

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XVI No. 12

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

December 1, 2016

Historical Society of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

December's question: Litchfield Corner once had a "factory" which used iron pots to extract the lye from wood ash. What was the product of this factory?

November's answer: The name Toothaker most likely derived from a Middle English word for churchyard warden.

FMI: www.historicalsocietyoflitchfieldmaine.org

Litchfield Community Food Bank

Many thanks for the Thanksgiving Boxes support. We received funding and produce from local farms to provide 41 boxes. I love the generosity of this town. We all should be proud to live here. In keeping with the holiday spirit, I am seeking sponsors for Christmas gifts for Food Bank children, age 12 and under. We encourage an outfit (pants/slacks and a top) and a toy (moms provide a suggestion) to be purchased and provided unwrapped before Fri., Dec. 16. We add items from other donations and provide them to parents in time for the big day.

FMI: Call Rayna, 582-4098.

Litchfield Academy Thrift Shop

Big changes have been made, and racks have been freshened by removal of items that had gotten stale. A new rack of "athletic gear" has been added to encourage increased exercising. (I've been told having the right gear is an incentive.) Prices may be changing as a result of the better quality being offered. . .but there are still huge savings to be had! Still inviting anyone interested in volunteering 3 hours on a Sat. to call Rayna, 582-4098.

Creators 4-H

Dec. Meeting: Libby-Tozier School, Sun., Dec. 18, 3 p.m. We will do Christmas projects.

We collected toys for Toys for Tots and delivered them on Mon., Nov. 28.

FMI: Call Lori, 268-4205.

Wanted!!

Litchfield Public Works is looking for a qualified full-time equipment operator/plow truck driver with a Class B license.

If interested, please come to the Litchfield Town Office to obtain an employment application.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Litchfield is an EOE.

Senior Center Corner

466 Academy Road (next to Libby-Tozier School), Tel.: 215-4595; or Pat, 441-9005

Open: Every Mon. and Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Every Wed., 8:30 a.m.-noon

Closed: Wed., Dec. 14

Note: If RSU4 schools are closed due to bad weather, the Senior Center will also be closed.

The Carol Bailey String Band Christmas Concerts:

Fri., Dec. 2, 7 p.m., Vienna Grange

Wed., Dec. 7, 2 p.m., Hope Baptist Church, Manchester, open to the public

Wed., Dec. 14, 10 a.m., Marshwood Center, Lewiston

Wed., Dec. 14, 1 p.m., Montello Heights, Lewiston

Wed., Dec. 21, 2 p.m., Alzheimer's Care Center, Gardiner

These are all free concerts, with donations accepted.

Bowling, 1-7-10 Lanes, Augusta, Thu., Dec. 8. Call 441-9005 to car pool. Leave at noon.

Christmas Party, Fri., Dec. 16, 1 p.m. Bring a \$5-\$10 gift to put under the tree for exchange. The Carol Bailey String Band will perform Christmas music.

Line dancing instruction (beginner and advanced) Mon.'s at 9:30 a.m.

Aerobics on Wed.'s (except for Dec. 14) and Fri.'s at 8:30 a.m.

No Music Practice for December due to concerts.

Feldenkrais Awareness Through Movement Method Exercise Class, Fri.'s, Dec. 9 and 16 only, 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 4 Cribbage Tournament Winners: Bill Watson, 1st place; Pat Soboleski, 2nd place; and Ed Myrbeck, 3rd place. We had 10 participants and lots of fun.

Cribbage Games for fun on Mon.'s, 11 a.m., and Fri.'s, 10 a.m. Bring a lunch and stay in the afternoon on Mon.'s for **bingo**, and Fri.'s for **cards**.

Thrift Shop open first and third Mon.'s, 10-11 a.m.

Seniors Advisory Committee, 9 a.m., Tues., Dec. 20.

REMINDER: Exercise equipment available for use 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon.'s and Fri.'s; 9 a.m. to noon, Wed.'s.

Stop in at the Center or call for more information, a cup of coffee/tea, and activity/trip sign up.

Veteran and Senior Holiday Luncheon

You are invited to a Holiday Luncheon Sat., Dec. 31, at the Litchfield Fire & Rescue Station, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

RSVP: Tina M. Gowell, 485-5565 or lf900@yahoo.com

Town Manager

Please be aware of the following office early closings in December:

- Mon., Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m.
- Thu., Dec. 15, 12:30 p.m.

The Town Office will be closed all day on Mon., Dec. 26.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Litchfield First Responders

Are you looking for another way to serve your community?

Come join the Litchfield First Responders!!

Our volunteers are diverse in every respect, and come from all walks of life. Challenge yourself, build new skills, and become part of a tight-knit public service force.

Benefits include:

- Professional development
- Leadership experience
- World-class First Responder training
- Emergency vehicle operation training

Requirements for joining:

- Minimum 18 years old
- Possess good manual dexterity
- Pass a background check

Come join one of the best teams in town where we are dedicated to serving and protecting the people and properties of Litchfield.

Please let Tina Gowell know if you are interested in learning how to become a part of this wonderful team.

Tel.: 485-5565

Email: lfid900@yahoo.com

RSU4

Oak Hill Middle School Drama Club will be performing *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* on Fri., Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. Hope you can join them, and please spread the word!

The "Almost Winter Concert" will be Tue., Dec. 13, 6 p.m., at Carrie Ricker School. It will feature the Fifth Grade Band and Chorus. (Snow Date: Thu., Dec. 15, 6 p.m.)

Students in Grades 1 and 2 at Libby-Tozier School will have a musical concert on Thu., Dec. 15, at 6 p.m.

Mrs. Caron's 5th Grade Class at Carrie Ricker School has been participating in a "Pay it Forward" project. They have been doing things to help in the community such as making Veterans Day cards for our local veterans, raising money to purchase turkeys for the Carrie Ricker Food Bank for Thanksgiving, and for Christmas toys for Toys for Tots. Great job, kids!

RSU4 schools will be closed from Thu., Dec. 22-Mon., Jan. 2, for Holiday vacation. They will reopen on Tue., Jan. 3, 2017.

Clerk's Corner

A **Special Selectman's Meeting** has been scheduled for **Mon., Dec. 5, 2016, 6:30 p.m., at Libby-Tozier School.** During this meeting a Public Hearing will be held regarding a Special Town Meeting & Recall Election, scheduled for Tue., Dec. 20, 2016.

Note: The Town Office will be closing at 6:30 p.m. in order for personnel to attend the meeting.

Residents wanting to participate in the **Recall Election**, can vote by secret ballot at the Litchfield Town Office **Tue., Dec. 20, 2016, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.** *Absentee ballots* will be available at the Litchfield Town Office during regular office hours beginning Tue., Dec. 6.

Board Needs

Both the Planning Board and Appeals Board are in immediate need of members, associate members, and secretaries. If you would like to serve in one of these positions, please send a letter of interest to the Town Manager.

Tacoma Lakes Association

Work continues on the new TLA office space. President Jim Adams, Vice President Bruce Doyle, and Rainey Doyle moved several pieces of office equipment into the space on a recent weekend. In addition, Bruce secured several pieces of office furniture including a meeting table and 20 chairs. Those too were recently moved into the space. These efforts will give TLA, for the first time in its 75-year history, a fully-functioning, secured office space, a meeting and work space for officers to conduct TLA business, and a resource for members. We plan to have the new office open to members part of one day weekly throughout the summer. TLA would love to display historic photos of the lakes or the area. Members who wish to lend or donate photos, please let us know.

As we move into winter, and the winter sports season, TLA reminds all sports enthusiasts, that when enjoying winter on our lakes, please take out what you bring in. In past years, people have left behind bottles, cans, and trash at the close of a great day of ice fishing, snowmobiling, or snowshoeing. TLA encourages our members and everyone using and enjoying our lakes to take a little time to leave the lakes in the same condition they were when you arrived.

Lastly, the officers and directors of TLA would like to wish you all a happy holiday season.

FMI: James Adams at jadams13@gmail.com; website at <http://www.tacomalakes.org/>; or like us on Facebook.

Legion Annual Christmas Party

The American Legion Post 181 will have its annual Christmas Party on Wed., Dec. 7, at 6 p.m. at the Legion Hall. All veterans and their partners are invited.

