

◆ The Lamoine Quarterly ◆

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April 2009

Town Meeting is April 7th and 8th

(Lamoine) - For the first time in recent years, all the elected offices in town government have challengers to the incumbents listed on the ballot. There is no school committee race this year, as the school committee will cease to exist on June 30th, and a proposed ordinance change before the open meeting would extend the terms of the incumbents to that date.

Running for the two seats on the Board of Selectmen are incumbents Jo Cooper (the current chair) and Brett Jones. They're challenged by first time candidates Peter McDevitt and Gary McFarland. The lone opening on the Board of Assessors is re-sought by Colene Sharkey who faces a challenge by first time candidate Michael Jordan. Balloting takes place on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 from 10AM until 8PM at the Lamoine Town Hall.

The open town meeting takes place the next evening, April 8, 2009 at 6:00 PM at the Lamoine School Gym. Prior to the start of the actual town business, the Board of Selectmen will officially present the first "Citizen of the Year" award, and the Conservation Commission will present its annual award to a deserving recipient.

There are numerous ordinance changes to consider right after the required articles that appear on the town meeting warrant every year. The Planning Board has proposed changes to the Building and Land Use Ordinance, the Gravel Extraction Ordinance, and the Site Plan Review Ordinance. A separate article inside *The Lamoine Quarterly* outlines the proposed changes.

The Selectmen have also proposed changes to the Elections and Assumption of Office Ordinance to bring it into line with the RSU vote that was adopted last December. The change includes adding the RSU director to the list of elected officials, defining the term of office as expiring on June 30th of a particular year, and extending the terms of office for the present school committee until June 30, 2009. After that date, the elected school committee will cease to exist as Lamoine becomes part of RSU #24.

The municipal budget as proposed spends about \$29,000 less than last year, but the amount of property tax needed to fund the budget is up roughly \$97,000 (less than 1/2 mill) due to other revenue reductions. Less surplus money is available this year, interest income has dropped dramatically and excise tax collections are projected to decrease as well.

Among the articles is one to borrow money for a new brush truck for the fire department, replacing two vehicles with a collective age of 55-years.

Wal-Mart Helps Out Memorial Project



With A Little Help From Our Friends

Members of the Lamoine Veterans Memorial Committee accept a check for \$1,000 from Wal-Mart in Ellsworth to help pay for the Memorial project. Pictured (l-r) Committee Chair Jo Cooper, Walt McFarland, Marion McFarland, Bob Courtot (Wal-Mart), Jay Fowler and Committee Secretary Kathleen DeFusco

Winter Weather Blankets Lamoine

(Lamoine) - The snow plow drivers saw a lot of Lamoine's roadways during the winter of 2009 thanks to some pretty hefty snowfalls. Many mailbox owners can attest to that as heavy snow pushed by the plows, and sometimes the plow wing itself, toppled the boxes off their posts. At least four storms dropped 10-inches or more of snow in short order, leaving roads and driveways difficult to maneuver. One of the storms saw thick, heavy snow accumulate on tree branches in late February, and that brought down power lines throughout town, with some houses without electricity for up to 4-days. Bangor Hydro Electric called in extra crews to help restore the power all along the Hancock and Washington County coastline.

Remnants of downed trees, especially the birch and poplar species, will be cleared away during the spring months once the snow banks have receded. In areas that don't get much sun, the banks were well over 6-feet tall. At the height of the snow, the ground cover outside the town hall approached 4-feet, burying the new benches at the



Veterans' Memorial. In late March, only one side of the town hall sign was visible—the other side obscured by the snow pile at the intersection of Route 204 and Route 184.

Resident Jay Fowler was kind enough to use his front end loader to push back the snow banking in front of the Town Hall on February 12th to allow folks who wanted to cast a ballot for the RSU director election to easily park.

Thankfully, the melting started in March and there was no heavy rainfall, so it's been relatively steady with no massive water runoff to this point. The frost heaves have cropped up in the usual spots, and there is a lot of sand on the local road surfaces that will have to be removed in the spring. Selectmen approved adding an extraordinary cost clause to the plowing contract with Nankervis Trucking for next year.



A Familiar Sight

The crew from Nankervis Trucking plows Seal Point Road during one of the many storms this winter. (Above) - a giant icicle formed during the thaw/freeze cycle at the town hall. A pike pole from the fire department brought it down.

Sculpture Planned for State Park

(Acadia National Park) - The [Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium](#) chose Lamoine and the Lamoine State Park to host one of the sculptures that will be created during a six week symposium in the summer of 2009. That has created a lot of buzz in the town's art community.

Six sculptors chosen from an applicant pool of 110 artists representing 37 different countries will work on their pieces at the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC) in Acadia National Park. They will use Maine granite or basalt to fashion unique sculptures. The event is to be held every two years, and in 2007 sculptures were placed in six locations around Hancock County and in Millbridge in Washington County

Selectman Cynthia Donaldson says there is some work to be done in Lamoine. No municipal funds will be used to support the project, but a local committee will be looking to raise \$2000 to support Lamoine's participation. The Bureau of Parks and Lands' contribution of \$6000 will compete the monetary portion of Lamoine's responsibility. The Bureau's donation of a spot for the finished sculpture between the Lamoine Beach Road and the park kiosk will make the sculpture safely accessible to the public.

Planning will start soon for Lamoine's personal support of "our" artist and ways for Lamoine residents to connect with the project which will see the artists working from July 25 through mid



Lamoine Beach Ramp
(Photo by State of Maine)

Ramp Repair Unlikely

(Lamoine) - The old cement and steel boat launching ramp at Lamoine Beach has fallen into disrepair and is usually covered with sand for most of the year. It is highly unlikely the ramp will be repaired anytime soon.

The town inquired about a state grant to form an engineering plan about properly constructing the ramp. A previous grant application had been turned down by the state, and the inquiry this time provided an explanation. The lay of the land is such a shallow slope that it would make the cost prohibitive to construct a ramp that is steep enough and long enough to launch a boat at low tide. An estimate from state engineer George Powell is that a wave attenuator alone would cost \$200,000, not to mention massive amounts of fill that would be needed to create the proper slope.

September. Activities designed to introduce Lamoine's sculptor to the community will be planned and school groups will be encouraged to visit the sculpture site where students can meet the artists and learn about sculpture making, Maine's quarrying history, and the geology that created our granite and basalt. The work site will be open to the public throughout the symposium, and the town's website will post pictures and information as our "creation" evolves. A celebratory unveiling will be scheduled for mid September. For more info, call Gerry Williams (667-5268) or Cynthia Donaldson (667-2382). or www.schoodicsculpture.org

Ordinance Changes

(Lamoine) - No one showed up for the Planning Board's public hearing on the proposed changes to three ordinances that will be decided at open town meeting on April 8, 2009. None of the changes are very drastic.

Building & Land Use

The proposed changes to this ordinance would make it consistent with the Site Plan Review Ordinance. It clarifies rules about road entrances (they would mirror state requirements). Another change would add a definition of private ways as opposed to a subdivision road. A private way typically serve a single dwelling located more than 500-feet off the main road. A private way will require a wide section every 500-feet so that emergency vehicles can pass if needed. If more than two dwellings are served, the private way would have to be upgraded to subdivision road standards.

Gravel Ordinance

The purpose of the ordinance has been restated to add soil stabilization and support for wildlife to the preamble. The process for licensing gravel pits has also been better defined for the various scenarios. A specific mapping requirement for the application was added, and the restoration standards improved to require that vegetation remain alive.

Site Plan Review

The only change to the Site Plan Review ordinance is to require 9-copies of the application be submitted instead of 7.

Permits Slow

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Ford issued the following construction permits during the 1st quarter of 2009:

Nbr.	Name	Project
1	Eric Hann	Addition*
2	Brian Thomas	Residence
3	Perry Fowler	Shed
4	James Leavitt	Residence
5	John Jury	Residence

*(re-issued after expiration)

The number of permits is only one less than issued during the first quarter of 2008. The total number of permits issued in 2008 was 57 compared to 58 in 2007, reflecting some stability in the local building market.

Replanting Plan Proposed

(Lamoine) -Subdivision owner Ronald Simons has submitted a replanting plan to the town to replace numerous trees that were clear cut in the development located on the Jordan River. The town issued a notice of violation last November after one of the lot owners stripped the lot of trees, including the 250-foot required buffer in the Resource Protection Zone. The notice required Simons to develop a reforestation plan acceptable to the town.

Simons requested a meeting with the Board of Appeals after receiving the notice, and at the meeting in February presented the plan. The Board took no action and forwarded the plan to Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Ford, who is still studying the proposal in consultation with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Meanwhile, the Board of Selectmen are watching the process and have inquired about when a fine might be appropriate. The plan submitted by Simons proposed planting 4-foot trees next summer. Simons told the Board of Appeals that the lot owner cut the wrong lot, and the whole matter is tied up in litigation.

Non-Residents Can Register Snowmobiles

(Lamoine) - The town office has agreed to become a non-resident snowmobile registration agent. A couple of inquiries from folks in town for a weekend of snow-sledding prompted the change which requires little to no additional training.

Meanwhile, the town also agreed to offer boat registrations on-line beginning this spring. The same company that provides vehicle registration will operate the boat registration service. Final details are still being worked out.

Board Explores Ordinances

(Lamoine) - The Planning Board is looking closely at a pair of ordinance proposals. One was introduced by the Conservation Commission in 2008 and would upgrade the Building and Land Use Ordinance to add language offering some protection to the aquifer (the underground water supply) serving Lamoine. Many communities around Maine are considering such protections on the groundwater supply. The Conservation Commission put on a program in February about purported threats to the aquifer in other towns that have imposed water extraction moratoria.

The other ordinance language getting scrutiny has to do with Home Occupations. Presently the Building and Land Use Ordinance makes reference to home occupations but offers little guidance on the approval process.

Morren Elected RSU Director

(Lamoine) - Quail Lane resident Jonathan Morren was elected to the RSU #24 School Board in a special election held February 12, 2009. Morren ran as a write-in after nobody took out papers to be placed on the special election ballot and garnered 49 votes. Two others received write-in votes. The voter turnout in Lamoine was higher than in Ellsworth where 3 members to the RSU Board were elected.

Morren will serve a 3-year term on the board that has representatives from a dozen communities that favored joining forces to form a Regional School Unit under state mandated consolidation. He and his wife Karen have three sons in the Lamoine/Ellsworth schools. Morren works as a physical therapist at Maine Coast Memorial Hospital.

RSU Officials Picked

(Ellsworth) - Lamoine will have its 3rd Superintendent of Schools in less than a year when RSU #24 comes into official operation July 1st. Directors unanimously hired William Webster to lead the new school unit. Webster is currently the Superintendent of Schools for Union 96 (Sullivan, Sorrento, Gouldsboro, Winter Harbor and Steuben), and was the only full time superintendent left of the four systems that formed the RSU. Acting Union 92 Superintendent Omar Norton was not interested in the job. Ellsworth Superintendent Wayne Enman retired, and Franklin Superintendent Henry Ashmore works part time in that capacity.

The RSU directors have hired current Union 92 Business Manager David Bridgham in that same capacity. Acting Ellsworth Superintendent Katrina Kane was named the Assistant Superintendent.

No Leaving An RSU For Now

(Lamoine) - Once you're in a Regional School Unit, you can't get out. That's the bottom line from the Department of Education after Lamoine inquired about the process to withdraw from RSU #24 after citizens asked if a town meeting could be called to do so. The citizens attending a Selectmen's meeting felt the town didn't have the proper information before it when it voted to join the RSU last December.

Deputy Education Commissioner James Rier explained that the legislation mandating consolidated school units did not include any process for towns to opt out after voting to merge. He said the department has asked the Legislature to come up with a withdrawal method, but so far the request has not produced any bills. Withdrawal was not addressed in the agreement amongst the 12 towns that formed RSU #24.

Fire Station Lot Creates Legal Dilemma

(Lamoine) - Breaking up is hard to do according to the old song, and it's proving legally difficult in the case of the school buildings and fire station. Part of the Regional School Unit agreement approved by voters in December was that the fire station lot in Lamoine would be set off from the school lot, as the facilities would have different ownership.

Selectman Brett Jones and school committee member Bob Pulver drew up a rough sketch of what land was needed for the fire department, with the remainder going with the school to RSU 24's ownership. Survey Steve Salsbury offered



RSU # 24 Director Jon Morren

up a couple of options, and the smaller one has initially been placed before Town Meeting on April 8th. However, the smaller option creates a non-conforming lot on a couple of fronts. The Building and Land Use Ordinance requires a minimum lot size of 40,000 square feet with 200-feet of road frontage. The plan as proposed creates a lot of about 21,780 square feet with only 150-feet along the road. If the road frontage went the entire 200-feet it would encompass the main entrance to the school. A 1-acre lot would likely encroach on the playground area and the portable classroom. The Planning Board has asked the Selectmen to follow a process to allot the new lot.

A final plan was being drawn up for town meeting approval. Once that is gained, the plan will likely go before the Planning Board which will disapprove based on the non-conformity of the lot, and then to the Board of Appeals for a variance, following the process laid out in the Building and Land Use Ordinance. Planning Board members said they don't oppose the idea, but stressed the town must follow its own rules.

Special Town Meeting Likely for Local School Advisory Committee, Budget

(Lamoine) - Plan on another town meeting before July 1st in order to approve an ordinance to form a local school advisory committee and to fund additional costs in order to maintain high school choice. The present, elected, school committee will cease to exist as of July 1, 2009. The committee and the Selectmen met in March to discuss whether the town ought to have a committee to advise the building administrator (presently the principal) and to communicate local issues back to the RSU #24 Board. Both bodies felt such a committee is a good idea. Acting superintendent Omar Norton and Lamoine Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon have drafted up an ordinance that will be placed before town voters. The committee would consist of 5-members, four of whom will be appointed by the Selectmen, and the 5th is the elected RSU 24 director who shall be the chair of the committee. The local advisory committee will be charged with developing the additional education budget the town must operate

under for students opting to attend high school outside of RSU 24, and whatever other education budget is deemed necessary over and above the RSU 24 share Lamoine will pay.

The present school committee will develop that budget for the 2009/10 school year. Most out-of-district high school students attend MDI High School in Bar Harbor. The RSU is not responsible for payment of the difference in the cost of educating a student—to retain school choice either the municipality or the parent will have to pick up that cost. Additionally, Lamoine is under contract to transport students to MDI High School for one more year under a tuition agreement. The school committee is exploring a policy that would require the town to provide transportation when 35% of secondary students choose to attend a particular high school.

No date for a special town meeting has yet been set.

