

# Town of Lincoln | Weekly News

**TO:** Lincoln Town Council  
**FROM:** Lisa J. Goodwin, Town Manager  
**DATE:** January 6, 2012

**Public Works Garage Open House**  
**Monday, January 9, 2012**  
**3:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

**ITEM 1.** *Have you registered your dog?* Customer traffic is always high at the Town Office during December as residents buy hunting and fishing licenses, get new trash passes and license their dogs! As in past years, the last few days of the year were extremely busy due to those owners who waited until the last minute. Though licenses become available mid-October, people still wait, many into the first month of the year. Each year following the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, the Clerk’s office makes courtesy reminder calls to people who did not license their dogs prior to the end of the year. This license season however, Deputy Clerk Diana Hill made 323 phone calls in the last two weeks in December rather than waiting until January. As illustrated in the adjacent table, this resulted in more residents licensing their dog before the deadline. Most people contacted were very pleased with the reminder as dog licensing often gets forgotten by the dog owner. A total of 494 dogs have been licensed so far for 2012.

<b>Dog Licenses Issued</b>	
Dec 06	250
Dec 07	249
Dec 08	249
Dec 09	291
Dec 10	169
Dec 11	326

Beginning February 1, 2012, dog owners/keepers will be assessed a \$25.00 late fee for any dog not registered, in addition to the license fee. As many residents missed the rabies clinic in October, the Clerk’s office has again partnered with Chester Animal Hospital to host a second rabies clinic on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:00 am at the Public Safety Building. Rabies shots will be \$20.00, distemper \$10.00 and feline leukemia \$14.00. Staff will be on hand to license Lincoln dogs that same day. Owners must have their animals caged or on a leash. As you can see from the chart below, there are still many dogs that have yet to be licensed!

<b>Town of Lincoln Dog Licensing</b>	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>	<b>FY10</b>	<b>FY11</b>	<b>FY12</b>
Able to produce young	242	243	230	241	*
Neutered/Spayed	600	647	668	732	*
Kennel	13	6	4	2	*
Replacements	5	4	5	5	*
Transfers from another Town.	0	2	0	0	*
Guide/ Police/ Service Animal	0	0	0	1	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>494</b>
<i>*2012 have not yet been separated according to type of license.</i>					

**ITEM 2.** Treasurer, Gilberte Mayo, has been researching acceptance of credit/debit cards at the Town Office. With this service comes an expense to the Town. As an alternative to allow customers to utilize these cards without the Town incurring an expense, Mrs. Mayo has been working with a company to install an ATM machine at the Town Office.

As part of the placement of the ATM machine, the Town must enter into a contract with the company supplying the machine and ATM service. Our attorney has reviewed the contract and there were a few issues to iron out. Mrs. Mayo anticipates having the contract ready for Town Council review at the February meeting.

**ITEM 3.** At the December Town Council meeting, Councilor Marscella Ireland asked about the Town providing on-line vehicle registrations through the State's Rapid Renewal program. This service would allow residents to re-register their vehicles on-line at their convenience. Participation in this program requires that a percentage of the excise tax collected and the entire agent fee be retained by the on-line agent, InforME. Treasurer, Gilberte Mayo, and Tax Collector, Tracie York, are researching this service to determine how much revenue the town would lose by offering this service as well as determining if there is an alternative way to offer a similar service without losing revenue. More to come on this as information is compiled!

**ITEM 4.** Officer Brandi Alton has completed two weeks of her (PTO) police training officer program under the tutelage of Officer Jeffery Rice. The program is designed for hands-on training along with developing problem solving skills. Officer Alton's training this week consisted of police vehicle operation, conflict resolutions such as neighborhood disputes, non-violent mental health calls and property accidents. The calls this week ranged from an unattended death, suicide attempt, medical call, intoxicated male who consumed Oxycontin pills and her first traffic arrest for operating after suspension.

Officers Rice and Alton also worked on the use of force, field interviews, local ordinances, department philosophy, report writing, field notes, radio procedures and leadership principles. The program is designed to overwhelm the officer in training and Officer Alton said that mission was accomplished! Great job Officers Rice and Alton!

**ITEM 5.** Code Enforcement Officer, Dan Whittier, was invited to inspect the new home being built at Region III. The construction of this modular home is funded by Rural Development, and is being constructed by students in the Pathways Program. The Pathways Program assists unemployed individuals in learning new skills, i.e. carpentry, dry walling, flooring. There are several homes being built through the program, four in Bangor by Eastern Maine Community College and one in Lincoln by Region III Building Trades program.

The modular home is being built to comply with all MUBEC standards. Once finished, the home will be sold to a low income family through Penquis CAP and Maine State Housing Authority. To qualify the applicant must own land, live in a pre-1976 mobile home and have the ability to pay a 1% mortgage. Rural Development and Maine State Housing also offers a \$50,000 forgivable grant to applicants as well. Frank Pawlendizo, Project Manager for Penquis CAP, said that on average the total cost of construction and placement of the home is \$115,000. The recipient would then receive a \$50,000 grant from MSHA and would need to finance \$65,000 at 1%. The mortgage payment is between \$300- \$400 a month for a brand new home, including all new appliances. Interested parties should contact Penquis CAP or Maine Rural Development.

**ITEM 6.** Events Coordinator, Amanda Woodard, has switched her focus back onto the Homecoming Festival! The fireworks contract has been completed and Mrs. Woodard is currently working on securing bands for the festival. She is also excited to report that the Roaming Railroad is back by popular demand! Katahdin Cellular has agreed to again sponsor this event at the festival. Thank you, Laurie Ireland and Katahdin Cellular!

If your business is interested in sponsoring or co-sponsoring an event, please contact Mrs. Woodard. The Homecoming Festival Committee will meet on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 5:30 PM at the Town Office. If you are interested in serving on this committee or volunteering at the festival, please contact Mrs. Woodard at 794-3372.

**ITEM 7.** Since assuming his position as Police Chief, William Lawrence has made increasing the department's clearance rates a top goal. Case-clearance rates measure the number of crimes or complaints solved by arrest. This statistic is used to evaluate the effectiveness of a police department. Lincoln's clearance rate was 20% when Chief Lawrence assumed his duties and his goal is to increase that rate to 30% by the end of the year. Chief Lawrence reports that the officers have been learning how to develop leads that lead to probable cause resulting in charging a suspect with the crime and to return recovered property to the owners.

Officer John Walsh was able to put together a case that resulted in the arrest of a transient Lincoln man for burglary at an East Broadway residence that occurred a few months ago and returned some of the stolen property. Officer Walsh has also connected the same man with a recent burglary on Highland Avenue. Chief Lawrence said that Officer Walsh has done a great job developing leads and probable cause in this investigation. Great job, Officer Walsh!

**ITEM 8.** Boot Camp is back! Recreation Director, Ronald Weatherbee, is pleased to announce the winter-spring edition of Boot Camp with Suzanne Smith will start January 17<sup>th</sup>. The exercise program will meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the Ella P. Burr School. The time slot for this program was changed to later in the evening to accommodate the younger children playing basketball. Boot Camp will return to its regular slot of 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM once the basketball season is over. Suzanne Smith said she is excited about the class as has made some changes to an already popular exercise class! This program is a great way to get in shape; participants need light weights, a mat and a water bottle. To register, stop at the office or print a registration form from our website [www.lincolmaine.org](http://www.lincolmaine.org). Don't hesitate and miss the fun as this is a great class!

There are also other fun winter activities to enjoy in Lincoln. The Edwards Family Children's Fishing Pond is open to ice fishing for children under 14 years of age. Recreation Director, Ronald Weatherbee, is also happy to announce that not only can you fish at the Children's Pond but the ice is primed for ice skating at the rink located on the lot of the future Recreation Center. Get out and enjoy Lincoln's great outdoors!

**ITEM 9.** In other recreation news, Recreation Director, Ronald Weatherbee, announced four basketball clinics for grades 3 to 12. Varsity Coaches Dubay and Libby along with assistants Stanley and McCarthy will conduct clinics on January 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and February 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at Mattanawcook Academy. The clinics are for boys and girls in grades 3 to 6 and will

be held from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Grades 7 to 12 clinics will be held from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. All interested boys and girls who would like to improve their basketball skills are encouraged to attend these free clinics. Registration can be done at the Recreation Department any weekday.

**ITEM 10.** With the holidays over, the task of taking down all the lights and decorations in the down town area was completed on Tuesday. The lack of snow and ice this year made dismantling the Christmas display much easier. Having a plan in place and making notes on how the lights were put up was a huge help in taking them down efficiently. The dismantling of the display has taken a full day or more in the past. This year the lights were completely down and packed away in 3 hours! This was a joint effort of the Public Works, Fire Department Code Office and Recreation Department! Great job everyone!

**ITEM 11.** Library Director, Linda Morrill, continually works towards improving the library. Over the past three years she has provided cataloging training to the library staff. She reports that everyone is now comfortable with library cataloging using the Dewey Decimal system. She has assigned sections of the library for each member of the staff to work on. The current project for everyone centers on making sure that the proper subject headings have been listed in each record. This is an opportunity to fix existing records and/or delete subject headings that are incorrect. Recently all five library staff members completed the first section of their assigned area. Over the next six months to a year they will be adding/deleting subject headings for all collections including fiction. This exercise will allow the staff to enhance their knowledge of the collection and will also provide better subject searches for our patrons.

**ITEM 12.** Town Council paychecks are included in the Council packet.

**ITEM 13.** Have a great weekend!