

# The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXV No. 10

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

October 1, 2025

## HISTORIAL SOCIETY TRIVIA QUIZ

**October question:** The Lewiston, Augusta and Waterville Street Railway crossed Litchfield in 1908 connecting what two towns? **September question:** The U.S. Post Office tried unsuccessfully to change the name of which of Litchfield's villages to "Pleasant Valley?" answer: Purgatory To read more about the history of Litchfield go to [HistoricalSocietyoflitchfieldmaine.org](http://HistoricalSocietyoflitchfieldmaine.org)

## LITCHFIELD TRANSFER STATION

October has arrived and cooler weather is not far behind. The Swap Shop is closed for the season. Many thanks go to the volunteers who ran the Swap Shop. Pam, Sherry, Kristen, and Carey are just a few of the many who graciously donated their time and efforts to make it a success. THANK YOU!!! We had over 10,000 items taken while the Swap Shop was open this year. Our thanks to the residents who donated the items and also to the residents who re-purposed those items. It saved the items from going to the landfill and also saved the town money. The fall Drug Take Back Day is going to be on October 25 from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Mark this on your calendars. The leaf and brush piles will be closing on November 2. We are noticing an uptick in household garbage being put in the bulky containers. Please remember that this is not allowed in the Transfer Station. Please watch your speed in the facility. Remember it is 5 MPH. Our phone number is 268-2032.

## LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

**FREE CLOTHES!!! YES, YOU READ RIGHT!!!** We are getting ready to pack up the warm weather duds and get ready for cold weather. You can help by coming to shop on OCT. 4 ONLY (9 to noon) to get everything for **FREE!!!** Feel free to invite your friends and family to take advantage! We will be swapping out the seasons on Oct 6, 10 - 4, Oct 7, 1 to 5. Volunteers are invited to help! Starting Oct. 11, prices will return to \$2 per bag. Call Rayna 557-2680 with any questions.

## LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

We are excited to report our new standby generator was installed on Sept. 19. The security of knowing we now have that assurance of protection of our food and heat is wonderful! To all who have donated to it, please accept our humble thanks. We continue to see the numbers of neighbors we serve increasing. We are grateful for the opportunity to help meet the needs of our neighbors. We appreciate the donations of garden produce and eggs as well as financial gifts. Our great team of volunteers are wonderful to work with. Thank you

## LITCHFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Center Phone # 446-6275

If the flag is out at the Center, come on in. All dates and times are subject to change.

**Senior Center is closed on Monday, October 13, Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day**

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

**The Senior Center** will open 11:30 to 2 on Mondays after Line Dancing, come in for exercise, cards or check out the books or puzzles. We have new puzzles and books coming into the Center all the time.

**The Senior Steppers** are performing on October 6 at Mount Joseph, Waterville at 1:30. Bus will leave from Sportsmen's Club at 12:15.

**The Senior Steppers** are performing on October 20 at Montello Heights, Lewiston at 10, bus will leave from Sportsmen's Club at 9.

**Qigong/Tai Chi** exercises on Wednesdays at 9 followed at 10 by practice for the Carol Bailey String Band and Chorus at the Sportsmen's Club beginning on October 1.

**The Senior's Advisory Committee** meeting is held at the **Senior Center** at 1 on Thursday, October 16.

**Indoor walking** on Mondays & Fridays with Dian and friends @ 8:30 at the Senior Center. On Fridays, stay for cards at 10, lunch at 12 and more cards at 1. Beginning October 7, Mondays at 9:30 Knitting & crocheting with Sharon Thibault at the Senior Center.

**On Friday, October 17 Potluck lunch at 12 with a speaker, Kristin Solomon, from Spectrum Generations to talk about Seniors and Nutrition.**

**The book club meeting** is on Monday, October 20 at 1 pm. at the **Senior Center**. The book for October is "The Cliffs" by J. Courtney Sullivan.

