

2014

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



Happy New Year!

FREE

Whitefield News

Volume 1, Issue 7

Published Monthly

January 2014

Just who are the Senior Men?

By Sue McKeen

In this small corner of Lincoln County, every Thursday morning at 10:00 at the Sheepscoot General Store, you'll find a group of "senior" men sharing stories, muffins, coffee and camaraderie.

When I called Phil Russell, who seems to be the Senior Men's "spokesperson," to get permission to meet with and interview the group, I think he thought I might want to join. This is a men's group after all and I assured him I only wanted to visit. I sensed his relief.

Upon arriving, I was struck by the friendly buzz of conversations going on all around the room. These are men with long histories in Whitefield, many of them the "movers and shakers" of the past and present, with many stories, opinions and ideas.

The group has grown over the years, and members have come and gone. On this day, there were 13 present: Keith Sanborn, Albert Boynton, Bert Hayford, Carl Prescott, Barry Tibbetts, Lore Ford, Jerry Maldovan, Tom Pierpan, Frank Small, Andrew Berry, Mike Shaw, Phil Russell, and Carl Ribeiro. Ken Marden, Norm Gregoire and Carroll Farmer were not present, but usually attend.

Phil said they began meeting in 1999 when Dot Howell, wife of the late Jay Howell, suggested that he start a men's group. The consensus is that this may have been Dot's way of "finding Jay something to do." As was his way, Jay picked up the ball and ran with it, sending letters out to all the retired men he could think of in Whitefield and asking if they would be interested.

The original group consisted of Phil, Jay, Bob Bradford, Carroll Farmer, Bert Hayford, Albert Boynton, Bob Hutchinson and Pat Patterson.

They began meeting at what used to be Country Farms Restaurant and were immediately dubbed the ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out) by Darlene, who was part of the wait staff there. After the restaurant closed they met at Damariscotta Lakes Farms, until moving to their present location, Sheepscoot General Store. Here, amid the smells of freshly baked goods and coffee, they meet in a room set aside just for them. I was told, "It's great, plus it's right in town."



Left to right: Andrew Berry, Mike Shaw, Phil Russell, Carl Ribeiro
Photo by Tony Marple

I thought politics would be at the forefront of topics discussed, but I was wrong. Phil said one of Jay Howell's rules was that there'd be no talk about politics or religion. Of course, Phil pointed out, that ended very quickly when Jay introduced a candidate running for the legislature as a "guest." Since then, the group told me they discuss everything from history, military service, the state of the world including how to solve current problems from municipal to federal government. They have the answers, just ask them.

Carl Ribeiro said the meetings are a chance to talk about current town events and learn the "real" history. Barry Tibbetts said they're an occasion for sharing information about contractors, where to eat out, what's going on. When talking about neighbors helping neighbors, Lore Ford said, "We used to all help each other. We knew who needed help and we'd do it." **See Senior Pg. 3**

Kings Mills Volunteer Fire Association on a new mission

By Jeff Newell

With the Town of Whitefield's fire service turning municipal a few years ago, one would think the local fire associations would be a thing of the past. Not true! The Kings Mills Volunteer Fire Association is still alive and well, going as strong as ever, with a new job and a new mission.

The association has evolved into a fund raising entity designed to help offset the cost of fire service. We most recently planned, purchased and presented a new forestry truck to the town to replace the aging 1968 Jeep that had done the job for far too long. The replacement 2006 Ford Utility truck was equipped with all new lights, siren, radio as well as a top of the line skid unit (slide in tank, pump and hose unit) at no cost to the town. The total overall cost of the donation, including things



Contributed photo

such as the truck, the skid unit, some custom fabrication and delivery of the tank unit, came in at

\$32,719.04.

This is a perfect example of what our association is all about. The new forestry truck acquisition was accomplished through the efforts of association members who have volunteered for many years fundraising for the town. Basically, this is where all the funds raised through the annual July 4th festival went.

The Kings Mills Volunteer Fire Association is very proud of the work we do and happy to be a part of such a wonderful community. As always we are so very grateful for the support of the town's residents year after year. We will continue to work as we do to be able to give back to our great town.

Though going strong, the association is dwindling in membership and needs help from the community. We are looking for new members who could help in our fundraising efforts as well as assist with other projects we take on. If you are interested in joining our ranks and becoming part of something great, we hold meetings monthly (first Monday) at the Kings Mills Firehouse on the south end of Townhouse Rd. at 7 p.m. and we welcome you to attend.

For more information you can also call the association president (Jeff Newell) at 624-2268.

Health Center highlights

Our HealthReach Connector Program at Sheepscot Valley Health Center helps people figure out what health care benefits they are eligible for and assists with applications and follow-up as needed. There are many programs that help people pay for healthcare, prescriptions, hospital services, or lab fees. These include MaineCare, Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program, DEL (Low cost Drugs for the Elderly or Disabled), and more. But figuring out program eligibility rules and tackling the enrollment and renewal processes can be overwhelming.

Ann Schwab, our Outreach/Enrollment Specialist, will be assisting people with applying for new Maine health insurance options under the Affordable Care Act. Angela Blanchard processes applications for the HealthReach Affordable Care Program. Based on family size and income, people may be eligible for lower cost visits at their health center.

Melissa Murray and Susan Hunnewell assist people through the HealthReach Patient Assistance Program. People can obtain free or less expensive medications directly from pharmaceutical programs if they qualify based on their family size and income.

Please ask us how we can assist you with affordable healthcare. Call for an appointment or to speak with Ann Schwab, 549-7581.

Sheepscot Valley Health Center is one of 11 health centers within the HealthReach Community Health Centers of Maine.
Paul Audette, Practice Manager

Whitefield Elementary raising funds for new playground

By Suzanne Balbo

The current playground at the Whitefield Elementary school, built in the late 1980s, is in a poor state. Lots of students spend their recess being treated by the nurse for splinters! The school, with huge support from the PTA, decided to install a new playground. New swings, funded by the PTA, were installed in the summer of 2013.

The complete playground replacement will happen in three phases over the next three years. Principal Josh McNaughton said, "We are having to use a three phase model for replacement based on funding availability. Our goal between the school budget and PTA fundraising is to have somewhere in the neighborhood of 15-20K available each year for the next three years. Estimates for total replacement we have received from four companies run between 50-60K."

This year's RSU 12 budget includes \$10,000 for the playground initiative. The PTA has already raised \$5,000 this year, and members are working hard to continue their fundraising efforts. PTA President Lisa Kalloch said, "If we can get (funding) done sooner, the better! (The PTA) can then help the teachers here at the school."

According to McNaughton, once the vendor has been selected, students will be involved in voting for various features, including color and add-ons. This spring, the school will be purchasing a portion of the main structure, to include items like raised decks, slides, and a few climbing pieces. Weather dependent, phase 1 of the new playground should be installed in April.

To donate to the playground fund, please contact Lisa Kalloch at lisa@rizzomattson.com, 660-7583, or send a check directly to the school.

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Calendar of Events

January:

3rd: Whitefield Food Bank from 1-3pm, Sheepscot Valley Community Church

4th: Cross-Country Ski Clinic for Kids, Hidden Valley Nature Ctr. Jefferson 9:30 am

6th: Kings Mills Fire Dept. Mtg. 7:00 pm

Coopers Mills Fire Dept. Mtg. 7:00 pm

9th: RSU School Board Mtg. Chelsea School 6:30-9 pm

8th: Cornell Lab of Ornithology & Audubon Bird Programs, SVCA Office, Newcastle 6:30 pm

9th: Roads Committee, Whitefield Fire Station, 7:00 pm

14th: Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. Mtg. 7:00 pm

15th: Planning Board Meeting, Town Office 7-9 pm

17th: Open Mic Night, 7-9 pm, Sheepscot General

29th: Waterfowl Nest Box Program—SVCA Office, Newcastle 6:30 pm

Ongoing

- Every Monday and Wednesday: ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- Every Tuesday: Select Board Meeting 6pm, Fire Station
- Every Tuesday in January: Budget Committee 7pm, Fire Station
- Every Thursday: Whitefield Senior Men's Group, 10 am at Sheepscot General
- Every Friday: Pizza Night, Sheepscot General, 5-7pm

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



In the Jan. 11, 1884 edition of *The Lincoln County News*, the local columnist reported: "There were Christmas trees at CR Carleton's and AH Preble's on New Year's Day, deferred until that time on account of other Christmas activities."

On Jan. 8, 1886:

"There was a literary club organized at Kings Mills last Monday evening with intention of holding a weekly lyceum, for mutual improvement in the usual exercises." And: "There were as many as a dozen hunters out on the last few days of the year in eager search for the poor little deer, but so far as heard from, but two of the innocent creatures were slaughtered."

On Jan. 22, 1886: "We are having cold weather with bad sleighing and worse wheeling." And: "Quite an accident happened to our aged neighbor William Preble, who is in his 90th year. He went to the barn to attend to the feeding of his stock, and when returning, slipped on ice and sprained both wrists and inflicted severe cuts on his face and head, but retained sufficient will power to call loudly for help. His wife heard the outcry and got him into the house. Doing well at present. He has remarkable physical power for his age. He will direct the management of his farm with the energy of men 34-40 years [old]." (Courtesy Whitefield Historical Society)

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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Senior continued from Pg. 1 Albert Boynton, who was a mail carrier for many years, said, "When you're a mail carrier, you learn a lot about people, you get to know people." Also, the group is a "chance for the men to get together to gab, because when the women are around, they don't get much of a chance."

More than talk, the senior men are very civic minded and can be counted on to support projects in the town. Several years ago they found the money to restore the honor roll memorial in Kings Mills. Via Ken Wood, they were instrumental in getting the Liberty Elm and plaque, located on the town property behind the town office. They donated money toward the flag pole at the fire station, and Ken Marden and Lore Ford put up many American flags each year.

The Senior Men know the meaning of civic pride and have, throughout their lives, donated thousands of hours to the town.

I found I didn't really want to leave this group - it felt just like an old-time town meeting - but Phil started looking at his watch.

So, if you're a "senior man" or just looking for a congenial time and place to spend your Thursday mornings, stop in to the Sheepscoot General Store at 10:00 every Thursday morning. Enjoy a muffin, a cup of coffee and some great company.



Phil Russell Photo by Tony Marple

Thanks for trees

Thanks to generous donors, Whitefield has two trees sparkling with holiday lights, one outside the central fire station, the other at Kings Mills Union Hall. Fire chief Scott Higgins expressed thanks to Gwyn Dixon for the donation of the tree he cut down, installed and decorated with help from selectmen Frank Ober and Dennis Merrill.

Union Hall association president Judy Maldovan thanked Louis Sell for donating the evergreen that was officially lit during a Christmas party attended by 25 children and Santa himself.

Recycling Tip of the Month



When recycling your tin cans, remember that space is important. If you flatten your cans they take up less space at the center which in turn will require fewer pickups from the county, saving gas in the long run and making more money for the program. (Please remove labels as well - they can go in mixed paper.)

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Stargazing in Whitefield

By Tony Marple



Colin Caissie at the Whitefield Observatory
Photo by Tony Marple

In 2004, a group of astronomy enthusiasts founded the Central Maine Astronomical Society (CMAS), to accept the endowment of a 16-inch Newtonian reflector and other pieces of equipment from Stanley Brower, an accomplished astronomer from Southport. If you are not familiar with telescopes, a 16-inch

reflector is a very powerful telescope. Sixteen inches refers to the width of the mirror which collects the starlight.

The Brower Observatory, located on the Whitefield-Jefferson line at 326 Route 126, is adjacent to the house owned by Jean Fergusson and Colin Caissie. Colin, who is a founding member of CMAS and an adjunct instructor of astronomy at the University of Maine, says, "Astronomy is one of the most complete hobbies I know of. It involves mythology, history, cutting edge science, outdoor adventure, a sense of awe and humility, and companionship. You can use your eyes, binoculars, or telescope. You can make your own instruments. It helps you think in a new way."

CMAS has hosted observing sessions for Cub Scouts and home schooled children and is willing to do so for school groups. Observing

sessions include a variety of smaller telescopes as well as the 16-inch reflector, affording ample viewing time for groups. The CMAS website,

www.maineastro.com, includes information about the observatory, upcoming celestial events, photographs and notices about upcoming star parties, which are also held at two other mid-coast locations. You can add yourself to the mailing list. Star gazing dates may change due to the weather. The email address is MaineAstro@gmail.com.

Brower Observatory is a great resource right here in Whitefield.



NOMINATION PAPERS AVAILABLE DEC. 20

Nomination papers for various town positions will be available on Dec. 20, 2013. There will be two seats open on the board of selectmen. Both are three-year-terms. At the town meeting on March 15, 2014 voters will also choose a road commissioner for a one-year-term; two positions on the planning board for two-year-terms; and a school board member for a three-year-term. Nomination papers will be available at the town office on Townhouse Road.

DOG LICENSES EXPIRE DEC. 31

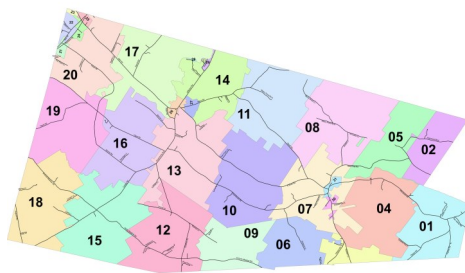
WHITEFIELD – All dog licenses expire on Dec. 31, 2013. The cost to reregister dogs is \$6 for spayed or neutered and \$10 for unaltered canines. Starting Feb. 1, 2014 there will be a \$25 late fee for delayed registrations.

Tax maps now online

By Dennis Merrill

Whitefield's tax maps and parcel information can now be found online at www.TownofWhitefield.com.

Several months ago, with the help of a State grant, the Town began a process to convert its property tax maps to a digital format. This involved taking the old paper maps and putting them on a Geographic Information System that uses landmarks such as roads and streams as on-the-ground reference points to align the parcels to a geographically correct database. The resulting electronic maps can be overlaid with many different "layers" of information such as land uses or natural features. This feature opens up many possibilities for planning or evaluation.



Now that the tax maps are in an electronic format, they will be easier to maintain and update as changes occur or more information becomes available. The new individual maps show portions of adjoining maps so abutting parcels can be seen and parcels are not cut off at the boundary of a single map, as was the case with the paper format.

This digitization has also allowed Whitefield's tax maps and related information about individual parcels to be put online.



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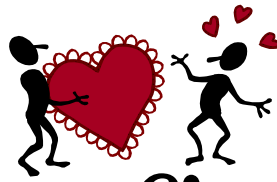
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Residents can answer basic questions about property ownership and assessed values without having to come to the Town Office. Each tax map, or in some cases a combination of maps, is a separate downloadable file in the ".pdf" format. Once files are downloaded, the zoom tool can be used to show portions of a map in detail.

Accompanying the tax maps online is information about each of the Town's 1764 real estate tax accounts. This may be done by looking up an individual's information by map or alphabetically by name. The information is similar to that which is published in the annual Town Report, and includes assessed values for land and buildings, tree growth program participation, the value of exemptions, the taxable valuation, and reference to the most current Lincoln County Registry of Deeds Book and Page.

The maps and parcel information can be found at www.TownofWhitefield.com by clicking on the Town Government tab and selecting Town Tax Maps.

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

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The Elmer's Barn tradition continues

By Sue McKeen

When I called Ivana Wilson to set up an interview, she told me not to show up before 10:00 because by then the old barrel stove would really be throwing out the heat. Ivana and her dad, Elmer, are partners at Elmer's Barn in Coopers Mills.

When I first moved to Whitefield I recall being told it was practically a felony not to visit Elmer's Barn. It was quite an experience then, and that was over 35 years ago. The experience hasn't changed much, but Elmer's Barn has taken on some innovations instituted by Ivana. There is something for everyone at Elmer's Barn - in fact there are three floors chock full of antiques, plunder, trash and treasures.

As Ivana and I perched close to the wood stove on this very cold day, I asked her how she decided to get into the business. She replied, with a laugh, "I started as a little kid, it was a family business. We started unloading truckloads of stuff when I was

four. My dad would get all the neighborhood kids to help and then he'd take us out for an ice cream." She said she really hated antiques until she was in her twenties, when she began to appreciate them.

She explained that her father started "wheelin' and dealin'" out of his truck in the early 70's when they still lived on the Howe Road. He built the barn out back and set up shop. In order to expand, Elmer bought what used to be the Howe Fur Company and opened up Elmer's Barn in its present location off Route 17 in Coopers Mills.

Ivana gave me a copy of a 1985 *Yankee Magazine* article by Mike Kimball which is a wonderful depiction of Elmer. A portion of the piece describes Mike and wife Glenna's trip from Massachusetts to Coopers Mills to look at Elmer's house, which was for

sale. The following excerpt is about Mike's first encounter with Elmer, who apparently had been awakened from his nap and went down to meet his visitor.

Mike to Elmer: "I saw your house advertised in the paper," I said handing him the classified ads. He raised his hands as if the printed page would burn him. 'I can't read nor write,' he said with a heavy twang. I didn't know it then, but I know now - he had my scent. He must have smelled Massachusetts on me from his *See Elmer's Pg. 3*



Ivana Wilson Photo by Tony Marple

Fire Chief Higgins: 'We have a good crew' -Part One

By Lucy Martin

Midway through an interview in early January, Whitefield Fire Chief Scott Higgins jumped into his turnout gear, powered up Engine 2, and headed to a fire in the back of a trash compactor truck on Gardiner Road.

Four other Whitefield volunteer firefighters happened to be off work that morning and sped to the scene to help douse the blaze kindled by live ashes set out in household rubbish. They quelled the blaze before it burned into the major body of the vehicle.

Manpower is not always available, quick response is not always possible on a weekday, so the chief was pleased. Rapid and effective response is the paramount goal of the 21 fire and rescue workers charged with saving lives and protecting property in Whitefield. They were challenged to do just that most recently in the late December ice storm, making sure roadways were clear of

downed branches so emergency vehicles could answer calls and plow trucks could get through.

One of the selling points of the central station when the question went to voters in 2010 and a municipal department was formed, was that it would be a warming center during electric outages where people could come get water, information about Central Maine Power's progress restoring power, take a shower, drink coffee and socialize. Higgins said about twenty residents dropped in.

"What a blessing to have the station. I don't know what we'd have done [without it]. We had heat, running water, a generator. Our main job was keeping roadways open. We were everywhere in town," he



Fire Chief Scott Higgins reminds all Whitefield home owners to install carbon monoxide alarms and to "number your house so we can see it."

Photo by Lucy Martin

said, except for Vigue Road, which was closed because of fallen trees entangled in power lines. Only CMP could deal with that.

There was constant contact *See Higgins Pg. 4*

Beaver Bites

by Kit Pfeiffer, Maine Master Naturalist Volunteer

We are blessed with a diverse natural world surrounding us here in Whitefield. Recently, as I prepared for a field trip with some Whitefield School students to hunt for signs of beaver

(*Castor canadensis*), I noticed how much activity there is right in my Benner Lane neighborhood.

There is a small lodge built into the



Courtesy of Hidden Valley Nature Center

bank of Finn Brook, which you can see on the far side of a large pool created by the beavers damming up the culvert hole as best they can. Even though the pond is frozen now, you can see a stash of winter food they have gathered in front of the lodge. As you walk through the woods near there, there are many signs of their chewing. The wood chips they leave behind would make excellent kindling for your winter fires. But be sure to dry them out first, since they come from a live tree. Beavers only harvest live trees, because they get nutrition from the cambium layer just under the bark. Birch, willow, alder and aspen (poplar) are their favorites here in Maine.

As if on cue, beavers have moved back into an abandoned lodge on the bank of the Sheepscot at the bottom of our Benner Lane field. Freshly cut sticks, newly packed mud, and lots of tree harvesting nearby were the clues, as well as several "outhouse" piles near the lodge. Now, in the depths of this snowy winter, they are living inside. The hoarfrost around the exhaust hole on the top of the lodge shows where their warm, stale air escapes from inside the burrow. It's about 34 degrees inside there!

Have beaver stories of your own? Please write to me at kit_pfeiffer@yahoo.com.

Calendar of Events



February:

3th: Kings Mills Fire Dept. Mtg. 7 pm

Coopers Mills Fire Dept. Mtg. 7 pm

5th: Signs of the Season: A New England

Phenology Program, SVCA Office, Newcastle 6:30 pm

7th: Whitefield Food Bank from 1-3pm, Sheepscot Valley Community Church

Sheepscot General—documentary, Untouchable Love by Meghan Vigeant 6 pm

10th: Whitefield Fire Dept. Appreciation Gathering 6 pm

Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. Mtg. 7 pm

12th: Arlington Grange Meeting, 6:00 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting

SVCA Volunteer Appreciation and Recruitment Dinner, Newcastle, 6 pm

15th: Whitefield Lions Club Model Railroad & Doll House Show,

Armory, Augusta, 10:00 am—3:30 pm

13th: RSU School Board Mtg. Whitefield School 6:30-9 pm

19th: Bats of Maine, SVCA Office, Newcastle 6:30 pm

21st: Open Mic Night, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm

22nd: Bats Box Building, SVCA Office, Newcastle 1 pm

Story Time by Holly Torsej at Sheepscot General Store, 2 pm

Ongoing

- Every Monday and Wednesday: ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- Every Monday and Tuesday: Whitefield Historical Society 10-2 or by Chance. For an appointment contact Libby Harmon at 549-7209
- Every Tuesday: Select Board Meeting, Fire Station, 6pm
- Third Wednesday: Planning Board Meeting, Town Office 7-9 pm
- Every Wednesday: Women of Whitefield, Sheepscot General. 10 am
- Every Thursday: Whitefield Senior Men's Group, Sheepscot General 10 am
- Every Friday: Pizza Night, Sheepscot General, 5-7pm

Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.



Don't Forget to Recycle
Saturdays 8 am—12 pm

Heating costs breaking your budget?

By Tony Marple

Help is available through Efficiency Maine, a State program funded by a surcharge on electricity bills (*Efficiency Maine.com*), tel. 866-376-2463. Efficiency Maine offers funding for air sealing, home insulation, and heating system projects.

While most of Efficiency Maine's incentives require some out of pocket expenses, the energy cost savings can be dramatic. You can also reduce your electricity bill with funding for hot water heat pumps and other electric efficiency projects.

Low income residents may also be eligible for heating fuel assistance from LIHEAP.

Applications are available through mainehousing.org, or telephone 626-4603.

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Just Yesterday

In Emma Chase's 1921 diary, husband Harry wrote the entries that year, for reasons unknown.

On Feb. 4: "Got ready and went to dance. Horace

Tarr run it, had a fine time, sold all the oysters for \$60.20, best time I have had for 5 years. Emma and I dressed better than anybody."

Feb. 10: "Put in 64 cakes of ice today."

Emma wrote in 1923, on Feb. 6: "Will Potter's house and stock burned." Feb. 8: "Mr. (George) Fowles died today, he was found unconscious yesterday." [Ed. Note: George Fowles was the mail carrier and collapsed on his afternoon route near Head Tide.]

Feb. 23, 1925: "It is still cold and I guess it always will be. Folks are getting discouraged with the weather." Feb. 24: "Went to store in Head Tide, bought cloth and thread. I hadn't been out since January 7th so I enjoyed the ride very much. We had cookies and cheese in the store." *Courtesy Jane Chase*

Excerpted from *The Lincoln County News*:

Feb. 25, 1881: "William Ford has completed his mill at King's Mills and is sawing at the rate of 8000 per day. The machinery is all new, put in by Ladd, of Gardiner, and works like a clock. We have plenty of snow, and all the lumbermen are busily engaged in hauling logs to the mills. Business has recovered its former activity, help is scarce, wages good, all pointing to a prosperous future."

Courtesy Whitefield Historical Society

Whitefield Trail Committee in action

By Tony Marple

With temperatures hovering around zero, several members of the

trail committee walked a couple of sites with a high potential for trail development.

The first

fronts on Rt. 17 and is partially in Wind-

sor, and partially on town-owned land. While the parcel, bequeathed to the town by Harold B. Olsen more than 20 years ago, is only 17.5 acres, the frontage on the west branch of the Sheepscot River is beautiful. It would be a great location for a nature trail with perhaps benches and a picnic table.

