

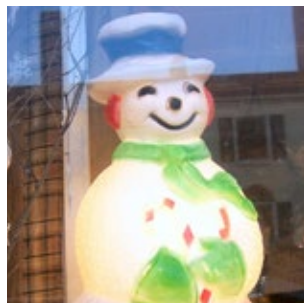
The Hallowell Champion



Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 1

Fall 2020

'Tis the Season!



Of course, it is always the season for helping out. It is one of the things we do best. Recent times have provided the opportunity for us to show our metal in this regard and we have. There is more to do—no surprise. The “Hallowell Helps” listing spotlights a few of the opportunities for lending a hand or shoulder as the case might be.

The first action we can take is to vote. November 4th, the day after the Election, regardless of the outcome, regardless of the race, that is when the heavy lifting continues in earnest. This being America, you get to choose what to heft and where. Flip the pages and you’ll see that opportunities to step up abound.

Speaking of elections, as *The Champion* goes to press, the City Clerk needs a hand at the polls from voters who are unenrolled or registered Republicans. These positions may be filled by the time you read this. Call Diane Polky at

430-4400 just in case.

If you are interested in helping to govern, which is a lot different than politics in that you actually have to do stuff, you are in luck! Pitch in wherever you like. There is a committee or commission seat with your name on it. Recycling, Conservation, Comprehensive Planning, hearts are quickening all over town with the prospects of really doing something!

Age doesn’t matter either. Everyone can join in the fun, if you wear a mask and keep your distance. Do what you can when you can. Living in Hallowell provides the opportunity to pitch in with little rancor. This is not to say there aren’t deeply held differences of opinion about what to do and how, but as leaves settle to the ground and ice forms on the bird bath the tasks of helping folks stay fed and warm and safe take precedent. Maybe you can help deliver buckets of sand or

Covid-19 Basics



Mask – Wear a mask to protect others.



Hands – Wash your hands often. Avoid touching your face. Use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Distance – Put 6 feet (2 arms’ length) of distance between yourself and others who don’t live in your household. Some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus.



Spray – Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily: tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

Information from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>

meals or a caring message. You can make a difference.

Now the sad news. Some super helpers left the team recently. Their presence is sorely missed. They leave big shoes to fill. We’re up to the task.

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Casting a Ballot Rarely Easier or More Important



As Diane Polky, the City Clerk, carefully explained the options available for Hallowell voters, the seriousness of the topic was apparent. The Covid-19 pandemic has been a game changer but the staff at City Hall are up to the challenge. That said, they could use some help. Voters who are enrolled in the Republican party or are not enrolled in a political party are needed to work the polls on Election Day.

The right to cast a ballot and help choose governmental leaders at all levels is a right and responsibility of citizenship. It is a privilege and one which some dismiss. “My vote doesn’t count” is a refrain heard too often. Wrong. Every vote counts. This year voters have options.

First you must register. Residents can register to vote in person at City Hall during regular office hours. You must provide proof of identity and residency. On Election Day, residents may register to vote at the polling place with proof of identity and residency.

If there is concern about going to the polls in person, obtaining an absentee ballot is a simple process. As always you can cast an absentee ballot at City Hall. Visit the office anytime from 9AM until 2PM Monday through Friday and request a ballot. There is a voting booth set up in the temporary office. Use the Second Street entrance to the

building. “If a person can’t make it between those hours,” the Clerk explained, “they can call and make an appointment.”



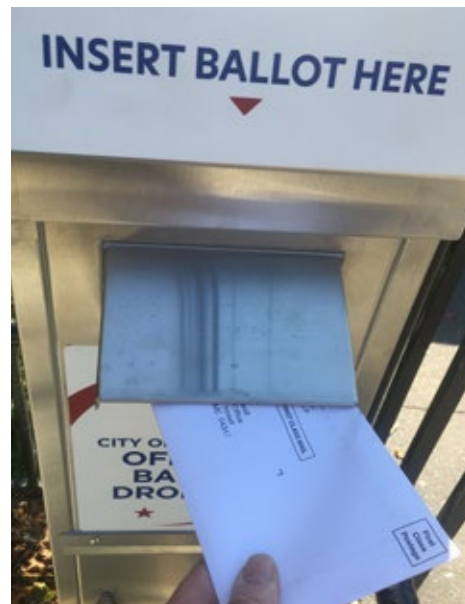
Voters can apply for an Absentee Ballot for the November 3, 2020, election online through the Maine Secretary of State’s office at the website <https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>. Requests must be made before 5:00PM, Thursday, October 29, 2020. State law establishes the Thursday before an election as the deadline for issuing Absentee Ballots without Special Circumstances. After that day the voter must state that one of these Special Circumstances apply: (1) the voter will be absent from the municipality of residence unexpectedly during the entire time the polls are open on election day; (2) the voter has a physical disability; (3) the voter is unable to leave his/her home or treatment facility due to an incapacity or illness; or (4) the voter is a resident of a coastal island ward or precinct and is unable to travel to the polls.

Absentee ballots can be returned through the US mail. Postage is

required. The Postal Services has assured the Secretary of State that ballots mailed at least seven days before Election Day are guaranteed to be delivered in time to be cast and counted in the election. Be sure to sign the back of the envelope or your vote can’t be counted.

Returning absentee ballots this year is even easier. The City has installed a special secure ballot box just outside the Second Street entrance to City Hall. Absentee ballots must be returned by 8:00PM election day to be counted.

The polls will be open Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, from 8:00AM until 8:00PM. The City of Hallowell is divided into five wards. The polling place for all five wards is Hall-Dale Elementary School at 26 Garden Lane off Winthrop Street. Students will be learning remotely that day so only poll workers and minimal school staff will be in attendance. Safety precautions will be strictly followed. Voters must wear a mask and maintain social distance. (BM)



Food Bank—Vital Services in Great Demand

Friday mornings are frantic at the Hallowell Food Bank. Volunteers are breaking down food shipments into individual shares, folding and then filling banana boxes full of food, and preparing for shoppers.

The first wave of clients comes mid-morning. The flow of people through the basement storeroom is carefully controlled. Social distancing is a challenge, but safety comes first.

“Last week we served 21 households, at least 49 people, and we made four deliveries. That is huge for us,” Jeanne Langsdorf explained. “At the beginning of the year we were open once a month. Since March it has been once a week. We need help. When the impact of Covid was first felt, the need increased dramatically. People didn’t have work or food. It was scary. Over the spring and summer, the demand decreased with the distribution of stimulus checks. Now the funding is gone, and demand has sharply increased.

“We want to give a big shout-out to all of the volunteers who help us run smoothly. More than 30 people lend a hand on both a regular and occasional basis. Please know that the Hallowell Food Bank could not do everything we do without each and every one of the volunteers. MANY, MANY THANKS!”

Thanksgiving Giving!

