

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXI No. 2

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

February 1, 2021

All activities and meetings may be postponed until after the Covid 19 Pandemic has passed. Please call your contact for each specific activity or meeting for more information.

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

February question: What was the source of the stream known variously as, Libby Mill Stream, Potter Mill Stream, and Hatch Stream? January question: What was the post office at "The North" called? answer: The South Litchfield Post Office To read more about the history of Litchfield go to

WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed

FREE WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY WITH THE
FRIENDS OF THE COBBOSSEE WATERSHED*

Save the date of Monday (2/15) for the first ever Winter Family Fun Day with the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed!

Enjoy a variety of free FUN family winter activities designed to safely explore the outdoors! Activities may include ice fishing on Little Cobbossee, tracking adventures, snow sculpting and of course, hot chocolate to enjoy.

Cost of the day is FREE and includes the use of all equipment and supplies. Further details concerning the FREE Winter Family Fun Day will be announced in the February edition of the Litchfield Sodalite.

For more information or questions, please contact Cami Wilbert, Education & Outreach Director at 395-5239 or camil@watershedfriends.com.

Litchfield Food Coop

The Litchfield Food Coop is considering dissolving and is organizing a meeting of former members to discuss details. We will meet on **Zoom** on February 3rd at 4pm. Contact Lindsay Nelsen for the Zoom connection at lnelsen@fairpoint.net We look forward to seeing old friends.



The Litchfield Senior Center is open. No fee to attend.

"Aging is more fun when you share it"

When we are open, your attendance is a personal choice. Masks will be provided as well as temperature checks if desired.

The hours **at the Center** are Monday 10-4, Wednesday 10-12 and Friday 8:30-4 subject to change

Come in for card games, Unlucky 7's, etc. Check out the books and puzzles available for your use.

The **Center** will be closed on February 15.

FREE Winter sand is available in 5 gal. buckets for Litchfield Seniors. If you would like to be on the list for delivery, please contact Pat Soboleski at 215-4595/441-9005.

Indoor walking exercise on Fridays at 8:30 with Dian White using a "Leslie Sansone Walk at Home" 5 mile tape-mile markers let you choose a 1 mile, 2,3,4 or 5 mile walk. Your choice. The easy and safe way to exercise especially during these winter months.

We also have exercise equipment available for use when the Center is open. Come in and check out what we have.

The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting is at 1 on Thursday February 18. There is a WiFi hot spot available at the Senior Center.

We have set up a schedule to train Seniors on basic computer applications using Google at the Senior Center. The dates for February are Tuesday 2/9 & 23. If interested, call 215-4595 leave a message with name & phone#.

We are looking for volunteers to form a winter wellness check committee. If interested, please contact the Senior Center at 215-4595 and leave your name & phone #.

At this time **we will not** be offering Line Dancing, Tai Chi or Music. The Feldenkrais Method lessons called Awareness through Movement will not be held until further notice as well.

Book club, making cards with Anne Thompson and the Potluck lunch have also not been scheduled.

We have a number of books donated pertaining to healthy living and eating, i.e: Eating for good health, Alternative Cures that really work, Chicken Soup & other Folk Remedies and many, many more.

Please stop in to the Senior Center located on Academy Rd. next to the Libby Tozier Elementary School for more information, a cup of coffee or tea and 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.

Litchfield Broadband Committee

The Maine Broadband Coalition launched an internet speed testing initiative at its website, mainebroadbandcoalition.org
<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fmainebroadbandcoalition.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7CS.MacLagan%40maine.gov%7Ccd1448cb2d474d89938a08d890762dc%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C1%7C63741815124673936%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=qMII4ISaVAvdEC%2Bj39Da9xGKzXrXxG1Cl4bHiTEpuDg%3D&reserved=0>>.

In addition to finding out your own upload and download speeds, users will help the coalition identify slow spots around the state where the speeds are not up to FCC minimum standards. That will help the group determine where upgrades are needed or places where the internet is largely inaccessible. Faster connection speeds are imperative for the economy and society in the 21st century, and have become even more essential during the pandemic. Please support the Maine Broadband Coalition AND the Litchfield Broadband Committee by taking the internet speed test! (NOTE: To get the best results, connect directly to your modem. If you do not have an external ethernet port, conduct your test right next to your router. Disconnect any additional internet-connected devices like your cell phone, tablets, or smart home appliances. These devices take up bandwidth even while idle. Disconnect unnecessary applications. Any updates or downloads, browsers streaming or multiple tabs may result in lower capacity at that moment. Restarting your router or modem may also help improve your speed test results). Many broadband contracts come with a modem included. But sometimes the modem you're given by your ISP is pretty average. In other cases, your modem may simply be old or may be clocking out sooner than expected. If you find that your internet speeds are not what have been advertised, you may want to look at the age of your modem. Modems that you have used for three years or more may be outdated, and may need to be replaced. It's worth noting, however, that there's a difference between slow Wi-Fi (the speed of the connection inside your house) and slow internet (the speed of the connection running into your house). Buying a new modem can offer faster, more reliable Wi-Fi within your house. It can also be the answer if you're experiencing frequent drop-outs. But it probably won't speed up your physical internet connection. Slow internet may be caused by other issues too. So before you purchase any new hardware, isolate your modem as the source of the problem. There are many online resources to help you troubleshoot the problem. Sometimes just typing a question into your internet browser will help you find your answers. We are working to get everyone connected in town with high speed, affordable, quality broadband service. If your digital connection to the outside world here in Litchfield is not working for you, please let us know by email to lbell248@gmail.com. It has been a challenge during COVID to seek out and get feedback from everyone, so for now, we will have to rely on email to communicate with everyone. Thanks

Town Clerk's Corner

The Town Office will be closed on Monday, February 15, 2021 in honor of President's Day.

June Municipal Elections

If you are thinking of getting involved in local government, there are positions coming up for election on the Budget Committee, Academy Trustees, School Board, and Board of Selectmen.

In anticipation of voting in June, candidates for Litchfield offices on the June, 2021 ballot may obtain their nomination papers at the Town Office beginning Monday, March 1st. All paperwork must be returned by Friday, April 9th.

Positions coming open in June are:

Selectman: 1

School Board: 1

Budget Committee: 2

Academy Trustee: 1

Some upcoming meetings at the Town Office:

Planning Board, Thursday, Feb 4th, 6:30 pm

Select Board, Monday, Feb 8th, 6:30 pm

Budget Committee, Monday, Feb 15th, 6:30 pm

Select Board, Monday, Feb 22nd, 6:30 pm

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

Continuing our drive through food distribution to minimize risks to your health. Behind our masks are smiles and concerns that you are doing OK. We are receiving food shipments every week, thanks to our loyal and dependable volunteer drivers. Our staff has juggled tasks to accommodate some needing to be away and the great team effort has been wonderful. Thank you to our volunteers and our supporters


Litchfield Academy Thrift Shop

Extending the Bag Sale through February! It's been so popular and folks are finding such great bargains! So, bring your paper grocery bags, fill them up and it'll cost a buck. Bring a reusable grocery bags and it'll cost you \$2 each. Open Saturdays, 9 to noon. Bring a friend and introduce them to our little secret shopping experience. Masks required.

RSU 4

No school for all RSU 4 for Winter Break. Monday, February 15 through February 19, 2021.

February Community Calendar

1 Mon	Litchfield Recreation Comm.-Contact Town Office for more information	17 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd
2 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers- 6:30pm; Station	18 Thur	Senior's Advisory Comm –1pm –Center Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
3 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd	19 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m
4 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd Planning Board –6:30pm	20 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN– 9am to 12pm
5 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m	21 Sun	
6 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN– 9am to 12pm	22 Mon	Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information
7 Sun		23 Tue	
8 Mon	Selectman Meeting, 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information	24 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd RSU 4 School Board—6:30pm-Zoom
9 Tue	First Responders Meeting-6:30pm; Station	25 Thur	
10 Wed	RSU 4 School Board—6:30pm-Zoom Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd Conservation Commission –6pm-For Zoom connection email Diane Clay c112a3y4@gmail.com	26 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m
11 Thur	Food Bank-10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	27 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN– 9am to 12pm
12 Fri	Town Office, closed Transfer Station, 8a.m.-4p.m	28 Sun	
13 Sat	Transfer Station, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN– 9am to 12pm	29 Mon	
14 Sun		30 Tue	
15 Mon	Town Office Closed Buget Committee—6:30pm via Zoom 	31 Wed	Food Bank-4p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd
16 Tue	Lit. Fire Assoc & Regular Meet-6:30pm		

BOX HOLDER

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

ECRWSS
 PRSRT 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: 207-268-2196
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.

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The Litchfield Sodalite

Conservation News

Teens to Trails pushing high schoolers to play outside through new app. In an effort to make the Maine wilderness accessible to all students and outing clubs, Teens to Trails has partnered with a Portland-based software company to bring a Maine outdoor guide to cellphones. Members of Teens to Trails have been looking at ways to foster outdoor experiences for high schoolers throughout Maine. Chimani, the app's developer, previously created a National Park guide, but their new app is the first of its kind in that it provides information for outdoor recreation on a state-wide level specific to Maine. Hiking trails, beaches, lighthouses and park hours can be located on the site, reducing the challenges of planning out a trip. <https://www.pressherald.com/2020/10/25/teens-to-trails-pushing-high-schoolers-to-play-outside-through-new-app/> **Winter, actually fall to spring bud break, is the time to prune your fruit trees, native shadblow and oaks to remove the firm, silky Brown Tail Moth nests found towards the end of branches.** See links below for more information about the human health issues and actions to take. You can hire arborists to prune the nests out of yours and your neighbors' trees. **The following are links to a fact sheet and pamphlet to inform the public about brown tail moth caterpillars:** <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/shm/Browntail-Moth-FS.pdf> https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/documents/browntail_moth_brochure.pdf

Unprecedented wave of solar development spurs land rush in Maine Over the next few years, hundreds of thousands of solar panels will be scattered across thousands of acres in Maine, including farmland and cut forest. This unprecedented activity is being spurred by recent state policies and laws aimed at encouraging a rapid shift away from oil and gas to renewable electric power for running cars and heating buildings. Maine Audubon has put together a [solar siting toolkit](https://www.pressherald.com/2021/01/04/unprecedented-wave-of-solar-development-spurs-land-rush-in-maine/), aimed at steering development away from high-value natural resources and agricultural lands. The Nature Conservancy is using GIS mapping to identify the best and worst sites based on habitat fragmentation <https://www.pressherald.com/2021/01/04/unprecedented-wave-of-solar-development-spurs-land-rush-in-maine/>

March Issue Deadline:
 March 22, 2021 5p.m.
 Deliver material in any of the following ways:
E-mail
[\(sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org\)](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org) **U.S. mail to:**
 Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd. 04350
Hand deliver to: Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd

