

◆ The Lamoine Quarterly ◆

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Nomination Papers Available for Elected Officers

(Lamoine) - Under Lamoine's current government structure, the 2012 town meeting will elect more municipal officials than most other elections. Nomination papers are being accepted for two Selectman posts, one Assessor position and the Representative to Regional School Unit #24.

The current seat holders are Selectmen Chair Jo Cooper and Gary McFarland, Assessor Michael Jordan, and RSU 24 Representative Brett Jones. All terms run three years. The Selectmen terms begin at the first regular meeting following the March 13th town meeting

election (tentatively set for March 15, 2012). The assessor and RSU Representative terms begin on July 1, 2012 and expire on July 1, 2015.

To be placed on the ballot, potential candidates must turn in at least 25 and no more than 75 signatures of registered voters no later than the close of business of Saturday, January 28, 2012. Nomination papers became available from the Town Clerk's Office on December 18, 2011. Election Day is Tuesday, March 13, 2012. Absentee ballots will be available by February 12, 2012.

Annual Town Meeting Set For March 13 & 14, 2012

(Lamoine) - The 2012/13 budget is ready to present to voters and as of year's end the town meeting warrant is nearing finalization for the annual open meeting that will be held on March 14, 2012. Harvey Kelley has once again agreed to moderate the meeting, which will primarily deal with budget matters. The meeting will begin at 6PM at the Lamoine School Gym. The warrant for the meeting will be finalized in January. The Budget Committee has finished up its work on the various budget items, and the municipal side of the budget is proposed to fall by nearly 12% on the spending side. The property tax needed to fund the municipal budget is proposed to fall nearly 29% or by \$48,000. Less paving is proposed in 2013 than the current fiscal year, but lower budgets are

also proposed for public safety, support of the Ellsworth Public Library (fewer card holders), and a very small decrease in the Code Enforcement Budget thanks to lower mileage costs.

The education side of the budget is a different story, though. While the town's portion of RSU 24's budget won't be known until May or June, the additional tuition costs are projected to be about \$40,000 higher than the initial budget for the current fiscal year. An additional amount is needed for the current year. More tuition information is contained page 6.

Amnesty Offer Sees Signs Returned

(Lamoine) - Sometime in early November, someone made off with about a dozen street signs, taking them off the posts in the Shore Road and Lamoine Beach Road area. In some cases, the entire post was taken, in other cases the holder on the post was broken and the sign removed. It's not the first time it's happened—in fact, Lamoine's signs are apparently a frequent target. Selectboard Chair Jo Cooper noted the town has some great names which make the signs attractive.

Later in the month, Selectman Cynthia Donaldson suggested, and the board approved of an amnesty program promising that no questions would be asked if the signs were returned. A press release was issued, the article ran in newspapers and was aired on local radio stations and created quite a bit of buzz. Cooper and Donaldson held out hope that someone would do the right thing and return the signs. The Selectboard also dealt with the likely reality that the offer would not produce anything, and new signs, posts and holders were ordered at a cost of \$838. The new signs were installed in late November.

On December 17, 2011, Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon stopped off at the Town Hall to put the mail inside from the mailbox, and lo and behold, all the street name signs were sitting on the floor by the door. Someone had put them through the mail slot in the door, taking advantage of the "no questions asked" offer that the board had approved

until the end of the year. Selectman Bill Brann said the return is greatly appreciated. Donaldson said the return restored her faith in the human spirit. The signs will be stored in a safe location for future use.



It's a time of the signs

The "appropriated" street name signs were found at the town hall entrance after an offer for return with no questions asked.

Got a Picture for the Town Report?

(Lamoine) - With the prevalence of digital cameras in today's society, folks have an abundance of great pictures, and that's just what the Selectmen are looking for the 2011 Town Report. The search is on for pictures to grace the cover of the annual report and for insertion inside the report in various location could use something as filler.

We ask that submissions be sent via e-mail in a .jpg or .tif format if possible, as those are easily manipulated to fit into the town report. The work may not be copyrighted (no payment is being offered), and should be a shot from Lamoine. There is no particular theme.

The Board of Selectmen will be the final judge.

Is it a contest? Well, sort of. There's no prize to speak of, other than the pride of having your work published and forever stored in the town archives. We will give credit to all photos that are printed in the town report within the covers of the report.

The e-mail address to send digital photos is: town@lamoine-me.gov. All submissions will be posted at the town's website. The original deadline was January 2nd, but that can be extended to the 31st as the report will not be printed until February.

And The Survey Says.....

(Lamoine) - Property tax payers were asked for some feedback from Lamoine's Planning Board on a number of hot button issues. Surveys were sent with the tax bills in July, and the return rate was relatively high. Planning Board members John Holt, Gordon Donaldson, and Jim Gallagher compiled the results at the right.

In addition to the raw numbers, respondents were also invited to comment on the survey, and those have also been compiled. Here is a sampling of some of the comments received:

- ◇ "This is a mainly residential town with some small business. Right now we are keeping a good balance
- ◇ "I love it as it is—don't let it become like every other town in the USA
- ◇ "Lamoine is a beautiful town with all the amenities for people who wish to escape commercialism. DO NOT SPOIL IT."
- ◇ "Too many subdivisions going in (single family). Control Growth!"

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Type of Development	# responding	Strongly Encourage	% of responses	Where owner chooses	% of responses	In limited zones	% of responses	Do Not Permit	% of responses
Commercial wind power turbines	223	34	15.2%	11	4.9%	86	38.6%	92	41.3%
Residential wind power turbines	223	39	17.5%	78	35.0%	67	30.0%	39	17.5%
Residential solar power generators	224	91	40.6%	92	41.1%	32	14.3%	9	4.0%
Cell phone/ communication towers	225	53	23.6%	17	7.6%	130	57.8%	25	11.1%
Agricultural development (farms)	229	129	56.3%	49	21.4%	49	21.4%	2	0.9%
Single-family home subdivisions	223	51	22.9%	33	14.8%	117	52.5%	21	9.4%
Apartment housing	228	24	10.5%	26	11.4%	119	52.2%	59	25.9%
Condominium housing	229	26	11.4%	20	8.7%	119	52.0%	64	27.9%
Preservation of natural spaces - shore	223	166	74.4%	30	13.5%	20	9.0%	7	3.1%
Preservation of natural spaces -inland	224	147	65.6%	47	21.0%	23	10.3%	7	3.1%
Preservation of natural spaces - recreation	223	161	72.2%	28	12.6%	27	12.1%	7	3.1%
Commercial districts for small businesses	229	56	24.5%	26	11.4%	129	56.3%	18	7.9%
Districts for industrial and large commercial	221	13	5.9%	10	4.5%	84	38.0%	114	51.6%
Tourist-oriented districts (e.g. hotels/b&b)	224	49	21.9%	26	11.6%	115	51.3%	34	15.2%
Gravel extraction (pits)	210	5	2.4%	26	12.4%	119	56.7%	60	28.6%
Wood harvesting (commercial)	208	6	2.9%	57	27.4%	101	48.6%	44	21.2%
Marine/fisheries activities	213	66	31.0%	38	17.8%	101	47.4%	8	3.8%

- ◇ "Build(ing) a commercial base to help taxes."
- ◇ "We need more multi-family housing that does not require an acre per unit."
- ◇ "I like the small town atmosphere but wonder if keeping it means making our town unaffordable for average people"
- ◇ Too much commercial development

- ◇ Please no more gravel pits
 - ◇ Keep Lamoine a residential community
- The Planning Board is currently studying the results and the scores of comments to try go gauge public opinion. The town's last Comprehensive Plan was approved in 1996.

Sign Fee Approved

(Lamoine) - Town ordinances limit the size of business signs to 16-square feet. The previous fee schedule of 5-cents per square foot meant the largest sign would generate a whopping 80-cents in permit fees—less than the paper the application is printed on. Selectmen in November approved a suggestion from Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Ford to increase the sign fee to \$10 per sign.

Auto Graveyards Approved

(Lamoine) - The two approved junkyards in town have received new permits from the Board of Selectmen. Pro Auto has been permitted for many years for yards in North Lamoine and in Marlboro. Chris Norris is now operating the business following the sudden death of his father Barry last July. An inspection of the yards found they've been significantly improved. Norris said the operations are more of an auto recycling business than long term storage of junk vehicles.

Subdivision Abandoned

(Lamoine) - A subdivision approved three years ago by Lamoine's Planning Board which created 8-lots and adjacent to the Saltwater Farm Subdivision served by Pasture Way has been formally abandoned by developer Steve Joy. The Planning Board has signed and filed a notice of abandonment for the Raccoon Hollow subdivision with the Registry of Deeds. The parcels will be combined into one large parcel by the tax assessors when the maps are redone as of April 1, 2012.

Private Salt/Sand Storage Proposed

(Lamoine) - The town's present snow plowing contractor is also plowing State Route 184 under an agreement with the Maine Department of Transportation. Part of the contract between Richard McMullen (doing business as Lawn Enforcement) requires that salt be used to de-ice the state highway. Under Lamoine's plowing

contract, it was determined that salt may be stored in the town's salt/sand shed. McMullen has applied to the Planning Board to build his own storage shed. A public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 6:30 PM at the Lamoine Town Hall, where the proposal is on file.