It’s already late October, the time of year that the Hallowell Food Bank begins planning for Thanksgiving. For the past 5+ years the Food Bank has offered a basket with the fixings for a proper Thanksgiving dinner. The holiday basket typically contains a turkey, roasting pan, cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy, fresh potatoes, carrots and onions,

rolls, butter, an apple or pumpkin pie, and vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

Clients pick up baskets the Monday before Thanksgiving, between 1:00–3:00. November 23rd is pick-up date this year. Baskets will begin to be prepared the morning of November 19th. Fresh items and the turkeys will be added the morning of the 23rd.

Food Drive: If you are able to donate any items for the baskets, are available to deliver baskets to homebound residents, or would like to help out in any way, please email us or give us a call.

If you need a basket, please email HallowellFB@gmail.com or call us at (207) 992-6899 before November 6th so Food Bank staff can plan and pack ensuring there are enough baskets for all who need them. All client information is confidential.

Sweet Memories



Alice Buck, 2nd from the left, with Turkey Basket volunteers in 2018 (Photo credit: Steve Judge)

The Hallowell Food Bank is sad to have lost Alice Buck, a long-time friend, board member, and volunteer. For the last several years Alice worked every Friday morning collecting weights of donated items, packing delivery boxes for homebound clients, and keeping a portion of our handwritten operation

style in order. On the afternoons when she worked with Rick Morrow, clients were happy to see her, and she in turn always asked about their health and the well-being of their families. Alice, with that distinctive voice, was a Hallowell institution. She will be missed.

Here’s how to contact the Food Bank, to volunteer or donate:

Hallowell Food Bank
PO Box 214
Hallowell, ME 04347
Call (207) 992-6899
Email: HallowellFB@gmail.com
Facebook. Search Hallowell Food Bank and send a message through Messenger.

The Food Bank is in the basement of the former fire station on Second Street. The doorway is on Perleys’ Lane.

Food donations may be dropped off on Thursdays 8:00–10:00AM and Fridays 8:45–11:30AM. Call to arrange other drop-off times.

Client Hours: Fridays 1:00–2:00 (JL)



Bob Ladd cleaning before opening.

Cohen Center Dining Room Open—Limited Seating

Spectrum Generations is pleased to announce that we began to serve food in our congregate dining room at the Cohen Community Center in Hallowell the first of October. The priority is visitors' health and safety, so things will look a little different for those accustomed to enjoying dining and social engagement there. Service is open to the public.

Reservations are required and may be made the day before you plan to dine with us. You may make a dining reservation for yourself and those that you live with. The Cohen Community Center will be serving lunch Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11–12 at this time. You will not be able to transfer your reservation to anyone else. When you call to make your reservation, you will be asked four screening questions. If you don't feel well or have a fever the morning of your reservation, please do not come.

- You must wear a mask when you enter the building and continue to wear it until you are seated at your table.
- The front door will be locked.

A volunteer will let a certain number of people in at a time to keep the designated social distancing in place.

- When you get to the dining room, a volunteer will guide you to your table. You must remain at your table. If you want to use the restroom, you must put your mask on and keep it on until you return to your table.
- A volunteer will bring your food to the table. We will be serving you just like in a restaurant! Desserts and coffee will also be brought around so you can choose what you would like.
- When you are finished with your meal, you will need to put your mask back on and exit through the designated door.
- Please do not walk around and visit other tables. We are keeping the 6-foot social distancing in place because we care about your health and safety.

To make a reservation at our Cohen Community Center, call 626-7777.



Clyne Hodges serves Tom Daggett his first meal in the Cohen Center Dining Room under new guidelines. Meals will be served on Tuesdays and Thursdays by reservation only.



Give us a call!
1.800.620.6036



Stay **healthy** and **fit at home**, with our online wellness workshops!

A Grateful Mom on the Start of School in 2020

By Kate Tremblay

When I dropped my first grader off at Hall-Dale Elementary on the first day of school this year, I was immediately teary as I walked away. And not because she's getting so big and independent or because I would miss her after having her to myself all summer, although both of those things are true. It was the joy with which we were greeted that did it. There was Mrs. Clark, the principal, and Ms. Wilcox, the guidance counselor, with baskets of masks and somehow radiating smiles from behind their own masks. They welcomed my daughter enthusiastically by name and shuffled her toward the hand-sanitizing station as if it were all completely normal. The odd thing is that despite all the new safety procedures, it did feel normal, and it felt reassuring, surely for my daughter, but also for me. The moment was a great big ray of sunshine after months and months of being mostly distanced from friends and community and of wondering what school would look like in the fall.

I had a similar moment when I brought my son, a sixth grader, brand new to the middle school, for a tour just days before the start of school. Mr. Tinkham, the principal, greeted us at the door and gave our group of five a 45-minute tour. That he could take the time to do this during the build-up to what must certainly have been the most challenging start of school in, well, who knows how long, just blew my mind. Masked teachers, who had reconfigured classrooms to keep students at appropriate distances from one another, stopped to say hello and encourage the new students. My son came away feeling excited



First day of school

about starting middle school, a big transition even in the best of times.

If you didn't already know, Hallowell students are participating in a hybrid system. This means that on Monday and Tuesday, half the students are actually present in the school building, while the other half learn remotely from home. They swap on Thursday and Friday, and all students learn remotely for half a day on Wednesdays so the school can be cleaned in between. This is not an easy thing for the school system to pull off. So, a few more shout-outs:

Thank you to the RSU2 technology department. I cannot imagine what it took to get the technology behind this hybrid model up and running. Did you know that every single middle school and high school student in the district took home a device and that anyone who needs one at the elementary level can get one? Wow—just wow. Thank you to the middle and high school teachers. Did you know that the hybrid model our district is using has them teaching to students in

the classroom while simultaneously teaching to students who are logged in to the class online? Yes, they are managing what amounts to teaching two classes at once. I cannot even imagine how challenging that is.

Thank you to my daughter's first grade teacher who trained six-year-olds how to attend online meetings like they'd been doing it for years. Six-year-olds! I might use some of her tricks in my next Zoom meeting for work. Thank you to the Japanese teacher whose online puppet shows make us giggle. Thank you to the Hall-Dale After School program. Everyone worked so hard to make this program happen this year, and my daughter is happier and healthier for it! Thank you to the maintenance staff for your diligence. And an extra thank you to all the Art, Music, and PE teachers for getting students to move their bodies and use their hands and imaginations. With so much online time, these subjects are more important than ever.

While I cannot say that the hybrid model is perfect or that it is not stressful on the home front, what I can say is that every single person we have interacted with through the school system this year has been amazing. I know I have not thanked everyone who deserves it. So, please thank someone you know who works for the school system for this grateful parent. Whether they work in the lunchroom or on the maintenance staff, in the front office or in the classroom, in the nurse's office, on the soccer fields, or on the bus—they are all superheroes in this mom's book!



Volunteers Power Conservation Efforts

The Hallowell Conservation Commission would like to thank all the volunteers who helped maintain Hallowell's natural resources this past year. The Town Forest/RES Recreational Area, Effie L. Berry Conservation Area, and Granite City Park received hundreds of hours of volunteer time, and it shows. Our To Do List is never empty, and the Commission continues to reach out for additional volunteers to join the efforts. If you are interested, please email hallowellconservation@gmail.com. Below are some of the planned activities for the next year that could use your help.



Hallowell Conservation Commission members Karen Simpson, copywriter, and Kelly Kennedy Yokoyama, graphic designer, with the pollinator sign displayed at Granite City Park.

The Effie L. Berry Conservation Area near Stevens Commons

Conservation Commission members and other volunteers will continue to remove invasive species, especially around the pond area, to promote native vegetation and to improve wildlife viewing. Depending on winter temperatures and snowfall depths, work may start by the end of 2020 and continue into Spring 2021.

Jamies Pond Wildlife Management Area

The Commission is planning to replace degrading trail signs. An assessment has already been completed. Once signs are finalized, future tasks will include on-site work for sign installation and repair of any loose posts.



Volunteer Jim Simpson plants a Royal Raindrops Crabapple at Granite City Park. The tree was donated by the Hallowell Area Board of Trade.

Your Opinions Matter! (See pages 8 & 9)

The Hallowell Comprehensive Planning Group will be holding public sessions, seeking inputs for the City's long-term planning. Thoughts are needed by the Hallowell community on how our natural resources should be maintained and managed for the next decade and beyond. The Conservation Commission strongly encourages residents to voice their support for the protection of our community's open spaces, wetlands, ponds, forests, trails, shoreland, and all our natural resources.

Vaughan Brook Watershed Project

The Conservation Commission would appreciate participation in an initial exploration of creating a water quality-monitoring program for the Vaughan Brook Watershed and other significant water resources in Hallowell. This will be the start of a long-term project and will include developing working partnerships with like-minded organizations including but not limited to private and public resources, schools, grantors, and conservation organizations and experts. If you are interested in participating, email hallowellconservation@gmail.com.



Cascade Dam on Vaughan Brook.

Hunting season, wear orange!

Thank you for helping us make Hallowell's natural spaces places for all to enjoy. During hunting seasons, please be careful on trails and in the woods. Keep dogs on leashes, do not engage with wildlife, and wear bright colors.

Great Trail Maps!

You can download trail guides of the Hallowell recreational areas at <https://hallowell.govoffice.com>. Click on "Government" then "Boards and Committees" then "Conservation Commission." (RP)

Central Commons Officially Opened

The Community Housing of Maine's (CHOM) newly renovated Central Commons in Hallowell opened its doors at the end of June. Due to the pandemic, we haven't been able to hold a traditional grand opening celebration yet, but a very special thank you to the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce for organizing a pandemic-adapted virtual ribbon cutting in early October! And, thank you to Mayor Walker, Councilor AuCoin, the Mastway Development team, Samantha Messick from Preservation Management, and others for joining us for the mini-celebration.

Central Commons has welcomed many new tenants since June—in fact, only a few apartment units remain available for rent! CHOM is delighted by the spirit of community and mutual aid that seems to be growing among residents. There is now even an informal food pantry set up organized by the tenants to help each other stay well nourished. Tenants also report that they enjoy living in proximity to people of similar age and being part of the multi-use and beautiful Stevens Commons campus. Depending on the time of year, it is bustling with activity including a farmers' market, food trucks, and nature trails.

Many of the tenants are new to the Hallowell area. CHOM is grateful to those local to the area for helping newcomers adjust and navigate their new community.

One tenant said, "I love it here. It's safe and quiet and quite beautiful. We're starting to feel like a family."

The historic property features 29 efficiency and 1-bedroom apartments with bright and spacious layouts. Efficiency apartments range from 484 to 573 square feet, and the 1-bedroom apartments range from 580 to 745 square feet.



Bree LaCasse, CHOM Project Manager, cuts the ribbon to formally open Central Commons with Hallowell Mayor Mark Walker on the left and KV Chamber President & CEO Katie Doherty to the right.

Here are some of the great amenities that come with living at Central Commons:

- Heat/hot water included
- 24-hr emergency maintenance
- Individual climate control
- Energy Star Appliances
- Community space
- Historic features with modern upgrades
- Window treatments
- Storage
- Elevator
- Onsite laundry
- Limited onsite parking
- Onsite management
- Trash removal
- Professional landscaping and public open green space
- A diverse community of neighbors

CHOM has hired Preservation Management(PMI)to professionally manage Central Commons.

PMI is still accepting applications

for the remaining apartments.

Please visit <https://www.preservationmanagement.com/rental/property/central-commons> or call 207-653-4005 to request an application. Please note that as affordable rental housing, eligibility requirements apply. (BL)

Central Commons New Resident Needs

Residents at Central Commons at Stevens Commons are in need of a few donated items, such as nightstands, dressers, bookcases, lamps, kitchen tables, chairs, and ADA-type aids (walkers, toilet frames with arms, etc.). Please call or text Maggie Warren at 441-8658 to arrange pickup. Thanks!



Comprehensive Plan Work enters a new phase—hearing from you!

The Comprehensive Planning Group met weekly (virtually) throughout the summer and has nearly completed the existing conditions reports described in the last issue of *The Champion*. These reports, on topics such as housing, transportation, natural resources, and the economy of Hallowell, provide an important baseline for next steps in developing a plan for the next 10 years.

The existing conditions reports outlines the Hallowell of today. It also indicates some basic issues and opportunities that may be worth looking into more closely. While the starting point was to outline the issues required by the State of Maine, the committee decided that those subjects didn't go far enough.

Volunteer members worked with the consulting team to draft an additional section on Arts & Culture, a key part of Hallowell's character. They also took a traditional "historic resources" section and decided it lacked perspective. Committee members added information on the indigenous people who originally inhabited the land on which Hallowell now sits and about the workers who built the city and worked in the granite quarries. This

broader baseline will help inform the plan more completely and honestly.

Now comes the fun part! The Comprehensive Planning Group has partnered with Vision Hallowell and Hallowell Heart & Soul to make sure that people who care about the city have several opportunities to offer their thoughts. On October 29, Vision Hallowell will hold a virtual event focused on downtown. Heart & Soul is conducting interviews of city residents to hear what they think are the core concepts that make Hallowell unique.

In addition to these efforts, two public forums will be held in late fall and early winter. These forums, planned to be held remotely the evening of Thursday, November 19, and on the afternoon of Saturday, December 12, will showcase the existing conditions reports and ask attendees what should be considered as we plan for the 2020s. Keep an eye out for more details on these events, or check the City's website at www.hallowell.govoffice.com.

The existing conditions reports will be posted on the City's website soon so that people will have time to read them and think about what

these reports tell us. Over the winter, we hope to have additional events as well, where we meet up with residents in places they normally go anyway. Needless to say, the pandemic has made doing so more challenging, but we are thinking of ways to reach out safely, even in the winter.

Planning for the future allows a community to be strategic, especially when money is tight. The new Comprehensive Plan will provide a clear strategy for Hallowell's future, and a summary of what should happen to keep this a wonderful place to visit and live. It will guide development and investment, as well as the intangible aspects of living here that should be nurtured. We hope to hear from you as this work enters a new phase. (JL)



Preserving Hallowell's rural character.

A Community Conversation: What? Another survey?

This past summer three Hallowell organizations were undertaking, or about to undertake, surveys in the city, which seemed like a lot of surveys in a city of 2,500 people. Vision Hallowell, Hallowell Heart & Soul, and the Comprehensive Planning Group decided to undertake one survey in the form of a Community Conversation over Zoom videoconferencing.

You are invited to take part in the conversation on October 29, from 6:00–8:00PM. Register at the website <https://cutt.ly/hallowellcommunityconvo> or click on the QR code. You will be asked to help answer three important questions:

1. What can we do now, during the pandemic, to help ensure our downtown businesses thrive?
2. What would you like to see our new mayor and city council focus on?
3. What do you see as Hallowell's top priorities over the next 10 years?

The Zoom room will open at 5:30PM. Participants will begin in one group and then split into several "Rooms" or subgroups, each assisted by a facilitator. After an hour of conversations, the groups will come together again

and discuss the outcome and what can be done with the information collected. The whole effort will be recorded and made available to the Comprehensive Planning Group, the City Council, and others.

Vision Hallowell is an Affiliate member of the Maine Downtown Center, a program of the Maine Development Foundation. The Downtown Center provides Vision Hallowell with valuable support in working on municipal issues. Vision Hallowell's latest effort was creating a temporary mini park and surveying people to learn their thoughts, ideas, and impressions. The Mini Park was built and maintained for two weeks at the end of August at the corner of Central and Water Streets. The results of that survey effort have been shared

with the City Council.

Hallowell Heart & Soul is an organization formed last winter. It will follow a two-year community development process guided by the Orton Family Foundation, to find out what matters most to Hallowell citizens. Heart & Soul's effort is to meet with Hallowell citizens one-on-one and record their stories.

The Hallowell Comprehensive Planning Group is charged with updating the City's Comprehensive Plan. State regulations require the comprehensive plan be updated every 10 years. This Community Conversation will be part of that planning effort. The consultant, Jeff Levine, has been part of writing the survey questions and planning the process. (JB)



<https://cutt.ly/hallowellcommunityconvo>

Hallowell Wins AARP Challenge Grant for New Boardwalk Ramp

The Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Committee is one of 184 awardees chosen for a 2020 AARP Community Challenge grant from @AARPLivable and AARP Maine. One of the most popular gathering spots in Hallowell is the riverfront bulkhead with its colorful chairs. There is a fairly steep bank from the parking lot to the boardwalk. Public Works built a small ramp that helped provide access for folks with mobility issues. The All-Age-Friendly Committee decided that having a longer, wider ramp would be much better, so with the help of Vision Hallowell the committee applied for the grant.

Hallowell Public Works estimates that more than 100 people use the

community space on a nice day. Chris Buck, the Director of Public Works, contacted Ryan Masse from Hammond Lumber Company's Belgrade office who met with us and provided specifications and a quote. The company also contributed 10% of the cost of the ramp through a donation discount that helped immensely in our efforts. Thanks to AARP and Hammond Lumber for their generous support that made this ramp possible to help make this community a great place for people of all ages.

The ramp arrived onsite Monday, October 1. The Public Works crew assembled the ramp and moved it into place. Mayor Mark Walker officially cut the ribbon on October



Mayor Mark Walker snips the ribbon held by Councilors Michael Frett and Maureen AuCoin with All-Age-Friendly Committee members Maggie Warren and Bob McIntire.

14 along with Councilors Maureen AuCoin and Michael Frett, a member of the committee. Thanks, AARP!

Annual Fund Campaign Kickoff Hubbard Treasures/Hallowell's Future

The Hubbard Library is kicking off its annual campaign with two special programs. The first featured Earle Shettleworth, Jr., Maine State Historian and Hubbard Board member who examined some of



Frank O'Hara.

the library's treasures in a Zoom presentation recorded Friday, October 23rd. A link to a recording of the presentation is available on the Library's website along with a link to the second presentation, Hallowell's Future, with prognosticator Frank O'Hara. The futuristic view will be unveiled Friday, November 13, at 6:00PM, also through Zoom videoconferencing. Information is available at www.hubbardfree.org, then click on "Library Updates." There is also a link to a popular summer program with local author Chris Asch speaking about his book *Chocolate City—A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital*.

"The Annual Fund Campaign is key to expanding our library community," said Ken Young, President of the Board of Trustees. The fund addresses "the heightened

need to keep people safe, while inspiring and educating about local issues, art, music, civil discourse, and more." Contributions can be made through the library's website or directly to the library at 115 Second St., Hallowell, ME 04347.



Earle Shettleworth, Jr.

Hallowell History on Public Display

The first step to the second floor of the old Hallowell Town Hall, the former Fire Station, is only about two inches high. The toe-stubber can trip you up if you aren't careful. Chris Cart has mastered that hurdle. He has been making his way to the upstairs meeting room (now mural studio) for many days and nights, many months, in fact.



Chris and his wife, Jen, built the wall-size easel in May 2019. Since then Chris has spent countless hours planning, pondering, painting, and then repainting sections of the mural that will eventually cover the north side of the building at 89 Water Street. You can watch the easel being built on the project website www.hallowellmural.org.

"The project began in the spring of 2018 when Chris Vallee and I were talking about a big mural," Chris explained. The germ of the work was planted many years before. "I grew up in Guadalajara. There are great murals in Mexico—giant, dramatic, sweeping public art. I thought, 'I want to do big stuff!'"

"Chris Vallee said, 'Hey, I have a building. You can use that,' and we started brainstorming. We thought about a mural that would make the building into something else—like maybe disappear. Then we thought the building is right down by the port so maybe a port scene. Then we decided the mural should be about Hallowell! That really got us thinking.

"The next year was spent researching Hallowell history and people. I talked with Sam Webber (the City Historian), Kate Tremblay (Executive Director of the Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead), and scores of others about who should be in the mural and what events or activities should be shown. Then I started drawing. I have notebooks full of studies—sketches of people and places.

"Murals are big! I didn't have the space in my studio to work on this project, so we went to the Hallowell City Council and they agreed to let me use this room as a studio. This is great! I can have a third of the mural on the wall and a third on the floor. The other third is rolled up. The mural is actually made up of five-foot squares of Polytab, or interfacing, like would be used in sewing projects. It is non-woven fabric and is lighter than canvas. The paint that is used is absorbed by the material. The paint actually becomes part of the cloth. I've seen murals that have been up 30 years that look as good as new."

