

# The Hallowell Champion



Hallowell All-Age-Friendly Newsletter Volume 7 Issue 1 All Are Welcome Here

Fall 2025

## Who You Gonna Call?



*Photo Shutterstock*

Fall and the unmentionable season that follows are home to a host of holidays. One fast approaching event conjures up images of goblins and spirits. Should there be a problem with the supernatural, there is little question about who you might call. If your problem, however, is of a more earthly nature the answer might not come to mind as quickly.

Real Emergency? Dial 911. That has been the “go to” number for police, fire, and emergency medical

services since 1968. Before that the operator fielded the calls.

**Then came 211.** It is a free, confidential information and referral service that connects people of all ages across Maine to local services. 211 Maine is based in Maine and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Aging + Disability, Basic Needs, Education, Family Issues, Food, Health, Housing, Substance Use, and more!

Specialists are trained and friendly; they know we all need help sometimes according to the website Opportunity Alliance. You can connect with 211 Maine via phone, text, or email. It's free and confidential.

211 Maine is a collaborative effort of the United Ways of Maine, the State of Maine Department of Health and Human Services, and The Opportunity Alliance as the Contact Center partner.

The mission of The Opportunity Alliance is to build better lives and stronger communities across Maine by supporting people with the programs and resources they need to improve their health, safety, and stability. The organization also operates The Maine Crisis Line, 988, the state's crisis response service where calls are answered by trained crisis specialists who provide free and confidential support via call, text, or chat 24/7 for individuals or families who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis or having thoughts of suicide and/or self-harm.

**WHO YOU GONNA CALL**  
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Maine

SOMETIMES YOU NEED MORE  
THAN AN INTERNET SEARCH.  
YOU NEED A CONVERSATION.

### 211 Service Categories

**Aging + Disability, Basic  
Needs, Education, Family Is-  
sues, Food, Health, Housing,  
Substance Use, and more!**

## BUSY SEASON DATES!

### Hallowell Backyard Games

October 4, 8AM–4PM, The Res  
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### Howard Hill Hike

October 8, 10AM Page 14

### Hallowell Fire Department

#### Open House

October 11, 11AM–2PM  
Sit in the Truck! Win a fire  
blanket! Page 11

### American Red Cross First Aid, CPR, AED, Adult Certification Course

October 14 9AM–4PM Page 4

### Medicare Open Enrollment

October 15–December 7 Page 4

### Scarecrow Fall Festival

October 18 Page 7

### Bring Nature Home

October 23 Page 12

### Hallowell Parade

October 25, 5PM Page 7

### Bring Nature Home: Maine Audubon presentation

October 23 City Hall Auditorium  
Page 12

### Row House Annual Meeting

November 1, 10AM Page 3

### Election Day

November 4 Page 2

### Tree Lighting on the Waterfront

November 22, 5PM Page 15



# New City Manager

Bob McIntire

Ross McLellan, Hallowell's new City Manager, is starting to feel as if he is beginning to know his way around town. Phippsburg, where he was the Town Administrator for the preceding four years, has a smaller population than Hallowell but is about 60 square miles. Hallowell, by comparison, is about six square miles. "When I took the job in Phippsburg, my goal was to know all the roads in town so if someone said, 'I live on Smith Road,' I would know exactly where that was. With about 68 miles of roads in town, I soon realized that was a challenge. Hallowell is more compact; it has a downtown and streets in a grid at least in town."

Why leave Phippsburg? "I felt like

I met many of my personal goals. We did a lot of good work there. The town staff is only a few people. If one or two people are out of the office, you have to be able to do just about everything like registering automobiles, for example. In fact one of the workshops I attended was for just that at a Department of Motor Vehicles training in Gardiner. Much of the town work in Phippsburg was handled by contractors. Hallowell has departments and personnel and is a step up in that regard."

Ross was born and raised in Exeter, New Hampshire, where he lived until he went to North Carolina for a couple of years of college, then back to New Hampshire to finish up.

"I taught special education at Nobel High School but decided that I was really interested in administration. I went back to school and started looking for work,



**Ross McLellan.**

*Photo Sarah Bryan*

and the administrator's position was advertised in Phippsburg. My fiancée works in South Portland, so we found an apartment in Freeport. We decided to look for a home in Brunswick and were fortunate to find one and recently closed on our house."

Does he have personal goals in the position? "My first task is to get to know people and listen to the perspectives of both residents and business owners. My goal here is to work to make the city a better place to live for everyone."

## November 4 Election Update

It's hard to believe but another Election Day, November 4th, is fast approaching. Absentee Ballot application requests are now available, although ballots won't be issued until 30 days prior to the Election. You can make your request for an Absentee Ballot by visiting in person at City Hall, calling our office, or making the request online. To make your request for an Absentee Ballot online, please visit the following link: <https://www.maine.gov/sos/elections-voting/absentee-voting>.

All Absentee Ballot requests must be received by the City Clerk's office no later than the close of business on Thursday, October 30th. For your convenience, the City of Hallowell has a Ballot Drop Box located by the Second Street entrance at City Hall or you can send your ballot by mail.

### Municipal Ballots for the November 4th Election:

The Ballot for Wards 1, 2, 4 & 5

*City Councilor At-Large (Vote for 1): Walter McKee*

*RSU #2 Board of Education (Vote for 1): \*Write-In*

The Ballot for Ward 3 will include the following:

*City Councilor At-Large (Vote for 1): Walter McKee*

*City Councilor Ward 3 (Vote for 1): Benjamin Coolidge Gagnon*

*RSU #2 Board of Education (Vote for 1): \*Write-In*

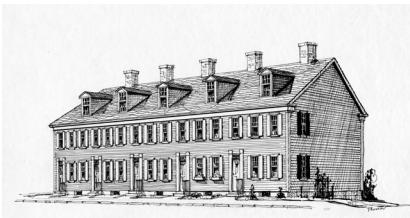
Questions? Contact the City Clerk/Registrar of Voters Lisa Gilliam at 207-430-4400 or email at [cyclerk@hallowellmaine.org](mailto:cyclerk@hallowellmaine.org). The polling place is the Hall-Dale Elementary School which is located at 26 Garden Lane in Hallowell. The polls will be open from 8AM to 8PM.

### State Referendum Questions:

Two questions will appear on the ballot as follows:

*Question 1: "Do you want to change Maine election laws to eliminate two days of absentee voting, prohibit requests for absentee ballots by phone or family members, end ongoing absentee voter status for seniors and people with disabilities, ban prepaid postage on absentee ballot return envelopes, limit the number of drop boxes, require voters to show certain photo ID before voting, and make other changes to our elections?"*

*Question 2: "Do you want to allow courts to temporarily prohibit a person from having dangerous weapons if law enforcement, family, or household members show that the person poses a significant danger of causing physical injury to themselves or others?"*



## Row House, Inc.

Bob McIntire

The history of our city is worth celebrating. The stories are rich and diverse. That is why membership in Row House makes a perfect gift regardless of the season. People from here who are away and those who are still in residence might well enjoy learning more about where we have been and how it informs where we are going.

Student memberships are just \$5, and the Individual level is \$25. The whole family can be members for \$40. Learn more by visiting [www.rowhouseinc.org](http://www.rowhouseinc.org). Purchase a gift membership and the recipient will receive a copy of the Row House book, *Dwellings*, while supplies last. There is an additional shipping cost depending on the delivery location.

Members also receive regular updates and announcements of upcoming Row House programs. The gift memberships, most importantly, support Row House in its efforts to celebrate and preserve Hallowell's heritage.

## View Row House Programs Online!

Many of the popular Row House programs of days gone by are now available for viewing online. Thanks to the Maine State Library, video recordings of several programs have been uploaded to the Digital Maine Library and can be viewed nearly anywhere on the internet nearly anywhere on the globe! More programs will be added to the list as they are edited. Visit [www.rowhouseinc.org](http://www.rowhouseinc.org), then click on "Programs" to view the recordings.

# Hallowell History—Put a Bow on It!



Photo Circa 1860 painting of Hallowell.



Elise Bolduc Note Cards.

### More Great Gift Ideas!

Hallowell Note Cards or a historical City painting make great gifts! Visit the Row House website and click on "Shop" to check out the offerings. Board member Élise Bolduc designed these pen and ink

note cards featuring City Hall and the Hubbard Library. Boxes of 12 cards and envelopes are \$19.95. Hallowell artist Paul Plummer created the illustration of the Row House after which the organization is named. Note cards with the Row House image are available as well.

A special gift might be a gorgeous fine art print of a painting of Hallowell's waterfront, circa 1860. The original painting, artist unknown, sold at Sotheby's Auction for well over \$250,000. Printed on high-grade paper, the distinctive print measures 24x36 inches. The print is \$39.95.



Design Élise Bolduc

## Row House Annual Meeting

November 1, 2025, 10AM  
Hallowell Fire Department  
Training Room  
Coos Lane, Hallowell

Learn about the Row House Projects  
Dummer House Update  
Refreshments  
All Welcome!



New to Medicare?  
Get Ready for Open  
Enrollment!  
October 15–December 7



## Navigating Medicare

Are you looking forward to changing your Medicare plan or looking for nonbiased counseling about Medicare? If so, contact Spectrum Generations for an appointment today with our State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). There are appointments available at our Cohen and Muskie centers, along with other centers in your community. Remember, open enrollment only happens once a year so do not miss out.



## Make a Social Security Account TODAY!

About a month prior to filling out the Medicare Part A and B application, you will need to create an online account on the Social Security Administration website. Once an account is established, you can then proceed with Part A and B enrollment. For any questions or assistance, please contact Spectrum Generations at 1-800-639-1553.

# Your Source for Great Services and Training

Midcoast Tree Festival  
Nov. 21–23 and Nov. 28–30  
St. John's Community Center,  
43 Pleasant St. in Brunswick



Our elves are planning the annual Midcoast Tree Festival. Volunteers are needed to help with event setup, concessions, ticket sales, greeters, kids' craft table, and other fun activities!

Sponsors and Tree Benefactors are also needed. Stay tuned for more info and follow the Midcoast Tree Festival Facebook page. For more information, scan this code.



Upcoming Activities/  
Workshops  
Cohen Center, 22 Town Farm  
Road, Hallowell  
Call for more info at (207)  
626-7777

- Beltone Augusta free hearing clinic, Monday, Oct. 27
- Notary services now being offered (appointment needed)
- Healthy Holiday Sides with Root Vegetables, Thursday, Nov. 6, 10AM



## American Red Cross First Aid, CPR, AED, Adult Certification Course

Cohen Community Center, 22 Town Farm Road, Hallowell  
Tuesday, October 14, 2025  
9AM–4PM, \$90/per person

## Adult and Pediatric First Aid/ CPR Certification Course

SeniorsPlus Education Center, 8 Falcon Road, Lewiston  
Thursday, November 6, 2025  
9AM–4PM, \$90/per person

## Volunteers Needed at Cohen Community Center

Join our team of volunteers and make a difference! Your time and energy help us provide more activities, support, and smiles to our community.

### Volunteer Needs include:

- Congregate Lunch Servers

- Meal Packers
- Meals on Wheels Drivers

*“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is what are you doing for others?” —Martin Luther King, Jr.*

For more information, call (207) 620-1684.

Hallowell Champion



## Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead

Kate Tremblay

Amidst a landscape once ravaged by industry, the classic stone bridges, picturesque waterfalls, rustic carriage trails, and mature-growth pines make Vaughan Woods home to some of the most unique and historic walking trails in Maine. A decade ago, Maine Preservation identified the bridges of Vaughan Woods as one of the state's most endangered historic sites.

Despite annual maintenance, a century of both natural weathering and embankment erosion had taken their toll, and the bridges and adjoining trails were in need of critical repairs. At that time, Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead (VWHH) launched a long-term project to systematically restore the bridges and trails. Thanks to public support and grant funding, significant progress has been made toward achieving the many objectives of this ambitious project. Yet work will continue for years to come.

The complexity of the work makes it both costly and time-consuming and requires skilled contractors. The remote locations of some bridges and adjoining trails, for example, make the use of heavy equipment nearly impossible. When erosion control measures were put in place at the entryway to the 1930 High Arch Bridge, the crew had to use a cable system to lower stones down the steep hillside from the main trail. Later, when a new staircase was constructed on the bridge's south side to provide access to the stream, the team hauled the stones in by hand on a sled during the winter—from Greenville Street—and completed the work in the

# Bridges in the Woods Need Love

spring.

The next phase of the project will focus on the stone bridges along the main route, the Corniche Trail, which runs from the Hallowell trailhead down to the dam. Survey work on these three bridges began this fall, conducted by Calderwood Engineering. The goal is to complete engineering design work during the winter of 2025–2026, with restoration of the Lower Corniche Bridge planned for 2026 or 2027, depending on available funding. Restoration work on the Upper and Middle Corniche bridges will follow.

Here is an overview of the project objectives and their status:

### High Arch Bridge



*Major repairs complete, annual maintenance ongoing*

- ✓ Undergo structural repairs to the northern abutment (*completed fall 2017*)
- ✓ Undergo structural repairs to the southern abutment (*completed fall 2018*)
- ✓ Create safe access to the stream via a stone stairway (*completed spring 2019*)
- ✓ Reconstruct upper access trail (*completed 2020*)

### Upper, Middle, & Lower Corniche Trail Bridges

*Current Priority*

- Obtain Conditions assessment (*completed 2019, VT Stone Trust*)
- Stabilize, reconstruct, or replace the upper, middle, and lower stone trail bridges

*(Ongoing: survey work began this fall, September 2025)*

### Uncle Sam's Bridge



- ✓ Deconstruct bridge for public safety (*completed spring 2015*)
- ✓ Define access trail to the bridge to reduce bank erosion (*completed 2016*)
- Reconstruct bridge with a new design to better withstand extreme conditions

### Memorial Bridge (owned by State of Maine)

- Clear brush to improve the view of the bridge (*ongoing since fall 2016*)
- Trim branches to improve the view of bridge (*ongoing*)
- Encourage the State to repair bridge and damage to the street-side bench (*completed by MaineDOT 2024*)

### Driving Bridge (Near the dam)



- ✓ Replace structural and topping material for long-term stability (*ongoing as needed*)



Virginia LaFlamme

The University of Maine at Augusta is celebrating its 60th anniversary, six decades of transforming lives and strengthening communities. Since 1965, UMA has opened doors for learners of every age and background, and today that mission is carried forward with new facilities, new programs, and new connections that prepare students for the future while supporting Maine's workforce and communities.



**UMA's new Capital Center for Nursing and Cybersecurity Workforce Development opened in August 2025.** *Photos: Duncan Persons*

### **A capital center for Maine's workforce**

This fall, UMA opened the Capital Center for Nursing and Cybersecurity Workforce Development. The 21,000-square-foot center, located in the Marketplace at Augusta directly across from UMA's main campus, features advanced simulation labs for nursing, a 3,000-square-foot cybersecurity training facility and collaborative classrooms, giving students real-world training environments that mirror the workplace they will enter. The \$7.15 million renovation of the former Purdue Global site was made possible through Congressionally Directed Spending at the request of the University of

## **Celebrating 60 years Milestones in Nursing, Cybersecurity, and Residence Halls**

Maine System, secured by Senator Susan Collins, current chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Senator Angus King, along with a \$480,000 gift from MaineGeneral Health and led by Lavallee Brensinger Architects and Consigli Construction Co., Inc.

This new space will give students the skills and confidence to excel in some of Maine's most in-demand careers. "The Capital Center represents UMA at its best, educating students with innovative tools and experiences that connect directly to careers," said UMA President Jenifer Cushman. "It allows us to expand our programs, welcome more students, and strengthen Maine's workforce in healthcare and cybersecurity."

Maine is on track to face a shortage of nearly 3,000 nurses by 2030. To help meet that need, UMA's expanded nursing labs can accommodate the education of up to 400 students each year. These



**UMA Cyber Range Operations Manager and cybersecurity graduate student Sarah Cook-Wheeler demonstrates cyber range drills.**

state-of-the-art spaces give future nurses hands-on experience with everything from everyday care to advanced procedures, all in realistic hospital settings—so they're fully prepared to step into real-world roles with skill and confidence.

Cybersecurity students are gaining equally valuable experience in their new classrooms and at the Maine

**UMA continued on PAGE 7**



**Senior nursing student Chloe Wilson and Assistant Professor of Nursing Lisa Heald demonstrate one of UMA's high-fidelity human patient simulators that provide students with immersive training opportunities that strengthen critical thinking, clinical decision-making, and composure under pressure, ensuring graduates are practice-ready from day one.**



Nick Lacasse  
President, Hallowell Board of Trade

As the seasons change here in Hallowell, the Board of Trade is looking forward to a busy and exciting calendar of events that showcase the spirit of our community and support the businesses that make our city so special.