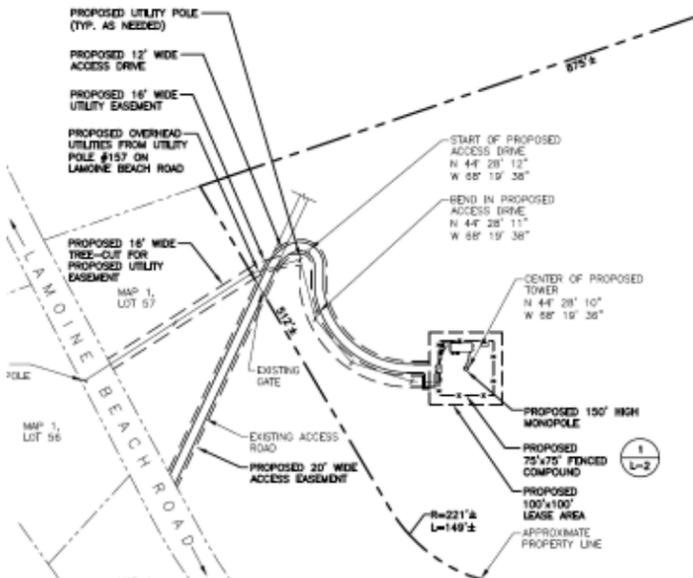
4th Annual Flat Top 5K Run

(Lamoine) - Judson Cake of Bar Harbor is the overall winner of the 4th Annual Flat Top 5K race run on March 28, 2009. Cake finished the course in 16:03, 11-seconds faster than Eric McCarthy of Orono. Anne Favallise-Stanton of Columbia won the women's division with a time of 19:41. Lamoine's Robyn Henry was the first female finisher of the Kids 1-mile fun run while Duncan Hetzer of Otter Creek won the boy's division. The race is run in memory of Bill Pinkham.



The Winner
Premier runner
Judson Cake of Bar Harbor is first to cross the finish line at the Flat Top 5K
Full results and lots of pictures are posted on Lamoine's website (www.lamoine-me.gov)

Cell Phone Tower Project Revived



Proposed Cell Tower Site

The tower would be located on land adjacent to the closed landfill

(Lamoine) - Verizon Wireless has apparently revived a cell phone tower project for Lamoine. Engineers on snow shoes visited the proposed site near the former town landfill on several occasions over the winter. A new lease document with a revised site plan was delivered in early March to Selectmen who signed the lease again. It's believed the project will be on a fast track, and once Planning Board approval is granted, construction will take just a short time. Selectmen await return of the completed lease.

landfill. An environmental engineer said the landfill posed issues the tower company didn't wish to deal with.

The lease process is the 2nd time the town has attempted to execute an agreement with Verizon Wireless's representative in Portland. Last year town meeting approval was granted for such a lease, and lease documents were negotiated and signed by the Selectmen, but the company backed out of the project at the last minute and never signed the lease documents.

Under the new agreement, the town will still make \$12,000 a year for leasing the land to start with incremental increases over the 25-year life of the agreement. Selectmen and many others in town say they're equally interested in finally having decent cell phone coverage in town.

The tower will move a bit further southeast of the originally proposed location due to the proximity of the capped

Plowing Challenges Faced

(Lamoine) - The last two winters have been tough on plow contractor Teddy Nankervis. In 2007/08 an unusual number of plow events and high diesel costs threatened his bottom line. Heavy storms this past winter have done the same. Nankervis asked if there was some way to work with the town to compensate for extraordinary costs. Selectmen asked for figures and calculated a normal winter's work on a fuel price. If the winter requires more plow events or the price of fuel skyrockets again, Nankervis can request extra payment. The town will build the cost into the budget next year—not to exceed 5% of the contract price.

The Selectmen approved of installing additional power outlets at the salt/sand shed so that Nankervis could plug in his truck's block heaters to keep them warm in the event they needed to go in a hurry.



They Don't Aim For Mailboxes, Really!

(Lamoine) - The sheer amount of snow made it a tough winter to be a mailbox. The town office received numerous calls from folks who's boxes fell victim to the contractor's plow.

Wanda Jordan of Nankervis Trucking said they try real hard to miss them, but high snow banks, dark nights and dark mailboxes sometimes combine to make it difficult. So does oncoming traffic.

Jordan says they try to work with homeowners to fix mailboxes. She said if people call, they'll try to fix the existing box so it's usable. Occasionally they'll replace a box. The town is under no legal obligation, as boxes are placed in the right-of-way. Instructions for proper mailbox placement have been posted on the town's website. One suggestion is to make sure the boxes are well shoveled out, giving heavy snow a place to go.

Tree Trimming Prevents Bigger Trouble

(Lamoine) - Ice and heavy snow storms in February could have been a lot worse on Shore Road. A tree trimming project had been completed about two weeks before the two storms hit, pulling down limbs all along the Maine coast.

The town engaged local arborist Harald Huebner to cut back the trees from

the roadsides after getting complaints that vehicles were being damaged by the overhanging limbs. The project cost \$5,340. Huebner will be cleaning up trees that came down during the storms in early April as well. Shore Road had a few more, and Buttermilk Road suffered tree damage in the storm.



Harald Huebner's crew cuts back a tree on Shore Road.

Town Seeks Culvert Grant

(Lamoine) - Paper work is being filled to try to address a perennial flooding problem on Needles Eye Road. Over the past decade beavers have built dams upstream of a culvert on a low spot in the road. This has increased both water flow and occasionally plugged up the culvert running under the road to the point that water overwhelms the available drainage capacity.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has made grants available to try to prevent flooding, and Selectmen approved of applying for a grant. The project is included in the 2009/10 budget, and if it receives federal approval, local funding will pick up 25% of the cost. An estimate is being sought to install a 2nd culvert to allow more water to drain under the roadway.

Recycling, HHW Costs Up

(Lamoine) - Last fall's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection day was the most successful, and costly, for Lamoine. The final bill came in at just over \$1,000 for the waste brought to MDI High School. The amount brought in was significantly higher than previous years, with permits quickly snatched up.

Recycling costs are up a bit this year as well—mainly because revenues are lower. The market for recycled products like newspaper and cardboard saw prices hit very low levels, to the point that it was costing the town nearly as much to recycle as it does to throw the materials away with the regular solid waste.



Needles Eye Road
Pick a heavy rain storm—this section of road will flood in the low section.

New Fire Truck On Warrant

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Fire Department Chief Engineer Mo Oliver is in design mode—working up specifications for a new brush truck for the fire fleet that will replace two old trucks. Funding will go before voters on April 8th. It's estimated a new heavy duty pickup truck with the tank, pump and related equipment will cost about \$90,000. The truck will likely feature a

compressed air foam system which uses very little water to put out lots of fire. The trucks being replaced (pictured above, right) are the oldest in the fleet. A 1976 FMC pumper was the first brand-new fire truck the town ever purchased. It has issues that to fully repair to pass inspection



To Be Retired
Lamoine Engine 402 (left) and Truck 405 will be sold if town meeting approves a new brush truck. #402 was the first brand new fire truck purchased by the town in 1976

would be extremely costly. The other truck is a 1986 pickup truck the town purchased from federal surplus back in 1996. It too has had many electrical issues over the past few years, and hasn't always started when needed. If town meeting voters approve, the town would utilize

\$25,000 from the capital improvements fund, \$10,000 from the fire truck reserve fund, a donation of \$20,000 from the fire department and borrow \$35,000 for the new truck to be paid back over a 5-year period, minimizing the impact on property taxes.

Fire Dept Opts to Not Put Out the Sun (False Alarm among calls)

(Lamoine) - It sure looked like a fire across the bay in Bar Harbor. That prompted a 9-1-1 call and quick response from firefighters who couldn't find anything burning. Dispatchers advised that on a second look the caller saw the sun reflecting off a seaside home's window.

The most serious calls Lamoine responded to were out of town once again. A crew stood by in Southwest Harbor while all of MDI responded to a fire that destroyed the Tan Turtle Tavern in Northeast Harbor in January. Lamoine firefighters also helped put out a house fire in February off the Bayside Road in Trenton. LVFD also stood by the station while Hancock battled a house fire in January.

In town, the fire department reported to several reports of wires in the road during ice storms, a medical assist call for a resident who was overcome by carbon monoxide while a generator was powering his home, a report of burst pipes on Raccoon Cove and a chimney fire on Shore Road. Crews also directed traffic at one motor vehicle accident.



A lineman from Bangor Hydro Electric splices a broken wire following an ice storm in February.

Ice Fishing Derby A Fun (but cold) Day

(Lamoine) - The first (and hopefully annual) Family Fun Day at Blunt's Pond was a pretty good success—but it sure was cold. Lots of youngsters took part in the ice fishing derby hosted by the Frenchman Bay Riders Snowmobile Club and the Lamoine Parks Commission. The biggest fish caught was a 21-inch, 2 pound, 2 ounce pickerel caught by Emily Lawley. Some perch were caught as well, but no trout this year.

In addition to the fishing, some came to the pond for ice skating, though the surface was a bit rough after lots of snow created slush on the skating area then froze. Snowmobiling and even kite flying were also a hit. The snowmobile club just down the road from Bloomfield Park hosted a get warm area with some concessions. It wasn't a big money maker,



Big Pickerel, Little Girl
Anna Rose Norris gets a little help from her Dad, Brian, showing off the pickerel they caught at Blunt's Pond February 14th.

but folks said they had a great time and are looking forward to next year's event. This was the first official event to utilize the new road into Bloomfield Park constructed last fall after town meeting approval.

New Cable TV Gear Installed

(Lamoine) - OK, it's no "Survivor" or "Dancing with the Stars", but Lamoine's Channel 7 is true reality TV, and it's gotten a lot better. New computerized equipment allows the channel to schedule different programs to air throughout the day, instead of a recording of a meeting running over and over again. The Cable TV Committee and Selectmen approved of purchasing the scheduling system and related equipment which was installed in February.

The new equipment even allows meetings to air automatically with no one to hit the start button. The show is recorded digitally and can replay later in the schedule.

The Cable TV Committee still needs folks to switch cameras for live meetings—most are still using a couple of cameras in the same position for the entire meeting.

Loan Forgiveness Sought

(Lamoine) - The Veterans' Memorial Committee figures it has raised about all the money it can for the project that was unveiled last September and is asking the town meeting to forgive the remainder of a loan from the capital projects fund. The balance due is just about \$3,500—the fund had "loaned" the memorial project up to \$12,000.

A \$1,000 gift from the Wal-Mart Foundation and a \$250 gift from RF Jordan helped to offset the costs. If the article is approved, the balance due will be zeroed out at the end of the fiscal year, with the difference between \$12,000 and the deficit returned to the capital projects fund.

Commemorative bricks will continue to be sold. Net proceeds will be used to maintain the memorial on the north side of the Town Hall.

Roads Named, Hydrant Installed

(Lamoine) - Selectmen approved two new road names in town. Saffell Drive is located off Buttermilk Road. Originally a driveway, it will serve at least two residences following a property sale.

Chickadee Lane serves a pair of camps built in the last year off Mud Creek Road. It's mostly a walking trail, with limited vehicle access.

The owners of the subdivision off Walker Road have installed a new underground fire tank and filled it with 10,000 gallons of water to serve homes in the new subdivision. The road leading into that is named Madison Avenue.

Because of the frozen ground, the signs for the new roads have not yet been installed, but will be later in the spring.

Building Use Policy Approved

(Lamoine) - After last year's Democratic Caucus filled the town hall to overflowing, Selectmen and town staff started working on a policy governing use of the facility. The two big issues were safety and defraying costs associated with outside groups using the public building.

The three page document approved by Selectmen in early March limits uses by outside organizations to a maximum of 40-people. It requires them to clean up the meeting area and to secure the building, indemnify the town against any damage and injury, and bans alcohol, animals, explosives, flames and weapons from any of the outside meetings. A security deposit and a matching \$25 or \$50 dollar fee are required for non town government affiliated groups to use the building, the idea being that heat, lights, and security will be utilized by the group meeting at the town hall.

The policy also requires that the meetings be scheduled at least 72 hours in advance. The entire policy can be found on the town's website.

Municipal Budget Decreases—More Property Tax Needed

(Lamoine) - The municipal budget being proposed to town meeting on April 8, 2009 shows a decrease of \$29,202.10. That's the good news. The bad news is, \$126,468.36 less in non property tax revenue is projected for fiscal year 2009/10. Bottom line, to fund the municipal (non-school) portion of the budget, more money will have to come from property taxes.

Some trimming will be proposed at the open town meeting in both the fire and administration budget thanks to a lower negotiated fuel price for the next fiscal year. That represents a \$3,500 reduction in the budget proposed by the Selectmen and Budget Committee.

Expenditures

The budgets proposed to decrease are payment to the Ellsworth Library, Capital

Excise Tax Lagging

(Lamoine) - The 2nd largest component of revenue in the town budget is the automobile excise tax. After years of steady increases, collections have dropped off dramatically this year. Treasurer Stu Marckoon prepared a report for the Selectmen in March, projecting approximately a \$35,000 shortfall in collections based on current trends for the fiscal year.

Excise tax is based on the MSRP of vehicles, with a higher rate charged on newer vehicles. During the current fiscal year, 28 fewer brand new vehicles have been registered in Lamoine compared to the same period in FY 07/08.

This will translate forward to less excise tax and surplus availability for the next budget (see article below). Complicating matters further in the next fiscal year is a referendum proposal to sharply lower excise rates on new vehicles that will likely be decided in November. Passage will reduce excise tax collections in town by approximately 37% according to another analysis by the town Treasurer.

Selectmen Lock In Fuel Price

(Lamoine) - As the bottom fell out of the price of oil over the winter a lot of towns were looking a bit sheepish, having locked in heating fuel for well over \$4/gallon. Lamoine locked it's price in at \$3.61/gallon last October, and that was still much higher than the spot market.

During February, the town's oil supplier offered a pre-purchase agreement for the next heating season at \$2.19/gallon and Selectmen approved of that price. Payment won't be due until July, 2009. In past years, the town has usually waited until August to lock in the heating fuel price when inventories were relatively high and demand was low. Last August saw very high prices a few months before the recession hit hard. The town typically uses about 2,500 of oil for the town hall and fire station.

Tree Growth Denials Appealed

(Lamoine) - Two property owners who paid substantial penalties for land removed from the Tree Growth Valuation program by the Board of Assessors have appealed to the State Board of Property Tax Review. The Board of Assessors received filings by Maine Coast Baptist Church and Barbara Davis and has issued responses to both appeals to the State Board.

Both owners inherited property from the late J. Aubrey Davis who had classified hundreds of acres under tree growth valuation laws. Selectmen removed that land from that program when neither party allegedly submitted re-applications for the program on time, and over \$77,000 in penalties were imposed. It's not known if the State Board will hold a hearing on the appeals.

Town Report Features Color Cover

(Lamoine) - For the first time ever, the cover for Lamoine's annual report has been printed in color. The 2008 report features a picture of the new Veterans' Memorial taken just after the project was completed.

Selectmen went out to bid on the town report printing, and XPress Copy of Portland was the low bidder by a significant amount. The optional color cover, and a different way of binding were a little bit extra, but still came in well below budget.

Fifty fewer town reports were printed this year than last—there is still a case of 2007 reports left over. The report is also posted on the town's website. A formatting problem in the 2007 report that replaced all the “/” symbols with “Q” did not crop up this year.

Residents are urged to pick up a copy at the town office, and plenty will be available at town meeting.

Projects, Parks & Recreation, and the Planning Board. Increasing slightly are Solid Waste (0.87%), Administration (4.05%), Public Safety (2.55%), Code Enforcement (8.03%) Road Maintenance (3.67%), Road Paving (14.04%) and Social Service Contributions (18.24%). A new, one time article would contribute \$3,000 to Maine Coast Memorial Hospital's Emergency Room capital campaign.

Revenues

The flagging economy has hit non-property tax revenues hard. Interest income from investments is projected to drop by \$25,000 or 45.65%. Excise taxes, which have fallen off sharply in the current fiscal year, are projected to drop by \$10,000. A significant drop in the use of the undesignated fund balance (surplus) is proposed for the budget. In the current

fiscal year, town meeting approved using \$130,000 to offset property taxes, the 2009/10 amount is \$25,000. Virtually every income line is down sharply.

