

# The Hallowell Champion



Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Newsletter Volume 6 Issue 3 All Are Welcome Here

Summer 2025

## Help Wanted - Listen Up!



Jacqui Clark listening on a Hallowell Friendship Bench.

*Photo Bob McIntire*

One of the most challenging health problems today is isolation. One in three adults report feeling lonely according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Isolation poses a health risk even if people don't "feel lonely." Isolation can lead to depression and other serious health issues but there are remedies. One "cure" is especially easy and effective. It is listening to others. It may sound simplistic or even silly, but taking the time to listen, really listen, can make a difference in someone's life.

Listening really helps. An article from the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) highlighted the work of Dixon Chinbanda, a psychiatrist in Zimbabwe, who worked with grandmothers that simply listened to people, some of whom were suffering from

depression. According to the article, in clinical trials, people talking to grandmothers had less depression than those undergoing conventional treatment. The listening took place on a "Friendship Bench."

Hallowell has benches! There are more than 20 around town, and the waterfront has over fifty colorful chairs. The locations are perfect for listening. The Hallowell All Age-Friendly Committee members were inspired.

The committee then learned about a Canadian, Paul Jenkinson, a retired social worker, who is on a cross-country listening journey. His adventure was the subject of an article in the *Washington Post*. He sets up a table, two chairs, and a sign promoting "No Cost Listening." He joined a recent All Age-Friendly **BENCH cont'd on PAGE 7**

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# Chief Giles—Inspired by His Relatives

Bob McIntire

Role models are powerful guides in choosing directions in our lives. That is the case for Hallowell Police Chief Chris Giles. Two cousins are police chiefs. He saw firsthand the impact that they have in their communities. It was their work that motivated him to want to work as an administrator.

A native of South Portland, he earned an associate's degree in applied science at Southern Maine Community College with a focus on Criminal Justice. He began his career 20 years ago with the Police Department in Old Orchard. Needless to say, it is a busy place in the summer with lots going on day and night.

He eventually moved to Richmond where he worked for many years with Scott MacMaster, former Chief of Police in Hallowell. It was MacMaster who encouraged Giles to join the Hallowell Police Department in 2021. He served as acting chief in Hallowell before Chris Lewis took the position and then applied for the role when Chief Lewis moved to the Gardiner force.

The challenges for the Hallowell police force are similar to most Maine towns: traffic issues including speeding and operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol and drugs. According to the Maine



**Hallowell Police Chief Chris Giles.**

*Photo Bob McIntire*

Department of Transportation, more than 13,000 cars pass through Hallowell each day on Water Street (Route 201), the main connector between Augusta and Gardiner. This is an obvious focus for enforcement activity, but certainly not the only one.

Scams and other fraudulent activities are growing issues. The Chief cautions that if an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is. "If a telephone call doesn't sound right, hang up and report it. Don't engage or share important personal information over the phone."

The Hallowell PD presently has four full-time officers and several reserve officers who are called into service for the City's major events like the Pride Festival, Old Hallowell Day, and the more recent addition of the Iron Man Challenge. "We could use another full-time officer especially in the evening when the bars and restaurants close." The Kennebec County

Sheriff's Department and Maine State Police are also available should the need arise.

The Chief and his family live in Hallowell. "It is very important to be connected to the community," he emphasized.

## New License Plates

The Chickadee License Plates, over 25 years old, are being replaced with a new design featuring a Pine Tree and North Star, or an option of a plate with no tree. The city began issuing the new plates the first of May. Some residents are excited about the change, and others are sad to see the chickadee plates go. The old plates are becoming less reflective and prone to peeling, according to the Secretary of State.

The Pine Tree license plate will replace all standard issue license plate classes, while the classic plain plate is only available for passenger cars. Specialty plates will still be available for an additional fee.

Vehicle owners will receive new plates with a brand-new plate number, at no charge or keep their current plate number for \$25. Forms to retain plate numbers can be picked up at City Hall or can be printed online from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Residents will receive a new plate when it is time to register their vehicle over the next year. Questions? Contact Dan or Lisa at City Hall, Monday–Friday from 8:30AM to 4:30PM.

## THE INSIDE SCOOP

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Darrin Lary

The Hallowell Water District (HWD) is continuing to monitor the PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) levels in the source water and collect required regulatory water samples. The most recent samples were collected on May 20, 2025. These results indicated a level of 14.0 parts per trillion (PPT) for the total of the Maine 6 PFAS contaminants, below the current Maine PFAS interim standard of 20 PPT. The PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid) level was 5.14 PPT and the PFOA level was 6.74 PPT, both slightly above the EPA regulated standards.

Due to the continued presence of the PFAS contaminants above the

# PFAS Monitoring and Treatment Plant Design

EPA standards, the Water District is continuing with the preliminary design of the treatment facility for removal of the PFAS contaminants in the Ferry Road well sources. The pilot testing field collection phase of the project is complete.

Testing was undertaken with the assistance of the District's engineering firm, Wright-Pierce, and specialty water subcontractor Blueleaf Inc. Field results are currently under review and a preliminary design basis and alternatives analysis is underway.

The preliminary review of the pilot testing indicates several of the PFAS removal medias successfully removed the contaminants down to below detection limits. Several types of media were selected for pilot testing: Granular activated carbon, anion exchange resin media,

and novel adsorbent clay media were tested in the trial.

The preliminary design basis will include several key criteria:

- Site design optimized for current and future operations and maintenance
- Treatment building layout for process treatment and filter vessels and piping, chemical feed requirements, electrical and mechanical spaces
- Laboratory facilities
- Building materials options and space requirements
- Residuals management requirements

This preliminary design will be developed collaboratively with the District to assure the facility meets the current and future needs of the water system.

**Check out Water Buddy page 15!**

## PFAS Removal Media Tested

### Granular Activated Carbon

- How it works: Activated carbon, usually in granular form (GAC), is a highly porous material that absorbs PFAS molecules onto its surface.
- Effectiveness: It effectively removes PFAS, especially longer-chain compounds like PFOA and PFOS. However, it may be less effective for shorter-chain PFAS.
- Considerations:
  - \* Filter replacement is necessary.
  - \* Reactivation or disposal of the spent carbon is needed.
  - \* GAC can be 100% effective for a period, depending on factors like the type of carbon, flow rate, and water chemistry.

### Ion Exchange Resins

- How it works: These resins, typically anion exchange resins (AERs), are made of positively charged polymeric material that attracts and binds negatively charged PFAS ions, essentially trapping them.
- Effectiveness: Ion exchange is highly effective at removing PFAS, including both long-chain and short-chain compounds.
- Considerations:
  - \* Ion exchange resins generally have a longer lifespan than GAC but are typically more expensive.
  - \* Some systems can be regenerated to remove PFAS from the resin and reduce waste.
  - \* Waste disposal is still

necessary for either single-use resins or the concentrate from the regeneration process.

### Modified Clay Novel Adsorbent

- How it works: Modified Clay Novel Adsorbent, is a highly porous material that adsorbs PFAS molecules onto its surface.
- Effectiveness: It effectively removes most PFAS molecules.
- Considerations:
  - \* Novel Adsorbents generally have a longer lifespan than granular activated charcoal, but are typically more expensive.
  - \* Waste disposal is still necessary for the expended media.

# Old Items Find New Life at Hallowell's First Repair Café



## HALLOWELL CLIMATE ACTION

Hilary Neckles

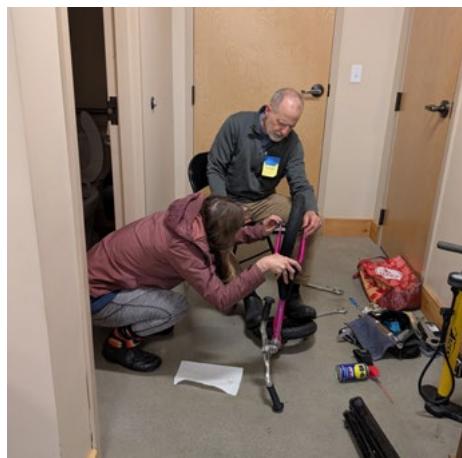
Broken lamps and appliances, wobbly furniture, torn clothing, worn-out seat cushions, and much more found new life at Hallowell's first Repair Café, held on May 10th at the Fire Station. The Repair Café was organized and hosted by Hallowell Climate Action (HCA) to keep items out of the waste stream, reduce carbon pollution, and build community connections. By all metrics, the event was a resounding success.

For four hours, the Fire Station meeting room was abuzz with tinkering and sewing, hammering and honing, and lively chatter. HCA is grateful to the 10 highly skilled fixers who contributed



**George Lapointe (fixer) and Rylan Hynes with a repaired lamp.**

their time and expertise. Fixers included professional engineers and woodworkers, expert craftspeople, and all around handy-people, primarily from our local community. HCA extends special gratitude to Sheldon Bird, an electronics technician volunteering at regular repair cafés in Portland and Brunswick/Bath, for his guidance during planning and his in-person help during our inaugural event.



**Harold Roberts (fixer) and Katherine Johnston fixing a kid's bike.**

About 25 people brought belongings for repair, and most left with newly functional, refurbished products. By observing and assisting with repairs, owners gained insight into their items and learned specifics about any further work necessary. Lamps were the most common items fixed, followed by small pieces of furniture, clothing and other textiles, and shears for sharpening.

A wide variety of unique items included appliance cords that wouldn't retract, a barometer needing calibration, a kid's bike, a KitchenAid mixer, and an e-bike. Participants appreciated delicious snacks, soup, and sandwiches provided by HCA; children planted



**Rocky Cumming (fixer) and Lynn Moore with a repaired lamp.**

*Photos Hilary Neckles*

native seeds to bring home; and everyone enjoyed socializing with both longtime and new friends.

Hallowell's next Repair Café will be on Saturday, September 13th. Save the date, save up your items in need of repair, and come help save the planet!



**Kay Mann and Karen Simpson (seamstresses) repairing a sport coat.**

# Hallowell Artwalk

## June 29, 2025

### 10 AM to 4 PM

Stephanie Paradis

Sponsored by Michael Stuart, Senior Insurance Consultant with Lallis and Higgins, ([www.lallisandhiggins.com](http://www.lallisandhiggins.com)), the Hubbard Free Library ([www.hubbardfree.org](http://www.hubbardfree.org)), and the Hallowell Area Board of Trade ([www.hallowell.org](http://www.hallowell.org)).

Hallowell's first Summer ArtWalk is set for June 29th, 2025, from 10AM to 4PM. Over 35 participating artists will be displaying work along Water Street, plus there are many featured artists within The Blanchard Gallery and the Michel Paul Artist Studio.

The ArtWalk is sure to be lively and bustling. Come see the art, meet



#### Pottery by Debbie Michaud-Alexis

the artists, and support the many businesses downtown.

The Spiral Dance Collective members from The River Studio will present a Community Dance Workshop beginning at 11AM at the Hallowell boat launch. Join in



#### Sailboats by Deborah Train

the fun!

Andrew Thomas will be providing a musical interlude on the patio at The Local Scoop at 1PM. A great excuse for a cone.

Bring your family and tell your friends. You don't want to miss out on this cultural event kicking off Summer!

For information on the event, please follow [@HallowellArtwalk](https://www.instagram.com/HallowellArtwalk) and [@HallowellBoardofTrade](https://www.instagram.com/HallowellBoardofTrade) on Instagram.

## New Businesses Downtown and Beyond!

Hallowell has FOUR new businesses to welcome downtown!



Start your morning with delectable French pastries from the Belle Boulangerie, takeout only, located at 156 Water Street. Their official hours are 8AM to 4PM, Wednesday through Saturday. They close when sold out, so get there by 9:30AM or 10AM to be sure you do not miss out!

Next, moving north along Water St, stop for a bagel in the morning or scrumptious thin crust pizza for lunch or dinner at Lately's, 108



Water St, open Monday through Wednesday from 8AM to 9PM and Thursday through Saturdays from 8AM to 10:00PM.



Heading a bit further north, and across the street, located on the corner of Winthrop and Water is the newest bridal and formal wear boutique in central Maine, Lady J's, where the motto is: "It's your body,

so wear it!" They are size inclusive, one stop for all your formal wear needs.



Go north on Water Street past the trestle, Fraternal Order of Eagles Club 3137 has a new home at 49 Water Street, where they offer club members a comfortable place to meet, socialize, and help fund local charities with the motto "People Helping People."

Hallowell welcomes these new businesses, wishing them all the best as their goods and services enrich the fabric of our community!



**UMA Alumni Élise Bolduc and Ben Hitchcock, Architects and owners of Hitchcock & Co. in Hallowell, Maine.**

*Photos Hitchcock & Co.*

Virginia LaFlamme

For Élise Bolduc and Ben Hitchcock, restoring historic homes is more than a business—it's a way of honoring the past while building a stronger, more vibrant future. As graduates of the architecture program at the University of Maine at Augusta (UMA) and co-owners of Hitchcock & Co., a Hallowell-based renovation firm, the husband-and-wife team is using their UMA education to revitalize homes and reimagine possibilities for their community.

Their journey began when they met in the architecture studio at UMA. Élise, originally from Canada, found UMA to be the perfect fit. “It was a quality program and the people were welcoming and supportive, which was especially important for me as an international student,” she said. Ben, a Maine native, was drawn to the program’s hands-on approach and strong foundation in building science. “I knew I wanted to do something with construction or real estate,” he explained. “I appreciated how the program blended creativity

## Designing with Purpose: UMA Alumni Restore Historic Homes and Advance Housing Solutions

with building science and practical design.”

Élise graduated in 2018 and after Ben’s graduation in 2020, they launched their business. What began with house flips during a hot real estate market has grown into a full-service renovation and restoration company that focuses on historic preservation, general contracting, and investment property remodeling.



**Restored 1875 Italianate house on Lincoln Street in Hallowell.**

Their work blends period craftsmanship with modern building practices, all while honoring the original character of the spaces they touch. Their first major project, a deteriorating 1875 Italianate home on Lincoln Street, became a defining moment. “It was a privilege to be able to save the home and restore it to its former glory while preserving and rehabilitating its original moldings, the grand staircase, marble fireplace, and other important details.”

Since then, Élise and Ben continue to take on a variety of projects across Central Maine: transforming homes, restoring older spaces, and retrofitting vintage structures without erasing their stories.

That thoughtful, respectful approach extends to how they collaborate with homeowners. “Every home already has a certain

standard of craftsmanship,” said Élise, “and we work hard to match it.”

Beyond their restoration work, Élise and Ben are helping meet real needs in the communities they serve, not just by preserving history but also creating pathways to stability and belonging. Élise serves on the board of Row House, Inc., a local nonprofit dedicated to protecting Hallowell’s architectural and cultural heritage. Additionally, the pair renovate and manage rental properties to help meet local housing needs, and they are working to build modest, high-quality homes in Farmington to help older adults age in place comfortably.

Through each project, they demonstrate how architecture can

**UMA continued on PAGE 7**



**An interior of the Lincoln Street house before renovation.**



**After careful repair, the home is ready for many more years of enjoyment.**

# Friends of Vaughan Field Revitalize the Dog Park

Rosemary Presnar

A group of enthusiastic neighbors and friends to Vaughan Field and its Dog Park reached out to the Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC) and Hallowell Tree Board to replace the overgrown rosa rugosa (beach rose) taking over the fenced area at the park. The shrub is listed on the Maine Natural Areas Program as very invasive, and everyone was glad to see it go. HCC members worked with park users to select and buy a diverse group of replacement native shrubs, and the Tree Board advised on tree maintenance.

Starting in the spring, Hallowell Public Works mechanically removed the invasive shrubs and delivered a load of mulch. Friends planted and mulched the new shrubs and the existing trees and shrubs. The new native shrubs and small trees included red-osier dogwood, high bush cranberry, and pagoda dogwood.

The “Four O’clock Dog Park



**Christine Canty Brooks, Dog Park Volunteer.**

*Photo Kellie Vitcavage*

Crew” would like to thank the HCC, Tree Board, and Public Works teams as well as Kellie, Monique, Betsy, Sarah, Nelson, Barbara, Tristan, Brittanie, Kristan, Christine, and the many, many other friends, neighbors, dog parents, and grandparents that donated time and/or materials to the dog park enhancements and Vaughan Field grounds.

Vaughan Field looks great with a volunteer-maintained shade and rain cover at the dog area, a new picnic table, water bowls, and a list of ideas for future improvements. If you would like to help in keeping it clean and welcoming for all, please reach out to the Recreation Commission via City Hall. Let’s keep those tails waggin’ and the swings swingin’ for years to come.

## UMA continued from PAGE 6

be a force for renewal by revitalizing spaces, supporting lives, and strengthening the fabric of Maine communities. Thanks to alumni like Élise Bolduc and Ben Hitchcock, UMA’s impact continues to grow—one home, one family, and one neighborhood at a time.

## About UMA

The University of Maine at Augusta transforms the lives of students of every age and background across the state and beyond through access to high-quality distance and on-site education, excellence in student support, civic engagement, and professional and liberal arts programs. Learn more at [uma.edu](http://uma.edu).

## BENCH continued from PAGE 1

Committee meeting in a Zoom conversation.

Paul explained that people often talk at or past each other. Simply listening, however, creates a big space for people to speak freely. He listens and gives no advice, just attention. After all Paul noted, “People are experts in their own lives.” He encouraged the All Age-Friendly Committee to launch a listening campaign.

So as you stroll around the City, you might see a sign identifying a “Friendship Bench” with a friendly, unassuming listener sitting on one end. Have a seat and have a chat. It’s absolutely free with no obligation.

## Get an Earful! Listening Info

**How a bench and a team of grandmothers can tackle depression.**

Rachel Nuwer, Features Correspondent, from Zimbabwe - British Broadcasting Corporation, 27 May 2020.

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20181015-how-one-bench-and-a-team-of-grandmothers-can-beat-depression>

**Paul Jenkinson, Listening Journey Across Canada**

<https://linktr.ee/pejenkinson>

# Leash and Bag: Protect your dog, wildlife, and our community



Judith Gruber

Judith Gruber

Those of us who love dogs find great joy walking in the woods or through a field with our canine companions. In Hallowell, we are lucky to have abundant public green spaces including Vaughan Woods, the Res, Effie Berry/Howard Hill Conservation Area, Vaughan Field, Granite City Park, the Kennebec River Rail Trail, and, of course, Jamie's Pond. These green spaces welcome dogs but require that owners always keep their dogs leashed and pick up their dog's poop and carry it out. Why? The easy answer is because it is the law, but the reasons behind the law are to protect us, our dogs, our environment, and our biodiversity.

An important reason that dogs are required to be on leash in our shared green spaces is to ensure that everyone can enjoy their outdoor experience. While sometimes hard for dog-lovers to understand, not everybody likes dogs. In fact, some people truly fear them. They may have had past negative experiences, such as having been bitten or watched their loved ones get bitten, or had a bad experience with a guard dog or police dog. We need to respect each other's right not to

be afraid when we are outside in shared spaces.

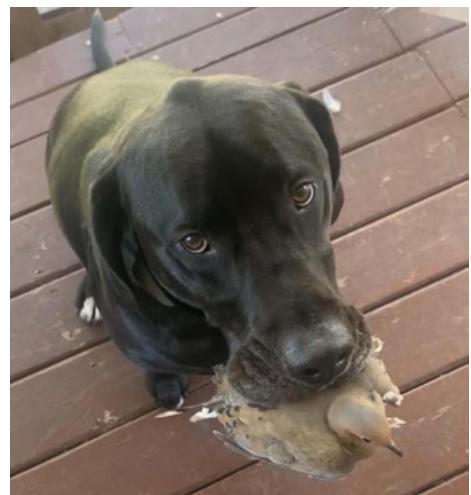
Leash laws also protect our dogs. Even the best-behaved dog might fight with another dog if it feels threatened. And just like people, some dogs are afraid of other dogs, and an uninvited encounter with an off-leash dog can have devastating consequences. Dogs may also bolt at the unexpected, like a loud thunderclap, a hunter's gunshot, or an irresistible weasel running through the woods. When they bolt, dogs might get lost (yes, dogs can get lost!) or run into danger. Threats to loose dogs include coyotes during breeding season that may see a dog as a rival, eagles that may see a dog as an easy meal, and we all know what can happen when a dog and a porcupine meet! Wild animals can also spread diseases, like mange and other parasites, to domestic dogs.

Dog poop that is left in the environment harms our fragile streams and waterways. Owners might think, "It's just one small poop," or "It's only one poop bag," but many, many people bring dogs to our public green spaces. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 100 dogs in a 20 square mile area can contribute enough bacteria to a waterway in just 2 to 3 days to force recreational closure. Importantly, the water quality in Vaughan Brook is declining, and although there are many reasons for this decline, every source of pollution counts. Owners simply can't scoop unseen poop deposited by off-leash dogs. Also, unsightly poop bags left along the trail degrade others' experiences of nature, and they contribute microplastics to our environment.

