

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXII No. 1

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

January 1, 2022

Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

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? **December question:** One hundred or so years ago, Litchfield residents referred to a common and bothersome plant as "mercury". What do we call it today? answer: Poison Ivy. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org

Broadband Committee

We are all very excited about the Broadband Agreement announced by Kelly Weissenfels in this month's Clerk's Corner. With the implementation of this agreement, the Broadband Committee will meet the Select Board goal to provide broadband to ALL locations within Litchfield in 2022. According to Redzone Wireless CEO James McKenna, the service is able to connect unserved and off-grid locations wirelessly. Redzone's purpose-built technology is specifically engineered to form a non-line-of-sight last-mile bridge between the fiber network and the home. Once constructed, Redzone will cover any future costs for operating expenses, technical support, network, maintenance and technology. "We're happy about (the Redzone addition), because it's going to increase competition," Kelly said in a recent interview with the Kennebec Journal. "But anybody who is happy with their existing service can keep it. It's not an exclusive contract, so the idea is that we can get unserved households served quickly. This is a very high-quality addition to the currently available offerings." **Redzone is planning an information presentation to Litchfield residents on Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the Litchfield Fire Station.** They will provide plan details, information on streaming alternatives to TV cable boxes, and will be prepared to answer individual households' questions after the presentation. We are all very excited to welcome Redzone to our town, and we encourage everyone to compare their service plans against the other available providers doing business in Litchfield.

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 available for Senior's in 5 gal buckets, call and leave your name & phone # and we will get in touch.

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. 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 January 24 at 1 at the Senior Center. We will discuss the book - "A Redbird Christmas " by Fanny Flagg.

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 January 20.

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.

Tacoma Lakes Association Happy New Year!

The winter days are getting longer, and the journey to another magical summer has begun. TLA enjoyed another fantastic year in 2021. Our boat inspection program at the Woodbury launch had a very busy year. The intrepid plant patrol team spent days on our lakes, and fortunately found nothing invasive in our waters. Membership in our organization remains strong, and the generosity of our members was once again amazing. As you all are aware there are issues with the Woodbury dam. For updates you can go to our website, www.tacomalakes.org, or you can find us on Facebook. It is safe to say that the towns of Litchfield, and Monmouth recognize the importance of the dam to the area, and the dam will be repaired. As I type, Woodbury Pond is still not iced over. As winter proceeds, please use caution when on the ice, and always pick up after your activity on the lakes.

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

You know we love your donations! But PLEASE, bag them in loads below 25 pounds. Most of our volunteers are senior citizens and cannot lift heavy bags to get them upstairs! We've found bags left downstairs that were well over 50 pounds! Your consideration is solemnly requested.

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

If you get your groceries using the TO GO option, we'd love your paper shopping bags, especially the ones with handles! Leave them at the Transfer Station (ask John to pass them on to us) deliver them to the Food Bank Wed. 10 - noon, 4 - 6 or Thur. 10 - noon, or call me for pick-up 582-4098. Happy New Year and thank you for your support!



Town Clerk's Corner

Bryan Lamoreau has officially retired as manager of the Transfer Station. We're sorry to see him go! Bryan took over following a DEP inspection with a fairly long list of required corrective actions. Through his efforts the Transfer Station rapidly took care of that entire list, and has kept improving. He leaves behind an efficient operation and experienced staff. Thank you, Bryan!

Due to the Bryan's retirement we have two job vacancies 1) Transfer Station Manager, part-time; and also 2) Town Constable, which is a volunteer position. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact the Town Office (207) 268-4721.

There is a new internet option in town! The Town of Litchfield has just signed a public/private partnership agreement with Redzone Wireless, a Maine company located in Rockland. Our town is contributing 30% of the infrastructure costs utilizing federal American Rescue Plan Act funds made available to the town for broadband infrastructure (no bond required). A rapid project completion (6 – 9 months) is expected. Please see the Broadband Committee update in this same Sodalite for more details, including the information session January 27th. Explore more or signup at Redzone.com.

The Town Office will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr Day, Monday, January 17th.

Litchfield winter roads are among the best maintained in the area. But roads can get dangerous. We monitor the weather and pre-treat icy storms when possible. But if roads ice up unexpectedly for the morning commute and will thaw within 2 hours, then by the time the trucks get there it will have been small gain at large expense. If the weather is iffy, the Road Commissioner drives the routes and has to make the tough calls. It's winter in Maine, please drive carefully. If you have are interested in joining the Public Works team, one of our crew is moving out of town. We have a space for a full-time operator / worker. Please contact the town office if interested

2022 Dog Licenses – \$25 late fee starts Feb 1 You may license your dog(s) for 2022 at the Town office (beginning October 15th) or online at https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl. If rabies vaccinations are due please bring a copy of the new vaccination. To avoid a late fee your dog must be licensed by January 31, 2022.

2022 Snowmobiles and Boat Registrations; Fishing and Hunting Licenses Snowmobiles may be registered for 2022 at the Town Office, or online: Boats: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/atv-snowmobile/index.html> Snowmobiles: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing-boating/boating/index.html>. Fishing/Hunting Licenses: https://moses.informe.org/cgi-bin/online/moses_v3/index

Fuel Assistance - Applicants for the KVCAP Fuel Assistance Program should contact KVCAP directly by calling either 1-800-542-8227 ext. 1500 or (207) 859-1500 to schedule an appointment. Applicants may also access the KVCAP website (www.kvcap.org) click "For The Home", select "Heating Assistance", click the highlighted "Click Here" and book your appointment. Information is available in the Town office.

January Community Calendar

1 Sat		17 Mon	Lit. Budget Comm. —6:30pm;
2 Sun		18 Tue	Lit. Fire Assoc & Reg Meet -6:30pm
3 Mon	Lit. Recreation Comm. , 6:30pm	19 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd Road Comm. , 6pm Town Office
4 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers - 6:30pm; Station	20 Thur	Senior's Advisory Com. -1pm -Center Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
5 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd	21 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.
6 Thur	Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd Planning Board —6:30pm	22 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm
7 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.	23 Sun	
8 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm Litchfield Sportsman's Club ; Public Supper & Music Jam, Supper 5pm-6pm, Jam 6:30pm-8pm, \$7/person	24 Mon	Selectman Meeting , 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information
9 Sun	Lit Sportsman's Club — Country Sunday, 12-4pm; \$6.	25 Tue	
10 Mon	Selectman Meeting , 6:30pm; Town Office & on line-See Website for more information	26 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd RSU4 —Board Meeting, 6:30 OHHS
11 Tue	Lit. First Responders ; 6:30pm-Station	27 Thur	Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
12 Wed	Food Bank -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd RSU4 —Board Meeting, 6:30 OHHS Conservation Comm. - 6pm contact Diane Clay (litchfieldconservation@gmail.com) to attend.	28 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4pm
13 Thur	Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	29 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm
14 Fri	Town Office , closed Transfer Station , 8a.m.-4p.	30 Sun	
15 Sat	Transfer Station , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Academy Thrift Store OPEN- 9am to 12pm	31 Mon	
16 Sun	Senior's Advisory Com. -1pm -Center Food Bank -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd		

BOX HOLDER

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

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.

4

The Litchfield Sodalite

Conservation News: Browntail Moth caterpillars

According to the Maine Forest Service Kennebec county has the highest number of acres consumed by Browntail moth caterpillars: 108,138 acres. The state total for 2021 is 198,000 ac up from 156,000 ac in 2020. We need a normal wet May and June to encourage the native pathogens (fungus and virus) to control the caterpillars. We have been in a three year cycle of spring drought. *What can you do?* Since *one* nest can have from 25-400 caterpillars, depending on size, and since these nests are at the tip of tree branches, the Maine Forest Service recommends clipping webs between October and mid-April before caterpillars emerge from winter webs and begin feeding on new leaves. Clip and destroy the nests by soaking in soapy water. The silky compact nests are visible against the skyline and a pole pruner can help extend your reach. Learn as much as you can by going to the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry: [Browntail Moth \(BTM\) Frequently Asked Questions \(maine.gov\)](#) You can also telephone 211 which will answer questions.

Conservation Outing

Did you make New Year's resolution to get more exercise? Get started off on the right foot on 1/1/22, New Year's Day, at 1:00PM with the Litchfield Conservation Commission. You are cordially invited to join us on foot, skis or snowshoes as we navigate the varied trails on a **family friendly** adventure. Maps will be available so you may venture forth on your own or join a group. Due to COVID, we will not be offering food or drinks, but welcome you to bring your own. Please park at the Town Office parking lot and we will enter the Litchfield Community Park from the entrance behind the public works building. We're looking forward to seeing you!

February Issue Deadline: Jan. 22, 2022 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

