

◆ The Lamoine Quarterly ◆

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Gravel Permit Denial Lawsuit Settled *Planning Board to Have a “Do-Over”*

(Lamoine) - After years of waiting, the town has agreed to settle a lawsuit filed by Harold MacQuinn, Inc. following the Planning Board's denial of a permit to expand a gravel mining operation off Douglas Highway. As part of the settlement, the Planning Board will reconsider the application filed in 2013 by the company. Planning Board chair John Holt, who is also an official with Cold Spring Water Company, an abutting property owner, will recuse himself from the Planning Board when the matter comes back before the town.

MacQuinn filed suit following the rejection of the Site Plan Review & Gravel Permits to expand the existing pit on Cousins' Hill (the so-called Kittridge Pit) in May, 2014. The suit claimed a bias on the part of at least two Planning Board

members, including the chair. The other member has since left the Planning Board after his term expired.

The lawsuit was slated to go to a court hearing in Bangor on November 15th. Town Attorney Dan Pileggi met with the Board of Selectmen in executive session prior to the hearing and following that meeting, the Selectmen voted to authorize Pileggi to accept the settlement offer from MacQuinn's attorney, Ed Bearor. A judge dismissed the suit the day before the scheduled hearing.

It's not clear when the applications will come back before the Planning Board, which renewed the gravel permit for the Kittridge Pit in December. If approved, the proposed expansion would allow the pit grow from the currently permitted 22-acres to 100-acres.

Annual Town Meeting Date Set for March 7 & 8, 2017

(Lamoine) - Selectmen have set the annual Town Meeting dates as the first Tuesday and Wednesday following the first Monday in March, as has been recent tradition in Lamoine. The annual municipal officers election will be on March 7, 2017, followed by the open town meeting on March 8, 2017. Balloting takes place from 8am to 8pm at the Lamoine Town Office, while the open meeting will be held at the Lamoine Consolidated School beginning at 6:00 PM.

The Board of Selectmen is still drawing up the warrant for business to be conducted at the open town meeting. Some of the items to be discussed are addressed throughout this edition of *The Lamoine Quarterly*. The warrant which calls for the town meeting will likely be signed in late January. It'll be printed in the town report as well as posted in hard copy at various town locations and on the town's website.

While absentee balloting is allowed for the municipal election, you must be present to vote at the open town meeting.

Up for election are a Selectman's seat, an Assessor's seat, and two seats on the Lamoine School Committee. Currently holding the Selectman's seat is Nathan Mason; Terry Towne's term is up as Assessor, while Gordon Donaldson and Valerie Peacock's terms on the school committee come up for election.

To appear on the ballot, candidates must collect at least 25-signatures on a nominating petition (available at the town office), and turn those into the Town Clerk no later than the close of business on January 23, 2017.

Marijuana Sales Ban Vote Set

(Lamoine) - Maine voters opted to legalize recreational marijuana use, narrowly passing a referendum in November. Lamoine voters rejected the question 603-495. In March, there will be another vote on whether the town ought to ban retail sales, cultivation, testing and manufacturing of recreational marijuana as well as social clubs that might serve the drug.

A public hearing will likely be held on February 16, 2017. Selectmen will set a date for the public hearing in January.

The proposed ordinance will be decided by secret ballot referendum on March 7, 2017. The ordinance would still allow marijuana use, but prohibit businesses from obtaining a local permit to grow and sell. Maine Municipal Association crafted the ordinance.

Broken Pipe Interrupts Water Service



Local Plumbing Inspector Michael Jordan (in hole with shovel) and Cold Spring Water Company operator John Holt inspect a broken line at the Mill Road pump house that caused an interruption in water service in November.

(Lamoine) - The notice sent to the Lamoine Consolidated School and fire department sounded pretty ominous in November; the reservoir at the Cold Spring Water Company had gone dry and there was no water to be had. The timing could not have been much better, though, because it was Tuesday, November 22, and school was out for the week, although a teachers' workshop was under way.

The phone at the town office started ringing pretty steadily about the lack of water, even though the town has no role in operation of the small water cooperative. Town officials did post updates about the situation on the town's web page, and also started making inquiries about companies that could truck in drinking water in case the outage was likely to last for an extended period of time.

The outage, though, had nothing to do with drought conditions in the area. Instead, it was traced to a pipe that runs between the well pump and the building

that covers the reservoir from which users draw water. The pipe had broken, and the water couldn't make it to the reservoir. The wet spot in the ground above the break was a pretty good indicator of what had happened.

Water Company licensed operator John Holt quickly tracked down the trouble, contacted local contractor Perry Fowler and a plumber. They dug up and repaired the pipe, and within 12-hours of the outage, water was flowing again to the 50-or so homes served, along with the school, fire station and Lamoine Baptist Church. Water from the system fills a large tank at the school, so it's unlikely the break had any impact at all in operations.

Holt says the system occasionally has leaks which result in water losses, but the reservoir had never been run completely dry before. He said the company has noticed some impact from drought conditions.

