

The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXVI No. 8

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

August 1, 2026

HISTORIAL SOCIETY TRIVIA QUIZ

August question: In 1814 a carding and fulling mill was established in Litchfield. Such mills were connected to the production of what product? **July question:** Few in Litchfield today are aware that Litchfield once had a hall for the performing arts. Where was this hall and what was it called? answer: Union Hall, located in Purgatory To read more about the history of Litchfield go to HistoricalSocietyoflitchfield-maine.org

LITCHFIELD TRANSFER STATION

Summer's here, the time is right and it is flying by fast. Sunday, August 29 will be our last Sunday that we are open this season. Stop in and say hello to Jim D., Jim N., and Kim R. We are waiting for DEP's approval for us to proceed with our planned improvements here at the Transfer Station. The Swap Shop is doing a very brisk business with items coming and going. The plastic needs to be spoken about. **Please do not put items that are not plastic jugs in the plastic container.** If the item you are putting in there does not have a triangle with a number inside, do not put it in. We are seeing plastic bags, plastic sheeting, hangers, etc. these items clog up the machinery when the plastic is processed. Many many THANKS to the residents who stop and check in with the attendants. It eases our anxiety and with the Swap Shop being open, we must remind everyone about watching their speed. It is only 5 MPH. Our phone number here is 268-2032.

Woodbury Pond Park

It's been a great season so far! Our season ends on August 23rd, so get your picnic on! We now have an attendant at the park part-time; her name is Jessica. Welcome, Jess! She's doing a great job keeping the park ready for patrons. A big THANK YOU to the volunteers for hauling off the rotted picnic table. Also, a big THANK YOU for assisting with putting up the volleyball net, hanging the poop bag dispenser, hanging the new "open" flag pole, and posting the STOP sign on the booth. We need some assistance with some rotted siding on the booth. Please contact Sue Weber at woodburypondpark@gmail.com to discuss the small project.

LITCHFIELD FAIR

Litchfield Fair will be here before we know it! It will be held on September 11, 12, 13, 2026. Be watching for our 2026 Fair book to be posted on our website (www.litchfieldfair.com) very soon or check out our Facebook page to see what exciting things are happening. There are many opportunities to volunteer before and during the fair. We meet every Tuesday for work sessions. We will feed you supper at 5:00pm and work on various projects after. We would love to have you join us! We are always looking for volunteers or new members!

LITCHFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Center Phone # 446-6275

The Senior Center will be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9-2 or when the flag is out. Come in for exercise, cards, or check out the books and puzzles we have. New arrivals all the time. We also have working laptops to use during center hours. **Mondays and Fridays** we have exercise with Dian and friends **from 8:30 -9:30.** Join in the indoor walk or use the exercise equipment. On Fridays we offer Cribbage at **9:39-10:30** or longer. Bring a partner or call to see if there are people playing. **Due to summer hours, there may be times when there will be no cribbage.** At 10-3 there are card games going on. BYO lunch is for noon. **Potluck /August birthdays celebrations on 21st.**

On Mondays we offer knitting and crochet with Sharon Thibault at **9:30-10:30.** We will be taking a break for the summer due to nice weather and vacations. Come back in September to start again. If you have knitting or crochet issues you need help with, you can come to center on the hours and Lori, the director, probably can help. **Grammie's Mitten Tree** was a big hit with the pre-k kids' classes, and the school wants us to do it again next year, for this we make mittens that are 5in long beyond the cuff to give out. If you would like to donate mittens, you can take them to the center.

Qigong will be held at **9-9:45 Wed.** at the senior center, then a prompt to band **practice 10-11** every other Wednesday when the band is not performing. Check our calendar for dates.

Line dancing will be practicing on Aug. 3Rd, 17th and 31st at the Sportsmen's Club at 9-11. On the 10th they will be performing at **Sarah Frye in Auburn** at 1:00. On the 24th **Schooner Estates** at 10:00 **Carol Bailey String Band** will be performing on the 5th at **Clover Health Care** in Auburn at 10:00 and on **August 19th at Woodbury Pond Park.** Bring dessert to share, water and a chair at 10 am.

Senior advisory committee will meet on the 20th at **1 pm.** The **book club** will meet on the 17th at 1 pm. The book to be discussed is "The Book Club of Troublesome Women" by Marie Bostwick. Pick up the book at the Gardiner library or the Monmouth Library.

The Gardening Club will meet on Aug 12th at **1 pm** at the center. Come and get some ideas and help with flowers or veggies. Check out the Litchfield Gardening Club Group on Facebook for updates and info.

Trips for the month are to Pemaquid light house and beach on Aug 13th. Call the center to sign up and FMI.

Like to learn how to sew? The center is planning to start learning classes in the fall on Mondays in the afternoon. We will state with the basics "get to know your machine" then hopefully a once-a-month class to sew small projects Like Making a pillowcase. Call the center for info. **You will need your own sewing machine. The center is looking for donations for sewing machines** that are in good condition and not that old to use during sewing classes. This is so some can try sewing to see if they like it without buying a machine first.

