

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXI No. 8

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

August 1, 2021

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

August question: Maine's oldest houses did not have floor boards measuring over twenty-four inches in width. Why was this? **July question:** Those who came to Litchfield via waterways may well have spent some time in a gundalow. What was a gundalow? answer: A shallow drafted sail boat with a short mast that could be easily lowered to pass under bridges. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

Transfer Station

Attendance at the Transfer Station was down this month: either we had torrential rain on the week end or beautiful sunny days. On the sunny days it seemed that people were finally getting a chance to mow the lawn or go to the beach. Our project for July is to get the ground cover on the old dump bush hogged and the trees on the perimeter cut back as they are encroaching onto the ground cover. We are required by the Department of Environmental Protection to mow or bush hog the cover every spring and fall. We have a new family at the Transfer Station: a mother ground hog and her three babies. They are very cute but very destructive. They have dug a new home under the new cement wall by the brush pile. We will attempt to trap and then transport them to an unpopulated area

Litchfield Firefighter's Association

Reminder that the 911 Signs are still available through the Fire & Rescue Department at a cost of \$20. You can get the forms at the town office or by contacting Tina Gowell @ 207-485-5565. Also we are always looking for anyone that would like to join our department. Thank you all for your support.

25th Annual Show and Shine Car Show

The Litchfield Firefighters Association is hosting our 25th Annual Show and Shine Car Show, Sunday August 15th at Carrie Ricker Middle School. The gates open at 8 am, entries begin at 8 am and close at 11 am. Admissions prices are \$10.00 for a car & 1 passenger. General admission is \$5.00 per person (under 10yrs free). We are anticipating a large turn out with many exhibitors and of course lots of cars! Food, Music, Fun and Cars! Come and make a day of it supporting the Litchfield Firefighters Association! Thank you for your support!

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

We love the fresh local eggs and vegetables that come our way! Thanks to all who support your Food Bank. We appreciate being able to help our neighbors!

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

We still have a great selection of warm weather clothes, and since the warm weather is extending well into September, you'd still get plenty of use this season. Start picking up some kids' clothes at reasonable prices before the back-to-school season starts. You won't find better prices than 25 cents per article! Great reading materials, too!

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

The hours at the Center are Monday 12-2, Wednesday 10:30-12 and Friday 8:30-3:30 subject to change. At this time some of the activities are still being held at the Litchfield Sportsmen's Club until such time that they will be brought back into the Center. If the open flag is out at the Center, come on in.

Line Dancing on Mondays 9:30 to 11 at the Sportsmen's Club; Center will open 11:30-2.

Tai Chi on Wednesday 9-9:45 at the Sportsmen's Club on August 4 and 18.

Music practice for the Carol Bailey String Band is on Wednesdays at 10 to 12 at the Sportsmen's Club on August 4 and 18.

NO TAI CHI OR MUSIC PRACTICE AUGUST 11 OR AUGUST 25.

On Wednesday August 11, the Carol Bailey String Band will perform at the Schoodic Arts for All festival at noon being held in Winter Harbor.

Come to the Center for morning exercise with Dian on Fridays 8:30-9:15. Join in the indoor walking, or use the exercise equipment of your choice.

Games for fun on Mondays at 11:30-2 and Fridays 10-3. Bring a lunch and snack, stay for games or cards at the Center.

Book club discussion group will meet on Wednesday, August 18 at 1 pm. We will discuss the book we chose at the July meeting.

The Seniors Advisory Committee has put together a magnet with the heading **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**: information on the storm shelter, water and contact numbers. These can be picked up at the town office, food bank, transfer station and the Senior Center.

There is a WIFI hot spot available at the Senior Center.

Wellness check – if you would like to have someone phone you weekly, please call and leave your name & phone number and we will be in touch with you.

The Seniors Advisory Committee meeting is at 1 pm. on Aug. 19 **Picnic in the Park at Woodbury Pond Park on Tuesday August 31 @ 11.** Bring a chair, lunch, drink, bathing suit, towel, music/instrument for a sing-a-long.

Road Runner Trips: Please call or stop into the Center to sign up for these trips. *Please note date change:* **Tuesday, August 10**

Old Orchard Beach – leave at 9:30 from Sportsmen's Club.

Wednesday, August 25, The Carousel Music Theater in Boothbay. "Hold Tight it's 60's Night" show at 1 pm. Dinner/show \$54.95; Dessert/show \$35; Show only \$25. Leave 10:15 from Sportsmen's Club. **Reminder:** Exercise equipment available for use when we are open. **The Senior Center** is located on Academy Road next to Libby Tozier Elementary School for more information, a cup of coffee or tea, check out books (paperback and hard cover), puzzles and any items on the table you may like.