Chris gingerly walks across mural sections laying on the floor in his stocking feet to keep from scuffing up the painting. The mural is made up of three sections, four panels across and two sections high. "I can see how the elements of the mural fit together. Right now, I'm redesigning some sections. I figured that I could reduce the height of the mural and gain 7 inches of space all the way across. Combined with additional room at the bottom will give me almost another foot of space to work with. It doesn't sound like much but that is nearly 20 square feet and that's a lot!"

The trials and tribulations of life

today are intruding into the design. Three figures in one section are now wearing masks. "Covid-19 happened. It changed life for everybody so it should be included somehow. Another impact was fundraising that stopped almost entirely in March. Everything dried up. I had to take on other work and commissions to make money to live which put the project behind schedule. I think that most of the painting will be finished in November. I can then work on final touches and preparing for spring."

The finished work will be over 20 feet wide and nearly 30 feet tall. "The brick on the building has to be



Chris Cart contemplating more changes to the Hallowell mural!

prepared, maybe repointed, and then coated with an adhesive. The mural sections will be placed on the wall one at a time so you can see how they fit together. The weather has to cooperate. The temperature must be at least 50 degrees all day and night for the adhesive to dry and cure. We'll be ready," he promised, and then sat down to contemplate more changes in the design.

More information about the project can be found at the website www.hallowellmural.org. (BM)

Historic Building Survey “Under Construction”



Building survey team at work.

Nona Thompson and Karen Simpson headed down Page Street toward Second Street where they would begin surveying houses as part of the Hallowell Historic Building Survey. This is their second selection of homes, garages, and barns they will have surveyed. “We have a great time,” Karen explained. Nona chimed in, “I look at buildings much more closely now. This has been fun!”

The Hallowell Historic Building

Survey has, in effect, been underway for over three years. Sutherland Conservation and Consulting provided a review of the historic building ordinance for the Hallowell Planning Board in February 2017. Responding to questions regarding ordinance language in other communities, Scott Hanson explained that updating the historic building ordinance would begin by updating the historic building survey.

Great Gift! Hallowell History!

Do you have a friend or family member who loves Hallowell but lives away? Here is the perfect gift that will give all year long: a membership in Row House, Hallowell’s historical society. An Individual membership is just \$25, and a Family membership is only \$40. Do you have a student in your inner circle? A Student membership is just \$5. Is there someone really

special who you want to celebrate? Consider a Patron membership for \$75. All gift memberships through the end of the year will also receive a copy of the colorful book *Dwellings, The Unique Homes of Hallowell*, along with regular updates about Hallowell history. Information is available at the website www.rowhouseinc.org. (BM)



Nona Thompson and Karen Simpson survey a Second Street House.

Building survey work began under a contract to provide consulting services to the Planning Board. Scott Hanson surveyed, mapped, and photographed 493 buildings. The work was completed this spring.

Row House, Inc., Hallowell’s historical society, adopted the challenging task of completing the next steps in the survey process: visiting each building and gathering information about the building and site.

Fifteen volunteers were trained in how to conduct a building survey and since mid-September have completed surveys for nearly all 493 buildings. Larry Davis, President of Row House, lauded the efforts of surveyors. “We could not have accomplished as much as we have in such a short period of time without a terrific amount of work from people interested in the history of Hallowell.” (BM)



Dwellings: The Unique Homes of Hallowell.

Online education not “new” at the University of Maine at Augusta

A Pioneer in Distance Education

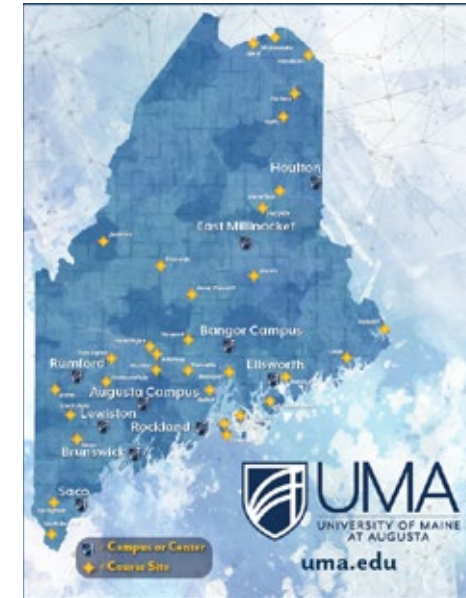
While many colleges and universities have recently pivoted to online education, UMA has been a leader in distance and online education for 30 years. In 1989, the University of Maine at Augusta (UMA) was a pioneer in providing higher education to students at a distance from the very first courses broadcast via ITV (interactive television) and continues to be a leader today with highly interactive online courses.

For many, it is hard to remember a time when information was not available, literally, in the palm of your hand before smartphones and PCs, when Facebook and Instagram were not yet part of a worldwide web-connected citizenry. Thirty years ago, UMA, with University of Maine System support, was on the cusp of this technological movement with a goal of reshaping access to higher education across the state of Maine and beyond.

The First ITV Courses

In the early years of ITV, students tuned in to their courses at their local centers or receive sites at the scheduled times. Staff at each location recorded a copy of the class on a VHS tape and those who missed the class could reserve a time to watch it. Staff members kept meticulous records of the name, date, and time of those who viewed the video and for how long.

When students submitted assignments, a staff member at each location would collect the papers, stamp them with the time and date of submission, and place them into prepaid USPS distribution envelopes. Faculty members would grade the assignments and mail



them back to the students’ locations in the same manner. This process could take as long as a week.

Distance Courses Now

Today, students enrolled in online courses at UMA engage with their instructors and fellow students through technology that is similar to in-person classes, allowing them to “raise their hand” and conduct group projects online. Whether tuning in from any location in Maine, the United States, or internationally, UMA uses technology that allows all distance students to interact, engage, learn, and apply their learning in unique ways.

From prerecorded lectures available online to live interactive video lectures with synchronous chat, students can tailor their learning experience and engage at various levels with their instructors, classmates, and the content. UMA’s online classes work to meet the needs of students and their varied approaches to learning.

With state-of-the-art video-conferencing software and a

learning management system such as Brightspace, students collaborate with classmates to complete and share work. Faculty can provide feedback directly on papers submitted electronically without ever having to print them. Audio feedback can even be attached to assignments for students to download and respond, and quizzes and some tests may be graded instantly! Students have easy access to their academic advisors and can book calendar appointments online. Overall, UMA optimizes the use of various technologies to meet students where they are.

Looking to the Future

As technology improves, so does the level of engagement between professors and students, as well as the ease of access. UMA’s Collaboratory and Makerspace have promise to transform the education experience once more, and virtual reality learning opportunities have yet to be examined fully.

The past 30 years demonstrate the vital role that technology plays in delivering education outside a traditional classroom, making education accessible to those who seek to obtain their degree while maintaining work and family commitments. UMA continues to pursue cutting-edge technologies to provide high-quality education and student support in fulfilling its mission of making higher education accessible to those in Maine and beyond. Learn more at uma.edu.