Finally, off-leash dogs threaten our biodiversity. Dogs can and will

catch and kill birds, rodents, and insects, many of which are in decline. In North America we have lost over 2.9 billion birds since 1970, which is more than one quarter of our total birds. Off-leash dogs, while not the primary cause of this decline, can negatively impact bird populations through disturbance, predation, and disease transmission. Dogs are especially a threat to chicks or young birds. Even if dogs do not directly kill birds and other animals or destroy their nests, the disturbance they cause makes it harder for wildlife to successfully breed and raise their young. Also, when dogs walk or run off-trail, they can compact the soil and alter the vegetation, making it less suitable for wildlife to breed or find food.

The Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC) has posted signs in open spaces to remind dog owners that maintaining dogs on leash and picking up their dogs' poop is the law. This good citizenship not only helps our open spaces remain a joy for everyone, but it also keeps our dogs safe and protects our local environment and wild spaces.



**One reason dogs should be leashed.** *Reddit user r/Alert\_Fondant\_7145*



# North Bay Recycling Update

Karen Simpson and Sylvie Charon

If you've been to North Bay in the past month, you have probably noticed some big changes. For years, North Bay has been open to the public seven days a week, early morning to late afternoon. Unfortunately, increasing amounts of trash have been dumped on site, including innumerable old TVs, chairs, baby strollers, car seats, many plastic bags, and Styrofoam.

Residents from multiple towns, not just Hallowell, were using North Bay as a dumping place for their recyclables, and, unfortunately, for their trash. Many residents have spoken out, insisting this cannot continue.



*Photo Marty Thornton*

Several months ago, a small group of volunteers, former and current members of Hallowell's Recycling Committee, met to discuss ways to keep NB open while also reducing or eliminating trash. We learned that surrounding communities have found success by limiting the hours they are open. In addition, they have monitors on site to ensure proper recycling and to prevent trash dumping. We wanted to give that a try in Hallowell, so we posted a



**Sylvie Charon and Elise Buldoc sort recycling.** *Photo Bob McIntire*

survey asking people to tally when they were most likely to use North Bay. Saturday mornings were the most popular times.

North Bay Recycling Center hours were changed to Saturday morning from 9:00AM until 12:00PM. This decision was made with input from Hallowell's Public Works staff, the Mayor, and City Manager. We decided to give it a try by limiting hours to Saturday mornings with monitors on site. Two shifts of volunteers are on site. Their job is to greet people and assist with proper disposal of recyclable items. The presence of the volunteers also discourages dumping of inappropriate items.

The feedback we've received from residents has overall been extremely positive with appreciation for keeping the site open, for the improved tidiness of the site, for help with sorting, and for the reduction of trash. We've gone from 30 users on May 17 to 75 users on June 7. All has gone well so far, but more help is needed to continue or North Bay will close. If you can volunteer, sign-up at <https://signup.com/go/sFDzNGX>. Updated information about North Bay is available on the Facebook page Hallowell Recycles,

Reduces, Reuses.

Thank you for helping our community and the environment!

## Items Accepted at North Bay

All items you leave at North Bay must be clean and free of food and any other contaminants!

Please do not leave items outside the recycle bins.

**Cardboard:** Corrugated cardboard only and flattened! NOTE: corrugated cardboard goes in the outdoor dumpsters on the right side of the Public Works Building.

**Paper:** Office paper (includes shredded paper), Mixed paper (includes non-corrugated cardboard), Newsprint

**Plastics:** clear #1, cloudy #2 (i.e. milk jugs), mixed opaques #2-#7

**Metals:** "Tin" and aluminum

**Glass:** clear and tinted

## Items NOT Accepted at North Bay

These items may not be recycled at North Bay:

- Ceramic dishes or pottery
- Bulky items such as plastic chairs, plastic toys, or plastic pools, furniture, or lamps
- Styrofoam
- Batteries (of any kind)
- Lightbulbs (of any kind)
- Hardcover books unless the hardcovers have been removed
- Plastic bags (of any kind)
- Plate glass, mirrors, or broken glass

In May, Hallowell holds a Spring Clean-up event when residents can take bulky items to the Public Works building on Water Street.

More information about recycling can be found on the Recycling Committee page of the City of Hallowell website <https://hallowell.govoffice.com>.



Jill Lectka and Annemarie Jirkovsky

The Hubbard Free Library has always been a cool place to be, but now thanks to generous community support, it's literally cool! For the first time ever, the library is fully air-conditioned. A cool respite is just one of many reasons to stop by the Hubbard this summer. The library has something for everyone.

### A Magical Place for Families and Children

The Hubbard's 2025 Summer Reading Program has begun and will run through August 16. The theme, "Color Our World," will inspire participants to express themselves through books, art, and hands-on projects. Families can sign up any time to take part. The Hubbard also offers Storytime on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The children's section is a welcoming

# Enjoy the Hubbard Free Library This Summer

space for curious minds, featuring books, toys, and cozy seating.

### A Hub for Arts and Culture

Visit the Hubbard to check out the collection of books, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, and DVDs. There is also a monthly book club and many ongoing activities throughout the summer (sign up for the library mailing list to get informed of all the events). Library staff is on hand to help research historic homes, family history, or anything that might catch your interest. The collection of historic materials includes newspapers, books, postcards, and one-of-a-kind displays.

### Museum and Park Passes and Library of Things

The Hubbard Library is proud to offer passes to several local museums and parks thanks to the

generous support of the Friends of the Hubbard Free Library. Destinations include the Southworth Planetarium, Farnsworth Art Museum, Children's Museum, Maine Maritime Museum, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, and a Maine State Park Pass.

The ever-growing Library of Things offers non-traditional library items to borrow such as a Cricut Joy, a Cricut Heat Press 2, a sewing machine, a CD Player, a power meter, a tree lopper, and puzzles and games.

### Connecting Community

More than a library, the Hubbard is a true community gathering place—a safe, inclusive, and now climate-controlled space where visitors can meet neighbors, discover new stories, or simply stop in for a quiet moment (or a dog treat at the desk!).

# Save the Date: A Conversation with Monica Wood



Monica Wood

Tuesday, September 23, at 6:00PM

Acclaimed Maine novelist, memoirist, and playwright Monica Wood is coming to the Hubbard Free Library to talk about her

process and research for her most recent novel, *How to Read a Book*.

Wood, who grew up in the town of Mexico, Maine, and lives in Portland, is also the author of *When We Were the Kennedys*, *Any Bigger Thing*, *Ernie's Ark*, and *My Only Story*. She was the 2024 recipient of the Sarah Josepha Hale Award for excellence in New England literary arts, the 2019 recipient of the Maine Humanities Council Carlson Prize for contributions to the public humanities, and the 2016 recipient of the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance Distinguished Achievement Award

for contributions to the literary arts.

Wood has written three plays. In 2015 her first play, *Papermaker*, debuted in an extended run at Portland Stage in Portland, Maine, setting the theater's all-time attendance record and enjoying successful runs at other regional theaters. Her second play, *The Half-Light*, was the second bestselling show ever at Portland Stage. She also had a successful run with her latest play, *Saint Dad*. The trilogy will be published this fall in book format entitled *Three Plays by Monica Wood*.



## Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead



Photos John Brandt

Summer is officially underway at the Vaughan Homestead. The season began with our annual garden party. Fortunately, the weather cooperated, and guests enjoyed a delightful evening strolling the grounds, tasting the offerings from Bao and Beyond and listening to the musical stylings of Marcia Gallagher.

This summer, Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead marks the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution with a special themed



Annual garden party.



Hallowell Champion

# House and Garden Tours July and August



### Vaughan Homestead garden.

house tour and exhibit. "Dissenters, The American Revolution & The Settlement of Vaughan Homestead" explores the Hallowell-Vaughan family's connection to the American Revolution.

From the smoky rooms of a London coffeehouse to the exalted halls of Parliament, and from the confines of a French prison to the tumultuous shores of the Kennebec River comes the true story of statesman, secret agent and suspected spy, Benjamin Vaughan, and his daring escape to America. It is also the complex story of his family, divided by both the Atlantic Ocean and the politics of the Revolutionary War, and how it all culminated in the development of the Vaughan Homestead of Hallowell.

Take a guided tour of the Homestead and wander the circa 1890 colonial revival flower gardens. The tours are July 16, 23, and 30, and August 6, 13, and 20, at 10:00AM.

Check the availability by visiting [vaughanhomestead.org](http://vaughanhomestead.org). Click on "House and Gardens" and "Tours."

Reservations are required and may be made in advance online, by emailing [info@vaughanhomestead.org](mailto:info@vaughanhomestead.org) or by calling the Homestead

at 207-622-9831. Admission is \$10/person (cash or check only), children 12 and under free.

If your group size is larger than four, then please call or email ahead.

When visiting the gardens, pull through the gates at 2 Litchfield Road in Hallowell and park in front of the barn.

All ages are welcome. Tours are given on a first come, first served basis.

A reminder: Entrance and parking for visitors to Vaughan Woods is available on Hallowell-Litchfield Road and at Hall-Dale High School on Maple Street beside the tennis court when school is not in session. Please carry in and carry out. This is especially important for pet waste. See the article on Page 8.



Summer 2025

# Cohen Community Center Celebrates Grand Reopening with Fresh Look and Welcoming Invitation



*Photo Fran Gonzalez*

Lindsay MacDonald

After months of anticipation and renovations, the Cohen Community Center is thrilled to announce its grand reopening complete with a revitalized front entrance and the Overlook deck that promises to become a favorite gathering spot for the entire community!

The most noticeable transformation this summer is at the front of the building and the Overlook deck where visitors are now greeted by beautiful landscaping, new seating, and a fresh paint job! "This update isn't just about aesthetics. It's about making the center more open, more accessible, and more inviting," said Shawn Forkey, director of the Cohen Community Center. "We want everyone to feel welcome the moment they step through our doors or onto the Overlook."

As part of the reopening celebration, the center is inviting residents to join us for social dining. The community dining space is once again open for daily meals, offering nutritious, affordable options in a friendly setting. Meals are served Monday through Friday from 11AM to 12:30PM. Guests ages 60+ are not required to pay for their meal but donations are greatly appreciated. For diners under age 60, there is a required fee of \$7.50. Dining menus and a schedule of events can be found on

the Spectrum Generations website: [www.spectrumgenerations.org/](http://www.spectrumgenerations.org/) newsletter.

"The dining area is one of the heartbeats of our center," said Paige Collier, who manages the robust congregate menu. "It's where conversations happen, friendships are made, and neighbors become family." The Cohen Center has plans for events throughout the summer to celebrate the reopening and to welcome back community members.

The center offers a wide variety of activities for older adults: social engagement, health and wellness, enrichment, and meaningful volunteerism.

Maine Pine Catering, a division of Spectrum Generations, is reinventing community catering, providing modern food, bar, event, and venue (rental) space. All proceeds are reinvested in Spectrum Generations to help older adults combat food insecurity and access other support services so they may age successfully in their communities of choice.

## Sunset Outdoor Movies!



*Photo Lindsay MacDonald*

July 25 "My Favorite Brunette" with Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamar (1947)

Aug. 22 "The Amazing

Adventure" with Cary Grant (1936)

Sept. 19 "Meet John Doe" with Frank Capra, Gary Cooper, and Barbara Stanwyck (1941)

Includes buffet dinner and movie, cash bar, \$25/person in advance, \$30 at the door. Doors open at 6, dinner at 7, movie at 7:30.

## Tuesday Game Nights (themed)!

July 1 Trivia—Sports

July 8 Bingo—Music

July 15 Trivia—Movies

July 22 Bingo—Music

July 29 Trivia—Sports

Sliders, wings, loaded nachos, potato skins. Beer, wine, specialty cocktails and mocktails, 6-8PM, \$25/person.



## Wednesday Wine Series!

July 9 Sip and Decorate Alfresco

Aug. 13 Picnic Wine: light whites and chillable reds

Sept. 10 The Unpronounceable

Oct. 8 Fall in Love with the Loire

Nov. 12 Wines for Thanksgiving

Dec. 10 Wines for the Holidays

Light appetizers, charcuterie and cheese boards, sample drinks, cash bar, 6-8PM, \$35/person.

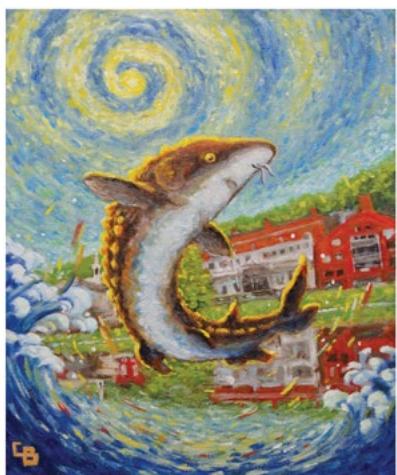


[www.mainepinecatering.com](http://www.mainepinecatering.com)

[events@mainepinecatering.com](mailto:events@mainepinecatering.com)

(207) 620-1189

# Mid-Summer Magic! Old Hallowell Day: July 19, 2025



2025 OLD HALLOWELL DAY

Hallowell, Maine

## 2025 Old Hallowell Poster by Christopher Blanchard.

Erin McGrath

Mark your calendar! Old Hallowell Day (OHD) returns again this year on Saturday, July 19th. OHD is a much-anticipated summer celebration of all things Hallowell, put on by hundreds of volunteers, and with something to offer for everyone.

There are many events to enjoy including the legendary Old Hallowell Day parade, live music, arts, crafts, shopping, cribbage and cornhole tournaments, the Old Hallowell Day Road Race, and, of course, the grand fireworks finale—too many things to mention in one short article, but you can find the complete schedule and plenty of other details, at [www.oldhallowellday.org](http://www.oldhallowellday.org).

Raffle tickets will be available for a chance to win 2025 Old Hallowell Day artist Christopher Blanchard's original framed artwork. OHD 2025 T-shirts and posters will also be available for sale. See you on Old Hallowell Day!

Hallowell Champion

## "A Trail for Everyone" Fundraising Campaign Receives Big Boost

Rosemary Presnar

The City of Augusta, the City of Hallowell, and The Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) hope to build a 1.5+ mile accessible trail on Howard Hill Historical Park in Augusta and Effie Berry Conservation Area in Hallowell. The fundraising campaign is in full swing.

