



Happy New Year!

FREE

Whitefield News

Volume 1, Issue 7

Published Monthly

January 2014

Just who are the Senior Men?

By Sue McKeen

In this small corner of Lincoln County, every Thursday morning at 10:00 at the Sheepscot General Store, you'll find a group of "senior" men sharing stories, muffins, coffee and camaraderie.

When I called Phil Russell, who seems to be the Senior Men's "spokesperson," to get permission to meet with and interview the group, I think he thought I might want to join. This is a men's group after all and I assured him I only wanted to visit. I sensed his relief.

Upon arriving, I was struck by the friendly buzz of conversations going on all around the room. These are men with long histories in Whitefield, many of them the "movers and shakers" of the past and present, with many stories, opinions and ideas.

The group has grown over the years, and members have come and gone. On this day, there were 13 present: Keith Sanborn, Albert Boynton, Bert Hayford, Carl Prescott, Barry Tibbetts, Lore Ford, Jerry Maldovan, Tom Pierpan, Frank Small, Andrew Berry, Mike Shaw, Phil Russell, and Carl Ribeiro. Ken Marden, Norm Gregoire and Carroll Farmer were not present, but usually attend.

Phil said they began meeting in 1999 when Dot Howell, wife of the late Jay Howell, suggested that he start a men's group. The consensus is that this may have been Dot's way of "finding Jay something to do." As was his way, Jay picked up the ball and ran with it, sending letters out to all the retired men he could think of in Whitefield and asking if they would be interested.

The original group consisted of Phil, Jay, Bob Bradford, Carroll Farmer, Bert Hayford, Albert Boynton, Bob Hutchinson and Pat Patterson.

They began meeting at what used to be Country Farms Restaurant and were immediately dubbed the ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out) by Darlene, who was part of the wait staff there. After the restaurant closed they met at Damariscotta Lakes Farms, until moving to their present location, Sheepscot General Store. Here, amid the smells of freshly baked goods and coffee, they meet in a room set aside just for them. I was told, "It's great, plus it's right in town."



Left to right: Andrew Berry, Mike Shaw, Phil Russell, Carl Ribeiro
Photo by Tony Marple

I thought politics would be at the forefront of topics discussed, but I was wrong. Phil said one of Jay Howell's rules was that there'd be no talk about politics or religion. Of course, Phil pointed out, that ended very quickly when Jay introduced a candidate running for the legislature as a "guest." Since then, the group told me they discuss everything from history, military service, the state of the world including how to solve current problems from municipal to federal government. They have the answers, just ask them.

Carl Ribeiro said the meetings are a chance to talk about current town events and learn the "real" history. Barry Tibbetts said they're an occasion for sharing information about contractors, where to eat out, what's going on. When talking about neighbors helping neighbors, Lore Ford said, "We used to all help each other. We knew who needed help and we'd do it." **See Senior Pg. 3**

Kings Mills Volunteer Fire Association on a new mission

By Jeff Newell

With the Town of Whitefield's fire service turning municipal a few years ago, one would think the local fire associations would be a thing of the past. Not true! The Kings Mills Volunteer Fire Association is still alive and well, going as strong as ever, with a new job and a new mission.

The association has evolved into a fund raising entity designed to help offset the cost of fire service. We most recently planned, purchased and presented a new forestry truck to the town to replace the aging 1968 Jeep that had done the job for far too long. The replacement 2006 Ford Utility truck was equipped with all new lights, siren, radio as well as a top of the line skid unit (slide in tank, pump and hose unit) at no cost to the town. The total overall cost of the donation, including things



Contributed photo

such as the truck, the skid unit, some custom fabrication and delivery of the tank unit, came in at

\$32,719.04.

This is a perfect example of what our association is all about. The new forestry truck acquisition was accomplished through the efforts of association members who have volunteered for many years fundraising for the town. Basically, this is where all the funds raised through the annual July 4th festival went.

The Kings Mills Volunteer Fire Association is very proud of the work we do and happy to be a part of such a wonderful community. As always we are so very grateful for the support of the town's residents year after year. We will continue to work as we do to be able to give back to our great town.

Though going strong, the association is dwindling in membership and needs help from the community. We are looking for new members who could help in our fund-raising efforts as well as assist with other projects we take on. If you are interested in joining our ranks and becoming part of something great, we hold meetings monthly (first Monday) at the Kings Mills Firehouse on the south end of Townhouse Rd. at 7 p.m. and we welcome you to attend.

