

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XX No. 9

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

September 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

September question: In early Litchfield, what is now the Small Road had a different name. What was it?

August question: If an early settler of Litchfield said that an animal, "wasn't worth its salt" what did that mean? answer: The meat from the animal wouldn't be equal to the cost of the salt to preserve the meat. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to

WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

LITCHFIELD FIRE AND RESCUE

Litchfield Fire & Rescue is offering a great program for anyone interested in purchasing a reflective numerical address sign for your mailbox or home. This reflective blue sign will have yellow numbers on one or both sides, vertical or horizontal. Numbers are 3" and the sign itself is 6" x 18". A sample display will be available at the fire station and town office. Signs are priced at \$20.00 and orders can be placed starting now at the Town Office or Gowell's Shop & Save. Starting July 11th, you can pick up your sign at the station or come in to have one made. Hours will be Saturday and Sunday mornings between 8-10am. Any questions regarding this program, please call Tina Gowell at 485-5565. Signs are available for local residence as well as out of town residence. Need help installing? We would be glad to help.

Tacoma Lakes Association

On August 1, TLA held its annual meeting for members. Due to COVID, the meeting was moved outdoors to the Litchfield Fairgrounds. Thank you to all at the Fairgrounds for stepping into the void, and allowing us a great place for the meeting. The meeting was attended by approximately 50 members. Reports were given on the financials, the boat inspection program, and the plant patrol activities. In addition, Tamara Whitmore gave a very informative talk, in which she highlighted the interaction between the various lake associations, and her group The Friends Of Cobbossee Watershed, as well as updated us all on the status of invasive plant species in neighboring bodies of water. TLA still has 1 opening for a director, if any waterfront property owner wants to help us in our efforts to maintain the beauty of our lakes. Also ANYONE who cares about the future of the Tacomas can become a member. Membership fees remain a bargain at \$15 per household. Membership forms are available online at www.tacomalakes.org. If anyone has any questions or concerns please contact Jim Adams at 268-2070.

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.

Wednesday 9-12, is at the Fairgrounds, subject to change.

Telephone numbers: 215-4595, 268-4237, 441-9005.

Because of social distancing we are going to have some of our activities in the "Red Barn" at the Litchfield Fairgrounds.

Line dancing Mondays in the "Red Barn" 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. for beginners and advanced. The Center will open at 12.

Tai Chi Wednesday 9/2 in the "Red Barn" at 9 a.m. & Music practice for the Carol Bailey String Band afterward on Wednesday 10 to 12. The Center will not be open on Weds.

The Carol Bailey String Band will be doing a series of Outdoor Concerts at the following places: 9/9 - 10 a.m. at

Schooner Estates, Auburn. 9/16 - 10 a.m. at Clover Manor, Auburn. 9/23 - 1 p.m. Montello Heights, Lewiston & 9/30 - Maine Veterans Home, Augusta.

We are looking for a Volunteer Aerobics instructor.

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. Check on fees at the site.

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 September 17.

Because of the Covid-19 virus 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: At this time Exercise equipment available for use 12-4 Monday and 9-4 Friday.

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

We have had enough of this delay! We are opening for Saturday, Sept. 5 and intend to be open every Saturday. 9 - 5. Please wear a mask. You'll be asked to provide a first name and telephone number each visit. If you or anyone in your household is diagnosed with Covid-19, tracing contacts is vital. Let us know so we can alert folks you had contact with you at the Thrift Shop. We are not quite ready to accept donations yet.

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

Some folks in town have a great garden! We know because they have been generous in sharing their produce with our neighbors. We are very grateful. Your donations for masks picked up at Gowell's have been outstanding! The seamstress creating them is an angel in disguise! Please continue to wear your mask and know that there is a smile behind mine.

Transfer Station

The Transfer Station was fortunate to acquire a 2018 TYM four-wheel drive tractor. This 39 horsepower tractor was used by the previous owner for one month and has only fourteen hours on the motor. The tractor came with a front bucket and we will acquire quick detach forks and a bush hog in the next few weeks. This equipment will allow us to load air conditioners, refrigerators, large televisions and other heavy items. We will bush hog the old dump area as required by Department of Environmental Protection. We received twenty large cement blocks which we will use to expand the leaf collection bunker as well as to construct a loading ramp for putting leaves into a high walled tractor trailer. Within the next few weeks we will have a construction company move gravel away from the front of the Swap Shop / Haz Mat building. This action will prevent rain water from flowing into the building. The construction company will also grade the roadway by the brush and leaf area. GLASS; the Selectmen have requested that we return to the practice of collecting glass in Glass Roll Off Container. They have made this request in hopes of the glass market opening up again.

Litchfield Broadband Committee

*The Litchfield Broadband Committee continues to focus on extending internet services to households and businesses in town that have little or no access to quality services. If you have trouble getting good internet coverage, please contact us to let us know where you live (contact Larry Bell at lbell248@gmail.com <lbell248@gmail.com>) and what challenges you have. Success stories are also appreciated and it has been nice to hear from many of our residents. We are also happy to report that three new residents have joined our efforts: Judi Bulliner, Dick Cutcliffe and John Upham. *

*As mentioned at the July town meeting, we were awarded a planning grant from ConnectMaine. These funds were awarded to Litchfield to produce plans that define local broadband needs, goals and through digital inclusion efforts encourage adoption of identified best practices by participating municipalities and organizations. This plan will inventory existing broadband infrastructure assets within Litchfield and will include a gap analysis defining the additional broadband infrastructure necessary to meet identified needs and goals. An assessment of all Litchfield procedures, policies, rules and ordinances that could have the effect of delaying or increasing the cost of broadband infrastructure deployment are part of the process. This planning process will be carried out by Casco Bay Advisors. *

*We also want to help those that are technology challenged realize the advantages that the Internet can offer. Key partners that are collaborating with the Committee efforts are the Select Board, RSU4 school system, and the Senior Center. *

We are awaiting to hear back on another grant for \$15,000 from the Maine Community Foundation Broadband Grant. If awarded, the funds would really help us with some town improvements. This grant does not require any matching funds be provided by the town. We are competing for this grant money with many other rural communities in Maine. Notification of grant awards is expected by Monday, September 14.

Town Clerk's Corner

Property Taxes

2020-21 property tax bills will be mailed out mid-September. The first payment will be due October 15th. If you would prefer to pay smaller amounts more frequently than the standard 3 times a year, we accept payments at any time and our office staff is available to help calculate monthly amounts.

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, September 7th for Labor Day.

Upcoming meetings at the Town Office:

Select Board – Monday, Sep 14th, 6:30 pm

Budget Committee – Monday, Sep 21st, 6:30



★ Designed by TownMapsUSA.com

4H The Creators

Due to the Covid 19 virus. The meetings once a month starting in October will be either Zoom or Facebook messenger group. Projects will be discussed and they will be done at home on the members own time. Questions? call Lori at 7543931 leave a message or text.

September Community Calendar

1 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers- 6:30pm; Station	17 Thur	Food Bank- 10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
2 Wed	Food Bank- 4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd	18 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.m
3 Thur	Food Bank- 10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	19 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 5pm
4 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.m	20 Sun	Transfer Station , 8.m.-4 p.m.
5 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 5pm	21 Mon	Selectman Meeting , 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information
6 Sun	Transfer Station , 8.m.-4 p.m.	22 Tue	
7 Mon	Lit. Recreation Comm. (Zoom Meeting)	23 Wed	Food Bank- 4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd RSU 4 School Board —6:30pm
8 Tue	First Responders Meeting- 6:30pm; Station	24 Thur	Food Bank- 10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
9 Wed	Food Bank- 4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd Conservation Commission- 6pm-Zoom - Contact Diane Clay at 207-754-9502 RSU 4 School Board —6:30pm	25 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.m
10 Thur	Food Bank- 10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	26 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 5pm
11 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.m	27 Sun	Transfer Station , 8.m.-4 p.m.
12 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 5pm Lit. Sportsman's Club —Outdoor Concert, 2pm-5pm, bring your own chairs and shade.	28 Mon	Selectman Meeting , 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information
13 Sun	Transfer Station , 8.m.-4 p.m.	29 Tue	
14 Mon	First Day of School in RSU4 Selectman Meeting , 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information Lit. Sportsman's Club Meeting —7pm	30 Wed	Food Bank- 4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd
15 Tue	Lit. Fire Assoc & Regular Meet- 6:30pm		
16 Wed	Food Bank- 4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd		

BOX HOLDER

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2. Town Manager/Clerk's Report
3. September 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

On October 12 - 16 Litchfield will host a reduced (due to Covid) field team of the Maine Conservation Corps to make improvements to lands in Litchfield that are open to the public. The public is invited to attend and work with these young people who are trained to care of the outdoors with activities such as trail maintenance, sign replacement, picnic table repair, bog bridge repair, removal of invasive plants. We will be offering training in identifying and learning about native plants on the various sites where they will work so that the invasive terrestrial plants can be ID'd properly and removed.

Road Advisory Committee

MAINE ALLIANCE FOR ROAD ASSOCIATIONS (MARA) presents:

The Maine Private Road Association Conference, Saturday, October 3, 2020

8:45am-3:30pm Maple Hill Farm Inn and Conference Center

Conference Workshops:

“Repairing and Maintaining Gravel Roads for Water Quality”:

“Legal Aspects of Administrative Operations”:

“Encouraging Member Participation”

AV Portland will provide a professional virtual experience that will allow for ample presenter/ audience interaction by both in-person and virtual attendees. Qualified attendees may also obtain recertification credit for Maine DEP Certification in Erosion Control Practices. **Registration online is \$50.00**

If you have any questions about the Event, please contact Roberta Manter at roadways@juno.com or call 685-9846; questions about Registration or event safety contact the Web Administrator at in-f@maineroads.org

October Issue Deadline: Sept. 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

