

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XIX No. 11

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

November 1, 2019

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz!

November question: Some of Litchfield's Civil War veterans joined the Grand Army of the Republic and some joined the Union Veterans Legion. How did these organizations differ? October question: Andrew Jackson Tozier, a resident of Litchfield and the recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, was the National Color Sergeant of what Civil War Veterans organization? answer: The Union Veterans Legion To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

Now accepting shoppers. Great clothes. Great prices. We will be closed Nov. 30 to give our volunteers a nice Thanksgiving Holiday weekend.

LITCHFIELD PLAINS CEMETERY ASSN

Is seeking letters of interest from potential candidates to serve as Trustees. An interest in Litchfield history is encouraged. The Board meets twice a year. Send to LPCA, 1032 Plains Rd., Litchfield, Me 04350

RSU 4 SCHOOL NEWS

Parent /Teacher conferences will be held at Oak Hill Middle School on November 5th and 7th from 3- 6:30 p.m. Call the office at 375-6961 for more information. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held at Libby-Tozier on November 19 and 21 from 3:30 – 7 p.m. Call the office at 268-4137 for more information. **The RSU4 PTA** is sponsoring a craft fair on Saturday, 12/7. It will run from 9 – 3 . There will be crafters, raffles, and delicious food for sale (pizza, baked goods, crock pot meals, drinks, snacks). If you are interested in having a table at the fair you can contact the PTA at rsu4pta@rsu4.org. There will be no school **on Monday, 11/11 in observance of Veteran's Day**. The schools will also be closed from **11/27 – 11/29 for Thanksgiving**

Tacoma Lake Association

The Woodbury Pond boat launch was once again very busy this past summer. Certified boat inspectors were at the launch on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays throughout the summer. 1,838 boats were inspected, and 224 plant fragments were found. Fortunately none of the fragments were identified as invasive species. The importance of these inspections cannot be overstated, as many lakes in our area have invasive plant infestations. Membership dues help the Tacoma Lake Association pay the inspectors, just one of the reasons why membership is important. At only \$15 per household, membership remains a bargain. Our membership drive is still underway and membership is open to anyone who enjoys the lakes or wants to help protect them for the future. Membership information and forms are available on the TLA website www.tacomalakes.org.

Senior Center

The Litchfield Senior Center is open and available to all, no fee to attend.

The normal hours are Monday & Friday 8:30-4 and Wednesday 8:30-12, subject to change. "Aging is more fun when you share it". *The Center will be closed Monday November 11 and Friday November 29.*

Winter sand is again going to be available in 5 gal. buckets. If you received a bucket last year and would like to be on the list, please contact Pat Soboleski at 215-4595/441-9005.

Line dancing instruction Mondays at 9:30 for beginners and advanced.

Aerobics classes on Wednesday and Fridays at 8:30.

The book club meeting is on November 13 at 12:15. The book to be discussed is "My Grandmother told me tell you she's sorry" by Fredrick Backman.

There will be Music practice for the Carol Bailey String Band on Wednesdays @ 10.

The Feldenkrais method exercise 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 Monday 10-11.

Making cards with Anne Thompson will be on Wed., November 20 @ 1.

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting is at 10 on Thursday November 21.

The luncheon & **November birthday** celebration is on Friday, November 22. If you can, bring an item to share. If your birthday is in November, come and join us to celebrate.

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.

November trip is on Tuesday, November 12 to the Christmas Tree Shop and Portland Mall. Lunch at Country Buffet. Leave at 8:30 from Sportsmen's Club.

Call 215-4595 or email litchfield-seniors@litchfieldmaine.org to sign up.

Please stop in to the Senior Center located on Academy Rd. 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.

RSU4 PTA

The Annual Holiday Craft Fair is Saturday, December 7th from 9 to 3 at Oak Hill Middle School in Sabattus. All proceeds to benefit the RSU4 schools, students and teachers. Many crafters and vendors selling one of a kind items for all of your holiday shopping needs! There will also be a raffle table, bake sale table, kids crafting table and lunch items for sale. If you are interested in renting a table, please email us at rsu4pta@rsu4.org for an application.

Conservation News

The Conservation Commission and Smithfield Plantation held two activities with the RSU4 schools in October, a Timber Harvest Field Trip at Smithfield Plantation for the fourth grade and an Oak Hill Middle school volunteer work day at the Community Park called A Day of Caring. **Fall is For Planting!** As you do your outdoor work this fall consider adding native plants so you end up with a higher percentage of native plants and a smaller amount of exotics. And how much can you do in the fall besides planning? The best time to transplant deciduous trees and shrubs is when they are dormant, that is, when the leaves are about to or have fallen off up until new growth begins, about late April. Trees or shrubs that are not in the right place can easily be dug up now and moved to where they can reach their full size and shape. We learn if a plant has too much shade, for example, if it leans towards the sunlight. You can plant new trees and shrubs with their root ball intact until the ground freezes, into December. Through mid-October or so you can divide perennials, meaning the soil falls off the roots as you pull them apart and replant the smaller pieces, sometimes throwing out dead or woody parts; later in the season you can move perennials with a root ball. Fall also shows up the many exotic invasive species around town. Honeysuckle keeps its green leaves late, barberry and burning bush have bright fall color, multiflora rose has lots of red 1/4" fruit, bittersweet vine is a yellow 'curtain' covering some trees. Either cut and dab with a tiny amount of herbicide or cut to 12-15" and cover with a HD garbage bag tied at the base so the shrubs die from lack of sun light.

Personal Finance Workshop - Dan Washburn will present the basics of Money management. Tuesday, November 12, 7:00pm-8:30 at the Litchfield Plains Baptist Church. **Budgeting - Credit - Insurance - Debt - Retirement - Wills** - Learn how to control your money, not be controlled by it. Your money should work for you. Learn how to reach your financial goals. Free to all.

AD HOC Broadband Committee To get ALL of Litchfield residents connected to high speed, quality internet, an AD HOC Broadband Committee has been formed. Better internet speeds for all will help our town thrive and enrich the lives of all who live here in addition to our small businesses, schools/students and town hall. We need some information and feedback from all of you. The more people we hear from, the better! What is your name, street address? Who is your current provider? What internet speed do you have? Here is the link to the website to find out: <https://speed.measurementlab.net/#/> or <https://www.speedtest.net/> (or Google speed test for internet on your computer to pull up these sites) (Run the test a few times at different times of the day and send us the results) Do you have data limits? What is the cost per month for your service? Are you happy with your current internet provider? Would you be interested in other options? Why? Please send the information by email to committee chair, Larry Bell at lbell248@gmail.com or leave the information at town hall for the AD HOC Broadband Committee. by Friday, November 22, 2019. Our goal is to get quality internet access with better speed and pricing for all Litchfield residents.

LITCHFIELD RECREATION NEWS

BOTTLE DONATIONS - We now have a bottle bin set up at Billy's Bottle Barn here in Litchfield and would appreciate any and all bottles that you would like to donate to help the youth sports in our community.

BASKETBALL REGISTRATIONS - We are now accepting registrations for our youth basketball program. Our programs are open to children ranging from pre-K (4yr olds) up to 5th grade. Registration cost is \$40 and are due back by November 12th! Registrations can be found at the Litchfield town office or on our Litchfield Maine website

Town Manager/Clerk's Corner

Vote Nov 5th—Polls are open from 8 am – 8 pm on Tuesday, November 5th at the Sportsmen's Club for voting. Two issues are on the ballot: a bond for road maintenance, and a constitutional amendment to change voting procedures for disabled voters.

Mass Gathering Ordinance Committee—A committee was formed at the Oct 10th Select Board meeting with the charge of drafting an ordinance that would govern mass gatherings. If you would like to be considered for appointment to that committee please contact the Town Office, 268-4721.

2019-20 Property Taxes—Tax bills were mailed in September with 1st installment due by Oct 15th. If you are a Litchfield property owner and have not received a property tax bill you can call the Town Office, or check our tax commitment book online at Litchfieldmaine.org. By state law, tax bills are mailed to whoever owned the property prior to April 1st. If you purchased your property after April 1st, you are still expected to pay the taxes., but the bill was mailed to the previous owner. If your taxes are escrowed, standard practice is that the mortgage company will contact the Town Office to determine the amount due.

2020 Dog Licenses—You may license your dog(s) for 2020 at the Town office beginning October 15th or online at https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl. If rabies vaccinations are due please bring a copy of the new vaccination. To avoid a late fee your dog must be licensed by January 31, 2020. A rabies vaccination clinic is scheduled for Saturday, November 9th from 9 – 11am at the central Fire Station. Cost is \$20 with \$5 going toward start-up of the Litchfield Fuel Fund.

Snowmobiles - Snowmobiles may now be registered at the Town Office, or online at <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/atv-snowmobile/index.html>.

Home Heating Assistance

Applicants for the KVCAP Fuel Assistance Program should contact KVCAP directly by calling either 1-800-542-8227 ext. 1500 or (207) 859-1500 to schedule an appointment. Applicants may also access the KVCAP website (www.kvcap.org) click "For The Home", select "Heating Assistance", click the highlighted "Click Here" and book your appointment. Information is available in the Town office. **The Town Office will be closed Monday, November 11th for Veterans Day, and Thursday Nov 28nd for Thanksgiving**

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

The Litchfield Food Bank invites you to share the Thanksgiving Holiday with a local family by sponsoring their dinner. Your donation of \$30.00 will ensure a family using the Food Bank will have a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. Send your check to the Litchfield Plains Baptist Church, PO Box 306, Litchfield, Maine 04350 with "Thanksgiving Dinner" in the memo line. You are welcome to enclose a note or card with good wishes and it will be included in the box they receive. You may, but are not required to sign it. Thank you for your support and our best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.

