

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XVII No. 1

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

January 1, 2017

Historical Society of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

January's question: In early Litchfield, trees of the larch family were commonly called hackmatack. This was derived from an Abanaki word meaning what?

December's answer: The product produced by the "factory" at Litchfield Corner which used iron pots to extract the lye from wood ash was potash.

FMI: www.historicalsocietyoflitchfieldmaine.org

Litchfield Community Food Bank

We are especially grateful to the many folks who sponsored a child (or children) for the Food Bank's Christmas gifts in the Angel Tree program. Nineteen children enjoyed a wonderful Christmas because of their efforts. Thank you very much. We are looking forward to a New Year and all the blessings it will bring. Wishing all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

FMI: Call Rayna, 582-4098.

Litchfield Academy Thrift Shop

We are accepting donations each Sat. from 9 a.m.-noon if you need to make space in your closet for your new duds from Santa. If Santa forgot something, come see if we've got it. Warm clothes and toasty sweaters a specialty!

Creators 4-H

Jan. Meeting: Libby-Tozier School, Sun., Jan. 8, 3 p.m. We will be recycling plastic for jewelry.

FMI: Call Lori, 268-4205.

Senior Center Corner

466 Academy Road (next to Libby-Tozier School),
Tel.: 215-4595; or Pat, 441-9005

Open: Every Mon. and Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Every Wed., 8:30 a.m.-noon

Closed: Mon., Jan. 2; Mon., Jan. 16

Thrift Shop open Mon.'s, Jan. 9 and 23, 10-11 a.m.

Note: If RSU4 schools are closed due to bad weather, the Senior Center will also be closed.

The Carol Bailey String Band music practice is at 10 a.m.-noon on Wed.'s. Come and join us for a fun time.

Bowling, 1-7-10 Lanes, Augusta, Thu., Jan. 12. Call 441-9005 to car pool. Leave at noon.

Book Club, Wed., Jan. 11, 12:30 p.m., at the Center.
Book: *The 1 in a Million Boy*, by Monica Wood.

Pot Luck Lunch and Celebration of Jan. birthdays is Fri., Jan. 20.

Line dancing instruction (beginner and advanced) Mon.'s at 9:30-11 a.m.

Aerobics/Bokwa on Wed.'s and Fri.'s at 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Feldenkrais Awareness through Movement Method Exercise Class, Fri.'s, Jan. 6, 13, 20, and 27, 9:30-10:30 a.m. with Lindsay Nelsen.

Cribbage Games for fun on Mon.'s, 11 a.m., and Fri.'s, 10 a.m.-noon. Bring a lunch and stay in the afternoon on Mon.'s for **bingo**, and Fri.'s for **cards**.

Seniors Advisory Committee, 10 a.m., Tues., Jan. 17.

REMINDER: Exercise equipment available for use 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon.'s and Fri.'s; 9 a.m. to noon, Wed.'s.

The Center is **looking for a large screen TV** to be used with the Wii games, etc.

Are you interested in a **trip to Quebec**? We are looking at late spring, summer, or early fall for a trip. Please contact the Center and let us know.

Stop in at the Center or call for more information, a

Transfer Station

The Transfer Station will be **closing at noon** on New Year's Eve, Sat., Dec. 31, 2016.

Hours for the day are: 8 a.m.-noon.

Town Manager

Office Closures—Please be aware of the following office closures in January:

- Mon., Jan. 2, in observance of New Year's Day
- Mon., Jan. 16, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Recall Election Results—Results of the recall election are as follows:

Yes: 167
No: 50

This means that Mr. LaChapelle has been recalled from his position as Selectman and is no longer serving in that capacity.

Job Opening—The town has a full-time position available in the front office. Please contact the town manager for additional information.

Sand for Homeowners—The Town has a salt and sand pile available at no charge for use by Litchfield's private homeowners. Use for commercial properties is

Conservation Commission

We are sponsoring a **full moon snowshoe walk** at the Litchfield Community Park. There is a new trail at the park, and this will be a great opportunity for those of you who haven't had a chance to check it out. We'll meet at the town office at 6 p.m. on Thu., Jan. 12. Everyone is welcome. Hot chocolate and snacks will be included!

We would also like to **encourage more folks to attend our meetings** held on the second Wed. of each month at the town office, 6:30 p.m. (Next meeting: Thu., Jan. 11, 2017.) We need more input for the park

Clerk's Corner

NO Rabies Clinic is planned for Jan.; however, watch for information about a clinic later in the winter or early spring.

Dog licenses are due for the new year. Please come in and register your furry friend before **Tue., Jan. 31**, to avoid a mandatory \$25 late fee/dog.

Don't forget—the **2nd real estate tax payment** for the tax year is due Tue., Jan. 17.

NOTICE

In order to facilitate plowing and to maintain public safety in the event of a storm, no vehicle is allowed to be left in the town's right-of-way on any Litchfield public road. In the event of a storm, any vehicle remaining in the town's right-of-way will be towed at the owner's expense.

The town assumes no liability for damage to vehicles

RSU4

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held at Carrie Ricker on Tue., Jan. 17, and Thu., Jan. 26. FMI: Call Keli Terry, school secretary, 268-4136.

Oak Hill HS Drama will present *Shrek The Musical* on Fri.-Sun., Jan. 20-22. On Fri., Jan. 20, and Sat., Jan. 21, the performances will begin at 7 p.m. There will be a matinee on Sun., Jan. 22, at 2 p.m. These will all be held at Oak Hill HS. Call Oak Hill HS, 375-4950, to reserve your tickets. They will go fast!

There will be no school on Mon., Jan. 16, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. There will be no school due to a workshop on Mon., Jan. 23. This is for all RSU4 schools. On Tue., Jan. 24, there will be another workshop day for Oak Hill Middle School and Oak Hill High School only. There **WILL BE NO** school for students of those schools. There **WILL BE** school for grades Pre-K-5 at

January 2016 Community Calendar

1 Sun	New Year's Day	17 Tue	2nd Real Estate Tax Payment Due Senior Advisory Comm. , Academy Bldg., 10 a.m. Fire/Rescue Station cleanup , 6 p.m. Fire/Rescue Assoc. Mtg. , Station, 6:30 p.m. Fire/Rescue Mtg. , Station, 7 p.m. Masons , Masonic Hall, 7:30 p.m.
2 Mon	Town Office , closed	18 Wed	Road Committee , Town Office, 5:30 p.m. TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m.
3 Tue	Fire/Rescue Officers Mtg. , Station, 6 p.m.	19 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m.
4 Wed	TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m.	20 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
5 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m. Planning Board , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.	21 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-12 p.m. (Closing early due to New Year's Eve.) Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Shrek The Musical , OHHS, 7 p.m.
6 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	22 Sun	Shrek The Musical , OHHS, 2 p.m.
7 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	23 Mon	ALL RSU4 schools , closed (workshop) Academy Thrift Store , 10-11 a.m. Select Board Meeting , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.
8 Sun	Creators 4-H , Libby-Tozier, 3 p.m.	24 Tue	Oak Hill MS & Oak Hill HS , closed (workshop)
9 Mon	Academy Thrift Store , 10-11 a.m. Select Board Meeting , Town Office, 6:30 p.m. Sportsmen's Club Monthly Meeting , Sportsmen's Club, 7 p.m.	25 Wed	TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. Franks & Beans , Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m. American Legion Post 181 , Legion Hall, 7 p.m.
10 Tue		26 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m. Snowmobile Club Meeting , Academy Bldg., 6 p.m.
11 Wed	TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. Conservation Commission , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.	27 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
12 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m. Snowmobile Club Meeting , Academy Bldg., 6 p.m. Full Moon Snowshoe Walk , meet at Town Office, 6 p.m.	28 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
13 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	29 Sat	
14 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon Transfer Station Swap Shop , 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Legion Auxiliary , Legion Hall, 10 a.m.	30 Sun	
15 Sun		31 Mon	
16 Mon	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Town Office , closed RSU4 schools , closed Budget Committee , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.		

4	Newsletter Deadline, Road Committee-Invasive Plants
3	January Calendar
	RSU4
2	Town Manager, Conservation Commission, Clerk, Plowing Notice, Transfer Station
1	Historical Society, Food Bank, Thrift Shop, 4-H, Senior Center Corner
	Contents:

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: 207-268-2196
sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org
www.litchfieldmaine.org
 Open: Mon.: 8:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
 Tue.—Thu.: 8:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
 Closed: Every Fri.

4	The Litchfield Sodalite
---	-------------------------

February Issue Deadline: January 20, 2017, 5 p.m.
 Deliver material in any of the following ways:

- E-mail (sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)
- U.S. mail to: Town Office, 2400 Hallowell RD

Road Committee
Invasive Plant of the Month: Japanese Barberry
(Berberis thunbergii)

Barberry can invade many, many sites. It is a spiny, suckering deciduous shrub usually 2’-3’ tall with blue green leaves 1/2”-1 1/4” long reminiscent of spoons with short handles. It thrives in sun or shade but produces more fruit in the sun. In the fall the leaves turn many hues of red and orange with 1/3” egg-shaped red fruit which ground-feeding birds and small mammals eat and spread. Perhaps this is the reason that barberry has been implicated in the spread of Lyme disease: “researchers...in Michigan.. have noted higher densities of adult deer ticks and white-footed deer mice under barberry than under native shrubs.” (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)

Like many invasive species it has an advantage in that it leafs out earlier than native plants and stays green longer.

Invasive Plant of the Month—(cont’d.):
 control it. A web search will discuss controls; small infestations can be pulled. One easy way of control is **NOT** to plant it. Barberry is a great example of a plant still used in ornamental horticulture because it grows easily in many sites. It has been hybridized for different heights, for purple and golden leaves, and for different shapes. Early in my landscape design work this was one of many plants I was taught to use which are now documented as detrimental to the native landscape and ecosystem.

FMI: Come to a Road Committee meeting the 3rd Wed. of each month, at 5:30 p.m., at the Town Office; call Lindsay Nelsen, 268-4569; or email lmnelsen@fairpoint.net
 Read up on invasive plants at: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invasives.htm