



Whitefield News

Celebrate Whitefield Day September 14

By Sue McKeen

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

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

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

Two musical groups are scheduled to play under the



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Roof Repairs Planned for Kings Mills Union Hall

By Lucy Martin

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

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

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

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

Paving completed for 2013

Road Committee needed for future

By Dennis Merrill

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

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

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

Paving

(continued from page 1)

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

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

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



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Calendar of Events

September:

1st - Medicinal and Edible Mushrooms of Maine: HVNC

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

7th - Fly Casting Lessons: HVNC

10th - RSU 12 Budget Vote

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

14th - Whitefield Day

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

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

26-29th - Timber Frame Construction: HVNC

October:

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

27th - 3rd Annual Trail Race: HVNC

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

Do you have an event?

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

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GREETINGS

TO

DOT HOWELL

Vote on RSU 12 Budget Looms

By Hillary Holm RSU 12 Board Chair

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

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

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

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

the website: www.svrsu.org.

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

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

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

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

Whitefield Days Schedule of Events September 14

- 8:00-5:00 Softball Tournament, school; info: Nate Lee 754-3013
- 9:00-10:00 5K road race, school, kids fun run immediately after; info: Anthony Anderson 441-9738
- 10:00-2:00 Children's games & cupcake walk
- 10:00-2:00 Craft fair, flea market, food under tent; info: Judy Maldovan 549-5664
- 10:00- 2:00 Quilt display, Whitefield Historical Society; info: Carolee Withee 582-7129 or Karen Mitman 549-3139
- 10:00-2:00 Art show, fire station; info: Mabelle Small 549-5109
- 11:00-11:30 K-9 demonstration, Scott Hayden
- 11:30-12 Pie eating contest, under the tent
- 12:00-1:00 Music under the tent, "The Whitefields" and "Double Jinx"
- 1:00-3:00 Antiques Road Show: Lawrence Trueman of LT Auctions will appraise the treasures you bring (three item maximum)
- 3:00-3:30 Flag ceremony, fire station
- 4:30-6:00 Spaghetti supper, Arlington Grange, adults \$8, children 10 and under \$4; 50/50 raffle drawing
- 6:30-8:00 Down-home style musical program, upstairs at grange

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ARLINGTON GRANGE 528



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

Fresh Faces Found at Arlington Grange

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Aaron's Corner

A look back at tax-acquired properties



By Aaron C. Miller
Administrative Assistant
Town Clerk

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

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

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

NOTICE OF SALE OF TAX ACQUIRED PROPERTY

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

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

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