

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXIII No. 3

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

March 1, 2023

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

March question: What little known Litchfield woman born in 1793 was widowed while with child in her teens. She then made her way to Ohio where she remarried and helped to found a school for escaped slaves. **February question:** There are over seventeen known burial grounds (cemeteries) in Litchfield. Today, only one survives as a self-sustaining, independent organization. Which one survives? answer: The Litchfield Plains Cemetery. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to www.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

March 20 is the FIRST DAY OF SPRING. It will also be the first day of seasonal change-over at the Thrift Shop. Starting at 9:00, working to 4:00 or whenever the energy falls off. Continue on Tuesday, March 21 at 2:00 to 4:00 and from 7:00 to 9:00. We have some great items to unpack and need all the help we can get. Shopping encouraged at bargain prices for our helpers! Put it on your calendar! Use the time up to the 20th to pick up winter items for next fall, especially for the kids in the next one or two sizes up.

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

We are so excited to be planning our efforts to re-start our new building construction! We are hoping you will help and support our efforts. We are finding the materials prices have NOT dropped over the winter. Our funding will need your help! Planning a GARDEN this year. No, it's not too early to start thinking about it. Please consider donating your surplus to the Food Bank. Our clients love the fresh local produce... and eggs, if you have chickens.

LITCHFIELD TRANSFER STATION

We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of spring. We have started to hand out a drawing of the parking set-up we will be implementing this year. We are doing this in anticipation of the large increase of traffic due to the influx of the summer people. If we forget to hand you one, please ask. We will try to answer your questions and listen to your concerns. We have noticed an increase of items being put in the wrong recyclable containers. We ask that you please be more aware of putting the material in the proper container. We are also seeing an increase of recyclable materials being put in the bulky containers. We ask the residents that are doing this to please put their recyclable materials in the proper recyclable container. If you see something in the wrong container, please see one of the attendants. On a positive note, we will be opening the Swap Shop up around the middle of April. We are looking forward to seeing the treasures the residents have been collecting this past winter. 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.

The Sand for Seniors program for winter sand is available for the winter months. If you are in need of a 5 gal. bucket of sand, call 268-4237 or 441-9005 to be put on the list. This is a program of the Senior Center.

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.

Making cards with Anne Thompson on March 13 at 12:30 to 2. Come on down to the Senior Center for a fun time making cards.

Tai Chi on Wednesdays at 9 am at the Sportsmen’s Club.

Carol Bailey String band & Chorus music practice on Wednesdays at 10 to 12 at the Sportsmen’s Club. Come and join us, we will be working on the spring/summer program.

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, March 20th at 1 pm. at the Senior Center. The book to be discussed is “Things We do in the Dark” by Jennifer Hillier.

The Senior’s Advisory Committee meeting held at the Senior Center is at 1 on Thursday, March 16th.

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. Donations always appreciated, or work on the puzzle already set up on the table.

4H Creators

The 4H Creators meeting will be held on Saturday, March 11 at 1pm at the Senior Center on Academy Rd.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The process to develop the annual town budget for the fiscal year beginning July first, 2023 has already begun. Your Budget Committee will be meeting on the third Monday of each month from now until the Annual Town Meeting in June. All meetings are open to the public and one can attend via the Town's Zoom account. The links to the meetings appear on the home page of the Town's website. A simple click will connect you to our meetings. All are welcome, so please join us if you can. The Budget Committee is working with the Board of Selectmen, Town Manager, various town department heads, and all other parties interested in the budget and the budget process. The Select Board will also be holding public meetings where the various budget proposals and the reasoning behind those proposals will be discussed on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. The result of the proposal, negotiation, and approval process will be the publishing of the Annual Town Report and Town Warrant for your consideration and vote at the June meeting. Please feel free to contact the Committee through the Town Office and attend or Zoom attend our meetings. We want to know and care about your interests and concerns.

Get the Lead Out

Maine Audubon is sponsoring some lead tackle exchanges this year with the help of Tacoma Lakes Association and the Conservation Commission. We are just getting started working with events that might be appropriate to set up an exchange table and contacting stores that sell lead-free tackle to allow fishermen to buy new ones using a coupon from Maine Audubon. If you know of an event where we can hold an exchange or would like to be involved, please contact Diane Clay: 207-754-9502. Follow the Sodalite for more information.

Litchfield Fire and Rescue Department



The Senior and Veteran's Luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 1st from 11am to 2pm at the Litchfield Fire & Rescue Department's Central Station. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please call Tina Gowell 207-485-5565

Town Clerk's Corner

Daylight Savings Time starts this month. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 12th.

Senior Tax Stabilization Program – We do not have this year's applications yet. Many people have reasonably asked for the next application, but the State legislature is reviewing the program and we won't have any applications until they are done. Look for further information by this fall.

Vehicle re-registrations - Information needed to re-register a vehicle: Old registration (preferred), valid insurance card (must be effective the day you re-register) and mileage. You can come to the town office, but registrations can also be done with a credit card or e-check online at <https://apps1.web.maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/> (the link is on the town website).


Town budget reviews have begun. Each section of the town budget will be reviewed at upcoming Select Board meetings through the end of April. You really shouldn't wait for the annual Town Meeting to find out what's happening with the budget. Attending the Select Board meetings and following along during the reviews will give you a chance to hear the details, and an opportunity to ask questions. Alternatively, you can link to videos of the Select Board meetings at the town website, LitchfieldMaine.org

Nomination Papers Due in April: - If you are considering running for an elected position this year, nomination papers may be picked up at the Town Office starting Monday, March 6th, and must be returned by Thursday, April 14th. In order to be listed on the ballot this June, 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 (3); and Litchfield Academy Trustees (2).

Upcoming meetings at the Town Office:

Planning Board - Thursday, Mar 2nd, 6:30 pm
Select Board - Monday, Mar 13th, 6:30 pm
Road Committee – Wednesday, Mar 15th, 6:00 pm
Budget Committee - Monday, Mar 20th, 6:30 pm
Select Board - Monday, Mar 27th, 6:30 pm

March Community Calendar

1 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd	17 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm
2 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd Planning Board —6:30pm	18 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm
3 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm	19 Sun	
4 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm Lit. Sportsman’s Club —Public Supper & Jam \$10.00 Jam only \$5.00 Supper 5 to 6; Jam— 6:30 to 8 pm	20 Mon	Lit. Budget Comm. , 6:30pm
5 Sun	Sportsman’s Club -Country Sunday, noon to 4 Public Welcome	21 Tue	Lit Fire Assoc & Reg Meet -6:30pm, Central Sta
6 Mon	Lit. Recreation Comm. —6:00pm, Town Off	22 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd RSU4 —Board of Directors; Central Office 6:30pm
7 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers - 6:30pm; Station	23 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd
8 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd RSU4 —Board of Directors; Budget Info; Central Of- fice 6:30pm Conservation Commission –6:00pm, Town Off	24 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm
9 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd	25 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 am –4pm Academy Thrift Store OPEN – 9am to 12pm
10 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm	26 Sun	
11 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 am –4pm Academy Thrift Store OPEN – 9am to 12pm	27 Mon	Lit. Selectman’s Meeting —6:30pm; Zoom avail- able—see website.
12 Sun		28 Tue	
13 Mon	Lit. Selectman’s Meeting —6:30pm; Zoom avail- able—see website. Lit. Sportsmen’s Club -meeting 7 pm Public wel- come	29 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd
14 Tue	Lit First Responders ; 6:30pm-Central Station	30 Thurs	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd
15 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd Road Committee – 6pm; Town Office	31 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm
16 Thur	Food Bank -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd Senior Advisory —1pm, Academy Rd		

BOX HOLDER

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

Conservation Commission

With a grateful sigh, you may have seen that Litchfield does not have the heavy infestation of Browntail Moth this winter which we have had in prior years: no white nests at the tips of branches. UMaine research tells us that the “fungus *Entomophaga aulicae* is highly contagious to caterpillars at high densities ...and ... seems to control populations at a localized level during years with favorable spring conditions (high precipitation, low temperatures).” I do enjoy the name of the fungus: insect (entomo) eating (phaga), tee hee. March is a good time to prune your trees and shrubs since having no leaves means you can see the plant’s structure. In single stem trees create a central leader and cut out V crotches (they are weak and break in winter weather). In multistem shrubs, like lilac, remove the oldest stems as close to the ground as possible as the most flowering take place on younger wood. Search UMaine Bulletin 2169 for more information on pruning. If you are cutting and daubing your invasive woody shrubs with glyphosate you can continue through March and into April *until* the plant leafs out. Then do not start again until the leaves are full and solid and bringing the fluids down to the roots again, around July. Contact the Conservation Commission for more information

April Issue Deadline:
 March. 20, 2022 5p.m.
 Deliver material in any of the following ways:
E-mail
(sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org) U.S. mail to:
Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd. 04350
Hand deliver to: Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd

