

Independence

Barbara Williams

The 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence is a perfect opportunity to consider the meaning of the word "Independence." No matter our age or ability, there's no liberty or pursuit of happiness without it. Yet, nobody achieves independence independently, in a vacuum. And the term has different meanings at different stages of our lives.

Consider a child's burst of joy the first time she pedals down the driveway on her birthday bike, heading off to a friend's house. Recall the sheer freedom the teenager feels zooming off in the family car to a game or pizza shop, away from the watchful eyes of those parents who paid for the machine. As adults, we experience that same feeling, the pride and excitement of moving into our own home, paying our own bills. Who accomplishes those feats alone? Nobody.

In our nation's infancy, we were indeed dependent. If not for other nations like France, there would have been no United States of America. As our nation grew, we flexed new muscles, building a vast network of institutions with the might of our people and abundant natural resources. This was accomplished on the aching backs of slaves and immigrants, without whom there would be no engines of industry wealth and power.

We must remember that we owe our independence to those who



David Hayes

fought the wars, raised and taught the children, built, designed and delivered the products and services that we take for granted today. They made our comfort and security possible, and we must repay their contribution and sacrifice.

Thanks to this generation, America became a world leader that helped conquer fascism and supported independence for other nations. No country standing on its own accomplished the feat in isolation, likewise for us as individuals. How independent can anyone be without partners, resources and a community? Does anyone accomplish greatness alone? No.

Independence, for those of us a bit older, often means being able to stay in our home, yet not be stuck in it, being able to go where we want and eat what we like. At this stage in life, however, independence can become a bit tenuous, especially if our support network has broken

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Celebrating the US 250th

View Hallowell's copy of the Declaration of Independence at City Hall, July 4th *Page 3*

Revolutionary War Veterans Buried in Hallowell's Cemetery *Back Page*

The Inside Scoop *Page 2*

Big Dates:

June 27: Hallowell Artwalk
(see pg. 5)

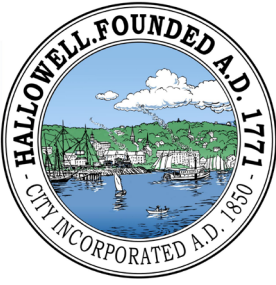
July 9: Climate Action Celebration at City Hall (see pg. 6)

July 18: Old Hallowell Day

July 25: Valleepalooza

September 5: Hallowell Artwalk

September 12: Repair Café,
10am–2pm (see pg. 6)



Meet the new Deputy City Clerk, Leah Sampson

Barbara Williams

Leah Sampson is a familiar face in Hallowell. She's lived here for three decades, raised her kids here and operated the Maine House for the last ten years. She said, when she saw the job post, "It sounded like the perfect opportunity to serve the people I know and love in the best City on Earth, and it has been!" She loves serving her friends and neighbors in a completely different setting.

Leah started her part-time duties in May, working side-by-side with City

Clerk, Lisa Gilliam and Deputy Clerk, Dan Kelley. She's been amazed at all they know and all there is to learn.

Leah spends much of her time getting up to speed on the many office procedures, including those for motor vehicles and vital records. She also registers vehicles and boats and helps people who come into City Hall for everything from signing off on building permits, taking summer rec applications, handling Hallowell Res parking permits for non-residents and approving pre-school residency forms.



Barbara Williams

Leah Sampson.

Lisa says she's thrilled with how much help Leah has been, freeing Dan and her for the many tasks they have. Make sure you say "Hi" to Leah next time you stop by City Hall.

New City Hall Hours

Starting at the end of June, City Hall will be open from 8am to 5pm, Monday – Thursday. City Hall will be closed on Fridays.

Fixing the Crane

As you've probably noticed, there is yellow caution tape surrounding the historic crane in Granite City Park and the main boom is now laying on the ground. It has been rotting and was a danger to the public. The boom will remain on the ground at the Park until work begins to rebuild it. According to Public Works Manager, Tom Goraj, a contractor will soon be chosen for the project.



The Inside Scoop

Cohen Community Center News
Arts and Culture
Hallowell Climate Action
Vision Hallowell Challenge
Vaughan Brook under Threat
Water District Update
Hallowell's Harbor Master

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Come View the Declaration of Independence

A free event sponsored by Hallowell Initiatives, July 4th

Barbara Williams

Hallowell's rare copy of the Declaration of Independence will be on view July 4th from 10am-2pm at City Hall. Connect a festive day of fun and fireworks to the shot heard 'round the world!

In the year of our country's bicentennial, 1976, Hallowell City Historian and beloved teacher, Sam Webber, found one of the only remaining early prints of the Declaration of Independence hanging in an office at the Hubbard Free Library. How long it had graced that wall, no one is quite sure but thank goodness it was because it remained protected from sunlight, wrinkles and greasy fingers all those years.

According to Hallowell Initiatives President, Sandy Stubbs, "Everyone should get a chance to see this beautiful broadside, especially children, since they learn about our country's birth, but rarely get to see any physical piece of it."

Hallowell's copy was later confirmed to be a rare early print—a national treasure and the rightful property of the City of Hallowell. It is one of only 11 known copies

of the approximately 200 printed by Ezekiel Russell, a Salem, Massachusetts, printer, about July 20, 1776.

After the original, hand-written declaration was signed by the founders, it was rushed off to be typeset and printed overnight by Philadelphia printer John Dunlap. Dunlap's copies were immediately delivered to colonial cities, including Salem, where Hallowell's was printed. These were rushed across Massachusetts (including the province of Maine), to be read out loud to parishioners to proclaim the news of our dissolution from Britain and to recruit soldiers to fight in the Revolution. Hallowell's copy was sent to Fort Western, where local parishes borrowed it for public readings. At some point, it wasn't returned to the Fort and disappeared from historical records until 1908 when evidence was discovered that E.T. Getchell, a Hallowell local, had donated it to the Hubbard Free Library, where Webber finally tracked it down.

Since discovered, this precious document has only ventured out a few times. This Independence Day, take your family to City Hall, any



Joe Phelan/Kennebec Journal

Sam Webber inspects Hallowell's rare early copy of the Declaration.

time between 10am and 2pm to see it for yourselves. Those who are there at 11:00 will enjoy a reading by our own local patriot, Maureen (Mo) AuCoin, who has served in many elected and volunteer posts in our city. Beautiful copies of the Declaration will be available for purchase to cover the cost of the printing. Thanks to the local historical group, Hallowell Initiatives, for sponsoring this free event.

INDEPENDENCE cont'd from PAGE 1 down. Perhaps the finances are tight and we are without the help of family or friends. Hopefully, this is when the larger community steps in.

The support needed to live independently can come from some of the Publishing Partners that bring you *The Champion* as well as other organizations appearing in the newsletter. If you have questions or need further assistance, calling 211 is a good place to begin. 211 Maine is a free, confidential information and referral service that helps people of all ages across Maine find

local services. It is based in Maine and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and the specialists are trained and friendly; they know we all need help sometimes.

You can also contact the Hallowell All Age-Friendly Committee by email at hallowellagefriendly@gmail.com. We're happy to help!

If you ever want to know how to help a neighbor in need, contact the Hallowell All-Age Friendly Committee. We can connect you with local organizations who assist the ones who helped build America.



Signing the Declaration of Independence by John Turnbull 1819.



Support That Adapts to Your
Life—Right Here in Hallowell



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

Adult Day Services

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

Community Support Services

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

Personal Support Services

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

From a few hours a week to more comprehensive support, we tailor services to meet your needs.

Call 1-800-876-9212

Visit www.bridgesservices.org

Updates from Cohen Community Center

Good Food, Great Company at Cohen Community Center

Our dining room is more than just a place to eat, it's a place to laugh, catch up, make new friends, and feel at home. Whether you come with a friend or on your own, you'll find a relaxed, inclusive atmosphere and a warm welcome waiting for you.

Older adults aged 60 and above are invited to dine for a voluntary donation, while diners under 60 enjoy the same full meal for just \$7.50.

Each meal includes salad, soup, an entrée, and dessert, served in a warm, welcoming setting where neighbors come together to connect and enjoy time around the table. Whether you're a regular or visiting for the first time, all are welcome to come check it out!

The Cohen Community Center is located at 22 Town Farm Road, Hallowell (207) 626-7777.



SHIP

State Health Insurance
Assistance Program

Navigating Medicare

Medicare Counseling

A Medicare Counselor is available for 1:1 appointments at the Cohen Community Center on Wednesday afternoons. Registration is required. The Medicare Counselor is able to assist with or review:

- Current Medicare plans
- Enrolling into a Medicare Drug plan
- Enrolling into a Medicare Advantage plan

To schedule an appointment, please call (800) 639-1553.

Volunteers Needed!

Spectrum Generations is seeking volunteer **Congregate Lunch Helpers at the Cohen Center**. Make a difference in your community while supporting our mission.

For more information, call (800) 639-1553.

14th ANNUAL
Celebrity Chef Challenge
Monday, Oct. 5 • 5 p.m.
Augusta Civic Center
76 Community Drive | Augusta

DOWNTOWN THROWDOWN

A FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT SPECTRUM GENERATIONS

We're keeping it local this year by featuring Augusta's downtown restaurants! Three chefs will each create a beautifully crafted meal for you to enjoy and vote on! Join us as we experience these culinary delights along with a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres, live music, and silent auction.

Reserve your tickets:
\$75 per person | \$300 table of 4
\$450 table of 6 | \$600 table of 8

www.spectrumgenerations.org/celebrity-chef-challenge

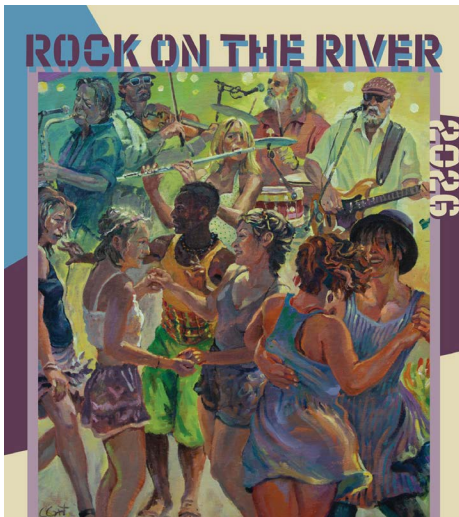
Music, Theater, Art–Hallowell Has It All in the Summer

Summer is the best time to be in Hallowell! Here is a sampling. Details about other fun things <https://waterstreethallowell.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/HallowellArts>



Petroglyphs in the Parks

Hallowell's Arts and Culture Committee and petroglyph artist, Kevin Sudeith, highlight our native animals in granite. Amphibians on the bench near the entrance of the Effie Berry Conservation Area. Chimney swifts on three standing stones in Vaughan Field. More to come!



Chris Cart

Rock on the River Tuesdays through Aug 18th

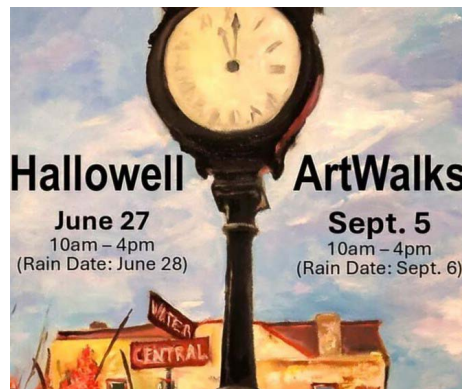
Local bands of all varieties play live from 7–8:30pm at the bandstand at Granite City Park.

Valleepalooza July 25, 2-7PM
Thomas College Ice Vault
Info at valleepalooza.com/.



Gaslight Theatre at the Vaughan Homestead! July 17 through 26th

A fantasy quest of a lifetime! This hilarious build-your-own adventure play will be presented at the Homestead Pavillion at 2 Litchfield Road in Hallowell. Performances July 17, 18 (OHD), 19, 24, 25 and 26 . Friday and Saturday at 7pm, Sundays at 2. Sit under the roof or bring a lawn chair and lounge on the lawn. Admission "Pay what you wish" donation.



Michael-Paul Cyr

Hallowell ArtWalks

Dozens of artists in downtown Hallowell. Presented by Hallowell Area Board of Trade (HABOT). Sponsored by Lallis & Higgins Insurance and McAllister Real Estate.

Old Hallowell Day July 18



Cathie Sano

A city reunion on steroids! Parade at 10am. Fireworks wrap it up. Updated info available at www.OLDHallowellDay.org.

Old Hallowell Day Volunteers needed! Check Page 6!



Courtesy of the Loudon Hill Center

Loudon Hill Center Chamber Music Concerts

In partnership with the Snow Pond Center for the Arts, the Loudon Hill Chamber Choir is presenting free chamber music concerts at their venue at 330 Water Street, Hallowell. These performances bring the talent of the New England Music Camp Faculty for four evenings of beautiful music. Wednesdays, July 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 7pm.



By Hilary Neckles

Hallowell Climate Action (HCA) was established in 2022 as a project of Hallowell Conservation Commission with three primary goals: to engage the community in understanding and planning for climate change; to educate residents on ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts; and to take action to reduce carbon pollution and increase climate resilience.

Mark your calendars for upcoming events and contact HallowellConservation@gmail.com for more details.

Climate Action Celebration and Community Engagement Thursday, July 9, 6-8pm Hallowell City Hall Auditorium

Since forming in 2022, HCA has secured multiple grants for climate-related projects and organized many types of climate action. Join friends and neighbors on the evening of July 9th to celebrate Hallowell's accomplishments toward climate resilience and to prioritize future climate actions. The festive evening will include live music by the Belmont Radio duo, delicious food, lively conversations, and valuable door prizes. Identifying community priorities for climate action is essential to ensure Hallowell's continued access to Community Action Grants from the State of Maine. Your ideas and input are needed to help shape the future of Hallowell!

HCA Happenings

WindowDressers Capital Area Community Build: October 16-23, 2026 Buker Community Center 22 Armory St., Augusta

WindowDressers is a nonprofit that supports communities in constructing lightweight insulating window inserts that are low-cost for all or free to anyone with financial need. The Capital Area Community Build is jointly hosted by HCA and Manchester and Augusta Conservation Commissions. Volunteers will be needed at the build to help assemble inserts. No experience is necessary. Each simple job is taught, and all tools and materials are provided. There will be morning, afternoon, and evening shifts, and delicious meals are provided for everyone to enjoy together between shifts. Volunteer help is essential to keep inserts



Hilary Neckles

Window Dressers learning their trade.

affordable or free, and to assist your neighbors, and is lots of fun! Online signup will soon be available; email CapitalAreaInserts@gmail.com to be notified when the signup is posted.

Repair Café September 12

Bikes! Chairs! Clothes! Lamps! From Accordions to Zippers and everything in between, skilled fixers at the Spring Repair Café helped our community repair items they value and reduce waste while enjoying great food and fellowship. The Fall Repair Café will be held on Saturday, September 12, 10am-2pm, at the Hallowell Fire Station, with a primary focus on small appliances, clothing and other textiles, small furniture, and bikes. Mark your calendars and save up your broken, torn, and worn-out belongings for repair this fall!



Hilary Neckles

Repair Café volunteers.

Love Old Hallowell Day? The parade needs YOU!

Did you know that it takes over a dozen volunteers to manage the Old Hallowell Day Parade? We need your help! On July 18th, from 8:15am to 10:15am, we need folks to help organize parade floats.

Be a part of the OHD parade, see behind the scenes, and get a free t-shirt! Contact the parade chair at laurahharper@gmail.com today to learn more.



Karen Knox

A challenge has been presented to Vision Hallowell, the non-profit focused on the economic health of our downtown area. A benefactor, Joan Hayes, is offering a fundraising opportunity: for each dollar raised within the next year, she will match the amount dollar-for-dollar up to \$3,000.

Vision Hallowell serves local organizations as a fiscal umbrella, sheltering grants for improving downtown public spaces, creating public art, and supporting *The*

Vision Hallowell Accepts Match Challenge

Champion. Vision also coordinates several special projects such as the Flood Relief Fund, which collects donations from generous local individuals and organizations when natural disasters occur. A Downtown Affiliate of Maine Development Foundation's Maine Street Program, Vision Hallowell has also successfully applied for community development plans and guidance which benefit our community.

We are calling on you to help us meet this challenge!! By doing so, you will ensure that we will be here to help when it is needed and provide funds to further our mission to enhance and promote the economic vitality and cultural assets of Hallowell's historic downtown.

Send your match donation to Vision Hallowell, PO Box 43, Hallowell, Maine 04347, or donate online at www.waterstreethallowell.org/visiondonation. Become a part of our community by friending us on Facebook. Thank you!



Hubbard Free Library Collection

Telegraph Office on Water Street.

Hall-Dale Students Contribute to Day of Caring

Hall-Dale Middle School and City groups team up on United Way Day of Caring

A shout-out to Hall-Dale Middle School students and staff, Hallowell Public Works, the Conservation Commission, Tree Board and Recreation Commission (some of them pictured here) for the substantial work done on the United Way Day of Caring, June 9th. Three separate student teams weeded, planted and mulched native vegetation at Granite City Park, pulled invasive plants and painted bleachers at the Hallowell Reservoir Recreation Area, and mulched the playground at Vaughan Field. This semi-annual event takes place in the summer and fall and has come to be relied upon as regular much-needed maintenance days in our public spaces. Thank you all!!



Rosemary Presnar

Rosemary Presnar

Vaughan Brook under Threat!

Anyone who ever strolls the trails in Vaughan Woods can't help but be mesmerized by the Vaughan Brook as it topples over smooth granite and sedimentary rock, burnished for eons by this ancient stream. Standing at the top of a magnificent stone bridge is a treat for the eyes at any time of year. Unfortunately, our freshwater stream, Vaughan Brook, is under threat.

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) includes Vaughan Brook on its list of priority threatened streams, from nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. NPS pollution comes from snowmelt, rainwater and runoff from pavement and other human-made barriers. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into our waterways. Pollutants degrade water quality, affecting aquatic life and wildlife.

In October 2024, the City of Hallowell was awarded a Maine DEP grant funded under the Clean Water Act to assess water quality and develop a watershed management plan. The grant is being managed by the Hallowell Conservation Commission with help from Ecological Instincts from Manchester, Maine.

The project's steering committee is collecting stakeholder input and completing the 10-year Vaughan Brook watershed management plan. Project-specific assessments of the Vaughan Brook stream corridor were conducted in the summer of 2025 to identify NPS pollution sources. NPS pollution is present in our watershed.

As some streambank erosion is due to natural processes, erosion in other areas may be worsened by undersized culverts, human activities, and runoff from developed areas. The varied causes of soil erosion and specific NPS pollution sites within the watershed will be addressed by the project's action plan, but there are everyday actions residents can take now.

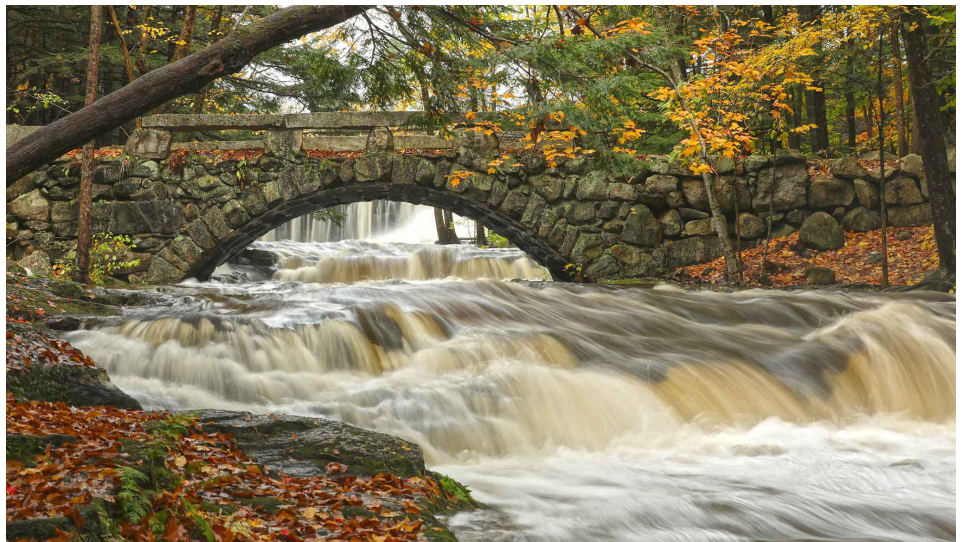
Effectively managing runoff from hardened surfaces helps avoid erosion and potential contamination of nearby waterways. For example, pervious alternatives to traditional pavement are readily available and allow rain and snowmelt to seep into the ground. Replacing large diseased or cut trees with native trees or shrubbery helps to slow, filter and absorb runoff from torrential downpours.

Our land provides foundations for our homes, farms, gardens, and infrastructure. Every time we disturb the land, soil particles and attached pollutants can run off into

our waterways. It is important to avoid excessive tilling or digging, use proper erosion controls, and follow best practices.

We are fortunate here in Maine to have abundant fresh and salt water to sustain life, recreation, and many livelihoods. However, our water quality is under constant pressure from development and economic growth. How we manage our property can help or hurt our watershed today and the quality of Vaughan Brook tomorrow.

The Vaughan Brook Watershed Management Plan is being developed to improve the water quality of the stream and to improve the quality of life for the community. Everyone's collective efforts toward water and soil conservation make a difference. Look for updates on the review and approval of the plan on the City website. For more information on the Vaughan Brook Watershed project, please email HallowellConservation@gmail.com.



Jeff Wood



Hallowell Water District

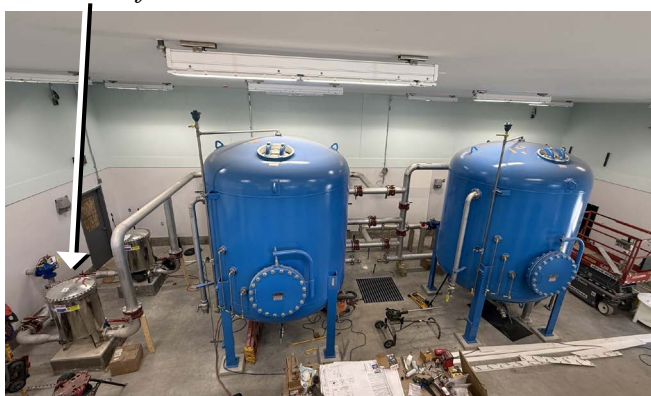
Darrin Lary, Wright-Pierce Engineering

Due to the continued presence of the PFAS contaminants above the EPA standards, the Hallowell Water District (HWD) is designing a treatment facility for removal of the PFAS contaminants in the Ferry Road well sources. The treatment consists of a manganese removal process prior to the PFAS removal process.

The manganese removal system needs to be installed upstream before the PFAS treatment so as not to interfere with the PFAS treatment media and maximize the lifespan and reliability of the filtering media. Manganese is a naturally occurring mineral found in many gravel aquifers in New England. Although manganese does not pose health risks, it must be removed to prevent staining of plumbing fixtures and laundry.

The Water District has historically been very successful in treating manganese using chemical sequestration to bind the manganese ions, so they do not oxidize and create staining issues. Unfortunately, this treatment

Particle filters!



Darrin Lary, Wright-Pierce Engineering

PFAS Filter System.

Hallowell Champion

Water Quality Update

procedure will not work upstream of the PFAS treatment process, and a more sophisticated manganese removal process is required.

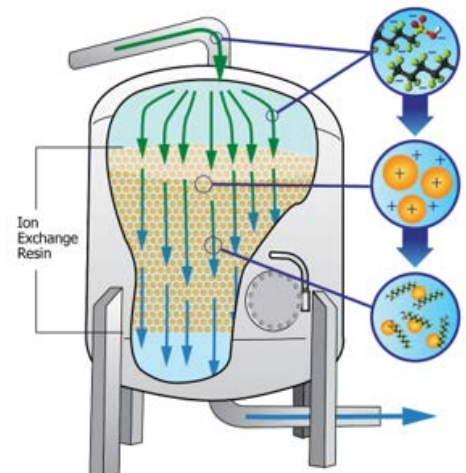
Once the manganese has been removed, the water flows into the PFAS treatment vessels. Fluoro-Sorb 200 (FS200) manufactured by Cetco was selected as the most effective PFAS removal media for the HFD Ferry Road wells. FS200 is surface-modified granular clay media proven to effectively remove PFAS substances.

Treatment for removal of the manganese and PFAS is all performed in pressurized steel treatment vessels. Design of the layout, placement, and process piping of these systems is ongoing.

The photo below shows similar sized vessels to the HWD PFAS vessels in a facility currently under construction for a system in western Maine. The Ferry Road treatment facility will include three of these vessels for Greensand Plus and two for PFAS removal.

The photo also shows the particle filters upstream of the two vessels. In addition to the design layout of the treatment facility, we are working with the Maine Department of Environmental

Protection on site-permitting requirements, including the proper management of the residuals created from the required backwash cycle from the Greensand Plus manganese removal process.



Water with PFAS enters the ion exchange filtration tank. PFAS molecules typically have a negative electrical charge. The ion exchange resin in the tank is positively charged. The negatively charged PFAS molecules stick to the positively charged resin, removing them from the water. Treated water exits. Image from Air Force Civil Engineer Center.

The next steps are to complete the building process layout and floor plan design and develop an effective site plan and relevant design calculations for review by state and local authorities.

HWD PFAS Treatment Concept Schedule

TASKS	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
PHASE I – Due Diligence						
Preliminary Site Investigations						
Pilot Testing & Alternatives Report						
PHASE II – Facility Design & Bidding						
Concept Design and Permit Approvals						
Final Design						
Solicitation of Bids						
PHASE III – Facility Construction						
PFAS Treatment Facility Construction						
Ferry Road Wells Renovations						
Commissioning and Start-up						
EPA/M-CDC Mandated Compliance Date						

WRIGHT-PIERCE
Engineering a Better Tomorrow

Summer 2026

Meet Your Harbor Master

Hallowell has a Harbor Master?

Yes!

Hallowell's riverfront history is the pride of the City. In the 19th and 20th Centuries, the wide, deep waters of the Kennebec were the lifeblood of the industries that settled here and built our shady streets of garden-filled antique homes and the colorful downtown that today draws residents and visitors alike. Back in those heady times, the harbor master's role was critical for maintaining order and efficient flow of ships through the City to provide good jobs and a vibrant economy. We're no longer a shipping city with industrial docks and factories that rely on the Kennebec, but the harbor master's role is still a necessity.

Today, our harbor master is Kara Tudman Walker. A project manager for the State of Maine by day, Kara took on the open harbor master position recently. Her husband, Dan Davis, had held the position for quite some time, when he died unexpectedly over three years ago. Having been close to the job for so long, she agreed to accept the volunteer post and completed her



B. Williams

Hallowell's Harbor Master, Kara Tudman Walker.

harbor master training, making her the first female harbor master in Hallowell's history.

As harbor master, Kara is responsible for establishing policies and procedures for the fair use of our river. The Kennebec River doesn't lend itself easily to moorings and docks due to its extreme tidal changes and strong currents, thus much of her time is spent fielding questions about

getting permission to tie up at the public dock at Granite City Park. A permit is required for overnight docking while daytime docking just requires notification and permission of the Hallowell Police Department (622-9710). Permits are issued by the City Clerk's Office at Hallowell City Hall during normal business hours. Call 623-4021 ext. 200 for more information.

Hallowell Community Band, a Musical Tradition

Barbara Williams

Our own band has been a Hallowell institution for generations, at least four! In fact, its youngest member, Sullivan Dow, is the great grandson of founding band member, Ken Hanna, and his grandmother, Roberta Hanna is the band's president. You can see and hear the band in the OHD parade. Follow them to the Cotton Mill park for a mini-concert finale. Their busy summer schedule includes the July 4th parade in Augusta, Thursday nights in the Boothbay Harbor Concert Series, the Moxie Fest in

Lisbon on July 11th, the Rockland Lobster Fest on August 1st, and so many more!

This big, bursting ensemble of talented volunteers is always open to new members. Roberta says,

"Don't think you're too rusty—if you're enthusiastic, we want you."

For information about the band's summer schedule and how to join, visit their Facebook page.



Courtesy of the Hallowell Community Band

Old Codgers to the Rescue

Barbara Williams

Maybe you've noticed some of your neighbors on Water Street working on the streetlights or a bunch of old dudes in Day-Glo vests pulling up weeds at City Hall. Those folks are the Old Codgers Doing Things for Hallowell, a ragtag bunch of gardeners, fix-it types and good Samaritans led by Kieran Kammerer of Hallowell Woodworks.

Kieran considers himself a bit of a neatnik and often would tell his friends that they ought to start an outfit of volunteers to tackle some of the jobs that the City just doesn't have the resources to address—things that some of us might consider eyesores, like overgrown flower beds or peeling paint on public property.

Finally, Kammerer stopped talking about it and started doing something. He's a doer by nature. His first career as a pediatrician didn't get in the way of the "doer-type" projects he loves. Going back 38 years, he always found time to build furniture.

When Kieran's first grandchild came along, he fashioned a baby rattle that he still sells today and has shipped to about a dozen countries! When he retired two years ago, his woodworking business became his sole pursuit. Now he designs and builds beautiful, functional works of art from his woodshop, full-time.



Hallowell Champion



All photos by Kieran Kammerer except where noted

Despite his second career, he decided he still had time to organize a band of fellow-doers. The Codgers first assembled in early May to work on the Water Street lampposts, removing old stickers and scraping loose paint. That project will continue this fall.



Mo AuCoin

Since then, the Codgers have worked on both the northern and southern entrances to the City, where they have slowly but surely tackled the overgrown shrubs and invasive plants that block views of the approaching downtown. They have also attacked similarly annoying flora at City Hall.

After busting through some old hedges, they found a beautiful, granite horse watering trough with

an inscription dated 1889, a gift from Benjamin Vaughan. Currently, the Codgers are working on the rail trail entrance off Water Street at the southern end of the City.

The Old Codgers of Hallowell meet every Wednesday from 9:30 to about 11:00. Just join the Facebook group to discover where they will be next Wednesday. The Codgers are always looking for more volunteers. Kieran says, "You don't have to be old to be a codger, in fact it would be great to have a few young backs in the mix." They can always use a few more pairs of hands (and shovels, pickaxes....).



As traditional student enrollment grows, UMA highlights affordable education for Mainers at every stage of life



By Virginia LaFlamme

Construction has officially begun on the University of Maine at Augusta's newest 60-bed residence hall at Stevens Commons, scheduled to open in Fall 2027. As the university expands to welcome more traditional age students, UMA continues to ensure that a welcoming, supportive education is affordable for learners at every stage of life.

This spring, 84-year-old Valdete "Mimi" Cargill graduated from UMA, fulfilling her life-long dream of earning a bachelor's degree.

When Mimi first applied to UMA, she was thrilled to learn she qualified for the Senior Citizen's Tuition Waiver, which covers standard tuition costs for eligible Maine residents age 65 and older. With tuition covered, she could focus on her studies while continuing the



Duncan Persons/UMA

Mimi Cargill.



Traditional Students at UMA.

Duncan Persons/UMA

volunteer work she loves: helping New Mainers understand legal documents and processes. Earning her degree has given Mimi the tools to expand that work, dedicate more time to volunteering and offer broader support to the community she serves.

Other programs provide similar savings for learners of all ages. UMA's Pine Tree State Pledge offers zero-out-of-pocket tuition for qualified, high-need, first-time, and transfer students, including those looking to complete degrees. Meanwhile, through the Early College program, high school scholars can get a head start by earning up to 18 college credits tuition-free while still in high school. They save thousands of dollars and are that much closer to starting their careers.

Veterans, active-duty service members and military-connected family member education benefits can reduce or even eliminate tuition costs. UMA's experienced Military

and Veterans' Services staff helps students make the most of those benefits.

Because individual eligibility varies, students typically plan to pay for course fees, textbooks, and other expenses, but there are other scholarships and aid designed to bridge those final out-of-pocket gaps.

Regardless of age or life stage, every day students prove that college can be affordable. And, combined with UMA's flexible programs and online classes, school fits into your life, not the other way around.

"It takes courage to take that first step," Mimi says. "But if you really want it, if you can taste that degree like I did, you go for it."

To learn more about tuition waivers and other financial aid opportunities, visit uma.edu/financial and for high-schoolers, uma.edu/earlycollege.

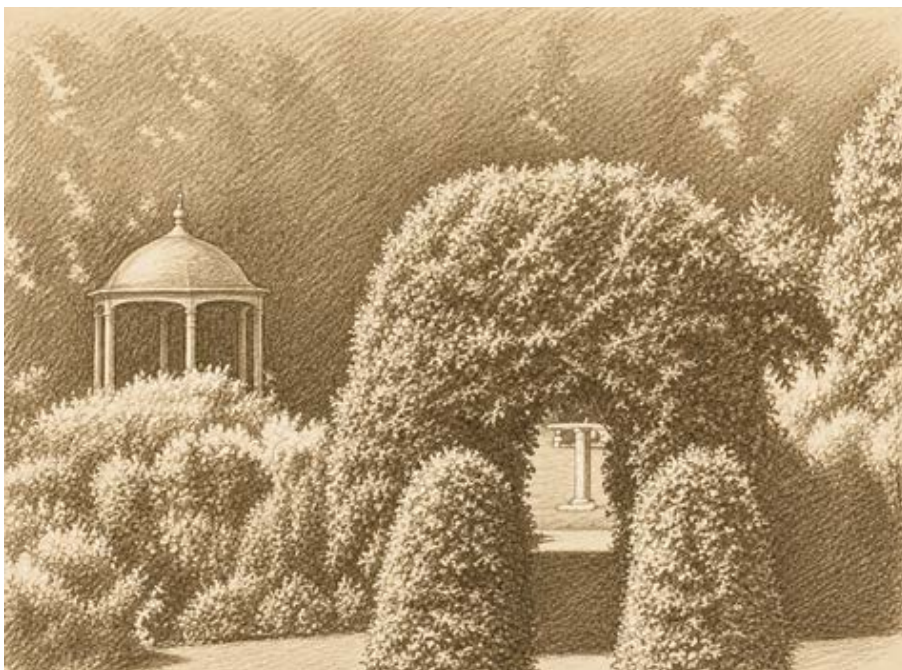


Kate Tremblay

This summer, Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead invites visitors to explore a new self-guided Heritage Garden Walk and Exhibit, "Through the Hedge: Where Romanticism, Industry, and Colonial Nostalgia Intersect." Created in recognition of America's 250th anniversary, the experience uses the Homestead's historic Heritage Garden as a lens for considering how we remember, preserve, and reinterpret the past.

As visitors move through the garden, they will encounter a series of reflection stations exploring the Colonial Revival movement, the Vaughan family's efforts to restore the property around 1900, and the ways landscapes can both reveal and obscure history. The exhibit encourages

Vaughan Homestead Marks America's 250th Anniversary with New Garden Reflection Walk and Exhibit



thoughtful conversations about heritage, memory, change, and the stories we choose to carry forward.

The Heritage Garden Reflection Walk and Exhibit will be open on select Wednesdays throughout the summer. Advance reservations are recommended. Dates, times, and registration information are available at vaughanhomestead.org.



William and Evelyn Vaughan believed that historic places could provide an oasis in a rapidly changing age. At Vaughan Homestead, they restored the family house with period-inspired furnishings and decorative arts, creating a formal garden, and worked to reclaim the surrounding woods from a landscape transformed by industry.

Yet their vision extended beyond nostalgia. Ellen Vaughan, an artist, moved in Boston's artistic and intellectual circles, where ideas about nature, history, and emotion were shaped by Romanticism and Transcendentalist thought, movements that celebrated the belief that wild places could restore what industrial life had diminished.



David Hayes

Austin-Hendsbee & Sons 132 Water St.



This family-owned and -operated exterior contracting company provides a range of residential services, including roofing, siding, window installations, and the construction of outbuildings and custom wood or composite decks. Hours: Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 6:30pm. (207) 707-8331, austin-hendsbeesons.com.

Cocoon Home & Gifts 130 Water St.



A gift shop featuring a curated selection of eclectic and colorful home goods, gifts, and seasonal items. Hosts community gatherings, including a local "Mommy & Me" meetup group, on its outdoor deck space. Open seven days a week. (207) 557-2097. Email: shopcocoon.hallowell@gmail.com. Facebook Cocoon Home and Gifts.

Business Salute

The Hallowell Area Board of Trade welcomes these new businesses

Summit Real Estate 157 Water St.



A boutique-style brokerage specializing in Maine residential properties, waterfront homes, and local land listings. Owned by Jordan Stolt, Eric James, and Steve Whitney, the agency provides representation for both buyers and sellers, along with home valuation and lifestyle-tailored search services. To view current regional listings or get in touch with an agent, they can be reached at (207) 436-5555 or online at www.summitofmaine.com.

Sacred Sage 184 Water St.



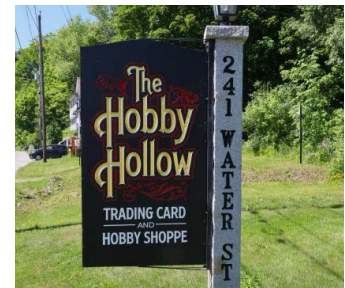
A metaphysical gift shop and learning center serving both new and seasoned seekers offering a wide variety of mystical and magical goods, including books, candles, jewelry, and specialty teas. Sacred Sage hosts psychic, tarot, and rune readers, and functions as an educational space offering in-depth classes and workshops on topics such as candle magic and spiritual sigils. Information about inventory or to register for upcoming community classes can be found at sacredsage.co, (207) 624-2330. info@sacredsage.co.

Uncorked Wine & Cheese 136 Water St.



A boutique bottle and food shop that relocated to Hallowell offering a hand-picked selection of international and boutique wines, domestic and imported craft beers, and artisan cheeses from various regions. They also stock specialty glassware, gift baskets, and assorted food items designed for pairings. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00am-6:00pm, available on Sundays and Mondays by appointment. 207-512-8277. uncorkedwineandcheese.com.

The Hobby Hollow 241 Water St



A hobby and collectible shop specializing in pop culture merchandise and tabletop gaming supplies. An extensive inventory of trading and collectible card games such as Pokémon, and Magic: The Gathering—alongside sports cards, miniature figures, and hobby accessories. Call 207-509-8115 regarding stock, trade-ins and operating hours. Info online at thehobbyhollow.com.



The Fire Department is looking for volunteers. Being a volunteer firefighter in Hallowell is a pretty good gig. First, you actually do get paid for emergency calls that you go on. Secondly, you get free, annual safety training conducted by federal and state agencies plus instruction conducted by senior firefighters on Hallowell FD's staff.

Even teens under 18 years old can volunteer. They don't directly fight fires, but do provide essential backup to the firefighters, like helping get equipment on and off the trucks. It's a great opportunity for young people to broaden skills and beef up their resumes. Volunteering for the fire department is about more than fighting fires. These emergency workers provide rescues on water, ice or any terrain and assist with traffic control at public events. The Interim Chief,

Aaron Selwood has served on the Department for 35 years. He says they welcome volunteers of all ages and genders. To learn more, reach him at hallowellfire@gmail.com.



Volunteers Needed!

Spectrum Generations is seeking volunteer Congregate Lunch Helpers at our Cohen Community Center in Hallowell. Make a difference in your community while supporting our mission.

For more information, call (800) 639-1553.



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

Companions, Shoppers, and Volunteer Drivers Apply Here!

Senior Support Volunteers Needed 55+. You could be the answer to someone's lonely prayer. Do you have a bit of time to share with an older adult? Consider this opportunity to serve. Please contact Lynn.

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

Companions, Shoppers, Drivers Needed age 55+. Volunteer a couple of hours a week for seniors who need a helping hand. Provide companionship, assistance with grocery shopping/errands, and/or rides to doctor appointments for senior clients 60 years and older who live in Kennebec County.

Contact SEARCH Program Coordinator, Lynn Kidd, at 207-530-0137 or lkidd@ccmaine.org.



DUMMER continued from BACK PAGE

Central Streets according to Nason, where he cultivated an extensive garden that was famed for its fruits and vegetables.

Private John Couch served in Colonel Shrewsbury's Regiment and others in the Continental Army, seeing action in battles at Fishkill, NY, and Morristown, NJ, after the Battle of Trenton.

Corporal George Gardiner enlisted in 1777 and saw service at Fort Ticonderoga, which was taken by the Green Mountain Boys under the command of Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold.

The sixth of the known veterans buried in the local cemetery is Captain John Keane, who served as a master on the privateer schooner, *General Arnold*, which carried a crew of 108 sailors. The ship ran aground in a fierce Christmas storm in Plymouth Harbor. Rescuers were unable to reach the ship until days later, where they found 70 dead bodies frozen into all imaginable postures strewn over the deck, according to accounts at the time. It is not known if Captain Keane was aboard at the time and among the 33 survivors of the wreck.

The Hallowell Cemetery, like burying grounds the world around,

are deserving of our attention and care.

Writer and/or Editor needed for The Champion

We need someone who can help us get this little newsletter out the door three times a year. If you love to come up with story ideas or make one of our stories better, we need you! Email us at hallowellagefriendly@gmail.com for more info. Thank you!

A Revolutionary Resting Place

Bob McIntire

Hallowell, like many other communities in Maine and beyond, is the final resting place of Revolutionary War soldiers. Given the 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence, it is fitting to recognize the veterans who along with families and neighbors risked everything pledging their LIVES, Fortunes and "SACRED HONOR" to secure our liberty from tyranny. The capitalization is how the framers wrote it. You can see for yourself on July 4th. Check out the story on page 3.

Sam Webber, the longtime City Historian, identified six veterans of the War of Independence buried in the Hallowell Cemetery.

Nathaniel Dummer moved to Hallowell in 1789. During the war he was a commissioner of prisoners



Bob McIntire

Grave of Nathaniel Dummer.

in Providence, RI, where he met his wife-to-be. The romantic story of their courtship and marriage is captured in *Old Hallowell on the Kennebec* by Emma Huntington Nason. He went on to serve as a Representative and Senator and later a Judge. Judge Dummer died in

1815 and Nason noted, "seldom has a death in this part of the country produced a more general sympathy."

Thomas Agry was a Captain in Oliver Colburn's Company in General Benedict Arnold's Regiment.

He was a sea captain along with his brother, John. He was president of local banks and one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Hallowell.

Private John Beeman was with



Bob McIntire

Marker placed by the Mary Kelton Dummer Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, named in honor of the wife of Judge Dummer.

Captain Alexander in the march to Quebec. Surviving that ordeal, he went to New Jersey where he served in Captain John Brook's 7th Regiment until 1784. He owned a large tract of land on Water and **DUMMER continued on PAGE 15**

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Hallowell Initiatives



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