## Welcoming New Businesses

We're thrilled to welcome two new businesses to Hallowell this fall:

**Cocoon Home & Gifts** – Located at 132 Water Street, Cocoon brings a funky, eclectic, and colorful mix of gifts to historic downtown Hallowell. Their creative spirit is a perfect addition to our vibrant business community. Instagram: @cocoon.hallowell.

**Uncorked Wine & Cheese** – Moving from Augusta to join us here in Hallowell, Uncorked is a boutique wine shop that makes wine approachable and fun. With a focus on well-crafted wines from around the world, as well as artisan cheeses,

# Hallowell Prepares for a Vibrant Fall and Winter

gift baskets, and elegant glassware, Uncorked is sure to become a favorite stop for locals and visitors alike: [uncorkedwineandcheese.com](http://uncorkedwineandcheese.com).

We're proud to welcome these businesses to our community and encourage everyone to stop by and show them some Hallowell hospitality.



## Upcoming Events & Festivals

Our fall and winter calendar is packed with celebrations for the whole family:

**Scarecrow Festival** – Happening now! Rusticators Emporium is accepting applications.

**Scarecrow Fall Fest** – Saturday, October 18th. A day of fall family fun in downtown Hallowell.

**Halloween Parade** – Saturday, October 25th. A spooky favorite for kids and adults alike.

**Hallowell Lights on the Kennebec Lighting Event** – Saturday, November 22nd. Kick off the holiday season with this magical tradition.

**Hallowell SantaCon** – Saturday, December 20th (Tentative). A lively holiday gathering not to be missed to raise money for charity.

## Next Meeting

Our next Hallowell Board of Trade meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19th at 6:00PM. We'll share details soon. These meetings are a chance for business owners, community members, and friends of Hallowell to come together and shape what's ahead. We invite everyone with an interest in our city's growth to join us.

## Looking Ahead

Hallowell thrives when we come together to celebrate our culture, support our businesses, and strengthen the ties that make this city unique. The Board of Trade is excited for what's to come this season and grateful for the energy and creativity our community brings to each event.

We'll see you downtown!

## UMA continued from PAGE 6

Cyber Range, one of the most advanced training environments in New England. Here, they get to practice defending live systems against simulated threats—the very work they'll do to protect Maine's businesses, municipalities, and health care systems.

Nursing student Chloe Wilson said the new labs feel "just like stepping into a real hospital." Cybersecurity graduate student Sarah Cook-Wheeler added that the training "lets us practice the same kind of work we'll be doing to protect Maine's businesses and communities."

## Expanding student life in Hallowell

Growth in these programs is also creating opportunities in Hallowell. UMA is partnering with Mastway Development to add new student housing at Stevens Commons, opening fall 2027. With 60 beds and a full-service dining hall, more students can share in campus life and feel connected to each other and the community.

That means more students can enjoy downtown Hallowell, visit local businesses, and become part of the daily rhythm of a town that

has long welcomed UMA learners as neighbors and friends.

## Honoring the past, building the future

As UMA celebrates six decades of opportunity and transformation, our commitment is as strong as ever: meeting students where they are, preparing them for meaningful careers, and strengthening the communities they call home. From the Capital Center to Stevens Commons, UMA is proud to stand with Augusta, Hallowell, and all of Maine as both a trusted neighbor and a catalyst for progress.

Darrin Lary

The Hallowell Water District (HWD) is continuing to monitor the PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) levels in the source water and collect required regulatory water samples. Due to the continued presence of the PFAS contaminants above the EPA standards, the HWD is continuing with the preliminary design of the treatment facility for removal of the PFAS contaminants in the Ferry Road Well sources. The pilot testing phase of the project is

complete.

Pilot testing determined that both anion exchange resin media and novel adsorbent clay media removed the PFAS contaminants to below detection limits. The novel adsorbent clay media was very effective in conjunction with the iron and manganese pretreatment needed for the Ferry Road wells. Preliminary design is underway for a facility that will reduce the levels of the inorganic manganese for aesthetic purposes and remove the PFAS contaminants from the finished water.

The preliminary design basis will include site design optimized for current and future operations and maintenance; treatment building layout for process treatment and filter vessels and piping, chemical feed requirements, electrical and mechanical spaces, and laboratory facilities; building materials options and space requirements; and residuals management requirements. This preliminary design will be developed collaboratively with the District to ensure the facility meets the current and future needs of the water system.

## Hallowell Heavies Host Second Backyard Games

The Hallowell Backyard Games return to The Res in Hallowell Saturday October 4 beginning at 9:00AM. This local version of competition known as Highland Games is being hosted by the Hallowell Heavies, a group of local Maine Scottish Highland athletes. Dave McIntosh is the coordinator of the event.

Competition includes, among other events, the Stone Put, that resembles the modern day shot put but with a 16-18 lb. stone. Then there is tossing a 56-pound weight

for height—a back-breaking event for sure.

The Caber toss is considered the signature event of Highland Games. The Caber is generally a log measuring about 20 feet long and weighing approximately 150 pounds!

The games will be held at the ball field at The Res off Town Farm Road. The athletes' tent area is on the right field, inside the fence. Spectator and food areas surround the field. Wander Pizza will be on site providing sustenance.

Participants are encouraged to bring tents and chairs as there isn't much shade.

Dave explained, "This year we are going to have a Juniors group (15-17-year-olds) and open to boys and girls. Registration for adult athletes is closed but sign-ups for Juniors will continue up to the day of the event."

Check the Hallowell Heavies Facebook page for updated information. Sunday, October 5th, is the rain date.

