

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXIV No. 4

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

April 1, 2024

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

April question: The stems of the flax plant provided the source for linen. Early settlers used flax seeds to produce what other product? March question: Early settlers of Litchfield often kept a "Day Book" to keep track of barter transactions. One such an entry described working at "rettlng and rippling". What crop did this involve? answer: flax To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

RSU 4

Congratulations to the 6th grade Honors chorus for an outstanding performance at the District 3 Music Festival. Grant St. Laurent represented OHMS at the 7/8th grade Jazz Festival on Tenor Sax, and was the Jazz king! Rhyder Staples is representing OHMS at the District 3, 7/8th grade Chorus on April 5th and 6th. Congratulations to all. **The Future Business Leaders of America** team at Oak Hill High School have won the FBLA state championship with 28 first, 27 second and 14 third place wins! This makes 26 years in a row that they have won the states! Congratulations!! **No school on Friday, 4/12** – professional staff comp day. Spring vacation is April 15-19.

Morning Star Lodge #41

Morning Star Lodge #41 of Litchfield needs your help: Maybe you have a project that you need help with that you might otherwise have to hire someone. As an example, maybe we can help you with a spring cleanup project? We need help funding our charitable fund projects with your donation. Programs like our Bike's for Book's @ Libby Tozier and Carrie Ricker, Project Graduation and a Scholarship we created in Memory of Leon Allen Jr. and Douglas Caton for any boy or girl of the senior class of Oak Hill High School. Lastly, we want to Thank You the Community for your many years of supporting these Programs. For more information, please contact Jeff Jones (207)837-4169

Litchfield Recreation Committee

Next meeting is Tues. April 2 at 5:30pm. Coaches meeting is at 6:30pm.

Community Field Work Day

Saturday, April 6 beginning at 9am (Weather depending-please check Lit. Rec Facebook page for any cancellation) Please bring your wheel barrels, metal rakes and shovels as we are planning to clean up the Maggie Eaton field and any other field work necessary. We need YOU to help us clean up the Veteran's Memorial Park.

Litchfield Senior Center

NEW CENTER PHONE # 446-6275

The Litchfield Senior Center is open and available to all, no fee to attend. "Aging is more fun when you share it." If the flag is out at the Center, come on in. All dates and times are subject to change.

Line Dancing instruction for all on Mondays 9:30-11 at the **Sportsmen's Club**.

The Senior Center will open 11:30 to 2 on Mondays after Line Dancing, come in for exercise, cards or check out the books or puzzles. We have new puzzles and books coming into the Center all the time.

Qigong/Tai Chi exercises on Wednesdays at 9 followed at 10-12 by Music practice for the Carol Bailey String Band and Chorus at the **Sportsmen's Club**.

Come to the Senior Center for morning exercise with Dian & friends on Fridays 8:30-9:15. Join in the indoor walking, or use the exercise equipment. Stay for cards at 10, BYO lunch at noon and then more cards and games in the afternoon.

Do you like to read? Come and join the book club here at the Senior Center. We meet once a month, pick out a book to read and discuss it at the next meeting. We are lucky to have libraries available to both Litchfield (Gardiner Public) and Monmouth (Cumston Hall) residents. The next book club discussion meeting is on Monday, April 22 at 1 pm. at the **Senior Center**, the book to be discussed is "The Red Address book" by Sofia Lundberg

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting is held at the Senior Center at 1 on Thursday, April 18.

The empty 5 gal. sand buckets should be returned by calling 207-466-6275.

We would like to add other games and activities such as: Dominoes, Cribbage, Bingo and other card games to the Center and maybe some gentle yoga or different forms of exercise. We would like to hear your thoughts and suggestions. If anyone has a talent in these areas and would like to increase our offerings at the Center, please reach out at 446-6275.

Our first Road Runner trip is on Thursday, April 25 to Oxford Casino. Call to sign up at 446-6275 or come into the Center. We will leave from the Sportsmen's Club at 9:30.

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. Stop in for more information, or check out our books, puzzles and items on the table you may like. Donations are appreciated.

