

Memo To: *Lincoln Town Council*
From: *Lisa J. Goodwin, Town Manager*
Subject: *Weekly News*
Date: *January 8, 2010*

Don't forget to register your dog!

ITEM 1. It comes as no surprise that our Public Works Department has been very busy with snow removal. On December 28th Lincoln received about 12” of snow and again last weekend we received an additional 12-14” of snow. Public Works Director, David Lloyd, reports that both of these storms were very difficult to manage due to the high winds creating near zero visibility at times. During the storm on the 28th the Public Works garage lost power for over 12 hours making it very difficult to keep operations going especially while trying to change cutting edges without the use of the air tools and lights. He said everything just seemed to work against the department during that storm. Two trucks left the road at the same time one on each end of town! This required Mr. Lloyd and other members of his crew to stop what they were doing to assist with the recovery. After the trucks were put back onto the road they lost power so he could not repair a broken hydraulic hose on one of the trucks. Resident, Kip Albert, assisted the department with the recovery of the truck on the Half Township Road. The driver of the truck said that when the wind started to blow he could not see the plow on the front of the truck let alone the side of the road. He attempted to pull over and wait until visibility improved before continuing through that section of road but the front right wheel ended up in the ditch. Mr. Albert graciously used his excavator to pull the truck back into the road at 3:00 AM that stormy morning.

Later on in the week Mr. Lloyd was very pleased with his crew's handling of the blizzard conditions over the New Year weekend. Knowing that his men would be working longer than expected hours, Mr. Lloyd had his men come in for 4 hours shifts until the storm was at its worst. His goal was to avoid tiring his employees out on the first 6 inches of snow that fell when the forecast was calling for blizzard conditions later on that evening. When it snows like it did that storm and the wind is gusting to 35-40 mph the crew does not even have time to stop to get a coffee; it just makes for a very long night. Mr. Lloyd said, “Everyone did a great job and we had no incidents or concerns so things went very good.”

Both of these storms required the crew to remove snow from the downtown area. The Public Works Department's goal is to have the snow removed as soon as possible but only after the crew has had a chance to rest. Mr. Lloyd's plan is that if the department cannot remove the snow in time for the opening of business, they will create several holes through the snow bank so patrons can make their way to the businesses. Mr. Lloyd said they try to alternate where the access points are made each storm in so that the openings will be in front of different businesses each time. Mr. Lloyd understands that the snow creates an inconvenience to everyone and the department does its very best to remove it in as soon as possible.

ITEM 2. This past Monday night at approximately 10:30 PM Officer Jeff Rice and Reserve Officer Glenn Graef responded to a family fight in progress involving six people. Deputy Sheriff Mike Knights assisted them with this call. When they arrived at the residence, the involved parties had scattered throughout the home and were not visible. The officers spoke

with the complainant who advised them that he wanted everyone out. The complainant then hollered for the individuals to come out but they did not. At this time, Officers Rice and Graef began searching the residence. They located one male subject who had an active warrant and arrested him. They returned to the kitchen area of the residence and began speaking with a female who was intoxicated, uncooperative and belligerent. As Officer Rice was dealing with this female, her 17 year old daughter emerged from another room and began screaming at the officers to leave her mother alone. At this time, the daughter grabbed a knife off the kitchen counter, raised it above her head and threatened Officer Graef with it. Officer Graef restrained the female and as he did, the mother punched him. Throughout this incident and during the process of the arrests all three officers were assaulted. Both females were arrested as was the male with the arrest warrant. As the officers were preparing to leave the residence en route to the Public Safety Building, the juvenile began kicking at the rear door window of the 2010 cruiser before being further restrained. As a result nearly \$800 damage was sustained to this cruiser. Both women were charged with numerous offenses including Assault with a Dangerous Weapon on a Police Officer, three counts of Assault on a Police Officer, and several counts of Criminal Threatening and Criminal Mischief. The Town will seek restitution for the damage to the cruiser.