Harlow Gallery—Open and Willing

The Harlow is very grateful for the care and support it received with a new exhibit “HeART of Hallowell”! The “HeART of Hallowell,” a rich and varied exhibit features 23 Hallowell artists and artists with close ties to this little city! Participating artists include Devin Bachelter, Andre Benoit, Angelo Lam Biase, Diane Dubreuil, Jane Higgins, Michelle Miller, Laura Endres, Rex Holsapple, H     Farrar, Ellen Gibson, Edward Leaman, Sarah Lucas, Penny Markley, Betsy Allen McPhedran, Kid McGuire, Olga Merrill, Linwood Riggs, Rebecca Singer, Judith Schuppien, Michael Stevenson, Christine Sullivan, Alexandra Thaller, and Daria Walton. This exhibit features paintings from watercolor to

encaustic, fine furniture, ceramics, and textiles. The Exhibit continues through Saturday, November 7. Gallery hours are Thursday through Saturday 11AM to 4PM and Sundays 11AM to 1PM. In early fall, the Harlow received a tremendous amount of support from local individuals and the City of Hallowell. The Harlow Board of Directors is sincerely thankful for folks stepping forward to help with many things, including fundraising, finance, exhibitions, and more. If you are interested in gallery sitting or volunteering in some capacity, we would love to have you. We are actively seeking enthusiastic art lovers to help us cover gallery hours. If this might be a good fit for you, please drop us a line at harlowgallery@gmail.com.

Harlow “Homecoming” Members Show Friday, November 20th to Saturday, January 2nd

The Harlow Gallery enthusiastically invites all Harlow Members to submit artwork to “Homecoming,” a member show running from November 20, 2020, to January 2, 2021. This exhibition is open to all Harlow current and prospective members. Member artists are invited to submit up to two works for this exhibition. “Homecoming” is an exhibition of works created during the pandemic and potentially responds to this critical time in our lives. Artwork content open.

REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a Harlow Member or Become a Member. If you are not a member or unsure of the status of your membership, we will work with you to resolve this.
- Each artist may submit up to

- two works of art, which must be the artist’s own original work created from March 13, 2020, until present.
- Original fine art in any media may be submitted, including but not limited to painting, sculpture, digital, printmaking, fiber, photography, mixed media, ceramics, installation, and more.
- Please take a moment to consider these questions at art drop-off: Please tell us how the Pandemic has affected your creative practice. Have you been able to make art regularly? What have been your obstacles? Please feel free to share with us any information that would be interesting to others about this time period and your art life.
- If your work sells, you will be

The Harlow is Rising! Thanks for being a part of it! We look forward to seeing you soon! (HF)

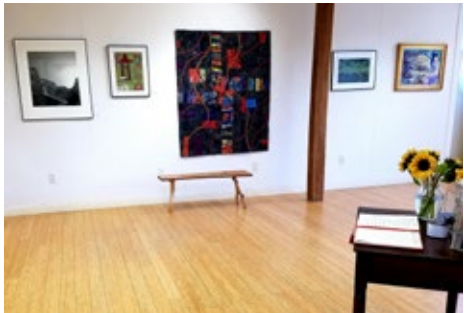


The Harlow is Rising!

invited to bring in piece(s) to replace it.

Important Dates:

- Exhibit Dates: Friday, November 20, 2020–January 2, 2021
- Extended Weekend Reception: Friday, November 20, 4 to 7 PM, and Saturday, November 21, 11 AM to 4 PM.
- January 2, 2021, is the last day of the show



Harlow exhibit space.

Goodbye, Gloat Bridge

This fall we said goodbye to one of my favorite structures in Vaughan Woods. It was not a particularly beautiful structure, but it was a symbol of a beautiful story and of a charming anecdote about two brothers who took great pride in a beautiful thing that they had done together.

The Gloat Bridge was a cement and steel structure that once connected a path from below the Homestead Garden to the trail that leads down into the ravine to the High Arch Bridge. Originally, it was one of seven such bridges constructed in this manner throughout the Woods—only three remain today. Like the stone arch bridges, these cement bridges were built in the early 1900s, and once upon a time they were graced with pretty wooden railings.

Many of you may remember sitting on the Gloat Bridge, which stood high above the ravine and offered a lovely view of the brook and falls below. Brothers William and Benjamin Vaughan, who had the bridge built, also enjoyed sitting on it and taking in the view of the lands they had worked a lifetime to purchase and revitalize, land their ancestors had sold for industrialization. The brothers’ efforts resulted in the Vaughan Woods we know today.

How it must have pleased them to watch the factories along the brook come down and the woods begin to recover. Vaughan oral history holds that this tradition of the brothers sitting on the bridge and taking pride in their efforts is what earned it the affectionate nickname, the Gloat Bridge. It was only five years ago that the structure began to show significant deterioration, and a fence was built to block access, with a plan of eventually removing the



Old Gloat Bridge.

bridge. This plan was carried out in September as part of the final stages of a trail reconstruction project in the same area. Also, as part of the project, the trail was moved away from the Gloat Bridge area, and a significant granite staircase was added to bring visitors down the bank toward the High Arch Bridge.

The staircase was built by our partners at Off The Beaten Trail



The new steps connecting the Corniche Trail to the Brook Trail.

Works and made possible by a Recreational Trails Program grant through the Bureau of Parks and Lands. The project reconstructed the entire access trail down to the High Arch Bridge so that visitors may continue to enjoy the fruit of the brothers’ labors for generations to come. Each time I walk down the new staircase, I stop for a moment to take in this beautiful thing that we have done, and thus the tradition of the Gloat Bridge stays alive in this small way.

Keep up-to-date on activities at the Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead. Visit the website www.vaughanhomestead.org. (KT)



Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead

French Students at UMA Happily at Home in Hallowell

In spite of the Covid-19 travel ban, Professor of French Chelsea Ray was able to invite four French exchange students to UMA for this academic year. UMA has an ongoing exchange with the University of Western Brittany (UBO) in Brittany on the northwestern coast of France (www.univ-brest.fr), and each year four students are invited to come to UMA on a scholarship. They actively participate in campus life, help teach the French classes, and continue their course of study. Paul studies Computer Science, Martin studies art, Mathilde studies Law, and Romane studies English. They all live in the Stevens Commons Residence Halls.

This is what they say about their experience so far:

“We have been at UMA for almost two months. We regret that almost all our courses are taught online, which is not the best way to improve

our English and meet people. As a result, we often stay between us, only speaking French.

“On the other hand, we have discovered some wonderful trails in Hallowell and, in my case, I love sitting in front of the Kennebec River. I would also like to thank the inhabitants of Hallowell. We are touched to have received help, especially when we arrived.”

Mathilde

“We feel lucky that our exchange program with UMA remained, even though we can have fewer relationships, less language practice, and less immersion into American culture. Since our first day in Hallowell, we have been welcomed and helped by an altruistic community that quickly gave us so generously all we needed to start this year in Stevens Commons.”

