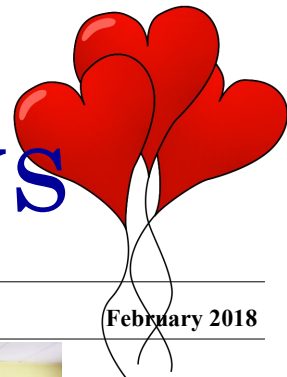




Whitefield News

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Published Monthly

February 2018

Volunteers Needed

The Whitefield Economic Development Committee needs volunteers to help develop a *Welcome to Whitefield Map & Guide*. According to Taryn and Ben Marcus, many visitors to Sheepscot General Store have said, "We have really enjoyed our visit to your store, but what other things are there to see and do while we are in town?"

The committee is looking for volunteer writers, photographers, artists, researchers and sales persons to take part in creating the guide. The guide will be a free handout to town visitors and be supported by local advertisers. Whitefield products, businesses and services will be listed at no charge and space will be made available to those who wish to buy an ad. The ads will surround a hand-drawn map of Whitefield that will assist visitors in finding hiking trails, lake and river access and all points of interest. The guide will be available for distribution at all Whitefield businesses.

Those interested may contact Bill McKeen at 446-8891 or maciainchief@gmail.com. We are hopeful the project will be ready to print in the Spring.

A tribute to Mary 1914-2017

(written by Lucy Hartman)

Mary Creamer, who was the town's Boston Post Cane recipient honoring Whitefield's oldest resident, died Dec. 28, 2017. She was 103 years old.

The Whitefield Historical Society presented the certificate at a small ceremony in Mary's home in February 2010.

She was born March 26, 1914, the daughter of Jason and Myrtie (Wright) Edgerly, and spent her early years living in Augusta near where the airport is located today. At age 5 or 6, Mary moved with her family to a small farm on the Thayer Road, near the southern end of Crocker Avenue.

Leaving a large modern house with running water and electricity in the city to live in a country Cape illuminated by kerosene lamps was a challenge, she said at the time she received the Post Cane.

"We were scared," Creamer said, referring to herself and her two brothers in their new home. "Whitefield didn't have many people. We didn't even have a snowplow."

Between 1920 and 1922, no classes were held at the Plains school, the district where



Mary Creamer Whitefield Historical Society Photo

the Edgerlys lived, so Mary boarded with the Ernest Dunton family in Kings Mills. She felt homesick, attending first and second grades five days a week in the school-house there, and looked forward to Friday.

After school on that day, she walked part of the four-mile distance home with the Crocker children, who lived halfway up Crocker Avenue. At their house she met her mother, and together they walked the rest of the way.

In 1933 she married James Creamer, and the couple had a daughter, Betty Grady, who has shared a home on Head Tide Road with her mother for many years.

Mary, a homemaker who credited hard work for a good life, spent many enjoyable hours caring for her yard and gardens, especially her beloved dahlias. She remained active in recent years doing outside work, including shoveling snow, and looked forward to visits from family and friends, according to an obituary (Kennebec Journal, Jan. 3, 2018).

ARTFUL NIGHTS MAINE

Fundraiser for Whitefield PTA

25\$ per ticket

Snacks and drinks provided

Friday, February 2nd 6-8pm



forces on in order to provide enriching experiences for all students.

PTA membership has declined, however, in the most recent years, and as everyone surely knows, it takes sustained effort and commitment to keep a volunteer organization alive. Fortunately, there are a few such individuals (10 at last count), but considering the number of children in our school, that is not a very large number. If you are a parent, grandparent, or community member, please decide to lend your support and join the PTA (the once a month meeting is always the 2nd Tuesday of the month @ 5:30). The time you give, will come back to you in multiple ways.

One immediate and entertaining way to become involved with Whitefield PTA is "Artful Nights Maine". Come support your school's PTA during an evening of art/"paint night". This is a popular fundraiser offered to everyone in the community. Please mark your calendar, toss your art inhibitions away, and come out to have an evening of artful "fun" with old friends and new! You'll be glad you did.

Over the years, through the efforts of very dedicated volunteers, Whitefield PTA has provided a great deal of support to our school; just glance at the colorful, safe, and kid-friendly playground the next time you drive by Whitefield School. It is such a shining example, and there are many many more. It represents one of many undertakings that parents, school staff, and community members have joined

"Whitefield Collaborative Problem-Solving Committee"

As a result of the Jan. 11 Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit Board of Directors meeting, a committee of twenty individuals was formed to identify and address the concerns brought forth by the community regarding Whitefield School. At that heavily attended Jan. 11 Board meeting, Whitefield resident and former Board member, Joan Morin, offered her experience in conflict management. Joan has worked for Maine Education Association as an advocate for 21 years. She will lead the "Whitefield Collaborative Problem-Solving Committee" through the process of identifying the issues and building consensus for resolution of those identified issues.

The Committee is made up of 8 Whitefield parents and community members, 6 Whitefield staff members, RSU 12 Superintendent and the Special Education Director, and the 3 Whitefield Board members. By receiving and giving information to the larger respective groups of concerned individuals within our Whitefield community, it is hoped that the Committee will be able to work towards positive solutions to the issues raised by parents and community members at the November Educational Forum and recent RSU 12 Board meetings. The first meeting held January 23 was a training session for all committee members in the process of Collaborative Problem Solving. As the committee moves forward in discussions concerning the issues, there will be future information provided about its progress.



Join Us at **Aunt Gin's Restaurant**

on

February 7th from 4:30-7 pm

for

Benefit Pizza and Pasta Buffet

*(included in price is pizza, pasta, and soft drinks **
alcoholic beverages must be purchased separately**)*

Price: \$10 per adult

\$ 5 per child (up to grade 8)

\$25 per family group

ALL proceeds will be donated to Whitefield Elementary School's class of 2018.



*The height of the Sheepscot River during the flood in January 2018.
The ice shows just how high the water was at the height of the flood.
Photo by Dana Rogers*

Summary of recent Select Board activity

(submitted by Tony Marple)

In preparation for the 2019 budget, the Board reviewed a salary survey for town office staff for towns in Maine with a similar population. It is clear from that survey that the Administrative Assistant and Treasurer in the Whitefield Town Office are below the pay of their peers. The board will recommend increases at the March Town Meeting. The board also reviewed current job descriptions and reassigned the treasurer role to Darlene Beaulieu. Both Aaron Miller and Darlene do municipal government work that is very specialized. As town officials around Maine retire at a more rapid rate, municipalities are finding it very difficult to recruit replacements.

The Board heard a presentation from Lincoln County TV (LCTV) which serves many towns in the county. Towns use LCTV for special events, select board, planning board, town meetings, concerts and sports. I was told by the chair of the Damariscotta Select Board that using LCTV at board meetings has increased citizen understanding of town issues as well as participation in meetings. The Board and budget committees will be reviewing the fees and discussing whether to include LCTV in the 2019 budget.

Several citizens attended a recent board meeting with concerns about winter road conditions. David Spicer, our plowing contractor, and his staff attended also. Spicer proposed several changes; particularly more attention to major roads like RT. 218. David Boynton, Road Commissioner and former plowing contractor, pointed out that Whitefield has a lot more miles, but spends less than surrounding towns. Our current contract with David Spicer expires this year, and we will be going out to bid.

The road committee has proposed a slight decrease in spending for 2019 which would keep us on track with the 10-year plan approved several years ago. The plan and the ongoing work of the committee have transformed the maintenance of town roads. The plan puts more emphasis on preventive maintenance such as ditching, brushing and culvert replacement and a more scientific approach to paving. Committee members Dennis Merrill, Ed Mooney, Mike McMorro, Erik Ekholm and Frank Ober are also investigating a needed repair or replacement of a large culvert on south Hunts Meadow Road. This will be an expensive project, and the Board and budget committee will discuss a "set aside" to put away funds for the project which may or may not be done next year. These funds would be taken from town surplus.

Erik Ekholm, Dennis Merrill, Frank Ober and Aaron Miller have spent many hours planning for and implementing improvements in the Town Office. The improvements include a more ergonomic counter for the front office staff designed and built by Erik. Other changes include improved insulation, new heat pumps to heat and cool the space and virtually eliminate the need for oil, and new lighting, flooring and ceiling tiles. Thanks to the volunteer hours from this team, the cost was way lower than it could have been. The Board will also consider adding a generator. As you may know, the office had to close for several days after the October wind storm.

