

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XVI No. 5

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

May 1, 2016

Historical Society of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

May's question: What did "not worth a Continental" mean to an early Litchfield settler?

April's answer: During Colonial Times, the arrow carved into the bark of large Litchfield pine trees signified they were the property of the King of England and reserved as mast trees for the Royal Navy.

To read more about the history of Litchfield, go to: www.historicalsocietyoflitchfieldmaine.org

Current Need—Woodbury Pond Park Attendants

Litchfield Recreation is now accepting applications for Woodbury Pond Park Attendant positions. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older to apply. Applications can be picked up at the town office.

FMI: Tiffany Caton, Recreation Director, and the town office (268-4721)

Litchfield Community Food Bank

Garden planning is starting, and I would like to offer a quick reminder to plant extra to share with the Food Bank when you plan your garden. We love fresh (local) vegetables. Several gardeners shared with us last summer and fall, and it was greatly appreciated.

FMI: Rayna, 582-4098

Litchfield Academy Thrift Shop

Spring clothes are in!!! We are open every Sat., 9 a.m.-noon.

FMI: Rayna, 582-4098

Indoor Lawn Sale

Litchfield Community Christian Church will hold its Indoor Lawn Sale Fri.-Sat., May 13-14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the church, 1881 Hallowell RD. Proceeds benefit building maintenance.

Donations of household goods and items for the sale can be made by contacting Rayna, 582-4098.

School Budget Vote

Mark your calendar—Tuesday, June 14, 2016
Watch your local newspapers and town website for public hearing dates for this budget vote.

Senior Center Calendar

Open: Every Mon. and Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Every Wed., 8:30 a.m.-noon

Closed: Mon., May 30 (Memorial Day)

Center Painting Project—We need volunteers Tue., May 10, at 8 a.m. Paint, rollers, etc., and lunch will be provided. Call 441-9005, or sign up at the Center.

New Activity—Drama Club, first Wed. of the month, at 12:30 p.m. We read plays and build characters—much like the old radio shows.

Bowling, 1-7-10 Lanes, Augusta, Thu., May 12. Car pool from the Sportsmen's Club at noon.

Book Club, Wed., May 11, 9:30 a.m., Book: *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*, by Helen Simonson.

The pot luck lunch and celebration of **May birthdays** is Fri., May 20.

Line dancing instruction, Mon.'s, 9:30 a.m., beginners and advanced.

Aerobics classes on Wed.'s and Fri.'s at 8:30 a.m.

Music practice, 10 a.m., Wed.'s.

Awareness through Movement, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Fri.'s, May 6, 13, 20, with Lindsay Nelsen.

Cribbage for fun on Mon.'s, 11 a.m., and Fri.'s, 10 a.m.-noon. Bring a lunch and stay in the afternoon for cards.

Thrift Shop open first and third Mon.'s, 10-11 a.m.

Seniors Advisory Committee meets at 10 a.m., Tue., May 17.

Roadrunner Trips:

- **Sky Lodge**, Moose River, Tue.-Thu. (3-day trip), May 24-26. Leave Sportsmen's Club at 9:30 a.m. (This trip has a waiting list.)
- **McLaughlin Garden**, S. Paris, Tue., May 31. Leave Sportsmen's Club at 9:30 a.m. Lunch at Maurice's Restaurant.

Stop in at the Center for more information, a cup of coffee/tea, and activity/trip sign up. Check out our books, or work on the 1,000-piece puzzle.

Snowmobile Club Landowner Appreciation Lunch

The Litchfield Snowmobile Club would like to thank you—the Litchfield landowners—for your generosity and use of your land for snowmobiling. Enjoy an Italian lunch on us!!

Libby Tozier School Cafeteria
Sun., May 1, 2016, 12-2 p.m.

From the Town Manager

New Animal Control Officer

The search to fill this position was successfully completed in mid-April. Our new Animal Control Officer is Kathleen Ross of Rome. She has many years of experience serving other nearby municipalities. She can be reached at 441-7121, 24/7.

Brush at the Transfer Station—The Transfer Station is now open to receive brush from spring cleanups.

Small Road Turnpike Bridge Work—We are awaiting a Maine Turnpike Authority start date for this work—possibly by late May. Current brush cutting in the town's right-of-way is being done by the town in anticipation of the MTA work. Continue to watch for traffic disruptions as work commences.

Cemetery Maintenance Bids—Three bids were received and reviewed. The Select Board awarded the work to Eaton Landscaping.

Ditch Work—The town has rented an excavator in order to complete ditch work on several town roads. The list of roads to be worked on is currently being finalized.

Culvert Work—Culvert replacement will be starting by the end of May on several town roads.

School Budget Vote—Tue., Jun. 14, is set as the day for Litchfield to vote on the school budget.

Town Meeting—Sat., Jun. 18, is set as town meeting day.

Reminder—All are welcome to attend **Select Board meetings**. Come and see how town government operates.

Tacoma Lakes Association

Mark your calendar for Sat., Jul. 9,—the date of our annual meeting and meal at Carrie Ricker School, Litchfield. This will also be TLA's 75th anniversary.

The dam keeper has put the upper dam gates in the Purgatory dam allowing water levels to rise to their usual summer levels. Those levels should be reached by mid-May.

FMI: bdoyles@roadrunner.com; or www.tacomalakes.org; or Facebook

Gardiner Public Library

The staff had great fun with this year's National Library Week (April 10-16) theme of **Libraries Transform**. We had visitors tell us how they are impacted by libraries. Answers ranged from the original to the obvious. Some responses made staff glad that they work in libraries!

Children told us that they love to come in for our Tuesday Story and Craft Hour (10:30-11:30), and caregivers told us how much they love our Friday Babies Love Babies Program (beginning at 10 a.m.). Our teenagers bragged about getting a library card for free and having access to books, movies, music, and magazines. Adults just love that they may check out the newest bestseller, and if it is not available in our library, we can surely get it from the over 90 other libraries within our consortium. History buffs cannot wait to tell us how our Community Archives Room literally transformed them as they were able to discover lost ancestors, and how the available maps made them aware of who may have lived in their homes 100 years ago.

Libraries transform the staff lucky enough to work at the Gardiner Public Library. There is no greater achievement than hooking up the right book with a curious reader in whatever format they may fancy . . . audiobooks, e-books, or hardcover books, the library has access to all items. Why not let the Gardiner Public Library transform your day? Litchfield is a partner town of the library; just bring in a current identification document and let this transformation begin!

We are located at 152 Water ST, Gardiner. Our hours are posted on our website (<http://www.gpl.lib.me.us>).

RSU4

If you are a resident of Sabattus, Litchfield, or Wales and have a child that will be 5 years old on or before Oct. 15, 2016, please call to sign up for **Kindergarten** for the 2016-2017 school year.

Also, please call if you have a child that will be 4 years old on or before Oct. 15, 2016, and you are interested in our **Pre-Kindergarten** program. Litchfield residents call Libby-Tozier (268-4137); Sabattus/Wales residents call Sabattus Primary (375-4525). If there are more children that register for Pre-K than slots available, then a lottery will be held in early May.

Screenings for both Pre-K and Kindergarten will be held at Sabattus Primary on Tue.-Wed., May 17-18, by appointment only. If your child currently attends an RSU4 Pre-K program, you do not need to re-register or have your child screened.

A **Carrie Ricker Spring Musical Concert and Art Show** will be held Tue., May 10. At 6 p.m. there will be a concert featuring the Beginner Band and all 4th graders. At 7 p.m. there will be a concert featuring all 3rd graders. The art show will be ongoing during both concerts.

On Tue., May 24, 6 p.m., there will be a **Libby-Tozier concert** featuring students from Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Ms. Cronin's 1st grade. There will also be a 2:25 p.m. dress rehearsal that day. Parents/Family members are welcome to attend.

There will be a **Pre-K and Kindergarten Music Concert** on Thu., May 26, at 6 p.m. at Sabattus Primary. The dress rehearsal will be at 2 p.m. on the same day. Parents/Family members are invited to attend this as well.

RSU4 schools are **closed** Mon., May 30, for the observance of Memorial Day.

Last student school day for RSU4 will be Fri., Jun. 17.