**The Sand for Seniors** program will begin in November and we will begin taking orders, call 446-6275 to leave your name, address and phone number to be put on the list. *Please return any empty 5 gal. containers you have.*

**Roadrunner trip:** Thursday, October 23 Trip to Oxford Casino. Leave at 9:30 from Sportsmen's Club.

**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, or check out our books, puzzles and items on the table you may like. Donations are appreciated.

### WOODBURY POND PARK

Our 2025 season has come to an end. It was a successful season with the addition of an onsite attendant. A big "thank you" to our attendant, Angie, who did a great job managing the park. We hope she'll be back next year. Folks are free to use the park during the off-season with a "carry-in, carry-out" policy. We will hold a Fall Clean-up Day on October 18th 1-4 pm. We need help hauling some bricks and tree debris in order to set up for next year's improvements. Please come down and help put the park to rest for the season and have some locally made treats.

### LITCHFIELD SNOWMOBILE CLUB

We would like to thank everyone who stopped by our booth during the Litchfield Fair!! It was fun to watch the little ones enjoying the kid-sized snow machine and see new and familiar faces! Your support through the purchase of raffle tickets was greatly appreciated, and will help us maintain our trails here in Litchfield! If you didn't have the chance to purchase MSA raffle tickets they can be purchased online on their website: [www.mainesnowmobileassociation.com](http://www.mainesnowmobileassociation.com) We are now listed as one of the snowmobile clubs you can choose to have the proceeds go to and would greatly appreciate your support! Our 1st meeting will be on Thursday, Sept 25th @ 6pm at the Academy building/Senior Center in Litchfield. Snowmobile owners who enjoy riding the trails in Litchfield (when there's enough snow!!) are encouraged to attend!

### LITCHFIELD RECREATION COMMITTEE

**Fall Family Fun Day** - Join us for our fall fundraiser on Sunday, 10/19 from 3-6PM at the Town Recreation Fields. Rain Date 10/26 Open to the public, come join us for a .25K COSTUME FUN RUN and Jack-o-lantern contest & walk. The whole community is welcome to join! Participation is welcome and encouraged from all communities. PRE-REGISTRATION OPEN NOW! ENDS OCTOBER 10 Pre-Registration - \$15 | \$20 with T-Shirt - Registration at the Door - \$25 Registration groups by Grade: K-2 | 3-5 | 6-8 | 9-12 | Adult 18+ Contest for best costume and prize will be awarded! **JACK O LANTERN CONTEST** - Help us light up the night with a jack-o-lantern walk! \$5/entry. Pre-register or register at the door! **FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES:** - Pet a Pony; - Kids Crafts; Family Photo Op; Touch a Truck; & Face Painting. More information below:



**Volunteers Needed!** In search of volunteers for: - Snack Shack October Soccer Season; - Referees for Soccer Season home games/ - Snack Shack Winter; Basketball Season; - Basketball Coaches 25-26 season Email [litchfieldrec2400@gmail.com](mailto:litchfieldrec2400@gmail.com) if you have questions or if you would like to help.

### TOWN CLERK'S CORNER

**2025-2026 Property Tax Bills** have been mailed - 1st payment due 10/15/2025

Property taxes were committed on September 15th with a mill rate of 11.47. Litchfield's portion of RSU4 costs increased 6.6%, the County tax increased 17.5 % and the town budget increased 2.7%. Steep home sales price increases over the past two years created the need to factor valuations higher by 35% in order to keep up with the State's calculation of the town valuation. The effect of the factoring is a lower mill rate a resulting reduction in the effect of the homestead exemption. The very real result is double digit tax increases for many residents. If you bought property after April 1st, 2025, please contact the Town Office to find out your tax amount since Maine law requires bills to go to the owner of record as of April 1st. Payments may be made at any time, and you may make smaller, more frequent payments (monthly, for example, but to avoid interest, take into account that the October payment covers July through October).

**The Road Commissioner is getting** done after 11 plus years in the position and a legacy of outstanding local road work in all seasons. Anyone interested in applying for the soon to be open job of Public Works director / Road Commissioner may submit an application at the Town Office or online through the Indeed job site.

**State General Election and Referendums**-Voting will take place for the upcoming general election on Tuesday, November 4th, 2025 at the Sportsman's Club, 2261 Hallowell Road, Litchfield. Polls will be open from 8am-8pm. Information about the questions appearing on the ballot can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/index.html> Look for the Citizen's Guide to the Referendum Election. If you would like to request an Absentee Ballot, please visit <https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl> or contact the town office. Ballots will become available in early October. In person absentee voting will also be available.

**Text Alerts:** Sign up for Town Office text alerts by texting JOIN to (808) 289-8089. This is a program which we expect to use infrequently and primarily for emergency management announcements such as availability of warming shelters. We'll publish more information as this service evolves.

**2026 Dog Licenses** - You may license your dog(s) for 2026 at the Town office beginning October 15th or online at [https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog\\_license/index.pl](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, 2026.

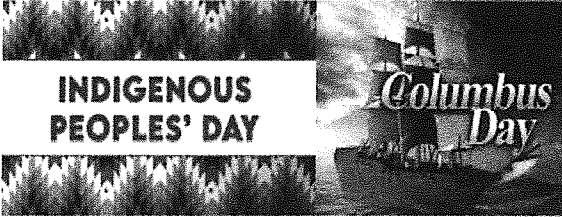

**Rabies Clinic** -A rabies vaccination clinic is scheduled for Saturday, November 1st from 9-11 AM at the Central Fire Station. Cost is \$20 with \$5 going to the Litchfield Fuel Fund.

**Snowmobiles** - Snowmobiles may be registered at the Town Office starting mid-October, or online at <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/atv-snowmobile/index.html>.

**Home Heating 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](http://www.kvcap.org)) click "For the Home", and select "Heating Assistance" to book an appointment online. Information is available in the Town Office.

**Town Office Closed for Columbus/Indigenous People Day on Monday, October 13, 2025.**

## October Community Calendar

1 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> —4pm-6pm, 56 Plains Rd	16 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> —10am-12pm, 56 Plains Rd <b>Lit. Senior Comm</b> - 1pm, Senior Center <b>Lit. Budget Com.</b> —6:30p, Town Office
2 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> —10am-12pm, 56 Plains Rd <b>Lit Planning Bd</b> —Town Office 6:30pm	17 Fri	<b>Town Office closed</b> <b>Transfer Station</b> —8am –4pm
3 Fri	<b>Town Office closed</b> <b>Transfer Station</b> —8am –4pm	18 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> - 8am-4pm <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm
4 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> - 8am-4pm <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm <b>Lit. Sportsman's Club</b> -Public Supper & Jam. Supper 5 - 6 \$10. Jam 6:30 to 8	19 Sun	
5 Sun	<b>Lit. Sportsman's Club</b> -Country Music Sun- day Noon to 4 \$8.00	20 Mon	
6 Mon		21 Tue	<b>Lit. Fire &amp; Rescue Meeting</b> -6pm, Central Off
7 Tue	<b>Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting</b> , 6:00pm	22 Wed	<b>Lit. Food Bank</b> —4pm-6pm; 56 Plains Rd <b>RSU4-Board Meeting</b> , Central Off 6:30pm <b>American Legion Post 181</b> -6pm @ Central Fire station; All veterans are wel- come
8 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> —4pm-6pm, 56 Plains Rd <b>RSU4-Board Meeting</b> , Central Off 6:30pm <b>Lit. Sportsman's Club</b> meeting—6pm	23 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> —10am-12pm, 56 Plains Rd <b>Lit. Snowmobile Club</b> -6pm, Senior Center
9 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> —10am-12pm, 56 Plains Rd <b>Litchfield First Responders</b> -6pm, Central Station <b>Lit. Snowmobile Club</b> -6pm, Senior Center	24 Fri	<b>Town Office closed</b> <b>Transfer Station</b> —8am –4pm
10 Fri	<b>Town Office closed</b> <b>Transfer Station</b> —8am –4pm	25 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> - 8am-4pm <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm
11 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> - 8am-4pm <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm	26 Sun	
12 Sun		27 Mon	<b>Lit. Selectmen's Meeting</b> ; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website
13 Mon	<b>Recreation Committee</b> – 6:15pm, Town Off <b>Town Office Closed</b> <b>Columbus/ Indigenous Day</b> 	28 Tue	
14 Tue	<b>Lit. Selectmen's Meeting</b> ; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website <b>Lit. First Responders</b> -6pm, Central Station	29 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> —4pm-6pm, 56 Plains Rd
15 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> —4pm-6pm, 56 Plains Rd <b>Lit. Road Comm.</b> —6:00pm, Town Office	30 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> —10am-12pm, 56 Plains Rd
		31 Fri	<b>Town Office closed</b> <b>Transfer Station</b> —8am –4pm <b>Happy Halloween</b> 

# BOX HOLDER

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

ECRWSS  
 PRSRT STD  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Litchfield, ME  
 Permit #2

*The Litchfield Sodalite*  
 Litchfield Town Office  
 2400 Hollowell Road  
 Litchfield, ME 04350  
 Tel.: 207-268-4721 FAX: 207-707-8485  
[sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)  
[www.litchfieldmaine.org](http://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.

4

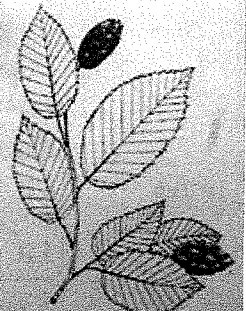
## The Litchfield Sodalite

### Litchfield Conservation Commission

Phen-ol-o-gy is the study of recurring natural events such as when leaves turn color in the fall or animals hibernate or buds open in the spring. Here are some fun fall phenology facts to look for out of doors. 1. Eastern **hophornbeam** is a small to medium sized understory tree in mixed woods known for its vertically peeling strips of bark. The fruit is bladder-like and occurs in clusters the resemble true hops. Each bract contains a single seed which can stay aloft on a breeze for a short distance. 2. **Porcupettes** are old enough to care for themselves, but many still trail after their mothers. 3. Juvenile **alewives** have completed the journey down to the coast from their freshwater hatching sites. These “river herring” will spend most of their lives in the ocean. 4. Meadow Rue leaves turn yellow, pink and sometimes purple. 5. Over the past few month’s woodland jumping mice have fattened up for hibernation by feasting on seeds, truffles and other goodies. Now they’ve curled in balls, their tails over their backs. 6. This year the **Orionids meteor shower** peaks during the night of October 22 to 23, with the best show occurring after midnight. This phenomenon occurs as Earth passes through the debris field of **Halley’s Comet**. 7. Find a new fall story at the Litchfield Community Park **Story Book Trail**: from the Central Commons go up Porcupine Trail and take a left onto the Redpoll Trail. If you want, send your thoughts to the Litchfield Maine Conservation Commission Facebook page. 8. The Maine Conservation Corps will be gifting the town of Litchfield in October since we answered yes to Taylor Deely’s kind offer: “MCC Team Leaders are staying on for two weeks after the Field Season wraps up. We are looking for a meaningful project for them to complete for about three days in October. They will be staying at Camp Mechuwana, so housing is not a concern. Would Litchfield be interested in having 11 fantastic Team Leaders help with invasive projects from 10/21 to 10/23?”

**November Issue Deadline:** Oct. 20, 2025 5pm  
 Deliver material in any of the following ways:  
 email: [sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org](mailto:sodalite@litchfieldmaine.org)

**U.S. mail to:** Town Office, 2400 Hollowell Rd. 04350  
**Hand deliver to:** Town Office 2400 Hollowell Rd



*The name "hophornbeam" refers to the fruit, which clearly resembles the true hops.*