

# The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXIV No. 5

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

May 1, 2024

## Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

**May question:** The bridge that crossed the stream connecting Jimmy and Buker Ponds was given what name in early Litchfield? **April question:** The stems of the flax plant provided the source for linen. Early settlers used flax seeds to produce what other product? answer: linseed oil To read more about the history of Litchfield go to [WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org](http://WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org)

## Litchfield Transfer Station

Spring is here and we are glad it is warming up. The leaf and brush piles will be opening up when what snow is gone and the ground is dried up. We are watching the snow pile getting smaller and the ground drying up. Please call first to find out if the piles are open. The Swap Shop is open from 10 to 2 when the Transfer Station is open. Items can be dropped off anytime though. We will have the new office building by the time this Sodalite comes out. It is very welcomed. We are also going to get the tractor "garage" in the next couple of months. Many thanks to the residents for the money approved last year at the town meeting. Our summer hours will be starting on May 3rd. We will be opening on Sundays then. Stop in and say hi to John C., Cheri C., and John U. on Fridays and Saturdays. On Sundays Kim R. and Jim D will be helping Jim N. welcome residents.

## Benefit Dinner for Tina Gowell

Tina is a long-time resident of Litchfield & the Assistant Chief of Rescue for Litchfield Fire & Rescue. She is an important part of our community as well as surrounding communities & has always been available to help out. She has had some health challenges recently & needs our help now.

Come out and support the amazing woman who has helped our community so many times!

**05.18.2024**

**Saturday 5 - 7 pm**

@ Litchfield Fire & Rescue Central Station  
2407 Hallowell Road  
Litchfield Maine

Donations Accepted  
50 / 50 Tickets  
Prize Raffle  
Cash Only

## Litchfield Fire Association Craft Fair and Yard Sale

Saturday, May 18, 2024 9am — 1pm  
Litchfield Rescue and Fire Central Station

Vendors Wanted: \$20 per table Contact Juli: 844-0575

## 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.

**Closed on Monday, May 27, Memorial Day**

**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.

**The Senior Steppers** (Line Dancers) are performing May 13 at Clover Manor, Auburn at 10 a.m.; The Steppers will be performing May 20 at Capital City Manor, Augusta at 10:30 a.m.

**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.

**The Carol Bailey String Band & Chorus** are performing at St. Mary's Residences, Lewiston on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30; also at the Litchfield Fire Station on May 18 for the Tina Gowell fundraiser.

**Something special for Seniors on Tuesday, May 21 from 9 to 11** come in to the Senior Center to have your picture taken by Photographer Nancy Merrill-print prices: 4x6 \$5; 5x7 \$10; 8x10 \$20; 8-wallets \$15. No appointment necessary.

**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, On May 17 @ 11:30 a potluck lunch & celebration of monthly birthdays and then more cards and games in the afternoon. Pick out books and/or puzzles to take home.

**Come and join the book club** here at the Senior Center. The next book club meeting is on Monday, May 20 at 1 pm. the book to be discussed is "The London Bookshop Affair" by Louise Fein.

**The Senior's Advisory Committee** meeting is held at the Senior Center at 1 on Thursday, May 15.

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

**We just received a set of Dominoes** for the Senior Center, so come on down those who said they were interested in playing.

**We have a Road Runner trip** to the Willows Antique Mall in Mechanic Falls on Thursday May 9, leave at 10; Lakewood Theater on Wednesday, May 29. The play is "The Last Resort". Lunch at Ken's in Skowhegan before the play. Call right away to sign up at 446-6275 or come into the Center.

**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.

## 4H The Creators

Will be meeting on the 11th of May at 10 am at the Senior Center on Academy Rd. For more info text or call Lori at 754-3931

### Tacoma Lakes News

We are all looking forward to getting out in our boats in the warm sunshine, so again it's time to be informed about the invasive plants that have the potential to make our lakes impassable. The invasive plant patrol will be gearing up in May to take some refresher courses on-line or in person through Lake Stewards of Maine. It's time to reach out to all of you who would like to join us to learn about plant identification so that we can all practice while we get out on the water and have fun. Our team can also make a visit to your waterfront to look at things that you think might be suspicious. Another important contribution of volunteers from the Lake Association is to monitor the water quality. Cobbossee Watershed District keeps testing during the summer, but with many volunteers who live or play on the lakes secchi disc readings for clarity can be done much more often. Some volunteers even monitor for dissolved oxygen, keep track of ice in and ice out dates, and report data on algae blooms. No matter your age, your boating experience, or your knowledge of plants your eyes on the water can make all the difference. For more information and to join us please contact the Tacoma Lakes Association. The information is on our website: [tacomalakes.org](http://tacomalakes.org). We look forward to working with you.

### Litchfield Recreation Committee

We are very excited to be starting an adult, recreational pickleball program here in Litchfield. The summer session is going to be open for registrations and starting in May. This will run May through October at the Veterans Memorial Park on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-10:30 AM. There will be a minimal fee of \$15 for the session. Players will need to register and pay with the SportsEngine application that the town uses. If you haven't already contacted Sue Weber to initiate the sign-up process or for any questions, please reach out to her at [subewebr@gmail.com](mailto:subewebr@gmail.com). There are no special skills required, just the ability to hold a paddle and to have fun!

### 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.

### RSU 4 News

**The Oak Hill High School Spring Concert** will be on May 10th at 6:30 p.m. It will be held in the auditorium. **Select students from Oak Hill High School** will be participating in the All-State Music Festival at UMO May 15-18. **The OHHS Band and Chorus** will be participating in the Memorial Day events in Litchfield and Sabattus on May 27. **A Day in the Life/Arts Night** will be held at Oak Hill Middle School on May 15th from 3-7 p.m. There will be a Spring Gala (art show, music concert and book fair) held at **Schools will be closed on Monday, 5/27 Memorial Day.**

### Town Clerk's Corner

**The Town Office will be closed on Monday, May 27th**, for Memorial Day. Come down to the Veterans Memorial at the Plains Cemetery to honor our veterans. The Memorial Day parade will begin at 9 am from the Central Fire Station (also the rain day alternate location for the ceremonies). The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) van will be available to transport those veterans that cannot march/walk the parade route from the fire station to the cemetery.

**Road Work:** Dennis Hill Road will be reconstructed and paved this summer. Trimming back of trees to minimize shading is complete, and ditching is in progress. The Gustin Road bridge leading to Jimmy Pond Lane will be replaced this month with a bridge outage scheduled for the entire week of May 13th, weather permitting.

The State Primary and our Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, June 11th at the Litchfield Sportsmen's Club, 2261 Hallowell Rd, from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm. Early voting will be available beginning May 13th at the Town Office. You can also request your ballot ahead of time at the Town Office and we will begin mailing them out May 13th.

Municipal candidates that will appear on the ballot are: **Select Board (one position):** Thomas Pelletier; Clarence Gowell III **RSU #4 (one position):** Kristy Ouellette **Academy Trustee (one position):** N/A

**Budget Committee (one position):** Elton Wade; Raymond Bouchard The Annual Town Meeting will be on Saturday, June 15th at 10:00 am at the Carrie Ricker School gymnasium.

**2024 ATV Registrations** - You may register and re-register ATVs at the Town Office beginning May 1st. Re-registrations may also be done online.

**Woodbury Attendant Positions** - Applications are being accepted for attendants at Woodbury Pond Park. Applicants must be over the age of 18, and may apply at the Town Office

### LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

Do you have a young lady who needs a prom gown or a young man who needs a suit? They just might be found at the best place in town to get a bargain! Can't get there on a Saturday morning? Call Rayna for an appointment at 557-2680 and leave a message. If your student needs volunteer hours for their school requirement, call Rayna.


### LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

Construction of the new Food Bank is coming along nicely and we'd love to be able to move into it sometime in May, but in order to get it finished, we need your help. Our building fund is down to under \$200 and we still have some big-ticket items to get before we can move in. Would you consider making a gift (or another gift) to help us bridge the gap? Put Building Fund on the memo line of your check and mail to P O Box 306, Litchfield or drop off at the Town Office at your convenience. We will be doing some interior painting as soon as the weather warms. If you LOVE TO PAINT, we'd love to hear from you. Call Rayna at 557-2680. Thank you.

### 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

**May Community Calendar**

1 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd	17 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm
2 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd <b>Planning Board</b> —6:30pm	18 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> - 8am-4pm <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm <b>Lit. Sportsman’s Club Fishing Derby</b> 9am—Reg. 5yr to 9yr 9:30am– Reg 10yrs to 15 yrs.  <b>Tina Gowell Benefit Supper</b> –See inside FMI <b>Lit Fire Asso Craft Fair/Yard Sale</b> —See inside FMI
3 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm	19 Sun	<b>Transfer Station</b> —8am—4pm
4 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> - 8am-4pm <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm <b>Sportsman’s Club</b> -Public supper & Jam \$10. Supper 5 to 6 Jam 6:30 to 8	20 Mon	<b>Lit. Recreation Comm.</b> - 6:15pm
5 Sun	<b>Sportsman’s Club</b> -Country Sunday 12 to 4; \$8 <b>Transfer Station</b> —8am—4pm	21 Tue	<b>Lit. Fire &amp; Rescue Meet</b> -6:00pm; Cent. Sta
6 Mon		22 Wed	<b>RSU4 School Board</b> ; Central Off.; 6:30pm <b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd <b>American Legion Post 181</b> –7:00pm, All Veterans Welcome—Plains Rd.
7 Tue	<b>Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting</b> , 6:00pm	23 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd
8 Wed	<b>Lit. Sportsman’s Club Meeting</b> —6pm; <b>RSU4 School Board</b> ; Central Off.; 6:30pm <b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd	24 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm
9 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd	25 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> - 8am-4pm <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm
10 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm	26 Sun	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm
11 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> - 8am-4pm <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm	27 Mon	<b>Town Office Closed</b>  
12 Sun	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm	28 Tues	<b>Lit. Selectmen’s Meeting</b> ; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website.
13 Mon	<b>Lit. Selectmen’s Meeting</b> ; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website.	29 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd
14 Tue	<b>Lit. First Responders Meeting</b> -6:00 pm	30 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd
15 Wed	<b>RSU 4 Public Budget Meeting</b> Oak Hill High School 6:30pm (Come make your vote count) <b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd	31 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm
16 Thur	<b>Senior’s Committee</b> -1pm-Senior Center <b>Food Bank</b> -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd <b>Lit Budget Committee</b> —6:30pm		

# BOX HOLDER

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

ECRWSS  
 PRSRT STD  
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 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](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)  
[www.litchfieldmaine.org](http://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.

### Conservation Committee News

Good News - It's Bug Season - Spring is here at last! It's time to welcome our bug population home! In fact, in honor of "bug season" the Litchfield Community Park has a new book on the story trail. The Bugliest Bug shows the insects as the heroes that they are. (OK maybe not for the same reasons listed below - but worth the read.) So here are some facts to show you how important they are. Whether they crawl, fly, squirm, or slither, insects get the job done. They keep pest insects in check, pollinate crops we rely on as food, and act as sanitation experts, cleaning up waste so that the world doesn't become overrun with dung (ie: poop). Over 75% of all flowering plants, and 75% of our crops rely on insects to carry pollen from one flower to another. In the U.S., honey bees pollinate approximately \$15 Billion worth of crops. But, its not just honeybees that pollinate plants, other bees (native bees), butterflies, moths, beetles, and flies also perform this essential task too and never get the credit. Insects, or chemicals extracted from bugs have been used for thousands of years to help us in medicine. This is called entomotherapy. For example, maggots have been used to clean wounds and in some cultures, ants were used to stitch wounds. They would hold the skin together, grab an ant with big jaws (like an army or leaf-cutter ant), put its mouth to the wound and wait for it to bite down. Then the body would be removed and the head left with the ant mouth pinching the skin together. Who knew? According to the insectsarefood.com website, there are more than 1,400 edible species of insects, most popular are crickets and mealworms. But what do they taste like? For example, dry-toasted cricket tastes like sunflower seeds, and a giant water bug has a salty, fruity, flowery taste. OK, I haven't tried them, but avid entomophagist, Dave Gracer, swears it's true! During the past several years, there has been a world-wide decline in in the number of insects. In North America alone, honeybee and native bee populations have dropped substantially. This decline is thought to be a result of habitat loss, pesticide use, and pollution. Restoring habitat by planting many different kinds of native flowering plants and improving the ways that insecticides are used will help insect populations. Last but not least many valuable products that we've come to rely on come from insects - honey, shellac, dyes, silk are only a few. Imagine a world where leaves that fall from a tree, and all kinds of waste never disappear...they just accumulate over time. Soon we would be knee deep in dead plants and animals, and poop. So welcome our little friends and let's find out who is the bugliest bug!

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

