

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXIV No. 10

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

October 1, 2024

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz:

October question: Few if any of early Litchfield's water powered mills had mill stones of French burrstone. Why was this stone so expensive and desirable? **September question:** Education was important to those who settled in early Litchfield. As many as fifteen one room schools are known to have existed. Records show that each school needed money for teacher's salary, firewood to heat the school, and sometimes payment of the teacher's board bill. Which of these expenses was usually the smallest? answer: Teacher Salary. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org



RSU4 PTA
Holiday Craft Fair
Saturday, December 7th, 2024
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.



TRUNK OR TREAT
SPONSORED BY RSU4 PTA
Sunday, October 20th
2:00-4:00 pm
Litchfield Fairgrounds
Hallowell Rd, Litchfield, ME
Interested in being a trunker?
Email: rsu4pta@rsu4.org
SEE YOU THERE!

Litchfield Senior Center

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.*

Senior Center is closed on Monday, October 14, Columbus/Indigenous Peoples 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 are performing on October 7th at Schooner Estates, Auburn at 10:30. Bus will leave from Sportsmen's Club at 9:30.

Qigong exercises on Wednesdays at 9 followed at 10 by practice for the Carol Bailey String Band and Chorus at the Sportsmen's Club.

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting is held at 1pm on Thursday, October 17.

Indoor walking on Fridays with Dian and friends @ 8:30, then cards at 10 followed by BYO lunch and more games.

On Friday, October 18 we plan a special Luncheon and celebration of the 20th. Anniversary of the Senior Center. Games, pictures, gifts, door prize, etc.

The book club meeting is on Monday, October 21 at 1 pm. at the Senior Center. The book for October is "The Name She Gave Me" by Betty Culley

The Sand for Seniors program will begin in November and we will begin taking orders, call 446-6275 to leave your name, address and phone number to be put on the list. Please return any empty 5 gal. containers you have.

Roadrunner trip to Fryeburg Fair on Tuesday, October 1 for Senior Day - free for 65+, bus leaves at 8:30; Oxford Casino on October 24 leaving from Sportsmen's Club @ 9 am.

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 SPORTSMENS' CLUB

November 16th is our annual CRAFT FAIR from 9am to 1pm at THE LITCHFIELD SPORTSMEN'S CLUB. For more information call Carol at 622-5471 or Tom at 268-9271

4H The Creators

The Creators 4H We are starting up again for the new season. Our meetings will be the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month at the Senior Center on Academy Rd Litchfield. The time is 10am and most meetings will only last an hour depending on what we are doing. For information text or call Lori Larrabee at 207 754-3931. Email llarr42609@aol.com.

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

The change-over to fall & Winter duds will take place on Monday, October 7, 10 - 4 and Tuesday, October 8 from 2 - 4 and 7-9 if needed. Everyone is invited to help! Shopping while you work is encouraged! Fill a bag for \$2. We've had some terrific cooler weather things come in and you'll be excited to see them! Questions? Call Rayna at 557-2680.

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

We are so excited to be serving our neighbors from our new Food Bank located next door to the Litchfield Plains Baptist Church at 56 Plains Road. We had a nice dedication ceremony and are putting the finishing touches on and have just a short list to complete. Our next big project will be fund raising for a generator. We have frozen and refrigerated food that needs protection if the power goes off. We've had some wonderful donations to get us started! If you'd like to contribute to it, you may mail a check to the Litchfield Food Bank, PO Box 306, Litchfield or drop a check or cash off at the Town Office. The staff there will get it to the Food Bank right away. Please indicate it is for the Generator Fund if that's your intent. Thank you!

