

2016

Whitefield News

Whitefield Newsletter Team

Cheryle Joslyn

Andrea Lani

Colby Northrup

Joshua McNaughton

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Whitefield Newsletter Team, Cheryle Joslyn, Andrea Lani, Colby Northrup, Joshua McNaughton, Peter Froehlich, Tony Marple, Judith Robbins, Jim Torbert, Dennis Merrill, Mary Weiblen, Debbie Rogers, Sue McKeen, Dan Joslyn, Howard Tuttle, Kit Pfeiffer, Stephen Smith, Nathan Burns, Charlie Tobin, Karen McCormick, Chuck Vaughn, Martha Tait, Pam Kenoyer, Aaron Miller, Anthony Anderson, Ben Marcus, George Fergusson, Robin Chase, and Lucy Martin



Whitefield News

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Aunt Gin's: Whitefield's newest restaurant

by Cheryle Joslyn

If you haven't been to Aunt Gin's yet, you better put that at the top of your New Year's list. You won't be disappointed! Aunt Gin's, Whitefield's newest restaurant is ready to help you bring in the new year with family and friends and delicious dining. Owner, Steve Dumas, will be planning a special lobster casserole, and a lightly smoked prime rib; in addition to the many other creative dishes on the menu. Spacious and attractively decorated dining, comfortable seating, superb service, modern bar, and festive atmosphere will make you want to return often in 2016.

Steve (a Whitefield resident) and Wyatt Shorey have been in the food industry for more than 20 years with their successful enterprise, *Steve Dumas Catering*. They have won praise from many clients catered to over the years, as well as winning the 1st place award from the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce Expo in 2014 for their "unbelievable display of delicious confections". The transition from the catering business (which he continues to maintain) to the restaurant business was just a natural one for Steve. He always had an overriding interest in food. From cherishing his grandmother's many cookbooks to being inspired by his Aunt Gin of Norridgewock who always had something delicious on the stove, Steve is



Aunt Gin's Restaurant (Photo courtesy of Steve Dumas)

continuing the wholesome hospitality that only serving home-cooked food can bring.

Opening in August, Aunt Gin's has undergone the usual "unexpected" challenges that go with most new businesses, but one would never notice once you step inside to experience the "warm and delicious" smells of this welcoming atmosphere. Steve enjoys personally greeting his customers while his professional and dedicated restaurant staff attends to each patron's requests. Customers enjoy the reasonable prices, the fresh home-cooked food expertly served as well as the daily specials that are a notch above. **Continued on Pg. 2**

The Family Guide to Getting Outside in Winter

by Andrea Lani

After the holidays pass and Arctic air settles over the land, it's tempting to want to curl up by the fire with a cup of hot cocoa and hibernate until spring. But if you did that, not only would your kids start pole-vaulting the furniture, you would also miss out on the many natural wonders of winter.

It doesn't take much, besides determination, to get out in wintertime, but proper clothing is essential. Avoid cotton and dress the whole family in layers, starting with a thermal base, insulate with a fleece or wool sweater and pants, and top it off with a coat and snow pants, hat and mittens. Don't skimp on footwear—wool socks and a pair of warm, water-proof boots can mean the difference between a great day and a miserable one. Keep in mind that babies in backpacks or sleds don't generate as much heat as you do carrying or pulling them and will need extra layers.

Once outside, let your kids take the lead. From catching snowflakes on their tongue to building snow forts, they have a natural instinct for what to do with the white stuff. If you start to get cold or bored watching them have all the fun, hop on a sled or build a snowman.

Winter can be a wonderful time to discover some of nature's mysteries. Try catching snowflakes on black paper or cloth. Look at them through a magnifying glass and note how temperature and humidity affect the size and shape of the flakes. After a fresh snow, take to the woods on snowshoes or cross-country skis and look for animal tracks. What story are the tracks telling about the animals' activities? If you hear a chickadee nearby, make a "psh-psh-psh" noise and see if the birds come in closer to check you out. Notice if any of the chickadees' winter companions—nuthatches, woodpeckers, titmice—are among the flock. Challenge your children—and yourself—to find one natural object for each color of the rainbow. Winter may seem all gray and white, but when you look closely, you'll find it full of color. When you start getting out and enjoying all winter has to offer, you might find that the season passes a lot more quickly than it did from beside the fire. It might even end far too soon.



Photo submitted Andrea Lani

Auntie Gin's continued from Pg. 1
 "Nothing frozen or pre-prepared and no microwave allowed on the premises, so that means everything is made in house, to order," Steve proudly assures his clients. His organic produce, meat, fish, beer, roasted coffee, etc...are predominantly locally sourced from area vendors and farmer's markets whenever available.

Aunt Gin's employs 34 area folks and has plans for expanding in the summer with an ice cream stand, an outside deck, and hosting a farmer's market on the property. Aunt Gin's, located on Rt. 17 in Whitefield, about a mile west of the Windsor four corners, is open Monday-Wednesday from 11am - 8:00pm, Thursday 8am - 8:00pm (serving a scrumptious breakfast menu...you'll HAVE to try their famous warm Blueberry Bread Pudding with every meal!), Friday 8am-9:00pm, and Saturday/Sunday 7am - 9:00pm. They also have a large separate dining/banquet room dedicated the "Windsor Room" for your next family or social gathering, school event, fundraising event, or business meeting.

Aunt Gin's will be open for Christmas and New Year's! They will offer a dinner with your choice of turkey, prime rib, or ham, and that special lobster casserole with all the popular sides AND desserts! Please call for holiday reservations to assure seating (549-4600), and be sure to stop by Aunt Gin's often in 2016! You'll be glad they have located in Whitefield. (PS: Have you ever tried Fresh Dill Pickle Chips? It's on the menu. Now, that sounds interesting!)



Aunt Gin's Restaurant Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

A Young Deer Hunter's Story

by Colby Northrup

Before this year I had only been deer hunting 5 times and shot 3 deer; a 6 point, 9 point, and a 7 point. This year I had gone hunting about 15 times and had just seen does. On November 25, that changed. That was the day I shot my fourth deer.



Gramp, (Randy Northrup), proud dad (Matt Northrup), and "The Hunter" (Colby Northrup) - Nov. 2015 (photo courtesy of Northrup family)

My grandfather (Randy Northrup) and I went out to the treestand in the afternoon. We had been sitting there for a half an hour when a few does came out into the field. We watched them feed and play in the field for a while. All of a sudden, we heard something behind us in the woods. I knew it was a buck because I heard it grunting and scraping bushes. I got my .243 Wssm rifle up and looked at where I thought it would come out of the woods.

When the buck came out, it was walking towards the does and wouldn't stop when my grandfather grunted. I knew it wasn't going to stop, so I got steady and shot it at about 100 yards. It ran, but never left the field. My grandfather and I were pretty excited when we walked up to it and saw how big it was!

We called my dad, and he, my mom, and sister came out with the four-wheeler and wagon to get it. When we got it to the house, we took pictures and then brought it up to be tagged and weighed. It had 9 points and ended up weighing 188 pounds.

This was the best way to end a long hunting season, and I'm already excited for next year. As I am writing this, I'm leading the deer pool at Country Corners with only a few days left in muzzle-loading to go.

Arlington Grange THANK YOU!

The members of the Arlington Grange would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You to Steve Smith for the installation of their new septic system. The grange would not have been able to afford this much needed upgrade from the old outhouse without Steve's generosity in giving his expertise, time and equipment at no cost to the grange. Whitefield is truly a wonderful place to live and folks like Steve Smith make it that way!!!

St. Denis Whitefield food pantry cookbook!

The Whitefield Food Pantry Cookbook is now available at the Superette, Sheepscot General, Elmers Barn, Rideouts and the Alna Store. The book offers 525 recipes from area homes.

All proceeds for the cookbook will benefit the Food Pantry.

Each hardcover 3 ring style book will cost \$20.



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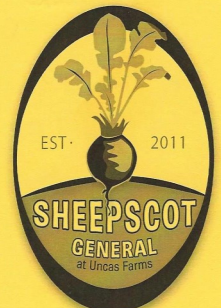
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Whitefield Pre-K off to a great start

by Joshua McNaughton (Principal)

Photo of Roland Kennedy cutting ice (circa 1947). The location is unknown. There were a few ideal locations to cut ice in Whitefield during winter, however, such as Weary Pond, Little Dyer, and the Basin at Coopers Mills. There were quite a few ice houses and cellars storing ice blocks for refrigeration throughout the long winter into late spring. Roland's family farm was at the site where Treble Ridge Farm (owned by Rufus and Alice Percy) now sits.



Photo from Glendron Jackson collection: courtesy of the WHS

Whitefield School opened its doors this September to a new Pre-K program. This full-day program currently has 15 students enrolled.

Planning and preparation for the arrival of our Pre-K students started during the 2014

-15 school year.

Through the help of grant funding and collaborations with Mid-Coast Head Start, a space within our elementary wing was transformed to suit the needs of four year old



Photo courtesy Whitefield School

learners. Changes included adding a bathroom and office space to a room previously used by kindergarten students. The changes did not stop there, new fencing was added to our new playground and work was done in the corridor outside the classroom to meet building codes specific to Pre-K programs.

To staff this new program, Mid-Coast Head Start provided us with teachers, Teresa Blachet and Jennifer Chapman. RSU 12 provided support staff, Marlo Young. This dynamic team is off to a great start and has become a delightful addition to our faculty.

The goal Whitefield School has had from day one was to provide a genuine school experience for these young learners. To do this we started by providing staff support on each bus run, both morning and afternoon. This allowed our Pre-K students door to door transportation; the same as we provide our K-8 students. Pre-K students receive the same lunch as all other students do. They attend our assemblies, participate in our Positive Behavior Intervention System, and have access to our library, music and art room, as well as the gymnasium for activities.

Pre-K staff Marlo Young describes the program as "a positive and enriching experience for our youth" as well as "a HUGE jumpstart for them developmentally and socially!" During a recent "special lunch" I joined our Pre-K students and staff for their daily family-style meal. I was greeted at the door with smiles and hugs. As I sat in a tiny chair at a very short table, I witnessed pure joy and excitement as students served themselves lunch. During our time together we shared stories about our favorite daily activities and what we "love about school". As you can imagine the response varied from "lunch" and "nap time" to visiting the library and coloring in the art room. One child perhaps said it best, "We love coming to school". My simple response echoed the sentiment of the Whitefield School staff and K-8 students. "We love having you here!"

Recent Select Board Activity

- Town Audit: the Town's accounting firm, Berry Talbot and Royer, presented the financial results for the fiscal year ended 6/30/15. Whitefield's net assets increased by \$98,000. The two largest reasons are a favorable expense budget variance and a large increase in excise taxes. The Select Board and the Budget Committee will be considering these and many other considerations in the preparation of the 2017 budget. Overall, the Town's finances are in very good shape.
- Homestead Exemptions are a valuation credit for a homeowner's principal residence and are set by State law. The exemption will be increasing in 2017 to \$15,000 per residence from the current \$10,000 and will increase further to \$20,000 in 2018. This is a significant benefit to taxpayers and has no impact on Town tax revenue.
- The Maine DOT has announced quite suddenly that the State-owned bridge on the Howe Road, considered beyond repair, would close on December 4th. The Fire Department and our plowing contractor, David Spicer, are making plans to adjust to the new reality.
- Residents with property on Clary Lake attended a recent Board meeting to discuss the impact of the reduced lake level on their property values. The Town assesses lakefront property at a fraction of that assessed by surrounding Towns; but nonetheless, the Board recognizes that a significant impairment has taken place. The board will further discuss the issue and take action on the requested abatements in time for the April 2016 valuation.
- The board voted to hire Darlene Beaulieu as Tax Collector. Darlene is a very capable individual with extensive experience in town finance and operations.
- Fire Chief Scott Higgins will be notifying residents of the need for driveways to be 12 feet wide and have 14 feet of vertical clearance to ensure timely fire and rescue response.
- The Alna Select Board has asked Whitefield to consider an agreement to keep Bailey Road open in the event of a local gravel company wanting to have the road discontinued. In exchange, Alna will plow the seg-

ment of the road in Whitefield. Alna will be proposing an inter-community agreement that will have to be approved at town meetings in both towns.

- (Notes extracted from Approved Select Board Meeting Minutes courtesy of Tony Marple (Select Board Member). More complete information can be obtained online at <http://www.townofwhitefield.com/SB%20Minutes%202015.html>, or by request of the Approved Minutes at the town office.)

JANUARY 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
Whitefield Food Pantry, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 2nd** **Annual Kid's Cross-Country Ski Clinic**, Excellent instructors will lead participants through fun games, and lots of exploring in order to learn the fundamentals of xc-skiing ages 5-12. *Limited scholarship positions available. FMI: write to andy@hvnc.org, or call 200-8840. Every Saturday until Feb. 6th
- 4th** **Coopers Mills Fire Dept.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept., 7 pm
- 5th** **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 6th** **Arlington Grange Pot Luck & Meeting**, 6 pm pot luck, 7 pm meeting.
Whitefield Historical Society meeting 6:30 pm
- 7th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 10th** **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 11th** **Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 12th** **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 14th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
RSU School Board Meeting Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 15th** **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 16th** **Adult XC-Ski Clinic** Saturday 1/16, 12-2:30 or Sunday 1/17, 12-2:30
 It's never too late to learn a new skill. Join a great set of instructors for a fun afternoon on snow! Bring your own skis, or rent a set for the day.
 Event Fees: Members - no rental \$ 15.00 Non-members - no rental \$ 20.00
 Members - with rental \$ 27.00 Non-members - with rental \$ 32.00
 FMI: write to andy@hvnc.org, or call 200-8840.
DRUMMING CIRCLE, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages
- 17th** **Adult XC-Ski Clinic** See Above
- 19th** **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 20th** **Planning Board**, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 21st** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Public meeting on Coopers Mills dam options, The Coopers Mills Dam Committee will be presenting its findings regarding options and recommendations for the Coopers Mills dam on January 21st at 7PM in the school gymnasium. The options include:
 1. Do nothing
 2. Repair the dam at Town expense
 3. Remove the dam and create public access along with historical and environmental displays at the dam site, fully funded by the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF).
 There is an important water source for the fire department behind the dam. There are engineering proposals for alternative sites within the river with some redundancy. These options, which would also be funded by ASF, deserve your careful consideration along with fish passage, historical, community and financial considerations.
 We encourage you to attend. Tony Marple
- 26th** **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 28th** **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 31st** **5th Annual Liberal Cup Biathlon at HVNC Expected to Sell Out**, On January 31st Hidden Valley Nature Center (HVNC) in Jefferson will host the fifth annual Liberal Cup Biathlon. All ages and skill levels are encouraged to participate! Registration fees range from \$10 to \$25. More details and registration information available online at <http://hvnc.org/biathlon-2/>. Registration is limited, and spots are filling quickly. Don't delay! If you're not interested in racing, please consider volunteering! If you're interested contact Andy (andy@hvnc.org, or 207-200-8840).



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

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Town Balloting Friday, March 18th, 2016 Town Meeting March 19, 2016

After several years of discussion, the select board has voted and approved a change in the schedule for Town Meeting. **Voting will be held on Friday March 18th from 4-8 and Town Meeting the next day at 10 am.** Many years ago, the meeting was held in the morning and voting was conducted during the meeting. This allowed the Town Meeting to be held in the beginning of the day rather than starting in the afternoon. It was discovered that ballot voting could not take place during a Town Meeting. The schedule was then changed to conduct the ballot voting in the morning and the public Town meeting in the afternoon. It is the hope that a 10AM Saturday morning Town Meeting will be more convenient and that it will improve attendance. **So, for the first time, balloting will be held on Friday, March 18th from 4-8 pm at the Whitefield Fire Station. Also, for the first time in recent years, the Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 19th at 10 am at the Whitefield School.**

Some items that will be considered at Town Meeting:

- ◆ Property tax deferral for seniors.
- ◆ Coopers Mills Dam removal
- ◆ Flood Plains Ordinance

Property tax deferral for Whitefield seniors

by Peter Froehlich

Our 2016 Town Warrant shall include an article which will, by floor vote, ask if the town will adopt M.R.S.A Title 36: Taxation Chapter 906-A: MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX DEFERRAL FOR SENIOR CITIZENS.



<http://static.bangordailynews>

What it boils down to in simple language is that if the town votes to accept the statute, property taxes will be deferred for folks if they meet certain specific eligibility rules.

The eligibility rules are:

- 1) The taxpayer must be at least 70 years old.
- 2) They must have lived in their home for the last 10 years.
- 3) They can't currently have overdue taxes.
- 4) Their Household Income can't exceed 300% of Federal Poverty Level. (Federal Poverty level is \$11,770 for individuals. 300% would = \$35,310. But this is the "Household Income". This means the combined incomes of all those residing at the home)

Continued on Pg. 2

Coopers Mills dam recommendation

by Tony Marple

The Coopers Mills Dam Committee, and subsequently the Select Board, have each voted unanimously to recommend removal of the Coopers Mills dam to the citizens of Whitefield at the March Town Meeting. After meeting for almost a year, the committee has worked with the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) and the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association (SWCA is now a member of the Mid Coast Conservancy) considering alternatives for the deteriorating dam, and refining the ASF/SVCA proposal to remove it and enhance the site. The committee has also evaluated dam repair options ranging from approximately \$50,000 (preliminary estimate) of simply repairing the culverts, one source of leakage, to a full restoration costing \$462,000 or full leakage control costing \$363,000. Since none of these three options would adequately promote fish passage, the ASF would not fund the dam repairs and the town would be responsible for funding them.

As presently formulated, the ASF proposal would accomplish the following:

- ASF would construct three dry hydrants for the fire department. Two hydrants would be located upriver from the current dam site and a third would be located on the upstream side of the West Branch of the Sheepscot River behind the log yard on Route 17. The current hydrant behind the existing dam works well except during periods of low river flow. The new hydrants are designed to provide year-round water for the firefighting; ASF will guarantee their smooth operation for three years.

- ASF will fund a \$30,300 maintenance account for the hydrants, to be held by the Town of Whitefield on behalf of the Whitefield Fire Department for future maintenance or repairs.
- ASF, at its sole expense, will remove the spillway and leave portions of stabilized abutments and mill foundations for historical interpretation.
- ASF will enhance the site with landscaping designed to interpret the history of the dam and its mills, educational information about migrating fish, and improved public safety and access. The final site design details will be worked out by a small committee established by the town
- ASF will donate \$7,500 to the Town of Whitefield to be held for future maintenance and repair of the site's enhancements.
- ASF will donate \$25,000 for a fund to be held by the Town of Whitefield to help pay for protection of and improvements to river access in the town of Whitefield such as trails, canoe access, and additional river restorations as needed, in cooperation with the citizens.



Coopers Mills Dam Photo by Tony Marple

The Select Board and the dam committee will continue to refine the agreement between ASF and the Town, pending approval at Town Meeting. There would be no taxpayer funds used to implement the project.

Deferral from Pg. 1 The "home" refers to the homestead, the house and property where the homeowner lives and is being taxed, not other property (s) which the individual may own.

It works like this:

The Town places a lien on the property; the same as with other "tax acquired" property, but the big difference is that it can't become a "tax acquired property" (and sold). Under this "Deferment", when the person moves, sells their home, or dies and bequeaths their home, the town collects the back taxes, plus the regular interest, plus an extra .5% for the paperwork. The upper limit (300%) was put into place to allow for unforeseen catastrophic expenses in the year of application (medical, major repairs, etc.), otherwise the upper level of income would allow for the payment of taxes in order to avoid any interest. That's pretty much it for requirements.

The intent of the Statute and the Town's article is to allow assistance to qualified individuals who wish to remain in their homes while unable to increase their income (without the fear of having their homes seized for non-payment taxes), but are reluctant to ask for what amounts to what they might consider "charity". Currently, the Board of Selectmen may or may not, at their discretion, grant a "Tax Abatement". This means that the owed taxes are waived, and the back taxes, with interest are lost to the town. With "Deferment", if the criteria is met, the applicant cannot be refused, and the property taxes will just be postponed with the town eventually recouping the revenue.

Charlie Tobin Plucking Winter Memories

From My Lips To Her Ears by Charles Tobin

Yet again, I awoke with an intent to put into words a memory of an earlier time; one that came rushing back to my mind like an icy blast of cold air you might encounter rolling down your car window in February to pay an upcoming toll...long before the toasty warm convenience of E-Z Pass. To what did I owe this poignant awareness of weight? It was a very comforting weight encompassing my entire body, accompanied by a strange urge to remain completely still, lest any movement on my part would break the idyllic warmth and the blissful security. God, bless it, our house was as cold as a snowbank, or so it seemed to me. The weight was the layers of blankets upon my bed, and I would pull them over my head so my breath would help to heat up the space, and I would practice paralysis, so my feet would never drift to an "unwarmed" portion of sheet that never got warm unless you were laying on it, no matter how high the blankets were piled. Why was that, do you suppose? With reluctance teetering on phobia, inevitably, I would force myself to move out from under that ponderous weight of heavenly blankets and dash to stand on the only hot air register in my room; hoping, just hoping, that the blower was on. The sun was up, and it was Saturday, and no, the blower wasn't on, yet again.

