

# The Hallowell Champion



Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Newsletter Volume 4 Issue 2

Spring 2023

## Making a Small City Great!

*“Let’s all pitch in and do our thing, make a better world to live in.”*

Earl King, the New Orleans singer and songwriter, penned the words to “Make a Better World.” It could be an anthem for Hallowell. The Heart & Soul crew has been asking Hallowellians, or whatever it is we are called, “What makes Hallowell a great place to live?”\* The answers have been as varied as the folks answering the questions. At the core is the willingness of many to pitch in and help in whatever way, to do what needs to be done, to do what interests them, and help make Hallowell a great place to live.

We may not be big (a roaring 2,600 or so souls and 5 square miles) but we punch above our weight. The lifting isn’t easy. Take for example the ongoing work of the City’s Conservation Commission and Tree Board to make Granite City Park a riverside prize. It takes many hands and strong backs. The results are evident.

The ongoing efforts of Grow



**Tree Planting.** Patrick Wynne and Karen Simpson, two members of last season’s Granite City Park planting crew.

Green and Healthy Hallowell and the proposed pesticide and fertilizers ordinance is another example. Whether you agree or disagree with changes, there is no denying that the people involved put their shoulder to the wheel. They did the research and writing, worked to share their concerns, and presented their work to the City Council and public for comment and criticism.

The opportunities to pitch in are legion, whether it be an organization like Friends of the Hubbard, parents working to support Hall-Dale Schools, members of local churches, volunteers at the Food Pantry, or contributors to the Capital Area New Mainers Project. Regardless of personal inclination or interest, there is a way to help.

The City’s website lists more than a dozen committees that offer opportunities to roll up the sleeves, both figuratively and literally, and pitch in. Whether it is arts, culture, history, or recycling trash that piques your interest, you can find a match. Check the Hallowell Helps listing on page 15 if you are looking for more ideas.

Any contribution or level of commitment is welcomed and needed.

“You gotta pull together, go hand in hand. You really got to do your best.

Wouldn’t it be a perfect sight to see: the whole world filled with happiness.” (BM)

\*Check out page 5 for more on Heart & Soul.



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# Introducing Lisa Gilliam, Hallowell's New City Clerk

In case you haven't been to City Hall recently and met her, the city has a new, experienced City Clerk, Lisa Gilliam, who is settling in quickly with the assistance of Diane Polky, former City Clerk, and Deputy City Clerk Dan Kelley.

Lisa has worked for 29 years in Municipal Government as a Town/City Clerk. She worked for almost 18 years as the Town Clerk in Winthrop, and for the past 4 years Lisa was the Town Clerk in Winslow.

When she saw the job advertisement for City Clerk in Hallowell, she couldn't resist applying because she has always loved the Hallowell Community,

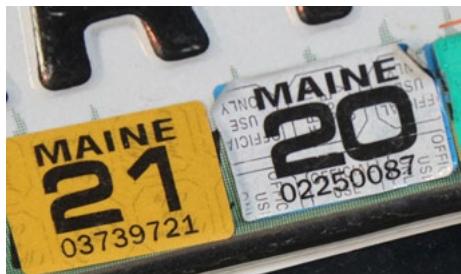
with its historical charm, wonderful restaurants and businesses, and its arts community. She grew up in the Gardiner area and bought a home in Pittston 7 years ago, so the idea of working close to home also appealed to her.

After two months on the job, Lisa says, "Working for the City of Hallowell is just wonderful! Diane and Dan have been so helpful. Even with my experience there's always an opportunity to learn, and I certainly have learned a few tricks from both of them. The people of Hallowell have been so welcoming to me, and I want to thank them for their kindness during this transition. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to

serve as the City Clerk for Hallowell residents. I couldn't be happier, and I look forward to meeting all of you." (MW)



**Lisa Gilliam, Hallowell's new City Clerk.**



Don't get caught unregistered!

## Email Auto Registration Reminder

The City has a program to send an email reminder when it is time to renew your motor vehicle registration. Electronic messages are an eco-friendly and speedy way to communicate.

If you are interested in having an email reminder 30 days before renewal is due, simply email [deputyclerk@hallowellmaine.org](mailto:deputyclerk@hallowellmaine.org). Put "Email Reminder" in the Subject line and include your name, email address, and your plate number in the body of the message. If you have more than one vehicle, add additional plate number(s). It is not necessary to reapply unless you change your email address.

Provide feedback if you like. The clerks want to provide the best customer experience possible.

You may reach Lisa Gilliam, City Clerk, or Dan Kelley, Deputy City Clerk, by calling (207) 623-4021 x 200, Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm.

## News Notes

### City Hall Open for Business

City staff have opened the old customer service windows. Staff will no longer be servicing customers in the council chambers. The central lobby and auditorium will have a bit of furniture and old pictures lying around for a few days as painting and sprucing up continues. New equipment is being installed to stream City Council meetings via Zoom. Everything should be installed for the March 13 City Council meeting.



### Still Time for Sand Buckets

Public Works and volunteers are continuing to provide salt/sand buckets. A quick call to the City Clerk's office is all it takes. Call 207-623-4021 and press 3 for the City Clerk. Ask to be placed on the bucket list. Volunteers will spread sand at the request of the home owner.

# Spectrum Generations Kicks Off Capital Campaign for the Cohen Community Center Deck Project

Coming soon to the Cohen Community Center will be an amazing opportunity to get outside and enjoy nature while experiencing savory, nutritionally well-balanced meals, prepared by our executive chefs. The Cohen Deck Project is a true community-inspired effort that combines social dining with the health benefits of being outside.

The structure, which will be on the east side facing downtown Hallowell, will overlook bucolic rolling fields, where people can enjoy the warmth of the mid-day sun while socializing during lunch. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2023 and be completed during the summer.

The expected cost of \$200,000 is being funded through a capital campaign and donations. Construction will include shade canopies and landscaping. The completed project will add space for about 40 additional diners, expanding space for services offered at the center by approximately 80 percent. Existing programs such as Adult Day or special interest groups like the Cohen Knitting Club will be able to expand their programs using the new space, allowing their participants to experience the health benefits of spending time outside.

Research shows time outside improves concentration and creativity, especially among older adults. According to a 2017 report from Elder Care Alliance, being outside does more than just lift your spirits. It also provides a boost for physical and mental well-being. One study found a 20 percent improvement in attention span and memory after spending just one hour in a natural environment.

Social (congregate) nutrition programs were first established in 1972 as part of the Older

Americans Act for the purpose of serving healthy meals while presenting opportunities for social engagement, health and wellness activities, and meaningful volunteer roles—all of which contribute to the overall health and well-being of older adults. The nutrition programs at Spectrum Generations are robust. In addition to social dining, nutrition programs include home-delivered meals (Meals on Wheels) and Medical Nutrition Therapy administered by the organization's Registered Dietician. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living "46% of Congregate Nutrition Program participants live alone." Gathering in social settings, sharing a meal, and spending time outdoors with others can reduce the effects of social isolation and loneliness for our diners.

The Deck Project has the potential to increase capacity and awareness of Spectrum Generations as a community hub, while providing a plethora of health benefits. According to Spectrum Generation's President and CEO, Gerard Queally, "The Cohen Deck Project is a way to serve the community with dignity and respect, while providing something a bit nicer and upscale.



The deck, as a meaningful gathering space, will be an incredible resource for our older community members and others to enjoy. We hope you will support our efforts to bring the Cohen Deck Project to life."

Your support of Spectrum Generation's programs and services is greatly appreciated! To make a contribution to the Cohen Community Center Deck Project, please visit: <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/spectrumgenerations> and designate your donation using the dropdown box provided. Checks can be written to "Spectrum Generations" with "Cohen Deck Project" in the memo. Memorials, bequests, and planned gifts are also graciously accepted toward the Cohen Deck Project. For more information, please contact Lindsay MacDonald, Community Engagement Director, at [lmacdona@spectrumgenerations.org](mailto:lmacdona@spectrumgenerations.org). (LM)



# Interest Abounds at the Hubbard!

## Join the Annual Campaign

Something interesting is always happening at the Hubbard Free Library.

It might be a super in-person event like our fascinating program “The Stevens School: Then, Now, and in the Future,” featuring Earle Shettleworth (Maine State Historian and Hubbard Trustee), Frank O’Hara (Hallowell Futurist), and Matt Morrill (Stevens Commons Developer).

Or, it might be the two new programs on tap for late spring: Stevens School as seen by people who lived and worked there and how analyzing ancient ice cores from glaciers in Europe, Greenland, Tanzania, and Antarctica helps us understand climate change, past and future.

Or, it might be one of our book groups or our Saturday morning children’s programming.

Or, it might be the dramatic aftermath of the dark and very stormy night of November 30, 2022, that destroyed the storm panel protecting our most spectacular stained glass window and how our mayor and city manager and library director came to the rescue.

Or, it might be the Hubbard’s critically important 2022–2023 Annual Fund Campaign.

Since October 2022, individuals young and old, families, and businesses motivated by their shared commitment to keeping the Hubbard thriving have sent checks, cash, and made online donations at [www.hubbardfree.org](http://www.hubbardfree.org) totaling \$33,000 toward our campaign goal of \$45,000.

Please join with your friends and neighbors to contribute generously to the Hubbard’s 2022–2023 Annual Fund Campaign. Thank you. (KY)



Window repair.



## Happenings at the Red Doors

There is so much going on at the Hubbard Free Library.

Book Club – Every third Tuesday at 6:00pm.

Snowshoes for loan. While there is still time to use them!

Story Hour Live on Wednesdays

10:30am and live and streaming Saturdays at 10:30am.

Stevens School Reflections May 5, 2023 6:00pm.

Visit our web page [www.hubbardfree.org](http://www.hubbardfree.org) or follow us on Facebook for updates on offerings.



Children's Librarian Becky Cooper with a crowd of listeners.



Annemarie Kromhout and Doreen Judge decked out in Star Wars regalia.

# Welcome, Hallowell Downtown Community Center!

The Hallowell Downtown Community Center (HDCC) provides space for Hallowell citizens to meet and conduct activities supporting the Hallowell community. The HDCC is located at the former Hallowell Heart & Soul space at 172 Water Street.

A need for such a meeting space was identified by citizens involved with the recent Hallowell Heart & Soul (HH&S) initiative. HH&S has since worked to define the Center's purpose, to find ways to promote/advertise the Center, and to create a reservation system.

The HDCC reservation process is as follows: (1) An individual completes the HDCC Reservation form, which collects information about the request, the event's purpose, and date/time needed. If you are unable to use the QR code provided, please contact Anne at 207-620-2325 or Karen at 207-530-2754 (texting is preferred). (2) The HDCC team checks the Reservation Calendar and determines if the space is available and notifies the requestor within two days if their request is approved.

If we can accommodate the request, we will send the requestor the Confirmed HDCC Event Details sheet outlining expectations and Center details.

The HDCC is available Monday–Friday from 9:00am to 9:00pm, as well as for special weekend events. The space can accommodate 15± participants comfortably, although ways to include more participants as needed is open to discussion.

Here are some examples of how the space has been used: Hallowell Heart & Soul interviews/meetings, Gaslight Theater rehearsals, Hallowell Pride



**Hallowell Downtown Community Center.**

meetings, Downtown Revitalization Roadmap Process, and a holiday “pop-up” store supporting Breast Cancer Research. Anticipated HDCC uses are poetry readings, youth organization fundraising, meditation activities, game nights, infant/toddler play dates, committee meetings, and more!

The Hallowell Downtown Community Center space has been donated by the building owners, and utilities and maintenance are paid by a combination of grant money and voluntary donations by the groups using the space. (KTK)

## Draft Purpose Statement:

The Hallowell Downtown Community Center invites inclusive connections, to build our strengths, our community, arts and the humanities, and to foster a healthy, welcoming community.



Scan this code for the HDCC Reservation form.

# Nourishing Our Neighborhood

## Giving Thanks

In November, we provided Thanksgiving baskets to 45 local households. These included a turkey and everything necessary for a scrumptious feast, including dessert. The filling and distribution of the baskets was facilitated by 20 of our trusty volunteers. About half of the baskets were delivered to people's homes. Regardless of whether one gave or received a basket, the wonderful sense of community was heartwarming.

Thanks to the Thanksgiving Crew: Jim Lavoie, Jill Holt, Stephen and Penny Doore, Joanne and Wes De Campos.

## Inaugural Appeal Meets Goal!

In 2022, our food pantry served 35% more households than in 2021. In December, we sent out an Annual Appeal letter to our community, with a goal of \$6,000. We are happy to report that we met our goal. This incredible response from our supporters will enable us to continue providing the same services to all in need, despite the increase in prices nationwide.

## From Zero to 55

During the early stages of the pandemic, the City generously let us use an adjoining room in order to physically distance from each other, as well as to store cases of food. This room was spacious and bright, but it had no heat. Our volunteers wore multiple layers and kept moving at all times to avoid getting chilled to the bone. Recently, when Gary Lamb, City Manager, learned of our plight, he arranged for a Modine heater to be installed by Augusta Fuel. This has transformed our working environment, and we are profoundly grateful.



**The Thanksgiving Crew Jim Lavoie, Jill Holt, Stephen and Penny Doore, Joanne and Wes De Campos.**

## Around Town

If you go into Juiced, Traverse Coffee, Lucky Garden, or Slate's Bakery, you will notice our new collection boxes proudly bearing the Hallowell Food Pantry logo, as well as a QR code for those of you who rarely carry cash. Our slogan, "Every penny helps make change," is a good reminder that we can each make a difference, however small.

## Seasonal Sides

In December, we set up extra tables to display some unique donations to our food pantry. Nancy Bartlett donated hand-made children's hats and mittens that she'd collected from knitters across Maine and beyond. Operation Homefront provided several large bags of children's toys and games. Bruce Nickerson donated 40 boxes of jigsaw puzzles to help while away the dark winter days. All in all, it's hard to say who's had more fun with these donations—the adults or the kids!

To learn more about the Hallowell Food Pantry, please contact Vicky Gabrion, Director. Call (207) 992-6899, visit the website at [www.hallowellfoodpantry.org](http://www.hallowellfoodpantry.org), or check out our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/hallowellfoodpantry](http://www.facebook.com/hallowellfoodpantry). (VG)



**Fresh fruit for our customers from friends at Hannaford.**



# Ice and Arches – Super Cool Learning Experience at the Homestead

It is always a season for learning at the Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead. Once again this winter, students from Hall-Dale Middle School ventured out on the ice to learn about how residents from days gone by prepared for storing food as the seasons warmed. Dan Mitchell, the Property Manager at the Homestead, with able assistance from the students, cut a hole to measure the thickness. Students outfitted with tongs and ice picks hauled blocks of ice out of Cascade Pond.



Vaughan Woods &  
Historic Homestead

# Greetings and Happy 2023 from the Hallowell Area Board of Trade

There is a great deal of excitement as we come out of the “Covid years.” The Hallowell Area Board of Trade will be regrowing the Board of Trade membership, working together to increase our communications and promotional reach, and boosting sales for all of Hallowell’s businesses this year.

Please mark your calendars. The regular monthly Board of Trade meetings (6:00–7:00pm) will be held on the second Tuesday of each month. We promise to keep the meetings focused. We know you are all busy, and we respect your time.

First, a quick introduction for all who do not know me. My name is Allison Michaud. I am the owner of The Frost Factory at 144 Water Street, once the offices of the Hallowell Savings Institution

and the Northern National Bank. My husband and I also own and are renovating the buildings at 152 and 154 Water Street. I was honored to be elected to serve as President of the Board of Trade. Other board members are Monica Castellanos (Maine Local Market), Vice President; Cary Colwell will continue to serve as Treasurer; and Ruth LaChance (InsureMaine) is the HABOT Secretary.

We all extend a huge “thank you” to former Board President Chris Vallee and Board Vice President Mark Walker for their tireless efforts and leadership for the last two years when our ability to be together and bring people to Hallowell was challenged by Covid. Chris and Mark, thank you!

Our next Board meeting will be



**Monica Castellanos, Vice President, and Allison Michaud, President, Hallowell Area Board of Trade.**

Tuesday, March 7th, from 6:00–7:00pm at the Hallowell Downtown Community Center at 172 Water Street. We hope you will join us! Bring your ideas of what you would like to see happen in 2023. (AM)



## Been There, Done That for 132 Years

Businesses and interested individuals have been joining together as the Hallowell Area Board of Trade since May 17, 1892, to promote Maine’s smallest city as a great place to live and do good work. The first HABOT organizational meeting was held in the “Engine House” or the old fire station on Second Street. It was the Town Hall from 1827 until the “new” City Hall was built in 1899. The group then met in “The Alderman’s Room,” now the City Council Chambers.

The Maine State Board of Trade decided to meet in Hallowell at a regular semi-annual meeting in 1908. The program for the event trumpeted, “We have in this issue endeavored to show forth ... in an abbreviated way, what a breezy,

flourishing place is this little Yankee city.”

The Board of Trade was organized in part to market the availability of The Cotton Mill, then standing empty. The Board ran an ad in the program. “We beg leave to call your attention to a building in this city which is finely located for a manufacturing plant.” Sweetening the deal, “The mill is equipped with two Corliss Engines, ... steam heating pipes, automatic sprinklers and a steam fire pump.” If that wasn’t enough, “Vessels drawing twelve feet can come within fourteen rods of the mill” or 231 feet.

Since that time the Board of Trade has continued to promote the City, its businesses, and cultural activities. Members support this work with individual time and

effort because they know that once visitors come to town, they too will agree with the State Board of Trade when it said, “In Hallowell you will find an interesting, intelligent and progressive people well worth getting in touch with.” (BM)



**Hallowell from Chelsea Heights.**  
Photo by Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company.

# UMA Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition

Charles Danforth Gallery, University of Maine at Augusta

March 26–April 26, 2023



**Installation view of the 2022 UMA Student Art Exhibition. Image credit: Robert Rainey.**

The annual juried UMA Student Art Exhibition will be held March 26 to April 26 at the Charles Danforth Gallery, located in Jewett Hall at the University of Maine at Augusta, 46 University Drive, Augusta. There will be an opening reception on Sunday, March 26, from 1–3pm.

The annual juried UMA Student Art Exhibition allows an inspiring window into the creativity and dedication of students taking UMA Art classes. This year's exhibition features works created over the past year, including paintings, works on paper, and sculptures.

This year's Juror of Awards is renowned artist Annie Lee-Zimerle, who will select exceptional student works for awards, to be announced at the opening reception.

As her artist biography explains, Annie Lee-Zimerle is an interdisciplinary artist with a background in printmaking, painting, and drawing. Interested in transferring her thoughts into tangible forms, she began to draw. Her work is often narrative based and a reflection of her thoughts on domesticity and the mundaneness

of culture.

Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in museums and galleries and is in numerous private and public collections, including the Dayton Metro Library in Dayton, Ohio; Harold Washington Public Library in Chicago; and the Joan Flash Artists' Book Collection in Chicago, Illinois.

Annie Lee-Zimerle has held solo exhibitions at Springfield Museum of Art, Kent State University, and

## Age-Friendly Committees Convene Regional Transportation Forum - May 5, 2023

The old Downeast saying, “You can’t get there from here” is unfortunately true, especially if you don’t drive even if you live in metropolitan Augusta. Buses serve areas from Gardiner to Waterville, but the schedules and connections sometimes make travel inconvenient and wait times lengthy. Taxi rides cost more than many people can afford. So where do we go from here?

The Age-Friendly Committees from Augusta, Chelsea, and

Paper Circle Southeast Ohio's Center for Paper and Book Arts, among other locations. She recently was an artist in residence at Cleveland Institute of Art and at the Studios at MASS MoCA. She was also featured on “The Art Show” on PBS.

She is currently an Assistant Professor and Program Director of the Kate Cheney Chappell Center for Book Arts at the University of Southern Maine.

The Charles Danforth Gallery serves the UMA campus and the wider community of central Maine with rotating contemporary art exhibitions. Conceived as a living classroom and used for lectures and other events, the gallery is a site for faculty, students, alumni, and community members to engage with ideas, forms, and conversations in art. The public is welcome to visit the gallery in Jewett Hall, which is open Monday–Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm from September through May. The UMA Danforth Gallery welcomes the public to participate in gallery events, receptions, artist talks, and more. (BW)

Hallowell, in cooperation with the Cohen Center, are convening a Regional Transportation Forum on Friday, May 5, 2023, from 9:30am until 12pm to provide a forum for discussion. Join folks from the surrounding communities, service providers, developers, and users to identify problems and opportunities and action steps to create wildly optimistic solutions.

RSVP [hallowellagefriendly@gmail.com](mailto:hallowellagefriendly@gmail.com) or call 207-592-4718 to ensure there are enough donuts.

# Spotlight On ... The Hallowell Community Band

The Hallowell Community Band (HCB) was organized in 1948 and incorporated in 1952. This year is its 75th anniversary! Myra Broadway, President, reported, "Currently we number about 35 regulars and welcome new musicians any time. We love having new people join—even if it's been a while since you played! The HCB is a welcoming, spirited group of people." David Collier joined as its conductor in January 2018.

Warren Heald, a long-time Hallowell resident, was the founder and kept the band going through lean times. In 1982 the City of Hallowell approved a bronze plaque naming the Hallowell Bandstand the "Warren Heald Bandstand" in his honor. The band makes over 20 appearances during the summer, including every Thursday evening on the library lawn in Boothbay Harbor from July through the first Thursday after Labor Day. It also performs a couple of times in the summer season at the Railway Museum in Boothbay. In June 2022 it played for Celebrate Gardiner Day.

HCB plays in Central Maine parades, including the Old Hallowell Day Parade, Gardiner Memorial Day, the Rockland Lobster Festival, Richmond Days, the Fourth of July in Augusta, Moxie Festival in Lisbon Falls, and Bowdoinham in early September. In October 2022 the band made its debut at the Damariscotta Pumpkinfest parade. HCB was also honored to be among the Maine Bicentennial Parade participants in 2021.

Being a band member can be infectious. Myra Broadway described her relationship with the organization. "I've been associated



**Hallowell Community Band, 70th anniversary celebration at Hallowell City Hall. Photo credit Hallowell Community Band.**

with the HCB for about 28 years. I play clarinet. I started to play at the age of 9 in fourth grade but put the instrument away after graduating from high school.



**Hallowell Community Band in the Old Hallowell Day Parade. Photo credit centralmaine.com.**

"At least 20 years later I was approached by one of the original clarinetists in the Hallowell band about joining. I kept insisting it had been way too long. We went on like that for months. We attended the same church. Finally, I decided that the only thing to do was to show up at a rehearsal and demonstrate I couldn't play. The opposite

happened. I was hooked and haven't stopped since."

During the winter, the band rehearses Monday evenings at the Gardiner Elks Lodge (Rt. 126), from 6:30–8:00pm. New members are always welcome to become a part of this fun-loving musical group.

For more information contact Dave Collier, Conductor, at (207) 402-9126, [hardysteve73@yahoo.com](mailto:hardysteve73@yahoo.com), or Myra Broadway, President, (207) 441-7848, [myrabroadway@yahoo.com](mailto:myrabroadway@yahoo.com). (MW)



**Photo credit Hallowell Community Band.**

# Hallowell Tree Board Ready for Spring Work!

As spring approaches, the Hallowell Tree Board and others are making plans for the care of our community forest. Community forests play an important role in cooling streets and buildings, reducing air pollution, controlling storm run-off, filtering water enroute to lakes and rivers, contributing to economic development, and generally improving residents' mental health. As many focus on the global impacts of climate change, the value of trees cannot be underestimated. They store carbon and reduce the demand for cooling buildings and the energy required



**Woolly Adelgid. Photo credit USDA.**

and weeding. Many thousands of trees are planted annually. Studies confirm, however, that there is about a 20% mortality rate in the first year. Continued care is important. This effort will improve the beauty of the Granite City Park for residents and visitors, as well as contribute to the overall global effort to reduce human impact on the planet.

Invasive insects such as the browntail moth and the emerald ash borer have heavily damaged several species of trees in the last few years. Now we must be on the lookout for the hemlock woolly adelgid. This insect, with no known predators, has the potential to wipe out many hemlock trees. The hemlock woolly adelgid has not been observed in

Hallowell; however, it has been identified in Gardiner, a mere 4 miles away.

Hemlock is an important forest species: It grows along brooks and lakes contributing to the protection of water quality; shades brooks and streams preserving habitat for coldwater fish species; provides ideal cover for deer wintering yards; and is a valuable timber species and a favored landscape species.

What can we do? Inspect hemlock trees in your yard or areas where you walk. Look for miniature cotton balls which are white waxy tendrils that cover the insect's body. White balls are located at the base of the needles where they attach to the twig and are commonly observed in late October through July. If found, contact the Maine Forest Service at [foresthealth@maine.gov](mailto:foresthealth@maine.gov) or call 207-287-2431.

As spring approaches, watch for volunteer opportunities at the Granite City Park. Consider joining the Hallowell Tree Board. Contact City Hall for information. Plant a tree this spring. (WD)



**TREE CITY USA®**

for water treatment.

The Tree Board secured a Project Canopy grant providing the opportunity to plant trees and shrubs at the Granite City Park on the waterfront. Several native trees and shrubs were planted in 2022. Several community groups led by the Tree Board and the Hallowell Conservation Commission are working to improve the park by removing invasive weeds (primarily Japanese Knotweed), expanding the HCC's pollinator garden, and caring for newly planted trees.

Volunteers are enthusiastically welcome to participate. Several opportunities are knotweed cutting and tree care such as watering



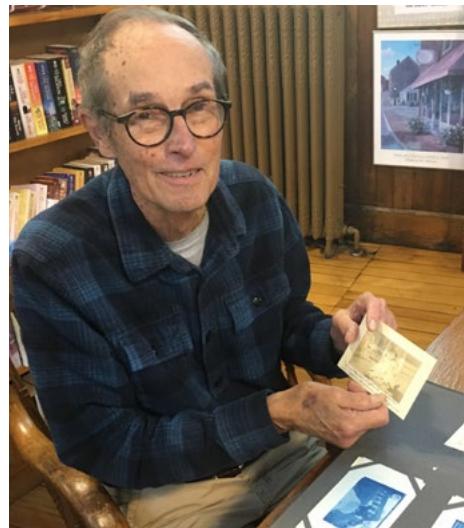
# Miss Haskell's Mysterious Postcards

The Historic Hallowell Committee meets monthly to explore exciting old facts about the city. The committee occasionally receives emails at [historichallowell@gmail.com](mailto:historichallowell@gmail.com) requesting information or offering documents or artifacts that the sender thinks might be of interest to people in Hallowell. One recent example is the return of Hallowell's Memory Quilt, now on display at the Hubbard Library. The Back Page of the Fall 2022 edition of *The Champion* shares the details.

An intriguing email arrived last summer from Casey Gershon who wrote, "My mother [Janet M. Perrigo Brown-Wolff] recently passed away and in her collection of notebooks was a photo album of a Jessica Haskell of Hallowell, Maine. There is a note from my mother that she lived in a home in Hallowell, so she must have picked this up in her move, but she did not know anyone in the photos. The postcards are dated 1905 to 1911. There are over 50 cards in the collection. As Jessica, I gather, was a teacher in Hallowell, I was hoping I could send this to you for safekeeping." Would we be interested in the album? Of course!

The postcard album arrived just in time for the October meeting of

the committee. While an interesting collection, the album, cryptically titled "Number 9," contained postcards but with no identification. Sam Webber, City Historian and committee member, fondly remembered the collector, Jessica Haskell, as a fine teacher. "She was my Latin tutor," Sam explained. "She was very kind. She was also nearly totally blind. She had shelves of books all around her house and knew where they were all located."



**Sam Webber examines Jessica Haskell's postcard album.**

Sam recalled that several graduates of Hallowell High School, including sea captain Arthur Moore among them, collected money to fund an operation on her eyes to restore her sight. "When I returned from my first year at Millbrook School, I visited her and she saw me for the first time. It was wonderful!"

Sadly just a few days before the October committee meeting "Duke" Dulac died. The longtime proprietor of Duke's Rotary Barbershop on Memorial Circle in Augusta, Duke was a graduate of Hallowell High School Class of 1956. He began his tonsorial career at Dom's Barbershop on Water Street in downtown Hallowell.

Representatives of his estate donated several photographs of Hallowell High School classmates to the collection of the Hubbard Library.



**Miss Haskell surrounded by Hallowell High Students.**

During the committee meeting Annie Kromhout, Library Director, brought out a large panoramic picture of a class of Hallowell High students and faculty on the steps of the school. She wondered if Miss Haskell might be among them.

"She's right there!" Sam exclaimed, pointing out the teacher among the crowd. "She was a wonderful teacher," he reminisced. Now we have a picture to place with the postcard collection Number 9. One can't help but wonder who are the people shown in the collection who are now over a century old, and where are the other albums in the collection? Perhaps someday they too will return to Hallowell. Selected images from Miss Haskell's postcard collection can be viewed at the committee's website [www.historichallowell.org](http://www.historichallowell.org). (BM)



**Annie Kromhout, Hubbard Library Director, and the class picture from Hallowell High School.**



**Unknown friends and pup.**

# A Study in Process: Proposed Pesticide Ordinance

If you have ever had a concern about something and had reason to engage with government at the local, state, or national level you might be forgiven for lamenting, "How does anything ever get done?" Indeed, the process can sometimes seem daunting. However, it provides an opportunity for proponents of an idea to hone their thinking while ensuring interested parties, proponents, opponents, and interested onlookers have their say. The proposed ordinance relating to the Management of Pesticides and Fertilizers provides an example of this process in action. The full text of the ordinance is available on the home page of the City's website [www.hallowell.govoffice.com](http://www.hallowell.govoffice.com).

## Timeline

**Two Years Ago:** Some citizens of the City were concerned about the use of synthetic insecticides and fertilizers. They formed the Grow Green and Healthy Hallowell Coalition and along with some members of the Hallowell Conservation Commission drafted a proposed Landcare Management Ordinance.

**Summer 2022:** The City Charter specifies the process for enacting an ordinance. (Article VIII, Section 2). Citizens can submit a petition to the City Council bearing the signatures representing 15% of the total vote for all candidates for Governor in the City of Hallowell in the last gubernatorial election. A total of 1,610 votes were cast for candidates for Governor in Hallowell in 2022. The petition would have to have signatures of at least 242 registered voters.

In this case the proposed ordinance was submitted to the City Council by the Hallowell Conservation Commission on behalf of the Grow Green Coalition during its regular August 2022 meeting. The

ordinance was then sent to the Ordinance Rewrite Committee and the City Attorney who can correct the form of the ordinance but not change its meaning and effect.

**Fall 2022:** The City Council heard an update on the proposed ordinance during its October 2022 meeting. A motion to agree with the broad focus of the ordinance was tabled. The public was provided an opportunity to comment on the ordinance. Dr. Sydney Sewall, MD, spoke of the importance of protecting children from pesticides. He went on to say that pesticide exposure during pregnancy may lead to an increased risk of birth defects, and exposure in childhood has been linked to attention and learning problems as well as cancer.

**December 2022:** The City ordinances require that before an ordinance is voted on, there will be a public reading on three separate days. The first reading was scheduled during the December 2022 Council meeting which, after discussion, the reading was tabled.

**January 2023:** The City mailed an announcement of a public workshop to all active mail addresses in the city. The City Council held a workshop meeting to listen to citizens' reactions to the proposed ordinance. Nineteen individuals spoke, some twice. A recording of the workshop is available for review. Seventeen people submitted written

comments, copies of which are also available on the city website.

Public comments ran the gamut of opinions. Some citizens are deeply concerned about the effects of the application of synthetic pesticides on people of all ages and the natural environment in general, even if regulated. Licensed applicators and their satisfied customers point to federal rules regarding pesticide use as adequate for safe use of these products and state that further regulation would be governmental overreach.

**February 2023:** The City Council heard first reading of the ordinance at its regular meeting and voted to hold the required public hearing of the ordinance during its March 13, 2023, meeting.

## Where do we go from here?

Two more public readings of the ordinance are required along with the March public hearing before the City Council votes on the proposed ordinance. Regardless of opinions, there will be opportunities for continued input both publicly at the hearing and Council meeting, and privately through correspondence or comment to at-large councilors and those serving the ward where you live. Take the opportunity to share your opinions and beliefs. Support the process for civic engagement that makes our city a vibrant place to live. (BM)



**Photo:** Hallowell Conservation Commission Chair Rosemary Presnar addresses the City Council during the January 2023 public workshop.

# Hallowell in Pictures! Movies and Stills

**Hallowell Goes to the Movies March 18th - Hometown Photographs April 22nd**

When it comes to movies Camden has *Peyton Place*. Augusta has the great *Coleman Day* silent two-reelers. Isleboro was the setting for *Man Without A Face*. Hallowell, on the other hand, has the cinematic saga *Dominic Blodgett and his Geese!* The description from the WABI Television collection offers this tantalizing preview, "Farmer discusses geese on his farm in Hallowell." This is just one example of the unique moving images of Maine's smallest city fresh from the vaults of Northeast Historic Film. The snippets will be shown on March 18 at 2pm in the Hubbard Free Library. This is one of two picture-focused programs sponsored this spring by the Library, Row House (Hallowell's historical society), and the Historic Hallowell Committee.

The program will also feature clips of video recordings including one of the trucks that has crashed through buildings on Water Street. Sam Webber videotaped a train ride through town on the way to Richmond. The program is presented in hopes of encouraging people to search basements and attics for films and videos of Hallowell that can be added to the Hubbard collection. Segments shown will also be uploaded to the Maine State Library digital repository for online viewing.

"Hallowell in Pictures," the second program, will feature a presentation by Kevin Johnson, photo archivist at the Penobscot Marine Museum, on the staggering collection of over 35,000 glass-plate and film negatives from the Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company. This is only a portion of the museum's visual holdings. The Eastern collection has 28 detailed photographs of Hallowell, a special



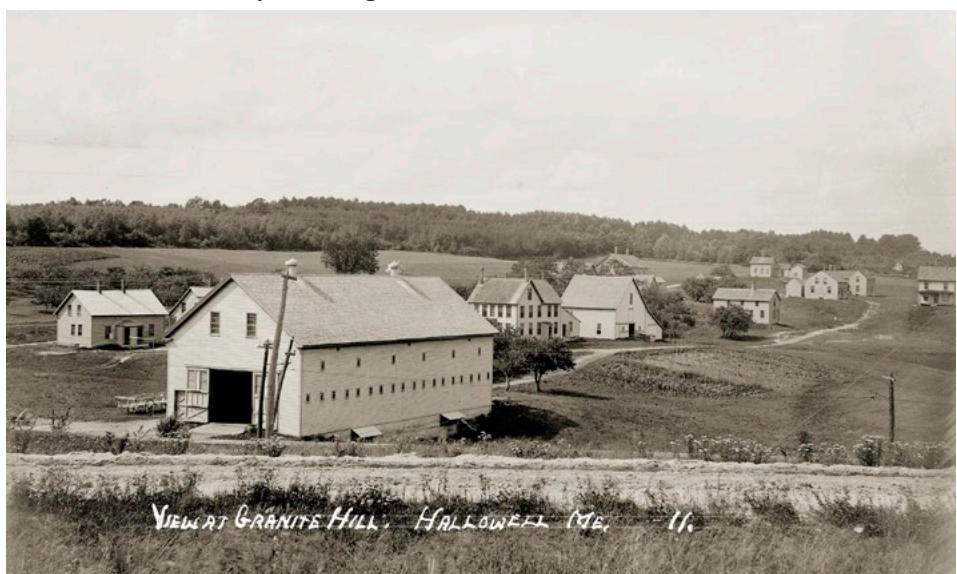
**Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company photographer.  
Photo from Penobscot Marine Museum Collection.**

feature of the presentation. The program will be Saturday, April 22, also at 2pm.

The Hubbard Library has a wonderful collection of Hallowell photographs. Many were scanned and uploaded to Maine Memory Net, an ongoing project of the Maine Historical Society. The photos can be viewed online by visiting [www.mainememory.net](http://www.mainememory.net)

and entering "Hallowell" in the search field.

The Historic Hallowell Committee is also hoping to entice volunteers interested in photography to help scan and catalog the Hubbard collection. Email [historichallowell@gmail.com](mailto:historichallowell@gmail.com) or visit the committee website [www.historichallowell.org](http://www.historichallowell.org). (BM)



**Granite workers' homes and buildings at Bodwell on Granite Hill from the Eastern Illustrating and Publishing Company collection.**

# Do You Need Help? Do You Want to Help? Make the Connection!



## Hallowell Volunteer Fire Department

The Hallowell Volunteer Fire Department has openings for firefighters. Training is available. Contact Chief Jim Owens at 207-754-2518 or email [firefd29@aol.com](mailto:firefd29@aol.com) for more information.



## Cohen Center/Spectrum Generations—Volunteers Needed

Meals on Wheels “packers”: Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. Assist with sorting meals for home deliveries (need a detail-oriented person).

Volunteer dining staff: Monday through Friday 10:30am–1:00pm. May include meal prepping in the kitchen—a great opportunity for cooking enthusiasts.

Drivers and subs needed: Check in with homebound older adults on Friday mornings. Contact Shawn Forkey, Regional Center Director, at: [smforkey@spectrumgenerations.org](mailto:smforkey@spectrumgenerations.org) or call 207-626-7777.

Hallowell Champion



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

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

Companions, Shoppers, Drivers Needed: Families, singles, retirees, college, and high school students: 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).



## Hallowell Conservation Commission: Knotweed Patrol and Flower Upkeep

The Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC) always needs volunteers to assist with projects or events targeted to protect and

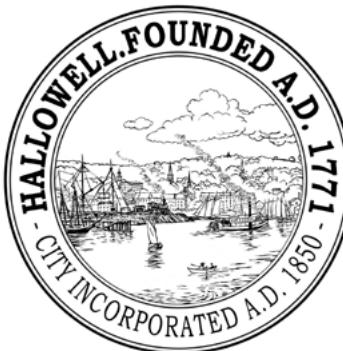
conserve the City's natural resources. This spring the Commission needs a hand eradicating knotweed and maintaining the native plantings at Granite City Park. The Commission also supports the Grow Green & Healthy Hallowell coalition and the Hallowell Climate Action initiative. If you are interested in any of these groups or wish to be added to our Volunteer List, please email [hallowellconservation@gmail.com](mailto:hallowellconservation@gmail.com) and follow us on Facebook.



## Hallowell Food Pantry

Join the Food Pantry Reserves.

We are always looking for people to fill in when our regular volunteers need time off. If you're interested, please call Vicky Gabrion, Director, at (207) 992-6899 or go to [www.hallowellfoodpantry.org/contact](http://www.hallowellfoodpantry.org/contact)



Several City committees could use your help. Visit the City website <https://hallowell.govoffice.com/> Click on “Government” and go down to “Boards and Committees.” Click on any of the titles to learn more about this important work.

Spring 2023

# Number 4 Is Headed Home!

Flip the calendar back to October 2021. The Hallowell City Council after considerable discussion and reflection decided to purchase a new fire truck. The requests for proposals went out. The bids came back, and a contract was awarded to Pierce Manufacturing, the nation's largest producer of firefighting apparatus.

Fast forward one year to October 2022, and the Hallowell order went on the assembly line at the company's Bradenton, Florida, facility. Four months later Chief Jim Owens, Deputy Chief Aaron Selwood, and Firefighter Logan Bennett traveled to Florida to check out the engine.

"We spent about 10 hours going over the truck from bumper to



**The new Pierce pumper.  
Hallowell's new Number 4.**

tail," Chief Owens explained. "Several small items were found and corrected immediately. It's important that with the cost of these vehicles and the expected life of 25 years that everything is done correctly."

The finished truck is being transported to Scarborough for the final inspection and then to an industry show as a featured exhibit before being delivered to Hallowell. The Hallowell firefighters will spend a month or so learning to operate the new engine before it is put into service.

A formal dedication ceremony is tentatively

scheduled for the beginning of May when, in a time-honored tradition, the members of the company will push the new engine into the station. In the days of horse-drawn pumpers, the animals had trouble backing up, so after a run the firefighters would have to push the pumpers back into the station.

Why Number 4? "We chose the number to pay homage to Tiger No. 4," Chief Owens explained. The pumper was built in 1837 by the Wm. C. Hunneman Company of Boston and is proudly displayed by the department at events like Old Hallowell Day. Watch for details of the dedication and join in the celebration.



**The Tiger built in 1837; photo from about 1910.**

## **The Champion Publishing Partners:**



Contributing Writers: Wes Davis (WD), Vicky Gabrion (VG), Karen Tucker Knox (KTK), Lindsay MacDonald (LM), Bob McIntire (BM), Allison Michaud (AM), Maggie Warren (MW), Brent Wooten (BW), Ken Young (KY).

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