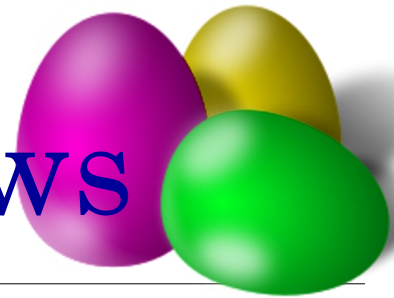




# Whitefield News

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## Newsletter Contest

The Whitefield newsletter is having a contest for the month of April. If you answer the questions correctly, you will be entered into the drawing for a \$100 cash prize!!!

Here are your questions:

1. What is the name of one of the Select Board members? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who is the Town's Administrative Assistant? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many hairs does the Hair Works cut on an average haircut? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many apples are on a tree at Bailey's Orchard? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How deep is Clary Lake? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood? \_\_\_\_\_

And lastly, April Fools!!



## Town Meeting - The story of zeitgeist gone by?

By Sue McKeen

When I first heard the word "zeitgeist" the other day at town meeting (although I was sure I knew its meaning), I'll admit, I had to "google" it: "Zeitgeist: a defining spirit or mood of a particular period of history as shown by the ideas and beliefs of the time". I refer to this particular word because several people wondered if the rollicking good times of past town meetings are, in fact, a thing of the past.

Sadly, in some ways, I think this is true, and I have to admit, I miss those days, too. The gym floor was always muddy from the many boots in and out of what used to be a packed house. Kids ran around the perimeter of the meeting, local organizations gave us information, hundreds of hotdogs were sold, and the fire department had a big supper. The truth of it is simple, we don't discuss, or indeed feel like we control in any way, by far the largest expenditure the town has, our school budget. Most of our younger people, as well as others, are simply not interested in discussing municipal government, and frankly that can be pretty mundane. I caught several people yawning at the meeting last Saturday.

But, on the flip side, where in this world can you find a more grassroots way of governing? Town meeting is it. Town meetings are not always drama-packed, but we show up, we vote, and we matter. And...sometimes there's that hot potato issue that brings everyone out. It's happened before; it'll happen again. Don't you want to be part of it?

Last Saturday, the 80 people who did show up, voted through the entire \$1.1 million budget in a record 90

minutes.

\$29,000 was approved for town office renovations. A portion of that money will be used to build two shed roofs over the back doors of the fire station in order to keep the doors clear of snow. The \$400,000 road budget was approved. Dennis Merrill told the gathering that based on what we currently know and the fact that we don't have all the variables, the mil rate may decrease by up to 1/2 a mil.

Our newly elected officials are: Select Board, Charlene Donahue and Bill McKeen; Planning Board, Marianne Marple, Glenn Angell, and Steve Sheehy as a write-in candidate; Road Commissioner, David Boynton for a three year term; School Board, Tara Delisle, as a write-in candidate.

The Select Board nominated David and Barbara Hayden for the well deserved 2017 Spirit of America Award. Louie Sell gave a report for the Economic Development Committee highlighting the results of the town-wide surveys conducted last fall. *Continued on Page 2*



Photo by Aaron Miller

## Award-winning cheese – made at Whitefield's Barred Owl Creamery

By Patti and Chris Hamilton

Whitefield's Barred Owl Creamery at Hamilton Farm (6 South Fowles Lane) won first place in North America for its goat & sheep milk feta cheese. It also won second place for its chevre cheese blended with hot pepper jelly. The American Cheese Society presented the awards in 2015. These are two of the products produced at this MOFGA certified organic family farm.

"I milk five goats and 7 sheep twice a day, producing about 6 gallons of milk daily. I then make a variety of cheese (feta, chevre, and blue cheese) in our creamery. I grow the hot peppers in our greenhouse, make it into jam and then mix chevre cheese with the jam. It is really delicious," says Patti Hamilton.

"My favorite is the blue cheese. It ages for about three months before it is ready for sale," says Hamilton. She sells her cheese at the finest restaurants in Portland including Fore Street, Grace, and Vinland. It is also available at Hamilton Farm's farm store and at her farm stand at the Common Ground Country Fair.



Photo from Hamilton Farm - Barred Owl Creamery & Catering Facebook Page

In addition to cheese, Patti also makes a variety of goat & sheep milk soaps, bees wax candles, and organic wool pillows. Hamilton Farm also raises and sells organic goat, lamb, chickens and pork - and organic vegetables and eggs.

"During the growing season (from March through November), our farm is busy place," says Hamilton. "Early spring is particularly busy birthing lambs and goats. In one 24 hour period this spring three goats birthed 9 kids!"

The Hamilton's started farming in Whitefield in 2000. "We wanted to raise our children with strong rural values and as self-sufficiently as possible. We also homeschooled our children through high school."