Town Meeting will be held at 10am, Saturday March 17. We encourage you to attend and participate. Ballot voting will take place from 4 to 8 the day before, Friday March 16.

The Great Bear Hunt

(by Olivia Brann, age 11)

September 23, 2017 was a day I will never forget. My dad and I traveled three hours to Duck Lake, in Lakeville, Maine. We sat in a ground blind for a little over two hours.

Crunch, crunch... We heard the leaves shuffling. It was the first time we heard a bear walking out to the bait. After about five minutes, the bear was in sight and it looked pretty small to me, but I learned it wasn't. Then, at that moment, I decided it was time to shoot. Bam! When it ran off, it stumbled the way you would if you stubbed your toe. My dad said we had to wait for the bear to settle down.

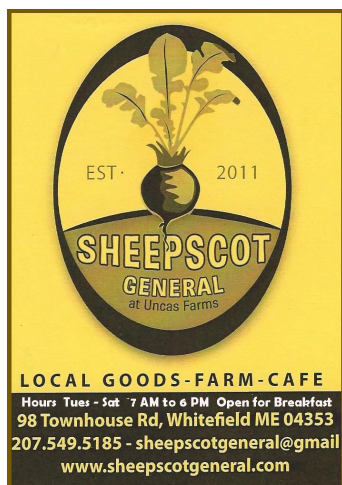


Photos by Dad

My uncle and his girlfriend had dropped us off, so we called them to come pick us up while we waited for the bear to settle. I knew I shot it for sure. After about an hour, we returned to the site to search for the bear. We spotted blood. It was not bubbly, so that meant I didn't hit a lung. My dad let me lead the way in the pitch dark. I walked behind a tree and there it was- a giant bear! It was the most exciting day of my life.

Now, the challenge was to get the beastly bear out of the woods. My dad and uncle dragged it about 300 yards. It was a lot of work to get it loaded into the truck. We worried about where we would tag the bear, since it was 10:30 p.m. We drove along the road and found a store with a sign that said, "If you have a bear, call." The guy who tagged it offered to weigh my bear. We were shocked to learn my bear weighed 404lbs! Local people gathered around and congratulated me. The owner of the store gave me a Mountain Dew to celebrate!

My dad's friend, Ed Ayotte baits and guides bear hunts and deserves most of the credit for this experience. He puts in a lot of time and energy during bear hunting season. I thank Ed and his wife Sharyn for providing me with this great hunting adventure.



Whitefield Trash Service & Snow Removal Service

(Also roof clean offs and shoveling)

Weekly Household Garbage Pickup

Free Metal Removal

Appliances (no Freon), woodstoves,
batteries (auto, marine and

Lawnmower)

Any Metal Item!

Call Dana Rogers at 485-3991

Come Volunteer at the Whitefield School with 4-H!

The University of Maine's positive youth development program, 4-H is looking for adult mentors who want to volunteer after school at Whitefield elementary!

4-H is centered in experiential learning, which means active participation and engagement with youth. The 4-H's are Head, Heart, Hands and Health, so our focus is to engage in experiential education for the betterment of the lives of our youth with positive role-models.

Please come find out more on how you can become a volunteer with 4-H, questions and answers, as well as finding out what 4-H program is present at Whitefield elementary already!

Come Join us at the Whitefield School on Monday February 26th 2018 from 6:00-7:30

For more information or if you have a disability accommodation please call 207-832-0343



NJHS NEEDS YOUR HELP

(by Karen McCormick: teacher/NJHS advisor)

In the summer of 2014, while looking for areas to expand NJHS service learning, I stumbled upon the Preemie Project. In 2015 we began making Scent Hearts for the NICU at Maine Medical Center. Since then, our small group has provided over 1,000 hearts to the hospital.

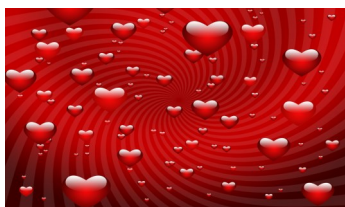
The Scent Hearts are made of fabric, often flannel or cotton, and are sewn in the shape of a heart. They are given to parents who have children in the NICU by hospital staff. In turn, the parents wear these hearts against their skin for a period of time and the hearts pick up their scent. In the event that the parent has to leave the NICU, the heart can be placed in the incubator leaving a familiar scent to comfort the infant.

