

Heather Fowler Wins Very Close Race

(Lamoine) - It one of the closest elections in town history, Heather Fowler has won a seat on the Board of Selectmen by just 8-votes out of 380 cast. The final tally saw Fowler with 193 votes to Bob Christie's 185 (two ballots had no votes) at the annual municipal election on March 11, 2014. The turnout, at 26%, was one of the heaviest for a municipal election in many years.

For the first time in recent memory, both candidates posted professionally made lawn type signs around town. Both also sent mailers to everyone in town outlining their qualifications and their stances on issues. No group sponsored any type of candidate forum this election.

Prior to Election Day, more than 35 -voters had cast absentee ballots which were processed the afternoon of election day and placed into the ballot box with the rest of the ballots. Town Meeting moderator Harvey Kelley oversaw the

counting conducted by ballot clerks Joan Broussard and Kathleen DeFusco. Mr. Christie was present during some of the balloting and the counting process and remarked that he was fascinated by how the process works.

Mrs. Fowler officially took office two days later at the regular Selectmen's meeting following the balloting. She replaces Cynthia Donaldson on the Board of Selectmen following the expiration of Mrs. Donaldson's 3rd term. She opted not to run again.

Fowler says she is particularly interested in schools, affordable housing, and keeping the town run effectively and efficiently. She is married to former Selectman and current Planning Board alternate Perry Fowler and they live on the Walker Road with their two children. Her father, Tim Dickens, served as a Selectman in the Town of Eastbrook.

Storm Threat Halts Annual Town Meeting

New Date is April 10th.

(Lamoine) - The winter storm warning posted by the National Weather Service on March 12, 2014 was pretty dire—snow and freezing rain starting around 2-o'clock in the afternoon would create extremely hazardous driving conditions as the temperature continued to fall toward evening. That warning collided head on with the start time for the annual town meeting at 6:00 PM.

Advised by the Local Emergency Manager (and Administrative Assistant) of the warning, Selectmen responded to the warning with an intention to move to adjourn the town meeting to April 10, 2014 at 6:00 PM at the Lamoine School. Press releases were sent to the local media, posted on the town's website and Facebook page, and sent electronically to subscribers to the town's e-mail service. Moderator Harvey Kelley was told to stay put in his home in Sullivan—Deputy Moderator Stu Marckoon would convene the meeting and entertain the motion to adjourn. The town clerk was told to stay home and safe, as were ballot clerks, and the school staff instructed they did not have to set up the gym for the annual meeting.

Six o'clock came—it rained pretty hard, sometimes mixed with wet snow. More than 40-folks braved the weather and the dire warnings to gather at the meeting time. The advisory sent out by the town office had cautioned that even though there would be a motion to adjourn, it could fail, and those present could presumably act on town business.

Marckoon opened the meeting, explained that the advisory was out that a motion to adjourn would be entertained and Selectboard chair Jo Cooper made the motion, swiftly seconded by Selectman Gary McFarland. After a brief question about whether the folks present were registered voters, a show of hands agreed to adjourn to April 10th. Moderator Kelley will moderate the open meeting, which will resume with article 3 on the posted warrant. The Selectmen had discussed using April 10th as a special town meeting date to decide a petitioned question (see left), but that decision will come on June 10, 2014 instead.

The weather, by the way, did turn fairly cold overnight, school was canceled the next day, and no one faulted the Selectmen for being overly cautious.

More information about the various articles that will be decided on April 10th is reported on page 3 of the Lamoine Quarterly.

Bob and Georgianna Pulver cast their ballots at the annual municipal election on March 11, 2014. Mr. Pulver ran unopposed for one of two school committee seats created at a special town meeting in January and won the two year seat handily.



Petition Asks for Gravel Zoning Change

Referendum Vote Planned for June 10, 2014

(Lamoine) - Petition circulators gathered signatures twice in an effort to force a town meeting in a proposed change to Lamoine's Building and Land Use Ordinance to prohibit new gravel mining operations in most of the town. The first question was rejected by the Selectmen on the advice of the town attorney as the question would have amended a section of the ordinance that did not exist. The second petition, crafted by attorney Barry Mills, clarified the wording and was accepted by the board after consulting with town attorney Anthony Beardsley.

The proposed question would remove any new gravel mining operations from the Rural and Agricultural Zone and limit that activity to the Development Zone which encompasses Jordan River Road and parts of Douglas Highway. Gravel pits that have already received Site Plan Review permits would be exempt from the zoning prohibition.

Selectmen questioned whether the proposed change was consistent with the

1996 Comprehensive Plan. Attorney Beardsley ruled that it was, as it allows currently licensed pits to continue to exist in the Rural and Agricultural Zone.

Maine Municipal Association advised that because the matter is a zoning change that the Planning Board must hold a public hearing on the question, even though it was generated by petition. That hearing was scheduled for March 27, 2014.

