

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XX No. 10

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

October 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

October question: The Shurtleff Bridge crossed the stream between what two present day ponds? **September question:** In early Litchfield, what is now the Small Road had a different name. What was it? **answer:** The Cook Road. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

Smithfield Plantation News

The Smithfield Plantation Trustees have been out checking the trail and working to keep it cleared. Thanks to David Larrabee, Elton Wade, Tim and Terry Tracy, and David and Carol Smith the broken bridge has been repaired. Clearly the trail has been used quite a bit this year; it is certainly a lovely quiet place to relax alone or with your kids and grandkids during this stressful time. And - a big thank you to those who walk the trail for taking out your trash. Clean up has been much easier lately! We look forward to the time when we can again have group activities for the schools and hopefully some family events. Any ideas? Want to join us? Give us a call, email, or contact the Town office. Diane Clay, 207-754-9502 c112a3y4@gmail.com

Tacoma Lakes Association

REMINDER: The winter lake level draw down starts on 10/15. The Association wishes to thank all of its members for their continued support through this difficult year. Our efforts continue, and are truly never ending. Herbicidal remediation of milfoil in Annabesacook lake, to this point appears to be successful. We will keep you all posted once the area is reinspected in the spring. No invasive species have been located on the Tacoma's to this date. We still have one opening on our board of directors, should anyone have interest in joining us. If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Association, membership forms are available on our website at www.tacomalakes.org. If anyone has any questions or concerns please contact Jim Adams at 268-2070.

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

Many thanks for more great donations of fresh garden produce. Good Job! Sure wish you could see our smiles behind the masks. We are very grateful for the community support that enables us to serve our neighbors. Thank you

American Legion Post 181, 235 Post Rd – FREE spaghetti meal on Saturday, Oct 24 at 12:00 p.m. Drive Thru Only, delivered to your vehicle.

4H The Creators: we will start a zoom meeting or text meeting on October 11th at 7 pm. Our first project is tie-dye sneakers. For more information please text Lori at 754-3931

Senior Center

The Litchfield Senior Center is open. The Center and various activities is open and available to all.

When we are open, your attendance is a personal choice.

Masks will be provided as well as temperature checks if desired. The hours at the Center are Monday 12-4 & Friday 9-4. Telephone numbers: 215-4595, 268-4237, 441-9005.

The Senior Center wishes to thank the Litchfield Farmer's Club for the use of the "Red Barn" at the Fairgrounds during August & September for Line Dancing, Tai Chi and CB Band practice. It was very much

appreciated. **We are happy to announce beginning in October we are going to have some of our activities at the Litchfield Sportsmen's Club.**

Line dancing Mondays in the Sportsmen's Club 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. for beginners and advanced. The Center will not be open until 12.

Wednesday, Tai Chi at 9 a.m. & Music practice for the Carol Bailey String Band at 10 to 12 in the Sportsmen's Club. The Center will not be open on Wednesdays.

10/7 The Carol Bailey String Band will be doing an **Outdoor Concert** at the following: 10 a.m. at the Inn at old City Hall, Augusta

8:30 Indoor walking with Dian using an "Leslie Sansone Walk at Home" 5 mile tape-mile markers let you choose 1 mile, 2,3,4, or 5 mile walks. Your choice. The easy way to lose weight...fast!

We are looking for a Volunteer Aerobics instructor.

We have the opportunity to train Seniors on basic computer applications at the Senior Center once a week, if interested call 215-4595 leave a message with name & phone #.

The Feldenkrais Method lessons, called Awareness Through Movement (or ATMs) with Lindsay Nelsen (268-4569), will not be held indoors until we have a vaccine. You can access Zoom ATM classes daily for a modest fee at "dailyimprovement.org", a collective run by Feldenkrais practitioners from around the world.

Games for fun on Mondays at 12-4 and Fridays 10-4. Bring a lunch and snack.

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting is at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday October 15.

We have the following trips planned: 10/20, Foliage trip with lunch somewhere?? Leave at 9 am from the Sportsmen's Club.

10/9 Trip to Oxford Casino, leave at 9 am from the Sportsmen's Club. If interested, call & leave name and number.

Book club meeting, making cards with Anne Thompson and the Potluck lunch have not been scheduled. **Reminder:** At this time Exercise equipment available for use 12-4 Monday and 9-4 Friday.

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

Yes, we're open!! Saturday mornings, 9 - noon. (Sorry about the hours error last month. Senior moment.) We will accept donations of clean, gently used clothing. Future customers can see them after they have "cooled" for a while. You are invited to a "Changeover Bee" on Monday, Oct 5 and/or Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 1:00 PM both days, to help pack summer items and unpack fall/winter items. Early Bird Shopping will be available only to volunteers at those times, hint-hint. Questions? Call Rayna at 582-4098.

Transfer Station

We have encountered a new problem at the Transfer Station: mutable loads of material to the Transfer Station at one time. I'm not talking a couple of pickup loads, I'm talking about three, four, five trailers and pickup loads per person. When this occurs with few people bringing in mutable loads the Bulky roll off containers become full very rapidly. The same thing is occurring with the Cardboard containers. Once the containers are full, we have no choice but to refuse putting more material in the containers. If this continues, we will be forced to limit the number of loads people will be allowed to bring to the Transfer Station. People have two options: spread out the number of trips to the Transfer Station or rent a roll off container for your personal use. Brush pile: gone! But filling back up rapidly. Transfer Station sticker count: 1,512.

Litchfield Broadband Committee

*The Broadband Committee drafted, submitted, and was awarded \$7,000 in grant money from the Maine Community Foundation. The funds should be released shortly for implementation this fall. The three major uses of the funds are as follows: 1) Community Hotspot - Some townspeople currently travel out of town to find a Wi-Fi Hotspot to get connected to the internet. We will procure and install a Hotspot at a school or public facility in Litchfield to support immediate needs for internet connectivity for our students, visitors, low-income families, and any others that require it. Having a location in Litchfield would make an immediate positive impact for many in the community. 2) Communication Infrastructure - With COVID-19, the Litchfield Select Board is holding Zoom Meetings each month as an alternative to attending in person. We will upgrade the video conferencing capabilities at Town Hall to support these and other town meetings, and to provide a location for interactive online training sessions in the future. * 3) Computers & Digital Literacy - We will procure five laptop or tablet computers and help to organize courses in the basics of digital literacy at the Litchfield Senior Center. This is intended to be a 'train-the-trainer' program with the goal to train five active Litchfield senior citizens who can then train and mentor others at the Senior Center. *We also want everyone to know that there are many FREE computer literacy webinars available online to anyone. This is a great chance to improve or brush-up on your computer skills in your spare time. These training sessions are sponsored by the National Digital Equity Center. Details can be found on their website: <https://digitalequitycenter.org/>

Town Clerk's Corner

Town Manager: We've had many inquiries from thoughtful residents about the health of our Town Manager. At the request of her family we have not provided details to the general public up to this point, but have received approval to publish the following. Trudy was hospitalized in Mid-May and after several weeks of treatment is now in hospice at Glenridge in Augusta. Well wishes may be sent to her at: Trudy Lamoreau c/o Glenridge Care and Compassion Unit, 40 Glenridge Dr., Augusta, ME 04330.

Recent personnel changes-- Kelly Weissenfels was named Deputy Town Manager and is filling in for Trudy - Misty Harvey has left the office. We appreciated her hard work and contributions to the success of the July elections. - We welcome four new part-time hires: Tanya Barrett, Samantha Catlin, Clover Craig, and Amy Grecenko

2020-21 Property Taxes-- Tax bills were mailed on September 16th. If you have not received a tax bill you may call the town office to find out what you owe. The first payment is due October 15th, with 2nd and 3rd tax payments due January 15th, and April 15th.

2021 Dog Licenses-- You may license your dog(s) for 2021 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, 2021. We will have a rabies clinic on Oct 24th see below for more information.

Rabies Clinic-- A rabies vaccination clinic is scheduled for Saturday, October 24th from 9 – 11am at the central Fire Station. Cost is \$20 with \$5 going to the Litchfield Fuel Fund.