For more information you can also call the association president (Jeff Newell) at 624-2268.

Health Center highlights

Our HealthReach Connector Program at Sheepscot Valley Health Center helps people figure out what health care benefits they are eligible for and assists with applications and follow-up as needed. There are many programs that help people pay for healthcare, prescriptions, hospital services, or lab fees. These include MaineCare, Maine Breast and Cervical Health Program, DEL (Low cost Drugs for the Elderly or Disabled), and more. But figuring out program eligibility rules and tackling the enrollment and renewal processes can be overwhelming.

Ann Schwab, our Outreach/Enrollment Specialist, will be assisting people with applying for new Maine health insurance options under the Affordable Care Act. Angela Blanchard processes applications for the HealthReach Affordable Care Program. Based on family size and income, people may be eligible for lower cost visits at their health center.

Melissa Murray and Susan Hunnewell assist people through the HealthReach Patient Assistance Program. People can obtain free or less expensive medications directly from pharmaceutical programs if they qualify based on their family size and income.

Please ask us how we can assist you with affordable healthcare. Call for an appointment or to speak with Ann Schwab, 549-7581.

Sheepscot Valley Health Center is one of 11 health centers within the HealthReach Community Health Centers of Maine.

Paul Audette, Practice Manager

Whitefield Elementary raising funds for new playground

By Suzanne Balbo

The current playground at the Whitefield Elementary school, built in the late 1980s, is in a poor state. Lots of students spend their recess being treated by the nurse for splinters! The school, with huge support from the PTA, decided to install a new playground. New swings, funded by the PTA, were installed in the summer of 2013.

The complete playground replacement will happen in three phases over the next three years. Principal Josh McNaughton said, "We are having to use a three phase model for replacement based on funding availability. Our goal between the school budget and PTA fundraising is to have somewhere in the neighborhood of 15-20K available each year for the next three years. Estimates for total replacement we have received from four companies run between 50-60K."

This year's RSU 12 budget includes \$10,000 for the playground initiative. The PTA has already raised \$5,000 this year, and members are working hard to continue their fundraising efforts. PTA President Lisa Kalloch said, "If we can get (funding) done sooner, the better! (The PTA) can then help the teachers here at the school."

According to McNaughton, once the vendor has been selected, students will be involved in voting for various features, including color and add-ons. This spring, the school will be purchasing a portion of the main structure, to include items like raised decks, slides, and a few climbing pieces. Weather dependent, phase 1 of the new playground should be installed in April.

To donate to the playground fund, please contact Lisa Kalloch at lisa@rizzomattson.com, 660-7583, or send a check directly to the school.

M.O.F.G.A Certified Organic
lacto-fermented foods
thirty acre farm

Simon and Jane Frost

www.thirtyacrefarm.com

thirtyacrefarm@gmail.com

Sauerkraut, Caraway Kraut, Ruby Kraut, Kimchi,

Gingered Carrots, Sour Dill Pickles and **new!** Jalapeño Kraut



Calendar of Events

January:

3rd: Whitefield Food Bank from 1-3pm, Sheepscot Valley Community Church

4th: Cross-Country Ski Clinic for Kids, Hidden Valley Nature Ctr. Jefferson 9:30 am

6th: Kings Mills Fire Dept. Mtg. 7:00 pm

Coopers Mills Fire Dept. Mtg. 7:00 pm

9th: RSU School Board Mtg. Chelsea School 6:30-9 pm

8th: Cornell Lab of Ornithology & Audubon Bird Programs, SVCA Office, Newcastle 6:30 pm

9th: Roads Committee, Whitefield Fire Station, 7:00 pm

14th: Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. Mtg. 7:00 pm

15th: Planning Board Meeting, Town Office 7-9 pm

17th: Open Mic Night, 7-9 pm, Sheepscot General

29th: Waterfowl Nest Box Program—SVCA Office, Newcastle 6:30 pm

Ongoing

- Every Monday and Wednesday: ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- Every Tuesday: Select Board Meeting 6pm, Fire Station
- Every Tuesday in January: Budget Committee 7pm, Fire Station
- Every Thursday: Whitefield Senior Men's Group, 10 am at Sheepscot General
- Every Friday: Pizza Night, Sheepscot General, 5-7pm

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.

(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

BOB GOVE
Proprietor

PHONE
(207) 549-7626

AUGUSTA UPHOLSTERY & FOAM CO.

