

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXIII No. 10

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

October 1, 2023

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

October question: The causeway and bridge between Upper and Lower Pleasant Ponds was built about what year? **September question:** Which of early Litchfield's abutting towns was once named "Bloomsboro". **answer:** Monmouth To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

Town Wide Roadside Clean Up

Please help beautify our town. On October 14th from 8AM to 1:00PM, the Litchfield Conservation Commission (LCC) in conjunction with the Litchfield Transfer Station will sponsor a town wide road clean up. Several of our local roads have recently been ditched which should make trash collection easier. Please gather a group, or strike out on your own, select a road, collect the trash and bring it to the transfer station where it will be sorted and recycled, if possible. If you need collection bags, we will have some available at the transfer station starting on Friday 9/22. In accordance with the Transfer Station rules, we will **not** accept bags of household trash. Hopefully, we'll have a great turnout! The LCC would like to thank the residents who do roadside clean up on a regular basis. We appreciate you!

LITCHFIELD SPORTSMAN'S CLUB is having its annual Craft Fair Nov 18th, 9 to 1. If interested in a table for \$20.00 please call 207-268-9271 and leave a message or email to lscpres1996@gmail.com Apply early as we have limited space.

LITCHFIELD FIRE & RESCUE

Yard Sale Saturday, October 14, 2023 8am – 2pm Litchfield Central Station. Anyone wanting a spot it will be \$20 for the day. Contact: Tina Gowell @ 485-5565 There will also be available burgers & hotdogs & sweets as well as Drinks and Chips.

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY TRIFT SHOP

A great team of volunteers worked hard to start getting fall and winter clothes out for your shopping pleasure. Come see what treasures they found! Buck a bag will continue! Hurray!!

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

Special thank you to the friends who have brought us their eggs and garden produce. We know it was a difficult growing season and are very grateful for your efforts. Many people were enjoying the bonus of fresh, local vegetables! We are very hopeful and excited that construction on the new Food Bank will start in October! Watch for it!

Litchfield Senior Center

"Aging is more fun when you share it."

Some of the activities are being held at the Litchfield Sportsman's Club. If the open flag is out at the Center, come on in. All dates and times are subject to change.

NEW CENTER PHONE # 446-6275

If the flag is out at the Center, come on in. All dates and times are subject to change.

Senior Center closed on Monday, October 9, 2023

Indigenous Peoples' Day

Line Dancing instruction for all on Mondays 9:30-11 at the Sportsmen's Club.

The Senior Center will open 11:30 to 2 on Mondays after Line Dancing, come in for exercise, cards or check out the books or puzzles. We have new puzzles and books coming into the Center all the time.

Special day of practice – Wednesday 10/11 9:30-11 at Sportsmen's Club due to the holiday on Monday 10/9.

Litchfield Senior Steppers will perform at St. Mary's Residences, Lewiston on Monday 10/16, @ 2:00, bus to leave from Sportsmen's Club @ 1pm.

On Tuesday, October 10 the Litchfield Senior Center will host the Fifteenth Senior Summit for Bath, Bowdoinham, Bowdoin, Dresden, Gardiner, Lisbon Falls, Manchester, Richmond, Wiscasset and other local Senior Organizations. Come join the discussions, light refreshments will be served.

Beginning Wednesdays October 4, 18 and Nov 1 Tai Chi class at 9am and Carol Bailey music practice at 10 at the Sportsmen's Club.

Come to the Senior Center for morning exercise with Dian & friends on Fridays 8:30-9:15. Join in the indoor walking, or use the exercise equipment. Stay for cards at 10, BYO lunch at noon and then more cards and games in the afternoon. Pick out books and/or puzzles to take home.

The book club meeting is on Monday, October 23 at 1 pm. at the Senior Center. The book to be discussed is "The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett.

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting held at the Senior Center is at 1 on Thursday, October 19.

Roadrunner trip – Thursday, October 26 to Oxford Casino, leave from Sportsmen's Club at 9:30

Beginning in November we will be taking orders for the Sand for Seniors program, call 446-6275 to leave your name, address and phone number to be put on the list.

Reminder: Exercise equipment available for use when the Center is open. The Senior Center is located on Academy Rd. next to Libby Tozier Elementary School. Stop in for more information, or check out our books, puzzles and items on the table you may like. Donations appreciated.

The Creators 4H group - Our meeting is October 14th at 1pm at the Senior Center on Academy Rd Litchfield Maine. We are doing mosaic trays. If you have supplies, please bring just in case we need the extra. For info text Lori at 754-3931. Or email at llarr42609@aol.com.

Litchfield Transfer Station

We have begun getting ready for the cold season that is coming. We are going to be closing the Swap Shop the 14th of October. We have stopped taking items the end of September. We are very grateful for our Swap Shop volunteers. They are the ones that make the Swap Shop work. Thanks to them all. Our new recyclable container set-up is still working well. We are seeing an uptick in wrong items being put in the recycle containers. We ask the residents to be vigilant to please take care what and where you put your recycles. Many **THANKS** to the residents who are utilizing our new recycle container parking line up. It has improved the process of the recycling. Stop in and say Hi to John C., Cheri C., and John U. on Friday and Saturday.

Litchfield Recreation Committee (Still looking for someone to fill this position)

Athletic Coordinator Position Available - The Town of Litchfield approved a stipend position for an individual/individuals to work alongside the Recreation Committee to provide the children of Litchfield the following sporting opportunities: Soccer, Basketball and Baseball/Softball. This/These position(s) can be seasonal – one person can do all three sports or it can be broken down to one, two or three different people. The stipend can be divided between each sport. The position would open prior to the beginning of each sport season, and close at the end of that particular season. The necessary skills for the job would include excellent communication skills, computer skills, and a very detailed, multi task oriented attitude. The duties would include, but not limited to: communicating with the Rec Committee, coaches, parents and town employees as needed. Attending monthly rec meetings - working with the online registration program, managerial work and fundraising for each sport and all other tasks necessary to make each sport opportunity a success. Chartering of teams, oversee registrations, email communications to all teams, organize team schedules, manage equipment, order uniforms, communicate with coaches and volunteers, schedule referees and umpires and other duties that may come up. If you are interested in more information, please reach out via email litchfieldrec@litchfieldmaine.org.

The Litchfield Recreation Committee is a 5 member committee. At this time, only three of the seats are filled. If you would like to join this committee please contact the Town Manager with your request.

At this time this committee is doing all the work that our former Recreation Director position did. (See the above stipend position (s) you can do one or all three—for more information) This has become a very time consuming commitment for the three committee members who work full time jobs. We do this because we want the children of Litchfield to have the opportunity to participate in sports in our Town. Please read the above ad and if this is of any interest to you please reach out to the email for any questions you may have.

Town Clerk's Corner

School Budget Vote!! - The 3rd attempt at passing a school budget is on Tuesday, October 3rd at the Sportsmen's Club from 8 am – 8 pm. Apologies for any inconvenience, the date changed after publication of last month's Sodalite. The proposed budget is an additional \$369,400 reduction since the last vote, for a total reduction of \$693,158 since the initial budget. Slides may be viewed here <https://www.rsu4.org/page/budget> and a recording of an information meeting at the Town Office is at <https://youtu.be/ATgjIE7ntQ4>.

2023-2024 Property Tax Bills Delayed AND Valuations are Factored - Tax bills are delayed and will be mailed out after the RSU4 budget is passed. You will have up to 30 days after taxes are committed to pay your first installment. The 2nd and 3rd installments will be at the normal times. ALSO, the overall Town valuation was adjusted by a factor of 20% to keep up with the State's estimate in order to maintain the full value of homestead and veteran's exemptions. The short explanation: While taxes will increase, it is not because of the factor. A longer explanation: Once property improvements are applied and the taxes are committed, the same 20% valuation "factor" applied to all properties means your property tax due after factoring is the same as before factoring. In other words, factoring raises the entire Town valuation, and the way the math works, since the amount to be raised remains the same, there is an offsetting reduction in the mil rate.

