

◆The Lamoine Quarterly◆

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School Budget Fails Validation Vote

Tax Increase Blamed—Special Town Meeting Set for July 9

(Lamoine) - Funding of the Lamoine Consolidated School has raised passions on all sides of the issue. Faced with a 35% property tax increase for the next bill due in October, voters overwhelmingly refused to validate the school budget that was approved at an open town meeting in May. The final vote was 302 to 174.

The rejection means the school budget process starts all over again, and things happened in a hurry. A public forum on June 16th saw nearly 100-people attend the session at the school gym, hours before school staff started moving furniture out of the building in preparation of a major renovation project. There were pleas to keep programs such as music, Phys Ed and extra curricular sports programs intact. There were also pleas to make major changes to keep the tax increase as low as possible.

Why The Big Increase?

Superintendent Jim Boothby says the increase in the amount of property tax needed to run the school department for 2008/09 has three major components. The largest is the reduction in General Purpose Aid to Education (GPA) under the State of Maine's Essential Programs and Services (EPS) formula. The school department will receive \$250,000 less in revenue in the next fiscal year. The reason for that is a slightly declining school population and quickly increasing property values.

The next component is something the School Committee had warned about in 2007—the use of \$185,000 in balance forward to cover unanticipated budget shortfalls. The final component was the proposed increase in the school budget of roughly \$156,000. Combined, the town would have to raise nearly \$590,000 in property taxes, adding another 2.45 mills to the property tax rate. The tax rate for



School Board Chair Christina Maguire-Harding casts her ballot in the town's first school budget validation referendum held May 27, 2008

the fiscal year that ended June 30th is 7.0 mills (\$7 per \$1,000 of valuation). The property tax bill on a \$200,000 property in 2007 was \$1,400. If the mill rate increases to 9.5 mills, that same property would pay a tax of \$1,900, or a \$500 increase. Combined with sharply higher food prices and out of control fuel increases, taxpayers sent the message that the higher property tax was too much to bear.

Proposed Adjustments

Faced with the failed validation, the school committee listened to all arguments and presented a plan to the Budget Committee that will slightly soften the blow. The latest proposal from the school committee includes a reduction in the Phys. Ed.

program to 4-days per week, elimination of the annual trip to Camp Kieve by the 7th grade and field trips to the Grand Auditorium, and a \$3,000 savings in the transportation budget would be reflected. The school department also expects a \$5,200 balance forward to be available when all the bills and revenues are tallied as of June 30, 2008. That will mean a roughly \$19,000 reduction in the amount of property taxes needed.

The Budget Committee has some proposals on the municipal side to try to reduce the property tax commitment. The town meeting will be asked to cut \$60,000 from the budget that was to be placed in a road improvements fund for the future. Additionally, \$30,000 additional fund balance would be used to reduce property taxes. The total impact from both the education and municipal budget would still mean that

another \$474,000 would still have to be raised through property taxes. That translates into about a 1.94 mill increase to the 2007/08 tax rate, or a 28% increase in the property tax rate. If approved, that's down from the approximately 36% projected rate that did not survive the validation referendum in May.

The open town meeting to settle the school budget and the proposed municipal budget adjustments is Wednesday, July 9th at 7PM at the Lamoine Fire Station. The validation referendum for the school budget will be the following Tuesday, July 15th, from 10AM until 8PM, at the town office.

New Transfer Station Attendant Hired

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen has hired Bill Fennelly of Lamoine to replace the retiring Allen Sternfield (see article page 5) at the transfer station. Fennelly is a life-long resident of Lamoine and had filled in at the facility in the past. Mr. Fennelly's brother, Richard, is a Selectman, but did not participate in the interview or selection process.

The agreement to hire Mr. Fennelly is for a 6-month probationary period. He started the last weekend in June working with Mr. Sternfield.

The job opening attracted three applicants, all of whom were interviewed by the Board of Selectmen. Fennelly started at the facility the next to last weekend in June and has cleaned up and painted the attendant's office.

School Principal Val Perkins Retires

(Lamoine) - More than a few tears were shed as students and teachers bid their farewells to Lamoine's School Principal Val Perkins. After 10-years at the helm in Lamoine, and another 29-years in Tremont, Mr. Perkins has decided to retire. His last day was June 18th, helping staff move the furniture out of the building for the renovation project.

Mr. Perkins came to Lamoine in 1998. His first Kindergarten class will be sophomores in high school next fall. In reflection, Mr. Perkins said he came to Lamoine with the goal of getting to know the community and making sure students who left the 8th grade were ready to fit into the high school which they chose to attend. He said he was able to accomplish



both goals, and at his school retirement party (picture above) asked to have his picture taken with 3 graduating seniors.

A search committee has been looking for a replacement. So far no one has accepted the job, given the turmoil surrounding the budget.

Referendum Petition Denial Appealed *Board Says It Doesn't Have Jurisdiction*

(Lamoine) - The leader of a petition drive to require all town meeting matters be decided by referendum vote took his case to the Board of Appeals, but found the Board had no authority to act. Selectmen refused to put a proposed ordinance crafted by Robert Sharkey on a town meeting warrant, citing serious flaws with that ordinance. A request to reconsider that action was turned down by the Selectmen in April.

Mr. Sharkey filed an Administrative Appeal with the Board of Appeals in May. The Appeals Board met and decided it needed direction from the town attorney on whether it had any jurisdiction in the matter. Attorney Tony Beardsley replied that because there is no local charter or ordinance specifically granting the Board of Appeals jurisdiction over petition matters, the Appeals Board could not act on the matter.

During the half-hour meeting in late June, at which the Appeals Board voted that it did not have jurisdiction in the matter, Mr. Sharkey indicated that he would file a reconsideration request prior to going to Superior Court. During the first meeting, the Appeals Board noted that the petitioners have a right to re-gather signatures and present them to a Notary Public to call a special town meeting.

The petition signed by 123 registered voters was delivered to Selectmen last August. The petition was accompanied by an ordinance that would require all town meeting matters be voted on by secret ballot referendum instead of the open town meeting forum used since the town's incorporation in 1870. An attorney from Maine Municipal Association advised Selectmen they had reasonable grounds to reject the petition because of state law conflicts.

School Renovation Project Under Way

(Lamoine) - Construction crews have started to tear apart the rooms at the Lamoine Consolidated School and are working at a fever pitch to get things ready to reopen in September. Nichols Construction of Hudson won the bid for the nearly \$1-million dollar project that includes a new heating system, new electrical system, upgraded water system, and a new septic system.

The project meant the entire school had to be cleaned out, and that process got rolling as soon as the last class dismissed for the day on June 16th. A special school budget forum that evening was the last public event to take place in the school until it reopens in the fall.

Three storage trailers were left on the school lot and loaded with desks, books, and all the other supplies.

School Administrative Consolidation Breaks Up Union 92

(Lamoine) - There will be no savings that anyone looking at school consolidation efforts for Lamoine can see for the next few years, and the effort to keep Union 92 intact appears to be dead for now. With deadlines looming, the 8-towns that make up the school union applied to be an "Alternative Organizational Structure" and remain intact. That plan, though, was rejected by Education Commissioner Susan Gendron. Trenton will join with the towns on Mt. Desert Island to administer a new Regional School Unit. Ellsworth and

Union 96 (Sullivan, Gouldsboro, Winter Harbor, Sorrento) have tentatively agreed to form a Regional School Unit. Lamoine, Hancock, Otis, Mariaville, Eastbrook and Waltham will join that group. The Surry school will join Union 93 in Western Hancock County.

Local planners Faith Perkins, Cynthia Donaldson, Kathleen Rybarz and Richard Davis are keeping abreast of developments. A vote will likely take place early next year.



Movin' Out
(L-R) Teacher Tim Barlow, student Glenn Manring and custodian Lenny Bright move the furnishings from the Lamoine School into storage trailers for the summer.

Annual Town Meeting Uneventful

(Lamoine) - Without a school budget to vote on, the annual town meeting took less than 3-hours to complete. The meeting set the municipal budget for the year (pending changes at the special town meeting planned for July 9, 2008), approved changes to the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, and provided for a discussion of issues around school administration consolidation.

In balloting prior to the open meeting, Cynthia Donaldson won re-election, defeating challenger Robert Sharkey 197 to 66. The other elected officials on the ballot were unchallenged. Assessor Terry Towne, School Committee members Robert Pulver and Kathleen

Rybarz were all elected.

Voters opted to table a measure to give Selectmen authority to clarify the property layout of the school/fire station property. Changes to the school consolidation law made that issue less of a pressing need.

Voters rejected a proposed \$60,000 budget for ditching along town roads, but increased a proposed \$25,000 budget for future road improvements to \$60,000. Voters at the open meeting also approved of funding for reconfiguration and reconstruction on the road leading into Bloomfield Park (see page 6.) Voters also approved of an increase in the maximum amount or property tax levy.

Mutual Aid

Agreement Approved

(Lamoine) - Voters gave swift approval in May, to a town meeting article to give Selectmen authority to enter into mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities to provide government services in the event of a disaster. Developed by the MDI League of Towns, the agreement would allow communities to provide services to one another.

The agreement grew out of discussion about the potential for a pandemic flu outbreak. One of the potential effects is the impact on a municipal office staff, and whether enough people are available to perform the day-to-day functions.

Under the agreement, an affected community would have to have a formal disaster declaration and make a request for mutual aid services for things like general assistance (welfare) administration, public works, treasury collections and the like. Selectmen signed the agreement following the town meeting approval. Mt. Desert, Bar Harbor, Tremont and Trenton have also signed on.

Job Description Changed

(Lamoine) - Since the inception of the position in the late 1980's the job description for the Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen had read "in essence, the town manager". Following a request by resident Robert Sharkey that those words be removed, Selectmen voted to do so. A town manager form of government differs in many ways from the

Selectman/Administrative Assistant form. The exercise also prompted discussion to review the various job descriptions for appointed town personnel, most of which have been in place since the mid 1990s. That review will take place later this year, as will a review of contract language for paid staff, in order to make the contracts more uniform.

Planning, Conservation, and Budget Panels Get New Faces

(Lamoine) - Board member resignations have led to new opportunities on three appointed bodies in town government. The Planning Board bids good-bye to Stuart Branch, who's been the chair of the board for the past several years. Taking his spot on that board is Lamoine Beach Road resident John Holt. The pastor of the Hancock Congregational Church, Holt offered to serve on the Planning Board. He was an active participant in subdivision hearings during the past year and is President of the Cold Spring Water Company.

The Budget Committee loses Joe Young after 6-years. Taking his place is Merle Bragdon, who also serves on the Board of Appeals as an alternate and is very active with the Cable TV operation. Bragdon, who lives on Walker Road, is a comptroller with Sprague Energy in Bucksport.

The Conservation Commission loses Donna Theall after two terms. The spot will be filled by David Schick of Bittersweet Lane. He has worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service for many years.

Planning Board Swamped With Applications

(Lamoine) - The mounds of paperwork for Lamoine's Planning Board have been incredible in the past few months. Here's a list of what the Board has been working on, and each project's status:

- Subdivision Reconfiguration—Wayne Wright. Applications for subdivision and site plan review found complete, set for public hearing and action in July.
- Pavilion & RV Septage facility—Lamoine State Park—Site Plan Review application and Shoreland Zoning Applications found complete, hearing and action in July.
- Subdivision—Rebecca & Steve Joy. Completeness reviews set for July. A 9-lot subdivision is proposed off Pasture Way, abutting a previously approved subdivision.
- Subdivision—Tim Ring—Completeness reviews set for July. An 11-lot subdivision is proposed to abut Mr. Ring's previously approved subdivision of Lydia's Lane.
- Gravel Permits—The Board has approved permits for John W. Goodwin (2), Doug Gott & Sons (3), and is working on permit renewals submitted by RF Jordan and Michael Keene.

The Board meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at the town hall.

Pole Flag Policy Revised

(Lamoine) - The phone calls started coming Memorial Day weekend about why the utility pole flags weren't up yet. The town flies about 50-flags annually, and under the policy adopted in 2006, the flags were to be installed by June 14 (Flag Day), and fly until Labor Day. After receiving inquiries both at the town office and at Selectmen homes, the policy has been revised so that the flags will be put up by Memorial Day each year.

The process took a little longer than usual this year as all the flags were laundered (for free) at Gold Star Cleaners last spring, and had to be reinstalled on their poles. Doug Stewart of Lamoine Beach Road volunteered to do that installation, and Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon got some up by Memorial Day, and the bulk of them up by May 30th.

A few of the flags had to wait for parts from the flag supplier due to wear and tear the past couple of years. A different pickup truck, with a shorter bed, also created a challenge in hauling around the 14 foot ladder used for installation.



Conservation Commission—From Eel Grass to Stars, Open Space to Housing

By Fred Stocking, Chair

August Starwatch Planned

Maine is one of the few places east of the Mississippi River with a good view of the night sky. Glare from electric lights has made many stars and even the Milky Way invisible through most of the Northeast.

Because we are lucky to be able to do so, the Conservation Commission plans a Star Watch in August. We will gather at Lamoine Beach Park with a star guide to learn more about what we are seeing and celebrate our good fortune. Details will be announced when available.

Eelgrass Restoration in Frenchman Bay

Eelgrass is an important resource for the coastal ecosystem, and one which is declining in Frenchman Bay. In May the Conservation Commission heard from Drs. George Kidder and Jane Disney about a collaboration attempting to restore eelgrass to Hadley Point, right across the Bay from Berry Cove. A summary of the presentation and ongoing restoration effort is available from the Conservation Commission. Anyone interested in working on intertidal and marine issues should contact Annie Crisafulli at 664-0444 or Joan Strout at 667-3531.

Open Space Inventory Next for Conservation Commission

By Maine law, each Conservation Commission is required to "inventory" the

open space in their town. The Lamoine Conservation Commission will begin working on a definition and a work plan for an Open Space Inventory for Lamoine, and reviewing Open Space Plans by other towns, at its July meeting, which has been moved to Wednesday July 16th, due to the Special Town Meeting on the School budget, scheduled for July 9th.

Conservation Commission forwards Cluster Housing Report to the Planning Board

At its June 11th meeting, the Conservation Commission approved a response to the Planning Board's questions regarding cluster housing. The report answered two of the three questions posed to the Conservation Commission by the Planning Board:

1) What constraints are there on what cluster housing provisions the Town could enact?, and 2) What models of different approaches to cluster housing are there in neighboring towns or elsewhere in Maine? A copy is available from the Conservation Commission.