The Trail for Everyone Committee is thrilled to announce an inspiring and generous \$100,000 challenge match grant. All gifts to the Trail for Everyone campaign will be matched dollar for dollar up to a total match of \$100,000. This is a big boost to the Community Support, Individuals, Businesses, and Foundations portion of potential funding sources to reach its planned goal of \$386,287. As an individual or local business wishing to learn more about the project and to donate or set up a pledge, visit: <https://www.tklt.org/a-trail-for-everyone>; every community dollar gets the project closer to the \$386,287 goal.

Two other major grant applications to the Land & Water Conservation Fund and Maine Trails Program are being written by KLT staff. The proposals are supported by the Hallowell All Age-Friendly Committee, Hallowell Conservation Commission, City of Hallowell, and State Representative Dan Shagoury,

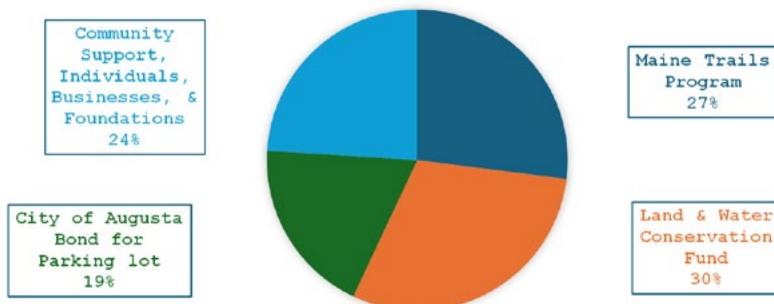
as well as many other regional partners.

The trail will be built to United States Access Board accessibility standards enabling a wide variety of users—including those with mobility and visual impairments and families with young children—to experience the wooded hilltop of Howard Hill, its scenic viewpoints overlooking the Maine State Capitol, and the pond and field habitats of Effie Berry Conservation Area.

Building this type of trail is a big endeavor! The total proposed project budget of approximately \$1,500,000 includes a new parking area with funds provided by the City of Augusta, construction of over 1.5 miles of accessible trail; plus kiosks, signage, and benches; with improvements and extensions to existing trails; and a fund for perpetual maintenance of the Howard Hill and Effie Berry trail system.

The Kennebec Land Trust works cooperatively with landowners and communities to conserve the forests, lakes, streams, wetlands, fields, and wildlife that help define central Maine. Learn more about KLT's conservation efforts on the website [www.tklt.org](http://www.tklt.org) or 207-377-2848.

### POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES – PROJECT BUDGET ~\$1,500,000



# Vaughan Brook and Its Wetlands Ecosystem Is Hallowell's Superhero!

Hilary Neckles and Rosemary Presnar

Freshwater brooks and wetlands might seem like quiet little corners of nature, but they're actually buzzing with activity and working overtime to make life better—for everyone! Whether you live in outer Hallowell surrounded by beautiful vistas threaded by the brook, near Bombahook Stream's wetlands between Central Street and Vaughan Road, or within a short walk of the brook's path through Vaughan Woods, this ecosystem is our backyard superhero. Let's discover how this natural wonder provides a playground for wildlife, acts as a natural filter, and absorbs rainwater.

Imagine your local brook as the ultimate hangout spot for critters. Springtime frogs croak their tunes, birds stop for a drink and snack, and fish and insects dart through the sparkling water. The wetlands bordering the brook are rich with aquatic plants that provide food and shelter for animals. These areas are nurseries for baby animals, where they can grow up strong and healthy. Remember fishing in the Vaughan Brook as a child, or maybe catching frogs or birdwatching at the Res? These ecosystems make our community interesting and full of life.

These magical places also act like giant natural filters. Ever wondered how rural community members get clean water? Private and public wells rely on groundwater, and wetlands and brooks work behind the scenes, trapping dirt and other contaminants to keep the groundwater fresh and pure. They also filter water that fills the Res so that we have a clean swimming hole, and they keep pollution out of the Kennebec River. Think of them as nature's vacuum cleaners,



## Turtles at the Res.

working tirelessly without needing an electrical cord or an on/off switch.

When big storms roll in (remember 2023!), wetlands are our ultimate defense squad. They soak up rainwater like sponges and slow down rushing streams, reducing the damage and danger of flooding. Brooks and wetlands also help keep our environment cool, like the air-conditioning unit for the planet. Plus, they do it in style—using water, plants, and mud!

Sadly, these impressive ecosystems are in danger. Pollution, construction, and climate change are like villains. When a wetland disappears, it's not just the frogs and fish that suffer—it affects everyone in the surrounding community. When a stream becomes polluted, its water and banks can no longer support abundant wildlife or contribute to an ecosystem's food web.

Since 2020 when Hallowell's Vaughan Brook was added to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's "threatened stream" list, Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC) volunteers have been measuring oxygen levels in the brook. In 2024 the HCC was awarded funding to

*Photo Bob McIntire*

develop a 10-year watershed-based management plan to remove the brook from the DEP's "threatened stream" list. Thank you to the many project volunteers and the more than 40 stream landowners that are supporting this summer's Vaughan Brook monitoring and project surveys.

How can you help? From planting native trees near wetlands to letting a vegetation buffer flourish along a stream bank, every small step makes a big difference. Get involved by learning all you can about our local freshwater ecosystem. Email [HallowellConservation@gmail.com](mailto:HallowellConservation@gmail.com), and we can answer your questions or add you to our volunteer list. Vaughan Brook volunteer opportunities are still available on August 6 and for the week of August 11.

Freshwater brooks and wetlands are nature's superheroes, quietly working to keep towns safe, clean, and full of life. From supporting wildlife to fighting floods, the Vaughan Brook ecosystem is the unsung hero of our community. So, next time you walk by that bubbling brook or marshy wetland, give it a little nod—it's doing an incredible job just for you!



Hallowell has two organizations promoting businesses in the City, and it is home to the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce as well. The Hallowell Area Board of Trade (HABOT) was formed on May 17, 1892, and serves to promote the greater micropolitan area. Vision Hallowell, however, has a tighter focus. It was founded in 2019 to support Hallowell's historic downtown.

Vision Hallowell is a Downtown Affiliate program of the Maine Development Foundation's Maine Downtown Center ([www.mdf.org](http://www.mdf.org)). The Downtown Center is a Main Street America Coordinating Program offering guidance to grassroots organizations on creating high-quality places and building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development.

Vision Hallowell's primary focus is to champion initiatives that preserve the unique character and vitality of our downtown. This includes advocating for the restoration and maintenance of historic buildings, promoting local businesses, and

# Spotlight on Downtown!

enhancing the aesthetic appeal of our public spaces.

We believe that a thriving downtown is the heart of a vibrant city like Hallowell, serving as a hub for economic activity, community gatherings, and cultural enrichment. Our efforts are deeply rooted in the understanding that historic preservation isn't just about the past; it's a powerful tool for sustainable economic growth and fostering a strong sense of place for residents and visitors alike.

As a Downtown Affiliate, Vision Hallowell benefits from the extensive resources and expertise provided by the Maine Downtown Center and Main Street America. This affiliation grants us access to valuable training, technical

assistance, and a network of other communities dedicated to downtown revitalization. These resources empower us to develop effective strategies for everything from facade improvement programs to marketing campaigns that draw people to our downtown. By leveraging these partnerships, Vision Hallowell is better equipped to implement impactful projects to ensure that Hallowell's historic downtown remains a vibrant and cherished destination for generations to come.

Join in our efforts. Email [visionhallowell@gmail.com](mailto:visionhallowell@gmail.com) or check out our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/VisionHallowell/>.



Water Street before the automobile.

Photo Hubbard Free Library

## PFAS Water? Need a lift? Volunteers Needed!



Graphic Maureen Kendierski

Hallowell Champion

The Hallowell Water District has a PFAS-free water faucet at its building, but some may have trouble getting to the office. Call on a Water Buddy! The Hallowell All Age-Friendly Committee is launching the Water Buddy program to help lend a ride.

It is a simple process. Request a ride by signing up on a list at Central Commons, at the

Cotton Mill Apartments, or email [hallowellagefriendly@gmail.com](mailto:hallowellagefriendly@gmail.com). A volunteer will arrange to take you to the Water District office. You must supply your own containers.

Speaking of volunteers, the All Age-Friendly Committee is looking for Water Buddy volunteers as well. Send an email or contact a member of the committee. Better yet, join the committee!

Summer 2025

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# Summer's Here, Trees Are Green, Roadside Signs Are Sprouting

John Bastey

*An observation with guidance from Sarah Moore, Hallowell's new Code Enforcement Officer*

How do we know when the summer season arrives in Hallowell?

Well, the days get longer and warmer. The tulips blossom, and the apple trees fill with beautiful white flowers for awhile. Then, like a seasonal curse, temporary advertising signs quickly sprout up on lawns and curbsides. The signs are mostly for local businesses, but some are also from other towns, cities, and occasionally even other states.

All kinds of services are advertised, and although some are useful, advertising signs on the beautiful streets of our fair city are not allowed without approval of the Code Enforcement Officer (CEO), Sarah Moore. She can be reached at (207) 430-4405. Sarah works for Hallowell on Mondays and Wednesdays, so leave a message and she will return your call.

The only signs allowed in the City

are political signs (in season), some real estate signs offering property for sale, and temporary yard sale signs, and not much else without CEO or Planning Board approval.

Many find the signs annoying. Why should we deal with this blight of ugly advertising signs all over the City every spring, summer, and fall? Former Code Enforcement Officer Doug Ide said, "We don't have to!"

Here are the details:

The Hallowell City ordinance, SECTION 9-637 SIGNS, states:

*Prohibited Signs: No person shall erect or maintain, and the Planning Board and the Code Enforcement Officer shall not approve nor issue a permit for:*

*F. Signs Unrelated to Goods or Services Not Available on the Premises. Except for directional signs permitted by the Maine Travelers Information Services Act, all signs shall relate to goods or services available on the premises on which the sign is located.*

Our Code Enforcement Officer will be talking with the companies who post the signs, explaining what the ordinance says and how to



**Legal Sign? Check with the Code Enforcement Officer.**

comply.

Sarah can issue citations but will do that only if necessary. She is only one person, however, and we can all help. Contact the business advertised on the sign and ask the person who answers if they know about the Hallowell sign ordinance. That's it, just ask. Refer to Section 9-637 of the city ordinances.

Perhaps people think putting up the signs without a permit is OK, but the ordinance is clear. If you call, maybe that will help them get the message. Signs are not welcome on the streets of Hallowell.

## Medicare Fraud – Are You the Target?

According to the Social Security website Medicare fraud and abuse costs American taxpayers \$60 billion dollars a year. The targets for scammers are not just large organizations like hospitals and other service providers but are very often individuals. Scott Simundza is a hawk eye when it comes to spotting Medicare fraud and abuse. He has eight years of professional experience in the program. He will be sharing that understanding in a special presentation Thursday, July 10, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm at the

Cohen Center in Hallowell.

Scott is a Senior Medicare Patrol volunteer with deep experience investigating individual cases of errors and fraud and working with Medicare beneficiaries to help resolve billing issues. Senior Medicare Patrol members empower and assist Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers to prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse through outreach, counseling, and education.

Reservations are requested. Call

the Cohen Center at 1-800-639-1553 and press 0.



**Scott Simundza.**



## HALLOWELL CLIMATE ACTION

Hilary Neckles

Hallowell Climate Action (HCA) is a project of Hallowell Conservation Commission helping our community understand, mitigate, and adapt to climate change impacts while taking action to reduce carbon pollution. Events organized by HCA in the coming months will touch on all these objectives. For more information on any of these activities or to get involved with HCA, email [HallowellConservation@gmail.com](mailto:HallowellConservation@gmail.com).

### Climate Action Treasure Hunt on Old Hallowell Day

Kids, after the parade, stop by the HCA table at Granite City

A native plant is like a plant that lives in its own hometown. Native plants are superheroes! They provide food and homes for insects and animals while making their environment more resilient to climate change.

Q: In the Pollinator Garden there's a sign with a pink flower. How many insects are on the flower?

A:

Hint:

Check the stem too!



One of three questions in the Climate Action Treasure Hunt.

Hallowell Champion

Summer 2025

# Happenings

Park to pick up your treasure hunt booklet! You will learn specific ways our community is addressing climate change, make discoveries about each one, and receive a prize coupon from local vendors. (Great for parents, too!)

### WindowDressers



Photo Hilary Neckles

In October 2025, HCA is partnering with the Conservation Commissions of Manchester and Augusta to host our third Community

Build, where volunteers come together to construct lightweight insulating window inserts. Many Hallowell residents are already enjoying increased comfort and decreased heating bills thanks to WindowDressers inserts. Orders are still being accepted for the fall build. Request inserts at [WindowDressers.org](http://WindowDressers.org). For more information or local product testimonials, contact HCA.

### Bringing Nature Home in Maine

Wherever we live, the smallest planting and maintenance choices we make can have a profound impact on our local biodiversity and climate resilience. We are delighted to host Maine Audubon's Andrew Tufts in a public lecture exploring the plants, practices, and perks involved in restoring native food webs in our gardens, yards, and communities. Join us on Thursday, October 23rd, at City Hall Auditorium, 6–7PM followed by refreshments and conversation. Save the date!

MAINE  AUDUBON

Bringing  
Nature  
Home   
in  
Maine



# Salute to Sam Webber!

WEBBER cont'd from PAGE 20

via email in reaction to the news that Webber had stepped down. "Sam has spent decades collecting the history of the community and generously sharing it with all those who are interested. He is the model of a local historian."

Webber has produced several written works about the City's past, including a booklet on Hallowell schools of the 1870s; a memoir of his own childhood there, *Black Cat and Other Stories: Recollections of My Childhood in Hallowell, Maine during the 1940s*; and stories about other people who lived in the City, *Reflections & Recollections: Celebrating Hallowell's 250th, 1762–2012*.

