

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXI No. 6

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

June 1, 2021

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

June question: Which of these "modern" inventions came to Litchfield first? A locally registered Automobile, a railroad, or a telephone? **May question:** Many of Litchfield's early settlers arrived by way of the Kennebec river. This river probably gets its name from the Abenaki word, kinibiki. What was the meaning of that word? answer: "Place of dragons" To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

Tacoma Lakes Association

Very soon our lakes will once again be bustling with activity. The loons are already extremely active at night, and soon boaters, water skiers, and children will be enjoying summer-time lake life. The boat inspection program begins soon, as will the efforts of our plant patrol team as they search the lakes for signs of any invasive water plants. The water level will be held a little lower than normal this summer as the experts evaluate the areas adjacent to the dam to assess how to move forward. We will keep you posted on the progress throughout the summer. As you enjoy lake life please remember your activities' effect on the lakes. Always pick up after yourselves, adhere to boating regulations, and be considerate of other boaters, swimmers, and of course the loons. As the loon's nest, please keep a distance when viewing them. Hopefully we will have several new chicks on the water in a few weeks. The TLA membership drive is underway, we appreciate all who support us, and welcome new members. If you have new neighbors, please introduce them to our organization. Our annual membership fees remain a bargain at only \$15. Have a fantastic summer!

Transfer Station

We have a new vender at the Transfer Station: Kelly Brothers Disposal won the contract to haul our recyclables and the Bulky containers. They are doing an outstanding job! The "snow birds" have started to return to Town and being open on Sundays helps to accommodate the increase in use of the Transfer Station. An example of the increase in the volume being seen at the Transfer Station, we have had the material in the Bulky containers crushed with a backhoe on Friday, Saturday and then again on Monday. One individual made eight or nine trips to the Transfer Station with a pickup full of mattresses and large furniture. The Swap Shop is open and doing fantastic! If you have items that you don't want but they are too good to just throw away, bring them to the swap shop to be recycled. We are still having a problem with people putting items in the wrong containers: attendants check the containers every ten minutes and constantly remove items that obviously are not suppose be in that container (like a metal toaster in the Plastic container).

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

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 12-2, Wednesday 10:30-12 and Friday 8:30-3:30 **subject to change.** Come in for card games, Unlucky 7's, etc. Check out the books and puzzles available for your use.

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)

Indoor walking exercise on Fridays at 8:30 with Dian White using a "Leslie Sansone Walk at Home" 5 mile tape-mile markers let you choose a 1 mile, 2,3,4 or 5 mile walk. Your choice. The easy and safe way to exercise. We also have exercise equipment available for use when the Center is open. Come in and check out what we have to offer.

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting is at 1 on Thursday June 17.

There is a WiFi hot spot available at the Senior Center. We have set up a schedule to train Seniors on basic computer applications at the Senior Center. If interested, come on down and bring your laptop, Ipad.

Would you like to have someone phone you weekly as part of a wellness check. If interested, please contact the Senior Center at 215-4595 or 441-9005 and leave your name & phone # and we will get in touch with you.

Line Dancing on Mondays 9:30-11 at the Litchfield Sportsmen's Club, masks and distancing will continue.

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

The Carol Bailey String Band will be practicing Music at the Sportsmen's Club at 10.

The Feldenkrais Method lessons called Awareness through Movement will not be held until further notice.

Book club, making cards with Anne Thompson and the Potluck lunch have not been scheduled.

We have a number of books donated pertaining to healthy living and eating, i.e: Eating for good health, Alternative Cures that really work, Chicken Soup & other Folk Remedies and many, many more.

Roadrunner trip to Camden and area is planned for Thursday, June 10 and lunch out. Please call 215-4595 or 441-9005 to be put on the list for the trip. Masks will still be required. We leave at 9:30 a.m. from the Sportsmen's Club parking lot.

A picnic get together at Woodbury Pond Park on Thursday, June 24 at 11am, bring lunch, chairs, music, bathing suits, etc. for a fun day

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.

Litchfield Broadband Committee

The goal of the Town of Litchfield Broadband Committee is to support the Select Board in bringing quality, affordable broadband service to all households and businesses in town. Back in late April, the Broadband Committee sent out a Request for Proposal to a dozen internet service providers (ISPs) doing business here in Maine - including to the incumbents Spectrum and CCI. The purpose of the RFP was to determine the best partner to support a build-out of the unserved areas here. Bidders were provided a copy of the town broadband Planning Report. (The RFP and Planning Report are currently available for public viewing at the Town of Litchfield website homepage). Based upon that RFP, four ISPs have formally notified us of their intentions to submit a bid. The bids are due back by June 8, with a Bid Opening by the Select Board expected on June 10 (time TBD). Finalists are expected to be named in late June, and a Bid Award is expected to be made soon thereafter. Once a direction has been determined and an ISP has been chosen, the Broadband Committee will pursue Federal, State, and Kennebec County Broadband Infrastructure grants that have been made available to rural areas in recent months. In addition, contract negotiations between the town and the chosen ISP will commence. Further details related to the infrastructure buildout will be announced as more information becomes available.

WATERSHED ADVENTURES AWAIT.....

Are you searching for a unique outing for the family in 2021? Join the Friends for a Family Tadpole Patrol Adventure in the Cobbossee Watershed! Tadpole Patrol is the Friends of the Cobbossee's innovative and immersive learning experience aboard the Otter II, our 22' pontoon boat. For over 14 years, children and then adults have boarded our "floating classroom" to learn about lake ecology and how to test and protect water quality. Due to COVID-19, we are only offering our Family Tadpole Patrol program again this summer. We ask that all participants are within the same family unit or bubble. So, what is Family Tadpole Patrol? First of all, it's **FUN** for the whole family! Your family will enjoy a 1 ½ hour excursion where "kids of all ages" can observe wildlife above and below the water, share historical lake facts and experience water monitoring with professional equipment. It's a wonderful 'staycation' adventure for the whole family in 2021 as you explore some of the many surrounding local lakes. Even better, you can enjoy a Family Tadpole Patrol adventure for the amazing low price of only \$50 for up to six family members! Choose to explore Cobbossee Lake where the beautiful Ladies Delight Lighthouse can be viewed, enjoy a picnic at Norcross Point on Maranacook Lake while visiting and prepare to be amazed at the vast amount of wildlife you will find on the Tacomas. Simply view the schedule on the Friends website or Facebook page to choose your lake, date and time and contact Cami Wilbert (Education Director) at: camil@watershedfriends.com or (207) 395-5239 for availability and to register. The Tadpole Patrol programs are graciously sponsored by Kennebec Savings Bank, Augusta Fuel Co., and Clark Marine- without them these programs would not be possible! **FMI about dates and times of the programs and for registration forms, please contact FOCW Education & Outreach Director Cami Wilbert by phone 395-5239 or email camil@watershedfriends.com or visit the Friends' website www.watershedfriends.com.**

American Legion William R. Bold Post 181

The Wreaths Across America Mobile Educational Exhibit will be in Litchfield on July 26, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. it will be open for tours during this time. For more info, please contact Deb Couture at 582-3897.

Town Clerk's Corner

On May 10th Kelly Weissenfels was appointed Town Manager by the Board of Selectmen. No significant changes are expected, as Kelly has been serving in the role as Deputy Town Manager for the past year while his predecessor, Trudy Lamoreau was on medical leave. Thankfully, Trudy is recovering after having been pronounced terminal, and is steadily improving! At her request, there is a place reserved for her in the office. Municipal elections will be held on Tuesday, June 8th at the Litchfield Sportsmen's Club, 2782 Hollowell Rd, from 8 am - 8 pm.

The Annual Town Meeting will be on Saturday, June 12th at the Carrie Ricker School. Beginning at 10am. Absentee ballots or in person voting is available at the Town Office. Sample ballots can be found at litchfieldmaine.org on the elections page or linked from the notice on the home page. **Candidates that will appear** on the ballot:

Selectman (one position):	RSU#4(one position)
Clarence Gowell III	Kristy Ouellette
Mark Russell	Joan Thomas
Academy Trustee (one)	Budget Committee(two)
Joan Thomas	Elton Wade

There are four municipal referendum questions on the ballot this year. The first two questions remove specific categories for establishments licensed to serve alcoholic beverages. The second two questions authorize loans for reconstruction and road repair or to match grants for the same. More information may be found on the Town Website, including a recording and minutes of the public hearing about these referendums.

Application Deadline Extended for Homestead and Veteran Exemptions By State guidance, homestead and veteran exemption applications for the upcoming tax year will be accepted until property taxes are committed in early September. If you have lived in your home for at least one year as of April 1st, you can still submit an application to have \$25,000 of the valuation of your home exempted from property taxes. Veterans generally must be age 62 or over to qualify for an additional \$6,000 exemption.

