

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. VII. No. 5 A NEWSLETTER FOR LITCHFIELD, MAINE May 1, 2008

Conservation Commission News

Thanks to everyone who participated in the annual spring cleanup weekend! Many local organizations and property owners helped make Litchfield's roadsides cleaner. Baked goods were donated by local cooks, a light meal was served at the Sportsmen's Club for all those who participated (and had a chance to vote on posters done by our school children). Businesses and individuals volunteered their time, money, and gifts to make this a huge success (we'll list the winners in next month's Sodalite). ***Elaine Carpenter's leadership on this event was invaluable!*** The Town is lucky to have her working to improve ways to make our Transfer Station more productive. With your support, every year just gets better and better!

Come out for the Vernal Pool Walk at Smithfield Plantation, 6PM, on May 2. This will be a fun event for kids. FMI: Terry Tracy at 268-4484.

Diane Clay passed out a Loon Committee Survey at the last meeting. If you would like to help by collecting data, working on loon nesting islands, or just by observation please fill out a survey form. You can do it by email to Diane – C1L2A3Y4@fairpoint.net or call for a survey form: 268-3247. We will also post the survey on the town website. Our next meeting is May 14, 6:30, town office. FMI: Judy Bourget: 268-4341.

How much is that lawn really worth?

Spending too much time and money on gas to keep up all that lawn mowing? Maybe YARDSCAPING is for you! Think groundcovers, native plants, slow-growing grass and mini-meadows. There are resources at the Town Office, on-line at www.yardscaping.org or call 287-3731, the Maine Bureau of Pesticide Control, for more information.

Senior Corner

May is Older Americans' Month!

Our scheduled walks begin May 2nd, on the Rail Trail from Gardiner to the Hi Hat in Farmingdale; the following Friday we will walk south along the new section beginning in Hallowell. We will walk Academy Road on the sixteenth, the Turkey Trail the twenty-third, and the last section of Rail Trail from Hallowell to Augusta on May 30. If you plan on going on any walks, please call Priscille at 514 – 5031, so we don't leave without you.

Senior Club meets the first and third Wednesdays through the summer. In May, those dates are the seventh and twenty-first.

We will have some Mexican items to complement your lunch on Cinco de Mayo! Potluck is the sixteenth – we celebrate the month's birthdays and include a 50/50 in the festivities.

Road Runner trips for May:

May 13: Kittery – lunch at the Warren Lobster House, then we'll browse the outlets. Bus leaves St. Leo's at 9am.

May 27: Auburn – miniature golf at Tabor's, and lunch there, or by popular demand. Bus from St. Leo's at 9:30.

Money Available For Water Quality Work

The Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District (KCSWCD) provide funding and technical assistance to landowners whose property is having a negative impact on water quality in the Tacoma Lakes watershed. Funding for construction projects will be available through 2008 and will be completed on a first-come, first-served basis. Landowners, road associations or other groups interested in the cost-share process should contact Project Manager Josh Platt of the KCSWCD at 207-622-7847 x 3 or email josh@kcswcd.org.

(Continued on page 2)

In this issue:

Town Manager's Notes— 2
Town Clerk's Notes— 2
May Calendar—3
Memorial Day Events—4

From the Town Manager's Desk

Business Personal Property Assessments

- ◆ The laws of the State of Maine provide for a tax on Business Personal Property (both owned and leased), the revenue generated from which is paid to the municipality where the business is located.
- ◆ This personal property tax is assessed annually in accordance with State of Maine Law, Title 36, Sections 601 and 706.
- ◆ The most common items identified as taxable Business Personal Property include, but are not limited to: machinery; furniture; fixtures; computers; telephones; in ground fuel tanks; copiers and shelving.
- ◆ Businesses are required to report a listing of such items on a "Personal Property Declaration Form" (available in the Town Office), declaring the items original purchase price and the year of purchase.
- ◆ Per Statute the Personal Property Declaration Forms are due in the Town's Assessor's office on or before May 1, 2008. However, due to the lateness of this notice, the Town's Assessor will accept these forms on or before June 10, 2008.

News from Litchfield Schools

Muffins with Moms, sponsored by the Public Relations Committee, is May 7th at Carrie Ricker and May 8th at Libby-Tozier, 7 – 7:40 a.m.

Diversity Day at Carrie Ricker, organized by our Civil Rights team, was a huge success! We had speakers from the Attorney General's office; Ghana, West Africa; the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired, as well as a speaker on autism and students from Russia sharing their experiences with us. In addition, there was African drumming, Irish step dancing and an international food court. Finally, a concert by Iran-born musician Shamou and his band 'Loopin'. Many thanks to the Civil Rights Team for organizing this wonderful day for us all!

The Bates Dancers will perform at Libby-Tozier on May 8th from 9 – 10:30 a.m. LT students will go to the Theater at Monmouth on May 21st for a children's performance. There will be no school on May 26th in observance of Memorial Day. Come see our Carrie Ricker Marching Band perform at the Memorial Day Parade at 9:00 a.m.!

Clerk's Corner

- ◆ Last installment of taxes are due May 15th.
- ◆ Don't throw out your 2008 Ice Fishing and regular Fishing Law Book, as the same regulations are in place through March 31, 2009. IF & W would like to know what you are catching on Maine lakes and ponds to help them manage inland fisheries. Record your fishing experiences at www.triptracks.com.
- ◆ Kendall Bonin, Kevin Doyle, Mike Beaulieu, Muriel Bonin, Orville (Dean) Shelton and Walt McCarty have taken out nomination papers for Selectmen. Robert Gordon has taken out nomination papers for School Board. Elton Wade and Esther Slattery are running for Litchfield Academy Trustees. No one took out papers for the one slot on the Budget Committee. Nomination papers are due back in the office after the Sodalite goes to press. Elections will be June 10th.
- ◆ Property Tax and Rent Refund "Circuit Breaker" Program applications are due by June 2 with the Maine Revenue Service. We have the applications here at the Town Office.
- ◆ You can thank the Post Office for the slow delivery of the dog warrant letters. Since there wasn't ample time to license your dog(s) before the last Selectmen's meeting, your "last chance date" to license your "best friend" has been extended to April 29.
- ◆ We are now offering another new license plate. The Sportsman's plate is available for an additional \$20.

(Water Quality Money available, continued from page 1)

The project also supports the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed's LakeSmart-Start! program, which provides landowners with a sketch and recommendations that beautifies ones property while benefiting the lake at the same time. The project also supports the Friends Youth Conservation Corps who complete relevant projects at no charge for eligible landowners. To schedule a free site visit for your property, contact the Friends at 621-4100 or by email at mail@watershedfriends.com

The Cobbossee Watershed District is also a partner in the project and will be providing assistance and guidance.

Litchfield Calendar of Events,**Thursday-1**

Eastern Star at Masonic Building, 7:30PM
Litchfield Food Bank, Litchfield Community Christian Church, 12-2, every Thurs.

Friday-2

Card Party, 7PM, weekly, at Academy
Senior Center open 9A-4P, every Friday, Academy
Town Office closed every Friday

Saturday-3

Academy Thrift Store, 9-12, every Saturday (Note: *Our new summer inventory has shorts and tees for men, women and children at prices so low they even beat Wal-Mart!!*)
Transfer Station, 8-4, every Saturday

Sunday-4

Transfer Station, 8-4, every Sunday

Monday-5

Planning Board, 7 PM, T.O., 1st Mon., 6PM 3rd Mon.
Senior Center open 9A-4P every Monday, Academy
Academy Thrift Store, 1st & 3rd Mondays, 10-11:00
Shorey Family History Room, every Mon., 1-3PM

Tuesday-6

Fire Dept. Officers Mtg., 7:30 PM, Fire Station

Wednesday-7

Recreation Committee, Town Office, 6:30 PM
Senior Center open every Wed., 8:30-3:30, Academy
TOPS, every Wed., CRS, 6:30PM (weigh-in before).
FMI: Ruth Sherman, cell: 939-1907
Bingo at Sportsmen's Club, every Wed., 6:30PM, doors open at 4:30PM

Friday-9

Oak Hill School Committee, 7PM, OH

Monday-12

Sportsmen's Club Mtg., 7PM

Tuesday-13

Litchfield First Responders, 6:30PM, Central Station
Central Maine Writer's Network, 6-9PM, Sportsmen's Club, FMI: Lynn Ross, 268-4687
Selectmen's Meeting, 6:30PM, Town Office

Wednesday-14

Conservation Commission, Town Office, 6:30 PM
Litchfield-Sabattus-Wales CSD Mtg., 7PM, OHS

Thursday-15

American Legion, Legion Hall, 7:30 PM

Friday-16

Grange, 7:30 PM, Litchfield Academy

Saturday-17

Live Music & Dance, Chem-free, Sportsmen's Club, 7-11PM, All welcome, FMI: 268-9271

