

# ◆ The Lamoine Quarterly ◆

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## School Renovations Out To Bid

*Vote to Increase Bond Passes Handily*

(Lamoine) - There was no organized opposition to a re-vote on the school renovation bond question that passed in late January. Of the 333 ballots cast, two-thirds (248) favored the new bond. That means the town can borrow up to \$926,000 to proceed with a major renovation project at the Lamoine Consolidated School. Of that amount, the town will only have to pay back up to \$648,200—the rest will be forgiven by the State of Maine under the terms of the revolving renovation grant program to fix up aging schools.

Oak Point Associates, an architectural firm from Biddeford, drew the design for the renovation work, and the project went out to bid in early March. The bids were to be opened in late March, reviewed by school department personnel, and awarded in April.

As explained in the January 2008 edition of the *Lamoine Quarterly*, the

original bond approved in January 2007 was not enough to cover the scope of the projects. The renovations include roof upgrades, a new septic system, a new heating system, new plumbing and new wiring.

Work will begin in earnest once school lets out in June. School officials are working with teachers to figure out how to coordinate the clearing of classrooms to make room for the renovation work.

It's expected that much of the interior renovation will be completed by the end of August when school is scheduled to reopen. The project must be essentially complete by the end of December according to the terms of the state funding.

The project does not include any new classrooms or gym. A bond for those items was rejected in January 2007.



*Jennifer Liebermann places her ballot in the official ballot box while her son Max and daughter Sophia look on.*

## Special Town Meeting for School

(Lamoine) - The School Committee and Selectmen have agreed the open town meeting to deal with the 2008/09 school budget will be May 21, 2008 at 6PM at the Lamoine School. By State law, the town must hold a referendum to validate the action taken at the open town meeting, and that will take place on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 from 10AM to 8PM at the town office. Absentee balloting on the referendum will not be possible until after the May 21st meeting. School budget items are not on the April 2nd town meeting warrant.

## State to Slash Aid to Education in Lamoine

(Lamoine) - It appears the state plans to balance its budget on the backs of property taxpayers, and the hurt could be big in Lamoine. Union 92 Superintendent James Boothby received word just before the March 2008 school board meeting that approximately \$260,000 would be cut from the Essential Programs and Services General Purpose Aid (EPS/GPA) program. That represents an approximate 60% cut in money the town receives from the state to fund its school system.

The Maine Legislature has been dealing with an approximately \$190-million dollar gap between projected revenues and budgeted expenses, and several cuts proposed by Governor John Baldacci will have impacts on municipal budgets across the state. The other factors in Lamoine's education revenue cut from the State are student enrollment, which has fallen in the past few years, and property valuation which has shown significant increases. Most of the communities in School Union 92 are experiencing similar cuts in State aid.

Lamoine's School Committee worked up an initial budget that was presented to the town's Budget Committee in February. The committee was only able to review the expenditure side of the budget, which contained some significant changes. Among the plans by the school committee are a reduction in the number of hours the Principal will work. Val Perkins has agreed to work a 4-day week. The school nurse would be contracted for just one day per week under the budget initially proposed for 2008/09, and the librarian's hours would be reduced.

Because the State revenue figures were not available in February, the budget

was considered to be preliminary. School board members plan to review the budget before final submission to the town.

## Utility Charges Ahead with Pole, Line Construction

(Lamoine) - A power line construction company has cleared the land and installed poles and some wires as a major transmission line works its way from Hancock to Trenton. A swath of woods was carved out between Douglas Highway (Route 184) and Buttermilk Road, and poles went up in early March.

The project is designed to provide more reliable electric power for Mt. Desert Island by Bangor Hydro Electric. Currently the electrical needs for MDI are supplemented from time to time by diesel powered generators located on Route 233. The total power line route is 14-miles long, and construction is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The utility company spent well over a year obtaining local construction permits and certificates from several state regulatory agencies before it could begin construction on the project. One of the stipulations in the permitting grants from



*Crews from 3 Phase Line Construction work on the new transmission line cutting through North Lamoine*

Lamoine was that vegetation in areas over the aquifer is to be controlled by cutting instead of by application of herbicides.

Bangor Hydro completed several pieces of land acquisition to make room for the 115-kilovolt power line, including purchase of one residential home and all the lots in a subdivision off Douglas Highway. It's not yet clear what will happen with those properties once construction of the new power line is completed.

## Selectmen, Car Dealer Reach Agreement

(Lamoine) - After nearly 3 months of investigation negotiation and debate, Selectmen have closed the book on where vehicles can be displayed at a Jordan River Road car dealer's lot. All parties signed a consent agreement in late January requiring vehicles to be set back at least 45-feet from the center line of the road.



*Vehicles displayed for sale at Bradford's Auto Sales on Jordan River Road sat 40-feet back from the center line in late 2007*

The case began in September of 2007 when Selectman Jo Cooper inquired about the required placement of the vehicles. Cooper said she had wondered about many vehicles being parked very close to Jordan River Road. When the Planning Board issued a commercial building permit for a repair garage on the property in 1995, it placed a stipulation that vehicles must be set back 100-feet. Apparently that message was not communicated to business owners Clifton

## Comp Plan Update Unlikely Soon

(Lamoine) - A victim of state budget cutting may delay an update of Lamoine's Comprehensive Plan. Governor John Baldacci's series of budget cuts eliminated the State Planning Office grant program for the coming year.

Lamoine's Planning Board urged the Selectmen to look into upgrading the plan approved in 1996 as it is now 12-years old, and could use more specifics. Without the grant program, it's unlikely the town will proceed due to the cost.

## Permit Business Slows

(Lamoine) - What a difference in a year. By mid-March last year, Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Ford had issued 9 permits, including four residences. So far this year:

- | #  | Name            | Type      |
|----|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. | Frederick Cahn  | Garage    |
| 2. | Jim Leavitt     | Residence |
| 3. | David Sanderson | Addition  |
| 4. | James Donnelly  | Wood Shed |

**2007 permit not listed in last Quarterly:**  
59. Bret Tallent Residence

Bradford and Margaret DeLuca at the time, as neither attended the public hearing and action meeting. The inquiry by Mrs. Cooper was referred to the Code Enforcement Officer who reported back to the Selectmen and neither side was inclined to take action. The Planning Board got a copy of the inquiry and pressed for compliance with the 1995 permit, and a lengthy investigation began. Several lengthy Selectmen meetings devoted hours to the topic. The Selectmen agreed that the 100-foot setback requirement in the 1995 ordinance applied to permanent structures, not the display of automobiles. Some on the split board expressed sentiment about backing the decision of the Planning Board 12-years earlier. Had the requirement been interpreted to set the vehicles back 100-feet from the center line of Jordan River Road, Mr. Bradford and Ms. Deluca's cars would have been located out of site and behind the garage he was permitted to build.

In the end, the Selectmen agreed to allow Bradford Auto to display the vehicles no closer than 45-feet from the center of Jordan River Road. Ms. Deluca testified that setting the vehicles further back would negatively impact operations at their business. In addition to the compromise, there was significant discussion about how to properly follow the written complaint policy recently passed by the Selectmen.

## Appeals Board Organizes

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Board of Appeals met for the first time in nearly 2-years in early February to select officers in case action is needed. Griff Fenton was selected as the Board Chairman. Nicholas Pappas was selected as the Vice Chairman. Stu Marckoon agreed to continue to serve as the Board Secretary, though not an appointed voting board member.

The Board last met in August, 2006 to finalize its findings in a case involving a Meadow Point Road property owner who build a cabin too close to the shore. Joining the Appeals Board are alternate member Merle Bragdon and full voting member James Crotteau. Mr. Bragdon replaces Warren Craft who left the board. Mr. Crotteau, replaces Chris Tadema-Wielandt who was elected to the Board of Selectmen

## Walker Road Family Proposes Seafood Shop

(Lamoine) - A public hearing is set for April 8, 2008 at 6:30 PM at the Lamoine Town Hall on a commercial venture proposal submitted by John & Lynne Karst of the Walker Road. The Karsts propose to erect a small stand and sell fresh seafood during the summer from the same property where they live.

The Karsts do not intend to make

## Planning Board Rejects Subdivision Proposal

(Lamoine) - A Massachusetts based developer who proposed to turn a large section of shorefront along the Jordan River into a residential subdivision failed to win approval from the Lamoine Planning Board. Sno-Drum LLC had proposed a 7-lot subdivision with the entrance off Shore Road adjacent to Lamoine Corner.

Neighbors testified at the public hearing in January that the proposed entrance was not safe because it would force vehicles turning onto the subdivision road to swing into the oncoming side of the road to make the turn. The road configuration also did not meet the entrance requirements of the Site Plan Review Ordinance.

The Building and Land Use Ordinance gives applicants who are denied a 30-day window to file an appeal. No appeal application was received at the town hall, so the proposal that was originally submitted in 2005 is apparently a moot issue for now.

## Subdivision Proposed on Raccoon Cove

(Lamoine) - Ellsworth developer Steve Joy and his daughter Rebecca have applied to the Planning Board to subdivide another piece of property into 11 residential lots on the end of Pasture Way. The pre-application for the subdivision was received by the Board in February and deemed complete enough to warrant a site visit. The Board awaits the full application and related material for a completeness review.

During preliminary investigations, it has been revealed that a pair of nesting bald eagles may be located on the land proposed for subdivision. While a complication in regard to the construction season, eagle nests have not been a project killer.

Another issue also arose during the site visit, and that was a desire to bar the general public from private property during the visit. The Planning Board sought advice from lawyers with Maine Municipal Association who say that if the developer wishes to bar the public, the site visit should stop.

any new entrance onto the Walker Road, and their driveway is configured in a manner that makes turning around easy.

Mr. Karst was previously approved for a kennel supply business at his home but has stopped that operation. Neighbors were sent certified letters in March notifying them of the application and pending public hearing.

## Winter Weather Batters Roads, Nerves, Salt Supply

(Lamoine) - The official answer to the most oft asked question around town was "March 20th". The question, of course, was "Will this winter ever end?" Storm after storm has dumped snow and other varying forms of precipitation on the state in record amounts. Traveling has been downright dangerous at times. The frost heaves have taken on gigantic proportions. Even the refurbished section of Routes 204 and 184 have frost heaves on what had been a smooth ride for a couple of years.

While a lot of towns have run into serious funding problems for winter road maintenance, Lamoine operates on a set-price contract with Nankervis Trucking. Some years the contractor makes out well, such as last year. This year, the company has been out more than 3-times as often to remove snow, ice, and slush and to sand the slippery roads.

At one point in late February, the contractor called the town office to inform staff that they were out of salt, had ordered some a few weeks earlier, but that no shipment seemed to be forthcoming. The situation was similar to what was experienced by nearly every town in Maine and by the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT). Thankfully,

minutes later, the truck driver from the salt supplier in New Brunswick called to ask directions for the delivery. The supply was adequate to get through March, as was the amount of sand stored in the town's new salt/sand storage shed.



**Look Out Ahead—Behind—All Over**  
A compact car has to slow significantly near the entrance of Latona Lane onto Route 184 (Lamoine Beach Road). Frost heaves and sink holes have abounded this winter.

Heavy rains hit in early March, and that caused some minor washouts on Cos Cob Avenue, Clamshell Alley, Asa's Lane and Buttermilk Road. Contractors were contacted to fix up the shoulders that experienced the severe erosion. Unlike the late winter of 2007, no significant flooding problems were reported.

The locally maintained roads held up fairly well, though the heavily traveled Buttermilk Road had some tough frost heaves in several areas.

## Town Sets State Road Work Priorities

(Lamoine) - Every two years the Maine DOT asks municipalities what roads the state should fix up. There are plenty of candidates, and Lamoine is no exception. Selectmen identified four projects they'd like to see addressed right away. The top priority was Route 184 (Douglas Highway) from US Route 1 in Ellsworth to the intersection with Route 204 by the town hall. The road was resurfaced in the summer of 2006, and already the pot holes and frost heaves have pretty much destroyed the integrity of the road. A heavy paving job that had been promised never materialized. The 2nd priority was work on Pinkhams Flats and Partridge Cove Road (Route 204). The road is badly out of shape, the shoulders have eroded in many areas, and it too should be rebuilt or at least heavily paved. Mud Creek Road is in the same shape. A frost heave just east of Raccoon Cove Road on Route 204 was requested to be repaired. And the section of Route 184 from Latona Lane (see picture above) needs work too.

The Lamoine Conservation Commission is once again offering compost bins and pails and a "wing-digger" for sale.



## Compost Bin Orders Due April 4th

(Lamoine) - Lamoine's Conservation Commission is selling backyard composting bins in time for summer composting. The Earth Machines are selling for \$42.50 each (tax included). Scrap pails are \$10.00 each, and a new offering this year called the "Wing Digger" sells for \$16.40. Order

## Students GET WET for Water Quality Presentation

By Carol Korty

(Lamoine) - The drinking water testing project initiated by Lamoine's Conservation Commission has been up and running for three years now. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in our Consolidated School have learned how to test water samples brought from home for nitrates, chloride, iron, pH, hardness, and conductivity. Five students reported on the process at a public meeting March 12<sup>th</sup> held in our school's gymnasium. Ellsworth High School students involved in the same program, reported on the results of data recorded from this testing. Everyone is pleased to note that the tested drinking water in Lamoine and Ellsworth is free of unhealthy contaminants. It is important to continue yearly monitoring of our drinking water resource; early detection of a problem will enable us to identify and correct it long before a crisis develops.

The GET WET! (Groundwater Education through Water Evaluation and Testing) curriculum, developed by the Mitchell Center for Environment and Watershed Research at the University of Maine, has generated considerable interest in scientific circles. Plans are afoot to expand its use throughout Maine schools as well as in Massachusetts and New York State. Just think: it all started here in Lamoine! A sizeable crowd listened to the presentation at the school, and the program was recorded and aired on Lamoine Cable TV Channel 7.



**Getting Wet**  
Ivy Wallace (center) demonstrates the water collection process while fellow students Madison Brown, Emily Rose and Austin Treadwell look on. Karla Butler also took part in the presentation.  
(from Lamoine Cable TV channel 7)

forms are available at the town office or from the town's website (www.lamoine-me.gov). Several orders have been received already. The deadline to order bins is April 4, 2008. Pickup is May 10th at the transfers station. For more information—664-0444.

## Petitioners Ask for Reconsideration on Secret Ballot Referendum Petitions

(Lamoine) - Selectmen tabled a request from resident Robert Sharkey that the Board reconsider its rejection of a petition requesting a vote on an ordinance that would require all town meeting votes be taken by secret ballot referendum. The matter will be discussed when all five members of the board are present, presumably after the April 1, 2008 election.