Gravel Permit Approved, Pit Sold

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Planning Board has granted conditional permit to RF Jordan to continue operation of a small pit between Walker Road and Route 184. Because no restoration is proposed during the 3-year life of the pit, the Planning Board has instituted a requirement of Lamoine's Gravel Ordinance that Jordan pay the town 5-cents per square yard removed to be held in an interest bearing escrow account to be used for future restoration efforts.

Meanwhile, the Planning Board has also written to Jordan regarding that company's recent purchase of a pit formerly licensed by Richard King, Inc. No reports of material removal have been received by the town in the past year, (Mr. King passed away in 2010) so the Planning Board considers the pit to be inactive and restoration as proposed by King is to be completed by the new owner.

The Planning Board is also working on numerous changes to the Gravel Ordinance. It has obtained similar ordinances from the Knox County towns of Washington and Appleton and may propose some ideas from those ordinances to a future town meeting to enhance Lamoine's Gravel Ordinance. No specific proposals have yet been presented to Selectmen for a warrant article.

Permit Business Brisk

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Ford has issued a number of construction permits this fall as follows:

Nbr	Name	Project
43	Kelley, Stephen	Shed
44	Budwine, Lawrence	Sign
45	McDonald, Brian	Sign
46	Denied	
47	Grant, Francine	Stairs (SZO)
48	Bierman, Michael	Camp
49	Nichols, Vaughn	Garage
50	Nichols, Vaughn	Shed
51	Meyer, Peter	Garage/Apt
22	Swanson, Julee	Shed
53	Grey, Michael	Addition
54	Kane, Michael	Mobile Home
55	Farrell, Peter	Garage/Apt

CEO Ford reports that several notices of violation that have been issued in the past few months have been brought into compliance, with only a small wooden platform that was built off Partridge Cove Road awaiting removal by the landowner.

The number of permits issued during the 4th quarter was up 25% compared to 2011.

Local School Advisory Committee Examines RSU 24 Withdrawal

By Gordon Donaldson

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Local School Advisory Committee is moving ahead to seek town opinion on staying in RSU 24. The Committee was formed when Lamoine joined the RSU in 2009 and lost its own local school board. Decisions about the budget, staff, and programs at the Lamoine School are now made by the RSU 24 School Board. Brett Jones is our lone representative on that board.

The Local School Advisory Committee has monitored conditions at our school over the past two and a half years. It has held four public forums to seek opinions and information from Lamoine citizens. Major concerns are: loss of direct participation in major decisions affecting our school and our taxes; RSU bureaucracy that slows or eliminates important services to kids and

staff; loss of some staff and programs; failure to deliver on promises of "greater efficiencies".

After the forum in October, the Committee decided to put a petition before the town in early 2012 to see if there is adequate support to pursue withdrawing from the RSU. State law provides a way for towns to withdraw from RSUs through a 5-stage process requiring several votes by townspeople. If the petition in February is signed by enough voters, the Committee will develop a plan to form a new school district, most likely with other towns considering withdrawal or that are now independent.

Information about LSAC activities can be found on the Town website. If you are interested in joining in this effort, please contact LSAC members Brett Jones, Gordon Donaldson, Nate Mason, or Tammie Dickey.



Minutes Required

(Lamoine) - The Maine Legislature has changed the Freedom of Access Act (Right to Know Law) and now all official boards are required to keep minutes of their meetings. Most of the town boards were very good about keeping notes, mostly in electronic format that are easily printed and distributed. A few have been a little lax about sharing them with the office for posting.

All board chairs have been informed of the new minutes requirement and have agreed to comply. Most meetings are recorded and saved on a DVD which municipal law officials say meets the letter of the law.

Welfare Ordinance Updated

(Lamoine) - Each October the Board of Selectmen adopts changes to the town's General Assistance Ordinance to reflect new poverty level numbers. A public hearing is held prior to the vote to change the ordinance, and as usual, no one showed at the hearing again this year.

Residents are able to apply for assistance, and the numbers in the ordinance guide whether help can be granted or not. The town is reimbursed for 50% of its assistance expenditures by the State of Maine.

aggregate power purchase. Bangor Hydro will still generate the bill. Maine Power Options worked out the deal which should see the town save about 2-cents per kilowatt hour over the next year. Constellation Energy is the new supplier.

Vehicle Repair Shop Proposed for Former Log Home Dealer

(Lamoine) - The office building and garage at the former Richard J. King, Inc. property on Douglas Highway has been fairly dormant since Mr. King's death in 2010. Auto repair shop owner Wayne Alley hopes to revive some business at the building, turning it into his new shop. Mr. Alley is presently operating on Route 1 in Hancock.

Alley and surveyor Malcolm Harriman have submitted plans to Lamoine's Planning Board to change the use of the building from the general contractor's headquarters to the auto repair business. The Planning Board found the application information provided was not complete and has requested more information for its January meeting. Board members were due to walk the site in December to get an idea for the lay of the land. Alley plans to prep cars for an Ellsworth used car dealer.

Town Awaits Ruling on Gravel Pit Expansion

(Lamoine) - There has been no indication from the Superior Court justice covering Hancock County as to when a ruling might come on a case brought by Doug Gott & Sons asking to overturn denial of a gravel permit. Gott filed suit following the Appeals Board ruling that upheld a portion of the Planning Board ruling that denied a permit for a piece of land that Gott bought a few years ago.

The Appeals Board agreed with the Planning Board that opening up the land to gravel extraction would have an adverse impact on abutting land owners. Gott's attorney argued that the plan took adequate steps to minimize that impact in accordance with Lamoine's Gravel Ordinance. All the filings have been sent to Superior Court for its review.

Town Electricity Comes From New Supplier

(Lamoine) - The power bill may go down a bit at the Lamoine Town Office as the Selectmen joined with several other communities in an

School Seat Open

(Lamoine) - With the resignation of Fredi Cahn from Lamoine's Local School Advisory Committee, there is a vacancy on the board that provides advice to the RSU 24 representative. Anyone interested in serving on this important board should contact principal Ann McCann at the school (667-8578) or Stu Marckoon at the town office (667-2242)

Paper Work Reduced

(Lamoine) - Being a Selectmen requires a lot of reading to keep up to date on things going on around town. And to create all that reading, a lot of printed paper has been generated over the years. This fall the board and Administrative Assistant have made a concerted effort to reduce the amount of paper produced for the bi-weekly meetings.

For instance, Selectmen would get a copy of the expenditure warrant well before the meeting, and by the time it was printed, it would be out of date. That warrant is also posted on the town's website and updated frequently between meetings, so the printed copy is no longer distributed until the night of the meeting. Same with the budget report. Items of potential interest are scanned and e-mailed with one hard copy available for review if desired. By e-mailing and posting agendas, mileage costs for delivering them are also being reduced along with the amount of paper generated. Another upside is the public availability of documents, as most of the material the Selectmen see is now posted on the town's website.

Even *The Lamoine Quarterly* is cutting paper. Starting with the previous edition, 400 copies instead of 600 were printed, as about 200 copies were recycled each issue. The paper is always posted on the town's website.

Trenton, Lamoine to Talk Trash

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's trash disposal costs compared to our neighbors to the west is quite low—approximately half of what taxpayers in Trenton pay to get rid of their solid waste. However, Trenton has more commercial business and has opted to pick up the cost of commercial trash disposal, which Lamoine does not. Lamoine also has its own transfer station, which Trenton does not. Trenton's trash is hauled first to the EMR facility in Southwest Harbor, and then to the PERC trash to Energy plant in Orrington. Lamoine's is hauled directly from the transfer station to PERC.

Trenton's solid waste committee is studying ways to encourage more recycling and to become more cost efficient in disposing of trash and

approached Lamoine officials in the summer. Selectboard chair Jo Cooper and Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon met with Trenton's Solid Waste Committee in October to see if there were ways for the two towns to work together.

No deals have been struck, but a dialog has started on potentially letting Trenton utilize the Lamoine Transfer Station, which could mean more hours of the week that the Lamoine facility is open. Trenton would be expected to contribute its share of the additional disposal and operational costs. Officials from both towns will start to study figures to see if talks could move forward. There is no immediate deadline—Trenton's contract with the EMR facility runs for another 3-years or so.



Lamoine to Have Brick @ Fenway

(Lamoine) - The effort to purchase a brick to be placed at the entrance to Fenway Park in the name of the Town of Lamoine has reached its \$250 goal, thanks in large part to Sox fan Arnelle Meyer who suggested the idea. A brick reading "Red Sox Fans from Lamoine Maine" will be placed in the walkway at Fenway Park before the season opener in April.

No tax dollars were used to pay for the brick—several fans including Cynthia Donaldson, Lolly Lovett, Madison and Matthew Jones and Stu Marckoon contributed enough money for the brick purchase. Ms. Meyer agreed in late December to make up most of the remaining funding needed to purchase the brick. Whether Lamoine's presence at Fenway Park will help the Sox to a better campaign in 2012 remains to be seen.

Commercial Hauler Approved

(Lamoine) - Selectmen have approved of a commercial trash hauler permit for Vinal Tainter of Ellsworth under the new commercial hauler policy approved by a special town meeting on September 15th. Mr. Tainter is the first to be approved under the new system which allows for out of town customer trash to be disposed of in Lamoine for a fee. Tainter's application did not include any non-Lamoine customers. His service has picked up solid waste from Lamoine for many years.

Selectmen tabled an application from Lamoine based hauler Russell Boynton Jr. following an incident at the

transfer station in the fall. Mr. Boynton will be eligible to utilize the transfer station provided there are no other incidents beginning in May 2012.

An Ellsworth based business observed bringing trash from out of town rentals to the transfer station by manager Bill Fennelly was requested to cease the practice or obtain a commercial hauler's permit. The business owner has stopped bringing that trash to the transfer station as requested.

Coin Flip Decides Budget Committee

(Lamoine) - Selectmen flipped a coin when deciding which alternate member would serve on Lamoine's Budget Committee as the full member, replacing Henry Ashmore who resigned earlier in the year. The coin came up heads, and that meant regular membership for Debbie Verrill-McFarland and continued alternate membership for Cece Ohmart.

The alternate member casts votes in the absence or conflict of a regular member, and at the final meeting of the season, Ohmart had a full vote as Verrill-McFarland was unable to attend. Both were appointed to the committee following the death of member Reggie McDevitt.

Firefighter Enrolls in Academy

(Lamoine) - Lamoine Volunteer Firefighter Nathan Dandurand will participate in the 2012 Hancock County Firefighter Academy. It's a huge training commitment, as trainees have hands on and classroom sessions every other weekend from January through May to learn proper firefighting techniques. Most members of the Lamoine VFD have become certified in the Firefighter I & II programs, meaning they are qualified to become interior attack firefighters on structural fires.

Dandurand joined the LVFD in 2010 after moving to Lamoine and lives with his family on Birchlawn Drive.

New Recording Equipment Arrives

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen approved a request from Lamoine's Cable TV Advisory Committee to purchase at least one high quality camera to record functions outside of the town office. That camera arrived in mid December, and operations manager Kimberly Grindle looks forward to starting to produce some more programming with it. If the quality is sufficient, a second camera will be recommended in time for town meeting in March.

In addition to the camera, a clip on microphone has been added to the audio collection, which will allow for interviewing people. The first production that is being arranged is on the proper use of Lamoine's transfer station. When it's edited, it should be quite an interesting presentation on how the town recycles and disposes of its solid waste. If you have an idea for programs, please contact the town office.



New Equipment Arrives
The Lamoine Cable TV Committee has purchased a new camera and lapel microphone for remote productions

Accidents Dominate LVFD Runs

(Lamoine) - Half of the calls for help received by the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department in the last quarter of 2011 involved motor vehicle accidents, and there was a disturbing trend to those—most of them involved allegedly drunk drivers. Accidents on Mud Creek Road, Douglas Highway and on Route 3 in Trenton (Lamoine covered for Trenton FD) saw police bring the drivers to the Hancock County Jail on suspicion of OUI.

The fire department sent two trucks and several firefighters to Trenton for a structural fire on November 2nd. That blaze closed traffic on busy Route 3 for about 2-hours. More firefighters would have responded, but could not reach the scene due to the traffic.

A station stand by and two false alarms and reports of wires down rounded out the call log in the final quarter of 2011. The fire department also participated in several training burns, the Ellsworth Christmas Parade and as part of the escort for Wreaths Across America.

Dangerous Float Removed from Pond

(Lamoine) - A float that kept appearing in front of the beach at Bloomfield Park off and on during the summer and fall of 2011 has been removed at the urgent request of the Board of Selectman. A quick investigation traced the origin of the float to an enterprising teen-aged resident of Asa's Lane. The initial request to his parents that it be removed was complied with, but it reappeared several weeks later. Selectmen sent a certified letter to the young man and it should be gone permanently.

The float is not authorized by town officials, and the Maine Warden Service has advised that while floats are somewhat legal in ponds, they must be within 200-feet of shorefront property owned by the person who controls the float. The town never



authorized placement and viewed the float, which contains a step ladder, as an extremely dangerous situation should someone attempt to dive into the shallow water from it.

New Picnic Tables Urged For Parks

(Lamoine) - The picnic tables at Lamoine Beach have started to corrode badly, and in some cases very jagged pieces of metal are exposed on the bottoms. A check of the expenditure records shows that the last new picnic tables were installed in 1996.

Lamoine's Parks Commission has recommended that the tables be replaced, and the Budget Committee has recommended that an article be approved at the March Town Meeting to fund the replacement in the 2011/12 fiscal year. The Parks Commission estimated the cost of the six new tables to be \$2,402. The money would come from the town's undesignated fund balance, and should not have any adverse impact on the town's fiscal operations. If the tables are approved, they will be installed when warmer weather starts in April or May, in time for the new heavy use season at the popular park.

Town Roads Get Fall Attention

(Lamoine) - Several rough spots on the town roads should be a lot smoother to ride over following work done this fall. Heaves and dips caused by failing culverts or other factors were repaired on Mill Road, Needles Eye Road, Seal Point Road and Shore Road. A warm fall season allowed the



Road Closed
The crew from Jay Fowler & Son fills in a replaced culvert on Mill Road—eliminating a big bump

work to be completed prior to winter, and the repaired areas were paved over. Jay Fowler & Son and Richard McMullen did the bulk of the work.

In addition to the culvert repairs, the town fixed up a drainage easement area on Lorimer Road that had been installed nearly 25-years ago but had started to erode neighboring property. Several parts of the road leading to Marlboro Beach had

also eroded away, threatening the travel lane. The town obtained a permit by rule from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection prior to making the repairs.

McMullen, who also plows the town roads in the winter, trimmed back trees on Clamshell and Cos Cob Avenues, though removal of one bush brought in a complaint to the town office.

Plowing Contractor Gets Route 184 Too

(Lamoine) - Richard McMullen has a lot of salt and sand to store this winter, as he will be plowing State Route 184 in addition to the town roads that he is contracted to plow. The Maine Department of Transportation awarded McMullen the plowing contract and for the first time in recent history MDOT trucks will not be responsible for plowing the main road into town. The bid was for a three year contract, and overlaps the town contract that McMullen started in the 2009/10 season.

Apparently straight salt will be used on Douglas Highway and Lamoine Beach Road (the two components of Route 184), but a salt/sand mix will continue to be used on the lesser traveled town ways.

So far McMullen's company has experienced a pretty mild fall/winter, though the first snow fell a bit early—October 30th. The next major snowfall came on Thanksgiving Eve, dumping about 8-inches of heavy, wet snow that caused very slippery conditions for a while. Storms also hit 2-days before Christmas and on Christmas Day.



Salt piled up at the Lamoine salt/sand storage shed is ready for the winter

Conservation Commissioners Named

(Lamoine) - Selectmen have appointed Anne Labossiere of Falcon Lane to Lamoine's Conservation Commission. Ms. Labossiere has owned property in town for many years, but recently moved to Lamoine after retiring as a school teacher in Falmouth. She has agreed to handle the secretarial duties for the commission.

David Legere of Meadow Point Road has been appointed as an alternate member to the Conservation Commission. Legere operates a kayaking operation in Bar Harbor and was instrumental in obtaining safety signs that were posted at Lamoine Beach following the deaths of two kayakers this past summer in Frenchman Bay.

The Commission continues to work on open space inventory as required by the ordinance that created it. Members are also reviewing the town's comprehensive plan passed in 1996. The Commission was also instrumental in organizing the coastal cleanup earlier this fall in conjunction with Lamoine State Park.

Lien Foreclosure Notices Sent

Number Up from recent years

(Lamoine) - Tax liens filed for the unpaid property taxes from 2009/10 will automatically foreclose to the town on January 7, 2012. As required by law, the treasurer sent notice to property owners and other parties with an interest in the properties to the 23-parcels that remained unpaid in late November. The number is up nearly 28% from the 08/09 lien total of 18 notices.

Of the notices sent, 9 parties did not claim their certified mail and the envelopes were returned. Notices were sent by First Class mail when that occurred. By mid-December, 5 of the parcels had their liens paid in full.

Interestingly, banks or other parties had already foreclosed on four of the parcels and that foreclosure process was proceeding through the court system. The largest outstanding lien was for over \$1,800, the smallest at notice time was for just over \$4.00.

Under state law, liens automatically foreclose to the town 18-months after they are filed at the Registry of Deeds. The town meeting authorizes the Selectmen to dispose of tax acquired property by first offering it back to the previous owners for all back taxes, fees and interest, and if they decline to put it up for auction. Selectmen may also authorize the treasurer, prior to the automatic foreclosure date, to waive foreclosure when it's in the best interest of the town. Property owners may also apply for abatement for reasons of infirmity or poverty.

Audit Completed

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's auditing firm has completed its report for the 2010/11 fiscal year and no major problems have been noted. The complete audit report will be printed in the 2011 annual report and has been posted on the town's website since it was received in October.

The auditing firm of James Wadman, CPA did make a note of the inclusion of high school tuition in the RSU 24 education assessment for the fiscal year to cover an amount not budgeted by the town. The money was to cover tuition at non RSU 24 high schools.

Town Meeting to Decide Tuition Shortage

(Lamoine) - Since the formation of Regional School Unit 24 in 2009, the issue of tuition paid to high schools outside of the RSU has been an elusive number to predict. The RSU, by agreement, pays the district accepting students from Lamoine only the amount calculated that it costs to educate a student at an RSU high school. The receiving school, most notably MDI High School, charges a higher rate that is set by the State Department of Education each year. The town is obligated by state statute to pay that difference. Added to

Payment Sought for Outstanding Trash Bills

(Lamoine) - Nearly \$475 in trash bills generated by Lamoine residents at the Ellsworth Transfer Station remain unpaid to the town, years after the bulky waste was thrown away. The town has ceased the program that required a permit to use the Ellsworth facility, and residents may bring their bulky waste to a private company located next door to the Ellsworth Transfer Station.

The bills are owed by two residents. Selectmen discussed the situation and how to pursue collection of the bills. The town treasurer was asked to send another reminder bill to both parties and to keep Selectmen informed of the payment status.

Excise Tax Collections Still Lag

(Lamoine) - If you want to get a good snapshot of how the economy is doing, take a look at a Maine municipality's excise tax collections. For the past 3-years the amount of money collected by the town for motor vehicle excise tax has fallen.

The high point for excise collections (based on the original MSRP and age of a vehicle) was in fiscal year 2007/08 when just under \$300,000 was collected. That plummeted \$17,000 the next year, and for the fiscal year ending in 2010, it fell another \$14,000 to just over \$268,000. Revenues rebounded a bit in FY 10/11 to just under \$275,000, but the current fiscal year that ends in June 2012 and has budgeted \$275,000 in revenues is experiencing another lag. As of early December, excise tax collections were at \$111,000, about \$9,000 under budget.

After the property tax, excise taxes are the biggest major revenue component of the municipality's budget. The slowdown in new vehicle sales is directly attributable to the lower levels of excise tax collections.

Hodgkins Trust Continues to Benefit Town

(Lamoine) - The trust fund which generates interest income left by Leurene and Allen Hodgkins has produced another \$10,194.31 to benefit town parks or infrastructure projects. A check from the trustee was received in the fall, surpassing expectations.

With approval from the town meeting in March, Selectmen intend to use part of the money to fund a major reconfiguration of the vault at the town hall to preserve permanent town records. An \$8-thousand dollar budget item has been included in the town meeting warrant to improve shelving and records preservation efforts.

Mr. Hodgkins served the town for many years as a Selectman, and Mrs. Hodgkins was the town treasurer for a while. In addition to the trust left for the town, they also left a scholarship trust which is administered by the Maine Community Foundation and provided sizable scholarships for a number of college students from Lamoine in the current school year.



So that's what the cross looks like, up close. The structure on the hill behind Forest Hill Cemetery is made of steel welded by resident Ralph Miro many years ago. It still attracts a lot of folks to town who stop to take a picture as it overlooks the Jordan River

included in the school assessment in the first year of the RSU operation. That means that the March 2012 town meeting will have to come up with a little over \$25,000 to pay for tuition. Thankfully, there is money in the education fund that was left when the town joined RSU 24 (about \$132,000), and both the town's auditor and the RSU office agree this fund can be utilized to make up for that unbudgeted amount.

The upcoming school year (2012/13) has seen a more accurate tuition and debt service figure provided by RSU 24 which will be on the warrant.

Lamoine Native Wins National Honor



(Left) - Lt. Nicole (Bonney) Auth is the US Coast Guard's Female Athlete of the Year.
(Photo courtesy of US Coast Guard)

(Kodiak, AK) - Not many folks in Lamoine would recognize the name Nicole Auth, but if you mention Nicole Bonney, there would be a lot of "oh yeah's". Nicole grew up in town, was on the sailing team at MDI High School and joined the Coast Guard when she graduated from MDI in 2000.

The daughter of teacher Diane Bonney and retired State Police officer Ed Bonney, Nicole has been named the Coast Guard's Elite Female Athlete of the Year.

Auth (her married name), participated in the Military World Games held in Rio de Janeiro last July, and her sailing team won the bronze medal. It is the first time the US won a medal in a sailing event at the Military World Games. According to a press release from the Coast Guard, Auth said she and her four teammates did not expect to place that well, but they were excited to be able to represent the US and its armed forces. She was the acting bosun and the crew's bow woman during the competition.

Besides her activity on the sailing team, Auto also volunteers her time by teaching sailing to high school students in Alaska, where she is based. She has also been an active instructor with the Sea Scout Youth Sailing Program in Hawaii.

How Can We Help?



(Lamoine) - The town has received numerous inquiries from people who want to offer help to struggling families trying to keep their heating fuel tanks filled in the winter months. The Selectmen explored possibly administering a locally based program, but that raised more questions than answers—especially when it came to administering such a program.

The Washington/Hancock Community Agency runs the THAW (The Heating And Warmth) Fund. The program provides assistance to local families who might not qualify for rapidly diminishing federal LIHEAP funding or for other assistance programs, but are out of money for heating fuel. Donations to the THAW fund can be made to WHCA. Please call (207) 664-2424 for details on how to contribute.

Returnables

Proceeds Paid

(Lamoine) - The returnables program at the Lamoine Transfer Station has continued to reap benefits for several organizations. Paid during the previous quarter were:

- Lamoine Parks Fund \$353.05
- Forest Hill Cemetery \$262.80
- Conservation Commission \$296.60

Cub Scout Pack 88 will receive November's proceeds and the Lamoine School music program the proceeds in December while January 2012 will see the returnable proceeds go to Lamoine's 8th Grade class. Two more applications are pending.

Non-profit organizations affiliated with the Town of Lamoine are encouraged to submit applications to the Lamoine Board of Selectmen to receive funds from returnables donated at the Lamoine Transfer Station. The application form is available from the town office or easily printed from the website.

Dog Licenses Due

(Lamoine) - Dog owners are reminded that 2012 licenses are due. Dog licenses expire December 31 of each year, but there is a 1-month grace period, so no late fees are charged in January. Late fees are substantial—they start February 1 by state statute, and it'll cost an extra \$25 for dogs that are required to be registered after that date.

To register a dog (a process required by state law), proof of rabies vaccination must be provided to the town. In many cases the town already has a record of a dog's rabies vaccination that has been provided by the state's animal welfare program or from the previous dog license.

Reminder notices will be mailed in February, and failure to heed the reminder will prompt a visit from Lamoine's Animal Control Officer. Failure to register can result in a hefty fine in District Court. The cost to register a dog is \$11 if the dog is not neutered and \$6 if the dog has been neutered. More information is available at the Town Office.

Vital Records

(Lamoine) - Congratulations to **Matthew Reed** and **Jaime Murphy** who were married on October 1st. That's the only wedding to report this quarter. Lamoine saw two births in the final quarter, both were girls.

We lost several citizens in the fourth quarter. **Noel Dechar**, better known as Excalibur the Electrician, died October 3rd. Noel was the electrician at the town hall and one of his final projects was to re-wire the Cable TV/Technology room. **Wesley Bentivoglio** who lived on Francis Drive, died on October 10, 2011. He was 50 years old. **Hazel Wellman** who summered on the corner of Cos Cob and Lamoine Beach Road died in Massachusetts at age 89 on October 8, 2011. **Edna Briggs** of Shore Road died November 1, 2011 at age 95. We received word that former Transfer Station Manager **Allen Sternfield** passed away in New Mexico in mid-November at age 84. And former Lamoine Consolidated School cook **Barbara Stratton** passed away on November 20, 2011 at age 73.

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Editor/Writer

Stuart Marckoon, Adm. Asst.

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Lamoine School Principal Ann McCann (standing, left) welcomed community member who shared a Thanksgiving Dinner with students in mid-November.

January 2012-Lamoine Town Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2-Town Office Closed—Federal Holiday	3-6:30 PM Planning Board	4-7PM Assessors	5-6:30 PM Budget Committee 7PM Selectmen	6	7-Town Office Open 8-12
8	9	10	11-7PM Conservation Commission	12	13	14
15	16-Town Office Closed, Federal Holiday	17-7PM Planning Board Workshop	18-7PM Clam Conservation Cmsn	19-7PM Selectmen	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28-Town Office Open 8-12, Nomination Papers Due
29	30	31	The Lamoine Fire Department meets Wednesday evenings at 7PM			

February 2012 Lamoine Town Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1-7PM Assessors	2-7PM Selectmen	3	4-Town Office open 8-12
5	6	7-7PM Planning Board	8-7PM Conservation Cmsn	9	10	11
12	13-Absentee Ballots Available	14	15-7PM Clam Conservation Cmsn	16-7PM Selectmen	17	18
19	20-Town Office Closed, Federal Holiday	21	22	23	24	25-Town Office Open 8-12
26	27	28	29			

March 2012 Lamoine Town Schedule

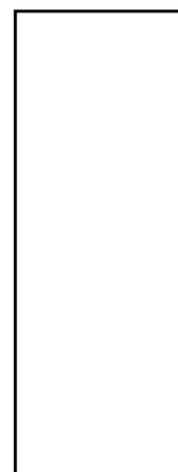
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1-7PM Selectmen	2	3-Town Office Open 8-12
4	5	6-7PM Planning Board	7-7PM Assessors	8	9	10
11	12	13-Town Elections 8am-8pm	14-Annual Town Meeting 6PM	15-7PM Selectmen	16	17
18	19	20	21-7PM Clam Conservation Cmsn	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31-Town Office Open 8-12

The Lamoine Quarterly January 2012

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- 7 Vital Statistics

And Much, Much More!



Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605