utilization of services. We will continue to do all we can in our regulatory capacity to protect the interests of Maine's insurance consumers."

For individuals, health plans with the largest membership saw the greatest rate reductions compared to their initial rate filing. Anthem Health

Plans of Maine's initial rate request of 14.7 percent was reduced to 7.4 percent; Maine Community Health options initial request of 13.2 percent was reduced to 8.1 percent; and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care's initial request of 15.8 percent was lowered to 11.6 percent.

In the small group market, Anthem's initial rate increase was lowered from 13.3 percent to 7.1 percent; and Maine Community Health Options was reduced from 19.6 percent to 13.1 percent.

According to Carey, the bureau was able to approve lower rates in part due to Maine's reinsurance program, which leverages state and federal funds to reduce premiums. The Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association (MGARA), a nonprofit entity that administers the state's reinsurance program, uses public funds to lower premiums for individual and small group health plans. MGARA received a larger than expected amount of federal pass-through funds for 2024, after the carriers filed their initial rate requests. These additional funds allowed the MGARA board to reset the reinsurance program's parameters to provide more funding for 2025. The carriers subsequently refiled rate requests that fully reflected the MGARA reinsurance program's updated reinsurance parameters.

In addition to lowering the overall rate of increase, the bureau directed

carriers to adjust their geographic rating factors to reduce the disparity in rates between southern and northern Maine.

"I urge individuals and small employers to shop around for coverage," Carey recommended. "For individual purchasers, CoverMe.gov is a great resource that allows Maine residents to compare plans and rates, and to see if they may be eligible for federal premium subsidies. Small employers should talk to their insurance broker about their health plan options."

To view the complete breakdown of the 2025 health insurance rate filings, please visit: [www.maine.gov/pfr/insurance/sites/maine.gov/pfr/insurance/files/inline-files/2025-ratesummary-V3.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/pfr/insurance/sites/maine.gov/pfr/insurance/files/inline-files/2025-ratesummary-V3.pdf).

To learn more about individual and small group health insurance options in Maine, go to: [www.maine.gov/pfr/insurance/consumers/life-health-disability](http://www.maine.gov/pfr/insurance/consumers/life-health-disability), and to enroll in coverage visit [www.CoverME.gov](http://www.CoverME.gov).

Open enrollment begins Nov. 1 and goes through Jan. 15. During this time Maine residents can get or change private health and dental insurance plans. Deadline for coverage that begins on Jan. 1 is Dec. 15 and for coverage starting Feb. 1 the cut-off is Jan. 15. The plans offered on CoverME.gov are high quality with comprehensive health coverage that covers doctor's visits, prescriptions, emergency care and more. They are only offered through legitimate companies licensed in Maine. <



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\*Earn \$30 bonus for each \$1,000 transferred to a new or existing ECU Sun Select Credit Card during the promotional period, not to exceed \$450. Balance transfers must occur during the promotional period ending 12/31/2024, in order to be eligible. The bonus is payable 60 days after the month-end in which the balance transfer took place and the credit card must remain open at time of deposit. Some restrictions apply. For more information, including bonus eligibility, visit [egcu.org/credit](http://egcu.org/credit).



# Tips for mastering pumpkin carving and painting

Pumpkin decorating is a cherished fall tradition, and whether you're carving or painting your pumpkin, both methods allow you to unleash your creativity. Each has its unique challenges and rewards, so here are some expert tips for both carving and painting your pumpkins this season.

## Choosing the Perfect Pumpkin

Whether you're carving or painting, the right pumpkin is key. Select a firm, smooth pumpkin without bruises or soft spots, as these can rot quickly. For painting, a smoother surface is easier to work with, while for carving, a sturdy, symmetrical pumpkin will help keep your design balanced. If you plan to carve intricate details, opt for a larger pumpkin to give yourself more space.

## Tools You'll Need

### For Carving:

- Pumpkin carving kit: These kits typically include small serrated saws, scoops, and pokers. While a kitchen knife can work, these tools are specifically designed for better control and safety.
- Ice cream scoop or large spoon:



Great for removing the pumpkin's insides, but a pumpkin scoop from a kit is even more effective.

- Pin or poker tool: Ideal for tracing stencils onto your pumpkin.

### For Painting:

- Acrylic paints: These are ideal for pumpkins as they dry quickly and adhere well to the surface.
- Paintbrushes of various sizes: Use larger brushes for base coats and fine-tipped brushes for details.
- Painter's tape: Useful for creating clean lines and patterns.
- Sealant: A clear acrylic spray will help protect your paint job and keep it

looking fresh.

## Preparing Your Pumpkin

**For Carving:** Start by cutting around the stem to create a lid. Angle your knife inward so the top won't fall through when you place it back. Scoop out the insides thoroughly, making the wall about 1 inch thick where you plan to carve. Clean the outside with a damp cloth to remove any dirt.

**For Painting:** Wipe the pumpkin clean with a damp cloth and let it dry completely. This will remove dirt or oils that could prevent the paint from adhering properly. You may also want to lightly sand the pumpkin to create a smoother surface for painting.

## Carving and Painting Techniques

### Carving Tips:

- Stencil or Freehand: If you're following a stencil, tape it to the pumpkin and use a pin or poker to create small holes along the design's outline. Then, use a small saw to carve carefully along the dotted lines.
- Cut with Care: Always carve slowly, using short, controlled strokes. For intricate areas, start from the center of the design and work outward to avoid damaging the pumpkin.
- Lighting Your Creation: Once your carving is complete, place a candle or LED light inside. Battery-operated lights are safer and less likely to heat the pumpkin, preserving its shape longer.

### Painting Tips:

- Base Coat: Before you start painting your design, apply a base coat of paint. This will help your colors pop. For example, if you're going for a Hal-

loween theme, an orange or black base coat works well.

- Patterns and Clean Lines: Use painter's tape to section off parts of the pumpkin for geometric designs, stripes, or blocks of color. This will give your pumpkin a crisp, clean look.
- Layer and Detail: Start with the larger areas of color, and once dry, move on to finer details. Use smaller brushes for intricate work like faces, lettering, or fine patterns.

## Finishing Touches and Preservation

**Carving:** To keep your carved pumpkin fresh, rub petroleum jelly or vegetable oil along the cut edges. This prevents the pumpkin from drying out too quickly. If mold appears, spray a mixture of water and bleach (1 tablespoon of bleach per quart of water) onto the affected areas and wipe it clean.