## FAKE INVOICES A SCAM!

Some applicants coming before the Hallowell Planning Board may receive a fraudulent invoice falsely claiming to be from the City. This fake invoice requests immediate wire payment for fabricated fees. The City of Hallowell does NOT send invoices requesting wire payments.

**DO NOT PAY.**

**DO NOT SIGN OR RETURN ANY DOCUMENT.**

**DO NOT REQUEST WIRE TRANSFER DETAILS.**

### Watch Out For:

- Requests for wire payment
- Claims of "Legal & Compliance Evaluation" fees
- Use of phrases like "Confirmation Details" and demands to sign and return the invoice
- An invoice number like EPC-HPB-242017
- Fabricated breakdowns such as "Licensure & Certification Approval Fee" or "Recordkeeping & Inclusion in Official Agenda"

The City of Hallowell does not



ask for wire transfers for application or permit fees, email invoices with vague instructions, or request signatures or payment confirmations by mail for official city business.

If you receive a request for a questionable payment, report it immediately to the City Clerk or Code Enforcement Officer. Call (207) 623-4021 or [email\\_ceo-lpi@hallowellmaine.org](mailto:email_ceo-lpi@hallowellmaine.org).

Help us stop this scam—stay alert and spread the word.

# Saving Front Street Riverfront Community Input Needed!

Hilary Neckles

Hallowell's historic downtown spans several blocks of Water Street, where 19th-century buildings house a mix of restaurants, shops, and lounges at street level with residences above. This is the vibrant social, arts, and cultural hub that most residents and visitors recognize. But behind the buildings on the river side of Water Street lies Front Street, a narrow gravel road that provides parking and building access for residents and employees.

The Kennebec River shoreline along Front Street, with its steep banks of exposed gravel interspersed with patches of invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed, is increasingly vulnerable to erosion from intensifying precipitation events and freeze-thaw cycles. Already, undercut banks, toppled trees, and exposed roots demonstrate the riverbank's existing instability, putting utility poles, Front Street, and parking areas at risk. As erosive processes are magnified by climate change, Hallowell's riverbank is at increasing risk of failure.

Although Hallowell's Kennebec River shoreline is privately owned, the contiguous row of 30 properties along the riverbank requires a collective approach for effective stabilization. Recognizing the urgency of this threat, the City of Hallowell received a grant from the State of Maine to develop a community-driven plan for stabilizing the downtown riverbank using nature-based solutions.

Traditional stabilization methods such as riprap and bulkheads provide short-term protection. However, they often fail over time and cause unintended effects, such as worsening erosion downstream and degrading habitat. In contrast,

nature-based solutions, such as planting native woody vegetation using biodegradable fiber logs and installing living crib walls, strengthen banks over time while also restoring ecological function.

As nature-based solutions to riverbank stabilization have become more prevalent, evidence shows that these approaches are more sustainable, less prone to failure, and adaptable to changing river conditions. At the same time, these nature-based approaches provide added benefits like improved wildlife habitat, nutrient retention, and carbon sequestration.

Hallowell's successful riverbank restoration upriver from the bulkhead at Granite City Park, where knotweed was replaced with thriving native vegetation, underscores the potential of this approach.

The City has engaged expert consultants to lead different phases of the project:

- Initial Community Engagement (Fall 2025). A firm specializing in land use and community planning will conduct interviews with Front Street property- and business-owners, residents, and workers to gather local knowledge and priorities.
- Design Options (Winter 2025–Spring 2026). An engineering team with extensive experience planning and designing nature-based bank stabilization and restoration projects will assess the conditions of the riverbank. The team will develop a set of site-appropriate nature-based options for shoreline stabilization.
- Public Input (Summer 2026). Alternative options for bank



Front Street Shoreline.

*Photo Hilary Neckles*

stabilization will be presented in a public workshop for community discussion and feedback.

- Final Recommendations (Fall 2026). The engineering firm will develop final design recommendations, guided by community input, with detailed maps, cost estimates, and permitting requirements. These final designs will be shared with the public.

A Steering Committee of municipal leaders, property owners, business representatives, and Hallowell environmental organizations has been formed to oversee the project, while expert consultants will ensure technical rigor and inclusive community participation. The final plan will provide actionable nature-based recommendations to safeguard infrastructure, build resilience to climate change, and enhance the Kennebec River and shoreline's health and natural functions for generations to come. For more information, contact the Steering Committee chair at [mayor@hallowellmaine.org](mailto:mayor@hallowellmaine.org).

# You Can Help!

Lynn Kidd

The SEARCH program of Catholic Charities (Seek Elderly Alone, Renew Courage & Hope) began in 1975 to address senior isolation in Lewiston/Auburn. Now active in nine Maine counties, SEARCH connects nearly 300 older adults each year with volunteers who provide companionship and support. Long-term relationships formed through the program bring meaning and joy to both seniors and volunteers. In May, SEARCH celebrated its 50th year supporting elderly residents in Androscoggin County.

Kennebec is one of the nine counties that serves isolated seniors by placing caring RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) volunteers who are 55 years and older to enrich a senior's life. SEARCH provides free support services by matching volunteers with seniors of all faiths who live alone in their own homes.

## WHO YOU GONNA CALL continued from PAGE 1

An important contact for a variety of issues is Spectrum Generations, the Central Maine Area Agency on Aging, and the Cohen Center. The goal of Spectrum Generations is to promote and advance the well-being and independence of older and disabled adults, with the support of their care partners, to live in their community of choice.

Spectrum Generations is the Aging & Disability Resource Center for the area. Counselors at Spectrum Generations are well versed at identifying which program a person may apply to, based on a variety of demographic information identified during the intake process.

## How You can Help!

SEARCH helps the growing population of seniors who need assistance. Volunteers can give back and spend a few hours a week bringing joy to someone else. Our goal is to help seniors stay in their own homes as long as possible. With support from our program and volunteers, they can age in place and live more independently.

If you are 55 or older, use your skills to make a direct impact on people's lives. Volunteer today to help a local senior experience the support and friendship that transformed David and Judith's lives.

Are you ready to make a difference or need support from a volunteer? Contact Lynn Kidd at [lkidd@ccm.org](mailto:lkidd@ccm.org), call (207)530-0137, or visit <https://www.ccmaine.org> to get involved now.



**David and Judith**

Here is a story about lives changed in Kennebec County with the SEARCH program.

David has been a dedicated volunteer with the RSVP-SEARCH program for many years and has been paired with Judith for over six years. During this time, they've developed a strong friendship. David assists Judith with her transportation needs, whether it's going to the grocery store, the bank, or running various errands. They often enjoy lunches together, cherishing each other's company. Judith deeply appreciates David and feels incredibly fortunate to have him in her life, as his support is invaluable. In turn, David finds fulfillment in helping others and is delighted that their volunteer relationship has blossomed into such a meaningful friendship.

The staff is dedicated to helping find the solution that best fits your individual needs. The tollfree telephone number is (800) 639-1553. You can leave a message, email [info@spectrumgenerations.org](mailto:info@spectrumgenerations.org) or visit the Cohen Center on Town Farm Road in Hallowell.

Beyond those real-life "act now" emergencies is a whole list of important issues and contact numbers for organizations that might help. The Hallowell All Age-Friendly Committee and the City Clerk's office assembled a list of important telephone numbers. Copies are available at City Hall and on the committee's website [www.hallowellagefriendly.org](http://www.hallowellagefriendly.org).

While at City Hall, you can pick

up a *File of Life* form and folder. The form has entry spaces for all the information that emergency personnel might need should circumstances call for it. The Resource list and the *File of Life* folders have magnets allowing them to hang right on the fridge or other kitchen appliance.

Speaking of magnets, if you have flexible fridge magnets that are no longer needed, drop them off at City Hall. They can be used to mount on the resource list.





A few words about the value of smoke detectors from Hallowell Fire Chief Jim Owens.

"A few years ago, I was involved with a Red Cross smoke detector program with another community. We visited a home to install a detector. There were eight people living in a small home. Several of the residents had physical disabilities including a person in a wheelchair.

A few months later, there was a

## The Power of Smoke Detectors

very serious fire that destroyed the home. All of the occupants were able to escape but barely. They credited the smoke detector for alerting them to the fire.

It is not often in a firefighter's career that you can point to an incident where you directly saved a life. In this case eight people are alive today due to the small act of installing a smoke detector.

If you do not have a smoke detector in your home or have questions about its lifespan, please call the Hallowell Fire Department at 623-2860 and we will assist you."



**Captain Logan Bennett prepares a smoke detector for installation.**

*Photo Bob McIntire*

## Hallowell Fire Department Open House Salutes Fire Prevention October!

The Hallowell Fire Department will have an open house on Saturday, October 11, from 11AM to 2PM. Come have a tour of the firehouse. Try on firefighter coats! Explore a Fire Truck! Children of all ages are welcome to come and have fun. There will be cookies!

## What is a "BOOT DRIVE," if it isn't about BOOTS?

The Hallowell Firefighters Association hosted their annual boot drive the end of September but there is still time to help fill the boot! Donations help fund important items that are not covered by the city budget allotment as Chief Jim Owens explained. Donations have funded a thermal imaging camera, a boat, and a four-wheeler, (equipment that can be valuable in an emergency), and supplies to engage children in fire prevention education. You can still send donations to the Firefighters Association PO Box 85 Hallowell, ME 04347.



**Fill the boot!**

*Photo Bob McIntire*

## Fall Repair Café Decreases Waste and Increases Connections

Lamp won't light? Weeder won't wack? Gears won't glide? No problem! On September 13th, expert fixers reconvened to help bring new life to broken and torn belongings. The Fall Repair Café was a reprise of the inaugural café organized this spring by Hallowell Climate Action (HCA), a project of Hallowell Conservation Commission. And once again, the community responded eagerly to the chance to keep stuff out of landfills, reduce carbon pollution, and build neighborly connections.

Among the wide range of items brought in for repair were lamps, drawers, and chairs, a microwave and a toaster oven, clothing, a bike, a humidifier, an antique wreath, and an original Chelsea clock. Nearly everything was fixed while folks enjoyed local camaraderie and delicious snacks, soup, and sandwiches provided by HCA.

Save your broken items for the next Hallowell Repair Café to be held in the spring. Watch this space or contact [HallowellConservation@gmail.com](mailto:HallowellConservation@gmail.com) for the date.



**Rosemary Presnar (fixer, left) and Jean McWilliams (right) with her repaired lamp.**

*Photo Hilary Neckles*

Hilary Neckles

Landscapes throughout Maine have changed dramatically through the years, with wild landscapes increasingly replaced with residential backyards. However, a lawn of turf grass punctuated with non-native perennial plants and shrubs supports very few species of wildlife. Insects and butterflies,



**Pearl Crescent Butterfly on  
Butterfly Weed.**

*Photo Hilary Neckles*

## New Granite Bench at Pollywog Pond

Deb Fahy

Hallowell Arts and Cultural Committee

Tom Goraj and the Hallowell Public Works crew did a fantastic job building a granite bench and setting up two granite gateway posts near Pollywog Pond. The bench and pond are just off the trail to Howard Hill in the Effie L. Berry Conservation Area. This site is sure to become a beloved Hallowell landmark, especially since it will be the site of Hallowell's petroglyph art project phase 2. This is a collaboration between Hallowell Arts & Cultural Committee(HA&CC) and Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC).

