❖The Lamoine Quarterly❖

Volume 2 Issue 4 April 1997

Town Meeting Set for April 18th & 19th

(several races on ballot!)

(Lamoine) — The upcoming Town Meeting may be one of the most spirited in recent memory if the number of candidates seeking election is any indication. Town meeting is set for April 18th and 19th. Voting will take place on Friday afternoon the 18th from 2:00 PM until 8:00 PM at the Town Hall. The open town meeting will take place on Saturday the 19th beginning at 9:00 AM and running until all the issues on the warrant are disposed of.

Two Ballots

There are two ballots for this year's town meeting. One is strictly for the candidate elections. The other is for the two referendum questions the Selectmen have put out to vote.

There are some hotly contested races this year. Running for the 3 year term as Selectmen are incumbent William Collier and H. Ray Graham, who is making Lamoine School. She works with her husband Fred in their law practice in town and they have one child in school.

Jane Fenno-Vaux is venturing into Lamoine politics for the first time. She is the co-owner of the Colonial Motor Lodge in Ellsworth, and is in charge of the operations at the motel. She has been very active in school affairs, and leads a Brownie troop. She, her husband Peter, and their three daughters, live on Marlboro Beach Road in a new home they are still in the process of constructing.

For the first time in many years, there is a contested race for assessor. The seat is open because incumbent Tom Bowen has decided not to run for a second full term.

Joan Bragdon served a partial term as an assessor, filling the unexpired term of an assessor who resigned in 1992. She and her husband live on Marlboro Beach Road. Joan also served the town on the 125th

Two Honored for heroic rescue

(Lamoine) — The weather on January 10, 1997 was frightful. A powerful wind pushing a fierce rain combined with an astronomically high tide to produce some minor flooding along the Maine coast. Raccoon Cove in Lamoine was no place to be in a small canoe. Peter King and Chris Rancourt of Fairfield found that out the hard way.

The two duck hunters parked their truck at Marlboro Beach, launched the canoe, and then paddled for Shooter's Ledge.. About the time they reached the middle of the cove, the canoe swamped. They held on and eventually drifted to shore with their dog. Fighting hypothermia, one was barely conscious when they reached the far side of the cove. The other was able to hike through the woods to Needle's Eye Road. He reached the home of Harlan Hodgkins and attempted to explain what had happened. Harlan sprang into action, and called 9-1-1, then drove down to Bill Haass's home on Davis Lane.

Bill and his friend Steve Atherton

his first try at elected office in Lamoine.

Bill Collier is ending his first term as a Selectmen, and decided he would like to run again after thinking about a run for the assessor opening. During the last two years, Bill has been Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Ray Graham is the owner of Sunrise Building Center in Ellsworth. He lives on the Shore Road in Lamoine with his wife and three sons, and has been very active behind the scenes in school activities and with the Boy Scouts. He and his wife Beth were instrumental in the town's 125th Anniversary Celebration in 1995.

The race for two seats on the school committee is crowded with candidates. Incumbent Anne Gommel is seeking re-election, while Hancock "Griff" Fenton, Anne Stocking and Jane Fenno-Vaux seek to serve on the school board.

Anne Gommel is finishing up her first term on the school committee. She has served the past year as chairman of the school board. She is an accountant with Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker in Bangor. She lives with her husband, son and daughter on Lamoine Beach Road.

Griff Fenton looks to return to the school board after he was narrowly defeated last year by Kathy Chamberlain. He is self employed, and has been very active with OM and Cub Scouts along with local town politics. He, his wife, and son, live off Marlboro Beach Road.

Anne Stocking is running for elected office for the first time in Lamoine. She too has been very active with the Anniversary Committee and the Donation Review Committee.

Terry Towne is also seeking election to the Board of Assessors. Terry is a former Code Enforcement Officer for Lamoine, and is currently the Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Mt. Desert. He is on the Lamoine Board of Appeals, appointed last fall by the Selectmen. He and his wife live on Cove Road in the Meadow Point subdivision.

The final two elected seats are town clerk and tax collector. Barbara Bartosenski, the incumbent, is running unopposed for both positions. Barbara says this will be her last year to run for both jobs, as she intends to retire at the end of her term in June, 1998, presuming she's re-elected. She has served in both capacities for most of the decade.

At open town meeting this year, voters will be asked to combine those two jobs into one elected position. It was felt by the Selectmen that combining the jobs and the salaries might attract a candidate looking for a well paid, part time job. Also proposed this year is elimination of the practice of agent fees paid directly to the town clerk and tax collector, and instead establishing a set salary for the positions. The salary figure was based on the budgeted figures for the past two years. The agent fees charged for various transactions would accumulate to the town's general fund.

found a small skiff, an attached a motor and headed out in the gale. They reached the far side of the cove, and found the other duck hunter unconscious on the shore. The two men loaded him into their boat, and headed for home.

The Lamoine Fire Department, County Ambulance, Marine Patrol and Coast Guard had all been alerted when the 9-1-1 call went out. Several would-be rescuers gathered on Marlboro Beach and watched as the dramatic rescue took place. Harlan Hodgkins arrived with the hunter who had reported the incident, and he was loaded into the ambulance and taken to Maine Coast Memorial Hospital for treatment. Realizing that the other victim was likely headed to Davis Lane, the large contingent of emergency personnel headed in that direction, and helped Bill & Steve unload the still unconscious man from the skiff.

He too was taken to Maine Coast Memorial Hospital where he was treated for severe hypothermia. Both were released after they warmed up. Their dog, meanwhile, found his way to Harlan Hodgkins home where he was well taken care of.

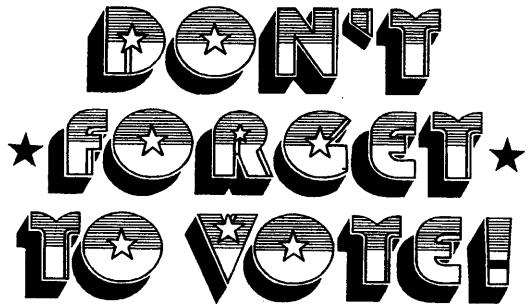
Bill & Steve were honored by the Lamoine Board of Selectmen for their role in the rescue. At the Selectmen's meeting where the certificates were presented, victims Peter King and Chris Rancourt also happened to show up to thank their rescuers in person. King and Rancourt said they didn't have any plans to resume duck hunting anytime in the near future.

Two Referenda up for April 18th vote

(Lamoine) — Voters casting ballots on April 18th will decide two referendum questions. One deals with amending the building code, the other, if passed, would establish policies for use of the transfer station by commercial trash companies.

The building code change deals with the sign section. The current ordinance limits the size of signs to 8 square feet. The Board of Selectmen felt this size (2 feet by 4 feet) was woefully inadequate to advertise a business. The Lamoine General Store was cited as an example. Technically, the store is in violation of the building code, even with its small, very tasteful signs. The sign at the Lamoine Town Hall, had it been erected after the building code passed, is also in violation because of its size, approximately 16 square feet.

The proposed change in language would limit total signage on a commercial property to 50 square feet. That would allow a couple of 25 square foot signs (5' x 5'), or other configurations to meet the 50 square foot limit. Additionally, the Planning Board would be allowed to consider larger signs should a commercial business propose one. Guidelines for approve include the sign's effect on the neighborhood aesthetics, view, and other factors. Finally, the amendment would allow all signs in existence the day of



Many Issues for open Town Meeting

(Lamoine) — The annual town and school budgets will be decided at the open town meeting on April 19, 1997. The action begins at 9:00 am at the Lamoine Consolidated School. Lunch will be served around noon time, and the meeting will wrap up after lunch.

The projected tax rate will rise slightly this year, thanks to some one time expenditures on the town side of the budget, and a slight increase in the school budget combined with a funding decrease from other education sources.

There is one error in the town report which was distributed in March. The warrant incorrectly listed the recommended salary for Administrative Assistant, but the budget sheets had the figure correct at $29,272.60. An amendment to the warrant figure will be made on the floor of town meeting to correct the error.

Other matters which will come

E-911 coming slowly, but

(Lamoine) — The process of naming and numbering all the roads in Lamoine is proceeding slowly. The road signs are up for the most part, though a few newly named roads have yet to sport signs due to the frost of winter making it impossible to erect the posts. A couple of newly discovered "roads" still need to be named in the Marlboro Beach Road area. Suggested names will be sought from the landowners.

The drafts of the official road name maps for the town are still being edited. Several errors were noted on the first round of maps from the State of Maine office of Geographic Information Services. Some of the roads will have to be remeasured using satellite tracking technology.

