

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXV No. 2

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

February 1, 2025

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRIVIA QUIZ

February question: Early Litchfield had four "villages": Purgatory, The North (also called South Litchfield), The Plains or Potter Town, and Litchfield Corner. Only one village did not have an organized church. Which one?
January question: In Civil War era Litchfield, what is now called Cobbossee Lake was called Cabot's Great Pond. What present day pond was in earlier times called Cobbossee Conte Pond? answer: Upper Pleasant Pond. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

LITCHFIELD TRANSFER CENTER

We are into the new year and looking forward to warmer weather. We have noticed the days are getting longer. We have temporarily moved the oil drums for used oil collection up to the Hazardous Material space. We ask the residents to put their used oil up there. If you need assistance, please don't hesitate to ask. That is what we are here for. We are asking the residents to stop and let us know what they are bringing in. We know most of it is recycling, but we get nervous when people go straight through and don't stop. Please take a moment to stop and say hi! Remember the phone number at the Transfer Station is now 268-2032.

RSU4 School News

Kindergarten & Pre-K Registration, RSU #4, 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, 2025 (Kindergarten age) or a child that will be 4 years old on or before October 15, 2025 (Pre-K age), please call Libby-Tozier School at 268-4137 to register

The Creators 4H

This month's meetings will be held on February 8th and 22nd at 10 am at the Senior Center on Academy Rd. FMI call or text 754-3931.



Purgatory Post Office and General Store—early 1940's

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.*

Center will be closed on the 17th for President's day

Line Dancing instruction for all on Mondays 9:30-11 at the *Sportsmen's Club*.

The Senior Center will be open at 9:30 for Knitting and/or crocheting on Mondays with Sharon Thiabault. Music lessons with Pat Bailey on various instruments will begin at 10 thru 2.

Qigong exercises at 9 am followed by practice for the Carol Bailey string band Wednesdays at 10 to 12 at the *Sportsmen's Club*.

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, BYO lunch at noon and then more cards and games in the afternoon. Pick out books and/or puzzles to take home.

The potluck lunch and celebration of February birthdays is on Friday the 21st at noon. Bring something to share and come and visit with friends.

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting held at the Senior Center is at 1 on Thursday, February 20th.

The book club meeting is on Monday, February 24 at 1 pm. at the Senior Center. The book to be discussed is "Keep Your Friends Close" by Lucinda Berry. Pick up the book at the Gardiner or Monmouth Library and join us.

The knitting group has been changed to Mondays at 9:30 and will meet at the Senior Center. If you want to learn or knit your project with a group – all are welcome. If you crochet instead, bring your project with you and join the group.

The Winter 5 gal. Bucket of Sand for Seniors is available, please call 446-6275 and leave a message with name, telephone number and address to be put on the list for delivery. **Reminder:** Exercise equipment available when the Center is open. The Senior Center is located on Academy Rd. next to Libby Tozier Elementary School.

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

New items are being added every week. Invite friends and family to share the great shopping experience. We look forward to seeing you and them!

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

The seed catalogs are arriving! Time to plan your garden. Please consider a bit extra to share with the Food Bank. Our neighbors LOVE fresh local garden goodies! Our generator fund is growing. Donations can be mailed to P O Box 306 or dropped off at the Town Office. Many thanks!

Litchfield Recreation Department

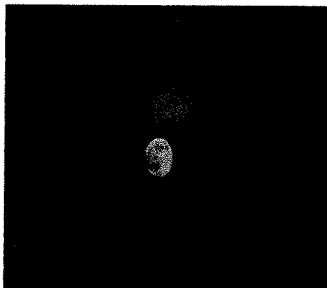
Basketball season is going well thanks to all the volunteers. Thanks all! We still need assistance with refereeing and working the time clock at games. There is a stipend for both of these jobs. High schoolers, refereeing and timekeeping count towards your community service credit needed for graduation. Parents, guardians, grandparents, etc can also help with timekeeping.

*Basketball's end-of-the-season party will be held February 8th at Carrie Ricker School. Watch our Facebook Page for details. The winning tickets for the raffle baskets will be drawn at the end of the party. We will continue to accept basket/raffle donations from community businesses up until February 7th. *Registration for baseball and softball starts March 1st and ends April 1st. Sign your child up on SportsEngine, and remember to register early! <https://litchfieldyouthrecreation.sportngin.com/register/form/350631854> *Pickleball's indoor Winter Session is held on Monday and Wednesdays at Carrie Ricker School from 3:30-5:00 PM. The cost is \$15 for the season or \$1 per session. *The next Recreation Committee meeting will be held February 17th at the Town Office at 4pm.

Kennebec Land Trust

Surry Hill Full Moon Hike/Snowshoe

Location: Fayette Date & Time: Wednesday, February 12th @ 5:30 PM
Join KLT staff for a family-hike or snowshoe up enjoy a spectacular view of the Snow Moon! Participants must be comfortable the dark and required to bring a headlamp or flashlight. Pre-registration is required. To register, contact Baylee Bachelder at bbachelder@tklt.org or call the KLT office at (207) 377-2848.



TOWN CLERK'S CORNER

Sabattus Primary School Closing Vote-

The RSU4 School Board has voted to move forward with the closure of Sabattus Primary School. A referendum on Tuesday, April 8th, 2025 will determine whether the school closes or not.

Town Text Alert Notification Test-

There have not yet been any group notifications or other communications via the town text service, so we will send a test notice on Tuesday, February 4th. If you do not receive that message, or haven't signed up yet and wish to, you may text JOIN to (808) 289-8089 and respond when prompted. If you are already signed up, the system will let you know. These sign-up instructions are also on the town web page on the main menu under Text Alerts. Participate in local government

There are elected positions coming open this year on the Select Board, School Board, Budget Committee, and Academy Trustees. If you are interested in running for any of these openings you may obtain nomination papers at the Town Office starting the first week of March. Each nominee requires signatures from 25 town residents and all paperwork must be returned by the second week of April.

The Town Office will be closed for President's Day, Monday, February 17th.

LITCHFIELD FIRE ASSOCIATION

CHILI & Chowder cook-off

FEBRUARY 23, 2025 WINNERS FOR 12PM-4PM

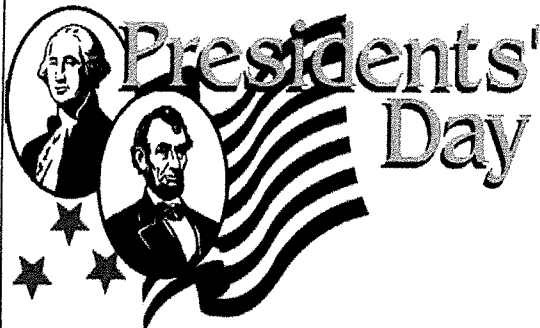
1ST, 2ND & 3RD PLACE!

2400 Hallowell Road, Litchfield, ME 04350
 Storm Date: March 2, 2025 | Please call Michelle Siderio: 207-740-331 or Dakota Gayton: 207-576-8521 to enter.
REGISTRATION DUE BY FEBRUARY 16TH.
 WINNERS TO BE DRAWN BY 5PM.

Contest Entry Fee **\$20**

EVENT ADMISSION FEE:
 \$5 PER PERSON
 \$8 PER COUPLE
 \$15 FOR FAMILY OF 4

February Community Calendar

1 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	16 Sun	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd Lit. Budget Comm., 6:30pm
2 Sun	Lit. Sportsman's Club—Sunday Country Music Sunday Noon to 4 pm \$8.00	17 Mon	President's Day Town Office Closed Winter Break—No School through Friday Lit. Recreation Comm. 4pm; Town Office 
3 Mon			
4 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting, 6:00pm		
5 Wed	Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd		
6 Thur	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd Lit. Planning Bd., 6:30pm	18 Tue	Lit. Fire & Rescue Meeting-6pm, Central Office
7 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm	19 Wed	Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd Road Comm., 6pm; Town Office
8 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm	20 Thur	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd Budget Comm., 6:30; Town Office
9 Sun		21 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm
10 Mon	Lit. Selectmen's Meeting; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website	22 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm
11 Tue	Litchfield First Responders-6pm, Central Station	23 Sun	
12 Wed	Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd RSU4 School Board-6:30, Central Office Lit. Sportsman's Club meeting—6pm	24 Mon	Lit. Selectmen's Meeting; 6:15pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website.
13 Thur		25 Tue	
14 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm	26 Wed	Food Bank-4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd RSU4 School Board-6:30, Central Office
15 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm	27 Thur	Food Bank-10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd
		28 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm

Contents:

1. Historical Society, Senior Center Corner
2. Town Manager/Clerk's Report
3. February Calendar
4. Newsletter Deadline

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.

Conservation Committee News

The Litchfield Community Park has **maps and winter things-to-do brochures** in the two entrance boxes and one box in the Central Commons area. You can find the Story Book Trail beginning at the intersection of Porcupine and Redpoll Trail in case you missed it; we have a winter hibernating bear story! There is **animal tracking** information in the boxes too, to see who lives in the park and what they do when we are not around. The Lake Stewards of Maine are excited to share an opportunity to contribute to a fascinating study conducted by a PhD student from the University of Maine, focusing on **ice fishing** in Maine. The goal is to “exploring the beliefs and attitudes of Maine’s ice anglers about the present and future of ice fishing” and “to uncover the motivations behind harvesting fish for recreation or sustenance”. Please go to the Litchfield Maine Conservation Commission Facebook page and find the link and fill out the 10-15 minute survey (and click ‘share’ with fishing friends). It is legal to have **fires on the ice** and, of course, you must follow the all the laws for open burning and burn only wood. Needing something **evergreen** in your yard during the winter, something not too tall, takes full sun and average well-drained soil? Consider planting the small native tree Eastern Red cedar. Search for it under its scientific name *Juniperus virginiana* to get helpful (non-sales pitch) information, for example <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu> has lots of great info

March Issue Deadline:
 Feb. 20, 2025 5pm
 Deliver material in any of the following ways:
 email: sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org **U.S. mail to:** Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd. 04350
Hand deliver to: Town Office 2400 Hallowell Rd