Selectmen debated at length which date to put the matter to the townspeople and by what method—open town meeting or referendum vote. At the meeting following the March 11, 2014 municipal election, the board opted for the referendum style of vote, citing the 380-people who cast ballots in the election 2-days earlier and the high interest in the issue. The board opted to hold the referendum on June 10, 2014 from 8am to 8pm, coinciding with the primary election. A public hearing will be held May 22, 2014 following the school budget town meeting at the Lamoine School Gym.

Working Group Tackles Gravel Ordinance

(Lamoine) - There is no question that gravel extraction is an issue that has caused some major disagreement in Lamoine. The town has some of the richest gravel deposits in Eastern Maine, and numerous companies dig it up and truck it to construction projects all over Hancock County. The operation leaves behind growing scars on the land and concerns about the effect on groundwater quality in town.

When the town passed a new gravel ordinance in 2013, the contractor companies that owned the gravel pits filed suit (see below). Over the next 9-months, nearly every Select Board and Planning Board meeting involved gravel issues of some sort. From that debate grew an effort to address issues identified by various parties involved in the debate. There was no shortage of candidates to serve on what was eventually named the Gravel Working Group.

Gravel Suit Dismissed, For Now

(Lamoine) - The four contracting companies that joined forces to file suit against the town after passage of a new gravel ordinance in 2013 asked a superior court judge to dismiss the suit, but with a right to revive it. The court order was granted in January.

The move came following negotiations between town attorney Daniel Pileggi and Ed Bearor, the attorney representing Harold MacQuinn, Inc., Doug Gott & Sons, John W. Goodwin and RF Jordan. The town and the contractors agreed to try to have all sides come to the table to discuss the minutiae of the new gravel ordinance and to see if common ground could be reached. The four initial areas of discussion were to be about setbacks from property lines, the number of monitoring wells, setbacks from particular natural resources, and differentiating the initial permitting process from a renewal. No promises were made by the Selectmen or the town attorney to offer any gravel ordinance amendments to the town meeting.

Fire Pond Approved

(Lamoine) - Latona Lane resident Frederick Cahn and his family have received approval from Lamoine's Planning Board to install a fire pond on their property. The pond will be approximately 9-feet deep and contain a dry hydrant head and piping that fire trucks could utilize in an emergency.

After finding the application complete and conducting a site visit, the Planning Board held a public hearing and granted unanimous approval. Mr. Cahn clarified that the understanding that this is a privately owned parcel and the pond is for personal use and not a public project. It's unknown when construction will begin on the pond.

Selectmen appointed Don Bamman of the Planning Board, Code Enforcement Officer Michael Jordan, Planning Board alternate member Perry Fowler, his father, pit operator Jay Fowler, contractor representative Steve Salsbury, Conservation Commission member David Legere, Richard McMullen (the town's plowing contractor), Valerie Sprague (who served on the Comprehensive Plan Planning Committee, and Jo Cooper agreed to chair the group. The first meeting was held in late February, and the group came up with a list of areas to focus on and reviewed the current and past gravel ordinances.

The plan is to prepare a report for the Board of Selectmen to consider whether any further amendments to the ordinance might be placed before the town. The process is expected to take several months to complete. Meetings are open to the public and televised.

Garage Building Approved, Site Plan Denied

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Planning Board approved a commercial garage building permit application submitted by Doug Gott & Sons, but the site plan on where it would be located, was turned down. The proposal would locate the building on land Gott owns adjacent to Memory Lane, a private road off Lamoine Beach Road. To site the building, the company proposed moving several thousand yards of gravel from the lot prior to construction. That land alteration is what failed to pass muster with the Planning Board, citing a lack of preservation and enhancing the current landscape. An appeal was filed in late March.

Pit Expansion Permit Process Grinds Along

(Lamoine) - While it might seem there has been no action on the permit to expand an existing gravel operation on Douglas Highway, behind the scenes quite a bit has taken place. The proposal submitted in 2012 by Harold MacQuinn, Inc., has been undergoing an extensive hydrogeological study, and that study is being reviewed by a Planning Board approved geologist for accuracy.

Summit Engineering submitted its latest set of water data in the so-called Miro/Kittridge pit in February. That data is being reviewed by Robert Gerber of Ransom engineering who has requested additional information from Summit.

It's expected that the final studies on groundwater should be reviewed late this spring and the Planning Board may be able to finally find the application complete and take action sometime this year.

Gravel Permits Issued Conditionally

(Lamoine) - The tedious process of reviewing bound applications for gravel extraction permits to see if they comply with the town's gravel ordinance dominated the Planning Board meetings in November, December and January, and all 9 permits were granted conditional approval. The major conditions include installation (with Maine Department of Transportation Cooperation) of truck entering signs, and the installation of the ordinance required number of monitoring wells by May 1, 2014.

The permits will all expire 3-years from the previous permit expiration dates (the fall of 2013), provided the conditions are met.

Those companies receiving permits were Harold MacQuinn, Inc. (6 pits), RF Jordan (1 pit), and John W. Goodwin Jr. (2 pits).