From there the group traveled to the property of Sandy Benne on Hunts Meadow Rd. Sandy has developed a number of trails on his land, which has a conservation easement. The trail the group followed leads to a high ridge with a stone monument that Sandy built. The views from the ridge to the east and particularly to the Camden Hills are spectacular.

The trail committee is growing rapidly and now includes Clint Towle (chair), Steve Spencer, Gary Best, Bill McKeen, David Elliot, Bill Brooke, Ron Kenoyer, Ed Mooney, Tom Vigue, Ben Marcus, David Wright, Jim Torbert and Tony Marple. If you know of potential trails in town or wish to participate, please contact Clint at wctowle@hotmail.com. As the committee's work continues, volunteers will be needed for trail development and maintenance.



Photo by Tony Marple

Elmer's cont. from Pg. 1 bedroom. And now that I think about it, the 'outastater' fragrance probably woke him up. Needless to say, I bought the house." Classic Elmer.

Ivana has a style all her own. She is quiet and friendly and intent on building the business for today's market. After leaving her job with Sylvania in 2006, Ivana asked her dad if she could open an antique mall in the barn; he said that sounded good. She started with five dealers, and now there are over 50 all housed on the second floor. I asked how she collects all her "inventory." Besides the dealers, she purchases from people who come to the Barn, she attends auctions and even has her very own "pickers." She also makes "house calls." Every April and November she holds an open house - featuring lots of food and lots of sales.

Ivana told me her father is semi-retired now. He was her mentor for several years and taught her everything he knows. He even taught her how to "wheel and deal," a very particular art. She explained she and her dad are partners and that he is reluctant to give up the reins. She has to gently remind him she can handle things herself now.

I asked her how the business has changed. She said people are more educated about antiques and collectibles. "It's television - things like American Pickers, Antiques Road Show, e-Bay - people are more savvy." She would like to have more dealers and is working on renovating the first floor. She said, "Everyone is looking for a deal." And don't ever ask the classic question, "Can you do a little better?" because the answer might be: a little better for me would be a higher price for you.

On the other hand, there is usually some room for bargaining. Her father has a violin in the Barn with an \$800,000 price tag on it. She said it's falling apart, not worth anything. "Because my father loves it, he doesn't really want to sell it." She pointed to an old wooden directional sign on the wall and explains she loves that sign, but like everything else at Elmer's it's for sale. She explained she put such a high price on it probably no one will buy it - but if they offer to pay the price, she'll sell it. Meanwhile, it's been on her wall for several years - she enjoys looking at it every day. But someday.....

When I asked her if anything unusual or interesting has happened, she told me about a couple who met at Elmer's. "They met and fell in love right here at Elmer's Barn. In fact they would like to have their wedding here in the spring." She laughingly said, "What will we do if it rains?"

Ivana had to leave to wait on a customer. I heard her say, "There must be something up there you need." She returned to say good-bye and I thanked her for taking the time to talk with me. But not before I bought something - I couldn't help myself - it was 10% off. The Elmer's Barn tradition continues.

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Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 10th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

Higgins Cont. from Pg. 1

Lincoln County Communication Center and the town's plow truck drivers, too, "so they could continue on their routes," the chief said. Sometimes after a road was cleared, "we'd come back to the station and get a call about that same area, and sure enough, another tree was down."

A critical phase of dealing with the storm was checking on people's welfare. Whitefield Rescue responded to the carbon monoxide poisoning of two elderly Heath Road residents, restoring their breathing while awaiting hospital transport.

Higgins said the station was manned from 6 a.m. Dec. 22 to 1 a.m. Dec. 30. "One night four of our guys spent the night here, and we were open daily."

Thomas Feeney, who retired from a 26-year career with the Augusta F.D. and moved to Whitefield four years ago, was one of the four staffing the station. The problems of the 1998 ice storm in Augusta were vivid in his memory. Radio towers were not working particularly well that night of Dec. 23 and he wanted to be near the radio in the station in order to respond to emergency calls.

On Dec. 25, "I told my crew they had a lot to feel good about. We had several significant or potentially significant (medical) events occurring at the same time," as well as two potential building fires, while being short-staffed.

"We easily had 100 calls between the outage on Monday through Christmas night," he said.

From his viewpoint as a career firefighter, Feeney said the families of the men who were busy on Christmas Day responding to emergencies "handled it exceptionally well."

As someone who received a paycheck for battling fires and now trains Whitefield volunteers, Feeney finds "the dedication here is incredible. They have drive and determination." But, he added, the department is "starting to age."

Reflecting a widespread phenomenon in rural communities, numbers have declined also. The 2011 town report shows 30 active fire dept. members and seven active EMS personnel compared to 18 and two, respectively, today. (Just recently 30-year volunteer Norm Best gave his retirement notice.)

To meet minimum standards, it would be beneficial to have more and younger firefighters. Feeney spoke of the physical demands of events like car accidents or the "storm we just had. You need crews of 20-40 people just so they don't get worn out. Most of us are in our 30s and 40s. They say a firefighter during one building fire expends as much as a person in a 40-hour work week."

Chief Higgins agrees that the town "could always use more members, but we have a good crew." Additionally, five surrounding towns supply mutual aid and there are several others he can call, such as Chelsea and South Bristol. (Part One of Two)

BE MY
VALENTINE!

State issues Clary Lake draft water level order

A draft water management plan, issued by the state Dept. of Environmental Protection, is the latest development in a Clary Lake shore-front owners' petition to manage water levels.

The plan outlines repairs and operation of the Rt. 218 dam, which Pleasant Pond Mill LLC (PPM) bought in 2006.

Leading into 2013, PPM filed a petition for release of dam ownership. At special town meetings last May and again in November, Whitefield voters rejected the option to research and consider ownership of the dam.

On Dec. 19 the DEP issued the draft water level order, which contains time lines for compliance and states that PPM must submit a Water Level Management Plan to the department for review and approval no later than May 1, 2014.

The draft order also states the "water level in Clary Lake shall be maintained within a range of fluctuations, not to extend greater than 2.0 feet below the established normal high water line..."

All comments on the draft Order were due by Dec. 30. PPM's request for a 30 day extension and a subsequent motion for withdrawal/reconsideration were both denied.

The deadline for receiving comments on the draft Water Level Order was Jan. 6, 2014. Seven parties have submitted comments. After the department reviews all comments, it will issue a final order.

For more information, visit www.clarylake.org. (SM & LM)

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By Chuck Vaughan

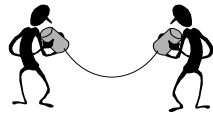
It's amazing how hard work and dedication of a small group of committed people become contagious and attract people and resources. There are now two talented, experienced professionals volunteering alongside Coopers Mills residents working toward the construction of a new fire station. Several other folks who live nearby and enjoy raising money for good causes have joined up recently to help out as well. In fact, when I moved to Coopers Mills, the reason I wanted to join and support that effort was that I heard they weren't using tax money for building and vehicle purchases.

Coopers Mills Volunteer Fire Department has been steadily working toward a new fire station for probably 15 years. Volunteers have worked thousands of man hours to raise money for it. So far \$121,000 has been raised for the building project; at the same time, they've funded all their truck purchases without any tax money. The land between the present fire house and Route 17 has been purchased and \$17,000 has been spent on site development and engineering. The existing station houses five vehicles including the 1934 fire truck, which is used as a parade vehicle, and a tanker owned by Whitefield. (If the

tanker is needed for a fire in one of the mutual aid towns, another vehicle has to be moved now.) The new building would have better access and accommodate at least four trucks plus have adequate storage and ADA compliant bathroom and meeting space. The design has evolved and been refined to where cost figures can be projected but the final plan will be influenced by how much can be raised without a large mortgage to burden future firefighters. By summer, final plans should be firmed up and a date for construction picked.

Coopers Mills is unique in that it is situated at the corner of four towns, Whitefield, Jefferson, Windsor and Somerville and has traditionally had firefighters from all four towns. We are currently looking for more people to get involved, both as firefighters and as association members. There is a big task ahead of us and a great deal of satisfaction in being part of a worthwhile project.

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 Town Meeting
Saturday, March 15th

FREE

Whitefield News

Volume 1, Issue 9

Published Monthly

March 2014

On the Ballot

Polls open 8-12 pm

Candidates running for office

Whitefield voters will cast their ballots March 15 for the following elected positions:

For the five-member Board of Selectmen - 2 positions open - 3 year term

Sam Bartlett
Sue McKeen
Dennis Merrill (incumbent)
Jeff Newell

For the five-member Planning Board - 2 positions open - 2 year term

Only Jim Torbert (incumbent) has returned nomination papers.

Road Commissioner - 1 year term

David Boynton

RSU 12 Committee - 1 position open - 2 year term

No candidates have submitted papers.

Fire Truck Referendum

“Shall the Town vote to purchase a 2015 E-One pumper tanker with a freightliner chassis, a 2000 gallon water tank and a 30 gallon foam tank, equipped with a 1250 gallon per minute waterous water pump at a cost of \$269,000.”

Public Hearing

Tuesday, February 25th, 7 pm at the School

Topics:

- ◆ Fire Truck Purchase
- ◆ Gravel Pit Moratorium

What's town meeting and why should you go?

By Dennis Merrill

Some folks say they have never been to town meeting. Sadly, given the small number of people who do attend, that's not surprising. In recent years, about 60 to 70 of Whitefield's 1625 voters actually turn out on the third Saturday in March for the annual town meeting to conduct the town's business. That's only around 4% of eligible voters. The municipal election the morning of the same day does a bit better, drawing about 200 voters, or a 12% turnout.

With the many things that people have going on, perhaps it isn't shocking that so few residents take the time to participate in town meeting. But there may be some good reasons to invest two or three hours per year to help steer the direction of the town. After all, you live here and it is your tax money. Or it's your money until someone else decides how to



1992 Town Report cover by Roger Majorowicz

spend it. Do you care about the quality of life here in Whitefield or the services the town provides?

Town meetings have been around for a very long time in Maine and may seem to be old fashioned. But hopefully democracy will never go out of style. Indeed, the town meeting as practiced in smaller towns is the truest and really the only form of pure democracy. Residents who choose to participate as “citizen legislators” make the final decisions in town affairs: how to spend money, what policies to adopt and setting priorities for the future.

As the “legislative body” for the town, the annual meeting is the final authority and provides the opportunity for residents to listen to their neighbors and decide on issues of the day. This discussion brings to light things an individual may not have thought of walking into the meeting.

Often, discussions on the floor of the meeting change the outcome of votes. Those attending the town meeting really do play a real and important role in shaping the town's future direction. **Cont. on Pg. 3**

Selectmen, budget committee crunch numbers

By Tony Marple

The budget is a numerical description of the town's plan for the year. It sounds boring, but it's about how we serve people, maintain the roads, provide winter road maintenance and arrange for fire and safety. In a typical year, the school budget, which is set by the Regional School Unit with important input from local schools, represents about two thirds of the total, with about 6% going to county taxes and the balance for town services as described above.

We have good news from the RSU: the withdrawal of Wisconsin will almost certainly reduce the Whitefield budget. Public meetings on the school budget will begin in April.

The Whitefield Budget Committee, a group of volunteers appointed by the Selectmen, reviewed the budget at four meetings in January, voting on Jan. 28. The first focus of the discussion was the fire department. Overall, the

department budget is flat except for a plan to replace two aging Coopers Mills trucks with a new pumper at a cost of \$269,000. This proposal is consistent with the fire department's ten year plan and coincides with the end of \$18,334

loan payments on Engine 3, housed in Kings Mills, in 2013. The new truck would be financed using a 3.5%, 15 year note beginning in November and would result in a reduction of loan expense of \$6,796 in the 2014-2015 budget and an increase of \$4742 in future years. There will also be a reduction of maintenance expense of at least \$2000. The decision as to whether or not to purchase the truck will be made by public referendum. A public hearing will be

held Tues., Feb. 25 at the school at 7 p.m., and the vote will be on the morning of Town Meeting.

The largest increase in the municipal budget is for town roads. We are paying

the price for having fallen behind on road maintenance. A plan to widen and pave the south end of Middle Hunts Meadow Road and to replace culverts on Vigue Rd. would require an increase in the roads budget of \$100,000.

Committee members also discussed the assessing budget, which increased \$3500. The reason for this **Cont. on Pg. 3**



Charlene Donahue, Sue McKeen, Erik Ekholm, Melinda Caron, Carl Riberio, Barry Tibbetts, David Hayden Photo by Tony Marple

Recollections of town meeting

By Sue McKeen

We thought it would be fun to ask some folks about town meetings of the past. The annual meeting, held in March, used to convene in the town house when it was located farther down Townhouse Road. Sometime after 1959 when the Whitefield School was completed, the meetings, with secret ballot voting occurring simultaneously, moved there.

Jane Chase remembers going to the meetings with her mother when it was held at the old town house. "It was a day of play for us kids, I loved it and looked forward to the day all year. It felt like what you offered meant something; no one was criticized. Your word was good enough." Jane also commented that because her dad, Chet Chase, was not born in Maine, his brother Pug (who was born here) would remind him of that fact every year at town meeting. Generally this was followed by some "outastater" comment. A slight altercation might occur at which point brother Norman would step in to mediate.


Judy Maldovan, who was town clerk 1978-82, said she sometimes would have to "poke one of the selectmen with a sharp pencil to get their attention or correct a misstatement." She always had a big supply of sharp pencils on hand. She also remembered that when Neota Grady, a much beloved teacher in Whitefield, gave you the "eye" and told you to sit down at town meeting, whoever received the dreaded dressing-down would sit – no questions asked.

David Hayden remembers when everyone seemed to have a "good sense of humor," even though there were differing opinions. Meetings started at 10 a.m. and broke for a firemen's supper in the evening. After supper chairs were returned to the floor and the meeting continued. It was an all-day affair, sometimes going late into the night. Neighbors were considerate of their neighbors, honesty was assumed and everyone attended. David recalls Sam Birch as moderator when the Baptist Church burned, and Bob Johanssen, who manned the gavel for many years. "Bob knew Robert's Rules, but ran the meetings with humor and consideration." David thinks people don't attend town meetings the way they used to because "we don't have much control over our money. We don't discuss the school budget at town meeting...and it seems neighbors don't know neighbors anymore."

Sandy Brown, who succeeded long-time Town Warden Ona Delano, thinks the makeup of the town has changed somewhat, but added "it really isn't that much different." Sandy recalled when she and Rick attended their first town meeting the first thing she noticed was Ona Delano with a sidearm. Hailing from a small town in Massachusetts, Sandy was used to town meetings sometimes getting rough, but carrying a sidearm seemed serious business. The couple wondered just how rowdy this particular town meeting might get. She later learned that Ona was also Town Constable and permitted to carry a firearm.

We all have memories of town meetings. I moved here in 1975 and vividly remember the warmth, friendship and copious amounts of dirt on the gym floor - the kids loved it. We loved the smell of baked goods, hot dogs, and coffee being sold by various groups to raise money. But mostly I loved the work of democracy in action, the debates on the floor where anyone with an opinion was welcome to speak.

Come to town meeting. Voting is from 8-12, and the open meeting begins at 2:00.



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Calendar of Events

March:

- 2nd:** Democratic Party Caucus, Fire Station, 2:30 pm
- 3rd:** Kings Mills Fire Dept. Mtg. 7 pm
Coopers Mills Fire Dept. Mtg. 7 pm
- 4th:** Kings Mill Union Hall Board, 7 pm
- 5th:** American Kestrel Partnership, SVCA Office, Newcastle, 6:30 pm
- 7th:** Whitefield Food Bank, 1-3pm, Sheepscot Valley Community Church
- 8th:** Kestrel box building party, SVCA Office, Newcastle, 10 am
- 10th:** Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. Mtg. 7 pm
- 12th:** Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
SVCA Volunteer Appreciation and Recruitment Dinner, Newcastle, 6 pm
- 13th:** RSU School Board Mtg. Chelsea School 6:30-9 pm
- 14th:** Walk w/ Naturalist, SVCA Bass Falls Preserve, Alna 10 am
- 15th:** Whitefield Town Meeting, Polls 8am-12pm, Town Meeting, 2 pm, School
- 19th:** Vernal Pool Ecology and Conservation, SVCA Office, Newcastle, 6:30 pm
- 21st:** Open Mic Night, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 22nd:** Signs of the Seasons Workshop, SVCA Office, Newcastle, 10 am
- 23rd: Maine Maple Sunday**
Sheepscot General Pancake Feast 8-3 pm
Tim's Sugarshack, 23 Grand Army Rd 8-3 pm
Spruce Bush Farm, Pancake Breakfast 8-12 pm



Ongoing

- Every Monday and Wednesday: ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- Every Monday and Tuesday: Whitefield Historical Society 10-2 or by chance. For an appointment contact Libby Harmon at 549-7209
- Every Tuesday: Select Board Meeting, Fire Station, 6pm
- Third Wednesday: Planning Board Meeting, Town Office 7-9 pm
- Every Wednesday: Women of Whitefield, Sheepscot General. 10 am
- Every Thursday: Whitefield Senior Men's Group, Sheepscot General 10 am

Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.

RSU 12 questions and answers

The Whitefield News is adding a Q&A section to provide answers to questions we will be soliciting from Whitefield citizens.

These questions will be answered by Superintendent Tuttle, Whitefield School Principal Josh McNaughton or Board Chair Hilary Holm.

QUESTION: What is the effect on the remaining RSU 12 towns of Wiscasset withdrawing?

ANSWER: RSU 12 has calculated the budget for this year to illustrate the effect of Wiscasset's withdrawal. We decreased the budget by the current cost of running the Wiscasset schools and increased it by the cost of the tuition we will have to pay for non-Wiscasset-resident RSU 12 students currently attending Wiscasset schools. The changes in these numbers cause the RSU 12 average cost per student to drop by \$1,000 to \$11,515. Towns, according to the RSU 12 cost-sharing formula, would pay RSU 12 this amount for each student, paid for with state subsidy money and local tax dollars. Whitefield would pay about 53% of the per student amount with local tax dollars, the rest would be paid for through state subsidy. The withdrawal of Wiscasset from the RSU 12 school system is financially beneficial to the town of Whitefield. What is clear is that the budget for Whitefield will decline but final numbers are being worked on by the RSU staff and board. The budget will be presented to the voters in June. Wiscasset's withdrawal also means that RSU 12 is left without a high school and therefore has to have an agreement or contract with at least one out-of-district high school that will accept, without condition, students who are asked to leave high schools they have "chosen" to attend.

You may also email your questions to: whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com



Howard Tuttle
File Photo



Recycling Tip of the Month

In the past the Recycling center has only taken clear, brown, and green glass bottles and jars. New info provided by the county gives us the OK to begin collections of blue glass which can simply be added to the green glass collection cans. Please remember no household glass (drinking glasses) and no window glass as these materials are a different grade of glass and do not recycle with our collections.... Thank you, Jeff Newell

Just Yesterday



Entries in the diary of Emma Chase (1899-1988) concerning town meeting give a glimpse and add a dash of spice to what took place during this annual event. The following excerpts (courtesy of Emma's granddaughter Jane Chase) date from 1934 to 1964, when the meetings were held in the townhouse at its former location just north of Dexter Lane on Townhouse Rd.

Norman, Pug (Verdon) and Chet (Chester) were sons of Harry and Emma Chase. Chet, a longtime school board member, was particularly active in securing a central school, which was built in 1959.

It appears that it was common for women to bring food and make a lunch to sell to voters attending the meeting, which was held on the first Monday or Saturday in March during this period.

Mon., March 5, 1934: I was to town house all day. Our food all gave out. We had 11 doz. rolls, 20 lbs. dogs, 4 lbs. coffee, 2 cans milk. ... We cleared about \$11. Hervey [Bailey] got trimmed at town house for selectman. Not much argument.

Mon., March 2, 1936: Sold almost everything [at town meeting], a few doughnuts left and 2 doz. rolls and a few dogs. Clara took money but she won't next year - too slow. We want all coconut doughnuts next year and need two ket-tles. . .

Mon., March 1, 1943: Lore Ford II moderator, he enjoyed it. It was all over at 12:30, everyone liberal, no arguments.

Mon., March 1, 1948: They made \$29 on eats at the town house. Went to town meeting, a lot out. First time Australian ballot was used in town. It is ok.

Mon., March 6, 1950: There was a big crowd there. Norman and Chet done a lot of talking, also Elmer Heath. Roads was the main subject.

Sat., March 3, 1956: It was like Spring, in fact I rode to townhouse with a sweater only. Norman was moderator for first time. Pug made it hard for him. . . but he did a fine job. Meeting lasted til 5:00.

Sat., March 5, 1960: 250 voted today. Ted [Clinton] Jewett got in by 6 votes [selectman], thank God. Chet lost [school committee] by 11 votes, too bad because he wanted to finish his job on the new school.

Sat., March 2, 1962: I went to town meeting from 10 to 5, it was a long day, it was a great day. Not many arguments. Norman won selectman by 15 votes. I hate to see Ted beaten. There were 247 votes cast.

Sat., March 7, 1964: Town meeting was held in town house, some arguments over closing some roads. Chet apologized to Doris [Jewett] and I as he finally says the lunch is paying for itself, he didn't think it ever would.



1992 Town Report cover by Roger Majorowicz

Town Meeting Cont. from Pg. 1 As usual, most of the warrant articles facing voters at this year's town meeting concern various parts of the municipal budget for the fiscal year beginning in July. (The school budget - some 2/3 of our total town expenditures - is voted separately later in the spring.) In considering budget items, it is good to think about the "big picture" of overall proposed spending and revenue sources. This information can help to keep individual articles in proper perspective. Of course, principles as well as money should guide voters in deciding what is in the best interest of the town.

In addition to budget issues, those attending town meeting will decide whether to accept Moosehead Lane, located off Hunts Meadow Road, as a town road. Whether to hold a "Whitefield Day" in 2014 will also be debated. Also up for consideration will be a limited moratorium on new or expanded gravel pits in town until voters can decide on revisions to the present Development Ordinance.

Local government works best when people get involved and town meeting is one of the easiest and most important ways for all residents to have their say and make a contribution that counts. Please don't let others be your voice in town affairs. Participate.

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Budget Cont. from Pg. 1 increase is to make sure all town valuations are fair and updated over a three year period.

Most other line items in the budget are flat or down. A number of charitable organizations such as the Food Bank made requests that the committee evaluated.

The town has been managing its finances conservatively and the Select Board voted to recommend applying \$100,000 in general surplus to reduce taxes in the upcoming budget.

Please come to town meeting on March 15 to hear more and vote on our budget.

Comparing the Current and Proposed Municipal Budgets

	Current 2013- 2014	Proposed 2014-2015	Change
EXPENSES BY CATEGORY			
Road Maintenance	\$165,000	\$265,450	+ \$100,450
Plowing & Sanding Roads	\$232,000	\$234,200	+ \$2,200
Personnel	\$132,262	\$154,766	+ \$22,504
Fire Department	\$92,000	\$92,000	\$0
General Government	\$48,527	\$47,270	- \$1,257
Loan Repayments	\$51,357	\$44,849	- \$6,508
Solid Waste	\$39,800	\$37,800	- \$2,000
All Other	\$52,838	\$34,766	- \$18,072
Town Office	\$20,255	\$21,250	+ \$995
Insurance	\$12,250	\$13,475	+ \$1,225
TOTAL	\$846,289	\$945,826	+ \$99,537

REVENUE AVAILABLE TO REDUCE TAXES

Excise Tax	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0
Local Roads Grant	\$50,640	\$50,640	\$0
From Surplus	\$30,000	\$100,000	+ \$70,000

NET TO BE RAISED FROM TAXES

Expenses minus revenue	\$465,649	\$489,986	+ \$24,337
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1. The Proposed Budget includes amounts for taking over Moosehead Lane as a town road and ½ year's interest on a new fire truck, should the voters decide to approve those questions
2. The Proposed Budget shifts the salary for the Assessor's Agent from "All Other" to "Personnel".

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Fire chief Higgins: 'It takes a special person' - Part 2

By Lucy Martin

Like many other public safety volunteer groups in sparsely populated rural towns, Whitefield Fire and Rescue faces the challenge of dwindling numbers and increasing age. Driving this reality is the changing character of small town life. Many firefighters no longer work in the community where they live: their jobs involve a daily, sometimes long commute. In addition, there is the burden of paperwork and regulations that eat up hours of what could otherwise be personal or family time.

Whitefield Fire Chief Scott Higgins appreciates his team of 21 fire and rescue workers. Two firefighters are trained in EMS. "We could always use more members," he said recently, adding, "it takes a special person" to serve.



Photo by Lucy Martin

The requirements are weighty, including mandatory trainings and meetings. There are health screenings to pass, and "You have to train everybody from how to put their boots on to (how to put) out fires in buildings, and you must document it," the chief said.

In 2012 Whitefield Fire and Rescue answered 83 fire calls and 110 rescue calls, slightly fewer than the year before. Higgins said, "Our mission is evolving. We respond more and more to carbon monoxide alarms," as well as traffic accidents if they involve personal injury, fluids leaking, or the need to help with traffic control.

While the adrenaline rush and pleasure of camaraderie may attract some, there are other motivations and rewards. Thomas Feeney, who retired from the Augusta F.D. as a professional firefighter several years ago and now lives in Whitefield, cited "a sense of community."

"I felt I had the skill set to benefit people here. Fire service is in my family," he said.

Still, serving is not as simple as it was a generation ago when those willing to "help out" readily got a seat in the fire engine or handling the hose.

Higgins, who belonged to the Winthrop fire department for 13 years, lives in Windsor. "I've been at this long enough to keep everybody safe," he believes. He runs an appliance company and is also head school bus driver for Jefferson.

As part of his responsibilities administering Whitefield's fire department, the chief understands the benefit of upgrading the town's ISO rating. This rating, by the Insurance Services Office, is based on such capabilities as the status of the department's apparatus and its water carrying capacity, the average number of firefighters who respond to a call, and the distance of homes from fire stations. (Whitefield is 18 miles long and has three fire stations, with most homes within five miles of those stations or one in a

neighboring town.)

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 indicating no protection, Whitefield's ISO rating is 9. A lower number, such as Jefferson's 7, holds the potential for homeowners to get a reduction in premiums from their insurance carrier.

Higgins, who described himself as "busy enough doing what I'm doing," said improving the ISO rating is "not a simple thing." It involves a lot of recordkeeping. As a newly reorganized entity three years ago, the department has five years to establish a track record that could adjust its rating.

Thinking long range

As with many organizations, Whitefield Fire and Rescue has a long-range plan. Developed in 2005, the document recommends, among other things, "regular replacement of vehicle stock at appropriate intervals."

Adopting the plan led four years ago to the formation of a municipal fire department with a single budget and a central fire station instead of three separate, independent departments. The community members spearheading the planning process at that time indicated a modern facility and updated equipment might attract new volunteers.

Ten years ago voters approved purchasing a new \$180,000 pumper, housed in Kings Mills, with annual payments of about \$18,334. Higgins believes that with the last installment now paid, the time has come to consider a new purchase. That recommendation was made in the long range plan, which suggested placing a new pumper by 2014 either at Coopers Mills or at the then-anticipated central station on town property. (Several years ago, the town acquired Engine 2, through grant money secured by former fire chief Tim Pellerin; it is located at the new station.)

The proposed \$269,000 fire truck would replace two vehicles at the Coopers Mills firehouse: a 1980 tanker and a 1993 engine purchased new. The current engine has a 750-gallon tank, the new one would have a 2000-gallon capacity. The town would save \$6796 in 2015 since the 15-year loan wouldn't be issued until November. However, in future years, the debt service would increase by \$4742 a year.

Looking at the proposal from a financial point of view, Higgins mentioned the benefits of fairly low interest rates at present and savings in repair costs of the two aged apparatus. The mill rate increase would be minimal. To wait five years is to risk a possible price tag of \$300,000, the chief said.


Furthermore, housing the new truck - "a fire station on wheels" - in Coopers Mills makes sense, Higgins said. He pointed out that "a fast initial attack is imperative" in the village because of the 50-bed nursing home located there.

A chance to debate

In January, Lore Ford circulated a petition requesting that voters decide on the proposed truck purchase by secret ballot rather than openly on the floor of town meeting. That vote will take place 8-noon the morning of March 15. In addition to believing that all major purchases by the town should be by secret ballot, Ford questions if a new fire truck is needed. He says there is no lack of equipment at fire scenes because of Whitefield's mutual aid agreements.

A public hearing on Tues., Feb. 25 will provide a forum for residents to address the pros and cons of the proposal. It will be held at the school starting at 7 p.m.

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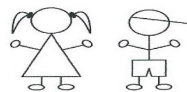
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Happy Spring



FREE

Whitefield News

Volume 1, Issue 10

Published Monthly

April 2014

Town Meeting

Results of Balloting

361 Voted

Select Board - 2 positions

Sam Bartlett	137
Sue McKeen	170
Dennis Merrill	198
Jeff Newell	90

Road Commissioner

David Boynton 302

Planning Board - 2 positions

Jim Torbert	281
Mike Panosian	(write in) 24

RSU 12 Committee - 1 position open

Joan Morin
(write in) 16

Fire Truck Purchase

Yes	208
No	152

Open Town Meeting

About 100 Voters

All articles on the warrant were approved, except for Article 17 to accept Moosehead Lane as a Town road.

The proposed moratorium on new or expanded gravel pits was approved.

There is a one-year term on the Planning Board open for appointment by the Select Board (as a result of Sue McKeen's election). Anyone interested should contact the Town Office.

Many thanks to the Calvary Bible Baptist Church for hosting the Town Meeting.

Women of Whitefield (WOW)

By Jane Chase

Women of Whitefield (WOW) is a newly formed group in town. We meet at 10:00 on Wednesday mornings at Sheepscot General, where store managers Taryn Hammer and Ben Marcus generously allow us to use their meeting room as a gathering place.



Jane Chase & Martha Chase Photo by Lucy Martin

After reading about the "Senior Men's Group" in the *Whitefield News*, it seemed to me that the sort of fellowship describing our male counterparts suggested an obvious opportunity for the women in town to come together for a similar purpose. As this group meets to share our experience, knowledge, talents and general know-how, we are able to capture our potential to do whatever good we can do for each other and our community.

We have been meeting since February and as we develop and grow as a group we have had the privilege of being able to identify and fulfill existing needs in town and among our neighbors. As we become more visible, the opportunities increase for us to become more in-

involved in the community and we welcome that prospect.

Comments from some of the women are as follows:

"I find it welcoming, fun, respectful, civic-minded, caring, thoughtful and helpful."

"With the cumulative years of varied experience represented by this group anything and everything is possible."

"It is a wonderful way to connect with people in Whitefield and give to the people right here in our community."

Each week one of the women who migrated to Whitefield tells the story of her journey and what brought her here. Not only does this create a closer bond among the people present, but it allows me, as a local, to see Whitefield through new eyes.

Women who have participated so far are Pam Kenoyer, Pat Parks, Marylou Smith, Sue McKeen, Lucy Martin, Karen Mitman, Karen Stultz, Judy Robbins, Helene Duncan, Marianne Marple, Dot Howell, Ann Twombly, Martha Chase, Linda Zollers, Cathey Sell, Debra Rogers, Judy Maldovan and Jane Chase.

If you think you may be interested come by and try us out! There is no obligation and you might enjoy yourself.

With a little help from our friends

By Sue McKeen

I recently sat down with Avery Dunn and Wes Keep to talk about their new group, Friends Helping Friends, and, over several cups of coffee, talked frankly about the reality of aging in a small, rural community.

When Avery and Ed Dunn moved to Whitefield in 2001, they weren't thinking about what it would be like to grow old in a rural community several miles away from any type of urban center. And when Wes and Connie Keep moved to town, they knew they loved the outdoors, the woods, the peace and quiet and the freedom - Whitefield seemed like the perfect place.

Having to think about this reality happened to Avery one day when a friend, who was unable to drive herself, called to ask if Avery could provide a ride to town. This prompted Avery to ask herself a few questions. Her husband died several years ago and her family lives



Avery Dunn and Wes Keep Photo by Lucy Martin

several states away. She started wondering who will give her a ride if she needs one?

Who will help her with groceries, rides to medical appointments, to

church, to shop, to socialize? There is no mass transportation in Whitefield, there are only friends, neighbors and for those lucky enough, family.

For many, the prospects are bleak, so Avery decided to take action and started a group called "Friends Helping Friends" whose main focus is to provide rides to people who, for various reasons, are unable to drive themselves. When I asked Avery why people want to continue to live in Whitefield as they age, she said she **Continued on Pg. 2**

Calling all Farmers

Whitefield News is planning an article about the farms in Whitefield for June. We want to include you! We will be listing all farms and their products. Please email us at whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com or contact Debbie Rogers 549-3491 to add your information.

Hidden Valley Nature Center receives tree farmer award

(contributed by Andy McEvoy, HVNC director)

The 2014 State Outstanding Tree Farmer award was presented to Hidden Valley Nature Center (HVNC) co-founders Tracy Moskovitz and Bambi Jones, in conjunction with the non-profit education and recreation center, located in Jefferson. The ceremony took place Jan. 8 at the Maine Agricultural Trade Show in Augusta with the award presented by the American Tree Farm Society.



Together with HVNC's first director, Gary Hayward, Moskovitz and Jones have been investing in their forests since 1978. In 2007 they set aside 1,000 acres, out of 2,000 total, to be used by the nature center.

"We use the same principles to guide our work on both HVNC and our own private property. We manage the forests for wildlife, recreation, and water quality in an attempt to protect our investment," says Moskovitz. "Ultimately we are creating a financial resource for ourselves and for the nature center, but more importantly we see ourselves as investing in the long term health of our forests and our community."

Staff and volunteers work together to harvest timber, repair roads, improve water passage, and build multi-use trails. Each year HVNC offers dozens of educational and experiential workshops related to sustainable forestry. Outstanding Tree Farmer Field Days, with demonstrations and workshops, will be held in September.

The center works with foresters Barrie Brusila of Mid-Maine Forestry and Harold Burnett of Two Trees Forestry.

Hidden Valley, comprised of 1,000 acres of diverse habitat, including large rock outcrops, deep woods and lake shore, is open to the public 365 days a year, dawn to dusk. FMI: www.hvnc.org, info@hvnc.org, 207-200-8840.

Friends, cont. from Pg. 1 thinks "people want to stay where they are, to stay in their own homes, to have something to leave their children and many can't afford senior housing." Wes commented that he loves the open-spaces and small community. "In the city, neighbors don't know each other like they do here. . . . and besides, we never really thought about getting old or becoming disabled." He added that, "The government can't be expected to provide subsidized transportation. It is the responsibility of family, our community, our friends." As part of the oldest county in Maine, Whitefield has a reason to be concerned about its older citizens.

Avery pointed out that Friends Helping Friends is a way to help our friends and neighbors. Wes commented the group is very mindful of liability issues. "We are a totally volunteer group with no compensation of any kind accepted. The relationship is completely between the driver and the recipient of the ride. We are not a non-profit and have no standing; we are simply neighbor helping neighbor."

Wes and Avery said one of their main challenges is locating who in the community needs their assistance and there is always a need for more volunteers. If you need a ride, or know someone who does, you can call any of the following list of volunteers: Wes Keep, 549-3635; Avery Dunn, 549-3000; Sister Juanita Robichaud, 549-3945; Al & Nancy Legere, 549-5543; Marie Patfoort, 549-7358; Rosemary Sanborn, 549-6035; Imelda Yorkus, 549-7615. All you need to do is simply call and ask. Brochures are available at the town office and the food pantry. The group meets the third Friday of each month at Sheepscot General Store at 1:00. For more information you may call Avery at 549-3000 or Wes at 549-3635.

As we got ready to leave, we all agreed that independence is one of our most vital assets - you only miss it when it's gone. I like to believe that we can all get by "with a little help from our friends."

In observance of April, National Poetry Month, established by the Academy of American Poets in 1996, we offer the following work by Judith Robbins, of Whitefield, from her collection *God Poems*:

Just Do Your Job

Diligent ant
willing to spend your weight in work
to retrieve a single crumb of cracker ---

Such care. Such application of theory,
Such giving to community beyond yourself.

Whether or not I learn, you teach
to sacrifice and work for the other.

My day begins in small complaint.
Get over it, you say. Pick up your crumb
and walk: Salvation is in it.

Judith Robbins

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Just Yesterday

This month's column presents excerpts from a journal concerning school business, 1859-1893, kept by Lillian Rogers, who lived on East River Road where the District 8 schoolhouse referenced in the account below was located.

According to town historian and archivist Marie Sacks' *A Brief History of Whitefield 1760-2004*, the town, in the early

1800s, "established 8 school districts as mandated by state law. Each district voted for its own school agents, who collected the school taxes for that district, decided the location of its school and what the school schedule would be, hired the teachers, bought supplies, etc. The number of districts and the locations of the schoolhouses changed with the population."

District Clerk's Book containing the records of District No. Eight, Whitefield, April 29th, 1859:

The inhabitants of School district No. 8 to vote in districts affairs are hereby notified to meet at the school house in said district on Friday the 29th just at six of the clock afternoon to act on the following articles begin

The following is the doings of the inhabitants of the meeting under the proceeding Warrant

First Chose Isreal Dunton for Moderator

2nd Chose G.W. Carleton, Clerk

3rd Chose Isaac Kincaid Agent

4th Voted Summer school commence the first Monday in June

5th Chose G.W. Carleton Agent to collect outstanding tax

6th Voted that said tax be put into the Town Treasure hands and there to remain until said District calls for it

7th Voted that Arther Tellock have goods for week for boarding the teacher in the summer

8th Voted to adjourn without date. Isaac Kincaid agreed to furnish wood for Winter school for \$4.00

Notice

The inhabitants of School District No. eight qualified to vote in District affairs are hereby notified to meet at the school house in said District on Wednesday the second day of Nov. next at six of the clock in the evening to act on the following articles

The following is the doings of the inhabitants at the meeting under the preceding warrant

Carried over

First Choose George Wheeler Moderator

2nd Voted that the winter school commence the first Monday in Dec.

3rd Voted to have a Female Teacher to teach the winter school

Arther Tellock agreed to furnish the wood for the winter school for \$5.25

George Wheeler agreed to board the teacher for \$1.00 per week for the winter school

(contributed by Dana Rogers, Lillian's grandson)



Wheeler School, East River Road, c. 1913



Town meeting: We gathered together – to vote

By Sue McKeen

On March 15, about 100 townspeople attended the annual town meeting, which was held at Calvary Bible Baptist Church, next to the school. Now, that may seem like a strange location for a town meeting, but earlier that week, a fire broke out in the school gym. The fire was extinguished, and thankfully no one was hurt. The school was subsequently closed for the gigantic cleanup process; the town lost its meeting and balloting space, but as they say in the business, the show must go on.

Enter the kind offer from Calvary Church.

As a sometimes practicing Episcopalian, I know the meaning of the word ritual. So when I entered the church, in order to attend town meeting, I found myself reverently moving down the aisle toward a very comfortable looking pew. Prior to taking my seat, I began the process of grabbing the end of the pew and had to stop myself from, first, genuflecting and then kneeling on the pull-out stool for the obligatory short prayer. It's a good thing, too, because that was about the same time moderator Jeff Frankel vigorously banged the gavel. Thankfully, I remembered where I was.

The meeting, which lasted four hours, was a study in how people react to their environment. Not only did many of us agree that this was by far the most comfortable town meeting – seating-wise - but I think we can say the entire atmosphere was one of civility, respect and general kindness. Now maybe that's because we were all so comfortable in those cushy seats, but I think it was the church. It seemed protective not only of the people in it, but of the many opinions voiced during the day.

For all those who take issue with holding a town meeting in a church (separation of church and state, after all), I can only say if you were there you may have been thankful for many things, not the least being those comfortable seats. A very heart-felt thank you to the Calvary Bible Baptist Church.



Broadband service expands

By Dennis Merrill

A new wireless Internet service is now available in Whitefield.

Hussey Communications, a family owned business based in Winslow, is a Wireless Internet Service Provider (WISP) that currently offers high speed wireless Internet throughout 35 towns in Central and Western Maine.

The company has recently expanded its wireless Internet service coverage to include Whitefield via a newly installed access point on a tower atop Blinn Hill in Dresden. The Blinn Hill access point will be able to provide wireless Internet service to Dresden and its surrounding towns. Southern areas of Whitefield may now be able to receive a wireless broadband signal.

These same areas are those with less coverage by cable or telephone (DSL) Internet Service Providers than the northern part of Town. This high-speed wireless Internet service may be of interest to people living in "under served" areas, off the grid, too far off the road for cable Internet, or those who want an alternative to their present broadband service.

Reception should be available within a ten-mile radius of the Blinn Hill tower. The service is location specific and will not work everywhere. The wireless signal is affected by terrain, vegetation, and other factors. Hussey reports that initial tests have shown good reception at the Whitefield Town Office and the fire station in East Pittston.

As part of its installation process, Hussey conducts a free site visit to the potential customer's location to test signal strength and quality before any commitments can be made.

Hussey Communications wireless Internet service involves placing a subscriber module and antenna (typically a white 18 inch square panel antenna) on or near the outside of the building, and running a cat 5 Ethernet wire from the outside equipment, inside to the customer's computer or wireless router. The service is reported to be 1 Mb/sec (750 kb download and 250 upload).

For a limited time, Hussey Communications is waiving its normal \$195 installation fee as an introductory offer. The no-contract monthly fee of \$38 is for an unlimited service, and also covers leasing the equipment. Hussey Communications owns and maintains the equipment and any future upgrade(s) to the system for faster service will be provided at no additional cost.

The company can be reached at 1-800-281-1159 to inquire about a site test, answer any questions, or to discuss their wireless Internet service.

CORRECTION

Whitefield Fire and Rescue has 20 firefighters and six EMS workers, of whom two are medics. Four of the volunteers double as firefighters and EMTs. Incorrect information (in *Whitefield News*, Feb. and March) was given to the reporter.

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 10th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

Students get out and learn about nature

By Kit Pfeiffer

Whether they know it or not, a group of students at the Whitefield School has been studying phenology this year. That's the big word for observing the seasonal changes in nature to see how they are affected by our changing climate. Do birds return earlier or later each year? Is there a change in when

the spring flowers bloom? Over time, they will be able to answer these important questions. To get started, they have begun observing and taking note.

Last fall, Annie, Ethan and Tyler, 11 and 12 year olds in Sally Allen's classroom, each staked off a small plot in the woods by the school ball field.

Throughout the winter, weather and warmth permitting, they have gone out to check on their plots to see what has happened. "I've noticed that some trees have fallen down," says Annie.

"It helps the woodpeckers to have insects to eat from the dying logs." Just the other day, Tyler noticed "the buds

on the little trees, getting ready for spring."

As they are prodded to get out and really look at nature, they've learned some cool facts. In addition to visiting their plots, they've taken several hikes to see beaver habitat. Annie was impressed with "how beavers go under water, grab up mud in their front paws and pull it up to put it on their lodges." Most impressive to Tyler is "how a beaver can cut down a whole tree with only its front teeth!"

Ethan is thinking about a bigger picture. He already spends a great deal of time outdoors, and he worries that "we affect it badly. The world's getting worse every day. Man-made things and smoke from industry, causing global warming."

One thing all three students would say to a friend to encourage them to get outside and observe nature more often--"Just do it! The exercise is great." (Kit Pfeiffer is a Maine Master Naturalist Volunteer who can be reached at kit_pfeiffer@yahoo.com.



Naturalist volunteer Kit Pfeiffer with Annie and Tyler at their plots. Note the hand lenses around their necks, ready to take a closer look!

Revisiting Whitefield's old-time stores

By Lucy Martin

A look back at some of Whitefield's many general stores will be the program topic on Sun., April 6, when the Whitefield Historical Society meets.

Taryn Hammer Marcus, who operates Sheepscot General Store on Townhouse Rd. with husband Ben, has been gathering information and finding pictures in the society's collection to illustrate her talk.

Some people may remember trading at or hearing reminiscences of earlier generations about the stores operated by Frank Douglass in North Whitefield, Lester Felt in Kings Mills, or the Achorn Brothers in Coopers Mills in the last century.

These stores are among the dozen or so in the town's three villages that Hammer has found images of. She said, "I am planning on using the pictures and giving what history I can give on each one. The Douglass Store has quite a bit of information... I am listening to the tapes of Belle Douglass [daughter-in-law of Frank] and may play a quote out of them at the presentation.

"I am excited to have this opportunity to research a piece of history that I am slowly becoming a part of here with the Sheepscot General Store." Hammer believes that general stores, then and now, act as a community gathering place and "play an important role in supporting a rural town's culture and health."

The meeting begins at 2 p.m. on April 6th, and will be held in the old townhouse, above the town office.



H.T. Weeks Store, Coopers Mills, had previously been a grocery store until it became a millinery shop in the early 1900s.

RSU 12 Question & Answer

Q. How can community members access Whitefield Elementary School for town meetings and events?

A. Anyone wishing to utilize the school facility for meetings, activities or events can contact the Whitefield Elementary School main office to obtain and complete a facilities use form. Once the form is received by the Whitefield Elementary office and approved by the principal, then the event can take place. Applicants will receive a copy of the approved form in the mail. If you want to be sure to secure a date for your event, then it is important to try to give the Whitefield Elementary office five days notice if possible. Whitefield Elementary School is used constantly by the community and the schedule is very full. If you are a private organization not associated with the school, the community, or its students, then approval must go through the Director of Operations and the Superintendent in order to assign a fee for use.

Some organizations are interested in using the kitchen facilities. We welcome the use of the kitchen facilities, however, recent state regulations require a trained individual to be present before the kitchen can be opened. These regulations are in place in order to keep the kitchen safe from contamination.

It has come to our attention that some members of the community feel that approval for access to Whitefield Elementary School has become more difficult since joining RSU 12. We will be convening a committee of community members in the near future and revising our processes in order to make use of the building as welcoming as possible. If you are interested in serving on this committee, then please contact Josh McNaughton, the principal of Whitefield Elementary School.

RSU 12 welcomes the school to be utilized as an activity hub for community meetings, activities and events. Please feel free to contact the school at 549-7691 with questions.



Josh McNaughton
Photo by Lucy Martin

APRIL 2014 WHITEFIELD EVENTS CALENDAR

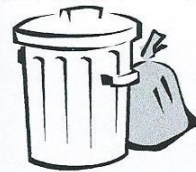
- 1st** Living Well for Better Health at the Whitefield Lions Club 9-11:30 am
Select Board 6pm
Kings Mill Union Hall Board, 7 pm
- 2nd** Women of Whitefield, Sheepscot General. 10 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 3rd** Senior Men's Group, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 4th** Whitefield Food Bank, 1-3pm, has moved to the St. Denis Hall on Rt. 126
- 6th** Whitefield Historical Soc. Meeting and Program Revisiting Whitefield's
Old Time Stores, Townhouse, 2:00 pm
- 7th** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Coopers Mills Fire Dept. Mtg. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept. 7pm
- 8th** Living Well for Better Health at the Whitefield Lions Club 9-11:30 am
Guided hike at Hidden Valley Nature Center, Jefferson 10-12pm
Select Board 6pm
- 9th** Women of Whitefield, Sheepscot General. 10 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 10th** Senior Men's Group, Sheepscot General. 10 am
RSU School Board Mtg. Somerville School 6:30-9 pm
- 11th** Jamie & Chloe's Music night, Sheepscot General, 7 pm
- 12th** Chainsaw Safety for Women, Hidden Valley Nature Center, Jefferson
- 13th** Chainsaw Safety for Women Hidden Valley Nature Center, Jefferson
- Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)** Whitefield School 6 pm
- 14th** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. Mtg. 7 pm
- 15th** Living Well for Better Health at the Whitefield Lions Club 9-11:30 am
Select Board 6pm
- 16th** Women of Whitefield Sheepscot General. 10 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Creating Backyard Bird Habitat, SVCA Newcastle, 6:30 pm
Planning Board Meeting, Town Office 7-9 pm
- 17th** Senior Men's Group Sheepscot General. 10 am
- 18th** Medicine of Trees, Hidden Valley Nature Center, Jefferson, 1-4:30 pm
Open Mic Night, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 21st** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 22nd** Living Well for Better Health at the Whitefield Lions Club 9-11:30 am
Select Board 6pm
- 23rd** Women of Whitefield, Sheepscot General. 10 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 24th** Senior Men's Group Sheepscot General. 10 am
- 24th -27th** Timber Frame Construction workshop, Hidden Valley Nature Center
- 28th** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 29th** Living Well for Better Health at the Whitefield Lions Club 9-11:30 am
Select Board 6pm
- 30th** Women of Whitefield Sheepscot General. 10 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary

Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter



Recycling Tip of the Month

The Whitefield Recycling Center has a Planet Aid donation box for clothing and shoes that you can access anytime. For each pound of donations, Planet Aid pays Whitefield 5 cents. Any clothing that is no longer usable is turned into rags for cleaning up spills or fiber for making new items. No clothing is too worn to donate.



Whitefield Trash Service Dana Rogers 549-3491

Household Garbage Pickup
\$2.00 per bag

Tire Disposal \$3 per tire – Larger tires \$5
FREE Metal removal, appliances (no Freon), wood stoves, Auto & Lawnmower batteries – ANY METAL WASTE
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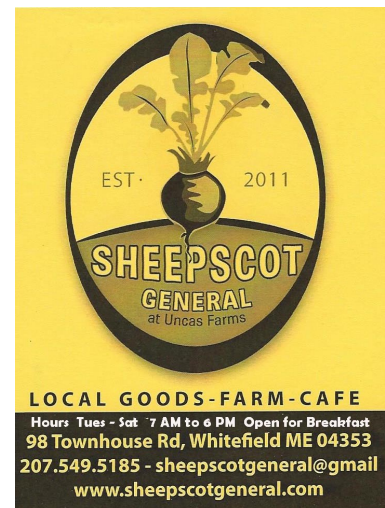
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Yes _____ No _____
Yes _____ No _____

Are the articles representative of the town
and if not what's missing? _____

Yes _____ No _____

Are there specific topics that need coverage? Please list

Do you prefer to read the newsletter
on paper or online?

Paper ___ Online ___
I would like a copy emailed to me. My email is:

Other comments or suggestions?

Please drop your survey off at the town office or email it to whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

Maple Sugar Sunday—A Sweet Success



Austin Moore collects sap of the frozen kind.
Photos by Tony Marple



Tim Chase explains the syrup boiling process as Allyson Rogers of Newcastle warms up by the fire.

Tim Chase—"The forecast is for the spring to remain cold. So, if April is like a normal March it still could be a good season. However, if the taps stay in the trees too long they can seal over."

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.



Celebrate Memorial Day!

FREE

Whitefield News

Volume I, Issue 11

Published Monthly

May 2014

Select board discusses priorities

By Sue McKeen

The public is always welcome at select board meetings every Tuesday at 6 p.m., at the fire station. We encourage anyone to attend with questions, comments or just to check out what's going on. Public participation is the only way the board can hear your concerns and ideas.

Some priorities:

Assessing - annual work plan and calendar. Reassess one-third of Whitefield properties each of the next three years to ensure equity among all taxpayers:

Roads - follow and support the Whitefield Roads Committee work; complete road maintenance policy; road acceptance and discontinuance policy.

Land use - monitor and support planning board progress under moratorium; land use ordinances; flood zone mapping and resulting needs: complete a mining ordinance and make development ordinance constitutional.

External relations - follow and participate in legislative issues, especially local funding; follow and participate in RSU 12 issues; explore areas of learning and cooperation with surrounding towns:

Community - maximize citizen participation in town issues and events; continue community forums; encourage public participation in select board and planning board issues.

The planning board is meeting at the fire station every Wednesday at 7:00. (FMI see planning board article, on right)

It's time to tee up at Sheepscot Links

By Lucy Martin

On a cool, sunny morning in early April, golfers begin piling into the parking lot at Sheepscot Links to officially open the season - its 14th year as a nine-hole par 70 course.

The business is owned and run by the Hall-Karass family. A portion of the gently sculpted former hayfields, located on the southern end of Townhouse Road, started recreational life as a driving range and a three-hole course in the 1990s.

George and Maryann Hall, and George's sister Sue Karass and husband Ed wanted to do something besides build house lots on the open acreage once farmed by George and Sue's father. When he was a member of the family-owned Natanis Golf Course in Vassalboro, George got a lot of help from the owner. Once the Halls and Karasses knew they could keep the greens alive on Townhouse Road, they kept expanding.

Today, with the thermometer hovering in the low 30s, George has turned on the water in Sheepscot Links' chilly,



Sue and Ed Karass, George and Maryann Hall at Sheepscot Links, which is open sunrise to sunset. (Lucy Martin photo)

down," he reflects. Just start fresh.

Still, the space is cozy, unpretentious and has seating where you can enjoy a light lunch once the season gets into full swing.

An online group newsletter reaches from 95 to 125 members, who hail from Waldoboro to Bristol on the coast and from inland communities within a 30-mile range. Other golfers, farther afield, are drawn in through tournaments or gift certificates.

Sheepscot Links also hosts fundraising **Continued Pg. 2**

unheated clubhouse. Opening the faucet, he considers heat would be a good thing to have - a future project, perhaps - because the golfers get cold out there on the course, where there are still remnants of snow and shallow pools skimmed with ice a few days or possibly hours ago. Even the peepers haven't peeped yet. "Over the years we try to make regular improvements," George comments. Enlarging the clubhouse, which started life as a mobile home porch hauled from Freeport, has been one of those projects. "We started small and kept adding on. It would be easier probably to tear it all

Planning Board update

By Jim Torbert

At the annual town meeting on March 15, Whitefield voters approved a 180-day moratorium to give the planning board time to improve our current development ordinance. The board is charged with upholding the Town of Whitefield Comprehensive Plan, which has among its goals to "preserve for future generations the quality of our town's natural resources, including water bodies, aquifers, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and agricultural and forest resources," and "to enforce existing ordinances established for the protection of natural resources and to modify them as needed."

In the offing is a development application that would radically alter the terms of existing gravel extraction permits by seeking the town's approval of a plan of a plan to scour out the gravel filter of a significant aquifer. This process contradicts generally recommended best practice.

Driving the need for a moratorium was the fact the town's development ordinance, which is sup-

posed to regulate such activity, was found unconstitutional a number of years ago.

While the proposed dredging might result in the future in a great pond that would be a natural asset to the town, at this point our development ordinance provides no assurance of that. The moratorium buys time to research the results of similar projects elsewhere, to review relevant ordinances in other municipalities, and to develop measurable and defensible standards to protect the interests of our town.

In April, the Whitefield Planning Board started holding public work sessions every Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the central fire station meeting room. On the third Wednesday of each month, our regularly scheduled meetings will be called to order at 7 p.m., and will continue at the fire station, not at the town office as we have in the past. These are public meetings but we ask that those who wish to make comments during work sessions, or have business for the board during our regular monthly meeting, provide the board chair or the town clerk a week's notice to allow us to maintain an orderly agenda. (Jim Torbert is chairman of the planning board.)

Beatrice Marple enjoys finding an Easter egg at the Hilton Road home of her grandparents, Tony and Marianne Marple, while at Whitefield School on April 12 some 300 children hunted for 10,000 Easter eggs placed on school grounds by Calvary Bible Baptist Church and Sheepscot Valley Community Church members. (Tony Marple photo)



Sheepscot Links Cont. from pg. 1 tournaments to benefit such nonprofits as the Lions Club and Knights of Columbus. A “Chili and Chowder Classic” in the fall raises scholarship money for students. Held typically on Saturday afternoon, when most golf courses wouldn’t want to tie up the greens, the events have proven successful. “We’ve picked up some people because of it,” says George.

Weekly scheduled activities include a morning senior group, an evening men’s league, an evening coed group and a matched play competition.

Asked what appeals to golfers about the Links, George says, “There’s usually no wait time and it’s very affordable. Also, we’re one of the first to open (in spring) and the last to close.” Landscaping, which incorporates gardens, shrubs, segments of stone walls as well as manicured greens, is another draw. Plus the various features – water, sand, elevated tees – create an “overall challenging course,” he says. Golfers report they get to use all the clubs in their bag.

The family hopes to add electric golf carts gradually to replace the gas-powered ones. Another direction is educational. Last fall, through Regional School Unit 12 adult ed, Sheepscot Links offered an introduction to the game of golf (“not golf lessons,” George emphasized). He also plans to offer a program for kids, through area athletic associations, which would include a clinic with each school and tournament at the end.

Overall, it’s enjoyable work because of the variety of jobs: mechanical skills are vital, and being outside, whether mowing or landscaping, is a plus. Because the golf course is small, it has a close-knit, friendly atmosphere and vibrancy. A lot of socializing occurs.

For early-morning or after-hours arrivals, when the clubhouse isn’t open, there is a drop box where payment can be made. For more information, call 549-5750.

RSU 12 Question & Answer

(Hilary Holm, board chair, and Supt. Howard Tuttle)

Q. What does the school budget look like for fiscal year 2014-2015?

A. The budget goals and priorities of the Sheepscot Valley RSU 12 Board of Directors include finding efficiencies in the central office, expanding quality programming and training, and maintaining reasonable classes. There has also been a focus on facility improvements and technology infrastructure.

The board is presenting a fiscal year 2015 budget that is up 4.6% when compared with this year’s budget with Wiscasset expenses taken out. State subsidy is down \$420,648. However, the local cost to the remaining seven RSU 12 towns is down 0.65% compared to this year. That decrease is not shared evenly by each town, however, because the cost to a town is based on such factors as the “historical” cost-sharing formula, the “new” cost-sharing formula (which is based on the percentage of the RSU 12 student body that lives in the given town), a Safety Net (that is helping the towns’ transition to the “new” formula), and a town’s number of “subsidizable” students, as listed on the State funding formula worksheet, the ED 279. The interplay of these factors causes the individual RSU 12 towns to be affected differently, as shown in the table below – which shows the local contribution that each town will be responsible for in the 2014-2015 school year if the budget approved by the school board on April 10 is also approved by the voters in RSU 12 towns.

TOWN	FY 14 LOCAL CONTRIBUTION	FY 15 (proposed) LOCAL CONTRIBUTION with Safety Net applied	Change in LOCAL CONTRIBUTION from FY 14	Percent Change from FY 14
Alna	\$ 917,661	\$ 893,858	\$ (23,803)	-2.59%
Chelsea	\$ 2,002,415	\$ 1,957,329	\$ (45,086)	-2.25%
Palermo	\$ 1,564,917	\$ 1,634,528	\$ 69,611	4.45%
Somerville	\$ 450,406	\$ 472,532	\$ 22,126	4.91%
Westport Island	\$ 1,151,667	\$ 1,008,617	\$ (143,050)	-12.42%
Whitefield	\$ 2,104,645	\$ 2,051,801	\$ (52,844)	-2.51%
Windsor	\$ 1,754,566	\$ 1,863,238	\$ 108,672	6.19%
Total w/o Wiscasset	\$ 9,946,277	\$ 9,881,903	\$ (64,374)	-0.65%

The RSU 12 budget continues to emphasize staff and programs that contribute positively to student achievement and well-being. More budget details can be found on the RSU 12 website – www.svtSU.org, including the total budget, the budget broken out by cost center and school, and a Budget Overview presentation by the Superintendent. There is also a place where you can ask questions about the budget and the Superintendent will answer them.

It is our hope that you will find this to be a school budget you can support and that you do support it by coming to the district budget meeting on Tues., May 20 at Whitefield School at 6:30 p.m., and by voting on June 10.



Recycling Tip of the Month

Jazz up your recycling storage with a new blue "Maine recycles" bin. The 18 gallon bins are 14" high, 16" wide and 22" long. Pay \$8.50 at the Town Office for a voucher that you turn in at the Recycling Center on Saturday morning to get your bin.

First call for Whitefield Community Day

By Sue McKeen

Back by popular demand: Whitefield Community Day, Sept. 13th. Despite the microburst and tent fiasco, the event last year was really quite a success. It seems challenges always bring out the best in us.

The celebration will be held at the same place, behind the town office but this year we will have the luxury of a large tent, generously provided by the Town. This will save David Hayden, Bill McKeen, Doug Richards and a couple of others the trouble of having to crawl under a 40 ton piece of canvas in 90 degree heat in an effort to erect a large tent, which, in years gone by, was the type assembled by 10 elephants and several circus personnel. We never did actually get that tent up, so bless the Town for their generosity.

We are putting together a committee to work on the day and need volunteers. At this time Larry Truman will be returning with the Antiques Road Show, a very popular event last year that could have lasted several more hours. We will again feature an art exhibit, 5K road race, vendors, music, games and more. If you are interested in helping, please call Sue McKeen at 446-7473 or Judy Maldovan at 549-5664.

Just Yesterday

Gleaned from *The Lincoln County News* columns by local correspondents:

May 5, 1882: The correspondent wrote about a wrongful accusation of insurance fraud against Solomon E. Hopkins, whose mill had burned.

May 18, 1883: H. Jewell has a millinery business. Residents “hope that a school house soon will be built creditable to this place.” (Courtesy Whitefield Historical Society)

Gleaned from the diaries of Emma Chase (1892-1988):

Mon., May 4, 1942: “In the evening we took a ride to the beach [Pemaquid]. You can’t have your lights on down there now. Sugar will be rationed now a half lb to a person.”

Wed., May 13, 1942:

Harry Chase, Emma’s husband, “signed up today for gas rationing. This entitles him to 57 gal up to July 1.” (Diary entries courtesy Jane Chase)



Nan Morin, Kathy Kiegral, Debbie (Morin) Rogers (kneeling), Melanie Foye, Leane Morin and Diane (Morin) Vinal. (kneeling back) Picture from Leane Morin (Approx. 1965)

Remember the Bookmobile??? An article in the Lewiston Daily Sun, on July 22, 1953 announces the start of the “New Maine Bookmobile” to service Waldo, Lincoln, Knox and Kennebec Counties.

The Maine State Library Bookmobile would arrive once a month for rural folks to obtain library books. I remember the walk down Main Street, Coopers Mills under the line of Elms with our picnic basket full of books to return to the awesome Library on wheels. As you can tell by the stacks of books in the photo, it was just as full on the way home.

Recently, Leane Morin placed this picture on Facebook and the response was immediate. Everyone remembered the Bookmobile.

Here are a few:

Jill West: “My favorite day of the month when it came to the store for it’s stop here...I can still hear that lady’s voice...”

Janet Boynton Kittner: “I loved the Bookmobile. I still remember that my favorite book was “The Little Fur Family.””

Billiann Dolby: “Remember the bookmobile lady? Loved that bookmobile!!! “Caddie Woodlawn” was my favorite book.”

Robin Chase: “Oh wow! Remember it coming to the Superette. Remember the lady that drove it?”

Mary Jo Higgins: “OMG, The Bookmobile. I loved seeing it pull into the school driveway. It was wonderful.”

(Submitted by Debbie Rogers)

New top on Union Hall

By Lucy Martin

Despite frigid weather in January, Kings Mills Union Hall got a sleek new metal roof, installed by P&P Construction of West Gardiner. Battling bone-chilling temperatures, workers removed the rusted steel roof and pried off the underlying wood shingles from decades ago, installing a standing seam replacement that complies with National Register of Historic Places recommendations.



Photo by Lucy Martin

The 1901 hall was placed on the register in 2007.

Another improvement within recent months was the installation of a wooden replica front door built by hall association board member Erik Ekholm. At its April 1 meeting, the association began the process of investigating grants to help fund further restoration efforts.

Events scheduled for 2014 include a ham, baked bean and macaroni and cheese public supper on May 31 (5-7 p.m.), the traditional white elephant table during the 4th of July celebration, annual meeting in September, chicken pie supper Oct. 25, craft fair Nov. 1, and Christmas program Dec. 7.

Calling all Farmers

Whitefield News is planning an article about the farms in Whitefield for June. We want to include you! We will be listing all farms and their products. Please email us at whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com or contact Debbie Rogers 549-3491 to add your information.

Woodworking website

The Clary Lake Woodworking School, of Jefferson, has launched its new website, built by George Fergusson and Rick Gallion. It provides information about the school, courses offered, and registration, as well as information about lodging at the on-site B&B and places of interest in Maine’s Mid-Coast region. <http://www.clarylakewoodworkingschool.com/>



Arlington Grange Farmers/Flea Market
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Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

MAY 2014 WHITEFIELD EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st SVCA Preserve BioBlitzes Survey contact Lynne Flaccus lymne@sheepscot.org
Senior Men's Group, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 2nd **Whitefield Food Bank**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3pm
- 3rd **Sheepscot Village Bird Walk**, SVCA Newcastle, 7:30-9am
Knox-Lincoln Plant Sale and Backyard Sale, Union Fair Grounds
Maine Pottery Tour, Whitefield Pottery, 442 Howe Rd, 10 am—6 pm
- 4th **Volunteer for Trails Committee**, *See Below*, 9 am
Vernal Pool Monitoring Field Trip at HVNC 10 – 12:00 p.m.
Knox-Lincoln Plant Sale and Backyard Sale, Union Fair Grounds
Maine Pottery Tour, Whitefield Pottery, 442 Howe Rd, 11 am—4 pm
- 5th ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Coopers Mills Fire Dept. Mtg. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept. 7pm
- 6th **Select Board** 6pm
PreK Story Hour at Whitefield Elementary School, 10:30am
- 7th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General. 10 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 8th **Women in their Woods, Hidden Valley Nature Ctr**, Jefferson 10-8:45-4:30pm
Senior Men's Group, Sheepscot General. 10 am
RSU Board Mtg. Palermo School 6:30-9 pm
Education Celebration and Silent Auction, Whitefield School, 5-7:30pm
- 11th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)** Whitefield School 6 pm
- 12th ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. Mtg. 7 pm
- 13th **Guided hike at HVNC Hidden Valley Nature Center**, Jefferson, 10am-12pm
Select Board 6pm
PTA Meeting, Whitefield School, 6pm
- 14th **Women of Whitefield** Sheepscot General. 10 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 15th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 16th **Open Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 17th **Farmers/Flea Market**, Arlington Grange Hall, 9-1pm
Health Center Info at Whitefield Recycling Center, 8-12 pm
Chainsaw Safety (men & women) Hidden Valley Nature Center, Jefferson
- 18th **Medicine of Trees**, Hidden Valley Nature Center, Jefferson, 1-4:30 pm
- 19th ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 20th **Select Board** 6pm
PreK Story Hour at Whitefield Elementary School, 10:30am
RSU Budget Meeting, Whitefield School, 6:30 pm
- 21st **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General. 10 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Planning Board Meeting, Fire Station, 7-9 pm
- 22nd **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 26th **Whitefield Historical Society** - Flag ceremony and Civil War Program, Whitefield Townhouse, Memorial Day - 10:00 am
- 27th **Select Board** 6pm
- 28th **Women of Whitefield** Sheepscot General. 10 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 29th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 31st **Kings Mills Union Hall Ham, Baked Bean & Mac & Cheese Supper** 5-7 pm
Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com
We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.



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Dana Rogers
549-3491

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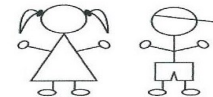
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Treble Ridge Farm

The Whitefield Trails Committee seeks volunteers to help clear a loop trail on a property on Hunt's Meadow Road to ready it for opening to the public. The property is under conservation easement with the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association and features a high ledge with long views to the coast and several miles of woods roads through mixed hardwood and coniferous forest. For more information or to sign up for the work crew for Sunday morning, May 4, from 9 to noon, call Trails Committee member Kit Pfeiffer at [207-446-9768](tel:207-446-9768) or email kit_pfeiffer@yahoo.com.



Whitefield News

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Volume 1, Issue 12

Published Monthly

June 2014

Farming in Whitefield: a model for the future

By Lucy Martin

“Up and coming,” a “hub of farm activity” – these are phrases Chris Hamilton, who is associate director of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), used to describe Whitefield.

With a couple of other states, Maine leads the nation in farmers under age 35. In our town alone, eight young farm families have settled here in the past five or six years, he said, and some of them are clearing woodland to make new fields. “That doesn’t happen much. It’s very inspiring.”

Hamilton ticked off the names of several individuals, including the proprietors of Sheepscoot General Store, on Townhouse Road, who have completed MOFGA’s two-year Journey Person apprentice program, which trains farmers. Not only is the store an outlet for about 100 vendors to sell their goods, it also opened a deli last year and serves as a community center. It is “a shining example” of how to support a local farm economy, Hamilton said, and a “model for the future.”

Hamilton lives with wife Patti in Whitefield where they raise meat animals and run a creamery. (See a list of more farms, page 2)

‘Everybody worked hard on the chicken farm’

By Dot Howell

We moved to Maine from Connecticut in 1953, 61 years ago, and bought this house in Whitefield (on Townhouse Road, a stone’s throw from the former Tibbetts dairy farm). I had worked at Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford, Conn. and Jay was self-employed as an insurance salesman. What else did you do in Hartford!

We needed a house we could live in and a barn we could convert. We wanted a bathroom and very few houses had them at that time. So we found this place with the bathroom and three storied barn. The barn was up by the house and is no longer there. We got right to work and pulled out all the stalls and all the hay and converted the barn to chicken space. We had wooden feeders and built a big bin above the third floor for grain. The grain was blown in up metal tubes and we had grain chutes on



Dot and Jay Howell, c. 1953, with their leghorn broilers. The gas brooder would drop down and the chicks would grow underneath the heat and light on newspapers. Time to maturity: 13 weeks. (Photo Courtesy Dot Howell)

each floor to fill our buckets for feeding the chickens. I remember with horror the day when I was filling the bucket when out came the big tail of a rat. I slapped down the **Continued Pg. 3**

Whitefield was early seedbed for 4-H

By Lucy Martin

“Fond memories” spring to mind for Barry Tibbetts about the 4-H Club he joined as a youngster in the late 1950s.

“My brother Danny and I had calves. We had a 4-H fair in town at Arlington Grange and showed calves up there, all day on Saturday. Danny was King of the Fair, and my sister Barbara was Queen,” the retired dairy farmer said.

Barry’s great aunt, Clara Law, who lived with husband Fred on the East River Road, organized the first 4-H Clubs for Whitefield girls and boys in 1924. It was called the “Good Workers.”

With their agricultural focus, the clubs grew out of the Cooperative Extension Service created by Congress exactly 100 years ago.

Barry remembers going to Arden Nilsen’s house, and then John Dancer’s, in Kings Mills, as one of the Sheepscoot Valley Boys. Later, the Jolly Workers formed in North Whitefield and Barry belonged to that



Clara Law started the first 4-H clubs in Whitefield in 1924. (Courtesy Whitefield Historical Society)

group.

In 1959, the total membership of the various clubs, including Lucky Leaf for girls in Coopers Mills, and the Bonnie Lassies in North Whitefield, was 54. Barry’s memories include the good leadership and overnight camping trips organized by Randy Fenderson. “He liked to sing and yodel,” and once, during the ride to a cheering competition at Thomaston, Fenderson created a cheer for the Jolly Workers, with the requisite “rah rah rah” and “sis-kum-bah,” on the spot.

To Barry, the signal importance of belonging to 4-H was that “it was an organization outside the school. Once school closed in June, we on the farm never got out. 4-H was a chance to stay social and learn things you don’t in school, like how to run a meeting. Each officer had a job. The older kids were the leaders.”

Each member picked a project. His choices were dairy, learning how to take care of vegetables, entomology, and woodworking. “I always liked studying insects. I remember collecting them and putting them in the house. I’d pin each one and they’d fall apart,” he said with a laugh. “I didn’t know about using formaldehyde!”

4-H was a bigger organization in the 1960s and 1970s. A random glance through town reports of the period show voters supported the local club with \$100 in 1965 and \$150 in 1973. **Continued on Pg. 3**

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Around the Well Farm

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(207) 370-8807
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255 North Hunt's Meadow Rd
Tel.: 549-7680
<https://sites.google.com/site/wwwbaileysorchard/>
Homemade peanut butter fudge, cider apples, pears, plums, crabapples, pumpkins, squash, gourds, honey

Bud & Linda Bailey's Honey

237 North Hunts Meadow Rd
Tel.: (207)549-5101
Email: bud1760@roadrunner.com
Honey, jam, fudge & muffins

Chase Farm

PO Box 142
Tel.: 207-549-7611
Email: chasefarmbakery@yahoo.com
Dairy & bakery available at farmers markets in Boothbay, Damariscotta & Bath



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205 Gardiner Road
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36 Townhouse Rd.
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www.fuzzyudder.com
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Green Hollow Orchard

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Hamilton Farm and Barred Owl Creamery & Catering

6 South Fowles Lane
Tel.: (207)549-5497
<http://hamilton-farm.wordpress.com/>
Goat cheese, organic meat, wool products & catering



Hidden Valley Farm

204 Hollywood Blvd
Tel.: (207)586-5837
Web: <http://hvnc.org>
Email: bambisfarm@gmail.com
fresh vegetables, beef, hay. Other non-food products: FSC certified wood product

Journey's End Alpacas

42 Branch Lane
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Selling Alpacas, raw fleece, yarn, scarves & hats



Maine Alpaca Barn

332 Townhouse Rd.
<http://mainealpacabarn.com/index.htm>
(207) 549-5754

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Corner of Rt. 126 and 218
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Over the Moon Farm

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<http://www.sheepscoGeneral.com/>
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Spicer's Bees

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Bee keeping supplies

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Ph. (207) 441-2098 or (207) 441-2028.
Email trebleridgefarm@gmail.com.
Web www.trebleridgefarm.com.
pork cuts, bacon, and a full line of gourmet ethnic sausages, strawberries from mid-July until frost, and hay for all classes of live-stock.

Just what is a CSA?

In keeping with our farming issue, we thought you would like to know just what is a CSA. CSA is an acronym for Community Supported Agriculture. Customers buy shares in the farm during the spring. This gives the farmer up-front capital to plant the season's crops or prepare other products, and in return the customer receives either a discount in price or a box share of the produce.

Help Whitefield with ice storm debris

Trying to forget the Christmas week ice storm? Well, the memory is still at our roadsides. You can help the town by removing brush and fallen trees within six feet of the road on your property. This will save the town on road maintenance money and ensure that the work is done to your satisfaction. Always make sure to use proper safety techniques and devices with chainsaws and other equipment, and never fell a damaged tree that is even remotely near a power line.

With your help our roads will be safer and the annual summer roadside mowing will proceed as usual.

Just Yesterday

On June 2, 1882, according to the *Gardiner Reporter*, "Joseph Mooney, of Whitefield, came to this city to sell some pigs. While at the New Mills his horse ran away and threw him and the pigs out, and damaged the wagon somewhat. Mr. Mooney broke a rib and received severe bruises, but after being repaired by Dr. Strout, and getting his wagon mended, he sold the rest of



Henry Waters (top) and Horace Kennedy perch on Engine #8, sometime after its derailment. (Courtesy Whitefield Historical Society)

his pigs and went home." (Courtesy Whitefield Historical Society)

On June 15, 1933, the Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington Railway engine no. 8 derailed above Whitefield bridge, marking the end of the narrow gauge railroad. It began operating in 1895, helping farmers and lumbermen ship their products to market, and transporting students to school.

4-H Continued from Pg. 1 About the middle sixties, the clubs integrated. For about eight years, Barry's mother Bea ran the Jolly Workers, and later his wife, Elaine.

"I never realized there was so much opportunity in 4-H," Barry recalled, until he went to the University of Maine at Orono and met fellow students who'd been involved. One went on to become the current commissioner of agriculture.

In recent years, Louisa Gorrell and Dolly Burns have guided the Jolly Workers. It's small, said Dolly, and emphasizes community projects, such as maintaining the veterans memorial and flowers boxes behind the town office. But a lot of the kids still show animals. "The Jolly Workers is probably one of the first clubs in the state," Dolly said. "It would be nice to research it and find all the leaders" who have served.

Today, 4-H is the largest youth development and empowerment organization in the U.S., according to the group's web site. It is more urbanized, with citizenship, healthy living, science, and technology forming the top tier of its priorities. Barry can still recite the 4-H pledge: "I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to larger service and my health to better living for my club, my community, my country. . . ." The phrase "my world" was added later.

Federal conservation grants available

By Tony Marple

The Augusta District of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a division of the US Dept. of Agriculture, has a variety of grants available to assist farmers and woodlot owners. NRCS gives extra points to grant applicants who are new farmers. There are a variety of grants available and the following are just a few:

Environmental Quality (EQIP) grants are for practices to improve soil quality, water, plant and animal resources. EQIP offers funds to remove invasive plants. Common invasive plants in Whitefield include Russian olive (also known as autumn olive), Japanese knot weed and Morrow's honeysuckle.

Organic farming initiatives. These include the development of pollinator habitat for wild bees, various conservation practices, soil quality improvement, the development of buffer zones for wildlife, grazing plans, crop rotation, nutrient management and high tunnel hoop houses to extend the growing season.

Farm energy audits.

My wife Marianne and I have received NRCS grants over the years for mulching blueberries with wood chips to reduce erosion, developing pollinator habitat, removing Russian olive and improving woods roads. We have found the staff in Augusta to be great to work with. The process is also very educational even if you don't get a grant.

You can reach NRCS in Augusta at 622-7847.

Howell Continued from Pt. 1
chute cover and yelled for Jay.

Anyway, we started with 10,000 baby chicks. We raised broilers first for CMT company in Winslow -Corbett, McGowan and Turner. They later became Ralston Purina. The company paid us for labor, heat and electricity. . . We were paid one penny a bird a week so with 10,000 birds we got \$100 a week. When we built the long new chicken house across the road in 1963-64, we had 31,000 sq. ft. and housed 45,000 birds. Then they did *not* pay by the bird but by the square foot so we got \$310 a week instead of \$450! Can't win!!! In the new building, we started with the glass water jars for baby chicks and then went to automated feeding and long stainless steel feeders. We could lift up one end of the long feeder and dump water into a pail for cleaning the feeders.

We raised chickens until 1981 when Purdue and the Delmarva area [Delaware-Maryland-Virginia] took over the chicken business. They



Don Tibbetts' hay wagon in front of the Howell home in the 1950s. (Photos courtesy Dot Howell)

raised chickens cheaper as they did not need heat in the buildings and about every house had a chicken house behind it. To cool down the buildings they would spray the roofs with a hose.

I went down to the Delmarva area several times to represent Maine in the national chicken cooking contest. [Daughter] Wendy did too. We never won big but won smaller prizes and enjoyed meeting all the other farmers from all over the U.S. The trip was paid for by the National Poultry Association. . . .

Before our chickens came the first time, we had a Whitefield open house. . . . We set up tables in the barn on the new sawdust and had coffee, punch and cookies so people could see the facility. Once the chickens came it was off limits because of disease.

(The Howell family included five children, all of whom "worked hard on the farm," Dot says.)



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JUNE 2014 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** Pancake Breakfast hosted by Hidden Valley Nature Center (HVNC) at the Alna Store in Alna, From 8am-10:30am
Coopers Mills Migratory Fish Day, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 10-12 p.m.
Fuzzy Udder Creamery's Grand Opening, at their new home in Whitefield 35 Townhouse Road , 2-5 PM
- 2nd** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Coopers Mills Fire Dept. Mtg. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept. 7pm
- 3rd** **Women of Whitefield** , Sheepscot General. 10 am
Select Board 6pm
Kings Mills Union Hall Board Mtg. Public Welcome, 7 pm
- 4th** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 5th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 6th** **Whitefield Food Bank**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3pm
Art Opening of Coreysha Stone's work- "Bringing Back the Giants Of the Forest" is inspired by the American Chestnut tree- FREE 6:00 pm
- 7th** **Whitefield Lions Club - Hooked on Fishing at Damariscotta Lake State Park** - Info please contact Jeff Jewett 549-5657, 9am to 1pm.
- 8th** **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)** Whitefield School 6 pm
- 9th** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. Mtg. 7 pm
- 10th** **Women of Whitefield** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Guided Tour of HVNC Trails, HVNC 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Select Board 6pm
RSU Budget Validation Meeting, Whitefield Elementary, 6:30 pm
- 11th** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 12th** **Arlington Grange** 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
Senior Men's Group Sheepscot General. 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm
RSU Board Mtg. Westport Island 6:30-9 pm
- 13th** **Polynesian Pollination-** FREE Family craft project making seed balls (seed that has been wrapped in soil materials) paired with live ukulele music 6pm-8pm
- 16th** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 17th** **Women of Whitefield** , Sheepscot General. 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 18th** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Planning Board Meeting, Fire Station, 7-9 pm
- 19th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General. 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm
Chester Gillis shares memories of Whitefield, video recording by Art Mayers, Sheepscot General Store 7 p.m.
- 20th** **Open Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 21st** **Farmers/Flea Market**, Arlington Grange Hall, 9-1pm
Whitefield Lions Club Yard Sale at home of Donna Brooks, Route 32, Jefferson (next to County Fair Farms) Info contact Donna Brooks 549-3899
- 22nd** **Paddle the Sheepscot from Head Tide to Sheepscot Village**, Limit of 12 boats – Registration required by contacting SVCA, (207) 586-5616 9- 12 p.m.
- 23rd** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 24th** **Women of Whitefield** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 25th** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 26th** **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 28th** **YOGA**, Sheepscot General, 9-10:15 am
Walk on SVCA's Palermo Preserve, Turner Ridge Road, 10-12 pm
- 30st** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary

Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com



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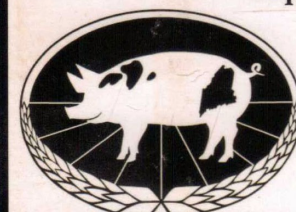
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Volume 2, Issue 1

Published Monthly

July 2014

Kings Mills Fire Department News

The Annual July 4th celebration day is nearly upon us, and we



Tony Marple Photo

are looking to rally the community in several ways.

First by asking all of our friends and neighbors to join us for another fun filled day raising money to help the town's great fire service. The celebration will kick off at 10 am with the start of the historic parade and continues throughout the day with music, fun and food, including our world famous auction.

This year's raffle in a surprise twist will be a 51 inch Samsung flat screen plasma television. We are very excited about the change and tickets for the TV will be arriving soon for availability to all of you.

We are also seeking donations at this time for several things including but not limited to, auction items, cakes for the cake walk, time and manpower for the events including set up and clean up as well as possibly manning different events.

In closing, if you think you might be interested in being a long-term association member and helping us with our causes year round feel free to give me a call at 624-2268, I'd love to hear from you

Jeffrey J. Newell

KMVFD association President.

Outhouse burning – A Whitefield tradition

By Debbie Rogers

When I was 15, I couldn't wait to be old enough to attend the "Outhouse Burning" on the eve of the 4th of July. My parents, who weren't too keen on having me attend, finally allowed me to go at age 17 and to my utter amazement, it was even more fun than I could have imagined. At the corner of Route 218 and what is now 194 in Kings Mills, a pickup truck backed up to the middle of the intersection with an old, rickety outhouse on the back. Several very happy participants jumped out and put the tailgate down. Then the truck would "gun" it and the outhouse toppled off. It was then stuffed with paper and kindling and to the hoots and cheers of the group, set ablaze. At the stroke of midnight, someone would go into the



church on the corner and ring the bell (much to the dismay of the pastor).

During the course of the evening, several more pickups arrived and in the same manner, dumped their outhouses into the already burning bonfire. Wise folks that they were, they did lower the tailgate in advance, and the stream of sparks that set the night aglow when the outhouse hit the fire was spectacular. Several years later, I was living in Whitefield at a home that actually had a working outhouse. And yes, that is what I used for a bathroom. It was a

fairly new facility but the previous one was still on the property. Hank Chase asked if I would like the old one to be contributed to the annual Outhouse Burning and I happily agreed. I arrived at the event and saw my old outhouse perched high on the pile of wood and watched as they set it to burnin'. However, Hank and the crew were off obtaining another contribution for the fire and when **Continued on Pg. 2**

North Whitefield Superette: More than a country store

By Sue McKeen

In 1976, when Steve Crocker, an Augusta native then living in Maryland, came to visit Sam and Alice Hutchinson, he never thought he would settle here, let alone purchase a small country store. But while driving around he noticed a "for sale" sign on the small store on the corner of Route 126 and Route 218. He thought to himself, "Well, I could do that" - and he did.

The building is over 100 years old and at one time was a garage. Under the ownership of Thurlow Crummett at the time, the store was called Crummett's Store. Tim Chase remembers when Thurlow delivered groceries right to the Chase family house. "My mother would call the store and order fish, eggs, milk, meats, canned goods. We didn't go to Gardiner or Augusta to buy our groceries, they were delivered right to our door." Mark Fenderson remembers Mr. Crummett. He said, "Back in those days, Mr. Crummett wasn't



Steve & Dee Crocker, Trish Shorey (Tony Marple photo)

afraid to discipline kids. If they didn't treat their mothers nice, he would take them out front and give them a paddle." Crummett sold the store to Neil Taylor and it was then bought by Oscar McGee.

In November of 1976 Steve leased the store from McGee. While Steve was working one day, Dee Armstrong came in to make a purchase. The rest is history - they married in 1977 and purchased the store in February of 1978. Dee gave up her beauty shop and worked full time at the store with Steve. Steve remembers, "It was long hours, seven days a week, no

vacations and no extras." But he credits a lot of the store's success to being in the right place at the right time.

On any given day you can find Steve in his little "office" out back. He handles the business end and Dee describes herself as the "people person." They agree the relationship works, although it has not always been easy. Over the years the store has been an important part of the town. It's the place to go to pick up groceries, order a pizza or sandwich, rent a movie, buy gas and motor oil, get the latest news or just exchange a friendly word with **Continued on Pg. 2**

NWS cont. from Pg. 1

your neighbors. We miss some of the old timers who are gone now - Alden Boynton, Lenny Jones, Winston Banks, Spencer Penn, Tom Vigue. But today, on any given day, you can still stop in to hear the stories and political commentaries told by people like Tim Chase, Ron Rollins, Jim Brann, Jeff Vigue, David Jackson, Tom Colpitt, Rick Mattucci and Peter Froelich. They are the very pulse and heartbeat of the town. They are the gauges of Whitefield's social and political climate.



Employee Sandy Brown, (Tomy Marple photo)

But, in order to have a successful business, you have to hire the right people. In that arena Steve and Dee have been lucky. One of their first employees, Jeannie Vigue worked at the store for over 20 years. It was hard to imagine replacing Jeannie, but then in walked Sandy Brown. On that day, the store gained a valuable asset. Sandy is smart, works hard, reliable and offers up down-home advice to inquiring minds. Sandy has been at the store for 23 years.

When Dee and Steve decided to winter in Florida, they needed to find a good, solid person to manage the store in their absence. Again, they were lucky and found that person in Trish Shorey. Personally, I have never seen Trish irritated or angry. She keeps her own counsel, never stops moving and always has a friendly word. Trish has been at the store for over 21 years.

When I asked Steve and Dee for stories, they said there were so many it's hard to remember. Dee remembers when the fire department housed the "red phone" in the store. The "red phone" was the town alert system and Dee recalls that when the phone rang she had to call volunteer fire fighters to let them know about the fire. Steve commented that he and Peter Froehlich would jump in the truck and take off, leaving Dee alone to man the store while they sped to the fire. They recalled the ice storm of 1998, and the flood of 1987, the Superette stayed open with generators operating the coolers and gas pumps.

Steve and Dee Crocker are more than the Superette's owners - they are part of the very fabric of our community. In times of crisis, the store is a constant. Whenever there is a fundraiser or event, you can count on them to provide financial support. As one of the original members of the Whitefield Athletic Association, Steve helped coach the girls softball and basketball teams for several years in the 1980's.

It would be easy to call the Superette simply a store. But it is so much more: It's part of us, of our community and who we are. It is a country store in the real sense. I asked Dee if she was ever going to retire. She answered, "I'm going to be here a long time. I'm going to get a rocking chair and put it by the counter. You can just call me Mildred Hussey (of Hussey's General Store). She was 90 years old and still sitting in that rocking chair by the door."

Recognition night for Whitefield Elementary school

On Thursday, June 17th Whitefield School bid a fond farewell to our Class of 2014. The students and their parents celebrated 9 years (for most) of educational and social experiences with their children and applauded their achievements. All students were recognized with certificates of completion and some were recognized for specific areas of study. Awards were presented to the following students: Martie Young, Kyle Kirkpatrick, Sabrina Freeman, Audrey Sumabat-Middleton, Colin Pennock, Emma Sullivan and Justin Rollins. The class Valedictorian for the class of 2014 is Colin Pennock, and the class Salutatorian is Kyle Kirkpatrick. The recognition night concluded with photos and a dance.

Outhouse cont. from Pg. 1 they returned, he was very upset that I had not seen "my outhouse" set on fire. I assured him I had and all was well.

While I had believed that this annual ritual was something my buddies came up with, my dad informed me that it was a time honored tradition that he participated in as well. They would steal the outhouse, burn it for the celebration and build the unknowing owner a new one the next day. Hopefully the owner was not too angry if they attempted to use the privy in the night or first thing in the morning.

Darlene Newcombe shared a story about the tradition. "When Philip was a kid his father was planning on replacing their outhouse so his father thought he would sacrifice it for a good cause. The only problem was he was a little premature in donating it for the 4th of July celebration. So the family spent 2 years trekking to the barn."

Needless to say, there were always ample libations at these celebrations.



Internet Photo

By 1981 the crowd grew to include people from not only Whitefield but Augusta and the surrounding towns. And, as with all good things, it was decided (and justly so) by law enforcement, that this tradition should come to an end. We were not pleased with that decision and the last year it was held, the police and fire dept. arrived to extinguish the blaze. We (yes, I was there) made a human ring around the fire and halted the authorities from ending our fun. However, we knew at that time this would be the last hurrah! A very level headed sheriff spoke to us and said that if we could all be responsible, they would allow us to finish the celebration under their watchful eyes. We agreed. The rest of the night was very calm and Chuck (Charlie) Tobin even managed to ring the church bell one last time. This was a feat as the door was locked and after years of midnight ringing the pastor had LOCKED the door. So, being resourceful Mainers, they scaled the outside of the church (I couldn't watch) and the bell tolled!

The event was in the paper and widely discussed as being rowdy, the beginning of a riot, etc. To the credit of the responsible individuals there that night, there was no riot although rowdy is probably an apt description.

The Outhouse Burning did not occur again, but the year following the last "official" burning, I believe it was Hank Chase and Mark Fenderson who loaded up outhouses in their trucks and proceeded to drive all over the county leading the authorities on a merry chase.

In asking for input from people about their memories of the Outhouse Burning, we have had many fun and comical discussions about different events that occurred relating to this tradition. As with many things, this tradition has passed and it should remain a fond memory. It was a Whitefield tradition that probably is a one of a kind. God bless the folks in Whitefield for having such a great imagination!!!

Arlington
Grange Farm-
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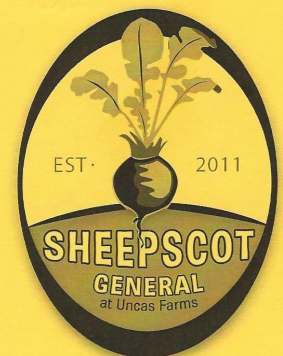


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JULY 2014 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **Women of Whitefield** , Sheepscot General. 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 2nd **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 3rd **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 4th **Whitefield 4th of July Celebration,**
Parade, 10 am
Cake walk
Auction 11 ish
Music
Raffle and White Elephant Table
Whitefield Food Bank, St. Denis Hall, 1-3pm
- 7th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Coopers Mills Fire Dept. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept. 7pm
- 8th **Women of Whitefield** Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 9th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 10th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 13th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)** Whitefield School 6 pm
- 14th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. 7 pm
- 15th **Women of Whitefield** , Sheepscot General. 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 16th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Planning Board Fire Station, 7-9 pm
- 17th thru 20th **Timber Framing for High School Students, HVNC**
- 17th **Nature Walk on SVCA Griggs Preserve**, Newcastle, 9- 11 a.m.
Senior Men's Group, Sheepscot General. 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 18th **Open Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 19th **Farmers/Flea Market**, Arlington Grange Hall, 9-1pm
- 21st **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 22nd **Women of Whitefield** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 23rd **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 24th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 26th **YOGA**, Sheepscot General, 9-10:15 am
8th ANNUAL DAVID DIXON MIDNIGHT GOLF TOURNAMENT
Sheepscot Links 5:30 pm
- 28th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 29th **Women of Whitefield** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 30th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 31st **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm

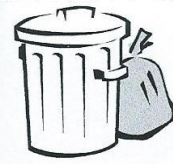


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Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com



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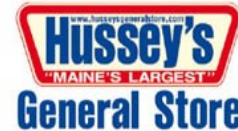
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Volume 2, Issue 2

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August 2014

Planners request extension of mining moratorium

Under authorization granted by the town's voters, the Whitefield Planning Board has been meeting every Wednesday evening since the beginning of February in order to correct the shortcomings of our current development ordinance regarding its standards relevant to mining and mineral extraction.

Up until the end of June, our time both in and between meetings was spent doing extensive fact-finding. We carefully reviewed over a dozen relevant land-use ordinances from other municipalities. We heard testimony from a wide variety of town residents and sought expert opinions from the State Dept. of Environmental Protection, as well as from hydro-geologists in private practice and academic biologists. We consulted legal counsel, both from our own Town's attorney and from the Maine Municipal Association, and received advice from our County Planning Commission.

We are finally in the process of drafting improvements to our development ordinance, but it was obvious by late June that we would not be able to produce a finished product before the moratorium under which we were operating was due to expire at the end of July. Consequently, we asked the board of selectmen to hold a public hearing to ask for a single, six-month extension of the moratorium, as provided by Maine Statute. The hearing was held on July 22, and the extension was granted.

The planning board will continue our weekly workshops on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the fire station meeting house, which the public, as always, is invited to attend. We ask that anyone wishing to offer comments at these meetings contact me at the number below five days in advance to be placed on the agenda. Our intent is to have a finished document ready for public review and a duly announced hearing by early October so that it can be placed on the ballot for an up-or-down vote on Election Day, Nov. 4.

Jim Torbert, Chair Whitefield Planning Board 549-3149

From the Congo to Whitefield Marie Patfoort's story

By Tony Marple

Marie Patfoort grew up in a rainforest in the Belgian Congo, later Zaire. Her mother was the daughter of the tribal chieftain of the Bakoda people. Her father was a captain in the Belgian army and he was assigned to train the Congolese army. When he left to fight the encroaching Ugandans, Marie was placed in a missionary. Under tribal law, children were the property of the father. Marie's mother often walked four days to visit Marie, but after a dangerous encounter with a leopard, she no longer visited. Her father never returned.



Photo by Tony Marple

As a child, Marie suffered from tropical diseases including malaria, dysentery and black water fever. In the Congo, only five in ten children survived to adulthood. After she became healthy,

Marie worked in the mission dispensary, helping other children. As her schooling progressed, Marie wished to study in the U.S., but the Belgians would not allow black women to leave the country.

After independence, Zaire was engulfed in violent civil war. Being of mixed blood, Marie was in great danger and fled to Uganda as a refugee. Once in Uganda, she applied for a visa to come to the U.S.

Marie arrived penniless, but was sponsored by an America businesswoman. After three years of bible school, she entered Gordon College in 1973, becoming the first woman from Zaire to graduate from a U.S. college with an education degree. While at Gordon, **Continued on Pg. 2**

Annual 4th of July Parade



Photos by Tony Marple

Patfoort from Pg. 1 Marie had come to Maine many times and found a job in Whitefield as a fifth grade teacher. She stayed at the home of Norman and Lydia Chase and to this day remains a close friend of Lydia.

