



Kindness Is More Infectious Than Fear

Whitefield News

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TOWN MEETING

Town Elections and Town Meeting Postponed

Per emergency legislation under State Statute 129LR3296(01)-1, Part D., Sec. D-3 the Whitefield Select Board will meet on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the Central Fire Station to determine dates and times of the Town Election and Town Meeting.

Pending a new town meeting date, the current elected officials will remain in office.

Whitefield response to Covid-19

Need Assistance? Start with a call to the Town Office 549-5175

Whitefield is setting up a network to help people in need during the Covid-19 outbreak. Below are some of the details. The Town Office is closed until further notice, but if you have questions, please call Darlene Beaulieu at the Town Office, and she will be happy to direct you to other available resources.

Food Bank

The Food Bank will be open every Saturday from 10:00 to 3:00 for the foreseeable future. The Good Shepherd Food Bank, that provides many of the provisions offered by the Whitefield Food Bank, is waiving the financial eligibility criteria so people are welcome to take advantage of the food offered. Please drive into the parking lot at St. Denis and blow your car horn – volunteers will come out to take your order, then put your boxed order into your car. Please let the volunteers know if there's something in particular that you need and they will do their best to fill your needs. If you need something during the week and can't wait until the weekend, please call Jeanne Shaw 549-7014 or Janet Ober 549-3672 and they will try to help you.

RSU #12 Whitefield Elementary School

At this time Whitefield Elementary School is closed until April 27th pending further instruction from the Department of Education. Breakfast and lunch will be delivered free of

charge by school bus on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Buses will be arriving at regular bus stops approximately 2 hours after the normal pick up time in the morning. Also on Friday, Continuing Learning Packets for the upcoming week will be delivered. The school has requested that parents or children be out at the bus stop at this delayed start time to receive either their food bags and/or Learning Packets.

Local stores – All three of our local stores are working to provide you with groceries. If you can drive, you can call and arrange to pick up your own order. If you can't leave home because you are sick or at too high a risk Whitefield Cares! will arrange a delivery. Please call the store of your choice (Sheepscot General – 549-5185; Superette – 549-7921; Country Corners – 549-3135) and request an order to be delivered, pay with credit card and orders will be prepared for delivery at 11:00 and 4:00 on days when the stores are open. The store will call Lise Hanners who is coordinating drivers through Whitefield Cares! and Lise will find a volunteer willing to deliver the food box to the appropriate address where it will be left outside. If you want to make an order be sure to leave enough time for the store to prepare the order and volunteers to be contacted! If you're willing to volunteer to drive, please let Lise know using the contact form at whitefieldcares.org or leave a message with your contact information on the Town Office message machine.

Clary Lake Association's Courtesy Boat Inspection Program

by George Fergusson

With the Clary Lake Association's Fall 2018 purchase of the Clary Lake dam and subsequent repairs that allowed for the restoration of historical water levels, Clary Lake has once again become a popular fishing and boating destination for people in Central Maine, and the State boat launch at the east end of the lake has become a very busy place again. With the resumption of significant boat traffic, our concerns have rightly turned to protecting Clary Lake from the chance introduction of invasive aquatic plant species. While there are various ways invasive plants can make their way into lakes, by far the most common transport mechanism is on boats and trailers. Sadly, there are a number of lakes in the State with an invasive aquatic plant problem including several nearby lakes. We don't want that to happen to Clary.

Last summer the Clary Lake Association took part in the State of Maine's [Courtesy Boat Inspection \(CBI\) program](#). Weekends see the highest boat traffic and hence, represent the highest risk for the chance introduction of invasive aquatic plants. Working just Saturdays and Sundays from 7 am until 3 pm, eight CLA volunteers working 2 hour shifts conducted 270 boat inspections between July 6th and September 29th. We got a late start last year; this year we're planning to start on Memorial Day weekend and plan to conduct inspections through Labor Day weekend. Whether we continue through to the end of the month of September again like we did last year depends on **Continued on Pg. 2**



Out and About in Whitefield

By Christine LaPado-Breglia, christine.lapado@gmail.com
Well, the very title of my column doesn't seem to apply in these rapidly changing times in light of the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus into Maine. Therefore, I was going to cover a particular upcoming local event that now, in all likelihood, will be canceled.

So I will use this space to simply remind everyone to take care of themselves and to look out for the well-being of those close to them, family, and friends. As one of my good friends recently said, "this time of closed schools and restaurants, canceled events and so on is a time to stop and enjoy life, to parent our children, to cook good food and to rely on friends and neighbors". Add to that checking on friends and neighbors; especially vulnerable ones such as the elderly and the food-insecure. Facebook has been full lately of posts by kind people offering to run errands for and give food to people in need in these unsettling times.

As Dutch designer and trend forecaster Li Edelkoort put it in a recent article at dezeen.com titled "Coronavirus offers 'a blank page for a new beginning,'" "It seems we are massively entering a quarantine of consumption where we will learn how to be happy just with a simple dress, rediscovering old favorites we own, reading a forgotten book and cooking up a storm to make life beautiful." She adds: "The impact of the [coronavirus] outbreak will force us into slowing down the pace, refusing to take planes, working from our homes, entertaining only among close friends or family, learning to become self-sufficient and mindful."

Edelkoort says much more, and her article is well worth reading in its entirety.
My closing point? Take good care, everyone, and embrace the silver lining in all the tumult.



Whitefield Cares! receives grant from Maine Community Foundation

We received word that the Whitefield Cares! received a grant for \$1010 from the Thriving Older Adults Strategic Goal Fund of the Maine Community Foundation. This grant will provide funding to print and mail the Resource List to all mailboxes in Whitefield; the first major objective of Whitefield Cares! This list provides details on available resources in Town for residents needing food, clothing, and other essentials for successful living. In addition, the grant provides funding for a town-wide survey to allow us to ask residents directly what needs are being met and where they need further support. This will help the Whitefield Cares! volunteers determine where best to direct our energy for future projects. The survey will be conducted by volunteers attending events in town (once we are all out and about again!) and asking people directly to fill out the survey. The survey will also be available online. Follow our website whitefieldcares.org and like us on Facebook!

Town Office News....

Please check the website to see if the Town Office is open.

Clary continued from Pg. 1 whether we still have some volunteers with some life left in them by then: fall fishing on Clary is great and weather permitting, there is steady boat traffic well into the fall, making those late season inspections worthwhile.

As we gear up for our second season of Courtesy Boat Inspections, everyone who volunteered last year is on board for another season which clearly indicates just how much they enjoyed doing boat inspections last summer: it really was a lot of fun! However, we very much want to line up some more volunteers to join our effort.

Summer is a busy time for everyone and nobody can be expected to be available every day of every weekend, all summer long. Last year, with 8 volunteers and 8 shifts per weekend to cover, some people just weren't always available and the rest of us ended up taking multiple shifts. With enough

volunteers to draw on, nobody should have to take more than one 2 hour shift per weekend, if that. I very much enjoyed inspecting boats at the boat launch last summer and talking fishing with people, and I look forward to doing so again.

In addition to weekends, this year we're also planning to cover the 3 major holidays (Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day) which are known for their high boat traffic and with enough volunteers, perhaps we can cover a few morning hours during the week. Our priority however has been and will continue to be boat launch coverage on Saturdays and Sundays. Not only is boating traffic higher than on week days, but the type of traffic itself is "riskier." Also, since there were already one or more boats in the lake by 7 AM most weekend days last summer and very few boats putting in after 2 PM, this year we're planning on starting our two hour shifts at 6 AM.

Please Consider Volunteering!

Many of you reading this probably grew up fishing, boating, and swimming in Clary Lake and likely still have a strong connection to the lake. Please consider volunteering for our Courtesy Boat Inspection program! This is a very important initiative and we need help to protect Clary Lake. A few things to consider:

First and foremost, Courtesy Boat Inspections are important. We're all stewards of Clary Lake, and volunteering for our CBI program is a great way to show it.

Being a Courtesy Boat Inspector is fun! You get to be outside and talk to people about fishing, boating, and of course, Clary Lake. Bring a folding chair, a cold drink (or a hot coffee), and a book. Or a fishing rod :)

Conducting courtesy boat inspections is easy and not physically demanding! With just a little training, almost anyone can do it. Many of our volunteers work as teams with one member talking to the boat owner and filling out the inspection form while the other inspects the boat and trailer. Team up with your spouse, child, or friend!

No long term commitment required! We schedule shift coverage only one to two weeks in advance. If you're not available, you're not available.

We'll provide you with training.

Lastly, you don't need to be a Clary Lake Association member to volunteer for our Courtesy Boat Inspection program. This isn't a membership drive, it's Call to Action to help safeguard Clary Lake from invasive aquatic plants. Clary Lake is a valuable natural resource and even people without an interest in joining the CLA can still help out with CBI.

If you're interested in volunteering or you think you are but have some questions or reservations, please contact George Fergusson at 207-242-2256 or email him at gsfergusson@clarylake.org





Rocky Marciano Ko's Jersey Joe Walcott to become "Heavy Weight Boxing Champion of the World" as Whitefield sports fans gather around the single TV

at Chester Chase's to witness the crowning achievements of the greatest fighter ever to train in Whitefield. The TV reception was so poor that only the audio and our imaginations could provide the images that would be seen the next day in the *Kennebec Journal*.

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHITEFIELD?!

George Fergusson told us the following story.

"My father used to tell the story about seeing Rocky Marciano jogging down the road on his way to train at the Butsy Banks home on South Clary Road (215). He said that Marciano stayed at Anna Benson's place at the top of the hill. This would have been in the early 1950s. In 1950 "Anna Benson Camps" was listed as a business in North Whitefield. Anna Benson died June 6, 1959. The Benson property was eventually transferred to Linda and Roger Metcalf in 1970. Linda once showed me an old still consisting of a copper kettle and some copper tubing in the attic of the house. As far as I know it's still there. The property is now owned by Stephen and Tina Laskey.

The Metcalf driveway at the top of the hill on Route 126 used to be where Clary Lake Lane was located. The road went down the driveway and through the barn yard, and continued down the hill to Clary Lake to service the camps that Anna Benson used to own. Sometime in 1990s Clary Lake Lane was rerouted to its present location. The Benson house still stands.

A few notes from David Chase's Mainething.com site:

1950- World Heavy Weight boxing champion, Rocky Marciano trains at the Anna Benson (a relative of his wife) farm on Clary Lake. His shadow boxing while jogging along Grand Army road prompts a call to A.M.H.I..

Select Board Corner

February 15, 2020 - March 15, 2020

Below are issues of likely interest to 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/> to go to the Town website and read the Select Board minutes.

In addition to ongoing financial management of the Town, the Select Board continued preparations for the Town Meeting on March 21, 10:00 AM in the Whitefield Elementary School gym. (now postponed)

Select Board member Keith Sanborn was responsible for the installation of two new traffic signs in front of the school. These new signs clearly say that the speed limit of 15 mph will be enforced from 7:15-8:15 AM and 2:15-3:15 PM. Hopefully people will respect the new limits and slow down!

Jim Torbert, Chair of the Planning Board, attended a Select Board meeting to update on the Board on the Planning Board's activities. They are working through the Town land use ordinances to reconcile differences between them and build in better consistency. The Planning Board would like to develop an overall land use ordinance and see an update of the Town Comprehensive Plan as the proper vehicle for doing so. Jim will be stepping down from the Board after 10 years of service to the Town, thank you Jim!

Whitefield Cares! received a grant for \$1010 from the Maine Community Foundation. See the article in this newsletter for details!



DO YOU OR A RELATIVE LIVE ALONE?

If you, a relative or a friend live alone and are concerned about being alone without anyone to periodically verify well-being, consider the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office's Program known as RUOK®. It's completely free! Each day, you or your relative will receive a telephone call from the Sheriff's Office at a pre-arranged time to verify that everything is OK. If the call isn't answered, either a designated person or first responder will go to the home to verify you or your relative's welfare.

For increased peace of mind and security, enroll in the RUOK® Program today, there's absolutely no cost to do so. Applications are available at libraries, town offices, police departments and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office at 42 Bath Road in Wiscasset...you'll be glad you did!

Todd Brackett
 Lincoln County Sheriff

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APRIL 2020 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD:

MOST EVENTS AND MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONTACT THE GROUP OR MEETING PLACE TO SEE IF YOUR EVENT IS STILL OCCURRING

GOVERNOR MILLS has opened fishing season and has waived the need for a fishing license until April 30.

THE SELECT BOARD MEETINGS have been put on hold in response to our efforts to stop the spread of the COVID19 / Coronavirus. Meetings are scheduled to resume April 14th. Updates will be posted on www.townofwhitefield.com as they are made available.

TOWN OFFICE WILL REMAIN CLOSED THROUGH APRIL 1st. THE WEBSITE WILL BE UPDATED AS MORE INFORMATION IS MADE AVAILABLE.

THINGS TO DO:

FEELING COOPED UP? Why not take a walk on one of Whitefield's beautiful town trails! Download maps/ brochures at www.midcoastconservancy.org/preserve/sheepscot-valley/

Marr's Ridge Trail: kiosk and parking on middle Hunt's Meadow Road
It's less than a mile up to the ledge overlook where you can see out to the Camden Hills! There are several intriguing granite sculptures made by landowner and stone mason Sandy Benne. And in May you can enjoy the blooms of over 1,000 daffodil bulbs he has planted there. For a longer walk, there is a 3-mile loop back into the woods.

Happy Farm River Trail: park at Recycling Center, look for kiosk near ballfield
An easy out-and-back walk, through beautiful fields down to the Sheepscot River, where you can walk a mile of riverfront and look for spring wildflowers and birds. Bring binoculars!

Sheepscot West Branch Trail: kiosk and parking at the dead end of North Howe Road (come in from Rte 17)

From the overlook where the Howe Road bridge was removed a few years ago, the trail heads upstream along the West Branch of the Sheepscot with a keyhole loop into the woods that brings you back to the river. Perfect time to take a rest on the wooden bench! Less than two miles round-trip. If you want more, walk the Salmon Preserve trails that begin at the parking lot and go down to the main branch of the Sheepscot River. Look for evidence of beavers!



A great photo 1977 ish. Lots of familiar faces. Recognize any?

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-Breglia, Lise Hanners & Debbie Rogers.

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