The Lamoine Quarterly

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Virus Shutdown Presents Challenges

(Lamoine) - Maine, and by extension, the Town of Lamoine, remains under a state of emergency as of July due to the Coronavirus pandemic. As the headline states, the situation has created a lot of challenges for the folks who run your town government, but throughout the emergency, the town has continued to function in one form or another.

The town hall reopened to the public on a limited basis on May 11, 2020. The limitation is that only two non-staff members are allowed in the building at any one time, and the general public is not allowed beyond the service window area. Facilities Maintenance Director Michael Hodgkins was able to install sheets of Plexiglas at the window area, leaving enough space at the bottom to slide documents through. Staff members are wearing protective gloves and disinfecting the counter area periodically. Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs came up with a plan to put clean pens in a coffee mug, with another mug to set used pens. Staff disinfects the used pens before placing them back into the clean pen mug.

Prior to reopening, the town hall had been staffed to assist customers with transactions via Internet, telephone, or through the front door mail slot. Staff members took turns staffing the office solo. The amount of town business which normally picks up in April was very slow, but May and June saw a revenue rebound.

The move to reopen when allowed and to keep staffing on board during public closure turned out to be a blessing. Many other communities that closed tight had yet to fully open by early June and found themselves backed up with business. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles which handles registrations that the town office is not authorized to process was only taking customers with phone appointments and some folks reported that the atmosphere was less than pleasant at times.

Code Enforcement matters are still being handled remotely by phone and e-mail. CEO Rebecca Albright does perform inspections and follow up on complaints while working from home, but traveling to town from time to time.

The Transfer Station saw virtually no impact from the pandemic, other than to close the Swap Building for a few months in order to maintain social distancing. The building has since reopened, but with a maximum of two people inside at any one time. It was quite evident that people forced to stay home decided to do some cleaning. On one Saturday afternoon in May, manager Chris Meyer had to close the gate early when all of the trash dumpsters were filled to capacity from the many cleaning projects And recycling continued to be popular as well, with the two roll-off containers filling quickly.

Town parks, especially Lamoine Beach Park, have proven quite popular with the public expressing concern over the number of people gathering for a place to "do something". The Parks Commission asked that signs be posted to encourage people to maintain the recommended 6-feet of separation. The town's 3-parks remained "open" during the ordeal.

The biggest town government casualty of the pandemic has been the Lamoine 150! Celebration. A parade and fireworks originally planned for August 15, 2020 has been postponed indefinitely until it's safe for crowds to gather. None of the events planned after March 1 have occurred, but the town has had a little fun while socially distant.

The fleet from the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department heads out on one of its many birthday parades—this time accompanied by dozens of vehicles to honor June Davis on her 100th birthday.

Lamoine 150! Celebration Postponed

By Cynthia Donaldson

(Lamoine) - Lamoine 150! is sorry to formally announce that most of the events originally scheduled for this Spring and Summer have been postponed. The Festival Weekend which had been planned for this August will now simply move to August 2021 with our parade, fireworks, community dinner and various community activities "on hold' for now. Despite this disappointing turn of events, your Lamoine 150! Committee has been meeting electronically since March working on several quarantine inspired activities.

The Great Lamoine Sardine Haul, which ran from mid April though June 15 saw the committee challenging Lamoiners to make and exhibit sardines to honor our town's maritime history. The response was nothing less than fabulous as 90 sardine pictures from 80 households involving 174 sardines and one fishing tableau appeared almost magically around town.

Lamoine resident and sardine enthusiast Lori Krupke summed it up when she wrote "It was a wonderfully engaging project. To have something to focus on during quarantine that tapped into our creativity and celebrated our history was a welcome distraction. I love seeing how many homes participated". The Committee hopes that homes will keep their sardines in place for people to enjoy during the summer. Plans are afoot to commemorate the Haul in some fashion.

With Lamoine 150! Celebrating Our Story evenings cancelled for the

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Sardines included (right) a Dr. Seuss inspired trio by The Engstroms on Buttermilk Road, and the fishermen and their catch (below) crafted by the Duym family on Marlboro Beach Road.

"Don't Panic" Says Health Officer

(Lamoine) - By state law, every town must employ a health officer, and Lamoine's is Cece Ohmart. The town doesn't call on her very often, but it's usually quite serious when she is pressed into action.

The Board of Selectmen consulted with Health Officer Ohmart on the COVID-19 situation to listen to her thoughts and what response the town ought to have. Her advise to residents: Don't Panic!

On the local health level, there isn't much the town needs to do, as response is a state responsibility. Local officials are not notified when a case crops up in individual towns—the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention takes care of trace contacting.

Ohmart said it appears the safety measures the town has put into place are following CDC guidelines and should protect both the staff and the public while doing business at the town hall. She urged residents to follow CDC guidelines on social distancing and to wear a mask when in public spaces. She also urged residents who wish to vote in the July 14, 2020 primary to cast absentee ballots.

New Emergency Plan Approved

(Lamoine) - Even before the Coronavirus pandemic, the Board of Selectmen had planned to update its emergency operations plan. The timing was nearly perfect. A volunteer subcommittee poured over the existing plan that had not been updated for several years and updated emergency contact information. The town developed the updated plan from a template that the Hancock County Emergency Agency had supplied. Special attention was paid to including a pandemic section.

Many thanks go to Larry Libby, Kathy Gaianguest, Jeff Cosulich and Selectboard chair Kathleen Rybarz for going through the plan with eagle eyes for corrections and updates. The new plan was adopted shortly after the Selectmen declared a state of emergency to coincide with the state of Maine.

Town Meeting Held June 24th

(Lamoine) - If you didn't hear much about the rescheduled town meeting, it was sort of intentional. State Government continued to limit gatherings to 50-people or less, and the fear was that too many people would show up and the meeting would have to be recessed, leaving the town to operate on last year's budget with very different needs for the new year.

About 40-registered voters braved the warm school gym and passed the revised annual town budget warrant articles. About the only contentious matter was approval of an amended Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. After clarifying language in an awkwardly written article, the ordinance was approved, but not unanimously. Those voting against the revisions objected to additions to the stream protection district.

State Supreme Court Denies Gravel Pit Expansion

(Augusta) - Maine's highest court has ruled that an initial decision by Lamoine's Planning Board to deny permission to Harold MacQuinn, Inc. to expand a gravel mining operation. The town's Board of Appeals had overturned the Planning Board decision.

A citizens group, "Friends of Lamoine", appealed the Board of Appeals decision to the Business and Consumer Court which ruled that the Planning Board's decision should be upheld. MacQuinn's attorney appealed that ruling to the Supreme Judicial Court which upheld the lower court's ruling.

The court's ruling concluded that the Planning Board had credible evidence that the larger gravel pit could impact groundwater in the area, and because the Board of Appeals held an appellate review of the Site Plan Review denial, the Appeals Board could only overturn the decision if the Planning Board had done something procedurally incorrect.

The case wasn't officially over with the ruling. MacQuinn's attorney Ed Bearor has filed a reconsideration request to the Supreme Judicial Court. The filing discussed what the attorney felt was an error by the court and a bias based on a newspaper comment by a Planning Board Member. The town received word on July 1st that the Supreme Court refused to reconsider the case. The town attorney says that should end it. .

Appeals Board Matters On Hold, For Now

(Lamoine) - The battle over a building height appeals in the Marlboro neighborhood remains dormant during the declared pandemic. Before the Selectmen declared a state of emergency, the parties disputing whether a residential structure met the Building and Land Use Ordinance setting a 35-foot maximum height were out of state for the winter. Resident Alan Moldawer had filed an appeal on Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright's determination that the home constructed by Thomas True was in compliance.

True also filed an appeal to the board, contending that Richard Arnold, a co-complainant to Mr. Moldawer, had violations with the house he constructed many years ago. Albright did find that a septic system for the Arnold home (which has since been sold), had not been upgraded to a 4-bedroom system. That has since been corrected.

It's not known when the Appeals Board will reconvene to take up the latest matters.

Fire Chief George "Skip" Smith and his wife Carol offered up free bread for whoever might want some on Easter Sunday. Social distancing restrictions prevented religious and large gatherings for the annual celebration.
(Barbara Bland Photo)

Permits Issued

8	Lamoine Grange	Ramp
9	Collins, Tom	Woodshed
10	Gold, Andrew	Stabilize-SZ
11	Young, Dana	Porch
12	Young, Dana	Garage
13	Cashwell, Mollie	Greenhouse
14	Havey, Keith	Shed
15	Lescynski, Hank	Deck
16	Miles, Katie	Residence
17	Szydlo, David	Shed

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Planning Board Approves Gravel Permits

(Lamoine) - The state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Lamoine Planning Board to skip its monthly meetings in April and May. The board received a half dozen applications to renew permits for gravel mining operations and met via Zoom in June to determine whether the applications were complete, and voted to move forward with public hearings and action on the applications on June 29th. The permits for Perry Fowler, Cameron Stone and Landscaping, Doug Gott & Sons, Inc. and Harold MacQuinn, Inc. all received approval to continue operation for another three years.

The Board also reviewed an application from Nancy Tice, the daughter Charlie Major who authored the town's 1996 version of the Comprehensive Plan, to tear down her father's former home and build a new, less non-conforming home. Normally the Code Enforcement Officer would be able to process a residential structure in the Shoreland Zone, but because the house no longer meets the town setback from the high water mark, the Planning Board has to give its blessing to the proposed location.

Mr. Major passed away a couple of years ago and his son and daughter hoped to replace the home with a more modern structure. The Planning Board schedule a site visit to review the project.

Permits, Continued

18	Morin, Timothy	Residence
19	DeLaurentis, Jim	Porch
20	Gabel-Richards	Shed, Add'n
21	Dane, Mark	Screen Bldg

Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright has mainly been working from home during the pandemic with applications scanned and e-mailed to her for approval/denial. She will transition to a few hours in the office each week to process paper work, but meetings with the public will mostly be via telephone or on-site inspection. Those needing to speak with the CEO should call the town office at 667-2242 and she will try to call back.

Absentee Voting Urged

(Lamoine) - A primary election and a couple of statewide bond questions are up for vote on July 14th, but it's the hope statewide that most people will cast their ballots by absentee vote. Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs, reports well over 100 people have already requested ballots, which would be a good turnout for a primary election.

To request a ballot, you can come to the town hall and fill out an application, apply via the Secretary of State's website application, or just call the town office at 667-2242. On-line and phone requests will result in a ballot being mailed. If you come in, you can either vote in person or take the ballot home with you (that's preferred so as not to tie up others). The town hall will be open on Election Day from 8am to 8pm for in person voting.

Lamoine Celebrates Only Centenarian

Friends and relatives of Walker Road resident June Davis arranged for a birthday party of sorts for her 100th birthday on May 22, 2020. The Lamoine 150! Committee had planned for something a bit more "close" as part of the town-wide celebration, but the COVID-19 pandemic altered plans. Dozens of folks gathered at the school and paraded by her driveway , and the fire department drove all 5 trucks by to wrap up the parade with a very loud honor to Lamoine's only centenarian. As her neighbor, Joan Bragdon (who took the picture) put it—She LOVED it!

Zoom Meeting Keep Things Going

(Lamoine) - Like many communities across the US, Lamoine conducted many of its board meetings via the computer, utilizing home computers and cellphones of members. Selectmen, Lamoine 150!, the Planning Board, Conservation Commisson and Parks Commission all utilized the technology, with very few glitches. Governor Janet Mills had to legalize such meetings during the pandemic to allow business to take place. Lamoine televised the meetings, and asked if anyone who wished to participate to contact the town hall for an "invite" to avoid meeting hijackers .

Lamoine's 2020 Citizens of the Year

It's hard to keep a secret for nearly 3-months, but the award of Lamoine's Citizen of the Year award managed to be a surprise to at least one of the recipients. Kasey Jordan (left) and Lily Philbrook were supposed to receive the honor on March 18th at the annual town meeting that got postponed by Coronavirus. Instead, the Board of Selectmen felt the award would be perhaps more appropriate for the Memorial Day ceremony, as these two young ladies have made it their mission to keep the memorial maintained during their girl scouting career. Over those years Kasey, Lily and their moms, Lori Jordan and Kim Fitch, have spent countless hours making sure the monument is up to snuff and the grounds tastefully maintained to pay honor to Lamoine's Military Vets.

Finances Still Strong

(Lamoine) - The town will end its fiscal year well into the "black" for 2019/20. Despite the pandemic and the dire impact on the economy, the town's non property-tax collections exceeded budget for the most part. Interestingly, excise tax collections were much higher than budgeted, and may come close to last year's record collected of $400,000 plus. The town had budgeted $360,000. Watercraft excise collections were also ahead of the budgeted $3,500 before the end of the fiscal year on June 30th.

Property tax collections are about on track with previous fiscal years. Tax Collector Jennifer Kovacs will likely send out notices to taxpayers who are overdue in early July, warning that a lien will be filed at the Registry of Deeds if the tax is not paid within 30-days.

On the expense side, the town is under budget, but the Solid Waste budget may not stay that way. A higher than expected cost to conduct the state required testing of wells installed around the former landfill site may require a special town meeting vote to slightly exceed the 2019/20 budget.

Rooster Complaint Addressed by Selectmen

(Lamoine) - A Birchlawn Drive couple has endured the daily crowing of their next door neighbor's rooster for nearly 2-years and have tried to enlist the Board of Selectmen into doing something about the cacophony. The woman who owns the rooster says it's her pet and the other neighbors love him. It's not been an easy issue for anyone involved.

The Lamoine Quarterly will exclude names for the sake of those involved. Back in 2019 the neighbor contacted the Animal Control Officer to complain about the rooster noise, saying it was adversely affecting the health of his wife. ACO Shannon Byers advised the complainants that Lamoine does not regulate roosters or chickens, though she did summons the chicken owners for animal trespass.

The complainant recorded the crowing and e-mailed numerous files to the Selectmen as proof of the misery. The neighbors urged the Selectmen to present an ordinance to the town to ban roosters from residential zones on properties of less than an acre. Several other more densely populated communities in Maine, do regulate chickens and roosters.

The Selectmen wrote to the rooster owner and suggested that roosters were not necessary for hens to lay eggs. The owner met with the board via Zoom in April and claimed the neighbors' complaints were the only ones she'd received, but if others were bothered, she would consider adopting out her pet rooster.

In June, another neighbor complained to the town office. Selectmen wrote to the owner to advise her of the other complaint.

The "Racy" Sardine label from the long defunct Neptunian Food Company was with the belongings of the late Joseph Young Sr. His son, Joe Jr. was able to find it, partially answering a question of how a much smaller township in Washington State came to be called Lamoine, too!

Town Hall Cupola Project Held Up

(Lamoine) - Another Coronavirus "victim" has been the restoration project for the Town Hall Cupola. Just as a Waterville area company was about to start the project, the state imposed severe restrictions and the owner did not believe that his crew would be able to efficiently remove the bell from the structure and replace the rotted louvers and holes in the roof that causes water leaks from time to time. Funding was to have gone before the town meeting in March which was rescheduled to June. It's not known when Mid-Maine Restoration will be able to get to the project. The town meeting in late June approved funding the project in the 2019/20 fiscal year, and Selectmen will encumber those funds forward to the new fiscal year that starts July 1st.

Tax Acquired Properties Sold

(Lamoine) - Three pieces of tax acquired property sold to the high bidders as Selectmen endeavored to return those properties to the tax rolls. A 2-acre parcel on Needles Eye Road was purchased in a sealed bid auction by Benjamin Morren and approved at the June 24 town meeting.

A small triangular lot across the road was sold to Debra Sucy, an abutting property owner and town meeting will be asked for approval on July 23. And a vacant home at 176 Needles Eye Road generated a lot of interest in a sealed bid auction. The Board of Selectmen have awarded the high bidder, _____ the property, and the same special town meeting on July 23 will be asked to finalize the sale. All three parcels sold for higher than the back taxes owed.

New IT Director Position Filled

(Lamoine) - For more than a decade, Birchlawn Drive resident Bill Butler has chaired the town's Cable TV Committee which evolved into the Technology Committee. And for more than 25-years the town has seen an increasing utilization of computer and other technology over most of its departments. So much so that it was becoming more of a task than the town hall staff could effectively manage.

Selectmen approved a proposal to create a part time Information Technology director's position and have hired Mr. Butler for the job. It is already paying dividends for town staff through more stable computer operations at the town hall. Butler puts in just a few hours per week keeping the computers and other devices updated with software. He's also developing a good inventory of all the gadgets the town owns.

Butler will also become the support staff liaison for the Technology Committee that he had previously chaired. Funding comes from the Cable TV Fund.

Broadband Expansion Work Continues

(Lamoine) - Frustrated by a lack of willingness to wire up parts of Lamoine currently unserved by high speed Internet, the Board of Selectmen will seek other options for service. For the past several months consultant Brian Lippold has been working with the town through the Technology Committee and Selectmen to identify those parts of town currently unserved and to seek alternatives to Charter Communications, the town's Cable TV provider.

Lippold recently submitted a list of companies that expressed some interest in operating in Lamoine and possibly wiring up the unserved areas with fiber optics. The town opted not to submit a ConnectME grant application in the funding round that closed in the spring as the cost per home would not likely qualify. The town meeting approved another $5,000 in funding for the Broadband expansion initiative for the 2020/21 fiscal year, and Selectmen were expected to resume discussions with Lippold on where to go next.

The current pandemic with work from home becoming the "new normal" has heightened the need to expand broadband to those areas that currently lack reliable service.

A property owner apparently had enough of people dumping trash on their land and pulled out beside Partridge Cove Road. Town staff removed it quickly after calling the Maine Forest Service which investigates such things. Ranger John Cousins say the trash had been illegally dumped far off the road several years ago and he could not trace the origin.

Fuel Locked, Computer Upgrade

(Lamoine) - The week the Board of Selectmen sought heating fuel prices was the same week when the price of crude oil briefly went below zero. The board opted to stick with low bidder Acadia Fuel which locked in the price for #2 fuel at the fire station at $1.30/gallon, and propane for the town hall at $0.80 a gallon.

The town also authorized purchase of a new computer to replace an aging unit that your author (Adm. Asst. Stu Marckoon) had used for about 7-years. That computer serves as the host for a number of databases that feed other units the town hall, and the old unit had become very unstable, and slow. The new unit was installed while the building was closed to the public.

Another one of the Lamoine 150! Sardines. If you're reading the print version, trust us, this looks much cooler in the on-line color version!

AT LAST!

State Roads Get New Pavement Layer

Smoother Ride
The crew from Vaughn Thibodeau II puts down a layer of "skinny mix" on Douglas Highway in June

(Lamoine) - After years of jarring rides on Routes 184 and Route 204, motorists traveling the state highways of Lamoine got some blessed relief in June. The Maine Department of Transportation finally put down a new layer of pavement on both routes. The paving was met with praise and relief as it filled pot holes, frost heaves, broken macadam, and other maladies that beset the motoring public. That's the good news.

As one of the engineers overseeing the public admitted, it's likely to be a relatively short lived band-aid. The Maine Department of Transportation calls it "maintenance paving". The more popular nickname is "skinny mix", as it's a relatively thin layer of pavement designed to smooth out rural roads. Come cold weather, the road will still heave and dip and that layer of pavement will most likely start to crack up. Add the heavy truck traffic to and from the town's gravel pits, and the pavement life gets even shorter. MDOT knows, but a major rebuild of the two numbered highways is highly unlikely anytime soon. The MDOT classifies those roads in Lamoine as a priority 4 highway, the lowest priority among the state roads, so it'll be several years before new paving.

Explosion Injures Birchlawn Drive Man

(Lamoine) A small propane canister typically used to fuel a portable grill exploded while a Birchlawn Drive man was burning brush. A family member drove the injured man to the hospital in Ellsworth as firefighters responded to reports of the explosion that rocked the neighborhood. The injured man was taken to Maine Medical Center in Portland for burn treatment and was released a few days later. The State Fire Marshal's Office and Maine Forest Service investigated. The injured man said a former house occupant had apparently discarded the canister into the area where he was burning. The injured man had not obtained an outdoor burning permit.

Remnants of the propane canister that exploded, causing injuries.

Your Grandparents Quarantined, Too!

By Gordon Donaldson & Gary McFarland

(Lamoine) - Residents who lived through the 1940s and '50s can tell you that 2020 isn't the first time we've had to quarantine. Whether you call it "sheltering in place" or "quarantining", Lamoine families had to stay home when anyone in the family came down with measles, mumps, chicken pox, and other infectious diseases.

In those days, the state health department required quarantining because we had no vaccines and these diseases could be very serious for some people. The town was responsible for enforcing the quarantine, according to Marion McFarland whose father was a Selectman. "I can recall him nailing the little white sheet that said "Quarantine Notice" to the door of a family that had one of those diseases. The kids couldn't go to school. Usually, people didn't visit, but someone went out for groceries for the family or brought milk from the cow next door."

All or most members of the quarantined family were likely to come down with the sickness. As Marion said, "it would hop-scotch from one child to another and sometimes to the parents. That's the way people built up their immunity." The quarantine period might be about three weeks, Marion recalled, "but sometimes if it hop-scotched it might be as long as six weeks." Just like today, the whole idea was to minimize the number of sick people and to snuff out the spread of the diseases. Fortunately, vaccines were developed in the 1950s and '60s and have been improved since then.

Marine Patrol Removes Derelict Boat

(Lamoine) - Officers form the Maine Marine Patrol cleaned up the remains from an unidentified boat that washed up on the beach of a Seaview Way property. Investigators were unable to determine where the craft came from, but it was not seaworthy and Lt. Colin MacDonald said it had apparently been set out to sea, but came back on a n incoming tide.

The town agreed to pay for the disposal cost at an Ellsworth bulky waste disposal facility if the Marine Patrol would haul the remains there.

Pit Explosion Felt

(Lamoine) - Neighbors expressed concern after hearing a loud explosion in an area between Lydia's Lane and Seal Point Road on May 3rd. There were no fire calls that day. One neighbor noted that the gate guarding the entrance to a gravel pit area had been left open, and the speculation was that people were firing guns at explosive targets.

The town's code enforcement officer contacted the pit owner who immediately went to secure access to the pit as required by ordinance. Town officials heard anecdotally several years ago target shooters filled an abandoned vehicle with several exploding targets causing a large explosion that sent car parts flying several hundred yards.

Busy Spring for Fire Trucks

(Lamoine) - After a relatively quiet winter, Lamoine's fire pagers were activated 29-times in the period between April and June. Eleven of the calls were to provide mutual aid to neighboring departments. Of the 17-in town calls, eleven were for weather related tree and power line issues. The fire/rescue crew assisted Northern Light Transport at three incidents, fought a small grass fire, handled an explosion (see above), and turned off a burst water line. Perhaps the trickiest call, though came when a woman's long hair got entangled in a week whacker's motor. Firefighters were able to take the motor housing apart and free her hair from the cooling blades without cutting her hair.

The Bears Are Hungry
Pasture Way resident Bob Lachance snapped this picture of a bear in his yard. There have been several bear sightings around town in the spring months. Game Wardens advise folks to take in bird feeders to discourage bruins from getting an easy spring snack.

State Inspection Results in $0 Fine

(Augusta) - Maine's Bureau of Labor Standards had gave the Lamoine Fire Department praise after a surprise inspection. Two minor violations were quickly fixed, and no fines were proposed for training record deficiencies.

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moment, some 150! Committee and Lamoine Community Arts folk have launched Lamoine Radio Theater. Originally a sketch about Lamoine's first town meeting was written and scheduled to be performed before this year's town meeting. With that plan scrapped, the ingenious crew decided to audiotape the script for presentation on the town's website and on Lamoine 150!'s facebook page. It is quite possible that there is more radio theater in our future. Stay tuned and don't switch that dial!

Lamoine 150! thanks Lamoiners of all ages who continue to lift our spirits by joining in and celebrating our community. Lamoine 150! mugs, glasses, hats, posters etc., etc. are available at the Town Hall and soon we'll be selling a newly design T-shirt. Watch for its debut on our facebook page and on the town's website.

Lamoine at 150 Printing Soon

The Lamoine 150! Committee continues our 150th Anniversary celebration with the release of *Lamoine at 150: One Downeast Community from 1870 to 2020*. The book visits each of the town's 25th Anniversary years with descriptions of the Lamoiners of the time and the lives they lived. Author Gordon Donaldson says it's a "review of our evolution as a community". Each residence in Lamoine wishing to own the book will receive a complimentary copy. The project is supported in part by a grant from the Maine200 Bicentennial Commission.

Watch the town website, the Lamoine 150! Facebook page, and the Lamoine Historical Society Facebook page in August!

Transfer Station User Trapped

(Lamoine) - Town officials started receiving panic calls on a late Saturday afternoon in early June when a transfer station user got trapped inside the facility after closing time. Fire Chief Skip Smith and Deputy Chief Stu Marckoon rushed to the scene and let the mildly distraught motorist out of the facility. The town will purchase a "Knox Box" device and mount it on the salt/sand shed in the near future so the fire department will have a key to the gate lock.

These Lamoine 150! Sardines appear on the Buttermilk Road at the Arthur, Jennifer, Amelia and Lucy Ashmore home

Landfill Water Monitoring Change

(Lamoine) - The town has changed engineering firms used to collected and test water samples every two years from wells installed around the former landfill. Since the inception of the Maine DEP monitoring program, a South Portland company had been conducting the tests. That firm was sold in the past year, and the new owners submitted an estimate that was nearly double the budget cost.

The Board of Selectmen sought an estimate from CES of Brewer, the same folks doing the concept design for the transfer station. That estimate was significantly less than the other firm, and was accepted. The company collected the water samples in June.

The town simultaneously collected residential water samples from the five residences that have been tested for several years. The testing results were not in by press time and are expected in July and will be supplied to the homeowners and the Maine DEP.

Employees, Volunteers Re-appointed

(Lamoine) - Each June various appointed town positions expire with the end of the fiscal year. The Board of Selectmen filled most of the vacancies with those who have previously held the positions, with a couple of exceptions.

Appointed to the Parks Commission is Lori Jordan who replaces Doug Jones who retired in April. And John (Jack) Robichaud is now a full voting member of the Conservation Commission, filling a spot opened when Jeff Cosulich decided to step back from the post. Robichaud had been an alternate member of the Conservation Commission and chair Larissa Thomas will be recommending a new alternate replace that spot.

Robin Veysey returns to the Budget Committee but said she would like to step aside before her 3-year term is up should someone come forward who wishes to serve. The technology committee also has an opening thanks to the hiring of Bill Butler as the IT Director.

Several Recreation Committee member appointments expire in late June. The Selectmen await word from members on reappointment.

Bloomfield Park on Blunt's Pond got a good cleanup from the Parks Commission and friends crew. (l-r) Cathi Goebel, Kim Fitch, Jeff Cosulich, Lori Jordan and Lily Philbrook.

Special Town Meeting

(Lamoine) - A special town meeting to confirm tax acquired property sales and a budget adjustment to the waste disposal budget will be scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the town hall.

Transfer Station Redesign Progresses

(Lamoine) - Plans for a trash compaction machine at the Lamoine Transfer Station are starting to move forward. CES Engineer Chip Reeves has come up with a preliminary design to configure the facility so that compaction machines can be installed to cut down on transportation costs of both municipal solid waste and recycling It's likely that the town will move to finance installation of one compactor at a time to spread out the costs.

Transportation has seen a significant cost increase over the 25+ year life of the transfer station. Additionally the facility had to close early on a couple of occasions this past spring when the collection dumpsters were filled to capacity and could handle no further trash. Frequently the recycling bins are filled before the transfer station closes on Saturday afternoon. By compacting the trash, the town can haul the containers less frequently, cutting down on that cost.

The town meeting in June approve a budget to come up with a final engineering plan to put an upgrade to the facility out to bid. A funding plan for that will likely be requested in the 2021 town meeting.

E-Waste Event Canceled

(Lamoine) - The Conservation Commission decided to cancel a planned electronic waste collection that had been scheduled for June 20th due to COVID-19 social distancing issues. It's hoped the event can be held in June 2021 instead.

The good news for those waiting to get rid of electronic waste is that the Ellsworth Noon-Time Rotary Club will hold an E-Waste collection event on Saturday, July 18, 2020 at the Home Depot parking lot. The event runs from 8am until Noon. People are asked to remain in their vehicles and volunteers will remove the waste from the car. Donations will be accepted.

Even the carved bear on Oliver Curry's Shore Road porch practiced safe COVID-19 Prevention Practices

Beach Play Structure Here, Installment Postponed

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine's Little Children's Committee has decided to postpone the installation of play equipment at Lamoine Beach until at least this Fall and most likely next Spring. It has become increasingly clear that opening playgrounds in a country wide debate. To proceed with something that we hope will bring lots of young children and families together before we can assure they can enjoy it fully in a healthy way is not a choice we can make.

We will simply pause until the time is right and look forward to the arrival of two lobsters and a trawler at Lamoine Beach. We will plan to celebrate the installation with a dedication party next summer, coordinating with Lamoine 150! plans. In the meantime, Jay Fowler has most kindly offered to store the pieces in the large garage workspace he and his son Perry own.

We will continue our fund raising efforts as we are able, and we will resume our meetings in person when it is safe to do so. We invite you to join us! And if you have questions about our group or suggestions for how our group can support the little children of Lamoine and their families, please let us know. (Cynthia Donaldson 667-2382 or donaldson.cynthia@gmail.com)

End of School "Different"

By Dawn McPhail

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Consolidated School was able to condense many of our end of the year activities into our first ever (and hopefully our last) "Drive Through End of the Year Luau BBQ" on Friday, June 5th. Families placed all items to be returned to the school into the trunk of their vehicle. Our dedicated decorating crew arrived early to turn our parking lot into a Hawaiian paradise. When families arrived at the school they were directed by a staff member to pull into a designated parking spot in front of the music/library portable, then directed through each station. Besides the party atmosphere and great music, here is what they were treated to.

- All students and siblings were given a lei in lieu of a Luau!
- Staff members completed curbside pick -up of costumes/books/instruments, and electronic devices.
- Students received their amazing 2019-2020 yearbook.
- Student awards were announced for all to hear and cheer and clap!
- Each student and siblings received a Car Bingo card. Each student and sibling received a Bingo prize!
- Each student and sibling were handed a full water balloon to toss from their car. Mrs. Haslam was a real sport and got very, very wet!
- Every family had their photo taken before driving away!
- Every family was treated to the traditional End of the year wave goodbye from all staff!

Carol Duffy—43 Years of "Paw"some

Teacher Carol Duffy with her new swing that the school board secretly installed on a tree at her Shore Road home. Years ago a student wrote that every tree should have a swing—one of her great teaching memories.

(Lamoine) - When Miss Carol Ann King from Bath graduated from college in 1977 with her teaching degree, her first task was to line up a job. There was an ad for a position in Lamoine, and she applied because it looked like a neat place to live—she had relatives in Jonesport. She got an interview, and the job, and has held it ever since. In June, Ms. Duffy wrapped up her career—all of it in Lamoine—teaching students remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She didn't enjoy teaching in that manner, missing in person interactions with students.

