

ADU—Good Fit for You?



BrightBuilt Home/CA Smith Photo

Maine is going to need 84,000 new homes by 2030 according to a State of Maine Housing Production Study written in 2023. Chances are that figure hasn't changed much in the past three years. Obviously, they can't all fit in Hallowell!

According to the same study, the housing shortage impacts the quality of life for many, if not all of us. "Long-time residents and workers moving to and within Maine are struggling to find homes that they can afford close to job opportunities.

"Young people who grew up in Maine face rising housing costs for rental homes and entry-level homeownership, making it hard for them to stay. Aging Mainers struggle to downsize and find adequate housing to age in place in their communities."

So, what are we to do? A part of the solution might be an accessory dwelling unit or ADU. One might work for you.

Sometimes called in-law apartments, guest houses, or the like, an ADU is generally a small self-contained dwelling with sleeping space, cooking and living areas, and, of course, a bathroom. An ADU could be over a garage,

in a basement, attached to a home, or a stand-alone cottage. Because ADUs are built on single-family lots as a secondary dwelling, they typically cannot be partitioned off to be sold separately. According to the AARP report, ADU Design and Development, the cost can be a third of that for a multi-family home of the same size.

The Maine State Legislature passed, and Governor Mills signed into law, LD 2003 in 2022 with the goal of increasing housing opportunities by reducing land use and regulatory barriers for building ADUs. The law allows any lot with a single-family dwelling in an area where housing is permitted to have at least one ADU. The setback and dimensional requirements for a single-family home continue to apply unless the municipality makes them more permissive. Maine ADU regulations do not require homeowners to provide supplementary parking beyond what is already required for the single-family dwelling.

Hallowell Building codes require that an ADU be at least 190 square feet or the size of a small motel room. The ADU can be no larger than 1,000 square feet or 50% of the principal structure, whichever is less.

Sarah Moore, Hallowell's Code Enforcement Officer, reports that while there has been growing interest in the possibility of constructing ADUs, only two building permits have been issued in the past year. The reasons for considering adding an ADU vary from providing

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BLOOMING DATES

April 2, 5:30-7pm: What's on Your Utility Bill—Empowering Ratepayers *Page 11*

April 16, 6-8pm: Women's History Tour—Vaughan Homestead *Page 5*

April 25, 9am: Earth Day—Granite City Park Spring Cleanup *Page 13*

April 29, 9am-2pm: AARP Smart Driver Course *Page 6*

May 2, 10am: Jane's Walk—Hallowell Cemetery *Pages 15-16*

May 2, 2pm: Webber Symposium on Local History *Page 16*

May 3, 7am: Bird Walk—Howard Hill and Berry Conservation Areas tklt.org

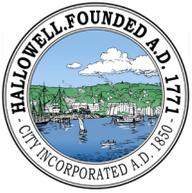
May 4-10: Spring Cleanup—Public Works *Page 2*

May 9, 10am-2pm: Repair Café—Fire Station *Page 11*

June 9: Primary Election *Page 2*

June 27, 10-5: ArtWalk *Page 7*

July 9, 6-8pm: Climate Action Celebration *Page 11*



From the Desk of the City Clerk

Lisa Giliam

As spring arrives in Hallowell, things at City Hall are starting to pick up. Preparations are underway for the upcoming June Primary Election, which will be held on Tuesday, June 9th. Voters can expect a full ballot with several candidates running in a number of races, making it an important opportunity for residents to help determine who will appear on the November ballot.

A helpful reminder for voters: If you are currently registered as “unenrolled,” you do not need to enroll in a political party to vote in a party primary. A change in state law a few years ago allows unenrolled voters to choose which party ballot they would like to vote on while still remaining unaffiliated with a political party.

We are also currently looking for Election Clerks who are registered Republicans to help work at the polls on election day. State guidelines require a balanced number from each party. Currently, we have plenty of Election Clerks who are registered Democrats.

If you are a registered Republican and would like to assist with the election process, please contact City Hall—we would be happy to hear from you.

After a long winter, many of us are certainly ready for the change in seasons. One bright spot throughout the colder months has been the Holiday Tree Display along the river at Granite City Park. Designed and installed by Kieran Kammerer, the display was a creative and thoughtful addition to our community and brought a great deal of joy to those who visited the park this winter.

At the March City Council meeting, the Council recognized Kieran—also known to many as Dr. K—by presenting him with the Spirit of America Award. This honor reflects not only the holiday tree display but also his many contributions to the community over the years. His dedication and generosity are a wonderful example of how much people care about Hallowell and its residents.



City Clerk selfie

Dawna Myrick, Dan Kelley, and Lisa Gilliam.

I would also like to remind residents about the monthly City Council meetings. If you are unable to attend in person, the meetings are streamed live on the City’s Facebook page and are also available on Zoom, where residents can log in, participate, or ask questions.

As always, Dan, Dawna, and I are here to help with any questions or assistance you may need regarding City business. Please don’t hesitate to reach out. I can be reached at 623-4021, ext. 200 or by email at cityclerk@hallowellmaine.org. Dan Kelley, Deputy Clerk, can be reached at 623-4021, ext. 204 or by email at deputyclerk@hallowellmaine.org, and Dawna Myrick, City Treasurer/Tax Collector, can be reached at 623-4021, ext. 201 or by email at dawna.d@hallowellmaine.org.

It truly is a pleasure to serve this wonderful community.

