



Whitefield News

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Kings Mills Fire Department News

The Annual July 4th celebration day is nearly upon us, and we



Tony Marple Photo

are looking to rally the community in several ways.

First by asking all of our friends and neighbors to join us for another fun filled day raising money to help the town's great fire service. The celebration will kick off at 10 am with the start of the historic parade and continues throughout the day with music, fun and food, including our world famous auction.

This year's raffle is a surprise twist will be a 51 inch Samsung flat screen plasma television. We are very excited about the change and tickets for the TV will be arriving soon for availability to all of you.

We are also seeking donations at this time for several things including but not limited to, auction items, cakes for the cake walk, time and manpower for the events including set up and clean up as well as possibly manning different events.

In closing, if you think you might be interested in being a long-term association member and helping us with our causes year round feel free to give me a call at 624-2268, I'd love to hear from you

Jeffrey J. Newell

KMVFD association President.

Outhouse burning – A Whitefield tradition

By Debbie Rogers

When I was 15, I couldn't wait to be old enough to attend the "Outhouse Burning" on the eve of the 4th of July. My parents, who weren't too keen on having me attend, finally allowed me to go at age 17 and to my utter amazement, it was even more fun than I could have imagined. At the corner of Route 218 and what is now 194 in Kings Mills, a pickup truck backed up to the middle of the intersection with an old, rickety outhouse on the back. Several very happy participants jumped out and put the tailgate down. Then the truck would "gun" it and the outhouse toppled off. It was then stuffed with paper and kindling and to the hoots and cheers of the group, set ablaze. At the stroke of midnight, someone would go into the



church on the corner and ring the bell (much to the dismay of the pastor).

During the course of the evening, several more pickups arrived and in the same manner, dumped their outhouses into the already burning bonfire. Wise folks that they were, they did lower the tailgate in advance, and the stream of sparks that set the night aglow when the outhouse hit the fire was spectacular. Several years later, I was living in Whitefield at a home that actually had a working outhouse. And yes, that is what I used for a bathroom. It was a

fairly new facility but the previous one was still on the property. Hank Chase asked if I would like the old one to be contributed to the annual Outhouse Burning and I happily agreed. I arrived at the event and saw my old outhouse perched high on the pile of wood and watched as they set it to burnin'. However, Hank and the crew were off obtaining another contribution for the fire and when **Continued on Pg. 2**

North Whitefield Superette: More than a country store

By Sue McKeen

In 1976, when Steve Crocker, an Augusta native then living in Maryland, came to visit Sam and Alice Hutchinson, he never thought he would settle here, let alone purchase a small country store. But while driving around he noticed a "for sale" sign on the small store on the corner of Route 126 and Route 218. He thought to himself, "Well, I could do that" - and he did.

The building is over 100 years old and at one time was a garage. Under the ownership of Thurlow Crummett at the time, the store was called Crummett's Store. Tim Chase remembers when Thurlow delivered groceries right to the Chase family house. "My mother would call the store and order fish, eggs, milk, meats, canned goods. We didn't go to Gardiner or Augusta to buy our groceries, they were delivered right to our door." Mark Fenderson remembers Mr. Crummett. He said, "Back in those days, Mr. Crummett wasn't



Steve & Dee Crocker, Trish Shorey (Tony Marple photo)

afraid to discipline kids. If they didn't treat their mothers nice, he would take them out front and give them a paddle." Crummett sold the store to Neil Taylor and it was then bought by Oscar McGee.

In November of 1976 Steve leased the store from McGee. While Steve was working one day, Dee Armstrong came in to make a purchase. The rest is history - they married in 1977 and purchased the store in February of 1978. Dee gave up her

beauty shop and worked full time at the store with Steve. Steve remembers, "It was long hours, seven days a week, no

vacations and no extras." But he credits a lot of the store's success to being in the right place at the right time.

On any given day you can find Steve in his little "office" out back. He handles the business end and Dee describes herself as the "people person." They agree the relationship works, although it has not always been easy. Over the years the store has been an important part of the town. It's the place to go to pick up groceries, order a pizza or sandwich, rent a movie, buy gas and motor oil, get the latest news or just exchange a friendly word with **Continued on Pg. 2**

NWS cont. from Pg. 1

your neighbors. We miss some of the old timers who are gone now - Alden Boynton, Lenny Jones, Winston Banks, Spencer Penn, Tom Vigue. But today, on any given day, you can still stop in to hear the stories and political commentaries told by people like Tim Chase, Ron Rollins, Jim Brann, Jeff Vigue, David Jackson, Tom Colpitt, Rick Mattucci and Peter Froelich. They are the very pulse and heartbeat of the town. They are the gauges of Whitefield's social and political climate.

But, in order to have a successful business, you have to hire the right people. In that arena Steve and Dee have been lucky. One of their first employees, Jeannie Vigue worked at the store for over 20 years. It was hard to imagine replacing Jeannie, but then in walked Sandy Brown. On that day, the store gained a valuable asset. Sandy is smart, works hard, reliable and offers up down-home advice to inquiring minds. Sandy has been at the store for 23 years.

When Dee and Steve decided to winter in Florida, they needed to find a good, solid person to manage the store in their absence. Again, they were lucky and found that person in Trish Shorey. Personally, I have never seen Trish irritated or angry. She keeps her own counsel, never stops moving and always has a friendly word. Trish has been at the store for over 21 years.

When I asked Steve and Dee for stories, they said there were so many it's hard to remember. Dee remembers when the fire department housed the "red phone" in the store. The "red phone" was the town alert system and Dee recalls that when the phone rang she had to call volunteer fire fighters to let them know about the fire. Steve commented that he and Peter Froehlich would jump in the truck and take off, leaving Dee alone to man the store while they sped to the fire. They recalled the ice storm of 1998, and the flood of 1987, the Superette stayed open with generators operating the coolers and gas pumps.

Steve and Dee Crocker are more than the Superette's owners - they are part of the very fabric of our community. In times of crisis, the store is a constant. Whenever there is a fundraiser or event, you can count on them to provide financial support. As one of the original members of the Whitefield Athletic Association, Steve helped coach the girls softball and basketball teams for several years in the 1980's.

It would be easy to call the Superette simply a store. But it is so much more: It's part of us, of our community and who we are. It is a country store in the real sense. I asked Dee if she was ever going to retire. She answered, "I'm going to be here a long time. I'm going to get a rocking chair and put it by the counter. You can just call me Mildred Hussey (of Hussey's General Store). She was 90 years old and still sitting in that rocking chair by the door."



Employee Sandy Brown, (Tomy Marple photo)

Outhouse cont. from Pg. 1 they returned, he was very upset that I had not seen "my outhouse" set on fire. I assured him I had and all was well.

While I had believed that this annual ritual was something my buddies came up with, my dad informed me that it was a time honored tradition that he participated in as well. They would steal the outhouse, burn it for the celebration and build the unknowing owner a new one the next day. Hopefully the owner was not too angry if they attempted to use the privy in the night or first thing in the morning.

Darlene Newcombe shared a story about the tradition. "When Philip was a kid his father was planning on replacing their outhouse so his father thought he would sacrifice it for a good cause. The only problem was he was a little premature in donating it for the 4th of July celebration. So the family spent 2 years trekking to the barn."

Needless to say, there were always ample libations at these celebrations.

By 1981 the crowd grew to include people from not only Whitefield but Augusta and the surrounding towns. And, as with all good things, it was decided (and justly so) by law enforcement, that this tradition should come to an end. We were not pleased with that decision and the last year it was held, the police and fire dept. arrived to extinguish the blaze. We (yes, I was there) made a human ring around the fire and halted the authorities from ending our fun. However, we knew at that time this would be the last hurrah! A very level headed sheriff spoke to us and said that if we could all be responsible, they would allow us to finish the celebration under their watchful eyes. We agreed. The rest of the night was very calm and Chuck (Charlie) Tobin even managed to ring the church bell one last time. This was a feat as the door was locked and after years of midnight ringing the pastor had LOCKED the door. So, being resourceful Mainers, they scaled the outside of the church (I couldn't watch) and the bell tolled!

