

The Hallowell Champion



Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 2

Spring 2021



Can You Lend a Hand?

When the snow flies, some of the neighbors at Central Commons who have mobility issues could use some help cleaning off their cars. Some neighbors find shopping a difficult chore; perhaps you could take their list and shop for them? Maybe a ride to a medical appointment is needed. Can you help?

When the COVID pandemic began a year ago, some members of the Hall-Dale Elementary School parent-teacher organization were anxious to help. Peter Spiegel created an online form so people willing to volunteer could sign up and indicate how they could help, for example, by shopping for groceries, delivering food to those quarantined, or offering a ride. Within a week over 50 people had registered.

Representative Charlotte Warren, along with members of the Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Committee, recognized the need to find more volunteers and share information. Chris Cart, artist and web designer, volunteered by

designing hallowellhelps.org. Kelly Kennedy Yokoyama, graphics designer, created a logo that mirrored the helping hands.

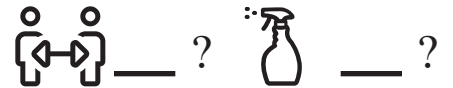
People who want to help and those who need help can visit the website and fill out an online form. People can also call Hallowell Helps at (207) 370-1406 and leave a message or email hallowellhelps@gmail.com. Opportunities to help abound. See Page 11.

There is one problem that is particularly insidious—social isolation. In Maine, there are more than 135,000 people who are age 50 and older who live alone. According to AARP, these people are at a higher risk of social isolation. If there is one thing that the Covid-19 pandemic has made clear, it's that personal connections are immensely valuable and sorely missed. Help can be as simple as calling a neighbor who lives alone who might need a hand or need to hear a friendly voice. There is work to be done.

We're all in this together.

Covid-19 Quiz

Fill in the blanks, then turn to Page 6 for Answers!



**Special Election
March 9 Details Page 2!**



**Food Drive for Hall-Dale
Elementary Page 4**



THE INSIDE SCOOP

Slick Steps? Sand Buckets!	Page 2
Diversity Task Force	Page 3
Hallowell's 250th	Page 3
Food Mover Aids Pantry	Page 4
Bulkhead Rebuild	Page 5
Academy Street Journal	Page 6
COVID Quiz Answers	Page 6
Free Diabetes Workshop	Page 7
Poetry Festival at UMA	Page 8
Finding Tracks	Page 9
Winthrop St Crosswalk	Page 10
Farmers Market	Page 10
Hallowell Helps	Page 11
Old Time Tavern Tunes	Page 12

March 9, 2021, Special Election

State Senate District 14

A Special Election to fill the vacant State Senate District 14 seat, which encompasses Chelsea, Farmingdale, Gardiner, Hallowell, Manchester, Monmouth, Pittston, Randolph, Readfield, West Gardiner, and Winthrop, will be held March 9, 2021. This vacancy was created when Shenna Bellows, who was reelected to this seat in November, declined to be sworn in as she was elected to the position of Secretary of State on December 2, 2020.

Hallowell voters may vote in person on Election Day. The polling place is the Hall-Dale Elementary School at 26 Garden Lane just off Winthrop Street. The polls will be open from 8:00am–8:00pm.

An Absentee Ballot is available for registered Hallowell voters. You may request an absentee ballot online from the Secretary of State's office website. There is a link on the City's website: <https://hallowell.govoffice.com>.



Ballot Drop Box at Second Street Entrance to City Hall.

[govoffice.com](https://hallowell.govoffice.com). Once on the City's website, at the top of the page you will see a heading for on-line services. Click on the tab, and the second option on the drop-down menu says Maine Online Absentee Ballot Request. Or you may request a ballot by calling the City Clerk's office at 430-4402 or vote in person

at City Hall.

On your absentee ballot, remember to sign your name on the flap of the return envelope (in black or blue ink) where it is highlighted in yellow. Fill in the oval next to your choice. If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Ballots may be deposited in the City's secure Official Ballot Drop Box located at the Second Street entrance of City Hall, by USPS (One 55-cent stamp is required for postage), or in person (by you or a family member). Absentee ballots must be received by 8pm on Election Day.

If you have any questions about this or any election, contact the Hallowell City Clerk's office at 207-430-4402. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the City Clerk's office is open on a limited basis from 9:00am until 2:00pm or by appointment. You can also email the city clerk at cityclerk@hallowellmaine.org.

Slick Steps and Sidewalk? Call for a Sand Bucket!

As the snow began to fall in our lovely little city, the Hallowell City Clerk's office and Hallowell Public Works were preparing for the upcoming winter season.

As some of our residents already know, we have a sand/salt bucket program in effect for our citizens. The Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Committee and the Hallowell City Clerk's office have been coordinating this program since 2017. This year Hallowell Public Works will be supplying and maintaining five-gallon buckets of sand/salt to Hallowell homeowners who contact the City Clerk's office to be included in this free program.