It is expected that the names and numbers will be ready to go in late 1997. At that time, the post office will be informed, and new addresses will most likely be assigned. As we understand it now, mail will be addressed to the number and name of a street, but the town will be "Lamoine, ME 04605". This will prevent confusion with streets which have the same names as those in Ellsworth, namely Mill Road and Shore Road. Each homeowner will be informed when the time comes what their new address will be.

passage.

The second referendum question , if passed, would put guidelines in place for commercial operators who utilize the Lamoine Transfer Station and Recycling Center. At present, there are no rules backed by town meeting authority guiding the transfer station, only those rules which are imposed by stipulation of State law and license restrictions imposed by the Department of Environmental Protection.

The proposed rules, if passed by voters, will require that all trash carried into the transfer station by a commercial hauler be contained within bags. There are several reasons for this proposal, the biggest being litter concerns. Many commercial operators carry large amounts of trash, and if it is not bagged up, there is a great potential for roadside litter. Once it's at the transfer station, unbagged trash has been a big problem with animals and wind. It was felt putting trash in bags would better control that problem. Additionally, the attendant has an idea how much trash is coming in from each hauler. That can be matched against customer lists to make sure an inordinate amount of trash is not coming in, which would be an indication of out of town trash.

The policies would also require that each commercial hauler not mix recyclable material in with the regular solid waste. Each hauler is to have a policy on how they handle recycling. If they choose not to transport recyclable material, it must be left behind for the homeowner to dispose of, but the town and customer must be so

before the town meeting include a road name change. During the road naming process, the road proposed to be named Hodgkins Lane was named Starfish Lane. Under the road naming ordinance, any name change must be approved by town meeting.

Another road issue will be dealt with as well. In March, the Selectmen completed the process of discontinuing Blacksmith Road at the request of the abutting landowners. Ratification of that discontinuance by town meeting is needed to make the order official. Blacksmith Road is the gravel road which runs behind the Lamoine General Store, connecting Routes 184 and 204. It has become home to a lot of unwanted illegal dumping and is a security problem for the store, and it holds no great importance for the transportation needs of the community. All three abutting landowners agree it should be discontinued.

Among the unusual budget issues will be a request to fund construction of a new portable classroom at the Lamoine Consolidated School. This will take the place of the classroom leased from Schiavi and will be owned by the town. The Budget Committee felt this could be financed through various funds and the surplus account.

Also in the budget is a measure to pay RF Jordan & Sons cash for gravel that is owed under an agreement ratified many years ago by the Selectmen. It was felt the gravel will continue to grow in value, and it is time to bring closure to the contract.

Dog licenses overdue!

(Lamoine) — Several residents have neglected to register dogs by the January 1st deadline. State law requires that all dogs be registered with the town office, and proof of a current rabies shot be displayed at the time of registration.

Reminder notices were mailed out to all owners of unlicensed dogs in mid-March. A warrant to serve a formal reminder will be issued in April. The Animal Control Officer will then deliver the formal reminder to each household with an unlicensed dog. Once that reminder has been delivered, there is an additional ten dollar fee charged to a dog license. A three dollar late fee is assessed for each license issued after January 31st.

Rabies has started to become a problem in many parts of Maine. While there have been no reported cases of rabies in Hancock County, the drift north and east is becoming very evident. The closest case of rabies to Lamoine is in the Wiscasset area.

Dogs are required to be protected against rabies. Without proof of a current rabies shot, a license cannot be issued.

Dogs are also required to be on a leash or under the owner's control at all times in Maine. Dog owners are asked to please obey the state laws.

Several Town Officials on "DL"

(Lamoine) — Several Lamoine residents who serve on various boards are recuperating from a variety of ailments, and the town office sends out best wishes for full recovery.

Budget Committee member **George Crawford** was seriously injured in a wood cutting accident when his hand was cut by a saw blade. He's on the mend, minus a finger on the affected hand which was used to graft the rest of the hand together.

Another Budget Committee member, **Reginald McDevitt**, suffered a stroke in February. He too is recovering, and is able to walk and drive. Both Reggie and George were able to attend most meetings after their accident, showing how dedicated they are to their jobs on the Budget Committee.

Animal Control Officer **Harry Lounder** underwent back surgery in February, which put him out of commission for a little while. The Selectmen have appointed **Bryant Poors** as the deputy animal control officer to fill in for Harry while he recovers. Bryant is the animal control officer in Hancock.

