

# The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXVI No. 3

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

March 1, 2026

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRIVIA QUIZ

**March question:** On cold winter's nights, Litchfield's farm wives used what type of stone to warm their family's beds? **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? answer: The tye-up. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to [HistoricalSocietyoflitchfieldmaine.org](http://HistoricalSocietyoflitchfieldmaine.org)

## LITCHFIELD TRANSFER STATION

The days are getting longer and warmer. Yes, they are. We are starting to think about the Swap Shop. If any residents would like to volunteer some time to help run it, please stop in and talk with us. 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. We greatly appreciate the residents that stop 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. is back and most welcomed. Stop in and say hello. Our phone number here is 268-2032.

## LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

Seasonal change-over will be held in early April. Stock up on winter things soon! Does your young man need a suit? We have some handsome ones! How about prom dresses for your girls. Check them out while the selection is good! Save a bundle! Still at bargain prices. Open every Saturday, 9am to noon.

## LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

Starting your garden planning yet? Please plan to share with us! We LOVE fresh local produce! SAVE THE DATE- May 23, 9 to 4. Craft Fair and Lawn Sale benefitting the Litchfield Food Bank and other missions. Want to rent a space, inside or outside? Want to donate items? 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 grades 2/3 Spring Concert** at the Carrie Ricker School on March 24. It will be held in the gym starting at 5:30 p.m. **There is no school** on Friday, March 20, due to a teacher workshop day.

## 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 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** 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 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 Grammys Mitten Tree story every year to the Libby Tozier kids. We had a blast last month when we had 51+ kids enjoying the fun and free mittens. If you would like to donate items please drop off at the Center.

**The Carol Bailey Band meets at 10:00** at the Sportmen's Club every Wednesday. We also have Qigong at **9:00** at the Sportmen's Club on Wednesdays too. Come join the fun. We are also offering Music lessons on Monday's **10-2** 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 **8:30-9:15**. Join in the indoor walking, or use the exercise equipment.

**On Friday's, stay for Cribbage 9:30-10:30** am, cards games at **10**, BYO lunch for noon and then more cards and games in the afternoon. Pick out books and/or puzzles to take home.

**Pot Luck/March Birthday** celebrations on 20<sup>th</sup> Plus a speaker from Spectrum Generations.

**The Senior's Advisory Committee** meeting held at the *Senior Center* is at 1 pm on Thursday, March 19th.

**The book club** meeting is on Monday, February 23rd at 1 pm.; at the *Senior Center*. The book to be discussed is "Finding Emma" by: Steena Holmes. Pick up the book at the Gardiner or Monmouth Library and join us.

**We are thinking about starting a Gardening Club** on Wednesday's either once a month or every week. If interested call Lori at the Center. The number is up at the top of page or Text 920-840-7935 Jacqui; [jkomschlies@gmail.com](mailto:jkomschlies@gmail.com).. First dates right now are March 11 at 1 pm and March 25 at 1pm

**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. We want to thank the person who donated a printer/copier for the coping of music and extra stuff we need to copy for our activities.

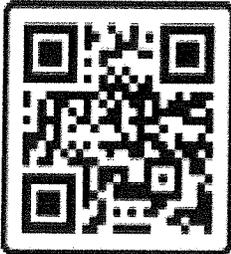


### LITCHFIELD RECREATION COMMITTEE

**\*Fundraising Update:** \*We want to extend a huge thank you to our community support as well as our 2025 business sponsors! We were able to achieve two of our large goals for this season. The scoreboard at Carrie Ricker School has been replaced and we have signed the contract for the restoration of the Jim Hyde field. Work is expected to be completed as soon as the snow and ice have melted. Business sponsorships for 2026 are now open. Goals are outlined in our updated sponsorship information on our website (scan QR code for info!).

**\*Baseball/Softball\*:** Registration is now open! Register by March 15th to get a \$10 early bird discount per registration. Third child registered is free - reach out to rec for more information. Scan the QR code to be directed to our website for registration. Indoor practices for skills and drills will start in March. **\*Basketball\*:** We have completed another great basketball season! Thank you to coaches and players. This season was up-ers! We enjoyed our Grades 1/2 mini Richmond and Monday to Sabattus Rec additional games. ward to more col-year. **\*Adult Bas-\*** Registration for is now open! This Wednesday nights 6:30-8:00PM at Carrie Ricker School. Season runs 3/4-5/27. Cost is \$25 for the season or \$5 to drop in. Scan the QR code to our website to register. **\*Soccer\*:** We are thrilled to collaborate with Challenger Sports to offer a Tiny Tykes soccer program this spring. Cost is \$105 and is for ages 2-5. This program runs Thursday afternoons. We will also be hosting a summer camp for ages 5-16 on July 13-17th at Veterans Memorial Park. Half day and full day camp available. Scan the QR code to find the registration link.