Litchfield Recreation Committee

Soccer season is underway, and we are still in need of referees and coaches. Please consider helping youth sports here in Litchfield. There is a stipend paid to referees for the 3rd & 4th graders and 5th & 6th graders. Also, high schoolers, being a referee for youth sports counts towards Community Service. Contact litchfieldrec2400@gmail.com for more information. Basketball season sign-up/registration begins Oct 10th and runs through Nov 10th, and can be done via the SportsEngine App. Games begin in early December, so please register your child early! Pre-K and K, 1st, and 2nd graders' are \$25 for the season; 3rd & 4th, and 5th & 6th graders are \$50 for the season. We are in need of referees and coaches for basketball. Litchfield Rec will be having concessions during soccer and basketball and we will be asking parents to help man the table during the season. Parents can contact the Rec Committee for coordinating concession coverage times at the email address above.

LITCHFIELD SNOWMOBILE CLUB

Thank you to everyone who visited our booth at the Litchfield Fair! Congratulations to our raffle ticket winners: Linda Thurlow and Ken Holt! They both won 100 gallons of oil which was generously donated by Dead River and R.W. Michaud Properties. We would also like to thank our sponsors for their continuous support and contributions: Percy's Hardware, The Meadow's Golf Course, Route 197 Diner, Dead River, and Gerry's Electrical Service! It's almost that time of year again, as winter approaches, and the Litchfield Snowmobile Club prepares the trails for riding in hopes of more snow and colder temps this winter! Our meetings are held every month, the 2nd and 4th Thursday at 6pm at the Litchfield Academy. Our first meeting will be on Oct. 10th, so that we can discuss trail work that needs to be done, and enjoy some potluck! We hope to see some new faces who want to be actively involved. If you cannot make the meetings, you can always follow us on our Facebook page - Litchfield Snowmobile Club.

Town Clerk's Corner

School Budget Vote-The 3rd attempt at passing a school budget on Tuesday, September 24th was not successful. Litchfield voted Yes 147 No 158.
2024-2025 Property Tax Bills have been mailed - 1st payment due 10/23/2024 Property taxes were committed on September 23rd with a mil rate of 14.25, a 5.5% increase from last year. The school allocation was based on the public meeting of September 11th. If you bought property after April 1st 2024, you will need to contact the Town Office to find out your tax amount since Maine law requires bills to go to the owner of record as of April 1st. Payments may be made at any time, and there is no penalty if you would like to make smaller, more frequent payments (such as monthly).

National Presidential Election, State General Election and Referendums -Voting will take place for the upcoming general election on November 5th, 2024 at the Sportsman's Club, 2261 Hallowell Road, Litchfield. Polls will be open from 8am-8pm. Information about the questions appearing on the ballot can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/index.html> Look for the Citizen's Guide to the Referendum Election. If you would like to request an Absentee Ballot, please visit <https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl> or contact the town office. Ballots will become available in early October. In person absentee voting will also be available.

Text Alerts: Sign up for Town Office text alerts by texting JOIN to (808) 289-8089. This is a pilot program which we expect to use primarily for emergency management announcements such as availability of warming shelters.

2025 Dog Licenses -You may license your dog(s) for 2025 at the Town office beginning October 15th or online at https://www.l.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, 2025.

Rabies Clinic -A rabies vaccination clinic is scheduled for Saturday, October 19th from 9-11 am at the Central Fire Station. Cost is \$20 with \$5 going to the Litchfield Fuel Fund.

Snowmobiles -Snowmobiles may be registered at the Town Office starting mid-October, 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", and select "Heating Assistance" to book an appointment online. Information is available in the Town Office.

The Town Office will be closed Monday, October 14th, for Columbus Day.

LITCHFIELD TRANSFER STATION

The weather is getting more "fall-like" and the days are getting cooler. We are getting things buttoned up and preparing for the colder weather coming. We have painted the new office building. The stain is rated for 25 years. Apologies to the residents who wanted the "bare wood" look. The leaf and brush piles are open. We will be closing the piles around the end of October. This depends on the weather. Check with us for the latest info. The swap shop will be closing on the 28th of September. Many thanks to the volunteers taking care of the Swap Shop. Stop in and say hi us.

October Community Calendar

1 Tue		17 Thur	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 56 Post Rd Lit. Budget Comm., 6:30pm
2 Wed	Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd	18 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm
3 Thur	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd Lit Planning Board, 6:30 pm	19 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm
4 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm	20 Sun	RSU4 Trunk n Treat—Lit Fairgrounds 2pm-4pm
5 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm Lit. Sportsman’s Club -Public Supper & Jam \$10. Supper 5pm-6pm, Jam 6:30pm-8pm Smithfield Plantation-Mushroom Identifica- tion— 9am-11am Red Cross Blood Dr-Lit Fire Dept.-9am-2pm	21 Mon	
6 Sun	Lit. Sportsman’s Club—Country Sunday- Noon-4pm; \$8. All welcome	22 Tues	Lit. Fire & Rescue Meet—6pm; Central Station
7 Mon		23 Wed	Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd RSU4 School Board-6:30, Central Office American Legion Post 181 -235 Plains Rd. 7:00 PM All veterans are welcome
8 Tue	Lit. First Responders Meeting-6:00 pm	24 Thur	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd Lit. Snowmobile Club meeting-6pm, Lit. Academy
9 Wed	Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd RSU4 School Board-6:30, Central Office Lit. Sportsman's Club meeting—6pm	25 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm
10 Thur	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd Lit. Snowmobile Club Meeting-6pm, Lit. Academy	26 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm
11 Fri	RSU4—Professional Day; No school.	27 Sun	
12 Sat	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd	28 Mon	Lit. Selectmen’s Meeting; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website
13 Sun	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm	29 Tues	
14 Mon	Town Office Closed RSU4—No School 	30 Wed	Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd
15 Tue	Lit. Selectmen’s Meeting; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website. Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting, 6:00pm	31 Thur	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd 
16 Wed	Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd Lit. Road Committee-6:30p,		

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BOX HOLDER

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

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Conservation Committee News

Are you afraid of wild mushrooms? Don't worry, join us for a free workshop on mushroom identification sponsored by the Litchfield Conservation Commission. Hopefully, we will get typical damp fall weather and see mushrooms abound in the forest. Pre-register for Saturday, Oct 5th from 9am to 11am at Smithfield Plantation. *Signup required - limited class size so email: lmnelsen@fairpoint.net to register. *Come meet expert educator and longtime president of the Maine Mycological Association, Michaeline Mulvey, who will host a mushroom foray experience: first she will talk about wild mushrooms you brought from home, then you will go by yourselves and search the woods, and after 45 minutes meet up for a second presentation on what was found. Did you know 80% of the world's population cannot see stars at night due to artificial light sources? Not only does light pollution steal our ability to see the stars, but it increases chances of breast and prostate cancers because it effects body chemistry. We don't have as many fireflies as we used to, due to human light pollution. Most song birds navigate at night yet over 1 billion birds die each year getting trapped in the lights of cities or misdirected. Nocturnal amphibians breed in darkness which is why if you approach a summer pond full of frog song with a flashlight, it immediately silences them. Americans pay \$3 billion dollars a year for lighting that literally goes up in the sky. Maine is fortunate to have several areas designated as part of a dark sky preserve. Dark Sky International, a US based non-profit, has 6 suggestions to aid homeowners in the selection of lighting that is energy and cost efficient, yet ensures your safety and security, protects wildlife, and promotes the goal of dark night skies. For more info check out <https://darkskymaine.com/>

1. Target: Always choose fully shielded fixtures that emit no light upward
2. Color: Use "warm-white" or filtered LEDs and minimize blue-violet light
3. Control: Look for products with adaptive controls like dimmers, timers, and motion sensors
4. Control: Consider dimming or turning off the lights during overnight hours
5. Low Light Levels: Avoid the temptation to over light because of the increased luminous efficiency of LEDs
6. Useful: Only light the exact space and in the amount required for particular tasks

Nov Issue Deadline:
 Oct 20, 2024 5pm Deliver material in any of the following ways:
 email: sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org
www.litchfieldmaine.org
U.S. mail to: Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd. 04350
Hand deliver to: Town Office 2400 Hallowell Rd

