

◆ The Lamoine Quarterly ◆

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Lamoine, 11 Other Towns, Approve School Consolidation Plan

Town has best voter turnout in RSU

(Lamoine) - Lamoine citizens like to vote. In an election that drew little interest, more voters cast ballots in the Special Town Meeting on December 9th on the school consolidation question than any other town in the proposed Regional School Unit (RSU), and nearly eclipsed the total turnout of Ellsworth, a city with nearly 4-times as many voters. A total of 257 ballots were cast, 185 of them favoring the formation of the RSU, 71 opposed. Ellsworth saw 295 votes cast, only 175 in favor, and 120 opposed. Only one of the 13 towns voting on the plan rejected it—Otis voters turned down the proposal by 20 votes out of 94 cast.

The vote means that Lamoine will join Ellsworth, Hancock, Eastbrook, Waltham, Sullivan, Sorrento, Gouldsboro, Franklin, Winter Harbor, Steuben and Mariaville in the RSU to be named later. How the Beech Hill School in Otis will be funded remains to be seen, as Otis and Mariaville jointly operate the school.

The Regional Planning Committee (RPC) met following the vote

and appointed a temporary school board to until a permanent board can be elected. Christina Maguire-Harding is serving for Lamoine. Each town will have one member, but Ellsworth will have 3. That election will take place on February 12, 2009. Omar Norton, who's been the interim superintendent in Union 92 since the departure of Jim Boothby to Bucksport, has agreed to act as the temporary secretary for the RSU.

The new RSU board will then formulate a budget and make some pretty major policy decisions prior to the RSU's start of functioning on July 1st. The future of elected school committee members is still unknown. One person from Lamoine will serve on the RSU board, and if the town opts to retain a local advisory committee, the RSU board member would serve as the chair. Whether the local advisory board is elected or appointed will be up to the town.

The terms of Kathleen Rybarz and Faith Perkins expire this spring. An ordinance change will be sought to extend the terms to June 30, 2009.

Theall Elected Selectman



Selectman Kermit Theall

(Lamoine) - Cove Road resident Kermit Theall cruised to victory in an uncontested race for Selectman on December 9th. He gathered 209 votes while 5 others shared a dozen write-in votes.

Mr. Theall moved to Lamoine from New York State several years ago and is self employed, working as a contractor and owner of a self-storage business in Ellsworth. He's an active member of the fire department, well trained as a firefighter. Mr. Theall looks forward to serving on the Board and says it will be a learning process. He will miss a couple of meetings during the winter months as he will depart to the Dominican Republic to help with a public service project in that impoverished nation.

Mr. Theall replaces Chris Tadema-Wielandt who resigned in October to assume an open spot on Lamoine's Planning Board.

Presidential Election Sets Turnout Record

(Lamoine) - Lamoine is not so little any more. As voters lined up out the front door on November 4, 2008, that became very evident. By the time the polls closed, 1,119 people had cast ballots in the Presidential Election. The previous record was 1056 voters in 2004.

The turnout saw some differences in how the votes were cast. A concerted get out the absentee vote effort resulted in more than 320 ballots that were processed. That required tying up a ballot clerk and Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs for much of the afternoon as the names were checked off the list, the envelopes sliced open, and the ballots deposited with the regular ballots in the ballot box.

There were also more than 55 new voter registrations to process on Election Day. That resulted in some waits at the registration office while the names were put through the state's Centralized Voter Registration (CVR) system. The new voters were issued a sticker to present to the incoming list clerk, which allowed their voting participation record to be easily scanned into the database.

Three teams of counters had things wrapped up by about 1:00 in the morning. The results of the voting can be seen on the town's website: www.lamoine-me.gov, but Lamoine's outcome mirrored that of the entire state which favored Barack Obama.



A Record Voter Turnout

The November 4, 2008 presidential election saw voters set a new turnout record in Lamoine, eclipsing the 2004 election turnout by a wide margin

Town Website Redesigned

(Lamoine) - The town's website (www.lamoine-me.gov) looks a lot sharper this winter. It should also be a bit easier to navigate, though it's always been fairly simple to find things. The previous version of the main page had been on a black background with white and yellow lettering, and it was kind of a

hodgepodge of links to various departments within the site.

The new look has a light teal background. A picture from around town will be changed periodically at the top to try to reflect the season of the year. For instance, a shot of wild turkeys graced the top around Thanksgiving time.

Snowmobile Club Builds Gate Past Bloomfield Park

(Lamoine) - Hooligans with 4-wheel drive pickups and SUVs have been causing trouble late at night around Blunt's Pond and at Bloomfield Park for quite a while. The Snowmobile Club building had to be boarded up because of the extreme vandalism done to the small "A" Frame. That has prompted the Frenchman Bay Riders to request permission to block vehicular access on the road leading past the club, in the hope that a lack of access might discourage vandalism in the area.

Ken Smith of the club met with Selectmen this fall and received an endorsement to erect and mark a gate on the road. Enough room will be left for snowmobiles and ATVs to get around the gate and access the extensive network of snowmobile trails in Lamoine, but the road will not be passable for larger vehicles.

Bangor Hydro Electric will be given a key to access the gate, as power lines extend down the road to supply electricity to the snowmobile club and to John Goodwin's gravel pit. Mr.

Goodwin and the property owners beyond the snowmobile club lot have also given permission for the road to be gated off.

Neighbors have reported numerous late night problems over the past few years, and needles, most likely associated with drug use, have shown up in the past, as well as remnants of illegal campfires, and trash dumping. Law enforcement occasionally patrols the area.



Gated Off
The gravel road beyond the Frenchman Bay Riders Snowmobile Club is off limits to automobiles. Enough room is left for snowmobiles and ATVs to get by

School Aid Cut Sharply

(Lamoine) - After taking a huge hit in state aid to education for the current fiscal year, even more cuts have been ordered by the State Department of Education. As part of the Governor's order to cut 10-percent from the state budget, General Purpose Aid (GPA) for Essential Programs and Services (EPS) was slashed statewide. Lamoine's share of the cut was \$54,816, or 30.6% of the \$179,166.36 due to the town for the 2008/09 fiscal year. Because of a falling student population and increasing property valuation, Lamoine's cut was the highest percentage in School Union 92. Hancock and Trenton saw higher dollar amounts cut, but both communities receive significantly more GPA.

The impact of the state cut came long after property taxes were committed by the towns. The school committee has met to discuss the impact of the cuts. Some immediate changes were ordered, including cancellation of most field trips, and elimination of extra curricular sports scrimmages.

Because much of the school budget involves tuition paid to various high schools and mandated special education programs, the K-8 Lamoine Consolidated School will have to absorb virtually all of the \$54,000 loss in GPA. So far, no layoffs have been ordered by the school board.

(Lamoine) - Easements have been signed completing a right-of-way swap with the Town of Lamoine and Doug Gott & Sons so that the latter can access their gravel operations and the town can protect the area around the former landfill.

The entrance by the transfer station and salt/sand shed never had a deeded right of way to Gott which operates several gravel pits on land behind that lot. Gott did have a right-of-way that went up the former landfill road, around the capped landfill and to the land behind it. The easement swap cancels the landfill road right-of-way and establishes rights of way across the town lot on Route 184 and also establishes a right of way across a strip of town land that Gott mined several years ago to access another piece of land that Gott purchased and is actively mining.

Wireless Internet Eyes Lamoine

(Lamoine) - A Rockland based wireless Internet provider has asked the Board of Selectmen for support in seeking a grant to provide wireless Internet access. The move could mean under-served areas of Lamoine might be able to get high-speed Internet access in the near future. Time Warner Cable has filed an objection to Red Zone Wireless's grant because the service areas would overlap. Red Zone has completed projects in Mt. Desert and Cranberry Isles, and hopes to expand to Tremont, Trenton and Lamoine soon.

Bloomfield Park Road Project Starts

(Lamoine) - Trees were cut to make a new entrance into Bloomfield Park from the gravel road leading to Asa's Lane. Several deeds swapping rights of way into the park between the town and the Stuart and Lisa Branch family were signed and filed earlier this fall.

The entrance onto Asa's Lane is now a lot smoother, and when the construction equipment is done moving the earth this winter, a better defined entrance will lead into and out of the park. The entrance from the Bloomfield Park road to the Branch residence will be blocked off beyond the driveway by the Branches who've experienced trouble with traffic going through their front yard for several years (see snowmobile club story to the left).

Jay Fowler and Son won the contract as the lowest of six bidders in the summer of 2008. Delays in the easement paperwork pushed the project back several weeks, but all is now in place to complete the project. Trees were cut in the fall, to make way for the excavation equipment and the road. The Parks Commission has also cleared brush around the park area.

Town Meeting Set for April 7 & 8

(Lamoine) - The first full week of April will be town meeting week in Lamoine. The town meeting will start with election of municipal officers on April 7, 2009. Polls will be open from 10AM until 8PM at the Town Hall. To be elected are one Tax Assessor (Colene Sharkey is the incumbent), and two Selectmen (Brett Jones and Jo Cooper, incumbents). Nomination papers will be available on January 13, 2009 and must be returned with 25-signatures no later than February 22, 2009.

There will be no school committee elections on April 7, as the Lamoine School Board will cease to exist on June 30, 2009 due to school consolidation into a new Regional School Unit. Instead, voters will be asked to amend the Ordinance that governs municipal elections to extend the expiring school board terms to June 30, 2009, and then formally eliminate the elected school committee. A decision on how to pick a local school advisory board has yet to be made and will likely be a topic of discussion during the winter and spring.

In addition to the town budget, the annual town meeting will likely ask voters whether they wish to amend several ordinances (See ordinance article on page 3). The Budget Committee will likely produce recommendations for the 2009/10 budget articles sometime in January. The town meeting warrant will be signed in February, and town reports available in March.

Clear Cut in Shoreland Zone Leads to Violation Notice

(Lamoine) - The owners of a subdivision approved several years ago by the Planning Board face a costly remedy after allowing all the trees on one lot to be cut down in apparent violation of the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. The RS and MAS Trust of Sullivan was issued a notice of violation when Deputy Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan noticed the clear cut last fall while driving on Route 184 and looking toward the Jordan River down Paradise Drive.

After the initial notice of violation was issued, the town, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the Maine Forest Service, trustee Ronald Simons, a southern Maine developer, and contract cutter David Crane met at the site to review what happened and talk over what the remedy will have to be. Following the meeting a revised notice of violation was issued and the corrections needed were clearly spelled out to the trust which owns the subdivision. The violation involves cutting within the

Resource Protection (RP) area of the Shoreland Zone. The property in question apparently was never properly identified as sitting within the RP zone when the subdivision was first developed by Mr. Simons. The RP zone has severe development limitations within 250-feet of the shoreline, including tree harvesting guidelines. The non RP zone also has strict tree harvesting provisions in the Shoreland Zone.

The town is requiring the landowner to have a forest management plan developed and turned into the town, and to replant trees in the area that was cut. Deadlines for each step of the corrections were set in the follow-up violation notice, with the replanting and delineation of wetland areas to be completed by next September 1st.

Mr. Simons has hired an Ellsworth surveying company to coordinate compliance with the order from Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Ford and no appeal has been filed.

Appeals Board Grants Road Width Variance

(Lamoine) - Ellsworth developer Wayne Wright found himself caught between local and federal regulations for a subdivision development that had to be altered, and impacts on wetlands diminished. The Army Corps of Engineers demanded the road that services the Partridge Cove Estates subdivision be no wider than 20-feet because of the impact on a stretch of wetlands that ran between Route 204 and the subdivision lots. The town ordinance requires two 9-foot travel lanes and two 2-foot shoulders, or a total of 22-feet in width.

The Planning Board had originally approved a subdivision about a year earlier, but construction on the first home was halted when a vernal pool was discovered. The Planning Board turned down the reconfigured subdivision because of the road width, and Wright appealed the decision to the Lamoine Board of Appeals.

The Army Corps refused to back down from the 20-foot width requirement which prompted the Appeals Board to find that a hardship existed in that the back lots became inaccessible because of the strip of wetland. After gaining the variance, Wright won final subdivision and site plan approval from the Planning Board in December.

Planning Board Proposes Ordinance Changes

(Lamoine) - If Selectmen go along, a series of ordinance changes will go before voters in April affecting the Building and Land Use Ordinance (BLUO), the Site Plan Review and Gravel Extraction Ordinances.

The Site Plan Review change is the easiest—it just requires submission of 9-copies of the plan instead of 7.

The BLUO changes are more complex. One change clarifies that a Site Plan Review permit is needed if a subdivision road is going to cover more than 10,000 square feet and limits direct

access on a public road for new subdivisions. It also adds a definition of private ways and would make rules for new driveways and roads accessing town roads identical to state highway rules.

The Gravel Ordinance makes changes to the procedures the Planning Board would use when granting new and renewed permits. It will require maps which clearly show areas being mined and those that will be or have been restored. The proposals are expected to be finalized after the January Planning Board meeting and available at the town office.

Bait Shop Approved

(Lamoine) - When he's not manning the transfer station, Bill Fennelly will be selling bait from his home on Fennellyville Road. Fennelly won approval from the Planning Board for a home occupation permit for the shop, after getting permission from his parents who own the land to use it for such purposes. A sign was approved by CEO Dennis Ford.

Auto Graveyards, Gravel Permits Issued

(Lamoine) - Selectmen issued renewals to a pair of automobile graveyards operated by Pro Auto Center. The areas include the North Lamoine location at the business and an area off Marlboro Beach Road where the cars are stored after the useful parts are stripped off. There were no public comments at the hearing in early November, but a representative of Pro Auto said they do plan to erect a better fence at the Marlboro location to screen the yard from public view.

The Planning Board has issued a gravel permit to RF Jordan and Sons for a previously permitted pit which has not been mined in a while. Prior to releasing the permit, the Board required that Jordan secure written access permission from an abutting landowner, and that the access road from Route 184 be fully shown on the map of the pit.

Dog Licenses Due

(Lamoine) - By state law, all dog owners are required to register their dogs with the town clerk. Licenses expire December 31st each year, but there is a 1-month grace period where no late fee is charged during January.

To register, a dog must be 6-months old and have proof of a rabies shot and neutering (if applicable). Cost is \$6.00 for a neutered dog and \$11.00 for a dog capable of reproducing.

