

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XX No. 6

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

June 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

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?

May question: Which political party, the Federalist or the Jeffersonian, was supported by early Litchfield leaders such as James Shurtleff? Why did they support this party? answer: The Jeffersonian Party was supported because it favored separating Maine from Massachusetts

To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

Kennebec Land Trust

Camping on Norris Island - Camping will resume on Norris Island beginning on June 1. All campers to Norris Island, or other wilderness sites in Maine, should be aware of the State of Maine's guidance for remote campsites (link is on our Norris Island page). **Annual Meeting Postponed** - We're sorry to announce the postponement of KLT's 2020 Annual Meeting, which had been scheduled for August 23. We're developing an alternative plan and will notify members and supporters as soon as possible.



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 June 18. 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.



Tacoma Lakes Association

Let's focus on good news! Despite Covid 19, TLA is moving forward in its efforts to continue to keep our lakes as beautiful, clean, and invasive plant free as possible. Our CBI boat inspection program will continue this summer, and partial funding for these inspections has already been secured. With the increase in wages these past couple of years, TLA has taken on more of the financial burden. These inspections are truly our first line of defense against the spread of invasive species in our lakes. Our plant patrol team, headed up by the amazing Diane Clay will be hitting the water soon, inspecting shorelines for any questionable plants. Thank you, to Diane and ALL of the volunteers that take time out of their summer, to help in this battle. Membership in TLA is more important now than ever before. As you can imagine everybody's budget will be stretched. Our membership fee remains at the lowest cost of any association within the Cob-bossee watershed, at only \$15 per household. Anyone interested in the preservation of the lakes can join, and we welcome new members. We appreciate all bottle donations that are made to us at the transfer station drop off. We ask that you please consider our volunteers who retrieve returnables and take them to the redemption, and PLEASE bag your bottles. Be on the lookout for more information regarding our annual meeting, and our Spring newsletter for members will be coming soon. Summer is almost here, let's all try to have some fun! Jim Adams 268-2070

Litchfield Broadband Committee

The Litchfield Broadband Committee recently applied for a grant from the Maine ConnectME Authority in the amount of \$8,250 to conduct a more detailed assessment of community needs and possible solutions to implement affordable and reliable broadband services.***If our proposed budget line item is approved,* the grant will be matched by an equal amount in local funds and used to create a detailed inventory of existing services and potential solutions to provide quality services to all areas of Litchfield. Once this study is completed, the committee will make recommendations to the voters and endeavor to link up with surrounding communities to optimize the cost of implementation. A copy of the grant application is available on the Broadband Committee page at www.litchfieldmaine.org. There is a Referendum Question (#1) on the July 14th ballot that pertains to issuing \$15 million in bonds to support the Maine Broadband Action Plan.

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

We are working on getting out fresh summer things and freshening up the Thrift Shop for a great shopping experience...later. Hope you are looking forward to it, too. Terrific new duds at bargain prices will feel so good!

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

We're getting great support from our community and we are very grateful. The food products from Good Shepherd Food Bank have been very adequate and we welcome our neighbors who need a box of groceries. Our volunteers are all smiling behind their masks. Drive through distribution is continuing and seems to be working very well.

Town Clerk's Corner

The Town Office will be open to serve one customer at a time in the office beginning June 1st. This should be a significant improvement over the past month (and more) of working through the drop-box. We appreciate your continued patience as we do our best to serve our community while complying with guidance from the State.

The town website, LitchfieldMaine.org, is a still a good source of the latest information about the current availability of services. And please check our new Facebook page "Town of Litchfield, Maine" that will provide information, updates and links.

Our Annual Town meeting and elections will be held in JULY this year. Saturday, JULY 18th. Governor Mills has moved state elections to JULY 14th.

Annual Town Meeting: Saturday, July 18th, 2020 10 am, location still to be determined.

Municipal Election and State Referendums: Tuesday, July 14th, 2020 8 am – 8 pm at the Sportsmen's Club, 2782 Hallowell Rd. 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): Write-in

Litchfield Academy Trustees (2): Write-in

RSU#4(1): Write-in

End of Fiscal Year—The Town Office will close at 3 pm on Tuesday, June 30th to complete bookkeeping for end of fiscal year.

Selectman Meetings: Mon. June 8 and Mon. June 22 beginning at 6:30pm. (See Town Website for Zoom Directions)

The Litchfield Budget Committee will meet at 6:30pm on Wednesday, June 10. The public is invited to attend via ZOOM as below Via Web browser:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87618514630?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87618514630?pwd=VkhXcVNnamV0WWx0SGxGWGwxZWdMQT09)

[pwd=VkhXcVNnamV0WWx0SGxGWGwxZWdMQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87618514630?pwd=VkhXcVNnamV0WWx0SGxGWGwxZWdMQT09)

Via Zoom app: Meeting ID: 876 1851 4630 Password: LBC466

Via manual dial (audio only): 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 876 1851 4630 Password: 522532

Touch *6 to mute/unmute your phone



June Community Calendar

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|---------|--|---------|--|
| 1 Mon | Lit. Recreation Comm. (Cancelled) Order of the Eastern Star (Cancelled) | 17 Wed | Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd |
| 2 Tue | Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting-Cancelled | 18 Thur | Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd |
| 3 Wed | Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd | 19 Fri | Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m |
| 4 Thur | Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd | 20 Sat | Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store— Closed |
| 5 Fri | Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m | 21 Sun | Transfer Station, 8.m.-4 p.m.  |
| 6 Sat | Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store— Closed | 22 Mon | Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office on line-See Website for more information |
| 7 Sun | Transfer Station, 8.m.-4 p.m. | 23 Tue | |
| 8 Mon | Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office on line-See Website for more information | 24 Wed | RSU4 School Comm.; 6:30pm on line Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd |
| 9 Tue | First Responders Meeting –Cancelled | 25 Thur | Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd |
| 10 Wed | Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd Budget Committee Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office—on line-See Website for more infor- mation RSU4 School Comm.; 6:30pm on line | 26 Fri | Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m |
| 11 Thur | Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd | 27 Sat | Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store— Closed |
| 12 Fri | Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m | 28 Sun | Transfer Station, 8.m.-4 p.m. |
| 13 Sat | Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store— Closed | 29 Mon | |
| 14 Sun | Transfer Station, 8.m.-4 p.m.  | 30 Tue | |
| 15 Mon | Historical Society (Cancelled) | | |
| 16 Tue | Lit. Fire Assoc & Regular Meet-Cancelled | | |

BOX HOLDER

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

ECRWSS
 PRSRT 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

What to plant? Native plants! A higher percentage of native plants in your yard will feed the native animals and therefore contribute to the biodiversity of our ecosystem. Trees and shrubs are the lowest maintenance. Do you want to replace a low hedge of barberry, planted many, many years ago? Winterberry, the 8' tall native, red berried deciduous holly, *Ilex verticillata* (use the scientific name to search for information details), has many cultivars of different heights, including 'Red Sprite' which is 4' tall x 6' wide eventually. How about something that blooms in August after the gorgeous spring to early summer bloom festival is over. The 6' native deciduous shrub *Clethra alnifolia*, called Clethra (or Sweet Pepperbush or Summersweet) also has many cultivated varieties so you can find a size to meet your needs. These are both low maintenance if planted in good moist garden soil, and meeting their light requirements, full sun to partial shade for the Winterberry and part to full shade for the Clethra. If you want learn about native understory small trees and larger shrubs, such as blue Dogwood and Moosewood or big trees go to the Maine Forest Service handbook. https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/handbooks_guides/forest_trees/index.html

For more information on native plants for Maine gardens refer to "Bringing Nature Home" by Douglas Tallamy, the Maine cooperative extension web site or the catalogue for O'Donal's Nursery.

July Issue Deadline:
 June 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

