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#### RAYMOND SURVEY RESULTS PUT LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY FIRST

*RAYMOND, ME., APR. 12* -- Raymond residents want to see more leisure and hospitality businesses in their town, according to the early results of a recent survey by the Raymond Revitalization Committee.

The survey, distributed locally over the past three weeks, shows retail and wholesale businesses second, and manufacturing third, Committee Leader Wayne Holmquist said today. Raymond needs more physicians and drug stores, according to the survey. Results show similar choices by Raymond students and other young people.

Holmquist pointed out that, while these are preliminary results, "they're very consistent which allows us to begin moving forward.."

"We drafted the survey with the objective of learning just how Raymonders view their town and what kinds of businesses could support their vision," Holmquist noted, adding "These preliminary results provide a useful first step in establishing a direction for Raymond. We now have a compass."

The survey responders said that establishing an all - around sports store represents the greatest business opportunity for Raymond. The responders listed sports preferences in this order: Camping, swimming, boating, hiking tied with bowling; skiing and biking also tied, as did basketball fishing, kayaking, beach and other outdoor activities. Some responders list favorites such as dance, snowmobiling, volleyball, and exercising.

The second ranking leisure time category, classified as “Arts and Culture” includes reading, movies crafting, art, travel, writing, cooking, WiFi, video, bridge-playing, computer activities, independent films, and shopping. Other activities mentioned in small numbers include gardening, family and friends, dining out, investing, and town events.

Holmquist noted that more data has been received from home-based businesses than from downtown enterprises.

Holmquist said the Committee will continue to process survey returns over the next week. “We thank Raymond residents for their guidance in this project, which ensures we direct our efforts toward your needs,” he said.