The Litchfield Firefighters Association
Presents
30th Annual
SHOW and SHINE
Sunday, August 9th, 2026
(Rain or Shine)

Carrie Ricker Middle School: 573 Richmond Rd, Litchfield, ME
Gates Open: 8:00am | Entries: 8:00 - 11:00am

Car & 1 Passenger: \$10.00 (General Public Invited) Admission: \$5.00 (Under 10 are free)

Litchfield Food Pantry

Bring non-perishable food or donation of \$5.00 or greater value for half off entry.

Large Trophies for: Best Paint, Chrome, Show & Furthest Distance Traveled.
1st Place Trophies | 2nd & 3rd Place Dash Plaques.
Lots of Give-Aways & 50/50 Raffle.

Class winners & 50/50 to be announced at 2:30.

Antiques	Camaro & Firebird ('67 - '69)	Mopar	Stock Automobiles
Best of '50s	Camaro & Firebird ('82 - Current)	Motorcycles	Stock Trucks
Best of '60s	Corvette (Thru '82)	Mustang (Thru '78)	Street Rods (Open)
Best of '70s	Corvette ('84 - Current)	Mustang ('79 - '93)	Street Rods (Closed)
Best of '80s	Custom	Mustang ('94 - Current)	Strictly Muscle
Best of '90s	Foreign	Pick-Ups (2wd)	Tuners
Best of 2000s	Jeps	Pick-Ups (4wd)	Volkswagen
Best of 2010s	Military Class	Rat Rods	
Best of 2020s	Class	Restoration in Progress	
Big Rigs / Fire Trucks	Mini-Truck	Special Interest	



Info: Gerry Lebel - 215-3788
Email: gtpressure@yahoo.com
Website: LFAShowandShine.com
Facebook: Litchfield Firefighter's Assoc. Annual Show & Shine

LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

Bargains Galore! Getting tired of the same clothes? Pick up a few items to freshen your wardrobe! New items arriving every week! Great prices continue. You might even find some great stuff for the kids to start their school year in. Our warm weather continues into September, so they'll want things for the warmer temps and not start the winter wardrobe yet! We've got them! Open Saturday, 9 to noon.

LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

We originally opened March 6, 2019 in space provided by Ricky Gowell and moved into our own new building, opening here August 17, 2024. In celebration of our second anniversary here we are inviting donations of cleaning supplies and personal toiletries for our clients. These are items not usually available through our normal sources and we'd love to be able to offer them. Feel free to drop them off any Wednesday morning from 8 to noon or call Rayna to make arrangements at 557-2680. Want us to shop for you? Send a check to PO Box 306, Litchfield with "Anniv" in the memo line and we'll do it! Many thanks.

American Legion

William R. Bold Post 181

Next meeting is Aug. 26, 2026 at 7:00pm at the new Post building at 798 Lewiston Rd. West Gardiner. All veterans are welcome

TOWN CLERK'S CORNER

Late-Tax Notices – 30-day notices for unpaid 2025 property taxes will be mailed out at the end of the August. If property taxes have not been paid in full before that mailing, you will incur an additional processing fee to cover the notification. Taxes may be paid at any time, and monthly payments, including pre-payments that start before you get next year's bill are an option. Not sure if you owe? See "online property tax payment" below.

Tax Tips - - If you would like to begin paying your property taxes monthly, the time to start is now, the October payment includes the months of July through October.

Property owners that closed a new purchase after April 1st of the current year will (by state law) not receive a tax bill. That does not mean you don't have a payment. It means the bill was mailed to the owner of record as of April 1st. - Following tax commitment at the end of September feel free to check the tax portal online (see below), or call the town office, or look online at the commitment book (www.litchfieldmaine.org) to find out what you owe.

Online Property Tax Payments - An online property tax payment option is available through the portal at https://litchfieldme.governmentwindow.com/payer_login.html. This link may be found in the "How Do I...?" sidebar on the town website <https://www.litchfieldmaine.org/>. If you have paid your 2025 taxes in full, the system will not find a record until after tax commitment has occurred in September.

Code Enforcement Officer – The Code Enforcement Officer will be on vacation August 10-17th.

Woodbury Pond Park - Woodbury Pond Park is open from 10 am to 7 pm, weather permitting, until August 23rd. If there is a heat wave Labor Day weekend, we will open the park. As always, if the gate is closed you are welcome to park nearby and walk in at no charge.

Road Work - Dennis Hill Road remains closed at Dennis Brook, projected open by the end of August. The Small Road at Rte 197 needs some repair and may be detoured for a short time (TBD). Public Works is completing ditching and tree work on Academy Rd; Community Drive is next.