The third question posed by the Planning Board: What areas of Lamoine would be most and least appropriate for cluster housing, is still under consideration by the Conservation Commission.

Permit Approval Picks up for 2nd Quarter

(Lamoine) - The Code Enforcement Office approved the following permits:

No.	Name	Project
5	Alley, Travis	Residence
6	Strauch, Kurt	Deck
7	Gibson, Sally	Addition
8	Smith, Justin	Deck
9	Fenton, Sandra	Shed

10	Dickey, Thomas	Platform
11	MacLeod, Diane	Garage
12	Mannisto, Greg	Deck
13	Stone, Gregory	Shed
14	Weston, Elizabeth	Deck
15	Miller, Edward	Shed
16	Griffin, Gregory	Garage
17	Leavitt, James	Residence

(continued, page 4)



Hmmm.....
Tax Assessor Terry Towne who adopted a portion of Pinkhams Flats stands with the trash collected in a 1/10 mile stretch of one side of the road.

Adopters Really Clean Up

By Georgia Munsell

(Lamoine) As you drive around Lamoine, have you noticed how clean our town roads are? You can thank the fifty-five Lamoine residents who are the volunteers who have been picking up roadside trash on their section of adopted highway. This spring over 87 bags of litter have been collected. The Town of Lamoine wishes to thank these additional adopters for their efforts:

Adelin Barstow
James Crotteau
Raymonde Dumont
Jodi, Steve, Kayla & Luke Perry
Diane & David Sanderson
Sally & Ken Smith
Lori & Tom Spruce
Donna Thorburn
Terry Towne
Connie, Isaac, Ivy & Ella Wallace
Wendy & Ken Ward
Herb Watson

Would you like to be a Adopt-A-Highway volunteer? Additional volunteers are needed in case someone isn't able to keep their 2 year commitment. To volunteer, please email the Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator, Georgia Munsell at munsells@gmail.com.

Selectmen Stick With Paving Plan

(Lamoine) - The price of oil directly translates into the price of road pavement, and it isn't pretty. When the budget was drawn up for the annual paving projects this year, a best guess was made at what the price of pavement would be at bid time, and it came pretty close at \$85/ton.

For years, the town has contracted with paving consultant Roger Picard to draw up the bids, pick the lowest price, and administer the paving projects. This year Picard grouped the purchase for numerous towns from Stonington to Danforth, and only one company (Lane Construction) bid. Local paver Tim Ring of Gouldsboro asked Selectmen to consider an offer of less than \$80/ton instead of continuing with the contract with Mr. Picard. Ring said he wasn't big enough to handle all the towns in the contract, but certainly could handle the jobs in the Lamoine/Hancock/Sullivan area, and do it less expensively.

In May, Selectmen met with Mr. Picard to discuss the dilemma. After hearing about the bid process, the performance bond required for the job, and concerns that a breach of contract would be problematic, the Board stuck with the original plan. Mr. Ring had phoned the town office a few days before the meeting to suggest that perhaps the town should stick with the Picard deal after all.

Up for paving this year are Birchlawn Drive and a portion of Walker Road



Georgia Munsell helps put up the sign
Now at the four town lines, Adopt-A-Highway signs announce the town's participation in the State of Maine program.

Town Hall Bids Opened

(Lamoine) - A Glenburn contractor is the apparent low bidder on a project to put in flooring and add a service counter at the Lamoine Town Hall. Selectmen tabled the bid award pending reference checks. AA Randall bid \$21,800 for the project. Two other contractors submitted bids of \$31,272.27 and \$46,000, both of which exceed the budget approved by town meeting. A decision on whether to award the project may be made in July.

Veterans Memorial Nearly Ready Dedication Sept. 13th

(Lamoine) - With luck, concrete will be poured at the Town Hall in early July to accommodate Lamoine's Veterans Memorial. Donations have started to pour in after a big mail campaign financed by the Lamoine Fire Department. The Veterans Memorial Committee has decided to add three flagpoles to the design of the project which will sit on the North side of the Town Hall.

A dedication celebration is planned for Saturday, September 13, 2008 at 10:00 AM. Event planners will utilize the school for a bus shuttle as parking at the site is extremely limited. World War II Veteran Delmont Merrill has agreed to speak, and a reception will follow at the school.



Lamoine Veterans Memorial
The stone monument is shown before any of the carving is done in the spring of 2008 as it sits at Wieniger's Monuments in Milbridge.

Illegal Dump Found



Passersby spotted trash off Needles Eye Road. Much of the material was laundry detergent containers which are recyclable.

(Lamoine) - A couple of residents of the Needles Eye Road area reported finding an illegal dump a short distance off the road and complained to the town office. Because the material was thrown beyond the town's right-of-way, Selectmen had town staff write to the landowner and suggest that she make a complaint to law enforcement authorities. The landowner quickly contacted the town office and said she had not been aware of what was going on, as she rarely looked at that piece of land. Forest Ranger Rick Henion was assigned to the case. He set up a surveillance camera and questioned likely suspects. The area has since been cleaned up, and it's not anticipated that any charges will be filed at this time.

Code Enforcement Permits (From Page 3)

No.	Name	Project
18	Krupke, Debra	Residence
19	Town of Lamoine	Kiosk
20	Town of Lamoine	Kiosk
21	Galeaz, Kerry	Deck
22	Rauch, Steven	Residence, Deck
23	Manring, Glenn	Storage Shed

Auction, Concert to Raise Funds for LVFD

Auction is August 8th

(Lamoine) - The annual Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department auction will be held on Friday, August 8, 2008. Preview will begin at 5:00 PM and bidding starts at 6:00 PM. The auction this year will be held at the fire station due to the renovation project taking place at the school gym. Professional Auctioneer Chas Hare will once again conduct the bidding. The Grange will serve refreshments.

Steel Drum Concert—Labor Day

(Lamoine) - The Flash In the Pans Steel Drum band will perform at Lamoine State Park on Labor Day (Monday, September 1, 2008). The Fire Department is sponsoring the concert again this year. Last year's event drew more than 500-people to the park. Dinner will be available (Cheeseburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Drink) as will popcorn in the department's new popcorn maker.

Harbor Sticker Program Implemented, Deputy Resigns

(Lamoine) - Mooring permit holders are now receiving stickers for their boats, floating balls, and skiffs thanks to a new program suggested by Harbor Masters David Herrick and Brian Corrigan. The stickers will help the Harbor crew identify that the proper boats are on the proper moorings, and in the event one breaks off, it can easily be tracked down. In past years, the occasional boat has broken free of its mooring during storms, and if it's not registered, it's difficult to find the owner.

The town is also looking for a new Deputy Harbor Master as Mr. Corrigan has resigned to take a job in North Carolina. Corrigan was the principal at the Searsport Middle School in real life. Selectmen wish him and his wife and children great success in their new home.

Harbor Master David Herrick has replaced the harbor marker buoys that had deteriorated over the winter with new buoys. The project cost less than \$500.

Fire Department Has Busy Quarter

(Lamoine) - Volunteer firefighters scrambled 15-times during the April-to-June quarter. Several of the calls involved motor vehicle accidents, two in the same location. In April, the driver of an SUV lost control on Partridge Cove Road and the vehicle ended up on its' roof (see picture). In June, just a few feet away from that accident, Edward Wallace's vehicle went off the road and slammed into the ditch. Mr. Wallace was badly injured and passed away a few days later. Investigators believe he may have suffered from a medical problem prior to the crash.



Oops...

A Toyota FJ Cruiser driven by Kristina O'Neill of Orlin Lane ended up on its roof on Partridge Cove Road. Mrs. O'Neill was not hurt.

Several departments called for assistance with fires, including Hancock, Ellsworth and Sullivan, but none of the calls required out of town travel.

There were a pair of chimney fires, none of which caused much damage, a call to a vehicle accident which turned out to involve a stolen car at 2:45 AM, and a tree that fell on the power line.

By far the most bizarre call, though, was to Bloomfield Park on Blunt's Pond where an 8-year old boy became entrapped in his mother's 2-door jeep.

County Ambulance workers called for extrication help after the youngster stuck his foot between the top and bottom of the driver's seat, and his sister pushed the seat down, impaling the boy's foot with a latch hook.

The ambulance crew was a bit puzzled at how to get the boy out without a lot of pain. A drill was procured from a neighbor and the firehouse, and that made little progress, so the decision was made to have a paramedic administer pain killers and slide the boy's foot off the hook. He was taken to Maine Coast Memorial Hospital for treatment. The rescue personnel had great praise for the child who was very cooperative and level headed during his ordeal.

Firefighters Pass Certification

(Lamoine) - Three more Lamoine firefighters are now fully certified, and among the best trained firefighters in the State of Maine. Brett Jones, Michael Jordan and Dr. Peter Goebel completed the rigorous Firefighter I & II training course during the fall of 2007 and winter and spring of 2008, passing their final tests in June.

During their training, Jones, Jordan and Goebel learned basic and advanced firefighting skills and are now fully qualified to fight just about any type of fire imaginable. The latest round of graduates gives Lamoine a large complement of FFI trained personnel.



A young boy's foot was impaled by a hook in a vehicle seat. LVFD was called to help free the child.

Salt/Sand Shed Project Completed

(Lamoine) - The storage building holding Lamoine's salt and sand for winter road maintenance is finally complete. The building functioned as designed this winter, but the exterior site work had yet to be finished. That was done in June as crews from Jay Fowler & Son spread loam and seed around the building. Crushed stone will keep water from the roof from splashing mud on the siding and eroding the land.



Finishing Up the Salt/Sand Shed

Tom Anderson and Perry Fowler spray grass seed and fertilizer around the exterior of the town salt/sand shed as they finish up the project in June.

Water Tests OK

(Lamoine) - The annual testing of residential wells downstream of the former town landfill showed no significant changes from previous years. The town tests four residential wells annually following the 1996 closure of the landfill. All four tests this year found the water safe to drink. Wells installed by the Maine DEP several years ago were also tested this spring by an engineering firm.

Lamoine's Person of the Quarter *Allen Sternfield*



By Georgia Munsell

(Lamoine) Just about everyone in town is acquainted with Lamoine's Special Person, Allen Sternfield. That's because Al has been serving as manager of the Lamoine Transfer Station for the past 15 years. And that's a long time to watch over the town's trash and recycling. Lamoine congratulates and thanks Al for his years of service to the town.

Asked what he enjoys about his job, Al quickly responds, "The people. Lamoine has so many interesting people from artists and musicians to carpenters and lobstermen." Al laughs as he remembers the time a resident was unloading trash from his truck with the engine running and the dog inside locked the doors. "Triple A had to be called that time," Al recalls.

Underpaid Tax Policy To Be Developed

(Lamoine) - Birchlawn Drive resident Cathy Smeal was less than pleased that the town had placed a tax lien on her home for an unpaid tax amount of \$2.07. The fees that accompanied the lien totaled more than \$47.00. The Board of Selectmen instructed Treasurer Stu Marckoon to discharge the lien once the small, unpaid amount was paid, and to develop a policy on similar situations.

The reason for the small unpaid amount was due to the check for the tax bill being received more than a week late last November. The \$2.07 was the amount of interest that had accumulated. A receipt showing the outstanding balance was sent back, but it was never paid. The town sent the required 30-day notice that a tax lien would be placed on the property, but Ms. Smeal never claimed the certified letter. She said the first she knew of the unpaid tax was when her bank sent her a copy of the tax lien after it was filed.

Selectmen suggested that another step take place in addition to the required certified letter for the 30-day notice, and that's to send the same notice via regular mail. A policy will be drawn up during the next few weeks to try to avoid similar situations. At least one other taxpayer has a lien for less than \$10 in unpaid tax due to interest.

When he's not watching someone trying to sneak in the forbidden TV as trash or put out a fire from the guys who threw hot coals in a dumpster, Al plays golf, umpires baseball and writes plays. Although he claims he's never had a real job, Al is actually an accomplished playwright. In the early 80's his play *Holmes and Moriarty, Extension of Philosophy and the Rape of Mrs. Hudson* (yes, that's the real title) was in the top 10 plays selected by the National Playwright conference. That play, as well as others that he's written, has been performed in numerous theaters across the U.S. and Europe.

In between being a playwright, Al coached junior high baseball for Dedham, NE Harbor and Lamoine. Currently, he enjoys playing golf and umpiring baseball games with Stu Marckoon.

After spending some vacations at Marlboro Beach, Al and his wife moved from Boston to Lamoine 17 years ago. "What can I say? We fell in love with the area," Al explains.

June 22 marked Al's last day at the Transfer Station. "My wife and I decided that we just can't take another Maine winter," Al laments. This summer they are headed to check out New Mexico as a possible winter location.

Dual Tax Payments To Be Considered

(Lamoine) - Selectmen have included a warrant article to go before the special town meeting on July 9th to allow the town to collect taxes in two installments without interest penalty. If passed, the annual property tax bills would be due on October 31st and February 28th in equal, 50-percent payments. Interest would be charged on the unpaid halves beginning after the due date.

The City of Ellsworth bills the property tax in a similar method and sends a reminder the month before the 2nd payment is due. Selectmen theorize that smaller, more frequent payments may be easier on taxpayers' wallets. Presently, all property taxes are due on October 31st.

State Valuation Rises Significantly

(Lamoine) - Despite the housing bubble that burst nationwide, and somewhat locally, the total valuation in Lamoine in the eyes of the state will rise 6.52%. According to the calculation by the Property Tax Division of Maine Revenue Services, Lamoine's total taxable worth for 2009 is \$272.1 million dollars.

The local valuation, upon which the property tax assessment is based, is still being calculated by the Board of Assessors. The state says the local assessment for 2007 was roughly 87-

Vehicle Registration Fees Rise September 1

(Augusta) - Get ready to shell out \$10, maybe \$20 more to register your vehicle come September 1, 2008. The Maine Legislature increased the fees to try to generate revenue to match bonds being used for road improvements. Passenger Vehicle registrations will increase \$10 each, as will the fee for a vanity plate. That will mean a person who has vanity plates will pay \$20 more for registration on their vehicle.

There's an incentive to get your car registered before September 1st—especially if the registration expires on or before August 31st. Any re-registration after August 31st will be at the new rates. Other fees through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will also increase on the 1st of September, including a \$10 increase in title application fees.

Selectmen Deny Abatement Request

(Lamoine) - A Lamoine couple who built their home on the wrong piece of land asked the Board of Selectmen for a refund of the property taxes paid for the past few years, but never showed up at the meetings to explain their request. Several years ago Joseph and Joanne St. Pierre received land off Buttermilk Road from Mrs. St. Pierre's parents. They applied for and obtained a building permit and constructed a home on the land.

Neighboring landowner Donald Tozier went to court, claiming the house was actually constructed on his land. The court agreed with Mr. Tozier's surveyor that the house was on his property.

The St. Pierres have paid the property tax on both the land and buildings since acquiring the property. They applied for several tax abatements over the years but were denied by the Board of Assessors while the case was making its way through the court system.

Selectmen wanted to question the St. Pierres on several matters, but they did not show up for the meetings or advise the town office when they might be available, so the request was denied.

percent of the state valuation.

The state figures are derived from a very complex formula that compares the sales price of properties to the local assessed value. Tracking the sale prices, the 87% ratio is pretty accurate.

The drawback of the higher valuation is a reduction in state aid to education, and an increased share of the county tax bill. Over a two year time period, the state valuation for Lamoine has increased approximately 19.1%, which is a little faster than other towns.

Baseball, Softball Teams Get Trophies

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's school baseball team brought home its 2nd straight Union 92 Championship with a win over Hancock in the championship game. In fact, Lamoine finished its league season undefeated, though the team did drop an exhibition game to Pemetic School of Southwest Harbor.

The softball team finished as the runners up to perennial champ Hancock, completing their season with just three league losses.

Five From Lamoine Graduate With Honors

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen sent official congratulations to five students who graduated this June with honors from area high schools. At MDI High School **Amelia Gillett** and **Heather Leighton** were named honor grads. Amelia's mom, Kathleen Rybarz, was just elected to Lamoine's School Committee.

Ellsworth High School had three honor graduates this year. **Rebecca Anderson, Sarah Marckoon, and Jennifer Richter** all will attend college in the fall. Rebecca's mom is Lamoine School Secretary Betty Anderson, Jennifer's parents are Game Warden Phil Richter and Karen Richter who works for the Ellsworth School Department. Sarah's Dad is the Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen (and chief writer of *The Lamoine Quarterly*), and mom is former school board member Bonnie Marckoon.

The Lamoine Quarterly

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Editor/Writer

Stuart Marckoon, Adm. Asst.

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Vital Statistics

(Lamoine) - Just a couple of new residents to welcome to Lamoine in the past quarter. **Cameron Michael Ray Guptill** was born on April 4, 2008 at Eastern Maine Medical Center. **Benjamin Edward Ingram** was born on May 29, 2008, also at EMMC in Bangor.

Two marriages to report in the quarter. **Richard Grindle and Bonnie Jean Gross** of Clamshell Alley were married on April 6, 2008. Mr. Grindle passed away a few days later, on April 11th.

Bradley Turner and Shelly Witham of Douglas Highway were married on May 4, 2008.

Lamoine lost several residents during the quarter. **Ralph (Neil) Murphy** passed away on March 24, 2008 at his home on Jaycee Drive. As noted above, **Richard Grindle** died on April 11, 2008 at his Clamshell Alley home after a long illness. **Julie Anne Herrick** passed away on April 13, 2008 at Eastern Maine Medical Center. Former School Committee member and Lamoine VFD member **Frank Murray** passed away on April 30, 2008 at his home. **Edward Wallace** of Sugarbush Drive died at Eastern Maine Medical Center a few days after being involved in a motor vehicle accident (see page 5). **Bruce Sommer** of Douglas Highway died after his vehicle went into the water at Lamoine Beach on June 21, 2008.

Jina's Gym Seeking Official Status

(Lamoine) A new committee has been formed to pursue the options of building a gym/community center in Lamoine in memory of Jina Haslam, who graduated from Lamoine Consolidated School in June, 2005. On June 20, 6 days later, Jina was tragically killed while riding her bike home from Lamoine State Park. The committee meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:15 P.M. at Lisa and Stuart Branch's house. Board members are John Walls, Chairman, Enid Neleski, Secretary, and Heather Fowler, Treasurer, and a membership of 18. Interested parties are invited to attend the meetings and community input is welcomed. More than \$200,000 has been raised for the project. The funds are currently held by the Lamoine School Department.

Upcoming events in order of dates are Wed., July 23, next scheduled meeting; Sunday Aug. 10, bottle drive, Sat., Sept. 27, the Fourth Annual Golf Tournament at Bar Harbor Golf Course, Trenton. Rain date is Sept. 28.

Grange Roof Update

By Carol Korty

The update on the New Roof Fund is good news. We are close enough to the original estimate given 18 months ago, that we feel confident we will be able to get the roof replaced before cold weather returns. Generous donations came in over the winter, and the May 17th Readers Theater performance by Lamoine Community Arts brought in five hundred dollars more!

This article had to be written before knowing the results of the additional fund raiser by LCA on June 28th with a Readers Theater performance of "Cully's Gold", but we anticipate there will be enough additional donations to bring us to our goal of \$9600.