Some more positive news involving town officials. Transfer Station Manager **Allen Sternfield** has purchased a home on Jaycee Drive.

Snow Removal Contract jointly bid with Trenton

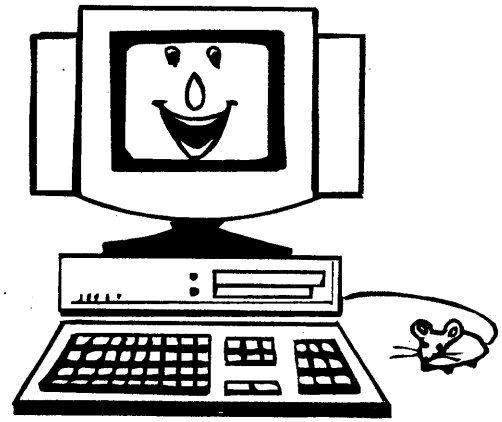
(Lamoine) — The Boards of Selectmen from Trenton and Lamoine have jointly bid a snow plowing contract for the next five years. Pending town meeting approval in both communities, snow will continue to be removed by Richard J. King, Inc..

The two towns have shared the same contractor for the past several years. The town meetings in both communities approved of working jointly in an effort to make a bid more attractive to contractors, and possibly save each town some money through an economy of scale.

A common bid document and contract was devised and each town will pay the contract based on the mileage of roads to be plowed in the respective community.

The bids were opened in March, and only two bids were received. The bid from Richard J. King, Inc. was lower by nearly 50% and the Selectmen in both towns met in late March to jointly award the contract pending approval of funding at

Winter was tough on local roads



Lamoine's wired in!

(Lamoine) — The Lamoine Town Office has taken the plunge into the world of the Internet. The Board of Selectmen agreed to subscribe to a local provider of Internet services which also offered to post various town records on their home page.

Users of the Internet can read the latest minutes from the Selectmen and Planning Board, the Town Meeting Warrants, proposed referendum questions, and various other items at the Acadia Net Home Page. The World Wide Web address is: **http:\\home.acadia.net** . This will bring up the home page for AcadiaNet, and you will see a Local Government Information choice. Click on that, then click on Lamoine, and you'll find a choice of what's currently posted on the site.

If you find e-mail to be a convenient

Planning Board working on Land Use Ordinance

(Lamoine) — The wonderful world of zoning may soon be voted upon in Lamoine. The Hancock County Planning Commission is working to update the town's land use ordinance in order to make it comply with the Comprehensive Plan passed in March 1996.

So far, the Planning Board has spent most of a full meeting looking over the draft language for the Land Use Ordinance. It is hoped to have a document in place for next year's annual town meeting.

The Comprehensive Plan called for three zones in Lamoine. The Commercial activity zone includes the Jordan River Road and Douglas Highway in the area of the Town Hall & General Store. The residential only zone encompasses Buttermilk Road to within 800 feet of Douglas Highway. The remainder of the town would stay as rural and agricultural, except for those areas regulated by the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.

A draft of the final product will be ready by next winter. A grant from the State of Maine is helping to pay for the work.

(Lamoine) — While we didn't get very much snow during the winter of 1997, it turned out to be a very difficult time for the roads in town. The lack of snow was part of the reason.

Many of the storms produced a fair amount of slush. The plow trucks were able to easily remove it from the roadway and into the ditches. The slush storms were frequently followed by a very hard freeze, and that's where the problems began.

The freezing temperatures immediately formed ice blockages in many of the culverts and drainage ditches around town. That requires that culverts be steam cleaned out so that water can properly run through the ditches. The town utilizes Anderson's Pressure Washing from Franklin to steam the culverts open. They've been very busy this winter, not only in Lamoine, but in most of the Hancock County Communities.

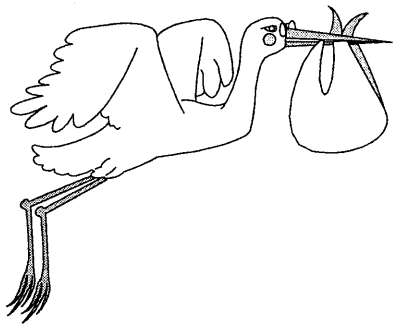
Additionally, some of the large ice buildups in the ditches had to be removed to prevent road washouts. Richard King, Inc. performed that work, and so far, no major surface damage has resulted.

The problem areas include a section of Needle's Eye Road, a couple of parts of Buttermilk Road, and the newly constructed portion of Seal Point Road. All areas will be looked at this summer for some drainage improvements.

way to communicate, the Town Office is also ready to receive such communications. Our e-mail address is: **lamoine@acadia.net** We try to answer each inquiry promptly.

The Lamoine school is also hooked up to the Internet. They do not have a home page yet, as a web site is pretty expensive to maintain by itself. Work is being done to find a way to inexpensively have a home page served by a local provider. The e-mail address for the school is **sddavis@lamoine.u92.k12.me.us** . This will get the e-mail message to principal Sheryl Davis. The town office has already sent several e-mail messages in the form of meeting notices and minutes to the school this way in order to interest students in the goings on of their local government.

The Selectmen felt it important to dive into the Internet, as it quite likely will be the wave of the future for communications. It costs very little to send e-mail as compared to a conventional .32 stamp for a first class letter. With more and more homes equipped with home computers, it is likely to become a very efficient way to communicate with the town office, and a great way to keep abreast of things going on in town government, even when the town office isn't open. In fact, we can e-mail the quarterly to you, if you desire, but you'll



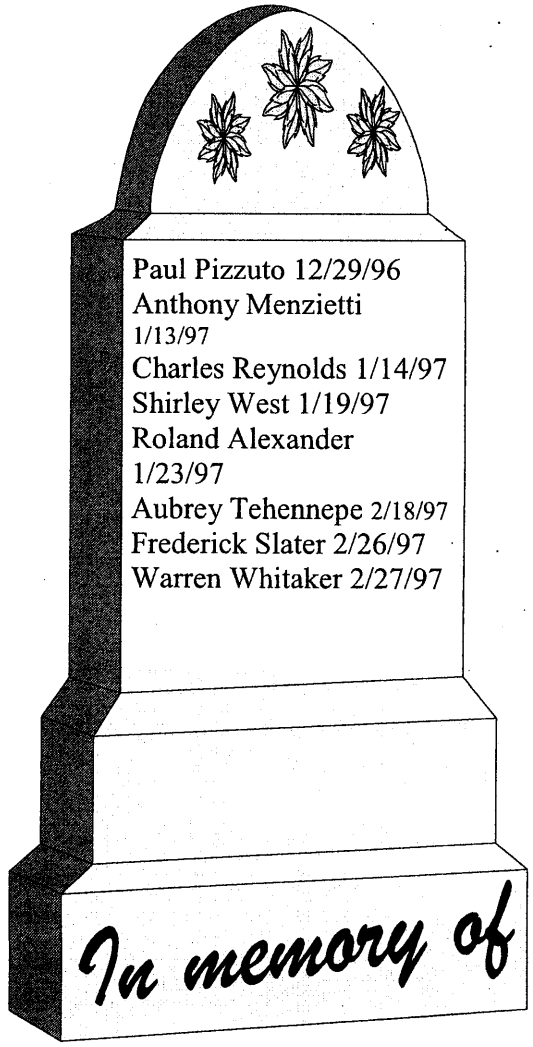
Busy Time for Babies!

(Lamoine) — Area maternity wards were busy filling Lamoine with new residents during the winter. Since the last issue of the Lamoine Quarterly, five little ones have been dropped off by the stork in town.

The baby boom started in mid-January with the birth of **Jessica Elizabeth Kane**. She's the daughter of Michelle MacQuinn-Kane and Gerald Kane Jr. who live on Douglas Highway. Three days later, on the 18th, **Joshua William Bernaquer** made his debut at Maine Coast Memorial Hospital in Ellsworth.

February was even busier. **Kelcin Dakota Dullas** had his coming out party at MDI hospital in Bar Harbor on February 13th. His mom and dad are Dawn and Arcel Dullas who live on Douglas Highway. **John Mitchell Weaver** was next, born in Bar Harbor on February 15th to Chris & Elizabeth Weaver of Lamoine Beach Road.

Several Lamoine Residents pass on during the winter



Town Reports Delivered by "Air"

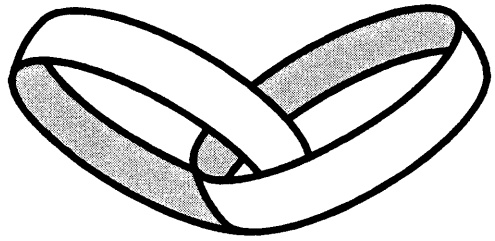
(Lamoine) — Sometimes opportunity strikes at just the right time. For years, the Selectmen have hired a resident to deliver the town reports house to house. The gentleman who did it for the past few years didn't have the time to do it this year, and had enough of getting stuck in the late winter slush and mud.

Shortly after he said he didn't wish to deliver the reports this year, the head of the Downeast Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, John Bartosenski, was in to visit his wife (town clerk, Barbara). An idea was hatched. The CAP is always looking for ways to perform community service and make a few bucks at the same time. The town is always look for an inexpensive way to help out folks and accomplish its needs. The two groups were a good fit.

The town reports were printed in early March. John, Barbara, and cadets Laura Nangle and Allen Lerner hit the roads of Lamoine and dropped off the reports. They finished up in mid-March.

John reports there are a lot of dogs in town, and some driveways are quite soft in areas. They only got stuck once, but some sand helped that out. No dogs attacked, but a few growled pretty fiercely.

The final birth of February was **Kelly Kinnane Henry.** She's the first daughter of Reverend David and Mary Henry. He's the pastor of the Lamoine Baptist Church, and mom works for Maine Coast Memorial Hospital. Little Kelly has received a lot of fussing over by the church congregation, and members report she's a real cutie!



One Wedding for

(Lamoine) — Congratulations to **Duane & Beth Jewell** who were married on Valentine's Day this year. They make their home on Douglas Highway. Duane is an inspector with the Maine State Police. Beth works at Bar Harbor Banking and Trust Company at the operations center in Ellsworth.

Town Report Dedicated to Three Public

(Lamoine) — The annual town report this year was dedicated to three public servants who have recently passed away — Allen Hodgkins, Charles Reynolds and Warren Whitaker.

Allen Hodgkins served the town for several years as a Selectman, Assessor and Road Commissioner. He was a dentist by trade, and a descendant of some of the original settlers of Lamoine. He was the holder of the Boston Post Cane at the time of his passing in October 1995.

Charles Reynolds served as a Selectman and School Board member in Lamoine. He was part of the committee which built the newest part of the Lamoine School in 1974. He worked for the State Highway Commission, the precursor to the MDOT. He passed away in January

Warren Whitaker died suddenly in February as the town report was being edited. He served Lamoine as the moderator for town meeting for many years in the 1970's. Warren worked for New England Telephone Company (now NYNEX).

Quilt, young artists featured in Town Report

(Lamoine) — The town didn't have to go far to find a suitable work of art for the cover of the town report this year. The quilt, completed during the 125th anniversary celebration, is hanging in the Lamoine Town Hall. A snapshot of the quilt was put on the front cover.

Several young artists contributed works to the report as well. Thanks to Darrah Bowden, Danny Gommel, Jenny Levin, Ashley Oleson, Jacie Cobb and Miranda Engstrom.

Also pictured in the town report this year were the Lamoine Town Hall and Lamoine General Store. Pioneer Print Ink was able to work the pictures into the report.

The size of the town report has grown again as well. The Selectmen bid out the report when they learned that Pine Tree Print would be unable to print them this year. Pioneer came in with the lower price, and a slightly larger size than the previous few years. The new, larger size has been well received, and the small print is a little bigger.

New Gravel Pit Licensed by Planning Board

(Lamoine) — The Lamoine Planning Board gave approval to a new gravel pit operation owned by Harold MacQuinn, Inc. The new pit is located on Douglas Highway, just south of the John and Penolope Walls home. It was land formerly owned by Frances Kittredge.

A public hearing on the proposed pit was held in January, and no negative comments were heard about the pit proposal. One letter from an abutting landowner was received stating opposition to a pit.

The Planning Board required that a detailed map and restoration plan be presented before mining could occur. Those items were received at the March meeting and approved. Monitoring wells will also have to be installed in the excavated area, and the Code Enforcement Officer will have to check the wells bi-annually to make sure the excavation does not come too close to ground water level.

The pit is the 4th owned by the MacQuinn company to receive a permit in Lamoine. Three others were renewed in 1996.

Building Activity slows during winter months

(Lamoine) — Building permit activity has dropped off sharply during the winter months. Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright reports the following permits were issued:

Nbr	Name	Type
96-61	Warren Murray	Garage
97-01	Fred Hutchinson	Addition
97-02	Carlton Johnson	Barn
97-03	Lyle Moldawer	Deck
97-04	Ray Becker	Renovation
97-05	Ruthe Keene	Store Room

Residents are reminded that building permits are required before starting construction. The CEO is in on Mondays at 10:00 AM

Building Permit extensions

(Lamoine) — According to the Lamoine Building Code, a building permit is good for only two years. That means a project started must be complete within two years of the grant date of the permit.

Two residents have asked for extensions of their permits due to construction delays. The Planning Board has granted both extensions without additional permit fees.

Peter and Jane Fenno-Vaux were granted a request to continue work on the home they purchased on Marlboro Beach Road. Richard and Marion Arnold will be able to complete construction of their home on Mermont Avenue this summer as well.

Emergency Plan to be reworked

(Lamoine) — If a major disaster were to strike Lamoine, the town constables would be notified to start whatever evacuation needs there might be. There's just one problem. The town hasn't had any constables for years. The Emergency management plan for Lamoine was last

Commercial Building approved on Shore Road

(Lamoine) — Another commercial building has been approved in town, this time on Shore Road. The building will be used to house boats and automobiles. It is owned by Carlton Johnson, who is also building boats for personal use at another building on the property.

The Planning Board held a public hearing in early January on the plans by Mr. Johnson. Several neighbors attended the hearing. The only concern expressed was that a wooded buffer between properties might be removed by future owners. The planning board said that any further development of the property would require Planning Board approval.

The application was approved with the conditions that if more employees are hired by Mr. Johnson that sanitary facilities be installed in compliance with state plumbing codes. Additionally, any hazardous substances at the complex will have to be stored in a building which has an impervious base. Several potentially hazardous materials were identified as possible on the property, and the board felt that to protect groundwater the stipulation was necessary.

Abandoned Car crackdown continues

(Lamoine) — Several residents of town are working with the Code Enforcement Officer to properly dispose of abandoned cars on their property. State law says that more than two junked cars constitutes and automobile graveyard. They are not allowed unless permitted by the municipal officers of town, in Lamoine's case, the board of Selectmen.

One application for an automobile graveyard has been received, however, the proposed area falls within the Shoreland Zone in town, and commercial business is not allowed in this particular part of the Shoreland. The owner of the property has been advised that if he wishes to have an automobile graveyard, it must be moved to a part of his property which is not within the Shoreland Zone.

Other folks with numerous cars have made efforts to remove them. Due to the mud then freezing conditions of the winter, some have reported difficulty in having the salvage companies remove the vehicles from their yard. As long as the effort is shown to have been made, the CEO has been agreeable to delays.

updated in July, 1980. The Selectmen have instructed the Emergency Management director for Lamoine (Stu Marckoon) to update the emergency management plan. A workshop on such plans was held in January in Ellsworth for the various town emergency officials in Hancock County.

During the seminar, it was learned there are many responsibilities for Boards of Selectmen to set policies for disasters. An updated plan should be ready by summer time.

Subscription Expired?

If there is a red line on your mailing label on the back page, that means your subscription to the Lamoine Quarterly has expired with this issue.

To Renew or subscribe, please mail $4 and this coupon to: Lamoine Town Hall
RR2 Box 53
Ellsworth, ME 04605

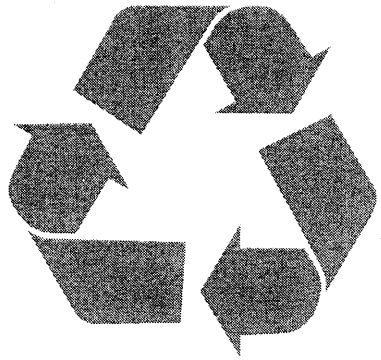
Name_____

Address_____

_____

City_____ State____ Zip_____

Recycling Rate still fairly good



(Lamoine) — Lamoine's recycling rate dropped a bit for 1996, but there is a pretty good reason for the drop. Starting last May, we changed recycling companies, opting to have BFI pick up the material and no longer participate with Coastal Recycling. BFI, now Sawyer/Casella, provides very detailed reports on exactly how much material is recycled by Lamoine. Coastal Recycling did no break out recycling amounts by particular community, and lumped all its members together to come up with a group recycling rate. Therefore, about 4-months of recycling figures could not be included in the annual report submitted to the State of Maine, yet an entire year of trash disposal was available.

Even with the eight months of true recycling figures, Lamoine managed to recycle about 26% of its solid waste. If you figure that might a about a third low,

Contract Offered for septic disposal

(Lamoine) — Each community in Maine is required by law to provide a place for disposal of sludge from septic tanks. It can either be a municipally owned place in town, or a contract with a licensed spreading site in a nearby town. Lamoine does not comply with the law because there is no proper area for such disposal at this time.

Haslam Septic has offered the town a contract to meet the letter of the law. Haslam is the primary hauler in Hancock County of most septic tank pumpings. The company has agreements with several sites around Maine to dispose of septic pumpings. The contract price for Lamoine is $750.

Lamoine's practice, for years, has been to reimburse the home owner who's tank was pumped, the disposal fee from that bill. Under the proposal going before town meeting, that reimbursement will stop on July 1st when the new budget takes effect. Instead, the septic disposal line will be reduced from $6,000 to the $750 for the contract price.

In bring the matter before town meeting, the Board of Selectmen felt it was unfair for all the taxpayers to foot the bill

Tax Assessing Under Way

(Lamoine) — While April first is better known as April Fools Day to most, to a tax assessor, it's "V" day. V stands for valuation. Under state law, property in all towns is to be valued as to its status on April 1st of each year. Lamoine is no exception.

The Board of Assessors will review each property that had a building permit or plumbing permit issued in the past year. Additionally, those properties listed as having incomplete construction projects during last year's valuation process will be reviewed for completeness this year.

RJD Appraisal of Pittsfield assists the local assessors in making many of the valuation determinations. This is the same company which performed the 1993 revaluation, and they have the expertise to assign the proper values to new construction.

You may wonder why, if you sell your property, you still get a tax bill for it. If the sale of the property occurs after April 1st, then you are the listed property owner on "V" day. That's why the property tax bill would still be listed in your name. The town office and tax collector makes every effort to track sales between April 1st and when the tax bills are printed to make sure the new owner gets a copy of the tax bill

the recycling rate could reasonbly expect to be aobut 34%. The report for 1997 should give us a true picture of how well we're doing with the recycling.

A couple of steps have been taken to attempt to improve the recycling rate. Allen Sternfield, the manager of the transfer station is encouraging all users to recycle what they can. He reports some very good success in recent months, and the figures of material being delivered to the PERC plant show a marked reduction in trash.

Additionally, the commercial trash hauler policy proposed for town meeting will attempt to force commercial haulers to reject pickups which contain recyclable material unless they have a way of segregating such material.

Several communities have imposed a fee per bag system to encourage recycling. Lamoine's voluntary efforts so far have been very good, and the fee per bag system has not yet been contemplated by the Selectmen.

The following items can be recycled at the transfer station:

Corrugated Cardboard
Office Paper
Glass (Clear, Green & Brown)
Plastics (# 1 & # 2)
Tin Cans & Metals
Newspapers
Reusable Items.

for a small number who have their tanks pumped each year.

The Department of Environmental protection has contacted the town to make sure that Haslam has assurance from the various sites where they take the waste that they can handle enough gallons. It was estimated that Lamoine would produce about 50,000 gallons of such waste per year. The company is working to make sure they have such assurance in writing. The contract would be between the town and Haslam septic instead of directly with a disposal site. The DEP says, provided there is assurance to Haslam that the proper amount of waste can be disposed of, such a contract would meet the spirit of the state law.

The matter will be discussed at the annual town meeting as part of the solid

Transfer Station Hours

Now until May
Fridays 12 noon to 5 PM
Saturdays 8 AM to 5 PM

May through November
Fridays & Saturdays
8 AM to 5 PM

made out to a previous owner. People with personal property to declare have been mailed reminders to list the property for the assessors. Personal property used in a business is subject to have its tax reimbursed by the State of Maine in many instances.

After the assessments are assigned to the properties which need review, the Board of Assessors will reconcile the list of properties so that each property card matches up to the computer record, and that the value of all the cards matches the totals in the computer.

It is expected the property tax bills

Portable Classroom bid

(Lamoine) — The Lamoine Board of Selectmen has awarded a bid to build a new portable classroom to _____ of _____. Six bids were received. The lowest bid was rejected by the Selectmen after it was learned that the bidder had previous problems with school projects.

It is anticipated the new classroom will begin construction shortly after school is dismissed in June. Construction is to be completed by mid-August in time for teachers to get situated before school