Even to this day, when I see someone blow their warm breath on a cold window so they can trace a face or whatever, I remember my window was as dazzling as a kaleidoscope; millions of miniature prisms refracting the light from the frost that seemed constant from Thanksgiving to Easter on each individual pane. My room was on the same side of the house as the driveway, but I could only tell if we had company if their muffler was missing. I soon found it was a waste of time to scrape my window, only to have it frost up once more before I finished getting dressed. We had a wood furnace in the



Photo by Tony Marple

cellar, and I recall it was always a little bit warmer as I descended the steps to open the damper and then the door, stir the embers and start to feed the beast. The beast be fed, the door be shut, the flue be set, and I be hungry...how it all comes back, even to this day.

No earthly reason (Mom was a stickler on self-reliance); there was no earthly reason, as far as she could see it, why a boy my age couldn't iron a shirt, do his own laundry, and make his own breakfast. Yup, "must do's" as far as she was concerned; throwing in a threat of sewing, just to be factual in the discourse. How cleverly she was able to combine lessons of nature, anatomy, and religion in the span of only six seconds. It was only reasonable to ask if there were no "earthly reason", was there a heavenly reason? Sitting on the couch, from my lips to her ears, it was like a *Nat Geo* special on pumas - their speed and grace, uncoiling before my very eyes - the space that separated us was no more the body part of lip had nothing to do with being chapped, bruised, blistered, ashened, pale, but was rapidly approaching the chance of becoming fat, and that it was within her ability to make it possible for me to ask that very question, in person, up close, directly, if I didn't get out of her sight. So, hey, why not whistle while you worked? The Seven Dwarfs did it all the time, ironing wasn't so bad, and where else were you given carte blanche to play with chemicals as you honed your washing skills. To this very day I can make toast and pour cereal with the best of them. Sure wish Mom was here today to explain to Congress about "no earthly reason".

- Don't deserve...a great old Maine adage goes, "If you can't handle our winters, you don't deserve our summers!" Now it was never a matter, as I saw it, of handling winter. It was no secret that most folks felt that the handling part was clearly on the side of winter. To me and others like me, it was a matter of surviving it; especially if you get banished from the house for a demeritable act with the peace of mind that the fresh air is good for you. "Don't come in until I call for you".

I had no clue then that I was being asked to play and have fun in what was tantamount to a Siberian gulag on a real nice day by their reckoning. Make the most of it, I guess. Well, I'm out there, might as well do a little exploration down by the brook. Bundled up akin to a mummy walking in unsteady lunges through the snow, I slogged in the direction of the brook. "Hey, rabbit tracks", I think. "More tracks over there. Surely, a deer came through here last night or this morning! What the heck kind of animal made these tracks over here, do you suppose? Funny-looking, for sure! May as well body slide down to the ice, the leeward side of the bank still's got crust on it. Hey, that was fun; got to do that again. Well, maybe a little later. It's a long way back up. Hey, I'm not quite so cold down here in the gully. And look at that, would ya! A frozen water trail disappearing around those bends, but easy walking, for sure. Not sure if I could hear Mom call down here, but it's sunny, and it's Saturday! Maybe the adage is all wrong. Maybe it's the beauty of winter we don't deserve".

Maybe do it again. Now, as the days tick by with the rapidity of an untended locomotive, many are the times that I harken back to snippets of threads that together as a whole have woven the cord of my time here. They are fun to pluck out and inspect with older eyes, though older sometimes no less childlike in the appreciation of awe to revisit an event or accomplishment with clarity and maybe compassion that was not available at the time of the thread being woven. If you like, and are not bored with my plucking, we'll maybe do it again.

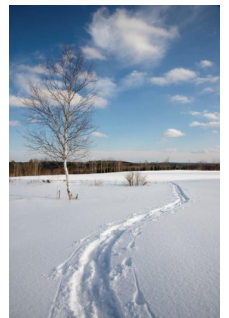


Photo by Tony Marple



Photo from the Glendon Jackson collection: courtesy of the WHS

Photo of Roy Hapgood (b.1887-d.1963), grandfather of David Jackson, taken sometime in the late 1920s at his home on Rt 218. David grew up at this homestead which most recently is known as the "Bradford place". David recalled that his grandfather (who plowed the roads in winter) "made this two part rig with his Cletrac Dozer which he would drive into the framed plow structure, and the plow wings had to be manually lifted with chains. The only heat was from the dozer engine." As a boy, David played atop this abandoned plow contraption which was discarded across the road for a number of years.



(Photo courtesy of: <http://cdn.farmersalmanac.com/wp-content/>)

The Valentine's Day storm of 1940 caught everyone off guard. 60 mph winds left 10 ft. drifts in some areas. It claimed 31 lives in New England and took several days to clean up.

Winter Poems

by Judith Robbins

Metaphysician in Overshoes

Thoreau walked in overshoes
across the tundra of Walden Pond,
fish wondering at the winter fool
as they sleepily watched his shadowy foot
pass over, truant from another school
treading ideas as they did water
in the open stillness of life alone.

Q. Why Don't You Move South for the Winter?

It's as simple as rosy fingers of dawn
at quarter of seven
reaching to God's line of vision

as simple as crow pecking at bones
on the compost heap
covered with snow

as simple as branch of stag sumac
rimed in frost
already anticipating night's cold

when we will sit by candlelight
watching the fire
refusing the flip of a switch.

There They Go

The split tips of winter fingers
begins today with the left thumb.

The unrelieved chapped skin
divides with a silent sigh, only

noticed when the throb sets in
pushes up like an infant's lips

crying for sleep or food or
drink, any form of relief.



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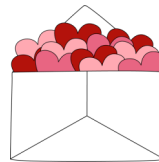


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FEBRUARY 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **Coopers Mills Fire Dept.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept., 7 pm
- 2nd **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 3rd **Arlington Grange Pot Luck & Meeting**, 6 pm pot luck, 7 pm meeting.
Whitefield Historical Society meeting 6:30 pm
Floodplain Management Ordinance The Planning Board is scheduled to meet 6 p.m. at the Whitefield Town Office at 36 Townhouse Rd. to discuss the proposed floodplain management ordinance. This proposed ordinance is scheduled to be voted at the annual Town Meeting on March 19, 2016.
- 4th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 5th **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 6th **Annual Kid's Cross-Country Ski Clinic**, Excellent instructors will lead participants through fun games, and lots of exploring in order to learn the fundamentals of xc-skiing ages 5-12. *Limited scholarship positions available. FMI: write to andy@hvnc.org, or call 200-8840. Every Saturday until Feb.6th
- 8th **Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 9th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 11th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
RSU School Board Meeting Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 14th **Valentine's Day**
Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA), Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 16th **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 17th **Planning Board**, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 18th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 19th **Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscoot General, 7-9 pm
- 20th **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscoot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages
- 23rd **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
Select Board, Fire Station, 6 pm
Public Hearing on deferred property taxes for qualified elderly citizens. Whitefield Fire Stations, 6 pm
- 25th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am



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



A Thank You to our youth -from the community

Whitefield School's National Junior Honor Society was very busy just before Christmas vacation. The students, under the direction of Miss McCormick, cooked approximately 100 pounds of turkey as well as potatoes, squash, and stuffing. They put together 100 meals and delivered them to people in our community. The group selected people who may have been shut in, elderly, or just needed some cheering up to know that someone was thinking of them during the holiday season. They plan to make this a yearly event, so please let them know if you have someone to add to their list for next year! Thank you, from all who received this kind gift of caring.



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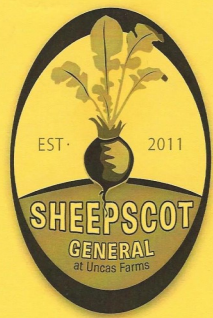
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March 2016

Whitefield Town Meeting Balloting Friday, March 18th, 2016 Meeting March 19, 2016

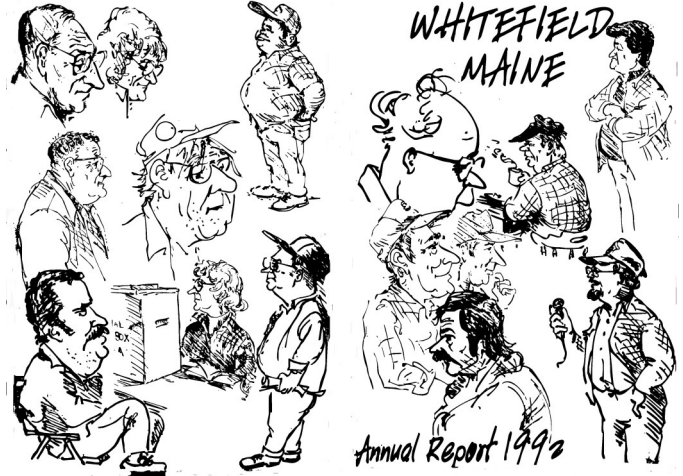
By Tony Marple

This year's Town Meeting will take place on Friday, March 18th from 4 to 8 PM for ballot voting and Saturday, March 19th for the open Town Meeting beginning at 10 AM. The reason for the time change is to make the meeting more convenient for residents and to improve attendance. While many people prefer the old schedule when ballot voting took place before and during the open Town Meeting, State law doesn't allow simultaneous floor and ballot voting.

In addition to the municipal budget, townspeople will consider a ballot initiative to remove the Coopers Mills dam and two new ordinances.

* A proposal to remove the Coopers Mills dam spillway and replace the current dry hydrant with two sources upriver from the dam and a backup site on Route 17, along with dam site improvements and educational displays, would be funded entirely by the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) and Midcoast Conservancy (MC), formerly Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association. Additional ASF and MC funding would be used to set up Town-managed funds for the maintenance of the hydrants and the dam site improvements, along with \$25,000 for improved river access throughout town, including trail construction. No town funds will be required if the proposal is approved.

* The citizens will consider a Flood Plain Ordinance. The ordinance would impose some development restrictions within the relatively nar-



row federally mapped flood plain, but would offer flood plain property owners access to federally-subsidized flood insurance and would also allow the Town to apply for FEMA disaster relief in the event of a major weather disaster.

* Peter Froehlich has asked that the Town consider an ordinance that would allow seniors over 70 who have owned their primary residence in Town for at least ten years and have household incomes below 300% of federal household poverty levels to defer taxes with accrued interest until they either move out of their residence or die and pass their property and deferred taxes with accrued interest on to their heirs. This ordinance **Continued on Pg. 2**

Maine Maple Sunday in Whitefield

by Kit Pfeiffer

March usually means maple sugar in Maine. Last year the sap run was so late that Maine Maple Sunday hosts had to buy syrup "from away" to treat their visitors to the traditional maple syrup on vanilla ice cream. However, this winter's persistent warmth has allowed many producers to start tapping as early as late January. This year Maine Maple Sunday on March 27 should provide lots of local syrup, and the boiling-off season may be all over by then. Ah, Mother Nature!

Whitefield resident Sandy Benne's new sugarhouse on the center Hunt's Meadow Road will be open for business on March 27. He built it three years ago with wood harvested from his own property. (If you have walked on the public-access Marr's Ridge Trail, you probably noticed the building and the tubing network.) For over thirty years, Benne has been managing his woods to favor sugar maples. He now has 550 taps, and in four years, he should have 800. The wood-fired evaporator can handle up to 1,200 taps.

Three connected networks of gravity-feed plastic tubing lead to his three holding tanks; one right by the sugarhouse and two at the bot-



Sandy Benne at his Hunt's Meadow Road sugarshack Photo by Kit Pfeiffer

tom of the drive. He has to pump that sap up the hill with a generator. Benne chose the hillside location, however, because as he said, "I've always liked this spot. I'm happier here."

The plastic tubing is installed at a 3% slope, strung between maple trees wrapped in wire with a high tensile strength to withstand heavy windfall. Ingeniously, a weaker wire is used to attach the length of tubing to the tree trunks. If a large branch should fall on some tubing, for example, the

weaker wire around the tree trunks will break first, releasing the whole system of tubes to fall to the ground, hopefully, undamaged.

Benne's operation gets under way with tapping in the second to third week of February, and the season lasts three weeks to a month, depending on the conditions. Marilyn Monroe is the muse of the sugar house; smiling down on the huge evaporator from her perch on a large poster on the wall. The evaporator boils off sap for 8-10 hours each day, and Benne hires an assistant during that time. "I can't even read a short **Continued on Pg. 3**

Town Meeting from Pg. 1 falls under State Law 36 MRSA, Section 6271, et. seq., and has, to date, only been adopted by Wells.

Regarding the Whitefield municipal budget, the total amount that would be raised from taxes will decline modestly. The budget would continue the second year road funding under the Road Committee long range plan as discussed at last year's meeting. At the recommendation of the Road Commissioner, the Budget Committee and the Select Board, there is a proposal to purchase a used grader for up to \$95,000 out of surplus to replace the current unusable grader.

The Town is fortunate to be in very good financial shape, and we propose to fund the \$95,000 grader and reduce taxes by \$155,000 using a total of \$250,000 in surplus.

While the Select Board and Budget Committee recommend levels of spending that will reduce the mill rate attributable to the municipal budget, we do not yet know Whitefield's share of the RSU 12 and Lincoln County budgets, and the mill rate is the product of all of those budgets.

This year in particular, there are many issues to discuss in detail at Town Meeting. There will be displays and handouts to further explain the dam proposal and the new ordinances. Very soon the Town Report will be available at the Superette, Country Corners, Sheepscot General and the town office, while supplies last. Copies of the budget and the Town Report are available on the Town website, and there will be handouts at the meeting. We really would like you to attend.

On the Ballot, Friday, March 18th 4-8 pm

Two seats- Selectmen 3 year term (CONTESTED)

Tony Marple
Frank Ober
Bruce Mathews

Road Commissioner 1 year term (UNCONTESTED)

David Boynton

Planning Board (CONTESTED) Two positions 2 year terms

Jim Torbert
Mike Panosian
Jacob Mathews

School Board

1 year term (UNCONTESTED)

Terri Blair

3 year term (NO ONE TOOK OUT PAPERS) WRITE IN

Many Thanks, Jim!

Jim Torbert has been tirelessly working for the Whitefield Newsletter since we began in July 2013. Jim has been the driving force in funding the newsletter and has been getting sponsors for the newsletter ever since we started. Without our sponsors, we couldn't do this.

Jim works in many areas of our town including the Planning Board, MOFGA and the Lincoln County Democratic Committee to name a few.

We are looking for someone to fill the void left by Jim's departure from the group so, please let us know if you might be interested in helping the Whitefield Newsletter continue. The job entails checking with our sponsors to see if they would like to have an ad in each month. Contact Debbie at 549-3491 or Cheryle at 549-7305.



The kids will be coming soon @ Fuzzy Udder Creamery

by Cheryle Joslyn

To most of us "locals", March means but one thing...two more months of mud season (hopefully that is all!). However, at Fuzzy Udder Creamery on Townhouse Road, March signals a lot more than that. Jessie Dowling is pulling her boots on for lambing and kidding season. From her 14 sheep mamas and her 14 goat mamas she expects around 55 babies. Her barns will be getting very full and she and her crew will be very busy!

Two winters ago, Jessie moved into the old Townhouse Creamery across from the Town Office in Whitefield. She has a flock of sheep originally from EllsFarm Sheep Dairy in Union and goats that hail from Appleton Creamery where Jessie worked for five years with Caitlin



Photo Courtesy of Fuzzy Udder



Photo Courtesy of Fuzzy Udder

Hunter of Appleton Creamery and learned the fine art of cheese making. She buys organic Jersey cow milk from Two Loons Farm in South China. This increases her supply during the winter months and keeps her producing cheese all winter until she can begin milking her own goats and sheep again in March. She has a large cheese-room where she makes a variety of fresh and aged cheeses. You can stop by her creamery to buy gouda, swiss, tomme, aged goat cheese, Waldo Smog, and of course much more once Spring and Summer arrives.

You might also be interested in helping Jessie's business grow by signing up for Fuzzy Udder's CSA which works as a line of credit at area farmers markets and/or at the farm to purchase lamb, goat, mutton; as well as cheese. If you sign up before March 1, you get a 15% discount. Please stop by or call to sign up.

Plan to visit Fuzzy Udder in March to meet the adorable bouncing kids!

(Call 549-3817 for arrangements or email Jessie at fuzzyudder@gmail.com. The sales fridge for cheese and freezer meat is self serve 24/7.)



Church School (era 1947)

This is a picture of the Church School in North Whitefield. It was located about halfway down the hill from St Denis. Jane Chase remembers being thrilled when it was her turn to be one of the students who went up to the St Denis Rectory with a pail to get water to put in the blue striped crockery so everyone would have something to drink with their lunches. Out in back of the school were teeters and swings. There was also a baseball field directly across the road for Fall and Springtime fun. In the Winter, kids would slide down the hill in the road. The picture was taken circa 1946. The sign on the front reads "Official Salvage Depot". Janet McBride remembers that children used to bring scrap to school for the War Drive.

Photo from the David Field Collection: courtesy of the WHS



Church School 1954-55 Grade 1-4
Jane's (2nd row, 2nd from left) classmates at the Church School. Do you recognize these smiling faces?

Mary Edgerly Creamer Celebrates 102 Years

Whitefield proudly wishes long-time resident, Mary Edgerly Creamer, a very Happy Birthday! Mary will celebrate her 102nd on March 26 in her favorite manner (welcoming visitors, surrounded by family and friends, sharing cake and ice cream, and opening her birthday cards).



Mary was born in Augusta, and moved to Whitefield when she was 5 years old, and she has lived

here ever since. In 2010 at 95, Mary was presented with Whitefield's Boston Post Cane to honor her as our oldest resident. Her father had also been a recipient of this honor in 1968 at the age of 94, and her brother, Loring, of Woolwich also received the Boston Post Cane in 2013 at 97. The Plains of Whitefield must have been a good healthy place to grow up.



Congratulations and Best Wishes, Mary!

Sugar Shack from Pg. 1 story while I'm on duty. There is so much moving around you have to do," he tells me. He does have a steam-away, an electric-powered machine that greatly speeds up the evaporation process, but he rarely uses it. It's for future use when he can get his sugarhouse hooked up to power. Anyway, he says he doesn't like the noise it makes!

So if you want to visit a quiet, peaceful maple sugar operation on March 27, drive over to center Hunt's Meadow Road. You can also enjoy a hike on the Marr's Ridge Trail while you're there!

For an interactive map of sugaring operations open on Maine Maple Sunday, March 27, visit <http://mainemapleproducers.com>. One Whitefield operation is listed there: Tim's Sugarshack on Rte 126 across from the grange, inviting you to "come and watch a back yard sugar house. Walk thru the sugar bush, watch us make syrup on a wood evaporator, and enjoy a dish of ice cream with maple syrup on it."



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MARCH 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 2nd **Arlington Grange Meeting**, 7 pm
- Whitefield Historical Society** meeting 6:30 pm
- 3rd **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 4th **Whitefield Food Pantry**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 5th **Republican Caucus**, Lincoln County will hold its biennial convention at: Wiscasset High School 225 Gardiner Rd., with the Presidential Preference Pole to elect our next presidential candidate. Also, all towns in Lincoln County will be caucusing at 11am at the Wiscasset High School. FMI contact Bill McKeen at 446-8991.
- Birdhouse Building Workshop**, Walker Elem. School, Liberty. This free, hands-on workshop will include: time to build a birdhouse, a demonstration of how to mount bird boxes, and discussion of ideal placement to attract bluebirds and tree swallows. news@midcoastconservancy.org.
- 6th **Democratic Caucus**, Wiscasset High School, 10 am. The Democratic State Convention will be May 6 & 7 in Portland. Coming up sooner are the party caucuses. Democrats from Whitefield and other towns along the Sheepscot River will caucus on Sunday, March 6 in the Wiscasset Elementary School Gym, located at 83 Federal St (Rt.218), with registration beginning at noon and delegate selection beginning at 1:00 pm. Details and FAQ's can be found on the web at <http://www.lincolncountydemocrats.com/>.
- 7th **Coopers Mills Fire Dept.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
- Kings Mills Fire Dept.**, 7 pm
- 8th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 9th **Lincoln County Community Health Forum** community discussion about the issues that affect us most. Please join us to share your thoughts and ideas about making our community the healthiest it can be! Let's tackle these challenges together. 3-5 pm, Wiscasset Community Center, 242 Gardiner Rd. Wiscasset For more info contact Mike Glennon at (207) 563-4834 or mike.glennon@lchcare.org
- 10th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- RSU School Board Meeting** Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 12th **Astronomy Night, 6-9pm** we will have a Waxing Crescent Moon, one of the best times to observe the craters on the Moon, and an opportunity to observe Earthshine. A Lunar phenomenon where sunlight is reflected off the Earth, gently illuminating the full disc of the Moon. We will meet at HVNC's education center, The Barn. When you arrive at the main gate, walk 1/3 mile past the gate on the service road. Come prepared with snowshoes or skis if necessary. CLOUD DATE: Sunday March 13, 7-10pm.
- 13th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 14th **Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 15th **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 16th **Planning Board**, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 17th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 18th **Town Balloting, Whitefield Fire & Rescue 4-8 pm**
- Open-Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 19th **Town Meeting, Whitefield Elementary School, 10 am**
- DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages
- 22nd **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- Full Moon Hike**, Join us for a walk through the woods under the light of a full moon! The length of the walk will be determined based on weather, but will be appropriate for most ages. We will be on snowy trails, and in the woods. After the walk we'll all gather around the woodstove. Please meet at the gate a little in advance of 7:00pm so that we can all walk without leaving you behind! Come dressed for the weather - i.e. warm boots, hats, gloves, etc. There is a suggested \$5 donation for this event. Individuals of all ages are encouraged to attend! Register at <http://hvnc.org/events-and-workshops/>
- 24th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 29th **Select Board**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 31st **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am



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Ballot Results of Town Meeting

By Dennis Merrill

The voting for Town officials was held this year on the Friday preceding Town Meeting. This voting time seems to have worked out well for most people.

In the election for two open Selectman seats, Tony Marple and Frank Ober were elected with 152 and 133 votes, respectively. Bruce Mathews was a close third with 130 votes.

The Planning Board was also a contested race. Jim Torbert (155 votes) and Jake Mathews (123 votes) were elected. The third candidate, Mike Panosian, was subsequently appointed by the Select Board to fill the remainder of the term of Carl Ribeiro who recently resigned from the Planning Board.

In uncontested elections, Road Commissioner David Boynton was reelected and Terri Blair will serve a one year term on the Board of RSU 12.

No one took out nomination papers for another RSU 12 board position for a three year term. Several write-in votes were received. Details are available from Aaron Miller at the Town Office.

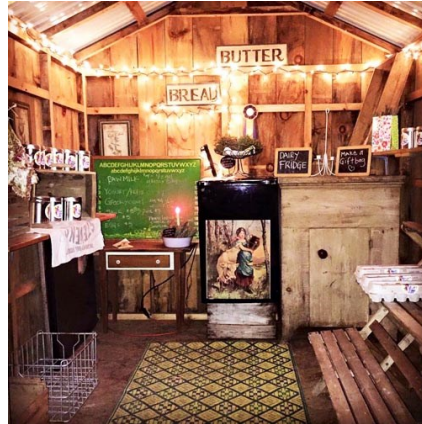
Finally, the Select Board recently learned that the Town's third RSU 12 board member, Malinda Caron, has resigned. The Select Board will now need to appoint a person to fill out the balance of that term.

The Tiny Farmstand in Coopers Mills

by Cheryle Joslyn

Our very own Coopers Mills has been noted over the years for many small (and a few rather large by Maine country standards) family owned and operated businesses. Once Upon a Time...there were sawmills, shingle mills, gristmills, blacksmith shops, general stores, barber and beauty shops, a gun and fur trading supplier, auto repair, tinware factory, boot and shoe factory, a jewelry repair shop, hotel, a railroad depot, just to name a few. The remnants can be seen of some of those businesses as you drive through the village, but did you know that today Coopers Mills has another notoriety? It is known for the location of the "tiniest Farmstand in Whitefield". Don't let size fool you, though. It is a flourishing business that is surprisingly much bigger than it looks!

Swallowtail Farm and Creamery, along the banks of the Sheepscot River in Coopers Mills, opens the doors to its tiny Farmstand at 8:00am, 7 days a week. Local village folks have known this for quite some time and have been purchasing fresh award



The tiniest Farmstand in Coopers Mills (courtesy Swallowtail Farm)

winning cheese such as ricotta and mozzarella, hard cheeses, Greek style yogurt and smoothies; either plain or with seasonal fruits, kefir, skyr, meat products, butter, fresh eggs and milk, seasonal veggies, honey and beeswax products, herbal products, syrups and elixirs, soaps, confections and pastries, and much much more that is stored inside this little 6x6 space on Main Street. So now the cat is out of the bag...and Swallowtail Farm and Creamery is growing!

Whitefield is proud (rightly so) of its young

generation of farmers and its energetic cottage industry entrepreneurs. The Swallowtail Farm and Creamery started with one jersey milk cow making delicious creamy yogurt for family and friends, to the tiny Farmstand on Main Street, to farmers markets in Damariscotta, Brunswick, Portland, and a variety of other markets, to old fashioned farm kitchen CSA's, and now to a cafe **Continued on Pg. 2**

Town Meeting

By Tony Marple

The Town Meeting held at 10am on Saturday March 19th was well attended with approximately 120 participants and lasted approximately four hours. Unlike most previous meetings, the focus was on four significant proposals including two ordinances. The following is a summary of the substance and outcomes of those proposals.

A proposal funded by the Atlantic Salmon Federation to remove the Coopers Mills dam, create a historical and ecologic education site at the dam, replace the existing fire hydrant behind the dam with three new redundant hydrants along with funding for maintenance, a donation to create improved river access elsewhere in town and a donation for the replacement of the Finn Brook culvert on the Vigue Road was approved by a wide margin.

An ordinance to establish a flood plain ordinance, provide access to federally subsidized flood insurance and to FEMA disaster relief funds was also approved by a wide margin.



Whitefield Town Meeting Photo by Debbie Rogers

A proposal to adopt an ordinance that would allow seniors 70 and older whose income is below 300% of federal poverty guidelines to defer taxes with interest until they move or die was defeated by a narrow margin

A proposal to allow a third party to place solar panels on the fire station roof providing electricity for all town buildings with a likely town buyout in the 7th year passed by a wide margin. **Continued on Pg. 2**

Swallowtail from Pg. 1 opening soon in the Portland Farmers Market, as well as future plans for a full creamery operation in South China. Winning three American Cheese Society awards last year for its Ricotta Salata, Caramel Sea Salt Greek-style Yogurt, and Original Cream Top Jersey Cow Milk Yogurt, Sean and Lauren Pignatello are dedicated to keeping their farm fresh goodness and gourmet taste that they started out with feeding their seven growing children.

Surprisingly to some, it was Lauren's experiences growing up in the Bronx, New York that lead to the path that she and her husband Sean now travel. She rode horses, explored the woods near her Irish family home, became intrigued with a nearby apothecary and spent time studying herbs, developed a passion for reading such authors as Willa Cather and the pioneer favorite, Laura Ingalls Wilder, loved cooking wholesome foods, and knew that someday she wanted a large family. She met Sean over 20 years ago and moved to Maine. At the time, Sean was a

carpenter, but also had experiences in farming with Bowdoinham friends. And now...20+ years and 7 beautiful children later, Sean and Lauren have taken their knowledge and skills to a level that is providing a living for their family. Granted, it may seem overwhelmingly hectic in their world at times, but they find time to carve a little quality time for one another; even if its over a morning cup of coffee in their family kitchen.



Swallowtail Farm: happy-healthy faces!
(courtesy Lauren Pignatello)

Raising even one child teaches us that sitting still too long usually is not a good option, but I'm sure that rarely is even a choice when there are seven children to care for. Lauren and Sean are not sitting still. Their retail business is expanding to a Saturday cafe (Milk and Honey) at the newest Portland Farmers Market location where they will feature their many dairy products, grilled cheese sandwiches, tonics and elixirs, baked goods, herbs, and even herbal education classes. Fortunately, Lauren loves to cook. If you would like to share in some of what the Portland Farmers Market will be sampling this Spring and Summer, you can sign up for the Swallowtail Farm CSA. Once a week for 6-8 weeks, you can pick up your share of delicious goodies right here in Coopers Mills or at one of the other local farmers markets. Enjoy Lauren and Sean's creative CSA share of dairy, fresh organic veggies, a bounty of wholesome homemade foods, baked goods, meats, herbal products, and more. It's an old-fashioned farm kitchen CSA. Call them soon at 837-3601. Ask for their pricing about what your family needs...and of course, the little Farmstand is still open 7 days a week. The Swallowtail Farm and Creamery (tiny as it may seem) brings you a bounty of delicious and "good for you" foods and herbal products. The Pignatello family is anxious to serve you!

Town Meeting from Pg. 1

The town budget articles passed largely unchanged with the exception of the Hatch Hill landfill fee which was reduced by \$12,000, half of which was transferred to the assessing account where a bidding process is planned with the remainder used to reduce taxes. There was a modest increase in funding for Maine General Hospice. With large surpluses generated by the town in each of the last two years, the town will use up \$95,000 of that money for the purchase of a used replacement road grader with \$150,000 to reduce taxes. With the RSU 12 budget likely to increase by 1.7% or less and the Lincoln County budget undetermined at this time, taxes will be unchanged or down slightly. After the completion of voting, citizens raised the issue of poor cell phone coverage in certain parts of town and the town's very restrictive cell tower ordinance. With at least two property owners in town willing to accommodate towers, the Planning and Select Boards will update the ordinance for a town vote.



Whitefield Town Meeting Photo by Debbie Rogers

Young at Heart Seniors Invitation

By Mary Weiblen

Young at Heart Seniors (organized as a senior group in 1975) hosts 74 members with approximately 50 attending meetings at any given time. The group will meet Wednesday, April 27 at noon at the Whitefield Lions Den for a noon pot luck dinner, a short business meeting, and a musical program by Bonnie Hendsbee.



Bring either a casserole, main dish, salad, or dessert to share....Membership is open to seniors 50 and older, their spouses, and the disabled. Meetings are the 4th Wednesday of the month (April - October) with a change in the week for Nov. and Dec.

Socializing with other seniors and enjoying activities such as musical programs, silent auctions, bingo, speakers, a trip to the Cohen Center, a catered Thanksgiving dinner, and a gift exchange with Santa are very special times...

Officers are: Mary Weiblen, Pres. (549-5041)
Beverly Jewett, VP
Arlene White, Clerk (549-7937)
Ernestine Sproul, Treas.
Debbie Gray, Chaplain

If you have any questions, please contact the Young at Heart President or Clerk.

Whitefield Historical Society
"Just Yesterday"



Photo courtesy of the Whitefield Historical Society

The Douglas Store stood at the top of Grand Army Hill beside the Arlington Grange Hall which can be partially seen in the background. The exact year it was built by Jason Carlton is unclear, but it is believed to be circa 1870. A couple of years later, Jason built a house across the road. He ran the store until 1881 when he sold the store to Frank Douglas. Frank's son, Ed, took over the store circa 1900.

In 1905 the New England Telephone Company extended a line into Whitefield located at the store. You can see the phone sign in the photograph; the Post Office was also housed there for years. The upper floor housed Town Offices and was the site of local business meetings. There was an ice house at the back. There was a tie up for horses, and as automobiles started replacing the horses, Ed installed gas pumps. The store carried yard goods, embroidery floss, thread, candy, ice cream, grain, harness equipment, ice, kerosene, rubber boots, and even plug tobacco.

Ed married Belle Fowles in 1902 and they ran the store together until Ed died in 1931, and then Belle ran it alone until it burned in the fire of April 10, 1948. That fire also burned several other buildings in area.

Remember to purchase your CSA

by Debbie Rogers

Yay, it's spring, and happily it feels that way as well. Hopefully this year gardens can go in earlier than last year. And being spring, it's time to think about signing up for Community Supported Agriculture or CSA.



Many, many farmers in the area offer CSA's for everything from vegetables, fruits and meats to flowers and even baked goods. The process generally is that you pay up front for a CSA and then during a period of time, usually in the summer, you receive the products and goods that are involved in the agreement, like produce.

Rather than list the many folks that offer CSA's in our area I suggest you contact one of the local farms to see what is available in town. It really is a wonderful way to support your local farmer and eat very well.

Open House at CMVFD April 3
Outside it looks just the same –
but inside



IT'S ALL BRAND NEW!

Come check it out, and help us celebrate. The old firehouse was completely gutted – right down to the frame and totally rebuilt inside: wiring, plumbing (including an ADA compliant bathroom), insulation, heat, and even new fire code compliant stairs to the upstairs meeting room. Raising the money to accomplish it has been a long tough process, but everyone agrees it was worth it. On top of that, it is debt free. After much discussion, it was decided that the younger members shouldn't be saddled with a mortgage, so any money raised from now on can go to upgrading the outside of the building, improving other parts of the property, or upgrading equipment.

SO - come help us celebrate, check out our new (renewed) firehouse, and have a cup of coffee and some goodies. We will be there from 2:00 to 4:00 Sunday, April 3rd. Hope to see you.

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APRIL 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 3rd** **COOPERS MILLS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT. OPEN HOUSE** -come help us celebrate, check out our new (renewed) firehouse, and have a cup of coffee and some goodies. We will be there from 2:00 to 4:00 Hope to see you.
- 4th** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT., 7 pm
- 5th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 6th** **ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING**, 7 pm
WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY meeting 6:30 pm
- 7th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 9th** **SPRING NATURE JOURNALING - BIRDS** -Hidden Valley Nature Center, One In this one day workshop we'll use our nature journals to learn more about the birds that populate our fields and forests. We'll employ a variety of nature journaling techniques--from field sketching to detailed drawings. 10 am—3 pm
- 10th** **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 11th** **PRUNING WORKSHOP**—Midcoast Conservancy will host a wild apple pruning workshop, (April 18th is the rain date) at Trout Brook Preserve in Alna. Liz Stanley, from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension will be offering this 2 hour workshop. Meet at the Trout Brook parking area a little before 2:00 so we can get started on time. news@midcoastconservancy.org or (207) 389-5150.
- 12th** **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 14th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 15th** **OPEN-MIC NIGHT**, Sheepscoot General, 7-9 pm
- 16th** **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscoot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages
- 19th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 20th** **TRAIL RUNNING SERIES** -Join Midcoast Conservancy and Trail Monster for a fun, casual 6 week trail training series each Wednesday April 20 to May 25 at Hidden Valley Nature Center. Each week runners of all levels can start their run between 4:30 and 6pm. We will have a 3 and 6 mile course marked. You're encouraged to sign-up for all 6 weeks, but day-of registrations will be accepted. Dogs are welcome on leash. (207) 389-5150.
- PLANNING BOARD**, Fire Station, 7:00 pm
- 21st** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 22nd** **EARTH DAY BOG WALK**—HVNC—10:30 am—12 pm. To register, go to hvnc.org/registration
EARTH DAY VERNAL POOL EXPLORATION -HVNC- 12:30-2:30 pm To register, go to hvnc.org/registration
- 23rd** **CHAINSAW SAFETY LEVEL 1** HVNC is offering this one-and-a-half day course is designed for beginners. Most participants have little or no experience with a chainsaw, though this course is also an effective refresher for more experienced individuals who have developed some bad habits with a saw. This is the gateway course to learning more advanced practices. Scheduled for the 23rd and 24th. (207) 389-5150.
- 24th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 26th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 27th** **TRAIL RUNNING SERIES** (see above)
- 28th** **YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS**, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 12 pm
TIMBER FRAME WORKSHOP—4 day workshop though April 1st. Students will work in small groups over the course of 4 days to learn the basics of timber frame construction, and ultimately to build and erect the frame of a small building. HVNC - hvnc.org
- SPRING SONGBIRDS** This class can deepen your experience of the wonders of spring with beautiful bird photos and recordings of singing birds. 6-8 pm. HVNC.
- SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am



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

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

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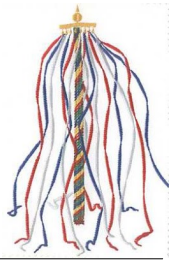
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Whitefield News

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Important notice from Select Board

The ordinance entitled "Property Tax Deferral for Senior Citizens" shall be added to the June 14th R.S.U. 12 budget vote as a separate question. At their meeting April 19, the Select board, in discussion with residents, agreed that the initial vote at the March Town Meeting was not counted reliably and that a written ballot would more accurately reflect the will of the residents of Whitefield. Also, the Planning Board is proposing a modification of the Town's cell tower ordinance in response to citizen concerns expressed at Town Meeting. The revised ordinance will allow the construction of one or more cell towers in town to deal with the current "dead zones". A public hearing on both matters will be held on May 18th, 7 pm at the town firehouse.

Whitefield School Library to be open for summer

By Sue McKeen

On a cold winter day last January, seven year old Quinn Conroy began thinking about summer. When he thought about summer vacation, he thought it is sometimes boring. Since Quinn loves to read, he had an idea. Like any American citizen exercising their right to free speech, he put his #2 pencil to paper, wrote a letter to the Whitefield Board of Selectmen and signed it with a flourish from "Your Citizen Quinn".

Quinn asked the Board to have a library in Whitefield. The Board responded by suggesting that perhaps the school library could be open for several hours each week during the summer. The Board set up a meeting with principal Josh McNaughton to discuss the idea of opening the school library during the summer months. At that time, McNaughton stated the school had tried to fund a position for just that purpose, but due to budget constraints, so far, they have been unable to do so. The discussion continued, and it was suggested that if community volunteers could be solicited, the library could be open for several days a week during the



summer. To date, the community response has been overwhelming, with many volunteers eager to help.

In the early 1970's the existing Whitefield school library was started by a volunteer effort initiated by Jane Hellegers, a lover of books, Ann Weiss, a writer, and Kathy Webber, a librarian. The library continued to be staffed by volunteers for several years until a paid position was

established. Many of the community members who plan to volunteer today are the same folks who stepped up in the 1970's.

The group plans to meet with school librarian Marcie Abbott to review library protocols and set up a summer schedule. According to McNaughton, if the school budget passes in June, they are planning to lay new carpet in the library and plan to begin work as soon as possible after the close of school on June 17th. McNaughton hopes the library will be ready by the week after July 4th.

If you are like a lot of us who played library with our parents' books, which we dutifully ink stamped and dated, you will love volunteering in a real library; although I think the old ink stamps are gone. For more information about volunteering at the library, please call Sue McKeen at 446-7473 or Josh McNaughton at the school at 549-7691.

Survey reveals something old and something new

By Sue McKeen

At town meeting in March, many residents took part in a survey which was initiated by the Board of Selectmen in an effort to find out what is on people's minds.

In the realm of what we think of Whitefield and why we live here, it is not surprising that the majority of comments were centered around the



Whitefield Town Meeting Photo by Debbie Rogers

rural character, nice neighbors, space, small town, and country living (the same premise and theme that runs throughout the town's adopted comprehensive plan). Some newer comments praised our young dedicated farming community - which, by the way was featured in Downeast Magazine's April issue. Many pointed out the need for better cell phone coverage and internet access. Some commented on the need for more community activities, to develop a better sense of community, and to coordinate volunteers. One comment advocated for a streetlight at #218 and #126, and there were several comments about Clary Lake.

Several people lamented the many regulations that seem to have crept insidiously into the very fabric of our quiet rural lives.

Other comments concerned the school and the need for more resources and a better physical plant. On the other side of the spectrum, several commented about the need to address the needs of our growing elderly population. Taxes, not surprisingly, were front and center with the need to keep the town an affordable place to live. Also, everyone loves the fourth of July parade; for which Whitefield is known far and wide.

The survey revealed the town feels a change in the town office hours on Mondays to 3pm to 7pm would be just as convenient as the current hours of 4pm to 8pm. This question was part of the survey when our town clerk approached the Board about changing the hours because the office is very quiet from 7-8pm, and the change in hours would enable staff to get home earlier on Monday nights. Additionally, the survey showed the town likes the change to written ballot voting on the Friday prior to town meeting; that people read The Whitefield News, but don't use the town's Facebook page in large numbers; that the respondents prioritized protecting open spaces in town, think our snowplowing and sanding is being handled well, and would like the school library to be open for summer hours. **Continued on Pg. 2**

Survey Cont. from Pg. 1 When asked what committees would be useful in making Whitefield a stronger community, respondents indicated (in order of importance) the Recycling Committee, Conservation Committee, Trails Committee, Recreation Committee, Newsletter Committee, Economic Development Committee, Community Events Committee, and Roads Committee.

Surveys are always handy tools for planning, but surveys are only as good as the initiation of the next step. Volunteers are the backbone of a community and without that support, a town will not stand. Volunteers come in all stripes, and they are always welcome. Come to a Select Board meeting, speak up, step up, and be heard.

Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit 12 2016-2017 Budget

Howard Tuttle Sheepscot Valley RSU 12
Superintendent



The Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit 12 2016-2017 Budget Available to Taxpayers for Review The Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit budget for 2016- 2017 has been finalized and was unanimously approved by the RSU 12 Board of Directors on April 14, 2016.

This budget is now being sent to the citizens of RSU 12 for approval. The approval process is a two step process. The first step takes place at the District Budget Meeting on May 19th at 6:30pm in the Chelsea Elementary School gym. All RSU 12 voters are encouraged to attend this meeting where adjustments can be made to individual cost centers of the budget and eventually approved by the voters at the budget meeting. The budget is then sent on to step two of the process. Step two of the process is when all voters of RSU 12 can vote to validate the whole budget that was approved at the Budget meeting.

The RSU 12 Board of Directors is recommending a budget of \$20,875,996 which is a 2.9% increase in spending. After accounting for state subsidy, other revenue, and the district cost sharing formula, this means the Town of Whitefield will see a 1/2 % increase over last year. This represents a \$9,616.41 increase to the town of Whitefield. This increase is approximately five dollars for every \$100,000 of property value owned. Other towns will see differences in either increases or decreases as this is the last year of the new cost sharing formula phase in. All towns will be paying the same amount per student in fiscal year 2017. The overall increase in local costs is 2.8%.

