# •The Lamoine Quarterly•

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#### Planning Board Turns Down Expanded Pit

(Lamoine) - An effort to expand an existing gravel mining operation to include about 110-acres met with a narrow rejection from Lamoine's Planning Board. Harold MacQuinn, Inc. is expected to appeal the decision to deny a gravel pit to the town's Board of Appeals.

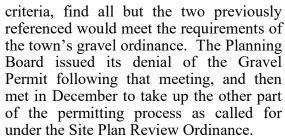
The Planning Board voted 3-to-2 on one review item that it would not be compliant with the town's ordinance in regard to groundwater protection. Its proximity to the water source for the Cold Spring Water Company seemed to cause the greatest concern for Planning Board members who issued the vote against the permit. Another review criterion regarding the impact on neighboring properties failed to pass on a 2-to-2 vote with one member abstaining.

The application drew strong public opposition at a hearing that began in late September and continued in November. The Planning Board met on November 14th after the 2nd night of public hearings and decided each item of the review

#### **Electronic Sign** Installed @ Town Hall

(Lamoine) - The first night with the new electronic sign at the Lamoine Town Hall was pretty hideous. The display message was extremely bright -it was tough to read, and the messages posted on the town's Facebook page were quick to point it out. It got better.

After months of drawing up specs, planning and in-house design, NeoKraft signs installed the new display on October 12, 2017. Selectmen officially unveiled it a couple of days later, and though a few folks grumbled about the cost and need, the sign has for the most part been favorably received. It did take a bit of training on the computer software to figure out what looks best, and the light intensity after dark is lowered significantly to save glare and electricity. The project came in under the \$20,000 budgeted for the sign and installation, but some landscaping is planned.



Because the Site Plan Review Ordinance requires a Gravel Permit to be in place for approval of mining operations, the Board found that it could not issue the Site Plan Review Permit either.

The plan to expand the so called "Kittridge Pit" has been before the Planning Board since 2012. After rejection the first time, MacQuinn appealed to court and the town agreed to re -hear the application with no guarantee that it would be approved.

Under the Gravel Ordinance in effect on the date of the original application (late 2012), the company had 30-days to file an appeal with Lamoine's Board of Appeals.

#### Three Run for Selectman Posts

(Lamoine) - There will be a contested election for two seats on the Board of Selectmen in March. Election day is March 6, 2018 and three people returned nomination papers by the January deadline to appear on the ballot.

Seeking re-election are current board chair Jo Cooper and Gary McFarland. Also seeking one of the seats is Wynne Guglielmo.

Cooper is the Executive Director of Friends in Action and has served on the Board of Selectmen since 2000. McFarland owns East Coast Performance on Douglas Highway and was first elected to the Board in 2009. Guglielmo moved to Lamoine in November 2014 and works as an Environmental Health and Safety Compliance Officer for Husson University in Bangor. This is her first try for elected office.

Polls open at 8am and close at 8pm on March 6th.



Here's Your Sign Selectmen (l-r) Nathan Mason, Jo Cooper and Gary McFarland unveil the new electronic sign at the Lamoine Town Hall

#### Marlboro Beach Purchase Complete

officials

(Lamoine) - Marlboro Beach Selectmen and FBC before the deed was



Inhabitants of the Town of Lamoine as of the end of 2017. All the paperwork got signed and the deed filed at the Hancock County Registry of Deeds, transferring the property from the Norris Family to the town.

Frenchman The Bay Conservancy (FBC) raised \$35,000 toward the purchase price while voters in Lamoine approved spending \$10,000 from the Land Conservation Fund to put toward the purchase. A deed covenant allowing the FBC to monitor the property to assure that it's forever kept open to the public was the subject of negotiation between the Board of

belongs to the written. Consultation between attorneys of the Town of for FBC, the town, and the Norris Family worked out language that was satisfactory to all three parties.

> The beach is important to the town from both a commercial fishing and recreational standpoint. Many years ago the Norris family transferred a 40,000 square foot parcel at the end of Marlboro Beach Road to the town to serve as a boat launch and shore access area, while the land adjacent to that remained in their ownership. Resident James Norris approached town assessor Terry Towne a few years ago and said the family wished to sell the rest of the beach area, and Towne helped enlist FBC to allow that to happen. Aaron Dority of FBC said he was impressed at the diverse group of people who contributed to the purchase.

#### Town Awaits School Cable TV Channel

(Lamoine) - Nearly a year ago the town's Technology Committee hired an Auburn based company to wire up the school gym and an office so that live TV telecasts could originate from the school. The system works pretty well, except there is still no channel on which the telecasts can appear.

As the installation project was taking place, so was the sale of Time Warner Cable to Charter Communications (Spectrum). The disruption in the corporate structure is likely behind the

delay in equipment installation.

