

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXI No. 11

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

November 1, 2021

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

November question: The leaf of the white oak, highly prized and plentiful in early Litchfield, differs in what way from the still common red oak? **October question:** What famous son of Litchfield provided the following bit of wisdom, "If you move to a place where there is no Maine man, move on as he did! answer: Hiram E. Shorey To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

Broadband Committee

The goal of the Town of Litchfield Broadband Committee is to support the Select Board in bringing quality, affordable broadband service to all households and businesses in town. In September, 2500 paper surveys were mailed to Litchfield households and businesses. Over a three-week period, 356 surveys were received back (an excellent response for this type of survey). The survey results have been posted on the town website: <https://www.litchfieldmaine.org/town-government/committees/broadband-committee/> The survey results were very helpful to understand town wants and needs. Some takeaways: 66% of respondents were Charter Spectrum customers, and 75% of respondents were satisfied with their current service. For those dissatisfied, the biggest issue was cost from 45% of respondents. About 47% of people use the internet to work from home, and 87% cited reliability as the most important element required of their service. Four options from three providers were evaluated. These options were reviewed at a Public Meeting held on October 19. (The presentation from the Broadband Committee has been posted on the town site). The Broadband Committee recommended a proposal from Redzone Wireless. Redzone would establish a public/private partnership with the Town of Litchfield. Infrastructure would be installed on four existing cell towers in the area. Broadband coverage would be made available to all locations in Litchfield, with service package speeds starting at 25/3 download/upload Mbps) and then range in several steps up to 500/100 available for additional cost. Litchfield plans to contribute 30% of the infrastructure costs utilizing federal ARPA funds made available to the town for infrastructure projects such as broadband (no bond required). Contract negotiations are underway, with a rapid project completion expected in 6 -9 months from contract approval. Redzone brings internet competition to Litchfield. Those that are happy with their current provider do not need to make a change with Redzone coming to town. However, as with any situation, the added competition should bring the town more competitive pricing, quality, and service. We are all very excited to welcome Redzone to our town, and we encourage everyone to compare their service plans against other provider offerings

The Creators 4 H

4H The Creators meeting on November 6th at 1:00 pm. Academy rd senior center. We will be painting acorns for ornament. Info call Lori at 754-3931

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"

At this time some of the activities are still being held at the Litchfield Sportsmen's Club until such time that they will be brought back into the Senior Center. If the open flag is out at the Center, come on in. All dates and times are subject to change.

The Senior Center will be closed November 26.

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.

Tai Chi at 9 am. at the Sportsmen's Club – outside if possible, on Wednesday November 3 and 17. NO Tai Chi on November 10 & 24.

Carol Bailey String band music practice at 10 am at the Sportsmen's Club on Wednesday November 3 & 17. NO music practice on November 10 & 24. The Senior Center will be open on Wednesday 10 to 1 on November 10 & 24.

Come to the Center for morning exercise with Dian on Fridays 8:30-9:15. Join in the indoor walking, or use the exercise equipment of your choice.

Games for fun on Mondays at 11:30-2 and Fridays 10-3. Bring a lunch and snack, stay for games.

Book Club discussion group will meet on Monday November 15 at 1 at the Senior Center. We will discuss the book "The Exiles" by Christina Baker Kline.

The Seniors Advisory committee has put together a magnet with the heading **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:** information on the storm shelter, water and contact numbers. These can be picked up at the town office, food bank, transfer station and the Senior Center

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting is at 1 on Thursday November 18.

There is a WiFi hot spot available at the Senior Center.

Wellness check – if you would like to have someone phone you weekly please call and leave your name & phone # and we will get in touch with you.

Road Runner Trips: Please call or stop into the Center to sign up for this trip.

Tuesday, November 9 – Trip to Portland Christmas Tree Shop and Portland Mall Lunch at the Buffet. Leave at 9 am 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 for more information, a cup of coffee or tea and check out our books (paperback & hard cover), puzzles and items on the table you may like. Donations always appreciated, or work on the 1000 piece puzzle already set up on the table. Phone numbers 215-4595/441-9005/268-4237.

