

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXIII No. 12

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

December 1, 2023

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

December question: Which of Litchfield's early settlers was, when he died in 1845 at the age of 94, the oldest living commissioned officer of the Continental Army. **November question:** At which type of water-powered mill would an early Litchfield resident have encountered a "Miller's Knot"? answer: A grist mill. A miller's knot was a sturdy, but easily untied knot used to close bags of milled grain.

Christmas Concert

By the Carol Bailey String Band to benefit the Building Fund of the Litchfield Food Bank. When: Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. Where: Litchfield Sportsman's Club
Admission: By donation. All proceeds go to the Building Fund of the Litchfield Food Bank. Come catch the spirit and share it!

RSU4 News

December 7 -Grade 3-4 concert at Carrie Ricker. Starts at 6 p.m. **December 18** - Grade 2 Holiday Concert. To be held at Oak Hill Middle School starting at 6 p.m. Snow date: 12/ 20. **December 19** - Oak Hill Middle School Winter Concert. 6-7 p.m. To be held at OHMS. Snow date: 12/21. **Schools will be closed for Christmas break from Dec. 22 - Jan. 1, 2024**

Important RSU #4 Invitation

RSU #4 Finance/Facilities Committee invites community members to apply to be a member of the Consolidation Subcommittee.



The first meeting is set for
January 10, 5:30-6:20 pm
at the Central Office



Thank you for your consideration!

Please click on the LINK above for more information and a form to complete if interested.



**Litchfield Fire & Rescue
Litchfield Central Station
Annual Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, Dec 2, 2023
9am to 11am**

Come meet Santa and Join the Fun

Litchfield Senior Center

NEW CENTER PHONE # 446-6275

Senior Center is closed on Monday, December 25, 2023

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.

On December 6 the Carol Bailey String Band & Chorus will perform their Christmas program at Schooner Estates in Auburn at 10:00.

On December 13 the Carol Bailey String Band and Chorus will perform their Christmas program at the DRUM Church in Richmond for the Richmond Seniors at 10:30.

On December 13 the Carol Bailey String Band and Chorus will perform the Christmas program at the Alzheimer's Care Center at 2:00.

On Saturday, December 16 at 1:30 at the Litchfield Sportsmen's Club, the Carol Bailey String Band and Chorus will perform a Christmas Concert to benefit the BUILDING FUND of the Litchfield Food Bank. Admission by donation. All proceeds go to the Building Fund of the Litchfield Food Bank.

On December 20 at 10:30 the Carol Bailey Band and Chorus will perform in Gorham, ME at the Congregational Church for the "Originals" Seniors group.

On Wednesday, December 27 The Senior Center will be open 9:30 to 12, come in for books, puzzles, exercises, 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, December 18 at 1 pm. at the Senior Center.

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting is held at the Senior Center at 1 on Thursday, December 21.

The Sand for Seniors program is taking orders, call 446-6275 to leave your name, address and phone number to be put on the list. 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 Fire & Rescue Association

Is looking for any local residence that would like to join the Association to help us with our events and any ideas to share about fundraisers. We will be meeting on the 3rd Monday of every month at 6pm at Litchfield Central Station. For future information please contact Tina Gowell @ 485-5565.

Litchfield Transfer Station

Welcome to December. Happy Holidays to all!! Things are going smoothly here at the Transfer Station. We are buttoned up and ready for the cold weather. We had training by the State DEP people on Transfer Station Operations last month. We are doing very well by DEP standards. The leaf and brush pile were closed on the 18th of November. We have cards for a place to take leaves and brush. Stop by and ask us for one if you need one. Stop in and say Hi to John C. and John U. on Friday and Saturday.