What generous support there has been from over forty individual Lamoiners, the Lamoine Baptist Church, and the Maine Community Foundation. The Grange and the Lamoine community all look forward to moving on now to the next phase of the building renovation. The goal is not only to preserve the building, but to upgrade it to a year round facility.

Community Arts Is Official

By Carol Korty

(Lamoine)-LCA has become an official organization since the last Lamoine Quarterly! Membership is open to all interested in supporting community arts here in Lamoine. Supporting? How, you might ask. We turn the question back to you. You might perform, write, paint, make music, direct, sculpt, sing, organize, raise money, sweep floors, serve refreshments, write copy for PR, or other activities yet unnamed. Someone recently asked about presenting an original puppet play. You get the idea?

Our first two public projects have been Readers Theater performances, which we presented at the Lamoine Grange: SPRING FEVER, An Evening of Comic Plays about Relationships, on May 17th, and CULLY'S GOLD, A Play for Family Audiences Set in Lamoine, Summer of 1873, on June 28th, written by Lamoine residents Carol Korty and Susa Wuorinen, featuring some of Korty's ancestors. You may have seen these events, or at least noticed our new sign at Lamoine Corner. We also get together more informally to read plays.

If you'd like to join or learn more, call Rae Dumont (667-0554), Carol Korty (667-4441), or Fred Stocking (667-6564).

Historical Society Releases Summer Schedule For 2008

Wednesday, July 23 – Marion Stocking, noted author and editor, will talk about her recent book, "I Got the Idear, My Love Affair With Maine Language" 7:30 PM in the Chapel of the Lamoine Baptist Church, Lamoine Corner. Refreshments will be served.

Wednesday, August 27 – Susa Wuorinen will present an illustrated talk on "Captains, Carpenters and Kings," a short history of the King-Huckins families of Lamoine. 7:30 PM in the Chapel of the Lamoine Baptist Church, Lamoine Corner. Refreshments will be served.

Wednesday, October 22 at 7:30 PM - Annual Meeting at the Lamoine Baptist Church, Lamoine Corner. Refreshments will be served. All events are open to the public. For more information, contact the Historical Society, 362 Lamoine Beach Rd., Lamoine ME 04605.

July 2008 Lamoine Schedule

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<i>The Administrative Assistant will be on vacation the week of July 7, 2008</i>		1-6:30 Planning Board	2-7PM Assessors	3-7PM Fire Dept	4-Office Closed (Holiday)	5-Town Office Closed
6	7-5:30 PM School Committee	8-9AM Bloomfield Park Rd Bid Meeting	9-Special Town Meeting 7PM @ Fire Station	10-7PM Fire Dept.	11	12-Town Office Open 8am to Noon
13	14-10AM Postal Workers	15-School Validation Vote 10AM—8PM	16-7PM Conservation Commission	17-7PM Selectmen 7PM Fire Dept.	18	19
20	21	22-7PM Parks Commission	23-7PM Veterans Memorial Cmte.	24-7PM Fire Dept.	25	26
27	28	29	30	31-7PM Fire Dept.	The transfer station will be open July 4th & 5th as usual	

August 2008 Lamoine Schedule

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4-5:30 PM School Committee	5-6:30 PM Planning Board	6-7PM Assessors	7-7PM Fire Dept	8-5PM Fire Dept Auction	9
10	11	12	13-7PM Consrv. Cmsn.	14-7PM Selectmen 7PM Fire Dept	15	16
17	18	19-7PM Parks Commission	20	21-7PM Fire Dept	22	23
24	25	26	27-7PM Veterans Memorial Cmte.	28-School Opens 7PM Fire Dept	29	30
31						

September 2008 Lamoine Schedule

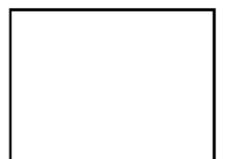
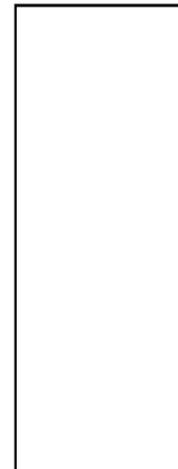
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1-Office Closed, Labor Day	2-6:30 PM Planning Board	3-7PM Assessors	4-7PM Selectmen 7PM Fire Dept.	5	6
7	8-5:30 School Committee	9	10-7PM Conservation Commission	11-7PM Fire Dept.	12	13-10AM Veterans Memorial Dedication
14	15	16-7PM Parks Commission	17	18-7PM Selectmen 7PM Fire Dept.	19	20
21	22	23	24	25-7PM Fire Dept.	26	27
28	29	30				

The Lamoine Quarterly
January 2008

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- 1 School Budget Schedule
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 - 2 School Consolidation
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 - 5 FD Auction, Concert
 - 6 Person of the Quarter
 - 6 Dual Tax Payments
 - 7 Five Honor Grads

And Much, Much More



Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605