

Memo To: *Lincoln Town Council*
From: *Lisa J. Goodwin, Town Manager*
Subject: *Weekly News*
Date: *December 18, 2009*



ITEM 1. I am very pleased to report that that Main Street Cameras are now connected and Motorbrain Consulting is working to install the software to enable recording of the information. Soon the live feed will be available on our website www.lincolnmaine.org. These cameras along with other cameras located at businesses in the downtown area, will assist law enforcement while investigating crimes. I want to thank the Fairpoint Communications for allowing the town to utilize the utility poles, Time Warner Cable for providing the cable and installing it at no charge to the town, and Motorbrain Consulting for their assistance through this whole process.

ITEM 2. With the drop in temperature many residents find themselves in need of assistance to heat their homes. The Town's General Assistance can help those families who qualify under that program. However, there are many other families that don't quite qualify but still need help. The town's Heating Fuel Assistance Fund can help many of those families who are not eligible for General Assistance. The following qualifications must be met to be eligible for assistance from this fund:

- 1) Residents who are single parents or elderly will be given first preference.
- 2) Residents must not qualify for other assistance; such as general assistance.
- 3) Residents must qualify based on financial or urgent need; no more than 100 gallons of fuel per household, per request.
- 4) All types of heating assistance will be considered: fuel oil, kerosene, propane, pellets, electric, etc.
- 5) Assistance will only be given if there are available funds.
- 6) To apply, call the Lincoln Town Office at 794-3372, email to treasurer@lincolnmaine.org or stop in the Lincoln Town Office, 63 Main Street, Lincoln, ME 04457

So far this season the Town has expended \$2,206.73. Thank you to the following donors for making this fund possible.

Donor	Amount
Town of Lincoln - FY2010 Budget	\$ 3,000.00
United Way of Eastern Maine - Neighbors Helping Neighbors Grant	\$ 2,500.00
Steve Cotter	\$ 9.00
Rand Advertising	\$ 50.00
Evergreen Enterprises LLC	\$ 100.00
Gayle Hooke	\$ 25.00
Coolong Land Surveys Inc	\$ 50.00
Mainely Rent to Own	\$ 500.00

Treeline Inc	\$ 25.00
Burton & Jacqueline Weed	\$ 25.00
Louis & Delicia Bearce	\$ 200.00
Machias Savings Bank	\$ 2,500.00
Nesting Loon Cabins - In-Kind - 1 free cord of wood valued at \$200	
Tracie & Perry York	\$ 40.00
Lincoln firefighter	\$ 50.00
Horeb Masonic Lodge c/o Alan Bay, Treasurer	\$ 100.00
Jay Nadeau & Sons	\$ 50.00
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	\$ 9,224.00

ITEM 3. Each year before any paving is done on town streets, Public Works Director, David Lloyd, notifies the Water and Sewer Districts of the paving schedule. This allows these entities to do any repair work prior to the paving. However, emergencies arise when a water main breaks or a sewer pipe fails after the paving is complete. This happened on Clay Street this past week. Both a water line and a sewer line needed to be repaired. The water line was repaired this week and the sewer line is still in need of repair. The patches made to the new pavement will be the responsibility of the department that made the repair. A permanent patch will be done when paving commences next year. The entity that cuts into the new pavement is responsible for the maintenance on the area for two years.

ITEM 4. Work on the ice skating rink at the recreational center lot is coming along nicely. The Public Works crew has started applying water to the rink area. Public Works Director, David Lloyd, anticipates that the rink will be ready for skating next week! Recreation Director, Ron Weatherbee, has been working with Bangor Hydro for the installation of light poles so that the area can be utilized in the evening.

ITEM 5. Receiving feedback is important to all town departments. It is one way for department managers to assess the performance of their department and make adjustments as necessary. Some feedback lets the department managers know that what they are doing is effective. This week I received the following letter from Detective Sergeant John Cote of the Maine State Police thanking the employees of our Police and Fire Departments for their assistance during the investigation of the double homicides that occurred in Webster Plantation.

"I wanted to take this opportunity to make you aware of the unselfish dedication of the members of the Lincoln Fire and Police Departments during our recent double-homicide investigation. Due to the remote nature of the crime, we had no real location available for us to establish a command post or to conduct briefings and interviews. Without hesitation Chief Dawson made the police and fire facilities available to us for several days, often until the early morning hours.

