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Whitefield News

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Planners request extension of mining moratorium

Under authorization granted by the town's voters, the Whitefield Planning Board has been meeting every Wednesday evening since the beginning of February in order to correct the shortcomings of our current development ordinance regarding its standards relevant to mining and mineral extraction.

Up until the end of June, our time both in and between meetings was spent doing extensive fact-finding. We carefully reviewed over a dozen relevant land-use ordinances from other municipalities. We heard testimony from a wide variety of town residents and sought expert opinions from the State Dept. of Environmental Protection, as well as from hydro-geologists in private practice and academic biologists. We consulted legal counsel, both from our own Town's attorney and from the Maine Municipal Association, and received advice from our County Planning Commission.

We are finally in the process of drafting improvements to our development ordinance, but it was obvious by late June that we would not be able to produce a finished product before the moratorium under which we were operating was due to expire at the end of July. Consequently, we asked the board of selectmen to hold a public hearing to ask for a single, six-month extension of the moratorium, as provided by Maine Statute. The hearing was held on July 22, and the extension was granted.

The planning board will continue our weekly workshops on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the fire station meeting house, which the public, as always, is invited to attend. We ask that anyone wishing to offer comments at these meetings contact me at the number below five days in advance to be placed on the agenda. Our intent is to have a finished document ready for public review and a duly announced hearing by early October so that it can be placed on the ballot for an up-or-down vote on Election Day, Nov. 4.

Jim Torbert, Chair Whitefield Planning Board 549-3149

From the Congo to Whitefield Marie Patfoort's story

By Tony Marple

Marie Patfoort grew up in a rainforest in the Belgian Congo, later Zaire. Her mother was the daughter of the tribal chieftain of the Bakoda people. Her father was a captain in the Belgian army and he was assigned to train the Congolese army. When he left to fight the encroaching Ugandans, Marie was placed in a missionary. Under tribal law, children were the property of the father. Marie's mother often walked four days to visit Marie, but after a dangerous encounter with a leopard, she no longer visited. Her father never returned.



Photo by Tony Marple

As a child, Marie suffered from tropical diseases including malaria, dysentery and black water fever. In the Congo, only five in ten children survived to adulthood. After she became healthy,

Marie worked in the mission dispensary, helping other children. As her schooling progressed, Marie wished to study in the U.S., but the Belgians would not allow black women to leave the country.

After independence, Zaire was engulfed in violent civil war. Being of mixed blood, Marie was in great danger and fled to Uganda as a refugee. Once in Uganda, she applied for a visa to come to the U.S.

Marie arrived penniless, but was sponsored by an American businesswoman. After three years of bible school, she entered Gordon College in 1973, becoming the first woman from Zaire to graduate from a U.S. college with an education degree. While at Gordon, **Continued on Pg. 2**

Annual 4th of July Parade



Photos by Tony Marple

Patfoort from Pg. 1 Marie had come to Maine many times and found a job in Whitefield as a fifth grade teacher. She stayed at the home of Norman and Lydia Chase and to this day remains a close friend of Lydia.

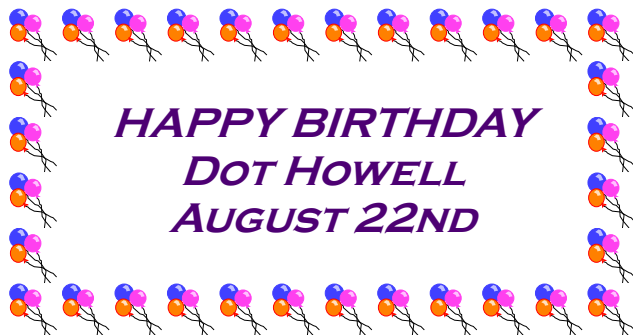
Marie was anxious about teaching in a new country. That summer she raked blueberries with the students before teaching. The students were very friendly and kind, sometimes adding to her blueberries to make sure she was able to keep up. She experienced no discrimination, but one day a student said to Marie "You're brown." Marie responded, "You're white." and the student said "I never thought about that." While painting a school mural, when the students asked for brown paint, Marie knew she would be part of the scene. Debbie Rogers was in her first 5th grade class. "She was a fantastic teacher and a true Whitefield treasure."

Marie returned to Zaire to teach for two years, and went to look for her mother. "I found her in poverty. She told me that during the war she and others would go in the woods and cover themselves with leaves during the day to hide from the soldiers."

After two years she returned to the U.S. to retain her visa and worked for the Sooheys on the Cooper Road, taking care of their children and creating gardens. Though their children have grown, she still works there. She remains a tireless worker. *Much of the content is from a 1988 article written by Juri Rynberg.*



Miss Meloon, Marie and the group of children she thought of as her family
Photo from Maine Thing website.



New playground at Whitefield School

By Sue McKeen

The team of Louis Shorey, Todd Cook, Sue Peaslee, Joel St. Pierre (from Landscape Structures), Josh Shorey and Principal Josh

McNaughton installed phase one of the new playground a few weeks ago. McNaughton said the installation went well, despite the rain delay. He commented that staff has been working to complete the last stages of the project which includes mostly groundwork around the area. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new playground will be held the week the students return to school. The project was made possible by \$10,000 from the RSU 12 budget and \$5,000 raised by the Whitefield PTA. Phase two which entail adding another section to the newly installed structure is scheduled to occur next summer.



Pictured: Principal McNaughton, Louis Shorey, Todd Cook & Josh Shorey
Photo by Clarissa Howard



How to contact Animal Control Officer in Whitefield

Need the services of our Animal Control Officer Kyle Emerson? Please call 549-7072.

The call will be answered by the Lincoln County Dispatch center in Wiscasset who will, in turn, notify Kyle or his backup of your call. This replaces our system of contacting Kyle directly.

The change is due to a new program instituted by our county government in an effort to assist Lincoln County towns by providing Animal Control Officers in a consistent manner. In the past several years Whitefield has had as many as six different ACOs in as many years. This is costly and inefficient as each new ACO is required to have training and certain immunizations in order to fill the position. This cost is borne by the town and mirrors a predicament common in other towns, thus prompting the county to offer this service.

Under this new system, the county will employ the ACOs, who will serve the towns that sign on. The cost is expected to be the same as in the past but the county will maintain the records and bill the town for the services provided to Whitefield.

At this time our primary ACO will remain Kyle Emerson with other officers employed by the county as his backup as needed. (Submitted by Whitefield Board of Selectmen)



Conservation tour to include Sheepscot General

On Sat., Aug. 9, the Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation Tour will hit the road, visiting four Lincoln County sites, including Uncas Farms and Sheepscot General Store in Whitefield. This enterprise on Townhouse Road is both a working farm with five acres of organically certified vegetables and strawberries (as well as beef and hay), and a one-of-a-kind, contemporary general store where customers can purchase the harvest and enjoy the cafe, community center, and free wifi.

Other sites are Goranson Farm in Dresden, subject of the recent film "An Uncertain Harvest," and a certified organic farm with a wide variety of products; Hidden Valley Nature Center in Jefferson, where sustainable forestry is practiced; and Newaim Farm in Waldoboro, which breeds and sells CVM Romeldale sheep.

Pre-registration is required. The \$40 cost includes all food and travel from a central location in Waldoboro. The climate controlled bus will depart at 8 a.m. and return around 4 p.m. For more information: contact Hildy at 596-2040, hildy@knox-lincoln.org, or visit www.knox-lincoln.org/conservation-tour/.

**Arlington
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**Saturday, August 16th
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Just Yesterday

From *The Lincoln County News* of **Aug. 5, 1897**: Harlan Ford cut his hand very badly with a scythe the other day. Kingsbury Cheney received serious injuries by falling from his mowing machine last week.

Gleaned from the diaries of Emma Chase (1892-1988):

Aug. 18, 1921:... Kids are earning 5 cents per 100 flies they kill and they have been killing for 2 days....

Aug. 14, 1945: The radio awaits announcement of V.J. Day, everyone excited. Dod [the Chases' son Roger] called up from Times Square [where] he is celebrating, everyone is in N.Y. I mean to celebrate though no official word yet. Later that night: War ended tonight, Japan I guess will fold up right off. Pearl and I took flags and marched, went on Hervey's (Bailey) truck and had lots of fun. Doris, Dora, Eddie, Midge and Hoddy came by and we sang etc. until 2am

Aug. 15, 1945: 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.

Whitefield trails group to unveil new Marr's Ridge Trail at Paradise Green

By Kit Pfeiffer

Whitefield is known for its vast rolling hayfields and sweeping pastureland. But did you know we have some high ledges along the Hunt's Meadow Road that give you a clear view of the Camden Hills, some 30 miles away?

This spectacular view is just one feature of the new Marr's Ridge Trail, which will officially open to the public on Sat., Aug. 23, at 9 a.m. It is the first success of the new Whitefield Trails Committee formed as a result of the Whitefield community forum held last October. Thanks to the generosity of landowner Sandy Benne and the cooperation of the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association, which holds a conservation easement on the property, the public is now welcome to enjoy four miles of trails on this beautiful private property.

The first section of the trail passes by old stonewalls and through a sugarbush as it heads up gradually for a half-mile to the open ledge. From there, a 3.5 mile loop trail goes through mixed woods out to the discontinued Nelson Road, then returns along another woods road passing by wetlands and a vernal pool.

Opening ceremonies are at 9 a.m. and the trail will then be open to explore and enjoy. Park in the lot below the sugarhouse on the west side of Hunt's Meadow Road, midway between Rte. 126 and the Cooper Road. Dogs on a leash are welcome. For more information, call David Elliott at 549-7572.



Whitefield Community Day: Antiques Road Show and others return

By Sue McKeen

Mark your calendars for the return of Whitefield Community Day, Sat., Sept. 13, beginning at 10 a.m. The location will be the same as last year, behind the town office. Thanks to David Hayden and his mower, we will utilize part of the fire department grounds. The Whitefield Historical Society will be open and the fire station will house the art show as well as offer tours.

This year we are pleased to have Dan Burns of Burns' Bears demonstrate his creative chain saw art. Dan can be seen at MacKenzie Power Equipment on Route 17 cutting and sculpting works of art from log bolts.

Dan's creations show beautiful proportion and form.

Other featured events will be the challenging 5K Grand Army Hill road race sponsored by the PTA, children's games and face painting, crafts and flea market, art show, music and a pie eating contest. The fire department will sponsor a 50/50 raffle and provide tours. The historical society will run a continuous slide show and display photos and other objects of interest. Returning by popular demand will be the antiques road show with Larry Trueman, and the K-9 demonstration is back, a big attraction for both adults and children.

Sa Rah Thibodeau, Abe Chase and Josh Cichowski of The Whitefields will return with an encore performance and the young musical team of Connor McLean and Milo Lani-Caputo of Double Jinx will perform again this year. This year we are pleased to have the singer-songwriter duo of Christine McCormick and Mat Knight of The Cigar Box Junkies. Christine and Mat perform a full spectrum of music from jazz to cover music. In the evening the Grange will host a spaghetti supper followed by down-home entertainment. If you weren't there last year, you missed a fabulous show.

September is the time to harvest, marvel at the vibrant colors and come together before winter sets in. As we all know, if this winter is anything like last, it could be a long one. Come out and have fun on Sept. 13. Join your community - before the snow flies.



Birds and animal sculptures by Dan Burns of Burns' Bears are a work of art
Photo by Sue McKeen

Coopers Mills Volunteer F. D. AUCTION, August 16th, 10 AM

By Chuck Vaughn

If you haven't experienced the Annual Coopers Mills Fire Department Auction you have missed something. There are lots of fundraising auctions around the countryside but few have attained the level of this one. Yes, there is the usual "one man's treasurer is another man's trash" which raises a few hundred dollars for many organizations. And yes, a certain number of the goodies from last year's auction will show up again at this year's. But there are always some real finds like an impeccable white leather sofa, wood fired boiler, outstanding piece of power equipment or boat that have been donated in past years. In fact, the quantity and quality of the goods is such that total sales are often North of \$10,000.

There are also boodles of box lots. You may see something special and bid on the box, only to find that there's a treasure hiding in the bottom of the box. This year, as well as the usual dogs and burgers there will be gourmet pulled pork sandwiches. Fun, food, bargains, drama and laughs are all part of the atmosphere under the tent. Come have a ball and add to the Firehouse Fund as we put final plans together for the new Firehouse.

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AUGUST 2014 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **Whitefield Food Bank**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3pm
- 4th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Coopers Mills Fire Dept. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept. 7pm
- 5th **Select Board** 6pm
Kings Mills Union Hall Board Meeting - Public Welcome, 7 pm
- 6th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6 am
- 7th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
DANCE CLASSES: Sheepscot General 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 8th **Lecture: Meditation for Active People with Busy Minds and Crazy Lives**, Sheepscot General, 7 pm
- 9th **Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation Tour**, contact Hildy at 596-2040, hildy@knox-lincoln.org, or visit www.knox-lincoln.org/conservation-tour/.
- 10th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)** Whitefield School 6 pm
- 11th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. 7 pm
- 12th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 13th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6 am
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Whitefield Historical Society, 6:30 pm
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 14th **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General. 10 am
DANCE CLASSES: Sheepscot General 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 15th **Open-Mic Night with featured performers: Haskell & Jason**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 16th **Farmers/Flea Market**, Arlington Grange Hall, 9-1pm
Coopers Mills Volunteer Fire Dept. AUCTION, 10 am at the Coopers Mills Fire House
DRUMMING CIRCLE: Open to the public, all ages welcome. Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm
- 18th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 19th **Select Board** 6pm
- 20th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6pm
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Planning Board Fire Station, 7-9 pm
- 21st **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
DANCE CLASSES: Sheepscot General 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- 24th thru Sept. 1st **Whitefield Lions at the WINDSOR FAIR**
- 25th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 26th **Select Board** 6pm
- 27th **Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6pm
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 28th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
DANCE CLASSES: Sheepscot General 3:30-5:30 p.m.

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

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

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, Sheepscot General, Town Office, & Recycling Center.

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



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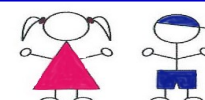
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