



Celebrate Memorial Day!

FREE

# Whitefield News

Volume 1, Issue 11

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May 2014

## Select board discusses priorities

By Sue McKeen

The public is always welcome at select board meetings every Tuesday at 6 p.m., at the fire station. We encourage anyone to attend with questions, comments or just to check out what's going on. Public participation is the only way the board can hear your concerns and ideas.

Some priorities:

**Assessing** - annual work plan and calendar. Reassess one-third of Whitefield properties each of the next three years to ensure equity among all taxpayers:

**Roads** - follow and support the Whitefield Roads Committee work; complete road maintenance policy; road acceptance and discontinuance policy.

**Land use** - monitor and support planning board progress under moratorium; land use ordinances; flood zone mapping and resulting needs: complete a mining ordinance and make development ordinance constitutional.

**External relations** - follow and participate in legislative issues, especially local funding; follow and participate in RSU 12 issues; explore areas of learning and cooperation with surrounding towns:

**Community** - maximize citizen participation in town issues and events; continue community forums; encourage public participation in select board and planning board issues.

The planning board is meeting at the fire station every Wednesday at 7:00. (FMI see planning board article, on right)

## It's time to tee up at Sheepscot Links

By Lucy Martin

On a cool, sunny morning in early April, golfers begin piling into the parking lot at Sheepscot Links to officially open the season - its 14<sup>th</sup> year as a nine-hole par 70 course.

The business is owned and run by the Hall-Karass family. A portion of the gently sculpted former hayfields, located on the southern end of Townhouse Road, started recreational life as a driving range and a three-hole course in the 1990s.

George and Maryann Hall, and George's sister Sue Karass and husband Ed wanted to do something besides build house lots on the open acreage once farmed by George and Sue's father. When he was a member of the family-owned Natanis Golf Course in Vassalboro, George got a lot of help from the owner. Once the Halls and Karasses knew they could keep the greens alive on Townhouse Road, they kept expanding.

Today, with the thermometer hovering in the low 30s, George has turned on the water in Sheepscot Links' chilly,



Sue and Ed Karass, George and Maryann Hall at Sheepscot Links, which is open sunrise to sunset. (Lucy Martin photo)

down," he reflects. Just start fresh.

Still, the space is cozy, unpretentious and has seating where you can enjoy a light lunch once the season gets into full swing.

An online group newsletter reaches from 95 to 125 members, who hail from Waldoboro to Bristol on the coast and from inland communities within a 30-mile range. Other golfers, farther afield, are drawn in through tournaments or gift certificates.

Sheepscot Links also hosts fundraising **Continued Pg. 2**

unheated clubhouse. Opening the faucet, he considers heat would be a good thing to have - a future project, perhaps - because the golfers get cold out there on the course, where there are still remnants of snow and shallow pools skimmed with ice a few days or possibly hours ago. Even the peepers haven't peeped yet. "Over the years we try to make regular improvements," George comments. Enlarging the clubhouse, which started life as a mobile home porch hauled from Freeport, has been one of those projects. "We started small and kept adding on. It would be easier probably to tear it all

## Planning Board update

By Jim Torbert

At the annual town meeting on March 15, Whitefield voters approved a 180-day moratorium to give the planning board time to improve our current development ordinance. The board is charged with upholding the Town of Whitefield Comprehensive Plan, which has among its goals to "preserve for future generations the quality of our town's natural resources, including water bodies, aquifers, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and agricultural and forest resources," and "to enforce existing ordinances established for the protection of natural resources and to modify them as needed."

In the offing is a development application that would radically alter the terms of existing gravel extraction permits by seeking the town's approval of a plan of a plan to scour out the gravel filter of a significant aquifer. This process contradicts generally recommended best practice.

Driving the need for a moratorium was the fact the town's development ordinance, which is sup-

posed to regulate such activity, was found unconstitutional a number of years ago.