Litchfield Transfer Station

Things are going smoothly at the Transfer Station. We will be opening the Swap Shop up the weekend of April 12th. We are going to start taking items for the Swap Shop beginning the 5th of April. The leaf and brush piles will be opening up when what snow is left and the ground is dried up. We will shoot for the weekend of the twelfth of April. Please call first to find out if the piles are open. We are seeing an increase in people exceeding the 5-mile per hour speed limit. Please be mindful of your speed and drive safely. We will be implementing the fee increases the first week in April.

New Transfer Station Fees

Air Conditioner	\$15	Tires	
Dehumidifier	\$15	Up to 19"	\$5
Refrigerator	\$15	20" and greater	\$20
Freezer	\$15	Rugs 50 sq ft.	\$10
Mattresses		Rug Pad 50 sq ft	\$10
Single/Double	\$5	Computers	\$5
Queen/King	\$10	Monitors	\$5
Box Springs		Printers/Fax	\$5
Single/Double	\$5	TVs	
Queen/King	\$10	Up to 30"	\$5
Chair /Recliner	\$10	Greater than 30"	\$10
Couch / Love-seat	\$ 15	Console TV	\$15

Litchfield 4H

The 4H Creators: Will be meeting on the 13th of April at 10 am at the Academy Building. We will try our hands as decoupage a picture on a piece of board.

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

The winter clothes are gone and the spring/summer offerings are outstanding! Many thanks to the ladies who helped with the change-over! Great job! The big change includes an increase in the fees, and I hope you will accept it. We are increasing our fees from \$1 a bag to \$2 a bag (paper grocery bag) and from \$2 to \$4 for the oversize reusable bag. Still a great bargain! Come soon while the selection is high, but understand we still have 45 boxes to unpack, so fresh items will be added weekly! Bring a friend! Bring TWO!

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

Are you watching the progress of our New Building? We are SO excited! Painting inside is the next step so give me a call if your fingers itch to paint. Volunteers are very welcome! We are happy that our local chickens are recognizing spring and donations of fresh eggs are wonderful! Planning a garden this year? Please consider adding some rows for the Food Bank.

RSU #4

**Kindergarten & Pre-K Registration
Litchfield, Sabattus & Wales**

If you are a resident of Litchfield, Sabattus or Wales and have a child that will be 5 years old on or before October 15, 2024 (Kindergarten age) or a child that will be 4 years old on or before October 15, 2024 (Pre-K age), please call Libby-Tozier School at 268-4137

Town Clerk's Corner

Concerned about property taxes increasing?

70% of your property tax bill goes to schools: RSU4 has an improved budget page and a form for questions. School Board meeting videos are also available. Go to rsu4.org and click on the budget icon at the bottom of the page, or go directly to <https://www.rsu4.org/o/rsu4/page/budget-development>

20% of your property tax bill goes to town expenses: Each section of the town budget is being reviewed at Select Board and Budget Committee meetings through the end of April. Don't wait for the annual Town Meeting to know what's happening with the budget. You may also link to videos of the meetings at the Town Website, www.LitchfieldMaine.org. Look on the right-hand side for a quick link to the Select Board page. (The remaining 10% of your bill goes to Kennebec County.)

Participate in Your Local Government - Nomination Papers Due in April: If you are considering running for an elected position, nomination papers must be picked up at the Town Office now and returned by Thursday, April 11th. In order to be listed on the June ballot, each nominee requires signatures from 25 town residents. Positions open for this coming year are on the Select Board (1); RSU#4 School Board (1); Budget Committee (1); and Litchfield Academy Trustees (1).

Requests for absentee ballots for the June 11th election are available through the Town Office. These ballots will be mailed out 30 days prior to the election.


Property Taxes Due - The third and final installment of 2023 property taxes is due by April 15th (which is a holiday). You may put your check in our drop box (to right of the entrance) and not be penalized. Please put the property address or account number on your check. You may call the office if you aren't sure of the final amount due. Would you like to pay your taxes monthly? Our clerks can help you calculate a monthly payment amount, or to begin prepayment of next year's taxes.

Holiday: The Town Office will be closed on Patriots Day, Monday, April 15th.

William R. Bold American Legion Post 181

Invites local families and individuals to help us honor deceased veterans by placing American flags on their grave sites. We will meet at Litchfield Plains Cemetery on May 25th, at 9:00 a.m. Legionnaires and Auxiliary members seek local organizations to participate with us to march in this year's Memorial Day Parade. Youth sports teams, scouting groups, senior and Antique Auto clubs are among those encouraged to join us. We will meet at the Fire Station on May 27 at 8:30 a.m. The parade begins at 8:45 a.m. For more information, please contact Post Commander Denise Emery at 207-212-9489.

April Community Calendar

1 Mon		17 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd Road Committee —6:00pm
2 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting , 6:00pm Lit. Recreation Comm. ; 5:30pm—Coach's Meeting; 6:30pm-Town Office	18 Thur	Senior's Committee -1pm-Senior Center Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd Budget Committee —6:30pm
3 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd	19 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm
4 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd Planning Board —6:30pm	20 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm
5 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm	21 Sun	
6 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm Sportsman's Club -Public supper & Jam \$10. Supper 5 to 6 Jam 6:30 to 8	22 Mon	Lit. Selectmen's Meeting ; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website.
7 Sun	Sportsman's Club -Country Sunday 12 to 4; \$8	23 Tue	
8 Mon	Lit. Selectmen's Meeting ; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website.	24 Wed	RSU4 School Board ; Central Off.; 6:30pm Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd American Legion Post 181 -7:00pm, All Veterans Welcome
9 Tue	Lit. First Responders Meeting -6:00 pm	25 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd
10 Wed	Lit. Sportsman's Club Meeting —6pm; RSU4 School Board ; Central Off.; 6:30pm Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd	26 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm
11 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd	27 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm
12 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm	28 Sun	
13 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm	29 Mon	
14 Sun		30 Tue	
15 Mon	Town Office Closed  Lit. Recreation Comm. ;- 6:00pm		
16 Tue	Lit Fire & Rescue Meet -6:00p, Central Sta		

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BOX HOLDER

ECRWSS
 PRSRT STD
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Litchfield, ME
 Permit #2

The Litchfield Sodalite
 Litchfield Town Office
 2400 Hollowell Road
 Litchfield, ME 04350
 Tel.: 207-268-4721 FAX: 207-707-8485
sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org
www.litchfieldmaine.org
 Open: Mon.—Wed.: 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
 Thurs.: 8:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
 Closed: Every Fri.

4 **The Litchfield Sodalite**

Time to Get Out Your Binoculars!

Yes, migrating birds are coming through, but this is about watching for loons as they begin to head back to our lakes. Ice out came in mid-March this year and that means that our loons will be coming in to their old territories, or possibly moving to new locations. Maine Audubon is entering the third year of the "Loon Restoration Project", which is focused on loon nesting sites, loon behavior, and getting the word out about protecting loons. This project covers many of Maine's lakes including the Tacomas and we are lucky to have volunteers covering each of those lakes. There are a few areas where nesting has been disturbed and we will be working with the Audubon crew to put in nesting rafts where they are needed. You don't have to be an official member of the committee to gather the much-needed data about nesting sites, territorial disputes, eagle attacks, etc. Keep a record of what you observe and contact one of us through the Litchfield Conservation Commission or Tacoma Lakes Association. Or even better, become part of the loon project. Another aspect of protecting loons is keeping lead out of the water. Watch for chances to exchange your old lead sinkers for new ones that are lead free, but just as effective. Not only does lead cause death in loons and eagles, but when there's enough of it in the water or soil, it can be harmful to humans. It may seem counter-intuitive that loons eat fish, but are also the sign of a healthy lake and not indicative of a shortage of fish. So, as the spring and summer approach get out your boats and your binoculars and enjoy the season.

Woodbury Pond Park

Attendant Needed for Weekends late June - mid August -Please contact Joline Bell at woodburypondpark@gmail.com if you are interested in working at the park on weekends this summer or leave your name at town hall. We are also looking for volunteers to help get the park set up for the summer season. Please contact Joline Bell at woddburypondpark@gmail.com or call 592-3397. We will use any and all help we can get throughout May. Landscapers and arborist welcomed! We have the need for a Boy Scout/Girl Scout group that would like to build a horse shoe area at the park. Please let us know if your group is interested in helping. Join us to make your park a great spot to visit

May Issue Deadline:
 April. 20, 2024 5pm
 Deliver material in any of the following ways:
 email:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org
U.S. mail
to: Town Office, 2400 Hollowell Rd. 04350
Hand deliver to: Town Office 2400 Hollowell Rd