The State Department of Agriculture is now collecting all proof of rabies vaccinations and mailing copies to the town offices, and that has resulted in discovery of a lot of unlicensed dogs. Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs is mailing notices to folks who've not registered their dogs but have obtained rabies shots reminding them that registration is required.

Late registration (after 1/31) comes with a \$15.00 additional fee. If a warrant is issued and the animal control officer has to serve notice, the fee is an additional \$25.00.

Permits Issued

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officers Dennis Ford and Michael Jordan issued the following permits:

Nbr.	Name	Project
48	David Smallidge	Deck
49	Grace Leonard	Residence
50	Rachael Budwine	Garage
51	Rob't Tilden	Addition
52	Justin Smith	Shed
53	Craig Smith	Residence
54	Jane Fowler	Apartment
55	Wm. Fennelly	Sign
56	Rob't Saffell	Residence

Despite the economy, the number of permits issued in 2008 is only three less than the number issued in 2007. Applications before the Planning Board have dropped off a bit, with no new applications submitted for the January 2009 meeting.

Town Office Renovation Completed

(Lamoine) - The town office renovation project is done, and has met with approval from nearly everyone who's come in since its completion. Begun in mid-September, the project remodeled the town clerk/tax collector's office, installing a service counter with roll-down metal window grates. A new floor is fully



Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs is ready to serve the public at the new counter for the town clerk/tax collector's office.

installed, the lighting has been completely upgraded in all rooms, and the Cable TV room has been switched around to make it more user friendly.

The timing couldn't have been better. Business was fairly slow while the office was in an upheaval during the renovation, and the project was finished in early October just as tax collections and absentee voter activity swung into full gear. The new counter allows two people to wait on customers, where the previous configuration allowed for just one clerk at a time.

Budget Committee At Work

(Lamoine)- The town's budget committee should be able to wrap up its work for the 2009/10 municipal budget in early January. All the budgets have been presented, it's a matter of making recommendations for the April 8, 2009 town meeting.

The committee faces a budget that is projecting significantly lower revenues than in previous years. Utilization of undesignated fund balance (surplus) in the current fiscal year left very little to apply to the 09/10 budget. Additionally, income from interest and excise taxes are expected to drop.

The total expenditure budget as proposed is down a bit as well. Not as many capital projects are being proposed for the next fiscal year. The current year had major projects at the town office and for Bloomfield Park. The biggest proposed capital project (other than road paving on Buttermilk Road) will be the purchase of a new brush truck for the fire department. The Budget Committee is exploring whether it would be more prudent to put away money for a few more years or to borrow money now and pay it back over time. Chief George "Skip" Smith has been asked to get an estimate on how much a new truck will cost. The proposal is to replace a 1976 Ford Pumper and a 1986 GMC military surplus pickup with the new brush truck.

The final meeting for the Budget Committee is set for January 5, 2009 at the town hall.

A new window looking out into the hallway from the Administrative Assistant's office allows him to see if business is backing up and he can quickly jump into the 2nd service counter.

The new phone system is much more professional, with the ability to put callers on hold and transfer to another extension. The Code Enforcement Office has been relocated to a much larger space in the back, building permit information consolidated into that room, and a spare desk set up if the Assessors wish to work there.

Economic Pinch Hits Town, But Not Hard

(Lamoine) - Other than a huge cut in State Education Aid (see page 2), and the previously high cost of fuel, the town is faring OK, despite a national recession. In some ways, there are actually some benefits to a municipal government.

Revenues

The biggest impact appears to be in excise tax collections and investment interest. As of mid-December, excise collections were about \$7,000 lower than the previous year. Traditionally, less excise tax is collected during the winter months, but it's unlikely the town will hit its revenue projection of \$305,000 by the end of June 2009. The slump in car sales nationally is no different in our area.

Investment interest is also down sharply. Money market accounts, which represent the bulk of the town's investments, are not paying a very high rate, and the Federal Reserve's cuts have a big impact on the return rate. The town has other federally backed bonds and bank CD's which are paying a fairly healthy rate, and that means their fair market value should be higher than when they were purchased.

Interest on unpaid real estate taxes is down a bit thanks to the change by town meeting to have two due dates instead of one. That has a double whammy on investment interest, as the real estate taxes don't all come in during October, so the term of investment is shorter, and the investment interest is lower. The good news is that property tax collections have been relatively strong. As of mid-December more than 42% of taxpayers had

Upgraded Cable TV Equipment Coming

(Lamoine) - Viewers of local government channel 7 on Time Warner Cable will eventually notice a much better lineup of telecasts. The ad-hoc Cable TV committee won approval by the Selectmen to purchase a new computerized scheduling and broadcast automation system that will allow programs to be scheduled at specific times. A more professional looking non-meeting billboard should also result from the new machine.

In addition to the computer, a 3rd camera will be installed in the meeting room, giving live show operators more angles to choose from.