Opinion Sought on Subdivision Split

(Lamoine) - The town's Code Enforcement Officer has received permission from the Board of Selectmen to seek guidance from the town's attorney in regard to a complaint from the Planning Board regarding the split of a lot several years ago in the Marlboro Mist II subdivision. The Planning Board approved an amendment to the subdivision last summer that returns it to an 11-lot subdivision by combining a lot created by a land sale from the developer's original lot with an existing subdivision lot. The Board then filed a complaint with the Code Enforcement Officer regarding the split in 2011.

Complicating matters is that a previous Code Enforcement Officer issued a building permit for the lot that was split off from the subdivision's remaining land in 2012.

CEO Rick Gallegos advised Selectmen that part of the notice of violation process is to give the alleged violator an opportunity to correct the problem, and to state what correction is required. He noted that the action by the Planning Board returns the subdivision back to the 11-lots, though in a different configuration than was originally approved by the Board in 2004. Clarification is expected after the first of the year.

Comprehensive Planning Committee Seeks Consultant

(Lamoine) - As Chairman Fred Stocking characterized it to the Board of Selectmen, the Comprehensive Planning Committee is perfectly capable of putting together a plan for the town to vote on, but, it probably wouldn't happen until 2020. Selectmen have agreed to advertise for a professional consultant to assist the committee with coming up with a plan draft well before that. Stocking said the hope is to have something ready for the annual town meeting in 2018.

The Advertisement for a consultant is posted on the town's website, have been mailed to a list of professionals identified by the State Planning Office and distributed via e-mail to the Maine

Association of Planners. The Comprehensive Planning Committee is seeking to limit the expense to \$9,000, and does not need the consultant to attend all of their meetings. One committee member will act as the liaison with the chosen consultant.

Proposals from qualified consultants were due by the end of December, and the Comprehensive Planning Committee will look at submissions and make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen in January with hopes that someone will be on board by the end of January. The proposal calls for a draft plan to be in place by the end of 2017.

Code Enforcement Officer Permits Slow

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Rick Gallegos issued the following construction permits during the final quarter of 2016:

#	Name	Project
53	Upson, Larry	Garage
54	Dyer, Donald	Residence
55	Beckwith, Robert	Addition
56	Kelley, Sean	Deck
57	Richardson, Chris	Residence
58	Griffin, Tony	Deck
59	Dederer, Ann/Edw.	Residence
60	Norris, James	Shed
61	Haass, William	Shed
62	Gordon, Burnie	Addition

Plumbing Inspector Michael Jordan issued 4 permits to install septic systems, and three internal plumbing permits during the quarter.

Building & Land Use Amendment Proposed

(Lamoine) - Voters at the annual open town meeting will be asked to correct errors in one section of Lamoine's Building and Land Use Ordinance. The table of land uses which lists setbacks, lot coverage and the like, has numerous footnotes. During an approved update process many years ago, the foot note references in that table were carried forward, even though the footnote numbers changed.

The proposed amendment to the current version of the ordinance simply updates and corrects the number of the footnote reference, making clear items such as building height, lot sizes, and road frontage. It does not make any change to such requirements.

The Planning Board submitted its proposed changes to the Board of Selectmen for inclusion on the March 2017 town meeting warrant.

Conservation Commission Seeks Ordinance Change

(Lamoine) - The town's Conservation Commission has suggested changes to the ordinance that created the body, and voters will decide at the March 2017 town meeting whether those changes should pass. The proposal would amend the ordinance first passed in 2002 in a couple of key ways.

One change will allow formally for appointment of alternate Conservation Commission members. While it has been the practice in the past to have a couple of alternates, the original ordinance made no mention of such a position.

The other changes would clarify the role of the Conservation Commission by adding an educational component to its purpose. For years the Commission has sponsored numerous public education events on a wide variety of topics ranging from Shoreland erosion, to recycling, to attracting bluebirds. The original ordinance makes no mention of public education on the part of the commission. Additional language also clarifies the role the Commission would play on proposed changes to various ordinances.

Planning Board Renews Gravel Permits

(Lamoine) - If you've driven by the town office on the first Monday of the month for the past few months, you have seen the lights on late into the evening as the Planning Board carefully reviews applications for gravel permit renewals. With one exception, the board has approved the several permits before them. The lone permit requiring more information prior to approval is a pit owned by Harold MacQuinn, Inc. adjacent to Douglas Highway, just north of Orchard Lane. Very little gravel removal takes place at this pit.

The process takes a few months, as the Planning Board first has to determine whether an application is complete. Once that happens, they schedule a site visit and public hearing, and then make a final review before granting a permit if everything is in order.

The gravel operations gaining approval include two MacQuinn pits off MacQuinn Road, the Kittridge pit off Douglas Highway, the former King pit now operated by RF Jordan off Douglas Highway, and two pits operated by John W. Goodwin Jr; one in East Lamoine and one in Marlboro.

November Presidential Election Draws Record Voter Number

(Lamoine) - A total of 1,112 registered voters in Lamoine cast ballots on November 8, 2016. That is the highest ever voter turnout in town, eclipsing the 2012 Presidential Election by 49-votes. Like the rest of Maine's 2nd Congressional District, Lamoine voters cast more ballots for Donald Trump than Hillary Clinton (35 more to be precise),

favoring Republican Bruce Poliquin for Congress. Voters also favored State Senator Brian Langley, and hometown State House challenger Joe Marshall, who fell short in the race against incumbent Brian Hubbell. Lamoine voters were against legalizing recreational marijuana use, though it appears to have passed statewide. They also opposed increasing state income

taxes on the wealthy, requiring gun background checks, and ranked choice voting. All the measures passed in statewide balloting.

The vote tabulation machine made counting easy. The counting was done before 9:15 PM, as very few write in votes were cast.

Voters Approve Staying With PERC

(Lamoine) - After rejecting a proposal to stick with dozens of other communities building a “trash to gas” plant in Hampden, voters in Lamoine gave swift and unanimous approval to continue sending its municipal solid waste to the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC) incinerator in Orrington. A special town meeting on October 13, 2016 drew about 25-voters, and with very little discussion, those present authorized the Selectmen to enter into a 15-year contract with PERC.

Resident Kenneth Smith, a former engineer who helped design waste to energy facilities, was instrumental in

helping the town decide which option suited its needs. Smith advised the Board of Selectmen that the PERC plant is a known entity that works, and questioned the engineering and figures behind the Hampden proposal favored by the Municipal Review Committee (MRC).

Selectmen signed the agreements and associated documents with PERC in November. The new agreement will cost about \$10/ton more than the proposed MRC agreement. Either contract would mean a significant increase in the cost per town for solid waste disposal. The new agreement takes effect on April 1, 2018 when the current PERC contract expires.

New Face, Dented Gate at Xfr Stn.

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen have hired a new fill-in attendant for the transfer station to spell manager Chris Meyer from time to time. Chance Day accepted the job on Mr. Meyer’s recommendation. He lives on Misty Way in Lamoine.

If you noticed the gate at the transfer station doesn’t seem quite right, you are correct. Wind blew the gate into the back of one of the packer trucks leaving the facility in November, causing it to bend. It is still functional.

Bagged Trash Still Preferred

(Lamoine) - Folks who use the Lamoine Transfer Station and Recycling Facility often hear manager Chris Meyer request that they put their trash in bags before tossing it into the dumpsters. By policy, commercial trash haulers (the folks who pick up trash curbside) are required to bring it to the transfer station already bagged up. Residential users who bring their own trash don’t face the same requirement, but it makes a lot of sense to do so.

Meyer reminds users that bagged trash tends not to blow out of the vehicle when being transported, or out of the dumpsters when it’s windy at the transfer station. Losing part of a trash load is considered littering, which, of course, is a civil violation in Maine.

The other factor that makes bagging trash preferable is what Meyer calls “vectors”. Animals and flies don’t usually get into the trash bags and potentially spread disease. Every now and then bears and raccoons do raid the dumpsters before the trash is transferred into the packer trucks for its trip to the Orrington incinerator.

Recycling Down, Costs Up

(Lamoine) - A quick analysis of Lamoine’s recycling program found it makes little economic sense, though it may be socially responsible. Figures from 2010 through 2015 found the cost to recycle has risen from roughly \$300/ton to more than \$630/ton. Revenues from recycling have fluctuated wildly, and the tonnage recycled dropped from more than 35-tons in 2010 to only 17.8 tons in 2015, a roughly 50% drop.

The Conservation Commission will be looking at recycling options during the next few months. The Board of Selectmen has requested that Casella Waste, which transports the sorted recycling to Coastal Recycling in Hancock, submit the options for zero-sort recycling. The board is curious if eliminating the need to sort recycling might increase participation by townspeople.

The Selectmen are likely to seek new proposals for a recycling program when the current contract expires in March 2018.



The crew from Weber Tree Service, Inc. chips off the brush they cut from the side of Buttermilk Road this fall. Owner Charles Weber who grew up in and still is based in Lamoine won the bid to cut back vegetation on the heavily traveled road.

Proposed Municipal Budget Increases

(Lamoine) - Just about every segment of the proposed 2017/18 municipal budget has a proposed increase when compared to the current fiscal year, but the impact on the property tax bill should not be too significant. No one factor appears to be driving the budget increases.

The Administration budget is proposed to rise just over 2% due to contracted salaries and insurance costs. An ordinance change increasing the social service recommendation amount has pushed that budget up 9%. The fire department is proposed to rise about 13%, all attributable to proposed purchases of two new airpicks. The new contract with

PERC is estimated to increase the budget for solid waste by more than 13%. Code Enforcement officer costs are up 19%, Road paving has pushed the total roads budgets up 11%. Care of Veterans’ graves has pushed the parks budget up 9%, and plans for an electronic sign at the town hall increased the capital budget about 18%.

To offset the increases, the Selectmen have proposed using \$85,000 in undesignated fund balance (surplus) funds and \$45,000 of the road fund, or roughly \$75,000 more in identified revenues to offset the increased spending, negating the need for a tax increase.

Board Chairs Discuss Town Issues

(Lamoine) - One of the identified goals from the Board of Selectmen has been to have more frequent communication with the appointed boards. To that end, the Selectmen met with the various board chairs in October, and it produced a positive and helpful discussion.

Among the items discussed was compliance with Maine’s Freedom of Access Act (the Right to Know Law), a possible land acquisition near Mud Creek Road, Shellfishing issues, increased time for the Code Enforcement Officer, simplifying public processes for town business, recreational offerings, the need for a community center, increased school populations, and gathering ideas for the town’s 150th birthday celebration in 2020.

The group indicated that more such meetings would be useful, and the Selectmen agreed that it was beneficial to hear what is going on with the committees that were represented. No date has been set for a follow up meeting—that will likely occur sometime after the March 2017 town meeting.

As a result of the discussion, the Selectmen have started a dialogue on the possibility of a community center. (see article on page 4). There has been increased inspection activity by the Department of Marine Resources to identify possible pollution sources that lead to Shellfishing closures. Plumbing Inspector Michael Jordan reports he’s been following up on the DMR reports.

Area Towns Discuss Drug Use Issues

(Lamoine) - Hancock County Sheriff Scott Kane has told leaders of towns in our area that law enforcement will not be able to “arrest our way out of the drug problem.” The League of Towns, of which Lamoine has been a member for decades, has discussed the impact of illegal drug abuse on the area. Lamoine has seen several medical responses, and at least two methamphetamine related incidents in the past year.

There are plenty of groups that have come up with ideas to help. The Ellsworth Police Department and Healthy Acadia have developed the Project HOPE program where drug users are invited to turn in their substances and be sent to a

rehabilitation program. The new program has seen a few people take the Ellsworth PD up on its offer, and it’s available to residents of surrounding communities.

Sheriff Kane says the DARE program, which he ran for many years while he was a patrol deputy, will likely make a comeback, educating school students about the dangers of drug use and to give them tools to avoid becoming involved.

At the local government level, the town has not developed a specific strategy to address drug abuse, preferring so far to rely on regional approaches that are starting to fall into place to offer treatment to users.

Cable TV Franchise Renewal Sought

(Lamoine) - The franchise agreement between the Town of Lamoine and Time Warner (now Charter Communications) runs out in about a year, and both parties are seeking to renew the agreement. The town has hired attorney Daniel Pileggi to handle the negotiations, and preliminary proposals from Time Warner have been met with a counter proposal from the town. The technology committee and

Selectmen have focused on density requirements for a new agreement, looking to relax present language that requires 15-homes without satellite dishes per mile to qualify for cable service. That has kept a few of the more distant subdivision in town from being wired for cable TV. The town receives a franchise fee for each CTV customer. Funds have been used to pay for local telecasting equipment.

School TV Channel Nears Reality

(Lamoine) - If all goes well, the Lamoine Consolidated School will have its own channel on the Cable TV system by the end of February. The technology committee has recommended that a Lewiston based cabling company wire up the school gym with three cameras and an

audio feed in order to televise events live, and to replay them on the school’s cable channel.

Charter Communications has been contacted to provide the transmission equipment. The project will cost around \$30,000.00 to complete.

CTV Operator Hired

(Lamoine) - Walker Road resident Melissa Johnson is the latest to tackle the operations job for the Lamoine Cable TV system. Mrs. Johnson worked since October, updating the billboard and scheduling shows to run on the cable channel, and helping record the special town meeting last October.

A former DHHS worker, Johnson has two young children in school, and a background in audio productions in New Jersey. She informed the technology committee, though, that she will be starting a full time job with the Jackson Lab, limiting her available to the cable channel.

Foreclosure Notices Issued

(Lamoine) - The town treasurer has sent notices to 16 taxpayers who have not paid their 2014/15 property taxes that liens filed against their property will automatically foreclose to the town on January 27, 2017. The unpaid taxes represent a total of \$16,862.23. More than \$3,300.00 in fees and interest are also due with the payments.

One of the properties involved is went up for a bank auction in late December. Several others with mortgages on them are expected to see the bank pay the taxes in order to not lose the property. If the town automatically acquires the property, it is offered back to the former owner for all back taxes, fees and interest.

Analysis Shows No Revaluation Need

(Lamoine) - Lamoine’s Board of Assessors is not recommending that a town wide revaluation be conducted in the next year. Assessors Terry Towne and Michael Jordan analyzed sales of property around town. An equal number sold for both higher and lower prices than the town valuation for the individual lot. A quick analysis shows the town valuation overall about 4.8% higher than actual selling prices for properties.

Lamoine last conducted a full revaluation in 1993. In 2005 the town conducted what it called a “factored” revaluation where it adjusted land assessment formulas to match up to actual prices, and increased the value of all buildings by 60% to reflect the market at the time.

Assessors will continue to monitor sales data. The town has set aside more than \$100,000 for a full revaluation.

2nd Half Tax Due

(Lamoine) - The second half of Lamoine’s property tax bill is due by February 28, 2017. The town collected well in excess of 50% of the property taxes by the end of December.

Unpaid taxes accumulate interest at an annual rate of 7%. Tax liens have been placed for the past few years in mid to late July, with notices from the tax collector coming out in June.

Community Center Starts Discussion

(Lamoine) - When the Comprehensive Planning Committee held a forum last spring, each breakout group identified a desire for a community center in Lamoine. The same topic garnered a lot of discussion around board chairs at their meeting with Selectmen in October. That has started the ball rolling at the Selectboard level, at least preliminarily.

The problems that were identified leading to the desire for such a facility were pretty universal. There is a lack of space for a large scale meeting, and building other than the school gym in which to hold such a meeting. For example, if 300-people wanted to attend an open town meeting, there is neither space to hold one in town, nor the parking to accommodate the vehicles.

One of the first discussions is what people might have in mind for a community center. The thought amongst the five members of the Board of Selectmen was for a gym-like facility which could accommodate a few hundred people, with enough parking to make it easy to access and safe to use. Whether the town offices might become a part of such a facility was also discussed.

The next task was a review of town owned land, and whether any municipally owned lot could accommodate such a building. The largest undeveloped lot is across from the former landfill area. The rest of the town owned lots are not really conducive for a large facility and parking, so some potential land acquisition might have to be involved.

The dialogue will remain open for the coming months, perhaps resulting in a special committee to explore possibilities. The Board has not yet discussed formation of such a committee.

County Commissioners Uphold Assessment

(Lamoine) - A Pheasant Lane property owner whose property tax abatement was denied by Lamoine’s Board of Assessors saw that denial upheld by the Hancock County Commissioners. Gregory Rhyne had asked that the valuation on shorefront property bordering Partridge Cove be dropped, saying that the undeveloped portion of the property was over-valued.

The Board of Assessors denied the abatement application and Mr. Rhyne appealed the denial to the County Commissioners. The Assessors stressed that the property in question was valued on the same formula as similar shorefront property, both in the neighborhood and other areas of town.

The County Commissioners voted unanimously in December to uphold the town’s valuation. One of the three commissioners noted that perhaps the Board of Assessors should factor in the impact of the flood zone on properties.

Mr. Rhyne has a 30-day window in which to appeal the decision to Superior Court. As of late December the town had not received word of an appeal.

Fire Department Has Active Fall Season

(Lamoine) - Not a lot of calls to 9-1-1 for the Lamoine Fire Department during the final quarter of 2016, but some of them were notable.

The quarter started out in the overnight hours of October 1st when a Partridge Cove resident said she blacked out while driving to the hospital and went off the road on Pinkhams Flats. The vehicle squeezed between a guy wire and a utility pole and sustained minor damage, and the driver was unhurt.

The next day, firefighters help pick up a woman who had fallen in her home and could not get up. She did not require medical treatment. A few hours later, the pagers went off again, and the department's rescue boat was deployed to the Thunder Bay, moored off Lamoine State Park. Crew member Timothy French passed away on board, and the fire department ferried an ambulance crew and investigators to the scene.

Firefighters from both Lamoine and Ellsworth responded to Douglas Highway near the town line when residents smelled what appeared to be a house fire. After arrival, firefighters could smell it too, but a check of the immediate area could find no fire. The source was tracked down to a Buttermilk Road property upwind from the Douglas Highway scene where the property owner was burning a debris pile. He had obtained a permit to burn brush, but most of what was found burning was not permitted, including furniture and an old computer and other electronics. The Lamoine FD put out the pile, and the



The remains of a vehicle that caught fire while being towed. Firefighters doused it with foam and water on Buttermilk Road.

Maine Forest Service sent a Ranger to visit a few days later.

In late October, drivers reported seeing a vehicle towing a burning car on Douglas Highway, then on Jordan River Road. Responding firefighters had no trouble tracking the flaming vehicle to Buttermilk Road—they just followed the debris trail. The driver said he wanted to stop in an uninhabited place and disconnect the car to minimize public risk. It appears the rear wheels of the car seized up and caused them to overheat, igniting the car. The man towing the car said he planned to use it for engine parts. No one was injured.

Dog Licenses Due

(Lamoine) - By state law, all dog licenses expire at the end of December. Dog owners have the month of January to complete the registration process. After January 31st, the Town Clerk is required to charge a \$25.00 late fee.

To register (or re-register) a dog, owners need to supply proof of rabies vaccination and pay the registration fee of \$6.00 for a neutered dog, or \$11.00 for an unaltered pup. Dog registrations can be done at the town office, or on-line. The on-line option is only open through January 31st, due to the late fee requirement. The town clerk's office will send out notices after January 31st to each dog owner who has not registered the animal for 2017.

Three To Attend Fire Academy

(Lamoine) - Three new volunteer firefighters in Lamoine will give up their weekends for the next six months learning the skills of the firefighting trade. Sean McLaughlin, Nick Birdsall, and Robert Cooper will attend the Hancock County Firefighting Academy. If all goes well, they should graduate as certified Firefighters I & II in May.