Last fall Selectmen unanimously rejected a petitioned request signed by 124 registered voters to hold a town meeting vote on an ordinance that accompanied the petitions. At the time, Board members said the ordinance was so flawed that it constituted reasonable grounds for rejection. Among the ordinance provisions were that it take effect for the 2007/08 budget which had been passed in March 2007, and under which the town was working when the petitions were

received. The ordinance also contained no provision as to how the town would function should the referendum votes on budget matters fail, placing the town in jeopardy of default on contract obligations and debt service. A lawyer from Maine Municipal Association also advised Selectmen that state statute gives authority for the Selectmen to decide town meeting voting styles.

A letter from attorney Eric Stumpfel who is advising Mr. Sharkey, indicated that he did not think Selectmen had reasonable grounds for rejection of the petition question. Under state law, petitioners can gather enough signatures on the same question and ordinance and present those to a notary public to call a special town meeting to decide the matter. Selectmen last year invited Mr. Sharkey to meet with them to discuss the referendum vote idea. He thus far has declined.

## School Consolidation: A Moving Target

(Augusta) - The Maine Legislature continued to wrestle with forced school consolidation issues through the 2nd session this winter while only a handful of consolidation plans from Southern Maine received approval from Education Commissioner Susan Gendron. A proposal to allow school union operations similar to how Union 92 (Lamoine, Surry, Trenton, Otis, Mariaville, Hancock, SAD 26) runs received approval in the Legislature but is likely to be vetoed by Governor Baldacci. Union 98 on MDI had asked for a similar configuration where a school board in each town would run the local school and a regional board would operate the union.

The Union 92 and 98 plans have been rejected. Commissioner Gendron's last letter indicated Ellsworth needed to be included in any consolidation with Union 92. While having no disagreement with Ellsworth on philosophy, Union 92 communities objected to the forced governance model that would significantly increase required property taxes in several of the communities. As things stand now, nothing will happen until the Legislature gets done with modifications to the law.

## Flat Top 5K Scheduled

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Parks Commission is again sponsoring the Flat Top 5K road race. It was scheduled for March 29, 2008, about the same time as the publication deadline for *The Lamoine Quarterly*. We hope to have pictures and results in the next edition, and pictures will be on line shortly after the race. The foot race is the first of the season and is in memory of avid runner and former State Representative and Harbor Master Bill Pinkham.

## Aquifer Protection Plan Resurfaces

(Lamoine) - The Conservation Commission has taken the first step in proposing a number of amendments to the Building and Land Use Ordinance designed to protect the underground water source known as the aquifer. Unlike a previously rejected separate ordinance, the proposed amendments would prohibit certain activities with the potential to introduce toxic chemicals into the aquifer. The initial draft says single-family residential dwelling permits would not be affected, however underground home heating oil storage tanks would require a permit under the proposal.

The proposal creates a new zone called the "Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone", and would require permits for various activities in that zone. The Planning Board has received the proposal from the Conservation Commission and held a workshop on several ordinance changes in March. It's not yet clear when the proposal may go before town meeting.

## Excise Taxes Dip

(Lamoine) - Automobile excise tax collections have not been coming in as quickly as projected in the budget. However, collections are about \$9,000 ahead of the 2006/07 amount as of mid-March. If divided evenly through the year, the collections for 2007/08 are off by about \$19,000. More new cars have been registered during the first 9-months of the year (82 vs. 59 in 06/07), and 18 more vehicle transactions in all have been processed in the current fiscal year.

Excise taxes are a major component of the municipal budget. Town meeting approved an estimate of \$300,000 in total collections for the fiscal year, up about \$7,000 from the amount actually collected in 2005/06.

## Pandemic Flu Exercise Shows Emergency Flaws

(Seal Harbor)- Imagine a flu outbreak hitting Mt. Desert Island from cruise ship passengers on Labor Day Weekend, combined with a traffic accident that closes the Trenton Bridge. That's what town officials faced in table top exercise in late February, just as the state was issuing a real influenza alert.

The Maine Emergency Management Agency quickly escalated the exercise to a situation where town, hospital, and private resources could not handle the demands for service such as financial assistance, ambulance and emergency medical treatment, and basic water and sewer operations. Lamoine took part in the drill.

The MDI League of Towns has developed a mutual aid agreement among the member towns to help provide government services and leadership to one another in the event a similar emergency renders a town office unusable. The special town meeting in May will ask voters to allow Selectmen to sign onto the plan with the MDI towns and Trenton. It's hoped that a flu pandemic doesn't hit and get to the point of crippling government function. The exercise points out that local government would likely have to seek resources available on a statewide and nationwide basis during such an emergency.

## Building Use Policy Discussed

(Lamoine) - When more than 100 Democrats showed up for their caucus in February at the Town Hall, a brief moment of panic set in for Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs. The parking lot holds a dozen cars comfortably on a good day—Folks were parked a long way beside Route 184. The town hall itself has seating for about 40-people at the most.

The caucus re-located to the school, but the event pointed out the potential need for a building use policy. Fire codes set the maximum capacity for a public building, and that has not yet been determined for the town hall. Selectmen are looking over a very rough draft of a building use policy to help set ground rules. Action on that may come during the summer.

## Town Meeting April 1st & 2nd

(Lamoine) - The annual town meeting was pushed forward a month in anticipation of having the school budget figures ready. Because the meeting will be held April 1st (election) and 2nd (open town meeting), details are not available at press time. Check the town's website for what took place.

## Fire Calls Drop Off Slightly

(Lamoine) - Through mid-March business was relatively quiet for Lamoine's firefighters. Ten calls for help came in, half of them were for mutual aid calls at structure fires in Hancock, Sullivan and Trenton.

Motor vehicle accidents in Lamoine produced three of the five in-town calls. No serious injuries were reported in any of the crashes.

The most serious in-town call was for a vehicle fire on Lamoine Beach Road at the intersection with Bay Road. A 1977 Volkswagen van driven by Deborah DeForest of North Road caught fire after it stalled out while she was talking with a friend. She was not injured, but the 32-year old van and its contents were a total loss. The call was the first opportunity for firefighters to use upgraded airpacks purchased a couple weeks earlier.



**Up In Smoke**  
*Lamoine firefighters hose down the engine compartment of a 1977 VW Van that caught fire near Lamoine Beach*

## Fire Department Funds Airpack Upgrades

(Lamoine) - Auctions, dinners, a letter writing campaign and other fund raising events over the years by the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department raised enough money for the firefighters to upgrade the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) - airpacks - without having to ask for property tax money to do so. The new airpacks use a much lighter bottle and the pressure is nearly double that of the previous SCBAs. The fire department had hoped the federal government would see fit to provide a matching grant for the upgrade, but the grant request did not make it through the approval process last year.

The new airpacks are now compatible with those used by neighboring fire departments, and will allow firefighters to expend less energy in hazardous environments with increased mobility and less fatigue.

The upgraded regulators and 26 bottles set the fire department back \$30,000. A letter writing campaign has started this spring to help replenish the funds.



*Technicians from Industrial Protection Supply change out the parts of the airpacks at the Lamoine Fire Station*

## Town To Seek Federal Funds for Brush Truck

(Lamoine) - The Board of Selectmen and the Fire Department have submitted a grant application to the Department of Homeland Security to purchase a new brush fire truck. The federal government has \$300-million dollars in grant money available and department's like Lamoine have a high priority on brush trucks.

If approved, the new truck would replace a 1986 pickup truck the department purchased from military surplus and refurbished. Age has taken a toll on that truck which runs on most calls and hauls the rescue boat. The new truck would also tow the boat, be used as a command vehicle, and as another set of emergency lights at traffic accidents.

The estimated cost for the new truck is \$89,500. The local match would be \$4,475.

## New Rescue Tools In Service

(Lamoine) - A faster pump, an extension ram and a new single-hose system is on board and ready for use at the Lamoine Fire Department. The rescue tools are designed for use on motor vehicle accidents when people are trapped. The department raised the funds for the Holmatro brand equipment (\$17,000). The new equipment will give firefighters the ability to cut wrecked vehicles quickly and get injured patients into an ambulance. The original cutting tools purchased 3-years ago remain in service.

## Fire Ball a Hit With Local FDs

(Lamoine) - Many years ago firefighters from around Hancock County held a ball, but the tradition died out until this year. Lamoine's fire department revived it thanks to firefighters Jennifer Reynolds, Ed

Farnsworth and Angie Butler. The event drew nearly 150-people on March 8th at the Ellsworth Holiday Inn. The event raised nearly \$1,900 for the fire department.

## Emergency Kits Still Available

(Lamoine) - MDI Hospital in conjunction with the League of Towns is still offering home emergency kits for sale for \$45. They're available at the Lamoine Town Hall. The kits are designed for use when emergency situations require folks to be in their homes for long periods of time and may not have services such as power and water. Included are some medical supplies, a crank powered flashlight and radio, a mask, and anti-bacterial items. The League, Hospital and Healthy Acadia organizations developed the kits in the event a pandemic flu outbreak hits the area. Contact the hospital for more information.

## Shore Road Resident Convicted of Trespass at Town Hall

(Ellsworth) - A jury in Hancock County Superior Court found Shore Road resident Neil Salisbury guilty of criminal trespass for coming into the Lamoine Town Hall without prior permission. The verdict capped a two day trial in which Salisbury acted as his own attorney.

Town Attorney Tony Beardsley, acting after a resolve was passed by Selectmen in February 2007, drew up an order requiring Salisbury to telephone Administrative Assistant Stu Marckoon ahead of time if he needed to conduct town business at the Town Hall. The order followed several events in which Salisbury got into loud confrontations with town officials. He came into the town hall last August without permission and a complaint was filed with the Hancock County Sheriff's Department. Salisbury asked for a Superior Court jury trial. The DA's office says they expect Salisbury will appeal his conviction. The judge fined Salisbury \$200.



## Lamoine Adopts Highways

(Lamoine) - Lamoine has become the **first** town in Hancock County and the 7<sup>th</sup> town in all of Maine to approve the state's Adopt-A-Highway program.

Although the Maine legislature passed the bill authorizing the program almost ten years ago, in 1999, the State didn't provide any resources or funding. Consequently very few towns have implemented this program according to Peter M Coughlan of the DOT. Lamoine is definitely on the cutting edge and hopes to become an inspiration to other towns in the county.

To begin the program, Lamoine town roads were divided into 27 approximately one mile (a State of Maine recommendation) sections for adoption. Each adoptee must agree to pick up roadside trash for two years at least two times a year preferably sometime in May and October. Lamoine town resident and past Annual Roadside Litter Cleanup Day organizer, Georgia Munsell, is coordinating this program with the town, Maine's DOT and the adopters. Munsell reports, "We had a tremendous response from past annual litter day pick-up volunteers. Within a few days, we had all 27 sections adopted! Additionally, many adopters were able to select a stretch of road right near where they live. The Adopt-A-Highway program is really going to help us control the litter problem on all of Lamoine's roads with our dedicated volunteers," Munsell added.

Lamoine thanks the following adopters for their support and efforts to make our village cleaner and more beautiful:

*Robin & Chris Barstow  
Arlyss & Ray Becker  
Barbara Bland & Don Bamman  
Nancy & Harold Boynton  
Joan & Merle Bragdon  
Cynthia & Gordon Donaldson  
Kathleen Rybarz, Amelia & Bruce Gillett  
Jeremiah Graham  
Margaret & Gerald Hill  
Carol Korty  
Jude Lamb  
Stu Marckoon  
Lucia Michelle  
Georgia & Mark Munsell  
Kim & Dean Murphy  
Enid Neleski  
Faith Perkins & Emily Crotteau  
Georgiana & Bob Pulver  
Lynda & Chris Tadema-Wielandt.*

## Mutual Aid Permission Sought

(Lamoine) - If a disaster were to strike, and town services could not be managed, several options may exist under a mutual aid agreement initially agreed to by six towns, including Lamoine. The agreement would allow other communities to administer basic government needs during a declared emergency. The MDI League of Towns developed the plan, and approval is needed from the Town Meeting body in Lamoine to allow Selectmen to sign the agreement. The item will appear on the May 21st warrant.

## Tree Growth Denials Appealed to State

(Lamoine) - Two property owners who applied for tree growth valuation for property bordering Frenchman Bay and were denied by the Board of Assessors have applied to the Board of Property Tax Review for relief. Assessors enlisted the help of the Maine Forest Service to review the management plans submitted by Richard & Sheryl Davis and Charles Kelley. The foresters found both plans did not adequately meet the requirements for tree growth classification. Subsequently, the Assessors denied abatement requests from both applications.

A law firm from Portland filed appeals to the State Board for both the Davises and Kelley. The Assessors responded to the filing with copies of the report from the Maine Forest Service.

Property valuation law provides for tree growth valuation at greatly reduced rates for landowners with over 10-acres of forested land who file a valid application and management plan. The law also provides for substantial penalties should the land be withdrawn from the tree growth program. It's not known what step the Review Board will take next.

## Town Hall Reconfiguration Revised

(Lamoine) - The sticker shock from a major reconfiguration at the town hall has been eased, a bit. Selectmen asked designer Tyra Hanson to re-draw the plan to create a service window in the present code enforcement office area, moving the CEO office to the back storage room, and building a supply closet in the Tax Collector's Office. The new plan will move the service counter window to face the hallway (see drawing). There will be enough space to wait on two customers at once. The entrance to that office is proposed to be from the meeting room. The front area used for the CEO's office will become a storage supply area, and the CEO and Assessors would be located in the back room where supplies are currently stored.

The proposal also includes new flooring surface for the entire building, as the old softwood floors are quickly deteriorating.



## Cell Tower Lease On Hold

(Lamoine) - The excitement brewing about possibly having a cellular telephone tower located in Lamoine may have hit a roadblock thanks to the economy. The town office received word in late March that Verizon has placed the project on hold indefinitely. An earlier attempt to lease the property by the landfill to AT&T was also placed on an indefinite hold.

In January Selectmen signed a lease agreement with Verizon Wireless (VZW) and returned it to the Portland law firm representing the company for their signature. No signed lease with VZW has yet been returned. The lease would have allowed the cell phone company to build a tower adjacent to the town's landfill and receive an annual payment beginning at \$12,000 and increasing every 5-years.

Several engineering visits were made to the site, and a 100' x 100' location was staked out in the pouring rain near the fence surrounding the landfill cap.

United States Cellular has recently expressed some interest in the same site, and an engineering consultant will forward the information about Lamoine's location to that company, so the issue may not be completely on the shelf. VZW had yet to apply for any permits for the tower.

## Assessors Stick With Appraisal Firm

(Lamoine) - For more than 15 years RJD Appraisal has been providing service to the Board of Assessors to help set property values. The company performed the last full revaluation in 1993 and a factored revaluation in 2005. Recent concerns about work quality prompted a meeting between the firm and the Board of Assessors, and ended with assurances that field work will be more accurate. Matt Caldwell of RJD will be the primary appraiser for the town, though additional help may arrive from time to time.

## Cable TV Payment Corrected

(Lamoine) - Time Warner Cable has sent an additional \$2,742 in franchise fees to the town after it was noticed the first check was significantly less than last year. The town makes a 3% fee for each cable TV bill, but for some reason, programming fees were subtracted out this year. An inquiry to Time Warner's Shelley Winchenbach quickly rectified the problem and sent the check for the additional amount shortly thereafter.

## Our Volunteers Profile Reggie McDevitt

By Georgia Munsell

This issue of the **Lamoine Quarterly** begins a periodic new feature entitled "Special Person." Each Special Person will be a Lamoine resident who volunteers time for the good of our community. Lamoine proudly selects Reginald "Reg" McDevitt as the first Special Person to be honored.

Having served as a Future School Committee member back in the 1940's even before he lived here, McDevitt has been a volunteer practically his whole life. Even now at the age of 84, Reg continues to serve his community working with three town groups.



Reginald has served on the town Budget Committee for 15 years now. "Our work starts in November and takes 3-5 months," describes McDevitt. "Our goal is always to try and keep taxes as low as possible for our townspeople." For the past 8 years, Reg has served on the Board of Appeals which meets a few times a year.

In 2004, McDevitt approached the Selectmen about the idea for a Veterans' Memorial. Reg explains, "We don't need 3 memorials like the town of Franklin, but Lamoine should have one memorial to honor all the townspeople who have served in our country's wars and conflicts." Understandably he now serves on the Veterans' Memorial Committee.

Previously, McDevitt served for 20 years on both the Parks Commission and the Planning Board. Name a committee and Reg has probably been on it, ranging from Long Range Planning, to the Public Works Study, and even as President of the Forest Hill Cemetery (across from the fire house).

Volunteering for 10-15 years as Lamoine's Constable back when the town had such a position made perfect sense for Reg, since he held a day job as a Deputy Sheriff in Ellsworth. Reg even served for a time as the town Clam Warden which meant patrolling the 32 miles of Lamoine shoreline at every low tide.

When asked why he volunteers so much, McDevitt answers, "I see so much that needs to be done in the town and I do like to work with people. Plus, I guess I just can't say no."

Reg and his wife Marion have enjoyed living in Lamoine since 1958.

## School's Out On Time Despite Snow

(Lamoine) - Barring any more snow storms, school in Lamoine will end on June 13th. Superintendent Jim Boothby says Lamoine will get in the required 175 days of school by that date, though 177 had been scheduled for this year. A teacher workshop had to be moved around

(Lamoine) - Congratulations to two members of the town office staff who most folks deal with at some point during the year. Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs and Assistant Town Clerk Kathleen DeFusco have both become certified by the Maine Town and City Clerk's Association (MTCCA).

The certification process is not easy. Both Kathy & Jenn had to attend numerous classes put on by the organization, serve two years as a town clerk or assistant, then pass a very rigorous test on the many areas of knowledge a clerk must possess to properly perform their tasks. Both



Town Clerk Jennifer Kovacs and Assistant Clerk Kathleen DeFusco have passed their certification tests

## Vital Records

(Lamoine) - A pretty quiet winter on the vital statistics front. Two births to report. **Noah Timothy Frost** was born March 9, 2008 at Maine Coast Memorial Hospital. **Harmony Lei King** arrived March 18, 2008 at Blue Hill's Hospital.

Just one marriage to report. **Eric Splann and Tammy Watts** tied the knot on February 23, 2008. They reside on Buttermilk Road.

Lamoine lost three residents during the quarter. **Janet Toman** of Shore Road passed away at home on January 18th. **Linda Mannisto** of Duckling Lane died at her home on January 27th, and **Robert Higgins** died at his home on MacQuinn Road on March 4th.

## Memorial Day Dedication Possible

(Lamoine) - The Veterans Memorial Committee is still shooting for a dedication of the new Veterans' Memorial this coming Memorial Day. Details are still being developed and will be posted on the town's website once everything is ironed out. The memorial is being constructed on the north side of the Town Hall.

## Steel Drum Band to Play Labor Day

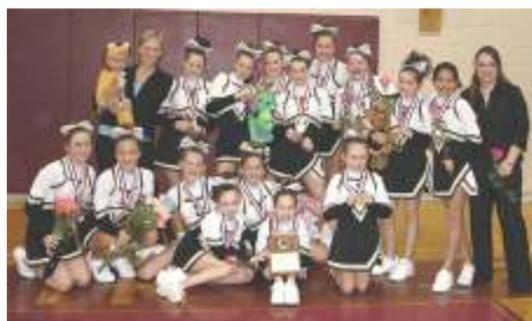
(Lamoine) - The Flash In The Pans Steel Drum Band will play on Labor Day, September 1, 2008 at Lamoine State Park. The show is once again being sponsored by the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department which will serve refreshments.

and a couple of snow days were built into the calendar.

The end of school is most important this year as the school will move everything into storage trailers while the renovation project takes place in the summer months.

Kathy and Jenn received word in February that they had passed their tests and should shortly receive their formal certificates from the MTCCA.

## Cheering Team wins 8th Straight Title



The 2007-08 Lamoine Cheerleaders: (front, from left) Brittany Handy, Kelly Henry and Jane Parlee; (second row, from left) Malarie Brown, Marissa Boynton, Hannah Tardif and Erin Beauvais; and (rear, from left) mascot Caden Martin, coach Cori-Lynn Noddin Martin, Anna Curtis, Sara Willis, Emily Rose, Jessica Lawley, Ashley Harding, Kristy Eaton, Karla Butler, Alexandra Fitch and assistant coach Katie Bowman. Absent from photo are Savannah Adams and assistant coach Heather Young.

(Bangor) - Lamoine's cheering team won it's 8th straight state Junior High mixed division title at the Bangor Auditorium on March 1st. The score was the 4th highest of all teams at the competition. A blizzard that day prevented the other teams in the mixed division from traveling to Bangor—The Lamoine team spent the night before at a Bangor hotel. The team also won the Union 92 Championship again this year.

## Boys Basketball Wins Title

(Lamoine) - The Lamoine Consolidated School Boys Basketball finished a perfect season with a 57 to 25 win over Hancock in the Union 92 Championship Game. The smallest margin of victory this year was 14 points. Team members for the 07/08 season were: Brandon Rose, Dustin Murphy, Kyle Haslam, James Day Jr., Ben Curtis, Cameron Crawford, Isaac Wallace, Ben Morren, Cory McMillan and Blake Haass.

The team (along with the girl's team) was coached by Michelle Morse who announced after the season ended that this was her last season of coaching basketball so she can devote more time to her family.

# April 2008-Lamoine Town Schedule

| Sun | Mon                             | Tue                             | Wed                                | Thu                                | Fri | Sat                         |
|-----|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
|     |                                 | 1—Town Elections<br>10AM to 8PM | 2-Annual Town Meeting 6PM @ School | 3-7PM Selectmen<br>7PM Fire Dept.  | 4   | 5-10AM Preschool Play Group |
| 6   | 7-5:30 PM School Committee      | 8-6:30 PM Planning Board        | 9-7PM Conservation Commission      | 10-7PM Fire Dept.                  | 11  | 12                          |
| 13  | 14                              | 15-7PM Parks Commission         | 16-7PM Veterans Memorial Cmte      | 17-7PM Selectmen<br>7PM Fire Dept. | 18  | 19                          |
| 20  | 21-Office Closed, Patriot's Day | 22                              | 23<br><b>School Vacation Week</b>  | 24-7PM Fire Dept.                  | 25  | 26                          |
| 27  | 28                              | 29                              | 30                                 |                                    |     |                             |

# May 2008-Lamoine Town Schedule

| Sun | Mon                            | Tue                                | Wed                                 | Thu                               | Fri | Sat                          |
|-----|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
|     |                                |                                    |                                     | 1-7PM Selectmen<br>7PM Fire Dept  | 2   | 3-10 AM Preschool Play Group |
| 4   | 5-5:30 PM School Board         | 6-7PM Planning Board               | 7-7PM Assessors                     | 8-7PM Fire Dept                   | 9   | 10                           |
| 11  | 12                             | 13-10AM MDI League of Towns        | 14-7PM Conservation Cmsn            | 15-7PM Selectmen<br>7PM Fire Dept | 16  | 17-9AM 8th Grade Auction     |
| 18  | 19                             | 20-7PM Parks Commission            | 21-Town Meeting (School budget) 6PM | 22-7PM Fire Dept                  | 23  | 24                           |
| 25  | 26-Office Closed, Memorial Day | 27-School Budget Validation 10a-8p | 28                                  | 29-7PM Selectmen<br>7PM Fire Dept | 30  | 31                           |

# June 2008– Lamoine Town Schedule

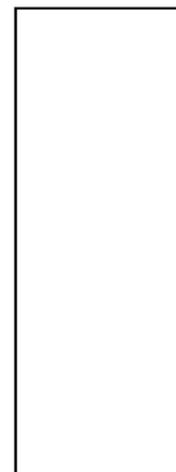
| Sun | Mon                        | Tue                     | Wed                                | Thu                               | Fri                   | Sat |
|-----|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 1   | 2-5:30 PM School Committee | 3-7PM Planning Board    | 4-7PM Board of Assessors           | 5-7PM Fire Dept.                  | 6                     | 7   |
| 8   | 9                          | 10                      | 11-7PM Conservation Commission     | 12-7PM Selectmen<br>7PM Fire Dept | 13-Last Day of School | 14  |
| 15  | 16                         | 17-7PM Parks Commission | 18-7PM Veterans Memorial Committee | 19-7PM Fire Dept                  | 20                    | 21  |
| 22  | 23                         | 24                      | 25                                 | 26-7PM Selectmen<br>7PM Fire Dept | 27                    | 28  |
| 29  | 30                         |                         |                                    |                                   |                       |     |

**The Lamoine Quarterly**  
**April 2008**

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- 1 School Budget Vote 5/21
- 2 Subdivision Rejected
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- 5 Fire Department Upgrade
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- 6 Roads Adopted
- 7 Cheerleaders Win Again
- 7 Volunteer Profile
- 7 Clerks Gain Certification

*And Much, Much More!*



Town of Lamoine  
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