

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXIII No. 8

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

August 1, 2023

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

August question: Mill stones, common in early Litchfield, worked in pairs composed of a "bed stone" and a "runner stone". What was the basic difference in their function? July question: Southern Maine saw an influx of "Scotch Irish" or Ulster Scots in the early 1700's. Some of their deeds measured land in "Scottish rods." How long in feet was a "Scottish Rod"? answer: twenty-two feet. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

Local garden produce and eggs are coming in. We are very grateful and happy to share them. Rainy weather has slowed outside construction projects so we haven't been able to get our new building started yet. Stay tuned! Hot weather coming! Stay hydrated!

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

Thinking of back-to-school shopping yet? With warm temps extending well into Sept. picking up some items for the kids at the Thrift Shop will give the budget a break and your money can be spent later on fall clothes. Changing over to fall/winter clothes will be done later (probably mid to late Sept.) this year. Watch the Sept. Sodalite for the schedule. Volunteers welcome.

Litchfield Recreation Committee

Athletic Coordinator Position Available - The town of Litchfield approved a stipend position for an individual/individuals to work alongside the Recreation Committee to provide the children of Litchfield the following sporting opportunities: Soccer, Basketball and Baseball/Softball. This/These position(s) can be seasonal - one person can do all three sports or it can be broken down to one, two or three different people. The stipend can be divided between each sport. The position would open prior to the beginning of each sport season, and close at the end of that particular season. The necessary skills for the job would include excellent communication skills, computer skills, and a very detailed, multi task oriented attitude. The duties would include, but not limited to: communicating with the Rec Committee, coaches, parents and town employees as needed. Attending monthly rec meetings - working with the online registration program, managerial work and fundraising for each sport and all other tasks necessary to make each sport opportunity a success. If you are interested in more information, please reach out to the Rec Committee via email litchfieldrec@litchfieldmaine.org

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."

Some of the activities are being held at the Litchfield Sportsman's Club. If the open flag is out at the Center, come on in. All dates and times are subject to change. NEW CENTER PHONE # 446-6275 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.

NO Tai Chi or Carol Bailey String Band & Chorus music practice June, July or August.

The Carol Bailey String band & Chorus will be giving concerts over the summer, on August 2 they will be at the Alzheimer's Care Center, Gardiner at 11am; August 16 they will be at Young at Heart Seniors at the North Windsor Baptist Church Pavillion @ 11am; August 30 they will be at Schooner Memory Care Unit, Auburn @ 10:30.

The Senior Center will be open on Wednesday August 9, 9:30 -12:30 stop in for books, puzzles, etc.

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. Pick out books and/or puzzles to take home.

The book club meeting is on Monday, August 21 at 1 pm. at the Senior Center. The book to be discussed is "Teacher Man" by Frank McCourt.

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting held at the Senior Center is at 1 on Tuesday, August 15th. (New day)

Are you interested in joining a domino group? We have some interest in a Mexican Train game that would be during the day at the Senior Center on Friday. What about Rummy Cubes or Banagrams, or cribbage games if you are interested let the Director know.

Sign up for the Roadrunner trips - Wednesday, August 23 Lakewood Theater for the play "Leading Ladies", leave at 10:30 from Sportsmen's Club for lunch at Ken's Restaurant before the play. **Sunday, September 17** for a 4 pm show at the Lakewood Theater "Lafferty's Wake", leave at 2:30 from 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. Stop in for more information, or check out our books, puzzles and items on the table you may like. Donations appreciated.

Woodbury Pond Park

We are all hoping for a sunny and wonderful August! Our park has seen many visitors when the sun peaks out but we need sunny weekends! The park is open 7 days a week 10 am to 8 pm and fees should be paid every time you visit. Those fees pay for lawn care, Port-a potties and waste disposal in addition to attendants on weekends. Please help us make the park self-sustaining by doing your part on all days you attend. Fees are minimal at \$3/adult and \$2/child. A great deal for swimming, playing and enjoying a summer day near the water. Friends of Woodbury Pond Park thank you! Want to join our group and help with park ideas? Send a message to woodburypond-park@gmail.com or see attendants on weekends.

Town Clerk's Corner

VOTE! The second School Budget Referendum is Tuesday, August 15, 2023 from 8 am to 8 pm at the Sportsmen's Club. Since the first vote the RSU4 budget has been reduced by \$323,758. Please check the Town website for details.

Town Office hours have changed. Starting Monday, July 10th, the office is open Monday - Wednesday from 8 am to 4 pm, and Thursday from 8 am to 6 pm. We have had difficulty finding the right person to fill a vacancy and appreciate your patience. The change in hours allows for us to complete office work at the end of the day, but also includes an earlier open time to accommodate those residents who may be able to stop in on their way to work.

A ballot inspection and recount of the Select Board ballots from the June municipal election requested by one of the candidates confirmed the originally published result.

Last year's applications will be honored, but LD 290, The "Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens" program, enacted in August 2022, was repealed by the Maine Legislature on July 6, 2023, with an effective date of October 11, 2023. This popular program allowed Maine seniors 65 and older, who owned a permanent residence for at least 10 years and were receiving (or eligible for) a homestead exemption, to "freeze" their taxes at the previous year's level, regardless of income. --- Many seniors were expecting to reapply beginning in August, but the repeal of this program means **there will be no reapplication process for the upcoming year.** ---Although the program has been repealed, it will honor first-year applications. This means any currently enrolled senior will not see an increase in their property taxes on their 2023 tax bill which will be mailed at the end of September. Please note: This was a State of Maine Program and while the

Town of Litchfield has a part in its administration, we had no part in its creation or repeal. Any questions or concerns homeowners have regarding this program should be directed to your legislative representative. To find your representative, please check your most recent Town Report or visit: <https://legislature.maine.gov/senate/>

Late-Tax Notices - 30-day notices for unpaid 2022 property taxes will be mailed out the week of the 21st. If property taxes have not been paid in full before that mailing, you will incur an additional processing fee to cover the notification.

Woodbury Pond Park - The park is open, clean, and thriving after the volume of rain we have had recently. Come on down to enjoy the lovely view or refresh with a swim. If you are interested in supporting the park, check on Facebook for the "Friends of Woodbury Pond Park" group, or call the Town Office.

The Litchfield Firefighters Association
Presents
SHOW and SHINE

27th Annual **Sunday, August 20th, 2023** 27th Annual
(Rain or Shine)
Carrie Ricker Middle School 573 Richmond Rd, Litchfield, ME
Gates Open at 8:00 A.M.
Entries 8:00 till 11:00 am

Car & 1 Passenger \$10.00 General Public Invited Admission \$5.00 (under 10 free)

Big Rig Class

Large Trophy for Best Point, Chrome, Show & Furthest Distance Traveled

TOYS FOR TOTS

We have partnered with Toys For Tots so bring in a new unwrapped toy and receive half off entry

Class winners & 50/50 to be announced at 2:30

Trophies will be awarded for all classes:

Antiques	'82-Current Camaro & Firebird	Mopar
Best of '50s	Foreign	Special Interest
Best of '60s	Mustangs Thru '78	Street Rods--open
Best of '70s	Mustangs '79--'93	Street Rods--Closed
Best of '80s	Motorcycles	Strictly Muscle
Best of '90s	Mini-Trucks	Jeeps
Best of 2000's	Restoration in Progress	Big Rigs/Fire Trucks
Corvettes thru '82	Pick-Ups 4wd	Tuners
Corvettes '84-current	Pick-Ups 4wd	Volkswagon
'57-'69 Camaro & Firebird	Stock Automobiles	Custom
'70-'81 Camaro & Firebird	Stock Trucks	Best of 2010's
		Mustang 94-current
		Rat Rods

Info: Gerry Lebel
E-mail: gtpressure@yahoo.com
215-3718
info:
www.litchfieldmainefireandrescue.org

Lots of Give-Aways 50/50
*Absolutely NO Trucks in Best of Classes

Over 30 Classes

Litchfield Fire and Rescue

It's that time of year again that we reach out to those bakers in town to help with bake goods for 2 upcoming events. **The first is the 27th Annual Show n Shine Car Show.** We are looking for things like Cookies, Brownies, Donuts, Fudge, and anything that you would like to cook and donate for our Show n Shine. The second is the Litchfield Fair, Aug 9-11. We would love Pies, Pies, and more pies and Sweets. Please contact: Tina Gowell at 207-485-5565 or email me at lfid900@yahoo.com

