

2013

Whitefield News

Whitefield Newsletter Team

Dennis Merrill

Sue McKeen

Tony Marple

Debbie Rogers

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Whitefield Newsletter Team, Dennis Merrill, Sue McKeen, Tony Marple, Debbie Rogers, Suzanne Balbo, and Jim Torbet



Whitefield News

Volume I, Issue I

Published Monthly

July 2013

In April, Selectmen met with Whitefield citizens to seek input and encourage participation in Town activities. We heard that people were often unaware of Town events and issues. Our newsletter is one effort to improve communication regarding the following:

- Town Meetings
- Regular meetings of the Selectmen, Planning Board and School Board
- Community activities sponsored by organizations.
- Volunteer opportunities to improve Whitefield
- News around town and about our people

To add events to our newsletter and the online calendar, please contact us at whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com or call Sue McKeen at 207-440-7170.

The Whitefield News-

letter Team: Dennis Merrill, Sue McKeen, Tony Marple, Debbie Rogers, and Suzanne Balbo. (Absent: Jim Torbert)



Clary Lake Dam Meeting

Approximately 70 Whitefield citizens and several from Jefferson attended a Town Meeting held on May 30th to discuss a proposal to proceed with negotiations to acquire the Clary Lake dam.



View of the Clary Lake Dam

The meeting and the proposal were part of a process required by the DEP as a result of the dam owner's (Pleasant Pond LLC represented by Paul Kelley) request to relinquish the dam. A lengthy discussion included a variety of perspectives including

those of Mr. Kelley, several Clary Lake Association members and other taxpayers.

Property owners are concerned about the lake level and the condition of the dam. There was considerable concern expressed

regarding the lack of a stated price for the property, the unknown cost of repairs and maintenance and uncertainty about the owner's right to set dam flowage levels.

The attendees voted against proceeding with negotiations, but recognized that the town may play a continued role in trying to resolve the longstanding and complex dispute by means other than ownership.

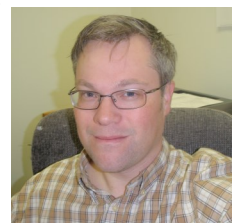
Welcome Aaron Miller, Town Clerk

Aaron assumed the position of Town Clerk in October 2012, replacing **Gwynn Dixon** who had served ably in that role for 20 years. Aaron lives in Alna with his wife Rachel Greene and four year old son. He brings town gov-

ernment experience, having served as Deputy Clerk in the town of Boothbay Harbor. Aaron has also brought enthusiasm and energy to his position.

There are also a variety of new services offered at the Town Office, such as

free notary service and fire permits for residents.



Calendar of Events

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In the next issue we are offering Ad space for \$5.00 per box. Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com for more information.

Kings Mills 4th of July Parade

Whitefield creativity is on the move at the 4th of July parade starting at 10AM. After the parade there are hot dogs, hamburgers, fries, a cakewalk, an auction and more. You'll see people you may not see for the rest of the year.



Call for Whitefield Days

Some have called "Whitefielders" an eclectic, sometimes rebellious group, but I, for one, think this is why we are so unique and what makes Whitefield a great place to live. We are a town of many talents and these will be showcased on **September 14th** when we celebrate Whitefield Community Day. This all-day event will be held on the grounds of the fire station and town office. It's a time to celebrate just who we are!

Below is a list of some of the events in the planning stages:

- 5K road race and kids fun run
- Local crafts

- Flea market
- Antiques "road show"
- Scarecrow contest
- Quilt show
- Art show
- All day baseball games
- Flag pole and Firefighters Memorial plaque dedication ceremony
- Children's games
- Food
- Supper under the tent
- 50/50 Raffle

- Special Open Mic Night at Sheepscot General

Stayed tuned for more information. If you have ideas or just want to help, contact Sue McKeen at whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com.



Downtown North Whitefield

If you like all our American flags along the road, please thank Ken Marden, who has been the "flagmaster" for 4 years!

June:

22: Farmers/Flea Market, Arlington Grange Hall. 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. For \$10 Booth space call 208-7457

July:

4: Parade

17: Planning Board Meeting 7-8pm

21: Open Farm Day:

24: Arlington Grange: Supper at 6pm, Meeting at 7pm

27: Sheepscot General - Sheepscot Valley Drum Circle 6pm

August:

14: Arlington Grange: Supper at 6pm, Meeting at 7pm

21: Planning Board Meeting 7-8pm

28: Arlington Grange: Supper at 6pm, Meeting at 7pm

- First Friday of every month: Food Bank from 1-3pm, Sheepscot Church
- Every Tuesday: Selectman's Board Meeting 6pm, Fire Station
- Every Wednesday: Yoga at the Sheepscot General @ 6:30pm

Do you have an event?

Contact Sue McKeen @ whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com or 207-446-7473. We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.

You can receive the newsletter by email by signing up at www.townofwhitefield.com/Newsletter.html or pick up a hard copy at The Superette, Health Center, Country Corners, Sheepscot General, Town Office, & Recycling Center.



Whitefield News

Volume 1, Issue 2

Published Monthly

August 2013

by Sue McKeen

Whitefield Day Update

We're moving ahead with plans for Whitefield Community Day, September 14th.

Craftsmen, vendors, flea market items: If you're interested in having space for arts, crafts, treasures or talents, please contact Judy Maldovan at 549-5664 or at jmandjam@aol.com.

Call to all artists: If you would like to exhibit your work, please contact Mabeline Small at 549-5009. We are counting on your participation to make this a real success.

Antiques Road

Show: It's not too early to start thinking about those treasures in your barn or attic. Bring them to the Antiques Road Show at 11:00 am under the tent.

A complete schedule of events will be published next month. For more info call Sue McKeen at 446-7473 or email at smckeen66@gmail.com.

Maintaining the Tibbetts Farm Tradition



by Tony Marple

Barry Tibbetts, a long time dairy farmer in Whitefield has retired, while Elaine Tibbetts continues to work part time as a speech therapist. Barry's father bought the farm in 1947. The Tibbetts have been active and highly respected in town for years. Barry has seen dairy farms become larger and more efficient over the years, but thinks smaller farms can still "make a go of it" in specialized areas like organic milk. In addition to milking with the new owners once a day, Barry

is restoring a '71 Corvette and his father's '49 John Deere. The Tibbetts' children are interested in the farm, but were reluctant to take on the 24/7 commitment. They have chosen professional careers ranging from teaching to nuclear engineering. The Tibbetts are looking to buy a camp in part to entertain their three grandchildren. Barry's brother still operates a dairy farm in Windsor.

Barry and Elaine are delighted that the new owners of the farm, Mike Moody and Annie Watson, are maintaining the organic dairy tradition. Mike grew up in Lincolnville and worked as a farm hand to save up for a farm of his own. Annie studied theatre at Brown and works as an

event planner in addition to helping on the farm. When he and Annie saw the Tibbetts' farm, they knew it was "meant to be". They are milking 50 cows while also maintaining a herd of 70 heifers and dry cows. Mike and Annie love Whitefield and appreciate the hospitality that has included numerous pie deliveries.

Barry says cheerfully, "I think they're making a go of it".



Broadband Grant

by Dennis Merrill

While many households in Whitefield have access to broadband, many others do not. Commonly, people access the internet by using cable or telephone (DSL) services. However, these

services do not extend to all parts of Town. Recently, the Town learned that it is being awarded a grant by the State ConnectME program to help expand broadband by installing cable along Wiscasset Road (Route

218) from the CMP transmission line South to the Alna town line. This project will be completed by Time-Warner Company that is putting up matching funds. There is no cost to the Town for the project. (cont. on page 2)

Broadband Grant cont.

There are other areas in Town that do not have traditional access to high speed broadband. These are generally in small clusters and involve low population densities so wired systems like telephone and cable would be very expensive per household. The Town will continue to explore opportunities for expanding into these areas. Residents may also want to consider individual wireless modem options that are available from cell phone companies such as Verizon and U.S. Cellular.

David A. Spicer, Owner

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Dispatch from Coopers Mills

by Chuck Vaughn

Coopers Mills Volunteer Fire Department Auction is August 17, 2013.

