

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXI No. 7

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

July 1, 2021

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

July question: Those who came to Litchfield via waterways may well have spent some time in a gundalow. What was a gundalow? **June question:** Which of these "modern" inventions came to Litchfield first? A locally registered automobile, a railroad, or a telephone? answer: A railroad in 1908. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

William R. Bold American Legion Post 181 Commander Couture to Lead the Maine American Legion for 2021-2022

Debra Couture was elected as the Department of Maine Commander of the American Legion during the 102nd State Convention in Brewer, Maine on June 12, 2021. She is the first member of Litchfield's William R. Bold Post 181 to hold this position. Deb was born in Augusta, Maine and attended Hall-Dale High School and the University of Maine. She graduated from Hawaii Pacific University in 1978 and Central Michigan University in 1986 with a Masters in Health Care Administration and was commissioned a LTJG in the US Navy in 1987. Deb retired as a Captain in the Medical Service Corps in 2012 after over 24 years of active and reserve service. She served in South Korea, Guam, Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, and Spain and at several bases in the US, including Little Creek, VA, The Pentagon, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, USCENTCOM, and at several Naval Hospitals. Deb is also a Seabee and is Seabee Combat Warfare Qualified. Deb has been a member of the American Legion for over 27 years and is a member of the William R. Bold, American Legion Post 181 in Litchfield, Maine. She has served on several National Committees and in many officer positions at the State, District and Post levels. Deb and her husband Greg reside in West Gardiner, Maine and have 2 daughters and 6 grandchildren. The next meeting for the American Legion, William R Bold, Post 181 will be June 23rd at 7 pm.

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

A big THANKS for the fresh, local chicken and duck eggs we've received! They have been greatly appreciated! Looking forward to fresh produce from local gardens. Our neighbors love to share with their neighbors. Litchfield is a great town!

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

We've had some of the best clothes EVER brought to us. Come check them out! Do the kids need a few more shorts and tops (for 25 cents each)? We are your GO TO PLACE for bargains! Open every Saturday, 9 - noon. Bring a friend and introduce them to our great shopping place, too.

Litchfield Town House Museum

The Museum will be open on Saturday, July 17, 2021 from 2pm to 4pm..

The Litchfield Senior Center is open. No fee to attend. "Aging is more fun when you share it"

The hours at the Center are Monday 12-2, Wednesday 10:30-12 and Friday 8:30-3:30 **subject to change**. 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.

If you have an empty 5-gal sand bucket to return, you can return it to the Senior Center or Transfer station (make sure to let the attendant know)

Line Dancing on Mondays 9:30-11 at the Sportsmen's Club. Center will open 11:30 to 2.

Tai Chi on Wednesday 9-9:45 at the Sportsmen's Club.

Music practice for the Carol Bailey String Band is on Wednesday 10-12 at the Sportsmen's Club.

NO TAI CHI OR MUSIC PRACTICE JULY 14 OR JULY 28.

The Senior Center will be open 9am-1pm on July 14 & 28.

On Saturday July 10, the **Carol Bailey String Band** will perform as part of the Country Fest held at the Sportsmen's Club (inside) at 12:35.

Come to the Center for morning exercise with Dian on Fridays 8:30-9:15. Join in the indoor walking, or use the exercise equipment of your choice.

Games for fun on Mondays at 11:30-2 and Fridays 10-3. Bring a lunch and snack.

Book Club will meet on Wednesday July 21 at 1 at the Center.

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting is at 1 on Thursday July 15.

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.

Picnic at Woodbury Pond Park on July 29 at 11. Bring a chair, lunch, drink, bathing suit, towel, music/instrument for a sing a long, **eRoad**

Runner Trips: Please call or stop into the Center to sign up for these trips: **Thursday, July 22**, Cabbage Island Clambakes, Boothbay Harbor \$72.50, trip is 12:30-4:30. Leave from Sportsmen's Club at 9:30. **Sunday, August 1**, Lakewood Theater, "Drinking Alone" (two parts comedy and one part conflict, stirred not shaken) 4 pm show, \$23. leave Sportsmen's Club at 2. Stop for dinner after the show. **Thursday, August 12**, Old Orchard Beach, leave at 9:30 from Sportsmen's Club.