Monday-19

Historical Pres. Comm., 6:45 at History Center
Historical Society, 7:15 PM, at History Center

Tuesday-20

Seniors Advisory Comm., 10AM, Academy
Fire Dept. Mtg., 7:30 PM
Mason's, 7:30 PM, Masonic Hall
Senior Housing Comm., 1PM, Academy

Wednesday-21

Litchfield School Committee, at C-R, 7PM

Monday-26 – Memorial Day

Parade, 9AM—see page four for details
Town offices closed

Tuesday-27

Selectmen's Mtg., 6:30 PM, Town Office

American Legion Lawn Sale

June 8th, 9AM-4PM, Legion Hall, Plains Road

Table rent: \$7.50/members; \$10.00/non-members.
FMI: 268-4089, 333-8813 or 441-6020. There will be refreshments; a cord of cut and split wood raffled. Donations (tax deductible) are greatly appreciated.

Code Enforcement Officer Building Permits

January 08: Single Family Dwellings-mobile homes: 1; Garages, Sheds, Carports:1, Decks and/or Porches:3, New Commercial Building: 1. Total Permit Fees collected: \$750.00. Total Valuation: \$303,150.00

February 08: Single Family Dwellings:3 (Stick built-2, Mobile homes-1); Garages, Sheds, Carports:1; Decks and/or Porches: 2; Total Permit Fees collected: \$650.00. Total Valuation: \$239,000.00

March 08: Single Family Dwellings: stick built: 1; Garages, Sheds, Carports: 3; Total Permit Fees collected: \$250.00. Total Valuation: \$77,500.00.

Thanks, from the Carrie Ricker Eighth Grade

The fundraising committee for the eighth grade Washington D.C. trip at Carrie Ricker Middle School would like to extend a sincere *Thanks* to the Litchfield Sportsmen's Club for donating the use of their facility and members who helped out during the bingo, Tom, Tom, Keith, Tom, David, Ann, Lori, and Tryllis. We appreciate your kindness and generosity in making the bingo a success and supporting our fundraising efforts for the eighth grade students.



“BOAT, N BIKE SWAP”: Looking for a deal on a used boat or bike? The Friends of the Cobossee Watershed will be holding its first annual “Boat, N Bike Swap” on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Oakes & Parkhurst Business Center on Rt. 202 in Manchester (across from Rite Aid). **BUYERS** – No admission fee; look around and negotiate your best price and take the item home with you. **SELLERS** – you sell/we sell for you (depends on commission); Set up time for buyers is 6–9 a.m. on May 17. All proceeds benefit programs offered by the Friends of the Cobossee Watershed. FMI, visit the Friends website at www.watershedfriends.com or call 621-4100.

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The Litchfield Sodalite
 Town of Litchfield
 2400 Hallowell Road
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www.litchfieldmaine.com

Recreation News

Basketball Coaches—**Thank you** for so generously donating your time to help the children in our community. You are greatly appreciated!

Recreation Committee—One spot open. If interested in joining us, please write a letter of interest and drop it off at the town office. We meet the first Wednesday, monthly, at 6:30 p.m

Recreation Scholarships—Did you know that the Litchfield Recreation Committee offers scholarships each year to one Oak Hill High School graduating female and a graduating male? You must be a resident of Litchfield to be eligible. If interested, please see your guidance counselor at the high school.

Woodbury Pond Park-Opening for another fun-filled season on the Memorial Day weekend. Make sure you stop by and check us out. With gas prices continuously on the rise why not take advantage of a beach that’s close by?

Memorial Day Parade, May 26, 2008

The parade starts at the Litchfield Fire Station, 9 AM and proceeds to the monument across from the Litchfield Plains Baptist Church. The guest speaker is Lt. Colonel John Branscomb who served in Afghanistan last year. We will recognize the families of men and women serving our country from the area. If you know someone from Litchfield on active duty serving in the Military or National Guard please contact a Legion member so we can have them present. Thanks, Ernest Rowe, Commander, American Legion William R. Bold Post 181. FMI: 269-4570/462-4570 or email: Roweauto9@aol.com

Deadline for June issue of the Litchfield Sodalite: May 22nd, 5PM. Although e-mail submissions are preferred (sodalite@fairpoint.net), you may also use U.S. mail or hand-deliver news items to the Town Office. FMI: call Teague Morris, 268-2465 or visit www.litchfieldmaine.com Thanks!