Government affairs coordinator Shelley Winchenbach has been in touch with the town in recent weeks and says Spectrum has approved the funding of the channel, but having the installation paperwork translate into actual equipment being installed seem to have hit a snag. The committee will continue to monitor the situation. When the installation is complete, that will mean two channels for town, the other being channel 97-1, from the Town Hall.

#### Historic Maternity Hospital Razed



The final day that the former Hagan Hospital stood just north of the Town Hall.

(Lamoine) - Perhaps the most inquired about property in Lamoine over the years was the former Hagan Hospital, which really was a classic farmhouse that sat about 500-feet off the road north of the Lamoine Town Hall. The building had character, even though it had been vacant for decades. Visitors to town were drawn to its classic design, and the property layout, a small hill that has an incredible view in all directions. The staff at the town hall would politely supply the name and mailing address of the owners.

The house was once used as a maternity hospital during the 1920s and 30s. A few of Lamoine's older residents were born there, long before expectant parents had modern hospitals in which to give birth.

Sometime during the summer of 2017 the former owners, Jill and Tony Pimentel indicated they had decided that they would sell. Boat builder Stewart Workman said he was drawn to the

many years ago, so he contacted the Pimentels, and a deal was finalized in late October.

Workman and his wife Alice invited town staff to take pictures of the abandoned farmhouse at the end of October, a day before they would tear down the building. At first the Workmans said they had hoped to be able to restore the home, but time had taken a toll on the inside, and it was clearly evident that it could not be economically salvaged. The picture above shows the house as it stood on its final day, remarkable the same as a postcard that the historical society made many decades ago (we still have some in the town office). More pictures of the interior and other angles were posted on the town's Facebook page, and many residents posted their fond memories on the social media site

Workman burned the remains, but has not yet indicated what plans he might have for the property, though he indicated

#### Firefighter, Handyman Rusty Boynton Laid Up

(Lamoine) - Anyone who has lived in Lamoine for a while has probably run into Russell Boynton Jr., better known as Rusty. He hauled people's trash for decades, plowed driveways, mowed lawns, collected scrap metal, and lots of other things that needed doing. He's also the "house captain" at the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department, serving the community in that capacity for almost 40 -years. Among his customers is the Town of Lamoine, as he picked up the trash barrels weekly at both Lamoine Beach and Bloomfield Park.

His family reports that Rusty has suffered some serious health setbacks and underwent surgery in Portland in late December, and is currently in a rehabilitation center in Portland. The situation has meant that he is no longer hauling trash to the transfer station on a weekly basis, and others have taken over plowing and mowing.

Rusty's aunt, Enid Neleski, says he loves hearing from people in town. Cards and letters can be mailed to Northeast Rehab Hospital, 335 Brighton Ave., Room 226, Portland, ME 04102.

#### Selectmen Update Harassment Policy

(Lamoine) - In light of allegations involving celebrities and politicians at a national level, the Lamoine Board of Selectmen has updated the town's harassment policy. The policy review followed a training session that was scheduled at the fire department in December following a waive of claims of improper behavior beginning with movie director Harvey Weinstein. When the training officers noted the policy in effect, it was quickly noticed that the policy was badly outdated. The previous policy was implemented by the Board of Selectmen in 1993 and fell far short of what needed to be addressed in today's workplace environment.

The new policy is based on a model from the Maine Municipal Association and was slightly modified to accommodate needs of the community. In addition to sexual harassment, which the original policy addressed as the only harassment issue, the new policy also lays out other behaviors that will not be tolerated.

property when he first arrived in town it would not be used for a business.

#### New Code Officer Busy With Permits

(Lamoine) - Code Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright hit the ground running with construction permit applications when she started November 1st. The following permits were issued between October and December

Nbr	Name	Project
59	Fennelly, Richard	Shed
60	Walls, Michael	Greenhouse
61	Frye, Paul	Deck
62	Wittine, Arthur	Carport
63	Poray, Cynthia	Garage

64	Wallace, Richard	Residence
65	Haass, Blake	Deck
66	Mohr, Jonathan	Shed
67	Merchant, Rob't	Expansion
68	Gillett, Bruce	Footpath (Shore)
69	Haslam, Patricia	Addition
70	State of ME	Jetty repairs
71	Heyse, Ian	Shed
72	Heyse, Ian	Yurt
73	Haslam, Patricia	Bedroom Addn

In the roughly 25-years that the previous policy was in effect, there were no complaints of inappropriate actions submitted to town officials, nor have there been any since the new policy was implemented.

The new policy is posted on the town's website and will eventually be distributed to staff at the town hall and fire station. It applies to all paid staff, volunteers, committee members, and even to guests and vendors who do business with the town. While it's encouraged for all to read the updated policy, those who receive specific training will be asked to sign a sheet saying they've reviewed it. Training will start in March.

#### Appeals Board to Hear Pit Expansion **Denial Cases**

(Lamoine) - It came as no surprise to anyone that the Planning Board decision regarding a plan to expand the Kittridge Gravel Pit by Harold MacQuinn, Inc., would be appealed to the town's Board of Appeals, no matter which way the Planning Board found. The attorney for MacQuinn filed the appeals in December for the gravel permit denial and in January for the Site Plan Review denial.

An initial hearing on the appeals was set for January 17, 2018, but a snowstorm postponed the meeting to a date to be announced later. The room will have attorneys take up a significant number of chairs, two of them representing town boards.

The Planning Board was guided through the process by Dan Pileggi, who has worked with the town on gravel matters for the past several years. Because of that representation, an attorney with a different law firm will be guiding the Board of Appeals. The Selectmen approved the Appeals Board request to utilize Diane O'Connell who has represented the town on a few other cases.

In addition, the MacQuinn group will continue to utilize Bangor attorney Ed Bearor and his firm. And a citizen's group called Friends of Lamoine was granted standing at the Planning Board level and was often represented by counsel.

The Appeals Board is expected to deal with a number of preliminary questions at the initial meeting in January, such as whether the appeals were filed on time, whether any members of the Appeals Board have a conflict of interest in the cases, whether the appellants have standing to file and appeal, and other basic questions of that nature. Should the Appeals Board find that all is in order, it will then try to schedule a hearing on the case and decide the format in which to conduct the hearing to gather evidence and make a ruling.

The Appeals Board process could take several months. Given the likelihood that whatever decision is made at the Board of Appeals level will displease one of the parties, the next stop would be Superior Court.

#### Planning Board OK's Cottage Location

(Lamoine) - A plan to tear down and rebuild a cottage along the Berry Cove waterfront on Latona Lane won location approval from the town's Planning Board. The existing cottage sits too close to the 100-foot setback mark required by the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, making it non-conforming. Dr. Timber Gorman proposed replacing the cottage with a similar size building, which is allowed with up to a maximum 30-percent increase in square footage and volume. To get

#### Land Use Ordinance Amendments in Progress

(Lamoine) - Planning Board chair John Holt is putting some finishing touches on language to amend the town's Building and Land Use Ordinance, mostly to clean up incorrect footnote references in the current ordinance. However, reviews of the proposed changes pointed out that some changes to road frontage and setback language also should be made to clarify just exactly what should be allowed.

permission the Planning Board must visit the location and make a determination that no other more practical location exists on which to site the building. That determination came in early January.

Local Plumbing Inspector Rebecca Albright approved a new septic permit with numerous variances after review by the state Department of Health and Human Services. She awaits final submission of a building plan that will not exceed the size restriction increase.

#### **Business Brisk for** New Code Officer

(Lamoine) - As one can tell from the list of permits issued for the last three months of year, newly appointed Code the Enforcement Officer Rebecca Albright's office has been busy. And issuing permits has been only a component of the job.

Several enforcement matters are works in progress, especially some of the restoration requirements for gravel pit With assistance from the owners. Planning Board, Albright has sent notices to Harold MacQuinn, Inc. about less than successful restoration efforts on a pair of licensed pits that are not in compliance with the applications approved several years ago. The problems have to do with a lack of revegetation. The so-called Asher and Jones pits will be given until late spring to come into compliance. Albright also issued permits to a Lamoine Beach Road property owner after he self-reported that buildings had been placed on his property without permits. Neither of the buildings were considered residential. Albright has set her office hours on Wednesdays from 8am to 4pm. Inspection requests and off-day inquiries can be made through the town office (667-2242) or by email to: <u>ceo@lamoine-me.gov</u>.

#### Annual Open Town Meeting March 7

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's annual town meeting will occur on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at the Lamoine Consolidated School Gym, with the official town business beginning at 6:00 PM. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Conservation Commission will hand out it's annual award, and the Board of Selectmen will unveil the Citizen of the Year for 2017.

At press time, the town meeting warrant was still a work in progress. The budget will comprise most of the items to be decided. Lamoine's Planning Board was still working on a proposed amendment to clean up language in the Building and Land Use Ordinance and possibly a new Shoreland Zoning Ordinance to bring the town into compliance with the state's mandated ordinance language.

The Board of Appeals has also been working on an ordinance to set up an appeals process common to all the appropriate town ordinances. And the Comprehensive Planning Committee is still working on a plan to finalize with the town. It is doubtful that any of the ordinances that are in progress will be ready for the annual town meeting vote and instead may be dealt with at the town meeting that sets the school budget, most likely sometime in May.

More discussion about the town budget is on page 4.

#### Condo Filing Questioned

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Planning Board chair and Code Enforcement Officer have questioned a recent filing at the Hancock County Registry of deeds as possibly violating the town's Subdivision rules in the Building and Land Use Ordinance. Attorney Diane O'Connell is looking into the matter on behalf of the town.

At issue is a 1.7 acre parcel jointly owned by various corporations which are owned by four siblings. Four buildings constructed years ago sit on the parcel served by Lupine Lane.