**Painting:** After your paint has dried, spray a coat of clear acrylic sealant over the entire pumpkin to protect your design from the elements. This will also give it a glossy finish and ensure your pumpkin stays vibrant for longer.

## Choosing Your Style

Carving and painting each offer unique advantages. Carving gives your pumpkin a classic, illuminated jack-o'-lantern look, perfect for evening displays. Painting, on the other hand, allows for more detailed designs, vibrant colors, and can be a safer, less messy activity for kids. You can even combine the two by carving out sections and painting the rest of the pumpkin for a mixed-media masterpiece. <

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- Enjoy the fall foliage and views of Sabbathday Lake
- Admission \$10 per child - includes a pumpkin  
Admission not required for adults or kids under 2 unless they want a pumpkin
- Huge assortment of pumpkins in a variety of colors  
A farmstand with fall crops, gourds, mums & cornstalks

**FMI visit [www.ChipmanFarmMaine.com/Pumpkin-Patch](http://www.ChipmanFarmMaine.com/Pumpkin-Patch)**  
636 Shaker Rd, New Gloucester (next to Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village)

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## BRIEFS

### Craft Fair

The Windham Lions Club Craft Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19 at the North Windham Union Church, 723 Roosevelt Trail, Windham. FMI, send an email to thespunkymoose@aol.com

### Thrift Shop

The North Windham Union Church UCC thrift shop located at 723 Roosevelt Trail will be open regularly from 10 a.m. to noon during October. It will also be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19. Lots of bargains including clothes for all ages and great baby clothes, along with shoes, games, books, household items, glassware, cards, decorations, craft items, and jewelry will be available.

### Baked Bean Supper

The American Legion is hosting a Baked Bean Supper from 5 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive in Windham. The menu includes a variety of beans, chili and macaroni and cheese dishes, American chop suey, potato salad, red hot dogs, brown bread and different desserts. The cost is \$10 for adults and kids under the age of 12 eat for free. FMI, call 207-892-4692.

### Cancer Support

The Windham Cancer Support Group will be hosting a Caregivers only meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21 at the Windham Public Library. All caregivers who need sup-

port are welcome. FMI, send an email to coppjanet@yahoo.com

### Fire Department Open House

To observe Fire Safety Month, the Raymond Fire Rescue Department will host an Open House from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23 at the Raymond Central Fire Station, 1443 Roosevelt Trail, Raymond. Children will be able to see fire trucks up close and there will be information about smoke and CO alarms, how to escape in an emergency, demonstrations on CPR and on proper fire extinguisher use, and information about lithium batteries, and free blood pressure readings. Free food and soft drinks will be available. FMI, 207-655-1187.

### Writers event

The public is welcome to attend a free hour-long reading of original works by local authors scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23 in the North Gorham Public Library, 2 Standish Neck Road in Gorham. Refreshments will be served. The group, Women Who Write, meets every two weeks at the library where they workshop their writing with their peers. The group includes Lynne Mentzer, Cheri Wing-Jones and Mary Snell of Gorham; Carolyn Gaul of Windham; and Annie Boissevain of Gray. At the event they read stories, poems and other works which they have developed during the two years that they have been working together. FMI, contact Mary Snell at msnell@maine.edu

### Church Supper

The First Congregational Church of Gray is hosting a Saturday Night Church Supper at 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Parish House, 5 Brown St. in Gray. The event is handicapped accessible. Meals are single-sized and are \$10 each. Please pay at the door. The menu includes a variety of casseroles and salads, baked pea beans and red kidney beans, red hot dogs, breads, and an assortment of desserts and beverages. FMI, call 207-657-4338.

### Spooktacular Saturday Supper

The Casco Village Church United Church of Christ will host its "Spooktacular Saturday Supper" from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26 at 941 Meadow Road in Casco. This month's dinner will feature "Halloweenies," baked beans, casseroles, a cauldron of chili, and homemade pies and desserts. It's all for only \$12 for adults, and \$5 for children ages 8 and under. FMI, call 207-627-4282.

### Halloween Extravaganza

ITAV207 will hold a Halloween Extravaganza from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27 at 15 Airport Drive in Limington. There will be 15 trunks and 14 inside booths, a costume contest, prizes, raffles, and a 50/50 drawing. For kids, Foxx Run Farm will have goats, the Bonny Eagle Robotics Team will have a robot, and Kona Ice of York County will offer free shaved ice, including dye free and sugar free.

### Chess Club

Chess enthusiasts meet from 10 a.m. to noon every Saturday at the Windham Public Library, 217 Windham Center Road, Windham. All ages and abilities are welcome. FMI, call 207-892-1908.

### Bridge Club

The Raymond Bridge Club meets every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Raymond Village Library, 3 Meadow Road in Raymond for games of bridge. Want to learn how to play? One of our members would be happy to teach you. The club is open to all. FMI, call 207-655-4283.

### Suicide Support

The Alternatives to Suicide Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at the Lake Region Recovery Center, 2 Elm St., Bridgton. FMI, call 207-803-8707.

### Evening Book Group

The Raymond Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of every month to discuss a chosen book at the Raymond Village Library, 3 Meadow Road in Raymond. FMI, call 207-655-4283.

### Windham Food Pantry

The Windham Food Pantry and General Assistance at 377 Gray Road in Windham is open by appointment only Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To make an appointment for the Food Pantry call 207-892-1931 or for an appointment for General Assistance call 207-892-1906.

# TRUNK OR TREAT

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 • 5:30-8PM**  
*held behind the Windham Mall – RAIN or SHINE!*

## TRUNK HOSTS NEEDED!!

**Businesses! Families! Organizations!**

*Trunk hosts will decorate their vehicles in fun, spooky, or creative ways so our community can make spook-tacular Halloween memories.*

*Windham Parks & Recreation will help provide the candy if needed, but hosts are encouraged to bring their own as well. Candy must be individually wrapped.*

**Trunk hosts MUST pre-register**  
Register at [WindhamRecreation.com](http://WindhamRecreation.com),  
call 207-892-1905 or in person at:  
8 School Road, Windham

**REGISTER TODAY!**

**Prizes awarded to best trunks!!**

**TRUNK HOST REGISTRATION CLOSING 10/21**

**Pre-registration is required for all families looking to attend the event.**  
Admission fee: Food pantry donations – Register at: [WindhamRecreation.com](http://WindhamRecreation.com)








# PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS

## First half of 2024 taxes are due October 31st

Commitment Date.....September 11, 2024  
 Tax Rate (Mill Rate)\*\* .....\$17.20/\$1,000  
 Certified Assessment Ratio .....63%

Approx. Mill Rate Breakdown

County: \$0.96  
 School: \$12.18  
 Municipal: \$4.06  
 (includes TIF & Overlay)

*\*The State of Maine Legislature repealed LD 290 "Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens" in August of 2023. Last year, qualified applicants had their taxes "frozen" at the 2022 tax rate and the State of Maine paid the difference in the increase. This year, all residents will pay the 2024 tax mill rate.*

**2024 Tax Bills are available for viewing online at: [raymondmaine.org/Departments/Tax Collection](http://raymondmaine.org/Departments/Tax Collection)**

*\*\*See historical mill rate data at: [raymondmaine.org/town-office/assessing](http://raymondmaine.org/town-office/assessing)*

## RAYMOND FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT



# OPEN HOUSE

### Wed., Oct. 23rd • 5-7:30pm

### CENTRAL FIRE STATION: 1443 ROOSEVELT TRAIL

### OCTOBER IS FIRE SAFETY MONTH!

Raymond residents of all ages are welcome to our open house to come see your Fire/Rescue Department at work!!

There will be explanations on smoke and CO alarms, how to escape in an emergency, CPR demonstrations and on proper fire extinguisher use, information on lithium – ion batteries, and free blood pressure readings.



For the children we will have touch a fire truck, and weather permitting, squirting water on a make-believe fire!

**Free food & soft drinks will be available so don't make dinner!**



\*\*\*\*\*

## Notice of General & State Referendum ELECTIONS

### Election Day – Tuesday, 11/5/2024

- ★ Voting Place Name: **Jordan Small Middle School Gym**
- ★ Voting Place Location: **423 Webbs Mills Road**
- ★ Polls Open at **7:00a.m.** and Polls Close at **8:00a.m.**
- ★ Office Hours are Tuesdays from 8am-6pm and Wednesdays through Fridays from 8am-4pm for any resident wishing to register to vote, to vote by absentee ballot in-person or to pick up an absentee ballot to take home.
- ★ The last day to request/receive an absentee ballot will be Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 4pm. Voted ballots can be returned to the secure drop-box in front of the Town Office at any time before Election Day.
- ★ Residents may register and vote at the polling location on Election Day. You must provide proof of identity and residency.

**For more info. on the election or to view a sample ballot, visit: [www.raymondmaine.org/town-office/voters/elections](http://www.raymondmaine.org/town-office/voters/elections)**

\*\*\*\*\*



### Northern Lights

On Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup> a geomagnetic storm created a spectacular opportunity for the residents of Raymond to see the aurora borealis. Resident & Raymond Code Officer, Jason Williamson, captured this gorgeous photo of the rare (to Maine) phenomenon from Valley Road.

## WEST NILE VIRUS IN RAYMOND AND CUMBERLAND COUNTY

The Maine CDC has detected West Nile Virus (WNV) in deceased fowl in the Raymond and Cumberland County area. While no detected human cases have been reported, we wanted provide information to residents on WNV.

**About:** WNV is a mosquito-borne viral illness. It occurs throughout the United States and can cause disease in humans, birds, and other mammals. West Nile Virus spreads to a person through the bite of an infected mosquito. West Nile cases occur sporadically in Maine, usually during the summer and fall when mosquitoes in Maine are active.

**WNV and Birds:** WNV can infect certain kinds of birds and cause them to die. If you find three or more dead birds all at the same time in the same place, report these die offs to Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.

**Symptoms:** Most people infected with WNV do not develop any symptoms or show any signs of illness. Few people infected with WNV show mild signs of symptoms, which usually start 3 to 15 days after being bitten. Symptoms include fever, head and body aches, weakness, and vomiting. Most people with mild symptoms recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last weeks to months. Rarely, people infected with WNV develop a severe illness affecting the brain and surrounding area. Sever illness can occur at any age, but people over 60 and those with certain medical conditions will be at a great risk. Talk to your doctor if you have any of these signs or symptoms

**Prevention:** The best way to prevent WNV is to protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites. Use an EPA-approved repellent on the skin, wear long-sleeved shirt and long pants when outside, wear permethrin on clothing, get rid of standing water or change water frequently in places where mosquitos can lay their eggs, and avoid being outside during dawn and dusk when mosquitos are most active.



**For more info: Visit [www.maine.gov/dhhs/westnile](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/westnile)**



# ROADRUNNER

## OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

1st Annual Raymond  
**PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST!**  
 Presented by: Raymond Village Library and Raymond Parks & Rec



**SHOW OFF YOUR CREATIVE, FUN, AND SPOOKY PUMPKIN DECORATION TALENTS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A \$50 GIFT CARD TO THE GOOD LIFE MARKET!**  
 One pumpkin will be provided per household - Available on Oct. 1st. Participant is responsible for decorating/carving materials. No age limit.  
*Voting will take place on Halloween night.*  
**REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!**  
**PUMPKINS NEED TO BE RETURNED BY OCTOBER 29TH**  
 Contact the Library at 655-4283 or visit in person to register.  
 \*Carving is ok, but no guarantee the pumpkin won't rot.

### ADULT INDOOR PICKLEBALL

**6:00-8:00PM**  
 held at Raymond Elementary School Gym  
 Pickleball schedule follows RES schedule; if there is no school or school is closed due to weather or other reasons, pickleball is also canceled  
**ADULT PLAYERS ONLY; 25+ YEARS OF AGE**  
 For full schedule & availability visit: [Raymond.recdesk.com](http://Raymond.recdesk.com)  
 Questions about Pickleball? Please call Brenda Olsen 207-838-0123

### ADULT PICK UP BASKETBALL

**Thursdays 7:00-9:00PM**  
 held at Jordan Small Middle School Gym  
**FOR ADULTS 25+: \$2 daily fee or \$25 for the season**  
 \*Only when school is in session. Excludes vacations, holidays, and storm days.

### YOUTH BASKETBALL

**Registration open!**  
**BEGINS DECEMBER 2ND**  
 Co-Ed: 1st & 2nd Grade  
 Boys: 3rd & 4th Grade • Girls: 3rd & 4th Grade  
 Boys: 5th & 6th Grade • Girls: 5th & 6th Grade

### PLEASANT MOUNTAIN SKI PROGRAM

**JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>-FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
 Available for ages 7yrs-14yrs  
**REGISTRATION OPENS NOV. 24<sup>TH</sup>**

**ALL PROGRAMMING REQUIRES REGISTRATION through [Raymond.recdesk.com](http://Raymond.recdesk.com)**

# MAIN STREET HALLOWEEN!

**Thursday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, 5-9PM on Main Street**

Main Street will be CLOSED to vehicular traffic from 4:30pm-9pm (approx.) from Route 302 on the Sunset Variety end of Main Street to the intersection of Main Street and Route 121. Mill Street will also be CLOSED to vehicular traffic from Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park to Main Street.  
 For 2024, participants in this event are encouraged to park at Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park and a shuttle bus will transport to Main Street and back.  
**Shuttle bus running from 5pm-8pm**

**CANDY DONATIONS** for this Main Street Halloween event can be dropped off at the Raymond Village Library or at the Town Office.  
**MONETARY DONATIONS** for the purchase of candy from the homes on Main Street can be made at [Raymond.recdesk.com](http://Raymond.recdesk.com).  
**Residents of Main Street in need of candy, contact Raymond Village Library.**

## NEWS & EVENTS

3 Meadow Road, Raymond • 207-655-4283  
[raymondvillagelibrary.org](http://raymondvillagelibrary.org)  
 Follow us on Facebook

Open Tues, Wed & Thurs 9am-6pm;  
 Fri. & Sat. 9am-2pm

### Check out our new Story Walk!

**AT TASSEL TOP PARK**  
 The Raymond Story Walk connects books with nature

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 Anytime. Everywhere! Free ebooks, audiobooks, movies, music, magazines, and more!  
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### Bridge Club

**TUESDAYS FROM 9AM TO NOON**  
 Meet us for some games of bridge! Want to learn how to play? One of our members would be happy to teach you. Open to all.

### Evening Book Group

**MEETS THE LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH**  
 to discuss a chosen book. Contact us for more information!

### Baby Storytime!

**THURSDAYS AT 10:30AM** (Best for ages 0-24 months)  
 Join us for songs, stories, lap bounces, and more!

### Preschool Storytime

**WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30AM** (Best for ages 2-5)  
 Join us for stories, songs, and crafts!

### Patron Passes

The Raymond Village Library has passes available to the Maine Wildlife Park, the Maine Children's Museum and Theatre, the Southworth Planetarium and Maine State Park Pass. These passes offer either discounted or free admission.  
 Please contact the circulation desk for more information about available passes.

**For more information on any of the listed programs, please contact RVL: 207-655-4283 • [rvldirector@gmail.com](mailto:rvldirector@gmail.com)**



FUNDING Cont. from page 10

and Legislature no later than April 15, 2025.

In its report, the Commission is directed to identify statewide school construction and renovation needs and analyze how other states fund school construction and maintenance needs.

Members of the Governor's Commission include the Commissioners of the Departments of Education and Administrative and Financial Ser-

vices; the State Director of the Bureau of General Services, or their designees; the Chair of the State Board of Education or their designee; three current or former superintendents selected by the Commissioner of Education; and representatives from the Maine School Boards Association, Maine Association of School Business Officials, the construction industry, the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, and the Maine Municipal Association.

"Our schools are critical community resources, used for learning, libraries, sports, community meetings, and as central locations during emergencies. Yet many of our school buildings were built multiple decades ago and

are in desperate need of upgrades," said Steve Bailey, Executive Director of the Maine School Boards Association. "Our students and staff deserve to learn and work in healthy learning environments that support 21st century learning needs. We hope this new commission can help Maine reinforce its commitment towards providing a quality learning environment for all students throughout the state."

Widely respected for her judgment and strategic thinking, Commission Chair Valerie Landry has been tapped by Republican, Democratic, and Independent Governors across New England to evaluate complex challenges and offer policy solutions.

In 1995, Landry was nominated by former Governor Angus King to serve as Commissioner of the Maine Department of Labor. In the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks, Massachusetts Governor Jane Swift appointed Landry to a commission charged with recommending structural and cultural changes at the Massachusetts Port Authority, responsible for oversight of Logan Airport. In 2022, Governor Mills appointed Landry to serve on the University of Maine System Board of Trustees. Landry is a longtime resident of Ocean Park in Old Orchard Beach.

The Governor's Commission on

School Construction will be supported by staff from the Department of Education. The Chair and Commissioners will not be compensated for their work.

Since taking office in 2019, Governor Mills has secured \$87 million in new funding for the School Revolving Renovation Fund, which provides financial support to assist School Administrative Units in renovating school facilities.

The last comprehensive review of school construction finance in Maine was the Governor's School Facilities Commission, which submitted its recommendations to Governor King and the Legislature on Feb. 1, 1998.

In a referendum last November, local voters approved a proposal to construct the new Windham Raymond Middle School, which will receive about 77 percent of construction costs paid by the Maine Department of Education's Major Capital Construction Program. The estimated cost of the project is \$140 million in state-subsidized construction and about \$38 million in local additional costs. Windham will be responsible for roughly 80 percent of the \$38 million local costs and Raymond will be responsible for roughly 20 percent.

The new school is expected to open in the fall of 2027. <

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# A moving tribute



**AMERICAN LEGION**

Carroll McDonald of Windham receives his 20-year American Legion pin at St. André Health Care in Biddeford on Tuesday, Oct. 15. A World War II veteran, McDonald, 99, served as Windham Field Allen Post 148 Commander in the 1960s, then had broken service while he lived in Florida, but was awarded his 20-year pin for 20 consecutive years with Post 148. Presenting him with his pin during a visit with Post 148 members was Walter Lamb, Gerald Beaulieu and Dave Tanguay. McDonald will celebrate his 100th birthday on March 1, 2025. He graduated from Windham High School in 1942, and trained to become a P-51 pilot during World War II. He returned to Windham after the war and became a postal carrier until he retired and then volunteered for years as a Meals on Wheels driver. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## STUDENT OF THE WEEK **Kylie Morey**



**Name:** Kylie Morey **Grade:** 8  
**School:** Windham Middle School  
**Teacher:** Team 207  
**Parents' names:** Shaun Morey and Sam Hebert  
**Reason for selection:** Team 207 would like to proudly recognize Kylie Morey as our Student of the Week. Kylie reflects all of our core values here at Windham Middle School. She is respectful, compassionate and has integrity. Kylie is respectful of herself and others. She works well with her peers and teachers. Working as a peer mentor, Kylie helps both academically and socially. She is approachable and kind, making her a natural leader. While Kylie is content quietly making a difference, we wanted to recognize all the great work she does and thank her for being her best self.

