

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXI No. 4

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

April 1, 2021

All activities and meetings may be postponed until after the Covid 19 Pandemic has passed. Please call your contact for each specific activity or meeting for more information.

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

April question: The Litchfield village called, "The Plains" was in an earlier time named for what prominent family of early settlers? **March question:** The present-day Dennis Hill road crosses a bridge over Cobbossee Stream. Before the bridge was built, the "Landing" had two different names. What were they? answer: Lord's Landing and Wharf's Landing. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

Tacoma Lakes Association

Spring is here, and by the time you are reading this there is a good possibility that the ice will be out on the Tacoma's. Hopefully by summer, we will be returning to what we used to call normal. TLA had a good 2020, despite Covid, but in 2021 we are hoping for more. Our goal is 300 members. Memberships allow us to fund the very busy boat inspection program at the Woodbury boat launch. It remains one of the busiest boat launches in all of the Cobbossee watershed district. Memberships also allow us to fund our Plant Patrol efforts. Our plant patrol team is out on the lakes throughout the summer, searching for ANY signs of ANY invasive species. Annual membership fees remain steady at a mere \$15. Anyone who cares about the quality of the Tacoma's, enjoys them, and wants to become a member can do so by going to our website at www.tacomalakes.org. Please help us, help all Litchfield residents by becoming a member. We currently have one opening on our board of directors, if interested in joining, please contact Jim Adams, President at 268-2070.

RSU 4

Spring vacation begins Friday, April 16, through Friday, April 23, 2021.

Litchfield Sportsmen's Club News

April 3 - Yard Sale, 9am-1pm, Litchfield Sportsmen's Club
April 3 - Public Supper, 5pm-6pm, \$7/person, Litchfield Sportsmen's Club, Eat in or Take Out
April 4 - Country Sunday, noon-4pm, \$6/person, Litchfield Sportsmen's Club
April 17 - Benefit Supper, 4:30pm-6pm, \$7/person, Litchfield Sportsmen's Club, Take Out Only - your choice of Spaghetti & garlic bread or Beans/Hot dogs/coleslaw/biscuit. Proceeds to help defray the cost of the 45th Annual Children's Fishing Derby

The Litchfield Senior Center is open. No fee to attend. "Aging is more fun when you share it"

When we are open, your attendance is a personal choice. Masks will be provided as well as temperature checks if desired.

The hours at the Center are Monday 10-2, Wednesday 10-12 and Friday 8:30-4 **subject to change**. Come in for card games, Unlucky 7's, etc. Check out the books and puzzles available for your use.

Indoor walking exercise on Fridays at 8:30 with Dian White using a "Leslie Sansone Walk at Home" 5 mile tape-mile markers let you choose a 1 mile, 2,3,4 or 5 mile walk. Your choice. The easy and safe way to exercise especially during these winter months. We also have exercise equipment available for use when the Center is open. Come in and check out what we have to offer. **The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting** is at 1 on Thursday April 15.

There is a WiFi hot spot available at the Senior Center. We have set up a schedule to train Seniors on basic computer applications at the Senior Center. The date for April is Thursday 4/15 at 2pm. If interested, come on down and bring your laptop, Ipad, etc.

Would you like to have someone phone you weekly as part of a wellness check. If interested, please contact the Senior Center at 215-4595 and leave your name & phone # and we will get in touch with you.

Beginning April 12 we will be having Line Dancing at the Litchfield Sportsmen's Club, proof of 2nd vaccine will be required to participate, masks and distancing will continue. **We are hoping to start Tai Chi and Music** soon as well.

The Feldenkrais Method lessons called Awareness through Movement will not be held until further notice. Book club, making cards with Anne Thompson and the Potluck lunch have not been scheduled. Even though the **Carol Bailey String Band** is not performing, members continue to practice at home and keep in touch by email and telephone. **Tai Chi/Qigong** students practice at home with guidance arriving weekly by email. If you would like to receive these installments, please email Pat Bailey at jon.patty77@gmail.com We have a number of books donated pertaining to healthy living and eating, i.e: Eating for good health, Alternative Cures that really work, Chicken Soup & other Folk Remedies and many, many more. **Roadrunner trip to Oxford Casino is planned for April 29. Please call 215-4595 to be put on the list for the trip. Please have proof of 2nd. vaccine shot. Masks will still be required. We leave at 9 a.m. from the Sportsmen's Club parking lot.** Please stop in to the Senior Center located on Academy Rd. next to the Libby Tozier Elementary School for more information, a cup of coffee or tea and check out our books (paperback & hard cover), puzzles and items on the table you may like. Donations always appreciated, or work on the 1000 piece puzzle already set up on the table.

Litchfield Broadband Committee

As noted in a February 26 article from Consumer Reports, the Federal Communications Commission recently voted to formally establish the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program. Eligible households can get a discount of up to \$50 per month on internet service and modem/router fees. The program also offers a one-time discount of up to \$100 toward the purchase of a laptop, desktop, or tablet from participating providers. Families have to pitch in between \$10 and \$50 toward the purchase price. **EBB ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** You're eligible for the EBB program if your household meets any one of these criteria:

- You qualify for the existing Lifeline program.
- You receive benefits under a free and reduced-price school lunch program or school breakfast program.
- You lost your job or experienced a substantial loss of income since Feb. 29, 2020.
- You're a student who receives a Federal Pell Grant.
- You meet the eligibility criteria for your participating internet provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

WHAT'S NEXT: The FCC plans to provide a public web page for consumers to check to see whether their internet provider has signed on with the program. The site will include a list of names and geographic areas of participating providers. (Charter Spectrum has indicated that they will participate in the program according to this link:

<https://policy.charter.com/blog/increasing-impact-emergency-broadband-benefit-program> The FCC says the program is not yet open to consumers, but it will be up and running within 60 days. The internet providers will offer discounted rates to their customers and then get reimbursed by the FCC from the program's funds. The program's rules stipulate that the discount will expire either when the money in the fund runs out or six months after the Secretary of Health and Human Services declares the end of the COVID-19 health emergency.

Litchfield Transfer Station

We've had a long hard winter! With cold temps and the virus, we had the lowest number of citizens utilizing the Transfer Station this winter. In the six years I've been working at the Transfer Station I've never seen such low numbers: we would go hours without a single vehicle come through to gates. We have obtained a twenty-foot-long metal conex container for taking used tires in winter. If left outside the tires will get wet and freeze to the ground and other tires. This makes it very difficult for the company that picks up and hauls the tires. We usually have to wait until spring to get the tires removed. With the conex container we can get the tires removed when we need to. We utilized the new tractor quite often this winter as it was just the right size to clean up areas that the plow truck could not get to. We all felt grateful that the tractor has a heated cab as there were some extremely cold windy days. We could use more help at the Transfer Station, especially during the summer months. Please see me Friday or Saturday at the Transfer Station for applications. We are still taking used motor oil but please bring the oil in one-gallon containers or smaller.

Litchfield Budget Committee

Monday, April 5th 2021 there will be a special Budget Committee meeting at 6:30 PM via the Town ZOOM account and the regular Budget Committee meeting will be on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 6:30 PM via the Town ZOOM account.

Town Clerk's Corner

Nomination Papers Due in April - There is still some time, if you are considering running for an elected position this year, nomination papers may be picked up at the Town Office and must be returned by April 9th. In order to be listed on the ballot on June 8th, each nominee requires signatures from 25 town residents. Positions open for this coming year are on the Board of Selectmen (1); Budget Committee (3); Litchfield Academy Trustees (2); and RSU#4 School Board (1). If you are interested in how the town works, the Budget Committee is a great place to start. All paperwork must be returned by Friday, April 9th.

The Town Office will be closed on Patriots Day, Monday, April 19th.

Property Taxes - The third and final installment of 2020 property taxes is due by April 15th. If you prefer put your check in our drop box (to right of the entrance) please put the property address or account number on your check. You may call the office if you aren't sure of the final amount due.

Town budget reviews have begun. Each section of the town budget will be reviewed at upcoming Select Board meetings through the end of April. Don't wait for the annual Town Meeting to find out what's happening with the budget. Attending the Select Board meetings and following along during the reviews gives you a chance to hear the details, and an opportunity to ask questions. Alternatively, you can link to videos of the Select Board meetings at the Town Website, LitchfieldMaine.org

Upcoming meetings at the Town Office:

Planning Board - Thursday, April 1st, 6:30 pm

Select Board - Monday, April 12th, 6:30 pm

Budget Committee - Monday, April 19th, 6:30 pm

Select Board - Monday, Mar 26th, 6:30 pm

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

The Food Bank's move was postponed but we hope to be in our new location at the left end of the same building by the time you read this. We sincerely appreciated the folks who offered to help and were flexible with postponements. We also appreciated the patience of our clients and look forward to continuing to serve our neighbors. Ricky Gowell continues to provide space for the Food Bank with a free lease.

