



Whitefield News

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Volume 5, Issue 10

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Working from home in Whitefield?

We would like to know who you are for a future article about telecommuting from Whitefield.

Please contact Kit Pfeiffer, kit_pfeiffer@yahoo.com or 446-9768. Thanks.

Thanks everyone!

Mr. Cullenberg's 5th grade class would like to thank everyone who donated food items for our food sale at the town meeting. We are raising money for our 5th grade trip to Boston. We will get to visit many great places such as The Freedom Trail, Boston Tea Party, along with other places in Boston. We would also like to thank all of the townspeople who bought items from us. We truly appreciate everyone's generosity.

Mr. Cullenberg's 5th grade class

Whitefield Town Meeting

By Tony Marple

On Friday, March 16th, voters reelected selectman Les Shaeffer, Planning Board members Jake Mathews and Jim Torbert and RSU12 School Board members Tara Delisle and Keith Marple.

Town Meeting began at 10am on the 17th with Jeff Frankel as moderator. Before voting on warrant articles began, Frank Ober presented the Spirit of America award to the Library Committee and Quinn Conroy, the Whitefield fourth grade student who when he was in second grade wrote a letter to the Select Board requesting a summer library, signing it "Citizen Quinn". The Library Committee did as Quinn directed and continues to work on improvements to the library, which is located at the Grange. Joan Morin gave a brief update on the Whitefield Collaborative Problem-Solving Project that she leads, and asked voters to sign up for email updates on the group's work. Select Board member and entomologist Charlene Donahue discussed the growing threat of the invasive browntail moth, control measures and health risks.



Photo by Keith Marple

Following a budget overview by Tony Marple, warrant article voting began. Voters approved a small increase in Select Board stipends along with a significant increase in Town Office staff wages and benefits intended to make compensation comparable to that in other small towns. Voters approved a new property tax option called the "Tax Club" which offers the option of making monthly payments. Fire Chief Scott Higgins explained the need for an increase in the Fire Department budget which hasn't changed in years. Voters approved the increase **Continued on pg. 2**

Caterpillar Rash

by Charlene Donahue, Maine Forest Service Entomologist

Browntail moth caterpillars are one of the few caterpillars that cause problems for people, but problems they do cause! Unfortunately, browntails can now be found scattered in apple and oak trees across Whitefield and surrounding towns. Browntails have tiny hairs that become airborne and can cause a rash on people or even cause breathing problems in sensitive individuals.

Right now the caterpillars are snug in webs tightly wrapped in silk out at the very tips of oak and apple tree branches. This is where they will stay until the sun warms them in late April. At that point they emerge from their winter sleep and look for new tree leaves to eat. During May and June the caterpillars eat and grow and shed their skins (note this - shed their skins) four times before they become pupae and then transform into adult moths.



Browntail Moth web Photo by Charlene Donahue

The shed skins dry out, and tiny - microscopic tiny - hairs break off and end up everywhere. The hairs are on the leaves, on the ground, on anything outside and in the air when the wind blows or anything stirs them up. Things like mowing, weed whacking or raking can stir up the hairs and expose you to the hairs. You do not have to come in contact with a caterpillar or even see one to get a rash.

Winter is a good time to check

your apple (and other fruit) trees to see if there is bright white silk tying leaves to the tips of branches. If you find overwintering webs, you can prune them out and drop them in a bucket of soapy water or burn them in your wood stove.

Webs in the tops of oak trees are much more problematic. It is difficult or impossible to remove the webs, and **Continued on pg. 2**

Meeting from pg. 1 and thanked Scott's department for their fine work. Frank Ober explained the roads budget in the context of the committee's ten-year plan and the expensive repair or replacement of a large culvert on south Hunts Meadow Road. Voter Melinda Caron suggested upgrading all roads now, financed with a bond. Frank explained that the bonding approach had been considered but not recommended by the committee, and voters approved both road articles as proposed. Voters approved reducing the original winter roads budget proposal by \$20,000 in the light of the recent plowing contract bid award to David Spicer. Some questioned the quality of winter road maintenance while others praised Spicer's commitment to the town. There was discussion about the availability of public sand under the current limit of four five-gallon buckets. While improved controls were considered, people clearly think this is an important resource. Voters approved the installation of a generator at the Town Office which had to close for a week after the October wind storm. Glenn Angel spotted an error in the charities total and voters approved the corrected amount.

Moving to town revenue, at the suggestion of selectman Tony Marple and former selectman Dennis Merrill, voters approved a \$100,000 increase in the use of surplus to reduce taxes.

Following Town Meeting, selectman Bill McKeen lead a brief discussion of commercial marijuana options and distributed a survey. The Planning Board will prepare ordinances for town vote, but not until after the enactment of pending state legislation.

Moth from pg. 1 you may just have to live with the browntails until they go away.

The population will go down at some point. There are chemicals that could be used to treat the trees, but they have impacts on other organisms as well and are costly. For highly sensitive people this may be necessary. For others, there are recommended precautions to take to reduce exposure to the hairs.



Photo submitted by Charlene Donahue

Browntail Precautions can be found on the Maine Forest Service website:

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/insects/browntail_moth_precautions.htm

There are browntail brochures at the Town Office that have more information about this insect or on the web at:

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/invasive_threats/browntail_moth_info.htm

APRIL SCHOOL VACATION IDEAS

gathered by Kit Pfeiffer

Why not do something new and different during the upcoming April school vacation? Here are a few ideas that might interest you and your family:

-Bake a new cookie recipe. Double the recipe and put half the cookies in the freezer for popping into school lunches later in the spring.

-Plant some flower seeds and set them by a sunny window. Keep them watered!

-Take a walk on one of Whitefield's three local trails. Descriptions and maps are on the Midcoast Conservancy website: <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/preserve/sheepscot-valley/>. Our trails are the Happy Farm Trail, the Marr's Ridge Trail and the Sheepscot West Branch Trail connected to the Whitefield Salmon Preserve.

-Walk the outdoor Art Trail at Viles Arboretum in Augusta, <http://www.vilesarboretum.org/index.php/more/art-trail>

-Spend an overnight at one of Hidden Valley Nature Center's huts or yurts. It's wilderness close to home! <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/preserve/hidden-valley-nature-center/campsites-lodging/>

-Visit the State Museum in Augusta and go on a Scavenger Hunt! You can download one at https://mainestatemuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/MSM-Scavenger-Hunt_Divided-by-



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Collaborative Problem Solving Project

The Whitefield Collaborative Problem Solving Project aims to create a cohesive group to improve school environment for students. This effort is underway to help bridge the gap and ease tensions between the community, school employees, school leadership, and the school board. By working through a collaborative problem-solving approach, problems are seen as belonging to everyone; with hopes that ultimately, solutions will benefit all...our students, staff, and community. If you are interested in learning more about this effort, please see these three websites: Town of Whitefield, RSU 12, and Whitefield School. The list of participants, complete explanation of the Project, and meeting minutes are available there, or you could contact the Whitefield School (549-7691) for copies. Quarterly reports will also be posted. Please contact one of the Project participants with your concerns and suggestions.



Italian Night pot luck style dinner

St. Denis Knights of Columbus Council #1423 of N. Whitefield will be hosting an Italian Night pot luck style dinner on Saturday April 14th at the St. Denis Hall on Rt. 126, 298 Grand Army Rd. in N. Whitefield beginning at 5 p.m. with a variety of Italian cuisine along with drinks and deserts. The benefit will be for the maintenance and upkeep of St. Denis Hall. Contact: Peter Taylor 207-542-0820



SHEEPSHOT VALLEY HEALTH CENTER Food Mobile

**Wednesdays
10:30 a.m. to Noon**

**Mar 21, May 16
July 18, Sept 19,
Nov 21**

Whitefield Lions Club parking lot
52 Main Street, Coopers Mills

Anyone struggling to keep food on the table is welcome

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Sheepscot Valley Health Center is a part of
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**Please bring
your own
box or bags!**

Contact:
(207) 549-7581
www.sheepscotchc.org

Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"

Just wanted to share a sample of the listing on the Historical Society's web page at the Town of Whitefield Website. Personally, I am excited to see my mother's ancestors, Nan Avery Morin. Take a look at the list. You may find a family member there, and as always, our Historical Society holds great things for our town's history.

Alphabetical Listing – Record of Families in the year, Town of Whitfield A.D. 1811

John Avery born July 17, 1782
Hannah his wife born April 22, 1788
Sutton Avery born June 23, 1809
Belinda Avery born Sept 22, 1811
Joseph Bailey born August 10, 1766
Rachal his wife born April 29, 1768
Joseph Bailey Jr born Jan 17, 1799
Benjamin Bailey born Feb 24, 1805
Sarah Bailey born Oct 24, 1808
Elipht Blackman born March 14, 1776
Olley his wife born Dec 13, 1777
Olley Blackman born June 8, 1811
Isaac Bran born Feb 5th, 1767
Elizabeth his wife born Nov 1776
Mary Bran born Nov 6, 1793
Elizabeth Bran born July 14, 1795
Isaac Bran Jr born May 18, 1797
Sarah Brann born March 11, 1799



Whitefield Library at the Arlington Grange!!
We are getting ready for our 2nd Summer of fun for kids and adults alike!
Support the Whitefield Library!!



PTA BOX TOPS - PLEASE!

It's not just cereal any more! Look for BOX TOPS on hundreds of items. Help our PTA earn cash. It's so easy! You just clip and drop off your TOPS at the Whitefield School office. Every clipping is worth 10 cents. Your envelop of BOX TOPS will be redeemed to help provide our students with several opportunities throughout the year.

Start today...FIND, CLIP, DROP OFF = \$\$\$

*Hint...look on these products...just to name a few: cereal, baking (i.e. Reynolds), zip lock, frozen (Pillsbury & GG), cleaners (Lysol), meals (Annie's, old El Paso), paper (Scott), dairy (Yoplait), office (Boise), snacks (Fiber One, Nature Valley), even (Hefty)!

Did we already say....It's easy to find BOX TOPS? In fact, you may have some in your home right now. Clip Box Tops from your favorite products and turn them in to Whitefield School today! Thank you, from your dedicated PTA volunteers.

Fuzzy Udder Hug a Kid Day!

It's that time of year again! On April 22nd from 11-4

pm, come hug our adorable baby lambs and kids! Meet our incredibly beautiful and doting mommas and check out our farm. We'll be sampling cheeses and delicious foods made with our products, including hot chocolate and sheep milk truffles. Stay tuned for more exciting updates as the event draws closer! Be sure to check out Coppertail Farm and Appleton Creamery's kid hugging day events as well!



Photo from Fuzzy Udder Creamery Facebook page.

Food Pantry Support

Since 2013, the Whitefield School Food Pantry has supported many families in our community. This year Kara Waller has volunteered to help with packing bags every Friday to send home to families from our school who have a need. The school's "March Madness" contest encourages students in all grades to bring in much needed food items. The classroom that brings in the most items, gets a special desert and lunch with our Principal, Mr. Soule. The school would appreciate community support all year. Please drop off non-perishable staples at our school whenever you can, and help to boost our Pantry. The goal is to be able to offer food over vacation breaks and open it up to a child who may be in need of a snack during school hours, as well. Kara has reached out to other organizations also; hoping to have a larger Pantry to assist children in need.



Photo by Kara Waller

Whitefield Trash Service & Snow Removal Service (Also roof clean offs and shoveling)

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APRIL 2018 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
YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL, 6:30-8:00 pm
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 4th** ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING 7:00 pm call Debbie at 549-3491 for more information
- 5th** SENIOR MEN'S GROUP, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 6th** WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
FAMILY GAME NIGHT Sheepscot General 5pm
- 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
YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL, 6:30-8:00
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
PTA MEETING 5:30 pm, Whitefield School conference room (always the 2nd Tues. of the month).
- 11th** WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY meeting 1:00 pm Town House
SNACK & CHAT: CELL PHONE PHOTOGRAPHY, 4-6 pm, Midcoast Conservancy office, Edgecomb 207.389.5150 www.midcoastconservancy.org
- 12th** SENIOR MEN'S GROUP, Sheepscot General, 10 am
RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 14th** ITALIAN NIGHT POT LUCK STYLE DINNER St. Denis Knights of Columbus Council #1423 will be hosting an Italian Night pot luck style dinner at the St. Denis Hall on Rt. 126, beginning at 5 p.m. A variety of Italian cuisine along with drinks and deserts. The benefit will be for the maintenance and upkeep of St. Denis Hall. Contact: Peter Taylor 207-542-0820
MOVIE NIGHT - BABE Join us at Sheepscot General for a kid-friendly movie night. We will be featuring "Babe the Sheep Pig" on our projector screen. Please note the store will be closed at the time of the viewing, arrive early to purchase snacks/drinks and secure your place on the floor.
- 15th** MUDATHLON TRAIL RACE, 8 am -2 pm, Hidden Valley Nature Center, 131 Egypt Rd, Jefferson 207.389.5150 www.midcoastconservancy.org
- 17th** SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 18th** PLANNING BOARD, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 19th** SENIOR MEN'S GROUP, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 20th** OPEN MIC NIGHT FEATURING THE ALE HOUSE STRING BAND: 7-9pm Join us for music. Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm. Come early for pizza night starting at 5pm.
- 21st** WORLD FISH MIGRATION DAY COMMUNITY EVENT: 11 am - 2 pm World Fish Migration Day, Sheepscot General
DRUMMING CIRCLE, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages welcome.
- 22nd** MAINE MAPLE SUNDAY BRUNCH, Sheepscot General, 9am - 1 pm
- 24th** SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 25th** YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS GROUP MEETING, at the Whitefield Lions club Coopers, Mills, bring a dish to share (A Salad, Casserole or dessert) Time 12pm. Come and join the fun. We have Bonnie Hendsbee as our entertainment this month. Presidents Pat Moody and Debbie Gray. Contact number 549-5666 or 445-4930
- 26th** SENIOR MEN'S GROUP, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 28th** VERNAL POOL EXPLORATION, Hidden Valley Nature Center, 131 Egypt Rd, Jefferson
CHAINSAW SAFETY: LEVEL 1 Hidden Valley Nature Center | Sat, Apr 28 - Sun, Apr 29 | 18+ years old 207.389.5150 www.midcoastconservancy.org
CIRCLE SING, Sheepscot General 6 pm
- 29th** MISO WORKSHOP WITH GO-EN FERMENTED FOODS: April 29th 2-4pm Join Mika and Nicholas of "go-en fermented foods" for a miso making workshop and discussion about; miso, its uses, and its history. Class size: Minimum 4 people, max 8 people. Fee: \$50 with a \$20 deposit to secure your place in the class. Please email sheepscotgeneral@gmail.com to sign up.

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

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com
Whitefield Newsletter Committee: Cheryl Joslyn, Kit Pfeiffer, Sue McKeen and Debbie Rogers.



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