Fortunately this incident occurred at a time when there were extra officers available. Police Chief, Phillip Dawson, said this situation was very dangerous for the three officers that were there and would have been worse had there been only one officer immediately available and waiting for help.

ITEM 3. *Is your dog licensed?* This is the time of year when phone calls are made to residents who have not yet licensed their dogs. State law requires that dogs be licensed by December 31st of each year and also provides a grace period during January before late fees are imposed. Counter Clerk, Caitlin Brinkman, has been making calls to unlicensed dog owners this week to remind owners to license their dogs to avoid the late fee. During these calls she has been able to remind the owners if they need to obtain a new rabies certificate for their dogs prior to registering. The Chester Animal Hospital is conducting a clinic tomorrow, January 9th, from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM. A recent law change has done away with the warrant process for prosecuting owners of unlicensed dogs. Beginning February 1st a \$15.00 late fee will be imposed and the Animal Control Officer can begin issuing summonses to unlicensed dog owners, which may result in additional court fees. Interim Town Clerk, Diana Hill, reports that more than 200 calls need to be made. This takes a while to accomplish but the owners are appreciative of the reminder.

ITEM 4. *Do we accept out of town trash at the transfer station?* The answer is NO. On December 27th while on his way to the Public Works Department to report to work an employee noticed two vehicles come off Route 116 in Chester and turn towards the Town of Lincoln. The employee followed the vehicles to the intersection of Park Avenue and Goding Avenue where he called Transfer Station Director, David Lloyd, to report that he thought that these vehicles might be heading to the Transfer Station in Lincoln. Mr. Lloyd immediately called his employees at the Transfer Station to have them keep an eye out for the vehicles and to ask for an address as to where the brush was cut. The person was indeed a resident of Lincoln but the brush

was coming from Chester, or as he explained it, from across the river. That resident was turned away with the brush still on the trucks. On any other day this situation would have not raised an eyebrow because the gentleman is a resident of Lincoln with a trash pass and we would not have questioned him as to where the brush had been cut. Lincoln is fortunate to have employees who care about our town and are willing to report incidents such as this. Great job!

Many people think that because we burn our wood waste there is no cost to the town. In Fiscal Year 2010 Mr. Lloyd budgeted \$19,932.00 for ash removal which included testing and transportation. Ash disposal costs from July through December are in excess of \$5,000. The spring of the year is when the Transfer Station receives the bulk of the wood waste. Residents are reminded that even though they are permitted to use our Transfer Station, they cannot bring solid waste from another community to our facility for disposal. Lincoln's Municipal Code, Section 1704.2.2, defines solid waste as "*waste generated within the boundaries of the Town of Lincoln*". If residents are unsure as to what they can bring into the facility please call ahead 794-2621 and the employees will be happy to explain what can be accepted.

ITEM 5. Many of our programs and events are made possible by the generous donations of businesses and individuals. The Town recently received just such a donation from Savings Bank of Maine. A donation of \$250 was made to our Recreation Department's Sponsor a Child Program and a \$500 donation was made to our Heating Fuel Assistance Fund. Thank you, Savings Bank of Maine!

The Sponsor a Child program assists families who cannot afford to pay the registration fee for our recreation programs. The Heating Fuel Assistance Fund helps residents who don't quite fall under the general assistance guidelines but still need help heating their homes. For more information please contact the Recreation Department at 794-6548 regarding the Sponsor a Child Program or the General Assistance office at 794-3372 regarding the Heating Fuel Assistance Fund.

ITEM 7. Library Director, Linda Morrill, reports that with the success of the December programs behind them, the Library staff is looking forward to the remaining winter months. The Lego Club continues to be a success each week with a large number of boys, ages 7 to 13, visiting the library every Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Morrill said, "*It is warming to watch the children work together to create their own special Lego creations. What is most encouraging is watching them finish their project, place it on the display shelves, then go and look for books and magazines. The relationship between the Lego participants and the library staff has grown stronger. I have enjoyed the conversations about their Lego creations. One young man told me last week that he did not know how much fun it could be going to the library-don't stop the Lego club!*" The Lego Club will continue to meet every Wednesday from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM.