May 2016 Community Calendar

1 Sun	Snowmobile Club Landowner Appreciation Lunch , Libby-Tozier School Cafeteria, 12-2 p.m.	17 Tue	Sen. Ad. Com. , Academy Bldg., 10 a.m. Fire/Rescue Station cleanup , 6 p.m. Fire/Rescue Assoc. Mtg. , Station, 6:30 p.m. Fire/Rescue Mtg. , Station, 7 p.m. Masons , Masonic Hall, 7:30 p.m.
2 Mon	National Teacher Appreciation Week Academy Thrift Store , 10-11 a.m. Rec. Committee , Town Office, 6:30 p.m. Order of the Eastern Star , Masonic Hall, 7 p.m.	18 Wed	Road Committee , Town Office, 5:30 p.m. TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. (weigh-in before). FMI: Ruth Sherman, cell: 939-1907
3 Tue	National Teacher Appreciation Week Fire/Rescue Officers Mtg. , 6 p.m.	19 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m.
4 Wed	National Teacher Appreciation Week TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. (weigh-in before). FMI: Ruth Sherman, cell: 939-1907	20 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station/Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
5 Thu	National Teacher Appreciation Week Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m. Planning Board , Town Office, 5:30 p.m.	21 Sat	Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station/Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Bean Supper , Masonic Hall, 4-6:30 p.m.
6 Fri	National Teacher Appreciation Week Town Office , closed Transfer Station/Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-6 p.m.	22 Sun	
7 Sat	Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station/Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-6 p.m.	23 Mon	Select Board Meeting , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.
8 Sun		24 Tue	
9 Mon	Select Board Meeting , Town Office, 6:30 p.m. Sportsmen's Club Monthly Meeting , Sportsmen's Club, 7 p.m.	25 Wed	RSU4 Bd. Meeting , Oak Hill HS, 6:30 p.m. TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. (weigh-in before). FMI: Ruth Sherman, cell: 939-1907 Franks & Beans , Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m. American Legion , Legion Hall, 7 p.m.
10 Tue		26 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m. Fair Directors , Sportsmen's Club, 7:30 p.m.
11 Wed	National School Nurse Day Conservation Commission , Town Office, 6:30 p.m. RSU4 Board Meeting , Oak Hill HS, 6:30 p.m. TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. (weigh-in before). FMI: Ruth Sherman, cell: 939-1907	27 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station/Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
12 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m.	28 Sat	Public Breakfast , Masonic Hall, 7-10 a.m. Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station/Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
13 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station/Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-6 p.m.	29 Sun	
14 Sat	Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon Legion Auxiliary , Legion Hall, 10 a.m. Transfer Station/Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Public Supper , Sportsmen's Club, 5-6:30 p.m. Music Jam , Sportsmen's Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m.	30 Mon	Memorial Day Town Office , closed RSU4 Schools , closed
15 Sun	Country Sunday , Sportsmen's Club, 12-4:30 p.m.	31 Tue	
16 Mon	Academy Thrift Store , 10-11 a.m. Hist. Pres. Comm. & Hist. Soc. , Shorey Family research Room, 7 p.m.		

Note

Last student school day for RSU4 will be Fri., Jun. 17.

Summer Hours at the Transfer Station

Don't forget—

Summer Hours are in effect at the Transfer Station
beginning **Friday, April 1****They are: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.—Fridays and Saturdays**



Contents:

1—Historical Society, Woodbury Pond Positions, Food Bank, Thrift Shop, Lawn Sale, Budget Vote, Senior Center, Landowner Lunch

2—Town Manager, Tacoma Lakes Association, RSU4, Library

3—May Calendar

4—Newsletter Deadline, Conservation Commission, Benefit Supper, Town Meeting Date

BOX HOLDER

The Litchfield Sodalite
 Litchfield Town Office
 2400 Hollowell 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.

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 Permit #2

June Issue Deadline: May 20, 2016, 5 p.m.
 Deliver material in any of the following ways:

- E-mail (sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)
- U.S. mail to: Town Office, 2400 Hollowell

Conservation Commission News

The Conservation Commission is pleased to again be playing a role in two important outdoor learning experiences for third graders at Smithfield Plantation. Vernal Pool Day was Thu., Apr. 28, and Forestry Day will be Thu., May 19. Part of our mission is to get students outdoors and teach an appreciation for our environment.

We have commission openings and would like to invite Litchfield residents to come to our meetings and see what we do. Whether you can get to all of the meetings or simply contribute ideas and help on specific projects you are most welcome. Meetings are on the second Wed. of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the town office.

Most trails in town are cleared and prepared for hiking. Please carry out your trash and keep your dogs under control. New born wildlife are especially vulnerable at this time of year. Enjoy spring!

Benefit Supper

The Litchfield Fire & Rescue Department and the William R. Bold Post 181 of the American Legion are teaming up to help two of our own. Mike and Betsey Sherman have had a run of bad luck with the furnace of their recently purchased home incurring a crack in the boiler which will necessitate its being replaced and Betsey having been hospitalized twice in recent months which has led to some medical bills over and above their insurance.

A benefit supper will be held on **Sat., June 4**, at the Litchfield Fire & Rescue Central Station from 5 -7 p.m. Main courses will be pasta and bean hole baked beans with salads, drinks, and desserts. Let's all turn out for a great meal, a great cause, and a great evening. Donations will be accepted at the door. People wishing to donate dinner rolls, salads, or desserts should contact Darryl Ellis at 441-3650.

We thank you for your support.

Town Meeting
 Mark your calendar—Saturday, June 18, 2016