For the 2017-18 school year, our student membership is at its highest point with 20 members. We need the help of the community to get hearts made. Please contact me at 242-4289 or kmccormick@svrsu.org if you can sew hearts with us.

Also this year we have added to our Preemie Project. We have solicited people from communities near and far to knit or crochet tiny hats for these babies. We currently have 76 hats to deliver and would very much like this to be an ongoing project. For that to happen, we need volunteers to continue producing the hats. It is not a big commitment; any number of hats will always be welcome. If you, or someone you know, has time and ability, we would love to have your help. Completed hats can be dropped off at the school or you can also contact me to arrange a pick up.

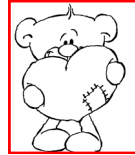
We would love to have people check in and learn about all of the wonderful projects and initiatives that our group has participated in already this school year. So far we have sponsored seven activities, participated in two, and have MANY more in various stages of planning.

"We rise by lifting others," Robert Ingersoll



FEBRUARY 2018 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 2nd** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- GAME NIGHT AT SHEEPSBOT GENERAL** 5-8 pm Join us for a night of gaming. We will have the pizza, beer and refreshing beverages and some of the games. Feel free to bring more games. All ages welcome!
- 5th** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.** All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
- KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, 7 pm
- 6th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSBOT GENERAL**, 6:30-8:00 pm
- KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING** - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 8th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 11th** **ADULT XC SKI CLINIC AT HVNC** Sun, Feb 11 - Sun, Feb 18 | All Ages
Veteran skiers and ski coaches will help boost your confidence and skill on skis. The clinic costs \$15 for Midcoast Conservancy members and \$20 for non-members. XC-ski equipment rentals are just \$12. Space is limited and pre-registration is required! Call (207) 389-5150
- WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 12th** **WHITEFIELD CROSS COUNTRY SKI CLUB** Midcoast Conservancy is offering an after noon ski program in Whitefield for kids ages 8-15. The Whitefield Cross Country Ski Club will meet Monday through Friday, February 12-16 and February 26-March 2 from 3-5 pm. Program will meet at 102 Cookson Lane in Whitefield. Skis, boots and poles will be provided for all participants. Cost is \$20 but scholarships are available: no one will be turned away. Contact Andy Bezou to inquire at (207) 389-5156 or andyb@midcoastconservancy.org.
- WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 13th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** meeting 1:00 pm Town House
- YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSBOT GENERAL**, 6:30-8:00
- SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- PTA** 5:30 pm, Whitefield School conference room (always the 2nd Tues. of the month).
- 14th** **A BAKER'S YEAR BOOK RELEASE/PIZZA PARTY WITH TARA JENSEN**- 5-7pm Tara Jensen's first book is about to be published and she has chosen to come full circle back to her Maine roots for the release party. Join us Valentine's night for a special night of pizza with Tara's "yard sauce", book release/signing party and cookie and pie bake sale! Sheepscot General
- 15th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 16th** **OPEN MIC NIGHT FEATURING PUTNAM SMITH**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 17th** **DRUMMING CIRCLE**, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all ages welcome.
- 18th** **VALENTINES SUNDAY BRUNCH AT SHEEPSBOT GENERAL** 9am-1pm
- 20th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSBOT GENERAL**, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 21st** **PLANNING BOARD**, Fire Station, 6:00 pm
- 22nd** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 27th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- YIN YOGA AT SHEEPSBOT GENERAL**, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 28th** **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. 6-8 pm (207) 389-5150



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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1 - 5 days of instruction per week Sept. - May
Register year round

For information, please call
Joan Kierstead - 549-5019

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549-3135


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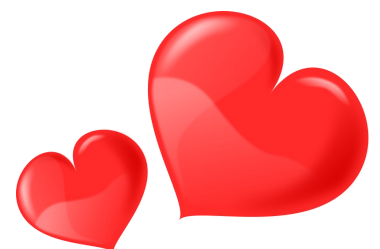
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