Beginning January 18th the Library's first 2010 Adult Reading Program "Warm up to a Good Book" begins. This program will continue until March 18th. Patrons sign up at the checkout desk, receive reader advisory cards, read their books, submit a review card and then receive free raffle tickets. This new program will feature 4 gift baskets that have been donated to the library program.

In other Library news, programs that are still ongoing include Turtle Tales Story Time on Wednesday's at 10:30 AM and Baby Tales on Thursdays at 11:00 AM. The teen group will meet in February to set up an afterschool homework help program. This program will help younger students with homework afterschool a few days a month. The teens would like to work on providing a "Bedtime Story Time" for the young patrons. Mrs. Morrill is looking forward to working with the teens on a variety of projects.

ITEM 8. At its meeting on December 18th, the Homecoming Committee discussed themes for the grand parade as well as entertainment for the festival to be held July 15th –July 18th. Community Events Coordinator, Shelly Crosby, said this week that the festival is shaping up nicely and it is not too late for the community to offer their input. *"The bulk of the planning is done between December and February, contracts are signed and the schedule takes shape. In years past, community members have waited until May or June to phone in their suggestions and by then – unfortunately, it is too late."* Do you have a band or entertainment that you would like the committee to consider? Or perhaps you are a business or vendor that would like to be considered for services, if so, please contact Shelly Crosby at 794-6548 or attend the next meeting being held on January 18th at 5:30 PM at the Town Office.

Vendor registrations for the Homecoming Festival opened on January 1st. Mrs. Crosby said there are many familiar faces as well as new ones who have already submitted their applications to participate in this year's festivities. Mrs. Crosby reports that seven vendors have already been approved and paid their vendor fees totaling \$560.00. Non-profit organizations are exempt from paying vendor fees and Mrs. Crosby will be working with those groups to get their applications completed. Non-boundary vendor applications (vendors located outside the Veteran's Memorial Square) may also be submitted to ensure being placed in the schedule and advertising. Forms may be downloaded off from the Town's website at www.lincolnmaine.org.

ITEM 9. Community education classes will once again be offered in 2010 by the Town of Lincoln. These classes are provided by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and have proven to be a nice compliment to our recreation programming. These classes give the participant the opportunity to meet necessary requirements for hunting, cross-bow certification and trapping. Events Coordinator, Shelly Crosby, commented, *"In 2009, participants traveled from many towns in Maine and as far away as Massachusetts. Having the classes listed on the maine.gov website with Lincoln listed as a learning site has proven to promote tourism. Last year we were one of only two trapping courses offered in the state. It's quite fun to register these outdoor enthusiasts and many report back that they are impressed with our little town and our natural resources."* The first class, **Snowmobile Safety**, will kick off on January 26th and 27th at the Ballard Hill Community Center. The cost for this class is \$5.00 per participant. A small price to pay for safety! Be sure to check out our website for many other courses being offered.

ITEM 10. Events Coordinator, Shelly Crosby, reports that the first Chuck Foster Teen Dance of 2010 will be held next Friday, January 15th at Mattanawcook Academy from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. This event has become very popular with teenagers in Lincoln and the surrounding communities. Mrs. Crosby would like to remind parents that there is an age restriction of 13-18 years old and all area schools are invited. *"The dances have exceeded our*

initial vision and numbers have been quite strong. I receive a lot of phone calls from parents on the age issue, safety and the number of chaperones. So far, each dance has been well supervised and our chaperone pool is over 40 parents strong. It is because of them that this fundraiser works and there is nothing better than seeing the excitement of the young adults' faces having fun in a positive environment." For more information, contact Mrs. Crosby at 794-6548.

ITEM 11. The Town Council is invited to attend the ribbon cutting at the new Dead River office on West Broadway on Saturday, January 16th, at 10:00 AM. Dead River will have a grand opening that date from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. For more information, please contact Cheri Archer at the Chamber of Commerce at 794-8065.