Ellsworth surveyor Steve Salsbury represented all three owners on all the applications and requested an extension from the Planning Board to install the monitoring wells required by the gravel ordinance (one well for every five acres proposed for gravel operations). The permits required installation by May 1st and the Planning Board turned down the extension request in March. Mr. Salsbury has submitted a similar extension request to the Board of Selectmen which is tasked with enforcing the ordinance and the conditions approved by the Planning Board. The number of monitoring wells is one of the issues to be discussed by the Gravel Work Group (see above left).

A Site Visit is an Official Meeting

(Lamoine) - Quite often the Planning Board will hit the road and visit the site of a proposed project to get a feel for the lay of the land. These are called site visits and are scheduled during consideration of a project at the regular meetings at the town hall. The Site Plan Review Ordinance and the Gravel Ordinance both have provisions for the board to conduct a site visit.

Under Maine's Right to Know Laws, these visits are considered a public meeting and may be viewed by the public. Sometimes this leads to questions about what role the public may play at such meetings. Simply stated, the public may watch what takes place. Site visits are not public hearings, and unless recognized by the chair (or whomever is running the visit), non board members do not have the right to speak. Nor do board members or the public have the right to wander about the property at will. A recent site visit brought a complaint that a member of the public was observed not sticking with the meeting but instead exploring other areas, which could be considered trespassing.

Annual Town Meeting Preview

(Lamoine) - Usually the April edition of the *Lamoine Quarterly* contains the highlights of what happened at the annual town meeting. This year, since the meeting was adjourned until after April 1st, we can provide a little insight as to what will go before voters on April 10th.

The meeting will start at 6:00 PM at the Lamoine School Gym. The Conservation Commission will hand out their annual award and the Selectmen will name the Citizen of the Year just prior to Moderator Harvey Kelley calling the meeting to order.

The first set of articles on the town meeting warrant appear every year. They set the tax due date, the interest rate for unpaid taxes, set the policy for disposing of tax acquired property, all the town to dispose of items worth less than \$1,000, pay state snowmobile registration fees to the local snowmobile club, accept pre-payments of property tax and authorize tax abatements. Generally there is very little debate on these articles.

Next come a set or proposed ordinance changes. The Planning Board has come up with three proposed amendments to the Gravel Ordinance that was approved at the 2013 town meeting. The first clarifies that decisions of the Planning Board may be appealed and the Board of Appeals is not required to hear the entire application, just those areas of contention. The second proposed change would allow a 50-foot setback from lot lines provided certain conditions are met. The final proposed amendment clarifies the payment requirements into a restoration fund administered by the town for each pit.

Next is a proposed amendment to the Building and Land Use Ordinance which removes the building inspection process from the ordinance. Maine has instituted a uniform building code, but

does not require smaller towns to inspect to that code. Such inspections are extremely complex and potentially require more than a dozen inspections. Voters narrowly (by 1 vote) advised the Planning Board and Selectmen last year to propose amending the ordinance to remove the non-compliant building standards from the ordinance and to not require inspection from the town. Even with the inspection requirement removed, projects are still required to comply with the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

Budget items will round out the town meeting. The overall proposed municipal budget increases by \$95,498.12. Of this amount, paving shows the largest increase at more than \$68,000 compared to the current fiscal year. The plan is to pave Needles Eye Road in 2015, which is significantly longer than the Walker Road and Transfer Station projects planned in 2014. Road maintenance is up \$9,450 with a new plowing contract; Solid Waste costs increase \$5,600 due mainly to water testing requirements, cemetery maintenance costs drove up the Parks/ Recreation/Cemetery budget by \$3,200 the Administration budget increases by \$2,150 due to increased insurance and wage costs,

While the expenditure budgets are up, the projected revenues are lower, as the undesignated fund balance (surplus) fund use drops from \$100,000 for the current fiscal year to \$30,000 for the new budget year.

The bottom line proposed increase in property taxes for the municipal budget, as proposed, is \$159,000, or roughly 6/10 of a mill on the property tax rate.

If the budget passes as proposed, it will require what's called an LD-1 override in reference to the state law that limited tax commitment increases. That question follows the budget votes.

New Lamoine School Committee Busy

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine School Board has a lot of work to accomplish in a short period of time as the withdrawal from RSU 24 takes effect on July 1, 2014. After voters swiftly approved an ordinance change in January that increased the size of the school committee from 3 to 5, the annual town meeting elected two people to serve on the committee.

Both Valerie Peacock of South Road and Bob Pulver of Pasture Way ran unopposed for their seats. Mr. Pulver

served on Lamoine's School Committee prior to consolidation and is a retired educator.

Mrs. Peacock is a current educator, working with the Deer Isle/Stonington school system. She and her husband Tobin are expecting their first child this month, which may require a little time away from school matters.

School consultant Judith Lucarelli, meanwhile, has been keeping the school board on task. The board is currently searching for a part-time superintendent of schools to be shared with Hancock, developing a budget, and passing numerous required policies that will be in place.