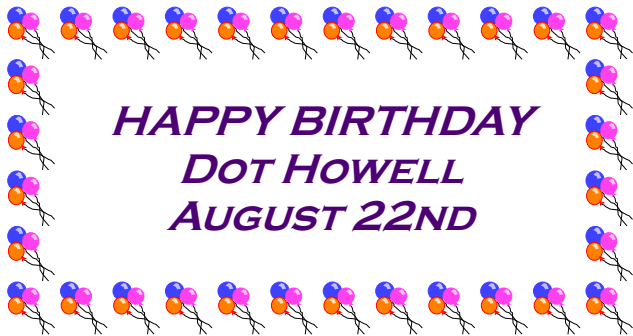
Marie was anxious about teaching in a new country. That summer she raked blueberries with the students before teaching. The students were very friendly and kind, sometimes adding to her blueberries to make sure she was able to keep up. She experienced no discrimination, but one day a student said to Marie "You're brown." Marie responded, "You're white." and the student said "I never thought about that." While painting a school mural, when the students asked for brown paint, Marie knew she would be part of the scene. Debbie Rogers was in her first 5th grade class. "She was a fantastic teacher and a true Whitefield treasure."

Marie returned to Zaire to teach for two years, and went to look for her mother. "I found her in poverty. She told me that during the war she and others would go in the woods and cover themselves with leaves during the day to hide from the soldiers."

After two years she returned to the U.S. to retain her visa and worked for the Sooheys on the Cooper Road, taking care of their children and creating gardens. Though their children have grown, she still works there. She remains a tireless worker. *Much of the content is from a 1988 article written by Juri Rynberg.*



Miss Meloon, Marie and the group of children she thought of as her family
Photo from Maine Thing website.



New playground at Whitefield School

By Sue McKeen

The team of Louis Shorey, Todd Cook, Sue Peaslee, Joel St. Pierre (from Landscape Structures), Josh Shorey and Principal Josh



Pictured: Principal McNaughton, Louis Shorey, Todd Cook & Josh Shorey
Photo by Clarissa Howard

McNaughton installed phase one of the new playground a few weeks ago. McNaughton said the installation went well, despite the rain delay. He commented that staff has been working to complete the last stages of the project which includes mostly groundwork around the area. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new playground will be held the week the students return to school. The project was made possible by \$10,000 from the RSU 12 budget and \$5,000 raised by the Whitefield PTA. Phase two which entail adding another section to the newly installed structure is scheduled to occur next summer.



How to contact Animal Control Officer in Whitefield

Need the services of our Animal Control Officer Kyle Emerson? Please call 549-7072.

The call will be answered by the Lincoln County Dispatch center in Wiscasset who will, in turn, notify Kyle or his backup of your call. This replaces our system of contacting Kyle directly.

The change is due to a new program instituted by our county government in an effort to assist Lincoln County towns by providing Animal Control Officers in a consistent manner. In the past several years Whitefield has had as many as six different ACOs in as many years. This is costly and inefficient as each new ACO is required to have training and certain immunizations in order to fill the position. This cost is borne by the town and mirrors a predicament common in other towns, thus prompting the county to offer this service.

Under this new system, the county will employ the ACOs, who will serve the towns that sign on. The cost is expected to be the same as in the past but the county will maintain the records and bill the town for the services provided to Whitefield.



At this time our primary ACO will remain Kyle Emerson with other officers employed by the county as his backup as needed. (Submitted by Whitefield Board of Selectmen)

Conservation tour to include Sheepscot General

On Sat., Aug. 9, the Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation Tour will hit the road, visiting four Lincoln County sites, including Uncas Farms and Sheepscot General Store in Whitefield. This enterprise on Townhouse Road is both a working farm with five acres of organically certified vegetables and strawberries (as well as beef and hay), and a one-of-a-kind, contemporary general store where customers can purchase the harvest and enjoy the cafe, community center, and free wifi.

Other sites are Goranson Farm in Dresden, subject of the recent film "An Uncertain Harvest," and a certified organic farm with a wide variety of products; Hidden Valley Nature Center in Jefferson, where sustainable forestry is practiced; and Newaim Farm in Waldoboro, which breeds and sells CVM Romeldale sheep.

Pre-registration is required. The \$40 cost includes all food and travel from a central location in Waldoboro. The climate controlled bus will depart at 8 a.m. and return around 4 p.m. For more information: contact Hildy at 596-2040, hildy@knox-lincoln.org, or visit www.knox-lincoln.org/conservation-tour/.

Arlington Grange Farmers/Flea Market

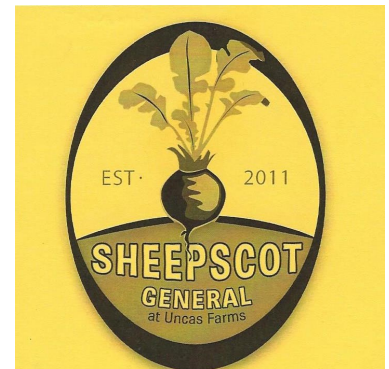


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Just Yesterday

From *The Lincoln County News* of **Aug. 5, 1897**: Harlan Ford cut his hand very badly with a scythe the other day. Kingsbury Cheney received serious injuries by falling from his mowing machine last week.

Gleaned from the diaries of Emma Chase (1892-1988):

Aug. 18, 1921:... Kids are earning 5 cents per 100 flies they kill and they have been killing for 2 days....

Aug. 14, 1945: The radio awaits announcement of V.J. Day, everyone excited. Dod [the Chases' son Roger] called up from Times Square [where] he is celebrating, everyone is in N.Y. I mean to celebrate though no official word yet. Later that night: War ended tonight, Japan I guess will fold up right off. Pearl and I took flags and marched, went on Hervey's (Bailey) truck and had lots of fun. Doris, Dora, Eddie, Midge and Hoddy came by and we sang etc. until 2am

Aug. 15, 1945: This forenoon I got Marjorie and Jr (Lore Ford) to take me around to get people out to a bon fire to celebrate. In evening went to Wits End. Dod called from Times Square N.Y. having a swell time. Then we had a huge bon fire, everybody liked it.

Whitefield trails group to unveil new Marr's Ridge Trail at Paradise Green

By Kit Pfeiffer

Whitefield is known for its vast rolling hayfields and sweeping pastureland. But did you know we have some high ledges along the Hunt's Meadow Road that give you a clear view of the Camden Hills, some 30 miles away?

This spectacular view is just one feature of the new Marr's Ridge Trail, which will officially open to the public on Sat., Aug. 23, at 9 a.m. It is the first success of the new Whitefield Trails Committee formed as a result of the Whitefield community forum held last October. Thanks to the generosity of landowner Sandy Benne and the cooperation of the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association, which holds a conservation easement on the property, the public is now welcome to enjoy four miles of trails on this beautiful private property.

The first section of the trail passes by old stonewalls and through a sugarbush as it heads up gradually for a half-mile to the open ledge. From there, a 3.5 mile loop trail goes through mixed woods out to the discontinued Nelson Road, then returns along another woods road passing by wetlands and a vernal pool.

Opening ceremonies are at 9 a.m. and the trail will then be open to explore and enjoy. Park in the lot below the sugarhouse on the west side of Hunt's Meadow Road, midway between Rte. 126 and the Cooper Road. Dogs on a leash are welcome. For more information, call David Elliott at 549-7572.



Whitefield Community Day: Antiques Road Show and others return

By Sue McKeen

Mark your calendars for the return of Whitefield Community Day, Sat., Sept. 13, beginning at 10 a.m. The location will be the same as last year, behind the town office. Thanks to David Hayden and his mower, we will utilize part of the fire department grounds. The Whitefield Historical Society will be open and the fire station will house the art show as well as offer tours.

This year we are pleased to have Dan Burns of Burns' Bears demonstrate his creative chain saw art. Dan can be seen at MacKenzie Power Equipment on Route 17 cutting and sculpting works of art from log bolts.

Dan's creations show beautiful proportion and form.

Other featured events will be the challenging 5K Grand Army Hill road race sponsored by the PTA, children's games and face painting, crafts and flea market, art show, music and a pie eating contest. The fire department will sponsor a 50/50 raffle and provide tours. The historical society will run a continuous slide show and display photos and other objects of interest. Returning by popular demand will be the antiques road show with Larry Trueman, and the K-9 demonstration is back, a big attraction for both adults and children.

Sa Rah Thibodeau, Abe Chase and Josh Cichowski of The Whitefields will return with an encore performance and the young musical team of Connor McLean and Milo Lani-Caputo of Double Jinx will perform again this year. This year we are pleased to have the singer-songwriter duo of Christine McCormick and Mat Knight of The Cigar Box Junkies. Christine and Mat perform a full spectrum of music from jazz to cover music. In the evening the Grange will host a spaghetti supper followed by down-home entertainment. If you weren't there last year, you missed a fabulous show.

September is the time to harvest, marvel at the vibrant colors and come together before winter sets in. As we all know, if this winter is anything like last, it could be a long one. Come out and have fun on Sept. 13. Join your community - before the snow flies.



Birds and animal sculptures by Dan Burns of Burns' Bears are a work of art
Photo by Sue McKeen

Coopers Mills Volunteer F. D. AUCTION, August 16th, 10 AM

By Chuck Vaughn

If you haven't experienced the Annual Coopers Mills Fire Department Auction you have missed something. There are lots of fundraising auctions around the countryside but few have attained the level of this one. Yes, there is the usual "one man's treasurer is another man's trash" which raises a few hundred dollars for many organizations. And yes, a certain number of the goodies from last year's auction will show up again at this year's. But there are always some real finds like an impeccable white leather sofa, wood fired boiler, outstanding piece of power equipment or boat that have been donated in past years. In fact, the quantity and quality of the goods is such that total sales are often North of \$10,000.

There are also boodles of box lots. You may see something special and bid on the box, only to find that there's a treasure hiding in the bottom of the box. This year, as well as the usual dogs and burgers there will be gourmet pulled pork sandwiches. Fun, food, bargains, drama and laughs are all part of the atmosphere under the tent. Come have a ball and add to the Firehouse Fund as we put final plans together for the new Firehouse.

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AUGUST 2014 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **Whitefield Food Bank**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3pm
- 4th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Coopers Mills Fire Dept. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept. 7pm
- 5th **Select Board** 6pm
Kings Mills Union Hall Board Meeting - Public Welcome, 7 pm
- 6th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Yoga, Sheepscoot General, 6 am
- 7th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscoot General. 10 am
DANCE CLASSES: Sheepscoot General 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 8th **Lecture: Meditation for Active People with Busy Minds and Crazy Lives**, Sheepscoot General, 7 pm
- 9th **Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation Tour**, contact Hildy at 596-2040, hildy@knox-lincoln.org, or visit www.knox-lincoln.org/conservation-tour/.
- 10th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)** Whitefield School 6 pm
- 11th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. 7 pm
- 12th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 13th **Yoga**, Sheepscoot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Whitefield Historical Society, 6:30 pm
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 14th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General. 10 am
DANCE CLASSES: Sheepscoot General 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 15th **Open-Mic Night with featured performers: Haskell & Jason**, Sheepscoot General, 7-9 pm
- 16th **Farmers/Flea Market**, Arlington Grange Hall, 9-1pm
Coopers Mills Volunteer Fire Dept. AUCTION, 10 am at the Coopers Mills Fire House
DRUMMING CIRCLE: Open to the public, all ages welcome. Sheepscoot General, 6:30 pm
- 18th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 19th **Select Board** 6pm
- 20th **Yoga**, Sheepscoot General, 6pm
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Planning Board Fire Station, 7-9 pm
- 21st **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscoot General. 10 am
DANCE CLASSES: Sheepscoot General 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 24th thru Sept. 1st **Whitefield Lions at the WINDSOR FAIR**
- 25th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 26th **Select Board** 6pm
- 27th **Yoga**, Sheepscoot General, 6pm
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 28th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscoot General. 10 am
DANCE CLASSES: Sheepscoot General 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

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, Sheepscoot General, Town Office, & Recycling Center.

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com



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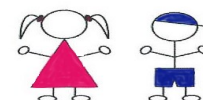
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Whitefield News

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Volume 2, Issue 3

Published Monthly

September 2014



Photo by Dana Rogers, Jr.

Don't forget WHITEFIELD COMMUNITY DAY SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

Schedule of Events

- 9:00 - 10:00** Grand Army 5K road race. Starting at Whitefield Elementary School. Kids fun run to begin immediately after 5K.
- 10:00 - 2:00** Children's games, crafts, face painting.
- 10:00 - 2:00** Historical Society open. Slide show & items of interest on display.
- 10:00 - 2:00** Fire Station open for tours. 50/50 raffle tickets on sale
- 10:00 - 3:00** Craft fair, Flea Market, food. Tent.
- 10:00 - 2:00** Art show and Silent Auction - Fire Station
- 10:00** Chain Saw Art with Dan Burns
- 11:00-11:30** K-9 Demonstration - parking lot area
- 11:30-11:45** Pie Eating Contest! How many, how fast! Under the tent
- 11:45-12:00** Penny scramble for kids
- 12:00 - 1:30** Music under the Tent.
 - 12:00** Double Jinx
 - 12:30** Cigar Box Junkies
 - 1:00** The Whitefields
- 1:30- 3:30** Antiques Road Show. Free Event. Bring your treasures to be appraised by LAWRENCE TRUEMAN, L. T. AUCTIONS. Two items per person. Under the tent.
- 4:30 - 6:00** Spaghetti supper at the Arlington Grange. No fee/Goodwill donations accepted. 50/50 raffle drawing.
- 6:30-8:00** Down home entertainment. Upstairs at the Arlington Grange.

WAA still going strong after 37 years

By Sue McKeen

In the early 1980's Danny Grady found his baseball moment by slugging a two-out grand slam in the bottom of the sixth inning to lift Whitefield to a 14-10 win over China in the second game of the Dirigo Youth League championship series. He did it on a country field enclosed in a snow fence and surrounded by friends and relatives.

That was over 30 years ago and the field is now home to Country Manor Nursing Home in Coopers Mills.

This story is about one of the reasons why Danny Grady had his opportunity in the first place. Brilliant ideas have floated around many kitchen tables over the years, but one day in 1977, in the kitchen of Jim and Shirley MacGregor, with Ron Kenoyer, Mike McCormick, Bobbi Berry, Bill Bell, Dolly and Jerry Lothrop, Rodney Bailey and Jerry Maldovan a group met to form a plan and the result was the formation of the Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA).



Basketball Team with Coach Ron Kenoyer c.1978 Photo contributed by Bobbi Berry

I recently sat down with several members of this slightly grayer crowd at the home of Ron and Pam Kenoyer to talk about the beginnings and reminisce about the hundreds of kids and thousands of games. Sharing stories of successes and near misses over the years were some of those who were there in the beginning, Bobbi Berry, Mike McCormick, Terry Blair, Dolly Lothrop.

In the 1970's when no coaches for Little League could be found, Mike McCormick took over the duty and solicited Ron's help. The two did everything from coaching and mowing the field to driving the kids all over town. The need *Continued on Pg. 2*

Opening day at the new Marr's Ridge Trail on Hunt's Meadow Road, August 23, 2014



Contributed Photos

WAA Cont. page 1 for help sparked the formation of the Whitefield Athletic Association and others became involved when at the 1978 town meeting, school sports were completely eliminated from the school budget. This meant the end of the school baseball, softball and basketball teams. Parents and community took action.

As Ron commented in a *Kennebec Journal* interview in 1978, "Even though I live in the country, I want my kids to have the advantages of city kids." He was referring to the fact that Whitefield kids have school choice, and most of the high schools they will attend have all these sports. It put our students at a disadvantage. Giving the kids "a fair shake" is exactly what the Whitefield Athletic Association and the many volunteer coaches did. And, in the bargain, the youngsters learned basic skills and learned them well.

With Ron at the helm as executive director, Bobbi Berry as secretary-treasurer, Jerry and Dolly Lothrop as chief fundraisers, as well as many parents and relatives who coached, umpired and cheered, the WAA became synonymous with Whitefield sports. The group picked up what used to be sponsored by the school, baseball and basketball and continued to sponsor



Jr. Jets with Jerry Maldovan c.1978 Photo contributed by Bobbi Berry

Little League. They added farm league, Tee ball, and Pee Wee basketball. Furthermore, since Ron and Mike had enough girls to actually field their own softball team, girls softball was added. When Art Mayers asked about a soccer team, a relatively new sport at the time, he was instantly initiated as the soccer coach, fielding both girls and boys teams.

Terry Blair remembered some nail biters when he and Steve Crocker coached girl's basketball. Bobbi Berry remembered lining the baseball field using a coffee can so the girl's softball team could actually play. Dolly Lothrop remembered her late husband Jerry was instrumental in re-building the frequently flooded baseball field at the school. A few years later the WAA built the new regulation field at the school, which doubles as the soccer field in the fall. Little League and Dirigo League were played at the Coopers Mills field, which the WAA completely renovated.

All this was done by volunteers - which speaks to the values we bring to our community and to our children. Sitting with this group recently, I realized the thousands of hours and hundreds of miles these people, these volunteers, have given to local kids.



ALS ice bucket challenge by the Whitefield Fire Department

Photo by Anita Newell



Girls Basketball Team with Bobbi Berry & Dolly Lothrop c.1978 Photo contributed by Bobbi Berry

The Whitefield Athletic Association is still going strong, 37 years later and is now headed by Chris Deslile, a dad and a volunteer. As we spoke about the changing culture of kids, parents and sports he said that the numbers of players are dwindling in every community and that parents don't seem to encourage their kids to play.

"Kids have more to do and technology is getting in the way of kids being kids. Parents say they are too busy, but everyone is busy, that excuse really annoys me." He noted the lack of fundamentals in kids showing up to play. "Kids struggle with fundamentals... they don't go out to play anymore... they have trouble catching and throwing a ball," he said, adding there is negativity surrounding competition.

"The problem is today's society tells kids everybody's a winner. That competition is somehow a bad thing. But it's ok to be competitive. Kids don't learn how to lose if they don't compete."

The WAA will be gearing up for the soccer season soon and he hopes to have a good turnout. The association always needs volunteers and hopes people will come to their meetings which are held the second Sunday of each month at the school at 6:00.

I asked Ron his opinion of the value of competition. He said, "Sports teach teamwork, humor, sportsmanship and how to win with humility and lose with pride."

If you have experienced the sheer joy of watching your children, grandchildren or just about any kid play ball, shoot a basket, dribble a soccer ball, don't forget to thank a coach; they were probably a volunteer. It continues to be true, that if you build it, they will come.

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Just Yesterday

The Whitefield correspondent for *The Lincoln County News*, Sept. 16, 1897, reported: "John Cunningham was driving a bull from the pasture recently when it turned on him by throwing him into a brush pile. As the bull was making ready to throw him again, Mr. Cunningham caught the brute by the ring in his nose, holding on until help came and the bull was subdued. Mr. Cunningham was severely hurt."

A front page article in the Sept. 9, 1920 issue of *The Lincoln County News* reported on Lincoln Pomona Grangers hosting Knox Pomona a few days earlier at the Kings Mills Union Hall. "About 30 cars were parked around the building at noon and a dozen wagons." When time for dinner rolled around, "twice were the tables filled for the 200 guests and there was enough food in reserve to feed 100 more. The men of Whitefield are 'good providers' and the women of Whitefield are housekeepers and cooks without rivals. Mountains of beans, acres of pies, oceans of coffee, endless supplies of cakes of every kind."

Lore Ford, who was running as a Democrat for State Senator, spoke on the question, "Is It Woman's Duty to Vote?" The reporter noted, "The general view was that women should vote" and that Mr. Ford "felt that it was their duty to vote if they voted for him next Monday."

Whitefield School News

By Joshua McNaughton, Principal

It's been a busy summer for Whitefield School staff. Our new playground structure is now installed and has been re-opened to the public. We will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony in September.

Our fourth grade teachers are working in conjunction with Hidden Valley Nature Center, in Jefferson, to create and pilot a new educational science program. This new program will provide our fourth grade students with monthly hands on science experiences at HVNC.

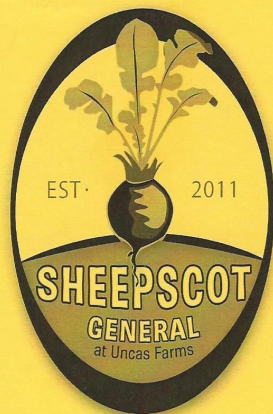
Our building is looking better than ever. During the summer we had some upgrades, which included flooring and paint. Our book room has expanded to a new space. This will provide teachers with easy access to leveled books, as well as a workspace to print, copy and prepare materials for their classes.

Over the course of this summer many of our teachers participated in courses and workshops to promote literacy and writing, and are learning new ways to evaluate data and set student goals to promote achievement.



Recycling scrap metal. Scrap metal can be taken to local scrap yards that will pay for the material. You can check the yellow pages under scrap metal: East Side Scrap is on Route 17 in Chelsea and OneSteel is beyond the old Hannaford's store in downtown Augusta. You need to have your ID to sell scrap metal.

Also, Dana Rogers (549-3491) will pick up your scrap metal for free.



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Whitefield Roads Committee

by John Delvecchio

The Town has a volunteer citizen committee, established by the Select Board, that is studying town roads. Whitefield has 32.5 miles paved and 10 miles gravel it is responsible for maintaining—separate from State roads like Route 126 that are maintained by the state.

The Committee has been asked to assess current road conditions and to recommend a maintenance and improvement program to the selectmen. Committee members conducted a survey inspection of all the town's roads, assessing their current condition using forms and guidelines provided by the Maine Department of Transportation's Local Roads Center. Additionally, the Town has received a grant of \$2,000 from the Lincoln County Regional Planning to assist in the Committee's work.

Over the course of this summer and early fall, the Committee will analyze the road inventory data and field surveys, examine specific conditions, and make recommendations as to grouping and prioritization of road work considering both routine maintenance and capital needs.

The Committee will review suggestions for alternative repair methods that are appropriate for various road conditions and the relative cost effectiveness of each. Because of its importance, drainage corrections and maintenance will also be studied by the Committee.

The Town recognizes the importance of "keeping good roads good" as a foundation of a long-term program to avoid future capital costs to the extent possible. At the same time, it recognizes that some roads are currently in poor condition and will require improvements beyond basic maintenance. The Committee is keen to learn what road planning approaches and practices will ensure that our roads serve residents' needs and are managed in ways that are most cost effective to taxpayers in the long-run.

Members serving on the Committee include: David Hayden, Dan Joslyn, Carl Ribeiro, Louis Sell, John Parks, Chris Post, John Del Vecchio, Dennis Merrill, and Tom Colpitt.

Art Show and Silent Auction during Whitefield Community Day, September 13, 2014.

Artwork, crafts, and photography will be on display in the fire station from 10:00 - 2:00. Come see the wonderful talent by your fellow Whitefield friends and neighbors. A Silent Auction to benefit next year's Community Day will be in the lobby of the fire station during the same hours. Anyone interested in being in this show, and/or making a donation to the silent auction may contact Genevieve Keller: 441-5814.

Jumping Salmon Hooked Rug by Paula Benne



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SEPTEMBER 2014 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 2nd Select Board 6pm
- 3rd Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 4th Senior Men's Group Sheepscot General. 10 am
DANCE CLASSES: Sheepscot General 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 5th Whitefield Food Bank, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 6th Forestry Field Days and Live Edge Music Festival, HVNC, 8:30-6:30 pm
- 8th ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Coopers Mills Fire Dept. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept. 7pm
Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. 7 pm
- 9th Women of Whitefield, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board 6pm
Kings Mills Union Hall Board Mtg. 7 pm
- 10th Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 11th Senior Men's Group, Sheepscot General. 10 am
DANCE CLASSES: Sheepscot General 3:30-5:30 p.m.
RSU Board Mtg., Chelsea Elem. 6:30 pm
- 13th **WHITEFIELD CELEBRATION DAY**
See Front of Newsletter for Schedule
Gun Show and Raffle, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills
- 14th Gun Show and Raffle, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills
Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA) Whitefield School 6 pm
- 15th ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 16th Bird Capture Demonstration at HVNC 9-11 am
Women of Whitefield, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 17th Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Planning Board Fire Station, 7-9 pm
- 18th Senior Men's Group, Sheepscot General. 10 am
DANCE CLASSES: Sheepscot General 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 19th Open-Mic Night, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 20th **FARMERS/FLEA MARKET**, Arlington Grange Hall, 9-1pm
DRUMMING CIRCLE: Open to the public, all ages welcome.
Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm
Grand Opening of the Trout Brook Interpretive Trail in Alna
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. SVCA's Trout Brook Preserve
- 22th ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 23th Select Board 6pm
- 24th Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6am
Women of Whitefield, Sheepscot General, 10 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 25th Senior Men's Group Sheepscot General. 10 am
DANCE CLASSES: Sheepscot General 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 28th Annual Race Through the Woods, HVNC 9 am
Kings Mills Union Hall Open House & Annual Meeting 3pm to 5pm
- 29th ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 30th Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6am
Women of Whitefield, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board 6pm

Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

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.


Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com



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Whitefield News

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Volume 2, Issue 4

Published Monthly

October 2014

Planning Board Update

The Planning Board concluded our final draft of amendments to the Whitefield Development Ordinance on September 17, and it was posted to the town website (<http://www.townofwhitefield.com>) and printed copies were made available for the public to inspect at the Town Office. The purpose of these amendments, as we explained at Town Meeting last March, is to correct certain legal defects in the existing ordinance, to set specific standards for mineral extraction/gravel mining, and to add definitions. The Town has posted legal notices of a public hearing to be held at 7:00 pm on Monday, October 6 in the Whitefield Fire Station meeting room, at which time public comments will be heard and discussed.

We urge all residents of Whitefield to read the document and to come to the hearing with any questions or concerns they may have about it. Our intent is to have the amended Development Ordinance voted up or down on Election Day, November 4 by secret ballot. If we judge that the public response at the October 6 hearing requires us to revise our draft, we will do so and hold a second public hearing a week later. The final version of the proposed, amended Ordinance will be posted 7 days before Election Day.

Jim Torbert, Chair, Whitefield Planning Board

Photos by Tony Marple and others



**WHITEFIELD
CELEBRATION**

Country Corners: Fast approaching 90 years old

By Dan Joslyn

By 1931 Maurice York had established a country store in Coopers Mills. It was tucked in behind the Narrow Gauge Train station on the west end of the village. This spot has been of significance since the train track was laid before 1895. The store would have a very long life and, situated on Rt. 17 today, is still serving customers.

Maurice was the first owner, but there have been others. The Kings have owned Country Corners since 1987. Twenty-seven years later, Erin, Barry and Debbie King's oldest child, manages the busy spot that still cuts its own steaks and grinds the hamburger on site. Customer satisfaction is important.

Like previous owners, they have prided themselves in maintaining a strong bond with the "local folks." In fact Erin worries if some of her most regular customers don't show up on schedule during their lunch breaks. First names flow around the store as though it is just one large family home. Practical jokes and friendly teasing are typically part of the banter.

All three children - Erin, Chris and Kelly - worked during high school, helping where they could to earn school money and learning along the way the nuances of running a store. The King family added the ice cream



The King Family—Contributed photo

stand where local kids cut their "working teeth" for many summers until that portion closed in 2008. Chris and Kelly became teachers like their parents and Erin commented, "I really liked using the pricing machine as a kid and enjoyed talking with everyone, like my dad did."

Barry grew up in the center of the village. He walked and biked to the store often as a child. In time he would

be employed by Maurice Coombs, his second cousin and the sixth owner of Country Corners. Even as a Whitefield School teacher, Barry worked at the store on weekends and during vacations. Becoming ill in 1998 while still teaching he would not live to retire, but events would unfold that allowed Country Corners to stay in the family.

Their Family History

One day around 1972 a new girl in town pulled up to the gas pumps. She was greeted by a tall, slender young man who said, "Hi, I'm Barry King." The young woman, Debbie Beers, thought, "And so what does that mean?" Soon after, Barry asked her out for a date. He did what country boys might do. He took her on a hay ride. Debbie said, "He spent most **Continued Pg. 2**

Country Corners from Pg. 1 of the time talking with everyone else and not so much with me.”

Debbie had graduated college and been hired in Augusta to teach elementary students. Just down from Bangor she had decided to share an apartment with two others, but a weekly salary of \$125.00 made things difficult. Eventually the three teachers drove out to Coopers Mills looking for a cheaper place to live. They found a new home for rent. Debbie said, “We all worried that we’d have no social lives being so far out in the willy-wags.” All three would eventually meet their husbands in or around the village.

For Debbie and Barry, married life brought three children and the purchase of the store as part of a retirement plan.

Earlier owners

Prior to the Kings, the Coombs family owned the store for approximately four years, starting in 1980. Maurice and Marilyn had lived in

Colorado but had wanted to return to Maine. They had children back west and finally returned there. Maurice Coombs was a cousin to Barry King’s father Leland.

The Willoughbys (Frank and Sylvia) ran the store from approximately 1974 to 1979.

The Ballantynes (Gordon and wife Doris), both born in Massachusetts, operated the store from 1949 to 1965. It is possible that the name “Country Corners” existed during their ownership in the 50s and 60s.

Lawrence Sargent operated the store before the Ballantynes for a brief period. No records have been found to date covering this period.

A man named Earl Gaslin owned or operated the store for a few years as well. He apparently took over ownership from founder Maurice York. No additional information to date has been found about this period.

Maurice York, the patriarch of the store in the late 1920s, lived in Windsor as a child. A fire had destroyed either his parents’ home or business in Washington Village and Cassius, his dad, moved the family to a large house that operated as a

tavern in what was called Windsorville, on the corner of Rt. 105 and Weeks Mills Road. The strategic location of this tavern, the distance from Belfast that a horse could walk in one day, allowed coastal people with business to



Maurice York at his home in Coopers Mills—Contributed photo

conduct in the capitol a place to lodge overnight. It is now known as the Whitaker home.

Maurice would benefit from his father’s business skills as his dad later ran a store diagonally across from the tavern, next to the Narrow Gauge tracks. A house now stands in that location.

Elwin Hussey stated, “This store was prosperous. For example, if it had three thousand dollars in stock the other stores in town would have five hundred. Dry good and even guns were retailed there.”

Eventually Maurice built the Coopers Mills store in a similarly strategic location: just behind the Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington RR station and on the edge of the village. During the early years it was convenient for train passengers to visit.

The little store quickly became prosperous. Beverly Brann Russell, of Augus-

ta, commented, “Maurice was a real businessman.” Carroll York, Maurice’s nephew, recalled visiting his uncle’s store to get grain for their cows, and dry goods such as cookies that arrived in crates and were measured out. “Molasses,” he said, “ran well out of the old barrel during warm weather but not so good in cold”. A large metal pole advertising the favored gasoline sat on the north edge of the store with a circular drive around it. That pole still stands and is used today to weigh the large bucks hunters bring in every November.

Little did Maurice realize that his small business would be in his family for so many years and be passed on to seven families.

(Author’s note: This report is largely anecdotal and lacks some specific dates. Information about the owners between the Kings and Yorks was more difficult to uncover. A history of Whitefield stores is being compiled and anyone with additional information, including years owned and other details, is asked to email it to sheepscotgeneral@gmail.com. A special thanks to my brother Ray for providing names of folks to call and much additional information that he has no right to remember given his age.)

Maine Conservation Corps welcomes home Sergei Thomas Pepper of Whitefield

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) recently welcomed back Sergei Thomas Pepper of Whitefield, Maine to serve as a Field Team Member and AmeriCorps national service member for a three-month, 450-hour term of national service. Pepper is the son of John Mourovic and Judith Pepper, also of Whitefield.



Sergei Thomas Pepper—photo provided by MCC

The MCC conducts conservation projects throughout the State of Maine, including extensive recreational trail construction and rehabilitation. Pepper was homeschooled, and is a 2012 graduate of Bath Regional Technical and Career Center. Pepper previously served as a Field Team Member with the MCC in 2013.

Governor Paul R. LePage welcomed Pepper’s decision to re-enter into national service in Maine. “On behalf of the State of Maine, I would like to congratulate you on your commitment to serving Maine as a member of the Maine Conservation Corps,” said Governor LePage. “The Maine Conservation Corps has done tremendous work making positive changes to our great State and Nation.”

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) Commissioner Walt Whitcomb also welcomed back Pepper, and highlighted the important work that the MCC does on behalf of Maine citizens. “As part of the DACF, the MCC’s four-fold mission is to: accomplish conservation projects, create conservation employment, provide conservation education, and engage conservation volunteers,” said Whitcomb. “Since 1983, MCC-supported projects have helped build the infrastructure that so many Maine citizens enjoy in our parks and public places.”

More information about the Maine Conservation Corps can be found at the www.maine.gov/dacf/mcc website.

Oct 2014 garden raffle

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District is holding a Great Garden Raffle from now through Nov. 5 to support its education programs.

First prize is a Valley Oaks Broad Fork donated by Fedco Seeds (\$215 value). Second prize is a Tub-Trug kit donated by Johnny’s Selected Seeds (\$100 value); and last, but not least, third prize is a \$25 certificate to the Knox-Lincoln Conservation Spring Plant Sale on May 2 & 3, 2015.

Tickets are only \$2 each or 3 for \$5! Stop by to see the prizes and get your lucky tickets at the District office, 893 West St., Rockport. Tickets are also available at Terra Optima Farm Market, 218 S Main St, Rockland and Spear Farm Stand, 1520 Atlantic Hwy, Waldoboro, by contacting Hildy at 596-2040 or hildy@knox-lincoln.org, or for purchase online at www.knox-lincoln.org/2014-raffle/. Drawing will be held at the Knox-Lincoln Annual Awards Banquet on Nov. 5. Winners need not be present.

Just Yesterday

From the local correspondent for *The Lincoln County News*, **Oct. 7, 1920**: "A new Sons of Veterans camp was formed at Coopers Mills on Sept. 28."

"Potatoes are rotting quite badly in this section and the heavy wind and rain of last Thursday knocked many apples off. This is a serious damage to the already short crop. The rain was very heavy," the writer noted, with the Sheepscot River running "at freshet pitch."

* * * * *

From Emma Chase's diary (1892-1988):

Mon., **Oct. 10, 1921**: Harry harnessed the horses first time since last July. He went towards Head Tide to meet the trains and help them up the hills.

Thurs., **Oct. 12, 1922**: Game supper, I made 11 pies and 3 cakes today, carried 4 pies down to [Union Hall], good time, lovely supper.

Wed., **Oct. 14, 1936**: Ladies' Aid Supper had 22 chicken pies and we run out.

Tues., **Oct. 15, 1940**: [Daughter Barbara] went up to volunteer to register the men from 21 to 35 tomorrow.

Wed., **Oct. 4, 1944**: We drove to Manchester (NH) to see about the Honor Roll for Whitefield...

Sun., **Oct. 22, 1944**: Had Honor Roll meeting in PM.

Notice: Whitefield Historical Society, Annual Day of Remembrance, 2 p.m., Sun., Oct. 26, presentation by Pam Kenoyer on stoneware and red ware pottery. Refreshments.



Whitefield School off to great start

The opening of the 2014-15 school year at Whitefield School was a smooth transition for both students and staff from summer fun to focusing on the back-to-school routines.

We kicked off the first day with a grand ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating our new playground. Thanks to the hard work of the Whitefield School PTA, community volunteers, Principal Josh McNaughton, Susan Peaslee and our very own superhero, Louis Shorey, the playground was available for the students to enjoy on opening day.

The Sept. 10th open house was a huge success. The students were proud to show off their classrooms and the teachers were pleased to meet the parents and families of our many new Whitefield School students.

Our Wildcat middle school soccer team has been busy preparing for their first soccer game with Palermo School. Community support at our games would certainly be welcomed. (Secretary Doris MacMaster)

The dog ate my tax bill

By Tony Marple, selectman

By the time you read this article, you have received your long awaited tax bill. For most of you, taxes went down. Why? OK, it's complicated.

The amount we raise from local property taxes is determined by spending minus state revenue and other sources.



Photo by Tony Marple

Spending:

	Amount	Date set	Local control?
Municipal government including roads, fire protection, plowing, Town Office, etc.	\$944,626	March Town Meeting	yes

Regional School Unit 12	\$2,076,945	May RSU budget vote	partial
County taxes	\$224,988	May/June	very limited
Total spending	\$3,246,559		

Revenue:

State revenue sharing and road support	\$138,158	Variable and unpredictable	no
Excise tax revenue	\$300,000	Ongoing	
Prior year surplus	\$100,000	Town meeting	yes
Local property taxes required to cover expenses			\$2,708,401
Total revenue	\$3,246,559		

Once the Town determines what must be raised from taxes, it then must set a mil rate. The mil rate is determined by dividing the Town's required tax revenue by Town's total property valuation. One mil raises \$100 on property valued at \$100,000. The 2014 mil rate was 15.25, which raised \$1525 on a property worth \$100,000. This year, the Selectmen determined that a number of commercial properties, particularly the utilities, were undervalued. After increasing the commercial valuations, the Town's total valuation increased from \$178,939,099 to \$194,671,210. We also wanted to provide \$65,664 for potential abatements. Therefore, our new mil rate (determined by dividing \$2,708,401 in needed tax revenue plus \$65,664 in "overlay" for anticipated abatements by our property valuation of \$194,671,210), is down to 14.25.

But even though taxes are down for most of you, we understand that taxes can still be a burden for some. Make sure you take advantage of your homestead or veteran exemptions. You might also be interested in putting your land in "tree growth" or other programs that might lower your land valuation. We have made arrangements for a number of townspeople to get current over time on their back taxes and avoid the potential loss of their property. Monthly payments are one option. Poverty abatements are available but generally only for residents falling below the federal poverty guidelines who can demonstrate that they can't make their payments. The Select board will work with you.

In the coming year, the Town will be evaluating our approach to taxing equipment in town, as required by State law. Lakefront property values will also be considered.

If you are having difficulty paying your taxes or if you are even more confused after reading this article, please call the Town Office at 549-5175.

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yard or sheds.



OCTOBER 2014 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 2nd-5th **Timber Frame Construction workshop**, HVNC
- 2nd **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
DANCE CLASSES: Sheepscot General 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 3rd **Whitefield Food Bank**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 6th ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Coopers Mills Fire Dept. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept. 7pm
- 7th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 8th Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6 am
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Arlington Grange 6 pm Pot Luck Supper, 7 pm Meeting All are welcome.
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RSU School Board Meeting, Chelsea School, 6:30 pm to 9 pm
- 12th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)** Whitefield School 6 pm
- 13th ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. 7 pm
- 14th **Select Board** 6pm
Kings Mills Union Hall Board Mtg. 7 pm
- 15th Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6 am
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Planning Board Fire Station, 7-9 pm
- 16th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
- 17th **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 18th **DRUMMING CIRCLE**: Open to the public, all ages welcome.
Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm
- 20th ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 21st **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
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- 22nd Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Pot Luck Supper, 7 pm Meeting. All are welcome.
- 23rd **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
- 25th **Kings Mills Union Hall Annual Chicken Pie Supper** 5 to 7 p.m.
- 26th **Whitefield Historical Society Day of Remembrance**, 2pm
- 27th ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 28th **Select Board** 6pm
Special RSU Board Mtg., Chelsea Elem. 6:30 pm
- 29th Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 30th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General. 10 am
- 31st **Halloween**



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Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com



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Whitefield News

Volume 2, Issue 5

Published Monthly

November 2014

Whitefield Food Pantry tis the season



Holidays are upon us and we would like to remind you that the Whitefield Food Pantry accepts donations anytime and anywhere. Coordinator Mary Lemieux said, "We can pick up donations anytime!"

Food and cash donations are always welcome. To make a donation, call Mary and Earl at 582-2684 or send checks to Earl and Mary Lemieux, 377 South Hunts Meadow Rd., Whitefield ME 04353. Checks should be made out to Good Shepherd with a notation on the memo line for Whitefield Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry, located at St. Denis Hall, is open the first Friday of the month, 1-3 p.m. Preparation is always the Wednesday before, starting at 12 noon, at the hall. Help is always appreciated.

Please feel free to call Mary for more information.

Hauling logs with Brian Swift

By Tony Marple

It's 3 a.m., and Brian Swift is driving down the Hilton Road in his logging truck. The first of three runs for the day is to take pine logs to the sawmill in Dixfield. The cab is spotless and Brian has the usual smile on his face. "I love this job."



Brian Swift

Brian was born in Florida where his father served in the Army. He was the third of eleven children. He is 69 and plans to work another ten years. His wife Nancy is from the Micmac tribe in New Brunswick. Brian was a catcher in high school and was offered a minor-league position in Florida. He told them, "I'd rather shovel manure here in Maine."

Brian started out as a logger and was highly regarded for the quality of his work. He

bought his truck used in 2005 when he quit logging. It's a 395hp diesel Volvo with eight speeds. It has a 75 gallon tank and gets 5mpg. "I love this truck."

It's a foggy trip over winding roads to Dixfield. Brian drives carefully and his fully loaded truck strains

Photo by Tony Marple

up the steep hills. "I've never had a ticket or an accident. I have run over a few animals, though. The deer go right under you, but the turkeys can smash up your grill. Too damn many of them," he says. Brian drives in all weather, but doesn't like the ice. As the rain comes down heavily, he says, "The weathermen don't know if it's sunshine or pouring rain out."

He works about 16 hours a day six days a week. "I don't need much sleep." On Sunday he spends most of the day working on the truck. He's hauled on Christmas occasionally. "Kids don't know how to work these **Continued on Pg. 2**

Helping elders stay at home

By Cheryle Joslyn

Mark Twain is quoted as saying, "Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of eighty and gradually approach eighteen." Ahhh...what a marvelous thought! Unfortunately, I haven't met anyone who has discovered how to do that. However, no wasted regrets, and there is some consolation in knowing that I'm not alone in this higher end number. According to AARP, 18,000 other Mainers are turning 65 every year. Census Bureau population estimates report that Lincoln County is the oldest county in Maine. By the year 2030 more than 25 percent of the state's residents will be older than 65. What are they going to do with all of us "elders"?

Next to no one ages thinking, "I want to go to a nursing home." Most independent Mainers want to stay in their own homes as long as they can safely and reasonably do that. We all know, though, there are both opportunities and challenges that come with that choice. The opportunities present themselves daily as older people have a lot to offer and give back to the community. The challenges are ever present, as well, as we look at the issues that face people as they age. These are some of the very same issues and needs Chuck and Harriet Vaughan, of Coopers Mills, are attempting to fill with their very timely business venture, **Legacy Years At Home**.

Maine has not turned a blind eye to its "Senior" population. Health care, state subsidized housing, transportation, home care, meals, and elder networks are just a few of the services available to us today which help keep us out of nursing homes or assisted living accommodations. Nonetheless,



Chuck & Harriet Vaughan
Contributed Photo

when we choose to stay in our home as we age, we may require assistance with some of those mundane chores that used to be so easy to tend to, but now appear to be insurmountable obstacles. **Legacy Years At Home**, say the Vaughans, "specializes in helping adults and their families in mid-coast and central Maine area deal with the complexities of making the existing home work better for changing needs."

From the perspective of a 50-year-old, the challenges of living in your own home as you age might not seem all that difficult, but just wait another few years. Your vantage point might be a little different! For instance, that light bulb at the top of the stairway has been out for months because you cannot reach it, that sticky window had to be left halfway up because you didn't have the strength to get it back down after enjoying a summer's day breeze, the refrigerator doesn't feel as cold as it should be, or because the lawn mower doesn't run any more, hay is taking over the front lawn.

Chuck Vaughan's experiences and background allow him to offer you his handyman services to tend to these types of needs. He has been the maintenance person for Boothbay Railway Village for over 20 years, and is currently doing the same for the Sheepscot Valley **Continued on Pg. 2**

Helping Elders cont. from Pg. 1 Health Center. Taking care of minor household repairs, assessing repairs needed on equipment, and helping to engage and oversee contractors and service people as needs arise are all in his field of expertise.

After 48 years of marriage, Harriet and Chuck partner well with each other in providing services. Harriet's organizing and book-keeping expertise has benefited small businesses and individuals for many years. She knows how to create systems for senior citizens that compensate for short-term memory loss or how to unravel and organize years of accumulated "stuff" that just seems to keep piling up on the kitchen table. Is last month's electricity bill somewhere in that heap of clippings, catalogs, and Walmart flyers beside your recliner? Harriet can work with you and your family members and/or care givers to help provide a peace of mind and keep life running as smoothly as possible.

The "ruralness" of our country living may pose challenges to maintaining our homes and keeping ourselves well in Maine as we age, but many of us are determined to try as long as we can. As Douglas MacArthur said, "Age wrinkles the body. Quitting wrinkles the soul." Most Maine seniors do not want to "quit" their home. **Legacy Years At Home** offers a hand up in keeping us safe and comfortable while we enjoy staying in our own home.

Chuck and Harriet Vaughan can be reached at 119 Main Street, P.O. Box 345, Coopers Mills, ME 04341; tel. 207-549-7850; or email: info@legacy-years.com. You can also view their website at www.legacy-years.com. Call to receive an estimate for their services.

Hussey's celebrates 91 Years

On Saturday, Oct. 11th, Hussey General Store hosted an anniversary event celebrating 91 years in business.



Contributed Photo

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Swift From Pg. 1 days." Brian just likes to work. "I earned everything I have. Nothing was given to me." Does he have a computer? "Don't need it." Vacations? "Don't need 'em." Alcohol and tobacco? "Don't need 'em."

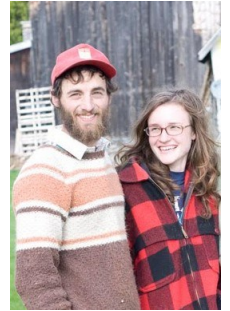
When asked if he'd run for selectman, he said not unless he'd be able to take the posted road signs down in the spring. He works on his truck during mud season.

On the return trip driving through Augusta, Brian slows down in the traffic. "Look at all these people driving to work. They hate their jobs sitting in an office all day. I don't want to work for nobody."

You can learn a lot from Brian if you're willing to give up some sleep.

Whitefield couple to receive farming award

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District press release



Contributed Photo

At the annual Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District awards banquet on Nov. 5, Ben and Taryn Marcus, of Sheepscot General Farm here in Whitefield, will receive the Cooperating Conservation Farm of award. Ben and Taryn grow five acres of certified organic produce and organic strawberries, practice cover-cropping to improve soil health, and operate Sheepscot General Store, which includes a café and free wifi and also hosts community events.

Other individuals who have achieved excellence in conservation practices will also be recognized. Guest speaker will be Tim Cunniff, executive director of Backyard Farms in Madison.

The festivities begin at 6 pm at North Nobleboro Community Hall, East Pond Rd., Nobleboro, with munchies and visiting, with dinner following at 6:30. Registration fee of \$15 covers the cost of the meal. Contact Hildy at 596-2040, hildy@knox-lincoln.org, or register online at www.knox-lincoln.org/annual-meeting/.

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Just Yesterday

In the **Nov. 12, 1880**, *Lincoln County News* the correspondent for Whitefield reported: "Some time ago a ledge was discovered on the farm of Elbridge Moody in Whitefield, which was thought to contain gold, and specimens of the surface rock were sent to Nevada and assayed. The samples sent gave \$7.23 in gold and 98 cents in silver to the ton. Mr. Moody with some of his neighbors through whose farms the ledge runs, proposes to work into the ledge and see what they can do with it."

"Mr. Frank Richardson is once more able to attend to his farm and work shop. Mr. R., a few weeks ago, broke several ribs in falling from a load of hay."

In the **Nov. 30, 1883** issue: "A party of 3 young men, Horace and Walter Kennedy and Ernest Preble. reached California safely."

"Charles P. Choate, Deputy Sheriff of North Whitefield, was recently thrown from his carriage and his leg was badly broken."

Nov. 5, 1886: There has been almost a water famine at Turners Corner [North Whitefield]. Those who have no cisterns are being obliged to haul water a long distance."

Kids Doing Science Outside

By Kit Pfeiffer and Cheryle Joslyn

The sun breaks through the canopy of white pine and red maple above a group of Whitefield School 4th graders, taking the chill off the October morning at Hidden Valley Nature Center (HVNC) in Jefferson.



"Tree number 4 is 14.27 inches in diameter," calls out the girl who has just circled a magic forester's measuring tape around a big pine. It automatically converts the circumference of the tree to its diameter. Others in her group scribble down the information and note what kind of tree it is (white pine) and any special features ("Wow, look up high and see how it twists like a snake!") The data about the trees these students are measuring for the first time will go into a national database and be tracked for many years to come, providing valuable information for climate change researchers.

The day-long field trip at HVNC is the first of eight monthly visits for the 4th graders this school year. The new program, informally called Kids Doing Science Outside, has been developed by naturalist educators at the Center and the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association (SVCA), in consultation with Whitefield School classroom teachers, Mark Trask and Kathy Lamothe. Throughout the year, the 4th graders will learn about the local ecology by doing fieldwork outside, studying trees, soils, animal tracks, ponds and bogs. One trip will even involve using snowshoes!

Don't forget to vote!

Tuesday, November 4th, 2014. Polls are open from 8 AM to 8 PM at the Whitefield Fire House.

Nature-based education programs such as this are springing up around the country. Educators are recognizing the immense value to engaging students with their environment, so that textbook learning comes alive outside in their own back yards. Students' work will contribute to larger efforts to collect environmental data through existing 'citizen science' programs such as Signs of the Seasons: A New England Phenology Project and the Maine Forest Inventory Growth Project.



Being part of a larger effort, Whitefield's 4th graders can take pride in their contributions to these long term monitoring programs.

Scavenger Hunt Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

Here in Whitefield, our students have a unique opportunity to learn in this way, with the resources of Hidden Valley and the SVCA. Susan Kistenmacher of HVNC is excited about the opportunity to focus on the kinds of teaching and learning that she finds most effective. She was named Educator of the Year in 2011 by the Knox Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, is a Maine Master Naturalist, and has more than 28 years of science education in the public schools.

"I am so grateful for this opportunity to help public school teachers get their students outside to learn," says Sue, who is working with Lynne Flaccus, SVCA's program director and primary educator. Lynne is a naturalist with a strong background in place-based and experiential outdoor education. Previously she was the Head Naturalist at the Chewonki Foundation for 24 years. In that role she taught a variety of natural history programs to people of all ages, taught science in the Semester Program, and was responsible for ecological monitoring projects involving students and staff. "I really enjoy letting students see that they can be scientists at an early age."

The day ends with a walk out Warbler Way, past the plots where the students had been measuring trees in the morning. "Goodbye, trees," yells one of the boys. "See you next month!"

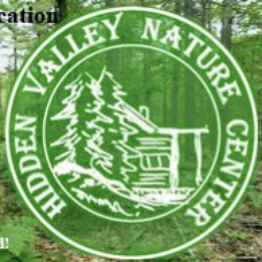
Want to help with Kids Doing Science Outside? Fourth graders from both Great Salt Bay Community School in Damariscotta and the Whitefield Elementary School will visit the Hidden Valley Nature Center monthly through next May. Volunteers are needed to help make the program work. You don't have to be a professional naturalist or a teacher. You just have to enjoy working with kids and being outside. Interested? E-mail Andy, andy@hvnc.org, to get on the list of volunteers. There's no obligation. Just fun!

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NOVEMBER 2014 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** **Craft Fair—Kings Mills Union Hall, 10-2**
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 3rd** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Coopers Mills Fire Dept. Anyone interested in supporting or learning more about CMVFD is welcome. We won't rope you into anything right off. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept. 7pm
- 4th** **POLLS OPEN AT 8 AM**
Women of Whitefield, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board 6pm
Kings Mills Union Hall Board Mtg. 7 pm
- 5th** Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6 am
Food Pantry Volunteer Set up 12 pm on, Help always welcome
Call Mary Lemieux for more info 582-2684
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Whitefield Historical Society, 6:30 pm
- 6th** **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
- 7th** **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 9th** **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)** Whitefield School 6 pm
- 10th** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. 7 pm
- 11th** **VETERAN'S DAY**
Select Board 6pm
- 12th** Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Pot Luck Supper, 7 pm Meeting All are welcome.
- 13th** **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
RSU School Board Meeting, Chelsea School, 6:30 pm to 9 pm
- 15th** **DRUMMING CIRCLE:** Open to the public, all ages welcome.
Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm
- 17th** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
DANCE CLASSES: Sheepscot General 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 18th** **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 19th** Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Planning Board Fire Station, 7-9 pm
- 20th** **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
- 21st** **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 24th** ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 25th** **Select Board** 6pm
- 26th** Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Pot Luck Supper, 7 pm
Meeting All are welcome.
- 27th** **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**



HOLIDAY EVENTS IN DECEMBER

- Arlington Grange Christmas Caroling Dec. 6th**
Kings Mill Union Hall Christmas Program Dec. 7th 3-5pm
Sheepscot Valley Community Church Christmas Party TBA

Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com
We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.

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Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

You can receive the newsletter by email by signing up at www.townofwhitefield.com/Newsletter.html



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Newsletter Crew!

Whitefield News

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Volume 2, Issue 6

Published Monthly

December 2014

Christmas Events

Mt View Chamber Singers Perform "Carols in the Round" Wed. Dec. 3 7:00 pm Donations Welcome

Holiday Bazaar, Sheepscot General, Fri. Dec 5th, 4-8 pm Local Crafts

Christmas Caroling Concert and Sing Along, Sat. Dec. 6th at the Arlington Grange, 3 pm, refreshments served. Donations accepted for local families in need this holiday season.

Christmas Program at the Kings Mills Union Hall, Sun. Dec. 7th 3-5 pm. Santa arriving at 4:00!

Sheepscot Valley Community Church Program, Free pictures with Santa, decorate cookies, make ornaments. Dec. 14th 5-7 pm. Check their facebook page for location.

Another reminder about the **Whitefield Food Pantry:** Food and cash donations are always welcome. To make a donation, call Mary and Earl at 582-2684 or send checks to Earl and Mary Lemieux, 377 South Hunts Meadow Rd., Whitefield ME 04353. Checks should be made out to Good Shepherd with a notation on the memo line for Whitefield Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry, located at St. Denis Hall, is open the first Friday of the month, 1-3 p.m. Preparation is always the Wednesday before, starting at 12 noon, at the hall. Help is always appreciated.

Please feel free to call Mary for more information.

Christmas in Whitefield - A Collection of Holiday Memories



By Cheryle Joslyn, Dan Joslyn, and Debbie Rogers

Christmas came early to a few of us on the Newsletter committee. The gifts were given by eight elders in our community. They arrived in the format of precious stories as they were passed on to us by each of them. Mary, Stanley, Larry, Albert, Johnny, Dot, Fran, and Don took us back to a time in their lives that few in Whitefield remember nowadays. Woven into the fabric of their Christmas stories was a great deal more than just their remembrances of Christmas as children living in Whitefield. They shared with us life as it was for them in those youthful days (ca 1914-1935 and beyond). There is much to be learned from these fascinating and valuable individuals, and we only began to unwrap their gift, but we pass it on to each of you with hopes that it will inspire you to want to learn more. Perhaps you, too, will ask the question of someone you know, "What was it like when....?" and you will write it down for the future. Thank you Mary, Stanley, Larry, Albert, Johnny, Dot, Fran, and Don, and a very memorable Merry Christmas to all!

Mary - Mary Creamer, 100 years "young," offered these words of wisdom about the Christmas season before she even began to relay her experiences to me. She said, "Today everyone worries about what to buy at Christmas. There is too much thought about spending and buying gifts," she said, and she is quite right. Oftentimes, the gift we remember the most is not the one bought from a store. Mary knows what it is like to do with less and yet, appreciate



Mary Creamer Photo by Dan & Cheryle Joslyn

more. She grew up in a time when a bag of candy and an orange brought joy to her Christmas morning. She might also get something handmade by her mother like a rag doll, knitted socks, mittens, or a new dress. Her mother would put up a tree after the children had gone to bed, and it would be their surprise in the morning to see it decorated with tinsel and little paper bells. One year her present was a toy watch (quite an extravagance). It would "really wind, but not run," and another year it was a "string of pretty beads," perhaps purchased from the profits of a good blueberry season. The Edergerly family farm on the Plains was very remote, but served the family well for making a living off the land. As a very young girl, Mary would drive the horse and wagon all alone to Gardiner to sell handpicked berries to the store and a large hotel in town, and return with groceries and grain before nightfall. She recalled that their horse, Bobby, "made tracks to get home because he knew where his feed was." When Mary's family first moved to the Plains of White-

field from Augusta (ca 1918), there was no school nearby, so she was "boarded out" with the Duntons to attend 1st and 2nd grade in Kings Mills during the week. She walked, skied, or rode in the wagon up Crocker Avenue for two-three miles to be home for the weekend. She remembers those Christmas pageants at the Kings Mills Hall. All the students practiced and had to "say a little piece," and that is where she saw Santa Claus! He always managed to find her house on the Plains, too! And then...on Christmas day...if the roads were clear, Aunt Hazel would arrive for family dinner. She always brought a special gift of delicious homemade fudge, peanut brittle, or a box of ribbon candy. Treasured memories...they brought a gentle smile to Mary's soft face. Mary found contentment with what she had, and over these 100 years, I would say, she has become a very "rich" person.

Stanley - The Christmas holiday season did not disrupt the routines of farm life for 80 year old Stanley Tibbetts too much when he was a boy. Even on Christmas morning, the hens needed to be grained, the cows, calves, and draft horses fed, and the cows milked. There were chores in the morning and chores at night; and in between, you got done what you had to get done. The chores were always there, just as they are now on the Tibbetts farm where Stanley was raised and still lives.



Stanley Tibbetts Photo by Dan & Cheryle Joslyn

Stanley was the second youngest of the seven children of Gladys and Charles, so you can probably imagine that "frivolous gifts" were not often given out at Christmas. The holiday spirit still rang through the old farmhouse, however, and after the morning chores were done, they would all gather around the tree to share what Christmas had brought them. There were useful things like new clothes and enough toys to "provide ample entertainment." Chicken dinner with all the fixings was prepared on the wood cookstove. Stanley recalls that all those boys were "expected to be pretty clever with an ax" because it was their job to split the firewood in order to keep that stove hot.

There generally wasn't much "traffic" out front on Christmas day; a few automobiles, a horse and sleigh or wagon would go by, perhaps. Townhouse Road was oftentimes coated with fresh snow. That meant good sliding if the weather cooperated. Stanley's brothers and sisters could get a really good slide from the big knoll behind the house down into the valley across the road. When it was crusty, Stanley and his friend, Mike McCormick, hauled their sleds to the top of St. Denis hill, and they slid all the way to Townhouse Road.

Each day in Stanley's barn, the feed gets put out, the barn door is opened, the cows come in, they go to their stall, get hooked up, and the milking begins. Stanley doesn't milk any more (others do that routine for him), **Continued Pg. 2**

Memories Pg. 1 but he still tends to the calves each morning. That's his chore now, just as it was when he was a boy.

Larry - There was a twinkle in his eye as 94 year old Lawrence Felt (Larry or WaWa to some of us) recalled what his Christmas was like growing up as a boy on the farm in Kings Mills. His family lived with his Grampa and Gramma Felt, and they made sure Santa found his sister, Glennis, and Larry's tree and that the dinner table was always covered with special treats. Red paper bells hung in each



Larry Felt Photo by Dan & Cheryle Joslyn

roadside window. The house was banked with sawdust, then fresh green boughs placed on top and a little fir tree stood at each end of the front of the house. On Christmas Eve, "Grampa would make tracks in the snow to the back widow and then tell us that Santa was too fat to come down our chimney, so he had to come through the window." It was Larry's chore to keep the woodbox filled. He said, "In the wood cookstove, Gramma Felt always made her special pork roast, loaves of bread, vegetables of all kinds, and of course, pies! She made the best mincemeat and lemon meringue. She had to scold me just a little once when I skimmed the tops off all 14 of her pies that were cooling on the dining room table. I liked her lemon meringue pies!"

Larry recalled that they always had a party at the Whitefield Union Hall just before Christmas. Upstairs the big tree was decorated with tinsel and paper bells. The presents were underneath for the children. Edith Wentworth would wrap up her delicious yeast rolls, loaves of bread, and her summer canned goods to give to everyone who came to the party. "We'd sing songs that we had practiced in school, and perform little skits on the stage. The bells would start jingling downstairs and we knew Santa (Ernest Dunton) had arrived. He'd make the rounds, picking out presents for every good little boy and girl. It was lots of fun." Larry remembers, "Everyone was neighborly and had a good time!"

Albert - Sometimes not all of our recollections of Christmas bring us thoughts of "goodness and cheer," and for Albert Boynton, perhaps this holds true even today. It was in January, just after Christmas, when Albert was only six years old that his father came upstairs by lamplight to break the sad news to his children that their mother had passed away. Albert can even



Albert Boynton Photo by Dan & Cheryle Joslyn

remember the exact time of the morning when his world suddenly changed forever. "In one fell swoop, we had lost our mother, our cook, and the bill collector," but the Boynton family persevered. With seven children to care for, Albert's father relied on hard work, adaptability, and competence to see them through those very difficult years.

In 1926 Albert was born in the small red building



that sits east of Mills Road on Clary Lake dam. When he was one, the family moved to the house across the road which Albert still occupies. For quite some time, Albert remained nameless because his parents could not make up their minds. He thinks he can recall hearing them say "Baby" when referring to him. His older brother, Alden, came by with his horse one day and asked, "Have you named that baby yet?" "Not yet," was the response. Alden strongly stated, "His name is Albert Robert Boynton!"...and that was that...a "gift" to his brother! Albert said, "I never did know where Robert came from." So you see, it doesn't have to be Christmas to give a gift.

It was less than two months after his wife died that Albert's father had deposited \$1500.00 in the bank from his very successful lumber mill. The eight workers he employed needed to be paid, as well as other expenses tended to. That next Monday, all the banks were closed by the government. "The Depression was in full swing, and just like that, our family had lost their ability to conduct business. The bank foreclosed on the lumber lots, and my father couldn't harvest the lumber. All the men were laid off. Times got tough for our family!" said Albert. Christmases after that were quiet and uneventful.

It was President FDR who said that very March of 1933, "We have nothing to fear, but fear itself," and Albert's family certainly exemplified that thought. They continued on with their lives and did the best that they could for one another. "We always had a tree. The glass ornaments were carefully used from year to year. Tinsel was picked from the branches and saved. Even the wrapping paper was folded and used under the next tree."

There was one very special gift that Albert wanted to tell about. He had spotted a Mackinaw in the Sears Catalog that he desperately wanted. He calculated that if he raked blueberries, in August he would have the \$17.00 for the jacket. However, at the end of the raking, his boss handed him a ten dollar bill and told him that was what he was due. Albert knew he had earned much more, but he didn't challenge the man. He couldn't buy his Mackinaw and wondered how he'd stay warm on his walks to school.

That next Christmas when everyone gathered around the tree, a large package was handed to him. Not suspecting, he carefully unwrapped it and discovered that his father and siblings had ordered that coat. He had received the most expensive gift of his life. He was thrilled! And so...after 88 Christmases, and after some very difficult times, Albert still feels so very fortunate for the life he has been given.

John and Aunt Dot - Johnny Morin and Great Aunt Dot Foster (Griffin) recalled Christmas (as recorded by Leane Morin):



John Morin—Morin Family Photo

John Morin grew up on the Mills Road (Rt 218) in Whitefield in what is remembered now as the Zabik house. He recalled spending one whole Christmas night on the floor when he was 8 years old. He hid underneath the dresser, peeking out the bed-

room door, just to see if Santa would be coming; and of course, he did! He remembered the special gift Santa left. It was a pair of skis and a sled. Perhaps that was how Johnny got the idea to make his own sleds later on. "Don Gould and I used to make barrel stave sleds. We would take barrels that were probably three feet high and use the barrel staves to make runners in the back and front of the sled. We would make the front so it could turn. Across from the house there was a really steep hill with a woods road right down to the Sheepscot River. We'd go down that hill, hit stumps, and every now and then, go into a tree. It seems as though we'd stave a sled up once every two or three days and go back and make another one. We got pretty good at it after a while. We'd even wax the barrel staves. Waxed runners would go like a son-of-a-gun! Yeah, Don Gould and I were pretty good sled makers!"

Great Aunt Dot recalled, "My sister, Tillie, at age thirteen, thought she would get us a Christmas tree. She brought it in, we decorated it, and the next morning - oh did it stink! It

was a cat spruce. A cat spruce smells just like a skunk. We had to throw that tree out! I also remember the first dolls we



Griffin Girls, Dot, Ethel, Marion and Cora—Morin Family Photo

had that cried. We were eight or nine then. We always had little dolls; not the really big ones. One year my sister, Marion, sent us packages, and when we got the packages, we tipped them. They made a noise! When we opened them Christmas morning, we each had a doll that cried. That was quite a surprise!"

Don and Fran - (For our last "Christmas in Whitefield" story we asked a longtime couple to take us back)



Fran and Don Gould sat at the kitchen table with their son, Dennis. Fran jokingly recalled, "I used to blister their ass and say 'Get back upstairs. Get back in your bedroom. It ain't time to get up yet!'"

She was hollering at their three children, Greta, Dennis, and Sally. "One thing the kids always liked to do was play with little mechanical toys, and that was the only time of the year they would get to play with them. All three of the kids would lay down on their belly under the Christmas tree and wind up those little toys and watch them go round and round. One time we had a little train that would go around and under the tree. Sometimes it would get stopped in back of the tree and one of the kids would have to get down on their belly and skinny under the tree to try to get that train going again."

Fran also recalled that when she was growing up in Coopers Mills they always had a Christmas tree. They had lights for it but didn't use them very often because they were large bulbs and they got really hot.

After Fran and Don were married, Fran was ahead of the crowd with her choice of a tree. "You remember when the Railway Express was right behind the city hall in Augusta?" Fran asked. "That's where the freight yard was," said Don (behind what

Continued Pg. 3



Memories Pg. 2 used to be the Augusta Police Department on Willow St.) "That's where we went and picked up the tree," explained Fran. "I said to Don, 'We got to go into the Railway Express 'cause I got a package comin.' He asked, 'What in the hell you got that's out there?'" Fran continues, "We went out and here's this box almost as big as this table. Don disgustedly asked, 'What did you get?'" "I told him I got a Christmas tree." Don yells, "You got a what?" She answered, "I got an artificial Christmas tree."

"She sent away to a popular club for a tree!" Don laughed. "Well, he kind of frowned on it at first, and I knew, in a minute, he would if he knew I'd bought it. Before that, every year I'd take our real tree out through the house, and spills would be everywhere. After that, Greta Ann couldn't even remember having a regular tree in the house," Fran chuckles.

We hope that tree gets pulled out, propped up, and lights their home for many more Christmas mornings! Thank you, one and all, for sharing your stories.



Plan now for winter heating

By Tony Marple

Plan now to lower your heating bill by tightening your house and replacing heating systems with new energy efficient models.

Help is available through Efficiency Maine, a State program funded by a surcharge on electricity bills (*Efficiency Maine.com*), 866-376-2463. The program offers funding for air sealing, home insulation, and heating system projects. While most of Efficiency Maine's incentives require some out of pocket expenses, the energy cost savings can be dramatic. You can also reduce your electricity bill with funding for hot water heat pumps and other electric efficiency projects.

The Community Housing Improvement Project (CHIP), located in New Harbor, provides volunteer assistance to improve the energy efficiency of homes and also has a heating assistance fund. Contact them at 800-924-9571 or info@chipinc.org.

Low income residents may also be eligible for heating fuel assistance from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Applications are available through mainehousing.org, or you can call 626-4603. Joe 4 Oil, a Massachusetts organization, was founded by Joe Kennedy and provides heating assistance in fourteen states including Maine. Applications are available by calling 877-Joe-4Oil.

If you plan now, you can reduce the chances of a winter heating emergency.

Neighbors helping local firefighter

Firemen, neighbors, and friends arrived with materials in hand to help out a fellow fireman, 24 year old David Mason who is battling lung cancer, by volunteering their time to shingle his home's leaky roof. The leaky roof is a thing of the past. On December 13th at the Whitefield School, 4-6 pm, the firemen are planning a benefit supper to help with David's expenses.



Mason home, Photo by Ray Joslyn

The 2015 Arlington Grange Calendar "Farms of Whitefield" is now available at:

The North Whitefield Superette, Sheepscoot General, Hussey's and The Alna Store.



New Whitefield trail opens Dec. 18

By Kit Pfeiffer

A defining feature of Whitefield is the beautiful Sheepscoot River that runs through it. Now the public can walk along its banks on a newly-cut trail. It starts at the Recycling Center behind the Town Office on Townhouse Road and crosses over the Chase Happy Farm property conserved by the Sheepscoot Valley Conservation Association.

The Happy Farm River Trail will officially open to the public on Thurs., Dec. 18 at 11 a.m. Students and teachers from Whitefield School will walk over and participate in the opening ceremony. The new trail is expected to be a valuable resource for outdoor education and recreational use by the school.

Thanks to the generosity of the Patrick Chase family and landowner Brad Bowden, the public is now



Photo by Kit Pfeiffer

welcome to enjoy walking, snowshoeing or skiing along several miles of trail, across open fields, through woods, and along the Sheepscoot River. The 2,200 feet of shoreline have a wooded buffer of mixed hardwoods and softwoods, and this part of the river contains spawning and nursery habitat for Atlantic Salmon as designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.


Come out and walk the new trail at 11 a.m. on Dec. 18. Park in the designated area adjacent to the Recycling Center and look for the kiosk with trail maps at the corner of the lot. Dogs on a leash are welcome. For more information or to volunteer with the Whitefield Trails Committee, call Kit Pfeiffer at 446-9768.



A reminder from Chief Higgins

Whenever there is a large storm that impacts our town or any other large-scale disaster, the fire station will be open as a warming shelter where people can come, have some coffee, get water and the latest information on the situation. We are in contact with Lincoln County Emergency Management giving us the latest updates. We will address any needs or concerns of our people until the emergency is over.

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yard or sheds.

DECEMBER 2014 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Coopers Mills Fire Dept. Anyone interested in supporting or learning more about CMVFD is welcome. We won't rope you into anything right off. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept. 7pm
- 2nd **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 3rd **Yoga**, Sheepscoot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Food Pantry Volunteer Set up 12 pm on, Help always welcome
 Call Mary Lemieux for more info 582-2684
Whitefield Historical Society, 6:30 pm
Mt. View Chamber Singers Perform, 'Carols in the Round', St. Denis Hall, 7 pm
- 4th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscoot General. 10 am
- 5th **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
Holiday Bazaar, Sheepscoot General, Gifts for sale 4-8 pm
- 6th **Christmas Caroling Concert and Sing Along, Arlington Grange 3-4:30 pm**
SVCA Annual Meeting and Holiday Potluck, SVCA office, Newcastle, 4-7 pm
Free Movie Night, Sheepscoot Valley Community Church, 6 pm
- 7th **Christmas Program** - Kings Mills Union Hall 3-5pm *Santa arrives at 4:00*
- 8th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. 7 pm
- 9th **Select Board** 6pm
Kings Mills Union Hall Board Mtg. 7 pm
- 10th **Yoga**, Sheepscoot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Pot Luck Supper, 7 pm Meeting All are welcome.
- 11th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscoot General. 10 am
RSU School Board Meeting, Chelsea School, 6:30 pm to 9 pm
- 13th **Benefit Supper for David Mason**, Whitefield School, 4-6 pm
- 14th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)** Whitefield School 6 pm
- 15th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 16th **Happy Chanukah**
Women of Whitefield, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 17th **Yoga**, Sheepscoot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Planning Board Fire Station, 6-8 pm
- 18th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscoot General. 10 am
Happy Farm Trail Opening, Recycling Center, 11 am
- 19th **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscoot General, 7-9 pm
- 20th **DRUMMING CIRCLE**: Open to the public, all ages welcome.
 Sheepscoot General, 6:30 pm
- 21st **C4 - Cookies, Caroles, Communion & Candles** Sheepscoot Valley Community Church 4:00 pm
- 22nd **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 23rd **Select Board** 6pm
- 24th **Yoga**, Sheepscoot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 25th **Merry Christmas**
- 26th **Happy Kwanzaa**
- 29th **Yoga**, Sheepscoot General, 6 am
- 30th **Select Board** 6pm
- 31st **Yoga**, Sheepscoot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary



Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com
 We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.

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For information, please call
 Joan Kierstead - 549-5019

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

You can receive the newsletter by email by signing up at www.townofwhitefield.com/Newsletter.html