Our investigation would not have reached the successful conclusion it did without the invaluable assistance provided by the Lincoln officers, firefighters and the office secretary. We conducted numerous briefings and interviews over several days which resulted in displacing officers and firefighters from their normal routine. They allowed us

to lay claim to their kitchen and dining area, as well as a number of offices. This required them to eat in the garage bays and otherwise alter their routines to allow us the benefits of the facilities. The secretary assisted in allowing us access to local police databases and with her knowledge of the Greater Lincoln Area.

Again, without their willingness to evacuate part of their building, and the excellent attitudes they displayed, we would not have been able to move this critical investigation forward. I wanted to express my sincere thanks, and the thanks of our entire division for the hospitality your staff displayed.”

ITEM 6. The Town of Lincoln received noticed from the Department of Economic and Community Development that our Letter of Intent to apply for a CDBG infrastructure grant met the requirements and the town is eligible to submit its application. As you will recall, this application is being made on behalf of the Lincoln Water District to upgrade the water main on School Street. Eligibility to submit a final application does not imply final project approval or funding. The deadline for filing the application is January 22, 2010, and all matching funds must be fully committed and secure by that date. Additionally, it must be demonstrated that the applicant has the financial resources available to complete the entire project as presented in the application. The matching funds will be paid by the Lincoln Water District. Assessor, Ruth Birtz, who is certified to administer these types of grants, will work with the Water District to submit the final application by the deadline.

ITEM 7. This holiday season the library has offered a variety of programs centered on literacy. Their first “Polar Express” event had 54 children in attendance. According to Library District, Linda Morrill, the children loved hearing Mary Jo read this classic holiday story. Lincoln resident, Howard Black loaned two of his holiday train sets. The train car was set up in the Teen Zone and Mr. Black punched each child’s train ticket before their magical train ride. The power went out right before the program started, however, Santa arrived and the lights came back on. After hearing the story children received a magical bell, a bag of Reindeer Food, a special pack of Polar Express activities and a reindeer craft to take home. Children enjoyed a wide assortment of holiday treats and hot chocolate with marshmallows provided by library staff.

There were Christmas activities for the adults too. Delores Dill provided stamps, card stock, and holiday punches to show patrons how to create their own holiday cards. Eighteen patrons created cards and learned how to make beautiful gift boxes from used holiday cards. Lisa Dill loaned the library her stamps and punches for this free event. Adults also joined Pam Fuller, Nutrition Associate from the Maine Cooperative Extension, in creating holiday gifts from the kitchen. Everyone went home with three items and a recipe booklet for creating gifts from the kitchen

ITEM 8. It is hard to believe but the 2010 Lincoln Homecoming Festival is just a 7 months away! This week, Community Events Coordinator, Shelly Crosby, worked on spreadsheets for the vendor application process which starts January 1st. She said, “*The vendor process each year is quite competitive, so over 40 letters went out in September to alert those previous and new*

vendors of some of the 2010 changes. Included with the letter was the application for the January 1st open process, which has generated many phone calls.” Mrs. Crosby anticipates from the calls that next year’s Homecoming will again have a healthy vendor enrollment. Forms may be picked up at the Town Office or the Recreation Office and also is available on our website www.lincolnmaine.org. Spectators can also look forward to a Central Maine Pyrotechnics’ fireworks show and the return of the Roaming Railroad train rides. Katahdin Cellular, Authorized Agent of US Cellular, has generously agreed to sponsor the train again this year. Katahdin Cellular owner, Laurie Ireland, commented *“The train made a huge impression within the US Cellular network and basically this “outside the box” approach to reach the communities worked! All businesses can buy shirts, give away freebies etc. but when you give in this way...the smiles are worth it! It’s grassroots at its best! We are so excited and thrilled to be bringing back the Roaming Railroad to Lincoln once again!”*

The next Homecoming meeting is scheduled for December 21st at 5:30 PM in the Recreation Department office. This meeting is open to the public and volunteers are always welcome! For more information contact Mrs. Crosby at 794-6548.

ITEM 9. This week, Ms. Kinkade’s 4th grade class at Ella P. Burr school held a post tree-lighting meeting to wrap up their service learning project requirements. Events Coordinator, Shelly Crosby attended the meeting on behalf of the Town to discuss what the children’s participation meant to the overall event. In total, 44 children gave after-school time for weeks to prepare. Mrs. Crosby said that even at their young age, many good suggestions were shared by the students such as: handicap parking and more designated space around the tree for the guest speakers. The added bonus to this project is that the students have been visiting our website www.lincolnmaine.org and also checking the Weekly News for information that pertains to their project. Mrs. Crosby commented, *“Anytime we can involve someone in their community – no matter the age, it fosters feelings of belonging and a sense of pride. The children did an outstanding job with this project and commented that their families were proud of them even though they found it was a bit scary performing! This event created a lasting memory for each child who participated of what volunteerism feels like and more importantly that they were a part of making Christmas in Lincoln special!”*

ITEM 10. At Monday’s Town Council Meeting the purchase of a 1990 Spartan Fire Truck was approved. The purchase price is \$176,000. Fire Chief, Phillip Dawson, did an excellent job representing the Town and negotiating a fair purchase price. Chief Dawson will travel to Connecticut with two fire engineers to bring the apparatus to Lincoln. Rusty Stanley, of S & S Transportation, will also travel to Connecticut to ensure that the mechanical defects have been fixed prior to the Town’s purchase of the truck.

ITEM 11. Enclosed in the Town Council’s packet is the draft fiscal year 2010 Penobscot County budget. This draft budget has a proposed increase of 4.39%.

ITEM 12. The basketball season is in full swing and our Recreation Department is no exception. This past Monday Jim Graffam, Lee Academy Post Grad coach, conducted two clinics, the first for grades 1 and 2 and the second for grades 3 and 4. On Wednesday Frank Welch, Mattanawcook Jr. High School boys' coach, conducted two clinics, the first for grades 2 to 4 and the second for grades 5 to 7. Recreation Director, Ron Weatherbee, reports that the 5th and 6th grade in-house basketball league has played the past two Saturdays. Participants included three girls' teams and three boys' teams along with the cheerleaders. Games for this weekend will begin at noon with two girls' games and two boys' games.

The Recreation Committee met this past Tuesday and its major focus is on the 8th Annual Lincoln Invitational Tournament. The tournament will be held on February 27th and 28th this year. This tournament is a fundraiser for the future Recreational Center. Again this year Nancy Guidod will be the tournament coordinator and has started the planning process. She will work with Shelly Crosby on sponsorships as well as notification to teams who may be interested in participating. For more information contact the Recreation Department at 794-6548.

ITEM 13. *What does the Library do with donated books?* This question was recently posed to the Library Director. Mrs. Morrill's response was that she goes through all the donated books. If the library needs the title for its collection the book is processed and added to the library collection. If a patron wishes to have a book plate placed in the book the library does that as well. Any books that the library cannot use (outdated title, poor condition, already have a copy) are boxed up and placed in the book shed to be sold at the Annual Friends of the Library book sale. She said that newer books have a better chance of being added to the collection. Donations of books, DVDs and books on CD are always welcome. Mrs. Morrill said she is currently looking for donations of science fiction, fantasy, mystery, and romance fiction. If you would like to donate some books, call Mrs. Morrill at 794-2765.

ITEM 14. Assessing Clerk, Caitlin Brinkman, mailed rent surveys to all Lincoln landlords this week. Assessor, Ruth Birtz, has used the rent survey in the past to obtain up to date information on how many rental units were available, what the rental price was, and E-911 address information for tenants. Mrs. Birtz has not sent this survey out for several years due to her workload. Having this information on hand assists landlords by providing information to potential renters, assists with vehicle and voter registration by having updated address information on tenants, and assists appraisers in completing appraisal reports by having accurate information on rental rates for various types of property. The Assessing/Code Department's mission statement is to be a valuable resource by providing information in a friendly professional manner. Having Mrs. Brinkman working on this project will help the department meet its goal.

ITEM 15. With residential construction activity slowing down Code Enforcement Officer, Jerry Davis, has resumed the photo project for the assessing records. This week Mr. Davis could be seen on West Broadway, Main Street and Lee Road taking photos of properties. In total, Mr. Davis took 418 property photos. His plan is to complete the photo inventory of the main arteries into town and then inventory residential neighborhoods. Residents who do not wish to have their

property photos on the web can fill out a request not to publish form and file it with the Tax Assessor. This form is available on the Town's web site www.lincolmaine.org or at the Town Office.

ITEM 16. Due to holidays, the next Weekly News will be January 8, 2010. Enjoy the holidays!