



FREE

Whitefield News

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New flagpole at fire station, thanks to local generosity

By Lucy L. Martin

The dedication ceremony at the Whitefield fire station flagpole on Sept. 14 capped Community Day. As the flag was raised above a circle of 239 manmade molded stones painstakingly set in place by volunteers Erik and Judi Ekholm, fire chief Scott Higgins credited those who made the installation possible.

During the brief ceremony attended by about 17 people, Higgins said Janet and Steve Nickerson provided the seed money for the project soon after the central station was completed two years ago. "That got us moving," he said. Other contributors were Lynn Talacko, Jim and Susan Smith, the North Whitefield Superette, Francis Moulton, Kings Mills VFD, Whitefield Fire and Rescue, Bill and Sue McKeen, Jim Brann Jr., Charles Vaughan, and Frank Ober.

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Veteran Bert Hayford shaped by duty and love of flying

Contributed Article

How many 90 year olds do you know who rise and shine before sunup in order to go to the YMCA to work out two days a week? Not many, I'll bet. But Elbert "Bert" Hayford does, and has maintained that regimen for a number of years.

Bert, who will be 93 next April, is the most senior member of the Whitefield senior men's coffee klatch, and has attended that function faithfully every week for many years.

Bert's assiduous devotion to his work-out regimen is probably a byproduct of his military training. Upon graduating from Gardiner High School in 1938, he learned to fly at Maine Instrument Flight and enrolled in and graduated from the Air Cadet school in 1939/40. Shortly afterward he joined the Army where he was commissioned a



Photo by Tony Marple

flight officer in the then Army Air Corps. His military duties took him all over the world and included, among other things, flight instruction to new pilots; flying the Berlin Airlift; photo mapping Alaska, Iceland and Greenland; and service in Vietnam. Bert is a three-war veteran – W.W. II, Korea and Vietnam.

Upon his retirement from the U.S. Air Force in the late 1960s, he and his wife purchased their home in Whitefield. Throughout the 70s Bert owned and operated a Shell station in Augusta and also took care of the family farm in Whitefield. He volunteered for

the "Blue Light" program here in town, checking in on older members of the community, and he was active in the PTA as well.

In the early 1980s Bert went back to his real love – flying – and took a job with Maine Instrument Flight at the Augusta airport, flying charter flights for them for several years until angina forced him to stop flying at age 72. Incidentally, Bert has the distinction of being one of the few, and perhaps the only pilot to fly a B-17 bomber in and out of Augusta airport. While Bert's military duties kept him away from home much of the time, he managed to keep the home fires burning. He and his beloved wife Dorothy raised four daughters and a son. And while Dorothy has passed on, the children have "circled the wagons" around him and tend to his every need. After all, isn't that what strong families do? If you see Bert ask him about his flying experiences – and be ready for a long talk!

'Big Bite' event promotes local foods for Whitefield School

By Lucy L. Martin

A collective crack resounded throughout the Whitefield School gym on Sept. 26 when about 130 students, staff, local farmers and other community members took a bite out of farmer Austin Moore's locally grown apples.

Melissa Hunnibell, of Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools (FARMS), organized the event to encourage the use of locally grown food in schools. Leading up to the community event, she described FARMS as "caring about what we eat. This town

can feed all of us. It's amazing what grows here." Whitefield, which is undergoing a rural resurgence, has an increasing number of small farmers who supply a variety of locally grown vegetables and meat and other products. Many sell their goods at Sheepscot General Store, on Townhouse Road.

Heather Burt, executive director of the Damariscotta based FARMS, said nine schools in Lincoln County "are doing garden education. We are about to open a teaching

community kitchen" on the second floor of Rising Tide Community Market, in Damariscotta. Participants will learn how to prepare and preserve food. Burt said that the art of preparing food is "rapidly disappearing. Studies show that families able to grow their own food can get by."

Burt and Hunnibell want to revive the Whitefield School garden that fifth graders used to plant and harvest behind the west side of the building. "Kids love gardening, and it's therapeutic," Burt said. "It supports not only learning but physical

health," she added, and develops "an openness to other foods." Among those attending the "Big Bite" event was State Sen. Christ Johnson (D-Somerville), who is sponsoring a bill aimed at promoting locally grown food in school kitchens.



Flagpole continued from page 1

The Ekholms donated many hours of labor to finish the project by Community Day. Ekholm said there is a three-foot-deep foundation under the 33-ft. tall fiber glass flag pole, which can withstand 177 mph winds, and will be illuminated. The unit was delivered in one piece by freight truck from North Carolina.

Selectman Frank Ober and Lt. Rick Caron raise the colors during the Sept. 14 flagpole ceremony.
Photo by Lucy Martin




Whitefield playground update

Lisa Kalloch, Whitefield School PTA president, reported this week that the organization has in hand about \$12,000 toward its \$40,000 playground reconstruction goal. The RSU budget has provided \$10,000 and \$2,000 has been raised. Swings have been installed and bark mulch placed around them. At the PTA's Nov. 12 meeting, members will start phase one by meeting with playground companies. "Then we will look at the proposals and get the students' input," Kalloch said. The target date for installation is April, 2014. Anyone interested in donating to the fund may send a check to Whitefield PTA, 164 Grand Army Rd., Whitefield ME 04353 with "playground fund" on the memo line.



