

# The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXI No. 9

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

September 1, 2021

## Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz? **September question:** What early Litchfield occupation would be associated with "shooks"? **August question:** Maine's oldest houses did not have floor boards measuring over twenty-four inches in width. Why was this? answer: Under British law trees twenty-four inches or greater at the butt were designated "mast trees" and could not be cut. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to [WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org](http://WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org)

## Litchfield Broadband Committee

### THE INTERNET SURVEY HAS BEEN MAILED OUT!

We have two potential provider options being evaluated: Charter Spectrum and Axiom Technologies. They have proposed two quite different proposals to service our town. To help determine the best direction for Litchfield, a broadband Internet Survey was created. This survey has been mailed to over 2,500 households and businesses here in town. This survey will only take five minutes of your time. It is CRITICAL to get feedback from all households and businesses to know which direction to proceed. So please take the few minutes it requires to complete this survey! The goal of the survey is to better understand household and business internet usage, needs, and current gaps. By returning this survey, your opinion will be counted. If you did not get one in the mail, you can find a copy on the town website [www.litchfieldmaine.org](http://www.litchfieldmaine.org) and print out a blank form, or you can get a blank paper copy of the survey at Town Hall. Based on survey results and feedback, the Select Board with the support of the Broadband Committee will work to connect those that are presently not served (approximately 240 household and business locations unserved!) while improving options for existing connected households and businesses. Please complete the survey by September 8, 2021. Only one survey per household location or business is required. You can drop this survey off at Town Hall, Gowell's Shop & Save, or mail it back to: Litchfield Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd.

## Litchfield Transfer Station

The weather is finally cooperating so we can get some of our projects started: we are currently cutting down trees to make room next to cardboard container for the glass container, tin container and the paper container. We will remove the trees then have the stumps removed. Next will have approximately thirty yards of gravel put in and leveled. Will not have cement pad for these containers this year. We found out that the cement retaining wall and ramp is not tall enough for the front-end loader to load leaves into the trailer. We will add another row of cement blocks on top of the existing blocks and increase the height of the ramp. The mound covering the old dump has been mowed but with the rain and sun we have received along with the sunny days the grass has grown very rapidly. We will mow it again the next few weeks.

## Litchfield Senior Center

**The Litchfield Senior Center is open and available to all, no fee to attend. "Aging is more fun when you share it"** At this time some of the activities are still being held at the Litchfield Sportsmen's Club until such time that they will be brought back into the Center. If the open flag is out at the Center, come on in. All dates and times are subject to change. The Center will be closed Labor Day, September 6. Line Dancing on Mondays 9:30-11 at the Sportsmen's Club. Center will open 11:30 to 2.

### NO TAI CHI or music practice-month of September

**On Wednesday, September 1**, the Carol Bailey String Band will perform an outside concert at Clover Manor, Auburn at 10 a.m. **On Friday September 10**, the Carol Bailey String Band will perform at the Litchfield Fair at 1 p.m.; the Litchfield Senior Steppers will perform at 2 p.m. **On Wednesday, September 22**, the Carol Bailey String Band will perform an outside concert at Schooner Estates in Auburn at 2:30.

Come to the Center for morning exercise with Dian on Fridays 8:30-9:15.

**Games for fun** on Mondays at 11:30-2 and Fridays 10-3. Bring a lunch and snack, stay for games at the Senior Center.

**Book Club** discussion group- on Monday September 20 at 1:30 at the Center. We will discuss the book "The Poacher's Son" by Paul Doiron.

**The Seniors Advisory committee** has put together a magnet with the heading IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: information on the storm shelter, water and contact numbers. These can be picked up at the town office, food bank, transfer station and the Senior Center

**The Senior's Advisory Committee** meeting is at 1 on Thursday September 16.

There is a **WiFi** hot spot available at the Senior Center.

**Wellness check** – if you would like to have someone phone you weekly please call and leave your name & phone # and we will get in touch with you.

**Road Runner Trips:** Please call or stop into the Center to sign up for these trips. **Wednesday, September 15, Lakewood Theater in Madison. "Whose in Bed with the Butler" show at 2 p.m.** leave at 12:15 from the Sportsmen's Club.

**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 for more information, a cup of coffee or tea and check out our books (paperback & hard cover), puzzles and items on the table you may like. Donations always appreciated, or work on the 1000 piece puzzle already set up on the table The phone numbers are 215-4595/441-9005/268-4237

## 4H The Creators

We will start back up in October. We mostly do crafts and items to put in the fairs, as well as some science learning when we can. We are also planning to do some field trips if we are able to. We will be meeting on Saturdays at 1:00pm – date to be announced at a later time.

### Litchfield Fair

#### It's What a Fair Should Be

The Litchfield Farmers Club is pleased to announce that it will have the Litchfield Fair on September 10, 11 and 12 2021. The fair may look a little different this year but we are still here! Welcome back! Come join us for all the fair favorites: Musical Entertainment, Agricultural Events, Contests, Redneck Truck Pull, Demolition Derby, Youth Horse Show, Wheeler's Wee Farmers Learning Center, Awesome Exhibits (Remember to have your exhibitions for the exhibition hall entered on Wednesday, September 8). We will have a great museum and of course, fair food! Admission is: Under 12 free, 12-17 and Seniors: \$5, Adults: \$9. Seniors' admission is free on Friday! 3 day passes and 2021 tickets are also available online at [www.litchfieldfair.com](http://www.litchfieldfair.com) Premium The Fair book and full schedule of events are also available online. Hope to see you there!

### LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

We love the fresh veggies and fruit our neighbors are delivering each week. Thanks so much! We enjoy seeing our regular customers and meeting new ones. Open Wed, 4 - 6 PM and Thur. 10 to noon.

### LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

End of season sale - All September, Buck a Bag for paper grocery bags and \$2 for reusable bags. We need children's clothes hangers and clip hangers for (adult) pants and skirts. We've had two large shipments in recently and would love help processing them before we start our seasonal switch over in October. Great time to catch some incredible bargains!

### 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. 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.



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### Town Clerk's Corner

**Property Taxes** -2021-22 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 throughout the year, we accept payments at any time and our office staff is available to help calculate monthly amounts.

**Last Year's Property Taxes** -If you receive a "30 Day Notice" in the mail it means you have taxes remaining from last year and have a chance to get them paid in time to avoid the additional cost of having a lien on your property. Whether you forgot a payment, or are having some financial difficulties, if you have any questions or are concerned about the lien process, please don't hesitate to give us a call or stop by at the Town Office (207) 268-4721.

**Road Maintenance and Ditching** -Ditching helps lessen the effect of pavement damaging frost heaves by allowing water to drain away from the road beds. Many of our local roads have not been ditched in years. Our Public Works crew is working to change that, and is prioritizing ditching of roads that are due to be repaved. This will happen over a period of months and years, but if your property borders a local road and you have plants within the right-of-way that you want to keep, you should consider moving them. The right-of way extends approximately 25 feet from the centerline of the road.

**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](http://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 6th for Labor Day.**

### Tacoma Lakes Association

By now most of you are aware of the leak that was recently discovered in the earthen berm alongside the Woodbury Pond dam. The Town of Litchfield recently approved a temporary fix to the problem, involving sandbagging and further testing. These repairs will be quite costly. Anyone wishing to donate can do so at the town office, or on the Preserve The Woodbury Pond Dam gofundme page. The more monies donated the better. The Tacoma Lakes impact on the area economy cannot be underestimated. Lakefront property owners contribute to the Litchfield tax base, and hundreds of boaters, fisherman, and families visit the area to enjoy the lakes on a weekly basis. It is important to note, that without a properly functioning dam, many camp owners would have a long walk to the water. Also, the threat of milfoil infesting the lakes continues to loom. Imagine the ramifications of a large milfoil outbreak on the local economy, dropping property values, and a loss of recreational activities resulting in a loss of revenue for businesses in the area. In short TLA needs as many members to support us as we can get. Our goal for this year remains set at 300, and we currently have 210 renewed members. Membership remains only \$15 per year. Membership forms are available online at [www.tacomalakes.org](http://www.tacomalakes.org), and can be mailed, or using PayPal online payments are accepted. Help support TLA, and you will be helping the local economy thrive.

