



Whitefield News

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Out and About In Whitefield

By Christine LaPado-Breglia,
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I had the pleasure of spending time on a recent Saturday with Benjamin Zook at his business, Cooper Canvas, located at 544 Cooper Road.

Benjamin moved to Whitefield from Michigan in August of last year, along with his wife, Annie, and their eight children. I met four of those children that day, including Fred, who was enormously helpful, especially after I discovered when I got to my car that I had left my keys in the canvas shop and he ran and got them for me. I also met the delightful Elizabeth and Isaac, who were pulling the equally charming Jonathan around in a garden cart, playing horse-and-buggy.

I met Annie as well. She greeted me with a warm smile and a pleasingly firm handshake (I do like a good handshake — not too soft, not too hard). Annie's bake stand, filled with yummy goodies, sits in front of the Zook house, next door to the canvas business.

One might guess that the Zooks are an Amish family, especially with the horse-and-buggy reference, and one would be correct in guessing that. I was introduced to them by Whitefield resident David Chase.

Cooper Canvas, which officially opened at its present site June 1, specializes in making custom tarps, boat covers, and UTV enclosures, and in doing canvas repairs. Benjamin learned the trade from his father, who still resides in Michigan.

Doing custom, one-of-a-kind boat covers, such as the colorful pontoon boat covers Benjamin is often called upon to make, requires a certain kind of meticulousness and attention to detail. "It's something that not everyone can do," he said. "Not a lot of people will do this stuff. It requires a skill that not everybody has.

My dad started (in the canvas trade) back in the '90s. My mom did upholstery — furniture and vinyl upholstery."

Benjamin said he is getting into upholstery as well. "I've taken on two jobs already — vinyl upholstery for two jobs in Waterville," he told me, adding that he has "a couple of people that want antique car seats done."

Benjamin also recently made a grill cover and a hose cover for a fire truck. As for the UTV enclosures, Benjamin makes them with windows in the front, back, and sides, plus a zipper, for all-weather driving. He said he sold a number of them to Family Farm & Home in Michigan, similar to Tractor Supply Co.

As for his boat-cover work, Benjamin said he likes "to stick to inland boats under 30 feet. But a lot of times, as long as they bring the boat out and it can fit in my shop, I can work on it. My shop is 40 feet long." He said he once

"did a 35-foot Sea Ray in Michigan — a fly-bridge bimini and drop curtains in clear all the way around."

Benjamin encourages people to come down to his shop to talk with him. (Check out his industrial sewing machines — one is three feet across — and the various colors of heavy canvas he offers.) Cooper Canvas is open Monday through Saturday and closed on Sundays.

"My first customer (at Cooper Canvas) was for a pontoon cover," Benjamin said. "That's what I'd say I specialize in — pontoon covers, and open-bow and cockpit covers."

When asked if he is a boater, the very likeable Benjamin smiled and said, "'Yeah, I like to go out on a boat and go fishin'."



New Gift Shop Opens In Whitefield!

If you haven't stopped by the Maine Alpaca Barn yet, it's a local gift shop that you truly need to visit! It might be pumpkin picking time, but it's never too early to start your Christmas shopping! This very inviting boutique style shop on Townhouse Road (directly across from Chase's Bakery), is sure to help you fill that "wish list" before December 25th. Linda and Alan Russo held a grand opening of their classy-cozy shop last month and welcomed all to come browse their products (colorful yarn, of course, but so much more...sweaters, hats, headbands, scarves, (all made from the cashmere-like fleece from those 19 handsome alpacas fenced in nearby; we'll share more about them in a future issue) a delightful variety of fleece creatures for children and cats, Amish

baskets, rugs, quilted wall hangings, holders, table runners, and even a bit of local glass art. After years of using her alpaca's fleece for making her own yarns, we're happy to see Linda set up shop right here in Whitefield to sell some of her beautiful products. The shop at 332 Townhouse Road is open Wednesday-Saturday, 9:00 am to 6:00. Stop by for a visit. You will not be disappointed! You most likely can visit the alpacas as well! For more information you can call 549-5754.



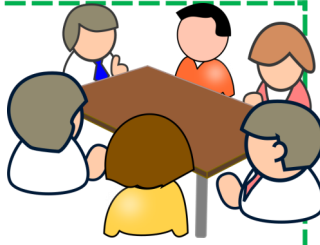
Select Board Corner

August 15- September 15, 2019

By Lise Hanners

This is the first article that will regularly appear in the Whitefield Newsletter to summarize likely issues of interest to the residents of Whitefield from the Select Board meetings of the previous month. For a complete description of the issues before the board each meeting, please click this link <https://townofwhitefield.com/agendas-minutes/#select-board> to go to the Town website and read the Select Board minutes.

- Whitefield received a grant for \$75,000 from Maine DEP to replace the culvert on the Senott Road that crosses the Sheepscot River. The Roads Committee and Select Board member Keith Sanborn submitted the grant.
- On September 24 at 6:00 there will be a public meeting of the Select Board, Planning Board, Economic Development Committee, and Matt Lutkus from Damariscotta to discuss Whitefield's decision-making process regarding cultivation, manufacturing, testing, and retail sales of marijuana in Town. Damariscotta has already begun this process so Whitefield will have an opportunity to learn from their experience.
- Tina Laskey, who works in the Town Office as Deputy Administrator/Deputy Treasurer, has been now authorized to take on the role of Town Tax Collector. Congratulations Tina! The mil rate in Whitefield increased from 15.01 in 2019 to 15.69 in 2020 for several reasons. The Town taxation valuation of property decreased \$924,635 for 2020 which means less revenue will be coming to the Town through property taxes. The taxation valuation is determined by the state by averaging the past three years of property values. At the same time, the county, school, and municipal budgets increased \$150,600. Together these changes required the Select Board to increase the mil rate to balance the Town budget for 2020.



New Learning Commons & MakerSpace for K-8

(Details submitted by Clarissa Howard)

There's always something interesting going on at Whitefield School, but by the look on Blake's face, this learning moment is REALLY interesting! And...who could blame him? This Kindergarten student is right in the middle of learning something awesome in the new MakerSpace Room. Blake and his classmates were completely engaged in creating structures from their imaginations. Surrounded by "stuff", their minds spun into gear, and the "making" began. In the language of this creative and engaging learning, over time this leads to a *maker mindset* which many believe is "essential to living a full and successful life in the 21st century".



Blake is very seriously working on this new design! (Photo courtesy Mrs. Beck - Kindergarten teacher)

Over the summer there has been some restructuring and redesigning of spaces and positions at Whitefield School.

Clarissa Howard told us, "Our library is now called a Learning Commons which includes the library room and MakerSpace Room - this new concept is to promote more learning opportunities for students."

The Whitefield School staff is currently working towards a Vision that includes: "-The Learning Commons is where lifelong learning is nurtured - a supportive place to ponder, create, search, and formulate ideas. Students are encouraged to engage in problem exploration by asking questions, making mistakes, and collaborating with peers in their creations. Staff are also participating in the MakerSpace to model as well as collaborate with students and celebrate new ideas and projects."

In the new Learning Commons, the MakerSpace area that has been carved out is becoming a place where students can gather to create, invent, tinker, and discover by using a variety of tools and materials. Given the opportunity to explore, children will use their imaginations. These young "maker" minds have the capacity to become artists, engineers, knitters, painters, inventors, bakers, crafters, graphic designers, woodworkers, seamstresses, builders, programmers, and so much more! One never knows where a table of masking tape, cardboard, Legos, straws, and toothpicks might lead a young child! It will be interesting to follow someday!

Ms. Howard commented, "We are very excited about this new space and we are asking for donations of materials that people might have around their house they no longer need - for example: paper and toilet paper rolls, q-tips, popsicle sticks, cotton balls, material, Legos, straws, string, duct tape, masking tape, craft items - anything someone might think a child can look at and wonder what they could create." Working with what is already in their MakerSpace, it is obvious that these students are loving it! We are proud of Whitefield School's staff for embracing this project, and we're looking forward to hearing more from the students about their thoughts on this new learning space and their opportunity to create throughout their school year. We congratulate everyone's efforts to make this school year exciting!



Town Office News....

Monday	8am to 4pm
Tuesday	8am to 4pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	7am to 12pm and 3pm to 7pm
Friday	8am to 2pm

We should be receiving absentee ballots on or about October 4th for the November 5th election.

Dog owners can begin licensing their dogs for 2020 on October 15th.

Bailey's Orchard

Pick Your Own Apples or Buy Them in Our Barn

Apple-Plums- Pears-Crabapples-Honey
Fudge-Fall Flowers-Gourds-Pumpkins

North Hunts Meadow Road, Whitefield
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549-7680



Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



Whitefield Historical Society's Day of Remembrance Scheduled for October 20

On Sunday, October 20 at 2:00, the Whitefield Historical Society will host their annual Day of Remembrance at the Townhouse. This year's program entitled "Museum for a Day" will highlight many of the Society's artifacts as well as present a narrative about the history of some of these items. Plan to attend this year's event and as always refreshments will be served, friends will gather and stories will be shared.