**AUGUST IS LIKE
THE SUNDAY OF
SUMMER.**

August Community Calendar

1 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm Lit. Sportsman's Club—Public Supper & Jam. Supper 5 - 6 \$10. Jam 6:30 to 8	16 Sun	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm
2 Sun	Lit. Sportsman's Club -Country Music Sunday Noon to 4; \$8.00 Transfer Station—8am-4pm	17 Mon	Lit. Fire & Rescue Association—6pm, Cen.Sta. (All welcome to attend)
3 Mon		18 Tue	Lit. Fire & Rescue Meeting—6pm, Central Sta
4 Tue	Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting, 6:00pm	19 Wed	Lit. Food Bank—4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd Lit. Road Comm—6pm; Town Office
5 Wed	Lit. Food Bank—4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd	20 Thur	Lit Food Bank—10am-12pm, 56 Plains Rd Lit. Budget Comm.— 6:30pm, Town Off. Lit. Senior Comm - 1pm, Senior Center
6 Thurs	Lit. Food Bank—10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd Lit. Planning Board—6:30pm; Town Office	21 Fri	Town Office closed Transfer Station—8am -4pm
7 Fri	Town Office closed Transfer Station—8am -4pm	22 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm
8 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm	23 Sun	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm
9 Sun	Transfer Station—8am -4pm	24 Mon	Lit. Selectmen's Meeting; 6:30pm, Town Office -zoom available-see website
10 Mon	Lit. Selectmen's Meeting; 6:30pm, Town Office- zoom available-see website Lit. Recreation—6:15pm, Town Office	25 Tue	
11 Tue	Lit. First Responders-6pm, Central Office	26 Wed	Lit. Food Bank—4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd American Legion William R. Bold Post 181- 7:00pm; 798 Lewiston Rd. West Gardiner RSU4-First Day of School—K-9th
12 Wed	Lit. Food Bank—4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd Lit. Sportsman's Club Meeting—6:00pm Lit Road Committee-6:00pm; Town Office	27 Thur	Lit. Food Bank—10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd RSU4-First Day of School-10th-12th <i>PreK- First Day is September 1, 2026</i>
13 Thur	Lit. Food Bank—10am-12pm; 56 Plains Rd	28 Fri	Town Office closed Transfer Station—8am -4pm
14 Fri	Town Office closed Transfer Station—8am -4pm	29 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm
15 Sat	Transfer Station - 8am-4pm Academy Thrift Store—Open 9am-12pm	30 Sun	Transfer Station—8am -4pm -Last Sunday until April, 2027
		31 Mon	

LITCHFIELD FIRE & RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Upcoming events are the **Show n Shine Car Show** on August 9th starting at 8am. We are looking for any businesses that would like to sponsor a class the cost is \$100. We are also looking for anyone that would like to help in the judging of car (Free entrance and lunch) Another big event is the Litchfield Fair on September 11-12-13, we will be looking for helpers in the booth. Also, we will be reaching out to all those bakers for their delicious pies. All the events are also looking for any upcoming senior that need to get their community service hours in we greatly appreciate your help and look forward to working with you. If you have any questions, please contact Tina Gowell at 207-485-5565

LITCHFIELD SNOWMOBILE CLUB

The Litchfield Snowmobile Club will be hosting a summer cook out on August 23 from 5pm to 7pm for all members and landowners (who generously allow us to have trails on their property) and anyone who is interested in joining or learning more about our club. This is a free event giving us the opportunity to meet and socializing with other members, landowners and potential new members while enjoying some grilled hot dogs, hamburgers and various side dishes. If you are interested in attending and would like more info, such as location, please text Ken Holt at 207-485-4241 or message us on our Facebook page "Litchfield Snowmobile Club" by August 20th. We hope to see some new and familiar faces. Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer and think snow.

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BOX HOLDER

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: 207-707-8485
 sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org
 www.litchfieldmaine.org
 Open: Mon.—Wed.: 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
 Thurs.: 8:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
 Closed: Every Fri.

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The Litchfield Sodalite

Litchfield Conservation Committee

The story trail in the Litchfield Community Park, just north of the town office, has a delightful new summer book for the young but, as always, a good tale for everyone. It's about a very hot day (we know about those) and a family trip to the beach. What are the perils for our young protagonist and who helps out? Come walk and read "A Friend for Summer". A Maine Conservation Corps super team of ten will be in town August 10-13 for free and a team of three we paid for will be in town August 17-20. Volunteer opportunities abound. Besides control of terrestrial invasive plants on properties in town that are open to the public, they will be making trails where invasive control has opened up new areas. They also keep existing trails wide enough and do any major work needed. We thank our hometown team for keeping the Litchfield Community Park trails clear of fallen trees year round! Call them if you see something: 508-864-5101 **Do you enjoy paddling?** Our 5 Tacoma Lakes are a beautiful place to kayak or canoe. Learn about the ecosystem of lakes, join the invasive plant patrol and have a fun weekly outing while doing good. The aquatic plant patrol members take instruction with online and in person classes from the Lake Stewards of Maine, a nonprofit which works to protect Maine lakes and to promote lake stewardship. Contact IPP team leader Diane Clay: c112a3y4@gmail.com or Buffy DeMatteis: buffythelobsterslayer@gmail.com

Sept. Issue Deadline:
 Aug 20, 2026 5pm Deliver material in any of the following ways: email: sodlite@litchfieldmaine.org; U.S. mail to: Town Office, 2400 Hallowell Rd. 04350 Hand deliver to: Town Office 2400 Hallowell Rd.