The condominium filing at the Registry of Deeds in 2017 appears to have broken the parcel into 4-land lots, each with its own building. Under town ordinance (and state law) this would most likely constitute a subdivision.

Under the current ordinance, all structures must be set back at least 50-feet from a road right-of-way. The trouble with that is that the rights of way are not easily found. The fallback requirement has been a 75-foot setback from the center of a road, but that is not spelled out in the ordinance.

It has been questioned whether the setback requirement should apply to nonpublic roads, and just how should various roads, driveways, private ways and the like should be defined.

The Planning Board held a hearing in early January to get public input on the matter. No one testified. It is not likely that anything will be ready for action by the annual March town meeting.

The family had approached the Planning Board a couple of years ago with the plan, and as it was formulated at that time, the Planning Board indicated that no subdivision approval was required. The Board said it believed that the entire land parcel would remain under the same ownership and only the buildings would be subject to different owners.

Planning Board chair John Holt had questioned the condo filing and Attorney O'Connell reviewed the 48page document and discussed it with the It is likely an family's attorneys. amended filing will put the land back in common ownership and only the fall will buildings under the condominium agreement.

#### **Record Year for Excise Taxes**

(Lamoine) - Excise tax collections for Lamoine during 2017 shattered town records, helping to keep property taxes lower for future years. We know the tax and how it's charged is not always popular, especially with folks who purchase brand new vehicles.

During 2017, the town collected \$393,612.81 in excise tax. That eclipses the 2016 collection by more than \$66,000.

There are a couple of factors that come into play. During 2017, the town picked up two significant truck fleets; the Emera trucks based at their maintenance facility on Jordan River Road, and the Lobster 207 fleet based on Seal Point Road. The town processed about 150 more registrations than the previous year, and 120 brand new vehicle registrations which brought in more than \$85,000 in excise taxes.

Selectmen review the excise tax report every quarter. The increased collection estimate is entered into next year's budget calculation, allowing for less property tax to be needed to fund the town budget.

#### No Takers for Assessor's Seat

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's three member elected Board of Assessors has operated for the past several months with just two members following the resignation of Michael Jordan in 2017. That seat is up for election in March 2018, but no one turned in presentation by Mark King, head of the nomination papers to be placed on the town Sustainability Division at the Maine meeting election ballot. That potentially Department of Environmental Protection means that a write-in candidate would be elected to the three year term to join current assessors Jane Fowler and Terry Towne.

The Assessors decide on property value questions, process property sales to

make sure the right owners are assessed the property taxes in the right year, and produce the annual property tax commitment, usually in mid-July so that the town can send out the tax bills that provide the revenue to run town operations. In addition to the routine work, assessors decide on property tax abatement questions, make sure property enrolled in special valuation categories such as Tree Growth and Farmland continue to meet the state requirements for the tax breaks. Anyone interested in the job is encouraged to contact Mrs. Fowler or Mr. Towne to learn more about the elected position.

#### Proposed Town Budget Increase

(Lamoine) - The municipal budget account to cover the proposed for the annual open town bulk of that cost.

#### Annual Audit Shows Town Fiscally Strong

(Lamoine) - The year spanning July 2016 through June 2017 was a very strong one for Lamoine. A significant increase in excise tax revenues (see article this page), and expenditures that came in well under budget combined to give the town a very healthy surplus account at the end of the fiscal year.

CPA James Wadman's firm delivered the annual audit in early January, showing the town with just over \$576,000 in the undesignated fund balance account Voters appropriated \$97,500 (surplus). from that account for the current fiscal year operations. Years ago the Selectmen and Budget Committee set a \$300,000 surplus goal. The Selectmen have proposed using \$170,000 from surplus to

help fund the FY 2018/19 budget.

The undesignated fund balance figure doesn't reflect the money the town has in the bank. As of June 30th, the town had nearly \$82,000 in the checking account and \$1.25 million in an investment account to keep operations going. Roughly \$646,000 was dedicated to the education fund.

The audit report indicated no material deficiencies in the towns financial record keeping system. The audit firm reported that no disagreements were noted between the town and the audit form in how the audit is presented, and most importantly that all transactions tested were backed up with documentation.

#### Home Composting Encouraged

#### By Larissa Thomas

(Lamoine) The Transfer Station is not the ideal destination for your kitchen scraps. We all have the ability to produce rich, healthy compost to fertilize our gardens or process lawns. The natural of decomposition provides a free and easy means of turning vegetable peels, fruit rinds, all manner of trimmings, coffee grounds, and leftovers-basically all the refuse from your kitchen-into a valuable soil additive. But some ways of producing compost are more efficient and effective than others. The Lamoine Conservation Commission (LCC) recently hosted a (DEP). King's Mr. presentation, "Composting in Your Backyard," is posted on the town's website The presentation covers municipal composting programs,

school composting projects, as well as backyard composting techniques feasible for any household.

The Maine DEP has designed a simple compost bin made of lobster trap wire, as seen in Mr. King's composting presentation and pictured below. Now would be a good time to consider implementing your own backyard composting program. The LCC is taking orders for DEP-style compost bins. They are available in 3- and 4-foot heights. Prices range from \$40-\$70 depending on size and whether a cover is desired. Some members of the LCC have been using them for the past year and have found them to be very efficient and more user friendly than other bins they have used. To discuss options and prices, and to place orders, please call Doug Stewart at 667-5607.



meeting in March 2018 will exceed \$1million dollars in expenditures for the first time in town history. The impact on property taxes, though, should be relatively minimal.

The Budget Committee left open recommendations on road maintenance and solid waste, depending on the outcome of contract bids pending before the Board of Selectmen in early January. The Committee has recommended spending \$1,003,453 for non school and county expenses, up \$17,024 from the current fiscal year (1.73%). The largest increase is for a one-time expenditure to purchase a used ladder truck for the fire Instead of financing the department. purchase over a 5-year period, it was proposed to utilize the towns fund balance

Other sizable budget increases included solid waste (transportation and recycling costs were up), Code Enforcement

(funding for more hours from the new Enforcement Code Officer), and Administration (legal fees, salaries and insurance increases).

The fire department operating budget is down slightly, as is the cost of paving. The town plans to pave Seal Point Road with a shorter mileage than was paved during 2017 on Shore Road and Mill Road.

While the expense increases were not appreciably higher over all, the amount of non property tax revenue is down a bit.

Lobster Trap Wire Compost Bins (Mark King, Maine DEP)

For the current fiscal year, the town utilized a large chunk of money from the road fund to cover the aforementioned paving costs. Overall, \$19,480 less in non-property tax revenue is proposed for the upcoming budget. The net increase in property tax required is roughly \$36,500 to fund the municipal budget. That is just over one-tenth of a mill on the property tax rate, or roughly \$27.00 on a tax bill for a property valued at \$200,000. The school budget is not included in the calculations as those figures are not yet available.

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#### Fire Calls Hit Record High in 2017

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's fire department responded to a total of 92 calls for help during 2017, including 25 calls in the final three months of the year. The number of runs for the year eclipsed the previous record of 73 set in 2016.

Five of the responses came on October 30, 2017 when a serious wind storm hit Maine, cutting power to more than a half million homes across the state. Lamoine was not spared as some residents went without power for about 5-days as the wind and rain uprooted trees and brought down power lines. From a road standpoint, the town fared pretty well. Firefighters helped remove trees from Douglas Highway, Shore Road and Rabbit Run if they were blocking the road and not involved with power lines. When lines are involved, the department would place cones in the road to mark those spots for eventual response from Emera Maine.

Contractor Richard McMullen's crew cut other trees that impacted road ways and chipped up branches alongside roads, and the total damage cost was less than \$1,000 for the cleanup. The federal government declared Hancock County a disaster area from that storm, and the town filed an initial damage report, but it's unlikely there will be any federal reimbursement because of the minor costs involved.

The fire department also responded to three building fires, all of them in mutual aid towns. The most serious was in Bar Harbor where three trucks and crews responded to Salisbury Cove to a house fire. Interior firefighters helped to extinguish the blaze while Lamoine's tanker truck was part of the water shuttle to the fire ground.

A couple days later, a chimney fire

#### Comp Planning Goals Take Shape

#### By Fred Stocking

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Comprehensive Plan Committee spent much of the fall season working on setting out a Vision Statement, and Goals, Policies and Strategies for the new Comprehensive Plan.

These can be found on the Town's Comprehensive Planning, website: materials of interest, 2017 Community Meeting Vision (shorter) and 2017 Community Meeting Goals Strategy (longer). The documents, and additional material and fascinating maps festooned the school gym walls on November 18 for a Comprehensive Plan Open House. The easiest way to review the material and let us know your thoughts and opinions is to take the online survey, the link to which is on the Bulletin Board portion of the Town website. The Vision Statement, Goals Policies and Strategies are set out in the survey with places for feedback, both "like/don't like" and room for comments and concerns. The survey will remain online until January 15<sup>th</sup>. The Comprehensive Plan Committee will review the survey results and feedback at its meeting of January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

on Mill Road proved to be a stubborn one to extinguish. Combined with a very small fire crew during the daytime response, it took well over an hour to break through the creosote that clogged the chimney and caught fire while a wood stove operated. No significant damage occurred and no one was hurt.

The fire department was first on scene to a pair of medical assist calls that required CPR. Sadly, neither patient survived, though a who became man unresponsive in the back seat of a vehicle that stopped in the parking lot at the Lamoine Town Hall was revived after the ambulance crew administered Narcan while firefighters continued CPR.