The Bottom Line

The bottom line for the municipal budget means that approximately .4 mills of property tax would have to be raised (40-cents per \$1,000 valuation). For the current fiscal year, the municipal budget required only .05 mills. Because the municipal mill rate is so low, the increase proposed will slightly exceed the limits set by the Maine Legislature.

The education budget is not up for a vote at the annual town meeting this year—that will go through the Regional School Unit process, most likely in May and June. The County Tax increased by just \$36.28 for the coming fiscal year,



Cheer Squad Wins 9th Straight State Title

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's cheerleaders have done it again—winning the Middle School cheering competition in their division for a 9th straight season. The squad had a new coach (cheering alum Kimberly Tupper) this year and is a little smaller than previous editions. Team members include Karla Butler, Anna Curtis, Kristy Eaton, Alexandra Fitch, Brittany Fronczak, Geni Goebel, Brittany Handy, Kelly Henry, Jane Parlee, Emily Rose and Sara Willis.

Lamoine also won the annual Union 92 competition held this year at Sumner High. Congratulations goes to Ellsworth Middle School which had the highest score of the entire state competition (in a different division), Union 96's squad, Cave Hill and Trenton who all placed well at the state tourney.

Micropscopes Donated

By Jo Ann Lawrence

(Bar Harbor)- On January 29th, a tour of the Jackson Lab was taken by 7th and 8th graders from the Lamoine School. The tour was the culmination of the efforts of a group of Lamoine residents led by Lucie Hutchins and Jo Ann Lawrence (former BP manager and retiree). The group shares a strong interest in supporting education and promoting Math and Science classes in the lower grades prior to high school.

The Jackson Laboratory has generously donated two scientific microscopes and several Lab Coats to the school. Mr. James, the science teacher at the Lamoine School, said that his students as well as Mrs. Young's third grade students will put these microscopes to good use.

It is hoped that this is the beginning of a strong relationship between the school and the Jackson Lab.



Historical Society Wins Grant

(By Anne Stocking)

(Lamoine) - The Historical Society has received a matching grant from the Maine Community Foundation through their Belvedere Historical Preservation Fund in collaboration with Maine Historic Preservation Commission's New Century Community Program. The Historical Society grant will be used to do a conditions assessment of the Meeting House, and develop a work plan to stabilize and maintain the building.

This summer also we hope to scrape and paint the front of the Meeting House. If you'd like to help please contact Susan Hodgkins at 667-5115

Due to the efforts of Patti Leland and Ron Fortier of the Hancock County Genealogical Society, most of Joe Lear's research on the founding families of Lamoine, Trenton and Bar Harbor is now available at the Ellsworth Public Library, as well as in the Lamoine Historical Society archives.

Upcoming events: On July 22 Tom Duym will present a program on his research on the "Deer Isle Boys," who crewed for early Americas Cup entries. August 26 Susan Hodgkins will host "Not so Tall Tales of Lamoine," featuring excerpts from the Arthur W. Reynolds House Book.

To receive the Historical Society newsletter, either via US Mail or e-mail, contact Lamoine Historical Society, PO Box 362 Lamoine Beach Rd., Lamoine ME 04605, or Lamoine.historicalsociety@yahoo.com.

Returnables Program Instituted

(Lamoine) - Selectmen approved of a new program where town affiliated groups can make a little extra money from returnables dropped off at the Lamoine Transfer Station. Applications started pouring even before the program was finalized. Applicants must have some affiliation with the town to qualify. Monthly proceeds from the returnables will be distributed to the group assigned each particular month. Applications are available on the town's website. The town is working with Lamoine Redemption who periodically cleans out the recycling building.

Vital Statistics

(Lamoine) - The town clerk's office has been relatively quiet this past quarter. We welcome three new residents to town. **Lillian Elizabeth Bell** was born on January 31, 2009 at MDI Hospital in Bar Harbor. **Bailey Reese Fallica** was born at Maine Coast Memorial Hospital on February 6, 2009. And **Emma Redfern Preston** was born at Maine Coast Memorial on February 25, 2009.

We lost four residents during the first quarter. **Marguerite Trobass** of Seal



The Lamoine Meeting House in 1832
New: The Historical Society will raffle off an antique quilt made by Inez Lear.
Contact- Edna Coyne (667-9276)

Community Arts

Following last Spring's Spring Fever readings, LCA is now looking for directors and actors to put on another evening of short plays in Readers' Theater format on May 9th. If you are interested in directing a short play or being a reader, let us know. A short reading is the perfect way to launch your directorial career! LCA hopes to do a training session on the art of directing. Contact Dale Macurdy at 667-4441 before April 15th for more information.

After a successful staged reading of *Cully's Gold* last June, Lamoine Community Arts will again be working with students at the Lamoine School. Lamoine director and playwright Carol Korty will work with the entire school on a production of her play *Riding the Wind: Story Plays from Old China*. Students will be involved with acting, singing, dance and helping to make costumes and props. Each grade will fill a special niche in the program. Guest artist, Chiao Bin Huang, will make a special visit to instruct students in traditional Chinese Ribbon Dance.

