



FREE

Whitefield News

Volume I, Issue 6

Published Monthly

December 2013

Holiday Events

Fri. Dec. 6th: Sheepscot General's Holiday Bazaar From 5 to 8 p.m., Sheepscot General Store at Uncas Farms, 98 Townhouse Rd., will host a holiday bazaar.

Sat. Dec. 7th: Make a Craft Families are invited to the Whitefield Elementary School from 10-1 for craft making activities. The annual Make-a-Craft event includes cookie decorating, jewelry and ornament making, and wooden snowmen measuring sticks. The fun of making these inexpensive holiday gifts is open to all school aged and preschool children with adult support. Proceeds from the \$20 per-family fee go directly to the playground fund.

Sat. Dec. 7th: Christmas Caroling & Desserts at 2:30 PM the Arlington Grange Hall will be performing Christmas carols with "decadent" desserts. The main goal for this event is to gather donations of food or new toys to be distributed to families in need. The Hall will be open from 12-4 (with the caroling beginning at 2:30) for your convenience if you cannot attend but would like to drop off a donation. There are families in the area that you need your help to have a merrier Christmas.

Sun. Dec. 8th: Children's Christmas Party, from 3 to 5 p.m., Kings Mills Union Hall on Townhouse Rd. will be the setting for the annual Christmas tree lighting party and visit from Santa, who will arrive at 4 p.m. There will be activities and gifts for children, carol singing, and refreshments.

Wed. Dec. 11th: Mt View Chamber Singers the Mt. View Chamber Singers will present their annual "Carols in the Round" event at St. Denis Church at 7pm Sharp, A reception will follow at the St. Denis Hall.

Gov. Kavanagh Council #1423 of Whitefield will be selling Christmas Trees Nov. 29th through Dec. 22nd, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the American Legion hall on Eastern Ave. (Rt. 17) in Augusta. The trees from the Robbins Lumber Tree Farm in Searsmont are \$25.00 each. Proceeds for local charities. For more information or to order your tree in advance please call Pete Taylor 207-542-0820.



Holiday bazaar offers smorgasbord of local creations

By Lucy L. Martin



Taryn Hammer
(Lucy Martin photo)

If you visit Sheepscot General Store at 98 Townhouse Road and don't see gift possibilities for the coming holidays, you must be sleepwalking.

In mid-November, proprietor Taryn Hammer was getting ready both for the grand opening of the store's café, scheduled for Nov. 22, and the holiday bazaar set for Dec. 6. She had a long list of local artisans, artists, and food producers who will fill the retail space and art gallery with their wares that evening, 5-8 p.m. The store already stocks items

from some on the list, including calendars, yarn and knit goods, pottery, jewelry and yogurt.

"We'll have a range of handmade and locally produced stuff," Hammer said, from "food people as well as artists and craftspeople." Most are from Whitefield, but some live in Alna and Jefferson. Expect plenty of stocking stuffers.

There will be gluten-free baking mixes, pork sausage, herbs and salves, artistic embroidery, greeting cards, glass creations, blankets made from alpaca wool, sheepskins, baby rattles, doll clothes, jam, honey, aprons, soaps, dishcloths, copper ornaments, and more.

"It's also pizza night," Hammer said, so shopping can be combined with supper and enjoyed to the sound of live music.

Fighting hunger: Church and school collaborate on food bank program

By Suzanne Balbo

Josh McNaughton, Whitefield Elementary School principal, kept hearing his staff say they were spending their own money to provide snacks for their students. Meanwhile, Doug Richards, the pastor at Calvary Bible Baptist Church next door, was hearing from his congregation that there were children and families in our community going hungry. These two entities joined together this year to create this school based food bank program, which operates out of the school.

Rounding out the team is school personnel Jeanne Grady, who acts as coordinator. The team members contacted the Auburn-based Good Shepherd Food Bank, which was unsure at first whether it could support



Josh McNaughton &
Jeanne Grady
Tony Marple Photo

this collaboration: a church and school combination was very unusual. However, as both organizations are non-profit, Good Shepherd was able to back the initiative.