When you are on the list, someone

from Public Works will bring (one) five-gallon bucket of sand/salt to your house. When it is empty, call City Hall again to have it exchanged for a filled one. You can contact the City Clerk's office at 207-430-4402, Monday–Friday, from 9am–2pm.

So far, the sand bucket program has helped over 34 Hallowell residents who were facing safety challenges from slippery driveways and sidewalks over the winter months by providing them with a bucket of sand/salt.

Many thanks to the Hallowell Fire Department for delivering sand and getting the Sand Bucket program started.

This year special thanks go out



Todd Tallow refills a sand bucket at the City sand/salt shed.

to Lowe's for their very generous donation of 25 buckets. (HW)

Hallowell—250 Years Young!

“...the early settlers were so inspired with hope, courage and public spirit that, in 1771, they appealed to the legislature for incorporation as a town. The act passed on April 26....”

—Emma Huntington Nason,
Old Hallowell on the Kennebec

Happy Birthday, Hallowell! Here comes another chance to celebrate an important milestone with maybe a virtual party and imaginary cake. Even though the City’s plans for Maine’s Bicentennial Celebration were cancelled last March, many residents want to celebrate Hallowell’s 250th anniversary on April 26, 2021, the form and fashion yet unknown. No one is quite sure exactly what will happen, but it

will be something. This is, after all, Hallowell.

It was just 10 years ago that folks pulled out all the stops and noted the settlement of the town when Deacon Pease Clark and family dragged their belongings up from the riverbank, turned over a wagon, and spent the first night in what would become our Fair City. Here we are again with another opportunity for rafter-rattling “HUZZAHS!”

The Historic Hallowell Committee, the group charged with keeping track of the City’s old stuff, and, by appointment, the Bicentennial party planners, may well be anointed to oversee what might be another subdued recognition of a founding event. The Covid-19 Pandemic put the brakes on everything from the



State’s big party to the Olympics and innumerable events of all sorts in-between.

So, given the constraints on large, boisterous celebratory gatherings for which the Pine Tree State’s smallest city is so rightly known, what suggestions might you have for marking the 250th anniversary of Hallowell’s incorporation? Send suggestions by email to historichallowell@gmail.com or through the postal service to Hallowell’s 250th, c/o PO Box 123, Hallowell, ME 04347.

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access in Hallowell

A new task force has begun work to deepen the understanding of inclusion, diversity, equity, and access (IDEA) in Hallowell. By early summer, the task force plans to present a report to the City Council that identifies three to five immediate steps to advance IDEA and includes a blueprint for future work.

The task force is considering several questions, such as:

- Is the City reaching people who need services? Who is left out?
- Do people living in Hallowell feel represented? Who feels left out?
- What barriers do people living in Hallowell experience?
- What should Hallowell do to advance IDEA?
- What resources are needed?

People are asked to share experiences related to these questions or suggest other questions to be answered. Find out more about this work and how to

participate. Contact a task force member or task force chair Diana Scully at Ward3@hallowellmaine.org or (207) 620-0871. The Mayor has appointed 11 people to serve on the task force, including nine community representatives and two City Councilors:

Kristin Aiello, Esq. Managing Attorney, Civil Rights Advocacy at Disability Rights Maine

Berkeley Almand-Hunter, Ph.D. City Councilor, Ward 4

Chris Myers Asch, Ph.D. Historian, educator, and author. Co-Founder and Executive Director of Capital Area New Mainers Project and Member of RSU 2 School Board

Alexandria S. AuCoin, LMFT. Strong advocate of LGBTQ+ rights as member of Hallowell Pride Alliance and Pride Across Maine and therapist specializing in Gender Therapy

Aimee Campbell-O’Connor. Consultant with Berry Dunn, with deep expertise in Medicaid among

other areas

Mary Kane. Retired K–12 educator. Active volunteer in Hallowell. Served on Capital Area New Mainers Project team for Afghan family

Roberto Mandje. Retired Olympic distance runner. Barcelona born and globally raised, having his feet and heritage firmly placed on two continents—Africa and Europe

Bob McIntire. Hallowell community activist. Chair of All-Age-Friendly Committee

Jane Moore, J.D. Advocate at Disability Rights Maine

Diana Scully. City Councilor, Ward 3. Chair of IDEA Task Force

Lakshman Subrahmanyam, M.D. Cardiologist at MaineGeneral Medical Center

Consultant Laura Ligouri is helping the task force. She is the Executive Director and Founder of Mindbridge, a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming the impact of local, national, and international human rights efforts.

Memorial Gift Makes Food Handling Easier

The Hallowell Food Pantry is operating with a new food handling system. A roller conveyor now allows volunteers to move boxes of food between the established pantry space in the basement of the old Hallowell City Hall/Fire Station and the temporary expanded space in the hose tower. This idea was floated around last summer.

