

The Hallowell Champion



Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Newsletter Volume 1 Issue 2

Spring 2020

Hallowell 1820: A Celebration of Maine's Bicentennial



Maine is celebrating its bicentennial in 2020, and "Old Hallowell" has a great story to tell! Did you know that it is the birthplace of the Maine State Seal? Or that the city was actually chosen by the legislature to be the State Capital for a few brief hours? These are but a few of the historical tidbits being savored during the year.

When Benjamin Vaughan proposed the emblems for the State Seal that would come to represent Maine's identity and advocated for Hallowell to become the State Capital, he had been living in our fair city for over two decades. Having been born in Jamaica, grown up in England, and travelled through much of the world, Vaughan was uniquely suited to identify the elements that made the new state and our small city unique.

How much did the community he was surrounded by influence the elements he chose to represent Maine's identity? Why was Hallowell considered one of the top candidates for the Capital, and how did it lose this honor to Augusta? What was Hallowell like in 1820? This year, you'll have plenty of chances to find out!

To honor Maine's Bicentennial this year, Hallowell's Bicentennial Committee and local cultural groups have come together to create a series of programs entitled "Hallowell 1820" that will include lectures, tours, arts programs, gatherings, and exhibits that celebrate Maine



Old South Congregational Church party location

history and highlight what our community was like during the period that led up to and followed Maine statehood.

Preparty Party!

Row House, Hallowell's Historical Society, invites everyone for cake and ice cream to kick off our city's Preparty Party celebration of the State's Bicentennial. The "official" celebration will be held on Sunday, March 15, at the Augusta State Armory. The festivities in Hallowell, however, start a day

BICENTENNIAL Continued on
page 2

Small City Big Plans

There's a lot to like in Hallowell in 2020: a beautiful location, a walkable downtown, and nearby attractions. And, of course, there are opportunities to improve that might be missed. Our quality of life cannot be taken for granted. Thoughtful planning will ensure those qualities are maintained and enhanced.

The City of Hallowell is beginning a new comprehensive plan. This overarching policy and strategy will document the way things are in 2020 and provide guidance for Hallowell in 2040. While that may seem like a long time in the future, it's no farther than the year 2000 is in the past.

What is a comprehensive plan? It is a statement about where the community should be heading. A good comprehensive plan starts with an inventory of current conditions. It looks at subject areas such as transportation, housing, historic places, economic development, and natural resources. It describes where things are today and where they have been in the past and looks at opportunities and challenges in each of these areas.

Based on community input, collected data, and the successes of other communities, the comprehensive plan will outline a future vision for the City. Finally,

PLANS Continued on page 15

**For the full INSIDE
SCOOP, see page 3!**

Modernize the State Seal! Call for Proposals

In celebration of the Maine State Bicentennial, The Harlow, in partnership with the Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead, seeks a modern interpretation of the original Maine state seal to be hung over the mantel in the Vaughan Homestead dining room. One artist will be selected and awarded a \$1,500 prize. The Vaughan Homestead will work collaboratively with the artist to create a final custom artwork that

both modernizes and honors the original state seal. Once an artist is selected, Vaughan Homestead staff will follow up with pertinent details, dates, deadlines, etc. Proposals will be reviewed by staff members of The Harlow and Vaughan Homestead. Artists may submit one original piece only. More information about the call for entries can be found on the website harlowgallery.org and click on "Maine Bicentennial– Call



Original Maine State Seal

for Proposals" on the right side of the web page.

BICENTENNIAL Continued from page 1

earlier on Saturday, March 14, beginning at 2:00pm with cake and ice cream, but no candles!

Our city's celebration will be held in the Old South Congregational Church. The faithful have been meeting on this spot since 1790, three decades before statehood. Maine State Historian, Earle Shettleworth, will unveil "A Tale of Two Capitals—Hallowell versus Augusta." He will describe what early Hallowell looked like and its cultural significance. Find out why Hallowell was considered a great candidate for the Capital!

Ron Kley, from Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead, will tell the story of how Benjamin Vaughan came to be one of the designers of the Maine State Seal. The event will be capped off with a Bicentennial cake and homemade ice cream, a serious party pleaser!

In June and July, the Harlow Gallery will partner with Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead for an art exhibition inspired by the State Seal, which will be a tribute to Maine's legacy as it honors and celebrates the themes that make up the State's identity. The State Seal contest details appear above and at harlowgallery.org.



Illustration of Hallowell about 1823

© Museum of Fine Art Boston

Old Hallowell Day, Saturday, July 18, will begin, as always, with the popular parade—this year sporting a Bicentennial theme. Learn about Hallowell in 1820 as Row House offers city tours throughout the afternoon.

Sunday, July 19, the Old Hallowell Day Committee invites everyone to Maine's Summer Birthday Party at Vaughan Field. A Birthday Cake Contest is just one of the many activities scheduled for this family-friendly, fun-filled afternoon.

The celebration continues in the fall, when the Hubbard Library will revive the "Hallowell Blues," the City's original women's literary society. A series of programs will highlight the writings and activities

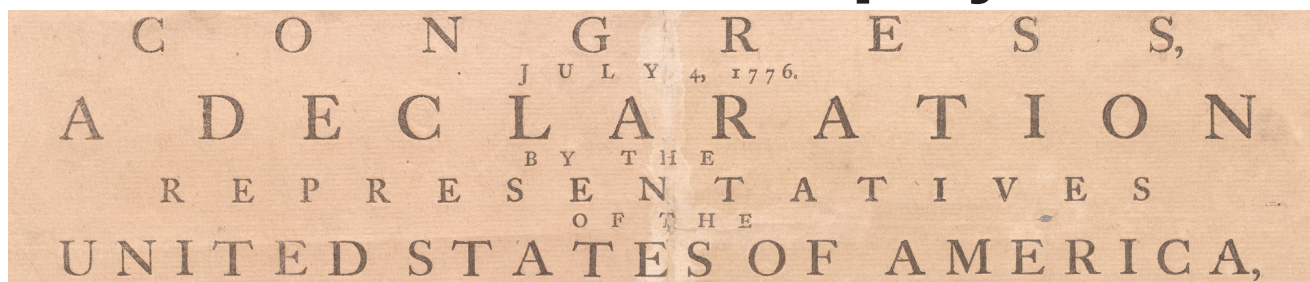
of many of the notable women from in and around early Hallowell.