Aunt Edna and Uncle Morey say they look forward every year to the CMVD auction held on the third Saturday of August. Edna says her house gets the best cleaning of the year as she and Morey go through it looking for things to donate to the auction. And then there is the fun of attending the auction and bidding on a bunch of different stuff and even gift certificates for local services. Morey says it is a delight to see those volunteers pull up to the house with a pick up and truck and spare his back from the heavy lifting. "The food they sell ain't bad,

either," he said. He did add one caution. "I hope you understand that what leaves the auction with you this year may be coming right back at you next year."

A Special Thanks...

A very special thank you to Suzanne Balbo and Clint Towle for donating over 1,000 books to the Whitefield Elementary School. Suzanne and Clint both taught elementary school in Indonesia and have migrated to Whitefield, with their daughter Cadence, to become full-time farmers! Their generosity is appreciated by both students, teachers, and the community. Thanks for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Calendar of Events

July :

27: Arlington Grange Farmer's Market/Flea Market: 10-2pm

27: St Giles Church Fair and Auction

August:

10: HVNC Music Fest: 2pm-7pm at the Sheepscot General

14 & 28: Arlington Grange Meeting at 7pm

17: Coopers Mill Fire Department Auction

21: Planning Board Meeting 7-8pm

September:

11 & 25: Arlington Grange Meeting at 7pm

14: Whitefield Day

14: Sustainable Forestry Workshop: HVNC 9am-4pm

18: Planning Board Meeting 7-8pm

26-29: Timber Frame Construction: HVNC

- First Friday of every month: Food Bank from 1-3pm, Sheepscot Church
- Every Tuesday: Selectman's Board Meeting 6pm, Fire Station
- Every Wednesday: Yoga at the Sheepscot General @ 6:30pm
- Every Wednesday: Drumming in the Forest at HVNC @ 6:30pm

Do you have an event?

Contact *Sue McKeen* @ whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com or 207-446-7473. We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.



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*Got Metal? Call Dana Rogers
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If it's metal, we'll take it!



A BIG thank you to Lisa Tuttle's Yoga Class at Sheepscot General Store. They donated their class proceeds to the Whitefield Newsletter!

Whitefield Church to Regain Steeple

By Lucy Martin

"A lot of people thought it would never go back up," said Chad Lincoln, deacon candidate at Sheepscot Valley Community Church, in Kings Mills village. The dangerously deteriorating, tilting steeple on what used to be called Whitefield Union Church was ordered removed in late 2009 by the local code enforcement officer.

Lincoln, who "grew up in the church and then stopped attending," returned when Les Dancer, also a local, became pastor. Working with carpenter Troy Prescott, Lincoln said he was "volunteered" to oversee replacing the original wooden spire with a fiberglass model, removing the rotting belfry and repairing the base. "Our original goal was to fix the (leaking) roof, and cap off the steeple. But people said they'd like to see the steeple back," he said. "Thankfully, people have stepped up and have been willing to help" with the \$28,000 cost, Lincoln commented.

One generous local donor has given \$14,000; the 50-member congregation has contributed; the Maine Baptist Association provided funds; and the church of a Southern Baptist minister, who mentored Dancer and "planted" the Whitefield church about four years ago before returning to Alabama, also raised money for the cause.

The height of the replacement spire will be slightly shorter than the original, which measured 35 feet, but it will look like the old one. An important feature is that the structure will be maintenance free. The non-functioning bell will be rescued from the belfry and set on the lawn with a plaque. The work is expected to be finished by October.

Installing the new spire will cap a series of repair efforts begun in 2010. Under Dancer's leadership, what was a faltering and aging congregation has grown to include numerous young families who fill Sunday services. On Sat., July 27 at Whitefield School beginning with a free lunch at 11 a.m., Dancer will be one of two speakers sharing their story of overcoming serious addiction and meeting life's challenges through faith. For more information, call 207-215-3741.



Pastor Les Dancer stands outside Sheepscot Valley Community Church, at the corner of Townhouse Road, where a new steeple will be installed this fall.

To add events or articles to our newsletter and the online calendar, please contact us at whitefieldtown-news@gmail.com or call Sue McKeen at 207-446-7473.

RSU 12 Budget Report

By Hilary Holm RSU 12 Board Chair

At its first meeting on July 11th, the RSU 12 Board voted to recommend a revised budget that has been reduced by \$116,000 to \$26,395,203.

The revenue picture has improved with the passage of the State biennial budget, which gave RSU 12 \$328,660 more in subsidy. Overall, this means that the Total Local Contribution has decreased by \$445,630 to \$15,033,436 compared to the first round of the budget which was defeated at the polls on June 28.

Whitefield was charged \$1,994,275 by the RSU in FY 2013. The Whitefield Local Contribution for FY 2014 is proposed to be \$2,104,645 if the revised budget passes. This is a \$110,370 or 5.53 increase to Whitefield's Local Contribution compared to FY 2013, but significantly less than the \$2,167,285 that had been proposed in the first round of the budget.

The Regional Budget Adoption Meeting will be held on Tuesday August 13 at 7 p.m. at Whitefield School. This will be followed by the Budget Validation Referendum on Tuesday September 10.

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Annual 4th of July Parade



1st place: Burns family Free Bird float!



2nd place: No Drones in Maine!



3rd place: Chase Castle!



Road Committee

By Tony Marple

The Board of Selectmen is seeking 5-7 volunteers to serve on a new Road Committee. The role of the committee will be as follows:

- Assess the condition of the town's 39 miles of roads by using Department of Transportation or other suitable evaluation tools.

- Develop short and long term plans for maintaining and improving the town's roads.

- Consider alternative approaches to road maintenance and improvement.

- Assist in the preparation of the town road budget and potential financing arrangements.

The Selectmen are seeking a mixture of citizens with professional road experience and road users interested in the topic. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Aaron Miller, Town Clerk.



FREE

Whitefield News

Volume I, Issue 3

Published Monthly

September 2013

Celebrate Whitefield Day September 14

By Sue McKeen

Whitefield Community Day on Sat., Sept. 14 is a chance for townspeople to join together for a time of fun, food, family and friends. Artists, musicians, craftspeople and other vendors will showcase their talents and products in the green area behind the town office, at the historical society, fire station, and school.

Beginning at 8 a.m., Whitefield Athletic Association sponsored softball tournaments will run all day. The snack shack will also be open.

At the school, the Grand Army 5K race begins at 9 a.m. followed by a kid's fun run. Proceeds benefit the Parent Teacher Association.

Two musical groups are scheduled to play under the



Two musical groups are scheduled to play Whitefield Days including "The

tent at noon. "The Whitefields" includes native Abe Chase, along with Sa Rah Thibodeau and Josh Cichowski. They have played to great reviews at such venues as Higher Grounds, Kennebec Wharf, and The Liberal Cup. Their Face Book page says, "From the pits of Whitefield, we like all

styles of music. We like to sing songs that make ya feel good." This talented group has generously donated their time.

Making their debut is "Double Jinx," a band of seventh graders including bass player Connor McLean, guitarist Milo Lani-Caputo, both of Whitefield, and Allison Barron,

a singer from Gardiner. Connor describes the group as mostly a rock band, performing some Nirvana and "a lot of our own stuff."

Highlighting the events will be an antiques road show conducted by appraiser/auctioneer Lawrence Trueman of LT Auctions in Waldoboro. As head of a full-service auction company offering appraisals and fair market values since 1988, Trueman is also a licensed antiques firearms dealer. Starting at 1 under the tent, bring your treasures (three-item maximum per person) to be appraised.

Finally, food. In addition to food vendors, the snack shack, and hot dogs during the day, Arlington Grange is hosting a spaghetti supper, 4:30-6 (\$4 children under 10, \$8 adults). A program of down-home style music follows upstairs. The PTA will draw the 50/50 raffle

Roof Repairs Planned for Kings Mills Union Hall

By Lucy Martin

The next project to be tackled by Kings Mills Union Hall Association, which is dedicated to restoring and preserving one of Whitefield's remaining historic landmarks, will be repairing the metal roof. The board is accepting estimates from area companies to repair and coat the existing roof.

The hall dates from 1901 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Shortly before the traditional July 4th festivities, board member and restoration carpenter Erik Ekholm completed and installed a replica front door using pine, plywood and poplar. It resembles the original seven-and-a-half-foot-tall door. At the board's recent meeting, plans were discussed to make a replacement sign for the front of the building. The original one was removed about 20 years ago for repairs and has never been found.

The group will hold its annual meeting on Sun., Sept. 22 from 3 to 5 p.m. The hall is located on Townhouse Rd. opposite the

Paving completed for 2013

Road Committee needed for future

By Dennis Merrill

For those who have not noticed, The Cookson Road, a portion of Townhouse Road and the intersection of Philbrick and Townhouse roads were recently paved. Combined, about two miles of roadway were done for approximately \$192,000, including replacement of old culverts and ditching in preparation for paving.

Because the town is able to pave about one mile per year, this is the first paving in two years. Whitefield has some 30 miles of paved town-owned roads, plus another ten miles or so of gravel roads. (Routes 126, 194 and 218 are paved by the State.) Thus, the town is able to pave its roads once every 30 years, which is much longer than one would expect a re-coat of pavement to last. In some sections, simply paving over a base that has structural problems is not appropriate, and, in the interests of durability, the roadbed should first be improved or reconstructed.

Similarly, gravel roads require annual grading and resurfacing. But often this routine work is not sufficient as more significant work is needed to address drainage issues, potholes, etc.

Paving

(continued from page 1)

Maintaining town roads, excluding plowing and sanding, consumes about 20 percent of Whitefield's local budget. In an effort to make the best use of this money, the Select Board seeks to form a citizens' road committee to assess current conditions, explore alternative methods for improving our roads and assisting in preparing a road maintenance program. Persons interested in the committee should contact the Town Office.

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Calendar of Events

September:

1st - Medicinal and Edible Mushrooms of Maine: HVNC

9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

7th - Fly Casting Lessons: HVNC

10th - RSU 12 Budget Vote

11th & 25th - Arlington Grange Meeting at 7p.m.

14th - Whitefield Day

14th - Sustainable Forestry Workshop: HVNC 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

18th - Planning Board Meeting 7-8 p.m.

26-29th - Timber Frame Construction: HVNC

October:

20th - Remembrance Day: 2-3p.m. Whitefield Town Office

27th - 3rd Annual Trail Race: HVNC

- First Friday of every month: Food Bank from 1-3 p.m., Sheepscot Church
- Every Tuesday: Selectmen's Meeting 6 p.m., Fire Station
- Every Wednesday: Yoga at the Sheepscot General @ 6:30 p.m.
- Every Wednesday: Drumming in the Forest at HVNC @ 6:30 p.m

Do you have an event?

Contact Sue McKeen @ whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com or 207-

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GREETINGS

TO

DOT HOWELL

Vote on RSU 12 Budget Looms

By Hillary Holm RSU 12 Board Chair

Voters in RSU 12 go to the polls Tues., Sept. 10 to validate the school budget. In Whitefield, hours are 4-8 p.m. Absentee ballots are now available.

At the budget adoption meeting on Aug. 12, the approximately 70 voters in attendance approved the spending plan as recommended by the board of directors, though not without efforts to amend several articles. The major argument against the budget was there were not enough reductions despite input from voters on June 28, who said the budget was too high.

The board felt, however, that a combination of a \$116,000 reduction and an increase of State Subsidy revenue of \$329,000, giving \$445,000 relief to property tax payers (compared to the first budget proposal), was what they would recommend because many cuts to staff were previously made. More staff cuts would begin to impact the programs RSU 12 can offer its students.

The recently adopted budget is \$26,395,204, a \$629,560 (2.44 percent) increase over last year. Detailed information about the FY 2014 budget is on

the website: www.svrsu.org.

Costs to the individual RSU 12 towns changed by anywhere from a reduction of \$64,984 (-5.3 percent) for Westport Island to an increase of \$246,665 (16.4 percent) for Windsor. Whitefield's change in cost is \$110,370 (5.5 percent). The difference in this change is caused by phasing in the new cost-sharing formula approved by voters last November.

The goal of the new formula is to have every town pay the same amount on a per-student basis, applying state subsidy and local tax dollars as revenue. Thus a minimum receiver

town such as Westport Island will pay the vast majority (97 percent for FY 2014) of its per-student cost with local tax dollars, while a town that receives significant state subsidy (e.g., Windsor) will pay less than half (40 percent for 2014) of its cost and Whitefield will pay 56 percent of its cost. The local share is determined by a town's property valuation as calculated by the State.

If the budget passes at the validation referendum, the budget and local costs will be set for FY 2014. If it fails, the board will bring another recommendation to a regional meet-

Whitefield Days Schedule of Events September 14

8:00-5:00 Softball Tournament, school; info: Nate Lee 754-3013

9:00-10:00 5K road race, school, kids fun run immediately after; info: Anthony Anderson 441-9738

10:00-2:00 Children's games & cupcake walk

10:00-2:00 Craft fair, flea market, food under tent; info: Judy Maldovan 549-5664

10:00- 2:00 Quilt display, Whitefield Historical Society; info: Carolee Withee 582-7129 or Karen Mitman 549-3139

10:00-2:00 Art show, fire station; info: Mabelline Small 549-5109

11:00-11:30 K-9 demonstration, Scott Hayden

11:30-12 Pie eating contest, under the tent

12:00-1:00 Music under the tent, "The Whitefields" and "Double Jinx"

1:00-3:00 Antiques Road Show: Lawrence Trueman of LT Auctions will appraise the treasures you bring (three item maximum)

3:00-3:30 Flag ceremony, fire station

4:30-6:00 Spaghetti supper, Arlington Grange, adults \$8, children 10 and under \$4; 50/50 raffle drawing

6:30-8:00 Down-home style musical program, upstairs at grange

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-Eggs

ARLINGTON GRANGE 528



Left to right front: Debbie Rogers, Gladys Glidden, Chris Colpitt, Dana Rogers; rear: Mary Grady, Clarence Martin, Tom Colpitt. Missing from photo: Hannah and Josh Miller, master Ed Emerson, Mary Emerson (Ceres), Fran and Charlie Miller.

Fresh Faces Found at Arlington Grange

Arlington Grange is undergoing a revival. Secretary Mary Grady said recently, "We are so thrilled to have these new members. They are really putting some fire into it."

Josh and Hannah Miller, Tom and Chris Colpitt, and Dana and Debbie Rogers felt the pull of tradition and the desire to bolster an icon of rural life.

Whitefield native Debbie Rogers, who manages the town's website, worried about the dwindling, aging population that was working hard to keep the doors open. "We love that building," she said. The fact that former master Charlie Miller, a Granger for more than 60 years, attended as a child was also influential. "Dana and I heard rumors it was going to be sold, so we talked and said 'Let's join.'"

When they attended their first meeting they ran into their good friends, the Colpitts. "It was Kis-met," Debbie said. Chris attended the Grange's first flea/farmers market last spring with Tom. She asked to see the old stage upstairs, a fond childhood memory, "and the next minute we were signing up!" The St. Denis Church choir director said

she'd been looking for something she and Tom could get do together. Also, "I was missing Dad [Ed Mooney]. That generation was steeped in tradition."

The Millers, a young couple with small children, are building a home on Hunts Meadow Road; they aim to be as self-sufficient as possible.

Hannah often attended Grange events, such as contra dances and concerts, while growing up in coastal Maine. "I knew it to be an agriculture-based institution and we are going back to the land." Mary Grady involved the Millers in the farmers market "and gave me an application to join, so we started going."

Face-to-face interactions with people and the opportunity to "foster and invest in community" for the sake of her preschool daughter and son helped Hannah realize "this is a good local place. I think the Grange is open and accepting of the community. There are probably three generations of people in Arlington now. We can learn a lot from the older generation."

In addition to more farmers markets, Grady said the Grange is planning a Christmas program

Aaron's Corner

A look back at tax-acquired properties

By Aaron C. Miller
Administrative Assistant
Town Clerk

When I began my role as Town Clerk in October of 2012, I was surprised that the Town had 32 foreclosed properties. Based on my experience at Boothbay Harbor, that seemed a large number. We have since had many discussions both about specific properties and our policy regarding tax-acquired property in general.