Snowmobiles-- Snowmobiles may be registered at the Town Office starting mid-October, 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", and select "Heating Assistance" to book an appointment online. Information is available in the Town Office.

The Town Office will be closed Monday, October 12th, for Columbus Day.

Upcoming meetings at the Town Office:

Planning Board Thursday, Oct 1st, 6:30 pm
Select Board – Tuesday, Oct 13th, 6:30 pm
Budget Committee – Monday, Oct 19th, 6:30 pm
Select Board – Monday, Oct 26th 6:30 pm
Public Works Operator/Laborer

The Town of Litchfield Public Works Department is currently seeking qualified applicants for one Equipment Operator/Laborer position. This is a full-time position with benefits. Applicants must have a clean Class B license. A Class A license is a plus. This position requires weekend work and overtime during the winter removing snow and ice from Town roads. A successful applicant will have experience operating equipment such as a front-end loader, grader, backhoe, excavator and dump truck. Provide applications to the Litchfield Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Road, Litchfield, ME 04350. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

October Community Calendar

1 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	17 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm Litchfield Fair Grounds - 8:00AM Stor- age items accepted at the Litch- field Fairgrounds.
2 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m	18 Sun	
3 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm	19 Mon	
4 Sun		20 Tue	Lit. Fire Assoc & Regular Meet-6:30pm
5 Mon		21 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd
6 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers- 6:30pm; Station	22 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
7 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd	23 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m
8 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	24 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm American Legion Post 181, 235 Post Rd – FREE spaghetti meal on Saturday, Oct 24 at 12:00 p.m. Drive Thru Only, delivered to your vehicle.
9 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m	25 Sun	
10 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm	26 Mon	Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information
11 Sun		27 Tue	
12 Mon	Columbus Day Holiday Town Office Closed	28 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd RSU 4 School Board—6:30pm(Zoom also)
13 Tue	Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information First Responders Meeting-6:30pm; Station	29 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
14 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd Conservation Comm-6pm, Zoom-Contact Diane Clay—207-754-9502 RSU 4 School Board—6:30pm(Zoom also)	30 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m
15 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	31 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm Happy Halloween
16 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m		

BOX HOLDER

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ECRWSS
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U.S. Postage
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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.

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The Litchfield Sodalite

Conservation News

A **Maine Conservation Corps** Field Team will be working in Litchfield **October 12-16** doing conservation work on lands that are open to the public, working on trails and in the woods, controlling invasive plants and repairing amenities. They will work with volunteers and we hope you might contact the Town Office if you are interested. **Fall is For Planting!** The cooler temperatures reduce plant stress and are ideal for root growth, allowing newly planted trees, shrubs and perennials to quickly establish. It is an interesting fact that plants can develop roots as long as soil temperature is above 40 degrees. In this time of climate stress plant a high percentage of native plants to feed the insects, and all the wildlife that depend on them. Fall and into next March is a great time for control of invasive species around your home. With leaves off the trees you can see and start to remove the silky nests of the **brown tail moths** that are on the ends of branches of various trees and shrubs it feeds on including oak, apples, pears, beach plum, rugose rose and shadblow. Maine Forestry website lists arborists who will prune out the distinctive brown tail moth nests. Plan now to prevent the painful rash next season; work together with your neighbors. Control invasive terrestrial woody plants and vines with a **"cut and dab"** method recommended by Maine Natural Areas Program head Nancy Olmstead. This method works mid to **late summer, through the fall and winter** (yes!) when the plants are taking their plant sap into the roots and until the spring when the plants sap run up. The Litchfield Town Office has a copy of "Maine Invasive Plants Field Guide" with plants and control methods listed in detail. Contact the Conservation Commission for help. Invasive Terrestrial Plant of the Month (or two): look in the woods for the 6' tall shrubby honeysuckles which keep their green leaves long after others plants have lost theirs. This is one of their invasive strategies, having green photosynthesis producing leaves longer in fall and earlier in spring. And the fall berries of the oriental bittersweet vine are noticeable strangling trees. These both are well suited to "cut"—the woody stem at a height you want- and "dab"—with a small amount of recommended herbicide with a sponge applicator.

November Issue Deadline: Oct. 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