Gaslight Theater will have a season of Maine-themed shows designed to delight. The lights come up on the first production on the Bicentennial weekend, March 13, 14, and 15, and again on March 20, 21, and 22. The play, *Last Gas*, was written by Presque Isle native and Broadway actor John Cariani.

Detailed information, updates, and links are available on the historichallowell.org webpage.

So, keep an eye out for more announcements and be sure to join us to celebrate our special City and its connection to Maine's Bicentennial!

City's Declaration of Independence Broadside Home for Display



Hall-Dale Elementary Open House March 14, 10am-2pm

Sam Webber, Hallowell City Historian, made an amazing discovery. The City had an original 1776 printed version of the United States Declaration of Independence and it was hanging in a picture frame on the wall at Hubbard Free Library! When the Declaration of Independence was first written, two separate printings were made of the document. Municipalities in the colonies were given these “broadside.”

A copy had been sent to Fort Western, located in Hallowell during this time period. Hallowell’s copy was one of 250 ordered by the State Council of Massachusetts, which included what is now Maine, from a printer in Salem, MA. Only 11 of the original 250 copies are believed to exist today. The broadside was supposed to be read to church congregations by ministers in Hallowell and present-day Gardiner before being returned promptly to the fort. Apparently, it was not returned.

Hallowell Citizens’ Initiative Committee, whose mission is to foster the appreciation of Hallowell’s local history, is sponsoring an event Friday, March 13, for the students and parents of Hall-Dale Elementary School and for the public on Saturday, March 14, 2020, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Hall-Dale Elementary School located at 26

Garden Lane. “I hope that a lot of the younger people come and see the real thing,” said Webber.

Because it is such a rare document, security measures are provided by the Hallowell Police Department when it is on display in Hallowell.

Webber, who was the curator of Fort Western Museum in 1976, was contacted by *National Geographic (Magazine)* because they were trying to locate broadsides of the Declaration of Independence. He discovered a copy of the Declaration of Independence in a picture frame hanging on the wall in the librarian’s office at the Hubbard Free Library. On examination it turned out this was the very same broadside copy of the Declaration of Independence given to Hallowell some 200 years before! A curator at the Maine State Museum removed the document from the frame and determined that it was indeed the copy that had been sent to Fort Western back in 1776. The Hubbard Free Library Trustees loaned the City’s copy to the State for a special event in the 1990s, and arrangements were made to have it stored in the Maine State Museum.

The charge to those who received the original copy appears on the bottom of the Declaration.

“ORDERED, That the Declaration of Independence be printed; and a Copy sent to the Ministers of each Faith, of every Denomination, within this STATE: and that they severally be required to read the same to their respective

Congregations, as soon as divine Service is ended, in the Afternoon, on the first Lord’s Day after they shall have received it: —And after such Publication thereof, to deliver the said Declaration to the Clerks of their several Towns or Districts; who are hereby required to record the same in their respective Town, or District Books, there to remain as a perpetual MEMORIAL thereof.”

Hallowell’s broadside didn’t resurface until 1908, when E.T. Getchell, a Hallowell native, donated it to a museum housed in the Hubbard Free Library, according to library records. It hung on the wall until its eventual discovery.

THE INSIDE SCOOP

Bicentennial Celebration	Page 1
Small City Big Plans	Page 1
State Seal	Page 2
Hallowell's Declaration	Page 3
Stevens Commons	Page 4
Hallowell.org	Page 5
UMA Students	Page 6
Harlow Gallery	Page 7
Hubbard Free Library	Page 8
A Deadly Disease	Page 8
Cohen Center	Page 9
Hallowell Food Bank	Page 10
By the Numbers	Page 11
Sand Bucket Brigade	Page 11
Browntail Moth	Page 12
Seasons Change	Page 12
Vaughan Woods Tour	Page 13
Hallowell Helps	Page 14
Hot Dates!	Page 14
All-Age Friendly Plan	Page 15
200 Years of Music	Page 16

Stevens Commons Central Building Renovations Progressing

Community Housing of Maine (CHOM) is excited to report the historic rehabilitation of Central Commons on the Stevens Commons campus is well under way! With a little more than four months remaining for construction, the apartment units and common spaces are taking shape. It's exciting to see this historic school building transformed into 29 units of high-quality affordable rental housing for individuals aged 55 and older.

The industrial carpet and tile installed during the building's most recent use as State offices have been removed, revealing original hardwood floors on the second and third floors. Floors will be refinished in the corridors and in many of the new apartment units.

The historic windows were each carefully removed and beautifully restored off site and are now being reinstalled. In addition, new wood windows were fabricated to replace the boarded-up arched windows on the primary façade of the building overlooking the quad. The four arched windows once enclosed brick "porches" and will now be

in the living rooms of two of the apartments!

The 29 apartments have new construction amenities within the existing historic structure, including new kitchens, Energy Star appliances, bathrooms, lighting, and window treatments. Each of the 29 units is unique—an appealing feature of the adaptive reuse of a historic building. The building features bright and spacious layouts, with a mix of efficiency and 1-bedroom apartments. Efficiency apartments will range from 484–573 square feet, and the 1-bedroom apartments will range from 580–745 square feet.

Central Commons will offer on-site laundry, community space, additional tenant storage, an elevator, and limited on-site parking. Heat and hot water are included in rent, as well as 24-hour emergency maintenance.

