



Whitefield News

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Volume 5, Issue 6

Published Monthly

December 2017

Holiday Events

Sheepscot General Holiday Bazaar

December 1st, 5-8 pm. Our famous bazaar featuring local food, artisan, and crafts-people. Great for all your gift-giving needs.

Kings Mills Union Hall Christmas Program

December 3rd, 3-5 pm
Christmas Party & Tree Lighting - Santa arrives at 4pm. Fun for children of all ages. Everyone welcome.

Winter Concerts

Wednesday, December 13th in the school gym. The first concert features grades K-3 at 5:15pm and the second concert features the 4th and 5th grade along with the 5-8 grade band at 6:30pm.

Sheepscot General Breakfast Brunch

December 17, 9-1 pm

Christmas Wreath Sale

- the 8th grade is currently taking orders for wreaths - they are \$12. If you would like to order one, please contact an 8th grader, call the school at 549-7691 or email Mrs. Howard at choward@svrsu.org to get more information.



Whitefield voters to consider marijuana moratorium Dec. 6

By Bill McKeen

A special Town Meeting to consider a marijuana moratorium is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6th at 6:30 at the Whitefield Elementary Gym. A local moratorium is needed because the state moratorium runs out February 1, 2018.

It was hoped that the Maine Legislature would enact a revised recreational marijuana law providing clear regulations for a number of potential marijuana enterprises, or they would extend the state moratorium. The Governor vetoed the proposed bill and the legislature did not have the votes to override that veto. The legislature must now approve a bill in January, which the Governor then signs. If not, the legislature would need enough votes to override a potential veto. If a bill is not enacted,



then the law passed by the citizen's referendum would take effect on January 30, 2018. Accordingly, there is great uncertainty.

A local 180 day moratorium would give time for the Town of Whitefield to either ban marijuana related businesses entirely or have the town write controlling ordinances for voter approval. The law calls for five licenses to be issued:

1. Cultivation for wholesale
2. Manufacture (processing)
3. Testing Labs
4. Retail stores
5. Social clubs for onsite use

Whether the town bans any or all of these or regulates them will be decided at a future Town Meeting.

Fire Station: Open for business during emergencies

by Sue McKeen

Almost fittingly, on the day before the "scariest" day of the year, a Halloween storm blew in like a monster from the southwest and tore through our town like a hurricane. Winds up to 70 mph blew down powers lines, uprooted trees, and created havoc all over the state; particularly in Lincoln County.

At 5:30 on the morning of October 30, Chief Scott Higgins heard the first tone. He knew it would be a long day. He gathered his firefighters; a group of 16. Armed with chain saws, two crews, and two trucks, they set out. As I spoke with Chief Higgins, he told me, "It was a disaster! Mills Road was a tangle of poles and wires. We had to cut trees in order to get out to Route 17 via the Vigue Road." He told me they had to repeat this process all day in order to open up the roads. A problem they encountered frequently was that they were not able to remove any trees entangled in electrical lines, making the work much more challenging. He said, "This is a project for the power companies only", and the power companies were obviously not immediately on site. When the gen-



Photo submitted by Aaron Miller

erator at the Country Manor Nursing Home went down, Chief Higgins's men showed up to help. These volunteer firefighters worked from dawn to dusk, and then were back on Tuesday to do the same. The only gas within miles was available at the Whitefield Superette, where a long line queued up to fill cans for those lucky enough to have generators. Tim Chase removed several large trees on Route 218 with his

tractor. Heroes all.

By Tuesday, I decided I needed a shower and some water. After securing the key to the fire station, I enjoyed a hot shower, filled water jugs, chatted with friends and returned home to my dark, powerless house. By now, we all knew this power outage wasn't going away anytime soon. In discussions with the Select Board and Chief Higgins, an impromptu volunteer core was put in place to man the fire station for use by the public during the hours of 12 to 8. Not only did Tony Marple, Frank Ober, Bill McKeen & Lester Shaffer of the Select Board turn up to help, but several volunteers as well; George Fergusson, David and Barbara Hayden,

Continued on Page 2

Storm Continued from Pg. 1 Ed Mooney. Heroes all.

In moving forward, it was agreed by the Select Board, that they will fund a per diem type position for one or two people to man the fire station during an emergency, as well as supplement with volunteers. These types of emergencies are infrequent, but when they happen, it is important to know there is help available and a place to go. At this time, the Jefferson School is the official "warming center" for the area, but in this case, due to mild weather, use of that facility was not needed. What was needed was a place to go to shower, get water, recharge, chat with friends, have a cup of coffee and know your community is behind you.

As an aside, I particularly enjoyed my several showers at the fire station. Chief Higgins and I generally showed up at the same time, with our little bags of towels, soap and shampoo. Just in case you've never experienced the facilities at the fire station, there are very roomy men's and ladies' rooms, complete with showers, a shower chair if needed, and plenty of hot water. The next time the power goes out, remember, you've got friends at the fire station. If you would like to volunteer to help man the fire station during an emergency, please contact Sue McKeen at 446-7473.



Dana Rogers' Shed submitted by Debbie Rogers

Our School News:



-Winter Concerts - Due to seating capacity, there will be two separate winter concerts on Wednesday, December 13th in the school gym. The first concert features grades K-3 at 5:15pm and the second concert features the 4th and 5th grade along with the 5-8 grade band at 6:30pm.

-Ms. Hilton (Art teacher) is looking for donations of old towels that can be used for rags

when doing art projects.

-Christmas Wreath Sale - the 8th grade is currently taking orders for wreaths - they are \$12. If you would like to order one, please contact an 8th grader, call the school at 549-7691 or email Mrs. Howard at choward@svrsu.org to get more information. All funds will be used for the students' year-end trip. Thank you in advance for supporting the 8th grade class.

-The "cave kids" (aka...6th graders) completed their study of the Stone Age with a mini early morning celebration. They roasted samples of wild game (venison and bear harvested by fellow classmates) outside in a fire pit, enjoyed their feast of acorn mash bread, shared their research posters, and demonstrated their group projects (such as model spears and bows). Interactive learning at its best!

-PTA reminder - please join us for our December 12 meeting @ 7:00 (always the 2nd Tues. of the month). We need all of our community to remain functioning for our children.



Lions Club reaches out to those in need

The Whitefield Lions Club would like to help families who could use assistance at Christmas.

A Christmas party has been scheduled for Dec. 9, 2017 at the Whitefield Lions Club at 11 a.m.

The club helps the towns of Whitefield, Windsor, Jefferson and Somerville. For the past five years, the Lions Club has provided clothes, books, toys, etc. This year they will be primarily helping ages Infant to 10 year olds. However, they do not leave any child out.

Due to privacy issues, the Lions Club is asking those seeking assistance to contact Dolly Lothrop in Whitefield, 242-6406, or Brenda Bonsant, 445-2737.

Arlington Grange 2018 Calendar

Announcing the arrival of the 5th annual Arlington Grange Calendar. Our calendar this year is about the historic Barns in our area.

The Grange is working to increase our community service activities and upkeep of the historic building. Our current goal is to have the building painted this spring. We have had a wonderful year with the creation of the Arlington Library by a devoted group of volunteers



who have worked tirelessly to create an incredible resource for the town.

This is our fifth edition of the Grange Calendar and as always appreciate the assistance of the Whitefield Historical Society without whom we would be unable to present such a wonderful example of Whitefield history.

The calendar is available at the North Whitefield Superette, Sheepscot General, Hussy's General, Alna General, and Yellow Front Grocery. For more information,

please call 549-3491.



IRS Notices - Settlements - Late Filers

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Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



Postcard from Lillian Rogers collection circa 1940.

Whitefield Referendum results

Below are the Whitefield results of the Referendum Election on 11/7/17:

#1 An act to allow slot machines or casino in York County

Yes - 74

No - 589

#2 An act to enhance the Affordable Care Act

Yes - 384

No - 280

#3 An act to authorize a general fund to improve highways, bridges

Yes - 446

No - 213

#4 An amendment to the Constitution to reduce volatility in State

Pension funding

Yes - 401

No - 235

Town Solar Update

by Tony Marple

Since the town's solar panels became operational on the fire station in January, the panels have generated significantly more power than the town has used in all of its facilities. Under "net metering", surplus electricity is set aside in a "bank" that can be



Photo by Tony Marple

used to offset any usage in future months that might exceed solar generation. The bank reverts to zero annually. Weather and season affect what the panels generate and we are entering fall and winter, so nothing is certain. But at this point, it looks as though the town should remain in a surplus position. If that happens, the town may want to consider converting the heat and/or hot water in some town facilities from fuel to heat pumps, for example. New heat pumps have already been installed in the Town Office where oil will now only be used as a back-up. At the time that the board was considering solar contractors last year, there was uncertainty about what decisions the State Legislature and the Public Utility Commission would make regarding the future of net metering. Accordingly, we entered into a lease contract with The Power Company of Washington, Maine. The lease guarantees that our electricity expense will not exceed 90% of what it would be without the solar system. It also allows the town to buy the system after six years which may create greater savings. Any such proposal would be voted on at Town Meeting. While we only have eight months of experience, I'm confident that the project will provide financial and environmental benefits.



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Important Notice -
Until further notice the Vigue Road Spring is Closed. Please pass it on to fellow Whitefield Residents.

DECEMBER 2017 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
HOLIDAY BAZAAR AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL Our famous bazaar featuring local food, artisan, and craftspeople. Great for all your gift-giving needs. 5-8 pm
FULL MOON HIKE Explore the wonders of nature under the light of the full moon at Hidden Valley Nature Center. We'll end the evening with a hot drink and camaraderie at one of the heated cabins. Meet at the gate promptly for a 2.5 mile trek to the pond for the full moon rising. Please no dogs. 4:30-6:30 pm (207) 389-5150
- 3rd** **KINGS MILLS UNION HALL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** 3-5 pm
 Christmas Party & Tree Lighting - Santa arrives at 4pm
- 4th** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.** All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT., 7 pm
- 5th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 6th** **ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING**, Call 549-3491 for more information.
YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL, 7-8:30 pm
- 7th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 10th** **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 11th** **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 12th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY meeting 1:00 pm Town House
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
PTA REMINDER - please join us for our December 12 meeting @ 7:00 (always the 2nd Tues. of the month). We need all of our community to remain functioning for our children.
- 13th** **WINTER CONCERTS AT THE WHITEFIELD SCHOOL**, The first concert features grades K-3 at 5:15pm and the second concert features the 4th and 5th grade along with the 5-8 grade band at 6:30pm.
YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL, 7-8:30 pm
- 14th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 15th** **OPEN MIC NIGHT FEATURING** featuring, The Oshima Brothers, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 16th** **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages welcome.
- 17th** **DECEMBER SUNDAY BRUNCH AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL** 9am-1pm
- 19th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 20th** **PLANNING BOARD**, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL, 7-8:30 pm
- 21st** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 26th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
SELECT BOARD, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 27th** **YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSCOT GENERAL**, 7-8:30 pm
- 28th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 29th** **FULL MOON HIKE** Explore the wonders of nature under the light of the full moon at Hidden Valley Nature Center. We'll end the evening with a hot drink and camaraderie at one of the heated cabins. Meet at the gate promptly for a 2.5 mile trek to the pond for the full moon rising. Please no dogs. 4:30-6:30 pm (207) 389-5150

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Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month.

Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

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