Sadly, Alice Buck, one of the treasured Pantry volunteers, died in the early fall. Thanks to generous

contributions donated to the Pantry in her memory, a conveyor system was ordered in the fall.

The conveyor was installed by Monty Hoskins of Hallowell and was fully functional on Friday, January 29. This system allows volunteers to work between the two spaces in a safe and efficient manner and avoid carrying boxes outside on uneven and slippery pavement.

Everyone at the Pantry is most grateful to the Buck family, and



Conveyor. Volunteers wave from the tower room.

we'll think of Alice Buck every time a box goes down the conveyor.

Food Drive Aids Hall-Dale Elementary Students

There are many challenges with the Covid-19 pandemic. Student hunger is one. Many students arrive without snacks. Teachers are keeping a selection in the classroom. There are 23 classrooms at the elementary school. The Food Pantry has been providing food items, but the cupboard is a bit bare. So, the Food Pantry is having a food drive to provide a bag full of special treats for each classroom.

The food drive is truly a “drive-in” event on Saturday, February 27, 2021, from 9:00am–12:00pm. The drop-off is at the Old City Hall/Hallowell Fire Station on Second Street.

Items such as Goldfish, pretzels,

fruit cups, granola bars, Chex mix, fruit roll-ups, crackers, juice boxes, animal crackers, and the like are preferred. **Because of allergies, peanuts cannot be an ingredient in any of the snacks.**

Monetary donations will be gratefully accepted if that is a more convenient way to support students. Call the Hallowell Food Pantry for more information or email hallowellfoodpantry@gmail.com or call 207-992-6899. (VG)



Food samples.



Vicky Gabrion.

New Director of Food Pantry– Vicky Gabrion

The Hallowell Food Pantry is excited to introduce its first employee and the new Director, Vicky Gabrion. A long-time Hallowell resident, Vicky recently retired from school nursing after serving the Maranacook school district for more than 20 years.

With an inclusive approach to health, she has always been passionate about increasing access to social and community programs for her students and families.

Vicky lives with her husband, Patrick, and terrier puppy, Dudley. In her free time, she loves to create greeting cards, hunt for thrift store bargains, and explore coastal Maine with her family.

Jeanne Langsdorf, former director, has taken on the role of board chair. For six years, she worked tirelessly to ensure the food pantry responded to the changing needs of our community, and customers appreciated her kind and friendly manner. Her vast experience will be invaluable in her new role.

Riverfront Boardwalk Off-Limits Relief Will Come in Spring

Hallowell's riverfront has been the focus of commercial life since the city's founding. Over the past few years, it has become one of the city's most popular gathering spots. The boardwalk was made even more welcoming by the Hallowell Area Board of Trade when it sponsored the purchase of over 60 colorful Adirondack-style chairs.

The bulkhead is truly a four-season attraction, obviously less so in the winter, of course, but that is OK because right now it is a dangerous stroll at best. The entire length of the boardwalk is off-limits by order of the Hallowell City Council. Orange mesh fencing blocks access. The planks are rotting and could easily give way. However, be of good cheer. Help is on the way!

Hallowell, unlike many Maine communities, has no town square or community gathering space. There is in fact little level land between the river and the granite ridge that rises to the west. It does, however, have its waterfront. Access to the Kennebec River prompted the early settlement and subsequent commercial development.

Emma Huntington Nason in her book *Old Hallowell on the Kennebec* quotes an article from the *American Encyclopedia* published in 1807, "Hallowell is the natural head of navigation; that it is a better distributing point for Canada than Portland [Maine]; and that it is certain to become one of the largest American cities." Well, that didn't happen. The railroad put the kibosh on that dream. The riverfront, however, remained a focus of community life and an important transportation link.

As was the case for many river and seaport settlements, continued development of railroads and



Waterfront Boardwalk.

eventually highways caused communities like Hallowell to turn their backs on the waterfronts. The pollution of waterways from industrial development cemented the rejection. The passage of the Clean Water Act, an effort led by Maine Senator Edmund Muskie, brought about a marked improvement in water quality in rivers and streams. People again began to appreciate the social and commercial value of the waterways.

Sadly, by the end of the 1990s, Hallowell's waterfront bulkhead had fallen into serious disrepair. What had once been the busy Eastern Steamship Company wharf was disintegrating, and the waterfront lot was eroding at an alarming rate. The city was threatened with losing not only riverfront property but an important aspect of its social and cultural heritage as well. Through the tireless efforts of a few citizens, including Captain Arthur Moore, the last commercial tanker pilot on the river, voters approved a major bond issue in 2007 to fund the reconstruction of the bulkhead.

After the bulkhead was rebuilt, the riverfront quickly became a vibrant center of activity. The addition of Hallowell's colorful chairs made it a relaxation mecca. A gangway and dock encourage boaters to tie up and visit. Unfortunately, the decking material didn't last as long as anticipated, and in recent years

it became increasingly dangerous as boards rotted and broke. Last fall the City Council closed the boardwalk and authorized the purchase and installation of new joists and decking.

