

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXIII No. 7

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

July 1, 2023

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

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"? June question: Early Potter town had among its mills a fulling mill. This type of mill dealt with what type of fiber? answer: Wool. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

Gardens are going in between showers and we've had plenty of those. We'd love to have you plant a little extra to share with your neighbors through the Food Bank. We are happy to be receiving some local eggs. Good chickens! Keep up the good work! We love donations of all kinds!

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

New items are coming in or being unpacked every week! Come in and be delighted! You can freshen your wardrobe without needing to go to the ATM first! Continuing our Buck a Bag Sale prices to give you a better shopping experience!

LITCHFIELD TRANSFER STATION

Summer is definitely here and things are heating up at the Transfer Station. We have started mowing the "mound" with the new bush hog. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will be finishing in the next couple of weeks. The new bush hog does a great job. Our new recyclable container set-up is working well. Many, many THANKS to the residents who are utilizing our new recycle container lineup. It has improved the process of the recycling. The leaf and brush piles are going strong. The Swap Shop is doing 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. Thank You

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., except on July 3 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, in July they will be at the Woodlands in Hallowell at 10am on July 5th.

The Senior Center will be open on Wednesday July 12, 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, July 17 at 1 pm. at the Senior Center. The book to be discussed is "Fall of Mari-golds" by Susan Meissner.

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting held at the Senior Center is at 1 on Thursday, July 20th.

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 Fridays. What about Rummy Cubes or Banagrams, or cribbage games if you are interested let the Director know.

Sign up for the Roadrunner trips – Thursday, July 13 Maine Wildlife Park in Gray - \$7.50 leave at 10am from Club; Saturday, July 15, the Litchfield Senior Steppers (Line Dancers) will perform at 9am in Hallowell at the "Old Hallowell Days" celebration; Sunday, July 16 a trip to Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park - \$4. entry fee; Wednesday, July 19 Picnic and music at Woodbury Pond Park, bring a chair, lunch and enjoy a fun time. Music at 11 by the Carol Bailey String Band & Chorus and guests; July 26 Carousel Music Theater in Boothbay Harbor, show is "Boogie Down" Lunch & Show \$50. Leave at 10:15 from 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, a cup of coffee or tea or check out our books (paperback & hard cover), puzzles and items on the table you may like.

Woodbury Pond Park

The Woodbury Pond Park is open for the season and we look forward to a great summer! Park fees remain the same at \$3/adult and \$2/child. Seniors and Veterans are free. Donations are always welcomed and all go towards the care of the park. Season passes are available at the town office and on weekends at the park. If attendant is not at booth, please put your fee in the mail slot at the office. Dogs are not allowed during open gate hours 10am to 8 pm. After hours and when gates are not open, please be a responsible pet owner and pick up their waste. We need to establish a group to help with ideas for the park, help organize events and would love members that use the park regularly. Leave your name at woodburypondpark@gmail.com or at the attendance booth. Have a great summer.

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**, August 20 at Carrie Ricker School - 8am. 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 lfd900@yahoo.com

RSU 4

The RSU 4 2023-2024 school budget will be presented for a second vote at the Public Budget Meeting on Wednesday, July 26th at 6:30pm at Oak Hill High School. The Budget Validation Vote (secret ballot vote) will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at your local voting poll.



Town Clerk's Corner

The Town Office will close at 3 pm on Thursday, June 29th to complete end-of-fiscal year database closeout. **Woodbury Pond Park** is now open daily from 10 am – 8 pm through August 20th, weather permitting. Come out and enjoy the park!

The RSU4 budget did not pass, so please mark your calendars. If you missed out last time, you get another chance to contribute your perspective. **Wed, July 26th** – Public Budget Meeting, 6:30 pm at OHHS, and **August 15th** – Budget Validation Referendum Vote.

Reminder -the bridge at Thorofare Rd (from Plains Rd across Pleasant Pond), will be closed from June 26 until October 3, access to boat ramps will be available during the construction. And the Babcock Bridge (on Rte. 126 into West Gardiner at Horseshoe Pond) will close July 10 and reopen in mid-October.

The Town Office will be closed on Monday, July 3rd for vacation and Tuesday, July 4th for the Independence Day holiday.

Election Results (winners denoted by *)

RSU#4 Budget Referendum Yes 128 No 335

RSU#4 School Revolving Renovation Fund (SRRF) Program:
Yes 224 No 238

Municipal Final Tally	Total # of ballots	464
Select Board (1 open seat)	School Board, RSU4 (1 open seat)	
Gary Parker 222	Douglas Bumpus II*	354
Mark Russell 221	Write-ins	19
Write-ins 1		
(Recount expected)		

Academy Trustees (2 seats)

Elton Wade* 356
Dian White* 318
Write-ins 4
Write-ins 10

Budget Committee (3 seats)

Ellery Barrett* 299
Theresa Madore* 306
Thomas Wood* 335




First Day of School Year 2023-24

First student day for grades K- 9 -August 30th
First student day for grades 10-12 = August 31st
First student day for Pre-K = September 5th
No School – September 4th – Labor Day

Open House dates:

Libby-Tozier School – August 28th – 5-6 p.m.
Carrie Ricker School – August 28th – 6-7 p.m.
Sabattus Primary School – August 29th – 5-6 p.m.
Oak Hill Middle School – no date yet.

July Community Calendar

1 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm	17 Mon	Lit. Recreation Comm—6:30pm, Town Of Lit. Budget Comm—6:00pm, Town Office
2 Sun	Transfer Station—8am—4pm	18 Tue	Lit Fire Assoc & Reg Meet-6:30pm, Central Sta
3 Mon	Town Office Closed for vacation	19 Wed	Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd
4 Tue	Town Office Closed 	20 Thur	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd Senior Advisory—1pm, Academy Rd
5 Wed	Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd	21 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm
6 Thur	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd Lit. Planning Bd., 6:30pm; Town Office	22 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm
7 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm Country Fest Maine Weekend @ Sportsman's Club: 5 to 6 public supper \$ 8.00	23 Sun	Transfer Station –8am-4pm
8 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm Sportsman's Club - Country Fest Maine Live Music (9 performers) 12-8pm, \$15.00	24 Mon	Lit. Selectman's Meeting—6:30pm; Zoom available—see website
9 Sun	Transfer Station –8am-4pm Sportsman's Club—Country Fest Maine Live Music (4 performers) 12pm- 5pm; \$10.00	25 Tue	
10 Mon	Lit. Selectman's Meeting—6:30pm; Zoom avail- able—see website Lit. Sportsmen's Club -meeting,7 pm	26 Wed	Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd American Legion Post 181 Meeting; 7pm—235 Plains Rd. RSU4-Public Budget Meet.—OHHS-6:30pm
11 Tues	Lit First Responders; 6:30pm-Central Station	27 Thur	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd
12 Wed	Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd Conservation Commission –6:00pm, Town Off	28 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm
13 Thur	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd	29 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm
14 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm	30 Sun	Transfer Station, 8am-4pm
15 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm	31 Mon	
16 Sun	Transfer Station, 8am-4pm		

BOX HOLDER

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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.—Thu.: 8:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Closed: Every Fri.

ECRWSS
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Permit #2

Conservation Commission

Do you wonder what to plant as you decide to bring more native plants into your garden? Try some of these Native shrubs for late bloom: Mountain laurel, a broadleaf evergreen for part or full shade and good soil, has its show of buds first before flowering in late June or later if we have a cold slow spring like this year. Mountain laurel or *Kalmia latifolia* gets tall (use the scientific name when researching a plant for the best information), but slowly: there are many named cultivars with different sizes and flower colors to suit your site. In August the fragrant *Clethras* come to the fore. *Clethra alnifolia*, sometimes called Sweet Pepperbush, is deciduous, likes good to moist garden soil, sun to partial shade, gets 6' tall and spreads wider than that so leave room or plan to mow around it. *Clethra* has cultivars with different heights also and flower color ranges from pink to white so you can find a place for this versatile native in your yard. Folks wonder where can you find a good selection of native plants. One of the most complete and helpful nurseries is O'Donal's just outside of Portland with a catalog to keep as a reference for its many plant lists of what grow where (for example for clay soils, or poor dry areas) and thumbnail sketches of each plant. To help you further to put 'the right plant in the right place' try "Landscape Design Principles for Residential Gardens" at gardendesign.com **July is the time for the aquatic plant patrol** to begin looking under the surface of the water at the magical native plant world to be found there and to see if we have any invasive aquatic plants messing things up. We go out by kayak and canoe Tuesdays at 9am. On Saturday July 15 have a new team starting out with instruction on how to survey or observe. Call Diane Clay if you would like to join the fun: cell 207-754-9502. **All you loon lovers will be happy** to know Maine Audubon is continuing with the Loon Restoration Project this summer. Chicks are hatching and there are folks on each of the Tacoma Lakes keeping track of nesting sites, loon behavior, and numbers of chicks. The drop in the number of chicks in recent years has been a concern. For those of you who worry about loons taking too many fish you can rest easy as research has shown that loons are a sign of good fishing and a healthy lake. What is concerning is when the fish take in lead from sinkers and are eaten by other wildlife. Lead is the biggest killer of loons but also a problem for those who eat the fish. Enjoy the beauty and the calls of loons, and enjoy getting new fishing gear free in exchange for old lead ones. Watch for Maine Audubon's lead sinker exchange program. There will be a table at Woodbury Pond Park Saturday July 1, and one at the Tacoma Lakes Association Table at the Litchfield Fair. Others to be announced.

August Issue Deadline:
July 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 Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd

