Happy 150th To Us!

Events Galore to Mark Lamoine's Founding

(Lamoine) - The celebration of the official establishment of the Town of Lamoine 150 years ago is well under way, and 2020 is going to be a fun year. As noted in the October edition of the Lamoine Quarterly the celebration began with a relatively low-key road race and community barbecue. In November, the Lamoine 150! Committee presented the first two productions of a year-long series called "Celebrating Our Story". The first told the story of the town's "Road to Incorporation" from articles of incorporation of the 1870 Ellsworth American and other sources, a dozen "readers" conveyed the flavor of how the town meeting and community discussions took place when East Trenton broke apart from Trenton and became Lamoine. Much of the breakup had to do with transportation and education and there were a lot of details to take care of before the Maine Legislature and Governor Joshua Chamberlain put pen to paper and declared that Lamoine would become its very own town on March 1, 1870.

A lot of Lamoine residents packed the school gym for the next presentation put on by the Conservation Commission which talked about the archaeology of our area. Archeologist Rick Will gave a captivating talk for about an hour and a half, noting that several shell heaps in Lamoine (he had to keep their location a secret) give great clues as to what was going on here long before the Europeans settled the area.

The second Celebrating Our Story production packed the Lamoine Grange in early December, recreating in a similar format of the first show, what life was like in the 1890s and focusing on what townspeople did for entertainment. The audience sang along with songs of the period, and a large cast of characters, including a quartet from the Lamoine Consolidated School, lent some authenticity to the show.

Some real excitement is coming up in the next few weeks. The next Celebrating Our Story is set for Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 6:30 at the Grange. It will describe the various neighborhoods of Lamoine and the important roles they played in creating a sense of community. A cribbage fest is planned for the Lamoine Grange on January 12, 2020 from 2PM to 4PM. Cribbage is a favorite game among many townspeople. There is no entry fee and no prize for that champ, but it should be a fun chance to get together and play cards.

Lamoine will be celebrated with poetry and songs on Saturday, February 8 at the Lamoine Grange beginning at 6:30 P.M. If you have a song or poem to share, send an email to lamoin150@gmail.com.

On February 11, 2020 all residents are encouraged to take a picture of what they’re doing on that day in Lamoine. That date is one of the benchmark 150th dates in the founding of the town. With cell phones and digital cameras easily accessible, picture takers are encouraged to snap whatever shot they want and submit it to the Lamoine 150! Committee for an electronic display for a “Day in the Life of Lamoine”. Pictures can be posted on the Lamoine150 Facebook page or emailed to lamoin150@gmail.com.

Two Part Town Meeting Planned for March

Election is March 3, Open Meeting March 18, 2020

(Lamoine) - If campaign signs are going to start appearing around town, chances are they won’t be for the municipal elections that will take place on March 3, 2020. The only people taking out nomination papers for local office were those who currently hold the seats to be filled. Nathan Mason is running for re-election as Selectmen, Gordon Donaldson and Matthew Montgomery for School Committee and Terry Towne for another term on the Board of Assessors. Nomination papers were due on January 3, 2020, a little earlier that previous years due to a change in state laws. Absentee ballots will be available beginning on January 29, 2020. The municipal election date coincides with Maine’s Presidential Primary election. The municipal ballot will be separate from the state ballots and hand counted. The open town meeting date will NOT be the day after the election. Instead, it will be on March 18, 2020 beginning at 6PM at the school gym. In past years, weather has been a factor for the open meeting night, and Selectmen felt that moving it a couple weeks later would have less of a chance of a winter mess. There’s also a bit of a benefit to town staff with the break between election day and the open meeting to give more time to prepare for the 2nd part. Harvey Kelley has agreed to moderate the town meeting again for both parts.

Tall House Subject of Further Appeal

(Lamoine) - After issuing a decision that encouraged the Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) to reconsider how the height of a building was determined, Lamoine’s Board of Appeals has received another submission from a neighbor who claims the building in question is taller than the Building and Land Use Ordinance allows. CEO Rebecca Albright issued her written determination that the measurements she performed in the spring of 2019 on a new residence constructed by Kathryn and Thomas True conformed to the 35-foot limit. In the message to the Board of Selectmen and appellant Alan Moldawer, Albright said the town does not possess the tools to accurately survey the average height of the building when compared to the terrain prior to construction. She did note, however, that the building was constructed in conformance with plans submitted with the building permit application that was approved in late 2018. The permit issuance, which amended an earlier application, was never challenged as improper.

Mr. Moldawer has filed an appeal of that determination with the Board of Appeals. The Appeals Board will meet on January 22, 2020, but only to entertain a vote on whether to request legal representation permission from the Board of Selectmen, and to schedule a preliminary meeting on the filing. The appellant has indicated that he is willing to delay action until spring when many who spend summers in the neighborhood can return to attend meetings.
Planning Board Approves Gravel Permits

(Lamoine) - Six operating gravel pits will continue to operate following action by Lamoine’s Planning Board in the fall. After an exhaustive item by item review of the applications, the board gave approval to:

- Harold MacQuinn, Inc.—Higgins Pit
- Harold MacQuinn, Inc.—Sand Pit
- Harold MacQuinn, Inc.—Asher Pit
- RP Jordan & Sons—McDevitt Pit
- John W. Goodwin—East Lamoine Pit
- John W. Goodwin—Davis Pit

All the gravel contractors were represented by surveyor Stephen Salisbury who over the years has become very familiar with navigating the town’s gravel permitting process. Public hearings were held in December when the Planning Board followed up what few comments were received by approving all of the permits.

Landowner Files Suit, Bars Planning Board

(Lamoine) - Harold MacQuinn, Inc, one of the larger landowners in Lamoine and operator of several gravel pits, has filed suit against the Town of Lamoine for alleged violations of the Frivolt pits. MacQuinn initially discussed such an effort more than a year ago, but never made much headway until the town office staff maintained a notice of violation, the town’s Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, and state law, provide for fines ranging from a minimum of $100 per day to a maximum of $2,500 per day.

Town Cites Landowner for Violation

(Lamoine) - The disputed building in the Marlboro section of Lamoine is a potentially a pretty good example of neighbors not being aware of what building projects are approved around their properties. The owners of both properties were notified of the hearing as part of the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance hearing on January 20, 2020 at the town hall. Lamoine’s Planning Board approved the amendment to the town’s Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, a final vote will take place at the town meeting March 18, 2020.

How to Know What Neighbors are Building

(Lamoine) - The weekly building in the Marlboro section of Lamoine is a potentially a pretty good example of neighbors not being aware of what building projects are approved around them. In that case the property owners applied for a building permit, then amended the permit application several times in order to meet setback concerns. The final application amendment was approved in late 2018, and construction began in the spring of 2019.

Under the Lamoine Building and Land Use Ordinance, the Code Enforcement Officer is authorized to issue permits for residential dwellings upon proper application. She is not required to notify the abutters of the permit application to the property owners that the application has been filed, and generally if all is in order, a permit can be issued on the day of application. The Planning Board is the issuing authority for projects that involve commercial buildings and a whole host of other applications. When the Planning Board gets involved, abutters must be notified and a public hearing held prior to permit issuance.

The town office staff maintains a permit log on the town’s website, and updates it within just a few days of any permit being issued by the Code Enforcement Officer. In the last year or so, staff has scanned the permit application cover page and a sketch of the property layout required on all permit applications, and included that on the website posting. By clicking on the permit number, the scanned page is opened showing the application information. Abutters are encouraged to check the page frequently.

Hearing Planned For Shoreland Zoning, Comprehensive Plan Documents

(Lamoine) - The town’s Planning Board has been working for several years on an updated Shoreland Zoning Ordinance to bring the town into compliance with state mandated regulations within the shore area. The final draft is now ready for a public hearing prior to action by the town meeting this month. That hearing will take place on Monday, January 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Lamoine Town Hall.

The “new” ordinance adds just two properties to the Resource Protection Zone. Both properties are located at the head of the Jordan River and would not necessarily be suitable to build within the Shoreland Zone. The owners of both properties were notified of the hearing as required by state law.

Working with the Planning Board was the College of the Atlantic which has prepared an updated Shoreland Zoning map. That map gives a much more detailed look at exactly where the updated Shoreland Zones sit.

The Members of the public are encouraged to speak in regard to the Shoreland Zone. Copies of the proposed ordinance and outlines of the significant changes are available at the town hall and posted on the town’s website. Presuming no changes are made to the draft ordinance, a final vote will take place at the town meeting March 18, 2020.

State mandates are also behind a proposed amendment to the town’s comprehensive plan that was approved in March 2019. After voters approved the document that was about 4-years in the making, the town submitted the Comp Plan to the State of Maine for its blessing. As expected, the state found some areas they did not like and sent the plan back for further drafting. The Comprehensive Planning Committee was able to accomplish the updated plan with relative ease, and not a lot of change to the originally passed document. After re-submission to the state for a compliance check, the nearly final “blessing” was received.

The hearing on the amended Comprehensive Plan will follow the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance hearing on January 20, 2020 at the town hall. Like the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, presuming there are no changes proposed to the Comp Plan, voters will be asked to give final approval at the March 2020 town meeting.

Line Agreement In Works

(Lamoine) - Selectmen have agreed to hire surveyor Stephen Salisbury to write a description of a property line agreement with landowner Marion McDevitt to clearly define the boundary between lots located between Shore Road and Lamoine Beach Road. The town initially discussed such an effort more than a year ago, but never made much headway. A recent line agreement with another party came up with a basis for a property line that should match current tax maps.
Solar Project Makes Slow Headway

(Lamoine) - The Town of Lamoine and Sunpower Corporation are still talking about a large solar array to be built on town owned land that will produce much of the town's electric power. The meeting between the legal team of town attorney Dan Pileggi and Sunpower has been delayed as Selectmen authorized the Board of Selectmen to negotiate a lease with the company. A draft lease is currently under review where the town’s capped landfill sits.

There has been a fair amount of work behind the scenes since Selectmen accepted their proposal. Voters packed the town hall in early November, unanimously favoring the Board of Selectmen to negotiate a lease with the company. A draft lease is currently under discussion between town attorneys Dan Pileggi and Sunpower's legal team. The company has also been in discussion with an agent for at least one abutting landowner about possibly enlarging the project into the abutting gravel pit area. No final decision has been made in that regard.

A representative for Sunpower met with Planning Board Chair John Holt in early December to review what kind of permitting is needed locally and to look over the proposed lease area. State and Federal program guidelines are evolving over subsidies for solar power. A Sunpower representative hopes to have omitting and a contract in place by mid-January to take advantage of the federal incentives to build such projects.

Building Permits Issued

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright issued the following permits in the fall of 2019:

- Project
- Shubert, Carol
- Garage
- Mason, Nathan
- Shed
- Cline, Lee
- Greenhouse
- Richardson, Chris
- Garage
- Schofield, Brian
- Residence
- Menzietti Ent.
- Shed
- Brown, Constance
- Addition
- Nasberg, Gerald
- Sign
- Frost, Jack
- Residence
- Lescynski, Henry
- Steps/Deck
- Haff, Richard
- Residence
- Sanborn, Reginald
- Garage

In addition to the above permits, Albright, in her capacity as plumbing inspector issued 4 septic permits, two replacement leach field permits, and four internal/hookup plumbing permits.

Wanted:

- Budget Committee Members

(Lamoine) - Lamoine’s Budget Committee functioned with three members at each meeting this fall. The committee is a five member committee, but member Connie Bender moved out of town just as budget season was starting, and no one was appointed to replace Marion McDevitt who retired as a full committee member in July 2019. That left Robin Vessey, Mike Bragdon, Tiffany McMullen and alternate member Paul Howaniec to review the municipal budget and make recommendations to the town meeting. The committee meets four to five times in the fall and once in the spring to review the school budget. If interested in serving, contact the town hall.

New Facilities Maintenance Director Hired

(Lamoine) - Former Trenton Selectman Michael Hodgkins has agreed to fill the position of Facilities Maintenance Director for the town of Lamoine.

Hodgkins’ job that became vacant in the fall of 2019 when Rick Gallegos and his family moved to Texas. Hodgkins was one of three finalists for the position which is responsible for maintaining the town hall, the three town parks, some aspects of the fire station and transfer station, the town’s storage garage.

Hodgkins has a lot of experience in the facilities maintenance field. He performed similar duties for the Sonogee Rehabilitation Center in Bar Harbor prior to its closing. And, he’s certainly familiar with municipal government, serving for many years as a Selectman in our neighboring town of Trenton.

Mr. Hodgkins is a licensed auctioneer and has, in the past, led the bidding for the Lamoine Fire Department Auction. He also runs a small used vehicle business at his home on Route 3 in Trenton.

Selectmen unanimously hired him on the recommendations of a small search committee consisting of Selectman Kathleen Rybarz and Administrative Assistant Stu Markoon.

Proposed 2020/21 Municipal Budget is Up (slightly)

(Lamoine) - When voters gather for the annual town meeting on March 18, 2020, most of the articles will deal with the municipal budget. The town’s budget committee and selectmen are recommending an increase in the overall municipal side of the budget. While the spending increase is proposed at more than $103,000, the impact on property taxes will be less than 1/10th of a mill, or about $33,000 in total taxes. A typical home assessed at $200,000 would see an increase of $24.60 in its property tax bill based loosely on the current valuation.

What’s driving the spending increase? Road paving. During the current fiscal year, the town paved only a short section of Buttermilk Road. The upcoming year (2020-2021) the paving budget is up $62,000 or 72%. There are other big projects included in the proposed budget. The Selectmen expect to reconfigure the transfer station and have budgeted $50,000 for that project which the town will likely have to borrow money to accomplish. Speaking of the transfer station, recycling costs have skyrocketed in the current fiscal year due to transportation costs. That budget is up about $17,000 or 62%. Contracted raises are partly responsible for the administration budget’s 4% increase.

Some of the proposed budgets have fallen. The fire department completed funded improvements, lowering the public safety budget by almost 2%. Social Service requests are down for the upcoming year as well.
Cupola Work Planned, Bell Coming Out

(Lamoine) - It’s fair to say that the town hall no longer has a need for the bell that resides in the cupola. We’re not sure the last time it rang; most likely when the building was used as a school which dates back many decades. The Board of Selectmen have approved a contract with a Waterville company that specializes in church steeples and other such structures to remove the bell from the cupola sometime in the spring. That project will cost just under $1,900, and the Board had set aside $3,000 for work on the cupola at the end of the fiscal year in 2019. The Selectmen have a plan for the bell. The idea is to display it at the Lamoine Consolidated School lot, and school officials were excited by the possibility.

The entire cupola structure also needs a lot of work. The gentleman from Mid Maine Restoration (MMR) who looked over the cupola discovered a large hole in the roof, and that’s no doubt the source of water that gets into the town office ceilings when it rains. While removing the bell, they plan to patch up the hole temporarily. The remainder of the cupola work is a lot more expensive, and Selectmen have tentatively approved a contract with the same company to do it right. Pending town meeting approval, the money (more than $11,000) will come from the capital improvement fund and be allocated for the current fiscal year. That work will involve replacing the cupola’s roof, replacing the louvers that provide for ventilation, and installing new roofing material over the roofing structure.

The cupola roof has been a problem for several years, and the town has struggled to find a local contractor that wished to take on the project. MMR is the same company that replaced the steeple at the Lamoine Baptist Church.

Tree Trimming Under Way on Two Roads

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen hired the crew from Berry Cove Gardens to trim back the trees encroaching the road and shoulders on both Walker Road and Buttermilk Road. Greg Gleason’s company was the lower of the two bids received on the project.

Gleason started trimming in December on Walker Road and in early January on Buttermilk Road as weather permitted. The goal of the branch and tree trimming is to eliminate interference from those branches with safe passage of motor vehicles and pedestrians. By opening up the canopy, the sunlight will also promote faster snow melt after storms. The cutting was not without controversy, as a couple of Walker Road residents felt the project was cutting back too far from the roadways. The instructions from the Road Commissioner asked Gleason to trim to either the back edge of the road ditches, where they are established, or to the utility line limit. The town’s right of way generally extends about 25-feet from the center of the travel lane on local roads.

Lamoine 150! Merchandise for Sale

(Lamoine) - Quite a few people completed their holiday shopping at the Lamoine Town Hall by purchasing commemorative items offered up for sale by the Lamoine 150 Committee. The hottest sellers were coffee mugs (the committee is on its third order), baseball caps, and wine/juice glasses.

The committee also has winter hats that were available at the 5K road race in September, a few shirts, and a variety of other offerings such as posters and refrigerator magnets available while supplies last. The baseball hats, which are very popular, also help to benefit a playground project at Lamoine Beach Park. The committee has priced items reasonably, and sales tax is included in the price. The proceeds will help defray the costs of the big 150th birthday party, including a parade and fireworks planned in August of 2020.

Most of the items are for sale at the town hall, and at official Lamoine 150! Events that are upcoming. The Lamoine 150! Committee is open to ideas for other merchandise sales. Contact Cynthia Donaldson or Jo Cooper for details on how to offer up merchandise.

State Confirms Road Repaving In Summer

(Lamoine) - The official re-paving list from the Maine Department of Transportation has come out, and both Routes 204 and 184 are on the list for the summer of 2020. The MDOT typically asks communities if any work is planned for the roads they intend to pave, and that request was received in late fall. The town does not intend to do any digging on either road.

The new surface should be a marked improvement over the current pavement which is full of cracks, peeled away asphalt, potholes and frost heaves. It won’t be all that thick, though, as the DOT plans what is politely termed as a skinny mix. That’s the same material that went down last summer between the Lamoine School and Shore Road on Route 184, which was a big improvement that went down sooner than planned.

Local MDOT crews spent much of the summer of 2019 replacing rotted culverts and digging ditches along the sides of both roads in hopes that the new pavement will last longer than the previous paving job a few years back. Those repaired areas have shown improved drainage and the frost heaves have not materialized yet during the 2019/20 winter months.

No exact date has been set for repaving, but it’s likely to be after the start of the state’s fiscal year on July 1st.

Crack Sealing Half Done

(Lamoine) - Cold weather arrived sooner than was expected, curtailed planned crack seal maintenance on Buttermilk and Walker Roads. The crew from Wilson’s Ground Maintenance out of the Bangor area was able to complete the work on Buttermilk Road after the first plowable snow of the season melted away and it was briefly warm enough to effectively fill up the cracks. Still, the snow plow peeled away some of the fresh crack sealant on the busy road. It’s believed the crew will return in the spring to complete the job on Walker Road.

Selectmen authorized using some paving funds from Buttermilk Road to pay for the sealing effort. By sealing cracks, water doesn’t get into the road bed and freeze and thaw, causing sever e road damage.

November Turnout Low

(Lamoine) - Fewer than 18-percent of Lamoine’s roughly 1,500 voters cast ballots in the statewide election in November 2019. The results from Lamoine were actually a little better than most towns that did not have any local issues on the ballot. The results of the 269 votes cast in town reflected the statewide election that approved a road projects bond and a constitutional amendment on petition signing. The next statewide election is March 3, 2020 which includes a presidential primary and local balloting.
Fire Department Responds to Record Number of Calls During 2019

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department responded to a record number of emergency calls during the just completed calendar year. The previous record was set during 2017, and the call volume in 2019 finished at 95 calls, three more than the volume two years prior.

The year ended with an emergency call to a Lamoine Beach Road residence when Northern Light Transport asked for assistance getting a young woman with an injured knee from her 2nd floor apartment to the ambulance below.

Many of the calls during the final quarter of the year involved removing trees from the road after windstorms in mid-October and on Halloween. There were some serious fires that Lamoine and many other departments helped to fight. On November 9th, the department was diverted to Mariaville when a home in that town went up in flames (the picture below is from that scene). Lamoine’s tanker truck was the 2nd tanker to arrive on scene, and the pumper truck refilled responding tankers.

The department also sent manpower and equipment to Trenton on December 16th for a house fire that started as a chimney fire. Because of the construction around the chimney, it took fire crews more than 3-hours of hard work to cut up the wall to reach the area that was burning. Lamoine filled tanker trucks and also supplied interior firefighters at the scene.

Several of the calls included requests for help with getting patients from their homes into the ambulance.

Foreclosure Notices Mailed

(Lamoine) - Property owners who have not paid their taxes assessed in 2017 received certified mail that informs them of pending automatic foreclosure by the town. The foreclosure date is February 7, 2020. There were 19 properties on the list, a little lower than in past years. That represents a little over $12,000 in unpaid taxes, with about $2,900 in additional fees and interest that has accumulated. If the taxes are not paid in time, the Selectmen will offer to sell back the property to the previous owner for all back taxes, fees and interest. If they refuse, properties may go up for auction.

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Transfer Station Redesign Concept Nears

(Lamoine) - Selectmen await a concept plan for the future of the town’s transfer station from engineers at CES. Former Bar Harbor Public Works Director Chip Reeves who is leading the project, has been measuring the current facility and met with town officials to figure out what the goals are for a potentially re-designed transfer station. The drawing may be ready in late January or early February.

Selectmen said they would like to potentially add compactors for both the municipal solid waste (MSW) and recycling materials in order to cut down on the significantly mounting transportation costs to get trash and recycling from Lamoine to it’s next destination—either the PERC plant in Orrington for the MSW or the DM&J facility in Winterport for recycling. By compacting the material on site, it’s believed those costs can be lowered, and potentially pay for improvements.

One of the challenges will be potential lines at the transfer station, as only a few vehicles will be able to dump their MSW and recycling at the same time. Currently, the town has 13 MSW dumpsters and 2 recycling roll-off containers in a horse-shoe configuration. Reeves hopes to come up with a plan to accommodate multiple users in the layout.

Lamoine/Bayside Grange News

By Carol Korty

Lots of events have been happening this fall at the Grange. Our monthly meetings fall on the first Wednesday of each month, starting at 6:30 with a potluck. (Because January’s first Wednesday falls on New Year’s Day that month we’ll meet a week later on the 8th.) What are we up to?

We sponsored three Red Cross Blood Drives here this year to serve the community. For fun we’re setting up tables for folks to play or learn to play Cribbage, Sunday afternoon, Jan 12, from 2-4. What better way to enjoy the company of other Lamoiners on a winter afternoon?

We continue to co-ordinate with Lamoine Community Arts, who’ve made the Grange home for their productions, Open Mic, play readings and meetings.

And two of the 150 Celebrations appeared on our stage thanks to the efforts of the 150 Committee and LCA. Many more are to come in 2020.

The request to lower our painted curtain to serve as a backdrop prompted us to seek professional help in restoring this curtain so that it may be regularly used in years to come. Its somewhat fragile state is not surprising, considering it’s almost 100 years old and has undergone at least three different refurbishing, the most recent in 1959. We believe all of the “touch ups” retained the original design that depicts the view from Marlboro of Castine Island, the Narrows, and the mountains of MDI.

Fire Department Adds Saw, Blitz Attack Device

(Lamoine) - A successful fund raising year for Lamoine’s volunteer fire department saw a couple of new pieces of equipment installed on the trucks in the fall of 2019. Department members agreed to purchase a “Blitz-Fire” nozzle on Engine 403, the first pump truck due at fire scenes. This nozzle will deliver a large volume of water onto fires in a short amount of time. The device is designed to sit on the ground and water is delivered by a 2.5” hose. It’ll help cool down fires to keep them from growing, gaining time for firefighters to get inside burning buildings to further attack flames.

The other device added to the arsenal is a rescue saw. It’s a battery powered circular saw that’s much more powerful and portable than your typical home style saw. The department added blades that should be able to cut through numerous materials, including masonry and metal. In addition to cutting roofs and walls, the saw will also prove useful on vehicle accidents and other incidents where access is limited.

$10,000 was raised from the annual auction and the letter writing campaign paid for both items. Additionally, the fire department and the town combined to purchase 10 “new” airpacks for the department, replacing obsolete airpacks that were about 25-years old.

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Wind Storm Damages Park Kiosk

(Lamoine) - One of two wind storms that hit in October caused some severe damage to the kiosk structure at Bloomfield Park on Blunt’s Pond. The wind knocked down a large pine tree that grazed the kiosk, damaging the roof and knocking it off kilter.

The Lamoine Parks Commission has looked into repairs, and the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department has stepped up. The kiosk structure was removed to the fire station, where some very talented volunteer carpenters have been working to repair the roof in their spare time.

That same storm brought down other trees, one of which completely blocked the access road into the park. Volunteers cut that up and got the road open within a few days.

The kiosk should return to the park in the spring once the ground thaws open within a few days.

Selectmen Reject Cell Tower Lease Sale

(Lamoine) - Periodically, the town gets offers from companies across the nation to purchase the town’s lease to American Tower for the cell phone tower near the former landfill. The latest such offer was particularly aggressive, but the Board has rejected the offer. The purchase price was about half of what the expected revenue for the tower lease would be over the next 25-years or so. The revenues from the land lease helps offset property taxes.

Marlboro Beach— Leave it There!

Marlboro Beach— Leave it There!

(Lamoine) - Parks Commissioners say folks are pilfering from the park at Marlboro Beach. Missing are some larger rocks used to stabilize the road leading to the beach and the shoreline. Removing the rocks can lead to expensive road repairs.

Also missing is some sea heather and rugose rose plants. The Parks Commission reminds users that the rocks and plants belong in the park.

The Marlboro Commons— Neighbors Helping Neighbors

By Gordon Donaldson & Gary McFarland

Downeast communities have a long history of caring for their own. Lamoine is no exception. A wonderful example of this occurred 110 years ago, right in Marlboro. Marion McDonald, the Commons building was used for dances, suppers, community affairs, and meetings (book clubs, community groups, etc.), special events (parties, weddings, memorial services, etc.), exercise classes, an emergency shelter, and musical performances. The community center building or an addition (Lamoine) The Community Center

Community Center Feasibility Study Committee, tasked with exploring the possibility of a community center and what it might entail, has recently concluded a survey in which the people of Lamoine had the opportunity to weigh in on questions related to whether the town should have a community center and if so, what it should be like. The survey followed a Needs Assessment conducted to understand the current and future space needs and challenges for various organizations in town. The survey was advertised in many ways, including many hours of chilly person-to-person appeals at the Transfer Station. The Study Committee received 214 responses—around 90 percent from full-time residents, and with older residents more heavily represented. Over 80 percent of respondents believe that a community center would be a valuable addition to the town. However, over 80 percent of respondents believe that the town should only consider a community center whose cost could be covered without raising property taxes beyond what most residents consider reasonable. However, over 50 percent of respondents stated that the attractiveness of the community center would influence whether they would use it or not. There are many activities that a majority of respondents voiced interest in at a hypothetical community center in Lamoine. They include classes (art, music, etc.), meetings (book clubs, community groups, etc.), special events (parties, weddings, memorial services, etc.), exercise classes, an emergency shelter, and musical performances. The Community Center Feasibility Study Committee’s meetings are open to the public. We invite our fellow Lamoiners to join us and provide input as we continue to consider how the town should proceed. Check the town website for our next meeting date. For those interested in a more detailed picture of the survey results, you can review the tabulated responses here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-ZPR5RM49S7/

Rec Cnme Opening

(Lamoine) - Lamoine’s Recreation Committee has an opening following the resignation of Patti Haslam. The Selectmen accepted the resignation in October. The term expires June 30, 2021. If interested in filling the slot, contact the town office or Rec Committee Secretary Nikki Chan.
School Establishes Free Little Library

By Dawn McPhail, Principal
(Lamoine) - Lamoine Consolidated School is now home to a Free Little Library! Located outside the main entrance, the Lamoine community is free to browse, borrow, love, and donate books. The charter sign has been ordered and is on the way. Upon delivery of the official charter number our Little Library will be added to the national registry of Little Libraries.

The library is open for business, and we would love to have you and your family check out all it has to offer. If you have any books (any ages) that you’d like to donate, please send them to Miss Miranda! Our Lions Library has a sister Little Library, the Tiger Library, at Surry Elementary School. We hope you’ll visit one or both of them soon!

Exercise Class Info

Each Monday and Wednesday morning at 8:15 a.m. a group of women and men of all ages meet at the Lamoine Baptist Church for a FREE Strength Building Exercise class. The routine includes:

- Aerobic Warm up
- Upper body strength exercises using hand weights if desired
- Lower body strength exercises using leg weights if desired
- Cool Down with Yoga stretches
- The routine may be adapted to any age or fitness level. The program improves strength and balance.

For more information contact Iris 667-5094 or Mary 667-7083

Piebald Deer Observed

Photo by Mark Laney

(Lamoine) - Folks driving on Shore Road have reported seeing a white and brown deer during the fall. Resident Mark Laney was able to get a picture of what’s termed a piebald deer. According to the hunting website MorsyOak.com, the genetic mutation occurs in about one of every 30,000 deer. They are slightly less rare than albino deer and both parents have recessive piebald genes. The small deer managed to survive hunting season so far as we know.

Thank You Patrons

(Lamoine) - The students and staff would like to extend a great big thank you to all the PATRONS volunteers who bring so much to our school. As always, the Halloween party, the craft fair, the penny sale, and the simply awesome Christmas brunch make for a wonderful and busy three months! These folks put in a great deal of time to keep these traditions alive and well in Lamoine, and we are very grateful.
**January 2020 – Lamoine Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
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<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1–Town Office Closed</td>
<td>26-30 Rec Cmte. 7:00 Selectmen</td>
<td>3–Nomination Papers Due</td>
<td>4–Town Office Open 8-Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6-8PM Parks Cmte/7PM Planning Bd</td>
<td>7-6:30anity Ctr. Feasibility Cmte.</td>
<td>8-7PM Conservation Cmsn.</td>
<td>9-4PM Lamoine 150!</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-2-3PM Cribbage Fest @ Grange</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15-Sam Assessors 7PM Celebrating Our Community—@ Grange</td>
<td>16-7PM Selectmen</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>20-Town Office Closed 7PM Public Hrg (Shoreland Zone, Comp Plan)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22-830PM Appeals Board</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25-Town Office Open 8-Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31–Absentee Ballots Available</td>
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**February 2020-Lamoine Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3-7PM Planning Board</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6-6:30 Rec Cmte 7PM Selectmen</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11-Day in the Life of Lamoine</td>
<td>12-7PM Conservation Cmsn</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11-Day in the Life of Lamoine</td>
<td>12-7PM Conservation Cmsn</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17-Office Closed, President’s Day 6:30- Community Ctr. Study Cmte.</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20-7PM Selectmen</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27-Absentee Balloting Deadline</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29-Town Office Open 8-Noon</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**March 2020-Lamoine Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3-Town, Presidential Primary Election 8-8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5-6:30 Rec Cmte 7PM Selectmen</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2-7PM Planning Board</td>
<td>3-Town, Presidential Primary Election 8-8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5-6:30 Rec Cmte 7PM Selectmen</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7-Town Office Open 8-Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11-7PM Conservation Cmsn</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18-5:30—The 1st Town Meeting 6PM Open Town Meeting</td>
<td>19-7PM Selectmen</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28-Town Office Open 8-Noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>The town office will be closed at lunch from March 24–April 1 due to vacation</td>
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</table>

For an up to date schedule, consult the town’s website, www.lamoine-me.gov

**Inside this issue:**
- Lamoine 150! Events
- Town Sued
- Solar Project Update
- Facilities Maint. Hire
- Cupola Work Plan
- Transfer Station Design
- Kiosk Damaged
- Little Free Library

And Much, Much More!