Litchfield Academy Thrift Shop

We had great help for the seasonal change over and while we still have goodies to unpack, what we've got is terrific. Ladies tops are especially prime! Kids clothes are special, too. Offering our bargain prices of \$1 for pants, jeans and skirts and 50 cents for tops, blouses, shirts, sweaters and 25 cents per item for kids clothes. Bargains galore! Check it out!

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

As I am writing this, we are very close to our donations goal to receive the full matching grant offered by Modern Woodman of \$2,500. To those who donated anonymously, we are very grateful for your support. Those donors identified will receive a written thank you note. We love this town and our friends in it! Thank you! Best wishes for a joyous Thanksgiving.

Tacoma Lakes Association

By the time you are reading this, the lakes will have been lowered to their winter level of 6 feet. Additionally, the Town of Litchfield expects phase one of the Woodbury Dam restoration to be complete. This first step involves placing large sand bags along the earthen berm adjacent to the dam. This is a temporary fix, designed to buy time to get to next fall when we all hope phase two will be completed. Phase two involves placing rolled steel panels in front of the berm. Geological surveys have been completed, and engineering firms will be putting together options for phase two. The Woodbury Dam is critical to maintaining the water levels of the lakes. Without a fully functioning dam, we cannot maintain the normal summer water level of 7'6". Additionally, the dam is what keeps many lakefront properties viable, having water at the shoreline, and not several feet away. Should anyone want to donate to the maintenance of the Woodbury Dam they can do so at the town office, or on the Gofundme page. TLA takes an active role on the Dam Committee, and is always working, often behind the scenes, to maintain the quality of life we all enjoy on the 5 ponds that make up the Tacoma Lakes. Two of our most important programs are the Certified Boat Inspections, and our Plant Patrol team. Their efforts thus far have enabled our lakes to be free of invasive plants that can destroy lakes. Lastly, anyone who lives on, cares about, or just enjoys fishing on the lakes, can become a member of TLA. Membership forms are available on our website, www.tacomalakes.org. We have held our membership fee at \$15 per year for over 10 years. All of the other lake associations in our area have substantially higher membership fees than we do. Join today!

FRIENDS OF THE LAKES

A new social group is being formed to meet our neighbors around the 5 Tacoma Lakes. We anticipate doing social events that help us to connect, raise awareness of what is happening around the lakes and also utilize some of the great offerings in the area. We are presently collecting names and emails to see how much interest there is. We will schedule a get together meeting to discuss ideas from all that are interested in January. You can email your name, address, lake you are on, phone and whether you are full time or summer residents and to friendsofthelakes@gmail.com Feel free to include ideas you would like to see us organize. We look forward to hearing from you!

RSU4 PTA

Annual Holiday Craft Fair is Saturday, December 4th, 2021 from 9-3 at Oak Hill Middle School. For an application, please email rsu4pta@rsu4.org

Town Clerk's Corner

Vote Tuesday Nov 2nd - Polls are open from 8 am – 8 pm on Tuesday, November 2nd at the Sportsmen's Club for voting. Information about the questions appearing on the ballot can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/index.html>.

2021-2022 Property Taxes - Tax bills were mailed in September with 1st installment due by Oct 15th. If you are a Litchfield property owner and have not received a property tax bill you can call the Town Office, or check our tax commitment book online at Litchfieldmaine.org. By state law, tax bills are mailed to whoever owned the property prior to April 1st. If you purchased your property after April 1st, you are still expected to pay the taxes., but the bill was mailed to the previous owner. If your taxes are escrowed, standard practice is that the mortgage company will contact the Town Office to determine the amount due.

2022 Dog Licenses - You may license your dog(s) for 2020 at the Town office beginning 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, 2020.

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



Home Heating Assistance - 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.

