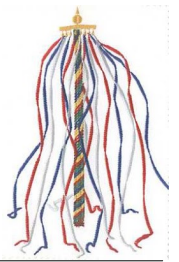




# Whitefield News

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## Important notice from Select Board

The ordinance entitled "Property Tax Deferral for Senior Citizens" shall be added to the June 14th R.S.U. 12 budget vote as a separate question. At their meeting April 19, the Select board, in discussion with residents, agreed that the initial vote at the March Town Meeting was not counted reliably and that a written ballot would more accurately reflect the will of the residents of Whitefield.

Also, the Planning Board is proposing a modification of the Town's cell tower ordinance in response to citizen concerns expressed at Town Meeting. The revised ordinance will allow the construction of one or more cell towers in town to deal with the current "dead zones".

A public hearing on both matters will be held on May 18th, 7 pm at the town firehouse.

## Whitefield School Library to be open for summer

By Sue McKeen

On a cold winter day last January, seven year old Quinn Conroy began thinking about summer. When he thought about summer vacation, he thought it is sometimes boring. Since Quinn loves to read, he had an idea. Like any American citizen exercising their right to free speech, he put his #2 pencil to paper, wrote a letter to the Whitefield Board of Selectmen and signed it with a flourish from "Your Citizen Quinn".

Quinn asked the Board to have a library in Whitefield. The Board responded by suggesting that perhaps the school library could be open for several hours each week during the summer. The Board set up a meeting with principal Josh McNaughton to discuss the idea of opening the school library during the summer months. At that time, McNaughton stated the school had tried to fund a position for just that purpose, but due to budget constraints, so far, they have been unable to do so. The discussion continued, and it was suggested that if community volunteers could be solicited, the library could be open for several days a week during the



summer. To date, the community response has been overwhelming, with many volunteers eager to help.

In the early 1970's the existing Whitefield school library was started by a volunteer effort initiated by Jane Hellegers, a lover of books, Ann Weiss, a writer, and Kathy Webber, a librarian. The library continued to be staffed by volunteers for several years until a paid position was

established. Many of the community members who plan to volunteer today are the same folks who stepped up in the 1970's.

The group plans to meet with school librarian Marcie Abbott to review library protocols and set up a summer schedule. According to McNaughton, if the school budget passes in June, they are planning to lay new carpet in the library and plan to begin work as soon as possible after the close of school on June 17th. McNaughton hopes the library will be ready by the week after July 4th.

If you are like a lot of us who played library with our parents' books, which we dutifully ink stamped and dated, you will love volunteering in a real library; although I think the old ink stamps are gone. For more information about volunteering at the library, please call Sue McKeen at 446-7473 or Josh McNaughton at the school at 549-7691.

## Survey reveals something old and something new

By Sue McKeen

At town meeting in March, many residents took part in a survey which was initiated by the Board of Selectmen in an effort to find out what is on people's minds.

In the realm of what we think of Whitefield and why we live here, it is not surprising that the majority of comments were centered around the



Whitefield Town Meeting Photo by Debbie Rogers

rural character, nice neighbors, space, small town, and country living (the same premise and theme that runs throughout the town's adopted comprehensive plan). Some newer comments praised our young dedicated farming community - which, by the way was featured in Downeast Magazine's April issue. Many pointed out the need for better cell phone coverage and internet access. Some commented on the need for more community activities, to develop a better sense of community, and to coordinate volunteers. One comment advocated for a streetlight at #218 and #126, and there were several comments about Clary Lake.

Several people lamented the many regulations that seem to have crept insidiously into the very fabric of our quiet rural lives.

Other comments concerned the school and the need for more resources and a better physical plant. On the other side of the spectrum, several commented about the need to address the needs of our growing elderly population. Taxes, not surprisingly, were front and center with the need to keep the town an affordable place to live. Also, everyone loves the fourth of July parade; for which Whitefield is known far and wide.

The survey revealed the town feels a change in the town office hours on Mondays to 3pm to 7pm would be just as convenient as the current hours of 4pm to 8pm. This question was part of the survey when our town clerk approached the Board about changing the hours because the office is very quiet from 7-8pm, and the change in hours would enable staff to get home earlier on Monday nights. Additionally, the survey showed the town likes the change to written ballot voting on the Friday prior to town meeting; that people read The Whitefield News, but don't use the town's Facebook page in large numbers; that the respondents prioritized protecting open spaces in town, think our snowplowing and sanding is being handled well, and would like the school library to be open for summer hours. **Continued on Pg. 2**

**Survey Cont. from Pg. 1** When asked what committees would be useful in making Whitefield a stronger community, respondents indicated (in order of importance) the Recycling Committee, Conservation Committee, Trails Committee, Recreation Committee, Newsletter Committee, Economic Development Committee, Community Events Committee, and Roads Committee.

Surveys are always handy tools for planning, but surveys are only as good as the initiation of the next step. Volunteers are the backbone of a community and without that support, a town will not stand. Volunteers come in all stripes, and they are always welcome. Come to a Select Board meeting, speak up, step up, and be heard.

## Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit 12 2016-2017 Budget

Howard Tuttle Sheepscot Valley RSU 12  
Superintendent

The Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit 12 2016-2017 Budget Available to Taxpayers for Review The Sheepscot Valley Regional School Unit budget for 2016- 2017 has been finalized and was unanimously approved by the RSU 12 Board of Directors on April 14, 2016.

This budget is now being sent to the citizens of RSU 12 for approval. The approval process is a two step process. The first step takes place at the District Budget Meeting on May 19th at 6:30pm in the Chelsea Elementary School gym. All RSU 12 voters are encouraged to attend this meeting where adjustments can be made to individual cost centers of the budget and eventually approved by the voters at the budget meeting. The budget is then sent on to step two of the process. Step two of the process is when all voters of RSU 12 can vote to validate the whole budget that was approved at the Budget meeting.

The RSU 12 Board of Directors is recommending a budget of \$20,875,996 which is a 2.9% increase in spending. After accounting for state subsidy, other revenue, and the district cost sharing formula, this means the Town of Whitefield will see a 1/2 % increase over last year. This represents a \$9,616.41 increase to the town of Whitefield. This increase is approximately five dollars for every \$100,000 of property value owned. Other towns will see differences in either increases or decreases as this is the last year of the new cost sharing formula phase in. All towns will be paying the same amount per student in fiscal year 2017. The overall increase in local costs is 2.8%.

The RSU 12 Board of Directors strongly and unanimously recommends this budget. The proposed budget continues to reduce and streamline administration while building on efficiencies throughout the district. The RSU 12 Board of Directors is confident that this budget sustains, reinforces, and improves upon our successes as a district while adapting to be creative and successful with educating all of our students. The Sheepscot Valley RSU 12 school district includes the towns of Alna, Chelsea, Palermo, Somerville, Whitefield, Windsor, and Westport Island. The RSU 12 vision is to "build a foundation of lifetime learning for our students, families, and communities." You can learn more about our schools and more details of the RSU 12 budget by visiting our website at [www.svrso.org](http://www.svrso.org). I look forward to working with the community and continuing to strengthen the collaboration between the member towns in RSU 12 to provide a school system where our students can find success.

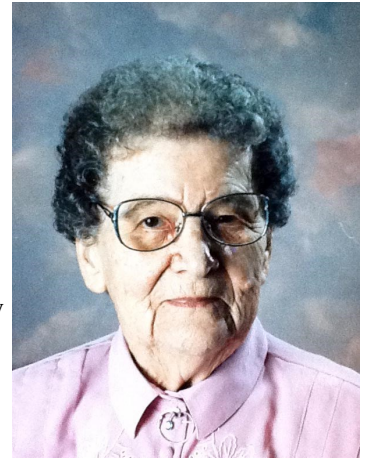


## Gram's World

by Dan Joslyn

My maternal grandmother was born on Moody Mt. in Searsmont on April 17th, 1909 during the time of barefoot summers, horse and buggy, and walks to the spring. Many of us had Grams like her.

She gave me a small notebook before she passed; inspired, I think, by my frequent comments about old sayings and how "neat" they were. I found it again one rainy day in early March this year. Some old words of wisdom:



### -Weather-

- If it thunders in February, there will be frost in May.
- In the old days, people had their way of judging weather (it may not work now).

"Dark of the moon" is time from full moon to the new moon. "Light of the moon" is from new moon to the full moon.

- If cattle went up on a knoll to lie down, the saying was, "Cattle on the hill, we will have water for the mill".
- The weather on the last Friday of the month will rule the weather of the following month.

### -Farming-

- To improve growing turnip, use 1 tsp of household ammonia to five gallons of water, and water the plants.
- Grafting: Use beeswax, mutton tallow, rosin, and linseed oil. These will not run in hot weather or peel in cold weather.
- Water can be found by "witching" with a green branch from certain trees like applewood.
- Apple trees do not like wet feet.

### -Hard Times-

- "Depression Plant"...a lump of hard coal. Put it in an earthenware dish. Add 6 tablespoons water, 6 tablespoons salt, 6 tbsp blueing, 2 tablespoons ammonia, 2 tsp red coloring, then dot coal here and there with red coloring. Set back and watch it grow.

### -Medical-

- Learn to recognize poison ivy by this warning; "Fingers three...turn and flee".
- Stepping on sharp objects: put a few clean wood ashes in a pan and pour in cold water. Bring to a boil, and strain through a clean cloth. Then, soak the foot for a few minutes, and cover.
- A thin piece of salt pork will draw out infections.
- If you have a hard-to-remove splinter, take an egg, and break it (save the egg). Take a bit of the lining from the shell and smooth over the "hurt". This will dry and irritate, but will draw out the remaining object. May need to repeat in some cases.
- Alfalfa Mix for arthritis:
- Mix 2 tbsp. alfalfa seed, a little water (maybe a pint). Simmer a while (about twenty minutes). Bring to a boil. Then cool. Add enough water to make a quart. Drink a glass full before breakfast and another before bed. This does not keep well, so make only small amounts.

**Gram, Continued on Pg. 3**



## Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



Photo courtesy of the Whitefield Historical Society

If you grew up in N. Whitefield in the 1950's, you probably remember Ivy Tukey and her husband Fred. They lived "in a house inside a house" on the Hilton Road. Ivy worked sometimes at what is now the Superette, and is seen here with one of her many cats. Do you remember this old-time local character? If so, please share your story with the Historical Society.

### Gram, Continued from Pg. 2

#### -Cooking-

From Aunt Lil's recipe (Edna Glidden's mother):

- When dry curing hams with fine salt, saltpeter, and brown sugar, it will not last long unless you have a cool cupboard and a strong lock.

#### -Believe it or not-

- Skunk oil, rendered from skunks is good for croup - rub on chest.
- Warts are caused from handling toads.
- Misc: When shoestrings lose their tips, dip the ends in finger nail polish
- Boils and other such "risins" are caused by impure blood. You should eat sorghum molasses and onions to help get rid of them.

#### -Gossip-

- There is so much good in the most of us, so much bad in the best of us, it scarcely behooves any of us to talk about the rest of us.

## May Baskets

By Cheryle Joslyn

Maybe there really was a time when America was more innocent.

Back when May Basket Day was a thing, perhaps. The curious custom — still practiced in discrete pockets of the country — went something like this: As the month of April rolled to an end, people would begin gathering flowers and candies and other goodies to put in May baskets to hang on the doors of friends, neighbors and loved ones on May 1.

In some communities, hanging a May basket on someone's door was a chance to express romantic interest. If a basket-hanger was espied by the recipient, the recipient would give chase and try to steal a kiss from the basket-hanger.

Perhaps considered quaint now, in decades past May Basket Day — like the ancient act of dancing around the maypole — was a widespread rite of spring in the United States. Do you remember this Springtime tradition? (photo and caption courtesy: <http://www.npr.org>)



## Senior Scramble results for Sheepscot Links

April 18, 2016.

Winning Team: Terry Washburn, Heidi Washburn, Tom Atticks, Carol Juchnik. 65.

Long Drive Women: Janet Ray,

Long Drive Men: Terry Washburn,

Closest to the Pin #2: Glenn Bangs, 13'4",

Closest to the Pin, #8: Janet Ray, 16'11",

April 25, 2016

Winning Team: Keith Sproul, Al Gifford, Bob Bell, Ken Anderson.

Long Drive Women: Heidi Washburn,

Long Drive Men: Ken Anderson,

Closest to the Pin #8: Pat Sweet 5'3"

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# MAY 2016 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

- 2nd** **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm  
**KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT.**, 7 pm
- 3rd** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm  
**KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING** - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 4th** **ARLINGTON GRANGE MEETING**, 7 pm  
**WEDNESDAY WALKERS**—Wednesdays from May 4 into the Fall, join a group of intrepid hikers, led by a rotating roster of guides, to discover new trails throughout the Midcoast area. Hike locations and times are emailed to members of the Yahoo Group; to sign up, go to [https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/wednesday\\_walkers/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/wednesday_walkers/info)  
**TRAIL RUNNING SERIES** -Join Midcoast Conservancy and Trail Monster for a fun, casual 6 week trail training series each Wednesday April 20 to May 25 at Hidden Valley Nature Center. Each week runners of all levels can start their run between 4:30 and 6pm. day-of registrations will be accepted. Dogs are welcome on leash. (207) 389-5150.
- 5th** **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** meeting 6:30 pm  
**SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**SPRING SONGBIRDS** In this class we will explore the mysteries and challenges of migration, and the diverse nesting needs of both migrants and overwintering birds which are returning to breed in Maine. We will also focus on methods of songbird identification, including visual cues, behaviors, habitat and song. Register at <http://hvnc.org/registration> Great Salt Bay Community School 6-8 pm Follow-up birding field trip with Jody on May 7 from 7:30-10:30 am.
- 6th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 1-3 pm
- 8th** **WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA)**, Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 9th** **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 10th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 11th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE MAY 4TH**  
**TRAIL RUNNING SERIES - SEE MAY 4TH**
- 12th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 13th** **MWSC MTN BIKE TRAINING** The Maine Winter Sports Center will be hosting their annual Mountain Bike Trainer Training at Hidden Valley Nature Center. Over the course of the two day workshop MWSC instructors will lead participants through their approach to leading mountain bike programs. 9-4 May 13th & 14th
- 15th** **MACROLICHENS CLASS** 9am – 12pm at HVNC Barn At Hidden Valley Nature Center. Event will include indoor time and time to explore if weather is appropriate.
- 17th** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 18th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE MAY 4TH**  
**TRAIL RUNNING SERIES - SEE MAY 4TH**  
**PLANNING BOARD**, Fire Station, 7:00 pm
- 19th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 20th** **MAINE GUIDE RECREATION COURSE** Course topics include map & compass use, canoeing, stand-up paddle boarding, Maine boating regulations, risk management, leadership, rescues and advanced strokes, and group safety. For more information or registration, please call 207.236.8797 or email Tim Barker [tim@mainesport.com](mailto:tim@mainesport.com) Cost—\$495. 3 day course May 20th—22nd. PRICE: \$495  
**WHITEFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DAY OF CARING.** Students in all grades will perform community service projects, including spring clean-up for the elderly, planting pumpkins for a PTA fundraiser sale in the fall, installing benches on the new Sheepscot West Branch Trail. For more information, contact Karen McCormick at the school, [kmccormick@svrsu.org](mailto:kmccormick@svrsu.org).
- OPEN-MIC NIGHT**, Sheepscot General, 7-9 pm
- 21st** **CHAINSAW SAFETY LEVEL 1** \$130 Midcoast Conservancy Members, \$150 Non-Member  
To register go to: <http://hvnc.org/events-and-workshops/?month=may&yr=2016>
- 24th** **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, Sheepscot General, 10 am  
**SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 25th** **WEDNESDAY WALKERS—SEE MAY 4TH**  
**TRAIL RUNNING SERIES - SEE MAY 4TH**
- 26th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 27th** **YOUNG AT HEART SENIORS**, Whitefield Lions Club, Coopers Mills 12 pm
- 28th** **KINGS MILLS UNION HALL HAM/BAKED BEANS/MAC & CHEESE SUPPER** 5-7 pm
- 31st** **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 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.

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

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