

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXI No. 6

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

June 1, 2018

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz?

June question: In early Litchfield, an elected official oversaw the work of coopers. What was his title?

May question: Litchfield once had at least fifteen known privately maintained cemeteries. Today, all but one are maintained at town expense. Which one is still privately maintained? answer: The Litchfield Plains Cemetery. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

RSU4 SCHOOL NEWS - There will be a Flag Day Celebration at the Carrie Ricker School on Thursday, June 14th. It will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will be held in the gym. All are invited to attend. The last day of school for RSU4 is Friday, June 22nd. It will be a half day for the students. The first day of school for the 2018/19 school year will be Wednesday, August 29th. This will be for grades K- 9. Grades 10-12 will start on August 30. No school on Monday, 9/3, as it is Labor Day. The first day for Pre-K will be Thursday, September 6th.

Litchfield Plains Church-2018 Vacation Bible School—Calling all children in Litchfield from K – 6th grade Come join us for “Son West Roundup” on June 25th – 29 From 9:00 – 11:25 am “It’s Time to Saddle Up Your Horses!!”

Litchfield Three Issue Forum and Candidate Opportunity—June 7th, 7pm, Fire Station - Sponsored by the Litchfield Community Action Coalition and moderated by Representative Kent Ackley (I). Many Litchfield citizens want a clearer understanding of: 1) the *school budget referendum* item on the June 12th ballot for our district, RSU4, with the budget committee and selectmen taking different positions. 2) the *road budget reduction* with the selectmen, budget committee and road advisory committee taking slightly different positions and 3) lastly, the *reevaluation of property values* to be voted on at the town meeting June 19th. Selectmen, budget committee and respective committees will be invited to explain their recommendations and take questions. We expect to take no more than an hour total on issues. After the issues forum, any candidates present are encouraged to take the opportunity to speak briefly - introduce themselves, make a campaign statement and express their positions on the issues.

Old Town House Museum—Will be open June 23, 2018 from 2p to 4p for visitors. Come take a look at a little bit of history of Litchfield.

June, 2018 Senior Corner

Awareness Through Movement class is 9:30-10:30 on Friday with instructor Lindsay Nelsen.

Join us for **Bowling on Thursday**, June 7 at 1-7-10 lanes in Augusta, call 441-9005 for carpooling as we leave at 12 p.m. Call or stop by to get on the list.

The **book club** meeting is on June 13 at 12:15. The book to be discussed is “Beartown” by Fredrick Backman. Call or stop into the Gardiner Library and pick up a copy and join us for the discussion.

The **pot luck lunch** and celebration of June birthdays is Friday, June 15.

Line dancing instruction Mondays at 9:30 for beginners and advanced. Aerobics classes are Wednesday and Friday at 8:30.

Join us for **music practice** at 10 on Wednesdays 6/13 & 27. If you like to sing and/or play an instrument come and join in the fun.

We have **Knitting and crocheting** on Wednesdays 8:30 to 12. Come join in.

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

The **thrift shop** is open the first and third Monday 10-11.

The **Seniors Advisory Committee** meeting is at 10 on June 14.

The **“Roadrunner” trips for June** are *Tuesday, June 12- Maine Wildlife Park in Gray, leaving at 9:30 from Sportsmen’s Club with lunch at Cole Farm. Thursday, June 21 - Trip to Camden/Lincolntonville- shopping, winery trip, Mt. Battie, lunch in Lincolntonville. Leave at 9 a.m. from Sportsmen’s club. Upcoming trips for July - Tuesday, 7/10 Bailey Island Boat Trip, lunch at Cook’s Landing; Thursday, 7/26 Cabbage Island Clambakes, Boothbay Harbor*

Please stop in to the Senior Center for more information a cup of coffee or tea and to sign up for the **trips & activities** Reminder - exercise equipment and a Wii game with bowling, tennis, etc. here at the Center available for you to use Mondays & Fridays 9 - 4 & Wednesdays 9-12.

Road Advisory Committee-The 2017 roadside control of Japanese knotweed / bamboo was very effective; you may have notice the large dead patches of Bamboo / Japanese knotweed. The applicator will be checking those areas and the **Town will again be controlling Japanese knotweed or Bamboo** on the roadside Right of Ways and Town owned property on **June 8 or 15th**. We are working with the MDOT who will be spraying for knotweed on 197 and Hallowell Road and have given us permission to spray on the other State roads in our Town. **Call for your patch to be done:** The Turf Doctor 622-6600