## September Community Calendar

1 Wed	<b>RSU4-First Day of School K-9</b> <b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd <b>Eastern Star</b> -Masonic Hall -7pm	17 Fri	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8a.m.-4p. <b>Town Office</b> , Closed
2 Thur	<b>RSU4-First Day of School Prek, 10-12 &amp; LRTC</b> <b>Food Bank</b> —10a-12p, 491 Richmond Rd <b>Lit. Planning Bd</b> , 6:30pm Town Office	18 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> OPEN– 9am to 12pm
3 Fri	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8a.m.-4p. <b>Town Office</b> , Closed	19 Sun	<b>Lit Historical Society</b> -1pm, Town Office
4 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> OPEN– 9am to 12pm	20 Mon	<b>Lit. Budget Comm</b> -6:30pm
5 Sun		21 Tue	<b>Lit. Fire Assoc &amp; Reg Meet</b> -6:30pm
6 Mon	 <b>Town Office Closed</b>	22 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd <b>RSU4-School Board</b> ; 6:30pm-OHHS <b>Road Advisory Comm.</b> -6:00pm-Town Of- fice <b>American Legion William R. Bold Post 181</b> – 7pm
7 Tue	<b>Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers</b> - 6:30pm; Station <b>Ad Hoc Broadband Comm</b> —6pm	23 Thurs	<b>Food Bank</b> -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
8 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd <b>RSU4</b> —Board Meeting, 6:30 OHHS	24 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8a.m.-4p.
9 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	25 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> OPEN– 9am to 12pm
10 Fri	<b>Litchfield Fair</b> <b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8a.m.-4p.	26 Sun	
11 Sat	<b>Litchfield Fair</b> <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> OPEN– 9am to 12pm	27 Mon	<b>Selectman Meeting</b> , 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information
12 Sun	<b>Litchfield Fair</b>	28 Tue	
13 Mon	<b>Selectman Meeting</b> , 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information	29 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
14 Tue	<b>First Responders Meeting</b> -6:30pm; Station	30 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
15 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd		
16 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd <b>Senior's Advisory Com.</b> –1pm –Center		

# BOX HOLDER

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

ECRWSS  
PRSR STD  
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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: 207-707-8485  
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

Since the fall of 2001, members of the Litchfield Conservation Commission have been working to provide updates and increase accessibility to the Litchfield Community Park (LCP). Over the winter, members mapped current trails and prospected a \*new\* trail that we hope to see completed by this fall. A new map is being prepared for display at the LCP kiosk in the parking area closest to the trails. Additionally, a digital version of the park map will be shared on the town website and the LCC Facebook page. New signage was created by Diane's Signs & Services in Gardiner and will be installed by a crew from the Maine Conservation Corp during their time in Litchfield – September 20 - 30. We welcome volunteers to help and gain experience in identification of native and invasive plants; invasive plant control techniques; trail building and maintenance; boundary marking; and installation of new trail signs in the Litchfield Community Park. The next meeting of the Litchfield Conservation Commission will be September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm via Zoom - please email Diane Clay at [c1l2a3y4@gmail.com](mailto:c1l2a3y4@gmail.com) for the link to the meeting. If you'd like to participate in a field day with the Maine Conservation Corp in our town parks, please send a message via the LCC Facebook page (@LCC04350) or you can request contact details from the town office.

**October Issue Deadline:** Sept 22, 2021  
5p.m. Deliver material  
in any of the following  
ways: **E-mail**  
**(sodalite@litchfieldmai**

