

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXVI No. 2

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

February 1, 2026

HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRIVIA QUIZ

February question: For at least two hundred years Litchfield farmers have used what term to identify the portion of a barn where the cattle were housed? **January question:** In 19th century Litchfield, a "sneth" was part of a common farming implement. What was a sneth? answer: a "sneth" was the wooden portion of a scythe. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to HistoricalSocietyoflitchfieldmaine.org

LITCHFIELD TRANSFER STATION

The cold has settled in again. With the cold weather and dealing with the snow and ice, we must remind everyone to please watch their speed in the Transfer Station. It is only **5MPH**. Corey and the Public Works Crew are doing a fantastic job supporting us by keeping the road treated and safe for the residents. Many **THANKS** to them. There is a flag drop-off box located on the side of the office building. The American Legion monitors the box and disposes of the flags properly. Please use the drop-off box and respect the flag. We greatly appreciate the residents that stop and at the office. We ask that more of you do so we can monitor any items that are not supposed to be brought into the Transfer Station. John C. has been sidelined for a few weeks. Thank you.

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

New items continue to arrive and we get them out on the racks ASAP, for your shopping enjoyment. New lighting also adds greatly to your shopping experience. Come see how great our clothing looks in wonderful illumination! Thank you, Kevin.

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

We are looking forward to warmer temps, but maintaining our excellent service even when the snow flies or the mercury drops below a reasonable level. We appreciate our clients' patience. Thanks to folks who have shared their reusable plastic and paper bags with us either as direct delivery or through the Transfer Station. We use a lot of them! Are you moving or need to pack some 'stuff'? We have extra banana boxes we'd love to share. The best time to pick them up is Wednesday mornings, between 8 and 12.

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.

The Senior Center will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays **9:00 to 2:00** or when flag is out. Come in for exercise, cards, or check out the books and puzzles. We have new puzzles and books coming in all the time.

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

The Senior Center will be open at 9:30am on Mondays for Knitting and/or crocheting with Sharon Thibault. This is open to all who love to knit or crochet. Come with your special project or participate in Grammies Knitting Tree. A project this fall in memory of our dear Mary Blen, who passed away this year. This is for mittens and hats for kids; any size you want to donate to schools.

The Carol Bailey String Band & Oigong will meet at 9:00 at the Sportsmen's Club every Wednesday. Come join the fun. We are also offering Music lessons on Monday's 10-2. 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 8:30-9:15. Join in the indoor walking, or use the exercise equipment.

On Fridays, stay for Cribbage 9:30-10:30 am, 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.

Pot Luck/ plus Speaker is Lizz Avery on Chair Massage & celebration of Feb. Birthdays on the 20th.

The Senior's Advisory Com. meeting held at the Senior Center is at 1 pm on Thursday, February 19th.

The book club meeting is on Monday, February 23rd at 1 pm at the Senior Center. The book to be discussed is "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans. Pick up the book at the Gardiner or Monmouth Library and join us.

The Sand for Seniors is still available. If you have a 5-gal bucket/with cover from last year please drop off at center; please call 446-6275 and leave a message with name, telephone number and address to be put on the list for delivery. Want would like to thank all of you who donated buckets for the Sand for Seniors. It was really appreciated.



CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

There's a new book on the story trail on the Redpoll a cold hardy northern species that comes down to our Litchfield Community Park in winter. A winter tale by beloved Ukrainian author, Jan Brett. Grab your cleats or snowshoes and come on over to take a look. And while you're heading to the park or other outdoor adventures in cold weather it's important to avoid hypothermia and frostbite. Here are some safety tips to keep in mind:

1. Bring something to eat to keep up your energy. 2. Have water with you - dehydration is still possible even with snow on the ground. Drinking melted snow makes you colder. 3. Carry a whistle in case you lose sight of your friends. 4. Stay dry; wet clothes absorb your body heat, so bring another layer. 5. Keep your hands and head covered. 6. Always tell someone where you are going. Most of all - have fun!

LITCHFIELD SNOWMOBILE CLUB

Litchfield Snowmobile Club Although the trails and gates are open, the snowpack is thin, and trail conditions are not that great, yet. Please use extreme caution and watch for hazards until we receive a significant amount of snow and are able to groom the trails. Also, a section of the trail by the cattle crossing on Stevenstown Rd is closed until further notice. The only alternate route is to ride along the road from Bart's farm to where the trail continues soon after crossing the highway bridge. Hopefully, we'll be able to open up this section again soon! The Litchfield snowmobile map which comes with two other maps covering other areas of Maine are now available for purchase (\$5) at Percy's Hardware, 197 Diner, The Meadows, and the town office! This month meetings will be on Feb. 12th and 26th @ 6pm at the Senior Center. Please consider joining/following our Facebook page Litchfield Snowmobile Club to stay updated on club events such as group rides and meetings, upcoming trail work, and current trail conditions. And as always, new members are always welcomed!

TOWN CLERK'S CORNER

Town Comprehensive Plan Update - Interested in helping to shape a Town Comprehensive Plan update? Please contact the Town Office (207) 268-4721.

Mailboxes and Snow Plows - Maine's Department of Transportation has a published guide for locating mailboxes to decrease the chance of damage due to winter plowing. Please take a moment to look it over on the Public Works page of our town website. Keep in mind that the wing height on our new trucks is 41 inches where the MDOT guide lists an older standard; also, that if your road was recently reconstructed, your mailbox may need to be raised to account for the additional 1 1/2 to 2 inches of road height. If you have the option, adjusting the lower edge of your box to the maximum 45 inch height allowed by the post office is the best choice for plow trucks and paving.

Property Cards - Real estate property cards have been updated on the Town website. Look for the quick link on the right-hand side of the home page.

Budget Reviews - Town Budget reviews by department will begin at the February 23rd select board meeting and continue through the end of April.

Elections - Here are the dates for the upcoming June election on June 9th: This will be a "3-in-1" State Primary, Municipal and RSU#4 Budget validation election. June 13th:

Town Meeting - 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 Tuesday, March 2nd. 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

The Town Office will be closed for President's Day, Monday, February 16th.

Planning Board – Thursday, February 5th, 6:30 pm
Select Board – Monday, February 9th, 6:30 pm

Budget Committee – Thursday, February 19th, 6:30 pm

Recreation Committee – Monday, February 16th, 6:15pm

Road Committee – Wednesday, February 18th, 6:00 pm

Senior Committee – Thursday, February 19, 1pm

LITCHFIELD FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

CHILI & CHOWDER COOK-OFF

02.21.2026 BRING THE HEAT! 12pm - 2pm

BRING THE CREAM!

Trophy for best Chili & Chowder!

Litchfield Fire Department
 2400 Hallowell Road, Litchfield, ME

MUST BE REGISTERED BY FEBRUARY 16TH
 ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BE AT STATION BY 11AM TO SIGN IN AND SET UP

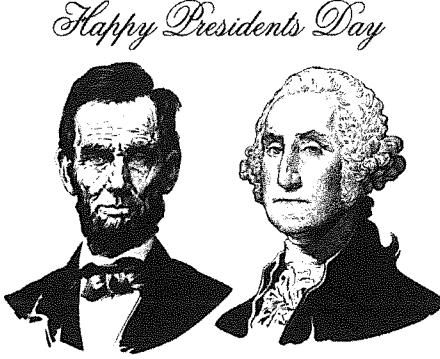
\$5 PER PERSON
\$8 PER COUPLE
\$15 FOR FAMILY OF FOUR



American Legion William R. Bold Post 181

The February meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 26th at 7:00pm at the new Post building at 800 Lewiston Rd. West Gardiner All veterans are welcome.

February Community Calendar

1 Sun		 <p><i>Happy Presidents Day</i></p>	Lit. Town Office Closed
2 Mon			
3 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting, 6:00pm		
4 Wed	Lit. Food Bank—4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd		
5 Thur	Lit. Food Bank—10am-12pm, 56 Plains Rd Lit Planning Bd—Town Office 6:30pm		
6 Fri	Town Office closed Transfer Station—8am—4pm		
7 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		Lit. Recreation Comm-6:15pm Lit Fire & Rescue Asso. Meeting —6pm, Central Station
8 Sun	Lit. Sportsman's Club -Country Music Sunday Noon to 4 \$8.00		Lit. Fire & Rescue Meeting-6pm, Central Station
9 Mon	Lit. Selectmen's Meeting; 6:30pm, Town Office -zoom available-see website		Lit. Food Bank—4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd Lit. Road Comm— 6:00pm; Town Office
10 Tue	Lit. First Responders-6pm, Central Office		Lit Food Bank—10am-12pm, 56 Plains Rd Lit. Budget Comm.— 6:30pm, Town Off. Lit. Senior Comm - 1pm, Senior Center
11 Wed	Lit. Food Bank—4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd RSU4-Board Meeting, Central Off 6:30pm Lit. Sportsman's Club Meeting-6pm		Town Office closed Transfer Station—8am—4pm
12 Thur	Lit. Snowmobile Club meeting —6pm, Senior Center Lit Food Bank—10am-12pm, 56 Plains Rd		Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm
13 Fri	Town Office closed Transfer Station—8am—4pm		22 Sun
14 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm		23 Mon
			24 Tue
15 Sun			25 Wed
			26 Thur
			27 Fri
			28 Sat

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BOX HOLDER

Permit #2
Litchfield, ME
PAID
U.S. Postage
FIRST STD
ECRWS

Closed: Every Fri.
Thurs.: 8:00a.m.-6:00p.m.
Open: Mon.—Wed.: 8:00 a.m.—4:00p.m.
www.litchfieldmaine.org
sodlite@litchfieldmaine.org
Tel.: 207-268-4721 FAX: 207-707-8485
Litchfield, ME 04350
2400 Hallowell Road
Litchfield Town Office
The Litchfield Sodalite

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The Litchfield Sodalite

LITCHFIELD RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thank you to our community for all of the participation in Rec activities! It has been a busy month in January. The Rec committee hosted their first full moon walk at Holman Conservation area. We completed our basketball fundraiser at Gowell's shop 'n' save. Our athletes big and small helped bag groceries and collect gently used equipment for our upcoming equipment swap. We raised \$1,533 during the event and took in several donations of cleats, helmets, gloves, pants, etc. We will be planning an equipment swap day tentatively on March 14th. Thanks to our generous business sponsorship from Maine Community Bank and Gowell's Shop 'n' Save, we are able to replace the scoreboard at Carrie Ricker School. The installation should hopefully be complete by the end of February vacation. Follow our facebook for updates on this project! Our yoga series is still happening, please join us for the final two yoga sessions on Feb 1st and Feb 8th at 9am. Drop ins are welcome! Join us for our winter break activities! Get out of the house and come play in the snow. Activities, dates, and times listed in on our facebook page. Baseball season is coming right up! Registration is now open. Discount of \$10 per player for registration prior to March 1st. Please visit our facebook page for the link. Introducing our new logo! We have been working on creating a new logo for our Litchfield Raiders. What do you think? Let us know on facebook! Branded merchandise will be available for sale at our end of season celebration for basketball as well as in our snack shack during baseball season.

March Issue Deadline:
Feb. 20, 2026 5pm Deliver material in any of the following ways:
email:
sodlite@litchfieldmaine.org

U.S. mail to: Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd. 04350 **Hand deliver to:** Town Office 2400 Hallowell Rd.



Sunday Feb 1st: 9:00 AM Yoga - Carrie Ricker

*Sunday Feb 1st: *6:00 PM Full Moon Walk - Webber Rogers Farmstead

*Saturday Feb 7th: * Last home game of season

*Sunday Feb 8th: * 9:00 AM Yoga - Carrie Ricker

*Tuesday Feb 17th: * 2:00 PM - Sledding at the corner of Upper Pond & Plains road near Webber Rogers