

Fire Department Open House Oct. 12

Fraud, Falls and Fire Prevention

The big red doors of the Hallowell Fire Department will open wide Saturday, October 12, for its Fall Open House. There will be building tours, complimentary refreshments, and a chance to ogle the engines, but that's not all. The event will also provide money-saving if not lifesaving information on protecting your money, your body, or house and property.

The Fall Open House begins at 10:00AM with cider and treats. Department volunteers will fire up the grill later in the morning to cook up some more substantial fare.

Three targeted workshops will be presented through the morning. Fire Prevention at 10:15 with a talk by Fire Chief Jim Owens. Police Chief Eric Nason will talk about Fraud Protection at 11:00AM, and Chief Owens returns at 11:45AM to discuss preventing injury from falls, a critical topic as winter approaches.

October is Fire Prevention Month. This is a perfect time to replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Chief Owens will offer many more tips on staying safe as heating systems get turned on for the season. This year has been especially deadly for fire crews in Maine. Two firefighters have died in the line of duty. One just days ago.

Police Chief Nason will share strategies to avoid being conned by scammers and other fraudulent operatives. The most common fraud scams in Maine as reported to the Federal Trade Commission fall into three categories.



Assistant Chief Roy Girard polishes Engine 5 in preparation for Fire Department Open House.

Identity theft occurs when someone steals personal information that could be used to falsely apply for credit or for government benefits. Scammers (imposters) may pretend to be IRS agents or debt collectors. Remember, if you owe back taxes, the IRS will send you a letter, not make an abusive phone call.

Phony or deceptive banking and lending practices occur when deceptive or predatory mortgage lenders make offers “too-good-to-be-true,” such as super low interest rates or attempt to pressure an individual into investing in a product or service with little or no return.

Tech support scams are another common scam to be aware of. You receive an email or phone call from someone claiming to be from a computer program company. They say there is a problem with your computer, and they need to install an anti-virus program—for a price, of course. You are asked to allow the con to take remote control of your computer, and they actually install a virus. If you are contacted, hang up the phone or delete the email.

Winter is just around the corner with increased opportunities for injuries from slips and falls.

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Volunteer Drivers Needed!

SEARCH Catholic Charities Hallowell Age-Friendly Partner

When needed, Hallowell citizens step to the plate. One of the most pressing problems facing older citizens is how do you get around when you can no longer drive? The Hallowell All Age-Friendly Committee began looking for answers and found SEARCH, the Catholic Charities of Maine program that provides free support services to seniors living in Kennebec, Androscoggin, Sagadahoc, and areas of Franklin, Lincoln, and Oxford counties.

SEARCH connects volunteers who have time to commit to help neighbors remain independent in their homes. Family, friends, or neighbors can request services as can potential clients themselves.

Screened, trained volunteers, depending on their availability, contribute time and support services to seniors. They come from all faiths, age groups, and walks of life.

After Catholic Charities receives

a request, a representative meets with the client, completes an intake assessment, and then matches the senior with a volunteer.

Maggie Warren, a member of the Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Committee, wondered how the program worked so she signed up. How do you find people who need help and people who want to help? How is it organized? Who schedules it? What if the Helper and Helped don't hit it off or one begins to expect too much of the other? How do you handle that? Maggie needed answers to these questions and so did the All-Age-Friendly Committee, so she enlisted.

"Lynn Kidd, SEARCH/RSVP Program Coordinator, interviewed me with compatibility in mind. She gave me a general idea of the needs of her clients (she gets new ones often), which is the time to voice preferences such as 'I don't want to go as far as Vassalboro' or 'I don't want to drive at night.' She advocates for all of us. I submitted an application and waited for the background check to be completed. She schedules the initial meet and greet, introduces us, and chats with us."

"At the moment," Maggie explained, "I take LH (name withheld) who is 73 (my age) grocery shopping every other Friday and occasionally to the post office or drugstore on the way back. RB, another client, age 95, and I walk Tuesdays and Fridays on the Rail Trail, in Capital Park, Gardiner Waterfront Park, or downtown Hallowell."

On rainy days Maggie and RB

have self-toured the Lithgow Library and A.C. Moore. The Maine State Museum and the State House are also on the list of rainy-day possibilities. "YR (88) needs rides to doctors' appointments a couple of times a month, and I'm hoping to get her out to socialize."

Maggie goes on, "I think we are all volunteers. People volunteer to be helped, and people volunteer to help. It's a mutually rewarding experience that benefits us all. I highly recommend it!"

The Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Committee has established a "Partners in Progress" relationship with Catholic Charities of Maine.

Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact the office of Catholic Charities by phoning 207-530-0137.

The committee is interested in partnering with other civic, social, and religious organizations to promote volunteering in whatever way helps.

The Hallowell Helps symbol was created by Kelly Kennedy Yokoyama, Sighthound Graphic Design. Thanks so much!!!

The Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Committee is searching for Hallowell Helps partners. Does your organization need volunteer help? Join the committee in promoting ways that Hallowell citizens can help support neighbors while making our city welcoming for people of all ages and abilities. Contact a member of the committee for more information. A members list appears on our website age-friendly-hallowell.org or email hallowellagefriendly@gmail.com.



Maggie Warren explains the operation of a bicycle helmet to Hallowell Mayor Mark Walker.

Introducing Vision Hallowell



Remember Down with the Crown? That was us! We have a new name and a new mission. Vision Hallowell formed in response to last year's comprehensive Water Street reconstruction project. We spearheaded a series of events and marketing efforts to bring people downtown during our three-season-long reconstruction project. Our efforts culminated in a community art project, which featured nearly 100 murals displayed on the construction fencing, painted by downtown business owners, area school students, and groups and community members of all ages, from preschool to elders.

Vision Hallowell was recently accepted as a Maine Downtown Affiliate with the Maine Development Foundation. (Did you know they are now located at Stevens Commons?) We are now training and building our organizational and funding bases as we work to involve as many citizens as possible in vibrant and resilient downtown development. Our mission is to enhance and promote the economic vitality and cultural assets of Hallowell's historic downtown. Current board members are Jamie Houghton, President; John Bastey, Vice President; Cary Colwell, Treasurer; Deborah Fahy, Secretary; Susan Farnsworth, Julie Horn, Lynn Irish, and Matt Radasch.

Vision Hallowell's recent and upcoming projects include:

- Christmas Tree Bonfire in January, fundraiser for Hallowell Firefighters

- Sculptor in Residence at Stevens Commons June to October in partnership with Hallowell Arts & Cultural Committee
- Welcome packet for new UMA students at Stevens Commons

We're working on downtown initiatives to make Water Street more pedestrian- and age-friendly and attractive: benches, shade (removable planters), trash and recycling bins, and free public WiFi (in partnership with downtown businesses).

Vision Hallowell fills a community need by serving as fiscal sponsor for projects that fit within our mission. As a 501(c)(3), we can help groups and individuals apply for non-profit grants. We've already successfully applied for and received funding for three projects this year alone:



Jamie Houghton, President of Vision Hallowell, welcomes students at UMA's Stevens Hall

- Maine Luthiers Exhibition and Music Showcase October 4-6
- All-Age-Friendly Committee Community Newsletter Project
- Chris Cart Hallowell History Mural

Interested in getting involved? Talk to any board member, follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/VisionHallowell/>, or email visionhallowell@gmail.com.

THIRD ANNUAL
**MAINE
LUTHIERS**
MUSIC SHOWCASE
AND EXHIBITION



OCTOBER
4-6, 2019
HALLOWELL, MAINE
HALLOWELL.ORG/LUTHIERS

Opening of student housing at Stevens Hall marks historic first for University of Maine at Augusta

New Chapter for UMA

The University of Maine at Augusta opened student housing at Stevens Hall in the historic Stevens Commons in Hallowell on August 29. This is the first time in its 54-year history that UMA has offered housing to students. The building is currently occupied by 34 students and three residential life staff members.

“This is a significant event for our institution,” said UMA President Rebecca Wyke. “We will always be committed to our distance education legacy. However, we have now expanded our mission of accessibility by providing a housing option for our students.”

Kim Kenniston, Residence Manager, greeted arriving students. Kenniston, along with two students serving as Community Advisors will provide support to the residential students.

“Stevens Hall is a wonderfully renovated building and the arrival of the students has completed the picture,” stated Kenniston.

Originally from Hallowell, Kenniston will reside at Stevens Hall leading the residence life team.

The start of the semester found the students in Stevens Hall taking part in a community service project in nearby Vaughan Woods. Additional

events and community service projects organized by the residential life staff will take place throughout the semester.

“The efforts of many within UMA and our external partners have made this opportunity for housing possible,” said Sheri Fraser, UMA Dean of Students.

Stevens Commons is a renovated and preserved mixed-use campus with newly renovated student apartments featuring open layouts with private bedrooms, and kitchen, dining, and bath spaces with one-, two-, and three-bedroom suites.

Amenities on site include a lounge, laundry, cafe (opening Spring 2020), and a fitness center. Additionally, students have access to all that the greater Augusta region has to offer in terms of shopping, services, and cultural activities.

Future Expansion for 2020

With Stevens Hall at full occupancy, UMA has received approval from the University of Maine System Board of Trustees for an expansion of housing at Stevens Commons to Erskine Hall in the Fall of 2020, which will more than double its residential capacity.

UMA is accessible and offers statewide locations and online programs

The third largest university in the University of Maine System, UMA serves over 5,500 students at campuses in Augusta and Bangor, online, and at its nine UMA Centers, along with 31 course receive sites in [virtually every corner of the state](#). Forty-six percent of UMA students take some online courses, providing



the needed flexibility for its adult learners, who make up 56% of UMA's student body.

To ease the financial burden, UMA offers [The Pine Tree State Pledge](#). Through this tuition guarantee program, qualified and eligible entering in-state, full-time first-year students will not pay any out-of-pocket expenses for tuition and mandatory fees. This program is also available to new in-state full-time and part-time transfer students who have earned at least 30 transferable credits, and are new to the University of Maine System.

For more information about UMA, please visit uma.edu.



Stevens Hall



UMA students started the semester taking part in a community service project at the Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead. Additional events and community service projects will take place throughout the semester.

Cliffhanger at Vaughan Woods: Granite Blocks Hung by Cable and Lowered into Ravine to Reinforce Trail



The descent into the ravine toward the Great Falls and the 1930 Stone Arch Bridge is one of the most interesting sections of trail in Vaughan Woods. Ancient roots crisscross the narrow footpath along a steep hillside, making it almost unimaginable that in the early 1900s the route was Mary Vaughan's favorite for horseback riding.

In more recent years, natural weathering and erosion have made the upper end of this trail, known as the Brook Trail, increasingly narrow and challenging for visitors, especially as it approaches the High Arch Bridge. In 2017, the non-profit Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead, which owns and manages the trail system in partnership with the Kennebec Land Trust, was awarded a \$117,000 Recreational Trails Program grant through the Maine Department of Agriculture & Forestry and the Bureau of Public Parks & Lands to reconstruct the trail and repair the southern abutment of the bridge. The Elsie and William Viles Foundation and Bangor Savings Bank Foundation also provided grants for this project.

Repairs to the bridge were completed by Forgotten Stoneworks in 2018, and trail reconstruction has been under way since June.

Off the Beaten Path Trailworks

of Turner was awarded the trail reconstruction contract, and they have certainly had their work cut out for them! The company excels at backcountry projects where the transportation of building materials is logistically challenging. Because heavy equipment cannot traverse the footpath, throughout July and August their crew utilized a cable system to lower granite blocks from the top of the cliff down into the ravine where they built a stone staircase and reinforced the hillside below the trail at the access point to the High Arch Bridge. Now that's a cliffhanger! The project will continue throughout the fall.

Steeped in both beauty and legend, the Brook Trail is the oldest path in Vaughan Woods. Local legend, as told by Edward Preble Norton in the 1923 book *Legends and Otherwise of Hallowell and Loudon Hill*, holds that prior to the settlement of the Homestead, Chief Assonimo and a small band of Wawenocs had an encampment at the base of this same hillside where "before them, at the east, flowed the peaceful river, well stocked with salmon and bass. Behind them the Bombahook (Vaughan Brook) roared through a frightful gorge, where the trout leaped all day in the white water, while all around were the great forests, the abode of deer, moose

and bear." Perhaps it was they who created the original footpath along the brook?

Another favorite legend tells of Louis Phillipe's visit to Hallowell in the late 1700s, before he became the King of France. Apparently, he was rescued from drowning while fishing along the trail.

Beginning in the 1790s, the trail was accessed from Benjamin Vaughan's tiered hillside garden, which extended below the Homestead toward the brook. During the industrial revolution, the land was sold by the Vaughans, and water-powered industry took hold. A sandpaper factory and wire mill sat just across the ravine from the Homestead.

When the Vaughan family reacquired the lands at the turn of the 20th century, they deconstructed the mills, using the stones from the Wire Mill dam to create the High Arch Bridge, and used the Brook Trail for hiking, snowshoeing, and horseback riding. They also developed the wider and more commonly used carriage road and loop during this period.

To learn more about the history of Vaughan Woods, visit vaughanhomestead.org/story-map/, a project by VWHH summer intern and Bates College student Kirsten Pelletier.

Spectrum Generations

Your community resource for aging and disability services

Many people may know the Cohen Community Center, but did you realize that it's connected to Spectrum Generations, the Central Maine Area Agency on Aging? With six locations throughout central and midcoast Maine, Spectrum Generations provides a number of services to help people age in place with a mission to provide life-long learning, health, wellness, nutrition, community engagement, and the social well-being of all older and disabled adults in our communities.

Spectrum Generations provides resources for adults, and often caregivers as well. In situations where someone is caring for a loved one, it's not uncommon for people to disagree on what is best for them. The Caregiver Respite

Program supports family caregivers by helping to cover the cost for someone else to provide care for the person with dementia. The respite program allows caregivers the opportunity to take some time for themselves to re-energize, do something for fun, or get necessary errands done.

Spectrum Generations also provides assistance in explaining the basics of Medicare coverage, applying for benefits, how and when to sign up, and an overview of the four parts (A, B, C, and D). Additionally, health and wellness classes are offered and designed to help no matter how healthy you are. Whether you are looking for ways to maintain your good health and wellness or are on a journey to get

well, trying new things is possible at any age and at any level of ability.

Here's a tip for a special treat. Come sample Sweet and Savory Pies in Downtown Hallowell on Saturday, October 19, from 11:00AM until 2:00PM. Local businesses will compete for the best pies. Tickets are \$15 each and limited, so get yours soon. Advance purchase recommended. Call Spectrum Generations Cohen Center 207-626-7777 or visit them at 22 Town Farm Road to purchase in person.

For more information and additional resources, please call 1-800-639-1553 or visit Spectrum Generations Cohen Community Center at 22 Town Farm Road, Hallowell.

Most classes are free and hosted at
Spectrum Generations' Cohen Community Center



Healthy Living
for ME



Do you have concerns about living with chronic pain or chronic disease? Are you interested in learning how to prevent a fall?

Let us help you live a better life!

Find out how today at healthylivingforme.org, call 1.800.620.6036 or visit us on [f @HLforME](https://www.facebook.com/HLforME)



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



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

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

spectrumgenerations.org

The Harlow Gallery connects and celebrates art, artists, and community

The Harlow Gallery is a membership-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1963. We support the artistic development of our member artists, both amateur and professional, by providing opportunities for exhibition and other professional development. These include workshops, lectures, demonstrations, and other special events. Our policy is to make our space available to a broad range of artists' groups for meetings and events that are important to artistic growth and for the exchange of ideas.

Upcoming Events and Exhibits

• **The Luthiers Showcase:**
September 13-October 6, 2019



The Harlow, in partnership with the City of Hallowell, presents The Luthiers Showcase, which will be on view September 13-October 6, 2019, at The Harlow, 100 Water Street, in Hallowell. On Sunday, October 6, from 2:30-4pm, The Harlow will host a master class with singer/songwriter and legendary guitarist Denny Breau, followed by a closing reception from 4-5pm which includes a live performance by Denny Breau.

• **Harvest at The Harlow**
October 8-19, 2019

The Harlow is excited to present Harvest at The Harlow, where our space will be transformed into an autumnal wonderland from October

8-19, 2019. Please join us for a celebration of harvest, coziness, fine craft, and all things Fall. In the spirit of the harvest season, we are hosting a series of Open Craft Nights, a Fall Craft Pop-Up, and a Knitting Workshop taught by Brookes Smith.

• **UMA Alumni Show**
September 13-October 19, 2019

• **Kennebec Land Trust:**
30th Anniversary Show
October 25-November 30, 2019

Andre Benoit Solo Exhibition
• **Show of Hands: Holiday Members Show**
December 6-January 14

Upcoming Workshops

• **Professional Development Series for Artists with Hélène Farrar**
September 29, October 27, November 24, December 29

Ready for the next level and willing to do the work? Need someone to look at your art and give you the feedback you need to grow and stretch?

This fall, join artist and educator Hélène Farrar as your mentor and facilitator for a 4-part professional development workshop series. Sessions will be held on Sundays, September 29, October 27, November 24, December 29, from 10am-1pm.

The group will explore a range of topics including developing an art practice, technique and content, resumé and artist statement development, marketing, and more. This workshop is specifically designed for artists who are working to develop a professional art practice. This class will offer lots of opportunity for questions,

conversation, and one-on-one interaction.



Hélène Farrar

• **Learn to Knit: Seed Stitch Cowl Workshop with Brookes Smith**
October 19, 2019, 10-1pm

This Fall join Brookes Smith for a cozy, introductory knitting class. Students will learn the foundational knitting skills necessary to knit a cowl from start to finish. This includes casting on, knitting, purling, casting off, and weaving in ends.

SAVE THE DATE!
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 5:30-7PM



THE HARLOW INVITES YOU TO A
ROARING 20's
PARTY + FUNDRAISER

- LIVE + SILENT ART AUCTIONS
- GOOD COMPANY
- FOOD + DRINK
- MUSIC

AT THE VILES HOUSE, 71 STONE ST, AUGUSTA
TICKETS + INFO: HARLOWGALLERY.ORG

For information on events, exhibits, workshops, and membership, please visit our website at www.harlowgallery.org

New Affordable Housing comes to Stevens Commons Central Building

Community Housing of Maine (CHOM) is thrilled to become part of the Hallowell community! In July of this year, CHOM started the historic rehabilitation of the previously vacant Central Building, one of five historic buildings that comprise the core of the Stevens Commons campus in Hallowell. CHOM is proud to contribute to the larger effort to revitalize the campus.

Central Commons will create 29 units of high-quality permanent affordable rental housing for seniors aged 55 and older, comprised of eight efficiency and twenty-one 1-bedroom units.

The apartments will include new construction within the existing structure, including new kitchens, appliances, and baths, along with an on-site laundry room, community space, and tenant storage. Remaining historic features, such as hardwood floors, tin ceilings, and large windows will remain in many of the units and common areas.

Central Commons will become the 79th property in CHOM's portfolio of affordable and supportive housing apartments. Founded in 1993, CHOM develops, owns, and maintains high-quality, affordable, service-enriched housing for people with low incomes and disabilities.



Central Building under construction

CHOM is now the largest supportive housing developer in Maine, creating more than 747 units of low-income and special needs housing in 31 communities across the state, housing more than 1,000 vulnerable Mainers.

CHOM believes that housing, together with support services, provide stability, foster dignity and respect, and transform lives.

CHOM believes the Stevens Commons campus is an ideal location for a senior project. Studies show that adults living near parks and open green space have greater opportunities to engage in physical activity and social interaction. CHOM believes these opportunities are important because they promote healthy lifestyles and wellness, and

are vital to providing more ways in which people can be included as part of their community.

In addition to the central open green space, a trail system of walking/hiking trails connects an additional 10+ acres of conserved open space comprised of woodland, a large mowed field, and a small pond. The trails on Stevens Commons link to the Howard Hill Conservation Area, 164 acres of land in Hallowell/Augusta owned by the Kennebec Land Trust, where the public, including residents of Central Commons, can hike, cross-country ski, snowshoe, and observe nature. The Kennebec River Rail Trail (6 miles of paved trail from Augusta to Gardiner) can be accessed in Hallowell.

Central Commons is also conveniently located ½ mile from downtown Hallowell where there is a post office, bank, library, local shops, and restaurants.

CHOM anticipates units will be ready to rent in June 2020.

Visit chomhousing.org/central-commons or call 207-879-0347 for information on how to be added to the interest list to get updates as we near completion!



Architect's rendering of the completed Central Building renovation.

Hallowell Winter Warriors Join the Sand Bucket Brigade!

There's no avoiding the season. Winter is on the way. One easy step to ensure safety as life gets slippery is to sign up for Hallowell's Sand Bucket Brigade. Citizens 70 and older can get a five-gallon bucket of sand and salt delivered right to their front door.

A call to City Clerk Diane Polky is all it takes to join. She, in turn, contacts Fire Chief Jim Owens who dispatches a volunteer firefighter to deliver a bucket or he delivers it himself. Buckets have been donated by Campbells True Value and the Hallowell Firefighters Association. Call 207-623-4021 and ask to be placed on the bucket list. Volunteers will spread the sand on request if the homeowner is unable to spread it.

Lyn Gray, a sand bucket customer, says the salt/sand provides much

needed traction on the steps to her driveway. "It is a great service and I

appreciate it." Sand Buckets can be refilled by calling 623-2860.



Lyn Gray returns an empty sand bucket to Ryan Girard, Chief Engineer of the Hallowell Fire Department for a refill.

New Signs and Maps at the RES Work of Conservation Commission

The Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC) is the advocate for the City's natural resources including woodlands, open spaces, and wetlands. The Commission works to preserve and protect the City's natural areas and their benefits for present and future residents by monitoring their use and development. It also promotes activities for the enjoyment of our special natural places.

Per the State of Maine revised statutes and Hallowell's ordinances, the HCC is composed of nine appointed commissioners. Monthly meetings, held on the third Monday of the month, are posted on the City's calendar and are open to the public.

Recent efforts of the HCC have

resulted in the establishment of the Effie L. Berry Conservation Area and an online trail map of the Hallowell Recreation Area. Working with Mastway Development LLC, The Kennebec Land Trust, and City officials, the HCC ensured the protection of eight acres of the Stevens Commons property from any future development. The Berry Conservation Area is adjacent to Augusta's Howard Hill Historical Park. A trailhead located in Stevens Commons enables Capital Area trail connectivity and provides another outdoor recreation destination for Hallowell residents and visitors.

Working with the National Park Service and recreational user groups, an HCC project team generated a trail map and signage throughout



the Hallowell Recreation Area (the RES). Recreational users can now fully enjoy the trail network within the RES. The RES trail map, along with others, is now available on the City's website.

If you are interested in the ongoing efforts of the Hallowell Conservation Commission or in volunteering doing trail maintenance, helping with events and more, please contact the Commission at hallowellconservation@gmail.com

What Is HABOT?



Since 1892 the Hallowell Area Board of Trade (HABOT) has been the active, organized voice of Hallowell businesses in the governmental and promotional affairs of the City. We carry on a century-old tradition of supporting community life and enterprise in our city. The Board, through resources generated by dues and other fundraising projects, supports citywide celebrations, promotes retail and commerce in our community, and works to ensure Hallowell is a great place to live, learn, and do business.

So, what have we done lately?

- Spearheaded the iconic, colorful chairs at our waterfront. We continue to insure and maintain them.
- Sponsored local events, parades, and festivals

- Worked with other community organizations and the City to keep our city thriving
- Promoted businesses in Hallowell in print and social media.



Enjoying the chairs on the riverfront.

What's coming up?

Fall is a great time of year to come visit and do business in Hallowell.

- *October 4-6:* Maine Luthiers Showcase
- *October 12:* The Harry Potter Scavenger Hunt hosted by Scrummy Afters
- *October 19:* Pie Crawl hosted by Spectrum Generations
- *October 26:* Halloween in Hallowell

Interested in becoming a member? Visit www.hallowell.org for the membership application.

Benefits of membership include:

- Expanded advertising
- Networking opportunities
- Increased credibility and local support
- Greater voice in local government

Hard Rock, Hard Work, Great Art

Hallowell was once the home for many talented artisans working with some of the most unforgiving material on the planet, Hallowell granite. Nearly all the granite sculpture created in Hallowell in the 1800-1900s was shipped away down the Kennebec River on schooners. It's time to make stone carving and Hallowell granite part of our community again.

The Hallowell Arts & Cultural Committee, Vision Hallowell, and the Historic Hallowell Committee are planning something special to celebrate Maine's Bicentennial: a Hallowell Granite Symposium in partnership with the Maine Stone Workers Guild. Six of Maine's most

notable sculptors will transform granite quarried in Hallowell into works of art inspired by one of the four Maine2020 Bicentennial themes over the ten-day event next fall. The symposium will include educational lectures and displays on the history of the granite industry in Hallowell.

Every weekend during the summer and fall, Maine Stone Workers Guild member Jon Doody of Augusta has been carving a sturgeon out of reclaimed Hallowell granite provided by Hallowell Public Works to raise awareness of the artform. Jon is carving Saturday between 10am to 2pm at Stevens Commons, not far from the

Hallowell Farmers market. Visit our Sculptor in Residence and see the transformation for yourself!



Jon Doody carving granite at Stevens Commons

Walkability Survey

City Sidewalks – Foot Friendly?

The major reconstruction of Water Street last year resulted in not only paving the street but reconstructing sidewalks as well. Some sidewalks on the side streets were paved blacktop. In a nod to the historical, the sidewalks along Water Street were paved with brick.

The brick walkways look “historical,” but that doesn’t necessarily result in improved accessibility. Some pedestrians found the new brick sidewalks challenging for those using walkers, canes, wheelchairs, and crutches.

A “walkability survey” is part of



Challenges of old sidewalks

the planning process that Hallowell’s All-Age-Friendly Committee is undertaking in its quest to become a certified Age-Friendly community.

Thirteen “auditors” walked many of the city streets and public places in May and the findings were included in a draft report, shared first with the City Council’s Highway Committee.

The Hallowell Public Works Department had recently completed its annual Sidewalk Survey and Inventory providing the city perspective. The Hallowell Conservation Commission provided input as well. Both documents are available on the Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Committee website.

The survey covered the city’s major streets, buildings, parks, and public spaces. The walkability survey was undertaken in late spring and early summer. Winter brings its own special problems, most notably snow and ice removal. The City has developed a revised snow removal ordinance that is under discussion.

Many issues were identified in the survey and are noted in the



New downtown brick walkways

individual reports. There were two recommendations: (1) The City Council Highway Committee be renamed the Transportation Committee and charged with addressing all transportation issues affecting our city.

(2) The process for identifying maintenance and upgrading of city sidewalks be clarified and include input from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, All-Age-Friendly Committee, and the Transportation Committee as well as the general public, and, of course, Public Works.

FIRE Continued from page 1

According to the World Health Organization, falls are the second leading cause of accidental death worldwide. Chief Owens will share practical tips you can take to be safe. Check out the sand bucket story in this issue.

Both Fire Chief Owens and Police Chief Nason will be available throughout the morning providing information about these important topics.



Firefighter Heidi Wardwell checks out the Fire Department thermal imaging camera.

Backpage: What's This?

Has this happened to you? Something arrives in the mailbox you've never seen before. Advertisement? Free trip? Lucky you! A bill for something you didn't order? Let's make this easy.

The Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Committee has been working for the past couple of years to learn what can be done to make our fair city more welcoming to folks of all ages. One issue that keeps coming up is getting information about what is going on in town.

Some people read the newspaper cover to cover. Some don't. Most get "snail mail," but not the electronic kind. Social media – Facebook and blogs? Cool for some, not for others.

The Maine Community Foundation offered grants "to make communities more supportive of older people's health, well-being, and ability to age in the community." Some of us are old. Check that box. And regardless of age, we want everyone to be well and live here.

The committee, in collaboration with Vision Hallowell, proposed

a publication aimed at Hallowell residents and anybody else interested in our business.

The Maine Community Foundation thought the idea was a good one. Vision Hallowell was awarded a Lifelong Communities Mini grant to design and produce the first issue. You're holding a copy. The committee chose to call it *The Hallowell Champion* as we intend to advocate for and promote our city. Issues are scheduled for February 2020 (Spring) and May 2020 (Summer).

The first newspaper published in Kennebec County, the *Eastern Star*, was printed in Hallowell by Howard S. Robinson on August 4, 1794. He went on to publish the first book of fiction printed in the District of Maine, *Female Friendship, or the Innocent Sufferer: A Moral Lecture*, in 1797.

During the next two decades Hallowell printers published 179 books, making it a center of printing and publishing at the time of statehood. By 1820 Hallowell had two weekly newspapers, which represented the two political parties of

the time: *The Hallowell Gazette* (Federalist) and the *American Advocate* (Republican/Democrat). Later, an abolitionist paper, the *Liberty Standard*, was published here as was the *Maine Cultivator* and *Hallowell Gazette*, and for 60 years the popular *Maine Farmer's Almanac*.

The technology was a bit different. Note the photo of the Ramage Job Press used at *The Hallowell Gazette* from 1845 to 1869.

The objective for publishing has been pretty much the same, however: provide information

so folks can participate in what's going on and take action as they see fit.

If you are interested in more information about publishing throughout Hallowell's history, click on www.historichallowell.org

Email comments to hallowellagefriendly@gmail.com or mail to The Champ, PO Box 43, Hallowell, ME 04347.



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