All three have joined the fire department in the past year. The academy has been operating for many years, and numerous members have received the certification in the past. Training is held in various locations through the county. One of last year's grads, Rick Martens, will be one of the instructors this year, and Fire Chief Skip Smith will act as the academy's safety officer.

Fire Grants Sought

(Lamoine) - The fire department has applied for a pair of grants to receive much needed safety equipment. The department submitted an application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Assistance to Firefighting Grant program for 10 self contained breathing apparatus units (air packs) to replace the antiquated units currently in use. In the past six months two of those units have failed. Each airpack costs in the neighborhood of \$6,800.00. If successful, the fire department would half to pay only 5% of the cost.

And, the fire department has applied to its insurance carrier for a grant to purchase new traffic safety vests to outfit each firefighter. Vests are required apparel when working on any public highway. Insurance carrier Maine Municipal Association Risk Pool has safety grants available twice a year.

Meth Lab Busted



State Police cruisers at the scene of a February standoff on Needles Eye Road, site of a suspected methamphetamine lab bust in October.

(Lamoine) - Maine's Drug Enforcement Agency has informed the town office that it dismantled a methamphetamine making operation at 72 Needles Eye Road. Grand Jurors in December charged property owner James Day with operating a meth lab.

Last February Day was involved in an incident that brought numerous law enforcement officers from several agencies to the same location when he fired a shot inside the home and threatened to harm himself and others. No one was injured in the incident.

The DEA advised the town the notice should be placed in a file on the property's record for potential future owners of the property.

Missing Woman's Body Found

(Sorrento) - A two week search for a Needles Eye Road woman ended with the discovery of her body on the shores of Sorrento. Lorelei Leslie's family reported her missing on October 20th. The Maine Warden Service, Marine Patrol, Hancock County Sheriff's Department and State Police conducted numerous searches around her home, in Blunt's Pond, and in the Tidal Falls area of Frenchman Bay looking for signs of the 57-year old who had lived in town for more than 33-years.

A pilot with the Maine Marine Patrol discovered her body on the shores of Sorrento when he had landed the agency's float plane nearby and spotted it. The medical examiner's office performed an autopsy. Foul play was not suspected. The search had concentrated in the area near the Sullivan/Hancock bridge, as Leslie often liked to visit the location. She leaves behind a daughter and grandchildren in Lamoine.



Lorelei Leslie (courtesy, Hancock SO)

Town May Acquire Marlboro Beach

(Lamoine) - The town might have the opportunity to acquire the remainder of Marlboro Beach in the coming months as the current owners have offered the land for a price significantly lower than the assessed value.

Tax Assessor Terry Towne has been working with the Norris family which owns all but a small portion of the beach which is popular with bird watchers, shellfish harvesters, and recreational boaters. The town owns a very small portion where boats are launched at the end of the Marlboro Beach Road.

Towne and Aaron Dority of the Frenchman Bay Conservancy (FBC) met with the Board of Selectmen in December to discuss placing a question or two before voters on the March 2017 town meeting warrant. The FBC will act as a fund raising organization and if successful take possession of the property, then turn it over to the Town of Lamoine which would own and manage the entire beach.



Marlboro Beach (Google Earth Image)

The town might be asked to use some of its land conservation fund to help with the purchase. Still under discussion are any restrictions that might come with the acquisition and what type of town management would be needed for the property.

The Norris family has owned the area for decades. Many years ago a portion of Marlboro Beach was deeded to the town. It currently is managed by the Lamoine Parks Commission.

Heating Assistance Funds Available

(Lamoine) - Lamoine residents having trouble paying for heating costs in the winter may have some help available through a fund set up a few years ago by donors. The Heating Assistance fund allows for successful applicants to purchase 100-gallons of heating fuel (or its electrical, wood, or other type of heating equivalent).

A local three person committee reviews applications which are available at the town office or from the town's website. It is a simple, one-page form. Applicants must be in imminent danger of running out of heating and not have the means to pay for the type of heat they are using. It is not meant to take the place of the town's General Assistance program which is a far more complicated process.

The town has been fairly successful at collecting donations over the past 3-years. As of June 30, 2016, more than \$8,600 was in the fund.

Applications remain confidential. Need more info? Call the town office at 667-2242.

Shore Survey Keeps Plumbing Inspector Busy

(Lamoine) - A survey of Lamoine's shoreline by the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has generated a fair amount of work for plumbing inspector (LPI) Michael Jordan. The DMR is trying to determine if there are any failing septic systems that have led to closure of Shellfishing areas along the coast.

DMR officials have visited scores of homes, asking about septic systems. Those property owners that choose not to give information or let the surveyors see the leach field area, are referred to the LPI for follow up information.

So far one failing septic system has been identified and steps are being taken to correct the problem. That failing system seems to correspond to a pollution closure near Raccoon Cove.

Comings & Goings

(Lamoine) - Lamoine residents seem to have a way of stepping up when the town needs someone to serve. Robert Alvarez, Jr. has filled the town's slot on the Regional Shellfish Conservation Committee, replacing Paul Davis who has stepped down. Both are active clam harvesters in Lamoine.

The Recreation Committee has lost alternate member Heidi Garrison who has served on the committee pretty much since its formation. She and her family will be moving out of town after the school year ends.

Selectmen have appointed Long time resident Neila McIntyre as an alternate member to the Lamoine 150 Committee. McIntyre has been active with the Lamoine Historical Society and was excited to get involved with the upcoming (in 2020) celebration of Lamoine's existence.

Shore Access Explored, Bags Created

(Lamoine) - Conservation Commission members are working with selectman Kathleen Rybarz to find a way to increase shore access in the town. The purpose is to improve opportunities for clambers, wormers, kayakers, picnickers and others to appreciate our beautiful coastline. Visit the website lamoineshoreaccess.com for discussion of the project and most importantly take the short survey. The committee needs your ideas and energy to make the project work.

The Commission plans to make reusable bags available to Lamoiners to reduce reliance on the plastic one-time bags that seem to end up in the trash,

attached to trees along roadways or floating out at sea where they are a serious hazard for sea life. We have enlisted the creative talents of students at the Lamoine Consolidated School to come up with a logo for the reusable shopping totes. A total of 23 suggested logos came to the commission and the winners will be announced at town meeting on March 8.

Save the date, March 22, for a public presentation on composting by Mark King, environmental specialist at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. this public meeting on March 22.

Adopt A Highway Program Continues

By Georgia Munsell

(Lamoine) - Under the ME Adopt-A-Highway program, Lamoine is very fortunate to have over fifty dedicated volunteers who have adopted a 1-mile section of a town road. Some of them are out there every day or every week while most do pick up roadside trash on their section at least two time a year in the spring and fall.

Some home owners do pick up trash along their property by the road and that is much appreciated.

Lamoine is grateful for the time and effort that our Adopt-A-Highway volunteers donate.

We do want to mention that folks picking up litter want to be very careful about some of the trash left behind. Hypodermic Needles should not be collected—many adopters have reported finding discarded needles along side the road, most likely a result of illegal drug use. And large soda jugs that have a residue on them should be avoided. These are likely the result of methamphetamine making operations and can burst into flame. Best to call 9-1-1 if any of these items are found.



Yesterday's Frosty, Today's Litter
This pile of trash was recovered from the side of Buttermilk Road by Adopt-A-Highway volunteer Bill Reynolds.

Town Clerk, Tax Collector Gets Married

(Somesville) - You know her as Jennifer in the town office. Lamoine's long time tax collector and town clerk who has started her 16th year on the job now has a new title: Mrs! She and her husband, Bryan Lord, were married on November 12, 2016 in Somesville. Co-worker Stu Marckoon, a Notary Public, performed the ceremony under sunny (but cold) skies.



Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Lord

Jennifer will retain the last name Kovacs (believe it or not, there's another town clerk in Maine named Jennifer Lord). The couple lives with their two children in Bar Harbor. He is a chef at Side Street Café. Jenn said they opted to

wait until the presidential election was over to get married in order to have enough time to prepare. They spent a brief honeymoon in Orono.

Bead Device Headed to Town Office

(Lamoine) - The town office staff just loves having little kids visit. (They don't complain about taxes.) Former Selectwoman Cynthia Donaldson loves them too—and her Little Kids Group plans to install a bead device under the town office counter to keep the under 3-foot tall crowd interested while mom or dad register their vehicles. Selectmen gave the enthusiastic go-ahead for the toy this fall. It's now known when it will arrive.

Got Ideas For Lamoine 150?

(Lamoine) - A long list of celebratory ideas is starting to form as Lamoine nears its 150th anniversary. The committee coordinating the celebration took the month of December off, and will resume meeting on January 11, 2017. They are open to even more ideas. Meetings are public, or you can e-mail your thoughts to the town office (town@lamoine-me.gov). The town's 150th occurs in 2020.

Town Report Cover Picture Needed

(Lamoine) - Attention shutterbugs and artists. We're looking for a picture to use as the cover for the 2016 Lamoine Town Report. If you've got an interesting picture of something in town and don't mind sharing it with the rest of the community and in a permanently kept publication, we'd love to consider it.

Town report covers in the past have included historic photos, art works, scenery, town structures, and events. Oftentimes we end up using a picture of something the town staff took during the year that came out well.

Submissions are best sent via e-mail attachment. A .jpg or .tif format for pictures is preferred, and if the Selectmen choose the picture, the photographer/artist will be credited in the town report. The covers have been printed in color the past several years. E-mail address is town@lamoine-me.gov.

Math & Literacy Event a Big Hit

By Dawn McPhail, Principal

(Lamoine) - LCS was the happening place on Thursday, November 3rd. Students and parents enjoyed an exciting night of math and literacy at our "Under the Big Top" family event. Over 60 students and their parents attended and enjoyed a drama club performance, a Robotics demonstration and fun and interactive math and literacy games and activities. Circus themed concessions were on sale and included popcorn, cotton candy, corn dogs, french fries and even dough boys! A fun time was had by all! Our second math and literacy night, "Dragons Love Tacos", is being planned for winter! Just imagine the treats we might enjoy that night.