The current system utilizes a DVD recorder to preserve meeting telecasts. The DVD is then played on a repeating basis at some point, and it can get a bit repetitive. It also uses a PowerPoint presentation for the town billboard, with a kind of jury-rigged video output. The new system is designed specifically for professional looking telecasts, and will schedule a week's worth of playback at a time.

It's anticipated the new system will be installed in the next couple of months. Franchise fees charged to cable users funded the upgrade.

paid their bill in full, prior to the 2nd due date of February 28, 2009. More than 88% had submitted their first half payments in full.

No Foreclosures

Tax liens filed in June 2007 for the property taxes due October 31, 2006 would automatically foreclose in December 2008. Thankfully all liens were paid in full before the automatic foreclosure date, and no one lost property for unpaid taxes.

Fuel Costs

The town participates with several school departments in purchasing heating fuel in bulk. With \$5.00/gallon prices predicted late last summer, the consortium locked in at a price of \$3.616/gallon. That represented a significant cost increase for the town hall and fire station. The cost to the fire department was \$750 over budget while the town hall budget was exceeded by about \$61.

The other impacts of fuel costs include mileage reimbursement to town personnel which rose to 50-cents a mile in July. Diesel fuel for the fire trucks was costly during the fall months when it was running over \$4/gallon. Thankfully, there were not many fire calls during that period, and diesel prices have fallen to about \$2.50/gallon in mid December.

Willing Bidders

The good news from a poor economy was that several bidders were interested in projects, and those projects (Town Hall Renovations, Bloomfield Park Road) were completed within budget.

Family Fun Day at Blunt's Pond Planned for Feb 14th

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Parks Commission and the Frenchman Bay Riders Snowmobile Club are teaming up to offer the 1st annual Blunt's Pond Kids Fishing Derby and Family Fun Day. It will be held on Saturday, February 14, 2009 from dawn to dusk at Bloomfield Park and the snowmobile clubhouse which are located on the pond.

Plans include plowing off a skating area, a bon fire, a raffle with prizes from local merchants, trophies for kids who catch the largest trout, pickerel and white perch.

The event coincides with the State of Maine's "Hooked on Fishing" Day, which means license free ice fishing for all adults as well. A representative from the Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Department will be on hand to talk about fishing.

The event is free to the public, though hot chocolate and food will be for sale at the event. Ice conditions are generally pretty good in mid-February, but be sure to check the town's website in case conditions are unsuitable.

Selectmen to Explore Closures

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen will discuss two areas that remain closed to shellfish harvesting by the Department of Marine Resources. One area is along Mud Creek approximately a quarter mile from the S-Turn culverts. The other is off Eagle Point. The closure notices published by DMR indicate both areas are closed due to pollution and require a special permit from the state agency.

Selectman Dick Fennelly asked to have the items placed on the agenda for the first meeting in January to discuss if there are any steps the town might be able to take to ensure that those areas can be reopened in the near future.

Last year the town had several travel trailers moved from a property off Seal Point Road. That may have helped to clean up the flats that had been closed by pollution in that part of town.

State Value Rises 6.5%

(Lamoine) - The State Property Tax Division believes value in Lamoine rose by nearly \$17,000,000 during 2007, and has increased the town's total valuation to \$272,100,000. Aid to Education, tree growth reimbursement, and county taxes are among the budget items affected by the state valuation. The Lamoine Board of Assessors has valued the town at \$244,392,400 as of April 1, 2008, which is about 96% of the state valuation.

Veterans' Memorial Still Raising Funds

(Lamoine) - Sales of bricks, DVDs and wreaths have helped to close the gap between the cost of the Veterans Memorial and the amount the committee owes to the town for construction of the project. As of mid-December, the Veterans' Memorial Committee was about \$3,500 away from its goal. Sizeable donations came in from RF Jordan & Son and Lamoine General Store owner Kimberly Murphy to help defray the costs.

Committee members are still selling commemorative bricks to be placed in the walk way. Several bricks are still on order, and may have to wait for spring to be installed.

Resident Karen Richter suggested selling Christmas wreaths, and that generated about \$600. DVD copies of the September dedication ceremony have sold fairly well. Committee secretary Kathy DeFusco has diligently collected bottles and turned them into Lamoine Redemption Center. Collection jars remain up at some local businesses.

The memorial has attracted hundreds of visitors. Some have been moved enough to donate wreaths. Hubene Brodie plans to make one for each major celebration time, and Ann Leeman donated a cross for a Christmas theme.