612 Augusta/Rockland Rd.
Windsor, Maine 04363

WE SELL ALL
TYPES OF FOAM

PICK-UP & DELIVERY
AVAILABLE

E-Mail: tackerbob@roadrunner.com

Happy Pigs Taste Better



**Certified Organic Pork
and Hay**

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

Treble Ridge Farm

Just Yesterday



In the Jan. 11, 1884 edition of *The Lincoln County News*, the local columnist reported: "There were Christmas trees at CR Carleton's and AH Preble's on New Year's Day, deferred until that time on account of other Christmas activities."

On Jan. 8, 1886:

"There was a literary club organized at Kings Mills last Monday evening with intention of holding a weekly lyceum, for mutual improvement in the usual exercises." And: "There were as many as a dozen hunters out on the last few days of the year in eager search for the poor little deer, but so far as heard from, but two of the innocent creatures were slaughtered."

On Jan. 22, 1886: "We are having cold weather with bad sleighing and worse wheeling." And: "Quite an accident happened to our aged neighbor William Preble, who is in his 90th year. He went to the barn to attend to the feeding of his stock, and when returning, slipped on ice and sprained both wrists and inflicted severe cuts on his face and head, but retained sufficient will power to call loudly for help. His wife heard the outcry and got him into the house. Doing well at present. He has remarkable physical power for his age. He will direct the management of his farm with the energy of men 34-40 years [old]." (Courtesy Whitefield Historical Society)

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.

Hardware
Sporting Goods
Feed & Grain

Grocery
Clothing
Gifts & Novelties

Hussey's General Store
Guns, Wedding Gowns, Cold Beer
Corner Route 52 & 105 Windsor, Maine 04363

Open:
M-S 7AM-7PM SUN 8AM-5PM

E-mail: info@husseysgeneralstore.com www.husseysgeneralstore.com

Fax: 207-445-3750
Tel: 207-445-2511

"IF YOU CAN'T FIND IT AT HUSSEY'S, YOU DON'T NEED IT"

Whitefield Housewrights

Old Fasioned Craftsmanship - Contemporary Function

focused on old house rehabilitation and repair

Andrew Sell (207)-549-4703
coldarsefarm@zwi.net

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

Senior continued from Pg. 1 Albert Boynton, who was a mail carrier for many years, said, "When you're a mail carrier, you learn a lot about people, you get to know people." Also, the group is a "chance for the men to get together to gab, because when the women are around, they don't get much of a chance."

More than talk, the senior men are very civic minded and can be counted on to support projects in the town. Several years ago they found the money to restore the honor roll memorial in Kings Mills. Via Ken Wood, they were instrumental in getting the Liberty Elm and plaque, located on the town property behind the town office. They donated money toward the flag pole at the fire station, and Ken Marden and Lore Ford put up many American flags each year.

The Senior Men know the meaning of civic pride and have, throughout their lives, donated thousands of hours to the town.

I found I didn't really want to leave this group - it felt just like an old-time town meeting - but Phil started looking at his watch.

So, if you're a "senior man" or just looking for a congenial time and place to spend your Thursday mornings, stop in to the Sheepscot General Store at 10:00 every Thursday morning. Enjoy a muffin, a cup of coffee and some great company.



Phil Russell

Photo by Tony Marple

Thanks for trees

Thanks to generous donors, Whitefield has two trees sparkling with holiday lights, one outside the central fire station, the other at Kings Mills Union Hall. Fire chief Scott Higgins expressed thanks to Gwyn Dixon for the donation of the tree he cut down, installed and decorated with help from selectmen Frank Ober and Dennis Merrill.

Union Hall association president Judy Maldovan thanked Louis Sell for donating the evergreen that was officially lit during a Christmas party attended by 25 children and Santa himself.

Recycling Tip of the Month



When recycling your tin cans, remember that space is important. If you flatten your cans they take up less space at the center which in turn will require fewer pickups from the county, saving gas in the long run and making more money for the program.
(Please remove labels as well - they can go in mixed paper.)

Millers Garage and Bodyshop

474 COOPER RD
WHITEFIELD ME 04353

GARAGE, BODY SHOP, TOWING,
RECOVERY, USED VEHICLES

ONE CALL DOES IT ALL

207-549-7549 207-446-6412

Stargazing in Whitefield

By Tony Marple



Colin Caissie at the Whitefield Observatory

Photo by Tony Marple

reflector is a very powerful telescope. Sixteen inches refers to the width of the mirror which collects the starlight.

