

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XVI No. 3

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

March 1, 2016

Historical Society of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

March's question: Before Litchfield had saw mills it had to rely on "saw pits." What type of saw was used in a saw pit?

February's answer: In early wills and legal documents the term "my cousin" sometimes had the unexpected and confusing meaning of "my nephew."

To read more about the history of Litchfield, go to: www.historicalsocietyoflitchfieldmaine.org

Creators 4-H Club

The next meeting for the club is 3 p.m., Sun., Mar. 6, Libby-Tozier School Art Room to make decorative light bulbs.

FMI: Lori, 754-3931

Baseball, Softball, T-Ball Registrations

Litchfield Youth Recreation will be accepting applications for our youth baseball, softball, and T-ball programs that begin in the spring.

Applications can be obtained at the Litchfield town office or downloaded from the town website (www.litchfieldmaine.org) through Mon., Apr. 18.

Programs will be offered for children ranging from the ages of 4 through 13 years old. The registration fee for T-ball and 8U softball is \$35 per child. The fee for older baseball and softball teams is \$50 per child.

FMI: Tiffany Caton, Recreation Director and the town office (268-4721)

Senior Center Calendar

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

Something new at the Senior Center—**Drama Classes for Seniors.** Join Dick Cutliffe at 1 p.m. on Wed., Mar. 2, and see what it is about.

The Foot Care Clinic with Jeanne Otis, RN, CFCN, is Thu., Mar. 3, here at the center. Call 660-3465 for an appointment.

Bowling, 1-7-10 Lanes, Augusta, Thu., Mar. 10. Car pool from the Sportsmen's Club at noon.

Book Club is postponed until April.

Join us on Fri., Mar. 18, at 10 a.m. for a fun **Corn Hole game** with Rodney Brown from Humana. Stay for the pot luck lunch and celebration of **March birthdays.**

Line dancing instruction, Mon.'s., 9:30 a.m., beginners and advanced.

Aerobics/Bokwa classes on Wed.'s. at 8:30 a.m.

Aerobics/Indoor Walking on Fri.'s, at 8:30 a.m.

Music practice, 10 a.m., Wed.'s.

Awareness through Movement, 9:30 a.m., Fri.'s Mar. 4 and 11.

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

Thrift Shop is open first and third Mon.'s, 10-11 a.m.

Seniors Advisory Committee meets at 10 a.m., Tues., Mar. 22.

Reminder!! Exercise equipment available for use 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon.'s and Fri.'s, and 9 a.m.-noon, Wed.'s.

Stop in at the Center for more information, a cup of coffee/tea, and activity/trip sign up. Check out our books, or work on the 1,000-piece puzzle.

Benefit Dinner

A benefit dinner will held for the Ernest Keene family from 5-6:30 p.m. on Sat., Apr. 2, 2016, at Litchfield Masonic Hall, 2410 Hallowell RD, Litchfield.

From the Town Manager

Maine DOT has posted **Buker RD Bridge** with a maximum vehicle weight of 34 tons, 4-axle vehicle (tri-axle dump/pulp truck). All other vehicles are permitted. The Maine DOT will be monitoring traffic on this bridge.

A big **THANK YOU** to Rebecca Lamoreau for her years of service to the town as Deputy Clerk/Registrar/Treasurer, and a big **WELCOME** to Litchfield resident Diana Larrabee who has filled this position. Let's all welcome Diana.

The **rabies clinic** held on Sat., Jan. 23, raised \$650 in reg. fees and donations. This amount is clear profit for the Litchfield Fuel Fund.

The Select Board and the Town Manager invite and encourage Litchfield residents to **attend Select Board meetings** in order to better understand town operations,

Tacoma Lakes Association

As of Jan. 19, 2016, TLA has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service to convert to a fully charitable organization under the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). This simply means that all donors to the organization can fully deduct donations made to TLA. Approval by the IRS means that TLA is considered a public charity and qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers, or gifts.