Martin

“Because of the pandemic, I wasn't sure if we could one day move in our new town and begin our new life. But we did. At first it wasn't easy to practice our English and meet Americans because of the quarantine. But things became better with time, and we had the occasion to meet amazing people who helped us feel like home. We are aware of the luck we have to be here in the current circumstances.”

Romane

Chelsea Ray, Associate Professor of French and Comparative Literature at UMA, speaks highly of the group from the University of Western Brittany (UBO): “I truly admire the strength and fortitude of the group from UBO this year. They have had many more obstacles to their year and have been creative about confronting challenges. All of them are active in the French club, which is primarily meeting on Zoom this year. In addition, many are helping in the upper-level French classes or tutoring, no easy feat when all French classes at UMA are online. It's a superb group and one of the favorite features of my job at UMA.”

The students would welcome meeting residents of Hallowell and sharing activities. They love hiking, dancing, food, history, and more. They also need help with transportation to discover the region since they have no car. In order to contact them, you can email Professor Chelsea Ray at UMA: chelsea.d.ray@maine.edu or Sylvie Charron at scharron@maine.edu. For more information about classes and the French club at UMA, see: <https://www.uma.edu/academics/programs/french/>. (SC)



Top of Mount Washington on an October field trip with a fellow student. Left to right: Romane, Martin, Paul, Mathilde

Pandemic Scammers and COVID-19 and Medicare

As we all move through these unprecedented times, this is not the time to let your guard down. Medicare or Social Security will not call you to cancel your cards or services. Hang up on those scammers.

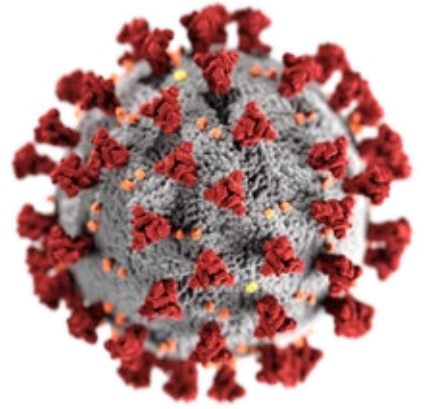
Remember to eat healthy, stay 6 feet apart, and turn off the TV if you feel stressed or have anxiety or depression due to this pandemic. Call your primary care doctor who can figure out how to help you without your coming into the office.

The information below was taken directly from the [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov) website:

- Medicare covers COVID-19–related needs.
- Medicare covers the lab tests for COVID-19. You pay no out-of-pocket costs.
- Medicare covers FDA-authorized COVID-19 antibody (or “serology”) tests if you were diagnosed with

a known current or known prior COVID-19 infection or suspected current or suspected past COVID-19 infection.

- Medicare covers all medically necessary hospitalizations. This includes if you're diagnosed with COVID-19 and might otherwise have been discharged from the hospital after an inpatient stay, but instead you need to stay in the hospital under quarantine. You'll still pay for any hospital deductibles, copays, or coinsurances that apply.
- At this time, there's no vaccine for COVID-19. However, it will be covered if one becomes available.
- If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, you have access to these same benefits. Medicare allows these plans to waive cost-sharing for COVID-19 lab tests. Many



plans offer additional telehealth benefits and expanded benefits, like meal delivery or medical transport services. Check with your plan about your coverage and costs.

- Scammers may use the coronavirus national emergency to take advantage of people while they're distracted. As always, guard your Medicare card like a credit card, check Medicare claims summary forms for errors, and if someone calls asking for your Medicare number, hang up! (RL)

Hallowell Board of Health Local Perspective

In early March, when the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was crashing over the economy and lives in general, City Manager Nate Rudy formed the Hallowell Board of Health to advise City government on how to handle the crisis. Maine State Statute allows municipalities to create a Board of Health of three members “one of whom shall be a physician if available in the community, and one woman.” City Manager Nate Rudy, who serves as the local health officer, recruited three local physicians: Doctors Annette Beyea, Sydney Sewall, and Scott Schiff-Slater. Dr. Beyea is a gerontology specialist, Dr.

Schiff-Slater is a family medicine practitioner in Hallowell, and Dr. Sewall is a retired pediatrician.

The Board first met on March 26th. Dr. Sewall explained that the Board was formed early in the health emergency. “When the Board was first formed, practices and policies were unclear. We are fortunate that the State Center for Disease Control and [Director] Dr. Nirav Shah, were ahead of the curve.” He feels that the Board provides support especially when talking to local businesses about important health practices and mandates.

Some of the first actions by the Board were to identify community

resources and concern for immuno-compromised people and high-risk groups including older people. One challenge to volunteerism is that many volunteers are older /retired people, who are in an at-risk group. The Board wondered how this gap would be filled.

The Board meets the third Tuesday of each month. Minutes to the meetings, as with all committees and commissions, appear on the City's website. Questions or concerns can be directed to the City Manager by calling City Hall or emailing nrudy@hallowellmaine.org.

Patti Burnett, Happy at Dom's

When Patti was told that the Hallowell Area Board of Trade wanted to showcase the oldest business in Hallowell, she explained that Dom's is actually the second-oldest business. S. Masciadri & Son is the oldest, run by three generations since 1918. Dom's opened in 1936.

Patti's fondest memories are about kids. She's been working at Dom's for 42 years; her first job was sweeping the floors when she was 10. "When I was sweeping floors, I wanted to be a barber," she said. One time when she was in her teens, she and Dom's father were in the shop and he asked her, "What are you going to be when you grow up?" Patti replied, "A veterinarian." He said, "I don't see you studying. You never bring home any books. Be a barber."

So, she quit school at 14 to be a barber. When she told Barbara and Dom at the dinner table what her plan was, Barbara replied, "I can't tell you what to do. But I can tell you this. No one without a high school diploma will work in my barbershop." Patti returned to school, ate crow, and graduated. She didn't love school but said she had wonderful teachers and was grateful to Barbara for wanting her to go back.

The 60s were a great time to grow up in Hallowell, Patti says. "Good police, fire department, businesses, and neighbors." She says she felt very secure. The more she stayed, the better she liked it.

Her childhood memories of downtown businesses and the people who owned them include Hayes Bakery with its baked beans on Saturday, sourdough bread, and yummy doughnuts. They gave children free "broken cookies," when they came in. Patti thinks they broke them on purpose so they couldn't be sold.



Patti Burnett.

Fido Masciadri owned Fido's Market, had a cane, and sat near the glassed-in candy counter. Kids would have their little faces right up to the glass deciding what they could afford, when he would whack his cane on the top of the counter and say in a loud voice, "You don't want any of that candy! That's not what you want. You want this candy!" And he'd pull out a container under his chair and give them free candy.

Patti says Hallowell had a bookmaker, a laundromat, a pizza shop, and drugstore. Then there were the ladies who came down from Quebec just to have a goose dinner at the original Slates Restaurant.

People bartered for haircuts. Dom's father had his house in Randolph built on the barter system.

