

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XX No. 3

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

March 1, 2020

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz!

March question: In early Litchfield, locally produced diapers got their name from what shape woven into what fabric?

February question: A Civil War soldier's unit could be identified by a colored symbol found on the top of their cap and on their unit's flag. What was the symbol worn by A.J. Tozier and the 20th Maine at Gettysburg? answer: A red Maltese Cross. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

Broadband Committee

Broadband Internet Vendor Night at Litchfield Senior Center March 24, 2020 at 6:30 PM

The Litchfield Senior Center, located at the Litchfield Academy Community Building on 466 Academy Road will host a Broadband Internet Vendor Night on March 24, 2020 from 6:30 to 8 PM. All community members (not just Seniors) are invited to come in, ask questions, and see what broadband options are available for their household in Litchfield and the surrounding communities. Both businesses and residents are encouraged to bring in their current internet bill to help the providers understand their current level of service, if any. Representatives from Litchfield incumbent internet service providers such as Spectrum, Consolidated, and TK Networks have been invited and are expected to attend the educational session. **The Litchfield Broadband Committee and KVCOG** held a regional meeting on February 10 to explore ways to cooperate with surrounding towns in providing quality broadband internet services at affordable prices. The committee is working to map existing coverage using surveys and interviews with current providers. They are also developing a plan of action to present at the Town Annual Meeting in June. Visit our page at litchfieldmaine.org for more information. **Both Spectrum and Consolidated Communications Inc.** have discounted service plans for qualifying low-income subscribers. Please contact these providers for more information.

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

Buy one get one free was so much fun we're doing it again for March! If the kids grew but the paycheck didn't, take advantage of a chance to add to their wardrobe without breaking the bank. Check the calendar for open hours and check us out and we'll enjoy seeing you.

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

We continue to enjoy serving our neighbors fresh produce, canned goods, cereal, peanut butter, breads, meat, milk and eggs when available. Since we opened March 6, 2019, there's been only 2 weeks we haven't had new applications. Yes, we are excited to be ONE Year old this month! Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Senior Center

The Litchfield Senior Center is open and available to all, no fee to attend. "Aging is more fun when you share it".

The normal hours are Monday & Friday 8:30-4 and Wednesday 8:30-12, subject to change.

Winter sand is available in 5 gal. buckets. If you would like to be on the list for delivery, please contact Pat Soboleski at 215-4595/441-9005.

Something new at the Senior Center - 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 March 18 @ 12:15. The book to be discussed will be "The Confession Club" by Elizabeth Berg.

Making cards with Anne Thompson is on Wednesday, March 18 at 1 p.m. looking ahead to Easter.

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 & third Mondays 10-11 in March.

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting is at 1 p.m. (this month only) on Thursday March 19.

Potluck lunch and celebration of March birthdays is on Friday March 20. Shake off the winter blues, come on down to the Senior Center for good food and conversation. Lunch is 12 to 1 p.m.

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

Kindergarten and Pre-K Registration

If you are a resident of Sabattus, Litchfield or Wales and have a child that will be 5 years old on or before October 15, 2020 (Kindergarten age) or a child that will be 4 years old on or before October 15, 2020 (Pre-K age) please call Sabattus Primary School at 375-4525 or Libby-Tozier School at 268-4137 to register.

There will be a Book Fair at Oak Hill Middle School from March 9th -11th. It will be held in the OHMS library and run from 7:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. **The RSU4 All Bands Concert** will be held on March 12th. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at Oak Hill Middle School.

There will be a Kindergarten Spring Concert at Sabattus Primary on March 24th. The one at Libby-Tozier will be on March 26th. Both concerts will begin at 6 p.m. with the doors opening at 5:30 p.m. There will be **No School** for students on March 20th due to a teacher workshop.

Litchfield Transfer Station

As of February 1st, 2020, you must get a NEW Transfer Station permit sticker to use the Transfer Station. You may get your new stickers only at the Litchfield Town Office. The sticker must be placed on the bottom right corner of your windshield. You are allowed one sticker per vehicle. Transfer Station stickers are free. To receive a Transfer Station sticker, you must prove that you own property in Litchfield, Vehicle registered in Litchfield or Tax Bill. You must present the registration of the vehicle the sticker is going to be attached to. We have posted this notice in the stores and Post Office in Litchfield. We have also advised residents at the Transfer Station (since January) that if the resident did not have the new yellow colored Transfer Station sticker then they would not be allowed leave their recyclables at the Transfer Station. **SNOW DAYS:** The Litchfield Transfer Station may be closed if the road conditions are extremely poor due to snow or ice. While we are extremely fortunate to have a dedicated and experience Public Works crew, when the road conditions are demanding their attention, the roads are the first priority, not the Transfer Station (as it should be). Please keep that in mind when it is snowing and/or the roads are ice covered.

Smithfield Plantation

Will be hosting 3 field trips for Carrie Ricker students this spring. We work with the Conservation Commission to provide a Vernal Pool Day and a Forestry Day while we work separately (along with many of the same volunteers) to create an outdoor Maine History Day in June. We did some work in the fall to provide a picnic table cover and build in some extra support for the amphitheater benches. **There are 5 trustees** on the board of Smithfield Plantation, but the public is welcome to come to our meetings. Next year we will be needing an additional person to join our board as one is retiring, but we would also like to encourage anyone interested to attend our meetings and help out with projects. We need assistance with trail work, field trips, removal of invasive plants, etc. We are also excited to come up with new ideas for the community as well as for the schools. Can you think of an event or a project? Please contact us through the town office or email Diane Clay - C1L2A3Y4@gmail.com. **Our next meeting** will be at the town office Wednesday March 4, at 6 PM.

Town Clerk's Corner

State Elections are coming up on Tuesday, March 3rd

On the March ballot this year are:

- Presidential primary candidates
- A citizen's referendum to: Repeal Law to Eliminate Religious and Philosophical Vaccination Exemptions

Information about the referendum may be found online at Ballotpedia.org. A link is also available at the Town Website, www.litchfieldmaine.org.

Absentee ballots for the March 3rd voting may be picked up at the Town Office or requested online (see the Town Website www.litchfieldmaine.org, or search "Maine Absentee Ballot Request").

Local Candidates for June Elections

In anticipation of voting in June, candidates for Litchfield offices on the June 9th, 2020 ballot may obtain their nomination papers at the Town Office beginning Monday, March 2nd. All paperwork must be returned by Friday, April 10th.

Positions coming open in June are:

Selectman: 1

School Board: 1

Budget Committee: 3

Academy Trustee: 2

Daylight Savings Time starts this month. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 8th.

Town budget reviews have begun. Each section of the town budget will be reviewed at upcoming Select Board meetings between through the end of April. You don't have to wait for the annual Town Meeting to find out what's happening with the budget. Attending the Select Board meetings and following along during the reviews will give you a chance to hear the details, and an opportunity to ask questions. Alternatively, you can link to videos of the Select Board meetings at the Town Website, LitchfieldMaine.org

Some upcoming meetings at the Town Office

Broadband Committee, Monday Mar 2nd, 10:30 am

Recreation Committee, Monday, Mar 2nd, 6:30 pm

Planning Board, Thursday, Mar 5th, 6:30 pm

Select Board, Monday, Mar 9th, 6:30 pm

Conservation Commission, Wednesday, Mar 11th, 6 pm

Budget Committee, Monday, Mar 16th, 6:30 pm

Select Board, Monday, Mar 23rd, 6:30 pm



March Community Calendar

1 Sun		17 Tue	Lit. Fire Assoc & Regular Meet; 6:30pm
2 Mon	Lit. Recreation Comm. 6:30pm; Town Office Order of the Eastern, 7pm; Masonic Hall Broadband Committee, 10:30 am; Town Office	18 Wed	Food Bank -5p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd TOPS -Carrie Ricker School; 6:30p.m
3 Tue	State Elections; Polls open 8am until 8pm. Lit. Sportsman's Club Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting -6:30pm	19 Thur	Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd Senior Advisory Comm. 1pm; Senior Center
4 Wed	Food Bank -5p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd TOPS -Carrie Ricker School; 6:30p.m	20 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m.
5 Thurs	Planning Board -6:30pm; Town Office Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	21 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon
6 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m.	22 Sun	
7 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Litchfield Sportsmen's Club -Public Supper (5pm-6pm) and Music Jam (6pm-8pm), \$7	23 Mon	Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office
8 Sun	Daylight Savings -Time-Spring Ahead 1 Hour Litchfield Sportsman's Club -Country Sunday (noon-4:30pm), \$6	24 Tue	
9 Mon	Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office	25 Wed	Food Bank -5p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd TOPS -Carrie Ricker School; 6:30p.m RSU4 School Bd -6:30pm; OHHS Amer Legion Post#181, 7:00pm
10 Tue	First Responders Meeting 6:30pm	26 Thur	Food Bank -10sm-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd
11 Wed	Food Bank -5p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd TOPS -Carrie Ricker School; 6:30p.m Conservation Comm -6pm, Town Office RSU4 School Bd -6:30pm; OHHS	27 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m.
12 Thur	Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	28 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Lit. Sportsman's Club, Public Breakfast (7am-9:30am), \$7
13 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m.	29 Sun	
14 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Amer. Legion Ladies Aux., Legion Hall, 10am	30 Mon	
15 Sun			
16 Mon	Budget Comm -6:30pm; Town Office Historical Society - Recessed		

BOX HOLDER

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ECRWSS
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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.

Conservation News

Brown Tail Moth nests seem to be fewer in town this winter. The prescription of a wet spring reducing the numbers seems to hold up. Clipping and drowning the nests in soapy water cut from the plants of the rose family such as pear and apple is a good spring chore, as you can see the nests against the sky. They like hardwood trees also, not so easy to prune. Just a reminder from Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry: "While feeding damage may cause some concern, the primary human impact from the browntail moth is the result of contact with poisonous hairs found on the caterpillars. Contact of these hairs with human skin causes a rash similar to poison ivy that can be severe on some individuals. People can also experience respiratory distress from inhaling the microscopic hairs that blow around in the air". See their website for precautions in the summer.

As March leads us to think about gardens try to use 80% native plants in you landscape to contribute to the food of all the insects who feed all the larger animals that make up our local ecosystem. Nonnative ornamentals feed virtually no insects because they have chemical defenses the insects didn't evolve to live with. An excellent list of native plants can be found at "Maine Cooperative Extension Bulletin #2500, Gardening to Conserve Maine's Native Landscape: Plants to Use and Plants to Avoid". As you scroll down you find a list divided into descriptive, functional groups, such as "Vines and Groundcovers". The chart gives common and scientific name (if you want to learn more about a plant look up the scientific name: more information, less sales), light and moisture requirements, height and useful comments. You also might consider removing plants on the invasive list first and you'll see a need to plants some new native plants. Have fun!

April Issue Deadline: March 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