SCAN ME



### LITCHFIELD SNOWMOBILE CLUB

Fellow snowmobilers! We hope some of you took advantage of riding our local trails last month while the conditions were great, thanks to several snowstorms, the extreme cold, and the dedication of several club members who groomed the trails!! Sadly, (for some us) winter is coming to an end, as well as snowmobiling, unless you head north! With the rising temperatures, our trails are gradually deteriorating exposing and creating more hazards; but with a few more snowstorms and colder temps at night, we are hopeful we can continue grooming and riding through most of March, although trails and gates could be closed sooner, which we'll post on our page (Litchfield Snowmobile Club), as well as the Litchfield community pages. Please feel free to share feedback on trail conditions, ask questions, or share concerns on our page! We would also like to thank our landowners again for allowing us to have trails on their property! Our last meeting for this season is March 26th, 6pm @ the Senior Center.

### TOWN CLERK'S CORNER

**Daylight Savings Time** starts this month. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on March 8th.

**Town budget reviews have begun.** Each section of the town budget will be reviewed at upcoming select board meetings beginning in February with comprehensive reviews planned in March and April. Following is a schedule, and if you missed a meeting, you'll be able to access the video recording from the town website.

**February 23:** First draft – All Departments / Senior Center / Recreation / Conservation Commission

**March 9:** First draft – Remaining department & committee budgets / Capital Projects / Special Projects

**March 19:** Budget committee review

**March 23:** Complete draft budget & warrant

**April 13:** Final draft budget & warrant

**April 16:** Budget Committee review

**April 27:** Budget and warrant approval

**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).

**Elections** Here are the dates for the upcoming June election. **June 9th:** This will be a "3-in-1" State Primary, Municipal and RSU#4 Budget validation election. **June 13th:** Town Meeting will be held at Carrie Ricker School gymnasium and will begin at 10:00.

**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

**An online property tax payment** option will be available soon! Residents will have the option of paying their property tax bills online using a credit/debit card or by electronic check. We're still ironing out the final details, but this new option will make payments more convenient than ever. Stay tuned and keep your eyes on our Facebook page and website for more information — we'll share updates as soon as everything is ready!

Thank you!!

### American Legion William R. Bold Post 181

The March meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the new Post building at 800 Lewiston Rd. West Gardiner All veterans are welcome.

**March Community Calendar**

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

# BOX HOLDER

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

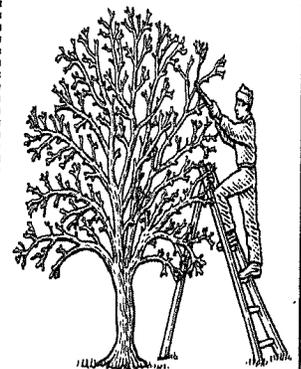
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*The Litchfield Sodalite*  
 Litchfield Town Office  
 2400 Hollowell Road  
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 Tel.: 207-268-4721 FAX: 207-707-8485  
[sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)  
[www.litchfieldmaine.org](http://www.litchfieldmaine.org)  
 Open: Mon.—Wed.: 8:00 a.m.—4:00p.m.  
 Thurs.: 8:00a.m.-6:00p.m.  
 Closed: Every Fri.

### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Well, it's March and with the increased light and warmer temps you might be thinking about some outdoor maintenance on your home place. Prune trees: Horticulturally you can prune whenever the saw is sharp, so, all year round. What makes March ideal is you see the branching structure more easily without leaves. There are many illustrations for the search "prune trees diagram". The strongest, longest-lived form is with a central leader and radiating, vertically spaced 'L' crotch side branches. Control of woody invasive shrubs and trees: This is another ideal March activity since 1) there are no fruits or seeds to worry about spreading around and 2) it is *before* "bud break", which is when plants start growing again in April so daubing with herbicide is effective. (Daubing is not effective April through June.) Need to know more? The Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) has lots of information on identification and control: scroll down to find an informative video by biologist Nancy Olmstead called Invasive Plant Management.\* The Litchfield town office has a copy of MNAP's "Maine Invasive Plants Field Guide". While you're enjoying the Litchfield Community Park trails if you see something like a tree down contact the trail crew at mobile # 508-864-5101. Also, we hope you got a chance to see the old Ukrainian story "The Mitten" on the Story Book Trail. Go to the Litchfield Maine Conservation Commission Facebook page for a link to the video referenced above and lots more information about our natural world.

**March Issue Deadline:**  
 March 20, 2026 5pm  
 Deliver material in any of the following ways:  
 email:  
[sodlite@litchfieldmaine.org](mailto:sodlite@litchfieldmaine.org)  
**org**  
*U.S. mail to:* Town Office, 2400 Hollowell Rd. 04350  
**Hand deliver to:** Town Office 2400 Hollowell Rd.



### HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF LITCHFIELD

The Historical Society of Litchfield has many excess copies of the 95-page paperback booklet "Town of Litchfield Bicentennial Celebration, July 7,8,9, 1995". If you would like one or more copies, please contact Ed Avis at 207-737-8258. Any excess copies not claimed will be taken to recycling in June.