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Tricia Zwirner, Agent

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# LETTERS to the editor

Submit letters by Tuesday at Noon to: editor@thewindhameagle.com or mail to: 585 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, 04062

Editor,

I've been unconcerned with politics until I saw that my basic rights were under attack.

Barbara Bagshaw stands for the Constitution. Barbara works very hard. She keeps in contact with us.

And she cares about the future of Windham and its residents. As an example, I received a letter from her stating that I had unclaimed property in Maine.

I would never have known. I don't know of a legislator who does this! She goes the extra mile.

Barbara recognizes the sorry state of public education in Maine. She supports teachers - having been one herself.

But if we don't recognize the problem, we can't solve it. She doesn't sweep the issue under a rug.

Our youth is our most precious resource. A great education prepares them for success in life.

We have a long way to go here in Maine, I'll vote for basic rights in November. I hope you do.

~ Brenda Mattson, Windham

Editor,

I am writing this in support of Kenneth Cianchette for State Senate in District 26.

As a former legislator serving Windham in the Maine House, I know the qualities of a candidate that meet my criteria. Kenny meets what a strong representation of the district and its citizens should be. A successful businessman, strong family man, and supporter of organization's that help others. He has helped many area groups by offering his facilities for fund raising such as Neighbors Helping Neighbors,

Walk A Mile Maine and others. Often contributing his own money to support these groups.

His knowledge, strong work ethic, and enthusiasm for any job he tackles will serve us well when we elect Kenneth Cianchette as our next State Senator for District 26. I urge you to join my wife and I in voting for Kenneth Cianchette.

~ Thomas Tyler, Windham

Editor,

I am supporting Doris Poland for Windham's House District 106. Doris has many of the qualities that I admire. She cares deeply for our youth. As a mother, Windham school bus driver, and Windham High School Library Tech, she is an amazing advocate for our children.

Doris has received a "Working Class Hero Award." She will be a strong and positive voice for workers and seniors in Windham and the State of Maine.

Please join me in voting for Doris Poland for Windham's State Representative House District 106.

~ Mark Bryant, Windham

Editor,

I am writing in strong support of Mark Cooper for State Representative.

Mark is a lifelong Windham resident, a hardworking farmer, and a successful business owner.

Mark has always been a roll-up-your-sleeves kind of person, with a genuine ability to connect with our community. Whether through his farm, his construction business, or as an active member of the Maine State Beekeepers Association, Mark is deeply involved. He also serves as one of the directors at the Cumberland County Fair, demonstrating his long-standing commitment to our town.

Today, we're dealing with skyrocketing electricity rates, grocery prices, fuel costs, insurance hikes, and property tax increases. While politicians keep spending, the financial burden on citizens keeps rising. They consistently vote against policies that could offer relief. For example, Rep. Pringle and Senator Nangle voted to remove the property tax cap (L.D. 2102), allowing towns to raise taxes unchecked. They also supported green energy policies like net energy billing, which has driven up our electric bills, and refused to eliminate it (L.D. 1347).

We need leadership that truly

→ see LETTERS Page 21



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**LETTERS** *Cont. from page 20*

considers the little guy. That's why I support Mark Cooper. He will bring much-needed common sense back to Augusta.

Your vote matters. Thank you.  
~ Randy Grenier, Windham

**Editor,**

As a lifetime resident and owner of commercial property in Windham I need to ask: Why are we allowing high density, low tax-bearing residential development in our C-1 and other districts? Placing visually unappealing structures on the curbs of main roads has resulted in traffic that is congested, unregulated, and unsafe. Financially, it creates insufficient tax revenue per family to support the services needed. Businesses that provide the needed tax income will be priced and crowded out of a residential developing downtown.

Windham is doing its best to keep up with the need for public services. Sirens indicate activity is on the rise. At times there is a shortage of bus drivers, student-teacher ratios are challenged, SAT scores are decreasing yet RSU 14 uses resources to hire "counselors" to converse with students about topics unrelated to academics. If we can't sustain traditional levels of services, how can we sustain such a rapid population increase without continuing to increase taxes.

Prior Town Councils embraced a realistic vision of what Windham could be, and what it should not be. This was voted on and approved by residents years ago. Other plans were discussed including the "Century 21 Downtown Plan" but were shelved. The current council is working with-

in the State's plan, but their decisions have rapidly taken Windham down the wrong road. We can't stop growth, but it seems some councilors are forcibly molding Windham into their vision, contrary to the path previous Town Councilors chartered, which the majority of current residents invested in.

Windham needs innovative planning and budget review to preserve our suburban-rural essence wherever possible. For Town Council-At-Large, I am voting for Clayton Haskell, a lifetime resident of Windham who I believe will work hard for the residents of Windham, for the legacy of Windham.

~ Ken Clark, Windham

**Editor,**

I am a strong supporter of Representative Barbara Bagshaw's re-election to the House. We need responsible spending in Augusta, now more than ever. Barbara is frugal in her everyday life; she knows how to stretch a dollar. As a small business owner, I pay a lot of taxes which are always increasing. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy; we need to do better.

Barbara is genuine, what you see is what you get. She's accessible, if you've ever honestly reached out to her, you're guaranteed a response, not just a form letter. She's not afraid of a difference of opinion, and she listens. She genuinely cares about the concerns of Windham residents.

I know Barbara is pro-family. My husband and I are primarily responsible for raising our child - not the government, the school, or the physician.

Barbara has time-tested good values and has earned my vote again.

~ Dawn Miller, Windham

**Editor,**

My support for Ginny Woodman's election to RSU 14 School Board is unequivocal. A prominent character trait for Ginny is "caring." She has served infants, toddlers, middle-schoolers, high schoolers, and even began a program in Southern Maine for young adults. She finds ways to help those who need it. She and her husband spent over two years parenting a toddler who needed a foster home. When a new family came to Maine from Rwanda, Ginny navigated school registrations, facilitated socialization, arranged transportation, even sharing their home with this family for a time.

Ginny demonstrated caring as an RN-C at MMC for 40-plus years. When neighbors and friends need knowledgeable advice about an injury, Ginny is called. She has spent nights with folks who came home from surgery alone; when asked for first-aid advice, she not only advises, but shows up to administer aid. If your family has suffered loss, she'll likely be first there with her "fa-

mous" chocolate chip cookies or pie. That's the kind of person she is!

Ginny epitomizes integrity. She is dependently truthful. She is importantly decision-making and will open-mindedly study all sides of an issue. She has solid values and does not change her stance based on a majority or popular opinion. Decisions are based on listening, studying, experience, prayer, and research.

Ginny is fiscally responsible and financially conservative. During school budget formation, it will not be lost on her that decisions affect "someone else's (taxpayers) money".

From a family of educators, she knows the value of education. Maine schools have dropped academically from being nearly first in the nation to being nearly last. Ginny will do her best to return excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts for all students. She will listen to parental concerns and facilitate stronger collaboration between parents and educators.

~ Doris Meehan, Windham

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# SPORTS



## Windham seniors Harmon and Profenno shine during Class A Maine State Golf Championship

**By Matt Pascarella**  
STAFF WRITER

For their final time, Windham seniors Fiona Harmon and Addison Profenno competed in the Class A Maine State Golf Championship on Friday, Oct. 11 at the Natanis Golf Course, a par 72, in Vassalboro. Both girls had incredible final games as high school seniors; Harmon shot an 87 and placed second, she also qualified for the New England Golf Tournament. Profenno shot a 92, placed sixth and is waiting to see if she qualified for the New England Golf Tournament.

“They are excellent teammates,” said Windham varsity golf coach Adam Manzo. “They are friendly to everyone – they are all-around awesome kids. They are nice, they treat everyone like they want to be treated. I’m super excited and happy for them. Over four years they’ve worked harder than anyone; they get to be here for one last chance, win or lose; I just think it’s great they get to be here. They’re sad it’s ending. We’re super lucky that they’re at Windham and not elsewhere.”

Both golfers hit par or better on at least five holes. Profenno received a top 10 plaque and birdied – one under par – on the fourth hole. Harmon received a runner-up plaque.

“I’m very proud of myself and what I have done in the four years that I’ve competed for Windham varsity golf,” said Harmon. “Friday was a great way to end my high school golf career. It took lots of dedication and practice to reach my goal. The highlight of Friday was all the support I had on the golf course. I also want to applaud all

the other girls that competed at states. They all show great sportsmanship for each other, and I was very lucky to be able to play with all of them for the last four years.”

Harmon is unsure if she wants to play golf post-high school and Profenno would like to play on a club team after high school.

“I feel really well on how I played,” said Profenno. “Of course, there will always be the wish of shooting lower or making a putt I missed, but overall, I am satisfied. I feel like I was much more prepared mentally and physically than other years. I was completely focused and was more aware of what I needed to do when I had an unfortunate shot. My high point ... was definitely playing with the same people as I did last year. It was a very fun competition and made the long round enjoyable. I also was very proud about making a birdie putt on the first par three I played. Overall, the past four years on varsity have been a high point in my high school experience.”

Profenno and Harmon said Coach Manzo was always there to keep them motivated and having fun. They are thankful for all they learned on the golf course. They thank Manzo and their teammates for where they are



Windham senior Addison Profenno, left, with Windham varsity golf coach Adam Manzo and Windham senior Fiona Harmon displays her state runner-up plaque after Profenno and Harmon competed in the Class A Maine Golf Championships at Natanis Golf Course in Vassalboro on Friday, Oct. 11. PHOTO BY ABBY SPECTOR

today.

“I felt both did an incredible job representing our team, our school, and our community,” said Manzo. “Both seemed highly engaged and focused the entire day. I saw a lot of thinking going on out there, from club selection to reading putts. It was cool to start, and they had to battle serious wind all day long, which made conditions challenging. I’m just super proud of both of them. They are two outstanding kids who always want to play well, so this was a great way for them to wrap up their high school careers.” <



(L to R) Senior Fiona Harmon concentrates as she putts. Senior Addison Profenno gets her ball out of a sand trap. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



#### Lucy Stretch

**Age:** 14  
**Team:** Windham Middle School Field Hockey  
**Coach:** Allie Belaire  
**Parents' names:** Seth and Lindsey Stretch  
**Reason for selection:** Lucy has scored seven goals in only four games for Windham Middle School. She is an eighth-grade captain who leads the team with determination and grit. WMS has scored a total of 25 goals this season and Lucy has had 28 percent of the team's goals. She is a natural leader to younger players on the team. With extreme stick handling skills from specializing in the sport, and playing for Maine Styx, she offers valuable insight to the players and coaches. She will have an incredible career during her high school years.

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# Windham Middle School girls' soccer team unbeaten despite missing a regular goalkeeper

By Matt Pascarella  
STAFF WRITER

Windham Middle School's seventh grade girls' soccer team are 6-0 as of Thursday, Oct. 10 and have not let in a goal from any of their opponents yet. This would be impressive for any team, but what makes this extra noteworthy is this team has no designated goalie. Coach Aaron Talon has been rotating players in to play goalkeeper and the team's defense is so strong their opponents barely get an opportunity to approach Windham's net.

This was evident in a game at Windham against Lincoln on Thursday, Oct. 10, where Windham won 7-0 and multiple Windham players scored.

"We're a very close (team) and we're good at soccer," said Julia Call, who scored three times during the Lincoln game.

The reason the team has no designated goalie is the goalie for this age group is playing on a travel team and attends Jordan-Small School in Raymond and does not play on the Windham team during the school season.

This unusual situation hasn't phased the members of this supportive and skilled Windham team. In six games they've had 11 goalies, and all the girls understand they need to step up and help out to do what is needed to win.

In the six games, Windham has outscored their opponents 27-0.

What led to their success over Lincoln was everyone chipping in and working together. During that game, in addition to Call, Raegan Magee, Gwen Cabana and Addie McPherson all had goals – plus Lincoln scored on their own goal.

"Not being a selfish player (is important) because everyone has a part in how we get to the other side of the field," said WMS seventh grade girls' soccer captain Mila Richards.

At the beginning of the season, they thought not having a goalie was going to be a struggle. But many members of this team have played together for a while and the team has a stacked defense; everyone learned to adapt.

"We have 22 girls who are strongly dedicated to this sport," said Talon. "Most of them play travel soccer through Windham Youth Soccer Association and some girls play on local premier teams. The girls all attend practice and they work hard to get better each day. We emphasize doing



(Clockwise from top left) Windham Middle School's Gianna Falcone passes to a teammate late in the game against Lincoln on Thursday, Oct. 10 at WMS. Windham has been without a designated goalie all season but hasn't let in a goal yet and remains undefeated. Alexis Woodcock focuses on where to send the ball. Julia Call advances the ball. Raegan Magee charges toward the goal. Addie McPherson launches the ball right at the goal and scores. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

things the correct way. Most of these girls have never played goalie. I think some were excited for the opportunity, and also a little nervous. Our defense has done an amazing job supporting our goalies each game."