Artist Kevin Sudeith, who carved the Chimney Swifts in Vaughan Field, will return to Hallowell in mid-October to carve pond

# Bring Nature Home

**Public Lecture October 23rd, 6pm, City Hall Auditorium**

especially caterpillars, feed on native plants. Birds, amphibians, and small mammals in turn feed on the insects. Birds in particular need those insects to feed their babies. Native plants are at the center of this complex food web.

For several years, Maine Audubon has been expanding programming around the critical value of wildlife-friendly plants to our state. The "Bringing Nature Home in Maine" project is about restoring and rebuilding Maine's natural biodiversity by planting the native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees that support the widest array of wildlife.

Andrew Tufts, who manages the Bringing Nature Home project at Maine Audubon, will present a public lecture on Thursday, October 23rd, at 6pm in City Hall Auditorium. The lecture will explore the plants, practices, and perks involved in restoring native food webs in our gardens, yards, and



**Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly on a  
purple cone flower.**

*Photo Hilary Neckles*

communities. Join hosts Hallowell Conservation Commission and Hallowell Climate Action to learn how even small planting choices in our yards can have a profound impact on our local biodiversity and climate resilience. The lecture will be followed by refreshments and conversation. For more information, contact [HallowellConservation@gmail.com](mailto:HallowellConservation@gmail.com).



**Rosemary Presnar along with  
Donnie Hipkins from Hallowell  
Public Works check out the new  
bench at Pollywog Pond.**

*Photo Deb Fahy*

denizens on the newly installed granite. What creatures should be carved on the bench? Suggestions are welcomed or better yet, a good photo or two of pond life that the artist can use to guide his work would be most helpful. Send ideas to [hallowellarts@gmail.com](mailto:hallowellarts@gmail.com).

Kevin's visit will culminate in an Art in the Park event on Saturday, October 18, at Vaughan Field. Folks of all ages are invited to be creative and celebrate our local birds through art. The event is free to attend so mark your calendars!

2:30pm: Make petroglyph prints of chimney swifts and bird masks

3:00pm: Community Dance workshop

3:45pm: Spiral Dance Collective Community Dance finale

Rosemary Presnar

Hallowell's volunteer spirit arrived in full force this summer in support of the Hallowell Conservation Commission's Watershed-Based Management Plan development project. Outfitted with mucks or sandals and backpacks full of assessment tools, a dozen community volunteers directed by environmental experts from Ecological Instincts and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) conducted a Stream Corridor Study of the Vaughan Brook and its tributaries in early August. Below are reflections from several of the community volunteers on their experience.

"I loved the feeling of being miles away and deep in a serene forest (or sometimes an invasive jungle), only to emerge onto a familiar road and realize we were practically in our



**Dan Mitchell, VW&HH Property Manager, and Katie Goodwin, Ecological Instincts Project Scientist.**

*Photo Deb Fahy*

Hallowell Champion

## Hallowell Community Volunteers Support Vaughan Brook Watershed Project

own backyard, or on roads we knew like the back of our hand! It was fun to work on a local project and get to know the town we thought we knew in an entirely new light."

"Thank you for spearheading this work. For a day off of work it was really a pleasure to see areas of the watershed that I have never seen before."

"It was a real joy to be part of the team doing this good work. Traipsing through the mud and grass was a lot of fun, and we scooped up the tiniest crayfish I've ever seen."

As part of the watershed assessment and data collection phases of the project, the Stream Corridor Study contributes important data of stream conditions including indicators of erosion, water-quality measurements, flora and fauna health, and other data points to help assess the ecological and geomorphic health of Vaughan Brook. This important and valuable work toward developing a 10-year management plan for the watershed could not be possible without our community volunteers, the 50+ private landowners allowing us access to hidden sections of the stream, and our project partners.

Sixty-eight percent of the land area in the City of Hallowell is located within the Vaughan Brook watershed. The stream and its network of tributaries and wetlands are a major part of Hallowell's scenic beauty, recreational assets, valuable wildlife habitat, and our climate resilience. The stream is interconnected with over 500 acres of freshwater wetlands that filter and improve water quality and function as natural sponges, absorbing and storing floodwater. How we treat and protect our watershed affects Hallowell's quality of life. Thanks again to



**Lily Drouin-Scease, Senior at Hall-Dale High School, and Jen Jespersen, Ecological Instincts Project Scientist.**

*Photo Rosemary Presnar*

the community and to our project partners for their contributions. Project partners include the City of Hallowell, Vaughan Woods & Historic Homestead, Kennebec Land Trust, Maine DEP, and Ecological Instincts.

Based on monitoring results from the Maine DEP's Biomonitoring Unit, Vaughan Brook has failed to meet its Class B water-quality standards in recent years. In June 2024, the Maine DEP notified the City of Hallowell and the HCC of the grant award for Vaughan Brook Watershed-Based Planning. Funding for the project, in part, is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act. The funding is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with EPA. EPA does not endorse any commercial products or services mentioned.

# Effie L. Berry & Howard Hill Fall Hike

## Explore our Accessible Trail Initiative—A Trail for Everyone

Rosemary Presnar

Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) and Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC) are hosting a guided hike on Howard Hill starting at Effie L. Berry Conservation Area trailhead. The hike offers beautiful fall views and a chance to see the trail system soon to be upgraded through KLT's "A Trail for Everyone" accessibility campaign, creating a 1.5-mile universally accessible trail connecting Augusta and Hallowell.

The hike is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, from 9:00-10:30 AM. Meet at the Effie L. Berry Conservation Area kiosk at the end of Coos Lane, Hallowell.

Dress for the weather, bring water, and join us to learn how this project is making local lands more accessible for people of all ages and abilities. No registration required.

Contact [HallowellConservation@gmail.com](mailto:HallowellConservation@gmail.com) for more information.



The Maine Statehouse from the Howard Hill overlook.

Photo Rosemary Presnar

## Hubbard Friends Looking for Friends!

The Friends of the Hubbard Free Library is on the lookout for new members who are excited about building a community of library champions. If you can volunteer energy, ideas, advocacy, creativity, or even just enthusiasm, you are invited to join!

### Fund-Raise

The primary goal of the group is to support The Hubbard Free Library and often that's in the form of raising money via book sales, bake sales, special events, and more. The group is always looking for new ideas and ways of collaborating.

### Friend-Raise

The Friends believe in the power of the library as a community

builder. The organization is 100% volunteer-run and always in need of more voices in our chorus of library advocates.

### Fun-Raise

The Friends take supporting the Hubbard seriously, but that doesn't mean they are always serious! The goal is to balance hard work with light hearts. We're all in this together!

Membership is open to everyone in Hallowell and beyond who cares about the Hubbard Free Library and wants to ensure that it can continue to grow and serve our community.

Questions? Email us at [friendsofhubbardlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhubbardlibrary@gmail.com), fill out an application online at [www.hubbardfree.org](http://www.hubbardfree.org) and click on

"Friends of the Hubbard," or check at the Circulation Desk next time you are in the library.



Friends having FUN!

Contributed Photo



Hallowell Champion



The Hubbard Free Library is looking for a financially savvy individual to serve as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. The Treasurer plays a vital role in maintaining the financial health and transparency of our historic library. This person will create annual budgets, provide financial updates to the board, and lead strategic financial planning to support library objectives. If you are interested, please contact [hubbardfree@gmail.com](mailto:hubbardfree@gmail.com) or call the library 207-622-6582 for an application.

## Make a Difference! Lend a Hand!



### Hallowell Fire Department Firefighters Needed!

The Hallowell Fire Department is currently seeking part-time, on-call firefighters. Join our family-focused organization and experience the sense of community and service unique to first responders. We provide all necessary training and equipment. For details and information, contact Melanie Boucher, Recruiting Officer, at 207-623-2860 or email [melanieboucher124@gmail.com](mailto:melanieboucher124@gmail.com).



### Interested in Conservation? Roll up your sleeves!

The Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC) is seeking volunteers to help protect the health and vitality of Hallowell's natural resources, build climate resilience, and engage with the community. There are two open seats available on the Commission as well as many opportunities to help on individual projects. If you are interested in participating with HCC or receiving quarterly e-news on upcoming events, please email [HallowellConservation@gmail.com](mailto:HallowellConservation@gmail.com). Follow HCC on Facebook and GreenHallowell on Instagram.

## Holiday Trees Replace Waterfront Chairs

Bob McIntire

Dr. Kieran Kammerer, retired pediatrician and proprietor of Hallowell Woodworks, always gets a bit despondent when the time comes to put away the colorful chairs that grace the Hallowell waterfront bulkhead. Their installation was his idea. To combat this visual version of seasonal affective disorder, he envisioned an installation of trees symbolic of the winter season. He created a simple design, and then Tamara, his wife, suggested painting them colors reflecting those of the soon-to-be-stored chairs.

Having previously run afoul of the city's regulations regarding unauthorized installations on public

property when he erected a "Peace" sign in Granite City Park, he took his idea and design to the City Council who directed it to the Arts and Cultural Committee which gave it a "thumbs up." The City Council in turn gave the installation its blessing.

The good doctor then searched for support on social media. In short order he had sponsors for twenty trees. Then came interest in creating memorial trees and another ten were funded.

The trees are 8 feet tall. Constructing them required forty-five, 12-inch-wide boards each 16 feet long. The trees are outlined with LED lights, \$1800 worth. Plans call for the trees to be installed

in November with the official dedication and lighting on Saturday the 22nd.



**Kieran Kammerer inspects the LED lights on one of the trees to be installed at Hallowell's waterfront bulkhead.**

*Photo Bob McIntire*

# Vintage Fashion Sketches from Young Designer

Joel Farr

Who remembers sitting for hours as a child drawing things you were passionate about? How many of you saved those drawings?

A young teenager, Lucile Morse, did both. Lucile was the youngest daughter of George and Etta Morse. George, with his father, A.F. Morse, ran a business on Water Street. In 1917 and 1918, Lucile was a young teen girl who loved drawing pencil sketches of the latest fashion trends that caught her eye. Some of those sketches survived for 120 years and were recently rediscovered in a collection of Morse family artifacts which are now in the care of the Hubbard Free Library.

Lucile was born in 1904 and raised on Academy Street. She would later

marry Alton Farr of Manchester and together they raised a family on High Street, just around the corner from her childhood home. She lived the unassuming life of a homemaker, wife, and mother in the early 20th century. She tended her gardens, became an outstanding baker, put up fruits and vegetables every year, and volunteered at the Old South Congregational Church. By all accounts, her family knew little about her artistic interests. And yet, deep in the boxes of her family belongings, these drawings sat as a testament to her secret passion.

Those sketches are now seeing the light of day. They were featured at the Hallowell Art Walk in August and will remain on display at Hubbard Free Library during the month of September. They were drawn on scraps of paper. Some are full body sketches with detailed accoutrement and shoes displayed in elegant poses while others are just facial



profiles featuring hair designs of the age. One sketch just features various fashionable hats of the era.

What other hidden talents existed in Hallowell throughout its history? Did those passions survive the decades? Perhaps it would be worth the effort to search your attics and cellars for the amateur artists and craftspeople in Hallowell's past.

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