On April 25th, Lamoine Community Arts will present a reprise of last fall's production of *Box and Cox* as part of the Maine Association of Community Theaters Annual One-Act Play Festival, held this year in Auburn. The Association presents a full day of workshops and performances which are open to the public. For more information, contact Carol Korty at 667-4441.

Tentative plans for summer arts activities include a progressive dinner with theater, a coffee house evening and an art show. Watch for posters announcing events at the Town Hall, and for notices on the Town e-mail list! To join Lamoine Community Arts, contact Raymonde Dumont at 667-0554.

Point Road died at the age of 69 on January 8, 2009. **Winslow Moore** of Birchlawn Drive died January 26th at age 73. He was the father-in-law of Selectman Dick Fennelly Jr. And **Mary Smith** passed away on March 17, 2009 at the age of 79. She was the mother of fire chief George "Skip" Smith and fire lieutenant John Smith. **John Davies** of Jaycee Drive passed away on March 22, 2009. There were no marriage licenses issued during the quarter.

April 2009

May 2009

June 2009

We've got so much news this issue, we're condensing the calendars to squeeze it all in!

- 1st—Board of Assessors 7PM
- 2nd—Selectmen, 7PM
- 6th—School Committee, 5:30 PM
- 7th—Town Election Day 10AM-8PM
- 8th—Open Town Meeting 6PM (Gym)
- 14th—Planning Board 7PM
- 15th—Veterans Memorial Cmte 7PM
- 16th—Selectmen, 7PM
- 21st—Parks Commission 7PM
- 29th—Conservation Commission 7PM

- 4th—School Committee 5:30 PM
- 5th—Planning Board 7:00 PM
- 6th—Board of Assessors 7PM
- 7th—Selectmen 7PM
- 13th—Conservation Commission 7PM
- 19th—Parks Commission 7PM
- 20th—Veterans Memorial Cmte 7PM
- 21st—Selectmen, 7PM
- Possible RSU budget meeting—date to be determined

- 1st—School Committee 5:30 PM
- 2nd—Planning Board 7PM
- 3rd—Board of Assessors 7PM
- 4th—Selectmen 7PM
- 9th— Election Day (Maybe) 10am-8pm
- 10th—Conservation Commission 7PM
- 16th—Parks Commission 7PM
- 17th—Veterans Memorial Cmte 7PM
- 18th—Selectmen 7PM
- 30th—Fiscal Year Ends.

The Lamoine Fire Department has changed its weekly meeting night to Tuesdays at 7PM at the Fire Station.

Lamoine Grange Update

By Carol Korty

Now that the piles of snow have finally melted, the Lamoine Grange will spring back into action. First of all, we'd like to officially announce that the New Roof has indeed been installed! Undoubtedly most of you noticed the old one being replaced last summer. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this cause. Your help is greatly appreciated.

We are happy to announce that there was enough money to cover additional improvements: an upgrade to the exterior lights and replacement of six of the twelve decrepit basement windows with double pane glass and pressure treated framing. That work will take place as soon as weather permits. And monies donated in honor of William Grasser were used to install a handicap toilet with grab bars in one of the lavatories.

The Grange will offer an extra dinner this summer to raise money for replacement of the remaining basement windows – and possibly to get us started on a fund for a propane heater for the basement. During July and August it's hard to remember how chilly the downstairs is in May and October, and

we'd like it available for comfortable usage in spring and fall.

Donations to the Grange for any of these projects can be made to Lamoine Grange or the Maine State Grange Foundation, if the donor wishes to take advantage of tax credit, and sent to treasurer Yvonne Brann at 1017 Shore Road, Lamoine, ME.

A preview of coming events:

Regular Grange meetings resume on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays** of each month at 7 PM. Visitors are welcome! The 1st Wednesdays start with pot luck supper at 6PM.

June 7th Grange turkey dinner 12:30 PM

July 12th Grange turkey dinner 12:30 PM

Aug. 1st Grange turkey dinner 12:30 PM

Aug. ? Grange supper concession for Firemen's Auction at the school

Sept. 6th Grange turkey dinner 12:30 PM

Other events can be added to this list as the season progresses. Watch for announcements on the sign board out front and on the Town e-mail.

Contact treasurer Yvonne Brann at 667-7559 or Community Service Representative Carol Korty at 667-4441 with questions or requests.

Website Improvements

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Town Government website (www.lamoine-me.gov) has been upgraded to be a bit more user friendly. In addition to the new main page, the town policies have been posted in a more manageable format. Previously, all the policies had been lumped together in one document. Now, each separate policy is listed for easier reference.

The Board of Selectmen voted to put the draft of the meeting minutes on the website as soon as they are available. Previously, minutes were not posted until they received final approval from the Board.

The Lamoine Quarterly

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Editor/Writer

Stuart Marckoon, Adm. Asst.

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It's Maple Syrup Time

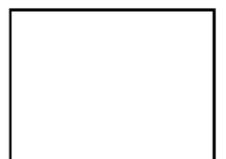
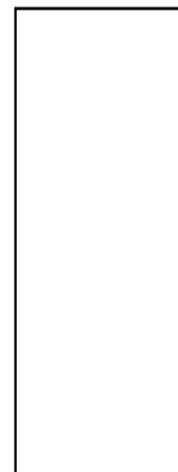
Chuck Weber & John Holt collect the sap from several maple trees on Douglas Hwy in early March



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And Much, Much More!



Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605