Quick responses to a pair of in-town fires are credited with saving further destruction. On October 20th, during a very dry spell, a woods fire broke out on Buttermilk Road just as a firefighter was entering the

station. A crew was on scene within 5minutes and knocked down the flames that were spreading further into the woods. A tree that blew onto a power line and caught fire then fell to the ground is believed to have started that blaze.

The other fast response was for a vehicle fire on Jaycee Drive on November 1st. The van was ablaze when fire trucks arrived but quickly extinguished before it could spread to nearby buildings.

#### Tax Reform Bill Increases Property Tax Collection 2nd Half Payment Due 2/28/18

(Lamoine) - The tax reform bill approved by Congress in December 2017 proved to have a positive impact on cash flow for town property tax collections. The tax collector's office received \$99,279 in property tax payments during December compared to \$64,366 the previous year, a 54% increase in payments. Part of the tax reform bill limits deductions for property taxes to \$10,000, and while less than a half dozen properties in town are valued high enough to generate a \$10,000 bill, many early payers own property in other states and looked to take advantage of the deduction. A reminder that the second half of the property taxes is due without penalty no later than February 28, 2018. The first half was due on August 31, 2017, and well over 50% of the property taxes have been paid by the end December 2017. The town office will NOT be sending out post card reminders this year of the second half due date. If you've misplaced the tax bill mailed last July with the 2nd half amount, please feel free to contact the town office at 207-667-2242 and we can e-mail the tax bill or give the amount over the telephone.



The October 30th wind storm took its toll on at least two vehicles, including this one on Lamoine Beach Road, which also tore the electrical entrance from the home. No one was injured when the tree fell.

#### Former Selectman Gary Stanley Passes

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen and many others sent condolences to the family of former Selectman Gary Stanley who died suddenly on November 27, 2017 at his home at the age of 67. His wife and children were most kind to designate the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department for donations in his memory, and more than \$2,500 has come in from across the country.

Stanley was a former firefighter and served a term as Selectmen starting in 1987. He was retired from Bangor Hydro Electric where he planned out electrical service for countless customers and laid out rights of way for power lines and poles. He's survived by his wife Kathy, and children Tyler, Emma and Maggie. Shortly after his passing, Emma's picture appeared on the front page of the Bangor Daily News as she played trumpet in Downtown Portland during the holiday season.

#### Stray Animal Contracts Renewed

Please check them out and let us know what you think.

(Lamoine) - The town's animal control officer will continue to have options on where to bring stray animals. Selectmen have renewed contracts with both the Small Animal Clinic in Ellsworth and the SPCA in Trenton to house stray animals. Both facilities charge a similar fee for such services. If the animal is not claimed, the SPCA will work to adopt the animal after a certain date.

The town has utilized its Facebook page on numerous occasions to post that stray animals have found with a success rate in excess of 75% in matching up the animal with the owner.

#### Snow Plowing Contract Awarded McMullen to remain plow contractor for five years



Snow plowing contractor Richard McMullen (in the cab) moves back the large piles that accumulated at the town office in early January, 2018

(Lamoine) - There was a lot of unspoken relief at a Selectmen's meeting in early January that ironically had to be rescheduled due to snow. The Board, as required by ordinance, put out the snow plowing contract for the next five years, knowing full well that any contractor had the right to bid on the job, even though the town was very satisfied with McMullen Landscape and Construction. The bid package was dutifully mailed to other contractors in the area, advertised on the town's website and in the newspaper.

Two bids came in. Both were from McMullen. One proposed use of salt only to treat roads, the other was to continue using a mixture of salt and sand to treat the No other companies submitted roads. bids.

Selectmen opted to continue with

McMullen's combination of salt and sand, as the salt only bid was \$20,000 per year higher. Owner Richard McMullen said he believed he would use significantly more salt if it was not combined with sand. He did say straight salt is more effective at cleaning up the roads, but it requires more of the expensive salt to do so.

The new contract will remain at the same price as the current year's contract for the first three years, and then increase to \$120,000 (up \$5,000) for the final two years of the agreement.

Selectman Bob Christie said as the board voted unanimously to award the bid that McMullen has done an excellent job of taking care of the town roads in the winter, caring for the townspeople with the effort. A final contract is expected in February.

#### New Members, Chair on Rec Committee

(Lamoine) - After some growing pains with the fall soccer program, some new have joined Lamoine's members Recreation Committee. Amanda Frost who works at the Lamoine Consolidated School, has agreed to chair the committee, taking over the post from Greg Stone who was the original chair when the committee formed a couple of years ago. Stone

remains on the committee and eagerly handed over the job to Frost. Nikki Chan, the curriculum coordinator for RSU 24, has also joined the committee. She and her husband helped to coach the soccer program in the fall of 2017. Selectmen also Michelle Stoll as an alternate committee member, and accepted the resignation of Sharon Smythe as an alternate.

## New Transfer Station Sign Awaits Install

(Lamoine) - The sign that marks the location of Lamoine's Transfer Station on Lamoine Beach Road is about



## Trash Transport, **Recycling Bids In**

(Lamoine) - Selectmen have opened the bids for a pair of contracts involving the transfer station beginning on April 1, 2018 when the town begins a new disposal contract with the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC). One contract involves supplying the trash dumpsters and transportation of the trash to PERC. The other is to supply a recycling program.

The transportation request for proposals drew just two bidders. Casella Waste (the current contractor) was the apparent low bidder, more than \$157,000 less over a 4.25 year period than the other bidder, Mark Wright Disposal based in Washington County. It's expected the Selectmen will award that bid in late January.

The recycling contract is a little trickier. Three companies (Casella, and EcoMaine) submitted Wright proposals for a recycling program based at the Lamoine Transfer Station. Casella is the current contractor, hauling cardboard, #2 plastic, newspaper and tin to Coastal Recycling in Hancock where it is processed and sold. In one bid, Casella proposed to continue that program at a cost lower than the same company's proposal for a no-sort program by a significant amount. EcoMaine submitted the lower cost bid for a no-sort program which would expand the amount of material that can be recycled, most significantly in the plastics realm. The cost over 4.25 years for that was a little over \$20,000 more than Casella. The Wright proposal would utilize Casella's zero sort center in Old Town and cost significantly more than the other zero sort proposals.

The current program has a modest amount of revenue returned to the town by the Maine Resource Recovery Association which brokers the sales of recycled material from Coastal Recycling. That figured has varied depending on the markets, but reduces the cost to recycle.

Selectmen will have to weigh economically whether it's and environmentally responsible to continue with the current program or to switch to a no-sort, expanded materials program.

Mud Creek Road Paving Planned

25-years old now. Time and weather (and a little mold) have combined to make it a bit on the shabby side.

The new electronic sign at the town hall came in well under budget, and Selectmen agreed that it was time to spruce up the venerable sign the town had made by a

local sign maker in 1993. It was modified by sticking on numbers when the hours changed, but they didn't match up exactly with the original number size. They called upon Ellsworth Fire Department Deputy Chief Gary Saunders who operates a sign making business and made the wooden sign at the town hall a few years ago, and for less than \$500 he has replaced the old sign with a shiny new

The current transfer station sign in November 2017

one with vinyl lettering. It will read just about the same, but is made of a PVC white board which should stand up even better to the weather.

The trick will be installing it. Facilities Maintenance Director Rick Gallegos will place it most likely after the snow is gone sometime this spring. The new sign is currently in storage.

(Lamoine) - Maine's Department of Transportation has informed the town that they plan to repave Mud Creek Road sometime during the summer months of 2018. Last year, MDOT crews spent weeks digging out ditches and replacing culverts, greatly improving the road drainage under the heavily traveled road which serves as a shortcut between Route 1 in Hancock and Route 3 in Trenton. The notice asked for feedback from the community, and town officials notified the DOT that a park may be in the works at the "S" curves over Mud Creek. If that comes to fruition, the park may require an entrance onto the state highway. An exact paving date is not yet finalized.

#### Gift Cards Donated to Shelter

(Lamoine) - No one came forward to claim seven Dunkin Donuts gift cards left at the town office for the Planning Board and turned over to the Selectmen last summer. After nearly 5-months of sitting in an office, the Board of Selectmen decided, unanimously, to donate the cards to *The Next Step* Domestic Violence program.

The program director sent a very nice thank-you letter following receipt, saying that such donations help tremendously with people needing assistance with situations that they handle.

The Planning Board had determined that the donated cards would not be appropriate to receive, as it would create a perception in regard to a permit that was before the panel.

*By Barbara Bland, Secretary* (Lamoine) - This year marked 70 years that Charles Linwood Brann has been a member of the Lamoine-Bayside Grange. He joined the Lamoine Grange in 1947 when he was 14 years old. He was celebrated for this accomplishment at the grange meeting on November 15, 2017. After a pot luck supper Linwood was presented with a cake and his certificate. Linwood has been and continues to be an active member of the grange and it was an honor to commend this achievement.

The grange continues to be active within the community

#### Town's 150th Just Two Years Away

#### By Gordon Donaldson

(Lamoine) - Our "Lamoine 150" Committee is looking for help keeping the public informed about the Town's 150th Anniversary activities. We need someone to share information with the town about plans for the year-long celebration culminating in 2020. He or she should be able to use (or learn) multiple communication methods -- print, digital, recording, video. We meet monthly (so there's not a lot to communicate right now), but will be ramping up our efforts over the next year (so there will be more for our "public info person" to do!).

Interested? Or know someone who'd be good? Contact Jo Cooper - email (jcooper@friendsinactionellsworth.org) or Cynthia Donaldson via e-mail (cgdonaldson@myfairpoint.net). 150 Years Ago ... Did You Know??? News From Lamoine, December 22, 1870

\* The following is a list of porkers slaughtered at Partridge's Cove the present season.