The other members of the school board are Brett Jones, Gordon Donaldson and Michael Brann, elected last January.



Valerie Peacock (left) and Bob Pulver (right) were elected to Lamoine's enlarged School Committee in March.

Comp Plan, Heating On Capital List

(Lamoine) - A budget article that is fairly visible within the community each year funds the various larger projects proposed for the town. The two "new" items in the capital needs budget for this year are funding for the Comprehensive Plan and funding for a new heating system for the town hall.

The appointed committee that looked at the need for updating the Comprehensive Plan concluded that it should be done, given that the state no longer recognizes the plan passed in 1996. The recommendation is that \$7,500 per year for two years fund the effort.

The heating system project provides an opportunity for the town to potentially save some operating costs in the future. The budget committee has recommended using \$10,000 from the Allen and Leurene Hodgkins Fund to replace the current hot air furnace system which has repeatedly failed over the past few years (often on the coldest days!). If approved, the Selectmen will explore alternate options to oil heat for the building. Possibilities include propane or



The furnace in the dirt basement at the Lamoine Town Hall is about 25-years old and has failed on an increasing frequency the past few winters.

even a heat pump system. The town burns about 1,000 gallons of oil each winter.

The other planned capital purchase will be a new photocopier in the spring of 2015. This will replace the present remanufactured copier purchased in April 2010 and will have reached the end of its useful life after 5-years. That machine has also started to experience some aging problems.

Prepaid Taxes Accepted

(Lamoine) - Folks who want to get an early start on paying the 2014/15 property taxes have started submitting payments. The tax collector is supposed to wait until the town meeting approves of accepting pre-payments, however payments started coming in early. The Board of Selectmen adopted a policy allowing prepayments to be accepted until the town meeting has a chance to act on the annual article. Should the article be rejected, refunds will be mailed to those who've paid.

Selectmen Name New Board Chair

(Lamoine) - One will have to remember back a dozen years to recall a Board of Selectmen that was not chaired by Jo Cooper. She became the chair in 2002 when the board consisted of 3-members and was elected the chair for every version of the board until this year.

The new chair of the Board of Selectmen is Gary McFarland, who was first elected to the Board of Selectmen in 2009 and will finish up his second term as of the 2015 town meeting. The board elected McFarland as chair on March 13th, two days following the annual municipal officers' election. Cooper was selected to be the vice-chair, and will run meetings should the chair be absent or declare a conflict.

McFarland owns and operates East Coast Performance on the Ellsworth side of the town line on Douglas Highway. The company sells and installs vehicle accessories and performs auto maintenance.

At the annual organizational meeting the Selectmen approved of several policies required to be adopted annually, including setting administrative fees for things like photocopies and auto registration agent fees (there were no changes; the disbursement policy which allows some bills to be paid prior to the full warrant approval by the board; and the procedural rules that the Board of Selectmen will operate with for the year.

Board Goals Discussed

(Lamoine) - It is often difficult in the heat of an open meeting to come up with clearly stated goals for an organization, and the Board of Selectmen is no exception. Usually the Board deals with whatever issue has cropped up in the past two weeks that requires attention or a decision from the municipal officers. Some issues appear on a regularly recurring basis until they have been rectified.

The Selectmen used their organizational meeting to discuss some of the issues they would like to address in the coming year. There were two major areas that generated discussion. The Board wants to continue to be in person to person contact with each board, finding that communication valuable as the various committees face whatever issue they have to deal with.

The other area of discussion was affordable housing, and what the town might be able to do to attract a younger demographic to town to complement an aging population. Both of the candidates in the recent election mentioned affordable housing in their campaign literature, and ideas such as cluster housing opportunities have been suggested.

Should the town meeting approve moving forward with development of an updated Comprehensive Plan, the affordable housing issue is likely to receive a lot of attention.

Cemetery Maintenance a Grave Concern

(Lamoine) - The bill from the East Lamoine Cemetery was overdue—the town had a pretty good idea something was coming and it could be more than was budgeted. The bill arrived in the winter—\$2,800 for the care of veterans' graves, and there are a lot of them in the cemetery.

Under a relatively recent state law change, municipalities are responsible for the maintenance of veterans graves in all publicly owned cemeteries and ancient burial grounds. The East Lamoine Cemetery qualifies as an ancient burial ground, as does Forest Hill and Marlboro Cemetery.

The two larger cemeteries are run by private cemetery associations and they hire out for mowing and other maintenance needs. The town has typically installed the holders and flags on the veterans graves. The new law requires that the town make sure that the grave is mowed periodically, but what cost can be billed from the association to the town will be the subject of some negotiation.

Forest Hill billed the town last fall



at \$40/veterans grave. The East Lamoine bill was at the same rate, but that exceeds the budget for Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries. The town is negotiating a longer term agreement with both of the large cemetery associations to come up with a fair amount to pay for grave maintenance. In the meantime, a special town meeting will be scheduled, most likely with a school budget meeting, to appropriate funds from the surplus account to cover the bill for 2014. The budget for 2014/15 reflects the larger bill for East Lamoine's grave maintenance.

Veterans Refunds Issued

(Lamoine) - Voters at the special town meeting in January approved accepting more than \$3-thousand dollars from the Hancock County Commissioners to be applied to taxpayers receiving a Veteran's exemption. That set in motion issuance of refund checks to folks who had already paid their property taxes in full, and tax receipts to those who had not yet paid the full bill.

Some of the accounts have property taxes that are paid by banks through the escrow process, and not every bank got word that a credit had been applied to the outstanding bill. That resulted in several more refund checks being mailed out. There were 77 vets in all who received either a credit or a refund check.

The money came from a community benefit fund generated by wind turbines located in unorganized territories near Eastbrook. The County Commissioners voted to apply some of those funds to benefit those who served their country. Several towns returned checks to the county with instruction that county officials directly issue the refunds instead of waiting for town meeting authority to accept and issue the checks. It's unlikely the County Commissioners will repeat the benefit in 2014.

Mooring Permits Available

(Lamoine) - As a blizzard bore down on town in late March, the town office received its annual delivery of mooring permit stickers. Folks who moor their vessels off Lamoine State Park are reminded that the mooring permits expire on May 15th annually and reminder letters have been mailed out to mooring holders.

This year's sticker color is yellow. Permit holders receive three stickers—one for the boat, one for the mooring ball and one for a tender vessel used to reach the moored vessel.

The town permits 60 mooring spaces in Eastern Bay along the boundary lines of the state park and ending at the Bar Harbor town line. At present there is no waiting list, however, nearly every available mooring has been spoken for. Any questions regarding moorings should be addressed to Harbor Master David Herrick.

Appeals Board to Meet April 14th

(Lamoine) - It has been nearly 3-years since Lamoine's Board of Appeals has had to meet. Current chairman Griff Fenton asked that the board get together to review some of the ordinance changes that have taken place since they last met in 2011, and to select a current slate of officers. The meeting was set for Monday, April 14, 2014.

After Fenton requested the meeting, the town received an appeal request—ironically involving the same lot of land that was the subject of the last Appeals Board decision. Doug Gott and Sons has asked the Appeals Board to review a Planning Board decision that denied a Site Plan Review permit for a proposed commercial garage at a lot they own between Douglas Highway and Mill Road. The matter has been added to the April 14th agenda, and future meeting dates will be decided at that meeting.

Lamoiners Grow Winter Weary

(Lamoine) - The universal reaction to the winter of 2013/14 by mid-February was “enough already”. By the end of March, when the area was still shivering and digging out from snowfall after snowfall, peoples’ good natures were quite frayed. Even those who plow snow for a living and heating fuel companies seemed quite ready for it to be over.

Town plowing contractor Richard McMullen seemed to be out constantly, either plowing up after storms or dropping salted sand on the highways that would thaw then freeze overnight becoming quite slippery. The town has a clause in the contract with McMullen that allows for up to a 5% increase should the number of events be abnormally high or the price of diesel fuel skyrocket. The figures will be compiled at the end of the plow season.

There were no prolonged warm spells to speak of, and that sucked up the heating fuel at the fire station and town hall. The town generally budgets 1,500 gallons of fuel at the fire house—that was exhausted in early March, thanks in part to the cold and in part to a rash of calls in late December that saw the trucks exit and enter the station numerous times, allowing the warm air to escape.



Ahhh....Springtime in Maine.

A plow truck passes by the Lamoine Town Office a week into spring as a late March blizzard hit Downeast Maine.

Town Hall to Get Generator

(Lamoine) - The ice storm that hit Maine in late December 2013 showed some communications vulnerabilities. While the town has numerous ways to communicate with the public, when there is no electricity, it is darned near impossible. The town office was without power for extended periods of time during the storm, so the phones didn’t work, the website was down and the local cable TV channel did not function. Because there was no power, the heat didn’t work, so staff was unable to man the office to accommodate folks looking for a few minutes of warmth, or even a way to charge cell phones or access clean water.

The Selectmen voted to pursue installation of a generator in order to keep the town office functioning. An automatic transfer switch will kick on the generator when the power goes out, and it’s anticipated the operation will run on propane fuel. The cost for the machinery and wiring is expected to run about \$7,500 and the town awaits an estimate on the propane tank installation.

The Cable TV Committee endorsed using funds generated by franchise fees from Cable TV subscribers to pay for the generator project, so no property tax money is involved. The generator should be installed by summer.

New Fire Truck Here

(Lamoine) - The newest member of the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department fleet will be in service shortly—the crew is just waiting for the paint to dry—literally. A 2014 International chassis holds an 1,800 gallon water tank and a 1,000 gallon per minute pump, giving the town a second



The New Lamoine 402 arrived at the Lamoine Fire Station on March 15th.

The tanker truck carries 1,800 gallons of water

tanker source. The new truck will be the first tanker out of the building. The truck has been designated with the call number “402”, and that’s the part waiting to dry. Painter Renee Trust was putting the finishing touches on the tanker at the end of March. The truck has an automatic transmission, an easy to engage pump, and can serve as a backup pumper truck at fire scenes if need be. It can also discharge water to a dump tank from both sides and the back of the vehicle, giving it great flexibility.

Mutual Aid Calls Keep LVFD Busy

(Lamoine) - Half of the 12 emergency calls this quarter came from out of town—three of them from building fires in Sullivan, and a fire at the Birdsacre complex in Ellsworth. The department stood by during fires in Somesville and controlled traffic around an accident on the Mud Creek Road in Hancock.

In town, the department responded to a very stubborn chimney fire on Lamoine Beach Road. Ice had formed in

the chimney, blocking the smoke from a wood stove. It took about an hour of pounding to break up the ice and get the chimney working again. The department responded to three malfunctioning smoke alarms, a flooded basement, and an electrical line fire—none causing any damage. There was also one motor vehicle accident response in March on Pinkhams’ Flats—the department blocked traffic while the damaged car was removed.

Paging Switched

(Lamoine) - Reception issues in Lamoine have prompted the fire department to request that alert tones be broadcast on a tower in North Ellsworth instead of the antenna on Cadillac Mountain. The new transmission location has appeared to solve the issue—several fire department members said the Cadillac tower failed to activate their pagers in recent months. The other tower signal has been picked up as far away as Rockland.

Transfer Station Attendant Resigns

(Lamoine) - Long time transfer station manager Bill Fennelly has left the position voluntarily—abruptly resigning on March 9th. He informed a town official of the decision via a text message that evening, leaving a scramble to find someone to run the facility the next morning.

Douglas Highway resident Chris Meyer, who had expressed interest in the job in the past, graciously agreed to run the facility that morning as backup attendant. Adam Sargent was not available on short notice. Meyer, a retired engineer, has

filled in through the rest of March as Selectmen accepted applications for the position, and the board voted to hire Mr. Meyer for the job. Adam Sargent will remain as a fill in attendant, and Rick Gallegos will also be on the fill-in list.

Fennelly was only the second person to hold the transfer station position. He succeeded Allen Sternfield who retired in June 2008 after 15-years of running the facility.

The transfer station is open Fridays and Saturdays year round.

Ballot Clerks Appointed

(Lamoine) - Selectmen have appointed four Republicans and four Democrats as ballot clerks for the next two years. The appointees were nominated by their party caucuses held in March.

Named as Republican clerks were Franco Colella, Kathleen DeFusco, Catherine Bragdon and Walter Grenier. The Democrats appointed include Marion McDevitt, Joan Broussard, Cynthia Donaldson and Larissa Thomas. For Grenier and Thomas, this is the first time they have been appointed.

Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs has the authority to appoint additional clerks if need be—often those on the party list are unavailable to work a particular day. If you are interested in working at the polls—be it checking in voters, manning the ballot box or counting the votes once the polls close, contact the town office to be placed on the clerk’s backup list.



Clothing, Shoes Bin Likely

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Transfer Station may become the home to Hancock County’s first “Planet Aid” collection bin for clothing and shoe recycling. The Selectmen were reviewing a contract proposal from the company to place a box. The town would make 5-cents a pound for donated items and the company would empty the box when it is full. It is anticipated the box would be placed between the bottle recycling building and the swap shop. It will also alleviate a demand for clothing recycling that has been previously unmet.

Conservation Commission Very Busy

By Larry Libby

(Lamoine) - The Commission will award its 2013 Conservation Award at the re-scheduled annual town meeting April 10th.

UMaine faculty members Todd Gabe and Jim McConnon completed a trade area analysis of Lamoine retail sales, comparing Lamoine to towns of similar type and size in Hancock County and to the retail centers of Ellsworth and Bar Harbor. The report concludes there is relatively little retail activity in the town but the analysis also suggests the specific sectors that might be expanded. The report will be useful in a comprehensive planning process.

Commission member Linda Penkalski presented information to the Planning Board on the importance of “dark skies” to overall quality of the living environment in Lamoine. She has in the past conducted star gazing and identification sessions for amateur astronomers and the general public at Lamoine Beach and Marlboro Beach.

A public meeting to hear from a few landowners in Hancock and Washington Counties about the

management of their private forestland was held on March 25 in the town hall. Maine’s outreach forester Andy Shultz from the Maine Forest Service and Steve McDonald from Prentiss Carlisle in Bangor conducted the program.

The 2014 version of the GET WET! program was held in the Lamoine Consolidated School in February. UMaine research scientist John Peckenham led the session with students in Mrs. Duffy’s 5th and 6th grade class. Students brought in water samples from home for analysis in class and later testing at UMaine.

The Commission is considering options for submitting an application for a grant from the Natural Resources Damage Compensation funds recently received by Ellsworth. The focus of these grants is on avoiding future contamination of Lamoine’s groundwater. Ellsworth will administer the \$500,000 fund for proposals from groups in Ellsworth’s watershed as well as from Lamoine and Hancock which share a large sand and gravel aquifer with Ellsworth.

Shellfish Regulation Yields Returns



(Lamoine) - When voters approved of joining a multi-town effort to regulate Shellfishing, one of the selling points was that the resource would thrive and benefit local diggers. The numbers seem to bear that out.

Municipal Joint Board representative Richard Fennelly Jr. supplied the town with some interesting statistics (see chart above). Prior to regulation, the value of clams and mussels harvested in Lamoine ranged between \$110,000 and \$215,000. The last year for which statistics were available (2012) show the value of shellfish taken from Lamoine at nearly a half million dollars. The ordinance went into effect in 2010, and the increase has been fairly steady since enactment.

Dog Licenses Overdue

(Lamoine) - The town office sent out more than 100-notices to dog owners who failed to register the pups before February 1. As of late March, there were more than 30-dogs that remained unregistered. Many of those animals belong to folks who do not live in town for the winter.

Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs who is mandated to register all dogs will turn over the list of unlicensed dogs to Animal Control Officer Michael Arsenaault in April and he will pay a visit to the dog owners and serve a notice to register.

Caribou Runner wins 2014 Flat Top 5K

(Lamoine) - The nicest day of 2014 provided perfect running conditions for the annual Flat Top 5K road race in memory of former Harbor Master Bill Pinkham.

Spencer McElwain (shown right) of Caribou finished first overall in a time of 15:30. He was followed by previous race winner Adam Goode and Seal Cove’s Brandon O’Keefe.

The women’s winner was course record holder Jennifer VanDongen of Bar Harbor. Kristine Guaraldo of Brewer was second and Kiona Osterlin of Ellsworth



Spencer McElwain wins the 5K

was third. Two young Lamoine runners, Isaac Weaver and Emma Pickering, won the kids’ one-mile fun run.

Fuel Buyers Group Offers Group Rates

By Kathie Gaianguest

(Lamoine) - How can we lower our home heating fuel costs? The Lamoine Fuel Buyers' Group has been doing this for 5 years. This last fuel season (2013-14) members experienced savings of 10 cents or more on the gallon for heating oil and/or propane from two local oil companies.

We are a growing group of Lamoine citizens who join together to arrange lower prices on Heating Oil and Propane with local oil companies. We seek prices lower than offered to individual buyers for many payment options, special programs to protect consumers from extreme price fluctuations, reduced costs on service contracts, and other cost-saving arrangements.

After the LFBG has negotiated Group prices, members sign up individually with the fuel company,

continuing the personal billing/service arrangements, but with the advantage of lower prices. There is no obligation if you are on the LFBG list—after bidding negotiations are completed, each member makes an individual commitment to buy from an agreed-upon company, or to buy their fuel elsewhere.

In addition, this year we hope to hold at least one workshop on saving fuel costs through weatherization of your home, economizing on fuel usage, and other tips for reducing your fuel bills.

Watch the Lamoine Town website for our annual Group meeting in May.

Join us—the more citizens in the Group, the more bargaining power we have for negotiating lower prices.

To join, and for more information, call or email Kathie Gaianguest at 667-1282, gaiangu@maine.edu

Community Arts Events Planned

By Diane Sanderson

There are a number of exciting events on the horizon for LCA this spring:

- The Readers' Theater play this year is ***On Golden Pond***, by Ernest Thompson. Performances will be at the Lamoine-Bayside Grange on Saturday, May 17th at 7pm and Sunday, May 18th at 3pm.
- Auditions for ***On Golden Pond*** are open to all. Come give it a try! You've nothing to lose. They're being held on Saturday, April 5th, 9:00 AM, at the Lamoine School.
- On April 12th LCA members and friends are invited to the annual festival of one act plays organized by the Maine Association of Community Theatres (MeACT) in Gardiner, ME. This year we will be presenting scenes from Ed Simpson's "***Electric City Suite***" which we performed here last May as Readers' Theater. Contact Carol Korty (667-4441) for details.
- In June we are holding a big yard sale! The time and place to be announced. Any donations you might have for the sale will help to support LCA activities.

Town Clerk Certified Again

(Lamoine) - Congratulations are in order for Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs who has renewed her certification through the Maine Town and City Clerk's Association. The certification lasts for 5-years and signifies that the clerk has attended the required training classes and met other qualifications to be listed as a certified town clerk. Jennifer has been with the Town of Lamoine since September of 2003 and is the town's first full-time clerk/tax collector.

Vital Statistics

(Lamoine) - Word has reached the town office of the passing of three Lamoine residents in the past quarter. **Randal Cousins** of Rabbit Run passed away on January 19, 2014. Long time dentist **Dr. Peter Meyer** of Woodcock Lane died on March 2, 2014. Doc Meyer was an avid outdoorsman and practiced in Ellsworth for several decades. And **Mable Moore** passed on March 26, 2014. Folks remember Mable from her many years of working at the Ellsworth Giant Sub shop. Her son-in-law, Dick Fennelly, was a Selectman for many years.

Lamoine Swimmer Shatters Records



(Lamoine) - Swimmer Sam Alvarado (pictured on the left), a freshman at Ellsworth High School is turning heads at pools across New England now. Sam set the state YMCA record for the 500m freestyle, and finished first in the same event at the New England competition held at the MIT campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

No slouch either is Hayden Sattler, who lives just beyond the Lamoine town line in Hancock. He finished in 3rd place for all of New England at the same competition. Hayden is the grandson of former Town Clerk and Tax Collector Hubene Brodie

Photo courtesy of Christine Alvarado

Website Server Hacked, Twice

(Lamoine) - The computer server that hosts the town's website (www.lamoine-me.gov) caused some big issues in the town office. The server was put in place many years ago by former Selectman Brett Jones and served the town well. A replacement was purchased in 2012, but had not yet been installed.

In January, internet connections stopped working. Technicians from Time Warner tracked down the problem to the old server as apparently some software ended up on the machine that flooded the town's modem with data, rendering the modem virtually useless.

Jones spent several days installing up to date software on the new server, getting the town site and e-mail up and running, and within a week and a half, the same problem started up again. Unplugging the server from the modem alleviated the issue, but also took down the website and e-mail. The Cable TV Committee has recommended hosting the website remotely. At present, the server is functioning well.

Another Cheer Title for Lamoine

(Lamoine) - There has yet to be a year since the turn of the century that a Lamoine cheerleading squad has not won at least one division in a statewide competition. For 2014, the pee-wee squad finished in first at the March 9th competition held at the new Cross Center in Bangor. The team was coming off a win the week before at the Ellsworth Elementary Middle School.

Coach Kimberly Barker (who was a member of the very first squad to win a championship) helped guide her young ones to victory. Included on the team are the Paige Johnson (Selectman Bernie Johnson's daughter) and Olivia Fowler (Selectman Heather Fowler's daughter). Congratulations girls!



Champs for 2014
The Lamoine Pee Wee cheering squad again places 1st in a statewide competition

April 2014—Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1-7PM Planning Board	2	3-7PM Selectmen	4	5-Office open 8-12
6	7-7PM Conservation Cmsn Workshop	8-7PM School Committee	9-7PM Conservation Cmsn	10-6PM Town Meeting Resumes	11	12
13	14—6:30 PM Appeals Board	15-	16 –6PM Cable TV Cmte	17 - 8am Assessors 6:30 School Cmte. 7PM Gravel Work	18	19
20	21 – (Town office closed, Patriots Day) 6:30 PM Budget Committee	22	23	24—7PM Selectmen	25	26—Office open 8-12
27	28	29	30	<i>Consult the town's website for an up to date listing of meetings and events.</i>		

May 2014 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>The May 22, 2014 Special Town Meeting will deal with the school budget and one town budget matter. A public hearing on a petitioned ordinance change (see page 1) will follow.</i>				1 –7PM Gravel Work Group	2	3-Office open 8-12
4	5	6-7PM Planning Board	7-8AM Board of Assessors	8-7PM Selectmen	9	10
11	12	13	14-7PM Conservation Cmsn	15	16	17
18	19	20	21—6:45 Shellfish Conservation	22-Kindergarten Screening 6:30 Town Mtg. (School)	23	24
25	26-Office Closed (Memorial Day)	27	28	29	30	31-Office open 8-12

June 2014 Lamoine Schedule

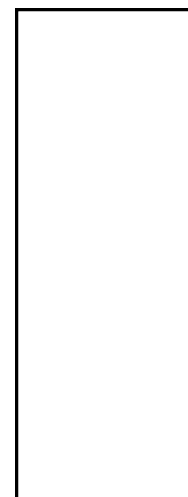
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3—7PM Planning Board	4-8AM Assessors	5	6	7—Office open 8-12
8	9	10—8am—8pm Primary Election/ Local Referendum	11-7PM Conservation Cmsn	12-7PM Selectmen	13	14
15	16	17	18-6:45 Shellfish Conservation	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26-7PM Selectmen	27	28 —Office open 8-12
29	30-Fiscal Year Ends	<i>The Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department meets on Wednesday nights at the fire station at 7PM</i>				

The Lamoine Quarterly
April 2014

Inside this issue:

- 1 Close Selectman's Race
- 1 Town Meeting Snowed Out
- 1 Petition Forces Vote
- 2 Work on Gravel Issues
- 3 Furnace to be Replaced
- 4 New Selectboard Chair
- 4 Graves become costly
- 5 New Fire Truck Here
- 6 Transfer Stn. Resignation
- 7 Cheering, Swim Champs

And Much, Much More



Town of Lamoine
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