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

Continuing our drive through food service. Are you planting your garden? Please consider planting a little extra to share with your neighbors. Fresh local produce is SO appreciated!


Litchfield Academy Thrift Shop

Summer is here and we have the cool duds you are looking for. Shorts for 50 cents, shirts, too. Some cute bathing suits and summer PJ's. Kids clothes are 25 cents each. Check it out! Sat-

RSU4

The last day of school for Cohorts A and D is June 7. The last day of school of Cohorts B and C is June 8. Both will be full days. June 9 will be a teacher workshop day. First day of school in the fall: September 1 - for grades K- 9 and LRTC; September 2 - Pre-K and grades 10-12 (with K-9 attending as well) If you are a resident of Sabattus, Litchfield or Wales and have a child that will be **5 years old** on or before October 15, 2021 (Kindergarten age) or a child that will be **4 years old** on or before October 15, 2021 (Pre-K age) please call Libby-Tozier School at 268-4137 to register.

June Community Calendar

1 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers- 6:30pm; Station	17 Thur	Senior's Advisory Comm –1pm –Center 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.
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 12pm
4 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.	20 Sun	Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p. Happy Father's Day
5 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN– 9am to 12pm Lit. Sportsman's Club -- Public Supper (5pm-6pm) and Jam (6pm-8pm),, \$7 for supper & jam, \$2 for jam only.	21 Mon	Litchfield Budget Comm -6:30pm via Zoom
6 Sun	Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4pm Lit. Sportsmen's Club - Country Sunday (noon-4pm), \$6/person. Lost & Found Band, Brian Plato, Dennis & Carol Royer, Fred Couverette & Tom Berube	22 Tue	
7 Mon	Litchfield Recreation Comm. —Contact Town Office for more information.	23 Wed	RSU 4 School Board —6:30pm-Zoom Food Bank -4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd American Legion William R. Bold Post 181 – 7pm
8 Tue	Voting - 8am-8pm; Lit. Sportsmen's Club First Responders Meeting -6:30pm; Station	24 Thur	Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
9 Wed	RSU 4 School Board —6:30pm-Zoom Food Bank -4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd Conservation Commission –6pm-For Zoom connection email Diane Clay c112a3y4@gmail.com	25 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.
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 12pm
11 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.	27 Sun	Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.
12 Sat	Town Meeting -10am; Carrie Ricker School Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN– 9am to 12pm	28 Mon	Selectman Meeting , 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information
13 Sun	Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.	29 Tue	
14 Mon	Selectman Meeting , 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information Lit. Sportsman's Meeting —7pm	30 Wed	Food Bank -4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd
15 Tue	Lit. Fire Assoc & Reg Meet -6:30pm		
16 Wed	Food Bank -4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd		

BOX HOLDER

Contents:

1. Historical Society, Senior Center Corner
2. Town Manager/Clerk's Report
3. June 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: 207-707-8485
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.

4

The Litchfield Sodalite

Conservation News

So, you've decided to plant native plants in your garden and want to learn more about which plant is right for your site. Perhaps you've heard "Right plant, right place" as a phrase to help you remember to put a plant where it will be able to thrive for its long life. Maine Audubon has a beautiful and helpful guide called "Maine Native Plant Finder" with filters for bloom time, sun needs, size, and wildlife benefited. To find it search "Maine Audubon native plants". Maine Audubon sells native plants starting June 1 which you can order on line in advance. They are located at 20 Gisland Farm Road, Falmouth. Native Tree: Oaks (*Quercus spp.*) are a common forest and ornamental tree in Maine. They provide food for a diversity of wildlife—from insects to birds to mice to bears. The wood is used in many applications, it is hard, strong and relatively dense. There are eight oak species native to Maine, it is a genus whose numbers are projected to increase with climate change. The most abundant is northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), with almost 190 million stems over one inch diameter estimated by the 2018 state forest inventory. In addition to native oaks, there are many species used in plantings around homes, cities and towns. In these settings they can reach massive sizes and provide shade and add visual appeal. —Maine Department Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Woodbury Pond Park

Beginning Memorial Day weekend, Woodbury Pond Park will be open for weekends only until the last day of school for all of RSU4 (June 8). June 9 the Park will be open 7 days a week. The cost is \$2 per person or \$8 per carload. Season passes are \$30 for Litchfield residents and \$50 for non-residents. 5 year old and under, senior citizens and Veterans are Free.

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

