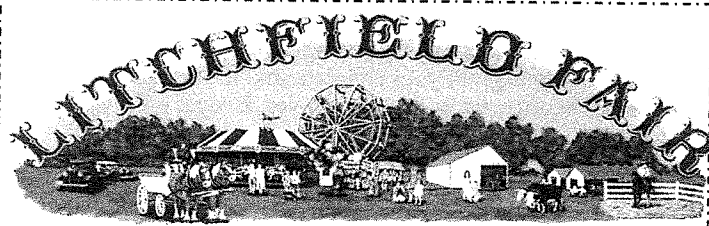


The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXIV No. 9

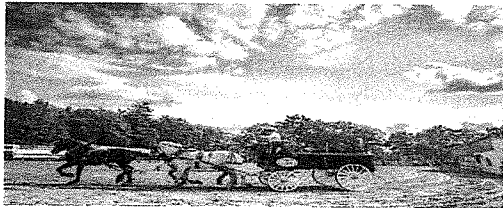
A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

September 1, 2024



It's What A Fair Should Be

This year's fair will be held September 6, 7 and 8. Come join us for all of the fair favorites: Musical Entertainment, Agricultural and Livestock Events, Fun Contests, Red Neck Truck Pull, Demolition Derby, Youth Horse Show, Barrel Racing, Wee Farmers, Old MacDonald's Farm, Our Fair Museum, Fair Food (Yum!!) and so much more. New this year is a "Sensory Garden." Remember to have your exhibits to the Exhibition Hall on Wednesday, September 4, between 9 am and 8pm. or Thursday, September 5, between 8am - 9am. Admission is: Under 12 FREE, Ages 12-17 and Seniors \$5.00, Adults \$10.00. Seniors admission is free on Friday. 3 day passes and 2024 tickets are available online at www.litchfieldfair.com Ride bracelets will be \$25. The fair book and full schedule of events are also available online. Hope to see you there!



Litchfield Fire & Rescue Association

Attention all those bakers and supporters - we are in need of your sweets and especially your pies for our Litchfield Fire & Rescue Association Booth at this year's Litchfield Fair (Sept 6-7-8). Any questions or if you need someone to pick up your sweets and pies contact Tina Gowell at 207-485-5565. Thank you for your support.



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. *If the flag is out at the Center, come on in. All dates and times are subject to change.* **Center is closed on Labor Day, Sept. 2**

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 Center Steppers (Line Dancers) are performing at The Litchfield Fair on Friday Sept. 6. at 2:15.

The Carol Bailey String band will be performing at The Litchfield Fair on Friday Sept. 6 at 1.; on Sept 11 they will be at Maine Veterans Home at 10am; Sept 25 they will be at Schooner Estates, Auburn at 10am.

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. 9:30 Qigong/Tai Chi exercises. 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. On the 2nd and 4th. Fridays, at 10:30 practice time for Strummers; 11:30 Recorders; 12:30 Fiddlers.

Friday, September 20, 12 pm Potluck lunch and celebrate September birthdays - also a Volunteer Fire Dept speaker on Fire Extinguishers, Fire blankets, etc.

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting held at the Senior Center is at 1 on Thursday, September 19.

The book club meeting is on Monday, September 23 at 1 pm. at the Senior Center. The book to be discussed is "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon.

Sign up for the Roadrunner trips - Friday night Sept. 6 - Sawyer Memorial, Greene - T-Acadie a traditional folk trio from Mid-Coast Maine; Wednesday, September 18 Trip to Lakewood Theater "Screwball Comedy" Lunch at Ken's; Thursday, September 26 Trip to who knows where - it's a mystery. Come along for a fun ride; October 1 - Senior day at the Fryeburg Fair 65+ free admission.

Reminder: Exercise equipment available for use when the Center is open. The Senior Center is located on Academy Rd. next to Libby Tozier School.

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

Need to fill in after your back-to-school shopping and the funds are low? Come check out the kids clothing we have. Great condition, great labels and the price is perfect! \$2 per grocery bag. We'll be changing over to fall- winter in early October to take advantage of the warmer temps in Sept.

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

WE'VE MOVED!!! Great days serving our wonderful clients on Aug 14-15 out of our new Food Bank building located at 56 Plains Road, right beside the Litchfield Plains Baptist Church, our sponsor. Many thanks for all the great help preparing the building and moving refrigerators, freezers and tons of food. If you would like a tour, give Rayna a call and set up an appointment. Yes we are still accepting donations as there are still a few more bills to pay and we are soon starting a Generator Fund to work towards ensuring our emergency electrical needs are met.. Many thanks for your support. Rayna 557-2680

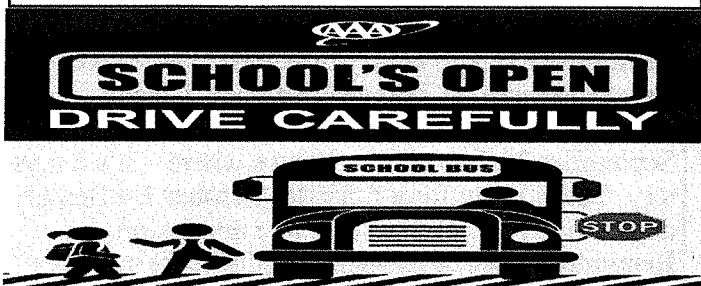
Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

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?

August question: What 19th century Litchfield resident built on the Upper Pond Road what was reputed to be the largest cider mill in Maine? answer: Frank Wyman To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

Litchfield Transfer Station

Summer is winding down and we are sad to see the days getting shorter. DEP and BPW are having a used pesticides take back day in October. **We are NOT taking** the material. The residents will have to register and take their pesticides in themselves. We do have information to share. Talk with one of the attendants to get this info. The leaf and brush piles are open and seeing a brisk business. The Swap Shop is teeming with treasures and welcoming residents. The Swap Shop is open from 10 to 2 when the Transfer Station is open. Items can be dropped off anytime though. Many thanks to the volunteers taking care of the Swap Shop. We will stop taking items in the swap shop on Saturday September 14 and will close on Saturday September 28. **Our summer hours will stop on the 25th of August.** That is the last Sunday in August. Stop in and say hi.



Town Clerk's Corner

School Budget – 2 important votes!! - The 3rd attempt at passing a school budget has two important steps in September: **WEDNESDAY** September 11: Public Budget Meeting at 6:30 pm at Oak Hill High School **TUESDAY** September 24: Referendum Vote at the Litchfield Town Office from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. If you plan to vote, please take some time to understand the issues and come to the public meeting. If you plan to vote no, please come to the meeting September 11th for an opportunity to express your concerns and influence the final numbers, because we need to get to yes. Budget info is at RSU4.org, click the budget icon at bottom of the page and scroll down to the FY25 presentation for August 21 and the FAQ.

Last Year's Property Taxes - If you receive a "30 Day Notice" in the mail it means you have taxes remaining from last year and have a chance to get them paid in time to avoid the additional cost of having a lien on your property. Whether you forgot a payment, or are having some financial difficulties, if you have any questions or are concerned about the lien process, please don't hesitate to give us a call or stop by the Town Office (207) 268-4721.

This Year's Property Taxes - 2024-25 property tax bills will be mailed out in late September, provided the school budget is passed on this next try. The first payment will still be due October 15th. If you would prefer to pay smaller amounts more frequently throughout the year, we accept payments at any time.

Town Office Will Be Closed November 5th – Voting Day The Town Office will be closed on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 so that all staff can assist at the polls. Voting for the November 5, 2024 election will take place at the Litchfield Sportsmen's Club located at 2261 Hallowell Road from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Home Heating Assistance – Please don't wait until you run out of fuel! 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 at the Town Office.


Rabies Clinic - Dog owners mark your calendars -- A rabies vaccination clinic is scheduled for Saturday, October 19th from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM at the Central Fire Station. Cost is \$20 per vaccine with \$5 going to the Litchfield Fuel Fund. If your dog has previously received a rabies vaccine please bring that documentation with you to the clinic.

The Town Office will be closed Monday, September 2nd for Labor Day.

RSU4 Referendum Meeting and School Budget Vote

WEDNESDAY September 11: Public Budget Meeting at 6:30 pm at Oak Hill High School **TUESDAY** September 24: Referendum Vote at the Litchfield Town Office from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

August Community Calendar

| | | | |
|---------|--|---------|--|
| 1 Sun | Transfer Station Closed Sundays | 17 Tue | Lit. Fire & Rescue Meet —6pm; Central Station |
| 2 Mon | Town Office Closed  | 18 Wed | Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd |
| 3 Tue | Lit. First Responders Meeting -6:00 pm | 19 Thur | Food Bank -10am-12pm; 56 Post Rd Lit. Budget Comm. , 6:30m |
| 4 Wed | Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd | 20 Fri | Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm |
| 5 Thur | Food Bank -10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd Lit Planning Board , 6:30 pm | 21 Sat | Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm |
| 6 Fri | Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm | 22 Sun | |
| 7 Sat | Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm | 23 Mon | Lit. Selectmen's Meeting ; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website. |
| 8 Sun | | 24 Tue | RSU4 School Budget Vote —Lit Town Office, 8am to 8pm |
| 9 Mon | Lit. Selectmen's Meeting ; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website. | 25 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 |
| 10 Tue | Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting , 6:00pm | 26 Thur | Food Bank -10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd |
| 11 Wed | RSU 4 Referendum Budget Vote 6:30- Central Office Lit. Sportsman's Club Meeting , 6 pm | 27 Fri | Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm |
| 12 Thur | Food Bank -10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd | 28 Sat | Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm |
| 13 Fri | Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8am-4pm | 29 Sun | |
| 14 Sat | Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm | 30 Mon | |
| 15 Sun | | | |
| 16 Mon | Lit. Recreation Comm —6:30pm | | |

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BOX HOLDER

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

Conservation Committee News

New bills from the 131st Legislature give Maine towns and agencies more power to enforce environmental regulations. Officials say the legislation would allow them to halt non-compliant developers and limit damage to the state's natural resources. (From Maine Monitor 4/6/2024 and MaineSenate.org, search LD number)

In May, Gov. Janet Mills signed the bipartisan legislation, LD 2101, "An Act to Strengthen Shore land Zoning Enforcement," which will give municipalities effective tools for combating shore land zone violations. LD 2101 allows but does not require, municipalities to deny, suspend, or revoke locally issued permits to property owners who violate shore land zoning ordinances. Under current law, even with ongoing violations, municipalities are required to issue permits, limiting their ability to ensure compliance with state and locally established regulations. The municipality would be required to provide the property owner with a 10-day notice, ensuring fairness and due process to property owners. Typically, when the violation is resolved in court, the court assigns the cost of enforcing the violation and any applicable fines to the property owner. Then another fight ensues to collect those costs, which places another undue burden on the town's taxpayers. To help combat this, LD 2101 allows a municipality to file a civil action against the owner or occupant to recover unpaid penalties; the cost to remove, abate, or otherwise correct the violation; and court costs and reasonable attorney's fees necessary to file and pursue the civil action. If the case is resolved and the court has awarded costs in favor of the municipality, the town would then be authorized to claim a lien against the land on which the violation occurred to ensure that the legally awarded costs are paid. LD 2101 also enhances transparency in real estate transactions by requiring sellers to disclose any known shore land zoning violations to potential buyers.

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

