



Happy
Spring



FREE

Whitefield News

Volume I, Issue 10

Published Monthly

April 2014

Town Meeting Results of Balloting 361 Voted

Select Board - 2 positions

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

Road Commissioner

David Boynton	302
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Planning Board - 2 positions

Jim Torbert	281
Mike Panosian	(write in) 24

RSU 12 Committee - 1 position open

Joan Morin	(write in) 16
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Fire Truck Purchase

Yes	208
No	152

Open Town Meeting

About 100 Voters

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

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

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

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

Women of Whitefield (WOW)

By Jane Chase

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

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

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



Jane Chase & Martha Chase

Photo by Lucy Martin

involved in the community and we welcome that prospect.

Comments from some of the women are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

With a little help from our friends

By Sue McKeen

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

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

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



Avery Dunn and Wes Keep Photo by Lucy Martin

several states away. She started wondering who will give her a ride if she needs one? Who will help her with groceries, rides to medical appointments, to

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

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

Continued on Pg. 2

Calling all Farmers

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

Hidden Valley Nature Center receives tree farmer award

(contributed by Andy McEvoy, HVNC director)

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Just Do Your Job

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

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

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

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

Judith Robbins

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STEVE CROCKER • DEE CROCKER

Just Yesterday

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

According to town historian and archivist Marie Sacks' *A Brief History of Whitefield 1760-2004*, the town, in the early 1800s, "established 8 school districts as mandated by state law. Each district voted for its own school agents, who collected the school taxes for that district, decided the location of its school and what the school schedule would be, hired the teachers, bought supplies, etc. The number of districts and the locations of the schoolhouses changed with the population."

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

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

The following is the doings of the inhabitants of the meeting under the proceeding Warrant
 First Chose Isreal Dunton for Moderator
 2nd Chose G.W. Carleton, Clerk
 3rd Chose Isaac Kincaid Agent
 4th Voted Summer school commence the first Monday in June
 5th Chose G.W. Carleton Agent to collect outstanding tax
 6th Voted that said tax be put into the Town Treasure hands and there to remain until said District calls for it
 7th Voted that Arther Tellock have goods for week for boarding the teacher in the summer
 8th Voted to adjourn without date. Isaac Kincaid agreed to furnish wood for Winter school for \$4.00

Notice

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

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

Carried over
 First Choose George Wheeler Moderator
 2nd Voted that the winter school commence the first Monday in Dec.
 3rd Voted to have a Female Teacher to teach the winter school
 Arther Tellock agreed to furnish the wood for the winter school for \$5.25

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

(contributed by Dana Rogers, Lillian's grandson)



Wheeler School, East River Road, c. 1913



CORRECTION

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

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

Town meeting: We gathered together – to vote

By Sue McKeen

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

Enter the kind offer from Calvary Church.

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

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

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



Broadband service expands

By Dennis Merrill

A new wireless Internet service is now available in Whitefield.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Students get out and learn about nature

By Kit Pfeiffer

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



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

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

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

Throughout the winter, weather and warmth permitting, they have gone out to check on their plots to see what has happened. "I've noticed that some trees have fallen down," says Annie. "It helps the woodpeckers to have insects to eat from the dying logs." Just the other day, Tyler noticed "the buds

on the little trees, getting ready for spring."

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

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

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

Revisiting Whitefield's old-time stores

By Lucy Martin

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

RSU 12 Question & Answer

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

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

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

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

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



Josh McNaughton
Photo by Lucy Martin

APRIL 2014 WHITEFIELD EVENTS CALENDAR

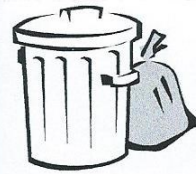
- 1st **Living Well for Better Health** at the Whitefield Lions Club 9-11:30 am
Select Board 6pm
Kings Mill Union Hall Board, 7 pm
- 2nd **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General. 10 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 3rd **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 4th **Whitefield Food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

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



Recycling Tip of the Month

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



Whitefield Trash Service

Dana Rogers

549-3491

Household Garbage Pickup

\$2.00 per bag

Tire Disposal \$3 per tire – Larger tires \$5

FREE Metal removal, appliances (no Freon), wood stoves, Auto & Lawnmower batteries – ANY METAL WASTE

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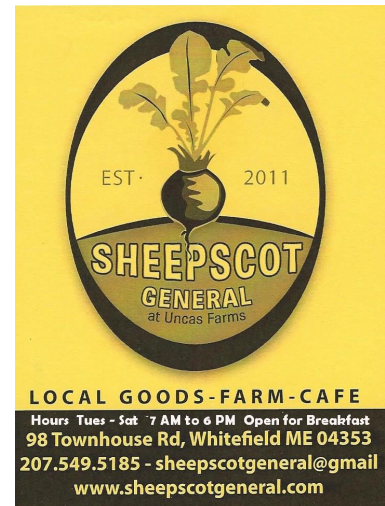
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Newsletter readers' survey
We'd like your opinion.

Is the newsletter print readable?
Do you like the format? If not how could
It be improved? _____

Yes _____ No _____
Yes _____ No _____

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

Yes _____ No _____

Are there specific topics that need coverage? Please list

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

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

Other comments or suggestions?

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

Maple Sugar Sunday—A Sweet Success



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



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

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