Spring Cleanup–Hazardous Waste Drop-off

Hallowell Cleanup May 4-10
Dumpsters at Public Works

Monday–Thursday 6am–4:30pm
Friday–Sunday 7am–3:30pm
Residents can dispose of bulky waste: washers, dryers, stoves, unpainted wood, water heaters, carpet, mattresses, furniture.

Not accepted: Household hazardous waste, electronics (computers, printers, monitors) appliances containing freon, tires,

shingles, demolition debris or household trash.

Visit Hallowell City Hall or call Tom Goraj (207) 622-3993 for more information.

Hazardous Waste Drop-Off May 16

9am–12pm
Augusta Public Works
55 North St.
Pre-registration required at Hallowell City Hall.

Dispose of paints, adhesives, waste fuel, oils, batteries, poisons, chemicals.

Not Accepted: Asbestos, commercial/industrial waste, biological waste, ammunition, flares or radioactive materials. All items must be in sealed containers, upright in boxes padded in newspaper., separated by type. Call (207) 626-2435 for more information.

UMA and Hallowell: Good Neighbors, Growing Connections

Virginia LaFlamme

In Hallowell, it doesn't take long to run into someone you know. That sense of connection and community extends to the University of Maine at Augusta's residential students, who live here at Stevens Commons while attending classes up the road in Augusta. During the academic year, they become part of the everyday life of the city, frequenting the cafés, restaurants, and shops along Water Street. Over time, those everyday visits have made UMA students a familiar part of the city's rhythm, supporting local businesses and adding to the vitality of downtown.

That connection is about to grow.

On April 16 at 10am, UMA will break ground on a new residence hall at Stevens Commons, expanding housing for students who attend classes in Augusta while living in Hallowell.

Scheduled to open in fall 2027, the project, developed with Mastway Development, will add 60 beds and a full-service dining hall to UMA's housing at Stevens, Erskine, and Cleveland halls.

"Our residential community in Hallowell has become an important part of the student experience at UMA," said Aili Robinson, UMA's Chief Business Officer. "As we expand housing at Stevens Commons, we are also deepening a partnership with the city that benefits students, local businesses

and the broader community."

Those three residence halls already bring more than 100 students to Hallowell, many of them enrolled in hands-on programs such as nursing, medical laboratory technology, cybersecurity, aviation, and architecture.

The new residence hall will strengthen that connection between university and community in practical ways. For students juggling full class schedules, labs, and clinicals, Hallowell offers a setting that supports both focus and community, with green space, a walkable downtown, and a quieter pace than many college neighborhoods. The dining hall will add convenience, offering students another place to come together, build relationships, and feel at home.

More housing also means more support for student success. A stable, connected place to live can help students stay engaged, build friendships, and keep their attention on their studies.

The project is also a reminder of the role Hallowell plays in student life. Students head to Augusta for classes and campus events, but their day-to-day lives unfold here, in a city that offers both independence and a strong sense of place.

But the connection between UMA and Hallowell does not stop at student housing. It also includes the steady stream of public events that give Hallowell residents easy access to the cultural and civic life of a university campus.

Several upcoming events offer good examples.

Maine Women's Hall of Fame

The university hosted the 36th Annual Maine Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on March 21. This year's honorees were Dr. Alane O'Connor and



the late Frances Perkins, the groundbreaking labor leader who became the first woman to serve in a U.S. presidential cabinet during Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency. A reception was followed by the ceremony in the Faber Forum in Jewett Hall. Details at uma.edu/mwhof.

4th Annual Job Fair

On Tuesday, March 24, from 10am to 2pm, UMA will host its annual Job Fair in the Randall Student Center Fireside Lounge on the Augusta campus. More than 60 employers are expected to attend, creating opportunities for job seekers of all ages from across the region. More at uma.edu/jobfair.

24th Annual Plunkett Poetry Festival

Writers and readers from across the state and beyond will gather for the Plunkett Poetry Festival, to be held Saturday, April 25, from 11am to 7pm in Jewett Hall.

The festival originated in honor of Terry Plunkett, a longtime UMA English professor, poet, and editor who championed Maine writers and believed deeply in the power of local voices. The event includes readings, conversations, and an open mic where participants can share their own work.

This year's keynote speaker is Claudia Rankine, a *New York Times* bestselling poet, MacArthur "Genius" Award recipient, and National Book Critics Circle Award winner for criticism. More information is available at uma.edu/plunkett.

UMA continued on PAGE 4



Duncan Persons

Stevens Hall at Stevens Commons.

Hallowell Champion

Spring 2026



WATER INFO UPDATE



There have been questions about the water quality and the amount of water customers are allowed to get each day at the Hallowell Water District PFAS-free spigot.

Water Quality

Each year in March, the Maine Drinking Water Program provides a list of annual drinking water testing requirements, also known as Required Testing Sheets (RTS), to all public water systems. Required Testing Sheets detail the contaminants or analytes that must be screened that year, the sampling frequency (i.e., monthly, quarterly, etc.) for each substance being analyzed, and the location in the system from which each sample should be taken. Results are posted on the Water District website, <https://www.hallowellwaterdistrict.com>, and sent to all customers.

The Maine Drinking Water Program requires water from the public tap be tested for PFAS compounds quarterly and bacteria monthly. The District set a 5-gallon daily limit to avoid the creation of bacterial contamination that might result from storing water for long periods of time.

Customers can use the tap from 7am until 9pm but are asked to be considerate of nearby neighbors with regard to lights and noise.

Information, Please

Meetings of the Hallowell Water District Board of Trustees are open to the public. A meeting was held on March 11, 2026, at the Hallowell City Hall. A video recording of the meeting is available for viewing online. A link appears on the Water District website.