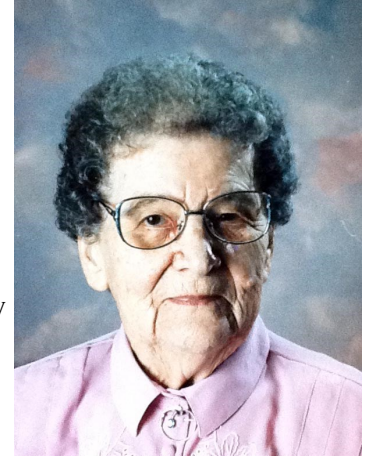
The RSU 12 Board of Directors strongly and unanimously recommends this budget. The proposed budget continues to reduce and streamline administration while building on efficiencies throughout the district. The RSU 12 Board of Directors is confident that this budget sustains, reinforces, and improves upon our successes as a district while adapting to be creative and successful with educating all of our students. The Sheepscot Valley RSU 12 school district includes the towns of Alna, Chelsea, Palermo, Somerville, Whitefield, Windsor, and Westport Island. The RSU 12 vision is to "build a foundation of lifetime learning for our students, families, and communities." You can learn more about our schools and more details of the RSU 12 budget by visiting our website at www.svrsu.org. I look forward to working with the community and continuing to strengthen the collaboration between the member towns in RSU 12 to provide a school system where our students can find success.

Gram's World

by Dan Joslyn

My maternal grandmother was born on Moody Mt. in Searsmont on April 17th, 1909 during the time of barefoot summers, horse and buggy, and walks to the spring. Many of us had Grams like her.

She gave me a small notebook before she passed; inspired, I think, by my frequent comments about old sayings and how "neat" they were. I found it again one rainy day in early March this year. Some old words of wisdom:



-Weather-

- If it thunders in February, there will be frost in May.
- In the old days, people had their way of judging weather (it may not work now).

"Dark of the moon" is time from full moon to the new moon. "Light of the moon" is from new moon to the full moon.

- If cattle went up on a knoll to lie down, the saying was, "Cattle on the hill, we will have water for the mill".
- The weather on the last Friday of the month will rule the weather of the following month.

-Farming-

- To improve growing turnip, use 1 tsp of household ammonia to five gallons of water, and water the plants.
- Grafting: Use beeswax, mutton tallow, rosin, and linseed oil. These will not run in hot weather or peel in cold weather.
- Water can be found by "witching" with a green branch from certain trees like applewood.
- Apple trees do not like wet feet.

-Hard Times-

- "Depression Plant"... a lump of hard coal. Put it in an earthenware dish. Add 6 tablespoons water, 6 tablespoons salt, 6 tbsp blueing, 2 tablespoons ammonia, 2 tsp red coloring, then dot coal here and there with red coloring. Set back and watch it grow.

-Medical-

- Learn to recognize poison ivy by this warning; "Fingers three...turn and flee".
- Stepping on sharp objects: put a few clean wood ashes in a pan and pour in cold water. Bring to a boil, and strain through a clean cloth. Then, soak the foot for a few minutes, and cover.
- A thin piece of salt pork will draw out infections.
- If you have a hard-to-remove splinter, take an egg, and break it (save the egg). Take a bit of the lining from the shell and smooth over the "hurt". This will dry and irritate, but will draw out the remaining object. May need to repeat in some cases.
- Alfalfa Mix for arthritis:
- Mix 2 tbsp. alfalfa seed, a little water (maybe a pint). Simmer a while (about twenty minutes). Bring to a boil. Then cool. Add enough water to make a quart. Drink a glass full before breakfast and another before bed. This does not keep well, so make only small amounts.

Gram, Continued on Pg. 3

Whitefield Historical Society
"Just Yesterday"



Photo courtesy of the Whitefield Historical Society

If you grew up in N. Whitefield in the 1950's, you probably remember Ivy Tukey and her husband Fred. They lived "in a house inside a house" on the Hilton Road. Ivy worked sometimes at what is now the Superette, and is seen here with one of her many cats. Do you remember this old-time local character? If so, please share your story with the Historical Society.

May Baskets

By Cheryle Joslyn
 Maybe there really was a time when America was more innocent.

Back when May Basket Day was a thing, perhaps. The curious custom — still practiced in discrete pockets of the country — went something like this: As the month of April rolled to an end, people would begin gathering flowers and candies to put in May baskets to hang on the doors of friends, neighbors and loved ones on May 1.



In some communities, hanging a May basket on someone's door was a chance to express romantic interest. If a basket-hanger was espied by the recipient, the recipient would give chase and try to steal a kiss from the basket-hanger.

Perhaps considered quaint now, in decades past May Basket Day — like the ancient act of dancing around the maypole — was a widespread rite of spring in the United States. Do you remember this Springtime tradition? (photo and caption courtesy: <http://www.npr.org>)

Gram, Continued from Pg. 2

-Cooking-

From Aunt Lil's recipe (Edna Glidden's mother):

- When dry curing hams with fine salt, saltpeter, and brown sugar, it will not last long unless you have a cool cupboard and a strong lock.

-Believe it or not-

- Skunk oil, rendered from skunks is good for croup - rub on chest.
- Warts are caused from handling toads.
- Misc: When shoestrings lose their tips, dip the ends in finger nail polish
- Boils and other such "risins" are caused by impure blood. You should eat sorghum molasses and onions to help get rid of them.

-Gossip-

- There is so much good in the most of us, so much bad in the best of us, it scarcely behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us.

Senior Scramble results for Sheepscot Links

April 18, 2016.

Winning Team: Terry Washburn, Heidi Washburn, Tom Atticks, Carol Juchnik. 65.

Long Drive Women: Janet Ray,

Long Drive Men: Terry Washburn,

Closest to the Pin #2: Glenn Bangs, 13'4",

Closest to the Pin, #8: Janet Ray, 16'11",

April 25, 2016

Winning Team: Keith Sproul, Al Gifford, Bob Bell, Ken Anderson.

Long Drive Women: Heidi Washburn,

Long Drive Men: Ken Anderson,

Closest to the Pin #8: Pat Sweet 5'3"

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MAY 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 2nd** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT., 7 pm
- 3rd** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 4th** **ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING**, 7 pm
WEDNESDAY WALKERS—Wednesdays from May 4 into the Fall, join a group of intrepid hikers, led by a rotating roster of guides, to discover new trails throughout the Midcoast area. Hike locations and times are emailed to members of the Yahoo Group; to sign up, go to https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/wednesday_walkers/info
TRAIL RUNNING SERIES -Join Midcoast Conservancy and Trail Monster for a fun, casual 6 week trail training series each Wednesday April 20 to May 25 at Hidden Valley Nature Center. Each week runners of all levels can start their run between 4:30 and 6pm. day-of registrations will be accepted. Dogs are welcome on leash. (207) 389-5150.
- 5th** **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** meeting 6:30 pm
SENIOR MEN'S GROUP, Sheepscot General, 10 am
SPRING SONGBIRDS In this class we will explore the mysteries and challenges of migration, and the diverse nesting needs of both migrants and overwintering birds which are returning to breed in Maine. We will also focus on methods of songbird identification, including visual cues, behaviors, habitat and song. Register at <http://hvnc.org/registration> Great Salt Bay Community School 6-8 pm Follow-up birding field trip with Jody on May 7 from 7:30-10:30 am.
- 6th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 8th** **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 9th** **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 10th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 11th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE MAY 4TH**
TRAIL RUNNING SERIES - SEE MAY 4TH
- 12th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 13th** **MWSC MTN BIKE TRAINING** The Maine Winter Sports Center will be hosting their annual Mountain Bike Trainer Training at Hidden Valley Nature Center. Over the course of the two day workshop MWSC instructors will lead participants through their approach to leading mountain bike programs. 9-4 May 13th & 14th
- 15th** **MACROLICHENS CLASS** 9am – 12pm at HVNC Barn At Hidden Valley Nature Center. Event will include indoor time and time to explore if weather is appropriate.
- 17th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 18th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE MAY 4TH**
TRAIL RUNNING SERIES - SEE MAY 4TH
PLANNING BOARD, Fire Station, 7:00 pm
- 19th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 20th** **MAINE GUIDE RECREATION COURSE** Course topics include map & compass use, canoeing, stand-up paddle boarding, Maine boating regulations, risk management, leadership, rescues and advanced strokes, and group safety. For more information or registration, please call 207.236.8797 or email Tim Barker tim@mainesport.com Cost—\$495. 3 day course May 20th—22nd. PRICE: \$495
WHITEFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DAY OF CARING. Students in all grades will perform community service projects, including spring clean-up for the elderly, planting pumpkins for a PTA fundraiser sale in the fall, installing benches on the new Sheepscot West Branch Trail. For more information, contact Karen McCormick at the school, kmccormick@svrsu.org.
- OPEN-MIC NIGHT**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 21st** **CHAINSAW SAFETY LEVEL 1** \$130 Midcoast Conservancy Members, \$150 Non-Member
 To register go to: <http://hvnc.org/events-and-workshops/?month=may&yr=2016>
- 24th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 25th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE MAY 4TH**
TRAIL RUNNING SERIES - SEE MAY 4TH
- 26th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 27th** **YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS**, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 12 pm
- 28th** **KINGS MILLS UNION HALL HAM/BAKED BEANS/MAC & CHEESE SUPPER** 5-7 pm
- 31st** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm



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Volume 3, Issue 12

Published Monthly

June 2016

Senior Tax Deferral Ordinance and Amendment to Wireless Communications Ordinance on June 14 ballot

By Sue McKeen, Dennis Merrill and Tony Marple

The question of whether or not the town should adopt a Senior Tax Deferral ordinance is back in front of voters for consideration on the June 14th ballot when the town will also cast votes for the RSU budget as well as an amendment to the town's Wireless Communications Ordinance.

Many comments have been made regarding the decision of the Board to put the ordinance back before the town after it was defeated at the town meeting in March. Peter Froelich, who originally approached the board regarding the Senior Tax Deferral Ordinance, asked the board to put the vote back before the town on the June ballot due to concerns about the manner in which the votes were counted at town meeting. The majority of the Board concurred and voted to return the question on the June ballot.

A public hearing was held on May 18th. It was sparsely attended, but several considerations were put forth. Listed below are some of the items discussed. First, the basic criteria for the program include the following:

(In order to qualify for the deferral)

- The taxpayer must be at least 70 years old
- They must have lived in their home for the last 10 years

- They cannot currently have overdue taxes
- Their household income cannot exceed 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. Household income is the combined incomes of all individuals residing at the home. (300% of the Federal Poverty Levels for a 1 person household, \$35,310.00, 2 person household \$47,790)

(Looking at both sides of the question, below are several points people should consider)

Pros:

- Would assist impoverished elderly residents, some of whom may have high medical expenses, and most of whom have limited options to improve their finances
- Deferred taxes will carry an accrued interest rate higher than market rates for mortgages (at least in the last ten years) and a lot more than the town earns on its surplus cash. The interest and principal are secured by the house and land
- Would allow homesteads to remain in the family
- Could be part of a larger plan to assist elderly residents
- Can be repealed in any future year; though deferrals in place at the time must be honored

Continued on Page 2

Grand opening of the new Sheepscot West branch trail

By Kit Pfeiffer

The Whitefield Trail Committee invites one and all to attend the grand opening of the new Sheepscot West Branch Trail on Saturday, June 4 at 9 AM (rain date Sunday, June 5 at 1 PM). Meet at the trail head on the North Howe Road (come down from Rte 17), adjacent to the discontinued bridge. Parking is at the Salmon Preserve lot. After a brief opening ceremony, committee members will take groups out for a walk on the trail. Wear sturdy shoes and comfortable clothing, and bring your camera!

The Sheepscot West Branch Trail starts with a brief uphill section that rises to a beautiful overlook of the falls just upstream from the bridge. According to local lore, a deep pool below the falls makes a good summer swimming hole. As the trail drops back down to the river, there are some hand-quarried rocks and sections of wire cable that are evidence of earlier settlers. Large flat rocks at the river's edge in several spots make for a great picnic spot. Watch for eagles and osprey who fish the river, as well as beaver, otter and fisher.

The riverine buffer protects stretches of important salmon habitat, and it also provides refuge for a diversity of aquatic and terrestrial animals such as frogs, salamanders and turtles. They feed on insects



Photo by Kit Pfeiffer

and other invertebrates in the river and share these dining areas with salmon.

The trail crosses two intermittent streams, traces several sharp oxbows in the river, passes several vernal pools and in about half a mile forms a key-hole loop which can be traversed in either direction. Part of the loop follows an old logging road. The total distance from

the Salmon Preserve park-

ing lot out and around the loop and back again is a moderately easy 1.5 miles.

Special thanks go to the Midcoast Conservancy (formerly Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association), which holds a conservation easement on the irregularly-shaped buffer zone along the river, and to landowner Ellis Percy, who purchased the property in 2012 and has graciously given permission for this trail to be opened to the public.

For more information about the new trail and activities of the Whitefield Trail Committee, contact kit_pfeiffer@yahoo.com or call 446-9768.

Cons:

- Number of qualifying residents who would apply is very uncertain
- Taxes for non-qualifying residents, many of whom are impoverished, would increase in the short term
- The ordinance, under state law, cannot include an asset test
- Since there is very little experience in other towns with this law, it makes it very difficult to predict the future outcome, positive or negative
- Other alternatives are available: poverty abatements, select board working with resident to take no action, private financing such as home equity loans
- 300% of federal poverty level is high in a rural town such as Whitefield
- Possible adverse impact on next of kin who must pay the tax bill if applicant hasn't fully informed them
- Town could be stuck with poor quality properties or liabilities for clean-ups
- Properties do not have to be insured, putting town's equity at risk
- Mobile homes could be removed from town

Amendment to Wireless Communications Ordinance

During the public hearing on May 18th, several residents raised concerns about the impact of cell towers in town. The proposed amendment would make a single change in the existing ordinance to allow an increase in the height of wireless communication towers in town.

The maximum height would go from 120 feet to 199 feet, which is the maximum a structure can be without having lights to meet FAA regulations. Nothing else in the ordinance would change and the type of tower - a monopole - would remain the same.

Some considerations discussed at the hearing, include the following:

- The purpose of the change is to make it more practical for cell phone companies to locate new towers in Whitefield and thus improve cellular service to residents
- Since the present ordinance became effective in 2004, much has changed in telecommunications, and with cell phones now being such a large part of most people's lives, the need for full dependable coverage has become far more important
- Having more towers, whether in Whitefield or in the area, could help to fill in some of the gaps in coverage that affect people in town
- On the down side, taller towers can create a greater visual impact that is a concern for many people. At the hearing, a consultant working for a cell phone company indicated his client was considering installing a new tower in town and this ordinance change would be very important in finalizing that decision
- Any company wishing to locate a cell tower within the Town of Whitefield must submit an application to the Planning Board.

Kings Mills Fire Dept. Auction and Union Hall White Elephant Sale

Tired of those miscellaneous items cluttering your home or garage? When's that last time you plugged in that lava lamp or hopped on that old Nordic Trac and went for a "ski"?

Don't let these and other things overtake your home. Donate them to the Kings Mills Volunteer Fire Association for their annual Fourth of July auction. We are looking for usable items that others may still want.

For more information, contact KMVFD President Jeff Newell at 207-624-2268.

If you have a donation for the Union Hall White Elephant Sale, contact Judy Maldovan at 549-5664

Kings Mills Cemetery Volunteer Work Bee

On Saturday, May 14, six community members met at the Kings Mills Cemetery to mend leaning fences, cut brush, and level loam.

Ernest Martin and Barry Tibbetts (right) can be seen preparing to pull the posts in. The fence posts had been embedded in cement years before, and the frost had tipped the fence toward the road. After digging down along the cement, the posts were pulled in level and back filled.



Lori Ford (right) has just finished leveling loam that Phil Russell kindly donated. His hidden shaded smile is due to his nearly being done with the shoveling and raking. Nearly a truck load of loam was used.

Gerry Gensell leveled loam and he and Phil Russell placed hay and grass seed on each site that was improved. Phil also cut brush up along the back of the cemetery, and Dan Joslyn hauled loam around for the leveling jobs.

On Tuesday, the following week, Whitefield School teacher, Karen McCormick, brought a student group to help Phil and Keith Sanborn place flags on all Veterans' stones. Over two hundred flags were placed in a flash, and the students will come back to help remove them before winter arrives.



Summary of recent Select Board activity

The Road Committee and David Boynton have agreed to send out a request for proposal to pave the Vigue Rd from the Howe Rd to the Windsor town line, the Somerville Rd, the eastern side of the Sennott Rd, and the Windsor Rd.

The Town will also be issuing a request for proposal for assessing services. The plan is to move from an employment arrangement to an independent contractor.

Concerns have been expressed by several citizens about areas in town where broadband internet service is unavailable. High speed broadband has become important for those working from home either with an employer located elsewhere or a local business. The Town is investigating options to try to solve the problem.

The Town will be establishing an Economic Development Committee. The goal of the committee is to encourage business development in such a way that will have minimal impact on the pastoral qualities of Whitefield. Business development would increase the Town's assessed value, thereby reducing the mill rate and taxes for homeowners. It could also provide local employment. If you'd like to participate in the committee, please contact Sue McKeen.

The Town has purchased a 2001 Caterpillar road grader for \$60,000, significantly below the amount approved at Town Meeting.

Residents of the Howe Road would like to have a foot bridge over the closed Northy bridge. The DOT plans to remove the bridge and will not fund a footbridge. Other options will be considered.

Discussions and plans for the elderly tax deferral and cell tower ordinance were major board discussion points and are covered in a separate article.

The Town approved a plan to have solar panels installed on the fire station to meet all of the Town's electricity needs. The plan was based on the concept of "net metering" which is currently in place in the state, but at significant risk going forward after the narrow failure of the legislature to overturn the Governor's veto of LD1649, the solar bill. Under net metering, any surplus power from the solar panels is sent back to the utility. The solar installation is given credits for that surplus to use during nighttime, rainy days, etc. Since net metering is definitely at risk, the board has decided to defer the solar project at least until the PUC clarifies their position on the issue.

Stephen Smith

Food Forge, Maine's newest fully licensed shared commercial kitchen and business incubator has opened in Whitefield. The idea for Food Forge began in 2014, when Milva and Stephen Smith set out to transform an old, abandoned restaurant kitchen into a very unique facility.



Photo contributed by Milva Smith

After doing some research, they discovered there was a growing need in Maine for affordable licensed commercial kitchen space that could be rented by food startups, caterers, food trucks, preppers and other specialty food producers who have outgrown a home kitchen. They also offer guidance and assistance with licensing and other small business needs. "My husband and I are big believers in supporting small businesses," says Milva Smith. "Between the two of us, we've owned and operated several small businesses.

The time for Food Forge has definitely come. We want to help food startups get off the ground and succeed."

They designed the kitchen to suit many different needs. It works equally well for hands-on cooking classes as for food packaging and recipe development. The equipment list is extensive and includes a commercial stove with hood, convection oven, fryolators, refrigeration, freezer, a meat slicer, and more. Other equipment is available on request.

Located in small a sheep farm, Food Forge also offers an attractive banquet room that can also be rented with or without the use of the kitchen.

Food Forge is located at 17 Mills Rd, Whitefield, Maine. For more information, call (207) 941-1199.

Check them out on facebook or visit their website

www.mainefoodforge.com



Summertime card game (circa 1916)

This picture is on the lawn of the late Dr. Hutchinson's house at 433 East River road. The barn in background collapsed during a wind storm in 1922. The ledge is still visible from the road and the other barn is still there and is now painted red.

Left to right in the photo:

- Weston Lewis whose wife, Lena Tullock, was born in the house and she died there in 1955 at the age of 93. He was a teacher and then the principal at Williams school in Augusta.
- Stephen Hopkins from Newton, Ma, who graduated from Harvard and then enlisted in WWI. He was an aviator and was killed when his plane was shot down over France.
- Dr. Earl Hopkins, father of Stephen.
- Fessenden Turner (1846-1927) was a carpenter. Fez built Andrew Berry's house at 399 East River Rd for his daughter. It was in a room at that house that the 1st Whitefield Library was established.

Senior Scramble results for Sheepscot Links

May 9, 2016

Winning Team— Al Gifford, Glenn Bangs, Bob Bell, Ken Anderson
 Long Drive Men, Terry Washburn
 Long Drive Women, Heidi Washburn
 Closest to the Pin #8, Laughton Jewett

May 16, 2016

Winning Team—Ken Anderson, Rich MacDonald, Carol Juchnik, Tom Atticks
 Closest to the pin #2, Janet Ray.
 Closest to the pin #8, Larry Sikora.
 Longest Drive Women, Carol Juchnik.
 Longest Drive Men, Terry Washburn.

May 23, 2016

Winning Team, Larry Sikora, Tom Atticks, Dave Davies and Clint Averill.
 Closest to the pin #2, Heidi Washburn, 8'6".
 Closest to the pin #8, Rich MacDonald, 11'10".
 Long Drive Women, Janet Ray.
 Long Drive Men, Terry Brackett.