The Stevens Commons campus is an ideal location. Tenants will enjoy access to the campus open green spaces, walking trails, a weekly summer farmers market, public transportation, and a mixed-use



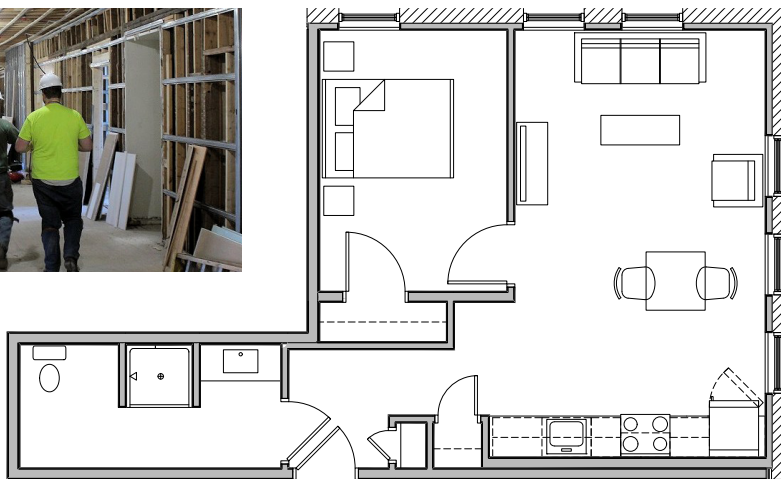
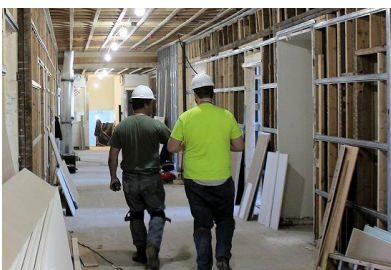
Construction in progress

community of neighbors in the other buildings on campus. Central Commons is also conveniently located ½ mile from downtown Hallowell where there is a post office, bank, library, local shops, and restaurants.

CHOM has hired Preservation Management(PMI)to professionally manage Central Commons. PMI will handle the applications and leasing process on CHOM's behalf.

Applications for apartment rentals are now available. Everyone will need to request or download an application. Applications will be processed in the order they are received. Please visit preservationmanagement.com/rental/property/central-commons or call 207-653-4005 to receive an application. Please note that as affordable rental housing, eligibility requirements will apply.

CHOM anticipates units will be ready to rent in early summer.



Example of a one-bedroom unit. Studio apartments also available.

Get Connected at HALLOWELL.ORG

Hallowell Area Board of Trade (HABOT) members devote their time and resources to make Hallowell a great place to visit, live, and do business. They do this by supporting local events and by keeping up a print and electronic media presence. Members of HABOT's executive and marketing committees are tasked with maintaining the popular website, hallowell.org.

Here you will find recommendations for things to see and do in the Hallowell area as well as great places to eat, shop, and spend the night. They also maintain a calendar of member events. HABOT members have free advertising on the site, which can direct traffic to member websites. Visiting hallowell.org is a great way to stay connected to local businesses and events. The Board of Trade also maintains three Facebook pages:

facebook.com/hallowell.org

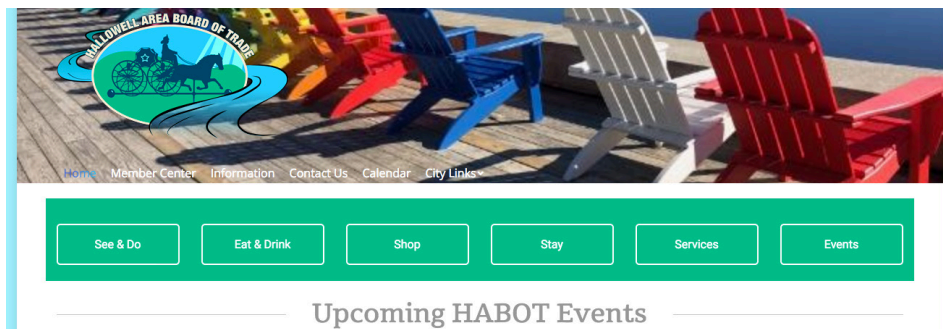
facebook.com/hallowellwoodstock

facebook.com/hallowellmardigras

BREAK OUT THE BEADS! MARDI GRAS AROUND THE CORNER

Just as cabin fever sets in, Hallowell and the Board of Trade offer a sure-fire cure! It's Mardi Gras time in The Little Easy! The celebration on February 22 gets under way with a parade at 6pm on Water Street. Get dressed up, put on your glad rags, and join in the fun! Or grab some friends and enjoy the experience as a spectator! The city's pubs, bars, and restaurants will have food and drink specials to fit in with the Mardi Gras theme.

JOIN IN THE FUN!



Hallowell Area Board of Trade website

If promoting Hallowell as a terrific place to live, play, and have a business sounds good to you, join us! Membership is \$75 for a business and \$50 for an individual for the full year. You don't need to have a business to be part of the Board of Trade, all you need is a love for our great city. And if you do have a business, what are you waiting for? Come join the discussion, connect with other local business owners and residents, and help us keep Hallowell a thriving gem on the Kennebec.

The Board of Trade meets the second Thursday of every month at 6pm at various locations around town. Check hallowell.org for the location. Come see how HABOT is a good fit for you!



Join the Hallowell Mardi Gras Parade, Saturday, February 22, at 6PM

UMA Students Settle in at Stevens Hall

Additional Housing Planned at Erskine Hall

The [University of Maine at Augusta](#) (UMA) is pleased to be part of the Hallowell community with its first ever housing at Stevens Hall in Stevens Commons. The fall semester was a great success as students settled into the residence hall and began their classes on the Augusta Campus. UMA congratulates Mastway Development on its receipt of [the Maine Preservation Honor Award](#) for the excellent renovations undertaken in the Stevens Hall building.

Students Explore Hallowell

As the semester started, the students found their groove and began to explore all that Hallowell has to offer—great restaurants and stores on Water Street, the farmers market on campus, as well as the trails available behind Stevens, the Rail Trail, and in Vaughan Woods. In an effort to build a positive community within the residence hall, the residence staff planned

interactive and fun events, such as BINGO, kickball, and ice-skating, along with gatherings on informative topics such as study skills.



Expansion to Erskine Hall

With Stevens Hall at full occupancy, UMA will expand into Erskine Hall this fall. Renovations are already underway and will more than double UMA's residential capacity. Thousands of honeybees had built a massive hive in the building walls as noted in an October 15, 2019, *Kennebec Journal* article. Area beekeeper, Larry Davis, safely removed the bees and relocated them to Peaks Island. UMA looks forward to occupying the building this summer.



UMA students gathered in front of Stevens Hall

UMA Augusta Campus Update

The main campus in Augusta has undertaken renovations to the former Jewett Auditorium that received a facelift with a new, enlarged stage, auditorium seating, carpeting, and audiovisual technology. The auditorium in Jewett Hall will now be known as the Susan and Barry Farber Forum, thanks to a generous gift from Susan and Barry Farber. The new space will enhance the educational experience of UMA students while expanding event opportunities for students and the community. More information about events on the UMA campus can be found at [uma.edu/about/events](#).

Plans have also begun for renovations to the Randall Student Center that involve a new addition to the building for a Welcome Center. This addition will allow for the co-location of student services for "one-stop access" of financial and advising needs, as well as the expansion of student recreational and study spaces. Construction is anticipated to begin this spring with occupancy expected by spring 2021.

For more information about UMA, please visit [uma.edu](#).



Historic Erskine Hall, on the Stevens Commons campus, undergoing renovations for the second phase of UMA student housing

The Harlow Gallery: A New Season of Sensations

Happy Spring! Here are the upcoming events at The Harlow. Check out the website harlowgallery.org for more information on exhibits and upcoming workshops.

Annual Silent Art Auction

The Harlow's annual Silent Art Auction is running through February 22, with proceeds directly supporting 2020 programming at the Gallery. Bid on an exciting variety of fine art and crafts donated by local collectors, artists, and fine crafters. The Silent Auction bidding closes Saturday, February 22, at 4pm sharp.

Harlow Expands Craft Shop



The Harlow gallery has expanded its Craft Shop into the downstairs space. The upstairs will remain a dedicated exhibition space. Come in and see! (Harlow members get 10% off craft shop purchases.)

Higher Forms of Art Student Art on View Feb. 2–23

UMA's Danforth Gallery, Jewett Hall, 46 University Drive in Augusta
The 14th annual Higher Forms of Art exhibition of artwork by students from area high schools, is presented in partnership with the University of Maine at Augusta for the 7th year in a row. This exhibit gives emerging artists the opportunity to show their

art in a professional gallery space and offers students the experience of organizing and installing a major art exhibition. Danforth Gallery hours are Monday–Thursday 9am–5pm and Friday 9am–4pm. The public is invited to attend a closing reception for the artists and their art instructors on Sunday, February 23, from 3–5pm (snow date Monday, February 24, from 4–6pm). Art pickup is after the reception.

Maine Flora: Three Views Feb. 28–March 28

Opening Reception Friday, Feb. 28, 5–7pm

The Harlow presents “Maine Flora: Three Views,” a three-person exhibition featuring Kathryn SB Davis, Laura Dunn, and Julia Einstein. The trio have a shared interest in the regional art scene, as well as in each other's work. “Our goal is to invite viewers into an artful investigation into the flora of Maine. We will share how we documented our explorations, inspirations, process, and surprises as this will be a critical part of exhibition experience.”

Art2020: 25th Annual Juried Exhibit–Call for Art

Deadline April 1, 11:59pm. Juror | Erin Hutton

The Harlow invites artists to submit artwork to Art2020, the 25th annual juried show. Art2020 is open to all Maine artists and to any artist with a strong connection to Maine.

This year's juror is Erin Hutton, an art advisor, curator, and founder of Erin Hutton Projects. For more than 20 years, she has immersed herself in the art world as an artist, educator, gallery director, curator, film production assistant, and designer.



Erin Hutton

Original fine art in any media may be submitted, including but not limited to painting, sculpture, digital, printmaking, fiber, photography, mixed media, ceramics, installation, and more. Each artist may submit up to three works of art that has not been previously exhibited. Public opening reception will be on Friday, May 15, from 5–7pm. Exhibition on view from May 15–June 20, Wednesday–Saturday 12–6pm.

Workshops:

Intro to Drawing for the True Beginner–Hélène Farrar

Thursdays, February 20, 27, and March 5 at 7–8:30pm

Exhibitions:

- February 12–22 | Annual Silent Art Auction
- February 2–23 | Higher Forms of Arts | at UMA's Danforth Gallery in Augusta
- February 28–March 28 | Maine Flora: Three Views
- April 3–May 9 | Young at Art
- May 15–June 20 | Art2020



Hubbard Always Expanding for All Ages!

Annemarie Kromhout, Library Director, would argue that everything on the shelves at the Hubbard Free Library is Age-Friendly, depending on the interests and skills of the reader. For example, recent additions at the Library donated by AARP Maine won't be found in one particular section as they cover all ages. Recent additions included books from the bestseller *Grandma Gatewood's Walk to Albert The Fix-it Man*.

The Library's outreach program for seniors currently supplies books, DVDs, and audiobooks to the Cotton Mill Apartments on the third Tuesday of the month; Granite Hill Estates on the first Wednesday of the month; and Woodlands Senior Living every other Wednesday. Volunteers bring the material to all three places.

The Hubbard's summer and winter reading programs include adults of all ages. A book club meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6pm. Several residents of the Cotton Mill

attend. In addition to books, DVDs, and audiobooks, the Library has a substantial selection of magazines and newspapers including the *Kennebec Journal* and the weekday *New York Times* as well as a wide variety of pamphlets like the UMA Senior College schedule.

The Library is on the corner of Central and Second streets and is just a phone call away at 207-622-6582. Email afl@msln.net or check the website at hubbardfree.org. If you need help with electronic devices, the Library also offers free technical support the first Saturday of the month. Library hours are Tuesday and Thursday 2–7pm, Wednesday 10am–5:30pm, and Saturday 10am–2pm. Closed Sunday, Monday, and Friday. Enter through the red doors or the stepless access on the Central Street side of the building.

Library cards are free to Hallowell residents or property owners not living in Hallowell. For out-of town patrons there is an annual \$20 fee.

The Hubbard Free Library will



Librarian Annemarie Kromhout adds to the New Book rack at the Hubbard

be celebrating its 140th Birthday in March. Leading up to this are two talks that focus on Hallowell and the Hubbard. The first led by Frank O'Hara, will be held on Friday, February 21st at 6pm, and will focus on where Hallowell might be in 30 years. Earle Shettleworth, Jr., Maine State Historian, will present the *Treasures of the Hubbard Free Library*, Friday, March 27th, at 6pm.

A Deadly Disease You Can Cure!

It is empowering to know that you have the power to help cure a disease that is as lethal as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. The illness is loneliness. This major public health crisis affects 30% of us, according to the website artandhealing.org, an effort of the Foundation for Art and Healing. The cure can be as simple as knocking on the door and calling out "Hello in There." That's the title of a song by John Prine that appeared on his first album released nearly 50 years ago, just one indication that the problem isn't new.

Loneliness impacts us all. Over one-third of American adults are lonely, a recent study by the AARP shows—a number that has nearly

doubled since the 1980s. This issue permeates the work of the Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Committee as we attempt to address the Domains of Livability (see page 15) that make Hallowell an Age-Friendly Community.

How can you help cure loneliness? Check out the list of volunteer possibilities in the Hallowell Helps listing on page 14. Each opportunity provides one way of connecting with someone in our community to meet a basic need. Your only investment is a bit of time, often a precious commodity in our busy lives. The reward, however, is incalculable.

Another solution to the problem being promoted by the Foundation

for Art and Healing is The UnLonely Project. This effort aims to broaden public awareness of the negative physical and mental health consequences of loneliness and promotes creative arts-based approaches to solving the problem. One result of the work is the online film festival on the website that challenges us to "Watch, Do, Share."

*So, if you're walking down the street
sometime*

And spot some hollow ancient eyes.

Please just don't pass 'em by and stare

As if you didn't care, say

"Hello in there. Hello."

—John Prine, *All rights Walden Music, Inc.*

Cohen Center–Super Programs!

Medicare 101 Helps Navigate the Complexities

Are you new to Medicare or nearing the age for eligibility? Many aspects of Medicare can be confusing and difficult to navigate alone: for example, the four different parts of Medicare (Parts A, B, C, and D), the difference between a Medicare Advantage Plan and a Medigap Plan, and the many Prescription Drug Plans. Fortunately, Brooke Jansen at the Spectrum Generations' Cohen Community Center can help.

There are many common Medicare missteps and misconceptions. First and foremost, do not wait until you are 65 to get details about coverage. You should begin learning about Medicare 3 to 6 months before you are eligible. Even if you are covered by an employer, you can face penalties for not signing up. The informative sessions offered by Spectrum Generations address these topics and can help get you started in the right direction!

Three common Medicare misconceptions, according to Brooke, are:

- Medicare pays for 100% of eligible medical expenses. This is not always the case.
- Medicines are completely covered under Medicare Part D. No. Often there can be copays and deductibles to pay.
- Medicare is free. Unfortunately, no. Under most circumstances, there is a premium for your coverage.

Consider enrolling in the Medicare 101 session. You will learn about the four different parts of Medicare benefits and how each works. You'll also learn how to enroll, what services are covered, estimated costs for your coverage, and so much more! Call the Cohen Community Center at 626-7777

Hallowell Champion

for session dates and times. After attending a Medicare 101 session, you can make an appointment with Brooke for a follow-up one-on-one consultation.



Brooke Jansen consults with current or future Medicare patients

Think June—Healthy Aging Expo!

It is great to think about summer this time of year. Flip your calendar to June and mark Friday, June 5, 9:00am–2:00pm, for the Healthy Aging Expo at Spectrum Generations' Cohen Community Center in Hallowell.

This free event offers attendees an opportunity to meet with exhibitors and learn about different resources available to help Aging in Place. Healthy Aging Expo exhibitors will share information about housing options, legal issues, financial considerations, and information about preventive approaches to a healthier lifestyle. For more information, call 626-7777.

Volunteers needed!

Volunteering is a vital part

of our community, and without volunteers Spectrum Generations wouldn't be able to serve the thousands who rely on us. With a variety of volunteer roles throughout the agency, there's an opportunity for everyone.

In the Kennebec area alone, we currently need over 40 volunteers. If you are savvy with numbers, you could help with our Money Minds program. If you have a good handle on insurance, we can benefit from your expertise in our State Medicare Patrol program. If you are passionate about fitness, our Healthy Living for ME program needs trainers. If you love making crafts or leading activities, our Adult Day program would love to experience your creativity.

Our Nutrition team is in need of people interested in food and able to assist in preparing healthy meals, as well as people who can drive and deliver meals. No matter your skill set or passion, we have a place for you, and we need your help. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Jessica Bucklin at 207-620-1684.



Maine's central and midcoast provider of Meals on Wheels since 1977



Spectrum Generations offers activities, socialization, nutrition, and health and wellness options for all central Maine adults. Call or visit us today to see how we can help you!

Cohen Community Center
22 Town Farm Road, Hallowell
207.626.7777 | 1.800.639.1553

spectrumgenerations.org

Hallowell Food Bank Food Security—It's on the Menu

Hallowell cares about its residents and always has. Early on, those who needed general assistance received a voucher for Boynton's Market so they could shop for essential food items. Then in the late 1980s, prominent locals, including former mayor Barry Timson, Dorothy "Dot" Mithee, and Mike Molloy, developed the idea of having a food bank in Hallowell. They needed to find a central location that was easily accessible where canned, dried, frozen, and refrigerated foods could be stored. At that time the basement of the fire station on Second Street was being used by the city for storage of nonessential items. So, with a bit of shuffling and the agreement of the Hallowell City Council, the food bank was up and running in no short order.



The food bank entrance is the door on Perleys' Lane.

The food bank was designed to be as easy to use as possible. The founders did not want residents to feel uncomfortable about needing help; this was important to them. Initially anyone who needed "a little help" could go to City Hall for a "yellow slip," which allowed access to the food bank. All that is needed to get a yellow slip is proof of residency, such as a recent utility bill or copy of a lease agreement.

Clients can shop for nonperishable food one Friday a month. No limits



Restocking the shelves

are imposed. People may take what they need. Clients may come any Friday after 1:30pm to shop for fresh vegetables, baked goods, and other perishable items.

As the years passed, the food bank grew and now it partners with Good Shepherd in Auburn. The food is brought to Perleys' Lane (underneath the old Hallowell Fire Station), where it is weighed, sorted, and stocked by three additional volunteers. In 2019, it received more than 44,000 pounds of donated food from Hannaford! Additionally, six times a year federally donated foods such as canned fruits and vegetables, milk, rice, and frozen fish are collected.

There are 20+ volunteers who lend a hand on a rotating basis. Every Friday morning two volunteers drive to Hannaford and load all the donated fresh fruits, vegetables, breads, and meats into their vehicles. At least two volunteers open the food bank at 1pm every Friday and help clients with their selections.

In January, the Hallowell Food Bank held its annual meeting. A topic of discussion was whether it

could continue to use the old fire station space as it has for the past 30 years. Mayor Mark Walker assured the board and volunteers that he did not anticipate moving the food bank in the coming year.

Volunteers are always needed at the food bank. Moving all that food is a lot of heavy lifting. Interested? Call Jeanne Langsdorf at 992-6899. And share or like their new Facebook page!

The Food Bank purchases most of the food it distributes from Good Shepherd Food Bank in Auburn. The Department of Agriculture supplies the Food Bank with basic staples such as canned fruit and vegetables, pasta, and peanut butter. The availability and variety of foods from these two important sources can be somewhat limited. Donations from the community help fill in the empty spaces on the shelves. The Food Bank is always in need of soups, oatmeal, juice, jelly, spices, condiments, and personal care items. If you are unsure what to contribute, give a call. There is a box for food donations in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Donations can also be delivered directly to the food bank on Friday mornings between 9-10am.



Assistant Director Bob Ladd, Volunteer Joni Santulli, Director Jeanne Langsdorf

Assistance by the Numbers

Ever need to find a number quick? You can get a magnetic Resources & Numbers card at Hallowell City Hall or from any member of the Hallowell Police or Fire Department. You can download a copy of the list from the Hallowell All-Age-Friendly website age-friendly-hallowell.org

Don't know quite where to begin? Try 211. This is a free, confidential information and referral service that connects people of all ages across Maine to local services. 211 Maine is based in Maine and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The specialists who answer are trained and according to the 211maine.org website they are friendly too! Check them out and decide for yourself.

211 information is through a phone call, text message, email, or by searching the online database. The service began in 2006 as part of the national 211 movement. The service is designed to centralize and streamline access to health and human service information and resources with an easy-to-remember universal number and website for non-emergency help. Maine 211 is a collaborative effort of the United Ways of Maine, the State of Maine Department of Health and Human Services, and contact center partner The Opportunity Alliance.

City Hall is the next stop. Call 207-623-4021. Press 3 to reach City Clerk Diane Polky who can direct your call.

Steps Slick? Sidewalks Slippery?

Call the Sand Bucket Brigade! Call City Hall at 623-4021 then either extension 200 or 204, and you'll be connected to City Clerk Diane Polky or Dan Kelley, Deputy City Clerk. Give them your name, address, and telephone number. It is as simple as that! A member of the Hallowell Firefighters Association will contact you and arrange a good time to drop off a bucket of sand. The service is designed for older folks or those who can't get out and about. Just another reason Hallowell is a great place to live!!



RESOURCES & NUMBERS

**ALL ARE
WELCOME HERE**

Emergency.....911

- Hallowell Police Department
- Hallowell Fire Department
- Maine State Police

Poison Control..... 1-800-222-1222

City of Hallowell

City Hall.....207-623-4021

Animal Control..... 207-446-2443

Public Works..... 207-622-3993

Food Bank..... 207-992-6899

Hallowell Police Department

Non-Emergency..... 207-622-9710

Hallowell Fire Department

Non-Emergency- Burn Permits..... 207-754-2518

Hallowell Water District..... 207-623-9151

Hubbard Free Library..... 207-622-6582

Hatch Hill Disposal Facility..... 207-626-2440

US Post Office – Hallowell..... 207-622-1121

Greater Augusta Utility District.....207-622-3701

Maine General Medical Center..... 207-626-100

Elderly Legal Services..... 1-800-750-5353

Aging & Disability Resource Ctr..... 1-800-353-3771

Social Security..... 1-800-772-1213

Spectrum Generations-Cohen Center

Meals on Wheels, Medicare info..... 207-626-7777

Transportation – Companion Services SEARCH,

Catholic Charities..... 207-530-0137

MaineCare (Medicaid).....207-287-3707

Maine State Police Non-Emergency..207-624-7076

National Do Not Call List..... 1-888-382-1222

Get Connected – Get Answers!

Call 211 for resources & information

Browntail Moth Take Action Now!

Bad news first: Have you heard about the invasive browntail moth? Its late-stage caterpillars shed skins with tiny hairs that cause lung issues and itchy skin rashes, a most unpleasant experience at best. The moths had a “very good year” in central Maine last summer. Now our city has many nests in fruit trees and in the canopies of oaks where the younger, not-yet-toxic caterpillars are overwintering.

Good news: The State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has a great website for identifying the winter nests, along with lists of

arborists who will treat/remove them. The bottom of the page has a “how-to” video on safely removing low-hanging nests yourself.

More good news: The moth had a bad year along the mid-coast. The University of Maine got partial funding to develop safe ways to minimize the moth’s negative impacts. Late winter until mid-April is a great time to remove the nests.

You can also ask members of the Hallowell Conservation Commission for help. They can help identify nests and may be able to remove some low ones or lend you appropriate tools to do it yourself.

Email hallowellconservation@gmail.com or leave word at City Hall (207) 623-4021, and a Commission member will get back to you.



Close-up of overwintering webs of browntail moth. Maine Forest Service photo
maine.gov/dacf/mfs
Click “Invasive Species”

You’re Not Crazy! Seasons Change (thank goodness!)

The days are getting longer; the sunlight is stronger. Even on cold and wintry days, our plant and animal neighbors are getting ready. Spring and new life are on the way. As you spend time in Hallowell’s open spaces, keep all your senses open.

In your yard, is there a slight smell of skunk? They are out at night, looking for mates. Soon they will help you by eating grubs.

In Vaughan Woods, do you hear chickadees singing a melodic “fee-bee” besides “chick-a-dee-dee-dee”? They are starting to nest.

On your walk to school, do you see fluffy pussy willows? These are flowers of the native willows getting ready to be pollinated and make seeds for future trees.

At Berry Field have you seen turkey vultures with outstretched wings rocking in airy updrafts? They are migrating back to breed and will clean carrion from the land.

At the Res in the evening, do you hear clucking sounds in small ponds? Wood frogs slumbered in forests all winter. Then with the change of seasons, males travel to vernal pools and ponds and “sing” to attract mates. One female can lay thousands of eggs, which will



Birdwatchers at The Res

feed many other animals. Some will survive to be tadpoles, then adult frogs, and start the cycle over.

At Jamies Pond, have you heard a low drumming? Ruffed grouse males are showing off.

At Vaughan Field, have the red maples gotten redder? Their buds are swelling and will soon burst into bouquets of small red and yellow flowers. Their leaves will come out later.

Along the Rail Trail, has the ice opened up on the Kennebec River? Hundreds of common mergansers land on the Kennebec every spring, on their way north to wilder breeding grounds.

What are your favorite signs of spring? Post a note on the Hallowell Conservation Commission [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/hallowellconservation) page or email hallowellconservation@gmail.com.

Take a Summertime Tour of Vaughan Woods Right Now!

Perhaps the snow is swirling outside the window or spring rain is making a favorite walking route slick and muddy. You can take a summertime tour of the popular Vaughan Woods trails right now in the comfort of your easy chair, and you don't have to make a mess of your boots!

No, the staff at the Homestead have not discovered a time machine in the barn or a tear in the space-time continuum beneath the well house! Last summer Kirsten Pelletier, an intern from Bates College working at the Homestead, said she had taken a course in geographic information system (GIS) mapping. She wanted to do a project that would take advantage of her new learning. So, pull on your "virtual" hiking boots and let's go!



Figure 1

Visit the Vaughan Woods website at vaughanhomestead.org (Figure 1). Roll your pointer over "The Woods" at the top and a drop-down menu will show several selections. Click on the Interactive Woods Tour. Click there and a map of the woods appears with several quick links on the right side. There is wonderful information at each of those links but save those adventures for later.

Look closely at the map in Figure 2. These are yellow circles on the website. They appear on the left side of the map and are in the woods

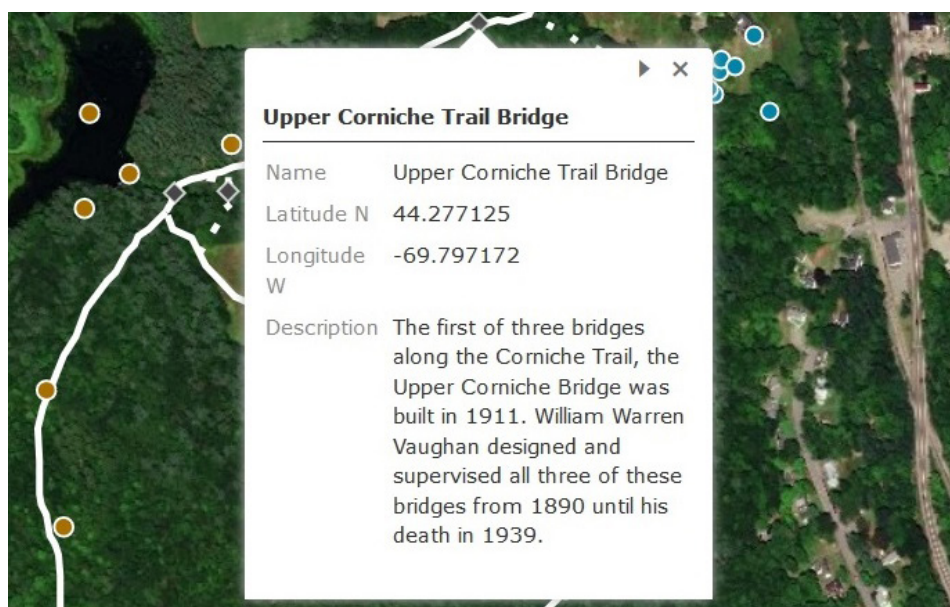


Figure 2

along the trails. Those locations are open to the public. Blue circles on the website on the right side, as the legend notes, are points of interest at the Homestead but are usually closed to visitors unless it is a special event.

As you zoom in on the map, either by clicking the plus "+" or minus "-" symbols or rolling the mouse scroll button, names of locations appear. Click on a yellow circle and information about the location pops up on the screen (Figure 3).

The gray diamond shapes identify

the seven bridges in Vaughan Woods. The trails are marked with white squares. Detailed information is available on each symbol and trail (Figure 2).

There is so much more information on the virtual tour. At the bottom of the map is a banner that reveals stories about many points of interest along the trails. Some postings have current or historical photographs

If you can't visit Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead in person, this special tour is available 24 hours a day on the Homestead website.



Figure 3



Got Spare Time? Many Hands Make Light Work

There are many organizations in and around Hallowell that have volunteer opportunities available. If you have the time, energy, and interest, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

All-Age-Friendly Drivers and Companions. Do you have time to drive a neighbor to an appointment or to just sit and visit a spell? Contact Lynn Kidd at SEARCH in Augusta at 530-0137, a program of Catholic Charities. She will explain the opportunities and the volunteer options.

Sand Bucket Brigade. Help your neighbors maintain their sure footing by delivering sand. Call City Hall at 623-4021, extension 200 or 204. You'll be connected to City Clerk Diane Polky or Dan Kelley, Deputy City Clerk. Give them your name, address, and telephone number. Fire Chief Jim Owens or a member of the Firefighters Association will contact you with delivery information.

Hallowell Food Bank. Help is needed for a number of tasks, from picking up food to stocking shelves. Call Jeanne Langsdorf at 992-6899.

Cohen Center and Spectrum Generations.

- Meals on Wheels: Assist in preparing healthy meals, as

well as drive and deliver meals.

- State Medicare Patrol: Share your knowledge of insurance programs.
- Healthy Living for ME: Needs trainers.
- The Adult Day Care program: Share your love of arts and crafts and creativity.

Contact Jessica Bucklin at 620-1684.

Hallowell Conservation Commission. Lend a hand with trail maintenance and help control invasive species. Many volunteer opportunities. Contact Rosemary Presnar at 512-0311.

Hall-Dale Elementary School volunteer readers or other helpers. Contact Patrick Wynne, ward5@hallowellmaine.org

Historic Building Survey Site Reviewers. Are you interested in Hallowell buildings and architecture? Row House is aiding the City in updating the Hallowell survey of historic buildings. Training is available. Opportunities include taking photographs of buildings, visiting sites and identifying architectural styles, and entering site data. Contact Larry Davis at 557-0702.

Hot Dates!

Here is a short list of activities and dates of upcoming events in Hallowell. Check the "City Calendar" at hallowell.govoffice.com – "Events" at hallowell.org.

February 22 – Hallowell Mardi Gras

February 27 – City Comprehensive Planning Group. 6pm at the Hallowell Fire Department

March 7 – Tech Help at the Hubbard Free Library 11am – 12pm

March 13 – Local History Day and viewing of Declaration of Independence. Hall-Dale Elementary School

March 14 – Viewing of Declaration of Independence Hall-Dale Elementary School 10am-2pm

March 14 – Hallowell's Maine Bicentennial Preparty Party! Old South Congregational Church 2pm-4pm. Special program with cake and ice cream.

March 27 – Treasures of the Hubbard. 6pm at the Hubbard Free Library

April 4 – Tech Help at the Hubbard Free Library 11am-12pm

May 2 – Tech Help at the Hubbard Free Library 11am-12pm

May 4-10 – Hallowell Spring Clean-up. Drop off debris at Public Works

June 5 – Cohen Center Healthy Aging Expo

July 18 – Old Hallowell Day

July 19 – Maine Birthday Party at Vaughan Field

PLANS Continued from page 1

the plan will recommend actions that the City and other organizations should take to achieve that vision.

There are other, more concrete, reasons to have a current comprehensive plan. Access to many state grants requires that a community have a plan consistent with the State's Growth Management Act. In addition, city zoning must be consistent with the Act. The easiest way to ensure consistency is to have a comprehensive plan and make sure the City's zoning matches the goals and policies in the plan.

Hallowell's last comprehensive plan was completed in 2010. Under Maine law, communities should update their comprehensive plans every 12 years. That's why the City Council and City Manager, working with a diverse and active Comprehensive Planning Group, have started developing a new plan and are working with Jeff Levine of Levine Planning Strategies levineplans.com. According to Levine, "As [the City's] consultants, we will be helping them as they go through this process. We will be drafting material for the plan as well as helping leverage the talents and energy of Hallowell residents to get ideas and thoughts from all residents."

The Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Committee was formed in January 2018, and since then committee members have been gathering



What makes Hallowell great? Terrific Neighborhoods? Art? Music? Everything!

input from citizens of all ages for a strategic plan required by AARP to be recognized as an Age-Friendly Community. The committee has sponsored fraud and fall prevention workshops, participated in events like Old Hallowell Day and health fairs, and launched the publication of *The Hallowell Champion*, among other things. At present the group is assembling input from meetings and conversations into the elements of the Age-Friendly Plan that will be woven into the new comprehensive plan.

Over the next few months, the Comprehensive Planning Group will begin work on documenting what Hallowell is like today in

2020 and begin thinking about what the future may hold. As the process moves into the spring, the Comprehensive Planning Group will share its findings and solicit peoples' thoughts on the future. Join the effort at public events, organization and committee meetings, and any venue where "Hallowellians" naturally gather. A list of current members of the Comprehensive Planning Group is available on the City's website hallowell.govoffice.com. Click on "Government" at the top of the screen, then go to "Boards and Committees."

Watch for activities in the coming months. Help plan for a great future!

Age-Friendly Plan for Livability

The All-Age-Friendly Committee was formed two years ago in part to develop a plan to help Hallowell address the Eight Domains of Livability, thereby meeting the requirements of the "Age-Friendly" designation as set out by the World Health Organization and promoted in the United States by AARP. Learn more about the Domains at

age-friendly-hallowell.org.

The Committee has addressed each of the Domains in its work over the past two years. It undertook a Walkability Survey last spring, for example to address Outdoor Spaces and Public Places. Findings were shared with the City Council. It teamed with the SEARCH program of Catholic Charities to provide

transportation and companion services. Communication is critical so it produces *The Champion* with the support of Publishing Partners. If you have comments or suggestions about the newsletter email hallowellagefriendly@gmail.com or drop a line to The Champ, PO Box 43, Hallowell, ME 04347.

Hallowell-Hot Music Scene for Two Centuries

Our fair city is currently well known for its vibrant music scene aided in no small part by the numerous establishments providing food, drink, and opportunities for social interaction. History shows that Hallowell has long been home to very accomplished musicians and a noted stop for touring talent as well.

The names from yesteryear are understandably less recognizable than the current headliners like The Boneheads, Scolded Dogs, Marcia, Katie, Maggie and her dad. The old melody makers were, however, very talented and greatly admired. The music from two centuries ago was

more spiritual in topic and tone than the secular subjects and styles of today's offerings.

Gerry Mahoney in his 2014 monograph *Early Hallowell Music* drew attention to a Mr. Holland who, in January 1822, was retained by the Old South Parish Church. A professor of music, he opened a school "for the improvement of psalmody" and gave piano lessons. He must have had some impact because an organ was installed on September 4, 1822, only 9 months later. The instrument cost \$900 or \$22,000 at today's exchange rate. Mr. Holland also had a few flutes for sale and a selection of piano

forte music. Sadly, this fine old organ with its Gothic front, its gilded pipes, and sweet-toned harmonious keys perished when the Old South Meeting House burned to the ground 56 years later in 1878.

In 1823, Benjamin Vaughan and John Merrick invited the distinguished violinist Paul Antonio Louis Ostinelli to Maine. A student at the Paris Conservatory, he was the conductor of

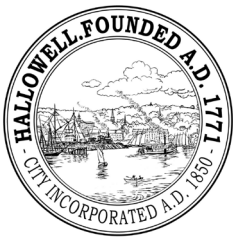
Boston's Handel and Haydn Society, the oldest continuously performing arts organization in America. On September 19 and 23, 1823, there were performances of oratorios of sacred music. Ostinelli played two violin solos and his new wife, Sophia, an accomplished musician in her own right, played the new English organ at the Old South Parish Church. These were the only concerts of this type performed in the area for the next 37 years, according to James North in *The History of Augusta*.

Watch this space for more Hallowell music history. A copy of Mr. Mahoney's publication is available in the collections of the Hubbard Free Library, if this brief introduction sparks your interest.



The original Old South Church burned in 1878.

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Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead



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