"We got all the older people in Hallowell to write about their life, because we knew that generation would disappear," he said of the last of these efforts, on which he collaborated with the late Katy Perry.

Outside of Hallowell, Webber also was the first curator at Augusta's Old Fort Western, performing that duty from 1973 to 1981. Asked how he managed to do that job while also teaching high school students, he said he had "a lot more energy" in those days.

He received Hallowell's annual Citizen of the Year honor in 1996, the year he retired from Hall-Dale. "I'm sure I'll miss (teaching)," he told the *Kennebec Journal* at the time, adding prophetically, "but I'll be doing a lot of other stuff around here. I saw the bright lights of the city, but I came back here. Hallowell is a community."

Over the years, Webber also accumulated a vast personal trove of documents, letters, and other memorabilia associated with the cemetery, the shipbuilding business, the granite industry, letters former



**Sam Webber, retiring City Historian, conducting a Hallowell Waterfront tour. Always the teacher..**

*Photo Bob McIntire*

students wrote him from the Persian Gulf War, and other subjects.

When he moved, he packed up most of it, intending to donate the collection eventually to the Hubbard library. It amounted to two-and-a-half pickup truck loads. Webber said Historic Hallowell committee member Bob McIntire is gradually doing most of the cataloging of it.

Annie Jirkovsky, who runs the library, got to know Webber when she moved to Hallowell in late 2017. "Sam taught me everything I needed to know about the library and this town," she said, adding later, "I would cite him as one of the

reasons I have been so successful as the library director."

Gilliam, the City Clerk, said there are no prospects yet for finding a replacement for Webber as city historian. Asked what advice he would give to whichever person eventually steps forward to assume that role, Webber responded, "Hopefully have a background in genealogy. Use city records as much as you can."

The City Council will formally recognize Sam's service at the beginning of its meeting on July 7, 2025.

## Interested in Hallowell History? Join the fun!

The Historic Hallowell Committee is actually fun according to a former city councilor who was assigned to be a member, perhaps to try and keep the others in line. The Committee was formed by then Mayor Charlotte Warren to guide the creation of policy and practices regarding the collection, preservation, and display of the City's historic artifacts and related properties; to prioritize and

coordinate historical projects; and to promote historic preservation efforts. That's a mouthful! Members include representatives from like organizations and individuals interested in keeping the city's history alive and accessible. The committee meets monthly, usually at the Hubbard Library. Email [historichallowell@gmail.com](mailto:historichallowell@gmail.com) for more information.

# Make a Difference! Lend a Hand!



## Hallowell Volunteer Fire Department

Volunteers are needed! The Fire Department provides much public service beside fighting fires. Volunteers participate in parades, help with traffic control and training. There are openings for firefighters. Training is available. The course lasts 5 months, and when completed, the person is a fully trained and certified firefighter.

Contact Chief Jim Owens at 207-754-2518 or email [firechief@hallowellmaine.org](mailto:firechief@hallowellmaine.org) for more information.



## Interested in Conservation? Roll up your sleeves!

The Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC) is seeking additional volunteers with conservation-focused interests and the love of Hallowell's natural resources. Help this passionate group protect the health and vitality of our natural resources, build climate resilience, and engage with the community. If you are interested in being added to our Volunteer List, please email [hallowellconservation@gmail.com](mailto:hallowellconservation@gmail.com) and follow us on Facebook.

Hallowell Champion



## Cohen Community Center / Spectrum Generations

The Cohen Center needs some help.

Meals on Wheels Frozen Meal Packers: Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:45pm–2:00pm

Dining Room Service Team: Monday–Friday from 10:45am–1:00pm

Meals on Wheels Milk Bag Packers: Wednesday and Friday mornings 6:45am–8:00am

Meals on Wheels Drivers: Wednesday and Friday mornings

Contact Shawn Forkey, Regional Center Director, at [smforkey@spectrumgenerations.org](mailto:smforkey@spectrumgenerations.org) or call 207-626-7777.



## Join the Helping Hands

The pages of *The Champion* are filled with opportunities for volunteers of any age to help in making our city a safe and delightful place to live and work. From Granite City Park to Vaughan Field and from the Res to the Rail Trail, the public parks and spaces are welcoming and maintained in large part by the helping hands. The Hallowell All Age-Friendly Committee, for example, helps produce this newsletter but it wouldn't be possible without the support of the Publishing Partners.

Summer 2025

Thank them if you get the chance and thank the contributing writers and photographers!



## Seek Elderly Alone, Renew Courage & Hope and RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) of Catholic Charities of Maine

Companions, Shoppers, and Volunteer Drivers Apply Here!

Senior Support Volunteers Needed 55+. You could be the answer to someone's lonely prayer. Do you have a bit of time to share with an older adult? Consider this opportunity to serve. Please contact Lynn.

Need Help? Crave Company? If you are 60 years and older and need support with companionship, grocery shopping, or doctors' appointments, please call us.

Companions, Shoppers, Drivers Needed age 55+. Volunteer a couple of hours a week for seniors who need a helping hand. Provide companionship, assistance with grocery shopping/errands, and/or rides to doctor appointments for senior clients 60 years and older who live in Kennebec County.

Contact SEARCH Program Coordinator, Lynn Kidd, at 207-530-0137 or [lkidd@ccmaine.org](mailto:lkidd@ccmaine.org).



# Webber Retires as City Historian

Joe Owen

Reprinted from Kennebec Current,  
Kennebec Historical Society

Just as you can't judge a book by its cover, you shouldn't judge a life by its early and late phases. Such is the case with Sumner "Sam" Webber.

Sam was born in Rutland, Vermont, and his family moved to Augusta when he was 3. Now, approaching his 89th birthday, he and his wife, Cathy, have lived in a Manchester townhouse since last December. Between those two events, however, he might as well have been called "Mr. Hallowell."

He spent the overwhelming majority of his life in the Granite City, and he served it in many ways, most recently as city historian, an office that was established in 1997 to take advantage of his institutional

knowledge of the City. "I told them I'd charge them a dollar a year, and I never took the money," he said.

As Hallowell's official historian for 28 years, Webber conducted historical tours, cataloged documents, answered genealogical queries, and even built parade floats. Finally, when he moved one town away, he quit the unpaid position, a job that doesn't even exist in most other Maine communities. "But they wouldn't let me resign," he said in an interview at his Manchester home, explaining that city officials continued to send him historical or genealogical questions they had received from the public. At the beginning of spring, he put his foot down and quietly retired... again.

Sam has put his stamp on Hallowell in many ways, and especially on its awareness of its own history. He was at various times a city councilor, president of the Row House historic preservation group, a member of the Friends of Hubbard Free Library board, a leader of guided historical tours, a city election worker, and a teacher of U.S. history and other subjects for



**City Historian Sam Webber  
conducting a tour of the  
Hallowell Cemetery.**

33 years at Hall-Dale High School.

"Everybody knows him," Hallowell City Clerk Lisa Gilliam said, adding that it wasn't unusual for Webber to bump into some of his former students at City Hall.

"Hallowell has been fortunate to have Sam Webber as its longtime city historian," Maine State Historian Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., himself a Hallowell resident, said

**WEBBER cont'd on PAGE 18**

## The Champion Publishing Partners:



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