December 2016 Community Calendar

1 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m. Planning Board , Town Office, 6 p.m.	16 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
2 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	17 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m. DECMA Country Christmas Show , Sportsmen's Club, 1-6 p.m.
3 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	18 Sun	
4 Sun		19 Mon	Academy Thrift Store , 10-11 a.m. Budget Committee , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.
5 Mon	Academy Thrift Store , 10-11 a.m. Town Office , closing early for special select board meeting and public hearing for recall election, 6:30 p.m. Special Select Board Meeting and Public Hearing for Recall Election , Libby-Tozier School, 6:30 p.m. Recreation Committee , Town Office, 6:30 p.m. Order of the Eastern Star , Masonic Hall, 7 p.m.	20 Tue	Recall Election Voting , Town Office, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Senior Advisory Comm. , Academy Bldg., 10 a.m. Fire/Rescue Station cleanup , 6 p.m. Fire/Rescue Assoc. Mtg. , Station, 6:30 p.m. Fire/Rescue Mtg. , Station, 7 p.m. Masons , Masonic Hall, 7:30 p.m.
6 Tue		21 Wed	Road Committee , Town Office, 5:30 p.m. TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m.
7 Wed	Legion Christmas Party , Legion Hall, 6 p.m. TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m.	22 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m. Snowmobile Club Meeting , Academy Bldg., 6 p.m.
8 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m. Snowmobile Club Meeting , Academy Bldg., 6 p.m.	23 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
9 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	24 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-12 p.m. (Closing early due to Christmas Eve.) Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
10 Sat	Breakfast with Santa , Central Fire Station, 8-11 a.m. (Snow Date: Sun., Dec. 11) Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Legion Auxiliary , Legion Hall, 10 a.m. Sportsmen's Club Member Appreciation Dinner and Meeting , Sportsmen's Club, 6 p.m.	25 Sun	Christmas Day
11 Sun	Country Sunday, Sportsmen's Club, 12-4:30 p.m.	26 Mon	Town Office , closed Select Board Meeting , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.
12 Mon	Select Board Meeting , Town Office, 6:30 p.m. Sportsmen's Club Monthly Meeting , Sportsmen's Club, 7 p.m.	27 Tue	
13 Tue		28 Wed	TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. Franks & Beans , Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m. American Legion , Legion Hall, 7 p.m.
14 Wed	TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. Conservation Commission , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.	29 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m.
15 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m. Town Office , closed, 12:30 p.m. Special Town Meeting , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.	30 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
		31 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Veteran & Senior Holiday Lunch , Central Fire Station, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
		31 Sat 1 Sun	New Year's Eve Dance (age 21+), Sportsmen's Club, 8 p.m., Sat.-1 a.m., Sun

RSU4 Schools—Holiday Closure

Closed from Thu., Dec. 22, 2016, through Mon., Jan. 2, 2017. They will reopen on Tue., Jan. 3, 2017.



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1—Historical Society, Food Bank, Thrift Shop, 4-H, Public Works
 Need, Senior Center Corner, Veteran & Senior Luncheon
 2—Town Manager, First Responders, RSU4, Clerk, Board Needs, Ta-
 coma Lakes Association, Legion Christmas Party
 3—December Calendar, RSU4 Schools Holiday Closures
 4—Newsletter Deadline, Invasive Plants, Santa Breakfast

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The Litchfield Sodalite
 Litchfield Town Office
 2400 Hollowell Road
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 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.

4 The Litchfield Sodalite

January Issue Deadline: December 20, 2016, 5 p.m.
 Deliver material in any of the following ways:

- E-mail (sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)
- U.S. mail to: Town Office, 2400 Hollowell RD

Road Committee

Invasive Plant of the Month: Multiflora Rose

Is a fragrant rose invading our ecosystem a problem? Yes! The Multiflora (or many-flowered) rose has up to 15-ft long arching, abundantly-thorned canes that will sprout when they contact soil and send up a new plant, forming impenetrable thickets and crowding out other plants. It is everywhere, roadsides or the forest understory, moist or dry, sun or shade. (Be careful when approaching as the branches snag clothes and hair and are quite painful.) Then there are the seeds: those many 1” June flowers turn into many 1/3” red fruits in late summer and are dispersed by birds, especially the mockingbird, cedar waxwing and American robin. A single plant can produce 500,000 or more seeds, which can remain viable for 10-20 years in the seed bank. Why did people bring it here? Rosa multiflora was introduced in 1886 from Japan to the United States as rootstock for cultivated roses. From 1930 to 1960 the U.S. (cont'd. next column)

Invasive Plant of the Month—(cont'd.):

Soil Conservation Service advocated its use as a component of living fences and erosion control plans. As late as 1960 its planting was still encouraged for wildlife food and cover

Control: As always, EARLY DETECTION and RAPID RESPONSE. See Cooperative Extension bulletin #2509 for details.

Japanese Knotweed update: <http://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/gotpests/weeds/japanese-knotweed.htm> If you have pernicious Knotweed you want to control you can develop a contract with the licensed spray applicator spraying the Town road rights-of-way next May/June.

FMI: Come to a Road Committee meeting the 3rd Wed. of each month, at 5:30 p.m., or call Lindsay Nelsen, 268-4569.

Pancake Breakfast with Santa
 Sat., Dec. 10, 8-11 a.m. (snow date: Sun., Dec. 11)
 Litchfield Fire & Rescue Central Station.
 Come join Santa for breakfast. Write a letter, and have some fun!
Adults: \$5 **Children:** Free!!