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Calendar of Events

November:

2: Union Hall Craft Fair 10-2, Kings Mills Union Hall
5: Voting, Whitefield Fire Station on Townhouse Road 8am-8pm
5: Kings Mills Union Hall Board Meeting 7-8pm, Public Welcome
12: PTA Meeting 6-7pm, Whitefield Elementary School Library
13: Arlington Grange Meeting 6-8:30pm, Arlington Grange Hall
16: National Recycling Day- Recycling Center, 8am-12pm
16: Knights of Columbus Pork Roast Dinner 5-7pm, St. Denis Hall

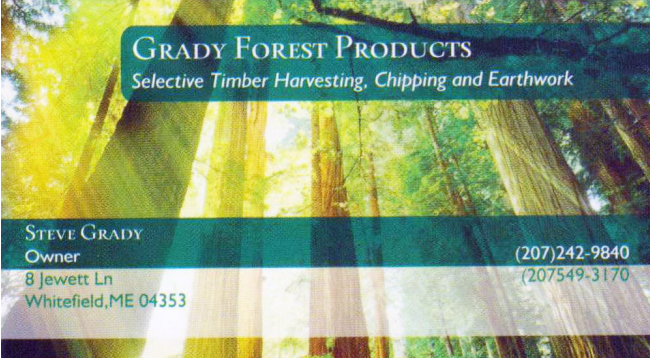
December:

3: Kings Mills Union Hall Board Meeting 7-8pm, Public Welcome
7: Make-a-Craft 10-1pm, Whitefield Elementary School (\$20/family)
7: Christmas Caroling & Desserts 2:30-4pm, Arlington Grange
8: Children's Christmas Party & Tree Lighting 3-5pm, Kings Mills Union Hall
11: Arlington Grange Meeting 6-8:30pm, Arlington Grange Hall

Ongoing

- Every Monday and Wednesday: ZUMBA 3:10-4pm, Whitefield Elementary
- First Friday of every month: Food Bank from 1-3pm, Sheepscot Valley Community Church
- Every Tuesday: Select Board Meeting 6pm, Fire Station
- Every 3rd Wednesday: Planning Board Meeting, Town Office 7-9 pm
- Every Wednesday: Drumming in the Forest at HVNC @ 6:30pm

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.

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Just Yesterday



Thanksgiving in Whitefield

Emma Chase (1892-1988) began keeping a diary in 1909 and wrote in it most years through the 1970s.

She and husband Harry and their children, who included Chester ("Chet") and Verdon ("Pug"), referenced below, lived on East River Road, about two miles from the village of Kings Mills. By the time of the Nov. 24, 1935 event recorded in Emma's diary, the narrow gauge railroad had ceased operating because of a derailment in 1933. The train and its stations were still listed in the Maine Register for 1934-35. Two storekeepers are listed in Kings Mills: Edward Albee and John Libby, who was postmaster and operated the post office out of his store. The town's population, based on the 1930 census, was 908. Whitefield's location was described as 18 miles north-northeast of Wiscasset.



Post Card Photo

The Tobin household, mentioned in the entry below, was about five miles from the Chase home.

Nov. 24, 1935, Thanksgiving and into Nov. 25th:
"What a night...roads blocked...plows not ready...Pug [son of Harry and Emma Chase] had to walk home from Wiscasset...awful storm...No shovels around so can't do anything...Harry walked to store but no mail...Chet walked up to Tobins."

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.

Green Hollow Orchard

Mike and Phyllis Wheeler



537 East River Road
Whitefield, ME 04353
Phone: 207.549.5404

-Prize Winning Homemade Pies -Apples in season -Eggs

Christmas donation drive and caroling

By Debbie Rogers

The Arlington Grange is sponsoring a holiday celebration on Saturday, Dec. 7th at 2:30 p.m.

We are hosting Christmas Caroling with a group that has been caroling through Whitefield for over 30 years. Our group has had the pleasure of caroling to many, many folks in town and it was our favorite holiday event. This year, we would like to expand the fun by inviting you all to the Arlington Grange for Decadent Desserts and Christmas Carols. We are asking that if you would like to attend that you bring a new toy or holiday food items that will donated to deserving families.



So please, bring your holiday smiles, voices and appetites to the Arlington Grange Hall on Saturday, December 7th at 2:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to join in the singing is truly welcome. For further information contact Debbie Rogers at 549-3491 or windseptcreations@myfairpoint.net.

Donation Request

The Whitefield News staff would like to thank our advertisers, who have been essential to the successful launch of this volunteer effort in July. Because the newsletter currently receives no town funding, we rely on donations and advertising income for printing costs.

If you are enjoying reports on town government, special features on local businesses and residents, community happenings and other events, let us hear from you. We want to ensure the newsletter content is of interest to you-your suggestions are important! Donations (either ideas or money) are always welcome! You can reach us by email at whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com or by calling Sue McKeen at 446-7473.

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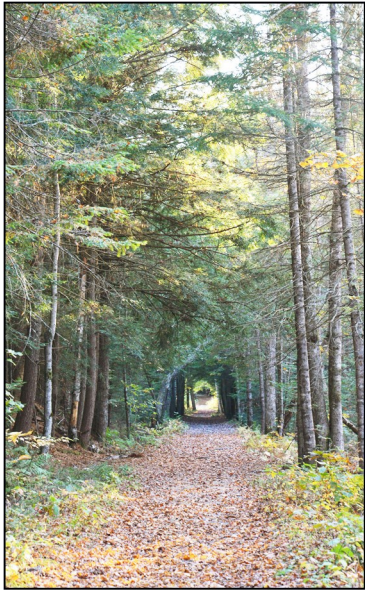
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Community forum emphasis on wider involvement

By Sue McKeen



A group of 25 people attended the community forum held at Sheepscot General Store on Oct. 10. Discussion ranged from the success of the new Whitefield News to reinventing town meeting.

Selectman Tony Marple discussed trail development which would include mapping trails for hiking, skiing, and snowmobiles. Regarding liability, Dave Wright commented that Maine laws have built-in protection for private property owners who allow public access. Several people volunteered for the project. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact Tony at 549-7013.

Selectman Dennis Merrill discussed the need to establish a

Photo Courtesy of Tony Marple volunteer road committee whose job it would be to look at the long-term needs of the town roads. He stated that the town only has enough money to pave one mile each year, and that we are obviously falling behind. He said the Dept. of Transportation (DOT) has software available to towns to evaluate town roads. In addition, DOT will send a representative to assist in the evaluation. There are low interest bonds available for road maintenance. Contact Dennis at 737-8105 if you are interested in volunteering for this committee.

Tony Marple explained the Efficiency Maine program, which assists with home weatherization and is based on income. He said at least 20 people in a town must be found eligible and a team is sent to conduct the evaluations.

During discussion of Senior Services, forum attendees learned that Whitefield is the oldest town in Lincoln County, as well as the oldest town in the state. Avery Dunn has formed a committee to see what kinds of services are needed for seniors in Whitefield, focusing on the fact that many people can't get to the store to pick up groceries or much needed medications. Anyone interested in

getting involved should contact Avery or Sue McKeen.

Melissa Hunnibell, Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools (FARMS) educator working with Whitefield School, suggested that with so many farms in town, the school should be able to take advantage of all the available local produce in its lunch program. She will be working with the school on a grant.

The Regional School Unit was also discussed, particularly concerning Whitefield's position if and when other towns in the RSU withdraw.

Once again, community involvement was a pivotal topic. The need to engage townspeople through community events was discussed. Rufus Percy commented, "If you find the center (commonality), you will find the community." One suggestion was that a return to the old town meeting format might enhance attendance at the meeting. Alice Percy reminisced about being a kid at town meeting where not only was the town business conducted, but it was also a real social event - it was fun. Among the suggestions were that community groups should be allowed back in the gym, that child care could be offered, and that a different civic group could hold the supper after town meeting.

All agreed the forums have been a success and that they should continue, to be held either at Whitefield School or the fire station.

Open house at recycling center Nov. 16

On Sat., Nov. 16, the Whitefield Recycling Center will hold an open house to celebrate National Recycling Day and promote recycling. Recycling committee members will be on hand at the center behind the town office to answer questions and assist the public with their recycling items.

Sheepscot General Store will provide hot cider, coffee and pastries. Hours are 8 to noon.

Aaron's Corner: Whitefield Town Office to process credit cards

By Aaron C. Miller

The Whitefield Town Office once again is able to process credit card payments. Whitefield joins over 100 municipalities in providing this service through Information Resource of Maine, otherwise known as InforME.

In 1998, the Maine Legislature enacted the "InforME Electronic Access to Public Information Act," which called for the creation of public/private long-term partnership to build a portal network of public information. This network is operated with oversight by a board comprised of public and private members who set policy and approve fees for InforME services.

The state of Maine has recognized that the Internet is transforming the way we do business and shows no sign of slowing down. The State has embraced this trend by creating a new way for government to keep pace with electronic transactions from citizens to government. The Town of Whitefield is no stranger to this concept. Residents regularly use Rapid Renewal, a service that allows residents to reregister their cars using a computer.

The town previously accepted credit cards, however, we were unable to process Visa. Now that we are able to provide that service, I believe in some cases this will prove to be convenient for taxpayers. The Town of Whitefield is not charged for this service, rather any fees are paid by the credit card user. InforME charges 2.5-percent for credit card payments to the customer or one dollar minimum based on the transaction total. Transactions under \$40 are charged \$1 and 2.5% above \$40.

Before advising selectmen on this service, I solicited feedback from about 20 Maine towns. I did not hear any complaints from my fellow clerks. And I hope you will agree.

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.