

# The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XX No. 2

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

February 1, 2020

## Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz!

February question: A Civil War soldier's unit could be identified by a colored symbol found on the top of their cap and on their unit's flag. What was the symbol worn by A.J. Tozier and the 20th Maine at Gettysburg? January question: Litchfield men who fought in the Civil War were issued a Kepi. What was this? answer: a forage cap. To read more about the history of Litchfield go to [WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org](http://WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org)

## Broadband Committee

The Broadband Committee continues to work on helping the Select Board secure high quality and affordable broadband to all Litchfield households. About half of our households here in Litchfield currently utilize Charter 'Spectrum' for their broadband needs. Visiting the Spectrum Auburn location (next to Kohl's), we gathered the following information:

**EXISTING ACCOUNTS** - Either the Auburn or Augusta location can provide support to Litchfield customers. Legacy Time-Warner accounts have choices. If customers are happy with their speed and cost / month, they can keep their existing account. However, if they are paying \$70 or more for 50 Mbps speed from their Time Warner contract, they should come in and upgrade to Spectrum (100 Mbps) for about the same \$70 - \$75 cost per month. Customers do not have to bundle other services such as phone and TV with their broadband account. The only exception is for instances where Spectrum bought out their DirecTV or Dish satellite TV service. In that instance, they are obligated to have Spectrum TV for six months. (There are many television streaming services that can be utilized instead of cable TV service from Spectrum. Details can be found online at sources such as Consumer Reports and CNET, amongst others).

**NEW ACCOUNTS** - For new accounts, if Spectrum does not have coverage at the address, ask to be directed to the 'Construction Department' and make sure that they have the proper region (by giving them the zip code for Litchfield). When you connect with a person, get their contact information. Make sure they are out of the Augusta area office - this is the regional branch that covers Litchfield. If a neighborhood is looking to connect to Spectrum, it will be helpful for all of your neighbors to call this same person in the Construction Department to help justify the cost of installation. (Perhaps one person could call for multiple neighbors (have names, addresses, and phone numbers available). According to one source we spoke with, Spectrum will cover the cost to bring the coaxial cable to the home (up to \$3000 per new customer with a maximum of \$9000 per new group of customers), but there may be extra costs to be paid by the customer if the lines need to be run further (on a case-by-case basis dependent upon the payback to Spectrum).

## Senior Center

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

**The normal hours** are Monday & Friday 8:30-4 and Wednesday 8:30-12, subject to change. Center is closed on February 17.

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

**Something new at the Senior Center - Tai Chi at 8:30 on Mondays.** Gentle physical exercises and stretches, sometimes described as meditation in motion. "A gentle way to fight stress"-Mayo Clinic  
**Line dancing** instruction Mondays at 9:30 for beginners and advanced.

**Aerobic exercise** classes on Wednesday and Fridays at 8:30.

**Book Club** meeting is on February 12. The books to be discussed will be "Random Act", by Gerry Doyle.

**Making cards** with Anne Thompson is on Wednesday, February 19 at 1 p.m. Think St. Patrick's Day.

**Music practice** for the Carol Bailey String Band is on Wednesdays at 10.

**The Feldenkrais** method awareness through movement class with Lindsay Nelsen (268-4569) is at 9:30 on Fridays.

**Cribbage or Unlucky 7's** games for fun on Mondays at 11 and Fridays 10-12. Bring a lunch and stay for games on Mondays in the afternoon & on Friday cards or games.

**The Thrift Shop** is open the first Monday 10-11 in February.

**The Senior's Advisory Committee** meeting is at 10 on Thursday February 20.

**A Free chili & chowder luncheon** and celebration of February birthdays is on Friday February 21. Shake off the winter blues, come on down to the Senior Center for good food and conversation. Lunch is 12 to 1 p.m.

**The form for 2020 trip** suggestions is available at the Senior Center. Stop in and pick one up to fill out. We need your input.

**Reminder:** Exercise equipment available for use 8:30-4 Monday and Friday; 8:30-12 Wednesday.

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 or work on the 1000 piece puzzle.

### RSU4 SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten and Pre-K Registration - If you are a resident of Sabattus, Litchfield or Wales and have a child that will be 5 years old on or before October 15, 2020 (Kindergarten age) or a child that will be 4 years old on or before October 15, 2020 (Pre-K age) please call Sabattus Primary School at 375-4525 or Libby-Tozier School at 268-4137 to register. February vacation is 2/17-2/24 so the schools will be closed for that time period.

### LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

The donations just keep rolling in! Some really interesting items, too. Feb. Cabin Fever Reliever: TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE or BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE! Doesn't get much better than that. Check it out on Sat. 9 - 12 (and there's 5 Saturdays in Feb thanks to Leap Year)

### LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

Did I tell you how great my volunteers are? Have I mentioned the wonderful donors? We are truly blessed with both! Thank you so much!

### Town Clerk's Corner

**President's Day**-Feb 17—Town Office Closed  
**State Elections** are coming up on Tuesday, March 3rd  
On the March ballot this year are:

- Presidential primary candidates
- A citizen's referendum to: Repeal Law to Eliminate Religious and Philosophical Vaccination Exemptions

Information about the referendum may be found online at [Ballotpedia.org](http://Ballotpedia.org) A link is also available at the Town Website, [www.litchfieldmaine.org](http://www.litchfieldmaine.org). Absentee ballots for the March 3rd voting may be requested online (see the Town Website [www.litchfieldmaine.org](http://www.litchfieldmaine.org), or search "Maine Absentee Ballot Request) or picked up at the Town Office.

### June Elections

In anticipation of voting in June, candidates for Litchfield offices on the June 9th, 2020 ballot may obtain their nomination papers at the Town Office beginning Monday, March 2nd. All paperwork must be returned by Friday, April 10th.

Positions coming open in June are:

Selectman: 1

School Board: 1

Budget Committee: 3

Academy Trustee: 2

Some upcoming meetings at the Town Office

Broadband Committee, Monday Feb 3rd, 10:30am

Recreation Committee, Monday, Feb 3rd, 6:30 pm

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

Select Board, Monday Feb 10th, 6:30 pm

Conservation Commission, Wednesday, Feb 12th, 6 pm

Budget Committee, Monday Feb 17th, 6:30 pm

Select Board, Monday, Feb 24th, 6:30 pm

Broadband Committee – Monday, Feb 17th, 10:30 am



## February Community Calendar

1 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 9 a.m.-noon <b>Litchfield Sportsmen's Club</b> -Public Supper (5pm-6pm) and Music Jam (6pm-8pm), \$7	17 Mon	<b>President's Day-Town Office Closed</b> <b>Broadband Comm.</b> —10:30am; Town Off <b>Budget Comm</b> -6:30pm; Town Office <b>Historical Society</b> — Recessed
2 Sun	<b>Litchfield Sportsman's Club</b> -Country Sunday (noon-4:30pm), \$6	18 Tue	<b>Lit. Fire Assoc &amp; Regular Meet</b> ; 6:30pm
3 Mon	<b>Broadband Comm</b> —10:30am; Town Office <b>Lit Recreation Comm</b> -6:30pm; Town Office <b>Order of the Eastern</b> , 7pm	19 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> -5p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd <b>TOPS</b> -Carrie Ricker School; 6:30p.m
4 Tue	<b>Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting</b> -6:30pm	20 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd <b>Senior Advisory Comm.</b> 10am; Senior Center <b>Budget Committee</b> —6:30pm; Town Office
5 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> -5p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd <b>TOPS</b> -Carrie Ricker School; 6:30p.m	21 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8a.m.-4p.m.
6 Thur	<b>Planning Board</b> -6:30pm; Town Office <b>Food Bank</b> -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	22 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 9 a.m.-noon
7 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8a.m.-4p.m.	23 Sun	
8 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 9 a.m.-noon <b>Amer. Legion Ladies Aux.</b> , Legion Hall, 10am	24 Mon	<b>Selectman Meeting</b> , 6:30pm; Town Office
9 Sun		25 Tue	
10 Mon	<b>Selectman Meeting</b> , 6:30pm; Town Office	26 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> -5p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd <b>TOPS</b> -Carrie Ricker School; 6:30p.m <b>RSU4 School Bd</b> -6:30pm OHHS
11 Tue	<b>First Responders Meeting</b> 6:30pm	27 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd
12 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> -5p-6p; 491 Richmond Rd <b>TOPS</b> -Carrie Ricker School; 6:30p.m <b>Conservation Comm</b> -6pm, Town Office <b>RSU4 School Bd</b> -6:30pm; OHHS	28 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8a.m.-4p.m.
13 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> -10a-12p; 491 Richmond Rd	29 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 9 a.m.-noon <b>Lit. Sportsman's Club</b> , Public Breakfast (7am-9:30am), \$7
14 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8a.m.-4p.m. <b>Happy Valentine's Day</b>	30 Sun	
15 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8 a.m.-4 p.m. <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> , 9 a.m.-noon	31 Mon	
16 Sun			

# BOX HOLDER

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 1. Historical Society, Senior Center Corner  
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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](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)  
[www.litchfieldmaine.org](http://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

The Litchfield Community Park is open all winter with access to the east of the Town office, on the other side of the gravel piles. There are extensive trails and if the conditions are right the ponds might be good for skating. Smithfield Plantation on the Libby Road is also available for snowshoeing.

### From the Maine Department of Forestry:

The year 2020 has been declared the “International Year of Plant Health” by the United Nations General Assembly <http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/en/>. In this time of contemplating resolutions for the New Year, we can resolve to add to the impact of this declaration. How?

**\*\*Use local firewood ([maine.gov/firewood](http://maine.gov/firewood)),**

**\*\*Learn about, observe and educate others regarding forestry quarantines and other plant**

**protection regulations [https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest\\_health/quarantine\\_information.html](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/quarantine_information.html)**

**\*\*Pay attention to the health of the forests and trees around you (if you have concerns, reach out) and**

**\*\*Share what you know with others to encourage additional positive change. Individuals *can* and *do* make a difference in the health of our forests and trees.**

**March Issue Deadline:**  
 Feb. 22, 2020, 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