Material has been ordered for the job. The decking and joists will be made from Guyana Walnut or Kabukalli, as it is known internationally. The wood is naturally rot-resistant and isn't chemically treated. The loggers and processors operate under a Code of Forest Practice. The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) Monitoring Division enforces Guyana's forest laws and regulations through regular monitoring and reporting on commercial harvesting operations. A log tracking system enables the sources of harvested timber to be traced. This ensures that only timber from legal sources, approved by the GFC, enter the international trade.

Lumber for the Hallowell deck is being shipped by container. Chris Buck, Public Works Director, said that work would begin when the material arrives, depending on weather. The Public Works crew will remove the old decking and beams. A crew from B&H Builders will then install the new materials.

Until then, the Hallowell boardwalk is closed.



Hallowell's waterfront in 2007.

Academy Street Journal

ACADEMY STREET JOURNAL
January 2021 Volume 2, Issue 1
A Publication of the Small City of Hallowell

The editors of the *Hallowell Champion* were delighted to discover that another newsletter publishing group, also all volunteers, was doing great work only a few streets over.

As Chris Myers Asch explained, “It started as a ‘pandemic project’ to keep my kids busy when the schools were closed last spring. After the first issue came out last May, the kids loved the reaction they got from their friends and neighbors, so they decided to do another one in June, then another one in September. They have recruited some of their neighborhood friends to submit articles and cartoons. It’s been fun.”

Miriam, Robin, and Aaron, Hall-Dale middle school and elementary school students, decide among themselves what subjects they’d like to write about. Friends and neighbors are Correspondents from other neighborhoods such as Central and Winthrop Streets, and they even have a stringer in Tennessee!

Miriam is the editor (in charge

of corralling the cub reporters), Robin is a reporter and graphic designer, and Aaron is a reporter and photographer.

The articles run the gamut from informative and well-researched articles on stargazing, interviews with locals (John, Our Mailman, and Mr. Radsky, who has lived in Hallowell most of his life), articles on what it’s like to be students in a Pandemic and how they and their friends are coping. They interview teachers to understand what they’re experiencing. They write Opinion pieces such as “The Bad Side of Computers” or “Learning Pods—The Good and the Bad.” They welcome Letter to the Editor submissions. There is a puzzle section that is very popular with their readers.

Quality Copy prints 50–60 black-and-white issues for them, which are given out to students and teachers at their schools. Color versions are available digitally.

Now that they are busier with

2020 Wasn't All Bad

BY ROBIN ASCH

We know a lot of bad things happened in 2020. We could write a book about that! But we should also highlight the good things that happened in 2020. Many people in Hallowell had good things also happen to them in 2020. That may sound like a stretch, but it’s true.

According to Cree Krull, a member of Temple Beth El in Augusta, one of the good things that happened worldwide was that Americans turned up in record numbers to vote despite a global pandemic. He feels that democracy got another chance, and we got a new president! Mr. Krull also started reading. Lastly, in April, Mr. Krull saw the bluest skies and the clearest air that he can recall!

The Karnes family of Winthrop Street had many good things happen to them in 2020. Emma got to spend more time with her family. Wylie, Emma’s brother, spent more time with his neighborhood friends. Their mom, Caroline, got to try learn. She also was very happy that the kids at Hall-Dale Elementary School spent more time outside. The teachers used the outdoor learning areas and the story walk she helped make. Also, the whole family got to explore Baxter and Acadia, which they would not have been able to do otherwise.

Continued on page 4



This is on the Giffords’ driveway. People who come by enter their wishes for 2021!

A 10 out of 10 coffee shop!

BY AARON ASCH

When you walk into Traverse Coffee Co., you hear the coffee grinder and smell the delicious scent of coffee. You think of what to get, but you know that everything

is going to be so good that you can’t pick. Traverse Coffee is amazing! Kyle and Michelle Ne own Traverse Coffee Co. Kyle grew up in Houston, Texas, and Michelle is from Augusta, Maine. Kyle and Michelle met at Oral Roberts University in Oklahoma. Kyle has a music education degree, but he didn’t like teaching music as much as he thought he would. They decided to open a peaceful coffee shop where they would study and have coffee, and they wanted to do that too. They were visiting Augusta and thinking about where to have their coffee shop when they saw an open space in downtown Hallowell and thought it was perfect.

Did you ever wonder why the coffee shop is named Traverse? To traverse means to move the wind when you are sailing, but still reach your destination. They also wanted a travel-themed name.

Traverse opened in summer 2019. Traverse has espresso, which is straight coffee beans ground up, tea, hot chocolate, and lots of other drinks. My favorite is the hot chocolate (and it’s the only drink I have had). My sister, Robin, likes the steamer. We don’t like the espresso straight coffee bean!

Continued on page 3

A sample page.

school, they won’t have as much time to work on the *Academy Street Journal*, although they are hoping to put an issue together during the February break.

If you want to read previous issues online, send an email to chrismyersasch@gmail.com. You’ll really enjoy them. (MW)

COVID Quiz — Did you know all the answers?

How many times a day do you hear the admonitions from local, state, and national officials? Chances are you can answer the four questions in your sleep. Youngsters just learning to talk can probably reel off the list without batting an eye! Yet look around and keep count of the people you see that obviously haven’t gotten the message.

Now that the various kinds of vaccines are becoming more available and vaccination sites closer at hand, there is genuine concern that we will grow lax, let down our guard, and become complacent. Simply put, that means trouble and we all know what that means. Young, healthy people hobbled sometimes for life apparently. Older

friends and neighbors knocked back on their heels even without an “underlying condition.”

So let’s just check and make sure we’re as smart as we think we are.



Mask: Wear one. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggests using a cloth mask made of multiple layers of tightly woven, breathable fabric. Test the mask by holding it up to a bright light source to make sure it blocks light from coming through the fabric. A “medical procedure mask,” the paper kind, can be layered underneath a cloth mask (forming a “double mask”) for improved fit and filtration. Two paper masks don’t do the trick.



Hands: Wash them often. Avoid touching your face. Use hand sanitizers containing at least 60% alcohol.



Distance: Stay 6 feet apart. Make space between you and others who don’t live in your household.



Spray: Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces—frequently.

Up-to-date information is readily available at the CDC website. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>. Stay safe. The alternative isn’t fun.

FREE Diabetes Prevention & Nutrition Program



National Diabetes Prevention Program

Upcoming Workshops

Spectrum Generations is pleased to announce a great new offering, a FREE diabetes prevention workshop available remotely! The local Area Agency on Aging is partnering with Healthy Living for ME to offer a diabetes prevention and nutrition program for adults who are at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes or who have pre-diabetes. It is free and available wherever you are! The National Diabetes Prevention Program will be offered beginning **Thursday, March 25**. Workshop participants will meet weekly from 3:30–4:30pm on Zoom.

The National Diabetes Prevention Program focuses on gradual lifestyle changes and problem-solving to reduce a person's risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. The program includes free lifestyle coaching during 16 weekly group sessions followed by every other week follow-up meetings and support for the remainder of the year-long program.

Research shows that lifestyle changes can reduce the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes by as much as 58% in people with pre-diabetes. Participants will learn how to apply practical strategies to stay motivated, manage stress, prepare food, solve problems, avoid negative thoughts, and prevent relapse.

This series is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Please call (207) 620-1642 or email info@healthylivingforme.org for more information and to register.

Healthy Living for ME is a statewide network of evidence-based programs that empower adults to address and better manage their health issues. All workshops are listed at healthylivingforme.org.

Are you an older Mainer?



Do you have **QUESTIONS** about the COVID-19 vaccine?



Do you need help **SIGNING UP** for a vaccine?



Do you need a **RIDE** to your vaccination location?



Are you not able to leave your home due to **LIMITED MOBILITY**?

Spectrum Generations is here to help!

Call **1-800-639-1553** and we can:

- Answer general questions about the vaccine
- Provide information about where and when you can get the vaccine
- Assist you with scheduling appointments when it is your turn to get the TWO doses you need to be fully vaccinated
- Connect you with transportation services to help you get to and from your vaccine location

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, phases, and more visit:
maine.gov/covid19/vaccines



Plunkett Poetry Festival Breaks Out



Annual Plunkett Maine Poetry Festival calls on makers and writers to contribute works for hybrid event of visual and literary arts to be held on April 30, 2021. Literary and art submissions are due March 1, 2021.

This past year has been challenging. We've been quarantining, masking, "pivoting," rising up, breaking down, and just trying to keep it together.

To mark the events of this moment, the annual Plunkett Maine Poetry Festival will Break Out of its usual format to celebrate the University of Maine at Augusta's (UMA) 2020–2021 academic theme of "Outbreak," a topic inclusive of viral outbreaks, outbreaks of social justice, and outbreaks of creativity.

Accordingly, the Plunkett Festival will partner with the UMA Danforth Gallery to call on makers and writers of all kinds to contribute to a multifaceted literary and arts event

scheduled to take place on April 30, 2021.

Anyone interested in contributing one or more creative works to the Plunkett Festival should visit uma.edu/plunkett for details. One category is for students only (high school and college). The other two categories encourage community participation. **Submissions are due by March 1, 2021.**

The April 30th event will be filled with readings, art exhibits, an art installation, and a performance by Patricia Brace, artist and UMA part-time lecturer. Brace's work addresses the relationship between intersectional feminism and politics through her use of dance, new media, and installation.

Providing the keynote for the event will be Baron Wormser, Maine's former poet laureate (2000–2006). Wormser is the author of nine collections of poetry, as well as two texts on pedagogy, a memoir, and two collections of essays. He is an avid defender of poetry, peace, and the power of language to make collective change. Wormser will speak on UMA's academic theme of Outbreak, as well as read some of

his work.

Additional details about the April 30th event will be available on uma.edu/plunkett in the coming weeks.

About Terry Plunkett and the Terry Plunkett Poetry Festival

The Terry Plunkett Maine Poetry Festival, held in April each year, was established in 2002 to honor the memory and accomplishments of Terry Plunkett, an English professor at the University of Maine at Augusta for nearly 30 years. An outstanding teacher and mentor to many students, Terry was also co-editor of "Kennebec: A Portfolio of Maine Writing," an annual magazine published by the university from 1977–1992 and distributed free throughout the state. Many Maine writers first saw their work in print in "Kennebec," thanks to Terry's encouragement and guidance.

A poet and fiction writer as well as a teacher and editor, Terry helped organize and direct the Maine Poets Festival, a hugely popular celebration of poets and poetry, which ran from 1976–1983 at UMA, the College of the Atlantic, and the Maine College of Art. (DG)

Fantastic Time Machine Hidden in the Hubbard Collection

Earle Shettleworth, Jr., Maine State Historian, was searching through the Hubbard Library newspaper collection for clues about the recently sold famous painting of Hallowell in the 1860s. It fetched over a quarter of a million dollars at auction so there was understandable interest in the work. What he discovered in the process was a series of letters in the Hallowell Gazette beginning August 15, 1863, entitled "Hallowell in Olden Times."

The first was penned by Alpheus Lyon dated July 29, 1863. He writes from Bangor explaining, "Mr. Editor—Sir. Sometime ago I was shown, by a friend, a copy of your paper containing a list of the voters of the town of Hallowell in 1804." He goes on, "What wonderful changes take place in the population of a town in sixty years!" The author then implores, "Cannot someone write this history of this ancient town? Come Mr. Editor, while some ancient landmarks remain, write the

history of H. and put me down for a copy."

Shettleworth, justly intrigued, continued searching and discovered five additional letters, penned by an author known only as Senex, who in response shares his detailed reflections of Hallowell people and places long gone by. Excited by the discovery, Shettleworth told the Trustees of Row House, Hallowell's historical society, of his find. The organization has taken on publishing these accounts as a gift to the City just in time for the celebration of the 250th anniversary of its founding in April of this year. Details will follow.

Shy Neighbors Leave Tracks and Need Our Help

In Hallowell, neighbors help each other out and find ways to celebrate together, like around a fire pit during COVID times. But have you noticed some neighbors avoiding you? They wait until dark to come out, and even then they keep to the tree lines and the shadows, or crawl under snow or leaves, or underground.

These shy neighbors are wild, furry, four-footed creatures. Most travel and forage for food at night. Besides avoiding us and our pets, the smaller animals use night to reduce their chances of being eaten. Since the predators have to show up where and when the smaller animals do, nighttime is where the action is.

Seed eaters! Grub eaters! Twig and bark eaters! Big critters that eat little critters! Big critters that eat frozen apples!

A few of the shy creatures who call Hallowell home in the winter are: White-footed Mouse, Deer Mouse, Star-nosed Mole, Meadow Vole, Masked Shrew, Snowshoe Hare, Porcupine, Striped Skunk, Opossum, Raccoon, Gray Fox, Red Fox, Eastern Coyote, Bobcat, Weasel, Mink, Fisher, Otter, and White-tailed Deer.



Snowshoe hare footprint.

Want to know them better? Head outside the day after a snowstorm. A fresh layer of snow on a firm base is best, but look for tracks in your

yard, local fields, or woods after any snowstorm. Tracks will tell you stories.

Stand back at first. Do you see a pattern of paw prints?

Almost a straight line? Fox, coyote, cats, bobcats, and deer often walk this way, putting their hind foot where their front foot was.

Does it look like a bounder, with pairs of prints spaced almost the same distance apart? Meadow voles are very tiny bounders. Bigger ones might be a weasel, mink, or fisher.



Fisher cat footprint.

Is the pattern wide and irregular, almost like a waddle? This might be a skunk, raccoon, porcupine, or opossum.

Or does it look like a hopper, with a pair of small prints and bigger prints bunched together? Squirrels do this. They plant their small forefeet and bring the larger hind feet around and in front of them. If the prints are very small, they are shrews or mice. Snowshoe hares are hoppers, too, but have large hind feet to support them on the snow

and often plant their front feet one in front of the other.



Bobcat footprint.

To get a specific ID, you will have to do more detective work: counting toes, checking for claws, measuring the stride and straddle. There are plenty of resources for you online or at the library.

These critters have lived here for thousands of years, but our current way of life is hard on them. What do they need from us? Clean water in streams and ponds. Diverse native plants for food. No poisons so insects and other small animals can survive to feed the bigger animals. Shrubs along streams, corridors of trees, and roadless areas for safe travel and shelter. “Dark sky” lighting is safe for people and safer for wildlife.

Making your yard critter-friendly is a great start. But since the territory of a tiny deer mouse can be 3,000 square meters, it will take our whole City to keep wildlife welcome and safe! (CM)

Winthrop Street Crossing in the Works

Concerns of High Street Brigade

The redevelopment of Stevens Industrial School into Stevens Commons with its dormitories, apartments, offices, and improved outdoor spaces has greatly increased the pedestrian traffic at the top of Winthrop Street. Walkers, cyclists, and drivers both know the difficulty of trying to see oncoming traffic over the hilltop. Concerned about the possibility of tragic accidents, residents of the area, known to themselves as the “High Street Brigade,” decided to do something about it.

Last summer the group began collecting signatures on a petition to bring the problem to the attention of the City Council. Within three weeks they had collected over 120 signatures from people who shared the concern. A copy of the petition was sent to Councilor Maureen AuCoin, then chair of the Highway Committee, and then to State Representative Charlotte Warren and State Senator Shenna Bellows who in turn contacted the Department of Transportation.

October meetings with the Maine Department of Transportation and

the Highway Committee resulted in a preliminary agreement for the design and construction of a crosswalk in the spring. The projected cost is \$80,000. The City’s share, \$12,000, was approved by the City Council during its November session. The plan at this point in time is to create a short sidewalk segment approximately 100 ft long on the south side of Winthrop Street with a pedestrian/bicyclist crossing at Coos Street. Next step is for the City to contract with a design engineer. Construction is planned for the spring.

Farmers Market Plans for Spring

There is still ice on the river, but plans are in the works for the spring opening of the Hallowell Farmers Market in the parking lot at Stevens Commons. A few hearty vendors have been showing up for brief deliveries on Saturday mornings at 10am throughout the winter to the delight of loyal shoppers. Fresh baked breads, eggs and meat products, pickles, soups, and meat pies have been on the abbreviated list of offerings. The opening day depends on the vendors and the weather, of course.



Winthrop Street Farmers Market sign.

Historic Building Survey—Next Steps

Site surveys have been completed for nearly 500 homes, barns, garages, and other buildings in Hallowell’s Historic District and beyond. Volunteers are working to identify the architectural style of buildings and upload more recent photographs into the Maine Historic Preservation Commission database CARMA, which stands for Cultural & Architectural Resource Management Archive. The Map Viewer allows the public to search the Commission’s database for information on historic, aboveground, nonarchaeological properties in the state.

The historic building survey will aid the Hallowell Planning Commission in its work. An update on the building survey and the revision of the Historic Building Ordinance is scheduled for the March meeting. Updating the ordinance will likely come after the completion of the City’s Comprehensive Plan, another major project now under way.

Row House Donates Painting Copy to Hubbard Library

Sotheby’s Auction House in New York recently sold a painting of Hallowell for over a quarter of a million dollars! The vista, created by an unknown artist sometime between 1860 and 1867, shows the City downtown in great detail. Row House, the city’s historical society couldn’t afford the real painting, according to Larry Davis, the President of the organization. “Sotheby’s graciously provided a high-resolution image of the painting which we had printed at Quality Copy and then mounted and framed at Renaissance Gallery. We’re presenting the full-sized print to the Library so folks can see what Hallowell looked like over 150 years ago.” The painting can also be viewed online at www.rowhouseinc.org.



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



www.hallowellhelps.org
hallowellhelps@gmail.com
207-370-1406



Brian Heath, Meals on Wheels volunteer driver, loads his car on a frigid January morning with help from Bill Galbraith, the Assistant Nutrition Coordinator at the Cohen Center.

Meals on Wheels Drivers Congregate Dining Servers Needed!

Cohen Center and Spectrum Generations

Spectrum Generations' Cohen Community Center is in need of volunteers who would like to roll up their sleeves and assist our Nutrition team with delivering meals for our Meals on Wheels program or providing backup to the dining servers for congregate dining. There are currently immediate openings for:

- Backup lunch servers on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:15am–12:30pm
- Backup delivery drivers on Wednesdays and/or Fridays from 9:30am–12:00pm

Other opportunities include:

- State Medicare Patrol: Share your knowledge of insurance programs (training will be provided).
- Healthy Living for ME trainers: Share your love of arts and crafts and creativity.

Contact Jessica Bucklin, Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@spectrumgenerations.org or call 207-620-1684.

Companions, Shoppers, Drivers

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

Needed: Families, singles, retirees, college and high school students

Help: Volunteer a couple hours a week for seniors who need a helping hand. Provide companionship, assistance with grocery shopping/errands, and/or rides to doctor appointments for senior clients 60 years and older who live in Kennebec County. Contact SEARCH Program Coordinator Lynn Kidd at 207-530-0137 or lkidd@ccmaine.org.