While the proposed dredging might result in the future in a great pond that would be a natural asset to the town, at this point our development ordinance provides no assurance of that. The moratorium buys time to research the results of similar projects elsewhere, to review relevant ordinances in other municipalities, and to develop measurable and defensible standards to protect the interests of our town.

In April, the Whitefield Planning Board started holding public work sessions every Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the central fire station meeting room. On the third Wednesday of each month, our regularly scheduled meetings will be called to order at 7 p.m., and will continue at the fire station, not at the town office as we have in the past. These are public meetings but we ask that those who wish to make comments during work sessions, or have business for the board during our regular monthly meeting, provide the board chair or the town clerk a week's notice to allow us to maintain an orderly agenda. (Jim Torbert is chairman of the planning board.)

Beatrice Marple enjoys finding an Easter egg at the Hilton Road home of her grandparents, Tony and Marianne Marple, while at Whitefield School on April 12 some 300 children hunted for 10,000 Easter eggs placed on school grounds by Calvary Bible Baptist Church and Sheepscot Valley Community Church members. (Tony Marple photo)



**Sheepscot Links Cont. from pg. 1** tournaments to benefit such nonprofits as the Lions Club and Knights of Columbus. A “Chili and Chowder Classic” in the fall raises scholarship money for students. Held typically on Saturday afternoon, when most golf courses wouldn’t want to tie up the greens, the events have proven successful. “We’ve picked up some people because of it,” says George. Weekly scheduled activities include a morning senior group, an evening men’s league, an evening coed group and a matched play competition.

Asked what appeals to golfers about the Links, George says, “There’s usually no wait time and it’s very affordable. Also, we’re one of the first to open (in spring) and the last to close.” Landscaping, which incorporates gardens, shrubs, segments of stone walls as well as manicured greens, is another draw. Plus the various features – water, sand, elevated tees – create an “overall challenging course,” he says. Golfers report they get to use all the clubs in their bag.

The family hopes to add electric golf carts gradually to replace the gas-powered ones. Another direction is educational. Last fall, through Regional School Unit 12 adult ed, Sheepscot Links offered an introduction to the game of golf (“not golf lessons,” George emphasized). He also plans to offer a program for kids, through area athletic associations, which would include a clinic with each school and tournament at the end.

Overall, it’s enjoyable work because of the variety of jobs: mechanical skills are vital, and being outside, whether mowing or landscaping, is a plus. Because the golf course is small, it has a close-knit, friendly atmosphere and vibrancy. A lot of socializing occurs. For early-morning or after-hours arrivals, when the clubhouse isn’t open, there is a drop box where payment can be made. For more information, call 549-5750.

## RSU 12 Question & Answer

(Hilary Holm, board chair, and Supt. Howard Tuttle)

### Q. What does the school budget look like for fiscal year 2014-2015?

**A.** The budget goals and priorities of the Sheepscot Valley RSU 12 Board of Directors include finding efficiencies in the central office, expanding quality programming and training, and maintaining reasonable classes. There has also been a focus on facility improvements and technology infrastructure.

The board is presenting a fiscal year 2015 budget that is up 4.6% when compared with this year’s budget with Wiscasset expenses taken out. State subsidy is down \$420,648. However, the local cost to the remaining seven RSU 12 towns is down 0.65% compared to this year. That decrease is not shared evenly by each town, however, because the cost to a town is based on such factors as the “historical” cost-sharing formula, the “new” cost-sharing formula (which is based on the percentage of the RSU 12 student body that lives in the given town), a Safety Net (that is helping the towns’ transition to the “new” formula), and a town’s number of “subsidizable” students, as listed on the State funding formula worksheet, the ED 279. The interplay of these factors causes the individual RSU 12 towns to be affected differently, as shown in the table below – which shows the local contribution that each town will be responsible for in the 2014-2015 school year if the budget approved by the school board on April 10 is also approved by the voters in RSU 12 towns.

TOWN	FY 14 LOCAL CONTRIBUTION	FY 15 (proposed) LOCAL CONTRIBUTION with Safety Net applied	Change in LOCAL CONTRIBUTION from FY 14	Percent Change from FY 14
Alna	\$ 917,661	\$ 893,858	\$ (23,803)	-2.59%
Chelsea	\$ 2,002,415	\$ 1,957,329	\$ (45,086)	-2.25%
Palermo	\$ 1,564,917	\$ 1,634,528	\$ 69,611	4.45%
Somerville	\$ 450,406	\$ 472,532	\$ 22,126	4.91%
Westport Island	\$ 1,151,667	\$ 1,008,617	\$ (143,050)	-12.42%
Whitefield	\$ 2,104,645	\$ 2,051,801	\$ (52,844)	-2.51%
Windsor	\$ 1,754,566	\$ 1,863,238	\$ 108,672	6.19%
Total w/o Wiscasset	\$ 9,946,277	\$ 9,881,903	\$ (64,374)	-0.65%

The RSU 12 budget continues to emphasize staff and programs that contribute positively to student achievement and well-being. More budget details can be found on the RSU 12 website – [www.svtSU.org](http://www.svtSU.org), including the total budget, the budget broken out by cost center and school, and a Budget Overview presentation by the Superintendent. There is also a place where you can ask questions about the budget and the Superintendent will answer them.

It is our hope that you will find this to be a school budget you can support and that you do support it by coming to the district budget meeting on Tues., May 20 at Whitefield School at 6:30 p.m., and by voting on June 10.



### Recycling Tip of the Month

Jazz up your recycling storage with a new blue "Maine recycles" bin. The 18 gallon bins are 14" high, 16" wide and 22" long. Pay \$8.50 at the Town Office for a voucher that you turn in at the Recycling Center on Saturday morning to get your bin.

## First call for Whitefield Community Day

By Sue McKeen

Back by popular demand: Whitefield Community Day, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>. Despite the microburst and tent fiasco, the event last year was really quite a success. It seems challenges always bring out the best in us.

The celebration will be held at the same place, behind the town office but this year we will have the luxury of a large tent, generously provided by the Town. This will save David Hayden, Bill McKeen, Doug Richards and a couple of others the trouble of having to crawl under a 40 ton piece of canvas in 90 degree heat in an effort to erect a large tent, which, in years gone by, was the type assembled by 10 elephants and several circus personnel. We never did actually get that tent up, so bless the Town for their generosity.

We are putting together a committee to work on the day and need volunteers. At this time Larry Truman will be returning with the Antiques Road Show, a very popular event last year that could have lasted several more hours. We will again feature an art exhibit, 5K road race, vendors, music, games and more. If you are interested in helping, please call Sue McKeen at 446-7473 or Judy Maldovan at 549-5664.

## Just Yesterday

Gleaned from *The Lincoln County News* columns by local correspondents:

**May 5, 1882:** The correspondent wrote about a wrongful accusation of insurance fraud against Solomon E. Hopkins, whose mill had burned.

**May 18, 1883:** H. Jewell has a millinery business. Residents “hope that a school house soon will be built creditable to this place.” (Courtesy Whitefield Historical Society)

Gleaned from the diaries of Emma Chase (1892-1988):

**Mon., May 4, 1942:** “In the evening we took a ride to the beach [Pemaquid]. You can’t have your lights on down there now. Sugar will be rationed now a half lb to a person.”

**Wed., May 13, 1942:**

Harry Chase, Emma’s husband, “signed up today for gas rationing. This entitles him to 57 gal up to July 1.” (Diary entries courtesy Jane Chase)



Nan Morin, Kathy Kiegral, Debbie (Morin) Rogers (kneeling), Melanie Foye, Leane Morin and Diane (Morin) Vinal. (kneeling back) Picture from Leane Morin (Approx. 1965)

**Remember the Bookmobile???** An article in the Lewiston Daily Sun, on July 22, 1953 announces the start of the “New Maine Bookmobile” to service Waldo, Lincoln, Knox and Kennebec Counties.