McNaughton, Grady, and Richards

completed a brief training at the Auburn facility that allows them to select food for pennies on the dollar. All fruits and vegetables from Good Shepherd are free. Every few weeks Richards loads (See Hunger Cont. on Pg. 2)

Whitefield food bank serves needy

The Whitefield food bank, sponsored by St. Denis Catholic Church, is open the first Friday of every month, from 1 to 3 p.m. The food is collected at and distributed from the basement of the Sheepscot Valley Community Church at the corner of Townhouse Road and Rt. 194 (Pittston Rd.)

Coordinator Earl Lemieux said people seeking to receive food "go to the town office and the town refers them to us. We don't usually turn anyone away."

The food bank also serves Alna residents. Support comes as monetary donations from Alna Store customers and monthly donations of mostly fresh produce from the congregation of Alna-Newcastle Baptist Church.

Volunteers are always welcome, said Mary Grady. Some are teenagers performing community service for school credit. They box up the food on Wednesday, starting at 6 p.m. Especially helpful are a few strong teenagers to assist with the canned goods, she said.

As the cold winter months set in and the holidays approach, the need will grow dramatically. Please keep an eye out for friends and neighbors who may need this service. Any donation – whether canned food, fruits and vegetables, gift certificates, turkey certificates – is greatly appreciated.

For more information contact Earl Lemieux at 582-2684.



Hunger cont. from Pg. 1 up a minivan, and Grady, volunteering her time and labor, inventories the food in a room at the school, a process that takes four hours. The room houses a refrigerator as well as shelving for storing the non-perishable food. The bookshelves were scrounged from around the school, but Grady says she is actively searching for bookshelf donations.

Currently, the Food Bank Program services any of the roughly 180 students at the school. The only requirement to receive a snack is if a child says they are hungry. In addition, every Friday, Grady herself fills backpacks with easily prepared, ready to eat food to send home to families in need over the weekend. The backpacks are donated by St. Giles Church in Jefferson..

The generous parishioners of Calvary Bible are currently funding the Food Bank Program.

Monetary contributions can be brought directly to Doug Richards at the church. To donate shelving, please contact Whitefield School (tel. 549-7691).



**D & L
Auto Sales**
549-5576

Rt. 126
Whitefield, ME

Mon-Fri 3 pm - 9 pm
Sat 8 am - 2 pm
Closed Sundays



Calendar of Events

December:

- 3 & 17:** Pre-K Story Hour, Whitefield School, 10:30-11:30am
3, 10 & 17: Art-making Inspired by Life on the Farm Session I, registration required, Sheepscot General Gallery 3:15-5pm
3rd: Kings Mills Union Hall Board Meeting 7-8pm, Public Welcome
4th: Building Farm-Friendly Communities in Knox and Lincoln Counties, Knox-Lincoln Cooperative Extension Office 8:30-12:30pm To register: <http://lcrpc.org/farm-forum> or call (207) 342-2929
6th: Sheepscot General Holiday Bazaar 5-8 pm
7th: Make-a-Craft 10-1pm, Whitefield Elementary School (\$20/family)
7th: Christmas Caroling & Desserts Donation Drive 2:30-4pm, Arlington Grange (Donations accepted 12-4 pm)
8th: Children's Christmas Party & Tree Lighting 3-5pm, Kings Mills Union Hall
11th: Mt View Chamber Singers annual Carols in the Round. St. Denis Church, 7pm Sharp
11th: Arlington Grange Meeting 6-8:30pm, Arlington Grange Hall
17th: Open Mic Night at Sheepscot General

Ongoing

- Every Monday and Wednesday: ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- Every Tuesday: Select Board Meeting 6pm, Fire Station
- Every 3rd Wednesday: Planning Board Meeting, Town Office 7-9 pm
- Every Wednesday: Drumming in the Forest at HVNC @ 6:30pm
- Every Thursday: Whitefield Senior Men's Group, 10 am at Sheepscot General
- Every 2nd Thursday: RSU School Board Mtg. 6:30-9 pm
- Every Friday: Pizza Night, Sheepscot General, 5-7pm
- First Friday of every month: Food Bank from 1-3pm, Sheepscot Valley Community Church

Do you have an event? Contact Sue McKeen @ whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com or 207-446-7473. We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.



Recycling Tip of the Month

Happy Holidays from your Recycling Committee! Remember, when bringing your wrapping paper to the center after Christmas, an abundance of color in our mixed paper bin is fine. But please do not recycle foil.

Happy Pigs Taste Better



Treble Ridge Farm

**Certified Organic Pork
and Hay**

Rufus & Alice Percy
441-2028
trebleridgefarm@gmail.com
www.trebleridgefarm.com



Just Yesterday



In the weeks leading up to Christmas in 1883, a division of the "Sons of Temperance" started meeting in the hall over Tarr's store, in North Whitefield, then known as Turners Corner. The local columnist for *The Lincoln County News* wrote: "This is I think the 4th Temperance organization in Whitefield. At any rate Whitefield may with propriety be called a temperance town, as there is comparatively but little drunkenness, and no liquor sold, unless very secretly. We have not even had a town agency for several years."

In Kings Mills a division of the International Order of Good Templars, a temperance organization that began in upstate New York in 1850, had established Torsey Lodge. The columnist said this group of Good Templars "is apparently in a prosperous condition. About 58 members. Purchased an organ and give occasional entertainments." On Dec. 4, "the younger members...gave a successful dramatic entertainment. As the hall was crowded, the admission fees must have amounted to a success financially also, even at the very low price of ten cents."

A year later, the Kings Mills lodge had acquired 15 more members.

(Courtesy Whitefield Historical Society)

Emma Chase (1892-1988) wrote in her diary about her family's Christmas day on the East River Road in the middle 1930s.: "Santa has come and we all fared well. Very lucky to be well and happy...all of us. Kids all skating." (1935)

"Kids all went skating at Curtis Coombs' pond to-night." (1936) Coombs was then Whitefield postmaster, with the office in his Kings Mills store.



Alice Carleton (left) and Marjorie Chase cut up on skis on the Heath Road, late 1920s. Alice became the mother of Frank Small, and Marjorie, daughter of Harry and Emma Chase, became the mother of Lore Ford.

Whitefield Historical Society Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays from 10-2 or BY CHANCE. For information or to make an appointment contact Libby Harmon at 549-7209.

Whitefield Housewrights



Old Fasioned Craftsmanship - Contemporary Function

focused on old house rehabilitation and repair

Andrew Sell

(207)-549-4703

coldarsefarm@gwi.net

New Construction ♦ Cabinets ♦ Remodeling ♦ Additions ♦ Barns ♦ Decks

Whitefield Trails Committee Meets

By Tony Marple

The first meeting of the Whitefield trails Committee took place on Oct. 30. Members present included Gary Best, who works for the Department of Conservation; David Wright who works for the Department of Environmental Protection; Clint Towle, a newcomer to town and farmer; Bill McKeen, owner of Minuteman Signs; and Tony Marple, retired and serving as a selectman. Other members who couldn't attend were Jim Torbert, Steve McCormick and Bill Brooke. Clint agreed to serve as chair. The objectives of the committee are to identify and map existing trails, develop new trails, review landowner matters and consider the potential role of Whitefield's primary and secondary school students.

The committee members have high energy and a diverse and complementary set of skills. We will be looking for input from other townspeople as the process develops.



*Whitefield Salmon Preserve
Tony Marple Photo*

Art class for youngsters

Whitefield artist Janna Civittolo, will lead Session I of an art-making workshop inspired by life on the farm, Tuesdays Dec. 3, 10 and 17, at Sheepscot General Store. The classes, 3:15 to 5 p.m., are designed for children 6-11 years old and cost \$60 (healthful snack, all materials included). Civittolo holds a B.A. in Studio Art from the University of Maine. FMI or to register, email jcivittolo@roadrunner.com.

Correction The list of contributors to the fire station flag pole fund, printed in our November newsletter, omitted the Whitefield Senior Men's Group.



ClaryLights Pure Beeswax Candles

George & Margaret Fergusson

326 Jefferson Road

Whitefield Maine 04353

info@clarylighs.com

<http://www.clarylighs.com/>

tel: 207-549-5991

cell: 207-458-3143

See our products at Sheepscot General Store or call for other locations

(207) 549-7921

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

- GROCERIES
- GAS
- HARDWARE
- BEER
- WINES
- PIZZA

NORTH WHITEFIELD SUPERETTE

P.O. BOX 98

CORNER RT. 126 & RT. 218

WHITEFIELD, ME 04353

STEVE CROCKER • DEE CROCKER

The wreath lady of Whitefield

by Sue McKeen

The first thing you notice about Juanita Peaslee is her smile - and that's because she's always smiling. Maybe it's the holiday season or maybe she just loves her "other" job.

Several years ago, during the holidays, I needed a garland to decorate the town house, and I needed it yesterday. That's when someone told me about Juanita, and since then, when I think of Christmas, wreaths, garlands and greens, I think of Juanita, and I call her early.

For almost 30 years, Juanita has been putting together wreaths, garlands, and just about anything else that's made of evergreens. She says as a child she started making wreaths for a little extra Christmas money.

Now she works out of her home, on Hilton Road, and during this busy season you'll find her buried under piles of fir, pine, and spruce boughs - although, this year, a work trailer has been purchased where she can finally move all her wreath-making equipment into one place.

But Juanita doesn't just make wreaths and garlands. She has four grown children and works a fulltime job with the postal service where she is a mail carrier in Bath. She told me that during this time of year, she gets home about 5:30 and

goes right into her shop to make wreaths. She works until she gets tired, usually in about 5-6 hours, and can make up to 30 wreaths during that time. When she was making wreaths fulltime, she could make from 45 to 75 wreaths in a day.

No stranger to hard work, Juanita told me she was practically born in the blueberry fields. As a child she raked berries,



Juanita Peaslee Photo by Tony Marple

she worked at farming, a canning factory, nursing and at Coastal Blueberries, where she started making special order wreaths.

Because she is so busy, Juanita now buys her greens but used to cut her own. She said evergreens should not be gathered until there have been at least three frosts. If you use greens before then, the needles will fall off quickly, leaving a pile on your floor and a bare tree or wreath. Climate change has made it more difficult to get the greens

she needs in time for the season. And she is particular about how she gets her greens delivered. She says greens delivered in a bag will sweat and turn brown easily. She prefers to have the greens gathered and

delivered on a pole where the gatherers take a long stick or pole and stack the greens individually on the pole, attaching them by a strong string so that the greens are not damaged or crushed.

I asked her if she has help making the wreaths and garlands. She prefers to do most of the wreath-making herself. "I'm fussy," she said. When her husband Dale tries to help, she finds him something else to do. She said he thinks she's too picky.

Juanita doesn't sell wholesale, she says she doesn't have time. She supplies wreaths to local schools for resale, the University of Maine at Augusta, local businesses and by word of mouth. In a normal season she makes and sells about 400 wreaths and 200 feet of garland.

"I do it for Christmas money. I don't charge a lot, people don't have a lot of money," she said.

The season begins now, continuing until just before Christmas. If you want a wreath or a garland, you can call Juanita at 441-3096, but you better do it soon.

Clary Lake dam question nixed

By Dennis Merrill

At a special town meeting on November 19, some 66 voters decided not to move forward with negotiations for the possible purchase of Clary Lake dam by the Town. This comes following a vote in May when voters also rejected the same question. This second meeting on the subject of dam ownership was made necessary when the dam owner, Pleasant Pond Mill LLC, filed a second petition for abandoning dam ownership with the Department of Environmental Protection. The first petition was rejected by the State for procedural concerns. More information can be found at www.townofwhitefield.com.

N.C. Hunt LUMBER
- www.nchuntlumber.com -
Norman Hunt President
200 S. Clary Road, Jefferson, ME 04348
237 US Route 1, Damariscotta, ME 04543
Phone 1-207-549-0922 ext. 2004 Fax 1-207-549-5436
Email: nhunt@nchuntlumber.com

GRADY FOREST PRODUCTS
Selective Timber Harvesting, Chipping and Earthwork
STEVE GRADY
Owner
8 Jewett Ln
Whitefield, ME 04353
(207) 242-9840
(207) 549-3170

Natural Dawnings
Therapeutic Massage
for your body, mind and spirit
Melissa Boynton LMT
446-7575
89 Western Ave Augusta Me
NaturalDawnings@gmail.com

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.