Conservation Commission

This fall, a Maine Conservation Corps team arrived in Litchfield to help improve town owned land open to the public. We would like to thank the Litchfield Farmers Club for donating the fairgrounds as a safe camping site for these three hard workers. At 7 am they would drive over to the Litchfield Community Park and, with great good spirits, be available for any request we gave them. The one chain saw certified member was kept busy all week as they cut and piled up debris from falling 'nurse' trees and other problem trees on the north end of the Blacksmith trail and chipped away at cutting down huge honeysuckle shrubs on the ridge behind Willow Pond in anticipation of the mid-week day with Hunter Manley, the certified licensed spray applicator. We traveled to the ball fields to cut down and haul off some very large woody invasives which were then daubed by the applicator. Hunter Manley also went to Woodbury Pond Park and began control of Asiatic bitter-sweet. He also began control of the Giant Reed (Phragmites) in Willow Pond. A great big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with various work including meeting the team at the Fairgrounds, doing trail work, digging and bagging invasive shrubs, pruning and thinning plants to open views, improving the Story Book trail on the Redpoll trail, installing two new benches, widening the park entrance to accommodate strollers, and installing new trail signage. View photos on the Litchfield Conservation Commission Facebook page.

Tacoma Lakes Association

The Association is capping off its busiest summer in recent history. We held our first ever Boat Regatta, our first ever event for members and friends at Doolin's Pub, and then participated in the Litchfield Fair. On Sunday, September 10th, at the Litchfield Fair we drew the winning ticket for our biggest raffle prize ever. Tessie Elwell was the lucky winner, winning the Kamado Joe Classic Two grill/smoker. Thank you to Percy's Hardware for providing the grill, and displaying it throughout the summer. Our membership numbers, and donations remain strong! Our plant patrol team got out on the lakes, when it was not raining, scouring the shore for invasive plants. Fortunately, no invasive species were found! TLA also funds the Courtesy Boat Inspection program at the Woodbury Pond boat launch. This past summer 1,628 boats were inspected! 84 plants were found, flagged and checked, and none were invasive species! Membership forms are available online at tacomalakes.org <<http://tacomalakes.org>>, and we are committed to growing our membership base, and expanding our services to keep the Tacoma's clean, free of invasive plants, and beautiful for the generations that will follow us.

Creators 4H Club

Will be meeting on the 9th of December at the Senior Center on Academy Rd Litchfield at 1pm. For info call Lori at 754-3931 or text. Also email llarr42609@aol.com

Town Clerks Corner

Property Taxes - Tax bills were mailed at the beginning of November and used the latest RSU4 budget amount. If you believe you should have received a bill and have not gotten it yet, please contact the Town Office.

Fair Property Tax Credit – Worth checking to see if you qualify. More information is available at <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs/property-tax-relief-programs> or go to maine.gov and search "property tax relief."

Property Tax Bills Factor – Updated Explanation - For those who checked their tax bills and see a larger than expected increase, it might be due to your homestead exemption. The explanation of the 20% factor in October should have included the impact to homestead and veterans' exemptions. Those exemptions are authorized by the state and reduce the taxable value of qualifying properties. However, since they are valuation reductions, the dollar amount of tax reduced depends on the mil rate. When valuations go up, and the mil rate decreases, the equivalent dollar amount of the exemption also decreases. Unfortunately, the way this type of tax reduction has been implemented, in order to avoid a penalty from the state that decreases the total of the exemption, valuations must be matched closely to the state calculated valuations. And when town valuations must be raised, the amount of the exemptions is reduced. That is what occurred this year.

RSU4 Budget Validation Results for Litchfield on 11/07/2023: YES 548 NO 632 - However, the budget did PASS due to the cumulative results for the three towns. For more information regarding the Statewide Referendum results go to Maine.gov and enter "referendum results" in the search bar. Are you interesting in helping with Elections? Please call Libby at the Town Office 268-4721 or email libby@litchfieldmaine.org for more information

2024 Dog Licenses You may license your dog(s) for 2024 at the Town Office (licensing began October 15th) or online at https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl. If rabies vaccinations are due, please bring a copy of the new vaccination. To avoid a late fee your dog must be licensed by January 31, 2024.

Snowmobiles - Snowmobiles may be registered at the Town Office, or online at <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/atv-snowmobile/index.html>.



Fishing and Hunting Licenses for the 2024 season are now also available at the Town Office, or online at https://moses.informe.org/cgi-bin/online/moses_v3/index.

Home Heating Assistance - If you need fuel assistance and have an appointment with KVCAP contact the Town Office. Applicants for the KVCAP Fuel Assistance Program should contact KVCAP directly by calling either 1-800-542-8227 ext. 1500 or (207) 859-1500 to schedule an appointment. Applicants may also access the KVCAP website (www.kvcap.org) click "For The Home", select "Heating Assistance", click the highlighted "Click Here" and book your appointment. Information is available in the Town Office.

The Town Office will be closed on Thursday, Dec 21st from 12:00 to 1:30 for a holiday gathering. We will also be closed on Monday, Dec 25th for the Christmas Holiday, and Monday Jan 1st for New Year's Day.



December Community Calendar

1 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm	17 Sun	
2 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm RSU4 PTA—Craft Fair—See back page Sportsman’s Club—Public supper & Jam \$10. Supper 5 to 6 Jam 6:30 to 8	18 Mon	Lit. Recreation Comm-6:15pm– Town Off Lit Fire & Rescue Assoc. Meet-6:00pm- Central Station
3 Sun	Sportsman’s Club—Country Sunday 12 to 4; \$8	19 Tue	Lit Fire & Rescue Meet-6:00p, Central Sta
4 Mon		20 Wed	Lit Road Comm—6:00pm, Town Office Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd
5 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting, 6:00pm	21 Thur	Lit. Budget Comm., 6:30pm-Town Office Food Bank-10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd Senior’s Committee-1pm-Senior Center Town Office Closed 12pm-1:30pm RSU4—Last day of school through Jan 1, 24
6 Wed	Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd	22 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm
7 Thur	Lit Planning Board– 6:30pm Food Bank-10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd	23 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm
8 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm	24 Sun	
9 Sat	Holiday Fun Raiser– See Back Page Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm	25 Mon	
10 Sun		26 Tue	
11 Mon	Lit. Selectmen’s Meeting; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website. Lit. Sportsman’s Club Meeting—7pm; An- nual Meeting to Follow	27 Wed	Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd
12 Tue	Lit. First Responders Meeting-6:00 pm,	28 Thur	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd
13 Wed	RSU4 School Board-Central Office-6:30pm Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd	29 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm
14 Thur	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd	30 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm
15 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm	31 Sun	
16 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm		

BOX HOLDER

- Contents:**
1. Historical Society, Senior Center Corner
 2. Town Manager/Clerk's Report
 3. December Calendar
 4. Newsletter Deadline

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

RSU4 PTA
Holiday Craft Fair
 Saturday, December 2nd, 2023
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 Oak Hill Middle School
 40 Ball Park Rd, Sabattus

Interested in being a vendor? Email
rsu4pta@rsu4.org for an application.

3rd Annual
*Holiday Fun Raiser**
 December 9th, 2023
 11:00am-1:00pm
 Carrie Ricker School
 573 Richmond Road ~ Litchfield, Maine 04350

Mr. Drew And His Animals Too
 Enjoy a Bowl of Soup from local resturants
 Explore Activities
 Decorate a Sugar Cookie
 Lead or Join in Singing carols
 Photo opportunities

CARRIE RICKER SCHOOL
Mr. Drew
 And His Animals Too

LITCHFIELD FUEL CO.
SHINE
 LIKE THE SUN
 AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Poem Presentation:
 "Smile, next year we will do it again"
 1:00 pm - Mr. & Mrs. Claus arrive On a Fire Truck
Thank you all for Coming!
 *Not sponsored by RSU4

100% Donations benefit
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
 Finding cures. Saving children.

January Issue Deadline:
 Dec. 20, 2023 5p.m.
 Deliver material in any of
 the following ways:
 email: [sodalite@litchfield
 maine.org](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)) **U.S. mail to:**
 Town Office, 2400 Hal-
 lowell Rd. 04350
Hand deliver to: Town
 Office 2400 Hollowell Rd

