

The Hallowell Champion



Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Newsletter Volume 5 Issue 2

Spring 2024

Hallowell Housing Gentrification or Something Else?



Homes of Hallowell.

Hard to believe, but in the 1960s the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) planned to clear the river side of downtown Hallowell and build a wide road to improve the traffic flow. During the same period, “urban renewal” was the cause of whole sections of cities like Bangor, Portland, and Waterville to be bulldozed and historic structures demolished for the sake of redevelopment under the guise of progress.

The effort to “renew” Hallowell’s Kennebec River side was defeated by a local grassroots movement. Concerned individuals, fearing the destruction of some of the City’s historic dwellings, worked to survey buildings and establish one of the state’s first historic districts, which was then recognized by the National Park Service protecting the city’s architectural integrity.

This was before the enactment of the Clean Water Act. The atmosphere of riverside towns, at that time, plainly put, often smelled, and not much could live in the polluted water. Changes in

transportation resulted in businesses moving out of downtowns, leaving empty storefronts and vacant floors above them. Rents were cheap. Entrepreneurs took the opportunity to open shops. Hallowell became the antique capital of Maine. Artists and gig workers found lodgings in town that they could afford.

Things change. Fast-forward 60+ years, and rents have increased to the point where apartments are no longer “affordable” for many, and the old buildings are literally inaccessible for many. Upgrades are expensive, and when buildings are brought up to current building codes, rents rise beyond the reach of many who used to call downtown Hallowell home.

Some changes were planned, and some changes just happened because of the improved economy and circumstances beyond the control of building owners and tenants. And now living by the riverside is a plus.

Responding to concerns that housing in the city was beyond the

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**Look for the Hands.
You can help!**



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From the Desk of the Hallowell City Clerk

A Busy Election Year



City Clerk Lisa Gilliam.

This will be a very busy year at City Hall with a total of three Elections. The next two will be the Primary Election on June 11th and the General Election on November 5th. Please check the City's website for Absentee Ballot Information as these Elections approach. In-person voting will be held at the Hall-Dale Elementary School at 26 Garden Lane, just off Winthrop Street. As always, the polls will be open from 8AM to 8PM. We are always looking for Election Clerks to work at the polls. If you are interested in being a Poll Worker, please contact City Hall.

Children's Holiday Party at City Hall

This past December the City held its Annual Children's Holiday Party in the Auditorium at City Hall, and it was a huge hit! The party was put together by several of Santa's Elves (some may look familiar to you). There were plenty of snacks and toys for kids of all ages. The



Some Super Santa Helpers at the City Hall Party: Mayor George Lapointe, Councilor Mike Frett, and Public Works Director Tom Goraj.

guests of honor were Santa Claus (who arrived by Fire Truck) and the beautiful Mrs. Claus who helped by handing out gifts and visiting with the children. The kids had a great time and the Elves had just as much fun. We are already looking forward to next year's party.

Visit, Call, or Email

As always, Dan Kelley and I are here to help with any questions or assistance about City business, so please don't hesitate to contact us. I can be reached at 623-4021, ext. 200, or by email at cityclerk@hallowellmaine.org. Dan Kelley can be reached at 623-4021, ext. 204, or by email at deputyclerk@hallowellmaine.org.

It's a pleasure to serve this wonderful community!



Hallowell's New Code Enforcement Officer

Andrew McMullen is the new Hallowell Code Enforcement Officer (CEO), Licensed Plumbing Inspector, and E-911 addressing officer. He is taking over for Doug Ide who sadly passed away in December 2023. Andy resides in Sidney with his family where he has been a Sidney Selectman since 2019. He is a former Waterville police officer, Department of Agriculture inspector, and real estate broker with McAllister Real Estate. Andy owns his own real estate company now and also serves as the Monmouth Code Enforcement officer for 12 hours per week.

Andy studied Survey Engineering at the University of Maine at

Orono and Criminal Justice at the University of Maine at Augusta. Andy is ready to answer resident and contractor questions on Hallowell zoning issues, building and plumbing permits, or if you need a street address for a new home. His scheduled office hours will be minimal as he is only scheduled to work 12 hours per week for Hallowell, but he will have a city cell phone so residents and contractors can contact him Monday through Friday. You can reach our CEO by email at ceo-lpi@hallowellmaine.org or on his cell at 446-0316. Leave a voicemail if there is no answer. (GL)



New CEO Andrew McMullen.

Rising Up from the Debris Hallowell's Flood Recovery Response

Mother Nature delivered a very unwelcome holiday gift to Maine on December 18th. This storm (since dubbed the "Grinch") resulted in floodwaters not seen along the banks of the Kennebec River in decades. The combination of extended power outages and flood damage left business owners and residents along Front Street and Water Street to deal with extraordinary damage.

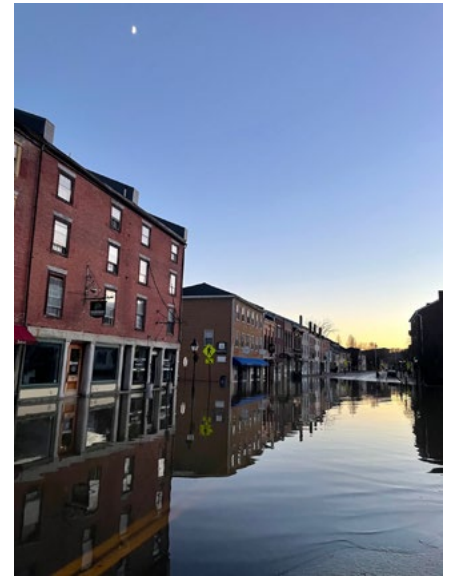
While some businesses were able to have power and business was restored quickly, others still remained closed weeks later. The cost to rebuild has been estimated by building owners to be in the tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars. How does our City rise from the mud and debris? How do we revive these businesses along with our spirits?

In true Hallowell style, the answer is a call to action that has brought together artists, musicians,

business owners, city officials, volunteers, and many generous donors. Community members and volunteers provided countless hours helping business owners dig out and dispose of damaged property, while many also rallied to create events to lift spirits and raise funds.

Volunteers from Hallowell Pride Alliance, Vision Hallowell, and Hallowell Area Board of Trade organized Mardi Gras events and other fundraising efforts that included a parade, masquerade ball, comedy show, and art auction to raise funds to prop up our businesses during their time of need.

Mardi Gras was held on February 10th and included dancing down Water Street led by trumpeter Jack Pitteroff, and a ruckus dance at City Hall to the sounds of The Scolded Dogs. "(It) felt like a revival and an ushering in of a new era for this mighty little City," said Lexi Joyall,



Water Street in more ways than one. Photo by Alex Aucoin

owner of Rusticators Emporium and this year's Mardi Gras Royal along with partner, Sam Joyall.

The Hallowell City Council voted to dedicate \$50,000 for a grant program to provide aid for affected businesses. It also dedicated up to \$25,000 to match contributions made to Vision Hallowell's Community Flood Recovery Fund. As of press time \$13,000 has been raised to match the City's pledge. For details on how to contribute to the fund or to learn about how these funds will be used, contact Vision Hallowell at visionhallowell@gmail.com.

Information about city, state, and federal assistance is available on the City website <https://hallowell.govoffice.com/>.

Information about federal aid is available at www.DisasterAssistance.gov, with the FEMA Mobile App, or by calling 1-800-621-3362. Phone lines operate from 7AM to 10 PM, 7 days a week. (AA)



Mardi Gras Royals: Sam and Lexi Joyall. Photo by Dave Dostie

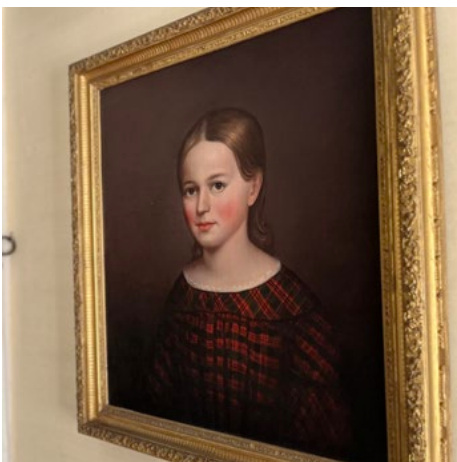
Delightful Season Unfolds at the Homestead



Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead



The ice is just off the pond and the staff at the Vaughan Homestead is already gearing up for a calendar of a delightful spring of special programs.



Night Out at the Museum: Fine Arts Twilight Tour

Thursday, April 25, 7-9 pm

Visit the Vaughan Homestead for its first ever "Night Out at the Museum!" When we think of the Vaughan Homestead many of us think first of the woods, the most

familiar feature. The Homestead itself is open on a limited basis and this evening is particularly special. The Homestead' art collection reveals insights into history that range from the American Revolution to the exploration of the great North Maine Woods and tells the story of one family across seven generations of history. Enjoy a view of the Kennebec River at twilight from the Homestead Porch, partake in light refreshments in the dining room, and stroll through the house in an informal "Fine Arts Tour."

Tickets are \$15/person and available at vaughanhomestead.org. Reservations online April 1.



Community Maypole Dance

Sunday, May 5, 11am-1pm

Celebrate Spring's arrival with live music and dancing. In our view the season is in full tilt as young people and those young at heart take part in this community event. Maypoles were thought to be simply a part of the general rejoicing at the return of summer and the growth of new vegetation. They bore similarities with the May Day garlands which were also a common festival practice in Britain and Ireland. Who cares? This is just a perfect opportunity to welcome the warmth!

Open Admission – Come on over!



Annual Garden Party

Saturday, June 15, 7-9pm

Enjoy an evening of community, food, music, and beauty. The staff at the Homestead have been working overtime to make sure the garden and grounds are in top shape for the event. Celebrate the coming of summer and support the Homestead.

Tickets available online May 1.



Listen In

The Vaughan Homestead website (www.vaughanhomestead.org) features a delightful collection of conversations with Hallowell residents sharing their perspectives on our City's history. Click on "Programs" then "Oral Histories." The link to the recordings is below the photo. Hear City Historian Sam Webber describe the march on the State House to save Water Street buildings among other stories. (KT)

Food Pantry Is a Busy Place!



The Hallowell Food Pantry bustles with activity every Friday as more and more people find comfort in the warm welcome, pantry staples, and fresh produce we offer. Friendships are formed, concerns are shared, and bags are filled. The number of individuals and organizations who make this community support possible is simply remarkable. Every donation, whether large or small, financial or in-kind, reveals a generosity that is heartwarming.

Turkey Day Update

In November, we provided Thanksgiving baskets to 64 Hallowell households—that's up from 45 baskets distributed last year. The contents included a frozen turkey, fresh and canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy, dinner rolls, apple pie, and a foil roasting pan. Hannaford Supermarket, on Whitten Road, kindly donated 150 of their sturdy, reusable bags for the occasion.

Annual Appeal

Due to the steady increase in the number of people using the food pantry each week, together with higher food costs, we set our goal for the Annual Appeal at \$20,000. By the end of the year, we had not only reached this figure but had exceeded it. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed.

Jigsaws Galore!

For the second year in a row, we've been able to brighten these cold and dreary winter months with a fabulous selection of jigsaw puzzles. Our thanks to Bruce Nickerson for starting this tradition



Volunteers Jill Holt, Sue Wallace, and Jim Lavoie.

and for donating many of the puzzles on display.

Menu Makeover!

Tired of the same old recipes? Wondering how to cook a new ingredient? Then take a look at nutritionforme.org. This website, courtesy of Good Shepherd Food Bank, offers nutritious and easy recipes, as well as Tips & Tricks. Especially helpful is the Sort & Filter option, Simply enter a food item you have on hand, select

a course, such as breakfast or dessert, and recipes containing that ingredient will appear. Now there's a time saver!

Dropping Off Donations

Non-perishable food may be left at City Hall in the box provided. Or you may call Vicky Gabrion at 992-6899. Please do not leave items outside the food pantry door where they may sit for long periods and be affected by the weather.



Join the Food Pantry Volunteers!

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



Bruce Nickerson and his collection of jigsaw puzzles.

Winter and Spring Activities Abound at UMA

All Events Are Free and Open to the Public



Student Art Exhibition, March 24–April 28

“The Student Art Exhibition is a joyful yearly celebration of the creative achievements of UMA students over the academic year, and we all always look forward to it,” says Amy Rahn, Assistant Professor of Art History and the director of the Charles Danforth Gallery at UMA. “The exhibition is an annual highlight of the academic calendar when we get to show off the fabulous work UMA students have been doing in their art classes over the year.” Students submit works created in their art classes for possible inclusion. The works are juried by UMA faculty, and selected pieces are installed in the Danforth Gallery. Artist and curator Diana Baumbach of UMaine will be the Juror of Awards. The Student Art Exhibition opening reception will be held from 1–2:30PM on Sunday, March 24. The exhibition will be open to the public through April 28, Monday through Friday, 9AM to 4PM.

UMA’s Music Program Concert Week, April 16–19

Join us for a joy-filled week of instrumental and vocal ensemble

performances either in person or from the comfort of your home, Tuesday through Friday. All concerts begin at 7PM in Jewett Hall on the UMA campus and are live streamed on UMA’s YouTube channel youtube.com/@UMaineAugusta. Tuesday, April 16, our Jazz and Rock Ensembles perform. Wednesday the 17th, enjoy the unique sounds of Vintage Steel, UMA’s Community Steel Pan Band. Thursday the 18th, Envok Vocal Ensemble and our Chamber Ensemble will share their songs. Finally, Friday the 19th, is the Junior and Senior Concerts, a prerecorded event and only available for viewing on UMA’s YouTube channel.

Student Research Conference–April 19

Students from multiple programs will be sharing their findings on numerous diverse topics at UMA’s Annual Student Research Conference. Details will be available as the event nears. Everyone is welcome in-person or online. Visit the event webpage at event.fourwaves.com/umasrc2024.

Plunkett Poetry Festival and Contest–April 27

The Plunkett Poetry Festival is a big hit every year. Join us on Saturday, April 27th. The event details are still being finalized, but updates about times and locations will be posted on the festival webpage uma.edu/plunkett. This year’s keynote speaker is Brian Turner, author of the award-winning *Here, Bullet*, a first-person book of poetry based on his yearlong tour leading an infantry team in Iraq.

The 31st New England Pan Festival–May 4–5

UMA sponsors the 31st New England Pan Festival. Steel drum bands from all around Maine and New Hampshire come together and celebrate the sounds of this unique instrument. There is a free public dance party May 4th at Mill Park in Augusta featuring a professional steel pan band from New York City. The festival itself is on May 5th with all the bands, including Vintage Steel—a UMA community steel pan music ensemble of retired adults—performing at Cony High School, 60 Pierce Drive, in Augusta. Festival attendance is free; donations will be accepted. Contact Christine Letcher, UMA Assistant Professor of Music, at christine.leitcher@maine.edu for more information.

Ongoing: Katz Library and The Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine

UMA’s Katz Library is not just for students—Free library cards to members of the public. Check at the circulation desk and present a valid ID. A Maine State Library card can be used as well. Open Monday through Thursday 8AM to 7PM and Friday 8AM to 4PM. Call 207-621-3349 for info or email uma.library@maine.edu.

The Holocaust and Human Rights Center is an active and dynamic resource with permanent and changing exhibits. Open Monday through Friday 8AM–4PM. Call ahead as The Center calendar aligns with UMA and may be closed for holidays and weather events. Call 207-621-3530, email info@hhrcmaine.org, or visit the website at hhrcmaine.org. (VL)



For more than 50 years, Meals on Wheels has supported our nation's older adults through a network of local community-based programs. These providers serve as a lifeline to those struggling with food insecurity, nutrition challenges, mobility, loneliness, and countless other difficulties of aging. Meals on Wheels service begins with the meal and enables local programs such as Spectrum Generations to deliver so much more. The delivery of a nutritious meal creates the opportunity to build a relationship

with the individual receiving the meals, opening the door for Spectrum Generations to identify and deliver valuable services that promote independence and well-being.

Every March, Meals on Wheels commemorates the significant milestone in 1972 when this national nutrition program for older adults was added to the Older Americans Act. This law facilitated the expansion of the Meals on Wheels network, which currently provides meals to 2.8 million older adults annually. Eight out of ten local Meals on Wheels programs are still delivering meals to more older adults than they were before



the pandemic, and operational and food costs are still soaring even while inflation slows.

Now is a critical time for you to support your local Meals on Wheels and urge Congress to protect, strengthen, and invest in these proven and effective programs by increasing federal funding so that it is available to every older adult in need for decades to come.

Send a message to Congress through the Meals on Wheels America portal:

www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/take-action/advocate

Make a local donation in support of Spectrum Generations' Meals on Wheels:

<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/spectrumgenerations>



Tai Chi Wellness Classes

Have you or someone you love been diagnosed with MS or a similar condition? Sometimes, symptoms can become overwhelming or debilitating as you may feel limited in what you can do. Finding the support you need or the right programs that meet your needs are often hard to come by. Healthy Living for ME has numerous programs that can help!

According to the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America, Tai Chi is one of many great exercise options that has a positive effect on an individual with MS. Many benefits can be found in our Living Well Series including – Living well

with Chronic Conditions and Living well with Chronic Pain. These programs discuss the importance of managing your symptoms or pain cycle, communicating effectively with providers and family, and creating action plans to help accomplish achievable goals and more.

Specifically, at the Cohen Community Center in Hallowell, we have the below workshop available.

Visit: www.healthylivingforme.org/ or contact us at 1-800-620-6036 for more information.

TAI CHI FOR HEALTH & BALANCE

Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 12 - May 16, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Cohen Community Center, Hallowell

\$20 suggested donation



THE SECOND Thursday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Cohen Community Center, Hallowell

Join LGBTQ+ older adults in the Augusta area for lunch at the Cohen Community Center, 22 Town Farm Rd, Hallowell. This luncheon is hosted and run by other LGBTQ+ older adults and occurs monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Folks meet at 10:30 a.m. and lunch is served at 11 a.m. The meal is free to those 60 and older; there is a \$7.50 charge for anyone under 60. All older LGBTQ+ adults are welcome to attend! Email Chuck Randall at europabear@aol.com or Izzy Ostrowski at izzy@equalitymaine.org for more information.

HOUSING continued from PAGE 1

means of many potential residents and businesses, Mayor George Lapointe appointed a housing committee to research the issue and plot a course to help the City meet the housing goals in its Comprehensive Plan approved in 2022.

Members of the committee were selected, in part, based on their familiarity and expertise in renting, building, and selling homes in Maine, and in Hallowell in particular. There were also several “just plain citizen” members on the committee. Councilors Maureen AuCoin and Kate Dufour chaired the committee.

The committee began its work in December 2022 and met monthly



until May 2023. Committee co-chair Maureen AuCoin and Vision Hallowell President Karen Tucker Knox drafted a report and presented it to the City Council during its February 2024 meeting. The report made several recommendations, and the City Council sent the report to the Ordinance Rewrite Committee for review and action if required. The City Council will send LD 1706 to the Ordinance

Rewrite Committee. That bill was passed by the legislature and became Public Law 192 on June 16, 2023, and is named An Act to Clarify Statewide Laws Regarding Affordable Housing and Accessory Dwelling Units.

The Ordinance Rewrite Committee will have its work cut out for it in the coming months. (JB/BM)

Highlights of the Housing Committee’s Preliminary Report to the Hallowell City Council

One of the goals noted in Hallowell’s 2022 Comprehensive Plan is “Hallowell is a place where diverse households of all ages, from families to those living alone, have affordable, decent rental and homeownership opportunities.” The Housing Committee asserts that “Lack of affordable housing in Hallowell is forcing our workforce, including our valued service workers, artists, and musicians, out of town.”

The committee assumed that more available housing would cause “the prices to go down.” It recommended looking at the existing housing stock, including empty buildings that could be converted into housing

if related ordinances were changed. The committee also wondered “what supports are available to lower the cost of housing for tenants (while maintaining a profit for the landlord) through available programs, Maine State Housing Grants, etc.”

Other tasks are to remove barriers to expand opportunities and create incentives for affordable housing. Ordinances will be examined and amended to comply with state law that requires municipalities to increase housing density by allowing at least one accessory dwelling unit (ADU) on lots zoned for single-family dwellings. Another topic to consider is “form-based codes.”

Form-based codes create a

certain type of “place,” by using dimensional standards to shape the spaces between buildings and to control how buildings relate to each other, to streets, and to other public spaces. As compared to traditional zoning, form-based codes focus more on the size, form, and placement of buildings and parking, and less on land use (residential vs. commercial) and density (housing-units-per-acre). Form-based codes allow a community to better shape the look and feel of its built environment.

The Housing Committee Preliminary Report is available online at the city website. (JB/BM)

A Renter's Recollections—The Good Old Days

by John Bastej

My history in Hallowell goes back 52 years to 1972, when a roommate and I lived in a newly renovated apartment in the Row House, number 3 if I remember right. The place had been updated and refreshed. The rent was reasonable for the two of us to share.

Downtown Hallowell was a dusty, mostly empty “worn out” city of old empty buildings. The only place to have a drink was the bar at the old Windsor or Hallowell House Hotel, on the corner of Second and Winthrop streets across from the post office. Back then many of the first floors of Hallowell’s downtown buildings housed antique shops of one kind or another, making Hallowell truly a kind of “antique city.”

Ten years later, in 1982, my then wife and I moved from Augusta to Hallowell with our son. There were single-family or single-person rental units along Water Street and in other buildings in and around the city. Rents were inexpensive

and plentiful. Back then artists, restaurant workers, musicians, other “gig” workers, and poor state employees like me could find a reasonable place to live in Hallowell.

Housing in Hallowell is, and has been, undergoing systemic changes since. Some changes were planned, and some happened as a result of the changes in our economy and circumstances.

The City’s demographics were changing from an older generation to a newer one. There were signs of life in Hallowell. New residents demanded new rules and better oversight of how the City grew. Shoreland zoning protected the riverfront. Updating and revising the City’s Comprehensive Plan every 10 years became the law.

The City updated its zoning under the oversight of a new Planning Board chair, new board members, and a new City Manager who served as the Code Enforcement Officer until the city created a full-

time position.

As a result of all the changes in the last 50 years, Hallowell is no longer a dusty old city. It is now a vibrant, interesting, invigorating, and well-loved place to live and to be, but there is a problem. Downtown buildings no longer offer inexpensive rental units. The number of “Air B&B”-styled units is growing. Yet I believe there are some moderately priced rental apartments in the City. I have two in my three-apartment home, for example. The rents are modest compared to advertised rates. The fact is that rentals in Hallowell are filled quickly when they come open. They do not rent for \$500 or \$700 anymore. There certainly are some available for \$1,200, more or less, but those are few and far between. The issue comes down to the market. That is what determines how much an apartment costs, unless Hallowell adopts some kind of rent control ordinance or figures out how to subsidize the cost of an apartment in our City.

Downtown EV Charging Station Used Regularly

Thanks to grants from Efficiency Maine and The Nature Conservancy of Maine, Hallowell is now home to a downtown electric vehicle (EV) charging station. There are two ports, meaning that two cars can plug in to the station and charge at the same time. The station has been used regularly since it was put into service last summer.

The station was activated on August 14, 2023, and was used by at least one vehicle every day through the end of January 2024, and on 44 of those days there were multiple charging sessions. October had the highest use with a total of 41 charging sessions recorded.

The Hallowell station participates in the FLO EV charging network,

which provides detailed information on daily use. One statistic shows the amount of time a vehicle is connected to the charger vs. the amount of time power is actually transferred, indicating that owners are generally using the station as intended. The vast majority of cars are plugged in only while power is being transferred rather than overparking their charging interval. As more New England drivers continue to choose EVs as their mode of transportation, Hallowell’s EV charging station is expected to draw even more folks to experience our downtown. (HN)



Close up of charging station plug.

Meet Hallowell's Environmental Steward!

Sabrina Balabuszka stepped outside City Hall for a quick snapshot on a dampish Wednesday. "I thought it was supposed to be a picture of me working," she laughed. "All the pictures of me working I'm wearing a bug net, and you can't see my face!" Sabrina is the Americorps Environmental Steward for Hallowell working with the Conservation Commission and the City Manager. Her responsibilities could include assisting with trail planning and maintenance, working directly with landowners and on community education projects. She says "could," because the role is evolving.

Originally from Indiana, she spent three years in Tempe attending Arizona State University working on a Masters program. The university community has a population of about 180,000 people, a manageable number; however, it is nestled in the midst of the Valley of the Sun, the collection of towns and cities surrounding Phoenix that,



Sabrina Balabuszka.

according to the 2020 census, had 4,845,832 residents, just too many people for Sabrina's liking. That's why Maine is attractive. She lives in Fairfield with her partner and 3 dogs on 30 acres, plenty of elbow room considering her past stations in life.

Past positions included a stint with the Maine Conservation Corps, a unique steppingstone. She managed a team of 6 people working in the Old Town area and on Tumbledown Mountain. It was an awesome program for which she is very grateful to have been a part.

City Manager Gary Lamb notes, "With a plethora of both wonderful ideas and city committees, and the historical lack of adequate public lands maintenance staff time, Hallowell is a perfect place for an Environmental Steward position. Sabrina and I are gathering a great many tasks to create her 2024 work plan through late November."

Sabrina anticipates helping develop management plans for each of Hallowell's 5 parks: The Res, Granite City Park, Vaughan Field, Effie Berry Conservation Area, and the pocket park at Second and Union streets. She envisions helping to pull together the interests of commissions, committees, and residents and always welcomes feedback.



Help Hallowell Become Dementia Friendly!

Members of the All-Age Friendly Committee are taking advantage of warming weather and more pleasant days to visit businesses across the City offering copies of the Dementia-Friendly brochure for distribution to employees and leaving copies for customers as well. The effort is presented in cooperation with the Hallowell Area Board of Trade. The committee is also offering the opportunity for an in-person training program for an employee meeting or other gathering.

Dementia is an umbrella term for a physical illness that encompasses multiple challenges to the brain resulting in many conditions such as progressive memory loss and personality changes. It is also important to recognize what

dementia is not.

Dementia is not a mental illness, and it is not part of the normal aging process. There are many causes and types of dementia. The most recognizable is Alzheimer's Disease, a brain disorder that worsens over time. It is characterized by changes in the brain that lead to deposits of certain proteins that cause the brain to shrink and brain cells to eventually die. There are many causes of dementia. All have similar results, and the condition is irreversible.

Jane O'Rourke, a Hallowell resident, has worked with caregivers and patients with dementia throughout her career. Her presentation provides practical information and sources for support

on the journey. Workshops can be scheduled for civic and social organizations and churches as well.

The dementia-friendly initiative in Hallowell is being supported in part by a grant from the University of Maine Center for Aging through its Lifelong Communities program. Email hallowellagefriendly@gmail.com or call 207-592-4718 for information. (BM)



WindowDressers Warms Homes and Hearts



HALLOWELL CLIMATE ACTION

WindowDressers took Hallowell by storm in November 2023. WindowDressers is a nonprofit organization that supports volunteers in constructing lightweight insulating window inserts for homes in their communities at local “Community Builds.” For one week, over 90 volunteers contributed time, enthusiasm, and camaraderie to Hallowell’s first Community Build. Hallowell Climate Action (a project of Hallowell Conservation Commission) and Manchester Conservation Commission partnered with Capital Area New Mainers Project (CANMP) to host the build at the Hallowell Multicultural Center.

Throughout the week, volunteers assembled cut-to-order frames, wrapped them in two layers of shrink-wrap polyolefin film, and applied

foam weather stripping around the edges to hold the inserts in place as interior mounted storm windows. The result was 235 inserts for 31 households who stayed warmer, saved money, and reduced carbon emissions this winter. While these amazing volunteers were building, wrapping, and taping frames, they were forging relationships that strengthen our community.

The majority of households that received inserts are in Hallowell or Augusta, although the build served several other adjacent towns as well. Of their new inserts, Rep. Dan Shagoury (Hallowell) said, “We love them. The difference between windows with inserts and those without is incredible. There are no drafts whatsoever.” Eight New Mainer households served by CANMP’s Better Housing Program also received inserts, and Ali Al-Gburi of Augusta agreed, “The room is much warmer.”

Hallowell will host another Community Build in Fall 2024. Orders are already coming in, so interested folks should request inserts soon to be included in the coming season. The participatory model in which insert



Dan Shagoury checks the fit of one of his new window inserts.

recipients help at the build keeps the cost of inserts well below that of similar commercial products. In addition, WindowDressers offers up to 10 free inserts per year to any household experiencing financial hardship. Hallowell Climate Action thanks the generous 2023 sponsors for defraying the cost of free inserts and supporting the build in other ways. To request inserts for 2024, sign up at WindowDressers.org. For more information on inserts or volunteering, contact Hilary Neckles at manhallwindowinserts@gmail.com. (HN)

Decomposition Quiz!

How long do you think it will take each of the following items to biodegrade?

You’ll be surprised! *Trashy answers on page 14!*

Banana peels

Newspaper

Apple cores

Orange peels

Wool socks

Plastic-coated milk cartons

Plastic bags

Cigarette butts

Styrofoam cups

Leather

Aluminum cans

Plastic bottles

Disposable diapers

Glass bottles

Eat Local—Reduce Carbon Emissions!

Spring is near and for some, thoughts turn to the garden. Hallowell Climate Action (HCA) has been working on ways to reduce our community's carbon footprint. One way this can be done is to fill your grocery needs locally if not by growing by buying! This action supports the community and reduces the carbon emissions caused by food transportation. Some options are growing your own food, shopping at a farmer's market, or belonging to a local Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

If you enjoy growing your own food but don't have enough space or sunlight for a bountiful garden, Hallowell has community garden plots available to rent. The plots are on Garden Lane, which is the road leading to Hall-Dale Elementary School and are \$35 for the season. Signing up for a plot typically begins in March. Space is limited as many gardeners reserve the same plot each year. Residents should contact the City Clerk's office to be added to the community garden mailing list. New plots are assigned in the order in which completed contracts are received. Certain rules and conditions are in effect to ensure a fair and respectful experience for all. For more information, contact the City Clerk's office.

If gardening isn't quite your style, a great alternative is to purchase farm-fresh produce and other grocery products from small local farms and businesses. Hallowell is fortunate to have its own community farmers market that meets every Saturday between May and October at 9AM-12PM in the parking lot at Stevens Commons. And if you've got a hankering for your favorite market treats in the winter, not to worry! Between November and April, the farmers are also known to host pop-up markets between



Hallowell community garden plot in July 2023.

10-11AM (same location). They don't take place every week, so we recommend keeping an eye on their Facebook page for updates.

Finally, people looking to get involved but not "sow my own tomatoes" can join a local CSA. In general, CSAs are partnerships in which members purchase a share of a farm's harvest in advance. There are two common CSA models: a market share and a subscription. A market share is essentially a prepaid tab with your local farmer: You purchase your share in advance of the growing season, and you are credited your share cost plus an extra percentage to spend at the CSA's market. Sheepscot General operates a market share CSA with a stand at Hallowell's Farmers Market. Alternatively, other CSAs provide a variety of freshly picked produce each week, depending on what is in season. Farmer Kev's CSA offers varying subscription levels and will

deliver a weekly basket to your door. See the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association CSA web page for more information on CSAs in our area.

To reduce carbon pollution and support our community, think globally, eat locally! (HG/MG)



Spring is right around the corner at the Hallowell Farmers Market.

Get Ready to Grow Green!



As of October 2023, the City of Hallowell's new Landcare Management Ordinance (LMO) is officially part of our city's Revised Code of Ordinances, Chapter 4 (Public Safety), Subchapter 7. After several years of due diligence, research, and educational efforts to limit the use of toxins per the 2022 Hallowell Comprehensive Plan, the Grow Green & Healthy Hallowell (GGHH) Initiative supported by the Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC) is ready. Are you?

In partnership with the Hallowell Code Enforcement Office, GGHH and HCC volunteers are available to assist Hallowell residents

and businesses comply with the ordinance. The transition in using alternative methods to replace synthetic pesticides on outdoor living and playing spaces is critical to ensure the health of residents and our environment. Volunteers are planning information sessions, updating help materials and resource lists, and providing opportunities to ask questions. Please check the City of Hallowell website under Conservation Commission/Grow Green and Healthy Hallowell Initiative folder and the Municipal

The Hallowell Landcare Management Ordinance can be viewed here:



Calendar for details or email hallowellconservation@gmail.com.

The first LMO information session was held in February with another planned for April 25. In addition, HCC is planning to host First Light Habitat's Personal Ecologist, Deborah Perkins, for a workshop in July.

Information for waiver applications and lawn signage are available through the Code Enforcement Office at City Hall. (RP)

Current GGHH Help materials can be viewed here:



Earth Day, April 20: Something to Dance About!

The River Studio's intergenerational dance group, The Spiral Dance Collective, is preparing to offer a collaborative performance in Granite City Park on Earth Day this year, Saturday, April 20th, at 4PM. This year's choreography is done in partnership with two nonprofit organizations—National Water Dance and Dance Exchange—each of which supports dancers and choreographers to create site-specific works reflective of our relationship to local bodies of water and their issues and impacts on individuals and communities.

The organizations facilitate a national biannual dance event to engage community artists in conversations with local scientists,

artists, government representatives, indigenous knowledge keepers, and residents that will culminate in a simultaneous dance performance across the country. Hallowell's Spiral Dance Collective founder, Christine Little, will offer a community workshop at 3PM prior to the performance when local residents will be invited to participate in co-creating the final dance that will be live streamed across the nation.

The Hallowell Conservation Commission will kick off the Earth Day celebration with its annual Granite City Park Clean-up beginning at 10AM. Volunteers of all ages are encouraged to show up, bring gloves, and dress for the weather. Check the Conservation

Commission Facebook page or email hallowellconservation@gmail.com for more information. (CL)



Spiral Dance Collaborative performs in Granite City Park on Earth Day 2023. at the Hallowell Farmers Market.

Fire Department Needs Volunteers!

New Firefighter Takes a Walk!

The Hallowell Volunteer Fire Department has openings for firefighters. Training is available. The course lasts 5 months and when completed, the person is a fully trained and certified firefighter. Melanie Boucher, shown practicing forced entry techniques, finished the training in the fall at the top of the class. The first of March she started her next adventure, hiking the Appalachian Trail!

Contact Chief Jim Owens at 207-754-2518 or email firepfd29@aol.com for more information on training.



Melanie Boucher, EMT, practices forced entry through a door during firefighter training. She received the top academic award in the Firefighter 1-2 class.

Hallowell Pride Is Going “Upta Camp” on June 1

The Hallowell Pride Alliance tradition has been to hold Hallowell Pride on the first Saturday of June. This year that is Saturday, June 1st! Join us for our Pride Festival in Granite City Park from 12–4PM, where you can hear live music from local performers, support local businesses, and learn about and connect with nonprofits. The parade down Water Street will begin at 2PM during the festival, head south to north, and end at Granite City Park.

This year’s theme is “Upta Camp,” a celebration of what it means to be an LGBTQ+ Mainer. Our state is a beautiful place, where we’ve carved out community in the vast forests and rocky shorelines, rivers, valleys, and growing cities. Whether you’re a member of one of Maine’s original tribes whose land we now occupy, part of a family with deep generational roots, or a new Mainer, we want to provide a space to celebrate who we are and who we love in our home state.



Bring your best you! We hope you’ll join us for a fun day of supporting our community, making new friends, and celebrating our unique identities. For more information about Hallowell Pride, including how to apply to participate in the festival and parade, follow us at Hallowell Pride Alliance on Facebook and Instagram. There you can also get information about our events throughout the year. (VT)

Decomposition Quiz—Trashy Answers! (quiz on page 11)

Item	Time to Decompose	Item	Time to Decompose
Banana peels	2–5 weeks	Cigarette butts	1–5 years
Newspaper	6 weeks	Styrofoam cups	50 years
Apple cores	2 months	Leather	50 years
Orange peels	6 months	Aluminum cans	200 years
Wool socks	1–5 years	Plastic bottles	450 years+
Plastic-coated milk cartons	5 years	Disposable diapers	450 years
Plastic bags	10–20 years	Glass bottles (just sand!)	1 million years

Source: Tech Insider <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zp4HsMWA3HQ>

What Happens to Hallowell's Trash?

The Hallowell Solid Waste and Recycling Committee's top agenda item for 2024 is to research the question "What happens to Hallowell's trash?" This is the team that brought you "Trash to Art" on Old Hallowell Day to spotlight the issue.

Committee members talked to Scott and Melinda Laliberte, owners of Riverside Waste Disposal and Recycling, the only licensed hauler reporting on both residential and commercial usage. It makes quarterly reports to the City of trash and recyclable tonnage. One committee member has reviewed multiple years of hauler reports required by the City. Hallowell currently recycles only 22.6% of its trash. This is far from the state's ambitious goal of 50%.

How can we help meet our recycling goal? First, use the services of registered and reporting haulers. Residents may also purchase a permit to take their own trash to Hatch Hill in Augusta. Take recyclables to North Bay (no charge). We can all contribute to ensure a clean, environmentally sustainable future by using North Bay and the haulers posted on the City website.

North Bay is serviced by Riverside. Containers are usually emptied at least twice a week. Most recycled materials are taken to EcoMaine in Portland. There the materials are offloaded onto conveyor belts where they are mechanically and manually sorted into paper, cardboard, metal, glass, and plastics. A 12-minute video explains the process. Visit the [ecomaine.org](https://www.ecomaine.org/tours-and-educational-outreach/videos/) website, click Educational Outreach, then Videos/Virtual Tours (<https://www.ecomaine.org/tours-and-educational-outreach/videos/>). Bundled paper is widely recycled as long as it's kept clean



Diesel's Sturgeon.

Photo by Jim Simpson

and dry and stored inside. Recycled metal is also useful and in demand. Glass is ground into small bits and made available for no cost. It can be used by itself as a backfill material, but more generally it is blended with natural aggregate to provide backfill, structural fills, and base course.

Plastics present greater problems. #1 (PET) clear plastic is the staple material in beverage containers, which are charged a deposit fee and recycled in Maine. It can be used for jacket insulation and carpets. HDPE (#2) opaque containers are reused for plastic crates and playground equipment. Some remaining plastics are incinerated for energy but most are not reusable. The plastics industry believes that the future holds more opportunities for these plastics and encourages consumers to continue recycling.

Besides Recycling, what else can be done to keep the environment cleaner and our landfills (notably Hatch Hill) from filling up too

quickly? The answer is to Reduce the number of things we buy, Repair rather than toss, and Reuse as much as we can.

The committee offers this challenge; check out the Hallowell Recycles Facebook page. Report your Reducing and Reusing successes. We are a creative community and can learn from each other. Let's use that creativity to reduce excessive waste. (KS)



🏰 Committees? We Got 'Em!

What is a camel? A horse designed by a committee. This old joke discounts the real work that committees do to keep our great little community purring. City employees do a lot of the necessary day-to-day jobs to keep the City running. Public works, the City Hall staff, the Police Department, the Fire Chief, all under the direction of the City Manager do the ongoing work. There is a lot more to do and that's where committees come in. So where do the committees and boards come from and what do they do?

First, there is the All-Age Friendly Committee – might as well honk our own horn! The committee publishes *The Champion* with the much-appreciated support of the Publishing Partners (see the Back Page). It is also working to make Hallowell a dementia-friendly city. Enough about us. What about the rest? You'll see reports on the work of many more committees throughout this and every issue.



Kate Dufour, Chair of the Finance Committee, reviews evaluation calculations with Rob Duplisea of RJD Appraisal.

Charter Committees

The City Charter establishes several committees and board memberships. The mayor appoints the committee members and the chairs. The City Council ratifies the appointments. The only exceptions are the representatives to the school

board who are elected by voters.

- Trustees of the Hallowell Water District
- Board of Assessors
- Board of Trustees of Hallowell Cemetery
- Planning Board
- Election Warden, Ward Clerk, and Election Clerks
- Board of Appeals
- Conservation Commission and Subcommittees: Grow Green and Healthy Hallowell and Hallowell Climate Action
- Recreation Commission
- Board of Trustees of Greater Augusta Utilities District
- Board of Assessment Review

Council Committees

There are regular City Council committees made up of the elected members that divide up the group's work and report back to the Council.

- Health and Wellness
- Personnel and Policy
- Protection
- Claims
- Transportation
- Property/Public Lands
- Finance

Topical Committees

Many committees have been created over time by former mayors that continue to do work on specific topics.

- Arts and Culture
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Brownfield Advisory Committee
- All-Age Friendly Committee
- Board of Health
- Historic Hallowell Committee
- Ordinance Rewrite Committee
- Recycling Committee
- Tree Board
- School Board (elected by voters)

Special Committees

But wait, there are a few more! The mayor can create special committees for specific tasks like the Housing Committee (see page 8) or a short-term committee such as the one formed to develop the application process and requirements for flood assistance grants.

Legend has it that a former mayor of our fair City observed that there are 49 committees in Hallowell and the same 9 people are on all of them. An exaggeration, but while there are often familiar faces around the table, there are many people involved with particular interests that drive their willingness to dedicate time and energy. (BM)

Shipbuilding, Trade, and Travel on the Kennebec River



The busy Hallowell waterfront in the 1870s. Photo courtesy of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission

Hubbard Annual Fund Presentation

Friday, March 22, 2024, 6:00pm

Lincoln Paine will discuss the rise and fall of commerce and shipbuilding along the upper Kennebec in the nineteenth century, and what they can tell us about Maine today. While Bath is thought of as the shipbuilding center, towns like Hallowell, the practical head of navigation, along with Pittston and Gardiner were home to shipyards that turned out fine vessels that helped launch the United States on its way to international commercial prominence.

Resource Magnets Available at City Hall

City Hall is more than a place to pay taxes and auto licenses. There's lots of brochures and maps as well.



Deputy City Clerk Dan Kelley.

Drug Take Back Day Saturday April 27 10AM-2PM

Chief Lewis stepped into the lobby of Hallowell City Hall to check the drug Drop Box. Hopefully this will be a busy location on Saturday, April 27th, as the Hallowell Police Department along with other law enforcement agencies participate in Drug Take Back Day. Officers will be on duty from 10AM until 2PM to accept prescription medications along with pet medicines, over-the-counter medicines, or vitamins no longer needed or expired.

“Make sure that medication containers like pill bottles have the labels removed or personal information blacked out,” the Chief explained.

Items which cannot be returned include sharps (needles), inhalers, or thermometers.

Don't flush medications down the drain. That can contaminate Maine's water supply.

Unwanted drugs can also be dropped in the Take Back Box Monday through Friday from 8:30AM until 4:30PM when City Hall is open for business.



Hallowell Police Chief Chris Lewis.

CUT AND SAVE!



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

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

Hallowell Police Department

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

Hallowell Fire Department

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

Hallowell Food Pantry..... 207-992-6899

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

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

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

Spectrum Generations-Cohen Center. 207-626-7777

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

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

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

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

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

Maine General Medical Center..... 207-626-1000

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

24 hours a day / 7 days a week

hallowellagefriendly@gmail.com

age-friendly-hallowell.org



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age-friendly-hallowell.org

Drivers and Companions Needed!



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.

Frances Miliano has been driving for the SEARCH program for eight years. "Lynn Kidd gave a talk at our church. I had just retired from the Maine Dental Association and thought, 'I could do that!' It has been quite fun. I have a regular client that I take shopping or to doctors' appointments. There are two other women I occasionally take shopping or on other errands. There is a gentleman that I'll drive to get a haircut."

Originally from Eastport, Frances spends summers at the family home there. "I asked if that would be a problem and Lynn said, 'Certainly not!' She is always looking for volunteers to help out."

If you have some free time in your calendar, contact SEARCH Program Coordinator, Lynn Kidd, at 207-530-0137 or lkidd@ccmaine.org. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

CUT AND SAVE!



Frances Miliano ready to pick up her next passenger.

Make A Connection



Hallowell Conservation Commission

The Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC) is seeking new members for 2024 and beyond. We have 3 commission openings starting in 2024. Interested in joining a passionate group that cares about the health and vitality of our natural resources, climate resiliency, and engaging with the community? Please contact the Commission this fall. All skill sets are welcomed and will be utilized to lead or assist with projects and events targeted to protect and conserve the City's natural resources. If you are interested in joining the HCC, participating in

our efforts, or wish to be added to our Volunteer List, please email hallowellconservation@gmail.com; follow us on Facebook.



Cohen Center—Volunteers Needed!

Early morning milk bag packers: Wednesdays and Fridays.

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

Money Minder program facilitator

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 or call 207-626-7777.



Join the Hallowell Food Pantry Reserves!

If you're interested in helping, please contact Vicky Gabrion at (207) 992-6899, visit the website at www.hallowellfoodpantry.org, or check out our Facebook page.



Hallowell in Stereo - continued from Back Page

Though stereoscopic viewers lost popularity as a form of entertainment, they made a reappearance in the 1960s in the form of View-Master, a popular children's toy.

Sarah Lucas, a member of the

Historic Hallowell Committee, scanned each of the Hubbard cards that will be cataloged and eventually displayed on the Maine Memory Network (www.mainememory.net), a statewide digital archive of

thousands of historical items and stories.

This spring, the Hubbard Library has on display some of its best images as well as an example of a stereoscopic viewer similar to the one invented by Justice Holmes. (SL)



Stereoscopic image of Water Street flood, thought to be from 1870.



Annie Kromhout.

Hallowell in Stereo

Deep in the collection of the Hubbard Free Library are nearly 100 stereoscopic images of Hallowell in the late 1800s. These images range from views of the downtown area to the granite industry in action. The pictures were made using a camera with two lenses about as wide apart as human eyes.

A stereoscopic image is a card with two nearly identical images placed side by side. These photographic images are made to view through a stereoscope, giving the viewer the illusion of a 3D image. These image cards were a popular form of entertainment in the late 1800s and early 1900s. They were sold by mail order, by salesmen, and in stores including several photographic



A stereoscopic image of the Hubbard Library by A.F. Morse.

studios right here in Hallowell. A.F. Morse, Hunton, and Morse & Simmons studios produced image cards of local attractions and events.

Stereoscopic images were first displayed at the London International Exhibition in 1851. Soon after that, American photographers began making stereographs.

In 1859, Oliver Wendell Holmes, a Civil War captain, Supreme Court Justice, and amateur photographer, designed the first handheld device for viewing stereoscopic images. He wrote an article for the June 1859 issue of the *Atlantic Monthly* saying, "The first effect of looking at a good photograph through the stereoscope is a surprise such as no painting ever produced."

Stereoscopic images were popular souvenirs for travelers of the time, eventually replaced by picture postcards in the 1910s.

STEREO continued on PAGE 19

The Champion Publishing Partners:



Contributing Writers: Alex
AARP Real Possibilities
Maine



Vaughan Woods &
Historic Homestead



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