Our first objective is to bring the back taxes to some closure. Neither I nor the selectmen wish to see taxpayers lose their property. However, the taxpayer in these situations also has the responsibility to take initiative, and many have. While we prefer immediate payment of back taxes, we understand that it may not always be possible. Here are the ways we can offer assistance: We can have the property value

reassessed if there is a real question about the current value of buildings and land. In cases of documented financial hardship, we can abate certain taxes. While State initiated support is less than in prior years, taxpayers may avail themselves of the circuit breaker program and the Town Office can help in that process. In certain cases the selectmen and the taxpayer may work out a formal realistic payment plan agreement that also leaves the taxpayer in a position to stay current on future taxes. One resident met with the board in February and three months later managed to obtain a loan to pay three years of back taxes. Another resident met with a buyer, banker, lawyer and one member of the Board of Selectmen to "close" on tax-acquired property. Both of these residents were able to protect their interests in their



NOTICE OF SALE OF TAX ACQUIRED PROPERTY

The Town of Whitefield is accepting bids for the purchase of the municipality's

property. Our recently adopted Tax Acquired Property Policy is available on the Town website (insert link) or at the Town Office. After months of work, the selectmen and I have worked our list from 32 to 12. However, we need owners to come forward with a viable plan immediately, or those properties could potentially

interest on 1 tax acquired property:: Map/Lot 016-003 located on Cooper Road consisting of 5.3 acres. Bids will be accepted along with the town's required bid form at the Town Office, PO Box 58, Whitefield, ME 04353, until noon Sept. 17, 2013. Each bid shall be marked, "BID ON TAX ACQUIRED PROPERTY." The bids will be opened during the meeting of the Whitefield Board of Selectmen scheduled for 6 p.m. The Board of Selectmen reserve the right to accept or reject any and all bids. For more information contact 549-5175.



Whitefield News

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Community forum on October 10

by Tony Marple

The Selectmen and other interested Whitefielders have arranged for a Community Forum to take place at Sheepscot General at 6:30 p.m. Thursday October 10. At the forum held last spring we heard that townspeople often aren't aware of events in town. That discussion led to the development of Whitefield News. We are now interested in assembling a team to develop a Whitefield Trail Guide which may also involve trail maintenance and trail building. We are also seeking members for a road committee to oversee the maintenance of town roads in a time when our roads budget is significantly under funded. Most importantly we want your input about what works and what doesn't in town. Whitefield is a unique place and we want to preserve and enhance the town. We hope you will attend.

Plenty of apples at Bailey's orchard to tempt every taste

By Lucy L. Martin

Craving a crunchy Mac-Intosh? Head on over to Hunts Meadow Road to see Rodney and Kay Bailey.

The orchard is bursting with nearly 60 varieties of apples, as well as seven kinds of pears and three kinds of plums. You can pick your own or buy from the barn store. On a mid-September rainy morning, Rodney had finished deliveries to Yellowfront Grocery in Damariscotta and several area schools and was sorting apples by grade. Stacks of wooden boxes, gray with age, stood around him, while Kay did paperwork at a desk in the corner. Pruning and other orchard chores begin in January and February, but fall is the busiest time for the couple. The fruit must be picked between the first of September and



Photo by Tony Marple

the end of October, even if the weather isn't cooperating. "You have to get it in," said Rodney "One night recently, we were sweating bullets. There was hail all around us, on parts of Hunts Meadow Road and Rt. 17, but as far as I know we didn't get it here." A pummeling by hail would ruin the fruit. Reliving the stress, he glanced affectionately at

Kay and said with a grin. "There's nobody who would put up with me this time of year except my wife!"

The annual apple harvest volume runs between 3000 and 4000 bushels, picked from 400 standard size trees. All are bearing, Rodney said, "but not at full capacity." A lot of the varieties are grafts, one or two limbs to a tree. The Baileys sell Northern Spy, Mac, Cortland, Spartan, R.I.

Green, Red Gravenstein, Liberty, Paula Red and many others.

Looking back over nearly 60 years of business, Rodney reflected, "There probably were always apple trees on the place," well before his parents Jesse and Maxine Bailey started running the 100-acre farm as an apple orchard in the middle 1950s. Kay and Rodney took over when his father died in 1975. (See Apples continued on page 2)

Old-time farm equipment topic of Day of Remembrance

by Lucy L. Martin

Those attending the Whitefield Historical Society's Day of Remembrance program this month will travel down that part of memory lane devoted to rural labor.

George Hendsbee will present an illustrated talk on old-time farming equipment he has collected for the past several decades.

George and wife Bonnie's property on the Mills Road has been described as "an

outdoor museum." He said he "tries to set [the equipment] up so it looks neat, and I mow around it to show it off."

He estimated he will have about 60 pieces to talk about, from cultivators, hay tedders and hay seeders, to spring-tooth harrows, potato diggers, manure spreaders, and a sprayer from the old Johnson apple orchard in Jefferson. Since the Hendsbees acquired the

former Calvin Place farm in 1982, they have accumulated the artifacts and still-functioning pieces that, said George, keep them from heading to China as scrap metal. "People were taking good stuff and chopping it up," he said.

The pieces date from the early to late 1900s, with some of it possibly originating from the late 1800s. (See Day of Remembrance continued on page 3)



Photo by Bill McKeen

(Apples Continued from page 1)

Today, in the thick of the harvest, there is part-time help, including assistance from their daughter Margo, a schoolteacher, and their son Mark, both of whom live nearby. "If it weren't for them, we couldn't do it," said Rodney. Also, the work has been lightened by two cold storage units that hold a thousand boxes each.

In addition to apples, the Baileys sell gourds, Kay's homemade fudge, honey, and fresh cider. Even with curtailment of school field trips, groups of small children still visit the homey old barn with its welcome display of bright orange pumpkins and colorful Mums just outside the door.



Rodney & Kay Bailey - Photo by Tony Marple



Calendar of Events

October:

5 & 6: Chainsaw Safety Level 1, Hidden Valley Nature Center (HVNC)
8: Trail Walk with Sheryl Bickel 10-12, HVNC
8: PTA Meeting 6-7pm, Library at Whitefield Elementary
10: Community Forum 6:30pm, Sheepscot General Store
19: Flea/Farmer's Market 10-1, Arlington Grange
20: Day of Remembrance 2-3pm: Old Time Farm Equipment at the Whitefield Historical Society
23: Fall Blood Drive 1-6pm, St Denis Church Hall
23: Grange Meeting 6-8:30pm, Arlington Grange
26: Union Hall Chicken Pie Supper 5-7 PM
27: 3rd Annual Trail Race: HVNC

November:

2: Union Hall Craft Fair, Townhouse Road 10-2
5: Voting, Whitefield Fire Station on Townhouse Road

- First Friday of every month: Food Bank from 1-3pm, Sheepscot Valley Community Church
- Every Tuesday: Selectman's Board Meeting 6pm, Fire Station
- Every Wednesday: Drumming in the Forest at HVNC @ 6:30pm

Do you have an event?

Contact Sue McKeen @ whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com or 207-446-7473. We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.

To add events or articles to our newsletter and the online calendar, please contact us at whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com or call Sue McKeen at 207-446-7473.

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Grange offers 2014 historic calendar

By Debbie Rogers

Arlington Grange 528 has compiled a 2014 calendar of historical Whitefield images. Pictures from the past, annotated with text, are often combined with current photos of the properties. More than 35 businesses have been generous sponsors.

The Whitefield Historical Calendar – Then and Now will be for sale (\$8) after Oct. 1 at Alna Store, Country Corners, Hussey's



General Store, North Whitefield Superette and Sheepscot General. We hope you enjoy it all year through!

(Day of Remembrance, continued from page 1)

If a piece of equipment is in working order, Hendsbee willingly sells it to someone who will use it.

Hendsbee grew up near where he lives today, worked 22 years at Bath Iron Works, and then, at age 50, farmed, cleared and built up his hay fields, cleared off the wood, and sold firewood as well as field stone. He raises replacement cows for the Russell dairy farm.

The Day of Remembrance program is held at the townhouse on Sun., Oct. 20 and begins at 2 p.m.

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Give the Whitefield School a hand

By Sue McKeen

Because teachers were asked to reduce their supply budgets, they are in need of some basic items - in fact so basic we just take it for granted they are provided. But in these hard times, schools are not always in the position to supply these simple things. It often falls to the parents to purchase these items and not all parents are able to do so. You can help by donating pencils, pens, markers, erasers, colored pencils, spiral notebooks, construction paper. You can drop your donations at the school.

Whitefield Accepts RSU 12 Budget by Eight-Vote Margin

By a narrow margin, voters in RSU 12 accepted a reduced school budget of \$26.4 million on Sept. 10.

The 765-710 vote breaks down as follows among the eight towns: rejecting the spending plan were Chelsea 119-56; Palermo 37-32; Windsor 90-83; and Somerville 44-15. The four supporting towns were Alna 26-11; Westport 72-18; Wiscasset 393-315; and Whitefield 88-76.

The budget rejected on June 28 was \$445,000 higher.



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Community Day draws a crowd



A BIG thank you...

By Sue McKeen

Photos Courtesy of Dana Rogers, Jr.

When you think of community, you think in terms of people living together in a common area, working together for the common good. This is what happened last weekend, during Whitefield Community Day, with help from every corner. Although the weather didn't look like it was going to cooperate, volunteers persevered even through the endless rain. A collective thank you to everyone who helped; the Whitefield Day Committee, PTA, Baptist Church, Sheepscot Valley Community Church, Bailey's Orchard, North Whitefield Superette, Country Corners, Hanaford, Chase Bakery, Arlington Grange, Whitefield Fire and Rescue, Kings Mills Volunteer Fire Department, Minuteman Signs, Whitefield Historical Society, Whitefield Lion's Club, L.T. Auctions, The Whitefields and Double Jinx. And a very special thank you to David and Barbara Hayden - who during the course of two days ran out of dry clothing.

Aaron's Corner: Electronic ballot box comes to Whitefield

By Aaron C. Miller

Whitefield residents will notice a change in how they cast their votes at the polls in November.

Like many other municipalities across the state, Whitefield will now use an electronic ballot box for all state elections. Through federal funds from the 2002 Help America Vote Act, Maine's Department of the Secretary of State signed a five-year-lease allowing the town to use the machine for state elections at no cost to Whitefield taxpayers. The DS200 tabulation machine can also be used at local elections if the town pays the programming cost of about \$370 per election.

So instead of the traditional wooden ballot box, the voter feeds the ballot into a steel machine that has an incredibly high accuracy rate of 99.99 percent. I can appreciate this method of voting. Primarily because if a voter did not fill the oval next to the candidate's name, for example, the machine's screen will display an error message. This allows the voter to cast their vote again if they choose. In the past, we would not have known whether there was an erroneous ballot cast until they were hand counted.

At the last gubernatorial election we found ourselves counting until 3 a.m. Although we did not have any problems with accuracy of the vote, the chances of making mistakes become greater. The machine will also save the cost of eight to 10 ballot clerks working into the early morning hours. After the polls close, a few buttons are pushed and the machine prints out a report showing results.

If the fire station loses power the DS200 has a backup battery that will power the machine for about three hours. The station has a standby generator, however, so if all power sources fail voters can still fill out their ballots and slide them into the machine to be manually counted. We will still keep all the ballots in the event of a recount. We'll see you at the polls at the Whitefield Fire Station on Townhouse Road Nov. 5!

You can receive the newsletter by email by signing up at www.townofwhitefield.com/Newsletter.html or pick up a hard copy at The Superette, Health Center, Country Corners, Sheepscot General, Town Office, & Recycling Center.



FREE

Whitefield News

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November 2013

New flagpole at fire station, thanks to local generosity

By Lucy L. Martin

The dedication ceremony at the Whitefield fire station flagpole on Sept. 14 capped Community Day. As the flag was raised above a circle of 239 manmade molded stones painstakingly set in place by volunteers Erik and Judi Ekholm, fire chief Scott Higgins credited those who made the installation possible.

During the brief ceremony attended by about 17 people, Higgins said Janet and Steve Nickerson provided the seed money for the project soon after the central station was completed two years ago. "That got us moving," he said. Other contributors were Lynn Talacko, Jim and Susan Smith, the North Whitefield Superette, Francis Moulton, Kings Mills VFD, Whitefield Fire and Rescue, Bill and Sue McKeen, Jim Brann Jr., Charles Vaughan, and Frank Ober.

See *Flagpole* page 2

Veteran Bert Hayford shaped by duty and love of flying

Contributed Article

How many 90 year olds do you know who rise and shine before sunup in order to go to the YMCA to work out two days a week? Not many, I'll bet. But Elbert "Bert" Hayford does, and has maintained that regimen for a number of years.

Bert, who will be 93 next April, is the most senior member of the Whitefield senior men's coffee klatch, and has attended that function faithfully every week for many years.

Bert's assiduous devotion to his work-out regimen is probably a byproduct of his military training. Upon graduating from Gardiner High School in 1938, he learned to fly at Maine Instrument Flight and enrolled in and graduated from the Air Cadet school in 1939/40. Shortly afterward he joined the Army where he was commissioned a



Photo by Tony Marple

flight officer in the then Army Air Corps. His military duties took him all over the world and included, among other things, flight instruction to new pilots; flying the Berlin Airlift; photo mapping Alaska, Iceland and Greenland; and service in Vietnam. Bert is a three-war veteran – W.W. II, Korea and Vietnam.

Upon his retirement from the U.S. Air Force in the late 1960s, he and his wife purchased their home in Whitefield. Throughout the 70s Bert owned and operated a Shell station in Augusta and also took care of the family farm in Whitefield. He volunteered for

the "Blue Light" program here in town, checking in on older members of the community, and he was active in the PTA as well.

In the early 1980s Bert went back to his real love – flying – and took a job with Maine Instrument Flight at the Augusta airport, flying charter flights for them for several years until angina forced him to stop flying at age 72. Incidentally, Bert has the distinction of being one of the few, and perhaps the only pilot to fly a B-17 bomber in and out of Augusta airport. While Bert's military duties kept him away from home much of the time, he managed to keep the home fires burning. He and his beloved wife Dorothy raised four daughters and a son. And while Dorothy has passed on, the children have "circled the wagons" around him and tend to his every need. After all, isn't that what strong families do? If you see Bert ask him about his flying experiences – and be ready for a long talk!

'Big Bite' event promotes local foods for Whitefield School

By Lucy L. Martin

A collective crack resounded throughout the Whitefield School gym on Sept. 26 when about 130 students, staff, local farmers and other community members took a bite out of farmer Austin Moore's locally grown apples.

Melissa Hunnibell, of Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools (FARMS), organized the event to encourage the use of locally grown food in schools. Leading up to the community event, she described FARMS as "caring about what we eat. This town

can feed all of us. It's amazing what grows here." Whitefield, which is undergoing a rural resurgence, has an increasing number of small farmers who supply a variety of locally grown vegetables and meat and other products. Many sell their goods at Sheepscot General Store, on Townhouse Road.

Heather Burt, executive director of the Damariscotta based FARMS, said nine schools in Lincoln County "are doing garden education. We are about to open a teaching

community kitchen" on the second floor of Rising Tide Community Market, in Damariscotta. Participants will learn how to prepare and preserve food. Burt said that the art of preparing food is "rapidly disappearing. Studies show that families able to grow their own food can get by."

Burt and Hunnibell want to revive the Whitefield School garden that fifth graders used to plant and harvest behind the west side of the building. "Kids love gardening, and it's therapeutic," Burt said. "It supports not only learning but physical

health," she added, and develops "an openness to other foods." Among those attending the "Big Bite" event was State Sen. Christ Johnson (D-Somerville), who is sponsoring a bill aimed at promoting locally grown food in school kitchens.



Flagpole continued from page 1

The Ekholms donated many hours of labor to finish the project by Community Day. Ekholm said there is a three-foot-deep foundation under the 33-ft. tall fiber glass flag pole, which can withstand 177 mph winds, and will be illuminated. The unit was delivered in one piece by freight truck from North Carolina.

Selectman Frank Ober and Lt. Rick Caron raise the colors during the Sept. 14 flagpole ceremony.
Photo by Lucy Martin




Whitefield playground update

Lisa Kalloch, Whitefield School PTA president, reported this week that the organization has in hand about \$12,000 toward its \$40,000 playground reconstruction goal. The RSU budget has provided \$10,000 and \$2,000 has been raised. Swings have been installed and bark mulch placed around them. At the PTA's Nov. 12 meeting, members will start phase one by meeting with playground companies. "Then we will look at the proposals and get the students' input," Kalloch said. The target date for installation is April, 2014. Anyone interested in donating to the fund may send a check to Whitefield PTA, 164 Grand Army Rd., Whitefield ME 04353 with "playground fund" on the memo line.



