

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXII No. 2

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

February 1, 2022

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

February question: The Chase Tavern was located in Bowdoin near the Litchfield line. That tavern was originally built by what early Litchfield settler? **January**

question: Someone traveling to 18th century Litchfield might well have passed through three Maine towns: New Boston, New Town, and New Marblehead. What are these towns called today? **answer:** Gray, Pownal, and Windham To read more about the history of Litchfield go to

WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

LITCHFIELD BROADBAND COMMITTEE UPDATE

The goal of the Town of Litchfield Broadband Committee was to support the Select Board in bringing quality, affordable broadband service to all households and businesses in town. Committee members included Joline Bell, Larry Bell, Tom Wood, Cheryl Cooledge, Dick Cutcliffe, John Upham, Josh O'Neill, and Judith Bullimer. The Committee was formed by the Select Board right before COVID, but the need for everyone to have broadband connectivity was even more recognized during the pandemic. A broadband contract was signed with Redzone in December. By mid 2022, the Town of Litchfield expects to have 100% broadband coverage to all existing and future locations in town. Redzone held a public information session recently to provide households with details of their service offerings that will come online soon. Information exclusive to Litchfield residences is also available on their website at: <https://www.redzonewireless.com/welcome>. Some households may even have multiple service provider choices available soon. In addition to traditional cable TV offerings, having broadband allows households to stream entertainment content without a traditional cable contract. We encourage everyone to take a look at what is available to find the best quality service and features at the lowest cost for their own household requirements. Special thanks to all of the Broadband Committee members, as well as the Select Board, the Town Manager, and Town Hall staff for bringing broadband coverage options to all households and businesses in town. If anyone has any questions, feel free to reach out to our Town Hall team or contact Larry Bell at lbell248@gmail.com.

RSU 4

Kindergarten Registration Litchfield, Sabattus and Wales

If you are a resident of Litchfield, Sabattus or Wales and have a child that will be 5 years old on or before October 15, 2022 (Kindergarten age) or a child that will be 4 years old on or before October 15, 2022 (Pre-K age), please call Libby-Tozier School at 268-4137 to register.

Litchfield Senior Center

The Litchfield Senior Center is open and available to all, no fee to attend. "Aging is more fun when you share it"

At this time some of the activities are still being held at the Litchfield Sportsmen's Club until such time that they will be brought back into the Senior Center. If the open flag is out at the Center, come on in. All dates and times are subject to change.

Winter sand is available for Senior's in 5 gal buckets, call 268-4237 or 441-9005 and leave your name & phone # and we will get in touch. We are looking for any empty clean 5 gal buckets, if you have one or more please drop them off at the transfer station.

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

The Senior Center will open 11:30 to 2 on Mondays after Line Dancing.

Tai Chi at 9 am. on Wednesdays at the Sportsmen's Club

Carol Bailey String band & Chorus music practice at 10 am at the Sportsmen's Club on Wednesdays.

Come to the Center for morning exercise with Dian & friends on Fridays 8:30-9:15. Join in the indoor walking, or use the exercise equipment of your choice.

Games for fun on Mondays at 11:30-2 and Fridays 10-3. Bring a lunch and snack, stay for games at the Senior Center.

Book Club discussion group will meet on Monday February 21 at 1 at the Senior Center.

The Seniors Advisory committee has put together a magnet with the heading IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: information on the storm shelter, water and contact numbers. These can be picked up at the town office, food bank, transfer station and the Senior Center

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting is at 1 on Thursday February 17.

Wellness check – if you would like to have someone phone you weekly to check in with you, please call and leave your name & phone # and we will get in touch with you.

Reminder: Exercise equipment available for use when the Center is open.

The Senior Center is located on Academy Rd. next to Libby Tozier Elementary School. Stop in for more information, a cup of coffee or tea or check out our books (paperback & hard cover), puzzles and items on the table you may like. Donations always appreciated, or work on the 1000 piece puzzle already set up on the table. Phone numbers-Center 215-4595/ Director 441-9005/268-4237

Transfer Station

We have the new stickers. If you need one, stop in and we will be happy to give you one. We are dealing with the cold weather. We are grateful that there hasn't been much snow. Kudos' to the public Works for keeping the Transfer Station well sanded. I know the residents appreciate it. We are emptying a bulky container nearly every week. The swap shop is closed for the cold season and will re-open this spring. Hold onto your treasures and bring them down then. If anyone has some clean empty 5-gallon buckets, the Senior Center sand delivery person would greatly appreciate if you would bring them down and drop them off at the Transfer Station. Stop by and say hello to John U. and John C

Friends of the Lakes

The Friends of the Lakes held its first event in Jan. and we hope to get more residents to join the group in the future. We are presently planning an afternoon event outdoors on Woodbury Pond tentatively scheduled for Feb. 19th. More by email as the event is planned. All are welcomed to join us by sending your email to friendsofthelakes@gmail.com. Please include your name, address and lake you are associated with. Also send any of your ideas our way as well. Ideas that have been presented include the formation of a book club, event to raise monies for local charities, and frequenting local restaurant events and Happy Hours as a group. Join us to get to know your neighbors better!

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

We are having so much fun giving you great bargains, we are continuing it for the WHOLE month of February! We need to prevent CABIN FEVER and we KNOW shopping will do it! And you won't even have to feel guilty. Call all your friends and invite them to come too. There's only 4 Saturdays in Feb. so plan ahead!

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

Accepting new applications for Litchfield residents. Bring proof of residency. It's that easy. Many thanks for your "to go" and reusable shopping bags! We'll put them to good use. We love to put food in our neighbors' vehicles. Open Wed. & Thur. Check the Sodalite Calendar for times.

More Conservation News

Bright sunshiny winter days are perfect for taking the kids outside to look for **animal tracks**. This web page is designed for teachers and is a perfect way to get started: <http://www.naturenorth.com/winter/trackcls/Ftrkcl.html>. The kids can guess what made the track or check out a chart like this one: <https://images.app.goo.gl/xCiT3KYnTNAUHEmL9>
The Maine IFW is asking for people to **report New England cottontail sightings** on their website. Folks will need to take note of sighting: date, time, location, town, habitat, id characteristics that set it apart from a snowshoe hare, and a photo if possible. *Go to the Litchfield Conservation Commission Facebook page has a post reporting the link to IFW*

Town Clerk's Corner

New Property Tax Deferral Program for qualifying Mainers - Maine now has a state-level property tax deferral program for elderly or disabled residents. This program essentially defers a qualifying taxpayer's "homestead" property taxes for life, or until the property is sold. Who qualifies? - Some of the basics that applicants must meet are: - Be 65 or older, OR unable to work due to disability; - Have an income of less than \$40,000 for the calendar year prior to applying, and liquid assets less than \$50,000 (or \$75,000 for a joint application)- Have a homestead exemption on the property for which the taxes are to be deferred (applications for homestead exemptions may be filed along with the property tax deferral) - NOT have a lien on the property. In addition, the deferred taxes accrue interest until they are repaid. If you are interested in finding out more, applications and the full details of the program and its qualifications are available at the Town Office, or on the web at www.maine.gov/revenue/tax-return-forms/property-tax. The application period for next year is open now (started Jan 1) and applications must be in by April 1st.

Wireless internet: As mentioned last month, Litchfield has contributed federal grant money to help bring a new internet option to residents. Redzone Wireless will be offering wireless internet connectivity to the home soon at fiber optic-like speeds. Explore more or signup on the Litchfield page of Redzonewireless.com.

Job openings - please contact the town office if interested (207) 268-4721:



- Join the team at Public Works, we have a space for a full-time operator / worker.
- Looking to work just a couple of days a week? Our transfer station is hiring!

The Town Office will be closed for President's Day, Monday, February 21st.

Some upcoming meetings at the Town Office
Recreation Committee, Monday, Feb 7th, 6:30 pm
Planning Board, Thursday, Feb 3rd, 6:30 pm
Select Board, Monday Feb 14th, 6:30 pm
Budget Committee, Monday Feb 21st, 6:30 pm
Select Board, Monday, Feb 28th, 6:30 pm



February Community Calendar

1 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers- 6:30pm; Station	17 Thur	Senior Advisory Meeting— 1pm Food Bank- 10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
2 Wed	Food Bank- 4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd	18 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8am-4pm
3 Thur	Food Bank- 10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd Planning Board— 6:30pm	19 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN— 9am to 12pm
4 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.	20 Sun	
5 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN— 9am to 12pm	21 Mon	Town Office Closed President's Day Holiday RSU4—No School Through Fri. Feb 25th 
6 Sun		22 Tue	
7 Mon	Lit. Recreation Comm. 6:30pm Order of the Eastern Star, members only, 7pm	23 Wed	Food Bank- 4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd RSU4—Board Meeting, 6:30pm Central Office
8 Tue	Lit. First Responders; 6:30pm-Station	24 Thur	Food Bank- 10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
9 Wed	Food Bank- 4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd RSU4—Board Meeting, 6:30pm Central Office Conservation Comm.- 6pm— litchfieldconservation@gmail.com to attend.	25 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.
10 Thur	Food Bank- 10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	26 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN— 9am to 12pm
11 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.	27 Sun	
12 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN— 9am to 12pm	28 Mon	Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information
13 Sun			
14 Mon	Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information 		
15 Tue	Lit. Fire Assoc & Reg Meet- 6:30pm		
16 Wed	Food Bank- 10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd		

BOX HOLDER

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ECRWSS
PRSR 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: 207-707-8485
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.

Conservation News

Winter (!!) Control of Invasive plants. The Cut and Daub strategy could be considered the guerrilla alternative to all the other battle plans (digging up or broadcast spraying) — a fast-moving cut-stump approach that makes focused use of the most benign herbicide available and can be used 10 months of the year. Here's how it works: **1.** Gather some herbicide containing 40 percent glyphosate, some bright marker dye, and a small plastic bottle with a sponge-applicator tip. Fill the bottle with herbicide and a bit of dye. *The Litchfield Conservation Commission sells these kits for \$10 including extra sponge tips.* With a folding hand saw or loppers cut off the woody invasive plant stems just above the ground, and level (no trippers). **2.** Daub the tinted herbicide lightly around the perimeter of the cut surface. Your target is the cambium layer just inside the bark, and you don't need to soak it. **3.** Cut and treat as much as you like from **July through April.** In really cold weather, you've got to keep the glyphosate from freezing; you can tuck the (capped) applicator inside your jacket or add isopropyl alcohol. One application won't do it all, but after just two or three years of intensive treatment you can expect to shift to maintenance mode, yanking up new plants that sprout not from the old stumps but from seed, and pull out readily (seeds stay viable in the soil and of course the birds are always bringing new ones). —From a review of work by landscape restorer Cheryl Culbreth.

March Issue Deadline:
Feb. 22, 2022 5p.m.
Deliver material in any
of the following ways:
E-mail
[**\(sodalite@litchfieldmai
ne.org\)**](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org) **U.S. mail to:**
Town Office, 2400 Hal-
lowell Rd. 04350