Lamoine Veterans Memorial Committee members Reggie McDevitt and Kathleen DeFusco met with Lamoine resident, Hubene Brodie, who made the wreath for the Lamoine Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day, November 11, 2008. Veteran Marion McDevitt and her Grandson, Connor McDevitt, placed the wreath on the memorial after taking a few minutes to say a prayer for the men and women who have and are serving our country. Pictured l-r: Kathleen DeFusco, Hubene Brodie, Connor and Marion McDevitt. (Photo by George DeFusco)

Tree Growth Penalties Paid

(Lamoine) - The town has received \$77,253.73 in supplemental property taxes due to tree growth penalties. A piece of land owned by the late J. Aubrey Davis, was divided up after his death. His widow, Barbara, and the Maine Coast Baptist Church were assessed penalties for withdrawing the land from the tree growth program by the Lamoine Board of Assessors. A third heir paid a fine of a few hundred dollars. An appeal to the Maine Board of Property Tax Review is expected.

Under Tree Growth valuation laws, the new owners have a year to file an updated forest management plan. The town did not receive the plan in the proper time frame, and the assessors found a plan subsequently filed did not meet the criteria for tree growth property valuation.

Assessors say they will be reviewing all the tree growth valued properties in the next few years to make sure they are in compliance with the state program.

Permit Requirements May Threaten Flags

(Lamoine) - Bangor Hydro Electric has informed town officials that they will require permits to place American flags on utility poles. The town has displayed about 4-dozen flags for the past three years on poles at strategic locations in town. Permits are required by state law, and the utility has imposed some pretty stringent liability insurance coverage in order to obtain a permit. The town's insurance carrier estimates the additional insurance would cost \$1,475 annually. The utility says the flags pose danger to their linemen.

Many towns throughout the state have begun displaying flags from utility poles during summer months. The Cole Land Transportation Museum in Bangor donated a 24 flags for display while the town, through private contributions purchased another 24 when the displays first started.

Selectmen are studying the situation and working with the town's insurance carrier to find a solution.

Storms Keep Fire Department Hopping

(Lamoine) - The weather was the cause for nearly every call for the Lamoine Fire Department in the last quarter of the year. Starting in late October, at least three major wind and rain storms brought calls for assistance for trees down and flooded roads. In each case, firefighters either cut trees out of the roads (provided power lines were not involved), or erected barricades to warn approaching motorists of flooding situations.

There were a couple of actual fire calls, but both were out of town. Firefighters from Lamoine joined their

counterparts from Hancock, Ellsworth, and several other departments at the scene of a fire at the White Birches Motel in Hancock. A quick response limited damage to the apartment of origin. A hot ceiling fan was blamed for the fire. Lamoine also provided station coverage in Ellsworth for a report of a fire on the Branch Pond Road.

A few motor vehicle accidents required fire department response in early December. Two of the accidents were on Pinkhams' Flats which iced up very quickly. Rescue Truck 403 sustained damage en route to one of the calls when it collided with a deer on Douglas Highway. Asst. Fire Chief Stu Marckoon, who was driving, reported the deer came bounding out into the road and he had no time to react. The collision bent the driver's side bumper, causing it to rub against the tire. Firefighters were able to bend it out enough to allow the truck to operate normally. A new bumper is en route, and insurance covered part of the cost.



Above—A close call for the home at the corner of Seal Point and Partridge Cove Road after one of the several wind storms blew down two trees in November

Right—Fran Leyendecker tackles her Shore Road driveway with a snow blower after a blizzard left 16" + of snow the first day of winter.



Haz Waste Collection Increases

(Bar Harbor) - Lamoine residents snatched up permits quickly for the annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) cleanup held in October at MDI High School. A report from the cleanup showed a significant increase in the amount of universal waste (fluorescent light bulbs, TVs, computer monitors etc) that came into the cleanup. Resident Ken Smith was kind enough to transport all the replaced light bulbs from the town hall renovation to the cleanup.

The report from the Acadia Disposal District showed that Lamoine sent 69 units of universal waste in 2008 compared to just 7 units the previous year. Residents sent 40-units of HHW compared to 11 units in 2007. The district and the MDI League of Towns jointly sponsor the annual cleanup in an effort to give residents a safe and cost effective way to remove dangerous wastes from their homes. Because of the increase in disposal, an additional bill is expected from the disposal district in addition to the \$284.00 prepaid by the town to participate. Lamoine did not participate in a similar collection held in Ellsworth earlier in the summer. The Regional Planning Commission is studying a more permanent collection plan for Hancock County.

GET WET Turns 4

(Lamoine) - Students from the Lamoine Consolidated School and Ellsworth High School are marking their fourth year as research assistants for the George Mitchell Center for Environment and Watershed Research at the University of Maine Orono. They gather data for Mitchell Center researchers John Peckenham and Teresa Thornton who are studying the common aquifer that supplies drinking water for Lamoine, Ellsworth, and Hancock. The study grew out of the interest in the long term quality of our water supply.

Fifth and sixth grade students will again conduct a variety of water quality tests on samples taken from their homes. The tests have remained consistent over the years to ensure that the data can be used to track changes in our water supply.

