

◆ The Lamoine Quarterly ◆

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Town Passes Marijuana Sales Prohibition

(Lamoine) - Last November voters in Maine legalized the possession and use of marijuana for recreational purposes in a statewide vote the narrowly passed. The Maine Legislature has about 9-months left to formulate the rules on how to legally buy and sell the drug which remains an illegal substance under federal law. The state passage prompted some discussion among the members of the Board of Selectmen, and by a 3-to-2 vote, they placed an ordinance on the annual town meeting warrant to prohibit retail and wholesale sales, and cultivation, along with social clubs. The ordinance was based on a model crafted by the Maine Municipal Association.

A public hearing on the proposed ordinance in February drew no members of the public. Only Selectman Kathleen Rybarz spoke in regard to the ordinance, opposing passage.

Calculation Error Means Paving Budget Change

(Lamoine) - Your road commissioner (and *Lamoine Quarterly* writer) Stu Marckoon goofed. Big time. When calculating the tonnage needed to do the 2017/18 paving budget, an old, inaccurate, mileage figure for part of Shore Road was plugged into the calculation. The section of road calculated at .75 miles actually was 1.6 miles. That left the tonnage short by a lot. The error was discovered when the paving consultant service went to measure the roads two days after voters at the town meeting approved the budget of \$118,000 for paving. It should be closer to \$205,000.

Selectmen will explore various options, including scaling back the planned paving of two sections of Shore Road and one section of Mill Road to an amount that covers the budget, or utilizing the sizable road fund and/or the undesignated surplus to fund the difference, or some combination of the two to accomplish the paving that should be done. The town voted to utilize \$45,000 in the road fund for the 2017/18 budget, leaving about \$95,000 anticipated in that fund at the end of June 2017. The town's surplus fund sat at well over \$500,000 at the end of June 2016, and the town meeting approved using \$85,000 to reduce property taxes in the 17/18 budget.

Any budget change will go before the town meeting that will also set the school budget, most likely in May. Paving consultant Roger Picard says it looks like the price of asphalt is pretty low this year, which will help alleviate some of the cost concerns. Paving bids are anticipated sometime in April.

Marckoon says he promises in the future to actually drive the sections of roads to be recommended for paving instead of relying just on a spread sheet of distances.

The ordinance drew some voters to the polls, as it was on the same ballot as the municipal officers election in which all the candidates ran unopposed. When the votes were tallied, 98 ballots approved the ordinance with only 37-voters opposed. The ordinance takes effect immediately.

Many other towns in Maine are voting on similar ordinances. City Councilors in Ellsworth approved a temporary ordinance that bans marijuana sales for two years. Still other communities have passed a moratorium to give them time to develop an ordinance.

There will be no retail sales of marijuana until at least January 2018 when the Legislature approves the rules for such sales.



Ballot clerks Marion McDevitt (left) and Kathleen DeFusco (right) tabulate the voting under the watchful eye of moderator Harvey Kelley at the March 7, 2017 town election.

Appeal on Hold Until May

(Lamoine) - An appeal of a building permit denial by Lamoine Code Enforcement Officer Rick Gallegos is on hold until the property owners can return to Maine in May. Carol Mason who owns the property on Marlboro Beach Road requested the decision delay which was granted by the board chair with no opposition.

At issue was a proposal to build an addition onto an existing home on Marlboro Beach Road. The addition would be closer to the road than allowed by Lamoine's Building and Land Use Ordinance. Several years ago the Code Enforcement Officer granted a permit to rebuild on the same footprint as a previous building on the property.

A hearing in February 2017 drew no opposition to the proposed addition—in fact one neighboring property owner testified that it would be most welcomed. The Appeals Board must determine whether any aspect of the town ordinance would allow an addition to a non-conforming home outside of the Shoreland Zone. Board members plan to ask Maine Municipal Association's legal services division for some guidance before the meeting in May.

Municipal Election Quiet for 2017

(Lamoine) - After a town election a year earlier that saw a proliferation of campaign signs posted all over town, the 2017 version of the town meeting vote was a pretty tame affair. It probably helped that none of the candidates on the ballot had any opposition, and there was no write-in campaign mounted for any of the positions.

The lack of controversy was reflected only a 9.2% voter turnout, as only 137-registered voters cast ballots on March 7th. Winning re-election to the Board of Selectmen was Nathan Mason with 116 votes. Terry Towne pulled in 120 votes to return to the Board of

Assessors. Gordon Donaldson will return to the School Committee, gathering 117 votes. He'll be joined by Matthew Montgomery who won election in his first try at public office with 101 votes. He replaces Valerie Peacock on the school board who steps down as her family plans to relocate on Mt. Desert Island. Peacock was an original member of Lamoine's School Committee when the town withdrew

from RSU 24 a few years ago. She's an educator specializing in developing alternative education programs in the marine trades. We greatly appreciate her service to the town. Montgomery works for the Downeast Family YMCA in Ellsworth, and lives on Point View Lane with his wife Jessica and their two children.

Gravel Permit "Re-Do" Begins

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Planning Board started its review of a 650-page application to expand an existing gravel extraction operation proposed by Harold MacQuinn, Inc. in late March. The application is posted on the town's website for public viewing, though it's a pretty big file and might take a while to download, depending on Internet service.

The board will first have to determine whether the application is complete before setting a public hearing date. The re-application follows a court settlement between the town and MacQuinn after the application was rejected a couple years ago. Town Attorney Dan Pileggi will assist the board through the application process.

Subdivision Lot Split Issue Resolved

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen has entered into a pair of consent agreements with neighboring property owners who purchased property in the past few years and created an unapproved amended subdivision. The Planning Board brought the matter to the attention of Code Enforcement Officer Rick Gallegos who sought advice from the Selectmen on how to resolve the issue.

The issue involves the Marlboro Mist II subdivision, and a lot that previously belonged to the developer, SARJOY, Inc. The Planning Board considered that remaining land as one of the lots approved in the subdivision. SARJOY, in late 2011, sold a portion of that lot to another party, and the Code Enforcement Officer at the time issued a building permit for a residence. The split did not come to the attention of the Planning Board at the time as creating a 12th subdivision lot which requires a set aside of open space within the development.

Fast forward to 2016 when an abutting owner purchased the remaining land and applied for a building permit to

construct a garage. The Code Enforcement Officer did not grant a building permit because the proposed garage was too close to the property line, even though the same people owned both lots.

In August, the Planning Board approved merging the two lots and amending the subdivision plan, once again showing 11-lots. The Board also urged the Selectmen to follow through on the alleged violation of the Building and Land Use Ordinance.

On the advice of Town Attorney Tony Beardsley, the Selectmen agreed with the two parties that purchased the parcels from SARJOY, Inc. would not be found in violation of the ordinance, but they could no longer divide their respective lots. In return, the town agreed not to pursue violation fines against the parties. The Selectmen also wrote to SARJOY to advise what had taken place and how it was perceived as a code violation.

Both parties have signed the consent agreements which were filed at the Hancock County Registry of Deeds in March.

Planning Board Awaits Gravel Information

(Lamoine) - Action on plans to join differently owned gravel pits near the Lamoine Town Hall remains in limbo, awaiting complete applications from the two owners involved. Perry Fowler, who sits on the Lamoine Planning Board owns one of the pits. Harold MacQuinn, Inc. owns the adjacent pit. The plan is for Fowler to expand his pit's area to the abutting property line, and MacQuinn would do likewise. Excavating to a joint property line is something that is common to many of the gravel pits in town. Failing to come up with a joint line agreement would leave require a 200-foot berm of material between the two pits, sloped to meet the 3:1 ratio contained in the ordinance.

The Planning Board has yet to receive final plans from Fowler for pit expansion. It has held off on permit renewal for MacQuinn in anticipation of the Fowler filing.

Permit Issuance Slow

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Rick Gallegos has not exactly been overwhelmed with building permit applications during the first three months of the year. He issued just three:

#	Name	Project
1	Leavitt, James	Residence, Garage
2	McNeal, D.	Shed
3	McDougal, G.	Steps to Shore

Plumbing Inspector Michael Jordan reports a similarly slow quarter, issuing 5 permits. Four of those were for internal plumbing in previously approved housing projects, and the fifth was a septic permit for the residential building project approved above.

Town Approves Conservation Commission Ordinance Change, Shoreland, Building & Land Use Changes Await.

(Lamoine) - The annual town meeting in March saw voters easily pass a series of minor amendments to the ordinance that originally created the Lamoine Conservation Commission. The changes clarified that alternate members of the Conservation Commission may be appointed and reappointed. It also put down on paper the public education component of the commission which has sponsored numerous workshops over the years.

The Planning Board, meanwhile, is undertaking a re-write of sorts to the town's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. The State of Maine has changed some of the standards of its model ordinance, and that requires a few changes to Lamoine's ordinance which nearly mirrors the state model. Board members John Holt and David Legere have undertaken the tedious task of comparing the new state model to the current ordinance in order to develop an amended document to place before a future town meeting.

The Planning Board had also planned to offer up some minor amendments to the Building and Land Use Ordinance to correct some references in a chart that shows setbacks and other items. Following a public hearing that encouraged some more clarification to road setback requirements, the board has decided to work on the table and offer a future town meeting more corrections and clarifications of issues that have cropped up in the past few years.

Subdivision Amendment Approved

(Lamoine) - An amendment to the Pine Grove Estates subdivision received approval from Lamoine's Planning Board in February. Developers Ronald and Marie Simons sought the approval of an additional lot in the subdivision served by Paradise Drive off Douglas Highway bordering the Jordan River. The new approved lot brings the number up to 8 in total. So far two homes have been constructed in the development which provides for a common septic system in the event that separate systems are unable to be located on the individual lots.