The Water District sends out various reports to customers on a regular basis as required or as necessary. Some readers have remarked that the wording is full of “legalese.” Some of the “Notice” language is required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the State Department of Environmental Protection and cannot be edited. The Trustees are working to ensure that terms are defined and jargon explained.

Customers are encouraged to contact the Water District office with questions and concerns. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8am until 12pm. The phone number is 207-623-9151. Callers

are encouraged to leave a message after hours or email Zach Lovely, the Superintendent, at zlovely@hallowellwaterdistrict.com.



Water Buddy Program

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

It is a simple process. Request a ride by signing up on a list at Central Commons, at the Cotton Mill Apartments, or email hallowellagefriendly@gmail.com. A volunteer will arrange to take you to the Water District office. You must supply your own container.

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

UMA continued from PAGE 3 58th Commencement Ceremony

Our 2026 academic year will conclude with UMA's Commencement Ceremony at the Augusta Civic Center on Saturday, May 9, at 10am. This year's speaker

is Aaron Rosenblum, engagement and education coordinator at the ACLU of Maine. More information is available at uma.edu/commencement.

Together, these events show what it means to have a university just up the road: access to opportunity,

culture, and community. When the new residence hall rises at Stevens Commons, it will build on a relationship that already works well between UMA and Hallowell. Both communities benefit, and both will continue to grow through that connection.



Vaughan Homestead Women's History Twilight Tour

Thursday, April 16, 6–8pm
Registration Required
2 Litchfield Road, Hallowell

Kate Tremblay

Vaughan Homestead invites the public to step inside history for an evening that is both engaging and social. The upcoming program, “Women of Vaughan Homestead,” will transform the historic house museum into a series of storytelling spaces where visitors can explore the lives of remarkable women connected to the Vaughan family. Moving from room to room, guests will encounter interpreters sharing the stories of women who lived at the Homestead or corresponded with its residents, bringing their experiences and accomplishments into focus.

Each room of the historic home will highlight a different woman whose life reflects the wide-ranging pursuits and talents found within the Vaughan circle. Visitors may learn about artists, educators, and



Woman fishing c 1880. From sketchbook of Ellen Twisleton Vaughan.

adventurous outdoorswomen whose interests and friendships stretched well beyond Hallowell. Interpreters stationed throughout the house will introduce these figures, sharing insights drawn from letters, records, and other historical sources.

Rather than a traditional lecture, the program is designed as an informal, interactive tour. Guests can explore the home at their own pace, stopping in each room to hear a new story, ask questions, and learn more about the networks of friendship, creativity, and intellectual exchange that connected these women across time and place.

The evening will also include light refreshments, making it an

ideal opportunity for a relaxed and memorable night out at the museum. Whether visitors are history enthusiasts, longtime supporters of the Homestead, or simply looking for a unique local outing, “Women of Vaughan Homestead” offers a welcoming way to experience the stories of the women who shaped the world around both the Homestead and our fair City.

Pre-registration is required. \$15/person. Sign up at vaughanhomestead.org.



Kate Tremblay

Historians Love Maps!

This spring, Hall-Dale third graders will take their annual field trip to the Vaughan Homestead for a hands-on program titled “Historians Love Maps.” Designed to spark curiosity about the past, the program invites students to explore how maps tell stories about people, places, and change over time.

Students will rotate through

five interactive stations across the property, from the Carriage House to the barn, using a grounds map to guide their journey. Along the way, they’ll discover how maps reveal distant places, track change, and even how trees can serve as historical records—bringing history to life through exploration and discovery.

Volunteer interpreters Karen Simpson and Anny Young demonstrate how tree rings can serve as “maps” that demonstrate historical changes in climate and weather.

Updates from Cohen Community Center



Support That Adapts to Your Life — Right Here in Hallowell

At Bridges Home & Community Services, we believe support should feel empowering, flexible, and personal. Serving Hallowell and surrounding communities, our team helps adults remain independent while receiving the level of care that's right for them.

Adult Day Services

A welcoming, supervised daytime program offering social engagement, meaningful activities, and personal care support in a safe environment. Ideal for individuals who benefit from structure and interaction—and for caregivers who need reliable respite.

Community Support Services

One-on-one assistance focuses on building independence and staying connected to the community. Whether it's developing daily living skills, exploring volunteer opportunities, building employment skills, or working toward personal goals, our staff partners with individuals to provide support that helps them thrive.

Personal Support Services

Compassionate in-home support with daily living tasks such as bathing, dressing, mobility, and meal preparation—helping individuals remain safely and comfortably at home.

From a few hours a week to more comprehensive support, we tailor services to meet your needs. Call 1-800-876-9212 or visit www.bridgesservices.org.



Maine Pine Catering Brings Community-Centered Catering to Central Maine

Maine Pine Catering is Central Maine's community caterer, offering customized catering services for events of all sizes throughout the region. Based at the Cohen Community Center in Hallowell, Maine Pine Catering provides on-site and off-site catering for weddings, corporate meetings, community gatherings, and special celebrations.

With flexible menu options and service styles—including drop-off catering, fully staffed events, mobile catering, and bar service—Maine Pine Catering works closely with clients to create events that reflect their needs and vision. The team also offers event rentals and support to help simplify planning from start to finish.

More than a catering company, Maine Pine Catering is a division of Spectrum Generations. Proceeds from catering services are reinvested into programs that support older



adults in our communities, including nutrition services that help address food insecurity. When community members choose Maine Pine Catering, they are supporting local events and have meaningful community impact.

To learn more about Maine Pine Catering or to inquire about upcoming events, visit www.mainepinecatering.com or call 207-620-1189.



SMART DRIVER™ COURSE Wednesday, April 29 | 9am–2pm

The AARP Smart Driver™ Course is the nation's first refresher course specifically designed for drivers aged 50+. In this course you will learn important facts about the effect of medication on driving, reducing driver distractions, and proper use of new technology found in cars today along with other topics.

Drivers may benefit from a discount on their auto insurance premium upon completing the course, and you will learn something new along the way!

Registration is required at the Cohen Community Center reception desk or by calling (207) 620-1195.

Class size is limited to 20 participants. The day of the class, please arrive before 9am to complete paperwork with instructor Steve Dhein. Price is \$25 for AARP members or \$30 for non-members.

Lunch is available for purchase at the Center or bring your own.



David Hayes

Summer ArtWalk June 27!

Lace up your fancy walking shoes! The Hallowell ArtWalk is on! The Hallowell Area Board of Trade (HABOT) is pleased to announce the return of the Hallowell ArtWalk for the 2026 season. Building on the strong response to last year's events, two ArtWalks are planned this year: June 27 and September 5 (with rain dates of June 28 and Sept. 6), both taking place throughout downtown Hallowell along Water Street.

The ArtWalk transforms the



David Hayes

Hallowell ArtWalks 2026 Summer and Fall



David Hayes

downtown district into a walkable outdoor gallery, featuring work by local and regional artists displayed at participating businesses, galleries, and public spaces. Visitors will have the opportunity to experience a wide range of artistic media including painting, photography, ceramics, woodwork, and other handmade work.

In addition to visual art, the



event will feature live music and opportunities to meet artists and learn about their creative process. Local restaurants and cafés will be open throughout the day, making the ArtWalk an opportunity to explore downtown Hallowell and its vibrant downtown.

Organizers say the ArtWalk reflects Hallowell's longstanding role as a regional center for arts and culture and provides a welcoming event for residents and visitors alike.

More information about artist participation and event updates will be announced as the dates approach.

Hallowell Area Board of Trade Launches New Website

Bob McIntire

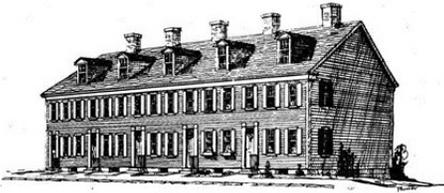
Now online is a whole new way of looking at Hallowell and finding out about the businesses that make our town tick – www.hallowell.org. The Board of Trade began working with web designer Kyle Morand over a year ago to create a dynamic way of presenting information about its members. Kyle created a 3D map of downtown that can be viewed from various angles. Member businesses appear as glowing locations on the site. A quick click and info about the business appears. There are also links to websites with more information about Hallowell history, arts and culture, and government.



Two views of Hallowell from the new Board of Trade website.



By joining the Board of Trade, your name will be added to the website to help promote our City and its businesses. An application appears on the website and is also available by emailing info@hallowell.org.



Mary Lou Dyer

No doubt many of you have noticed the dilapidated building at the corner of Second and Central Streets, beside the historic Dr. Hubbard Office. Built in 1792, the Dummer House is the oldest still standing structure in Hallowell. The Board of Trustees of Row House, Inc, Hallowell's Historic Preservation Organization and Historic Society, is pleased to announce that after many hours of work and a competitive bidding process, a local restoration contractor, Hitchcock and Company (see *Hallowell Champion* Summer 2025, page 6), has been selected to purchase and restore the building. Work on the exterior of the building will begin over the next year conforming to Hallowell's historic preservation ordinances and other state and national guidelines. During the following year the interior will be renovated.

The home was built in 1792 by Judge Nathaniel Dummer, Hallowell's first postmaster. It was originally located on Water Street and was an integral part of the bustling downtown of that day. The exact location is where the Maine House and Berry and Berry Florists are located today. In 1818, it was sold and moved to the back lot of Dummer Lane. After 1818, the Dummer House was turned into a rental duplex to house local families and had many owners over the years.

The home was purchased in 1968 by James Clark and Linda Bean Clark, granddaughter of L. L. Bean, who turned it into a single-family home for them and their three young sons. The Clarks moved on but Linda Bean still owned the building.

Row House News Dummer House Renovation

In 2018, the Dummer House was moved to its current location. Bean hired a well-respected restoration company, Arron Sturgis of Preservation Timber, to build a new foundation, stabilize the structure, and move it.

It was always her intention to fully restore the building, but a number of unforeseen circumstances interfered with completing the work on this important part of Hallowell's history.

When Linda Bean died in 2024, she left the building to Row House with the hope it would be restored and converted to a museum. Larry Davis, President of the Row House Board, explained to the representatives of the estate that Row House was not in a position to operate a museum but would make every effort to restore the building as Linda Bean had wanted. Over the last year, the Board of Trustees of Row House has worked with the Bean Estate; the Row House Attorney, Avery Day; and preservation experts to develop a plan to bring the Dummer House back to life. We can all see how sad the exterior looks.

The interior is also in rough shape with three floors and no water or electricity. Hitchcock and Company will purchase the building with clear expectations for the work: Year 1, restoration of the exterior following Department of Interior Historic Standards and Year 2, creation of modern living spaces.

While the interior work will not be restricted by historical requirements, Hitchcock has agreed to maintain as much of the historic interior as possible. With the completion as a duplex, two additional rental spaces will be added to downtown Hallowell. Row House is excited about this project to provide historic



Linda Bean

Dummer House 1968.

preservation and to fulfill modern residential needs.

