

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XX No. 7

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

July 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

July question: The vast majority of workers in early Litchfield were paid in barter, not cash. What would have been a typical daily wage for those paid in cash? **June question:** Most early settlers of Litchfield had little or no money. What was the cheapest way to get a family from Massachusetts to Maine? **answer:** Book a ride on an empty lumber schooner heading back to Maine. The cost? Two dollars for your family and some furniture etc. to get the Kennebec or Penobscot. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

Smithfield Plantation News

The Smithfield Trustees are disappointed that students did not take part in our suggested activities this spring, but we are pleased that the trails have been in use. We would also like to thank those who are walking for taking care of their trash. The clean-up for us has been minimal. The trustees are working on repairing bridges, signs, and other trail up-keep. We have received comments from residents about signage and concerns about the brown tail moth caterpillars. Your input is much appreciated and we will act when we can to alleviate problems. At present there is no way to stop the caterpillars, but we plan to watch the amphitheater area with the possibility of removing some nests in the fall. The following is a webinar from the Maine Government that explains the history and ways to respond to the infestation. <https://youtu.be/7gik7R6qsdl> <<https://youtu.be/7gik7R6qsdl>> We encourage you to join us both for walking at Smithfield and also for help with trail work, planning activities, participating in field trips, etc. If you haven't been there - get out and take a walk. To join us contact Diane Clay - c112a3y4@gmail.com <<mailto:c112a3y4@gmail.com>>.

Tacoma Lakes Association

Despite COVID 19 summer has arrived here on the lakes. This past weekend the lakes were bustling with activity. Families swimming, boating, water skiing, and towing tubes. Children could be heard laughing, and sometimes screaming in joy all over the Tacoma Lakes. Reminded me of why I joined the association, and am still on the board of directors. My dream is to have future generations enjoy our lakes as much as I do. It has become a passion. Keeping these beautiful waters as clean as possible, including free of invasive species, are the goals of our association. We cannot accomplish this on our own. We need more members, a bargain at only \$15 per household, per year, we need volunteers to help monitor the lakes, and our board of directors needs new directors to help us move forward. Anyone can help us by becoming a member, any members who want to be more active can help us. For more information, check our website, www.tacomalakes.org, or our Facebook page. If you want to help in any way, please reach out to me, Jim Adams, at 268-2070, or any of our board members.

Senior Center

The Litchfield Senior Center is still closed until further notice. We will be open again as soon as it is safe to do so. Please check the Town of Litchfield web site or call the Senior Center phone 215-4595 or 441-9005 for changes in our status.

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

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.

Aerobic exercise classes on Wednesday and Fridays at 8:30 to 9:30.

Tai Chi on Mondays at 8:30 to 9:15.

Line dancing is on Mondays 9:30 to 11 for beginners and advanced.

Music practice for the Carol Bailey String Band is on Wednesdays at 10 to 12.

The Feldenkrais method awareness through movement class with Lindsay Nelsen (268-4569) is at 9:30 to 10:30 on Fridays.

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

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting is at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday July 16. Please note the new time.

Because of the Covid-19 virus and stay at home orders, RoadRunner trips have not been set up - please check with the Senior Center for any trips that may be able to be scheduled. Book club meeting, making cards with Anne Thompson and the Potluck lunch have also not been scheduled at this time.

Reminder: Exercise equipment available for use 8:30-4 Monday and Friday; 8:30-12 Wednesday when we are open.

LITCHFIELD FIRE AND RESCUE

Litchfield Fire & Rescue is offering a great program for anyone interested in purchasing a reflective numerical address sign for your mailbox or home. This reflective blue sign will have yellow numbers on one or both sides, vertical or horizontal. Numbers are 3" and the sign itself is 6" x 18". A sample display will be available at the fire station and town office. Signs are priced at \$20.00 and orders can be placed starting now at the Town Office or Gowell's Shop & Save. Starting July 11th, you can pick up your sign at the station or come in to have one made. Hours will be Saturday and Sunday mornings between 8-10am. Any questions regarding this program, please call Tina Gowell at 485-5565. Signs are available for local residence as well as out of town residence. Need help installing? We would be glad to help.

Transfer Station

Please be advised that we no longer are able to receive propane tanks of any size (per DEP order). Twenty-pound Tanks or larger can be taken to Maine Oxy in Auburn on Washington street. Maine Oxy will not take the small one-pound tanks. I will contact DEP to find what we can do with the one-pound containers. The Swap Shop is now open. I would like to thank Bruce Doyle for opening the shop in the morning and taking photos of items available and posting them on the web site. That process has generated a drastic increase in interest in the Swap Shop. We are no longer taking glass items in the Glass roll off container. You may bring glass items to the Transfer Station but they must be put in the Bulky roll off container. We had the Glass container removed as it was full. It was taken to Scarborough as it has always been. When the driver hauling the container arrived at the company in Scarborough he was advised that they no longer accepted glass as there was no longer a market for glass. The driver then returned to Auburn and went to Casella recycling. Casella accepted the load (for \$120.00) and the driver unloaded the glass. The driver inquired as to where Casella would take the glass and he was advised that the glass would go into the local land fill. We are currently looking for additional workers at Transfer Station. This position is for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Applications can be picked up at the Town Office Monday through Thursday and at the Transfer Station on Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

Litchfield Broadband Committee

Though voting in July is not normal, please remember to get out and cast your vote. Question 1 invests \$15 million to improve access to high speed internet. It will be matched by \$30 million from private, federal and local funds, tripling the impact. Please research Question 1 and cast an informed vote on July 14, 2020.

It is with much sorrow that we announce that Litchfield has an opening for a Representative to the Cobbossee Watershed District. The untimely and tragic passing of Dan Bailey makes this necessary. Mr. Bailey served the Town for many years and his dedication, commitment, and hard work will be hard to replace and he will be greatly missed. Please contact the Town Office if you are interested.

WOODBURY POND PARK

We will be opening for the season July 1st! Our hours will be 9am to 8pm daily. We will be closed during inclement weather. Fee is \$2. per person. Under 5 and seniors are free. No smoking and no pets are allowed. We ask that everyone follows our State's social distancing guidelines to ensure a good time for all. We will not be opening the changing cabins this year and we ask if you allow your children to use the playground equipment that they are supervised by an adult and that they use hand sanitizer before and after.

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

If you have extra produce when your garden comes in, please consider sharing it with the Food Bank to go to our neighbors. You can drop it off on Wednesdays, late morning, or call and we'll get it picked up from you. Thanks in advance. Local eggs are also welcome. We greatly appreciate the support we've received. Our volunteers are the BEST! Rayna, 582-4098

Town Clerk's Corner

TOWN MEETING LOCATION CHANGED!!! This year's Town Meeting will be held at the Litchfield Fairgrounds in the Richard Smith Arena (also known as the Pulling Ring), on Saturday, July 18th, beginning at 10 am. **VOTE!** Tuesday July 14th by absentee ballot, or in person at the Sportsmen's Club, 2782 Hallowell Rd, from 8 am – 8 pm. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing rules we are encouraging registered voters to vote by absentee ballot for the July 14th, 2020 election to ensure the health and safety of our residents and election/ballot clerks. During voting on the 14th at the Sportsmen's Club, voters will be expected to follow the CDC guidelines and only a limited number of voters will be allowed into the polls at any given time. **You can request a ballot over the phone at 268-4721, or stop by the Town Office to pick one up.** You can even vote your absentee ballot at the Town Office if you prefer. The deadline for requesting a ballot by mail is 5:00 pm on July 9th. You can also visit <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absent.html> to request a ballot electronically. All Absentee Ballots must be returned to the municipal clerk by 8 pm on Election Day. If you are not registered to vote please make the effort to do so. You can register at the polls if you need to.

Municipal Election and State Referendums: Tuesday, July 14th, 2020

Residents may request an absentee ballot either online or from the Town Office (call or stop by). Absentee ballots may be mailed or dropped off, but must be received by the time polls close.

Question 1 Bonds -- Authorizes \$15 million in bonds for high-speed internet infrastructure

Question 2 Bonds -- Authorizes \$105 million in bonds for transportation infrastructure projects

(The CMP corridor referendum question will be on the November ballot.)

Candidates for Municipal Election:


Positions open for this coming year are on the:
Board of Selectmen (1): Candidate: Gary Parker
Budget Committee (3): Candidate: Write-in
Litchfield Academy Trustees (2): Candidate: Write-in
RSU#4(1): Candidate: Write-in

Woodbury Pond Park will be opening for the season July 1st! Our hours will be 9am to 8pm daily. We will be closed during inclement weather. Fee is \$2. per person. Under 5 and seniors are free. No smoking and no pets are allowed. We ask that everyone follows our State's social distancing guidelines to ensure a good time for all. We will not be opening the changing cabins this year and we ask if you allow your children to use the playground equipment that they are supervised by an adult and that they use hand sanitizer.

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

We are looking forward to opening in August, if all continues to go well with drops in Covid-19 cases. Cheer up, there's still plenty of summer and new duds will be fun! Since summer temps frequently continue into September, some may be back to school clothes, whether you are attending a classroom or not. Some really nice items are ready when we reopen. Personally, a size larger may be necessary for me after spending so much time in the kitchen for the past several months.

July 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 TOWN MEETING—10AM; Litchfield Fairgrounds
3 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m	19 Sun	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m
4 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store— Closed	20 Mon	
5 Sun	Transfer Station, 8.m.-4 p.m.	21 Tues	Lit. Fire Assoc & Regular Meet-6:30pm
6 Mon	Lit. Recreation Comm. (Zoom Meeting) Order of the Eastern Star (Cancelled)	22 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd
7 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers- 6:30pm; Station	23 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
8 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd Conservation Comm.; 6:00pm –Zoom— Contact Diane Clay at 268-3247	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	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m
11 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store— Closed	27 Mon	Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office on line-See Website for more information
12 Sun	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m	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; Station <i>Voting—8am—8pm—Sportsman's Club</i> 	30 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
15 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd RSU4 School Board; 6:30pm-Zoom Meeting		
16 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd		

BOX HOLDER

Contents:

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

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.

4

The Litchfield Sodalite

Conservation News

The annual roadside control of Japanese knotweed occurred in June, on young plants, by a licensed spray applicator. Controlling your roadside invasive plants such as shrub-barberry, multiflora rose and honeysuckle, will help the road crews in their ditching maintenance to reduce their spread. It is in minimally maintained areas that invasives can explode with no one seeing, in our woods, wetlands, field edges, reducing valuable ecological diversity. Keeping down invasive aquatic species in our lakes and streams is also a group effort. Keeping our water quality high can help; the most important thing people can do is have a plant buffer between their land and the lake or stream. Grass to the water's edge means runoff with phosphorus attached to the soil particles have no barrier, flood the lake during storms and algae thrive. Want to know more? The Lake Stewards of Maine's video "The Crown Jewel Lakes of Central Maine & the Threats That They Face". <https://vimeo.com/427841734/d4220d04de> You can also join Invasive Plant Patrol volunteers as they paddle on the Tacoma Lakes in their kayaks and canoes with scopes to look in the water for the signs of the 11 invasive aquatics. (So far so good.) Call Diane Clay if you want to join at 268-3247. Go to the Tacoma Lakes Association website for more information: <https://tacomalakes.org/tla-plant-patrol/>

August Issue Deadline:
July 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