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Calendar of Events

November:

2: Union Hall Craft Fair 10-2, Kings Mills Union Hall
5: Voting, Whitefield Fire Station on Townhouse Road 8am-8pm
5: Kings Mills Union Hall Board Meeting 7-8pm, Public Welcome
12: PTA Meeting 6-7pm, Whitefield Elementary School Library
13: Arlington Grange Meeting 6-8:30pm, Arlington Grange Hall
16: National Recycling Day- Recycling Center, 8am-12pm
16: Knights of Columbus Pork Roast Dinner 5-7pm, St. Denis Hall

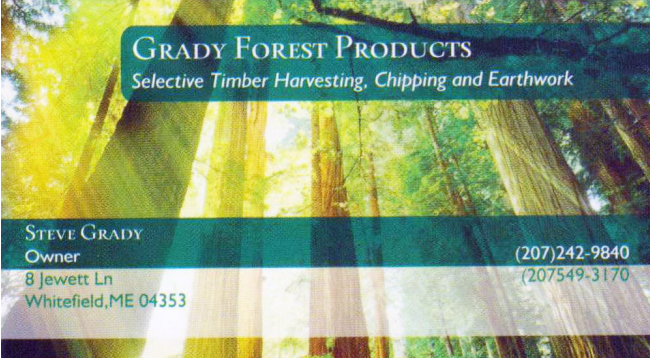
December:

3: Kings Mills Union Hall Board Meeting 7-8pm, Public Welcome
7: Make-a-Craft 10-1pm, Whitefield Elementary School (\$20/family)
7: Christmas Caroling & Desserts 2:30-4pm, Arlington Grange
8: Children's Christmas Party & Tree Lighting 3-5pm, Kings Mills Union Hall
11: Arlington Grange Meeting 6-8:30pm, Arlington Grange Hall

Ongoing

- Every Monday and Wednesday: ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- First Friday of every month: Food Bank from 1-3pm, Sheepscot Valley Community Church
- Every Tuesday: Select Board Meeting 6pm, Fire Station
- Every 3rd Wednesday: Planning Board Meeting, Town Office 7-9 pm
- Every Wednesday: Drumming in the Forest at HVNC @ 6:30pm

Do you have an event? Contact Sue McKeen @ whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com or 207-446-7473. We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.

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Just Yesterday



Thanksgiving in Whitefield

Emma Chase (1892-1988) began keeping a diary in 1909 and wrote in it most years through the 1970s.

She and husband Harry and their children, who included Chester ("Chet") and Verdon ("Pug"), referenced below, lived on East River Road, about two miles from the village of Kings Mills. By the time of the Nov. 24, 1935 event recorded in Emma's diary, the narrow gauge railroad had ceased operating because of a derailment in 1933. The train and its stations were still listed in the Maine Register for 1934-35. Two storekeepers are listed in Kings Mills: Edward Albee and John Libby, who was postmaster and operated the post office out of his store. The town's population, based on the 1930 census, was 908. Whitefield's location was described as 18 miles north-northeast of Wiscasset.



Post Card Photo

The Tobin household, mentioned in the entry below, was about five miles from the Chase home.

Nov. 24, 1935, Thanksgiving and into Nov. 25th:
"What a night...roads blocked...plows not ready...Pug [son of Harry and Emma Chase] had to walk home from Wiscasset...awful storm...No shovels around so can't do anything...Harry walked to store but no mail...Chet walked up to Tobins."

Whitefield Historical Society Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays from 10-2 or BY CHANCE. For information or to make an appointment contact Libby Harmon at 549-7209.

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-Prize Winning Homemade Pies -Apples in season -Eggs

Christmas donation drive and caroling

By Debbie Rogers

The Arlington Grange is sponsoring a holiday celebration on Saturday, Dec. 7th at 2:30 p.m.

We are hosting Christmas Caroling with a group that has been caroling through Whitefield for over 30 years. Our group has had the pleasure of caroling to many, many folks in town and it was our favorite holiday event. This year, we would like to expand the fun by inviting you all to the Arlington Grange for Decadent Desserts and Christmas Carols. We are asking that if you would like to attend that you bring a new toy or holiday food items that will donated to deserving families.



So please, bring your holiday smiles, voices and appetites to the Arlington Grange Hall on Saturday, December 7th at 2:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to join in the singing is truly welcome. For further information contact Debbie Rogers at 549-3491 or windseptcreations@myfairpoint.net.

Donation Request

The Whitefield News staff would like to thank our advertisers, who have been essential to the successful launch of this volunteer effort in July. Because the newsletter currently receives no town funding, we rely on donations and advertising income for printing costs.

If you are enjoying reports on town government, special features on local businesses and residents, community happenings and other events, let us hear from you. We want to ensure the newsletter content is of interest to you-your suggestions are important! Donations (either ideas or money) are always welcome! You can reach us by email at whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com or by calling Sue McKeen at 446-7473.

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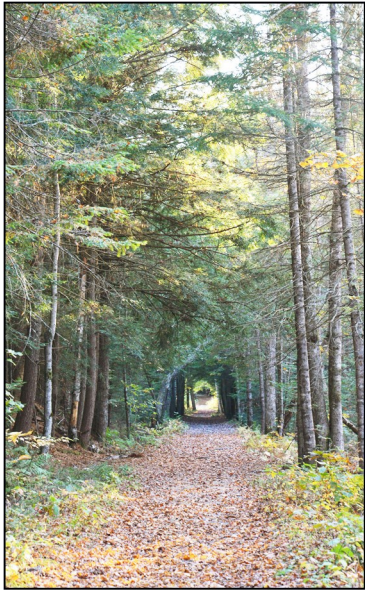
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Community forum emphasis on wider involvement

By Sue McKeen



A group of 25 people attended the community forum held at Sheepscot General Store on Oct. 10. Discussion ranged from the success of the new Whitefield News to reinventing town meeting.

Selectman Tony Marple discussed trail development which would include mapping trails for hiking, skiing, and snowmobiles. Regarding liability, Dave Wright commented that Maine laws have built-in protection for private property owners who allow public access. Several people volunteered for the project. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact Tony at 549-7013.

Selectman Dennis Merrill discussed the need to establish a

Photo Courtesy of Tony Marple volunteer road committee whose job it would be to look at the long-term needs of the town roads. He stated that the town only has enough money to pave one mile each year, and that we are obviously falling behind. He said the Dept. of Transportation (DOT) has software available to towns to evaluate town roads. In addition, DOT will send a representative to assist in the evaluation. There are low interest bonds available for road maintenance. Contact Dennis at 737-8105 if you are interested in volunteering for this committee.

Tony Marple explained the Efficiency Maine program, which assists with home weatherization and is based on income. He said at least 20 people in a town must be found eligible and a team is sent to conduct the evaluations.

During discussion of Senior Services, forum attendees learned that Whitefield is the oldest town in Lincoln County, as well as the oldest town in the state. Avery Dunn has formed a committee to see what kinds of services are needed for seniors in Whitefield, focusing on the fact that many people can't get to the store to pick up groceries or much needed medications. Anyone interested in

getting involved should contact Avery or Sue McKeen.

Melissa Hunnibell, Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools (FARMS) educator working with Whitefield School, suggested that with so many farms in town, the school should be able to take advantage of all the available local produce in its lunch program. She will be working with the school on a grant.

The Regional School Unit was also discussed, particularly concerning Whitefield's position if and when other towns in the RSU withdraw.

Once again, community involvement was a pivotal topic. The need to engage townspeople through community events was discussed. Rufus Percy commented, "If you find the center (commonality), you will find the community." One suggestion was that a return to the old town meeting format might enhance attendance at the meeting. Alice Percy reminisced about being a kid at town meeting where not only was the town business conducted, but it was also a real social event - it was fun. Among the suggestions were that community groups should be allowed back in the gym, that child care could be offered, and that a different civic group could hold the supper after town meeting.

All agreed the forums have been a success and that they should continue, to be held either at Whitefield School or the fire station.

Open house at recycling center Nov. 16

On Sat., Nov. 16, the Whitefield Recycling Center will hold an open house to celebrate National Recycling Day and promote recycling. Recycling committee members will be on hand at the center behind the town office to answer questions and assist the public with their recycling items.

Sheepscot General Store will provide hot cider, coffee and pastries. Hours are 8 to noon.

Aaron's Corner: Whitefield Town Office to process credit cards

By Aaron C. Miller

The Whitefield Town Office once again is able to process credit card payments. Whitefield joins over 100 municipalities in providing this service through Information Resource of Maine, otherwise known as InforME.

In 1998, the Maine Legislature enacted the "InforME Electronic Access to Public Information Act," which called for the creation of public/private long-term partnership to build a portal network of public information. This network is operated with oversight by a board comprised of public and private members who set policy and approve fees for InforME services.

The state of Maine has recognized that the Internet is transforming the way we do business and shows no sign of slowing down. The State has embraced this trend by creating a new way for government to keep pace with electronic transactions from citizens to government. The Town of Whitefield is no stranger to this concept. Residents regularly use Rapid Renewal, a service that allows residents to reregister their cars using a computer.

The town previously accepted credit cards, however, we were unable to process Visa. Now that we are able to provide that service, I believe in some cases this will prove to be convenient for taxpayers. The Town of Whitefield is not charged for this service, rather any fees are paid by the credit card user. InforME charges 2.5-percent for credit card payments to the customer or one dollar minimum based on the transaction total. Transactions under \$40 are charged \$1 and 2.5% above \$40.

Before advising selectmen on this service, I solicited feedback from about 20 Maine towns. I did not hear any complaints from my fellow clerks. And I hope you will agree.

You can receive the newsletter by email by signing up at www.townofwhitefield.com/Newsletter.html or pick up a hard copy at The Superette, Health Center, Country Corners, Sheepscot General, Town Office, & Recycling Center.



FREE

Whitefield News

Volume I, Issue 6

Published Monthly

December 2013

Holiday Events

Fri. Dec. 6th: Sheepscot General's Holiday Bazaar From 5 to 8 p.m., Sheepscot General Store at Uncas Farms, 98 Townhouse Rd., will host a holiday bazaar.

Sat. Dec. 7th: Make a Craft Families are invited to the Whitefield Elementary School from 10-1 for craft making activities. The annual Make-a-Craft event includes cookie decorating, jewelry and ornament making, and wooden snowmen measuring sticks. The fun of making these inexpensive holiday gifts is open to all school aged and preschool children with adult support. Proceeds from the \$20 per-family fee go directly to the playground fund.

Sat. Dec. 7th: Christmas Caroling & Desserts at 2:30 PM the Arlington Grange Hall will be performing Christmas carols with "decadent" desserts. The main goal for this event is to gather donations of food or new toys to be distributed to families in need. The Hall will be open from 12-4 (with the caroling beginning at 2:30) for your convenience if you cannot attend but would like to drop off a donation. There are families in the area that you need your help to have a merrier Christmas.

Sun. Dec. 8th: Children's Christmas Party, from 3 to 5 p.m., Kings Mills Union Hall on Townhouse Rd. will be the setting for the annual Christmas tree lighting party and visit from Santa, who will arrive at 4 p.m. There will be activities and gifts for children, carol singing, and refreshments.

Wed. Dec. 11th: Mt View Chamber Singers the Mt. View Chamber Singers will present their annual "Carols in the Round" event at St. Denis Church at 7pm Sharp, A reception will follow at the St. Denis Hall.

Gov. Kavanagh Council #1423 of Whitefield will be selling Christmas Trees Nov. 29th through Dec. 22nd, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the American Legion hall on Eastern Ave. (Rt. 17) in Augusta. The trees from the Robbins Lumber Tree Farm in Searsmont are \$25.00 each. Proceeds for local charities. For more information or to order your tree in advance please call Pete Taylor 207-542-0820.



Holiday bazaar offers smorgasbord of local creations

By Lucy L. Martin



Taryn Hammer
(Lucy Martin photo)

If you visit Sheepscot General Store at 98 Townhouse Road and don't see gift possibilities for the coming holidays, you must be sleepwalking.

In mid-November, proprietor Taryn Hammer was getting ready both for the grand opening of the store's café, scheduled for Nov. 22, and the holiday bazaar set for Dec. 6. She had a long list of local artisans, artists, and food producers who will fill the retail space and art gallery with their wares that evening, 5-8 p.m. The store already stocks items

from some on the list, including calendars, yarn and knit goods, pottery, jewelry and yogurt.

"We'll have a range of handmade and locally produced stuff," Hammer said, from "food people as well as artists and craftspeople." Most are from Whitefield, but some live in Alna and Jefferson. Expect plenty of stocking stuffers.

There will be gluten-free baking mixes, pork sausage, herbs and salves, artistic embroidery, greeting cards, glass creations, blankets made from alpaca wool, sheepskins, baby rattles, doll clothes, jam, honey, aprons, soaps, dishcloths, copper ornaments, and more.

"It's also pizza night," Hammer said, so shopping can be combined with supper and enjoyed to the sound of live music.

Fighting hunger: Church and school collaborate on food bank program

By Suzanne Balbo

Josh McNaughton, Whitefield Elementary School principal, kept hearing his staff say they were spending their own money to provide snacks for their students. Meanwhile, Doug Richards, the pastor at Calvary Bible Baptist Church next door, was hearing from his congregation that there were children and families in our community going hungry. These two entities joined together this year to create this school based food bank program, which operates out of the school.

Rounding out the team is school personnel Jeanne Grady, who acts as coordinator. The team members contacted the Auburn-based Good Shepherd Food Bank, which was unsure at first whether it could support



Josh McNaughton &
Jeanne Grady
Tony Marple Photo

this collaboration: a church and school combination was very unusual. However, as both organizations are non-profit, Good Shepherd was able to back the initiative.

McNaughton, Grady, and Richards

completed a brief training at the Auburn facility that allows them to select food for pennies on the dollar. All fruits and vegetables from Good Shepherd are free. Every few weeks Richards loads (See Hunger Cont. on Pg. 2)

Whitefield food bank serves needy

The Whitefield food bank, sponsored by St. Denis Catholic Church, is open the first Friday of every month, from 1 to 3 p.m. The food is collected at and distributed from the basement of the Sheepscot Valley Community Church at the corner of Townhouse Road and Rt. 194 (Pittston Rd.)

Coordinator Earl Lemieux said people seeking to receive food "go to the town office and the town refers them to us. We don't usually turn anyone away."

The food bank also serves Alna residents. Support comes as monetary donations from Alna Store customers and monthly donations of mostly fresh produce from the congregation of Alna-Newcastle Baptist Church.

Volunteers are always welcome, said Mary Grady. Some are teenagers performing community service for school credit. They box up the food on Wednesday, starting at 6 p.m. Especially helpful are a few strong teenagers to assist with the canned goods, she said.

As the cold winter months set in and the holidays approach, the need will grow dramatically. Please keep an eye out for friends and neighbors who may need this service. Any donation – whether canned food, fruits and vegetables, gift certificates, turkey certificates – is greatly appreciated.

For more information contact Earl Lemieux at 582-2684.



Hunger cont. from Pg. 1 up a minivan, and Grady, volunteering her time and labor, inventories the food in a room at the school, a process that takes four hours. The room houses a refrigerator as well as shelving for storing the non-perishable food. The bookshelves were scrounged from around the school, but Grady says she is actively searching for bookshelf donations.

Currently, the Food Bank Program services any of the roughly 180 students at the school. The only requirement to receive a snack is if a child says they are hungry. In addition, every Friday, Grady herself fills backpacks with easily prepared, ready to eat food to send home to families in need over the weekend. The backpacks are donated by St. Giles Church in Jefferson..

The generous parishioners of Calvary Bible are currently funding the Food Bank Program.

Monetary contributions can be brought directly to Doug Richards at the church. To donate shelving, please contact Whitefield School (tel. 549-7691).