Please stop in to the Senior Center located on Academy Rd. next to the 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

Litchfield Recreation

Soccer registrations: The Litchfield Recreation department will be accepting registrations for our fall soccer programs through to August 11th. The registrations can be downloaded off of the litchfieldmaine.org website or picked up at the town office. Our programs are open to children ranging from 4 years old to 5th grade and the registration fee is \$40 per child with 3 child free. If you have any questions feel free to contact Tiffany Caton, Recreation Director at 268-4721.

Litchfield Broadband Committee

As noted in the May Sodalite, the Town of Litchfield sent out a Request-For-Proposal (RFP) to determine the best partner to support a broadband build-out of the unserved areas here. We have received four proposals that are currently under review by the Broadband Committee, the Select Board, and the Town Manager. The good news is that all four companies have shown experience and capabilities in providing such services to other rural towns like Litchfield. In addition, all are actively pursuing the town to be selected. The challenges presented to us now involve review of the four different approaches that have been proposed. These differences include: 1) Ownership of the infrastructure; 2) Town infrastructure contribution dollars to the project; 3) Quality of Service; 4) Speed of Service (download / upload speeds offered); 5) Pricing per month per subscriber (can vary by speed selected); 6) Technology - Fiber / cable / fixed wireless; 7) Technology lifecycle (is the offering futureproof for longer-term anticipated needs?); 8) Required time (months) to implement their proposal - time to connect the unserved; 9) Other considerations - such as other bundled services, customer service support, etc. Fully aware that every day some of us and our neighbors are hanging on without service, we are attempting to make very thorough decisions in as short an amount of time as possible. In the very near coming weeks, we will be in a better position to provide more details on what the finalists offer, and will look for town comment before selecting a final partner. Your inputs are always welcome. Please feel free to contact the Broadband Committee through the Town Hall staff. Thank you.

Tacoma Lakes Invasive Plant Patrol

The Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) will be out on the Tacoma Lakes again this summer. If you have any questions/concerns about the plants at your shoreline please contact us and we can come take a look. Are you curious to see what we do? Come to our educational plant paddle open to the public on the morning of Thursday July 22. We'll meet at 6 Easy St. on Buker Pond at 9 AM to paddle together and see what grows beneath the lakes. Contact: Diane Clay, at C1L2A3Y4@gmail.com <mail-

Road Advisory Committee Update

Dear Litchfield voters: Thank you for your support on the referendum questions! We will be resuming regular meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, held at 6:00p at Litchfield Town Hall. All are welcome to join meetings as we continue to prioritize and plan maintenance and reconstruction work. If you would like to join the committee, please submit a letter of interest to the Select Board, as we currently have two positions available. One of our first priorities will be performing an updated survey of the roads, last completed in the spring of 2019. This survey will provide objective data that will be used to make recommendations of priority to the Select Board. I know many of you that came to Town Meeting were passionate about some of the roads that need attention, and we will be doing our best to address the most problematic roads first. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Toby at toby.jutras@twc.com <mailto:toby.jutras@twc.com>.

Town Clerk's Corner

Results of this year's municipal elections:

Total # ballots 310

Selectman

*Clarence Gowell III 162

Mark Russell 123

School Board, RSU

*Kristy Ouellette 166

Joan Thomas 113

Academy Trustees

*Joan Thomas 235

Budget Committee

*Elton Wade 263

*R. Ryan Harmon 2 (write-in)

*Winner

RSU 4 Budget Articles (passed in all towns) - Article 1 – Yes 173 No 133 Article 2 (Adult Ed) – Yes 174 No 130; **Local Referendums:** Sale of Liquor (updated 1975 vote that limited types of establishments that could be licensed): Q1 – Yes 249 No 54 Q2 – Yes 236 No 65; Loan for roads and bridges and grant matching: Yes 159 No 144; Loan (if needed) only for matching grants for road and bridge construction: Yes 205 No 95; **Woodbury Pond Park** is now open daily through Labor Day, weather permitting. **Public Works** has a position open for an equipment operator/laborer. For more information, call the Town Office 268-4721, or check the Town website, LitchfieldMaine.org. **The Town Office** will be closed on Monday, July 5th since the 4th of July was on Sunday this year.

Board of Selectmen meetings are open to the public in the Town Office conference room. They will continue to be streamed and recorded via Zoom for those who prefer attending from home. person at this time.

Tacoma Lakes Association

Are you concerned about the future of the Tacoma Lakes? Do you want to know more about the situation with the Woodbury dam? Do you want to learn more about what the association does? Would you like to become a member of the association? Please join us for the TLA Annual Meeting July 10, at 9 a.m., in the "red barn," at the Litchfield Fairgrounds. We will provide answers to the above questions and more. Our membership drive is under way, and our goal is 300 members. Your \$15 membership dues help fund boat inspectors at the Woodbury boat launch throughout the summer. The inspectors are not volunteers, but people trained to spot possible invasive plants on watercraft entering and leaving our lakes. The cost of this program has increased each of the last three years, and the more members we have, the more inspectors we can have to help protect our lakes. Membership dues also help fund our volunteer plant patrol team. Although they are volunteers, the association provides the equipment needed to complete their inspections. New this year, is a canoe that has been fitted with a clear panel in the bottom of it, enabling inspectors to have a better view of the lake bottom in the shallow areas where invasive plants can take root. We appreciate every returnable bottle that is donated to the TLA at the Litchfield Transfer Station!! Volunteers pick up the returnables and transport them for redemption, therefore we ask that you PLEASE BAG YOUR RETURNABLES. It makes the volunteers' job so much easier, and helps keep their vehicles clean. We hope to see you on July 10.

July 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
2 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.	18 Sun	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4pm
3 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm	19 Mon	
4 Sun	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4pm 	20 Tue	Lit. Fire Assoc & Reg Meet-6:30pm
5 Mon	Town Office Closed for Independence Day Holiday	21 Wed	Litchfield Budget Comm-No meeting. 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.
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
9 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p. Litchfield Sportsmen's Club-Public Supper (5pm-6pm) and Music Jam (6:30pm-8:30pm), \$7/person supper & jam or \$2/person jam only	25 Sun	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.
10 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm Litchfield Sportsmen's Club—Country Fest Maine, live music noon-7:30pm, \$15/person	26 Mon	Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information
11 Sun	Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4pm	27 Tue	
12 Mon	Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information	28 Wed	American Legion William R. Bold Post 181 – 7pm Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd
13 Tue	First Responders Meeting-6:30pm; Station	29 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
14 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd RSU4 School Board—No Meeting unless needed.	30 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.
15 Thur	Senior's Advisory Comm –1pm –Center Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	31 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm
16 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.		

BOX HOLDER

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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.: 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

Join the Conservation Commission each second Wednesday at 6pm, meeting with outdoor enthusiasts to help care for our town's natural beauty. We have fun and act as stewards of town owned lands.

Forest Research (For full article see the Litchfield CC Facebook page) "In the 1990s when Suzanne Simard was a researcher for the British Columbia's forest ministry, her ideas were considered to be on the fringe. Governments and the forest industry ignored her when she presented research showing that trees communicate with each other through a complex underground network of mycorrhizal fungi. She conducted experiments while earning her PhD that showed that there can be hundreds of kilometres of mycelium networks under a single footstep, connecting individual plants of the same species but also different species, with nodes and links, somewhat like the internet. Since then Simard has become a professor in forestry at UBC, and has continued to do groundbreaking scientific research into mycorrhizal fungi networks, finding that trees have complex ways of distributing nutrients and supporting each other, and that forests behave as a single organism. Her research has been replicated elsewhere and her ideas have become mainstream. But not in government or the forest industry, where the implications of her work would upend the way trees are grown and harvested. In her 2016 TED Talk, Simard states that "forests are not just trees, they are complex systems of hubs and networks that overlap. They are vulnerable, not only to natural disturbance but to high-grade and clear-cut logging. You can take out one or two hub trees but there comes a tipping point." She says arrival at that tipping point is being hastened by climate change, and that Canadian forests are now net emitters of carbon, where they used to be a carbon sink. In other words, they are losing more carbon than they are gaining. "And that's huge on the world stage," Simard says. "You can actually mitigate the loss of carbon from these sites by partial cutting, because you don't lose nearly as much and you can actually keep it in the ground and keep it in the trees." "There's more and more research that's been done that shows biodiversity is correlated with productivity and health of ecosystems across the board."

Aug 1 Issue Deadline:
July 22, 2021 5p.m.
Deliver material in any
of the following ways:
E-mail
[**\(sodalite@litchfieldmai**](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)
[**ne.org\)**](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org) **U.S. mail to:**
Town Office, 2400 Hal-
lowell Rd. 04350