Many years ago the town required the developers to replant trees that were improperly removed within the Resource Protection Zone.

Consent Payment Awaited, Still

(Lamoine) - A date in small claims court came and went without a decision or settlement between the town and a home builder who constructed a house too close to Douglas Highway. The contractor requested and won an extension because he was ill on the March 6th court date. A new date is set for April 3, 2017.

Selectmen approved a consent agreement that called for Broughman Builders to install a screen from Douglas Highway and to move the driveway to the north side of a home located too close to the road right-of-way. The agreement, signed by the company president and the Board of Selectmen provided for payment of the town's legal fees and the minimum daily fine for the length of the violation prior to the agreement. The fence was installed and driveway moved, but the contractor did not pay the fine and fees, and subsequently sold the home and land to another person.

Attorney Diane O'Connell is handling the case for the town.

Gravel Ordinance Lawsuit Transferred

(Lamoine) - A suit filed by three of Lamoine's largest gravel mining operations following passage of a new ordinance in 2013 will be heard by Maine's Business and Consumer Court. Harold MacQuinn Inc., Doug Gott & Sons, and John W. Goodwin Jr. filed suit, claiming that the municipality "took" land when the Gravel Ordinance changed to increase mining setbacks from 50 feet to 100 feet from abutting property owners. Voters later rejected a compromise ordinance change.

Town Attorney Daniel Pileggi is representing Lamoine in the matter. A telephone conference between the town attorney, plaintiffs attorney Ed Bearor, and the Business and Consumer Court is set for Monday, April 3, 2017. It's not clear when the case might actually be set for some sort of trial.

Open Town Meeting Approves All Matters



Voters hold up their colored cards to indicate they favored a motion during the 2017 annual town meeting.

(Lamoine) - With nothing overtly controversial on the open town meeting warrant to attract an unusually large crowd, the 65 or so people who attended the annual town meeting on March 8th was an inquisitive and civilized gathering. The only matters that generated much discussion were a proposed budget item for an electronic sign at the town hall, and an increase in the donation to Maine Coast Memorial Hospital's prescription assistance program. Moderator Harvey Kelley led the voters through the 25 articles on the open warrant in less than an hour and a half.

The \$20,000 sign budget proposal prompted a lot of questions, such as what the sign would look like. Some were not convinced that it would be in keeping with

the character of the town to have a lighted sign at the town hall. Selectman Nathan Mason noted that a lot of things are going on, and the present sign allows for just 17 letters and numbers on each side, and drivers cannot see them after dark. It was also pointed out that it's difficult to change the sign's message in the winter storms. The Selectmen took note of the hesitation and will request proposals with aesthetics in mind in the coming months. Comments are most welcome.

Voters made just one change to the proposed budget, adding \$700 to the appropriation for social services for Maine Coast Memorial Hospital. The Donation Ordinance requires a Budget Committee Recommendation of no more than \$700.

Ken Smith is Citizen of the Year

(Lamoine) - It takes a lot to leave Lamoine resident Ken Smith speechless, but he says the presentation of the Citizen of the Year plaque at the annual town meeting this year almost succeeded. Smith was an easy choice by the Board of Selectmen



Citizen of the Year Ken Smith

for his tireless work in helping to guide the town through its decision on where to send its trash after the contract with PERC trash to energy plant expires in 2018. Based on his advice and reservations about an alternative fuel plant being constructed in Hampden, the town has opted to remain with PERC. A retired engineer, Smith helped to design similar facilities in other states before settling in Lamoine where he brother, Cliff, was a long time resident. He's served as an unpaid consultant to the Conservation Commission, helping design the parking area at the Simon Trail, and also on a committee that helped determine whether the town ought to employ a public works department several years ago.

Mr. Smith spent hours pouring through documents produced by both PERC's owners and the Municipal Review Committee in helping inform the town about its solid waste options. He continues to offer his assistance as the town enters the new contract with PERC and will eventually withdraw its financial interest from the MRC.

Proposed Budget Passes

(Lamoine) - Voters, rightfully so, have asked what the impact of the town budget on property taxes will be next summer. The honest answer is, we don't know. And that's because the major budget component of the property tax has not yet gone before town meeting for approval. The municipal

budget, though, won approval at the March 8th annual meeting, and it's impact will be minimal. In fact, the amount of property tax needed to fund the non-education portion of the budget is less than the current fiscal year, despite a 10% increase in approved spending. That's because the town has utilized non property tax revenues to offset those increases.

The biggest budget increases were in the road paving, capital improvements and solid waste budgets. The capital improvement increase for the electronic sign at the town hall was offset by use of the Hodgkins Trust Fund and Capital Improvements fund. The increase in solid waste was due to the new contract price with PERC which will kick in during the new fiscal year.