According to WMS seventh grade girls' soccer captain Alexis Woodcock, it's the teamwork, working outside the soccer team to establish good relationships with one another, which helps them communicate.

"Scoring goals on your own is good, (but) be excited for other people to have goals," said WMS seventh grade girls' soccer captain Gianna Falcone.

While the team definitely wants to keep their undefeated streak up and not let any goals in, they rarely talk about the score and focus more on the following objectives: to get better each day, represent the community well, compete to the best of their abilities and have fun. <

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# King of the wordsmiths

► **By Andy Young**  
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



-Andy Young, Columnist

Until recently I didn't realize that "assesses" is, with eight letters, the longest English word that contains just a single consonant, albeit one that appears four times. Nor was I aware that "bookkeeper" is the only common word in the English language with three consecutive pairs of double letters.

But I know it now, thanks to Richard Lederer, who has authored more than 50 books on the English language. One of them, "Word Circus," contains not only the fascinating information above, but numerous essays on (and examples of) anagrams, puns, oxymorons, and various other forms of wordplay.

There's plenty more delightful word trivia where that came from. For instance, the two longest words whose

letters all appear in alphabetical order are "billowy" and "beefily." Conversely, "sponged" and "wronged" are the two longest words with all their letters in reverse alphabetical order.

The shortest word containing all five vowels in alphabetical sequence is "facetious," while the shortest one containing each of the five vowels in reverse order, with each appearing only once, is "unnoticeably."

"Redivider" is the longest palindromic word in the English language.

"Overstuffed" and "understudy" each contain four consecutive letters (RSTU) in alphabetical order.

Lederer isn't just a wordsmith; he's a lettersmith as well. Who else would point out that H, I, O, and X are the only letters that look the same when seen in a mirror...even when they're being viewed upside down!

Fans of presidential anagrams will enjoy some of Lederer's efforts in that

area, including: "He did view the war doings" (Dwight David Eisenhower); "Loved horse; tree, too" (Theodore Roosevelt); A rare, calm jester (James Earl Carter); and "Insane Anglo warlord" (Ronald Wilson Reagan).

Looking to stump your friends in a game of Hangman? Try using crypt, nymph, rhythm or their plurals, since none contains an A, E, I, O, or U.

In another of his books, "Crazy English," Lederer rhapsodizes about lengthy words like "inappropriateness," a seventeen-letter noun, "incomprehensibility," which is two letters longer, and the 28-letter "antidiseestablishmentarianism." The definitions of the first two words cited here are self-evident. The third, unsurprisingly, means: "A doctrine against the dissolution of the establishment." This brings to mind a three-letter word which, when spelled backward, is the title of a Paul Newman movie: duh!

Try as I might, I cannot choose my favorite Richard Lederer bon mot. Think it's easy? Good luck selecting the best of this tiny sampling of his gems.

"Writing is a way to capture fleeting thoughts and immortalize them on paper."

"Reading is like traveling through time and space without leaving your

chair."

"Language is a playground, and grammar is the rulebook."

"Words have the power to hurt, heal, inspire, and transform."

"The more words you know, the more ideas you can express."

"Language is a living organism that evolves and adapts over time."

"It's not what you say, it's what people hear."

"Language is a dance – a delicate balance of rhythm, melody, and meaning."

"The secret to good writing is rewriting."

"Language is the foundation of civilization. It is the glue that holds a people together."

It's hard to ascertain which English language writer has penned the greatest number of published words. Some have speculated it's William Shakespeare. Others point to Agatha Christie, whose books have sold over a billion copies in English and another billion in other languages, or L. Ron Hubbard, who was credited with 1084 published works. But I think that when it comes to writing words about words, Richard Lederer has easily outdone them all.

Now if only I can find a bookkeeper who assesses such things to confirm it. <

## LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

### TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS SITE WALK

**Saturday, October 19, 2024 • 9:00 AM**

You are hereby notified of the Raymond ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Site Walk at the following location **Saturday, October 19, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.** regarding the information on the following application:

**APPLICANT:** Karen and Bill Burke

**LOCATION:** 36 Murch Landing Road; Map 74/Lot 6  
Zone LRR2

**DESCRIPTION:** Administrative Appeal of Shoreland Zone  
Permit #2024146 for New Dock

The site walk will commence at 9:00 a.m. on site

### PUBLIC HEARING

**Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road  
and Via ZOOM**

**Tuesday, October 29, 2024 • 7:00 PM**

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Appeals Board will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** to hear information on the following application:

**APPLICANT:** Karen and Bill Burke

**LOCATION:** 36 Murch Landing Road; Map 74/Lot 6  
Zone LRR2

**DESCRIPTION:** Administrative Appeal of Shoreland Zone  
Permit #2024146 for New Dock

The meeting can be viewed via internet or on cable TV. The meeting will be streamed in real time from the local Government channel. This live stream is also hosted on YouTube ([www.raymondmaine.org/content/live-video-streaming](http://www.raymondmaine.org/content/live-video-streaming)), so make sure that your computer or router/firewall does not block YouTube content.

#### JOIN ZOOM MEETING

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81392864436?pwd=ObE5pW9wkw2CRNhU1uTa0xmTmgJ6gO.1>

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Passcode: scckE9

#### ONE TAP MOBILE

Meeting ID: 813 9286 4436

Passcode: 803215

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81392864436>

Copy of the submitted application is available for review on the town website ([www.raymondmaine.org/content/zba-agenda](http://www.raymondmaine.org/content/zba-agenda)) after October 8, 2024 OR at the Town Office (401 Webbs Mills Road) by appointment during regular business hours.



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# Homeowner's guide to fall home maintenance

► **Compiled By Jonathan Priest**  
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Jonathan Priest

Fall brings colorful leaves and cooler temperatures, but seasonal home care should also be on the calendar because winter has no mercy on homes unprepared for its surprises. Roof and Exterior

A visual inspection of a home, from the chimney to the foundation, can help reveal vulnerabilities that lead to trouble when wind, freezing temperatures, snow or winter rains rule. Homeowners can use a drone or binoculars to look for debris, which will need to be cleaned up, and missing or loose shingles, which should be fixed or replaced before they lead to leaks. Overhanging tree limbs should be trimmed, so they can't come down, potentially puncturing the roof and causing leaks, water damage and mold. Fall and winter are also prime time for rodents to come indoors for warmth; seal up even the smallest holes and gaps in the foundation, attic or crawl spaces. Firewood should not be stored against the house because it can cause a beetle and/or termite infestation.