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Calendar of Events

December:

- 3 & 17:** Pre-K Story Hour, Whitefield School, 10:30-11:30am
3, 10 & 17: Art-making Inspired by Life on the Farm Session I, registration required, Sheepscot General Gallery 3:15-5pm
3rd: Kings Mills Union Hall Board Meeting 7-8pm, Public Welcome
4th: Building Farm-Friendly Communities in Knox and Lincoln Counties, Knox-Lincoln Cooperative Extension Office 8:30-12:30pm To register: <http://lcrpc.org/farm-forum> or call (207) 342-2929
6th: Sheepscot General Holiday Bazaar 5-8 pm
7th: Make-a-Craft 10-1pm, Whitefield Elementary School (\$20/family)
7th: Christmas Caroling & Desserts Donation Drive 2:30-4pm, Arlington Grange (Donations accepted 12-4 pm)
8th: Children's Christmas Party & Tree Lighting 3-5pm, Kings Mills Union Hall
11th: Mt View Chamber Singers annual Carols in the Round. St. Denis Church, 7pm Sharp
11th: Arlington Grange Meeting 6-8:30pm, Arlington Grange Hall
17th: Open Mic Night at Sheepscot General

Ongoing

- Every Monday and Wednesday: ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- Every Tuesday: Select Board Meeting 6pm, Fire Station
- Every 3rd Wednesday: Planning Board Meeting, Town Office 7-9 pm
- Every Wednesday: Drumming in the Forest at HVNC @ 6:30pm
- Every Thursday: Whitefield Senior Men's Group, 10 am at Sheepscot General
- Every 2nd Thursday: RSU School Board Mtg. 6:30-9 pm
- Every Friday: Pizza Night, Sheepscot General, 5-7pm
- First Friday of every month: Food Bank from 1-3pm, Sheepscot Valley Community Church

Do you have an event? Contact Sue McKeen @ whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com or 207-446-7473. We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.



Recycling Tip of the Month

Happy Holidays from your Recycling Committee! Remember, when bringing your wrapping paper to the center after Christmas, an abundance of color in our mixed paper bin is fine. But please do not recycle foil.

Happy Pigs Taste Better



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Just Yesterday



In the weeks leading up to Christmas in 1883, a division of the "Sons of Temperance" started meeting in the hall over Tarr's store, in North Whitefield, then known as Turners Corner. The local columnist for *The Lincoln County News* wrote: "This is I think the 4th Temperance organization in Whitefield. At any rate Whitefield may with propriety be called a temperance town, as there is comparatively but little drunkenness, and no liquor sold, unless very secretly. We have not even had a town agency for several years."

In Kings Mills a division of the International Order of Good Templars, a temperance organization that began in upstate New York in 1850, had established Torsey Lodge. The columnist said this group of Good Templars "is apparently in a prosperous condition. About 58 members. Purchased an organ and give occasional entertainments." On Dec. 4, "the younger members...gave a successful dramatic entertainment. As the hall was crowded, the admission fees must have amounted to a success financially also, even at the very low price of ten cents."

A year later, the Kings Mills lodge had acquired 15 more members.

(Courtesy Whitefield Historical Society)

Emma Chase (1892-1988) wrote in her diary about her family's Christmas day on the East River Road in the middle 1930s.: "Santa has come and we all fared well. Very lucky to be well and happy...all of us. Kids all skating." (1935)

"Kids all went skating at Curtis Coombs' pond to-night." (1936) Coombs was then Whitefield postmaster, with the office in his Kings Mills store.



Alice Carleton (left) and Marjorie Chase cut up on skis on the Heath Road, late 1920s. Alice became the mother of Frank Small, and Marjorie, daughter of Harry and Emma Chase, became the mother of Lore Ford.

Whitefield Historical Society Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays from 10-2 or BY CHANCE. For information or to make an appointment contact Libby Harmon at 549-7209.

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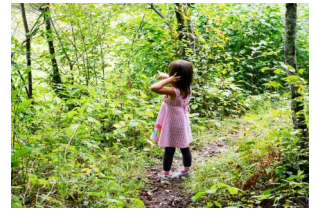
New Construction ♦ Cabinets ♦ Remodeling ♦ Additions ♦ Barns ♦ Decks

Whitefield Trails Committee Meets

By Tony Marple

The first meeting of the Whitefield trails Committee took place on Oct. 30. Members present included Gary Best, who works for the Department of Conservation; David Wright who works for the Department of Environmental Protection; Clint Towle, a newcomer to town and farmer; Bill McKeen, owner of Minuteman Signs; and Tony Marple, retired and serving as a selectman. Other members who couldn't attend were Jim Torbert, Steve McCormick and Bill Brooke. Clint agreed to serve as chair. The objectives of the committee are to identify and map existing trails, develop new trails, review landowner matters and consider the potential role of Whitefield's primary and secondary school students.

The committee members have high energy and a diverse and complementary set of skills. We will be looking for input from other townspeople as the process develops.



*Whitefield Salmon Preserve
Tony Marple Photo*

Art class for youngsters

Whitefield artist Janna Civittolo, will lead Session I of an art-making workshop inspired by life on the farm, Tuesdays Dec. 3, 10 and 17, at Sheepscot General Store. The classes, 3:15 to 5 p.m., are designed for children 6-11 years old and cost \$60 (healthful snack, all materials included). Civittolo holds a B.A. in Studio Art from the University of Maine. FMI or to register, email jcivittolo@roadrunner.com.

Correction The list of contributors to the fire station flag pole fund, printed in our November newsletter, omitted the Whitefield Senior Men's Group.



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The wreath lady of Whitefield

by Sue McKeen

The first thing you notice about Juanita Peaslee is her smile - and that's because she's always smiling. Maybe it's the holiday season or maybe she just loves her "other" job.

Several years ago, during the holidays, I needed a garland to decorate the town house, and I needed it yesterday. That's when someone told me about Juanita, and since then, when I think of Christmas, wreaths, garlands and greens, I think of Juanita, and I call her early.

For almost 30 years, Juanita has been putting together wreaths, garlands, and just about anything else that's made of evergreens. She says as a child she started making wreaths for a little extra Christmas money.

Now she works out of her home, on Hilton Road, and during this busy season you'll find her buried under piles of fir, pine, and spruce boughs - although, this year, a work trailer has been purchased where she can finally move all her wreath-making equipment into one place.

But Juanita doesn't just make wreaths and garlands. She has four grown children and works a fulltime job with the postal service where she is a mail carrier in Bath. She told me that during this time of year, she gets home about 5:30 and

goes right into her shop to make wreaths. She works until she gets tired, usually in about 5-6 hours, and can make up to 30 wreaths during that time. When she was making wreaths fulltime, she could make from 45 to 75 wreaths in a day.

No stranger to hard work, Juanita told me she was practically born in the blueberry fields. As a child she raked berries,



Juanita Peaslee Photo by Tony Marple

she worked at farming, a canning factory, nursing and at Coastal Blueberries, where she started making special order wreaths.

Because she is so busy, Juanita now buys her greens but used to cut her own. She said evergreens should not be gathered until there have been at least three frosts. If you use greens before then, the needles will fall off quickly, leaving a pile on your floor and a bare tree or wreath. Climate change has made it more difficult to get the greens

she needs in time for the season. And she is particular about how she gets her greens delivered. She says greens delivered in a bag will sweat and turn brown easily. She prefers to have the greens gathered and

delivered on a pole where the gatherers take a long stick or pole and stack the greens individually on the pole, attaching them by a strong string so that the greens are not damaged or crushed.

I asked her if she has help making the wreaths and garlands. She prefers to do most of the wreath-making herself. "I'm fussy," she said. When her husband Dale tries to help, she finds him something else to do. She said he thinks she's too picky.

Juanita doesn't sell wholesale, she says she doesn't have time. She supplies wreaths to local schools for resale, the University of Maine at Augusta, local businesses and by word of mouth. In a normal season she makes and sells about 400 wreaths and 200 feet of garland.

"I do it for Christmas money. I don't charge a lot, people don't have a lot of money," she said.

The season begins now, continuing until just before Christmas. If you want a wreath or a garland, you can call Juanita at 441-3096, but you better do it soon.

Clary Lake dam question nixed

By Dennis Merrill

At a special town meeting on November 19, some 66 voters decided not to move forward with negotiations for the possible purchase of Clary Lake dam by the Town. This comes following a vote in May when voters also rejected the same question. This second meeting on the subject of dam ownership was made necessary when the dam owner, Pleasant Pond Mill LLC, filed a second petition for abandoning dam ownership with the Department of Environmental Protection. The first petition was rejected by the State for procedural concerns. More information can be found at www.townofwhitefield.com.

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