

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XX No. 4

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

April 1, 2020

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: Most early Litchfield Settlers supported "Quieting Acts" in the Massachusetts legislature. Why?

March question: In early Litchfield, locally produced diapers got their name from what shape woven into what fabric? answer: Diamond shape woven into linen cloth. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed

The Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed's upcoming Spring Nature Day Camp held over April vacation has been cancelled. You may reach out to Cami Wilbert with any questions through the following contact information: Cami Wilbert cam@watershedfriends.com 207-395-5239

Litchfield Farmers Club

We will be having storage take-out day April 18. After storage takeout at 12 o'clock, in the April 18th the farmers club will meet outside at the fairgrounds for their first official meeting.

Tacoma Lakes Quilters

Save the date: May 16th. There will be a yard sale at the Morning Star Lodge on the Hallowell Rd. Items are cloth, sewing and crafting supplies and homemade items. Time is 9a-3p. For More Information please text or call 754-3931

4H The Creators

Will be meeting on April 22nd if we can. Plan on doing three projects so the meeting will be longer depending on how things go. If we can't meet, Lori Larrabee will let you know. For More Information please text or call 754-3931

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

We will be closed until further notice and will not accept donations until 30 days after the coronavirus pandemic is declared over. Please do not leave items until then!

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

The hours of operation have been extended on Wednesday and is now open from 4 - 6:00 PM with drive through service. Thursday hours continue to be 10:00 AM to noon with drive through service. If you have questions, please call Rayna at 207 582-4098 or Dian at 406-600-6443.

Senior Center

The Litchfield Senior Center is closed until further notice. Please check the Town of Litchfield web site or call the Senior Center phone #215-4595 for changes in our status.

The following are the normal operation hours and programs, which may or may not be available due to the shutdown and guidance on gatherings: The normal hours are Monday & Friday 8:30-4 and Wednesday 8:30-12, subject to change. The Center is closed on April 20.

Tai Chi at 8:30 on Mondays. Gentle physical exercises and stretches, sometimes described as meditation in motion. "A gentle way to fight stress"-Mayo Clinic Line dancing instruction Mondays at 9:30 for beginners and advanced.

Aerobic exercise classes on Wednesday and Fridays at 8:30.

Book Club meeting is on April 8 @ 12:15. The book to be discussed will be "The Shape of Night" by Tess Gerritsen.

Making cards w/bth Anne Thompson is on Wednesday, April 15 at 1 p.m.

Music practice for the Carol Bailey String Band is on Wednesdays at 10.

The Feldenkrais method awareness through movement class with Lindsay Nelsen (268-4569) is at 9:30 on Fridays.

Cribbage or Unlucky 7's games for fun on Mondays at 11 and Fridays 10-12. Bring a lunch and stay for games on Mondays in the afternoon & on Friday cards or games.

The Thrift Shop is open the first Monday 10-11 in April. The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting is at 10 a.m. on Thursday April 16.

Potluck lunch and celebration of April birthdays is on Friday April 17. Shake off the winter blues, come on down to the Senior Center for good food and conversation. Lunch is 12 to 1. The first RoadRunner trip of 2020 is on April 23 to Oxford Casino. We leave at 9 am. Call the Senior Center 215-4595 or Pat @ 441-9005 or stop in to sign up.

The form for 2020 trip suggestions is available at the Senior Center. Stop in and pick one up to fill out.

We need your input. **Reminder:** Exercise equipment available for use 8:30-4 Monday and Friday; 8:30-12 Wednesday.

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 or work on the 1000 piece puzzle. We also have some interesting items on our donation table, check them out.

RSU4 SCHOOL NEWS

Schools are closed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic until further notice.

RCAM

RCAM seeks auction items - date TBD

This Auction is our major fundraiser each year. RCAM is a not for profit, non-sectarian organization that has been dedicated to service the needs of the rural poor in the greater Lewiston-Auburn area for 50 years. Last year I had some business gift cards and a few antiques donated. RCAM provides homelessness and hunger prevention services to our most vulnerable neighbors in Buckfield, Canton, Greene, Hartford, Leeds, Litchfield, Livermore, Monmouth, Sabattus, Sumner, Turner, Wales, Wayne, and Livermore Falls. RCAM's Auction for Action will be a great opportunity to learn more about RCAM services, meet new friends and strengthen our communities. If you have a donation please contact Marilyn Dunn RCAM Board

Litchfield Transfer Station

The Town Office has issued over one thousand of the new Litchfield Transfer Station permit windshield stickers. This has been a painful experience but believe we are making excellent progress in making sure that the people utilizing the facility are indeed Litchfield residents. Do to the Corona virus we will not open the Swap Shop until July. We will reevaluate this issue at the beginning of July. Citizens can still drop off items for the Swap Shop. A special thanks to Cindy Dewitt for making the Swap Shop such a success. Cindy is retiring this month from her Swap Shop duties. Volunteers are needed to keep this operation going. We are having difficulty getting our roll off containers picked up and emptied. This is occurring do the company that hauls our containers are having difficulty filling shifts due to illness.

Smithfield Plantation

The trustees have been working with Carrie Ricker School to put together the three field trips that we do yearly with the 3rd and 4th graders. As of now, we do not know whether these outdoor events will happen. Just like all of you we are proceeding cautiously. We would like to reach out to the community, not with more advice, but with an offer for you to come visit Smithfield and walk the trails. You can enjoy the woods and the early signs of spring while keeping enough distance between friends to stay safe. Fresh air is good for you, the vernal pool will be active very soon, and there are birds gathering on their annual migration paths. You may also bring your dog along for a walk as long as your pet is under voice control or on a leash. There is only one rule to follow: in a time of social distancing please take care of your own trash. Meet a friend on the trail, take pictures, and take the time to relax and smile.

Town Clerk's Corner

There is no precedent for the **Covid 19 Crisis** facing the world and our local communities right now. Our town is doing our best to assist you during this time.

Governor Mills announced on March 24th that non-essential businesses must close the public facing part of their business for 2 weeks. Therefore, the Town Office will be closed to foot traffic until Wednesday April 8th. Customers may still call us during normal business hours. You may still re-register vehicles online, or by mail to the town office. Please include a copy of your valid insurance card, the current mileage and answers to the two questions 1) Is your registration or privilege to register under suspension; 2) Are you required to file a SR-22 form? If you wish to register recently purchased vehicle please call us. Property taxes may be mailed-in, or you can use our drop box next to the front door. Please include the address or account number of the parcel for which you are paying taxes. And for ALL submissions, please include your phone number so we may contact you if necessary. Payments may be made by check, credit card, or cash. Thank you for your cooperation. We will do everything in our power to assist you during this time.

The town website, LitchfieldMaine.org, is a good source of the latest information about the current availability of services, but on March 21st we also opened a new Facebook page "Town of Litchfield, Maine" that will provide information, updates and links.

Select Board meetings will be available by video conference or dial-in, check the website for the link prior to each meeting

The Litchfield Food bank has implemented extended hours and drive-up service (see further info in this issue)

The Senior Center is closed

Recreation Baseball sign-up deadline is extended until further notice

Elected Offices:

If you are considering running for an elected position, please call the Town Office.

Positions open for this coming year are on the:

Board of Selectmen (1);

Budget Committee (3)

Litchfield Academy Trustees (2);

RSU#4 School Board (1).

Property taxes:

The third and final installment of 2019 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.

The Town Office will be closed on Patriots Day, Monday, April 20th.

Upcoming meetings at the Town Office

Select Board – Monday, April 13th, 6:30 pm

Select Board – Monday, April 27th, 6:30 pm



April Community Calendar

1 Wed	Food Bank -4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd	17 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.m
2 Thur	Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	18 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store — Closed
3 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.m	19 Sun	
4 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store — Closed	20 Mon	
5 Sun		21 Tue	Lit. Fire Assoc & Regular Meet ; 6:30pm
6 Mon	Lit. Recreation Comm. (Cancelled) Order of the Eastern Star (Cancelled)	22 Wed	Food Bank -4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd American Legion Post#181 — 7pm
7 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting -6:30pm	23 Thur	Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
8 Wed	Food Bank -4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd Conservation Commission meeting at 6pm will be held online. If you wish to join contact Diane Clay-406-600-6443	24 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.m
9 Thur	Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	25 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store — Closed
10 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.m	26 Sun	
11 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store — Closed American Legion Ladies Aux -10am	27 Mon	Selectman Meeting , 6:30pm; Town Office on line-See Website for more information
12 Sun		28 Tue	
13 Mon	Selectman Meeting , 6:30pm; Town Office on line-See Website for more information	29 Wed	Food Bank -4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd
14 Tue	First Responders Meeting 6:30pm	30 Thur	Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
15 Wed	Food Bank -4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd		
16 Thur	Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd		

BOX HOLDER

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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: 207-268-2196
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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The Litchfield Sodalite

Conservation News

From the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry - Maine Quarantine Rules for Emerald Ash Borer and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid The emerald ash borer (EAB) quarantine area within Maine has expanded due to new detections of EAB in southern Maine near and outside the boundaries of the previous quarantine area. The complete area in Maine under quarantine for EAB now includes all of Cumberland and York Counties and parts of Aroostook and Oxford Counties (visit maine.gov/eab to view a map) The quarantine rule bans movement of ash nursery stock from the quarantine area, and regulates the movement of hardwood firewood, hardwood chips, and ash products with bark, such as logs, pulp, and untreated ash lumber. Visit the FAQ section of maine.gov/eab to learn more. This announcement comes at an important time of year as we are quickly approaching EAB flight season. The flight period for EAB begins May 1st, when adult beetles can begin emerging from infested trees or other ash products. The majority of new EAB infestations are the direct result of human-assisted movement. Many of them, a result of movement of infested firewood. We ask readers to both abide by and help spread the messages: Firewood is not dead! Destructive invasive insects and diseases can be moved in or on untreated firewood. Use local or heat-treated firewood, visit FirewoodScout.org to find sources, and All untreated out-of-state firewood is prohibited from entering Maine. The area under quarantine in Maine due to hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) has increased to reflect detections of HWA in the forests of Midcoast Maine and ornamental trees in coastal Hancock County. Repeated detections of HWA in ornamental trees in coastal Hancock County are an important reason for the expansion, highlighting the role of landscaping activities in the human-assisted spread of this forest pest. The complete area under quarantine for HWA in Maine now includes all of Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc and York Counties and portions of Androscoggin, Cumberland, Hancock, Kennebec, and Waldo Counties. Often over-looked, clusters of HWA appear as small cotton-ball like masses on the undersides of hemlock twigs. They can be easily identified when viewed up close. If you suspect you have seen HWA, mark the branch, take a picture or sample and contact the Maine Forest Service. [Report suspected HWA online](#) or call (207) 287-2431.

May Issue Deadline:
April 22, 2020, 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
Hand deliver to: Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd

