

Memo To: *Lincoln Town Council*
From: *Lisa J. Goodwin, Town Manager*
Subject: *Weekly News*
Date: *December 11, 2009*

Invest in your community:
Shop local this holiday season!

ITEM 1. Through the generosity of W. T. Gardner & Sons our ice skating rink should be ready soon! This week Gardner's employees completed work on the road into the skating rink from Route 6. The Town extends huge thanks to the Gardner family for donating their time, equipment and materials to help us get started on this project. Their generosity has saved the Town of Lincoln approximately \$20,000!

Our Public Works Department has also stepped up to the plate to build the rink itself. Recreation Director, Ron Weatherbee, was in the process of soliciting bids for this project when Public Works Director, David Lloyd, offered his assistance to facilitate the building of the rink. Public Works employee, Reggie Ogden, was responsible for moving dirt and rocks to clear a 50' x 120' area in time for cold weather. Minor ground work remains after this week and Mr. Lloyd indicates that if the weather holds out, the rink should be ready for water before the end of the month! Good job, Reggie and David!

ITEM 2. As the year is winding down, the Town is having great success wrapping up projects that have been lingering. In addition to the progress with skating rink and Children's Pond Park, the cable for the Main Street cameras was finally run this week by Time Warner! Time Warner has generously donated the cable and their employees to make this connection. As of today, we are waiting for Time Warner to complete the connection to the two buildings. Once this is done, the cameras will be up and running!

ITEM 3. Last week's Christmas festivities drew the largest crowd for this event to date! Interim Police Chief, Phil Dawson, estimated at least 1,500 attended the festivities! People lined the streets and filled Veteran's Memorial Square to watch the Chamber of Commerce's Parade of Lights. Spectators were treated to about 23 units adorned with holiday lights! It was truly the best holiday parade yet! After the parade the Ella P Burr 4th grade class entertained the crowd with Christmas carols. Finally, the Marine Corp League gave a blessing and then the crowd counted down for the Christmas tree lighting. Jerry Davis, who was at the gazebo during the countdown, could clearly hear the crowd's boisterous countdown!

Both of the trees in the Veterans' Memorial Square and the gazebo were donated this year by Jerry Davis and Brenda Jipson. Lincoln resident, Mary Wilbur, called the Recreation Department this week and commented, "*Those lights were just lovely downtown. I saw them when I came into town the other day and they are just gorgeous. The best they have ever looked!*" After the hard work that goes into planning events such as this, this type of feedback is appreciated by the people who work behind the scenes to make it happen.

Breakfast with Santa was held last Saturday and Events Coordinator, Shelly Crosby, reports that it was quite successful. This year's ticket sales were 12 fewer tickets than last year's sales with 262 tickets being sold. However, revenues increased with more sponsorship

from our local businesses. Mrs. Crosby reports that \$605.00 in donations from area businesses was collected. In total, \$2,375.00 was raised with an expense of \$1,200.00. This event not only provides a fun activity for our youth, it is also a fundraiser for our Homecoming event. This year \$1,174.22 was deposited into the 2010 Homecoming account.

The cooks for this event, Jerry Davis, Don Worcester and David Whalen, served over 300 people including the volunteers and entertainers. Santa Claus arrived and over 150 free family photos were taken by Ruhl Photography. Those complimentary photos are available for pickup at the studio.

After the events Mrs. Crosby commented, *“The Christmas festivities held in Lincoln each year are quite special. Many individuals graciously give to their fellow neighbors in many different ways. It’s such a great place to live and the magic of Christmas is evident. The Town of Lincoln appreciates all the individuals listed below who made the 2009 festivities special!”*