This conversion is an important one for TLA and recognizes that this organization has changed in its mission since its founding 75 years ago. Through its charitable works, the association's mission remains to protect and improve the water quality of the Tacoma Lakes and its watershed for not only members but all that benefit from it.

Anglers are reminded that ice fishing shacks need to be removed well before possible ice out. In addition, if those shacks are placed on private property without permission and left there for 15 days or more, they will be considered abandoned and are subject to removal and disposal. Owners may also be subject to fines and other actions by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Please check with your local DIFW office or online for additional clarification of these rules.

FMI: bdoyles@roadrunner.com; or <http://www.tacomalakes.org/>; or Facebook

Clerk's Corner

Nomination papers for June's local elections will be available Tue., Mar. 22. They can be picked up at the town office during regular business hours. If you cannot get to the office during regular hours, please call me (268-4721) to be sure to get yours. Open positions include:

- Selectperson—1
- RSU4 School Board—1
- Litchfield Academy Trustees—2
- Budget Committee—3

This could be your time to make a difference.

2016 PRESIDENTIAL CAUCUSES:

Republicans will meet on Sat., Mar. 5, at 566 Togus RD, Chelsea, at the Chelsea School. Voter registration is 8-9 a.m., with discussion and voting from 9 a.m.-noon.

Democrats will meet on Sun., Mar. 6, at Carrie-Ricker School. Voter Registration is noon-1 p.m., with discussion and voting from 1-4 p.m.

Green Independent Party members will meet Sun., Mar. 6, at the Litchfield Town Office. Voter Registration is from 2-3 p.m., followed at 3 p.m. by discussion and voting.

NOTE: Voter registration is for new/unenrolled registrations—not for party changes for those currently enrolled.

Dog Licenses—A quick reminder that there are many of you who have not yet licensed your dogs. Please come in during business hours and get your beagle legal!

Gardiner Public Library

What does a public library mean to you? Oh sure, one would expect to see books, movies, and magazines. There are also newspapers available and audio-books. Computers are now the norm; how could we ever have existed without them?

A public library is also your community center, a warming spot when the winter winds howl and a cooling area when the summer begins to sizzle. Let's hope that it is a place of wonder for our children and a safe interlude for our teenagers. The Gardiner Public Library is all of that, but did you ever think that it is a place for a mystery theater?

We will be hosting a mystery theater on Sat., Apr. 23, titled *Mystery in the Archives*. Our beautiful Community Archives Room will be the stage for an unexplained murder and it will be up to the attending audience to figure out "who done it!" As we go through the evening, the audience will discover clues and hopefully, before the evening ends, the suspect will be identified. Agatha Christie would love the idea!

Tickets for this library fundraiser will go on sale soon. The library is located at 152 Water Street, Gardiner.

FMI: 582-3312

March 2016 Community Calendar

1 Tue	Fire/Rescue Officers Mtg. , Station, 6 p.m.	16 Wed	Road Committee , Town Office, 5:30 p.m. TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. (weigh-in before). FMI: Ruth Sherman, cell: 939-1907
2 Wed	TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. (weigh-in before). FMI: Ruth Sherman, cell: 939-1907	17 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m.
3 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m. Planning Board , Town Office, 5:30 p.m.	18 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
4 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m.	19 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon
5 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon Republican Caucus , Chelsea School, 8 a.m.-noon	20 Sun	
6 Sun	Democrat Caucus , Carrie-Ricker School, noon Green Independent Caucus , Town Office, 2 p.m. Creators 4-H Club , Libby-Tozier School, 3 p.m.	21 Mon	Academy Thrift Store , 10-11 a.m. Budget Committee , Town Office, 6:30 p.m. Hist. Pres. Comm. & Hist. Soc. , Shorey Family research Room, 7 p.m.
7 Mon	Academy Thrift Store , 10-11 a.m. Rec. Committee , Town Office, 6:30 p.m. Order of the Eastern Star Annual Meeting and Election of Officers , Masonic Hall, 7 p.m.	22 Tue	
8 Tue		23 Wed	TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. (weigh-in before). FMI: Ruth Sherman, cell: 939-1907 RSU4 Bd. Meeting , Oak Hill HS, 6:30 p.m. Franks & Beans , Legion Hall, 6:30 p.m. American Legion , Legion Hall, 7 p.m.
9 Wed	Conservation Commission , Town Office, 6:30 p.m. RSU4 Board Meeting , Oak Hill HS, 6:30 p.m. TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. (weigh-in before). FMI: Ruth Sherman, cell: 939-1907	24 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m. Snowmobile Club Regular Meeting , Academy Bldg., 6 p.m. Fair Directors , Sportsmen's Club, 7:30 p.m.
10 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m. Snowmobile Club Pot Luck Supper , Academy Bldg., 6 p.m. Snowmobile Club Regular Meeting , Academy Bldg., 6:30 p.m.	25 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
11 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m.	26 Sat	Public Breakfast , Masonic Hall, 7-10 a.m. Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon
12 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store , 9 a.m.-noon Legion Auxiliary , Legion Hall, 10 a.m. Order of the Eastern Star Open Installation of Officers , Masonic Hall, 7 p.m.	27 Sun	
13 Sun		28 Mon	Select Board Mtg. , Town Office, 6:30 p.m.
14 Mon	Select Board Meeting , Town Office, 6:30 p.m. Sportsmen's Club Monthly Meeting , Sportsmen's Club, 7 p.m.	29 Tue	
15 Tue	Sen. Ad. Com. , 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.	30 Wed	RSU4 Bd. Meeting , Oak Hill HS, 6:30 p.m. TOPS , Carrie Ricker School, 6:30 p.m. (weigh-in before). FMI: Ruth Sherman, cell: 939-1907
		31 Thu	Litchfield Food Bank , noon-2 p.m.



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 4—Newsletter Deadline, Budget Committee, RSU4

BOX HOLDER

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 Open: Mon.: 8:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
 Tue.—Thu.: 8:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
 Closed: Every Fri.

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April Issue Deadline: Mar. 20, 2015, 5 p.m.

Deliver material in any of the following ways:

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

Litchfield Budget Committee

This committee is an elected committee of citizens who work on issues related to tax planning for the town. The committee engages with the School Board, Select Board, Town Manager and others in discussions about school and town operating and capital spending needs—ultimately providing guidance to voters by means of recommending/declining to recommend spending on warrant items at town meeting.

Three committee member terms expire this year, and we anticipate that two or three of the current members will not stand again for election. If you would consider taking on this role, please reach out to a current committee member or visit us at our monthly meeting held the third Monday of each month. Your town needs your participation and support.

Don Jenkins, Chairman
 Litchfield Budget Committee

RSU4

If you are a resident of Sabattus, Litchfield, or Wales and have a child that will be 5 years old on or before Oct. 15, 2016, please call to sign up for **Kindergarten** for the 2016-2017 school year.

Also, please call if you have a child that will be 4 years old on or before Oct. 15, 2016, and you are interested in our **Pre-Kindergarten** program. Please call Libby-Tozier School (268-4137) if you are a resident of Litchfield; or call Sabattus Primary School (375-4525) if you are a resident of Sabattus or Wales. If there are more children that register for Pre-K than slots available, then a lottery will be held in early May. Screenings for both Pre-K and Kindergarten will be held at the end of May or beginning of June. If your child currently attends an RSU4 Pre-K program, you do not need to re-register or have your child get screened.

The **Libby-Tozier Grades 1 and 2 Concert** will be held on Tue., Mar. 22. The time will be announced at a later date. FMI: Libby-Tozier School (268-4137).

There will be an **RSU4 teacher workshop** on Fri., Mar. 18, so there is no school for the students.