The Maine State Library Bookmobile would arrive once a month for rural folks to obtain library books. I remember the walk down Main Street, Coopers Mills under the line of Elms with our picnic basket full of books to return to the awesome Library on wheels. As you can tell by the stacks of books in the photo, it was just as full on the way home.

Recently, Leane Morin placed this picture on Facebook and the response was immediate. Everyone remembered the Bookmobile.

Here are a few:

**Jill West:** “My favorite day of the month when it came to the store for it’s stop here...I can still hear that lady’s voice...”

**Janet Boynton Kittner:** “I loved the Bookmobile. I still remember that my favorite book was “The Little Fur Family.””

**Billiann Dolby:** “Remember the bookmobile lady? Loved that bookmobile!!! “Caddie Woodlawn” was my favorite book.”

**Robin Chase:** “Oh wow! Remember it coming to the Superette. Remember the lady that drove it?”

**Mary Jo Higgins:** “OMG, The Bookmobile. I loved seeing it pull into the school driveway. It was wonderful.”

(Submitted by Debbie Rogers)

**Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. Email [whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com](mailto:whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com)**

## New top on Union Hall

By Lucy Martin

Despite frigid weather in January, Kings Mills Union Hall got a sleek new metal roof, installed by P&P Construction of West Gardiner. Battling bone-chilling temperatures, workers removed the rusted steel roof and pried off the underlying wood shingles from decades ago, installing a standing seam replacement that complies with National Register of Historic Places recommendations.



Photo by Lucy Martin

The 1901 hall was placed on the register in 2007.

Another improvement within recent months was the installation of a wooden replica front door built by hall association board member Erik Ekholm. At its April 1 meeting, the association began the process of investigating grants to help fund further restoration efforts.

Events scheduled for 2014 include a ham, baked bean and macaroni and cheese public supper on May 31 (5-7 p.m.), the traditional white elephant table during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, annual meeting in September, chicken pie supper Oct. 25, craft fair Nov. 1, and Christmas program Dec. 7.

## Calling all Farmers

Whitefield News is planning an article about the farms in Whitefield for June. We want to include you! We will be listing all farms and their products. Please email us at [whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com](mailto:whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com) or contact Debbie Rogers 549-3491 to add your information.

## Woodworking website

The Clary Lake Woodworking School, of Jefferson, has launched its new website, built by George Fergusson and Rick Gallion. It provides information about the school, courses offered, and registration, as well as information about lodging at the on-site B&B and places of interest in Maine’s Mid-Coast region. <http://www.clarylakewoodworkingschool.com/>



**Arlington Grange Farmers/Flea Market**  
Saturday, May 17th  
9 AM to 1 PM  
Marvelous Food, Antiques, Crafts and Treasures

**\$10 Per Table—Outdoor or indoor space available**

**For more information call Debbie at 549-3491**



## Country Corner’s Store



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Sat 6:30 AM-9 PM

Sun 7:30 AM-9 PM

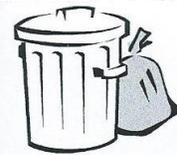
**Gas, Groceries, Deli, Pizzas, Sandwiches, Meats and MORE!**

# MAY 2014 WHITEFIELD EVENTS CALENDAR

- 1st SVCA Preserve BioBlitzes Survey contact Lynne Flaccus [lymne@sheepscot.org](mailto:lymne@sheepscot.org)  
**Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 2nd **Whitefield Food Bank**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3pm
- 3rd **Sheepscot Village Bird Walk**, SVCA Newcastle, 7:30-9am  
**Knox-Lincoln Plant Sale and Backyard Sale**, Union Fair Grounds  
**Maine Pottery Tour**, Whitefield Pottery, 442 Howe Rd, 10 am—6 pm
- 4th **Volunteer for Trails Committee, See Below**, 9 am  
**Vernal Pool Monitoring Field Trip at HVNC** 10 – 12:00 p.m.  
**Knox-Lincoln Plant Sale and Backyard Sale**, Union Fair Grounds  
**Maine Pottery Tour**, Whitefield Pottery, 442 Howe Rd, 11 am—4 pm
- 5th ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary  
**Coopers Mills Fire Dept. Mtg.** 7 pm  
**Kings Mills Fire Dept.** 7pm
- 6th **Select Board** 6pm  
**PreK Story Hour** at Whitefield Elementary School, 10:30am
- 7th **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General. 10 am  
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 8th **Women in their Woods, Hidden Valley Nature Ctr**, Jefferson 10-8:45-4:30pm  
**Senior Men's Group**, Sheepscot General. 10 am  
**RSU Board Mtg.** Palermo School 6:30-9 pm  
**Education Celebration and Silent Auction**, Whitefield School, 5-7:30pm
- 11th **Whitefield Athletic Association (WAA)** Whitefield School 6 pm
- 12th ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary  
**Whitefield Municipal Fire Dept. Mtg.** 7 pm
- 13th **Guided hike at HVNC Hidden Valley Nature Center**, Jefferson, 10am-12pm  
**Select Board** 6pm  
**PTA Meeting**, Whitefield School, 6pm
- 14th **Women of Whitefield** Sheepscot General. 10 am  
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary  
**Arlington Grange** 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 15th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am  
**Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 16th **Open Mic Night**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 17th **Farmers/Flea Market**, Arlington Grange Hall, 9-1pm  
**Health Center Info at Whitefield Recycling Center**, 8-12 pm  
**Chainsaw Safety** (men & women) Hidden Valley Nature Center, Jefferson
- 18th **Medicine of Trees**, Hidden Valley Nature Center, Jefferson, 1-4:30 pm
- 19th ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- 20th **Select Board** 6pm  
**PreK Story Hour** at Whitefield Elementary School, 10:30am  
**RSU Budget Meeting**, Whitefield School, 6:30 pm
- 21st **Women of Whitefield**, Sheepscot General. 10 am  
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary  
**Planning Board Meeting**, Fire Station, 7-9 pm
- 22nd **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am  
**Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 26th **Whitefield Historical Society** - Flag ceremony and Civil War Program, Whitefield Townhouse, Memorial Day - 10:00 am
- 27th **Select Board** 6pm
- 28th **Women of Whitefield** Sheepscot General. 10 am  
ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary  
**Arlington Grange** 6 pm Supper, 7 pm Meeting
- 29th **Senior Men's Group** Sheepscot General. 10 am  
**Yoga**, Sheepscot General, 6pm
- 31st **Kings Mills Union Hall Ham, Baked Bean & Mac & Cheese Supper** 5-7 pm  
*Do you have an event?* Contact [whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com](mailto:whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com)  
We'll add you to the town calendar website and newsletter.



The Whitefield Trails Committee seeks volunteers to help clear a loop trail on a property on Hunt's Meadow Road to ready it for opening to the public. The property is under conservation easement with the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association and features a high ledge with long views to the coast and several miles of woods roads through mixed hardwood and coniferous forest. For more information or to sign up for the work crew for Sunday morning, May 4, from 9 to noon, call Trails Committee member Kit Pfeiffer at [207-446-9768](tel:207-446-9768) or email [kit\\_pfeiffer@yahoo.com](mailto:kit_pfeiffer@yahoo.com).



## Whitefield Trash Service Dana Rogers 549-3491

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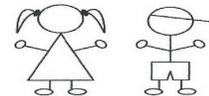
## Karass Financial & Accounting

Licensed to Practice before the IRS

Edward Karass, MBA  
Enrolled Agent  
737 Townhouse Road  
Whitefield, Maine 04353  
Tel: 207-549-7182  
Cell: 207-441-9498  
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