**Gutters:**

To keep gutters running well, check them monthly for twigs, leaves and other debris. Plan bigger cleanings — including running water down all the downspouts — both be-

fore autumn leaves fall and again after trees are bare, to be sure fall and winter rain and snowmelt can flow down and away from the house — instead of into the walls, which can cause rot and mold and invite insects.

Clogged gutters — along with poorly ventilated roofs and under-insulated attics — are also a common culprit for damaging ice dams. Ice dams form when rooftop snow melts and refreezes, building up thick layers of ice that eventually push into joints and cracks in the roof and cause leaks.

**Landscaping:**

Some experts note that grass will fare better if it is fertilized after the hottest days of summer are over, when the fertilizer can encourage blade growth and strengthen the root system for winter. Rake off all leaves and give the lawn a final mowing once it stops growing. (A local garden center can guide you on fertilizer formulas suited to your climate and lawn.)

Fall is also a good time to cut dead branches off trees, according to the Arbor Day Foundation, but pruning for shape and size should wait for late winter or early spring.

**Outdoor furniture:**

Umbrellas and furniture that could be blown over can be brought inside or stacked and weighted down, to reduce the risk of damage. Grills should

be moved indoors and outdoor appliances, such as mini fridges, should be unplugged.

**Doors, windows and other drafty spots:**

To keep houses warm without sending heating bills through the roof, and to save energy, the federal Environmental Protection Agency recommends sealing spots where cold air can sneak in, focusing on the attic, foundation and around windows and doors. Caulking, weather stripping and door draft guards can be inexpensive DIY fixes.

For single-pane windows, adding plastic film or storm windows reduces heat escape and cold penetration. Replacing them with insulating double-paned windows is a more expensive option.

**Heating:**

A good time for an annual HVAC system check — to look for wear in parts like the blower motor — is before having to turn on the heat, according to the International Association of Certified Home Inspectors.

Also, check with local utilities to see if they offer free energy audits or rebates for energy-efficient appliances,

including furnaces. It is also good practice to change furnace filters every 60 to 90 days.

**Thermostat:**

Using a programmable thermostat or adjusting a manual thermostat before leaving the house or going to bed, can cut the heating bill by as much as 30 percent while still keeping a home cozy, according to the EPA. Consumers can find Wi-Fi-enabled thermostats, which can be managed remotely via smart phone, for about \$100 to \$300.

**Basement:**

Along with cleaning gutters, making sure a basement is ready for winter means checking the foundation for cracks, which freezing water can widen and make for a very expensive repair. Sump pumps need to be checked for wear.

The big payoff is savings on repairs — and peace of mind.

*This article was brought to you courtesy of Farmers Insurance agent, Jonathan Priest, with an office at 57 Tandberg Trail, Suite 7, Windham and StaySafe.org. Call him at 207-893-8184 or send him an email at jpriest1@farmersagent.com <*



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Based in North Yarmouth, Foss & Company offers full residential renovation and general contracting services for homes within an hour radius of Portland with a focus on effective communication, honesty and quality workmanship.

In leading projects, Foss & Company works with their clients to execute a plan for the project; provides an estimate for its cost including labor, materials, permits, and inspections; hires and schedules subcontractors needed for the project; prequalifies subcontractors, suppliers, and trade partners; keeps clients informed about the project's status; ensures the worksite is safe; and applies and obtains all necessary building permits.

"We genuinely care about our clients, and we don't just work for a dollar," said Foss & Company founder and owner Isaac Foss. "We hope to bring light and encouragement into people's homes. We value communication, honesty, and excellence in the profession. We prefer residential work because we value the people in our community. When people choose us, we see to it that they are taken care of and respected. We do this by placing



## Foss & Company

a high value on being trustworthy. It's a big deal to let strangers into your home. Because of this, I only hire subcontractors that I would trust around my family, too. I am very proud of our level of problem-solving skills, as well as the excellence that I see reflected in our finished work."

Now in business with Foss & Company for 2 1/2 years, Foss spent much of his teen and young adult years

learning from his father who taught him the trade. "After a brief season of exploring a career in music, I decided to start my own construction company," he said. "In the last two and a half years, this company has grown from just me, working out of the back of a Nissan Rogue with hand-me-down tools, to a full team of highly skilled subcontractors and managerial staff."



**Isaac Foss, the owner of Foss & Company, with his wife Lucy.** SUBMITTED PHOTO

His company has grown to include three employees and a team of six subcontractors that they work with regularly.

Foss said their prices are upper-mid level for an hourly rate compared to other contractors in the area.

"Our goal isn't to give competitive estimates," he said.

"Instead, we give an honest estimate that anticipates unforeseen circumstances. We communicate throughout the process, and we're just as happy as our clients are when we come in under the estimate. When we are in your home, we maintain organization and cleanliness. Since your home is already disturbed by the renovation, the least we can do is minimize the chaos. We only hire carpenters and subcontractors we trust will uphold our values and our quality of work."

In some of Foss & Company's Google reviews, clients say that they are professional and communicative and have complimented their high quality of work, including their attention, friendliness, flexibility and ability to keep their homes livable, along with their respect for deadlines and budget.

"Isaac Foss and his team are highly recommended for construction/renovation work. From quoting to finishing touches, Isaac did great work. My home was built in the 1700's and was quite challenging to retro fit some of its needs. Also, there were some structural issues that needed to be repaired. He met every challenge with enthusiasm and the outcome far exceeded my expectations." ~ Rebekha B.

"Isaac and his crew are the answer to your contractor woes. Skillful carpentry, clear communication, respect for deadlines and budget. They're a real pleasure to work with and have around your space. Can't recommend them highly enough!" ~ Paul W.

"We appreciated them listening to exactly what we wanted and offering suggestions when what we wanted was not possible due to code requirements." ~ Michael D.

To learn more about Foss & Company or to make an appointment to discuss your kitchen, bathroom, deck, or interior or exterior project, call 207-274-1080 or visit [fossandcompany.org](http://fossandcompany.org) Also find them on Facebook. <

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