Washington State Town Looking for Picture

(Lamoine) - There are not a lot of places in the world that are named Lamoine. We've googled it—we know. But, there is a section of Washington State named Lamoine, and the roots of its name work their way back to our Lamoine, apparently.

The town received an e-mailed message from Darrin Nelson who grew up in Lamoine, WA, (population 8). He said that local legend has it that the Washington town was named after a can of sardines that were labeled "Lamoine, ME" located on a store shelf in 1906.

Back in that era, there were sardine canneries located in town (they've long since gone by the wayside). The e-mail was forwarded to the Lamoine Historical Society and there may be someone who has a picture of a Lamoine Sardine can. They're looking through old pictures to see if they can find a copy to forward to Mr. Nelson.

The history of Lamoine, WA is interesting. It was once a briefly a thriving community, changing its name from Arup,

School Gets Grant from Famous Author

By Dawn McPhail, Principal

(Lamoine) - Thanks to a stellar application submitted by our very own Mr. Barlow LCS has received a \$2000 grant from bestselling author James Patterson to support the school library. In addition, Scholastic Reading Club will match each dollar of Patterson's donation with "bonus points" that teachers can use to acquire books and other materials for their classrooms. LCS was selected amongst thousands of applications for funding grants.

James Patterson and Scholastic Reading Club announced in March 2016 that Patterson would donate \$1.75 million to save school libraries nationwide in the second installment of his School Library Campaign. As part of an ongoing effort to keep books and reading a number one priority in the United States, selected school libraries will be receiving grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Since the grant program's launch in 2015, Patterson has donated \$3.5 million to school libraries nationwide, with all funds are being personally donated by Patterson.

In the first-ever partnership of its kind, Patterson joined forces with Scholastic Reading Club to administer funding applications to their network of 62,000 schools and 800,000 teachers. Schools entering were asked to share the story of their school library, including past efforts to make improvements and "great ideas to help create a brighter future." Patterson personally read and selected the winning recipients of the grants. Based on past winners, school libraries across the country have been using this funding to purchase new books, add bookshelves, make improvements to their catalog systems, and expand their programming.

WA in about 1905. Ultimately, the business community disappeared when the Great Northern Railway bypassed the community, according to the posting on the Wikipedia website. Today, it is mostly wheat fields, though Mr. Nelson says his parents still live there.

If you should happen to come across a picture of a can of Lamoine, ME sardines, let the Historical Society or the Town Office know about it, and we'll forward it to Mr. Nelson.



The Other Lamoine's School
A shot posted on Wikipedia from Lamoine, Washington

January 2017 Lamoine Town Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2—Town Office Closed (Holiday observed)	3	4-8:00AM Board of Assessors	5	6	7—Town Office Open 8am to Noon
8	9—7PM Planning Board	10-6:30 PM Comprehensive Plan 6:30 PM School Committee	11-5PM Lamoine 150 7PM Conservation Commission	12—7PM Board of Selectmen	13	14
15	16-Town Office Closed (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)	17	18-5PM Shore Access Subcommittee	19	20	21
22	23-Nomination Papers Due 6:30 PM Planning Board	24-6:30 PM Comprehensive Plan	25	26—7PM Board of Selectmen	27	28—Town Office Open 8am to Noon
29	30	31				

February 2017 Lamoine Town Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1-8am Board of Assessors	2	3	4—Town Office Open 8am to Noon
5	6—7PM Planning Board	7	8-7PM Conservation Commission	9—7PM Board of Selectmen	10	11
12	13	14-Town Office closed at lunch	15	16—7PM Board of Selectmen (Public Hearing)	17	18
19	20-Town Office Closed (President's Day)	21	22	23	24-Town office closed at lunch	25—Town Office Open 8am to Noon
26	27	28				

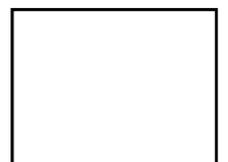
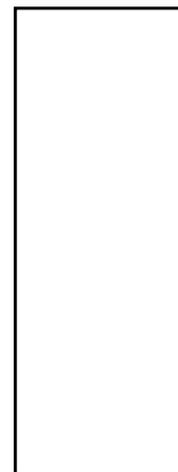
March 2017 Lamoine Town Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4- Town Office Open 8am to Noon Lamoine Beach Half Marathon
5	6—7PM Planning Board	7-8am to 8pm Municipal Election	8—8am Board of Assessors 6PM Open Town Meeting @ School	9—7PM Board of Selectmen	10	11
12	13	14	15-7PM Conservation Commission	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25—Town Office Open 8am to Noon
26	27	28	29	30	31	

The Lamoine Quarterly
January 2017

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 - 1 Pot Vote Planned
 - 2 Record Voter Turnout
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 - 3 Budget Up Slightly
 - 4 School TV channel
 - 5 Meth Lab Bust
 - 5 Towed Car Burns
 - 6 Beach Purchase Eyed
 - 7 School gets grant
 - 7 Town Clerk Hitched

And, Much Much More!



Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605