Treeline Service Center	The Waterfront – Pawn Shop	FASTCO Corporation
S & S Transportation	Clay Funeral Home	Smart’s Hardware
Mainely Rent to Own	S.O.B Oil Company	Clay GMC Truck INC.
Durwin Libby DMD	Wing Wah	Lincoln News
CWA & Lake St Real Estate	Cole Whitney Ford	Rand Advertising
Ruhl Photography	Weatherbee Insurance	Gatherings
A Lincoln Firefighter	Lincoln Subway	Chamber of Commerce
Steaks & Stuff	Bangor Savings Bank	Gillmor’s Restaurant
Larry Ham Construction	Mark Helsor	John McLeod
Nancy Kinkade	RSU No. 67	EPB 4 th Grade Classes
Don Polk	Sonny Goodwin	Paul Shedd
Robert Burris	Greater Lincoln Marine Corp	Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus
Dakota Crosby	Sutton Crosby	Bonita Vance
Zachery Fields	MA – MJHS Honor Choirs	M.A.D.E. Dance Studio
Genia Dill	Susan McLaughlin	Denise Jones
Ian Quill	Connie House	Benjamin Rafuse
Peggy Smith	Todd Malcom	Sandy Leonard
Jordyn Leonard	Adrianna Tilton	Melissa Quintela
Dolores McGraw	Health Access Network	F.A. Peabody Insurance Co.
Denise McReavy	NPT Region III JMG Program	Brittany Tinkham
The Worcester Family	Blaine Gordon	Edie Ireland
Susan Custis	NPT Region III Media Program	

ITEM 4. Our police continue to be kept busy with a variety of complaints. This past week Officer Rick York investigated a case of road rage that involved four male subjects from the Houlton area cutting off another vehicle and assaulting its male operator. In addition, the individuals caused damage to the victim’s vehicle and took his cell phone. Officer York is following leads to identify the participants in this incident from information gathered from the vehicle involved and surveillance cameras at the West Broadway Circle K. Anyone who saw this incident is asked to come forward and share the information. Interim Police Chief, Phillip

Dawson, indicates that at a minimum, there are charges pending of assault, driving to endanger, criminal mischief, criminal threatening and robbery.

Officer Patty McLaughlin stopped a vehicle for tire noise in the Veterans' Memorial Square on Monday evening. As a result, the operator was charged with OUI, illegal attachment of plates, operating with an expired license and failure to provide evidence of insurance. The operator's BAC was .20%. Penobscot County Deputy, Mike Knights, assisted with this call.

On another call, Officer McLaughlin and Reserve Officer, Shaughn Millett, responded to a fight in progress in the parking lot at the Lincoln House Motel. The male subjects involved were extremely intoxicated and were issued disorderly conduct warnings. Penobscot County Deputy Mike Knights and State Trooper Larry Anderson assisted with this call.

I received a call this week from a local business owner who was concerned with the staff shortage in our Police Department. Although we have two vacancies, all shifts are being filled with either over-time by our full time officers or by our reserve force. Two new reserve officers, Glenn Gaeff and Mark Fucile, are both graduates of the police academy. In addition, Lincoln has backup from both the Penobscot County Sheriff's Department and the Maine State Police.

ITEM 5. Transfer Station Director, David Lloyd, wants residents to know that disposing of medication in household trash is not the best way to get rid of old medication. There is a safe way to dispose of medication. *Safe Medicine Disposal for ME* is an easy, anonymous way for Maine residents to safely and properly get rid of unused or expired medicine. This program began as a disposal option for older adults and caregivers and has since expanded to include all age groups. This is how it works:

1. Postage-paid medicine disposal kits are distributed to participating pharmacies and other locations throughout Maine. Residents can obtain these kits at the Rite Aid Pharmacist in Lincoln or by calling Penobscot Valley Hospital at 794-7109.
2. Pharmacists and site contacts then give the kits, including a postage-paid envelope, instruction packet, and survey to interested individuals.
3. Participants follow the enclosed instructions to place unused medicine in the envelope. They also complete the survey and place it in the envelope.
4. Envelopes are returned by mail to the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency and the medicine is safely destroyed.
5. Information will be collected to help understand the types of medicine that is piling up in Maine homes and why it is not being used. This will help guide prescribing practices and medicine disposal options.

There are several advantages to following these disposal steps. The safe disposal of unused, unwanted, and expired medicine will minimize accidental overdoses and poisoning of older adults, teenagers, children and pets. It will also limit illegal diversion of prescription medicine and prescription medicine-related thefts and crimes and decrease opportunities for

prescription medicine abuse. In addition, it will prevent environmental exposure of discarded prescription medicine to help protect Maine's water and wildlife as well as reduce the waste in the healthcare system.

Using this service is free to participants. The program is funded through a Fund for Healthy Maine allocation to the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. The envelopes and postage has been paid for through grant funds. For more information call 1-866-ME-RX-RID (1-866-637-9743) or email info@safemeddisposal.com.

ITEM 6. In keeping with the holiday spirit staff at the Library has set up a special display of holiday fiction and nonfiction books. Library Director, Linda Morrill, reports that the displays are located at the back of the library. One patron said *"This is wonderful-I can go right to the back and select from a wide array of books for the holiday season!"* Stop by and get a book to relax with over the holiday season! Mrs. Morrill said the next book display will be featuring books that have been made into movies as this has been requested by many of the patrons.

ITEM 7. How much thought do you give to the items you dispose of at the Transfer Station? There are many items that can be thrown in the hopper or recycled such as cardboard, newspaper and some plastics. There are certain types of hazardous waste that we are required to separate from the main stream of trash. This is known as "Universal Waste." The term universal is used because these items are used by nearly everyone. Universal waste includes the family television, computer, fluorescent lamp and thermostat. Mercury thermometers and most batteries are universal waste, but not the alkaline batteries typically used in flashlights or toys. The most common hazardous material contained in universal waste is mercury. This metal is a neurotoxin. At high exposure it can cause loss of muscle control, memory loss, and kidney disease. Recent studies in Maine have found mercury concentrations in fish to be much more widespread and at much higher concentrations than previously believed. This means that we must all take precautions to prevent the release of mercury in Maine's environment.

Transfer Station Director, David Lloyd, asks that you please keep your universal waste separate from your regular trash. To discard it safely, take it to the Transfer Station and ask an attendant to assist you. The Legislature has passed a new law that goes into effect in January – *An Act To Enhance Maine's Electronic Waste Recycling Law*. This law makes several changes to the law governing the separation, collection, consolidation and recycling of certain electronic wastes, which currently include television sets and computer monitors. The law adds desktop printers, video game consoles and digital picture frames to the list of items that must be included in our collection and recycling of universal waste. Due to the size of our facility we can only accept universal waste from residents. Commercial universal waste can be disposed of at the following locations:

Municipality	Universal Waste Collection Location	Universal Wastes Accepted From Residents (R) Businesses (B)																(A)accepting From? (C)charge for Service?			
		Batteries		Cathode Ray Tubes		Fluorescent Bulbs		Mercury-Thermostats		PCB Ballast		Electronic Devices		Vehicle Switches		Mercury Devices		Residential		Business	
Updated: 1/8/2009		R	B	R	B	R	B	R	B	R	B	R	B	R	B	R	B	A	C	A	C
Anywhere	Coastal Recycling 114 Franklin Road Rte 182 Hancock, ME 04640 Joyce Levesque 422-6766	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y*	y
		Will accept from anyone willing to pay for the service.																*Small quantity business waste only.			
Anywhere	Pine Tree Transfer Station 3 Robert Lafleur Road Waterville, ME 04091 888-857-0800	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y
		Open to the Public																			
Anywhere	Plan-It Recycling/Environ Svcs 18 Gorham Industrial Pkwy Gorham, ME 04038 Ron Smalley 854-8228	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y
Anywhere	Community Recycling Center 8 Runway Road Scarborough, ME 04074 885-9093	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	y	y	y	y

For more information contact David Lloyd at 794-6658.

ITEM 8. Good news! Seldom does anyone experience a decrease in rent. The Town of Lincoln received an early Christmas present today from the Lincoln Masonic Fraternity. We were notified that the Town Office rent will decrease 12% effective January 1, 2010. This is a reduction of \$288.57 per month or \$3,462.84 for the year. This decrease reflects the decrease in fuel from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. Our rent is based on the CPI and fuel consumption.

ITEM 9. While Assessor, Ruth Birtz, was on vacation, Assessing Clerk, Caitlin Brinkman, fielded inquiries and performed some of the work in the assessing office. Mrs. Brinkman said, "I quickly realized that these are much more than just everyday tasks. Appraisers are a big

portion of Ruth's day. Every appraiser that walks into the Assessor's office, or calls, is asking for information on a completely different property. There is no way to 100% prepare for any particular appraiser ahead of time." Usually, there is specific information the appraisers look for: a copy of the tax map, amount of taxes, current assessment, map and lot number, current owner and a copy of the deed. Just one day last week, 11 appraisers came into the office. On top of the 11 appraisers that came in, 8 people called or came in looking for different information that ranged from a tax refund application status to a commercial appraiser who spent an hour and a half getting different information from 12 different files. Mrs. Brinkman also said, *"Every day Ruth greets each and every person that calls or walks through her door with the same inviting energy. Projects that Ruth and I have done i.e., the audit of all properties in town, may not be very news worthy and exciting, but keeping everything up to date and filed correctly is the only way to prepare and be sure that every appraiser and customer who comes in or calls gets quick, efficient and correct information every time."* Mrs. Brinkman works part time in the Assessing office and part time at the front counter. Her skills are versatile and she quickly catches on to new tasks. She has started her training for assessing certification.

ITEM 10. The Comprehensive Plan Committee began reviewing the draft recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan in November. This work consists of reviewing and revising the goals, policies and implementation strategies for each topic area. So far, the Committee has completed the draft vision statement and economy, housing, and public facilities and services chapters. Chapters for future work include: recreation, transportation, fiscal capacity, natural resources, agriculture and forestry, land use, and archaeological and historic resources. The plan is to have the Comprehensive Plan ready for Council review in July. The following steps will need to be taken to realize this goal:

- Complete the Recommendations by spring of 2010.
- Present Plan to Town Council and Public.
- Submit Plan to Maine State Planning Office for its review and comment.
- Prepare Final Comprehensive Plan
- Anticipated date for Council consideration and vote: July 2010

A draft Inventory and Analysis has been completed. The inventory updates the prior plan and consists of an extensive compilation and analysis of data on the town and region, including mapped information. The document also includes the results of the public opinion survey. Consultant Gwen Hilton would be happy to answer questions, or otherwise discuss the Plan with anyone. She can be reached by phone at 696-3820 during the day, or contacted by e-mail at ghilton1@myfairpoint.net.

ITEM 11. Winter has arrived! On December 8th and 9th Lincoln received its first significant storm of the 2009-2010 winter season. The Public Works Department has worked hard over the last couple of weeks getting everything ready. Wings were attached to the plow trucks, cutting edges changed, and snow plows installed. Everyone was eager for snow except the Public Works Director, David Lloyd. What was running through his mind was, *"It had been almost nine months since the crew has plowed or even driven on slippery roads, the weather has not*

been cold enough to freeze the gravel roads, and the forecast was predicting several inches of snow before a changeover to an icy mix.” Not the best storm conditions to try and plow a gravel road that is soft. One area that he was happy about was that all of his operators had at least one year plowing experience. Mr. Lloyd held a pre-storm meeting to explain what to expect and how they were going to attack the storm. Mr. Lloyd said that when the storm started it was snowing about 2-2.5 inches per hour. When it snows that hard it is very difficult to keep the roads clear because the visibility is so low that the trucks need to just creep over the streets. Not only is the driver watching out for other vehicles and pedestrians he also needs to watch for mail boxes, utility poles, curbing and cars parked along the side of the road, all while trying to plow and sand, so the school buses can get the kids home safely.

Mr. Lloyd said he can tell when the crew has their hands full because the 2-way radio is dead silent. When the radio is that quiet he starts to get concerned and will call the driver on the radio just to ask how he is doing. This serves two purposes, first, he knows the driver is still in radio contact and second, he is aware of the concerns the driver might be having.

When each storm is over Mr. Lloyd analyzes what could have been done better. This one particular storm everything just seemed to fall into place. The crew did a great job plowing; they didn't have any equipment break downs, and the traffic in Lincoln was very light. At around 10:00 PM Mr. Lloyd made the decision to keep working on the roads for the remainder of the overnight because the temperature was almost 30 degrees and he thought it would change over to freezing rain. When the storm was over Mr. Lloyd checked all the roads and commented to each driver how much they have improved since a year ago.

Mr. Lloyd reminds residents that during inclement weather they should call the Public Safety Building to report poor road conditions. The employees at the Public Safety Building will contact the Public Works Department. Remember to drive slowly and arrive safely!

ITEM 12. The Street Light Report is enclosed in the Council packet.

ITEM 13. Have a nice weekend!