Please consider joining Row House and supporting this important project. We have incurred substantial legal and real estate-related expenses in our efforts to achieve this goal. We can use your help. To join, please go to our website, rowhouseinc.net. We encourage you to watch the restoration of the Dummer House as it progresses.

Greetings from Hallowell!!



Here's a perfect way to say "Hello" with these Hallowell greeting cards designed by Elise Bolduc. Hallowell City Hall and the Hubbard Library are captured in these colorful watercolors. Great for a quick note, a special salutation, or a special gift.

You can pick up a box or two in person at Vignette's, 142 Water Street, Irene's Alterations, 202 Water Street, or online at www.rowhouseinc.org. Email rowhouseinc@gmail.com for more information.

Engaging Students in Government/Community Service

Michael V. Frett

Civic and community involvement are topics that regularly surface in public service organizations. At its September 2025 meeting, the Hallowell All Age-Friendly Committee discussed the importance of engaging students in civic life. Following that conversation, John Bastey and I volunteered to bring the idea to the RSU2 School Board.

In late September, we met with RSU2 Superintendent Rick Amero and, after some insightful conversation, we agreed that the idea to engage students should be presented to school principals. At a November meeting with the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and principals of RSU2, we discussed a collaborative effort to involve students in local government and community service. The concept was warmly received and viewed as a meaningful growth opportunity for students, with potential for academic credit.

Before moving forward, the group asked which City committees could meaningfully involve students. In December, I contacted six committee chairs to address that question. The response was overwhelmingly positive. The Hallowell Conservation Commission, Historic Hallowell Committee, Hallowell Tree Board, Hallowell Arts & Culture



Committee, Hallowell Planning Board, and Recreation Commission were enthusiastic about the idea.

The potential opportunities available to students would vary by interest and age. Students might support conservation projects or senior Capstones; assist with historical research, media projects, and resource cataloging; help maintain tree inventory data or work on grant applications; volunteer with arts programming at the Gaslight Theatre; or contribute to public communication efforts related to planning and permitting. Several committees also noted opportunities to assist with community outreach and administrative processes.

This collaborative effort offers students hands-on experience

in civic responsibility while strengthening connections between our schools and community.

In a follow-up meeting with the RSU2 group in March, we acknowledged the outlined opportunities for students and agreed that school staff would determine which students qualified for participation. In order for school staff to communicate with each committee, I offered to produce a contact list of committee representatives. It would then be up to the schools to initiate contact with a committee and arrange for student involvement. Everyone is enthusiastic about this All Age-Friendly project. Updates to follow.

ADU continued from PAGE 1

housing for a family member to the possibility of generating extra income from short- or long-term rentals. A report detailing existing housing conditions in 2020 indicated that there were 10 short-term rentals in Hallowell. That number has doubled since then according to AirDNA, a firm that

tracks that data.

Interest in ADUs extends throughout the region according to Melanie Weston, a Community Planner with the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments. ADUs are seen as a way of expanding the housing stock and increasing the population density by hopefully allowing for the growth of more

“walkable” communities.

Does the possibility of constructing an ADU sound intriguing? A good first step would be to talk with the Code Enforcement Officer. Sarah Moore can be reached by visiting Hallowell City Hall, calling (207) 446-0316, or emailing ceo-lpi@hallowellmaine.org.

What Does Your Conservation Commission Do?



Hallowell Conservation Commission

Hilary Neckles

If you have ever enjoyed a walk through the meadow of the Effie L. Berry Conservation Area, appreciated the woodland wildflowers along trails at the Hallowell Recreation Area (the “Res”), or marveled at the abundance and variety of aquatic life in Vaughan Brook, you have experienced the work of the Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC). While for many residents the “Conservation Commission” is an unknown entry on the list of municipal committees, in reality, HCC is the frontline defender of Hallowell’s natural ecosystems.

In Maine, conservation commissions are municipal advisory boards authorized by state law to help towns protect their natural resources. Unlike land trusts, which are nonprofit organizations that conserve and manage specific parcels of land, conservation commissions are part of the local government with responsibility throughout the town limits. As the primary body advising a town on land-use decisions that affect ecological health, conservation commissions have been called “the environmental conscience of the community” (Maine Manual for Conservation Commissions, 1997).

In practice, the activities undertaken by conservation commissions are as varied as there are towns, cities, and plantations in Maine. Collectively, these activities help ensure that Maine communities are healthy and attractive places to live, work, and raise families.

The HCC has advocated for Hallowell’s natural resources, including woodlands, open spaces, and wetlands, for over 30 years. Today, the Commission’s work is guided by the current Hallowell Comprehensive Plan, which articulates clear visions and strategies for ecosystem health and sustainability. Some activities in recent years include:

- *Healthy Environment:* The HCC led the effort to adopt the Landcare Management Ordinance, which limits the use of inorganic pesticides to protect human and ecosystem health.
- *Climate Resilience:* By enrolling Hallowell in the state’s Community Resilience Partnership and establishing Hallowell Climate Action as a project of the HCC, the Commission has secured support for projects aimed at reducing the city’s carbon pollution and preparing for the impacts of a changing climate.
- *Vaughan Brook Water Quality:* Vaughan Brook is classified as “threatened” by Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) due to pollutants from the watershed that are carried into the stream. Since 2021, HCC and community volunteers have monitored water quality in the brook and its tributaries. The data contributed to receiving a successful grant from DEP to develop a management plan for the Vaughan Brook watershed focused on improving the brook’s water quality.
- *Public Education and Engagement:* The HCC is the primary vehicle for communicating local conservation-related information, activities, and

volunteer opportunities through public lectures, workshops, electronic newsletters, and social media.