"Clarence Robbins owned the furniture store," Patti says. "I'm 18 and he's 65. He comes in for a haircut and asks Dom, 'How is she?'" Dom replies, 'She's new.' After I gave him a haircut, he looks at it from every angle and finally says, 'Pretty good but you're not a barber yet.' He said that to me for 15 or 16 years every time he came in for a haircut," she says with a wide smile.

Patti's saddest recollections

were of the late 80s, early 90s, when factories closed, people lost their jobs and had to move. They would sit in the chair, look in the mirror, and say, "This will be my last haircut here."

A little boy bit her arm once when she was cutting his bangs. Patti didn't mind much but the mother was horrified.

One morning sitting in the shop, a little black lamb came in. Dom called the Police Chief. "I got a little lamb in my barbershop," he says. "You got a little lamb in your bah-bah shop?" asks the Chief.

"When I need a car or anything that I need information about, I ask my customers. Someone always knows.

"It's stimulating to meet the public. New characters come in and bring something new. The only way barbers retire is when they die. It's a life-affirming job."

Patti says a person can go through life with a little less stress if they don't put it on themselves. "I'm 60 years old, have been working for 42 years in the barbershop, and I've never had a bad day."

With that she turned and snipped another lock. (MW)



156 Water Street.



Need Help? Want to help?

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

Meals on Wheels Packers and Drivers Needed! Cohen Center and Spectrum Generations

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

- 2 Preppers on any weekday morning from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM.
 - 2 Packers on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.
 - 2 Delivery Drivers on Wednesdays and/or Fridays from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM.
- Other opportunities include:
- State Medicare Patrol: Share your knowledge of insurance programs (training will be provided).
 - Healthy Living for ME trainers: Share your love of arts and crafts and creativity.

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

Hallowell Champion



Stuffing a cruiser! Hallowell PD had a friendly competition with Richmond PD to Cram the Cruiser with school supplies for RSU2 elementary schools in Richmond and Hallowell! Hallowell crammed TWO cruisers! Hall-Dale High School volunteer John Stover and Hallowell PD Chief Scott McMaster load the back while Willie Towle stuffs the rear seat.

Needed—Riders, Drivers, Companions

SEARCH (Seek Elderly Alone, Renew Courage & Hope) and RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) of Catholic Charities, seeks families, singles, retirees, college and high school students to volunteer a couple hours a week to seniors who need a helping hand. Provide companionship, assistance with grocery shopping/errands, and/or rides to doctor appointments for senior clients 60 years and older who live in Kennebec County. Contact SEARCH Program Coordinator Lynn Kidd at 207-530-0137 or lkidd@ccmaine.org.

Hallowell Food Bank

Help needed for a number of tasks, from picking up food to stocking shelves. Monthly food deliveries, second Monday of the month. Shipment arrives 7:30AM in the Ice Vault parking lot on Whitten Road. Helpers are needed Friday mornings and afternoon pick-up period. Call Jeanne Langsdorf at 992-6899 or email hallowellfb@gmail.com.

Hallowell Conservation Commission

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

Harlow Gallery

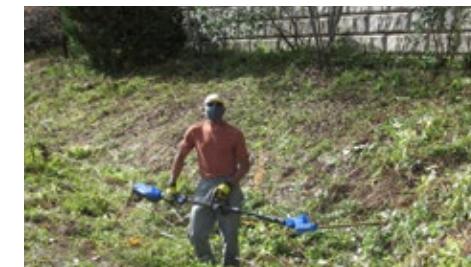
If you are interested in gallery sitting or volunteering in some capacity, we would love to have you. We are actively seeking enthusiastic art lovers to help us cover gallery hours. If this might be a good fit for you, please drop us a line at harlowgallery@gmail.com.

Sand Bucket Brigade!

Slips and slides are just a couple of calendar pages away. Hallowell Public Works, the Hallowell Fire Department, and volunteers are teaming up to make sure it is a safe season. If you or someone you know can use some traction, sign up for the Sand Bucket Brigade. A call to City Clerk, Diane Polky, is all it takes to join. She contacts Fire Chief Jim Owens who dispatches a volunteer to deliver a bucket of sand and salt and pick up an empty bucket if one is available. Call 207-623-4021, press 3 for the City Clerk, and ask to be placed on the bucket list. Volunteers will spread the sand on request if the homeowner is unable.

Hallowell Food Bank Tech Help

Are you a tech whiz? The Food Bank needs help updating its web presence and social media. Contact Jeanne Langsdorf (207) 992-6899 or hallowellfb@gmail.com.



Volunteer: The Masked Councilor (Mike Frett) trimming weeds at Hallowell's great wall.

Hallowell Music Fifty Years Ahead Even Then!

Our fair city has long prided itself on being a center of music and art. Gerry Mahoney perused the pages of Hallowell publications from the early 19th century and gathered a number of articles into an engaging monograph, *Early Hallowell Music*, that can be found in the collection of the Hubbard Library.

The Hallowell musicians of old were described in a copied article of an unknown source, that extolled the virtues of The Hallowell

Harmonic Society. *The Waterville Mail* noted, "In the old days of The Hallowell Harmonic Society, under the direction of Paul Stickney, oratorios were given in the Old South [Church], with Wendenberg of Augusta, playing violin, it used to be said that in musical culture Hallowell was fifty years ahead of any other place in Maine.

"The Hallowell Harmonic Society was organized in the fall of 1832.... Its meetings were held in the Town Hall, but in January, the Society adjourned its rehearsals to the singing seats of the Old South Church.

"The venerable Paul Stickney was a leader among leaders. As one of his pupils says, 'what he did not know about music was hardly worth knowing.'"

The chorus consisted of 21 to 26 people and was "made up almost entirely of Hallowell singers, with the aid of a few from Gardiner, Farmingdale, and West Gardiner.

"The society gave



The title page of *Sacred Music*, one of the popular early Hallowell musical collections, printed and published by Ezekiel Goodale in 1819.

many Grand Sacred Concerts, a notable one on July 4, 1834; another on behalf of the Temperance Cause, then in the height of its agitation; and also sang at various public dedications in different towns about us.

"The organization of the society was destroyed by a natural death in 1836.... A peculiarity of their public entertainments was they employed no Boston stars to 'run away with the money' as Mr. [Allen] Drew says, and depended entirely upon their own resources."

Sad note: Gerry Mahoney, the author of the monograph from which much of this article was drawn, died in September. He is sorely missed. (BM)

The Champion Publishing Partners:



Vaughan Woods &
Historic Homestead



Contributing writers: John Bastey (JB), Jeff Levine (JL), Ruth LaChance (RL), Bree Lacasse (BL), Bob McIntire (BM), Rosemary Presnar (RP), Sylvie Charron (SC), Kate Tremblay (KT), Maggie Warren (MW). Edited by Maggie Warren and Bob McIntire. Graphic design by Brian Ayotte. Printing and distribution by Quality Copy.

Comments and suggestions welcomed! Email hallowellagefriendly@gmail.com or mail to The Champ PO Box 43, Hallowell, ME 04347

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