



August Whitefield News

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Coopers Mills VFD Auction Cancelled

The news we wish we weren't sharing is that the Coopers Mills FD Auction is cancelled for this year. We tried to think of anyway it could be done within the current guidelines, but it just doesn't seem doable. We appreciate the thought behind the things people have already dropped off (some good) but at this point, we just have to say "thanks for thinking of us but we just can't accept any more donations. We are looking forward to next year. Stay safe.

Election Results

Select Board

Charlene Donahue - 421 votes
Bill McKeen - 408 votes

Planning Board

Kristen Margaret Smith Mason - 494

Road Commissioner

David Boynton - 499

RSU #12 School Board

Suzanne Balbo - 66

RSU Budget - 429 yes -- 146 No

Adult Education - 381 yes -- 188 No

Planning for School Reopening

By Mark Deblois

The COVID-19 outbreak in Maine has created many changes to our lifestyle and institutions. Schools were a prime example. We closed schools on March 13th fully believing that we'd be back together in a few weeks. Little did we know that we would be forced to conduct school remotely for the remainder of the school year. Throughout that period, as well as through the summer, a task force of RSU #12 administrators, teachers, facilities staff, ed techs, nutrition staff, and transportation staff have been meeting regularly to build our plans for returning to school. The biggest obstacle to completing that task has been the lack of the formal guidelines from the Governor's office and the Department of Education (DOE). We finally received those guidelines on Friday, July 17th (you can view the full guidelines by going to the DOE's website: maine.gov/doe/framework/part-1) and, while the full RSU #12 plan has not yet been completed, here are some of the known elements of the plan that should assist Whitefield parents and community members in making their decisions for the fall.



- WHES is planning on starting with in-person education in the fall. This is dependent upon Lincoln County still falling within the Maine CDC "Green Zone" designation for risk determination. Should that designation change the school would be forced to consider other educational plans.
- Screening for health issues is essential. Parents will be provided with a daily screening checklist for their children that must be completed carefully each day (staff will be asked to follow the same screening guidelines). If symptoms are identified individual students and staff **MUST STAY HOME**. Students will also be screened on school buses and before entering the school building each day. Through our combined efforts we will do our absolute best to keep everyone safe.
- Social distancing within the school will be observed. *Continued on Page 2*

Whitefield Proud!! Resident's heed the call on Land and Water for a 4th Celebration. Nicely and Safely Done

For a YouTube video of the event by Art Mayers, go to <https://youtu.be/FUKllyqFbYE>



School from Pg. 1 The school will make every attempt at minimizing the amount of contact students have outside of their class group during their day and face coverings will be mandatory for all students and staff.

- Our cleaning and sanitizing protocols have all been stepped up and will comply with the guidelines set forth by the DOE.
- Should a student or staff member be identified as COVID positive we have a protocol for both quarantining the class group and completing appropriate contact tracing. These protocols will be shared with WHES parents soon.
- Large group gatherings (assemblies, breakfast & lunch) will not be allowed. Food will be delivered to classrooms for the foreseeable future. All plans will be subject to change given the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic within the state / county. Flexibility will be required of all stakeholders should our health circumstances change.

It is important to remember that the plan being constructed right now is designed to get students back to in-person learning. We must recognize that school will not operate in a manner that has been typical in the past. However, the measures the school district is taking are meant only to be temporary. When the Governor, CDC, DOE inform us that it is safe, we will return our operational protocols and programming to what has been our practice in the past and school will return to a more familiar form.

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April @ The Hair Works

My friends and family from "away" used to ask me all the time why I would chose to move to Maine and make this place my home.

For many years my answer was that Maine is so beautiful with its mountain views, rocky ocean shoreline, scenic lake, rivers and vast woods in every direction. But if you were to ask me that same question today, my answer would very simply be, the people. We have all had to endure some huge changes this year. Covid 19 has in one way or another affected us all. Fear, anger and confusion have been a daily part of our lives this year. Yet, the people of Whitefield and surrounding neighbors have shown me once again what community means. During the time when my business had to be closed, I received gifts of kindness in so many ways. Clients purchased gift certificates, bought product and even gave me money, just to make sure I would survive the mandated closure. Since re-opening on May 1, you have given me so much love, patience and kindness. I am so thankful and blessed to be a part of this town. There are no words to express how much I appreciate you all. You are more than clients, you are part of my life and you are my family. Thank you all so very much for allowing me to be a part of this community for the past 26 years. There is no place on this earth I would rather be.

Thank you all, Love April



Whitefield Map and Guide to go online

by Bill McKeen

Even though there are many Whitefield Map & Guides in the printed version still available, The Whitefield Economic Development Committee wanted to amplify their efforts to spotlight Whitefield businesses and services by putting the map and guide online. This effort is even more important during these tough economic times.



The mission of the Whitefield Economic Development Committee is to encourage the creation of new businesses and support growth of existing businesses in Whitefield while maintaining the town's rural character and other aspects of its quality of life. The committee created a "brand" called Whitefield Produces as a vehicle to highlight the products and services available to the public.

The committee has discussed the importance of boosting local business, particularly during the current coronavirus pandemic by adding an online version of the printed Whitefield Map & Guide. The Facebook page and website have been designed for that purpose.

Those interested can go to Facebook to search for Whitefield Produces or at the following web address, www.whitefieldproduces.com. In addition to Whitefield businesses, the online version of the Map and Guide is available to nearby Jefferson and Windsor businesses that serve Whitefield.

Although the printed map had free listings, the online version will accommodate many more listings and can be updated and revised as things change in the community. A free listing form is available to fill out online which will make it easy for both large and small Whitefield businesses to describe their products and services.

The community of Whitefield is a rural one featuring many cottage businesses, farm stores, and Amish dooryard stands. A visit to "Whitefield Produces" either on the web or Facebook will show the varied offerings to those who check it out.



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Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



Courtesy Whitefield Historical Society from the Leo Gould Collection

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHITEFIELD?!

The First Aid Class for the WWII Observers of Whitefield under the instruction of State Game Warden Winfield Foster.

Welcome Yolanda Violette! Whitefield's New Administrative Assistant

By Lise Hanners

The Select Board was happy to offer Yolanda Violette (pronounced 'violet') the Administrative Assistant position at the Town Office, to replace Darlene Beaulieu. Yolanda comes to us from the very same role in the Town of Mercer, Maine where she has held the positions of Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Registrar of Voters, FOAA Officer and Select Board Secretary since 2008. She was voted as Somerset County's Clerk of the Year in 2019, by her fellow Clerks through the Maine Town and City Clerk's Association. Yolanda will start her new position in Whitefield on July 27.



Yolanda moved to Mercer in 2007, with her husband John and two children, now grown. The busy family includes 3 additional grown children from an earlier marriage for John, and now 7 grandchildren. Yolanda and John cleared the land, built their home, barn, sugar shack and they raise all their own meat, including turkeys, chickens, and pigs. They also have a horse (Thumper), 2 cats (Skylar & Diego), and a German Shepherd (Kiara). Yolanda enjoys the outdoors from gardening, her flower gardens, mowing the lawn, kayaking and swimming to preparing firewood for the winter season. She recently began walking again for exercise which grew to running 4-12 miles a day, having been a cross country runner in high school. She kayaks weekly with friends and her husband. *Continued on right...*

Town Meeting - One for the Books

By Sue McKeen

In the 211 years Whitefield has been holding its town meeting, I'm relatively sure we've never experienced anything like the meeting on July 18th. With social distancing in all things, sanitizer abounding and all our neighbors garbed in the requisite masks, we looked like a gang of bank robbers waiting for instructions.



The meeting was attended by 23 voters, which is what we might expect for attendance during this COVID 19 year. The entire meeting, from start to finish, lasted 45 minutes, much to the delight of everyone wearing masks on this very hot day. The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee knew they had a big job ahead of them and took to heart the hard times everyone is experiencing. With an original budget of \$1,407,423



on the table, the Board and Budget Committee sharpened their pencils and recommended \$290,011 in cuts to the initial budget. After an amendment to correct Article 46, the voters unanimously passed the 2020-2021 budget of \$1,113,412.00.

Libby Harmon, along with the entire gathering, thanked the Select Board and Budget Committee for their diligence in keeping the budget in line. We also want to thank the town office staff for all their hard work and preparations, from providing ballots, to sanitizing, distancing chairs, to greeting everyone with a smile. Lastly, thanks to all the folks who attended town meeting and never complained for any inconvenience or discomfort, but as always, in true Whitefield style, raised their hands and voted.

When asked what she was looking forward to most in the new position, Yolanda said she is looking forward to working with a team of staff and a 5 member Select Board. Yolanda acknowledges that driving to Whitefield will be a longer commute but is unconcerned about the driving. She is also excited to meet the people of Whitefield to make new friendships and learn about the Town.

Please stop by Town Office and welcome Yolanda to Whitefield!

sheepscot

Farm / store / cafe



general

whitefield, maine

HOURS:

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TUESDAY-SATURDAY 8AM-7PM

SUNDAYS 9AM-5PM

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WHITEFIELD ME 04353

207.549.5185



sheepscotgeneral@gmail.com
www.sheepscotgeneral.com

AUGUST 2020 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONTACT THE GROUP OR MEETING PLACE TO SEE IF YOUR EVENT IS STILL OCCURRING

- 4th** **SELECT BOARD** If you wish to attend the meeting, please call the town office 207-549-5175
- 7th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-3 pm
WALK-IN MOVIE CINEMA. Sponsored by the Whitefield Library & Community Center- 8:00 @ Sheepscot General. Movie: Alkeelah the Bee
- 13th** **RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** Please check the website for meeting date and availability online.
- 14th** **WALK-IN MOVIE CINEMA**. Sponsored by the Whitefield Library & Community Center- 8:00 @ Sheepscot General. Movie: Babe
- 15th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-1 pm
- 18th** **SELECT BOARD** If you wish to attend the meeting, please call the town office 207-549-5175
- 19th** **PLANNING BOARD**, Town Office 6:00 pm
- 21st** **WALK-IN MOVIE CINEMA**. Sponsored by the Whitefield Library & Community Center- 8:00 @ Sheepscot General. Movie: Wonder
- 22nd** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-1 pm
- 28th** **WALK-IN MOVIE CINEMA**. Sponsored by the Whitefield Library & Community Center- 8:00 @ Sheepscot General. Movie: ET
- 29th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-1 pm

Weekly Walk-in Outdoor Movie Night

Put those books down, it's time to watch movies in the great outdoors! Summer fun with responsible social distancing for everyone. Beginning each Friday in August bring the kids for outdoor movie night. Hosted by the Whitefield Library & Community Center at Sheepscot General!
 Find tickets and August schedule and lineup at Whitefield Library website: www.whitefieldlibrary.org.

Gravestone Matters will be returning to Coopers Mills Cemetery August 13-16 to finish restoring headstones. Joe is a wealth of knowledge on history and techniques. Guaranteed it will be an interesting time. Contact Libby Harmon, 549-7209, if you would like to help for a few hours or days.

Flea market at LeBarn in Jefferson
 Every Saturday 8-2
 BYO tables
 Call for more info: 207-549-0159

STUFF FOR SALE- We encourage anyone to send us their classified ad. This is a free service. Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

1. Looking for someone to do bushhogging for us. Please call 549-5664
2. Antique Wood Dog Sled, touring style. Asking price based off appraisal. Please call 549-4902 for further information.
3. Thule bike rack- made for trailer hitch. Fit 4 bicycles. \$ 50. Call or text 549-4902.
4. 2 Bifold closet doors, solid pine. Dark wood stain on one side each door, back side unfinished. Good condition. Measures 78 1/2 "H x 24" W (open fold). \$35 for 2. Please call or text 549-4902
5. Snow tires- set of 4 Firestone Winter force 2 UV -225/65 R17. Excellent condition, used 2 seasons with low mileage. \$325. Please call or text 549-4902

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.

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

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