Becca (27) graduated from the College of the Atlantic and is completing a 27-month tour in the Peace Corps in Nepal. Abraham (24) graduated from the University of Maine and Purdue University with degrees in mechanic engineering. He works for Dimaliar Chrysler Motor Company outside of Detroit, MI. In addition to farm chores, Chris works for Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA).

"In addition to growing wholesome organic food, we also enjoy teaching people the basics *Continued on Page 2*

**Town from Page 1** All and all, this was a nice sunny day in March, where my friends and neighbors came out to exercise their right to vote, to be a part of something important, and to make us remember how lucky we are to have this right.

**Hamilton cont. from Pg. 1** of organic farming. Over the years we have hosted dozens of apprentices," says Hamilton. "They stay with us for several weeks to several months. Some people come help for a few hours a week. There is always plenty to do!"

"With its expanding number of farmers and its close knit community, Whitefield is becoming an agricultural destination. It is an excellent place to have our family business," says Hamilton. "Towns like Whitefield are becoming increasingly rare in Maine and across the nation. We feel so lucky to live here and share our farm products with our neighbors."

The self-service farm store is located in the Hamilton's new timber frame barn (constructed by Whitefield's Bob Lear). Farm tours are available by appointment by calling 207-549-5497 or by email at [hamiltonfarm03@yahoo.com](mailto:hamiltonfarm03@yahoo.com). Our website is: [hamiltonfarm.wordpress.com](http://hamiltonfarm.wordpress.com)

## Economic Development Committee Update



In February's newsletter article reporting its activities to date the committee pointed out that questionnaires sent to citizens and existing businesses had shown the importance attached to reliable high speed internet access for the Whitefield area. Research indicates that universal high speed Internet access is crucial to the economic and social health of communities now and in the future.

As the committee continues to explore this subject through a number of channels, we recently invited Alan Hinsey from Lincolnville Communication (LCI) LCI O.P.E.N. Fiber Networks to present the benefits of a fiber optic accessed Internet. For most of us, a fiber-optic connection to the Internet is many times faster than even the highest-speed copper Internet connections where they are currently available. LCI began as Lincolnville Telephone and now has a fiber network in many areas of Lincoln County. Their fiber extends to Alna, right at our border.

If you are interested in LCI's fiber optic network in Whitefield, you can simply call LCI at 207-763-9900 for any questions. LCI has a map showing requests for service. They will evaluate the map over time to see if there is enough interest to expand their network into Whitefield. The more interest there is in LCI fiber service, which is somewhat less expensive than Time Warner Cable, the more likely they are to expand their fiber optic network here.

Soon, we will be using the Town's website for more information and updates on the committee's work as it becomes available.

We are sending this update as a service to the people of Whitefield. It does not constitute an endorsement by the committee or the town of Whitefield of any particular commercial provider of internet services over another.

(Members: Louie Sell, Sue and Bill McKeen, Tony Marple, Ben Marcus, Stephen Sheehy, Dennis Merrill, Karl Richards and Steve Smith)

## Remember to purchase your CSA

Yay, it's spring, 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.

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.

## Family outings for April vacation and beyond

by Andrea Lani

By the time April break rolls around, my whole family is usually stir crazy after a winter spent largely indoors with too much screen time. We're ready to GET OUT and enjoy spring as it creeps into the landscape. While we may dream of a vacation to more southerly latitudes where trees are already blooming and leafing, usually we make do with opportunities close to home. If you, too, are looking forward to a staycation, consider taking your family on some of these micro-adventures:



Photo by Andrea Lani

**Take a Hike.** After a winter cooped up indoors nothing feels better than stretching your legs on a hiking trail. Try one of Whitefield's three trails (Marrs Ridge on Hunts Meadow Rd., West Branch Trail on North Howe Road, or Happy Farm River Trail, which starts behind the recycling shed). If you want to head a little farther afield, check out Bass Falls in Alna, Dodge Point in Newcastle, or the Old Narrow Gauge Trail in Randolph. Don't forget your muck boots if the ground is still swampy or muddy.

**Fly a Kite.** Don't wait for a summer beach day to bring out the kites. Give them a try when spring winds begin to blow. If you don't have a big enough meadow of your own, head over to Whitefield Elementary School where the wide-open sports fields allow for plenty of space to get your kite airborne without having to worry about trees or power lines.

**Visit a Museum.** If you're interested in transportation, check out the Wiscasset, Waterville, and Farmington Railway Museum in Alna. The museum is open Saturdays during April, although the trains don't begin operating until May. Explore Maine's history and natural history at the Maine State Museum in Augusta. The museum is offering a Free Family Saturday on April 15, where you can learn about Skulls, Skins, and Scales. For the artist in the family, both Colby and Bowdoin Colleges have art museums with impressive collections and free admission.

**See a Movie.** Enjoy a little throw-back fun with Pee-Wee's Big Adventure at Johnson Hall Performing Arts Center in Gardiner on Wednesday April 19 at 6 p.m. and Saturday April 22 at 2 p.m. Animal lovers in your family will enjoy a trip to the Lincoln Theater in Damariscotta in April. Kedi, a documentary about the street cats of Istanbul, will be showing from April 21 - April 27, and the 1944 film National Velvet, about a girl who disguises herself as a boy and rides her horse in the Grand National, will be shown on April 22.

**Go to the Coast.** While many of us wouldn't consider a trip to the beach when the temperature is less than 70 degrees, the off-season is a surprisingly beautiful, peaceful, and fun time to visit the shore. Consider checking out some of these coastal gems this month: Pemaquid Beach in Bristol, Rachel Carson Salt Pond Preserve in New Harbor, or La Verna Preserve in Bristol.

Turn the opportunity of this ordinary April vacation into an adventure by trying something you've never done before or going someplace new, close to home.



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## Just Yesterday - Elmore Hall

by Dan Joslyn

Elmore lived on a dirt road in Whitefield, in a cabin with no insulation, no running water, and no sheetrock on the walls and his radio always sat on his formica kitchen table.

His aspirations were simple; his ambition aligned with his aspirations. Life was simple. Life was good. He had friends who stopped by to visit, but mostly to celebrate "St. Patty's day" year-round, if you know what I'm saying.

His drinking water came from a small spring down the road a bit. He conveyed his water by riding an old lawnmower that had separated from its mower at some point. He would dip sweet cold water that seeped from ledge on the sidehill and tumbled into a tin tub. The water was cold even in the heat of August and pure; as a frog lived within the tub, too small to lift the cover off. Seldom were there bugs or worms within.

Now Elmore told me one day that he'd found a tree close by a deer trail. It had caught his attention. If only he could get up into it, he could shoot in 395 degrees. Wardens would never see it. He dreamed of taking bucks throughout the entire fall season while resting comfortably in the trees arms. But alas, there was a problem that seemed insurmountable. There were no limbs below twenty feet, and it was way too far to drag a ladder. You see this special tree was on the east side of the Game Preserve Road, and that indeed was quite a walk.

"Umo" as we sometimes called him, pondered this challenge, and being kinda retired, he had plenty of time. I had always found him to be entertaining because he loved the woods just as much as I did. There was always some story waiting for me. One day when I was riding by on my bike heading for some adventure, he gestured for me to come in. He stated, "I've figured out how to get up that darned deer tree, and I'm willing to have you help me if you'll promise to never show it to anyone; especially any piss ass game warden." My head moved up and down, but I was overcome with huge expectation that I was about to have a real adventure.

You see, Umo looked at challenges differently from most folk. He'd assess a situation and then figure out a way to get done what was needed with as little effort as possible. Time was of no consequence to him.

He asked me to be at his place the following Monday at exactly eight thirty, when most would be working and we could go about our business and not be seen. Upon arrival at his doorstep, he had his lawn mower trailer loaded with axe, sledge hammer, hand saw, drill, bits and a wood rasp. Also there was a six-pack in a brown paper bag. After looking at everything, I couldn't see how in the world anyone was getting up any tree with that stuff. He simply remarked, "Be patient, boy. You'll understand soon enough."

He rode and I walked east to the point where east becomes west, and we crossed over into forbidden land. An old logging road allowed the tired old lawnmower to stumble along for a half mile where it coughed, spit, and quit. "Knew I shoulda brought some gas," he stated. The tools were gathered up, and I fell in line behind him. "Don't get your britches on fire boy." I was silent.

Within several hundred yards we came to Elmore's tree. Sitting alone, it would provide fine cover and clear shots in any direction. All 395 degrees.

"So how ya gonna get up it, Umo?" I muttered. "Well, it's simple boy. We're gonna cut hornbeam pieces as that stuff is wicked hard, sharpen them, and drive them in the holes we drill. They'll make fine steps. We'll put them in as high as we can reach. "So then what?" Well, we'll come back when that pine has grown six feet. The pegs will be six feet higher, and we'll put more in. I guess I'll have to make three trips to get up eighteen feet".

...and Elmore would smile if he could hear me say, "APRIL FOOLS!"



The truth: Elmore was real and lived as described and many folks knew him, but pegs cannot be placed in trees and be expected to grow up from the ground. Trees only grow from the tops. Elmore would have loved to tell people otherwise.