Hallowell Food Pantry

Help needed: Monthly food pickup second Monday of the month. Shipment arrives 7:30am in the Ice Vault parking lot on Whitten Road. Weekly shopping trips, stocking shelves, and monthly food deliveries. Helpers are also needed Friday mornings and afternoons during customer pick-up periods. Call Vicky Gabrion at 207-992-6899 or email hallowellfoodpantry@gmail.com.

Hallowell Conservation Commission

The Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC) has two member openings. Appointed members are expected to attend at least 6 monthly meetings per year, lead or engage in projects targeted to protect and conserve the City's natural assets, and advocate for conservation programs and their benefits. Please email hallowellconservation@gmail.com, if interested in learning more about the Commission.

Harlow Gallery

Love art? Like to help?

If you are interested in gallery sitting or volunteering in some capacity, the Harlow would love to have you. The gallery is actively seeking enthusiastic art lovers to help cover gallery hours. If this might be a good fit for you, please drop a line to harlowgallery@gmail.com.

Hallowell Volunteer Fire Department

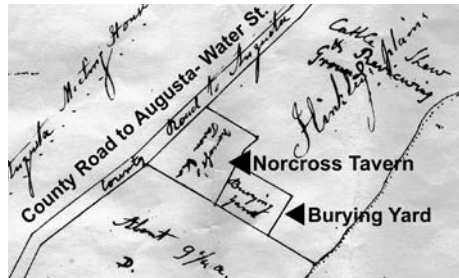
The Hallowell Fire Department has an ongoing bottle drive to aid the Hallowell Firefighters' Association. There is a drop-off box behind the fire station on Coos Lane. Proceeds benefit projects that are not covered under the municipal budget such as funding a new training dummy that firefighters could use to practice extracting fire victims from a building. For more information, contact Chief Jim Owens at 207-754-2518 or email firepfd29@aol.com.

Music Scene 200 Years Ago? Maybe in Uptown Hallowell!

Nowadays when one thinks of music and Hallowell, the mind drifts first downtown to basement dance floors, restaurant stages, to church sanctuaries, and on occasion the Hall-Dale High School Auditorium. Turns out that two centuries ago the happening place might have been uptown at the Norcross Tavern. Sam Webber, City Historian, points to an 1822 map of the town drawn by Phillip Bullion, a surveyor then living in what is now Chelsea.

The map shows the County Road to Augusta, now Water Street, and a plot identified as Norcross Tavern, just south of the cattle show and receiving ground, and due west of the Burying Ground—an auspicious location for sure. There are apparently no sketches of the building to be found, no tattered bits of a menu or broadsides promoting

a touring show, but it was Hallowell and a tavern so it is hard not to imagine that there was singing and on occasion a whole lot of shaking going on...but no actual proof of performance.



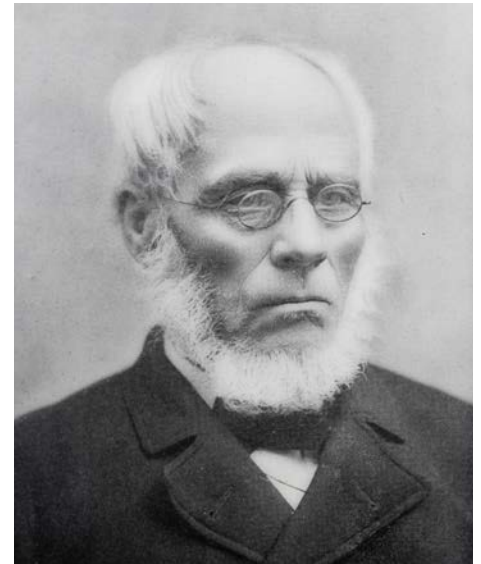
Location of Norcross Tavern.

Musical reviews of the time focused mostly on the sacred and spiritual side. As for “popular” or secular musical events, a notice in the *American Advocate*, August 31, 1832, announced Grand Dramatic

Musical Entertainment at the Town Hall in Hallowell “consisting of selections from Shakespeare, Stevens, and Colman. POPULAR SONGS, etc., the whole calculated as an EVENING’S BRUSH TO SWEEP AWAY CARE.” Sounds like the perfect prescription

for today’s maladies as well.

As for the Norcross establishment, little else is known other than the site was eventually engulfed by the Hallowell Cemetery and is now the resting place of many, including the venerable Judge Henry Knox Baker whose remarkable career of 86 years “remains distinctly marked upon... all that constitutes the well-being of the town,” as reported in *Old Hallowell on the Kennebec*. He was also a staunch prohibitionist notably buried on the site of the town’s first tavern. He just might be spinning in his grave.



H.K. Baker. Unhappy with resting place?

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