- A. W. Gilpatrick's 14 mos. Old 400 lbs.
- S. N. Eaton's 14 mos. Old 463 lbs.
- H. H. Eaton's, 14 mos. 360 lbs.
- H. S. Bartlett's, 14 mos. 560 lbs.
- T. Springer's 7 mos 325 lbs.
- J. S. McFarland's 14 mos. 540 lbs.
- John Tripp's 15 mos. 566 lbs.
- G. F. Brooks 7 mos. 300 lbs.

\* Arrived at East Lamoine, Schooner "Emeline Smith" from Boston, with freight for H. S. Boynton [H. S. Boynton's store was on Rte 184 near the East Lamoine Meeting House)

\* I.N. Salsbury & Co. of Lamoine, in their mill at Partridge's Cove, have sawed the past year, 700 M. staves, 250 M. long lumber, 60 M. herring boxes, and manufactured 1000 barrels. This mill is a tide mill so situated that vessels come to the wharf, directly below the mill, to load. They have not yet hauled lumber more than a mile for their mill.

This rocking chair was rescued from the Swap Shop at the Transfer Station

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#### Voter Turnout High for November Election

(Lamoine) - Selectman Nathan Mason credited the new sign which announced that the polls were open all day, but for an election without candidates and no local matters to discuss, Lamoine residents flocked to the polls in November to decide four statewide referendum questions. When the ballots were tallied, just about 40% of the registered voters in town had cast a ballot. There were 585 ballots placed into the tabulation machine, and only a

few ballots were cast by absentee vote.

Lamoine's results mirrored those of the state. By a wide margin, the town rejected a proposal for a third casino in Maine, but favored expanding Medicaid coverage, bonding for highway repairs, and changing the constitution to deal with how state pensions are calculated.

#### Rocker Source Sought



Brann Honored for 70-Years as Granger



Michelle Stoll gets a helping hand from her youngest as she voted at the town hall in November

(Lamoine) - Walker Road resident Alida Liberty is trying to track down where a rocking chair originated that she acquired from the swap shop at the Lamoine Transfer Station. Ms. Liberty writes:

"One Saturday 2 years ago while making my visit to the transfer station, I came upon this rocking chair, that I immediately fell in love with and thought what a great project to refinish.

Well, after spending some time studying this chair, the chair and I "bonded", and instead of refinishing the chair, I decided that I would invite the chair to be placed on the apex of my property, around my firepit – where "she could engage in silent conversation!"

I feel the presence of the person/persons who have rocked in that chair, and one cannot dismiss the many thoughts that have been absorbed into the wood.

I feel I need to know more.....if anyone has any knowledge of whomever may have owned this beautiful chair, I would love to invite you over, sit with "us," and "tell the rest of the story!"

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# January 2018–Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1—Town Office Closed (New Year's Day)	2—8AM Tech Cmte 6PM Budget Cmte	3	4—6:30 PM Rec Cmte 7PM—Selectmen	5—Nomination Papers Due	6-Town Office Open 8-12
7	8—7PM Planning Board	9	10—7PM Conservation Cmsn	11	12	13
14	15—Town Office Closed (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day)	16	17—5:30 PM Lamoine 150! 7PM Board of Appeals	18—7PM Board of Selectmen	19	20
21	22-6PM Parks Commission	23	24	25—6:30 PM Comprehensive Planning	26	27—Town Office Open 8-12
28	29	30	31			

#### February 2018–Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1– 6:30 PM Recreation Cmte. 7PM Board of Selectmen	2—Absentee Ballots (town meeting) available	3—Town Office Open 8-12
4	5—7PM Planning Board	6	7—8am Board of Assessors	8	9	10
11	12	13	14—7PM Conservation Cmsn.	15—7PM Board of Selectmen	16	17
18	19—Town Office Closed (President's Day)	20	21—5:30 PM Lamoine 150! 7PM Regional Shellfishing	22	23	24—Town Office Open 8-12
25	26	27	28			

# March 2018–Lamoine Schedule

Sun	Mon	Tue	wea	Inu	Frl	Sat
	will be closed at lunch on N ve Assistant will be out of th		through March 28 as	1—6:30 PM Recreation Cmte 7PM Board of Selectmen	2	3—Town Office Open 8-12
4	5-7PM Planning Board	6-8am to 8pm Municipal Election Day	7—8am Board of Assessors 6PM Annual Town Meeting	8	9	10
11	12	13	14—7PM Conservation Commission	15—7PM Board of Selectmen	16	17
18	19	20	21—5:30 PM Lamoine 150! 7PM Regional Shellfishing	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31—Town Office Open 8-12

The Lamoine Quarterly January 2018

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Town of Lamoine 606 Douglas Highway Lamoine, ME 04605

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