State Election - Voting will take place for the upcoming general election on November 7, 2023 at the Sportsman's Club, 2261 Hallowell Road, Litchfield. Polls will be open from 8am-8pm. Information about the questions appearing on the ballot can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/index.html> If you would like to request an Absentee Ballot, please visit <https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl> or contact the town office. Ballots will become available in early October. In person absentee voting will also be available.

Road Re-construction Status - All summer road projects are nearly complete, with remaining driveway tie-ins and shoulder fill to be done in October.

2024 Dog Licenses - You may license your dog(s) for 2024 at the Town office beginning October 16th 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, 2024.

Rabies Clinic - A rabies vaccination clinic is scheduled for Saturday, October 21st from 9-11 am 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.

RSU4 PTA Annual Holiday Craft Fair is Saturday, December 2nd, 2023 from 9-3 at Oak Hill Middle School. For an application, please email rsu4pta@rsu4.org

October Community Calendar

| | | | |
|---------|--|---------|--|
| 1 Sun | | 17 Tue | Lit Fire Assoc & Reg Meet -6:30p, Central Sta |
| 2 Mon | | 18 Wed | Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd Lit. Planning Bd. -Town Office 6:00pm |
| 3 Tue | Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers , 6:30pm—Central St RSU4 Budget Vote -Lit. Sports Club 8am-8pm | 19 Thur | Senior Advisory —1pm, Academy Rd Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd Lit. Budget Comm. -Town Office 6:30pm |
| 4 Wed | Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd | 20 Fri | Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm |
| 5 Thur | Lit. Planning Bd. , 6:30pm; Town Office Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd | 21 Sat | Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm |
| 6 Fri | Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm | 22 Sun | |
| 7 Sat | Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm Sportsman's Club -Public supper & Jam \$10. Supper 5 to 6 Jam 6:30 to 8 | 23 Mon | Lit. Selectman's Meeting —6:30pm; Zoom available—see website |
| 8 Sun | Sportsman's Club -Country Sunday \$8.00 12 to 4 | 24 Tue | |
| 9 Mon | Town Office Closed  Lit. Sportsmen's Club -meeting, 7 pm | 25 Wed | Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd American Legion Post 181 Meeting ; 7pm—235 Plains Rd. RSU 4 School Board -6:30pm, Central Office |
| 10 Tue | Lit. Selectman's Meeting —6:30pm; Zoom avail- able—see website Lit. First Responders Meeting -6:30pm, Cent. Stat | 26 Thur | Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd |
| 11 Wed | Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd RSU4 School Board -6:30pm; Central Office | 27 Fri | Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm |
| 12 Thur | Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd | 28 Sat | Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm |
| 13 Fri | Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm | 29 Sun | |
| 14 Sat | Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm Town Wide Roadside Cleanup -8am-1pm Lit. Fire & Rescue -Yard Sale— 8am—2pm | 30 Mon | |
| 15 Sun | RSU4 Trunk or Treat -Fairgrounds, 2pm-4pm | 31 Tue |  |
| 16 Mon | Lit. Recreation Comm —6:15pm | | |

BOX HOLDER

Contents:

1. Historical Society, Senior Center Corner
2. Town Manager/Clerk's Report
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4. Newsletter Deadline

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: 207-707-8485
sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org
www.litchfieldmaine.org
Open: Mon.—Wed.: 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Thurs.: 8:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Closed: Every Fri.

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The Litchfield Sodalite



TRUNK OR TREAT

SPONSORED BY RSU4 PTA

Sunday, October 15th
2:00-4:00 pm

Litchfield Fairgrounds
Hallowell Rd, Litchfield, ME

Interested in being a trunker?
Email: rsu4pta@rsu4.org

SEE YOU THERE!

November Issue Deadline: Oct. 22, 2023 5p.m. Deliver material in any of the following ways:

Email: sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org **U.S. mail to:** Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd. 04350

Hand deliver to: Town Office 2400 Hallowell Rd