The opportunity to be part of a University research team continues to provide our students with insights as to how scientific techniques are used in a long term research study. It has also encouraged many to take science related courses as part of their high school curriculum. *(Bob Pulver, Conservation Commission)*

Mussel Lease Transfer Proposed

(Lamoine) - The Department of Marine Resources has informed the town that a mussel lease in Eastern Bay is in the process of transferring from Great Eastern Mussel Company to Acadia Aqua Farms, LLC. Great Eastern has closed up shop in St. George. Written comments on the transfer must be received by the department by January 19, 2009.

Conservation Commission News

(Lamoine) - In December, Beverly Atkins of the Beginning with Habitat Program presented the Town with resource maps of Lamoine, including important natural features such as rare species habitats, deer yards, wetlands important to waterfowl and wading birds, and large undeveloped habitat blocks.

These maps will be available on the Town's website. The Conservation Commission will be considering how best to display the lovely large paper maps at its January Meeting. *(Fred Stocking, Chair)*

Adopt A Highway

In 2008, Lamoine adopted our roads under the Adopt-A-Highway program.

We have 27 one mile sections of town road in the program. Initially all sections were adopted. However, 2 have dropped out and 2 have never picked up their section. So, in the spring, we will need 4 new adopters.

Therefore, 23 sections picked up litter in the spring. This fall, 14 sections or 60% of the total got picked up again. In all cases, there was considerably less trash than in previous years, which says our diligence has paid off. Cub Scout Pack 88 will adopt a section for 2009. We thank them for their help. *(Georgia Munsell, Adopt A Road Chair)*

Upcoming

Topics the Conservation Commission will look at in the coming year include:

- Let's Recycle!" The challenge: By Earth Day – of our students, who can come up with the most innovative idea and product using recycled items
- "Water, the Oil of the Future." – Use of the aquifer needs to be sustainable, clean and potable. A forum on water is being planned for March;
- Native Plants and Invasive Species." April 22, just in time for spring plantings, find out what flourishes in this coastal environment and what will take over your and your neighbor's properties;
- Our Night Skies" – by popular demand, a repeat visit by Linda Penkalski who will show us the marvels of our night sky;
- An inventory of Lamoine's Open Spaces – Information on those special places we all love and cherish.

(Lynda Tadema-Wielandt, Consvr. Cmsn)



Olive Crane with lamb, one of the historic photographs in the 2009 Lamoine Historical Society calendar. Copies are available at the Town Hall for \$6.00. (Photo from Lamoine Historical Society)

Vital Statistics

(Lamoine) - Congratulations on the arrival of **Isobel Marie Wardwell**, born on November 16, 2008 at Eastern Maine Medical Center. **Sydney Ann Mason** was also born at EMMC on December 3, 2008. We welcome **Sambo Ezra Him** to town from Cambodia. One correction from the previous edition. **Kennedy Ann Lambert's** name was incorrectly listed as Kimberly.

Two marriages to report this quarter, and both on the same day. **Tiffany Shoppe and Justin Pickard** were married on October 4, 2008. They're living in South Carolina. Tiffany grew up in Lamoine and was an outstanding golfer at Ellsworth High School.

Joshua Stoll and Michelle Farnsworth were also married on October 4, 2008. Josh is a graduate of the Lamoine School System, and the couple makes their home on Partridge Cove Road.

We lost several long-time residents this quarter.

Richard Linscott of Douglas Highway passed away at the age of 82 on November 13, 2008.

Kenneth Bragdon also of Douglas Highway died November 19, 2008 at the age of 78. His wife Kay is a long time ballot clerk for the town.

Bertha Rosebrook of Berry Cove Road died on November 23, 2008 at the age of 95.

Madeline Bragdon of Needles Eye Road died December 5, 2008. She was 89.

Community Arts Presents Fall Farces

(Lamoine) - Lamoine Community Arts finished its first year as an official organization with a weekend of "Frantic Fall Farces," presented last November at the Lamoine Grange Hall. Over 65 Lamoine residents acted, directed, built sets, made costumes, took tickets, provided refreshments and otherwise helped with the production. Thanks to all who participated, and to our kind and appreciative audiences!

Over the winter, LCA members will be reading and screening plays in preparation for a Readers' Theater production in the spring. Anyone interested in helping with future productions, or in joining Lamoine Community Arts should contact Carol Korty, President at 667-4441, or Rae Dumont, Treasurer, at 667-0554.

Friends of State Park to Meet March 10th

(Lamoine) - The non-profit Friends of Lamoine State Park group will meet on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at the Lamoine Town Hall at 7:00 PM. The purpose for the meeting will be to elect officers for the coming year and to try to rejuvenate the Friends efforts in support of the operations at the State Park. The Friends group has sold T-shirts and firewood in the past to raise money for park beautification and a street light for the boat ramp.

Members of the public are welcome and folks are encouraged to hold an office. For more information, contact president Julie Herrick (667-4089).

Selectmen Revise School Bond

(Lamoine) - With all the work on school consolidation, apparently the update for the school bond approved a year ago fell through the cracks. When the town sent in the request for proceeds of the bond to pay the bills for the renovation project at the school in October, the Maine Municipal Bond Bank called back to say the funds had been exhausted. That caused a few gulps, and a scramble on the paper work by the school attorney in Portland.

The updated bond information has been submitted and approved by all parties and the higher funding authorized by voters is available to finish up the project. Contractors had to wait a few weeks longer than expected to get paid.

The renovation project includes a new septic system, new electrical wiring, new lighting, and other energy efficiency upgrades. New plumbing has helped ensure a steady water supply for the entire school, and new restroom fixtures are in place for students. The project is 98% complete, on time and under budget.

School, FD Agree On Lot Layout

(Lamoine) - Part of Regional School Unit agreement approved by the 12-towns in RSU 24 included a provision that the fire department lot in Lamoine be considered separate from the school. The RSU will take possession of the school lot and both structures presently sit on the same parcel of land, which is made up of several parcels purchased over the years.

In early December, Selectmen Brett Jones and Cynthia Donaldson met with school committee member Bob Pulver and fire chief Skip Smith to determine what exactly the fire station lot will look like. It was agreed that the line will run through the portable classroom currently located in front of the Lamoine Consolidated School, and form an "L" shaped lot. The thinking is that if and when the portable classroom is removed, the area would then be able to be utilized for firefighter parking. Until such time, the town will agree to let the portable classroom remain on the land. The proposed agreement would retain an easement to the land in back of the station.

Selectmen have inquired about the cost to survey the proposed lot layout. It's

expected that a formal plan and pin placement will be able to be presented to voters at the annual town meeting in April. A request to allow the Selectmen to delineate the lot went before the town meeting body last April, but was rejected because voters said they wanted to see the layout before giving the board carte blanche permission to carve up the property.



Some Real Cut-Ups
Andrea Gabel-Richards and Sharon St. Clair "operate" on Dr. Diaculum played by Lolly Lovett
(Photo Courtesy of Anne Stocking)

The Lamoine Quarterly
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January 2009 – Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1-Town office closed (Federal Holiday)	2	3-Town Office open 8am to noon
4	5-4PM RSU Nominations Due 5:30 School Cmte 7PM Budget Cmte	6-7PM Planning Board	7-7PM Assessors	8-7PM Selectmen 7PM Fire Dept	9	10
11	12	13-6:30 Ordinance Workshop Town Meeting Nomination Papers	14-7PM Conservation Cmsn	15-7PM Fire Dept	16	17
18	19-Town Office Closed (Federal Holiday)	20	21-7PM Veterans Memorial Cmte.	22-7PM Selectmen 7PM Fire Dept	23	24
25	26	27	28	29-7PM Fire Dept.	30	31-Town Office Open 8am-noon

February 2009 – Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2-5:30 School Cmte	3-7PM Planning Board	4-7PM Assessors	5-7PM Selectmen 7PM Fire Dept	6	7-Town Office Open 8am-noon
8	9	10	11-7PM Conservation Cmsn	12-RSU Director Vote 10AM to 8PM 7PM Fire Dept	13	14-Family Fun Day @ Bloomfield Park
15	16-Town Office Closed (Federal Holiday)	17-7PM Parks Commission	18-7PM Veterans Memorial Cmte	19-7PM Selectmen 7PM Fire Dept	20	21
		<i>School Vacation Week</i>				
22	23-Town Meeting Nomination Papers Due	24	25	26-7PM Fire Dept	27	28-Town Office Open 8am-noon 2nd Half Property Taxes Due

March 2009 – Lamoine Schedule

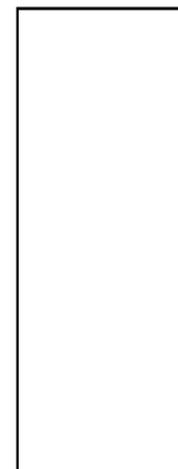
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2-5:30 School Cmte	3-7PM Planning Board	4-7PM Assessors	5-7PM Selectmen 7PM Fire Dept	6-Town Meeting Absentee Ballots Available	7-Town Office Open 8am-noon
8	9	10-7PM Friends of Lamoine State Park	11-7PM Conservation Cmsn	12-7PM Fire Dept	13	14
15	16	17-7PM Parks Commission	18-7PM Veterans Memorial Cmte	19-7PM Selectmen 7PM Fire Dept	20	21
22	23	24	25	26-7PM Fire Dept	27	28-Town Office Open 8am-noon
29	30	31	<i>Be sure to check the town's website for updated meeting information</i>			

The Lamoine Quarterly January 2009

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- 5 Flag Displays need permit
- 6 Storms take toll on town
- 7 State Park Friends to Meet
- 7 Vital Statistics

And Much More!



Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605