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JUNE 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** **ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING**, 7 pm
WEDNESDAY WALKERS—Wednesdays from May 4 into the Fall, join a group of intrepid hikers, led by a rotating roster of guides, to discover new trails throughout the Midcoast area. Hike locations and times are emailed to members of the Yahoo Group; to sign up, go to https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/wednesday_walkers/info
WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY meeting 6:30 pm
- 2nd** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 3rd** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
CONSERVATION MOWING FOR GRASSLAND BIRD HABITAT by Laura Suomi-Lecker, Somerset SWCD June 3, 2016 6:00 pm
- 4th** **HOOKED ON FISHING AT DAMARISCOTTA LAKE**, 9am – 3pm Damariscotta Lake State Park, Jefferson. Bring the kids to Damariscotta Lake for a free day of fishing! Equipment is provided and experienced anglers will take children ages 5-15 out on the lake to give fishing a try. Lunch will be provided by the Whitefield Lions Club and families are welcome to enjoy a day at the Park. Registration info at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hooked-on-fishing-2016-registration-24996869309>. FMI contact Garrison Beck: 207-389-5157.
- 5th** **WILDFLOWER WALK**, Hidden Valley Nature Center, 10 am—12 pm
- 6th** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT., 7 pm
- 7th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 8th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE JUNE 1ST**
- 9th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 10th** **RECESS FOR HOMESCHOOLERS, TIME IN THE WOODS WITH OTHER KIDS!** Come join us for RECESS! For Homeschoolers—a chance to connect with each other for larger group games, just hanging out, and exploring the Nature Center trails, wildlife and water at the end of the week. This will be an open, casual, all-ages gathering where kids can decide how they want to pass the time. Each RECESS there will be the chance to join in a planned group game or activity, help out with a work project, hike, bike, canoe, or just be with friends— same goes for parents and caregivers! For more information on Hidden Valley Nature Center and for directions, go to HVNC.org We will meet at “The Barn” which is a half mile walk in from the parking lot, on the following Fridays from 1-3pm. . . Come to one or all, and you don't have to sign up. We will resume again when the Fall rolls around.
- 12th** **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 13th** **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 14th** **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING VOTE ON THE TAX DEFERMENT FOR THE ELDERLY, AMENDMENT TO THE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS ORDINANCE AS WELL AS THE RSU BUDGET VOTE. MAINE STATE PRIMARY ELECTION - WHITEFIELD FIRE & RESCUE ON TOWNHOUSE RD. 8 A.M. TO 8 P.M.**
WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD, Sheepscot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 15th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE JUNE 1ST**
- 16th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 17th** **OPEN-MIC NIGHT, featuring Pixie Lauer & Dan Townsend** Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 18th** **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm.
 Open to the public, all ages
- 21st** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 22nd** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE JUNE 1ST**
YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 12 pm
PLANNING BOARD, Fire Station, 7:00 pm
- 23rd** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 24th** **6TH ANNUAL CREAM SOLSTICE WITH LIVE MUSIC AND FREE ICE CREAM** Come help us celebrate Sheepscot General's anniversary! 5:00 pm
- 28th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 29th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE JUNE 1ST**
- 30th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am

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Whitefield News

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Volume 4, Issue 1

Published Monthly

July 2016

May the 4th Be With You!

by Nathan Burns

Ever since I can remember, the Kings Mills 4th of July parade has been something I've looked forward to and enjoyed. I have very vivid memories of standing on the side of the road and collecting candy being thrown from the various floats and fire trucks. In the summer of 1999, when I was 5, my family decided that it was time to get off the sidelines and throw our hats into the float business.



Photo courtesy of the Burns Family

It all started with the Daily Planet, and I was Superman. My 5 month old sister, Hannah, was riding along inside the truck cab. Our message was "Have a Super 4th"! The next year, my dad constructed a giant Star Wars X-wing, and I dressed as Luke Skywalker and Hannah dressed as Princess Leia. "May the 4th be with you" was the theme to our float, and as a 6 year old obsessed with Star Wars, you couldn't get much better than that.

After our first couple of fun floats, we shifted to a more patriotic vision; focusing on the spirit of the 4th, and encompassing what we think it means to be an American. Our floats have always stayed on a strict rule of being positive and staying patriotic. This has been the most important requirement for us when making a float.

One year, Hannah dressed as Betsy Ross, and we walked alongside handing out hundreds of small American flags. Another year, Hannah dressed as George Washington on our "Vote Float". Over the years, our floats have included the Lincoln Memorial, Washington crossing the Delaware, a Giant Birthday Cake, a fireworks display, the Liberty Bell, giant rockets and many more. Our float portfolio has been very diverse, but always patriotic. A favorite of my dad's was a giant red, white and blue eagle which towered high above the crowd and had a wing span of nearly 20 feet. It was majestic!



Photo courtesy of the Burns Family

Our family has always discussed what our float would be as a group. One year, Hannah had the idea to do a flower float. So that year, a 4x8 foot flower box was built and my mom planted red, white and blue flowers in the box in the formation of the American flag. Our "Flower Power" flower flag stood on our float and brought a living flare to the flag. Another year, my mom wanted to do the Declaration of Independence, and so she hand wrote a portion of it on a 12 foot high piece of canvas. Last year, my dad wanted to celebrate the Statue of Liberty, and so he built a giant torch, capturing the essence of what Lady Liberty represents.

Continued on Page 2

The Hideout

by Charlie Tobin

There was an abandoned foundation made of granite slabs in a pasture on our property that was overgrown with wild rose bushes. I mean those rose bushes made a fortress around that old hole in the earth. I remember imagining what sort of building was there long ago; a log cabin with a cellar was what flashed in my brain the most often in this guessing game, though other guesses were a small barn, a harness shop, and a house, maybe a store or an office. Whatever it was, it was next to impossible to get inside. I recall ignoring the entire area for some time after stumbling upon it - just too tough to get through all those thorns. You know what? Sometimes boredom will drive you to work harder at something for free, than if you were being paid for it. The decision I was about to make took several stabs of confidence-building, telling myself that I was an educated third grader who had a brain. "Was I going to let a few rose bush thorns keep me from discovering a strong box of coin, or possibly even a knife or a gun? Yup, by golly, I will let all the folks in town see that they are not wasting their hard-earned money on my education!"



A plan. That was it. A plan was all I needed. First things first...more clothing. One doesn't usually don wool pants and a sweatshirt in the summer, but this was

serious. Thorns hate everybody; third graders, especially! Ok, clothes - check! Now I needed some tools. Going down cellar, I located an old hand saw, an even older hacksaw, and the bluntest axe (which I haven't a clue as to how it got that way) on God's green earth- check! Vittles - a sandwich, a couple of cookies for fortitude and stamina and a jug of apple juice - check! And my secret weapon - Mom's pinking shears - check! It's okay, you can ask your mom or grandmother what they are.

Off I struck for the showdown with those bushes; although, I would have to drop the axe on the ground part-way there (too much to carry in one trip). Drop the "haul" by the foundation, scoot back for the axe and this was it. If I did it right, I would be the only one who would be able to locate the entrance...perfect place for a hideout. Getting on my hands and knees, I used my shoulders as a height gauge, and with pinking shears in my right hand and one right-handed, old stiff glove on my left hand, I gingerly pulled back two long stems and tucked them behind other stems, so I could put them back to help conceal the opening when I finished my new hideout. The pinking shears worked, but I found I needed two hands to close them to make a cut. Unfortunately, the cut wasn't clean, the stem sort of fell over, but was still hanging there. "Let me try the hand saw...Ouch!" My first parry with the saw blade revealed the teeth to be too big to cut the skinny stems which only pulled the surrounding stems downward and there were at least two or three long stems soundly lodged in my hair! Another stem was resting about a half an inch from my cheek. Now, I'm not sure if you were paying attention before, but I told you this was serious! Not only do thorns hate third graders, it seems they hate their hair as well.

"Now which one do I move first?" You don't just go ripping at them! Reaching up with my right hand after letting go of the *Continued on Page 2*

4th Continued from Pg. 1

My memories of the parade are very precious to me. Year after year, our journey from our house to the parade is always fun. It always takes a while since our tractor can only go so fast. My dad is always concerned that the float is too high and that it will hit tree limbs or worse yet, power lines! However after doing it for a few years, we have it down to a science.



Photo courtesy of the Burns Family

For me, participating in the parade has always been something I've loved to do. Through the years, its been fun to watch the younger kids in their first parades, riding on floats, in cars and alongside the road collecting candy.

The Kings Mills 4th of July parade is something that is cemented in what makes Whitefield a great small town. Between the grilled hotdogs, french-fries, and cake walks, the spirit of Whitefield is evident and strong. People see each other that they only see once a year at the parade.

I encourage everyone, if you've ever had the urge to participate in the parade, or you have small kids who are looking to "up the ante" on their 4th of July celebration, take a chance and make a float. For me and my family, it was a Superman float that set this 17 year tradition into motion. Figure out what yours will be and go for it!

Hideout Cont. from Pg. 1 saw, I immediately drew blood on my right thumb and I hadn't even moved anything! Raising my sweat-shirted left arm up and tipping my head down I scooted backward, and was free. Instantly, though, I felt what I was sure was blood on my scalp! Further inspection showed this to be sweat, not blood! "Well that didn't go as planned". Somehow I had to protect my head! I made for the dump (regrettably, we had a burn barrel and an embankment nearby that received whatever wasn't burnable - this was before mandated garbage pickups) to scan the pile for anything that may be useful to cradle the pate against attack. Nothing that I would consider putting on my head stuck out from the sloping pile before me...bugs, crud, or goo abounded! "Wait a second! We have grass shears!" I forgot about them! Off I flew back to the rollway doors and found them on the topmost step and tried them on some grass beside the house. "Yes!" They worked! In the kitchen, I opened the pots 'n' pans door and grabbed what I needed, stopped at the hallway closet, and removed the widest shoelace I could find and continued back outside. There, I tied each end of the shoelace to each handle on Mom's colander and pulled it over my head. A quick re-tie of the lace to tighten my chin strap, and away I ran with the colander on my head and shears in my hand back to the foundation.

By the time I got back, the day was beginning to heat up and the sweatshirt and wool pants were taking a toll. I ate some cookies and had some juice. Confident that this time would be better, I once again got on my hands and knees and approached the stems. "What gives with rosebush stems?" The grass shears only worked just a little bit better than the pinking shears - with every second or third cut, the stem would kink and only peel back the outer layer of stem skin! You had to fight to get the shears to open up again and progress was poor at best!

I was pretty sweaty, but forged on, and by the time it was lunchtime, I had only moved forward about three feet with that tunnel. The colander was working, but all those little holes were the perfect size for the thorns to snag, and my neck was killing me from trying to turn my head only to be held fast by a snagged thorn. Backing out of the tunnel, the sweatshirt rode up and exposed my back. "Unaware" quickly turned to "very aware" as a thorn ripped across my skin, drawing blood and pain and a yell! Yanking the colander off my head after being able to stand up again, I tossed it aside. "That's it, no more tunnel, no more hideout!" Ready to quit and head for home I remembered the axe. I raised up that



axe and flailed into those stems with repeated downward blows! By accident, I allowed the head of the axe to lay flat on one of those swings, and that was the ticket! I was elated! I was beating and mashing thorn stems right down into the soft earth, and they weren't springing back up again!

In the course of about ten minutes I was past the three feet of tunnel and progress was excellent; a few more feet and I would be through. "Okay, this is good". I had made a swath wide enough for a team of oxen to pass without so much as a nick. Hungry, I sat, ate, and drank more juice and peeled out of the sweatshirt. At last, less than an hour after eating, I had made my way to the foundation! Now to look for clues or relics or strong boxes! Walking over to lay the axe down with the other things, it struck me, "Oh, no! Where are Mom's pinking shears?! You've got to be kidding me! Really, did I really just mash them into the soft earth with all these mangled rosebush stems?" Any lost treasure would have to wait! I had to find her shears! Why didn't I take better care of them? Using the grass shears as a pry, I gently started to lift various stems up out of the dirt ready to jump back if the stem should shoot back up. I started at the front and worked my way to the foundation methodically. Nothing! Not so much as a shiny glint of metal! I felt a wave of dread wash over me! "Gosh, she uses those pinking shears all the time! She's going to blow her top!"

"Well, better go home and face the music." I began to gather the shirt and tools, and as I picked up the shirt, to my relief, underneath were the pinking shears. I almost collapsed with joy, knowing I would be spared retribution! "Okay, let's go looking for stuff in the foundation." As you might have guessed, there was not so much as an old square-headed nail; certainly no gun, knife, or strong box; not even an old can or bottle. That's the way it goes in archaeology...King Solomon's mines, if you are lucky...diddly-squat, if you're not! Sometimes you work hard for nothing. Sometimes it will involve pain, and sometimes you just need to strap a colander on your head and run through a pasture carrying shears.

Before I forget, would you do me a favor? If any of you should happen to bump into any one of my three sisters after reading this, would you please not mention reading it. If it gets back, I can just see the three of them sitting around a table with the eldest saying, "Well, I've been saying it all along, and here it is, in black and white. He is as crazy as a loon! A colander on his head!" My middle sister would say, "It's sad, really, but I'm glad Mom and Dad aren't here to witness this!" The youngest would say, "I doubt any nursing home would take him after they've read this, and don't you two try to pawn him off on me!"

Thanks, from a grateful author - I sure do appreciate this staying just between us.

Sheepscot West Branch Trail Opening

A small, but enthusiastic group gathered on June 4 at the Howe Road trailhead of the new Sheepscot West Branch Trail to unveil the kiosk and take a celebratory hike along the 1.2 mile loop trail. Standing left to right: Sue McKeen, David Elliott, Ellis Percy, Libby Harmon holding trail brochure, Kit Pfeiffer, Bill McKeen. Kneeling L to R: Dave Wright and Toki Oshima



Photo by Tony Marple

Whitefield School's Day of Caring

by Karen McCormick



Kings Mills 4th of July celebration on the banks of the Sheepscot River 1909 ; also the year of Whitefield's centennial.
 (photo from the Glendon Jackson collection. Courtesy of WHS).



The traditional decorated outhouse sits in the center of the Kings Mills intersection on July 4, 1957.
 (photo from the Glendon Jackson collection. Courtesy of WHS)

From E C Jewett Diary 1911-1912 Fourth of July

Entry for 1911:

They had a Celebration at the Mills. Fantastic Boat races, Grease pole, Three legged man sack race and a good Dinner and Fire works in evening. I did not go in day time but went in Evening. It has been awful hot 96 at 2 o'clock PM. I hoed corn a little but not very much; went out and gave the young cattle some salt, and picked some blueberries. Have got some corn spindling. Shipped the two cars of lumber to NH.

Entry for 1912:

Celebration at Kings Mills consisting of Street parade of the horrors. Band hauled by my oxen hitched to a hay rack. They had a tub race, a greased pole to walk out on placed on the bank of the river and run out over the water, 3-legged race, fire works in the evening. Also a dance. There was a very large crowd. It has been a very warm day as most all 4th of July's are. We all went day and evening. Ernest Dunton's Farm buildings were burned this PM. He was to the Celebration when they were burned.



Photo by Tony Marple

On May 20th the National Junior Honor Society at Whitefield Elementary partnered with the Kennebec Valley United Way to host the Second Annual Day of Caring. All of the students,



Photo by Tony Marple

grades pre-K through 8, participated in this day of service. Some projects included: planting pumpkins for the PTA, cleaning up the front garden, service work on trails, work at the Lions Club, work at the district office and helping a couple of elderly residents with spring clean-up. The United Way came to cook a barbecue lunch. Following lunch, the staff and students participated in the dedication of our new outdoor classroom, now known as the Barry

King Memorial Classroom. To quote Katherine, a current seventh grade student, "It was great to help out people and nice to see how happy it made them". It was a terrific way to get kids out and meeting the greater community.



Photo by Tony Marple

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JULY 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 4th** **KINGS MILLS COMMUNITY 4TH CELEBRATION -4TH OF JULY PARADE**, 10 am
Famous Parade, Fireman's Auction, Kings Mills Union Hall White Elephant Sale, Bounce House and Games, Food, Live Music, Cake Walk, Bake Sale, Raffles. Good Friends, Food and Fun for a Great Cause!
- 5th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 6th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS**—Wednesdays from May 4 into the Fall, join a group of intrepid hikers, led by a rotating roster of guides, to discover new trails throughout the Midcoast area. Hike locations and times are emailed to members of the Yahoo Group; to sign up, go to https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/wednesday_walkers/info
WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY meeting 6:30 pm
ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING, Pot Luck Dinner 6 pm, Meeting 7 pm
- 7th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 9th** **WHITEFIELD LIONS CLUB AND SHEEPSCOT LINKS 10TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**. 12 noon registration, 12:30 Shotgun Start. Win a 2016 Jeep with a hole in one, courtesy of Newcastle Chrysler Dodge Jeep. Prizes! Call Cal Prescott 232-3603 or Jerry Maldovan 549-5664 for more information.
- 10th** **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 11th** **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 12th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 13th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE JULY 6TH**
- 14th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 14th–17th** **TIMBER FRAME CONSTRUCTION COURSE HVNC**, Jefferson Class will run 8am-4pm each day. Camping space is available, and HVNC huts are available at a discount to students. \$450 Midcoast Conservancy Members, \$500 Non-Member. To register go to: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/UAm1EZ7EefNtpimUCyL40g
- 16th** **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscoot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages
- 19th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 20th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE JULY 6TH**
PLANNING BOARD, Fire Station, 7:00 pm
- 21st** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 23rd** **MAINE SUMMER ADVENTURE RACE HVNC** Teams of two, three or four people will race across land and water, trail running, biking, canoeing and orienteering in a search for checkpoints hidden in the woods and on the waters of beautiful Midcoast Maine. First-time adventure racers and families can check out the sport with our beginner-friendly three-hour adventure race, while seasoned racers or teams looking to challenge themselves more can take on the eight-hour race. For more information and registration visit: <http://mainesummerar.weebly.com/>
- 26th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 27th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE JULY 6TH**
YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 12 pm
- 28th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscoot General, 10 am
- 30th** **WOMEN AND OUR WOODS** Do you or your family own a woodland? Have you taken the time to plan and care for your land? Here's your opportunity to join fellow women woodland owners and foresters at Hidden Valley Nature Center in Jefferson for this day-long workshop designed for YOU. Bring your questions about forest management. \$40 MC and Maine Farmland Trust, \$45 all others, includes lunch. To register, go to https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/aMOehEvSjrKjTpSO4Y7rwQ



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

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



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Whitefield News



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August 2016

Changes at the Arlington Grange

By Debbie Rogers

We are happy to tell you that the Arlington Grange, after more than 120 years, has a working bathroom. For over 100 years the grange has hosted a library, school, meetings, events and amusements for local residents. The dual outhouse was added and continued to be used until 2015 when the grange members and generous contributors took on the task of building a working bathroom with, yes, a new-fangled flushing toilet. Well, it's done! Although real plumbing for a restroom is not a new idea and is no longer considered a luxury, but to the members of the grange, it is indeed call for celebration.

Our members have worked tirelessly to complete the project; with all members involved in the fundraising and construction of the new bathroom. Of note are Steve Smith, Dana Rogers, Josh Miller and Tom Colpitt. They have devoted a large amount of their time and effort to complete the project.

Although we have many more projects to complete to restore and maintain this wonderful historic building, we feel that the addition of a working bathroom was our highest priority. Now begins the list of other projects that NEED to be completed to restore the grange and see it used as a community gathering place as it was meant to be when the concept of the GAR hall began in 1884.



Dana Rogers working on the Grange bathroom
Photo by Debbie Rogers

The grange is now available for rentals for your events at a very reasonable donation of \$125 with \$25 refunded with the members determination that the grange was left clean and as you found it. Also, for the first time in many years, the upstairs is

also available for rent for an additional donation of \$100.

The main need of the Arlington Grange is members. We are an agricultural based group with interest in the local farming community, but also the community as a whole. We encourage you to consider joining the grange to promote agriculture in the area and community service as well. The goals set forth when the building was first conceived were for community gatherings, education and fellowship. We need members to continue that path and to restore this beautiful old building. Dues for the year are \$27 and we meet once per month. Activities planned in the near future are: the 2017 Grange calendar, a raffle, several music events and hopefully, several dances. We are also considering starting Bingo once a month. Some of our long term goals include a meeting place for farmers, classes in food preparation such as canning and cooking with local growers' products, celebrations and education in areas of agriculture.

Continued on Pg. 2



Above suspended ceiling in the grange Photo by Dana Rogers Jr.

by Chuck Vaughan

Since everything but the shell of the Coopers Mills Fire Station is brand new and mortgage free, there has been some speculation that the need and desire for major fundraising has abated. NOT SO! CMVFD has a tradition and culture of fundraising and there is always more to do. As far as the building goes, the outside has looked pretty much the same for decades and could use a facelift. There is also talk of a memorial garden and flagpole and there are always Community needs like the Larry and Dot Hardy Scholarship that was instituted a number of years ago to help deserving students from the area who are pursuing a career in an emergency services related field.

But, with all the good reasons for raising money, the auction is also a heck-of-a-lot of fun. With a couple of great auctioneers, there are many laughs and some of the items themselves could challenge you to keep a straight face. The food tent has the usual burgers and hot dogs and also homemade beans with other good stuff.

Over the years, there have been some really great bargains that have crossed the auction block; like a John Deere diesel garden tractor, boats, outdoor power equipment, tools, furniture including a spotless white leather couch. There are always boxes of things people have

The Auction tradition continues Saturday, August 20th, 10:00 a.m.



saved for years until it's time to clean out. Some boxes might even have a treasure hiding in them - an antique piece of pottery or a little-used power tool. You

might even see an item that showed up at last year's auction going around for the second time. Even though the collecting is just starting, there is already a nice 2007 Chrysler Sebring - the proverbial "little old lady's car", donated because one of our supporters stopped driving. There is also a perfect Kohler toilet in case yours needs replacing.



As auction time approaches, the fire trucks are moved out of the firehouse and it will be stuffed with an amazing variety of items. If you have never experienced a Coopers Mills Auction, you have missed an amazing experience. Typically, around \$10,000 worth of merchandise sells in about 6 hours. Mark the date on your calendar: Saturday, August 20th at the Fire Barn, Main Street Coopers Mills, starting at 10 am. If you want to donate items, contact any of the Coopers Mills members.

Grange cont. from Pg. 1 Some of the areas that need work for the restoration of the building are wiring, painting, kitchen renewal, and a new chairlift. Long term projects include restoration of the balcony, stage and ceiling upstairs.

In our minds we are blessed to have such historical and still viable buildings in town such as the Arlington Grange. We know that life is very busy for all, but would ask that you support the grange with your membership and continued financial support in participating in the fundraising activities. Whitefield and the surrounding towns are jewels in the state of Maine. We all need to support the efforts to maintain the buildings we have left in town that reflect the past so well in our town and community. For more information, please contact Debbie Rogers, Secretary for the Arlington Grange at 549-3491.

New Windows

By Cheryle Joslyn

Whitefield School is undergoing several construction projects this summer. Unfortunately, all activities scheduled for summer vacation, such as the Summer Library project, had to be postponed until next summer. The school is undergoing asbestos removal, replacing carpets in seven rooms, replacing windows in the lobby by the art room and putting new siding on the back of the building. They are also taking this opportunity to overhaul the library with new carpets, fresh paint, and changing the layout to be more user-friendly. There is much to do before August 29, but to be certain, all will be complete to welcome our students on the first day of school.



Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

Firehouse Steps

By Martha Tait

In June, several hardworking Whitefield volunteers made a set of stairs leading from the new parking lot at the Town Office, up to the fire station; making it convenient for parking and foot traffic between the two areas. The job involved cutting into the existing slope, forming the steps and sides with dimension lumber, and filling in the steps with stone and rock dust. Handrails will be added in the near future. In addition, one of the existing trees needed to be moved to make room for another exit from the new parking lot.

The men working on this project were Erik Ekholm, Dennis Merrill, Aaron Miller, Frank Ober, and Chuck Vaughn with added assistance from Scott Higgins.



Photo by Martha Tait



Photo by Martha Tait



Photos by Callie Wronker



Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



Photo of Emma Chase and Lore Ford (circa 1945 around the same time that she wrote the VJ Day entry).
Courtesy Whitefield Historical Society

Emma's Diary - August

1921

Saturday August 18,
Mrs. Hapgood called in the AM ..Mrs. Bailey has company...Dod helped Hope (Bailey) haul shingles and earned 15 cents he is some glad...kids earning 5 cents per 100 flies they kill and they have been killing for 2 days guess they will earn it by tonight.

1940

Friday, August 23
Auction at Ever Albee's and Lester Felt bought the store.

1945

Tuesday August 14
The radio awaits announcement of V.J.Day everyone excited Dod called up from Times Square he is celebrating ..everyone is in N.Y. I mean to celebrate though no official word yet.

Entry later that night

War ended tonight, Japan I guess will fold up right off. Pearl and I took flags and marched went on Harvey's (Bailey) truck and had lots of fun. Doris, Dora , Eddie, Midge and Hoddy came by and we sang etc. until 2am

Wednesday, August 15

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.

Congratulations Albert Boynton



The Boynton's Float Celebrating Albert's 90th

Photo by Debbie Rogers

Midcoast Conservancy's Live Edge Music Festival Coming to Hidden Valley Nature Center

By Ali Stevenson

Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 21st! Midcoast Conservancy is happy to announce the 5th annual Live Edge music festival at Hidden Valley Nature Center. A fun-filled day of live music, great local food and beer, and even belly dancers—all

set in the midst of HVNC's 1,000 acres of trails, pond shore frontage and bogs. This year's all-Maine musical line-up includes Pri-



mo Cubano, the Gawler Family, the Oshima Brothers, and the Shakes, a testament to our vibrant local music scene! The festival will also feature the US premier of the belly dance troupe Sirumem. Food from the Sheepscot General Store, authentic Mexican tacos from the Solorzano family, and beer from Liberal Cup, Geary's and Allagash will keep you going between acts or after you explore the 30-plus miles of trails at HVNC until the next band takes the stage.

To sweeten the deal, advance ticket buyers receive a \$20 voucher good for a second entrée at 15 participating restaurants; at \$20 per ticket, that makes your festival entry, well, practically free! Restaurants that will honor the vouchers include: Slates, Liberal Cup, A-1 Diner, Newcastle Publick House, El Camino, Frontier, Cloud 9, River Grill, Crissy's, Savory Maine, Le Garage, Montsweag Roadhouse, The Slipway, Rhumb Line and Rock Harbor Pub & Brewery. Tickets are available at Mexicali Blues, Sheepscot General Store, the Alna Store, HVNC and Midcoast Conservancy's office in Wiscasset.

Live Edge is supported by long-time sponsors Cribstone Capital, Ames Supply and Mexicali Blues; proceeds from Live Edge support Midcoast Conservancy, whose mission is to support and promote healthy lands, waters, wildlife, and people in Midcoast Maine through conservation, education, and recreation. For more information, go to midcoastconservancy.org, www.facebook/midcoastconservancy.org or call (207) 389-5150.

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AUGUST 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR



- 1st** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT., 7 pm
- 2nd** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 3rd** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS**—Wednesdays from May 4 into the Fall, join a group of intrepid hikers, led by a rotating roster of guides, to discover new trails throughout the Midcoast area. Hike locations and times are emailed to members of the Yahoo Group; to sign up, go to https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/wednesday_walkers/info
ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING, Pot Luck Dinner 6 pm, Meeting 7 pm
WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY meeting 6:30 pm
- 3rd-5th** **LITTLE DYER ADVENTURE CLUB, HVNC** The Adventure Club will learn to work and play alongside each other as they develop their sense of adventure. Participants will experience the basics of canoeing, mountain biking, hiking and leave no trace camping through structured and thoughtful approaches. The program will be centered around Little Dyer Pond, which is a 110acre Great Pond with no public access. Little Dyer is a serene gem and offers local youth an authentic back country experience with the convenience of a day-program. For more information, go to midcoastconservany.org, www.facebook/midcoastconservany.org or call (207) 389-5150.
- 4th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 5th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 8th** **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 9th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 10th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE AUGUST 3RD**
- 11th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 14th** **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 16th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 17th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE AUGUST 3RD**
PLANNING BOARD, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
PUBLIC HEARING ON CELL TOWER IN WHITEFIELD, Whitefield Fire House, Townhouse Road, Public Hearing at 7:00 pm on the proposed cell phone tower on property located at 571 Townhouse Rd.
FULL MOON PADDLE @HVNC, For more information, go to midcoastconservany.org, www.facebook/midcoastconservany.org or call (207) 389-5150.
- 18th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 19th** **OPEN-MIC NIGHT**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 20th** **COOPERS MILLS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AUCTION**, Coopers Mills Fire House, 10:00 am
DRUMMING CIRCLE, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages
- 21st** **LIVE EDGE MUSIC FESTIVAL, SEE ARTICLE ON PG. 3**
- 23rd** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 24th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE AUGUST 3RD**
YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 12 pm
- 25th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 30th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm.
- 31st** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE AUGUST 3RD**
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Whitefield News



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September 2016

New Features on Whitefield Trails: Get Out and See for Yourself!

Photos and Story by Kit Pfeiffer

If you haven't been out to walk on the three trails in town that have been developed by the Whitefield Trails Committee over the past two years, this fall is an ideal time. The bugs are gone, the temperatures are pleasant, and the leaf colors are already beginning to pop.

Even if you have walked the trails, there are two new features to go back and enjoy. The Happy Farm River Trail which begins behind the Recycling Center now has a new route. This new trail forks shortly after you enter the small field below the school athletic field. From there the trail now forms one large loop eventually returning to that



spot. The new part of the trail bears to the left into the woods behind the Baptist Church, crosses Oxbow Lane, enters the woods and meanders for about a quarter mile before emerging in the hayfield by Rte. 126. From there follow the blue-blazed

stakes marking the trail across the field and enter the grove of mature pine and oak behind the barn. The trail descends through the woods to the river bank and bears right downstream. After a short distance, it joins the existing trail which leads back to the start at the Recycling Center. You may walk the loop in either direction for a little under 3 miles of diverse woods, field and river.



The other new feature to see in the Whitefield trail system is a recently installed granite sculpture on the Marr's Ridge Trail on center Hunt's Meadow Road. A short walk up an old woods road will take you to the ledge overlook where landowner and stonemason, Sandy Benne, now has two large structures made of granite. The dolman is a 10-foot high granite platform resting on three granite pillars, from which you can see the Camden Hills. Now Benne has put up a large granite sculpture made of two tall obelisks with a half-moon carved out of each one, facing off like yin and yang symbols.

Continued on Page 2

New Series on Volunteering In Whitefield

By Debbie Rogers & Cheryle Joslyn

In our busy lives, with very full schedules, it is easy to feel "overbooked" and "stressed out"! We all have many things to do and trying to find time for everything often may seem like an impossible task. However, an integral community involvement has been pushed to the bottom of the "to-do" list for many of us, but volunteering for the many wonderful groups and organizations in our town is an extreme need today and for the future of our community. In upcoming issues of the Whitefield Newsletter, we would like to focus on volunteering in our Whitefield area.

It may sound like just one more item on your already "overfilled" plate, but the organizations in our town are in dire need of community involvement and support. Some of the areas we will be focusing on will be:

- * Whitefield, Coopers Mills, and Kings Mills Volunteer Fire Department
- * Whitefield Food Bank
- * Whitefield Athletic Association
- * Whitefield Historical Society

- * Trails Committee
- * Parent/Teacher Association
- * Kings Mills Union Hall
- * Arlington Grange
- * Recycling Committee
- * Whitefield Newsletter

One definition of volunteering is... "an activity where an individual or group provides services for no financial gain. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development, and is often intended to promote goodness or to improve human quality of life. Volunteering may have positive benefits for the volunteer as well as for the person or community served". Serving our Whitefield citizens in a volunteer capacity is sure to offer you more than just this definition. Please consider giving some of your time, talent, and energies to one of the organizations that serves our town.



Kings Mills Fire Dept. Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

Continued on Page 2

Trails Cont. From Pg. 1
There is also a hand-chiseled quote on one face. You'll have to trek up there if you want to know what it says!



Too new to have any changes yet is the Sheepscot West Branch Trail which starts by the discontinued bridge on the north side of Howe Road. When the bridge is removed and the riverbank restored, the trail-head may be moved to the top of the hill.

The Whitefield Trails Committee welcomes new members and trail maintenance volunteers. Contact David Elliott by email: dce12@myfairpoint.net.

Volunteering Cont. From Pg. 1 As an example of need, our three local fire departments all are in need of volunteer help. They work to maintain the health and well-being of our community. The time and effort given by the men and women who come to our call in our time of extreme need cannot be praised enough. When (and if) you consider volunteering, there is no better way to assist your community than by joining these people in protecting our lives and our property. If you have ever had the misfortune of having to call on these folks, you know what a relief it is to see and hear them arriving to help. Please consider assisting these groups in any way you are able to; especially by becoming a volunteer fire fighter. You will be hearing more from them in future issues about their specific need for volunteers.



Kings Mills Union Hall. Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

As a child growing up in Whitefield, Debbie remembers the many events and fundraisers that she was always involved in. Not only did it teach a great deal, it focused on community support and made every-



Whitefield Historical Society Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

one better people for the time and effort. Today there is renewed focus on the many wonderful opportunities for our residents to join groups and organizations that benefit everyone. Please consider volunteering for any of the groups listed above, and if you know of another group that was not listed, please contact Debbie at 549-3491 to add them to the list.

News from Sheepscot Links

The championship team for the Sheepscot Links 2016 Men's Twilight League were Dave Sawyer, Scott Pontau, John Blagdon and Larry Gordon. The competition was tight all and finally determined with a nine hole playoff after the season ended in a tie. The second place team consisted of Dave Clifford, Richard MacDonald, Ron Aho and Norm Bossie.

The season ending awards went to:

The most improved golfer was Pat Kelley.

Scott Pontau won the most points.

Terry Brackett won the closest to the pin shootout.

Dave Sawyer won the long drive competition.

On another note Tuesday Fall Skins Contest results for 8/23/2016 are as follows:

Winning team was Terry Brackett and Ken Martin.

Closest to the pin #2, Terry Brackett 25'5".

Closest to the pin #3, Jason Smith 25'0".

Closest to the pin #8, Mike Flanagan, 25'7".

Long Drive, Richard MacDonald.

Sheepscot Links 36 Hole Club Championship, August 13th and 14th 2016.

Women's Club Champion, Tracy Crocker ,199.

Men's Club Champion, Roland Laflemme,160.

Women's Senior Club Champion, Kathy Sproul, 178.

Men's Senior Club Champion, Jason Smith, 171.

Men's B-flight Club Champion, Ashton Benn, 168.

Men's C-flight Club Champion, Keith Sproul, 189.

Sheepscot Links Senior Scramble 8/15/2016

Winning Team -3, Terry McCabe, Bob Bell, Tom Atticks, Glenn Bangs.

Closest to the Pin #2, Glenn Bangs.

Closest to the Pin #8, Bert Worden, 3'0".

Longest Drive Women, Pat Sweet.

Longest Drive Men, Terry Mc Cabe.

Twilight League Results 8/9/2016

Low Gross 36 Rollie LaFlamme

Low Net 32 Tony Cartlege

Long Drive Eddie McCarthy

Closest to the pins

#2 Josh Libby 10' 11"

#3 no winner

#8 Rollie LaFlamme 10' 9"

Sheepscot Links Senior Scramble 8/8/2016

Winning Team -6,

Rex Johnson, Richard MacDonald, Ron James and Dave Clifford.

Closest to the pin #2, Denny Katon 32'2".

Closest to the pin #8, Rex Johnson 7'4".

Long Drive Women, Kathy Sproul.

Long Drive Men, Tom Atticks.

Twilight League 8/2/2016

Low Gross 38 Jim Curls, Rollie LaFlamme

Low Net 29 David Cobb

Long Drive Terry Washburn

Closest to the pins

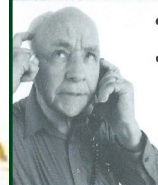
#2 Josh Libby 17' 10"

#3 Jason Smith 27' 1"

#8 Matt Gordon 21' 9"



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(Courtesy of WHS)

This is a picture of North Whitefield village probably taken in the late 1930's or early 1940's. The photographer appears to be placed in the field across from where the Fenderson house was. Many of the buildings between the Grange hall on the far left and Leo Gould's house on the far right were lost in the fire of 1948.

Howe Road

At a citizen meeting with the Department of Transportation, residents proposed less expensive options for the Howe Road bridge repair or alternatively closing the bridge to vehicular traffic, but allowing foot passage. The DOT rejected both options, though DOT representatives made some minor accommodations regarding the placement of traffic barriers, turnarounds and parking.

Road work

Following the town approved plan developed by the Road Commissioner and the Road Committee, work is underway. The eastern portion of the Sennott Road, Main Street and the Somerville Road (Coopers Mills), and the northern end of the Vigue Road have or will be paved this year. Cracks have been sealed on various sections of road and several culverts have or will be replaced. Dennis Merrill has solicited State and private funding for the Finn Brook culvert on the Vigue Road. Private funders include the Atlantic Salmon Federation, the Nature Conservancy and Midcoast Conservancy, due to the enhanced fish passage potential. Of the estimated \$126,000 cost, the Town's share will be \$15,000. In preparation for paving on the Townhouse Road next year (subject to Town budget approval), ditching and culvert replacement is underway.

Solar

The administration's opposition to net metering has made the installation of solar panels on the fire station more complicated. The Town is currently considering a proposal wherein the Town would lease the equipment and gain a 10% reduction in Town electricity expense regardless of the outcome of pending net metering rules by the Public Utilities Commission.

Assessing

As of mid-August, the town is interviewing respondents to the town's assessing request for proposal for assessing services. The plan is to change from an employed assessor to an independent contractor.

National Flood Insurance Program

Now that the Town has approved the Flood Plain Ordinance, residents and businesses in the flood plain zone are now eligible for federal flood insurance. The flood plain map is available at the Town Office, and applications can be made through independent insurance brokers.

Recycling Center

People have been dumping garbage, including dirty diapers, in the recycling bins or in front of the building. This is a big problem for the attendants and increases town expense. Plans are underway to improve signage and surveillance of the area along with the prosecution of offenders. If you see someone using the Recycling Center as a dump, please contact the Town Office.

Open House at Barn & Alpaca



431 Townhouse Road
 September 17th & 18th from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Barn & Alpaca is a unique store located in an antique barn on the Townhouse Road offering hand-made arts, crafts,

plants, signs and vintage items for your home or to give as gifts. Stop by and visit the Alpacas. Follow us on Instagram at Barn.and.Aplaca Vintage Market to see what we have to offer.

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SEPTEMBER 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 2nd** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 5th** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
- KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, 7 pm
- 6th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING** - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 7th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS**—Wednesdays from May 4 into the Fall, join a group of intrepid hikers, led by a rotating roster of guides, to discover new trails throughout the Midcoast area. Hike locations and times are emailed to members of the Yahoo Group; to sign up, go to https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/wednesday_walkers/info
- Youth Mountain Bike Series** (September 7 – October 12) (6 Classes) 3:00PM-4:30PM Ages (9-14) Cost (members:\$75.00, Non Members \$95.00) Midcoast Conservancy is partnering with the Outdoor Sport Institute and the CLCYMCA to host our Fall Mountain Biking Series at HVNC. Bikes and Helmets will be provided and we'll have expert instruction through the Outdoor Sport Institute. Optional transportation will be provided between The CLCYMCA and HVNC each class. Please register through the Central Lincoln County YMCA.
- ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING**, Pot Luck Dinner 6 pm, Meeting 7 pm
- WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** meeting 6:30 pm
- 8th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 11th** **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 12th** **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 13th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 14th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS**—SEE SEPTEMBER 7TH
- YOUTH MOUNTAIN BIKE SERIES**—SEE SEPTEMBER 7TH
- 15th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 16th** **OUTDOOR CONCERT AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL**, Outdoor Concert with country music by Walter Weymouth 6 pm
- FULL MOON PADDLE @HVNC**, For more information, go to midcoastconservany.org, www.facebook.com/midcoastconservany.org or call (207) 389-5150.
- 17th** **BARN & ALPACA VINTAGE MARKET OPEN HOUSE**, 431 Townhouse road, 10-4 Sept. 17th & 18th. See Page 2.
- GATHERING BASKET WORKSHOP AT HVNC** We will make a gathering basket, great for harvesting garden vegetables, cut flowers, various job. This is a handy basket. The finished basket will be approximately 22" long, 10" wide, 4" deep with an arching "D" handle. We will work with natural colored reed on the main part of the basket. Various colored reed will be available for decoration. To register, go to https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/_iX2Bb_uEaXxYKbuajW84Q
- DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages
- 20th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 21st** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS**—SEE SEPTEMBER 7TH
- YOUTH MOUNTAIN BIKE SERIES**—SEE SEPTEMBER 7TH
- PLANNING BOARD**, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 22nd** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 25th** **KINGS MILLS UNION HALL ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE**—refreshments, 3-5 pm
- 27th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 28th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS**—SEE SEPTEMBER 7TH
- YOUTH MOUNTAIN BIKE SERIES**—SEE SEPTEMBER 7TH
- YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS**, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 12 pm
- 29th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 30th** **Youth Mountain Bike Camp**—Camp Dates: (September 30th – October 1st) Time: Friday PM/Saturday All day Ages (9-14) Cost contact Midcoast Conservancy 207-389-5150 Outdoor Sport Institute Youth Development camp for 9-14 year olds. You know how to ride a bike, but maybe you want to take your skills a little further or try exploring new places. If so, this camp is for you! This OSI Youth Camp will feature mountain biking on the trails at Hidden Valley Nature Center.



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It takes a town to raise a gymnast!

by Pam Kenoyer

Kristen was four when I looked out the kitchen window and discovered her trying to steady herself on the top of the swing set. It was apparent to us from then on that her gene for fear was missing. After teaching herself to cartwheel and flip, she begged by age eight to take gymnastic lessons at the YMCA in Augusta. The lessons turned into a spot on the Y team. That season, it became evident that she enjoyed competition and was at home balancing on a beam and flying high on the uneven bars. The next year Kristen moved on to the Andy Valley School of Gymnastics in Auburn where for five years she was coached by Don White and worked through the United States Gymnastics Federation classifications to become an elite gymnast.

It was during those years that many young girls in Whitefield gained an interest in the sport and many took lessons or competed at the YMCA and Andy Valley. There were always meets at our house. The girls used the homemade and second-hand equipment in a large room known as "the gym". Our daughters, Lynn, Sarah, and Kate, Erica and Michelle Duncan, Allison Stultz, Sara Whitehouse, Ruthlyn and Val Sodano and Shanna Grady (who was also a teammate at Andy Valley), spent countless hours and days competing and taking on the names of the world's famous gymnasts.

Many of the girls participated in local gymnastics exhibitions.



"Happiness" is scoring a 10! (Kristen at her senior meet, with a standing ovation, in front of 13,000 fans including her Mom and Gram Midge Hopping)

There were talent shows at school and at the Erskine gym, tumbling routines during the 4th of July parade and a memorable performance at St. Denis during the Irish picnic. These young women stockpiled memories and developed a very special bond. All went on to become successful high school athletes in other sports; some competed at the college level.

In high school Kristen continued to train in Auburn while competing on Cony's

cross country and track teams. It was at the end of her sophomore year that she shocked her parents with the request to train at the closest national training facility, the Parkettes in Allentown, PA. She wanted to pursue her dreams of being on the national team and winning a Division 1 scholarship. She knew that meant more intensive training and more elite competition which Maine did not offer. The next two years were difficult for our family. Kristen was homesick, and we all missed her terribly. There were many weekend trips to Allentown to keep us as close as possible. **Continued on page 2**

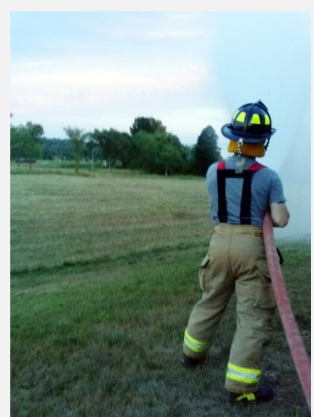
Volunteering in Whitefield Series—*Whitefield Fire and Rescue:* *Answering the call—Find out how you can make a difference*

by Aaron Miller

Living in rural Maine, you must ask yourself, "Who can I count on when disaster strikes?" Most communities in Lincoln County rely upon the sheriff's office, firefighters, and emergency medical services to respond during a time of crisis. Whitefield is no different.

Whitefield Fire & Rescue fills a much-needed role in town protecting the lives and property of residents. These are the men and women who respond to vehicle accidents, hazardous materials incidents, downed trees/power lines and natural disasters.

Like many communities in Lincoln County, Whitefield does not have a full time fire department. Members are paid a small stipend based on the number of calls and trainings they attend. Each member knows it's a big commitment knowing that an emergency can happen at any time. At times, they are relied upon to perform physically demanding work, spend extended periods of time



Lt. Rick Caron of Whitefield Fire & Rescue participating in a recent

outside in inclement weather, and respond to calls any time of the day or night.

Returning from a fire, accident scene, or even department training is not like returning from a trip to volunteer at the library. Fighting fire and responding to emergencies are physically and mentally exhausting activities. Interior firefighting especially is physically challenging. There are plenty of other roles on the fire ground which are less demanding. Directing traffic, driving and operating trucks, and manning the base radio are all very important roles which are less physically demanding. Wearing heavy gear and dragging hose lines while working in an emergency mode requires great physical exertion.

Therefore, there is room for all types of people in the fire department. Whitefield has three stations; including Coopers Mills and Kings Mills. Every year, association members from these stations host fundraising activities to alleviate the burden on taxpayers.

Whether you are seeking demanding physical activity fighting fire, or less strenuous work raising money for your community, we are calling on you to sign up. There is a tremendous amount of pride and camaraderie within the fire department. To find out how you can make a difference, call Whitefield Fire & Rescue Chief Scott Higgins at 549-7945 or the town office at 549-5175.

Thank you to Lincoln County Fire Chief's Association for contributing to this article.

Kristen from Pg. 1 It was 1988 and with more rigorous training at Par-kettes and strong performances in national competitions; Kristen suc-ceeded in earning a spot on the national team and a trip to the Olympic trials. At the

Olympic trials we were thrilled and proud as Kristen marched in hold-ing the state of Maine banner as high as she could. She wore a small wooden lobster buoy on a string around her neck given to her by the Maine gym-nastics judges.

She was Maine's first elite gymnast and they were a part of her success. Kristen scored 12th in the nation at the meet and recalls how proud she was to carry the Maine banner.

Her national team status earned her the opportunity to compete in several international meets. It was during the fall of her senior year. She was all packed for a trip to China the following day when she tore a heel tendon during practice. She was devastated and after surgery was forced to wear a cast on her college recruitment trips. After visit-ing four different schools, she chose the University of Utah, which turned out to be a wonderful match for her. In 2006, she was inducted into the University's Hall of Fame. Included here is a summary of her collegiate gymnastics career taken from the Hall of Fame brochure:

"As one of the best gymnasts to ever compete at the University of Utah, Kristen Kenoyer accumulated 16 All-American citations during her tenure as a Ute. Fourteen of these were first team All American honors - more than any gymnast in Utah history and the third most in NCAA championships. In 1990 she placed third all around at the NCAA championship and won the 1992 NCAA vault championship.

A two-time Utah MVP, in 1999, she was honored as one of Utah's top 25 all-time female athletes. In 1991 she competed at the World University games in London where she won a bronze medal in the floor exercises. In 1993 she was named Utah NCAA Woman of the Year by (Champion).

Kristen earned a bachelors degree in biology and a masters degree in nutrition from the University of Utah."

After graduating from Utah, she married Ed Woodland and is the mother of 5 children. She has owned her own gymnastics school, has been a nutrition counselor, a high school track and gymnastics coach, and a middle school science teacher. Since moving to Texas in 2014, she has been a full time mom and part time gymnastics coach. Her hobby - being a competitive Spartan racer. The fear is still missing and the competitive factor is still strong!

Kristen loves Whitefield and is proud of her Maine roots. Despite living far away, she and her family return every summer. She recently recalled how excited she was when Jerry Lothrop made her a balance beam and remarked how grateful she was to all the people who cooked and attended a public supper to help defray the cost of her flights to national meets and the Olympic trials. The generosity and support of the students and staff at Whitefield School, Erskine Academy, the WAA, and the many many kind townspeople made it possible for Kristen to experience the competition of the Olympic trials and for her family to cheer her on. She cherishes the picture of Dee Dee Crocker hanging the banner at the Superette in her honor. Kristen and her family thank you, Whitefield, for being a supportive, generous communi-ty. It takes a town to raise all our children, and we live in a very special one.



Dee Crocker, left, and Pat Wheaton tie down a welcome sign at the North Whitefield Superette this week honoring the return of hometown gymnast Kristen Kenoyer. Kenoyer qualified for the recent Olympic trials in Salt Lake City, Utah where she finished 12th in the nation.

From Kennebec Journal

Whitefield students helping community

-with appreciation to Karen McCormick (Middle School teacher)

The kids are back in school, and they have a busy year ahead of them. Once again the Whitefield middle school students will be sponsoring several worthy community service events that you might be interested in helping them with. If you can help, give their teacher, Karen McCormick, a call (549-7691 or email her at kmccormick@svrsu.org. She would be extremely happy to hear from you.



-Again the year, the students will be making "scent hearts" for infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Maine Med. Last year they made almost 500 scent hearts for babies in

intensive care. These fabric hearts are given to moms to wear skin to skin so the fabric might absorb the scent of the mother, and then placed in the baby's isolette or crib so the mother is always with her child. NICU at Maine Med is now out of scent hearts, so it is time to make more. The students are looking for people to donate new cotton prints, fleece or flannel fabric that would be appropriate for a baby. They also would not turn away anyone willing to sew.

-Whitefield Middle School students are also supporting the Ronald McDonald House of Portland again this year. They have a Tab Top Program where soda tabs (and essentially any other aluminum tab) gets collect-ed and turned in for recycling after it is weighed out for \$\$\$. "Ounce by ounce, pound by pound, you can make a ton of difference for the Ronald McDonald House...the money raised guarantees no family is ever turned away from RMH when a critically-ill child is receiving treatment at a near-by hospital". The Tab Top Program is as easy as 1.2.3. Pull off the alumi-num tabs from soda, vegetable soup, pet food can, etc. Save them, and drop them off at White-field School when you have a collection.

-Fall means yard work, of course, so once again our Whitefield students will volunteer their time to lend a hand to a community member who might need a little extra help. Last Spring they ener-getically helped a Senior with her raking and picking up the winter's debris, and they are ready to help again. If you (or you know of someone) need help with outdoor yard work or stacking wood this Fall , please let Ms. McCormick know ASAP.

-The Harvest Meal project will be back again this November. If you know a family or community member who would enjoy a meal prepared by our students, please let us add their name to our list.

-And, of course, we can't forget the PUMPKINS! The pumpkins planted on last spring's Day of Caring were harvested; all 184 of them! The White-field PTA will be selling them at their Fall fundraiser event.

-Did we say "busy"? Oh yes! Besides hitting the books and getting their homework done, these are just a few of the events our Whitefield students are involved with this Fall. Please lend them a hand and encouragement with any and all of these worthwhile projects that you have the time for this year. Thank you!



Photo by Tony Marple

Whitefield Historical Society
"Just Yesterday"



This is a picture of the house at 98 Mills Rd; next to the Clary Water Mill where Albert Boynton now lives. The photo was taken circa 1900, and the people in the photo are Dan Glidden, his wife Martha, and Dan's daughter, Iva. The house was later sold to Dr Joseph Ordiorne and then back to Dan Glidden again. The Boynton family purchased it in 1927.

Albert tells the story of how his mother's aunt came to visit after he was born. At the time, they lived in the little red Mill House by the Clary lake dam. His great aunt was unhappy with the conditions of the Mill House and purchased this house across the road for the family. When his great aunt bought the house, she put it in Albert's mother's name. Therefore, when the mill was lost during the Depression, the house was saved.

A fire in the summer of 1966 heavily damaged the house and destroyed the barn which was nearly full of hay.

RSU 12 Encourages Lifetime Sports

by Anthony Anderson

If you ask most kids if they are interested in sports, they might say their favorite sport is soccer, basketball, or baseball/softball. Youth athletics are a fantastic venue to learn sportsmanship, positive attitude, work ethic, and fundamental sports skills. There are several other sports that students can participate in that offer many of the same benefits, but focus more on lifetime activities.



Sullivan Anderson hits a drive earlier this summer at Sheepscoot Links
 Photo by Anthony Anderson

For the past several years, through community partnerships, RSU 12 has offered a Run Club for youth in grades PK-5, Middle School cross country, and even a summer youth golf program. Beginning in the spring of 2013, Whitefield hosted its first Run Club - a weekly fun run for kids in grades PK-4. Run Club meets also this fall for the 4th year, beginning on Monday, September 19th. This past summer, through a partnership with Sheepscoot Links Golf, RSU 12 hosted a second summer of golf for area youth with about 20 students participating. Finally, Whitefield Elementary School is going into a second season of Middle School Cross Country for all students in grades 5-8. These lifetime sports gives all students opportunities to be successful and build character without the pressures of the athletics of the more competitive nature.

For more information about the PK-4 Run Club, Middle School Cross Country, youth golf, or you are interested in volunteering, please call Anthony Anderson at 441-9738 or email aandersonfi5@gmail.com.



Chicken Pie Supper
Mark Your Calendar!

By Judy Maldovan

On Saturday, Oct. 22nd, from 5-7pm, Kings Mills Union Hall will hold its well-known annual Chicken Pie Supper. The menu includes its traditional homemade chicken pies along with mashed potatoes, homemade biscuits, fresh vegetables, desserts and drinks. In the late 1970's and early 1980's chicken pies were made in volunteers' homes by cooking whole chickens. Since the mid 1980's the chicken pies have been prepared at the hall. The popularity of this fundraiser is shown by the long line of patrons at the door. Many locals and folks from neighboring towns come an hour early to be sure of early seating. Fundraiser proceeds are used for the restoration and maintenance of the building. Volunteers are always welcome!



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 St. Denis Hall
 Table \$20

Contact Mary Lemieux 549-2684



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OCTOBER 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** **MUSHROOM IDENTIFICATION FOR FORAGING** Midcoast Conservancy is holding this workshop at Hidden Valley Nature Center from 9 am to 3 pm. Participants are invited to bring fresh mushrooms from home to add to the collections. call (207) 389-5150.
- 2nd** **RACE THROUGH THE WOODS**, 2016 will feature a complete 1/2 marathon (21.4km) , as well as a 5.5mi (8.8km) race. Both races will start together at 9am. Take a look at the map to the left for a complete picture of the race. Racers will traverse a substantial portion of HVNC's 1,000 acres. The races will take you up and over granite ridges, along the pond shore, and through miles of fall foliage. It's not a walk in the park, but this is a great challenging, welcoming race! Come join us!
- 3rd** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
- 4th** **KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, 7 pm
- 4th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 4th** **KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING** - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 5th** **ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING**, Pot Luck Dinner 6 pm, Meeting 7 pm
- 5th** **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** meeting 6:30 pm
- 6th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 7th** **TIMBER FRAME WORKSHOP RUNS THROUGH THE 10TH**, Class will run 8am-4pm each day. Camping space is available, and HVNC huts are available at a discount to students. To register click link: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/bVQsb5cpI6G60hHxaXMfzQ or call (207) 389-5150.
\$450 Midcoast Conservancy Members \$500 Non-Member
- 8th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 8th** **MAKE A BOKASHI "COMPOSTING" BUCKET WORKSHOP** from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at Sheepscot General Store and Farm
- 9th** **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 10th** **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 11th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 11th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 13th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 13th** **RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 15th** **RECREATIONAL GUIDE TRAINING- HIDDEN VALLEY NATURE CENTER 1 OF 2**
Obtaining a Maine Guide License allows one to lead day and overnight canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding on inland waters, backpacking, hiking, x-country skiing, snowmobiling, and ATV trips. Students will work to develop the essential skills required for pursuing a Maine Guides License. Price: \$495 For more info or registration, please call 207.236.8797 or email Tim Barker tim@mainesport.com
- 15th** **CRAFT FAIR** Sponsored by St. Dennis & the Whitefield Food Pantry
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. St. Denis Hall Table \$20 Contact Mary Lemieux 549-2684
- 18th** **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages
- 18th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 19th** **PLANNING BOARD**, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 20th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 21st** **RECESS PROGRAM AT HVNC**, Come join us for RECESS! For Homeschoolers-- a chance to connect with each other for larger group games, just hanging out, and exploring Hidden Valley Nature Center's trails, wildlife and water at the end of the week. For directions and more information about the place, go to HVNC.org or Midcoastconservancy.org, or kmohrstone@yahoo.com . Pass it On!
- 21st** **OPEN-MIC NIGHT**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 22nd** **ANNUAL CHICKEN PIE SUPPER, KINGS MILLS UNION HALL, 5—7 PM**
- 25th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 25th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 26th** **YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS**, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 12 pm
- 27th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 29th** **CHAINSAW SAFETY COURSE**, This one-and-a-half day course is designed for beginners.
\$ 130 Midcoast Conservancy Members \$ 150 Non-Members call (207) 389-5150
To register https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/fsdgZ8aWshn7zVyK5wyw6w
- 31st** **Halloween**



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

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

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Whitefield News



Volume 4, Issue 5

Published Monthly

November 2016



Holiday Events

CRAFT FAIR AT KINGS

MILLS UNION HALL

Nov. 5 from 10 to 2 pm

CLA HARVEST POT

LUCK SUPPER Saturday,

Nov. 12, at The Sheepscot

General, from 4-7pm.

SHEEPCOT

GENERAL'S HOLIDAY

BAZAAR Friday Dec. 2,

5pm-8pm at Sheepscot

General Store

CHRISTMAS

PROGRAM AT KINGS

MILLS UNION HALL

Dec. 4 Annual Christmas

Program 3 - 5pm

"Doing What's Right"

by Cheryl Joslyn

After months of campaign and political assaults, one could quite easily become disheartened about the future of this country. Meeting young Katherine (Kat) Newcombe, however, is an opportunity to regain hope in the future. Her youthful enthusiasm and commitment to "do what is right", may very well be what America will need to safely guide us into the next decade. She displays the type of respect for our country and for one another that we desperately need right now. November is the "election month", but it also is the month to honor all of our veterans. We are very fortunate to have a young woman right here in Whitefield who can teach all of us something important about "honor".

Phil and Darlene Newcombe raised their 20 year old daughter to have a sense of respect for those who serve this country. Ever since she was a little girl, she and her family have placed flags on the graves of family veterans for Memorial Day and have always brought "extras" for those they might notice were missing recognition. Kat was fascinat-



Katherine (Kat) Newcombe honors Pvt. Joel Ham (courtesy C. Joslyn)

ed reading headstones at an early age. She claims her parents lost her in a cemetery once, but that didn't seem to scare her away from the family's traditional practice to honor America's fallen soldiers. Now in her final year of college, readying to become an English teacher, she has taken on another mission to honor those who served this country.

Kat has made it her mission to reclaim the long-forgotten cemetery alongside Rt. 17 in Coopers Mills and to show her respect for those who are buried there. This Veterans

Day two small American flags and a bouquet of flowers mark where Joel Ham (b. 17 Mar, 1776 d. Dec. 1864) was laid to rest. What is currently known about Joel is that he served in the Maine Militia during the War of 1812 as a private in Capt. B Davenport's Company and in Lt. Colonel A. Reed's Regiment. Joel's stone (according to the Whitefield Historical Society) was the only visible stone remaining in the Edgcomb Cemetery in 1977. **Continued Pg. 2**

A Farmer's Update II

(provided by Ben Marcus @ Sheepscot General)

We asked Ben what keeps him outdoors this Fall. If you garden, farm, or just love the results, you might appreciate his reply:

-We are doing a number of things as we prepare for winter. In order to make sure we have future harvests, we are getting spinach established in the greenhouse and garlic planted in the field. We are still harvesting chard, kale, spinach, broccoli, cabbage, beets and carrots from the field. We are picking the last of the apples off the trees for cider and table apples. Whenever we have ample



Great friends that bring us great local food. Thank you Chuck Acker! Photo courtesy Blue Horse Photography

apples stored up in the cooler, we make cider! We usually only make 20 - 30 gallons at a time with a small press. It is raw and delicious; made with a blend of usually four to six, or more, varieties. Blending apples is the key to making exceptional cider.

-One of the most important things for maintaining the quality of our soil is to cover it going into the winter. It's best to avoid a naked soil in general, and especially through the winter. We get cover crops established in order to hold the soil in place and provide cover and organic matter for the biology.

-While this season is fresh in our minds, now is the best time to start planning for next year. I have fields measured and am drawing up a crop plan. As soon as the seed catalogues arrive, I'll be able to order seeds based on the crop plan. ...and the cycle of the season continues! Thanks, Ben.



Photo courtesy Blue Horse Photography

Doing Right Cont. from Pg. 1 However, Kat believes Capt. Benjamin Edgecomb, for whom the cemetery was named, is also buried there. Capt. Edgecomb was Joel's nephew.

Kat's father, Phil Newcombe (a 20+ year veteran with a remarkable military service story to tell someday) noticed a tiny cross on a survey of the 15 acres he purchased in the 90's. The cross indicated the location of a cemetery, and he felt obligated to make the site noticeable again. Over the past few years, his family has cut down trees and cleared several gnarly junipers on the 56x30 foot knoll, discovered small pieces of marble markers and three iron boundary markers, and at the Newcombe's request, the Knox-Lincoln Soil and Water conservation district moved its sign which was located right in the middle of the Edgecomb Cemetery. It is Kat's goal, also, to see the wooden rail and metal rod fence standing around its perimeter again as it was described in 1946 Whitefield Historical Society data.

The last known official mention of the cemetery is a Whitefield Historical Society inventory of the town's cemeteries from 1977. It describes the condition of the site as "deplorable" and estimates 18 people may be buried there, although only the one stone was visible and standing in 1977. "This cemetery has no fence and is just a knoll by the side of the highway," the document states. With Kat's determination, honor and respect will be returned to this site once again.

According to Kat's research, Joel and wife Hannah (Blake) Ham and the Edgecombs moved to Whitefield somewhere between 1830 and 1850. Unfortunately, it remains a mystery who else might have been buried in the Edgecomb cemetery. Albert Boynton once recalled that he remembers as a boy seeing that cemetery on a knoll in the hayfield alongside the Sheepscot River. The stones made haying quite difficult and therefore were removed and tossed into a swampy bog nearby. Only a few flat pieces of marble and two iron rods remain. That does not deter Kat, however. She is determined to discover who else is buried with veteran Joel Ham. Foremost though, in honor and recognition of this veteran, Kat will be asking the VA to contribute a headstone for Pvt. Ham to officially mark his resting place. Once that has been completed, she hopes to restore the fence around the cemetery.

How fortunate we are in Whitefield to have youth such as Kat who are raised to value this country and to respect all the generations of people who have helped to make it strong, and thank you, Phil and Darlene! Veterans Day is when we honor all military veterans who served our country, and it formally marked the end of major hostilities in World War I (the 11th hour, 11th day of the 11th month of 1918). This November 11, we applaud Katherine (Kat) Newcombe for her sincere and enthusiastic endeavor to honor veterans, to restore a piece of Whitefield's past, and to "do what's right".



CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR
KINGS MILLS UNION
HALL
 Lots of fine gifts and crafts for sale.
 Join us on Saturday, Nov. 5th
 10 am to 2 pm



Photo by Kit Pfeiffer

mid-October, they focused on trees and leaves. Each student "adopted" a tree and will visit it to see what's changed month by month.

At right, several students take a close look at the lichens growing on the bark of one adopted tree. Students ended their first day with a slow walk out a woods trail, using their new skills of keen observation.

Whitefield at HVNC

Once again this year, Mr. Trask's 4th grade class at the Whitefield School will be visiting the Hidden Valley Nature Center for a day each month to learn about the natural world up close and observe its seasonal changes. For their first visit in



Photo by Kit Pfeiffer



CLA Harvest Pot Luck Supper

by George Fergusson

Mark your calendars! The Clary Lake Association Momentum Committee invites you to join us- the community coming together, lakeshore owners, neighbors, friends, and family alike, for a Harvest Potluck Supper to enjoy each other's company, good home cookin' and to celebrate our Lake.

Our Potluck supper will take place on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at The Sheepscot General on Townhouse Road in Whitefield from 4-7pm. The full scope of the event is still being developed, but we are now actively soliciting volunteers willing to contribute food— crock pot items, casseroles, salads, desserts, beverages. The cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12. There will also be a raffle with details to be announced.

The Momentum Committee was formed to foster a positive outlook as we move forward, appreciating what we have been given even in the face of the challenges presented by our lake's current condition, acknowledging the challenges ahead, remembering all the hard work that has been done and will need to continue to be done in order to bring our lake back to its full health. It's a call to thankfulness, generosity and goodwill and to focus on the simple yet powerful potential in people coming together. This event will be one of many in our continued commitment to celebrate the bounty of community and the importance of reverent stewardship of our nature resources.



The money raised will be used in part to fund future Momentum Committee events and activities. For more information or to contribute to this event, please contact Margaret Fergusson @ 207-458-3143; Mary Gingrow-Shaw @ 207-622-3308, or Erin Grimshaw @ 207-346-4640. You can also email the Momentum Committee with questions or suggestions: fundraising@clarylake.org

Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



The photo above is featured in the Arlington Grange 2017 Calendar. This year the topic is Villages of Whitefield. All the pictures were graciously provided by the Whitefield Historical Society. The Calendar can be purchased at the Alna Store, Hussey's General Store, North Whitefield Superette and Sheepscoot General. Or contact Debbie Rogers at 549-3491.

Summary of recent Select Board activity

by Tony Marple

-The board has approved a solar contract with The Power Company of Washington, Maine. Installation of the panels on the fire station roof will take place in November or December. The board chose a lease model with a buyout option, which provides the town protection with respect to the uncertainties of net metering. Currently, most home owners and businesses with solar panels operate under a net metering contract with their utility which allows surplus electricity generated on sunny days to offset energy use at night and during inclement weather conditions. The LePage administration is opposed to net metering, though the issue is expected to come before the legislature again next spring. The Power Company approach will ensure that the lease expense will be 10% less than what the town's actual utility bill would have been, guaranteeing savings regardless of the net metering regulatory outcome.

-The replacement of the Finn Brook culvert on the Vigue Road is complete, thanks to the funding contributions from the DEP, the Nature Conservancy and Midcoast Conservancy which substantially reduced town funding. Dennis Merrill did a great job in securing the funding and coordinating the project.

-The Northy Bridge on the Howe Road has been removed by the DOT. The DOT replaced the concrete barriers with boulders, landscaped the surroundings and improved parking on the north side.

-The Economic Development Committee was organized by Sue Mckeen during the summer. The purpose of the committee is to understand the barriers and opportunities for businesses operation in town. The committee is also interested in how the community as a whole views the nature and extent of business development in town. The group is also looking for ways to expand and upgrade broadband in town. The committee has mailed surveys to current business owners and will be adding a survey for the community as a whole to the Whitefield Newsletter. The committee would appreciate your participation. The responses will help the committee develop recommendations to the Planning Board and Select Board.

-After issuing a request for proposal for assessing services to a variety of firms around the state, the town has selected RJD Associates of Belfast to serve the town. RJD will be an independent contractor, a change from the current employment model. RJD will begin their work on October 31st. Independent assessors do more of their work remotely rather than in the office, though RJD will spend a day a month onsite. We are confident that citizen inquiries will be answered promptly.

-The Planning Board has approved the US Cellular's application to construct a 190 foot monopole cell tower on the Pagurko property on the Townhouse Road. The tower provides access to four other wireless vendors in addition to US Cellular. The Planning Board approved the cell tower with conditions **including** the planting of a cedar tree buffer, culvert replacement and emergency vehicle access.

NOVEMBER 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 2nd** **ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING**, Pot Luck Dinner 6 pm, Meeting 7 pm
WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY meeting 6:30 pm
- 3rd** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 4th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 5th** **CRAFT FAIR AT KINGS MILLS UNION HALL**, join us for our annual Christmas Craft Fair at the Kings Mills Union Hall from 10 am to 2 pm
- 6th** **WHITEFIELD TRAILS MAINTENANCE** 9:00 to 11:00 AM, Join the Whitefield Trails Committee for some light trail maintenance on the Happy Farm River Trail. Meet at Recycling Center, wear orange, and bring hand clippers or loppers. FMI call Kit Pfeiffer at 446-9768.
- 7th** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT., 7 pm
- 8th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 10th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 12th** **CLA HARVEST POT LUCK SUPPER** Our Potluck supper will take place on Saturday, November 12, 2016 at The Sheepscot General on Townhouse Road in Whitefield from 4-7pm. The full scope of the event is still being developed, but we are now actively soliciting volunteers willing to contribute food—crock pot items, casseroles, salads, desserts, beverages. The cost is \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12. There will also be a raffle with details to be announced.
- 13th** **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 14th** **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 15th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 16th** **PLANNING BOARD**, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 17th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 18th** **OPEN-MIC NIGHT**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 19th** **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages welcome.
- 22nd** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 23rd** **YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS**, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 12 pm
- 24th** **Happy Thanksgiving**
- 29th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm



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

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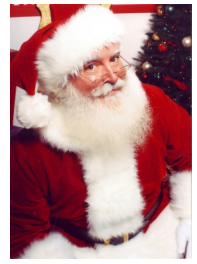
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Volume 4, Issue 6

Published Monthly

December 2016

Holiday Events




ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & TREE LIGHTING
DEC. 4TH
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL
3 - 5pm
(Santa arrives at 4:00 pm)

Welcome to the Amish

By Robin Chase and Tony Marple

Pat and Robin Chase first came in contact with the Amish when they sold their dairy herd to an Amish community in northern Maine in 2008. They have kept in touch throughout the years, and they heard that a group in Depeyter, New York was interested in moving to Maine. Pat and Robin wrote to the group encouraging them to come look at the Whitefield community. They also made a trip to Depeyter last April to meet the Amish families living there. After that first visit, Pat and Robin hosted a large group made up of different families who came and looked at several communities in our region. Whitefield was where they chose to settle. Since that visit, Pat and Robin have hosted over 75 members from their community in their home.

Mose and Anna Yoder and family have purchased land just south of David Jackson's on the east side of Rt. 218. They spent two weeks here in November building a shop for selling their wares and temporary living quarters until their house is built. The building was built



Photo courtesy Tony Marple

from logs cut and milled in their hometown, and the tin came from an Amish dealer in Easton, Maine. They plan to move here in the spring, and a barn raising will take place then.

Dennis and Amelia Hostetler and family of Sonora, Kentucky have signed an agreement to purchase the Verne Bradford property on Rt. 218; just up the road from the Yoder's.

They will be moving here in the spring with their family.

Mose and Clara Miller and family have purchased the Noyes place, which straddles Jefferson and Whitefield across from JC Stone on Rt. 17. Mose and family members have been staying with Jane Chase while they have been renovating and laying cement for their shop.

There are likely to be more Amish families moving to the area, but the numbers and timing are uncertain at this point. They will be traveling by horse and buggy around town and as far *Continued on page 2*

Series on Volunteering Kings Mills Union Hall - Keeping a grand old landmark alive

By Lucy Martin

It takes people to bring a building to life – first to raise the walls and roof beams, then to light up the rooms with talk and laughter.

And it takes people to keep a building alive.

Never is Whitefield's Union Hall more alive than when hungry people from far and wide queue up, as they did in October, for the annual chicken pie supper with its array of harvest vegetables and assortment of yummy dessert pies. The money raised from this event and others is poured into repairs of one of the town's most outstanding landmarks, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Since the hall was built in 1901, originally as a home for the Whitefield Fish and Game Club and Whitefield Grange, it has undergone physical changes: the addition of an ell; the installation (twice) of a metal roof; foundation work 25 years ago to raise the building on precast reinforced concrete posts; construction of a

Erik Ekholm (on ladder) installs the new Kings Mills Union Hall sign, which he built in October. It's a replica of the one dating from the 1930s. Bill McKeen (below) created a digital stencil of the lettering and painted it (Lucy Martin photo).

replica of the original front door; a fresh coat of paint outside as well as inside, where the previously dark wainscoting and drab walls were brightened with lighter-hued paint; and replicating the sign built 80 years ago that hung over the front door. Donations and volunteer labor have played a large role in furthering the life of the hall. *Continued on Pg. 2*



Amish Cont. from page 1
as Gardiner, so please be aware and cautious when sharing the roads with them. The town will be erecting horse and buggy signs, and will be requesting that the DOT do so as well on the state roads in the area.



Photo courtesy Dan Joslyn

Like many other folks in our community, the Amish are self-sufficient. They raise their own meat, dairy products, fruits and vegetables. They also make use of salvaged material. For example, they razed a portion of the chicken barn owned by the Howell's on the Townhouse road for the reusable lumber. When they settle in the spring, you are more than welcome to stop by and introduce yourself to your new neighbor. They prefer not to be photographed except at a distance, but they understand our curiosity and welcome our hospitality. We wish to welcome these new families to Whitefield as well, and we look forward to Spring.

An inspiration in our Sheepscot Valley

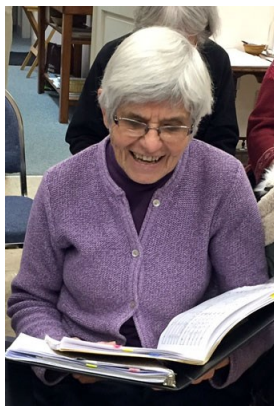
By Cheryle Joslyn

Marie Sacks has been a strong community voice for 42 years in Whitefield. She could be heard at Whitefield School volunteering in a number of classrooms over the years; particularly in the Science lab and the Library. From all sorts of community events and gatherings, to giving hours upon hours of time and talent to the Whitefield Historical Society, Marie's voice has become recognizable in our midst.

Marie and Julian moved with their three teenage children to Whitefield in 1974. Marie has worn many hats since her high school days in Milford, Massachusetts; including wife, mother, grandmother, biology teacher, Doctor of Philosophy with her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, a resourceful town historian with a Master of Arts degree in American History, and a vocal civic-minded advocate for a wide variety of causes and concerns. The word "senior" has its own definition for Marie Sacks. Her "spunkiness" is contagious and becomes so evident with just one conversation. It is hard to "keep up" with Marie.

Of all the happenings in Whitefield that you might remember Marie by, perhaps there is one hidden talent that you did not know about her. Besides her strong civic voice, Marie has a singing voice that she uses to bring joy to the larger community here in Lincoln County. She didn't reveal her voice until a few years ago even though as a young child she loved music. She recalled when the family gathered she would happily stand on the dining table and sing while her uncle played the accordion. And later...in Whitefield, a piano sat in her living room for her three children to practice on and today for Marie to find the right pitch when she begins to sing.

It was Bob and Martha Johanson who opened Marie's door to singing publicly. They invited her to bring her alto voice to join them in the Augusta Symphony Chorus. She took part in the 'Living Christmas Tree Concert' at the Augusta State Armory. She officially became one of the "B.O.M.B.S." (Bank of Maine Bicentennial Singers). It was that avocation that led her to what she is enjoying today...singing! That warm alto "Mama Cass" voice is one of the 30 adult members of the Sheepscot Valley Chorus. They perform two concerts per year, Christmas and spring, and "the best part is", as Marie joked, "there are no auditions in joining". It is a commitment, but one that she thoroughly enjoys.



Marie Sacks
Photo courtesy SVC

Hall Cont. from Pg. 1 Today's Kings Mills Union Hall Association members are working to broaden its purpose as a community center. The wild game dinners, the "glamour girl" suppers when firemen showed up in dresses to serve the meal, old-time dances upstairs, the queen contests, school plays, minstrel shows, beano games and summer smorgasbord survive only in memory.

Thanks, however, to a small, dedicated group of volunteers who have carried on - maintaining and reviving other hall traditions, such as the chicken pie supper, Christmas party and 4th of July "white elephant" sale - improvements continue. There are plans to upgrade the plumbing and revamp the kitchen.

All this to preserve a place that, since its inception, has performed a basic human function and provided a basic human need: community. It's a place to catch up with neighbors over a home-style meal and to meet new folks sitting across the table; a place to find locally made crafts for the home or gift-giving; a place to sing holiday songs and bring the kids to tell Santa what they'd like for Christmas.

And there are laughs, a spirit of camaraderie and a sense of effort generously repaid among the volunteer helpers, too, when the last dish is washed and dried; when the last happy, well-fed diner heads home; the last holiday-maker leaves the party.

To succeed, the association needs people. Meeting monthly, KMU-HA directors and members toss around ideas for making the hall more useful and accessible. Newcomers are always welcome and very much needed if the group is to remain active and keep Union Hall a living presence in our town.

To find out how you can get involved, contact president/ treasurer Judy Maldovan, 549-5664. Other officers are vice president Earl Lemieux and secretary Judi Ekholm.

The Sheepscot Valley Chorus is a thriving Community Chorus. Directed by Linda Blanchard, as well as accompanied by Sean Fleming, they present programs with professional chamber orchestras, sing for community events, and showcase talented local students from area schools in their concerts. They annually award scholarship students from Lincoln Academy, Wiscasset High School, and Boothbay Regional School who are identified as excellent in their musical studies and/or contributing the most to their school's music program. SVC's door is always "wide" to welcome in new members, and there you'll discover are people like Marie who "just love to sing"! As she says, "It isn't all just fun and games...we do some serious music", but we know Marie takes a "fun" spirit with her whatever she decides to do.



Photo courtesy SVC

The Chorus is rehearsing for their December 4th concert that will be held at the Boothbay Harbor Congregational Church at 3:00 pm. The featured work this season will be the highly lyrical Respighi's "Laud to the Nativity". This piece is lightly orchestrated and features several solo voices in addition to the chorus. There will be four other pieces featured, as well as Anton Bruckner's "Ave Maria". This year's performance promises to be quite a treat and a rewarding culmination of many Tuesday night rehearsals for both Marie and her chorus colleagues. You are warmly invited to attend the December 4th performance and observe this yourself.

As for Marie, we know her busy life does not just slow down after December 4th. She has many interesting "next's" already filling her calendar. She is grateful for her healthy genes and recognizes that age is only a number. As long as we are still able to get up in the morning, it's not too late to do activities that inspire us and make us vibrant, and it certainly never is too late to have fun. If you have a chance, to hear Marie sing, that will be a lot of fun.

Congratulations to Hannah Jackson, Jenna Perkins and Lorelei Gilley for taking first, second and third place in the Whitefield Lion's Club Peace Poster Contest.

The school would like to thank all of our supporters who have recently purchased or attended the various fundraising events we have been doing. The money we have raised will help send our 5th grade students to Boston, our 8th grade students on their spring trip, help our PTA to bring student enrichment activities to the students, and our athletic teams with the purchasing of new items such as uniforms and entrance fees into tournaments.

Our aquaponics program has great news! We are the recipients of the 2016 STEM Education Innovation Challenge Grant. We will receive a minimum of \$2000 and be in the running for an additional \$3000 to create a "Student Renewable Energy Lab." Great job writing the grant Mr. Willigar!

Whitefield staff, Niki Mathews, Susan Peaslee, Tracy Northup and Josh McNaughton presented at the annual PBIS conference on November 4th. This is the second year in a row Whitefield as been invited to share our program with other schools in the state.

On Monday, October 24th Whitefield hosted our 13th National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony. Congratulations to our current and returning members.

Thank you to the Chelsea PTA and School for inviting Whitefield students to the Jared Campbell Anti-bullying presentation on Friday October 28th. The students and staff enjoyed the presentation.

Our school is proud to announce that we hosted an Outdoor Adventure & Learning Open House at the school November 14th. The evening started off with free mountain bike trails for kids/families to ride in the area around the school. Once the demo portion of the event was complete, the event moved into the gymnasium for pizza and a short slideshow presentation explaining the Outdoor Adventure & Learning program.

Student NWEA and DRA assessments have been completed. Soccer season has drawn to a close. We are very proud of our team for being good sportsman and representing our community with pride. Basketball is now underway. This year the school is hosting four teams, a varsity and junior varsity team for both the girls and boys.

As you can see, Whitefield School has had a very busy and productive Fall.



Christmas Card sent in 1881 courtesy of the Whitefield Historical Society

Classic Children's Books for a Winter Day

by Andrea Lani

Nothing beats curling up with a cup of cocoa and a good book after coming in from an adventure in the snow. It's especially fun to read books that bring the winter magic inside and get you excited to suit up and head back out again. Consider adding a few of these timeless tales to your winter reading list.



Photo courtesy Andrea Lani

In *Mama Do You Love Me?* a little girl tests the limits of her mother's love as she imagines turning into wild animals and traveling through a gorgeously illustrated Arctic landscape. By Barbara M. Josse, illustrated by Barbara Lavallee

The *Snowy Day* captures the magic a child experiences traveling through a snow-filled world. By Ezra Jack Keats.

Tracks in the Snow takes a small child on a rhyming adventure as she follows animal prints to discover who left them. By Wong Herbert Yee

The Mitten retells a Ukranian folk tale about a lost mitten and the wild animals that seek shelter inside. By Jan Brett.

In *Owl Moon* a young girl joins her father on a late-night search for a great-horned owl. By Jane Yolen, illustrated by John Schoenherr

The *Big Snow* shows how different kinds of animals prepare for winter. By Berta and Elmer Hader.

In *Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening*, Susan Jeffers's soft pen-

cil drawings illustrate Robert Frost's classic poem and capture the wonder of a fresh snow.

Over and Under the Snow (by Kate Messner, illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal) and *Under the Snow* (by Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Constance R. Bergum) both give readers a window into what happens beneath the white—including animals that sleep away the winter and those that stay busy in the warm layer between ground and snow.

Snowflake Bentley tells the story of a boy who loved snow so much he taught himself to take photographs of them and became a world-renowned snow scientist, despite being a Vermont farmer. By Jacqueline Briggs Martin, illustrated by Mary Azarian.

Finally, if you get tired of snow—either outdoors or in books—and are looking forward to spring, check out *Just Plain Fancy*, by Patricia Polacco. This story, about two young Amish girls and a very special egg they find, will help acquaint children (and their parents) with Whitefield's new neighbors and some of their customs.

DECEMBER 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- Nov. 30 **MT. VIEW CHAMBER SINGERS**, St. Denis Church, 7 pm
- 1st **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 2nd **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- HOLIDAY BAZAAR AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL**, gifts, crafts and food 5-8 pm
- 4th **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT KINGS MILLS UNION HALL**, join us for our annual Christmas Program and Tree Lighting at the Kings Mills Union Hall 3-5 pm. Santa arrives at 4 pm.
- 5th **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
- KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, 7 pm
- 6th **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- WHITEFIELD SCHOOL CONCERT, K-5 AND WHITEFIELD BAND 5-8**, 6:00 pm
- 7th **ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING**, Pot Luck Dinner 6 pm, Meeting 7 pm
- WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** meeting 6:30 pm
- 8th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- MID-COAST CONSERVANCY ANNUAL MEETING AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT** from 5:30-7 pm, all members are invited to the Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Night at Wavus Camp, 88 Wavus Point Road in Jefferson. Join us for drinks and appetizers with fellow members while helping us honor our wonderful volunteers, and getting an update on Midcoast Conservancy's first year. We look forward to celebrating this exciting landmark with all of you! Call or email with any questions: (207) 389-5150 or ali@midcoastconservancy.org
- RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 11th **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 12th **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 13th **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 15th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 16th **OPEN-MIC NIGHT**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 17th **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages welcome.
- 20th **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 21st **WINTER SOLSTICE HIKE AND HEARTY SOUP** Kit Pfeiffer of the Whitefield Trails Committee will lead a morning hike on the rerouted Happy Farm River Trail along the Sheepscot River, followed by a Dutch treat lunch at Sheepscot General. A great way to celebrate the official arrival of winter. Meet at the trailhead at the Recycling Center, wear sturdy shoes and layers appropriate for the weather. 10 am—12 pm
- PLANNING BOARD**, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 22nd **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 27th **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 28th **YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS**, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 12 pm
- 29th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am



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

Central Lincoln County YMCA in Damariscotta is partnering with other community organizations on a Christmas Giving Tree for needy youth in the community. Between December 3 and 14, tags will be available to the public on the Y's tree: wrapped gifts should be returned to the Y no later than December 14. FMI, call the Y at 563-9622.



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