Litchfield Academy Thrift Shop

Are you ready for a change of seasons. We are at the Thrift Shop too. Mark your calendar to join us on April 12 and/or 13 starting at 1:00 PM for our seasonal changeover. We'll pack away winter, literally and figuratively, and get spring out of storage. I won't ask anyone to stay later than 5:00 PM on Monday and we'll do it again on Tuesday. Would love to have all the help we can get, so plan to join us!

April Community Calendar

1 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd Planning Board –6:30pm	17 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN– 9am to 12pm
2 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.	18 Sun	
3 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN– 9am to 12pm Litchfield Sportsman’s Club— Yard Sale 9am-1pm; Public supper 5pm-6pm, \$7/person, take out available	19 Mon	Budget Committee—6:30pm via Zoom
4 Sun		20 Tue	Lit. Fire Assoc & Reg Meet-6:30pm
5 Mon	Special Budget Comm-6:30pm via Zoom Litchfield Recreation Comm.-Contact Town Office for more information	21 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd
6 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers- 6:30pm; Station	22 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
7 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd	23 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.
8 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	24 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN– 9am to 12pm
9 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m	25 Sun	
10 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN– 9am to 12pm	26 Mon	Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information
11 Sun		27 Tue	
12 Mon	Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information Lit. Sportsman’s Meeting—7pm	28 Wed	RSU 4 School Board—6:30pm-Zoom Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd
13 Tue	First Responders Meeting-6:30pm; Station Conservation Commission –6pm-For Zoom con- nection email Diane Clay c112a3y4@gmail.com	29 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
14 Wed	RSU 4 School Board—6:30pm-Zoom Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd	30 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m
15 Thur	Senior’s Advisory Comm –1pm –Center Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd		
16 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m		

BOX HOLDER

Contents:
 1. Historical Society, Senior Center Corner
 2. Town Manager/Clerk's Report
 3. April Calendar
 4. Newsletter Deadline

ECRWSS
 PRSRT STD
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Litchfield, ME
 Permit #2

The Litchfield Sodalite
 Litchfield Town Office
 2400 Hallowell Road
 Litchfield, ME 04350
 Tel.: 207-268-4721 FAX: 207-268-2196
sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org
www.litchfieldmaine.org
 Open: Mon.: 8:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
 Tue.—Thu.: 8:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
 Closed: Every Fri.

Conservation News

From the Maine Forest Service: Emerald Ash Borer (a green jewel beetle from Asia and killer of ash trees) was first detected in Maine in 2018 in Aroostook County and York County; it was found in 2019 through trapping in Cumberland County. These detections have led to quarantine regulations in all of York and Cumberland Counties and parts of Oxford and Aroostook Counties. Although EAB had not been detected in any new counties in 2020, monitoring programs show EAB populations are expanding within already-regulated Maine areas.

MFS staff and volunteers help detect EAB by participating in the **girdled trap tree network** each spring. Girdled ash trees are attractive to any EAB in the immediate area. The trees are felled in the fall, and sections of them peeled to look for EAB activity. These trap trees provide a good low-tech detection tool that can be used wherever ash trees grow. DACF forest entomologist Colleen Teerling says, "Most of the six biological control release sites established in York County in 2020 were identified through this program, and every year since 2018, this method has provided us with first detections in towns."

How Can You Help?

If you purchased an ash tree from Lowe's in Maine last year, please report it to bugwatch@maine.gov or call (207) 287-7545 (As of November 13, 2020, 30 of the 36 trees sold have been located). If you suspect you have seen emerald ash borer or evidence of its attack on trees in Maine, please report it. To participate in 2021 girdled ash tree trapping survey, please e-mail or call the Maine Forest Service Insect and Disease Lab (207) 287-2431! We'll contact you in the spring. Follow best management practices and quarantine rules when handling ash. Spread the word, not the bugs: Use local or heat-treated firewood!

May Issue Deadline:
 April 22, 2021 5p.m.
 Deliver material in any of the following ways:
E-mail
[**\(sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org\)**](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)
U.S. mail to:
 Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd. 04350