The event was in the paper and widely discussed as being rowdy, the beginning of a riot, etc. To the credit of the responsible individuals there that night, there was no riot although rowdy is probably an apt description.

The Outhouse Burning did not occur again, but the year following the last "official" burning, I believe it was Hank Chase and Mark Fenderson who loaded up outhouses in their trucks and proceeded to drive all over the county leading the authorities on a merry chase.

In asking for input from people about their memories of the Outhouse Burning, we have had many fun and comical discussions about different events that occurred relating to this tradition. As with many things, this tradition has passed and it should remain a fond memory. It was a Whitefield tradition that probably is a one of a kind. God bless the folks in Whitefield for having such a great imagination!!!



Internet Photo

Recognition night for Whitefield Elementary school

On Thursday, June 17th Whitefield School bid a fond farewell to our Class of 2014. The students and their parents celebrated 9 years (for most) of educational and social experiences with their children and applauded their achievements. All students were recognized with certificates of completion and some were recognized for specific areas of study.

Awards were presented to the following students: Martie Young, Kyle Kirkpatrick, Sabrina Freeman, Audrey Sumabat-Middleton, Colin Pennock, Emma Sullivan and Justin Rollins. The class Valedictorian for the class of 2014 is Colin Pennock, and the class Salutatorian is Kyle Kirkpatrick. The recognition night concluded with photos and a dance.

**Arlington
Grange Farm-
ers/Flea Market**

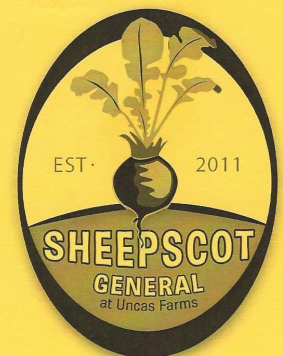


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Just Yesterday

From the *Lincoln Country News* of July 7, 1882: "They celebrated the Fourth of July at King's Mills with a rag-muffin procession and fireworks. Probably the new military company, which has now received its uniforms...."

July 2, 1886: "William H. Ford is repairing his dam at Kings Mills which was carried away by last spring's freshet. Laborers are scarce. Not an idle man in our town and all can get employment at fair wages."

July 1, 1897: "During the shower last Thursday, lightning struck the tower on the Catholic Church at Whitefield. The children had left the schoolhouse nearby and gone into the church for greater safety. No one was injured, and but little damage was done to this building."

July 22, 1897: "Captain Ulmer of the barge 'Pilgrim,' which arrived in Boston Saturday, reported the loss of the steward, Joseph W. Hall, a native of Whitefield. During a friendly scuffle with his brother Elmer, Joseph fell overboard. Capt. Ulmer is of the opinion that he must have been seized by sharks, which at this time are very plentiful in Nantucket Sound, as he was a good swimmer."

8th Annual David Dixon midnight golf— July 26th

By Chuck Vaughan

As we head toward CMVFD's Midnight Golf Tournament, I was looking back through the minutes, Dave Dixon, wrote when he was secretary. 2006 was the year and the profit from that first Tournament was \$1008. An amazing accomplishment, I would say. In 2006 it was called the **Midnight Madness Golf Tournament**. After David's passing, the tournament, which was his brain child, took on his name as one way to honor the incredible contribution he made to the town and to the CMVFD.

Not being a golfer, I have learned a little about the game through this event, though I suspect that there is a world of difference between a serious golf game and this light hearted game with glow-in-the-dark balls hurtling through the blackness, players locating each other by glowing necklaces and the features of the course outlined with glow sticks. The outstanding observation I have made is that everyone has a blast. Teams and players come back year after year. Free hot dogs and chips add to the atmosphere.

The generosity of the folks at the Sheepscot Links as well as sponsors of holes, carts and prizes have created a tradition that not only is good entertainment but has also made a significant contribution the CMVFD Building Fund. If anyone wants to play, be a sponsor or find out more, you can e-mail Bob Enos at bobsharoncm@aol.com. Details: July 26. Registration is at 5:30 with start of play at 6:30. 9 holes in daylight with carts provided and 9 holes after dark walking. Price is \$60 per person with four players per team. Hot dogs are included.

Volunteers lend a hand

Seven volunteers met at the Whitefield Cemetery in Kings Mills on May 24 to re-shingle the storage building roof. Shingles were donated by Dennis Gould and Phil Russell. Lore Ford provided the metal staging and almost everyone brought tools.

Keith Sanborne, Ernest Martin, Lore Ford, Phil Russell, Barry Tibbetts, Dick Howell and Dan Joslyn made fast work, which included applying a drip edge and installing new asphalt shingles.



(Story and photo contributed by Dan Joslyn)

School budget approved!

By Howard Tuttle, Sheepscot Valley RSU 12 Supt.

The 2013-2014 school year has been a busy one for RSU 12 schools. This was the first year for the school unit's weekly one-hour early release for its students. This provided staff throughout the district with the time to hone skills and improve instruction. Whitefield Elementary staff worked with a school-based literacy coach during this time to improve upon current literacy instruction and focus on improving student achievement. This early release has been valuable professional learning time for all district-wide staff. We are already seeing the benefits of this consistent weekly hour as students have shown steady growth in reading and math achievement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Whitefield community for supporting the school budget. Over 65% of RSU 12 voters approved the budget. I look forward to continuing to work with the Whitefield community to improve upon the many, many strengths of our RSU 12 schools.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Whitefield parent community for all their fundraising efforts. Another new playground addition will be installed this summer!

RSU School Budget vote, June 10, 2014		
Official Results		
TOWN	Yes	NO
Alna	35	13
Chelsea	126	67
Palermo	71	54
Somerville	25	26
Westport Island	101	28
Whitefield	121	55
Windsor	116	78
TOTAL	595	321
Percentage of Approval	65%	

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Whitefield Residents

☆☆☆☆

☆☆ Call for artwork for the second annual Whitefield Community Day Art Show including 2-D, 3-D and crafts.

☆☆ Please call Genevieve Keller at 441-5814 for more information.

☆☆ Call for vendors, craftspeople, flea/garage sale items.

☆☆ For more information call Judy Maldovan at 549-5664.

☆☆ Whitefield Day is Saturday, Sept. 13th.

☆☆☆☆

Church belfry

In May, Sheepscot Valley Builders, of Somerville, removed the belfry from the Sheepscot Valley Community Church, in Kings Mills, formerly known as Whitefield Union Church. The contractors then installed a smaller spire of synthetic materials atop the church, which was built in 1872. The belfry, pictured right, was too damaged to be saved.



Lucy Martin photo

JULY 2014 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General. 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 2nd **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 3rd **Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 4th **Whitefield 4th of July Celebration**,
Parade, 10 am
Cake walk
Auction 11 ish
Music
Raffle and White Elephant Table
Whitefield Food Bank, St. Denis Hall, 1-3pm
- 7th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Coopers Mills Fire Dept. 7 pm
Kings Mills Fire Dept. 7pm
- 8th **Women of Whitefield** Sheepscot General, 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 9th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 10th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 13th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)** Whitefield School 6 pm
- 14th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. 7 pm
- 15th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General. 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 16th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Planning Board Fire Station, 7-9 pm
- 17th thru 20th **Timber Framing for High School Students, HVNC**
- 17th **Nature Walk on SVCA Griggs Preserve**, Newcastle, 9- 11 a.m.
Senior Men's Group, Sheepscot General. 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 18th **Open Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 19th **Farmers/Flea Market**, Arlington Grange Hall, 9-1pm
- 21st **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 22nd **Women of Whitefield** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 23rd **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 24th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 26th **YOGA**, Sheepscot General, 9-10:15 am
8th ANNUAL DAVID DIXON MIDNIGHT GOLF TOURNAMENT
Sheepscot Links 5:30 pm
- 28th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 29th **Women of Whitefield** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Select Board 6pm
- 30th **ZUMBA** 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
Arlington Grange 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 31st **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am
Yoga, Sheepscot General, 6pm

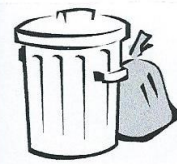


Do you have an event? Contact whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

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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