ITEM 12. The Library staff has compiled a list of authors the adult reading participants have read over the last year. Each month they will feature three of the authors on the list. By setting up this list and display they are encouraging patrons to read the older books not just the latest best seller. Mrs. Morrill said they have a good fiction collection and wants to make sure readers can locate good books from the whole collection not just the new books. Another feature the staff has finished is a listing of "*If you like this author then you should try reading this author*". This fosters a relationship between patron and staff. It also builds awareness in the library staff of possible book selections to suggest when patrons ask for recommendations. This is part of a library's readers' advisory program. Mrs. Morrill commented that one of the older patrons has finished reading most of the western collection and has graduated to regular fiction. As a non-reader most of his life he has discovered books and reads as much as he can. Fantastic!

The library has also set up a table and display rack of Federal tax forms at the front entrance of the library. There is a good selection of various forms and booklets for our residents. The State of Maine is not sending tax forms this year to libraries but the library does have a flyer available for patrons advising them of where to access the forms. People can call 207-624-7894 to request a form or download the form at www.maine.gov/revenue/forms/homepage.html.

ITEM 13. As part of the Town of Lincoln's *Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program*, our weatherization assistance has expanded. The Governor's Keep ME Warm Program began distributing information and training so that volunteers will understand how to measure and install a new type of weatherization material for windows. This window insert will be installed and distributed by trained volunteers throughout Maine. Any family who has qualified for the LiHEAP Program (low-income fuel assistance) is eligible to also receive this weatherization assistance. Most of the LiHEAP applicants received information in the mail about how to sign up but for those who didn't, here is what you must do. People must call 211 and ask to be placed on the list to receive this weatherization material. Then the people, once determined eligible, will be placed on a list which will be compiled by region. For Lincoln residents, that list of names will be passed along to our General Assistance Director, Gilberte Mayo, and her weatherization volunteers will again be called upon to help.

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension office held a training session in Lincoln on Wednesday, January 6th. Three of our volunteers attended this training and are now ready to begin installing these window inserts in Lincoln residences. Mrs. Mayo has already been given the names of three families who have signed up for this weatherization material so the installation will begin right away.

There were other people who attended the training...to learn how to make these window inserts for themselves. Attached is an instruction sheet or “do-it-yourself” directions on how to make these window inserts and how to measure a window for a good fit.

Residents of Lincoln are encouraged to call 211 to sign up for these weatherization materials under the Keep ME Warm Program. Along with getting 6 window inserts per household, families can receive items such as spray foam insulation, outlet and switch gaskets, weatherization tape, weather stripping and sweeps for doors, low flow showerhead and faucet aerators, pipe wrap, and low energy light bulbs. Our volunteers will be required to make a list of items that are needed and there is a limit per household of weatherization materials that can be used. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Mayo at 794-3372.

ITEM 14. Code Enforcement Officer, Jerry Davis, is overseeing the construction of the Children’s Fishing Pond Park. After some delays due to warm weather, A & G Dirtworks owned by Glen Brawn, has begun excavating the pond and clearing and burning brush. One issue that arose and now has been resolved is disposal of the dirt being excavated from the site. Trucking the fill would be very costly. Airport Manager, David Lloyd, has an area near our sea plane base where the fill can be dumped. Mr. Lloyd will be able to use this fill for future parking expansions planned for the airport. Completion of the pond, weather permitting, will be late spring.

ITEM 15. Despite the cold and snow, construction activity has been brisk. Along with the elderly housing project, Steaks N Stuff expansion, the Lincoln News building and Haskell Lumber Company’s new shaving plant, Code Enforcement Officer, Jerry Davis reports that Wal*Mart has filed a building permit application for a \$300,000 expansion of its existing store. Mr. Davis relayed that the expansion will consist of a mechanical room to house refrigeration units to expand the store’s food products line.

ITEM 16. The street light report is enclosed in the Council packet.

ITEM 17. Enjoy your weekend.