The Brower Observatory, located on the Whitefield-Jefferson line at 326 Route 126, is adjacent to the house owned by Jean Fergusson and Colin Caissie. Colin, who is a founding member of CMAS and an adjunct instructor of astronomy at the University of Maine, says, "Astronomy is one of the most complete hobbies I know of. It involves mythology, history, cutting edge science, outdoor adventure, a sense of awe and humility, and companionship. You can use your eyes, binoculars, or telescope. You can make your own instruments. It helps you think in a new way."

CMAS has hosted observing sessions for Cub Scouts and home schooled children and is willing to do so for school groups. Observing

In 2004, a group of astronomy enthusiasts founded the Central Maine Astronomical Society (CMAS), to accept the endowment of a 16-inch Newtonian reflector and other pieces of equipment from Stanley Brower, an accomplished astronomer from Southport. If you are not familiar with telescopes, a 16-inch

sessions include a variety of smaller telescopes as well as the 16-inch reflector, affording ample viewing time for groups. The CMAS website,

www.maineastro.com, includes information about the observatory, upcoming celestial events, photographs and notices about upcoming star parties, which are also held at two other mid-coast locations. You can add yourself to the mailing list. Star gazing dates may change due to the weather. The email address is MaineAstro@gmail.com.

Brower Observatory is a great resource right here in Whitefield.



NOMINATION PAPERS AVAILABLE DEC. 20

Nomination papers for various town positions will be available on Dec. 20, 2013. There will be two seats open on the board of selectmen. Both are three-year-terms. At the town meeting on March 15, 2014 voters will also choose a road commissioner for a one-year-term; two positions on the planning board for two-year-terms; and a school board member for a three-year-term. Nomination papers will be available at the town office on Townhouse Road.

DOG LICENSES EXPIRE DEC. 31

WHITEFIELD – All dog licenses expire on Dec. 31, 2013. The cost to reregister dogs is \$6 for spayed or neutered and \$10 for unaltered canines. Starting Feb. 1, 2014 there will be a \$25 late fee for delayed registrations.

Tax maps now online

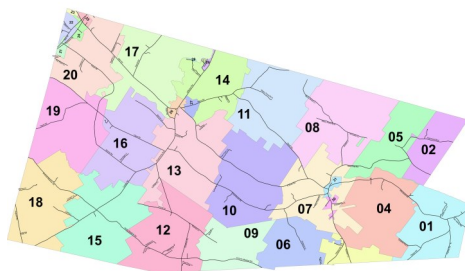
By Dennis Merrill

Whitefield's tax maps and parcel information can now be found online at www.TownofWhitefield.com.

Several months ago, with the help of a State grant, the Town began a process to convert its property tax maps to a digital format. This involved taking the old paper maps and putting them on a Geographic Information System that uses landmarks such as roads and streams as on-the-ground reference points to align the parcels to a geographically correct database. The resulting electronic maps can be overlaid with many different "layers" of information such as land uses or natural features. This feature opens up many possibilities for planning or evaluation.

Now that the tax maps are in an electronic format, they will be easier to maintain and update as changes occur or more information becomes available. The new individual maps show portions of adjoining maps so abutting parcels can be seen and parcels are not cut off at the boundary of a single map, as was the case with the paper format.

This digitization has also allowed Whitefield's tax maps and related information about individual parcels to be put online.



ELMER'S BARN &
Antique Mall
45 Dealers and growing!

Come check us out;
new treasures weekly!

Rt. 17, Coopers Mills, ME
107 Rockland Rd., Whitefield
(207) 549-7671

Something for everyone!
Tools, Furniture, Coins, Glass,
Jewelry, Collectibles
Open year 'round
Summer hours 9-5ish
Winter hours 9-4ish

Residents can answer basic questions about property ownership and assessed values without having to come to the Town Office. Each tax map, or in some cases a combination of maps, is a separate downloadable file in the ".pdf" format. Once files are downloaded, the zoom tool can be used to show portions of a map in detail.

Accompanying the tax maps online is information about each of the Town's 1764 real estate tax accounts. This may be done by looking up an individual's information by map or alphabetically by name. The information is similar to that which is published in the annual Town Report, and includes assessed values for land and buildings, tree growth program participation, the value of exemptions, the taxable valuation, and reference to the most current Lincoln County Registry of Deeds Book and Page.

The maps and parcel information can be found at www.TownofWhitefield.com by clicking on the Town Government tab and selecting Town Tax Maps.

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.