Tacoma Lakes Association - TLA 's 2018 membership drive in now underway. Last year was a great one, as we set a record for numbers of members with 260. That being said, there is still room for growth. Our plant patrol team continues its work, scouring the shallow areas of the lakes for invasive milfoil. Our buoy inspection in conjunction with the State continues, and of course, our efforts to restore the Woodbury dam continue. A big thank you to all who donate returnable bottles to us at the Litchfield Transfer Station. We do ask however, that you please bag your bottles and cans and do not dump them into the barrels. Loose bottles, are much more prone to breakage. Jim Adams, President

Summer Nature Day Camp - Come explore the outdoors with five full days of FUN for children entering grades 4-6! Two 1-week sessions – July 23rd-27th and August 6th-10th – are being held at the YMCA Camp of Maine on Cobossee Lake in East Winthrop, ME. Campers will enhance their relationship with the natural world as they explore, observe and experience the nearby ponds, forests and fields (hiking, fishing, swimming, canoeing & kayaking); record observations in their own nature journal; learn basic wilderness skills; and participate in ecology skits, crafts and games. Campers will also be treated to a special session of “Tadpole Patrol” aboard the Friends 22’ pontoon boat, the OTTER II. Camp runs daily from 8:30am-4:30 pm. Cost for each 5-day camp session is \$280/pp, and includes lunch and afternoon snack. Early registration is recommended, as space is extremely limited! For more information, please contact Cami Wilbert (Education & Outreach Director) at 621-4100 or camil@watershedfriends.com.

Community Event—Do you knit or crochet? Come join others in Town and enjoy knitting/crocheting with friends and neighbors. Thursday, June 14 from 6pm—8pm at the Litchfield Senior Center.

RSU#4 Budget Validation Referendum - June 12 - Sportsmen's Club -The RSU#4 School Board has approved the 2018-19 Budget in the amount of \$19,169,366. This amount is an **increase** of 1.89% (\$355,984). Despite an increase in State Aid of over \$400,000, Litchfield's tax impact from this budget is an **increase** of \$26,175. Sabattus' tax impact is a **decrease** of \$75,824. Wales' tax impact is a **decrease** of \$5,561. Litchfield's percentage of the RSU student population is 33%. Litchfield's share of the local budget assessment is 45%. The Litchfield Budget Committee supports the RSU budget and recommends a "yes" vote on the Validation Referendum. The Litchfield Board of Selectmen has passed a Resolution recommending a "no" vote. Please go to the Town's website - www.litchfieldmaine.org - to read the Budget Committee's letter of support and the Board of Selectmen's resolution.

Town Manager/Clerk's Corner

Voting Day—Municipal and State elections will be held on Tuesday, June 12th. Polls open at 8 am and close at 8 pm. Voting will be at the Sportsmen's Club, 2782 Hallowell Rd. Residents requiring an absentee ballot may request one from the Town Office until Thursday, June 7th, except for special circumstances. Absentee ballots may be mailed or dropped off but must be received by the time polls close.

Local Candidates

Selectman (1 vacancy):

Renee C. Lachapelle

Mark T. Russell

Richard E. Swett

Budget Committee (2 vacancies):

Rodney R. Allen

Elton L. Wade

School Board (1 vacancy):

Richard E. Swett

Joan M. Thomas

Academy Trustees (1 vacancy):

Richard E. Swett

Joan M. Thomas

Annual Town Meeting—Our Annual Town Meeting is Saturday, June 16th beginning at 10 am at the Sportsman's Club, 2782 Hallowell Rd.

Local Health Officer Stepping Down—Our Local Health Officer, Cathy Carmichael, is stepping down from the position at the end of June. We appreciate her assistance and willingness to serve. Qualified individuals may apply for appointment to this volunteer position.

End of Fiscal Year The Town Office will close at 3 pm on Thursday, June 28th to complete book keeping for the end of the fiscal year.

Upcoming meetings at the Town Office:

Road Committee – Wednesday, June 6th, 5:30 pm

Planning Board – To Be Announced

Recreation Committee - Monday, June 4th, 6:30 pm

Budget Committee – No meeting in June

Board of Selectmen - Monday, June 11th & 25th 6:30 pm

Litchfield Fire & Rescue will be having a few events Happening this upcoming summer: *Stop the Bleed*, On June 23rd at 9am at Central Station. This is a program designed to give appropriate training to the everyday bystander who is the first on scene that can save a life before help gets on scene. It is open to anyone interested in attending. *Yard Sale at Central Station* on July 14th starting at 7am to 1pm the cost to rent a spot is \$20 for the day. *The 23rd Annual Show & Shine* will be held at the Carrie Ricker School on Rt.197 on August 19th anyone interested in sponsoring a class the cost is \$75. Any question please feel free to contact Tina Gowell @ 485-5565

