

# The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXV No. 3

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

March 1, 2025

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRIVIA QUIZ

March question: Circa 1820 Litchfield supported two militia units, the North and the South Militia. Two other towns provided men for the units. Which town supported which unit? 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? answer: Purgatory had no church To read more about the history of Litchfield go to [WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org](http://WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org)

## LITCHFIELD TRANSFER CENTER

The days are getting longer and we are waiting for the days to get warmer. It is coming. We are starting to think of spring and the opening of the swap shop. We are looking for some volunteers to help take care of the swap shop. If you can donate a couple hours on one of the days, we are open to staff the swap shop, stop in and give us the information you can do. Any help would be greatly appreciated. We want to remind the residents that the swap shop will start taking items the first weekend in April and will open the weekend of the 15th of April. We also want to remind the residents of the location change for used oil drop-offs. It is up at the Hazardous Material building. Remember the phone number at the Transfer Station is now 268-2032. Stop in and say hi to John C. and John U.

## RSU4 School News

### Kindergarten & Pre-K Registration

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 for the fall.

## American Legion Post 181

Will meet on Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. at the Central Fire Station. All veterans are welcome.

## 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.*

**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 Thibault.

**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*.

**On March 12 at 10 am** the Carol Bailey String Band will perform for the students at *Carrie Ricker Elementary School*.

**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 March birthdays** is on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> at noon. Bring something to share and come and visit with friends. *Speakers Joline & Larry Bell with be here to help people with problems with their cell-phones, laptops, I pads, etc. Bring your questions and problems.*

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

**The book club meeting** is on Monday, March 17 at 1 pm. at the Senior Center. The book to be discussed is "Here One Moment" by Liane Moriarty. 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

Donations are arriving every week so fresh merchandise is always available. Have the winter doldrums got you down? One remedy is buying yourself something new and when it doesn't burst the budget, it's a win-win. Visit the Thrift Shop on the second floor of the Litchfield Academy Community Building and "take the cure!" Got items to donate? Just bring them with you and drop them off before shopping. Still - Fill a bag for \$2. Every Saturday, 9 to noon. See you there!

#### LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

It's unanimous! Everyone is looking forward to warmer temps! In the meantime, the Food Bank is welcoming existing and new clients with a smile. If you are finding grocery prices breaking the budget, bring proof of Litchfield residency and we can help soften the blow. Many thanks to our friends and neighbors who help support the Food Bank. Our costs are also increasing and your gifts are greatly appreciated. We are also accepting donations towards a generator to power our freezers, refrigerators and heat pumps in an extended power outage. Checks can be mailed to P O Box 306, Litchfield or dropped off at the Town Office for pick up by the FB Director.

#### Conservation Committee

Governor Mills has officially proclaimed February 24 to March 2, 2025, as Invasive Species Awareness Week in Maine. This proclamation coincides with National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW), an annual event dedicated to raising public awareness about the environmental and economic threats posed by invasive species. The week serves as a call to action for individuals, communities, and organizations to help prevent and manage invasive species across the state. Learn more here: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MEDACF/bulletins/3d35405>

#### The 4H Creators

Meetings will be held on the second and fourth Saturdays of March at 10am at the Senior Center on Academy Rd. For more information text or call Lori 754-3931

#### Litchfield Fire & Rescue Association

Thank you to all the area participants for a wonderful turn out at the **Chilli & Chowder Cook-off**. Congratulations to Durham Fire for BEST CHILLI. A big thank you to Portland & Monmouth & everyone else who participated. See you all next year.

#### TOWN CLERK'S CORNER

**Daylight Savings Time** starts this month. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 9th.

**Town budget reviews have begun.** Each section of the town budget will be reviewed at upcoming Select Board meetings through the end of April. You should not wait for the annual Town Meeting to find out what's happening with the budget. Attending the Select Board meetings and following the reviews gives you the opportunity to know the facts and ask questions. Alternatively, you can link to videos of the Select Board meetings at the town website, [www.litchfieldmaine.org](http://www.litchfieldmaine.org).

#### **April 8th RSU4 Referendum Election to Decide Closure of Sabattus Primary School-**

Please note: You must be a registered voter in Litchfield to vote in this election.

Election will be held at the Litchfield Town Office from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Referendum question: "Vote to approve closure of Sabattus Primary School."

Absentee ballots will be available at the Town Office on Monday March 10, 2025 until 6:00 pm on Thursday April 3, 2025. You may request your ballot in person or over the phone by calling 207-268-4721.



#### **Candidate Nomination Papers Due in April**

If you are considering running for an elected position this year, nomination papers may be picked up at the Town Office starting March 3rd and must be returned by April 14th. In order to be listed on the ballot for June 10th, each nominee requires signatures from 25 town residents. Positions open for this coming year are on the Select Board (1); RSU#4 School Board (1); Budget Committee (3); and Litchfield Academy Trustees (2).

#### **Bringing Documentation for ATV, Boat, Snowmobile Registrations**

The State (Inland Fisheries and Wildlife) has insisted that our customers bring either a previous registration or a photo of the current sticker when registering ATVs, boats, and snowmobiles. So this is a heads up for those who are used to walking in with no records to register their ATV, boat or snowmobile, that we will be asking for a previous registration or photo of current stickers. We appreciate your cooperation and patience.

**March Community Calendar**

|         |   |         |  |
|---------|---|---------|--|
| 1 Sat   | <b>Transfer Station - 8am-4pm</b><br><b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm<br><b>Lit. Sportsman's Club</b> -Public Supper & Jam \$10. Supper 5pm-6pm, Jam 6:30pm-8pm | 16 Sun  |  |
| 2 Sun   | <b>Lit. Sportsman's Club</b> —Country Music Sunday<br>Noon to 4 pm \$8.00   | 17 Mon  |  <p><b>Lit. Recreation Com</b>— 6:15pm, Town Of.</p>   |
| 3 Mon   |   | 18 Tue  |  |
| 4 Tue   | <b>Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting</b> , 6:00pm   | 19 Wed  | <b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd<br><b>Road Comm.</b> , 6pm; Town Office  |
| 5 Wed   | <b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd   | 20 Thur |  <p><b>Food Bank</b>-10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd<br/><b>Budget Comm.</b>, 6:30; Town Office<br/><b>Senior Advisory Com</b>-1pm, Senior Center</p> |
| 6 Thur  | <b>Food Bank</b> -10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd<br><b>Lit. Planning Bd.</b> , 6:30pm  | 21 Fri  |  |
| 7 Fri   | <b>Town Office</b> , closed<br><b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm  | 22 Sat  | <b>Transfer Station - 8am-4pm</b><br><b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm  |
| 8 Sat   | <b>Transfer Station - 8am-4pm</b><br><b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm   | 23 Sun  |  |
| 9 Sun   |   | 24 Mon  | <b>Lit. Selectmen's Meeting</b> ; 6:15pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website.  |
| 10 Mon  | <b>Lit. Selectmen's Meeting</b> ; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website  | 25 Tue  |  |
| 11 Tue  | <b>Litchfield First Responders</b> -6pm, Central Station  | 26 Wed  | <b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd<br><b>RSU4 School Board</b> -6:30, Central Office  |
| 12 Wed  | <b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd<br><b>RSU4 School Board</b> -6:30, Central Office<br><b>Lit. Sportsman's Club</b> meeting—6pm                                     | 27 Thur | <b>Food Bank</b> -10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd  |
| 13 Thur | <b>Food Bank</b> -10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd   | 28 Fri  | <b>Town Office</b> , closed<br><b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm   |
| 14 Fri  | <b>Town Office</b> , closed<br><b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm  |         |  |
| 15 Sat  | <b>Transfer Station - 8am-4pm</b><br><b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm   |         |  |

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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.

**Conservation Committee News**

Spring is in the air, for indoor programs that is. Join the Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) Annual Lyceum Lecture series to be held at Hallowell City Auditorium, Hallowell. This year for the three Thursdays in March a different Maine expert will speak from 6-7:30 pm on Maine **Amphibians & Reptiles**. On March 13 - native Maine Turtles; March 20 - report on the Maine Amphibian and Reptile Atlas project; March 27 - amphibian conservation in Maine. KLT will host an outdoor Lyceum **Field Program "Explore a Vernal Pool"** at 1 pm, April 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a family event with an aquatic biologist from MDEP identifying wood frog and spotted salamander egg masses along with other fascinating forest and pool creatures. See the KLT website for lots more information: [www.tklt.org](http://www.tklt.org). Litchfield has its annual **Vernal Pool Field Trip** for Carrie Ricker 3<sup>rd</sup> graders so they will be having their own local school outing with presentations by two experts from MDEP and learn about vernal pools and salamanders. Sponsored by the Smithfield Plantation Trustees and the Litchfield Conservation Commission. **An amphibian outing available for adults only** is coming up some time between March 15 and May 15 and it's called **Maine Big Night**. That's the night when the rain is just right, the temperatures are right (above 40) and amphibians migrate to their natal pools from their forest or meadow habitats to mate. (Think of the screaming noises of the spring peepers!) Since some migration routes cross roads it's a good place for citizen scientists to identify and count species and see these creatures up close. "Monitoring big nights provides invaluable data for understanding amphibian populations, migration behaviors, and the impact of human infrastructure on the survival of these vital contributors to our ecosystems." Go to the non-profit [www.mainebignight.org](http://www.mainebignight.org) to learn more about this community science project, become certified, contribute. Contact Conservation Commission member Tyler Kidder to volunteer in Litchfield: [TKidder207@gmail.com](mailto:TKidder207@gmail.com)

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