How does one fit a 43-year career into a few paragraphs? We'll try.

Carol's fondest memory is the trip to the 1999 Odyssey of the Mind world finals in Knoxville, TN. On the team, her son Bryan, her now co-teacher Miranda Engstrom, Mary Jones, Missy King, Lauren Linscott and Jennifer Reynolds.

She says the Maine Association for Middle Level Education also made a tremendous impact and recalled a story of attending a conference last fall in which another teacher had a niece at the Lamoine School who struggled but a teacher made her feel valued by baking root beer cookies. The cookies are part of a lesson about sharing, and the other teacher went home with Carol's recipe.

Former teacher Tim Barlow, who worked with Duffy for most of those 43 years recalled their time as members of the school teachers' union. He noted that her three sons were all born and finished school during that time, and she mentored several student teachers, made a lot of friends and colleagues, went through 5 or 6 principals, countless superintendents, and taught for about 7,700 days. He asked; "Was it worth it? Yes, it was".

Technology was the change Carol noted most, recalling the first computers that she and former teacher Rosemary Burdick raised funds to purchase; six Apple clones. Now, every student has a device of some sort—in the first year, there were no calculators in the school.

What's next? After a quick laugh, Carol says she plans to keep busy with the Lamoine 150! Celebration, with Lamoine Community Arts, the Historical Society and will travel, though a cruise she planned had to be postponed. Her departure into retirement didn't quite go as planned. She said it doesn't feel like the last semester of teaching remotely gave her closure, but the parade by her house and lots of little events were very nice. Thank you Ms. Duffy. You will be missed.

School Musical Performed Virtually

By Dawn McPhail

Dorothy in Wonderland. Photo compilation by Miranda Engstrom

(Lamoine) - The spring musical at LCS has become a very important part of our school culture. When we first began our "school at home" time on March 16th, we declared that we would still be doing the musical....no matter what. That was a strong statement, and not one that we were willing to let go of. Once it was decided that we would not be returning to business as usual for the remainder of the school year, we knew that our musical would not be happening on the LCS stage. After a meeting with students, parents and musical staff, it was determined that we would put together a virtual version of Dorothy in Wonderland. From there it was a mad dash to the finish!

First, the script had to be totally rewritten to tell the story in a condensed version. Costumes were bought, created, and distributed to students. Mrs. McPhail and Mrs. Duym "directed" the musical from afar by sending detailed instructions to parents who then became the photographers and videographers. Finally, parents and students sent hundreds and hundreds of pictures and video clips to Miss Miranda Engstrom who then painstakingly pieced it all together into the final production. This was a true labor of love and took many hands and many hours to complete, but finally, the virtual musical production of Dorothy in Wonderland was complete!

The premiere was first released as a private red carpet viewing for participants and their families. After the private viewing the final product was posted for public viewing. We encourage everyone to check out the final product. We have to give the biggest "shout out" ever to Miss Miranda who worked tirelessly to complete this very difficult project! This would not have been possible without her! Making a movie is a whole lot harder than you would think! None of us had any idea that this would end up as a virtual musical. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen….students, parents, Miss Miranda, Mrs. Duym, Miss Bailey, Mrs. Hawthorne, Mr. Hilton, and Miss Terri H., Lucy Hodgkins, and Karen Fleming for their amazing contributions. We hope to see everyone next May for a traditional "on the stage" musical production!

July 2020 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*During the COVID-19 State of Emergency, the Town Office will NOT be open on the 1st and last Saturdays of the month due to the extra staff workload. The office will be closed during lunch the week of July 27-31 and on July 1 due to vacation.			1-Town Office Closed at Lunch	2—7PM Board of Selectmen	3	4* - Independence Day
5	6	7	8-8AM Board of Assessors	9-4PM Lamoine 150!	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23-6:30 Special Town Meeting 7PM Board of Selectmen	24	25*
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2020 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1*
2	3-7PM Planning Board	4	5	6	7	8
9	10-6PM Parks Commission	11	12-7PM Conservation Cmsn.	13-7PM Board of Selectmen	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29*
30	31-7PM Planning Board					

September 2020– Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3-7PM Board of Selectmen	4	5*
6	7-Town Hall Closed (Labor Day)	8	9-7PM Conservation Cmsn	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17-7PM Board of Selectmen	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26*
27	28	29	30			

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July 2020

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Town of Lamoine
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