The Power of Partnerships

The HCC routinely partners with other groups to increase collective impact. For example, the HCC collaborates with the Hallowell Tree Board to enhance Granite City Park’s riverside native ecology, with the Hallowell Recreation Commission to improve the habitat value of the Res and other city parks, and with the Hallowell Arts and Culture Committee to bring nature-based art to some of Hallowell’s outdoor spaces. Collaborations with neighboring conservation commissions in Manchester and Augusta support interconnected trails and climate action. Finally, at the regional scale, Kennebec Land Trust is a key partner on land protection, habitat improvement, and public events. An exciting joint effort is the campaign to create a “Trail for Everyone” through the Howard Hill and Effie L. Berry Conservation Areas that will be accessible to families, seniors, and people with mobility or vision challenges. Such regional connections are vital because undeveloped lands, wildlife corridors, and watersheds do not stop at town lines.

HCC continued on PAGE 11



HCC Happenings

Hallowell Climate Action (HCA) is a project of Hallowell Conservation Commission helping our community understand, mitigate, and adapt to impacts of climate change and take action to reduce carbon pollution. Upcoming events will provide information on home energy use, tips for energy savings, and opportunities for action. Contact HallowellConservation@gmail.com for more details.



Maine Community Power Cooperative and Maine Conservation Voters will help you demystify your electric bill, learn about proposed CMP rate hikes, find financial assistance programs, and learn about efforts to reform the electrical utility system in Maine. Bring your CMP bills and your questions! Public lecture followed by refreshments on Thursday, April 2, 5:30–7pm at the Hubbard Free Library.

HCC continued from PAGE 10 How to Get Involved

The Hallowell Conservation Commission is composed of your neighbors—volunteers who care about the sustainability of natural ecosystems and the future of your



Hilary Neckles

Fixer George Lapointe and happy customer Jane Fielder.

Spring Repair Café

It's back! Once again, skilled volunteers will help you repair broken, torn, and worn-out items, with a primary focus on small appliances, clothing and other textiles, small furniture, and bikes. Drop in to bring new life to items you value, reduce waste, and enjoy snacks and community connections. Saturday, May 9, 10am–2pm, at the Hallowell Fire Station.

Climate Action Celebration and Community Engagement

Hallowell enrolled in Maine's Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) in summer 2022, thereby gaining access to grants supporting the city's energy efficiency, clean energy, and community resilience goals. HCA is hosting a Celebration and Community Engagement to support Hallowell's 2026 re-enrollment in the CRP. Mark your calendars for an evening of live music, food, and prioritizing Hallowell's future climate actions: Thursday, July 9, 6–8pm at City Hall Auditorium. Your ideas and input will help shape the future of our city!

community. There are various ways to become involved. Volunteer for Habitat and Trail Improvement: Keep an eye out for seasonal "work parties" to help manage invasive species, maintain trails, and generally improve our natural areas. Attend local lectures or nature walks



Hilary Neckles

Natalie Torgeson and Linda Sadoff assembling a frame.

WindowDressers

WindowDressers is a nonprofit organization that supports volunteers in constructing lightweight insulating window inserts for homes in their communities at local "Community Builds." Inserts constructed at builds co-hosted by HCA during the past three falls are helping 100 households in central Maine stay warmer and save on heating costs. Linda Sadoff of Hallowell said, "The window inserts in my study have made an enormous difference. It was previously the coldest room in the house, and with inserts installed it remains surprisingly warm on these chilly winter days." HCA is partnering with the Conservation Commissions of Manchester and Augusta to host a fourth Community Build on October 17–22, 2026. Request inserts at WindowDressers.org and watch for information on how to volunteer at the build.

sponsored by the HCC and partners to learn more about the native flora and fauna in your backyard. Serve as a Member: If you have a passion for ecology, consider serving on the Commission when a vacancy arises. Contact HallowellConservation@gmail.com for more info.

Saving the Downtown Shoreline Planning Underway

The stability of Hallowell's downtown riverbank is threatened by accelerated erosion from heavy rain events and severe flooding associated with a changing climate. In response, the City of Hallowell has engaged expert consultants to develop a riverbank stabilization plan using nature-based approaches. For those who missed it, the project was summarized in the Fall 2025 edition of *The Champion*, available at www.hallowell.org/champion.

The project is now well underway following the completion of initial community interviews and an engineering site assessment.

Community Outreach

In September and October 2025, Courtney Cease of the Musson Group conducted 20 community interviews with local business owners and managers, property owners, residents, and community leaders. These discussions gathered vital perspectives on flooding, erosion, vegetation changes, and long-term stabilization needs to ensure that final recommendations reflect the lived experiences of those most familiar with the riverfront.

Stakeholders reported significant changes over the last 10–20 years, including intensifying rainfall, more frequent and damaging floods, and the noticeable shrinking of land and parking areas on Front Street behind the Water Street buildings and along the riverbank. Stakeholders also remarked on the loss of trees on the shoreline and substantial encroachment of invasive species. Participants expressed concern that these factors pose risks to the economic and cultural strength of downtown Hallowell.

While individual experiences varied, several consistent themes emerged:



Hilary Neckles

The project engineering team discusses characteristics of the downtown riverbank with Mayor Lapointe during the low-tide site assessment.

- The need for long-term flood protection and a stable and resilient riverbank
- Preservation of essential parking and access
- The necessity of improved drainage to manage runoff from Water Street
- Strong interest in restoring native vegetation and supporting the overall health of the riverine ecosystem
- The need for an improved flood notification system (noted as being beyond the current project scope)

Collectively, the stakeholder input reflects practical concerns and a shared desire for a more resilient shoreline that supports the economic, ecological, and cultural vitality of downtown Hallowell.

Engineering Assessment

In November 2025, the project engineering team—including

specialists from Redfish Engineering, Field Geology Services, Summit Geoengineering Services, and FB Environmental Associates—conducted a low-tide assessment of the Front Street shoreline. The team evaluated the processes contributing to bank stability and erosion and identified physical and social constraints.

Next Steps

The engineering team is now consolidating information from the site visit, stakeholder interviews, and historical records to develop nature-based stabilization options for community consideration. A public workshop to review and provide input on bank stabilization options is planned for late May or early June 2026. For more information, contact the project Steering Committee chair at mayor@hallowellmaine.org.

Share Your Vaughan Stream Memories

Rosemary Presnar

The Hallowell Conservation Commission is gathering stories, photos, and memories that capture what the Vaughan Stream has meant to you and your family. Whether it's a favorite childhood memory of catching your first big fish, a favorite swimming hole, a wildlife sighting, or simply why you love spending time near the stream, we would be honored to hear from you.

The Vaughan Brook has been a special part of the Hallowell community and its history for decades if not hundreds of years. Our watershed is made up of wetlands, ponds, reservoirs, and

streams originating in Hallowell, Farmingdale, and Augusta. Its waters flow into Cascade Pond, run through Vaughan Woods, and continue to the Kennebec River. The Vaughan Brook and its key tributaries, such as Bombahook Stream, provided dams that powered industry, ice that shipped to Cuba, and a freshwater resource for wildlife and fish.

Your memories may be featured in a soon to be completed community project on how best to manage and protect the Vaughan Brook and its watershed for future generations. Thank you for helping us recognize



Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead

Waders enjoy Vaughan Brook.

and protect this treasured part of our natural community. Please send your memories, photos, or reflections to HallowellConservation@gmail.com.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—and Volunteer!



Judy Feinstein

Last May, Hallowell's North Bay Recycling Center switched from open access 7 days a week, 8 hours a day, to Saturday mornings only from 9am–12pm. Since then, the facility has been cleaner and more organized, and mostly free of trash and non-recyclable items.

Volunteers are on site to help recyclers and to answer questions. Recycling is easy; the guidelines are simple. Mail and catalogs, paper bags, newsprint—all can be recycled.

Containers should be as clean as possible. They don't have to be perfect but try to remove food waste from jars, cans, and other packaging.

Even pizza boxes and drink boxes can be recycled! All boxes should be flattened. Step on milk and juice jugs and cartons to flatten them. They'll take up less space at home and at North Bay. We cannot accept batteries, light bulbs, Styrofoam, plastic shopping bags or plastic bags of any kind, such as bubble wrap, bread or chip bags, or wax-coated paper and boxes. Pick up a "Do and Don't" list at North Bay or look for details at EcoMaine's website <https://www.ecomaine.org/recycling-101>.

Try to reduce what you'll need to throw away and reuse what you can: for example, use glass jars for leftovers and storage. Area supermarkets take plastic shopping bags. Several Augusta area organizations accept donations of reusable items. Check out Goodwill, Andwell Hospice Thrift Store, Bridging the Gap, and Fresh Start online for information. Some hardware stores accept fluorescent lights, mercury-containing items, and CFL and LED bulbs. Call the store of your choice and ask.

Finally, North Bay Recycling depends on volunteers. Shifts are just 90 minutes (9 to 10:30, 10:30 to noon). Do consider volunteering, and sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/fzZAxMe>. You'll be helping the environment and the community, and this is how we'll keep North Bay open!

Earth Day Park Cleanup!

Good things happen when community members show up! Celebrate this year's EARTH DAY by joining the Hallowell Conservation Commission for our 6th Annual Downtown Litter Patrols and Granite City Park Spring Cleanup on Saturday, April 25, from 9am to 11am.

Meet at the parking lot near the crane. Dress for yard work to help with park cleanup. The Litter Patrol participants will be provided with gloves and trash bags. The event will take place, rain or shine, so dress appropriately and wear bright colors if you can. All ages welcome; children are encouraged with parental supervision.

Hall-Dale Elementary School Winter Kids Challenge Big Winner!

Kelly Byron

Spring is in full swing (thankfully) but winter was a big winner for students, staff, and families at Hall-Dale Elementary School! They embraced winter with enthusiasm this year, and their efforts paid off in a big way. The school has been named the statewide grand prize winner of the 2026 WinterKids Winter Games, earning a \$5,000 award for its outstanding participation and community engagement.

The four-week challenge, organized by the Maine-based nonprofit WinterKids, encourages schools across the state to promote outdoor physical activity, healthy eating, and family involvement during the winter months. This year's games ran from January 12 through February 6 and centered on the theme of caring for both physical and emotional heart health. Students and families earned points through a variety of activities aligned with the program's weekly themes: Physical Activity, Nutrition, Family Engagement, and Winter Carnival. Points were awarded for classroom participation, staff involvement, family events, guest speakers, and creative efforts to highlight the school's participation in the community.

Hall-Dale hosted several special events throughout the month. Members of the Hall-Dale High School hockey team visited the elementary school to speak with students about the importance of staying active during Maine's winter months. Families were also invited to attend a community lunch at the school, reinforcing the value of shared meals and healthy habits.

