

# The Litchfield Sodalite

Vol. XXIV No. 8

A Newsletter for Litchfield, Maine

August 1, 2024

## Historical Society Of Litchfield Trivia Quiz

**August question:** What 19th century Litchfield resident built on the Upper Pond Road what was reputed to be the largest cider mill in Maine? **July question:** What early Litchfield settler was a member of General Washington's barge crew? **Answer:** George Webber To read more about the history of Litchfield go to

[WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org](http://WWW.HistoricalSocietyofLitchfieldMaine.org)

## Litchfield Transfer Station

Summer is here and we are quite heated up about it. We are in the "new" office building and it is like night and day. We have much more needed room. The leaf and brush piles are open and seeing a brisk business. The Swap Shop is teeming with treasures and welcoming residents. The Swap Shop is open from 10 to 2 when the Transfer Station is open. Items can be dropped off anytime though. Many thanks to the volunteers taking care of the Swap Shop. Our summer hours have started and we are seeing residents on Sunday. Our summer hours will stop on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August. That is the last Sunday in August. **To the residents that bring in used oil- Please make sure that it is not contaminated.** We are seeing containers with water mixed in with the oil. We will not take it if this is the case. **We are looking for a couple of volunteers for the Swap Shop.** Please come down and sign up with John U. Stop in and say hi to John C., Cheri C., and John U. on Fridays and Saturdays. On Sundays Kim R. and Jim D will be helping Jim N. welcome residents.

## Litchfield Senior Center

Center Phone # 446-6275

The Litchfield Senior Center is open and available to all, no fee to attend. "Aging is more fun when you share it." If the flag is out at the Center, come on in. All dates and times are subject to change.

**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, 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 Center Steppers** will perform at the Alzheimer's Care Center, Gardiner on August 5 at 10:30am.

**NO Carol Bailey String Band** music practice in August.

**The Carol Bailey String band will be giving concerts over the summer**, on August 7 they will be at the Schooner Memory Care Unit, Auburn at 10 am; August 28 they will be at Auburn Senior Community Center 10 am.

**Come to the Senior Center** for morning exercise with Dian & friends on Fridays 8:30-9:15. Join in the indoor walking, or use the exercise equipment. 9:30 Qigong/Tai Chi exercises. Stay for cards at 10, BYO lunch at noon and then more cards and games in the afternoon. Pick out books and/or puzzles to take home. **On the 2nd and 4th. Fridays**, at 10:30 practice time for Strummers; 11:30 Recorders; 12:30 Fiddlers.

**The Senior's Advisory Committee** meeting held at the Senior Center is at 1 on Thursday, August 15th.

**The book club meeting** is on Monday, August 19 at 1 pm. at the Senior Center. The book to be discussed is "The Zebra Striped Horse" by Ross McDonald.

**Are you interested in joining a domino group?**

We have some interest in a Mexican Train game that would be during the day at the Senior Center on Friday. What about Rummy Cubes or Banana grams, or cribbage games, if you are interested let the Director know.

**Sign up for the Roadrunner trips** – Thursday, August 8 Trip to Newport to see the Lavender Fields lunch in area; Wednesday, August 14 Trip to the Carousel Music Theater, Boothbay; Wednesday, August 21 Picnic in the Park 11 am; Thursday, August 22 Trip to Old Orchard Beach, leave at 9 am.



### Woodbury Pond Park

The park is open and it is a great place to cool off on these hot summer days. Please make note of our new hours from 10AM-7PM daily (weather permitting). Patrons can use the park after 7PM, but must park up by the entrance so the attendant can lock the gate. Park fees are adults \$3, children \$2, seniors and vets are free. Please remember to pay the fees even if an attendant is not present. Your fees and donations are needed to properly maintain the park for all to enjoy. Season passes are available and can be purchased from the attendant on Sat or Sun. The park is also available to book for gatherings or parties for a fee. For more information, email [woodburypondpark@gmail.com](mailto:woodburypondpark@gmail.com). The park is scheduled to close for the season August 18th, but patrons are welcome to park up by the road and walk down in the off season to use the park. Dogs are welcome when the park is closed, but please remember to clean up after your pet.

### Litchfield Recreation

Work is underway on fixing the fields, bullpens, batting cages and fencing down at the baseball and softball fields. There is still work to be done and we are still in need of sponsors from area businesses to aid in the cost of repairs and updates. Sponsors will have their business name and logo on a sign or banner on the tennis/ basketball court. If you are a local business, please consider sponsoring youth recreation here in Litchfield. Registration for youth soccer is now open and will close August 18th. Please register via the SportsEngine app. We are in need of coaches and referees for soccer. Please consider being a coach or ref this season. If you are interested, please email the committee at [litchfieldrec2400@gmail.com](mailto:litchfieldrec2400@gmail.com)

### LITCHFIELD ACADEMY THRIFT SHOP

Tired of your summer togs yet? We still have a good selection. Bring a friend to shop. Still \$2 a bag!

### LITCHFIELD FOOD BANK

As this is written we are counting the days to move! We need more shelving or supplies to build them. Want to help? Call Rayna to offer trucking, or materials. 207 557-2680.

### Lobster/Chicken Dinner

**William R. Bold Post 181** of the American Legion will be holding their annual Lobster /Chicken Dinner Drive-Thru on August 17th from 12:00 to 1:00. Cost will be Double Lobsters \$28.00, singles will be \$ 23.00 and Chicken will be \$18.00. **You must order in advance because no orders will be taken at the door.** Please call Denise Emery at 207-212-9489 until August 12th and Deb Couture 207-215-2775 from the 13th and 14th to make reservations. No orders will be taken after the 14th.

### Town Clerk's Corner

**Special Town Meeting**-The Select Board has called for a Special Town Meeting on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm (the same night as a Select Board meeting). Warrant articles for that meeting will include: **a re-vote of Article 64** from the June 15<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting, which extended the Village district to tax map to R02-121D. The article was put on the warrant by petition and passed in June, but regardless of the petition, it needed a public hearing that has since been accomplished. **A second warrant article will request** approval of much needed updates to the Solid Waste and Recycling Ordinance. **A possible third article will depend** on the results of the recent survey from the RSU4 Withdrawal Investigation Committee and would request funds to hire an advisor.

**Public Hearing**-A Public Hearing for an updated Solid Waste and Recycling Ordinance will be held on Monday August 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

**Late Tax Notices** – 30-day notices for unpaid 2023 property taxes will be mailed out at the end of the month. 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.

**Property owners that closed** a new purchase after April 1<sup>st</sup> 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 as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Feel free to call the town office after tax commitment at the end of September, or look online at the commitment book ([www.litchfieldmaine.org](http://www.litchfieldmaine.org)) to find out what you owe.

**Veterans**-As provided for by recent legislation, Veterans with a 100% service-connected disability designation may register their vehicles (autos, trucks, motorcycles) at no cost.

**Road Work**-Work on Dennis Hill Road including a base surface is nearing completion, and final surfacing of Pine Tree Road and Ferrin Road was also completed this past month. That means the Public Works crew will now be completing driveway culvert repair, shoulder work and general road maintenance. Receipt of a new excavator with a grinder head is facilitating clearing of rights-of way that haven't been done in many years. The first effect of that grinder is not pretty, but it is definitely efficient, and we're told that the regrowth will clean things up (along with some follow-up help from a chainsaw and limb cutter).



### August Community Calendar

1 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd <b>Lit Planning Board</b> , 6:30 pm	17 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> - 8am-4pm <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm
2 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm	18 Sun	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm
3 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> - 8am-4pm <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm <b>Lit. Sportsman's Club</b> -Supper 5p to 6p— \$10.00 - Jam at 6:30p to 8p	19 Mon	<b>Lit. Recreation Com.</b> , 6:00pm
4 Sun	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm <b>Lit Sportsman's Club</b> —Country Sunday 12 to 4 \$8.00	20 Tues	<b>Lit. Fire &amp; Rescue Meet</b> —6pm; Central Station
5 Mon		21 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd
6 Tues	<b>Lit. First Responders Meeting</b> -6:00 pm	22 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd <b>Lit. Road Comm.</b> , 6:00pm
7 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd	23 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm
8 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd	24 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> - 8am-4pm <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm
9 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm	25 Sun	<b>Transfer Station</b> - 8am-4pm
10 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> - 8am-4pm <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm	26 Mon	<b>Lit. Selectmen's Meeting</b> ; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website.
11 Sun	<b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm <b>Lit. Firefighter's Association</b> Car Show-held at Carrie Ricker school.	27 Tue	
12 Mon	<b>Lit. Selectmen's Meeting</b> ; 6:30pm, Town Office-zoom available-see website.	28 Wed	<b>RSU4</b> —First Day of School K-9th Gr. (Full Day) <b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd <b>RSU4 School Board</b> -Central Office; 6:30pm <b>American Legion Post 181</b> -7:00pm, All Veter- ans Welcome—Plains Rd.
13 Tues	<b>Lit. Fire/Rescue Officers Meeting</b> , 6:00pm	29 Thur	<b>RSU4</b> -First Day of School 10th-12th Gr and LRTC <b>Food Bank</b> -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd
14 Wed	<b>Food Bank</b> -4pm-6pm; 491 Richmond Rd <b>RSU 4 School Board</b> , 6:30-Central Office <b>Lit. Sportsman's Club</b> Meeting, 6 pm	30 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm
15 Thur	<b>Food Bank</b> -10am-12pm; 491 Richmond Rd <b>Lit. Budget Comm.</b> , 6:30m	31 Sat	<b>Transfer Station</b> - 8am-4pm <b>Academy Thrift Store</b> —Open 9am-12pm
16 Fri	<b>Town Office</b> , closed <b>Transfer Station</b> , 8am-4pm		

# 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 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.

### Conservation Committee News

#### DO YOU HAVE A GARDEN? DO YOU WANT TO CUT DOWN ON FOOD

**WASTE?** Composting is a great way to recycle the organic waste we generate at home. Food scraps and garden waste combined make up more than 28 percent of what we throw away, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Not only is food waste a significant burden on the environment, but processing it is costly. The average cost to landfill municipal solid waste in the United States was around \$55 per ton in 2019. With the United States generating more than 267 million tons of municipal waste in 2017 and sending two-thirds of that to landfills and incinerators, we spent billions of dollars on waste management. Composting at home allows us to divert some of that waste from landfills and turn it into something practical for our yards. Compost is organic material that has been broken down by microbes, fungi, and other creatures into a rich brown material. It's filled with everything that soil organisms need to live and then in turn help nourish plants. By creating and using it in your garden you'll create a nutritious medium to grow fresh organic produce. There are all kinds of composting bins at a variety of prices that range from composting right in your kitchen to building a composting bin in your backyard. It's important to be aware of ways to keep pests away from your bins and what kinds of things you should include to keep bacteria out of your compost while keeping the important nutrients in. Compost is best used as a mulch. Spread it several inches deep over the soil to keep down weeds and nourish the soil. You do not need to dig it in either since worms will be attracted to it and bring it down into the earth naturally. Below are some websites to get you started. 1. <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home> 2. <https://lovelygreens.com/the-easiest-way-to-make-compost/> 3. <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/composting-101#whatis> 4. <https://www.usda.gov/peoples-garden/food-access-food-waste/composting>

**Sept. Issue Deadline:**  
 Aug. 20, 2024 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