Job Openings: Public Works has one full-time position open for an equipment operator. Job applications are located on the home page of the town website (www.litchfieldmaine.org). Contact the Town Office at 268-4721 for more information.

The Code Enforcement Officer will be out of the office for a workshop on Wed Nov 17th and Thurs Nov 18th. **The Town Office will be closed** Thursday, November 11th for Veterans Day, and Thursday Nov 25th for Thanksgiving.



November Community Calendar

1 Mon	Order of the Eastern Star , 7:00pm Masonic Hall Lit. Recreation Comm —Contact Town Office	17 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd Road Comm. , 6pm Town Office
2 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers - 6:30pm; Station	18 Thur	Senior’s Advisory Com. –1pm –Center Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
3 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd	19 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.
4 Thur	Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd Planning Board —6:30pm	20 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN – 9am to 12pm
5 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.	21 Sun	
6 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN – 9am to 12pm Litchfield Sportsman’s Club ; Public Supper & Jam, Supper 5pm-6pm, Jam 6:30pm-8pm, \$7/ person	22 Mon	Selectman Meeting , 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information
7 Sun	Litchfield Sportsmen's Club ; Country Sunday, noon-4:00, \$6/person	23 Tue	
8 Mon	Selectman Meeting , 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information	24 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd RSU4 Schools closed through Fri. Nov.26 RSU4 School Board —No Meeting
9 Tue	First Responders Meeting -6:30pm	25 Thur	 <p>Thanksgiving Meal—Lit. Sportsman’s Club Doors open 11am; meal at 1pm. Free. Please bring a dish to share if able to.</p>
10 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd RSU4 —Board Meeting, 6:30 OHHS Conservation Comm. - 6pm contact Diane Clay (c112a3y4@gmail.com) for details.	26 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.
11 Thur	<p>Veteran’s Day</p>  <p>Litchfield Town Office—Closed RSU 4 Schools—Closed</p>	27 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN – 9am to 12pm
12 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.	28 Sun	
13 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN – 9am to 12pm Craft Fair -Lit. Sportsman’s Club-9am-1pm	29 Mon	
14 Sun		30 Tue	
15 Mon	Budget Comm. —6:30pm; via Town ZOOM.		
16 Tue	Lit. Fire Assoc & Reg Meet -6:30pm		

BOX HOLDER

- Contents:**
1. Historical Society, Senior Center Corner
 2. Town Manager/Clerk's Report
 3. November 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.: 8:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
 Tue.—Thu.: 8:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
 Closed: Every Fri.

Conservation News

On October 9th the Conservation Commission hosted a Volunteer Workday at the Litchfield Community Park. Among the 16 people from various walks of life, we put in more than 40 hours of work to continue to improve the former Town gravel pit. We installed two new benches along the trails, blazed trails with new paint colors to distinguish trails, refurbished some of the Children's Area, and did some string trimming. For some history of the LCP the following comes from the "Town Gravel Pit Reclamation Plan", 2010, which can be found at the Town Office. The tract was purchased in 1953 and "excavated extensively in the 1960's and 1970's, dredging operations resulting in the creation of several ponds of significant depth. In the 1980's the Maine Department of Environmental Protection forced the closure of the pit and Public Works moved its operation to the parcel just north. Aside from some tree planting on the steep banks which encroach on the Hollowell Road, no reclamation efforts were undertaken." "The entire parcel is situated on Litchfield's only major aquifer, a 200 acre area stretching from the Transfer Station to the Plains Cemetery, which feeds two streams that flow east through Pottertown and empty into Potter's Brook." As we continue to improve and manage the park to provide a place for folks to get outside, we will also continue to host volunteer work days. If interested in participating in future work days, please contact the conservation commission at litchfieldconservation@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page (@LCC04350).

December Issue Deadline: Nov. 22, 2021 5p.m. Deliver material in any of the following ways:
E-mail
[**\(sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org\)**](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)
U.S. mail to:
 Town Office, 2400 Hal-