The town has enjoyed an increase in excise taxes in the past few years, and that increase will ease the impact on property taxes. Frugal spending and better revenues increased the surplus account to the point that it too was used to offset property taxes.

Land Purchase, Donation Approved

(Lamoine) - A sliver of land between Asa's Lane and Blunt's Pond which had shown on the property tax maps as belonging to the town now officially belongs to the municipality. A survey by Ken and Sally Smith showed they actually owned the parcel adjacent to the town land. The Smiths offered to donate the land, generously having a lawyer draw up the paperwork and commissioning the survey. A deed will be executed sometime this spring as voters unanimously approved the donation.

The Frenchman Bay Conservancy will help raise funds to purchase the portion of Marlboro Beach that is not town owned. The heirs of Eleanor Norris have offered the 2.9 acres that they own to the public for about half of its assessed value. After several meetings to discuss the mechanism by which the land would become town owned, Selectmen placed the matter on the annual town meeting warrant along with an appropriation from the land conservation fund for \$10,000 to help with the purchase price. The issue generating the most discussion was whether there are strings attached to the transfer. The Norris family asked only that it be kept open for recreation and commercial fishing activity which already takes place on the beach. The Conservancy agreed that the transfer to the town would not contain any restrictive covenants.

What's All This Talk About a Community Center?

(Lamoine) - The headline is actually a fair summation of many meetings in the past year. The Board of Selectmen is cautiously beginning to explore the possibility of a community center that can serve as a gathering place and accommodate large groups of people for any of a variety of community functions.

The Comprehensive Planning Committee's forum a year ago identified a community center as a desirable thing for our town. Beyond the school gym and the town office meeting room, there really is no place that easily accommodates groups, large or small.

The Board of Selectmen has identified a center as one of its goals, but has not gained any traction yet on really pursuing the idea. A memorandum identified what the town owns for land parcels, and none at this time are really ideally suited for a community building.

In March, the Selectmen discussed forming a committee to start coming up with more of a plan, and volunteers will be needed to serve. Among the items the committee will need to address is just what is appropriate for a town of Lamoine's population and geography, how much such a facility might cost, what town functions should be housed, and how the "community" can best be served by a new building. Interested? Let the Town Office know.

School Wired For TV Telecasting



The TV switching equipment at the Lamoine School

(Lamoine) - Once a few more pieces of equipment get installed, live television from Lamoine's school will become a reality. For years, the Technology Committee (formerly the Cable TV Committee) has been attempting to wire in a system to televise events from the school in a similar manner already in use at the town hall. Funds have been accumulating from the Cable TV Franchise Fees received annually from Time Warner (now Spectrum) Cable. Those fees run more than \$11,000 per year and a sizeable fund accumulated.

For more than a year the tech committee has been negotiating a system with Connectivity Point, based in Auburn. It is about the only company that specializes in wiring such systems that was

found in state. After finally settling on a system design, the company scoped out the school and wired in three cameras during February vacation. All the cameras are located in the school gym. The company also installed audio plugs which will allow microphones or a large microphone mixer to be plugged in to pick up the sound of the events. All the wires run into the utility entrance room located behind school Principal Dawn McPhail's office. Mrs. McPhail and her predecessors had stored a

lot of "stuff" there and the wiring project gave her a good excuse to dispose of or relocate a lot of items.

Technology director Tim Hilton helped with the first (and only) telecast from the building using the new cameras—a production called "Dragons Love Tacos". It was broadcast on the school's You Tube channel.

The town still awaits a camera controller and some cords to hook the video switcher into the controller that will record shows or send them live to a to be installed second CTV channel. Spectrum is supposed to provide a transmission device for a new Public Education and Government channel. We don't know yet what channel that will be or when it will become operational.

Town Hall has New CTV Channel

(Lamoine) - The town office got a few phone calls asking where the local cable TV channel went that televises the meetings at the town hall. They came from Time Warner (Spectrum) customers without the digital box. After a little investigating, we found that the cable company had moved the channel from 121.111 to 97.3 on those TVs without the box. If that's your method of receiving cable in Lamoine, you will likely have to do a new channel scan so that the set will pick up channel 97.

The digital cable customers still receive the town channel on 7.

Parks Commission Contemplates Counting Traffic

(Lamoine) - Increased use of Bloomfield Park and related complaints about possible illegal activity has prompted the Lamoine Parks Commission to discussion options to monitor the activity at Blunt's Pond. Of particular concern is night use of the park area and possible drug related incidents, as well as an increased number of dogs that take a swim in the pond. The Parks Commission may explore installing a traffic counter on the park entrance area and what kind of water testing would be appropriate at the swimming area in front of the park.

Consultant to Assist Comp Planners

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Comprehensive Planning Committee has been working for nearly 3-years now, gathering community input and formulating bits and pieces of a new plan. The committee decided in late 2016 that it was time to bring a consultant

Requests for proposals went out to planners across the State of Maine. The Maine Association of Planners was particularly helpful in spreading the word, but only one proposal came in by the deadline. Thankfully, it was a good one.



Comprehensive Planning Consultant Rick Taintor met with the committee in March

Rick Taintor comes highly recommended by the towns he has worked for in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. He has just retired as the town planner in Portsmouth New Hampshire, and is becoming a consultant. So what is his attraction to the work in Lamoine? His daughter lives in Stonington and he visits frequently. The town has agreed to pay Mr. Taintor \$9,000 for his work.

In mid-March, Taintor came up to tour the town and meet with the comprehensive plan committee. Chair Fred Stocking says Mr. Taintor will get going around June 1st, reviewing documents the committee has produced thus far. A public meeting is likely sometime next fall to get feedback on the proposed goals for the Comprehensive Plan.

on board to help complete the process, with a goal of having a plan to offer to the 2018 town meeting.

Mooring Permit Renewals Due

(Lamoine) - The town office will send out reminders in April that mooring permits will need to be renewed by May 15th. The stickers that go on the mooring, the tender craft and the moored vessel have been ordered.

Harbor Master David Herrick has a relatively short waiting list for one of the 62-mooring sites in Frenchman Bay adjacent to Lamoine State Park. Mooring permits cost \$50/annually with a \$15 initial application fee.

Clamming Ordinance Updated

(Lamoine) - The newest version of the Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfishing Ordinance is now posted on the town's website. Several years ago, the 7-towns that make up the region approved an ordinance change that allowed the Joint Municipal Board (JMB) which carries out the ordinance to make minor changes to that ordinance.

Lamoine's JMB representative Richard Fennelly Jr., sent along the newest version of the Shellfishing ordinance which has all the approved changes included.

Shellfishing licenses generally go on sale on June 15th—expiring June 30th of the following year. Recreational prices increased to \$21 last year.

Mud Creek Park Under Exploration

(Lamoine) - If you've ever stopped to gaze at a great blue heron wading at low tide in Mud Creek, or observe the osprey in their nest atop a utility pole at the "S" turns, chances are you've pulled off on a dirt area on Mud Creek Road. The people who own the property have made initial contact with town officials about possibly donating the land that borders the western side of Mud

Creek Road and the southern side of the tidal creek. The town's conservation commission and parks commission has been working with some private residents to possibly come up with a plan turn the area into a public park area. It is anticipated the concept will come to the Board of Selectmen at some point during 2017 to schedule a future town meeting.

Traffic Light Fixed....Again

(Trenton) - The phone calls started coming in sometime in early January. Motorists expressed concern and frustration over waiting several minutes at the red light at the intersection of Jordan River Road (Rte 204) and Route 3, even when there was no oncoming traffic present. Some of the waiting motorists opted to turn onto the busy road even when the light was red.

After some calls to an electrical company that services other traffic lights in the area, they very kindly took a look at the system and found the cameras that control the computer were not functioning. Since Lamoine is responsible for the maintenance and electricity for the lights, the town contacted the Maine Department of Transportation. Regional Engineer

Bruce Mattson very quickly made inquiries of the traffic light engineers in Augusta, and they too looked at the situation, determining that the light was



not working as it was supposed to. An engineer finally determined that a junction box had corroded due to possible improper installation. That problem was fixed, and the wait time at the light was greatly reduced. Since the repair, there have been no complaints received by the town office about the intersection.

Snowfall Concentrated in Mid February

(Lamoine) - The town has a pretty good winter until mid February. That's when at least three major storms hit Maine, leaving roughly 40-inches of snow on the ground. And then, it stopped. By early March, the snow was pretty much gone. And then, another blizzard, but this one was manageable.

For the first time in recent memory, the town office actually closed for a couple of days during snow storms. It made no sense for staff to drive in to work during the two storms. About the only drivers on the road were equipped with snow plows, and there was no urgent business needed at the town hall. The school was closed as well. The town office telephone was put on call-forwarding, and the only calls came in from southern states where it was not snowing.

The Selectmen were expected to approve a new policy on storm and other related closings at their meeting in late March.

Fire Department Responds Frequently

(Lamoine) - Motor vehicle accidents dominated the in-town 9-1-1 calls for Lamoine's Volunteer Fire Department during the first quarter of the year. Of the 17 calls received by late March, five were for accidents. None resulted in serious injury.

The department responded to a pair of citizen assists to help an elderly resident who had fallen from a chair and was unable to get to a standing position.

The department responded quickly with three engines to Fennellyville Road in early March when a resident, who obtained a burning permit for brush, lit his pile which also contained plastic pipes and

furniture. The huge column of black smoke prompted neighbors to report a house fire. A forest ranger was called to investigate the improper burning.

Lamoine's firefighters also stood by the department while neighboring communities dealt with potentially serious calls in Sullivan, Ellsworth and Mariaville.

And in mid January, the department twice responded to smoke calls attributed to downdrafts and atmospheric conditions. Both calls were to fire department members residences—no damage.



The angle is a bit deceptive, but depending on how you looked at Perley & Karen Merrick's wooden snowman, we got a lot of snow over a 10-day period in February.

Bonfire Generates Response



(Lamoine) - Organizers of a community bonfire on New Year's Eve called 9-1-1 after the event, requesting to speak to the fire department. That prompted a quick response to the scene next to the Lamoine Grange and an explanation that 9-1-1 is only for emergencies, and that someone would have to remain with the fire until it was completely extinguished. The department did not send a truck, as the fire was not out of control on the snowy evening.

The event drew a few dozen revelers to usher out 2016 and welcome in 2017.

MDOT Trims Pinkhams Flats

(Lamoine) - Department of Transportation workers have trimmed both sides of the road on the Pinkhams Flats section of State Route 204. The questions started coming in almost immediately—are they going to widen the road? Bike Lanes?

The answer—no. The MDOT is preparing to properly ditch that section of Route 204 and the Mud Creek Road during the summer of 2017. In the summer of 2018 both roads should get a new layer of pavement, and the proper drainage should help that pavement last a lot longer.

Local supervisor Stan Collins confirms that they do plan to put guard rails up on the sharp curve just east of the Route 184/204 intersection on Pinkhams Flats. That curve has been the scene of numerous automobile accidents over the years, and with the large trees gone, the drop off on the banking is quite steep. It's not yet known when the guard rails will be installed.

Three attend Firefighter School

(Lamoine) - When May rolls around, Lamoine should have three more fully trained firefighters on its volunteer roster. Every other weekend this winter Robert Cooper, Sean McLaughlin and Nick Birdsall have been attending the Hancock County Firefighting Academy, learning all the nuances of the craft from properly (and swiftly) putting on turnout gear and airpicks, to tying knots, using ladders, and advancing on all types of fires—from burning buildings to cars, to propane gas tanks.

The department has also purchased four new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs or airpicks) to replace four aging units that have begun to fail. The department funded the purchase (they cost about \$4,500 each), and hopes to upgrade all of the airpicks if successful with a federal assistance to firefighting grant submitted in the fall of 2016. Members have been training on the new airpicks and getting tested to make sure the new facemasks fit without leaking.

Audit Shows Very Strong Surplus

(Lamoine) - Many years ago Lamoine's Budget Committee set a goal of having at least \$300,000 in the town's undesignated fund balance (surplus) at the end of the fiscal year. The audited figures for the year ending June 30, 2016 show the surplus to be a very healthy \$502,000, or more than 67% higher than the goal.

Several factors worked together for the surplus growth. The town was fairly frugal on its spending from the general fund, meaning many items came in under budget for the year. Additionally, revenues from non-property tax sources were significantly higher than expected. Excise tax alone in fiscal year 2016 was \$29,000 more than budgeted for a second straight year, a strong indication of an improved economy. Very few tax abatements had to be granted during the fiscal year, meaning the bulk of the overlay on the tax commitment was available for the general fund as well.

The budget approved in March will utilize \$85,000 of the surplus to offset property taxes.

Reusable Bags Available

(Lamoine) - Residents who attended the annual town meeting were the first to get brand new reusable grocery bags from the town's Conservation Commission. The canvas bags feature a historic drawing screen-printed on front showing a scene from Jordan River many decades ago.

The bags are just one dollar apiece, and a limited number remain available. Conservation Commission member Larissa Thomas is accepting the orders—easiest by e-main—lthomasme@gmail.com. She says she will arrange for delivery by the most economic means possible.

The bags come in forest green and a very bright green. The Conservation Commission effort is an encouragement for residents to stop using plastic bags that harm the environment and re-use good sturdy bags instead.

Vehicle Registrations Have New Look

(Augusta) - Starting with the batch of re-registrations for March 2017, vehicle registrations will have a new format. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles has sent the re-



The new re-registration forms are now 1/3 of a page in size instead of a half page. Paper is also a thicker stock that can be printed on a laser printer

registrations on a thicker stock in a 3-part instead of a 4-part form. You will still have a yellow copy for your official registration. The state gets the white copy for its files, and the town retains a pink copy.

If you are registering a new car, though, you will still have the old, half page registration forms, for now. That will likely change later this year.

You will notice that it will take just a while longer for the town office to process your registration. That's because the computers will generate the final figures to be printed on the form. Previously, staff had hand written in the excise tax amounts and pre-calculated the cost of the full registration. That was a process that took several hours but is eliminated with the new system.

The good news (at least on the town staff end), is that once the new re-registration is printed, it'll be in the computer system. Plus, you'll notice an area that shows how much you've paid in total, and the current mileage when you registered.

Forgotten to Register Your Dog?

(Lamoine) - If you didn't get your dog registered by January 31st, you are required to do so and to pay a late fee of \$25.00. Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs has mailed letters to dog owners who have not yet completed their 2017 dog registration. If you get a letter, you will have ten days to do so, or the Animal Control Officer may stop by to issue a warning for keeping an unregistered dog. That warning can be followed by a ticket to court if do not register as required by state law.

If you no longer have a dog, please let the town office know. The town clerk is not authorized to waive any late fees for non-registration. To register a dog, the town office will need proof of a current rabies shot. Cost for a neutered dog, with the late fee, is \$31.00. A non-neutered dog is \$36.00. A court ticket can cost up to \$100.

Town Forecloses on One Lot

(Lamoine) - Selectmen were due to meet with the family of a property owner whose land automatically became town property when a tax lien matured in February. The current owner has opted not to redeem the property for a variety of factors, but her daughter would like to keep it in the family, as she is an abutting landowner. Selectmen agreed to accept an offer for all back taxes, fees, interest and other costs.

Town Meeting voters will have the final say on the Board of Selectmen's decision. The town meeting article that authorizes disposal of tax acquired property is silent as to whether to offer it to family members interested in retaining the land.

Community Garden Visit Planned

(Lamoine) The Lamoine Conservation Commission, is in the process of arranging an opportunity for Lamoiners to visit the Hancock Community Garden in late May. The visit is tentatively set for the afternoon of Wednesday, May 31st. The exact time will be determined at a later date.

The Hancock Community Garden is located on the Eastside Road in Hancock within the Crabtree Neck Land Trust. The first 10' x 10' gardens were planted in the 2010 planting season. A shed houses garden tools and a drilled well was added outside of the actual garden. There are also areas for composting and storing mulch and wood chips outside.

In 2016 the garden plots were also made available to residents of Sullivan. All gardening is of an organic nature and all are expected to share in the tasks connected to its success. Each year they have provided between one and two thousand pounds of produce to area shelters and food pantries.

The tour, led by Renata Moise, will provide an opportunity to learn about the development and maintenance of this garden. This will be a chance to check out an active community garden and perhaps promote an interest in developing such a garden in our town in the future. A community garden needs to be situated in an area that is in close proximity to its gardeners. It is also imperative that there be water on site. Land would have to be found as one of the first steps.

If interested in learning more and/or signing up for this May 31st garden visit, contact Anne Labossiere @ 667-6765 or e-mail her at alabossier@aol.com.



Students from Lamoine's Consolidated School designed the artwork printed on the reusable tote/grocery bags. Sidney Mason (2nd from left) was the overall design contest winner, who along with the three runners up received a nice thank-you from the Conservation Cmsn.

Community Dinner Helps School Custodian

By Dawn McPhail

(Lamoine) - Our Lamoine family came together to help one of our own! On Friday, February 3rd a Benefit Spaghetti Dinner and Auction was held for our custodian, Lennie Bright, to assist with medical costs associated with his recent cancer diagnosis. A Great big THANK YOU goes out to everyone who helped to make this worthy event such a success! Together we raised over \$4500 to help Mr. Lennie and his family! We couldn't have done this without everyone's help. Mr. Lennie sends his thanks to everyone who participated in any way. He would also like to thank the



students for the beautiful quilt they created with our new Art teacher, Mrs. Kofton's, help.

Scholarships Available

(Lamoine) - The Allen & Leurene Hodgkins scholarship applications are now available from the Maine Community Foundation. Lamoine students attending college are encouraged to apply. The deadline is June 1st, and more than \$25,000 is available for distribution to qualified applicants. A sub-committee of the Board of Selectmen will review applications after the deadline and determine how much each applicant will receive. The scholarships are based on both academic achievement and need. Selectmen Gary McFarland, Kathleen Rybarz and Bob Christie make up the scholarship committee.



Congratulations to Lamoine's Recreation Cheering program, which took first place at the State Cheerleading Championship held March 5th in Bangor. The win continues a long tradition of cheering excellence for Lamoine which captured its first of many consecutive titles in 2001.

Hiking Series Includes Simon Trail

Frenchman Bay Conservancy and Downeast Senior College are hosting a Spring Hike Series at FBC preserves. Mark your calendars now! All hikes will begin at 9:30 am.

Date: **Saturday, May 13, 2017**, Old Pond Railway Trail in Hancock
Fred Yost will be leading a bird hike!

