

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXVI No. 4

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

April 1, 2026

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRIVIA QUIZ

April question: What tree, still found in Litchfield, got its common name because it blossomed when the winter's dead could be buried? **March question:** On cold winter nights, Litchfield's farm wives used what type of stone to warm their family's beds? **Answer:** Soap stone To read more about the history of Litchfield go to HistoricalSocietyofLitchfield-maine.org

LITCHFIELD RECREATION COMMITTEE

Memorial Day Picnic-This year, our baseball and softball teams will be marching in the Memorial Day Parade. Please join us for our first ever Memorial Day Picnic after the parade. We will also be doing a bottle drive as our baseball/softball season fundraiser that day. Come help us raise funds to continue to improve our fields!

Soccer Registration is still open for our Tiny Tykes program! Please join us on Thursdays at Veterans Memorial Park for soccer for kiddos ages 2-5. We will be holding a soccer camp on the week of July 13th-17th. This is an all day camp with an early drop off registration. Regular fall soccer registration will open on July 1st, 2026.

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

April 4 - FREE CLOTHING - WINTER CLOTHES WILL BE FREE (donations will be accepted)- Preparing for seasonal change-over on Monday, April 6 from 10 to 5 and Tuesday, April 7 from 1 to 5. Volunteers welcome to shop on your change-over shift! April 11, shop Spring and Summer inventories!

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

Planning your garden? Remember us. We LOVE fresh local produce. Thanks for lovely, local eggs coming to us. Our clients love them! Save the date, mark your calendar, May 23, 9 AM to 4 PM, Craft and Yard Sale to benefit the Food Bank at the Plains Baptist Church, 56 Plains Rd. Donations of gently used merchandise welcome. Inviting vendors to rent a space for \$10. Call Rayna at 557-2680.

RSU 4

Pre K and Kindergarten Registration - If you have a child that will be 4 years old on or before October 15, 2026 (Pre-K age at Carrie Ricker School) or a child that will be 5 years old on or before October 15, 2026 (Kindergarten age at Libby-Tozier School) please call Libby-Tozier School (268-4137) or Carrie Ricker School (268-4136). Please pass this on to anyone you know who has a child that will be old enough to attend in the fall and have them call the school. **There will be a Family Literacy Night** to be held at the Carrie Ricker gym. It will be on Thursday, 4/2, from 5-6 p.m. It will be a celebration of the culmination of the One School, One Book reading event. There will be literacy activities, photo ops, prizes, trivia, stem activities and creative writing. Email Traci.Ireland@rsu4.org with questions.

LITCHFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Center Phone # 446-6275

If the flag is out at the Center, come on in. All dates and times are subject to change.

We will be closed on April 20th due to Patriot's Day

The Senior Center will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays **9:00 am to 2:00 pm** or when flag is out. Come in for exercise, cards, or check out the books and puzzles. We have new puzzles and books coming into center all the time. We also have some working lap tops to come in and use while center is open.

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

The Senior Center will be open at **9:30 am** on Mondays for Knitting and/or crocheting with Sharon Thibault. This is welcome to all who love to knit or crochet. Come with your special project or participate in making mittens and hats for kids; any size you want to donate to schools. This will be on going and given as needed. We plan on doing Grammie's Mitten Tree story every year to the Libby Tozier kids. If you like to donate items for this, please drop off at the Center.

The Carol Bailey Band meets at **10:00 am** at the Sportsmen's Club every Wednesday. We also have Qigong at **9:00 am** at the Sportsmen's Club on Wednesdays too. Come join the fun. We are also offering Music lessons on Monday's **10 am-2 pm** at the Senior Center. Like to learn a new instrument or improve your skills on Monday? For info or sign-up call Pat Bailey at 207- 215-5948.

Come to the Senior Center for morning exercise with Dian & friends on Mondays & Fridays **8:30am-9:15 pm**. Join in the indoor walking, or use the exercise equipment.

On Friday's, we offer Cribbage 9:30-10:30 am; bring a partner or call to see if there are people playing, we have the boards here to use. Card games at **10 am**, BYO lunch for noon and then more cards and games in the afternoon.

Pot Luck/April Birthday celebrations on 17th Plus a speaker Senior Spectrum Generations Kristin Solomon.

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting held at the Senior Center is at 1 pm on Thursday, April 16th.

The book club meeting is on Monday, April 20th at 1 pm. at the Senior Center. The book to be discussed is "The Alice Network" by Kate Quinn. Pick up the book at the Gardiner or Monmouth Library and join us.

Gardening Club is on April 8th at **1 pm**. If interested call Lori at the Center. The number is up at the top of page, or Text 920-840-7935 Jacqui; or email jkoschlies@gmail.com.

The Sand for Seniors is done for the year. We will be offering this again starting in November 2026. If you have a 5-gal bucket/with cover from this past season, please drop off at center.

Our Trips are starting up for the season. The first one is on April 30th to Oxford Casino. We will meet at the Sportsmen's Club around 9:15am, leaving at 9:30 am. If you are interested come to the Senior Center to sign up or call Lori.

WOODBURY POND PARK

Last year we had a great season and started much-needed repairs and updates. We fixed the leaking roof of the changing rooms, installed electricity; replaced the volleyball net, and removed the old crumbling fire pits and the decrepit horseshoe pit. A very kind Veteran installed our solar light for the flagpole and a generous volunteer replaced the rotted sill of the attendant's booth. The nicer weather will be upon us soon, and we will continue with the improvements. We have new picnic tables coming thanks to the Litchfield Seniors, thank you all! We will install permanent park-style charcoal grills. We will perform erosion control along the shoreline now and throughout the spring. Our Spring cleanup day is scheduled for May 2nd with a rain date of May 3rd. If Mother Nature gives us rain for the entire weekend, our backup will be the weekend of May 16th. We will need assistance with setting up the new picnic tables, removing the old, rotted tables, painting some of the good picnic tables, installing the permanent charcoal grills, and cleaning up general debris. Please come down and help prepare our park for a spectacular 2026 season! Unfortunately, our resident attendant, Angie, will not be able to return this year. She set up her RV at the park and took excellent care of the grounds and its patrons. She will be missed. This season, we want to offer an RV owner the opportunity to attend and maintain the park from late May to late August. Please reach out to Sue Weber or Kelly Weissenfels at woodburypond-park@gmail.com if you are interested in this position or have questions about the opportunity. Follow us on Facebook for updates and information at Friends of Woodbury Pond Park.

LITCHFIELD TRANSFER STATION

Winter just doesn't want to let go. It will though, one way or another. April is here and the Swap Shop will be opening. We are going to start taking items on Friday, April 3 and open the Swap Shop on Friday April 17. It will be open from 10 A.M to 2 P.M We still need volunteers to man the shop. If we don't have volunteers, we may have to adjust the open hours. With the opening of the Swap Shop, we must remind everyone about **stopping when you enter the transfer station** and to also watch your speed. It is only 5 MPH Thank you.

LITCHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

For the April 22, 2026 Earth Day Celebration -**Roadside Clean-up with Friends and Family**. The winter snow is gone and roadside trash is visible and easily picked up before plants grow. How about getting your family and neighbors you haven't seen much this winter together on Saturday April 25th to walk and chat and also pick up a little trash. Bring gloves, a bag or two, wear visible clothes or vest and walk a few hours along the road. Contact some old neighbors and meet new neighbors too. The transfer station cannot accept this mixed trash so put it for disposal with your own trash removal. **Post your finds on the Litchfield Maine Conservation Commission Facebook** page for bragging rights. Post a picture of the funniest piece of trash you found, or the biggest next to the smallest..... Perhaps you might see (photograph and post) some of the early spring blooming plants in a roadside wooded area. The early red trillium (*Trillium erectum*) are called wake robin and stinking Benjamin for the smell the three-petaled flowers give off to attract flies for pollination since there are not many insects out yet.

TOWN CLERK'S CORNER

Town Budget Reviews-The town budget continues to be reviewed at upcoming select board meetings. If you missed a meeting, you can access the video recording from the town website. March 23: Complete draft budget; April 13: Final draft budget & warrant; April 16: Budget Committee review; April 27: Budget recommendations and town warrant finalized

Elections-Here are the dates for the upcoming June election. June 9th (Tues): State Primary, Municipal elections, and RSU#4 Budget validation. June 13th (Sat): Town Meeting at Carrie Ricker School gymnasium begins at 10 am. **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. Each nominee requires signatures from 25 town residents, and all paperwork must be returned by close of business, Monday, April 13th. Positions Available for the **Municipal Election: Select Board: 1 position; Academy Trustees: 2 positions; Budget Committee: 3 positions; RSU#4 School Board: 1 position**

Property Taxes Due-The third and final installment of this year's property taxes is due by April 15th. An after hours drop box is available (to the right of the entrance). **For all checks:** Please put the **property address** or **account number** on your check. You may call the office if you aren't sure of the final amount due. You may make monthly payments, but will need to meet the installment totals at each due date in order to avoid interest charges.

Fuel Fund-The Town Office administers a donation fund to assist with heating emergencies for those residents who don't qualify for other assistance programs. Regular annual fall fundraising efforts, as well as generous donations by local businesses usually cover needs for the year. This extra cold year an additional fundraising effort by a group of Litchfield friends, and a tag event at our local hardware store gave the fuel fund a needed boost and will let us carry some funds into the next heating season. Many thanks to all who organized and donated throughout this season to help neighbors in need!

Holiday: The Town Office will be closed on **Monday, April 20th, Patriots Day**.

American Legion William R. Bold Post 181

The March meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22nd at 7:00pm at the new Post building at 800 Lewiston Rd. West Gardiner All veterans are welcome.

April Community Calendar

1 Wed	Lit. Food Bank —4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd	16 Thur	Lit Food Bank —10am-12pm, 56 Plains Rd Lit. Budget Comm. — 6:30pm, Town Off. Lit. Senior Comm - 1pm, Senior Center
2 Thur	Lit Food Bank —10am-12pm, 56 Plains Rd Lit Planning Bd —Town Office 6:30pm Family Literacy Night ..Carrie Ricker..5p-6p (RSU4)	17 Fri	Town Office closed Transfer Station —8am –4pm RSU4-No school-Professional Day
3 Fri	Town Office closed Transfer Station —8am –4pm	18 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm
4 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm Lit. Sportsman’s Club -Public Supper & Jam. Supper 5 - 6 \$10. Jam 6:30 to 8	19 Sun	
5 Sun		20 Mon	Town Office Closed RSU4 —April Vacation for through April 24 
6 Mon		21 Tue	Lit. Fire & Rescue Meeting -6pm, Central Station
7 Tues	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting , 6:00pm	22 Wed	RSU4-Board Meeting , Central Off 6:30pm Lit. Food Bank —4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd
8 Wed	Lit. Food Bank —4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd RSU4-Board Meeting , Central Off 6:30pm Lit. Sportsman’s Club Meeting -6pm	23 Thur	Lit. Food Bank —10am-12pm, 56 Plains Rd
9 Thur	Lit Food Bank —10am-12pm, 56 Plains Rd	24 Fri	Town Office closed Transfer Station —8am –4pm
10 Fri	Town Office closed Transfer Station —8am –4pm	25 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm
11 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store —Open 9am-12pm	26 Sun	
12 Sun	Lit. Sportsman’s Club -Country Music Sunday Noon to 4 \$8.00	27 Mon	Lit. Selectmen’s Meeting ; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website
13 Mon	Lit. Selectmen’s Meeting ; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website Lit. Rec Comm -6:15pm	28 Tue	
14 Tues	Lit. First Responders -6pm, Central Office	29 Wed	Lit. Food Bank —4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd
15 Wed	Lit. Food Bank —4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd Lit. Road Comm — 6:00pm; Town Office	30 Thur	Lit Food Bank —10am-12pm, 56 Plains Rd
		31 Fri	Town Office closed Transfer Station —8am –4pm

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

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.

**AN OPEN LETTER TO THE RESIDENTS OF LITCHFIELD MAINE
 AND NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES**

Are you concerned about the safety of the intersection of Route 197 (Richmond Road) with the Huntington Hill Road and the Center Road in Litchfield? Many of your neighbors are too. The Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) identifies this as a **High Crash Location (HCL)** with **25 crashes** at this intersection and **20 injuries** in the **3-year period, 2021 - 2023** (2023 is the latest data available). I'm sure you've also noticed the inconsistency of posted speed limits and the small number of drivers who actually STOP at the stop signs at the ends of Center Road and Huntington Hill Road. You are strongly invited to help us improve the safety of this intersection by recommending to Maine DOT to make the intersection a 4-Way stop by putting STOP signs and flashing lights on Route 197 (Richmond Rd) both East and West. The intersection of Routes 201 and 197 at Richmond Corner is the model for this suggestion. It would also be appropriate to reduce the speed to 30 MPH in both directions from a point west of Percy's Hardware to east of intersection with the Hollowell Rd by the Libby Tozier School. This section of road includes two elementary schools, several businesses, a day care facility and several residences. The Maine DOT controls the Richmond Rd (Route 197) and its intersections with the local roads, so any changes need to be done through and by the MDOT. The Department has been receptive to feedback from the community and has installed improved signage in another situation resulting in improved safety. Please communicate with... **Darryl Belz, Local Traffic Engineer MDOT Region 2 Traffic Engineering, 66 Industrial Drive, Augusta, Me 04330 or Darryl.Belz@ maine.gov**

Printed by request of the Select Board

May Issue Deadline: April 20, 2026 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.