June Community Calendar

1 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10a.m.-2p.m.	16 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Public Bean Supper-4p-6:30p; Morning Star Lodge #41
2 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lit. Sportsman's Club; Public Bean Supper & Music Jam, Supper 5pm, Music 6pm	17 Sun	Happy Father's Day
3 Sun	Lit Sportsman's Club-Country Sunday, live music noon—4:30pm	18 Mon	Historic Preservation Commission-6:45pm, Town Office
4 Mon	Recreation Comm—6:30pm-Town Office Order of Eastern Star, Litchfield, 7pm	19 Tue	Masons-Masonic Hall, 7:30pm Fire Rescue Station clean-up, 6:00pm Fire/Rescue Assoc., Station, 6:30pm Fire/Rescue Meeting, Station, 7:00pm First Responders Meeting, Station, 6:30pm
5 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting—6pm	20 Wed	TOPS-6:30pm, Carrie Ricker
6 Wed	TOPS-6:30pm, Carrie Ricker Road Advisory Comm. - 6:30pm-Town Off.	21 Thur	Lit Farmer's Club, Sportsman's club- 7:30pm
7 Thur		22 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10a.m.-2p.m.
8 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10a.m.-2p.m.	23 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. DECMA Vocalist Competition-Sportsman's Club -
9 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Amer. Legion Ladies Aux, LegionHall,10a Hallowell Rd. Yard Sale—9am-3pm	24 Sun	DECMA Vocalist Competition-Sportsman's Club -
10 Sun	Hallowell Rd. Yard Sale—9am-3pm	25 Mon	Lit. Selectmen's Meeting-6:30pm, Town Off
11 Mon	Lit. Selectmen's Meeting-6:30pm, Town Off Lit. Sportsman's Club Meet—7:00pm	26 Tue	
12 Tue	<i>Municipal Elections, State Primary, and RSU4 Budget Referendum—Sportsman's Club—8am—8pm</i>	27 Wed	TOPS-Carrie Ricker School-6:30pm RSU4 School Board-OHHS-6:30pm Franks&Beans, Legion Hall, 6:30pm American Leg. Post 181, Legion Hall 7pm
13 Wed	TOPS-Carrie Ricker School-6:30pm RSU4 School Board-OHHS-6:30pm Smithfield Plant. Trustees-5:30pm Town Office Conservation Comm-6:30pm Town Office	28 Thur	
14 Thur	Senior Advisory Com- Academy Bldg-10am	29 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10a.m.-2p.m.
15 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10a.m.-2p.m.	30 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

BOX HOLDER

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ECRWSS
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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.

Road Advisory Committee: With spring in the air, the Road Advisory Committee has already completed an updated survey & inventory of the roads in the Town of Litchfield. Gustin Road is one that has received a fair amount of focus recently because of some of the dangers it presents, especially during the winter months. The Fire Chief, Road Commissioner and School Bus Drivers in town have expressed concern about safety. On more than a few occasions, plowing and sanding operations have resulted in trucks sliding backward down the hill, presenting danger to town employees and damaging equipment. Because the road is cut into a steep grade, there have been some long-term erosion issues that have worn away the gravel, sending it down an embankment onto the property owned by David Blocher. The resulting material build up on the downward slope has killed some trees, and exacerbated stability issues and resulting in a shift of the road onto David's property. The Road Advisory Committee would like to hear your thoughts on the following options, or perhaps share one of your own! The objective is to make the appropriate investment in the road, while maintaining the safety of the public, town employees and equipment. Here are the options currently being discussed: **OPTION 1:** Stabilize the eroding embankment, apply new base material, pave and remove trees to allow winter sun to accelerate melting. The resulting road will be suitable for use year-round and improve safety. \$125,000 - \$150,000 Expected Construction Cost; **OPTION 2:** Close the road to winter travel to alleviate safety & equipment concerns, while providing annual maintenance to ensure safe spring to fall travel. \$2,000 - \$5,000 Expected Annual Maintenance Cost; **OPTION 3:** Close the road between the last driveway and Oak Hill road. With this option, the road will be permanently closed with no vehicular travel permitted. Nominal cost related to signage & gates; **OPTION 4:** Provide us with a suggestion of your own! If you are not already familiar with Gustin Road, we encourage you to travel the road in order to have a basis for your comments. Let us know your thoughts by sending an email with your suggestions to roadcommittee@litchfieldmaine.org, or mailing a note to: Town of Litchfield, Maine Road Advisory Committee [2400 Hallowell Road Litchfield, ME 04350](http://2400HallowellRoadLitchfieldME04350)

July Issue Deadline:
June. 20, 2018, 5 p.m.
Deliver material in any of the following ways:
E-mail
[**\(sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org\)**](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)
U.S. mail to: Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd.

