

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXII No. 12

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

December 1, 2022

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

December question: Under the original (never enacted) incorporation petition for Smithfield Plantation, the Plantation would have had what new name? November question: Early Litchfield deeds sometimes used "poles" as a unit of measure. How long was a "pole" in feet and what did 160 square poles equal in modern terms. answer: A pole was 16.5 feet and 160 square poles equaled an acre. To read more about the history of Litchfield -WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

Full Moon Walk in Litchfield

Join Kennebec Land Trust staff and landowners Teague Morris and Dusty Small, to take advantage of the full moon for a hike at the Small-Burnham Conservation Area on Wednesday, December 7 at 5:30 PM. RSVP is required as space is limited. Please bring what you need to be comfortable for a night walk, including a headlamp or flashlight, warm clothes, water, snacks etc. The family-friendly hike will be approximately two and a half miles long. For more information and to RSVP, contact Marie at mring@tklt.org or 207-377-2848

Litchfield Fire & Rescue Association

We will be doing another Christmas for the Community Event on Saturday, December 10th starting at 3pm to 5pm for the children and then at 5pm will be a special event for the VIP Seating for those who would like to make reservations for the special event from 5 to 8pm. You can participate by purchasing toys and gifts for the local families in need. We will also be doing an online auction on our Facebook page as soon as all the Big Price Items are available to bid on.

Conservation News

The Conservation Commission (CC) will host the Annual Litchfield **New Year's Day Outing at 10 am** in the Litchfield Community Park (LCP). Depending on the weather and participants' interests we will lead cross country skiing, snowshoeing or hiking (if no snow) groups on the various trails with different levels of difficulty. After, we can all meet up after for a fire and hot cocoa at the Central Commons. You can download a map of the LCP at litchfieldmaine.org beforehand. We will meet at the Town Office parking area. If there is rain or other bad weather, we will cancel by 8am and post on the Litchfield CC Facebook page. **Plant native plants** - plan for next year. **For holiday bright red color** try Winterberry, the native deciduous holly. You'll see it in moist situations and therefore needs good garden soil, full sun or a little shade and, like all hollies, needs a male for female plants to insure showy fruit. The straight species is 8' tall and spreading to 10' wide but 'Red Sprite' is a slow growing female plant that gets 4'tall and 6' wide; it needs an early blooming male like 'Jim Dandy' for pollination.

Litchfield Senior Center

The Litchfield Senior Center is open and available to all, no fee to attend. "Aging is more fun when you share it" Some of the activities are being held at the Litchfield Fire Station. If the open flag is out at the Center, come on in. All dates and times are subject to change.

The Sand for Seniors program for winter sand has begun again for the 2022/2023 winter. If you are in need of a 5 gal. bucket of sand, call 268-4237 or 441-9005 to be put on the list. This is a program of the Senior Center.

Line Dancing instruction for all on Mondays 9:30-11 at the Fire Station.

The Senior Center will open 11:30 to 2 on Mondays after Line Dancing., come in for exercise, cards or check out the books or puzzles. We have new puzzles and books coming into the Center all the time.

Back again after a break – Making cards with Anne Thompson on December 5 and December 12 beginning at 12:30. Calling on all stampers to come to the Senior Center for a fun time making cards.

Tai Chi on Wednesdays at 9 am at the Fire Station, except on December 14.

Carol Bailey String band & Chorus music practice on Wednesdays at 10 to 12 at the Fire Station. Come and join us we will be working on the winter program, except on December 14(see below).

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

Come in for cards at 10, BYO lunch at noon and then more cards and games in the afternoon. Pick out books and/or puzzles to take home.

The book club meeting is on Monday, December 19 at 1 pm. at the Senior Center. The book to be discussed is "The Last Thing He Told Me" by Laura Dave .

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting held at the Senior Center is at 1 on Thursday, December 15.

The Carol Bailey String Band and Chorus will be performing a Christmas concert on December 14 at 10 am. at the Lucky Brown's Senior Club in Gorham.

Reminder: Exercise equipment available for use when the Center is open. **The Senior Center** is located on Academy Rd. next to Libby Tozier Elementary School. Stop in for more information, a cup of coffee or tea or check out our books (paperback & hard cover), puzzles and items on the table you may like. Donations always appreciated, or work on the puzzle already set up on the table.

Litchfield Recreation Committee

The next meeting of the Lit. Recreation Committee will be held on December 5, 2022 at 6pm at the Town Office.

Litchfield Transfer Station

We are looking forward to the holidays here at the Transfer Station. **We will be closing at noon on Christmas Eve** to spend time with our loved ones. The paper, tin and glass containers have been moved up next to the plastic and cardboard containers. The leaf and brush piles have been closed till spring. The ground is too soft now and the snow cover. We will reopen the piles in the spring after the spring thaw. We have purchased a new bush hog to do the "mound". We will be ready at the earliest moment to mow the grass. We will reopen the Swap Shop around the middle of April. We have cut back the staffing for the winter. Please be patient with us. Have a Happy Holiday!!

Gardiner Public Library

2022 has been an exciting year for the Gardiner Public Library. More and more people are coming to visit the library to take advantage of the many resources we offer to all community members. The open hours of the library are back to our pre-COVID hours. We've got tons of events happening every week for all ages, including our weekly story times, after school events for teens, and more. We continue to expand the library's digital services through our own Digital Library (<https://gardinerpubliclibrary.org/digitallibrary>). And there's always more going on! Check out the library's Facebook page for the most up to date information (<https://www.facebook.com/GardinerPublicLibrary>). All Litchfield residents are welcome to join the Gardiner Public Library as members, and we are thankful for the continued support of everyone in the community of Litchfield and the Litchfield Select Board. All funding from Litchfield goes directly into library services, events, and collections that can be accessed and used by anyone in Litchfield with a Gardiner Public Library card. We're also a part of the Minerva library system, a Maine cooperative that gives all library members access to 60 libraries and over 6 million items across our great state. If we don't have it in our building, we sure can find it for you somewhere! And finally, in November 2022 we welcomed Litchfield resident Christine Parker as the new Litchfield appointee for our Board of Trustees.

RSU 4 News

PTO Craft Fair to be held at Oak Hill Middle School on 12/3 from 9-3. Oak Hill Middle School Concert to be held on 12/6 at 6 p.m. Snow date is 12/7 at 6 p.m. **Holiday Craft Night** for Grades 1-2 at Sabattus Primary on 12/13. 1st grade: 6-6:45 p.m. 2nd Grade: 6:45 - 7 p.m. Featuring homemade crafts, green screen fun, reindeer food, indoor ice skating and more! **Sabattus Primary Grade 2 Concert** to be held on 12/19 at OHMS. Starts at 6p.m. Snow date: 12/23 **Schools will be closed** 12/23/2022 - 1/2/2023 for vacation. School will resume on Tuesday, 1/3/2023.

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

Yes, the Thrift Shop will be closed Dec. 24, but until then, we'll still be offering our great buck a bag prices. Fresh items are arriving every week, so check it out on a regular basis.

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

We are very grateful for the wonderful donations of funds, turkeys and vegetables that provided Thanksgiving dinners for our clients. They were very grateful. Some extra turkey donations will allow us to provide some for Christmas, too. Our normal hours will be maintained through December, Wed. 4 - 6 PM; Thur, 10 AM to noon.

Town Clerk's Corner

Tax Acquired Property Sale -Five foreclosed properties in town are for sale, and bid packages are available through the Town Office.

The Town of Litchfield is accepting sealed bids for the following properties (land only, except as noted): 1372 Hallowell Rd (Map R14, Lot 47); 2787 Hallowell Rd (Map R2, Lot 16); On Richmond Rd (Map R3, Lot 41); On Peacepipe Dr (Map U28, Lot 86); 13 Nutting Ln, trailer only (Map R4, Lot 46-ON-27). Bids accepted up to and including 4 pm, Monday, Dec. 12, 2022 at the Town Office, to be opened at 7 pm during the Select Board meeting. Pick packets up in person, or email taxinfo@litchfieldmaine.org. Tax maps are viewable at www.litchfieldmaine.org/maps.

Property Taxes - Tax bills are out now that the RSU4 correction vote was approved. The mil rate of 15.72 was originally chosen in September. It's a large increase and related primarily to the higher regular school budget (not for a building addition, that was voted down in August). In addition, this year Homestead and Veteran's exemptions are reduced by 1%, as the State has Litchfield valued over 10% higher than our 2018 revaluation, due to last year's increase in home sales prices. We expect next year's State number will go up more significantly and the Select Board will consider an adjustment at that time. For those with exemptions, the 1% decrease adds about \$5 to your tax bill.

Senior Property Tax Freeze -For those who applied to the program by Dec 1st, next year's property taxes will be frozen at this year's rates. There have been some questions about whether the form says this year or last year, and we agree it could have been stated better, but the state has told us it is the 2022 tax rate that will be frozen starting with the 2023 tax year.

Rte 197 (Richmond Rd) Bridge Update: The Maine Turnpike Authority has told us the bridge will be open before the end of December 2022. However, additional paving work will be necessary in the spring, requiring single lane closures for a week or so.

Elections-A total of 1893 votes were cast during November's general election. The candidate totals are posted online and available at the town office. The RSU4 Corrective Budget Referendum passed with 974 Yes, 880 No, and 25 Blank.

2022 Dog Licenses -You may license your dog(s) for 2022 at the Town Office (licensing began October 15th) or online at https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl. If rabies vaccinations are due, please bring a copy of the new vaccination. To avoid a late fee your dog must be licensed by January 31, 2023.

Snowmobiles -Snowmobiles may be registered at the Town Office, or online at <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/atv-snowmobile/index.html>.

Fishing and Hunting Licenses for the 2023 season are now also available at the Town Office, or online at https://moses.informe.org/cgi-bin/online/moses_v3/index.

Home Heating Assistance-If you are needing fuel assistance and have an appointment with KVCAP, applicants for the KVCAP Fuel Assistance Program should contact KVCAP directly by calling either 1-800-542-8227 ext. 1500 or (207) 859-1500 to schedule an appointment. Applicants may also access the KVCAP website (www.kvcap.org) click "For The Home", select "Heating Assistance", click the highlighted "Click Here" and book your appointment. Information is available in the Town Office.

Creators 4H

The Creators 4H will meet Dec 10th at 1 pm at the Senior Center. We plan on making Santa paint brushes. Have a nice holiday. For more info call Lori at 754-3931

December Community Calendar

1 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd Planning Bd. , 6:30pm	17 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 am –4pm Academy Thrift Store OPEN – 9am to 12pm
2 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm	18 Sun	
3 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 am –4pm Academy Thrift Store OPEN – 9am to 12pm Sportsman’s Club Public Supper -5pm-6pm, \$8 – Music Jam 6:30pm RSU4 PTO-Craft Fair —9am—3pm, OHMS	19 Mon	Budget Committee - 6:30pm, Town Office
4 Sun	Sportsman’s Club -Country Sunday, noon to 4 Public Welcome	20 Tue	Lit Fire Assoc & Reg Meet -6:30pm, Central Sta
5 Mon	Litchfield Recreation Committee —6:00pm, Town Office	21 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm-Richmond Rd.
6 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers - 6:30pm; Station	22 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd
7 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm-Richmond Rd.	23 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm
8 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd	24 Sat	Transfer Station , 8am-12pm
9 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm	25 Sun	
10 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 am –4pm Academy Thrift Store OPEN – 9am to 12pm Lit. Sportsman’s Club —Annual meeting for members and guest; Supper @ 5 meeting to follow	26 Mon	<i>Town Office Closed for Christmas Holiday</i>
11 Sun		27 Tue	
12 Mon	Lit. Selectman’s Meeting —6:30pm; Zoom avail- able—see website.	28 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm-Richmond Rd.
13 Tue	Lit First Responders ; 6:30pm-Central Station	29 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd
14 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd RSU4 —Board of Directors; Central Office 6:30pm Conservation Commission –6:30pm	30 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm
15 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd Senior Advisory Comm ; 1pm	31 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 am –4pm Academy Thrift Store OPEN – 9am to 12pm
16 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm	1 Sun	<i>Happy New Year Welcome 2023</i> Conservation Commission’s New Year’s Day Walk – 10am at Litchfield Community Park
		2 Mon	<i>Town Office Closed for New Year Holiday</i>

BOX HOLDER

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2. Town Manager/Clerk's Report
3. December Calendar
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ECRWSS
PRSR 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.—Thu.: 8:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Closed: Every Fri.



**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST WITH
SANTA**



DECEMBER 3, 2022
8 AM to 11 AM
At Litchfield Fire & Rescue Central
Station, 2407 Hallowell Road
Litchfield Maine 04350
ADULTS \$5/CHILDREN FREE!!
**COME JOIN SANTA FOR BREAKFAST,
WRITE A LETTER TO SANTA, AND HAVE
SOME FUN!**

Jan Issue Deadline:
Dec 20, 2022 5p.m.
Deliver material in any
of the following ways:
E-mail
[\(sodalite@litchfieldmai
ne.org\)](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org) **U.S. mail to:**
Town Office, 2400 Hal-
lowell Rd. 04350