Students also participated in a school-wide nutrition assembly



Sara Derosby

Hall-Dale Elementary students, parents, and staff celebrate the Winter Olympics.

presented by the Peter Alford Prevention and Healthy Living Center. Later in the month, families bundled up for a well-attended Family Sledding Night, enjoying outdoor fun together despite the cold temperatures. Aroma Joe's, a major sponsor of WinterKids, provided hot cocoa to help warm up participants.

The celebration concluded with a lively Winter Carnival where students participated in outdoor games including obstacle courses, inflatable races, and snow painting. Another key component of the program encouraged families to download the WinterKids app, through which every Hall-Dale Elementary student received a free \$40 WinterKids Passport. The passport provides free and discounted access to ski areas, skating rinks, trails, and other winter recreation opportunities throughout Maine.

WinterKids is dedicated to improving children's health and well-being by encouraging outdoor activity, nutrition education, and positive winter experiences. For

Hall-Dale Elementary, the Winter Games brought the entire school community together and earned them statewide recognition along the way.

Investing in Play: Help Build the New Hall-Dale Elementary Playground

The Hall-Dale Elementary School PTO is excited to announce a community-wide fundraising initiative to replace our aging, 20-year-old playground with a modern play structure.

Our Progress

The total project cost is estimated at \$150,000. We are off to a strong start, but we need your help. We are seeking additional business sponsorships, matching grants, and/or public donations.

As a tax-exempt registered charitable organization in Maine, your donation to the HDES PTO is tax-deductible. Please mail donations to: HDES PTO, 26 Garden Lane, Hallowell, ME 04347. (Please make checks payable to Hall-Dale Elementary School PTO.)



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

Contact Chief Aaron Sellwood by email firechief@hallowellmaine.org for more information.

The Cohen Center needs some help.

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

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

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

Meals on Wheels Drivers: Wednesday and Friday mornings

Contact Alison Linscott, Volunteer Coordinator, at alinscott@spectrumgenerations.org or call 207-620-1684.

The Hallowell Champion Volunteer copy editor/proofreader for *The Champion* needed! After 7 years in the job, Maggie Warren is putting her red pencil in a drawer. It's a wonderful opportunity to work with two of the best people in the "newsletter biz": Bob McIntire and Brian Ayotte. Email hallowellagefriendly@gmail.com for more information.

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

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

Help needed! Senior Support Volunteers Needed 55+. Companions, Shoppers, and Volunteer Drivers Apply Here! You could be the answer to someone's lonely prayer.

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

HISTORY continued from BACKPAGE



Painting of James Matthews from the Historic Hallowell Mural by Chris Cart.

anonymous Hallowell narrative continued to interest her, however, and, in 2014, she discovered his name and traced him to Hallowell.

She then contacted Sam Webber to definitively identify the Matthews grave site and help put the whole story of how the Hallowell community came together to take care of this young man accused of

the crime of self-theft.

Join this celebration of local history and what will be an interesting presentation. Admission is free, and there's plenty of room for friends and neighbors.

JANE'S WALK ME

HALLOWELL



Jane Jacobs was a journalist, author, and activist who organized grassroots efforts to protect neighborhoods from urban renewal and slum clearance. Her book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (1961) argued that "urban renewal" and "slum clearance" did not respect the needs of city-dwellers. She organized walks to share perspectives and ideas. Jane's Walks combine the simple act of exploring a place with personal observations, local history, and civic engagement. Jane's Walks encourage people to share.

History Symposium to Salute Jane, James, and Sam

Saturday May 2nd will be a busy day in Hallowell and many other towns and cities across Maine and the nation. It is the day for the annual Jane's Walk, celebrating local activism and involvement. The Jane's Walk in Hallowell will meet in City Cemetery at 10am starting at the Civil War Monument. See Jane's Walk ME, on Page 15.

Sam Webber, then the City Historian, began leading walks through the cemetery as a way of introducing the living to some of the town's most notable former citizens. This year the walk will be on the oldest sections of the cemetery and focus on the grave of James Matthews who escaped slavery in South Carolina and ended up in Hallowell where he lived the rest of his life.

Sadly, Sam died December 1st last year. On Saturday afternoon, Sam will be honored with a Symposium on Local History in Hallowell's City Hall Auditorium. The event, which begins at 2pm, is hosted by Row House, Hallowell's historical society, along with the Hubbard Free Library, Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead, the Hallowell Centennial Burial Ground Association and the City, all organizations that benefited from Sam's personal interest and involvement. Sam served as the City Historian for 27 years and taught Social Studies at Hall-Dale High School for 33 years.

The keynote speaker will be Susanna Ashton, Ph.D., Professor of English at Clemson University (<https://susannaashton.com>). Dr Ashton recently authored a book

about a fugitive named John Andrew Jackson, who escaped from South Carolina and made his way through Brunswick, Bath, and Portland, and that story is recounted in *A Plausible Man. The True Story of the*



Dave Dostie

Sam Webber.

Escaped Slave Who Inspired Uncle Tom's Cabin (The New Press, 2024). Her presentation in Hallowell, though, will focus entirely on the powerful story of James Matthews.

Matthews' story is the source for a series of interviews entitled "Recollections of Slavery by a Runaway Slave" printed in the *Advocate of Freedom*, an abolitionist newspaper first published in Hallowell in 1838-1839. Dr. Ashton first learned of the interviews and the anonymous narrator nearly 20 years ago when she was starting work on a collected volume of South Carolina slave narratives titled, *I Belong to South Carolina*. The then-**HISTORY continued on PAGE 15**

The Champion Publishing Partners:



Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead



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