Litchfield Recreation

Soccer Registration—We are now accepting registrations for our youth soccer programs, the deadline for the return of registrations is **August 11th**. The cost is \$40/player with the 3rd player in any family free. Our programs are for children ranging from 4 years old up to the 4th grade. If more information is needed please contact Tiffany Caton, Recreation Director at 268-4721. We accept donations to help pay for scholarships for children who need help paying registration fees.

Litchfield Broadband Committee

The list of finalists to provide broadband service to all locations in Litchfield has been reduced from four Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to two. These two providers are the incumbent Charter Spectrum, and Axiom echnologies, a Fiber to The Home (FTTH) provider. The Select Board will review proprietary information from both providers under Executive Session to help differentiate the offerings of the two providers. **In the interim**, it is good to keep in mind that experts claim that 50% of internet speed and quality issues are within the home and not from the ISP. Home equipment that is greater than three years old may be in need of software updates or even replacement to assure the best performance. The August 2021 issue of Consumer Reports makes the following recommendations: 1) Perform a speed test to determine what download and upload speed is coming into the home. (For example, download speed will determine how fast a movie streams into your home, and upload speed will determine how fast data from your end on a Zoom call streams out of the house). Go to a site such as www.speedtest.net <<http://www.speedtest.net>> to understand your current speeds. 2) Determine how much speed you need in the household. It will depend on the number of people and what each user does online. Each user will require 1 Mbps to listen to audio music, 4 Mbps for a video Zoom call, and 25 Mbps to watch a movie in 4K (ultra high definition) on Netflix. The numbers are accumulative for each user online at the same time. Current minimum recommended speeds for a family of four have been raised to 100/100 to accommodate current needs as well as expected needs in the not too distant future.

Watershed Adventures Await.....

Are you searching for a unique outing for the family in 2021? Join the Friends for a Family Tadpole Patrol Adventure in the Cobbossee Watershed! Tadpole Patrol is the Friends of the Cobbossee's innovative and immersive learning experience aboard the Otter II, our 22' pontoon boat. For over 14 years, children and then adults have boarded our "floating classroom" to learn about lake ecology and how to test and protect water quality. We will continue to only offer our Family Tadpole Patrol program this summer and we respectfully ask that all participants are within the same family unit or "bubble". So, what is Family Tadpole Patrol? First of all, it's **FUN** for the whole family! Your family will enjoy a 1 ½ hour excursion where "kids of all ages" can observe wildlife above and below the water, share historical lake facts and experience water monitoring with professional equipment. It's a wonderful "staycation" adventure for the whole family in 2021 as you explore some of the many surrounding local lakes. Even better, you can enjoy a Family Tadpole Patrol adventure for the amazing low price of only \$50 for up to six family members! Choose to explore Cobbossee Lake where the beautiful Ladies Delight Lighthouse can be viewed, enjoy a picnic at Norcross Point on Maranacook Lake while visiting and prepare to be amazed at the vast amount of wildlife you will find on the Tacomas. Simply view the schedule on the Friends website at www.watershedfriends.com or Facebook page to choose your lake, date and time and contact Cami Wilbert (Education Director) at: cami@watershedfriends.com or (207) 395-5239 for availability and to register. The Tadpole Patrol programs are graciously sponsored by Kennebec Savings Bank, Augusta Fuel Co., and Clark Marine- without them these programs would not be possible! **FMI about dates and times of the programs and for registration forms, please contact FOCW Education & Outreach Director Cami Wilbert by phone 395-5239 or email**

Town Clerk's Corner

Woodbury Pond Park – The Park is open, clean, and thriving after the volume of rain we have had recently. Come on down to enjoy the lovely view or refresh with a swim. Thank you to the Litchfield Senior Center for donating new picnic tables to the park! If you are interested in supporting the park, a "Friends of Woodbury Pond Park" group is forming. Check on Facebook or call the Town Office and ask to be put in touch with the founders of this new group.

Town jobs available: Public Works – Full-time equipment operator Planning Board – Secretary – part-time, a few hours a month. Applications available online at litchfieldmaine.org or at the Town Office

Late-Tax Notices – 30-day notices for unpaid 2020 property taxes will be mailed out the week of the 23rd. If property taxes have not been paid in full before that mailing, you will incur an additional processing fee to cover the notification.

Homestead and veterans property tax exemption applications are still being accepted (due to a COVID related extension). If you are a homeowner, have lived in your home for at least one year as of April 1st 2021, and do not yet have an exemption, you can still submit an application and save some money.

Hunters, Any Deer Permit applications must be submitted online by August 17th. The lottery drawing will be held on September 10th.

Need to contact the Animal Control Officer? That would be Cliff Daigle, and he may be reached at (207) 215-7130. If you leave a message, he will get right back to you.

Upcoming meetings at the Town Office: Board of Selectmen – Monday, August 9th, 6:30 pm; Planning Board – Thursday, August 5th, 6:30 pm; Budget Committee – Monday, August 16th, 6:30 pm; Road Advisory Committee – Wednesday, August 18th, 6 pm; Board of Selectmen - Monday, August 23rd, 6:30 pm

Tacoma Lakes Association

The Tacoma Lakes Association held its Annual Meeting on Saturday July 10th, in the red barn at the Litchfield Fairgrounds. Approximately 70 members attended, and enjoyed presentations from Tamara Whitmore, Executive Director of the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed, Mark Evans, chair of the Woodbury Dam Committee, and Larry Bell, who spoke about the broadband committee's work. Attending members asked great questions, and participation by members was at an all-time high. Long time dam keeper Terry Averill received recognition for his quick response to concerns at the dam. Terry was given an impressive ovation by those present. We wish to thank all members, and remind everyone of our ambitious goal of 300 members this year. Anyone who cares about the lakes, uses them for recreation, or just loves the history of the lakes, and their importance to the area economy is welcome to join. Memberships are available online at tacomalakes.org, and PayPal is once again accepted. Finally TLA appreciates every bottle donated at the transfer station, but asks that you please bag your bottles to make collection and redemption easier for the volunteers. Jim Adams 268-2070 jfadams13@gmail.com

August Community Calendar

1 Sun	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4pm	17 Tue	Lit. Fire Assoc & Reg Meet-6:30pm
2 Mon	Lit. Recreation Comm-See website.	18 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd Road Advisory Comm.-6:00pm-Town Of- ficer
3 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers- 6:30pm; Station	19 Thur	Senior's Advisory Comm –1pm –Center Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
4 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd	20 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.
5 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd Planning Board—6:30pm-Town Office	21 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN– 9am to 12pm Town House Museum—OPEN—2p-4p Litchfield Sportsman's Club -Benefit supper, 4:30p-6p,\$7/person. Take Out Only. Choice of beans/hot dogs/cole slaw/biscuit or spaghetti/ garlic bread - proceeds to benefit the Kids Hal- loween Spook House and Adult Halloween House of Horror
6 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.	22 Sun	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4pm
7 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN– 9am to 12pm Hallowell Road Yard Sale— 9am-1pm, yard sales up and down Hallowell Road from Rt. 197 to the West Gardiner bridge, multiple vendors inside the Litchfield Sportsmen's Club Litchfield Sportsman's Club-Public Supper (5pm-6pm) and Music Jam (6:30pm-8:30pm), Litchfield Sportsmen's Club, \$7/for supper and jam or \$2/for jam only.	23 Mon	Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information
8 Sun	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4pm Country Sunday, Noon-4pm, Litchfield Sports- men's Club, \$6/person	24 Tue	
9 Mon	Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information	25 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd American Legion William R. Bold Post 181 – 7pm RSU4-School Board Organizational Meet-6:30 OHHS
10 Tue	First Responders Meeting-6:30pm; Station	26 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
11 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd Conservation Committee-6pm via Zoom	27 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.
12 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	28 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN– 9am to 12pm
13 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.	29 Sun	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4pm
14 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN– 9am to 12pm	30 Mon	
15 Sun	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4pm	31 Tue	
16 Mon	Budget Committee-6:30; Town Office		

BOX HOLDER

Contents:
 1. Historical Society, Senior Center Corner
 2. Town Manager/Clerk's Report
 3. August 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: 207-707-8485
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

Concerned about Browntail Moth? The 1.5” moth is flying now and the Litchfield Conservation Commission Facebook page has two articles to help you learn to recognize them, understand their life cycle and how to control them. The short answer to control is to carefully clip the nests from the tips of tree branches in the fall through the winter (until bud break – when plants leaf out in the spring) and drown them in a bucket of soapy water. You *can* control invasive *plants* this time of year on land and in the water. (Why bother? Invasives overtake and replace the native plants, degrade an ecosystem, making it a ‘desert’ for the smallest animals and all the animals that feed on them and so on up the food chain.) On land, in the Litchfield Community Park, you can see a non-chemical way to control the woody shrub invasives: CC volunteers have cut some of the many large invasive shrubs to about 15” then covered the stumps with contractor bags tied down with nylon twine. Deprived of light they die. Invasive control is ongoing, not a one and done since around the now dead stump you’ll find small seedlings from the ‘seed bank’ of all the fruit that fell there. If the ground is soft it is easy to pull these smaller plants. On the ponds you can see and join the Invasive Plant Patrol-ers who, in small boats, study the underwater view with a scope to try to see if we have any of the 11 invasive water plants. Early detection and rapid response is key to all invasive control; removal costs for large infestations are huge. **Boaters remember: clean, drain, dry** to stop invasive aquatic hitchhikers from other infested ponds.

Sept 1 Issue Deadline:
 Aug 22, 2021 5p.m.
 Deliver material in any of the following ways:
E-mail
sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org
U.S. mail to:
 Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd. 04350