November Community Calendar

1 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m	17 Sun	
2 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Lit Sportsman's Club; Public Supper (5pm-6pm) & Music Jam (6pm-8pm), \$7/person	18 Mon	Budget Committee –6:30pm; Town Office
3 Sun	Lit. Sportsman's Club; Country Sunday, noon-4:30, \$6/person	19 Tue	Lit. Fire Assoc & Regular Meet; 6:30pm
4 Mon	Broadband Comm. 10am—Town Office Litchfield Recreation—Town Office 6:30pm	20 Wed	Food Bank-5p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd TOPS-Carrie Ricker School; 6:30p.m
5 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting-6:30pm	21 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd Senior Advisory Comm. 10am; Senior Center
6 Wed	Food Bank-5p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd TOPS-Carrie Ricker School; 6:30p.m	22 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m
7 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd Planning Bd., 6:30pm; Town Office	23 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Litchfield Sportsmen's Club-Craft Fair & Rummage Sale, 9am-2pm
8 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m.	24 Sun	Litchfield Sportsmen's Club-MCMA Country Sunday, Noon-5pm, \$6/person
9 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Amer. Legion Ladies Aux., Legion Hall, 10am	25 Mon	Lit. Selectman Meeting; Town Office 6:30pm
10 Sun	Litchfield Community Park Walk– Small Ridge Trail; 10 am; all invited.	26 Tue	
11 Mon	Veteran's Day Holiday Town Office Closed 	27 Wed	Food Bank-5p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd TOPS-Carrie Ricker School; 6:30p.m
12 Tue	First Responders Meeting 6:30pm	28 Thur	Thanksgiving Day Town Office Closed/Food Bank Closed Litchfield Sportsmen's Club -Thanksgiving Dinner, Doors open 11am, Eat at 1pm
13 Wed	Food Bank-5p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd TOPS-Carrie Ricker School; 6:30p.m RSU4 School Bd-6:30pm OHHS	29 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m.
14 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd Lit. Selectmen Meeting-Town Office 6:30pm	30 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon Litchfield Sportsmen's Club -Public Breakfast, 7am-9:30am, \$7/person
15 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m.		
16 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store, 9 a.m.-noon		

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

Emerald Ash Borer Discovered in Portland, Maine's "Forest City"

Portland, ME -- The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) is reporting that emerald ash borer (EAB), a destructive forest insect from Asia, has been detected in Cumberland County. Officials with the USDA Animal and Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS) have confirmed the identification of an adult beetle found on a trap in Portland, Maine. An initial look by City and Department staff did not reveal additional signs of the insect. Further surveys are planned during the insect's dormant period. Emerald ash borer was discovered in northern Aroostook County in May 2018 and later in York County in September 2018. The State of Maine established a quarantine to regulate the movement of ash trees, ash wood, and all hardwood firewood to slow the spread of this very destructive pest. The Maine Forest Service will issue a stop movement order on the same materials from Portland and towns within a 10-mile buffer, including: Cape Elizabeth, Chebeague Island, Cumberland, Falmouth, Gorham, Long Island, North Yarmouth, Portland, Scarborough, South Portland, Westbrook, Windham, and Yarmouth. The new find is likely the result of firewood transport into the area, since the closest known infestation is over 40 miles away in Lebanon. On their own, the beetles only travel ½ to 2 miles a year. The City of Portland, known as the "Forest City," has had an active urban and community forestry program for over 100 years and has already done much work to prepare for this destructive pest and other forest threats. Emerald ash borer was first discovered in the Detroit, Michigan area in 2002, though it is believed to have arrived in the 1990s. The beetle is about one half an inch and metallic green. Its larvae tunnel through the wood just under the bark of ash trees (*Fraxinus spp.*) and can kill even healthy trees in 4-5 years. Tens of millions of trees across the country have been killed. Ash trees comprise 4% of Maine's forest and are an important street and shade tree. Emerald ash borer threatens all species of ash trees (but not mountain-ash) and can have significant ecological and economic impacts. There are no practical means to control EAB in forested areas, although pesticide treatments can protect individual trees. Biological control, in the form of tiny, non-stinging wasps that attack EAB, has been started in Maine with releases in forested areas in the Madawaska area. More information about emerald ash borer is available at: <http://www.maine.gov/eab> <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/>

December Issue Deadline: November 20 2019, 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