Date: **Saturday, May 20, 2017**, Simon Trail in Lamoine

Date: **Saturday, May 27, 2017**, Indian Point Preserve in Ellsworth

Date: **Saturday, June 10, 2017**, Branch Lake Public Forest in Ellsworth

Lamoine Resident Named Chamber Citizen of the Year

(Lamoine) - Ellsworth's Chamber of Commerce will honor Donald Clark of Lamoine in May, naming him the Chamber's Citizen of the Year. Shown below holding an official proclamation from the Lamoine Board of Selectmen at a fund raiser last year, Clark has given countless hours of energy to help those facing hardships a boost with fund raising events. Donnie retired as a Cable TV technician in the past year or so after he was diagnosed with cancer, which he continues to battle. Congratulations on a well deserved honor.

Little Kids Device Installed

(Lamoine) - If you're only a couple feet tall, the newest addition to the Lamoine Town Hall is just the right height for you. The Lamoine Little Kids group with help from the Recreation Committee has purchased a device to keep the young ones occupied while big people take care of important business at the counter.

Cynthia Donaldson of the Little Kids group dropped it off during the winter and facilities maintenance director Rick Gallegos installed it. The first young child that came into the office the very next day gravitated toward the device (officially called a Pathfinder Activity Wall Panel Toy).

Donaldson says while the number of young ones that come to the town hall isn't large, it sends a positive signal to parents that Lamoine is a little kid friendly community.



Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs, and Lamoine Little Kids leader Cynthia Donaldson position the newest addition to the town office

Lamoine Community Arts

By Bill Reynolds

Summer Arts Scholarship Program for 2017:

Lamoine Community Arts (LCA) again offers a limited number of need-based partial scholarships to Maine summer arts programs. K-12 resident students are welcome to apply. The scholarships are for summer camps related to music, art, dance, theater, or visual arts.

Scholarship awards will be based on need; each family is expected to pay a portion of the cost. This scholarship gives first preference to Lamoine residents.

Application forms are available at Lamoine Consolidated School office. Submission deadline is May 19, 2017.

Grange Renovation Project: LCA is continuing its efforts to raise funds to cover the costs of the planned renovation projects. An application for a grant to cover the expense of ventilating the attic and insulating the building has been submitted to the Bangor Savings Bank Foundation. Completion of this project will allow us to provide a four-season venue thereby expanding our capabilities for interaction with the school and the community.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Simon, Mainely Country Band

Heat Assistance Terms Discussed

(Lamoine) - The three members of Lamoine's Heating Assistance Committee have recommended to the Board of Selectmen that their appointments be for an indefinite period. The Selectmen did not object to the request. The policy approved in 2014 makes no mention of a specific term for committee members.

The Heating Assistance Committee reviews applications and decides whether to grant assistance. The committee may also solicit funding for the program. During the winter of 2016/17 one application was approved.

April 2017 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1-9am Flat Top 5K Town Office Open 8-12
2	3-7PM Planning Board	4	5-Board of Assessors (time TBA) 5:30 PM Shore Access Subcmte	6-6:30 Comp Plan	7	8
9	10	11-6:30 PM School Committee	12-7PM Conservation Cmsn	13-7PM Selectmen 6PM Rec Cmte @ School	14	15
16-Easter	17—Closed (Patriot's Day)	18-7PM Planning Board (Pit expansion)	19-5:30 Shore Access 7PM Shellfish Conservation	20 -6:30 Comp Plan	21	22
23	24	25	26—5PM Lamoine 150	27—7pm Selectmen	28	29 Town Office Open 8-12
30	Please consult the town website, www.lamoine-me.gov for the latest calendar and schedule as meeting dates and times may change.					

May 2017 Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 -7PM Planning Board	2	3-Board of Assessors (TBA)	4	5	6-Town Office Open 8-12
7	8	9—6:30 School Cmte	10-7PM Conservation Cmsn.	11-7PM Selectmen	12	13
14	15	16	17	18-7PM Selectmen	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27-Town Office Open 8-12
28	29-Town Office Closed (Memorial Day)	30	31	A special town meeting to consider the school budget is likely sometime in May—a date has not yet been determined.		

June 2017 Lamoine Schedule

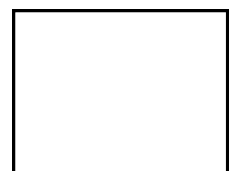
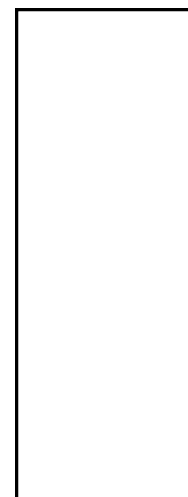
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*If the school budget is approved, the validation vote is likely to be on June 13th as well.				1-7PM Selectmen Hodgkins Scholarship Deadline	2	3-Town Office Open 8-12
4	5-7PM Planning Board	6	7-Assessors (TBA)	8	9	10
11	12	13-State Election 8am to 8pm* 6:30 PM School Committee	14-7PM Conservation Cmsn	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24-Town Office Open 8-12
25	26	27-Town Office closed @ lunch	28	29	30	

The Lamoine Quarterly
April 2017

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And, Much, Much More!



Town of Lamoine
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