## Congratulations to this year's Spirit of America honorees, Barbara & David Hayden

contributed by Frank Ober

Each year the Board of Selectmen is asked to choose a member (or members) of our community who personify the community and the spirit of volunteering. The Spirit of America Award has been that vehicle for several years. We believe it is a wonderful way to recognize those folks who are doing important things in quiet ways and who make our town a better place to live.

This year, the board has selected David and Barbara Hayden, a couple who have worked tirelessly for our community for the many years they have lived in Whitefield.

From volunteering their time to the fire department, the school, the town, the Athletic Association, the blue grass festivals, the Bicentennial celebration and Whitefield Community Days, to shoveling the snow from the Historical Society building and the fire station, David and Barbara have worked tirelessly for the town since they moved here is the 1970's.

You will often see them walking the roads of Whitefield getting some exercise and quality time together. They make a loop around the school and recycling center picking up wayward materials and are quick to make us aware of issues in the area.

But it is the selfless giving of their time that make David and Barbara the right choice for this award. When there is a need, you can count on them to step up. In this busy and fast moving world, that is indeed a rare quality.

The Whitefield Select Board is pleased to recognize Barbara and Dave Hayden for the 2017 Spirit of America award.



Photo by Cheryle Joslyn



## Welcome

We warmly welcome the Mose and Anna Yoder family to Whitefield. As our new neighbors settle in to our community, we wish to remind everyone to use caution when driving the hilly/winding roads of Whitefield (particularly Rt 218 and Town House Rd).

## APRIL 2017 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 3rd** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT. ANNUAL MEETING.** We'd love to have folks stop in and find out what we're up to and where we are going. A lot of our members around the area join the "150 Club" with 1/3 of the "pot going toward the Scholarship fund and 2/3 paid out to the winner of the drawing every month. If people haven't seen the inside of the rebuilt fire station, here's a good excuse. 7:30 pm
- 4th** **KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT.,** 7 pm  
**WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** meeting 1:00 pm  
**SELECT BOARD,** Fire Station, 6  
**KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING** - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 5th** **ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING,** Call 549-3491 for more information .
- 6th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP,** Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**WHITEFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE,** 4 pm Sheepscot General
- 7th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY,** St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm  
**USE OF FUNGAL CULTURES IN MAKING DAIRY PRODUCTS** Fresh and aged cheeses, yogurt and kefir are some of the dairy delicacies made with a little help from bacteria and fungi. Jessie Dowling, Fuzzy Udder Creamery owner/cheesemaker will discuss these tiny helpers and their role in making an array of goat and sheep milk products. 5:30 pm at Sheepscot General
- 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  
**SELECT BOARD,** Fire Station, 6 pm
- 13th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP,** Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 15th** **DRUMMING CIRCLE,** Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages welcome.
- 18th** **SELECT BOARD,** Fire Station, 6 pm
- 19th** **SPRING TRAIL RUNNING SERIES** each Wednesday April 19 to May 24 at HVNC. Each week, runners of all levels can start their run between 4:30 and 6pm. Volunteers from Midcoast Conservancy and Trail Monster will time everyone so that results can be compared week to week. Register at <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/events>
- 20th** **PLANNING BOARD,** Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 21st** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP,** Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**GUIDED BOG WALK** Meet at HVNC gate and be guided to our kettlehole bog. Easy walk -10 minutes each way. Leader: Hildy Ellis. Dress appropriately, there could be bugs, binocs are a plus. \$5 Donation No dogs please Register at <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/events>
- 22nd** **OPEN-MIC NIGHT,** Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm  
**CHAINSAW SAFETY: LEVEL 1 22ND & 23RD** 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. Register at <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/events>
- 23rd** **VERNAL POOLS EXPLORATION** We'll Meet at the gate at 10:00 for a leisurely stroll, about a mile of walking. Please no dogs. 10-noon  
**KID AND LAMB SNUGLING DAY,** come snuggle all the baby critters at Fuzzy Udder Creamery
- 25th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD,** Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**SELECT BOARD,** Fire Station, 6 pm
- 26th** **YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS,** Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 12 pm fini call Mary at (549-5041) or Arlene (549-7937) Entertainment by Bonnie Hendsbee  
**SPRING TRAIL RUNNING SERIES SEE APRIL 19TH**
- 27th** **TIMBER FRAME CONSTRUCTION 27TH-30TH** 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.  
 Register at <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/events>
- 28th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP,** Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD,** Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**SELECT BOARD,** Fire Station, 6 pm
- 29th** **WHITEFIELD TRAILS SPRING CLEAN-UP.** Meet at 9 AM at Happy Farm River trail kiosk by the Recycling Center. Optional breakfast gathering at 8 AM at Sheepscot General. (Rain date, Sunday, April 30.) FMI, call 549-7572.



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