Sept. 8-10

LITCHFIELD TRANSFER STATION

Summer is percolating along and we have had enough rain at the Transfer Station. We want to remind everyone that our last Sunday this summer will be August 27. Thanks to all who visited on Sunday's this summer. A special thanks to our Sunday volunteer Kim for helping out. We have mowed the "mound" with the new bush hog. The new bush hog does a great job. We also bush hogged the area between the Pine Tree Road and the cemetery there. It looks really good. Our new recyclable container set-up is still working well. Many many THANKS to the residents who are utilizing our new recycle container line up. We didn't have to put up parking spaces we had ready to go. It has improved the process of the recycling. The leaf and brush piles are going strong. The Swap Shop is doing a tremendous business. Many treasures come and go. Stop by and see what is available. Stop in and say Hi to John C., Cheri C., and John U. on Friday and Saturday. Jim N. and either John C. or John U. will be here on Sundays.

August Community Calendar

1 Tue	Lit First Responders; 6:30pm-Central Station	17 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd
2 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd	18 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm
3 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd Lit. Planning Bd. , 6:30pm; Town Office	19 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm
4 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm	20 Sun	Transfer Station —8am-4pm Lit Fire & Rescue Show and Shine Car Show—Carrie Ricker School—8am
5 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm Lit. Sportsman's Club -Supper 5-6 pm \$10. - Jam 6:30-8pm Lit Rec —Soccer registrations close today	21 Mon	Lit. Budget Comm - 6:30pm, Town Office Lit. Rec Comm —Coaches Meeting 6:00pm; regular meeting to follow, Town Office
6 Sun	Transfer Station -8am-4pm Lit. Sportsman's Club -Country Sunday - noon to 4 pm \$8.	22 Tue	
7 Mon	Lit Rec Comm. -Special Meeting—6:15pm Town Office	23 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd American Legion Post 181 Meeting; 7pm—235 Plains Rd. All Veteran's Welcome RSU4 School Bd —6:30pm, Central Office
8 Tue	Lit First Responders; 6:30pm; Central Office	24 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd
9 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd	25 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm
10 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd	26 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm
11 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm	27 Sun	Transfer Station , 8am-4pm (<i>Last Sunday open for the year</i>)
12 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm	28 Mon	Lit. Selectman's Meeting —6:30pm; Zoom available—see website
13 Sun	Transfer Station -8am-4pm	29 Tue	
14 Mon	Lit. Selectman's Meeting —6:30pm; Zoom available—see website Lit. Sportsmen's Club -meeting, 7 pm, Public Welcome	30 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd
15 Tue	Vote -RSU4 Budget Referendum—8am to 8pm Lit Sportsman's Club Lit Fire Assoc & Reg Meet -6:30pm, Central Sta Senior Advisory —1pm, Academy Rd	31 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd
16 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd		

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BOX HOLDER

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.—Wed.: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Thurs.: 8:00a.m.—6:00p.m.
Closed: Every Fri.

Conservation Commission

How lucky we are to live in such a gorgeous place! Please take a minute to notice the beauty around you as you make your way through each busy day. How many flowers can you name? While we may lament the rainy days, we have to admit they have made our surroundings lush, flowers gorgeous, ponds and wells full. The Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) has started monitoring our ponds so you may see a group of folks paddling close to shore with their eyes to the water. If you have concerns about a plant you noticed in the water, please flag us down as we welcome your questions. The Conservation Commission will be hosting a small group from the Maine Conservation Corps in September. These folks will be installing benches and working to make the Litchfield Community Park even more welcoming. Have you been to the Litchfield Community Park? It's FREE and it's just a few hundred feet from the Town Office! It's a terrific place to take a stroll with a friend or the kids or your four-footed family members in a peaceful setting. In the summer, there are ponds for fishing and dog swimming, picnic tables, a large sandy area for kids to play (without the long ride to the beach) and a safe place to ride a bicycle. In the winter, there are places to walk, snowshoe, cross country ski, or winter picnic. This park is a wonderful asset and we want to make it work for everyone. If you have an idea to make the park better, please contact us on our Facebook page.

Sept. Issue Deadline:
Aug 22, 2023 5p.m.
Deliver material in any of the following ways:
Email: sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org **U.S. mail to:**
Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd. 04350
Hand deliver to: Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd



RSU 4

The second RSU 4 2023-2024 Budget Validation Vote (secret ballot vote) will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at your local voting poll. Your vote counts.