Famous Chicken Pie Supper at Kings Mills Union Hall

Saturday,
October 19th
5-7 pm

WHITEFIELD LIBRARY ANNUAL USED BOOK SALE PUMPKIN PAINTING AND BAKE SALE OCTOBER 19 FROM 10 TO 2

Please join us on Saturday, October 19 from 10-2 for our annual used book sale. We have shelves of used books for sale, with something for everyone. Upstairs kids of all ages can enjoy pumpkin painting and as always, there will be lots of baked goodies and cider for sale. All proceeds will go toward the renovation of our building. Thanks to the generosity of our many friends and neighbors, the library now houses over 7000

new and used books. And we are still growing.

October 19th will be the last day the library will be open until next year. During the winter months we will be working on renovation plans and new ideas for the upcoming year. We have very big plans for the beautiful Arlington Hall building and know it will take many hands to make our vision a reality. We hope that by this time next year we will be able to keep our doors open to the public for most of the year. A very big thanks to all our volunteers and patrons. The library and community center is your resource, come grow with us.

COME TO THE LIBRARY!



*In memory of Lee Murch
Lover of Books and valued Board
Member/Volunteer*



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OCTOBER 2019 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

WHITEFIELD LIBRARY SATURDAYS 10-2, Storytime w/ Activity 10:30-11:30
WEDNESDAYS 10-12 AND 5-7 PM CLOSING FOR SEASON ON OCTOBER 19TH

- 1st **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD MEETING - Public Welcome 7 pm
- 3rd **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 4th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
ART OPENING WITH MCKEEN FAMILY 6 GENERATIONS OF ARTISTS 5-7 pm
 Sheepscot General
WINE TASTING with SoPo Wine Co 5-7pm Sheepscot General
- 7th **COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT.** All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT., 7 pm
- 8th **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, We are a group of ladies who get together on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10 at the Sheepscot General. There is no agenda just coffee, etc. and good conversation. We would love to have more ladies join us.
PTA MEETING- please join us for our meeting @ 5:30 always the 2nd Tuesday in the school conference room.
- 9th **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, Town House, 1 pm
- 10th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
FULL MOON PADDLE ON LITTLE DYER POND - Hidden Valley Nature Center All Ages 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm 207-389-5150
RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING Chelsea School, 6:30 pm
- 11th **FALL TIMBER FRAME COURSE** Hidden Valley Nature Center Class will run 8am-4pm each day October 11-14. 207-389-5150
- 13th **FUZZY UDDER HAS OPEN CREAMERY DAY** from 11-4 on Sunday October 13. Come visit the farm and meet the farmers and animals that make the cheese possible!
WHITEFIELD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (WAA), Whitefield School, 6 pm
- 14th **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 15th **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
- 16th **NEW PARENT PLAY GROUP**, Sheepscot General, The playgroup is primarily aimed at 0-2 years old Playgroup will meet in the gallery space at 9 am.
PLANNING BOARD, Town Office 6:00 pm
- 17th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY BOARD MEETING** 10 am at the Whitefield Library, all are welcome
SENIOR MEN'S GROUP, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 18th **VINEGAR TALK WITH SEWALLS VINEGAR** 5-7pm Sheepscot General
OPEN MIC FEATURING THE REDNECK RAMBLERS Sheepscot General 7-9 pm
- 19th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY BOOKSALE/PUMPKIN PAINTING/BAKESALE** at the Whitefield Library and Community Center 10-2. Last day of the season.
WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
CHICKEN PIE SUPPER AT KINGS MILLS UNION HALL -5-7 pm
DRUMMING CIRCLE, Sheepscot General, 6:30 pm. Open to the public, all welcome
- 20th **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S DAY OF REMEMBRANCE** 2 pm
- 22nd **WOMEN OF WHITEFIELD**, We are a group of ladies who get together on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 10 at the Sheepscot General. There is no agenda just coffee, etc and good conversation. We would love to have more ladies join us.
- 24th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am
- 26th **CHAINSAW SAFETY CLASS—LEVEL I** Hidden Valley Nature Center Oct. 26th and 27th Course runs from 8 am- 12 pm Saturday and 8 am-4 pm on Sunday. 207-389-5150
COMMUNITY SINGING CIRCLE, Sheepscot General, 6 pm. Open to all, acoustic instruments Welcome
- 29th **SELECT BOARD**, Fire Station, 6 pm
MAKE YOUR OWN MEDICINE... HEMP TINCTURE AND SALVE WORKSHOP 1:00 PM 2:30 PM Come learn how to make your own medicine. \$15 participation fee, limited class size register by emailing sheepscotgeneral@gmail.com
- 31st **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP**, Sheepscot General, 10 am



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

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com Whitefield Newsletter Committee: Cheryl Joslyn, Kit Pfeiffer, Sue McKeen, Tony Marple, Christine Lapado-

You can receive the newsletter by email by signing up at whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

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