



# Whitefield News

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September 2020

## Town Office News

Hours:

Monday/Tuesday	8-4
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	7-12 and 3-7
Friday	8-2

Whitefield Town Office will be Closed on Monday September 7<sup>th</sup>, in Observance of Labor Day

Absentee Ballot Applications are now being accepted for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Election. Ballots will be mailed out in early October. You can request one by using one of the options below:

1. In person at the Town Office during regular business hours
2. Call in to the Town Office and request it over the phone, 549-5176

Go online and request it at: <https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>

## Correction to Town Meeting 2020 article:

The Whitefield School janitors set up and took down the gym according to pandemic practices. We very much appreciate their help.

## Cindy St. Peter - Caring for kids for 39 years

By Sue McKeen

The first thing you notice about Cindy St.

Peter is her smile, and her dimples. If you or someone you know had children who needed daycare, you probably had Kiddie Korner on speed dial. And you probably remember the panic that besieged the community when learning of her impending retirement.

I recently sat down with Cindy to talk about the end of an era. Cindy has been caring for children since 1981. She said it's a job that begins when the first child is dropped off at 6:30 am and goes nonstop until 5:30, five days a week, 365 days a year, with the exception of holidays.

She told me that in January she had already decided it was time to retire. She had picked June 19<sup>th</sup> as her last day. She informed her staff. But then in March COVID-19 happened. No one could have foreseen that her actual last day would be St. Patrick's Day, one of the kids' favorite holidays at Kiddie Korner. This is the day when the kids decorated and put out a trap for the Leprechaun who always managed to get away with all kinds of mischief. The trap was a glass of milk set out on the deck. No one could catch the Leprechaun, but he would always turn the

milk green, a sign he had gotten away with it again. The kids loved it. She noted with

some sadness the St. Patrick Day decorations remained for several weeks, as if frozen in place to mark the end of something. Cindy grew up in Whitefield, graduated from Whitefield School then went on to graduate from Hall Dale High School. She told me she moved to Augusta, married and started her first daycare

in her home in 1981. I asked her what motivated her to open a daycare. She told me she wanted to be home with her new daughter, Joy, and earn an income at the same time. She said there were very few daycare options in the area at the time so her little daycare soon grew.

In 1989 she and her family moved to her present home on Hunts Meadow Road, right across the street from where she grew up. She continued her daycare with 12 children. She told me there was always a waiting list. In 2000 it was suggested she become a licensed daycare center, allowing her to open her daycare for up to 40 children, but also requiring more regulations and renovations to her home. Cindy, as a savvy businesswoman, got to work and secured a loan from CEI for renovations and opened her doors as a li-



## Whitefield School opens September 2

By Sue McKeen

Amid all the chaos and confusion, at this time RSU 12 has been designated as being in the very low COVID-19 (Green) category allowing both in-person and remote options for students who choose it. As of this writing, according to the Whitefield School, they are planning to open on September 2<sup>nd</sup> with in-person instruction five days a week. According to the school, over 75% of the students will be returning for in-person learning with a smaller percentage choosing the remote option. Since June a team of RSU 12 teachers, administrators and other staff members have been meeting to construct a plan for starting school with the following goals:

- Maximizing in-person teaching and learning while minimizing risk or harm;
- Ensure that schools are safe for students, staff and community to the fullest extent possible;
- Address the social-emotional wellness of students and staff;
- Mitigate potential learning gaps and loss of engagement from the closure period.

According to a letter sent to all RSU 12 parents, no student will be allowed to



enter the building until 7:50 a.m. COVID restrictions will not allow the school to hold the Early Bird Program that has previously been available to parents to run.

School will dismiss at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for the 2020-2021 school year with Wednesday remaining an Early Release Day with a 1:30 p.m. dismissal time.

According to principal Mark Deblois, in that same letter, he said, "I cannot tell how long the school will be operating in this format as that will be determined by the scope of the pandemic and how quickly it expands or retracts." He went on to say, "It is clear to me that this is going to feel very strange and very different than what school has been in the past. This

will be true for students, parents and staff and no one is happy that we are having to organize in this fashion. It is a new path for us all, one we undertake with all due seriousness of purpose and joy of being with our students again. We will endeavor to make this a great school year for everyone!" For more information go to the Whitefield School facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WhitefieldElementary/>

censed daycare center where she had two fulltime employees and herself. Kiddie Korner was more than a daycare. With kids ages 3 to middle school, she provided a preschool program upstairs and after-school program for the older kids. She contracted with a pathologist for those children who needed extra help and even employed a lifeguard so the kids could enjoy the pool in the summer. By the time she closed her doors in March, she employed six fulltime staff.

I asked Cindy what it takes to be the caretaker of so many children for so many years. She told me, "First of all you have to love kids. You have to have lots of patience, be a nurturer, a teacher, a psychologist, a diplomat, a doctor, a peacemaker and sometimes a warden! All kids are good kids but you must take the time to really listen. It is amazing what you can hear." When I asked Cindy what she'll miss most she admitted she'll miss all the children and sometimes the chaos. But she smiled and said, "For today, for right now, I'm enjoying listening to the quiet."



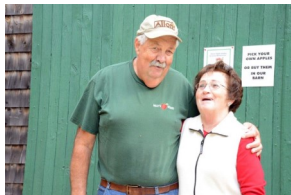
*To Cindy from all the grateful parents and children whose lives you have touched!*

## Bailey's Orchard's Thoughtful Reopening

By Tony Marple

Rodney and Kay are opening their impressive orchard in August as early season apples ripen. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, they are following CDC guidelines. In the barn they will mark the space to encourage distancing and have increased the number of weighing stations to three, with one outside on weekends. They encourage the use of face masks and hand sanitizers will be available. When "pick your own" season starts on Labor Day, the Baileys and their customers are fortunate that their beautiful orchard is over 6 acres, allowing plenty of social distancing.

In addition to Rodney and Kay, their daughter Margo and son Mark will help out during the orchard season. It's no surprise that this fine family is managing the orchard carefully to protect citizens. They look forward to seeing you and your families this fall.



## Breathing new life into this old building

by Cheryle Joslyn

"Masking up" has not been an argument for the five volunteers and the two contractors at Whitefield Library & Community Center. It has been just good old common sense practice for more than just the sensible precaution against COVID19. When ripping and tearing down 135 year old plaster and lathes from our 1st floor ceiling and walls, full body covering (no matter the heat) has been the standard practice.

At this point in our major renovation process, our Library room is looking very bare. Taking it back to the original beams, studs, and walls has left the skeleton revealed to allow our carpenters, Jim Loney and Don Conry, to begin the rebuilding process (bringing "her" sturdy old structure up to modern day code). The 3300



square foot two-story frame needed additional support to allow public access to its historic upstairs open meeting and performance space. It is our goal to see "gatherings" once again on the 2nd floor.

Large granite posts and rugged carrying timbers beneath the 1st floor have held the building remarkably level for all of these years, but adding additional concrete piers, posts, and beams will assure that the upstairs remains solid and useable for generations to come. Once the additional supports are in place and firestops installed within each stud bay, the ceiling and walls can be put back together again. New wiring, insulation, new plumbing, drywall, and paint will turn our 1st floor Library space into a more useable year round community facility.

Much has been accomplished since removing EVERYTHING from the 1st floor on June 14th. The physical labor and expert advice from the volunteer "demo crew" has been an asset well beyond dollar figures. Hours of consultation with our engineer, John Rand from Criterium Brown/Rand Engineers, and our architectural designer, Lynn Talacko, have brought us to this point of renovation. With a new bathroom, kitchenette, brightly-lit reading nooks, and shelves of reading material, we anxiously await the day we can invite our community back in to use the gift of a small local library and a welcoming community gathering space.

Meanwhile, we continue to reach out for funding; not only for the renovation costs, but also to operate our Library when we reopen. It is through your generosity, that we are able to move forward with these goals. We are extremely grateful to our large benefactors such as the most recent contributor, the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation, and to all who continue to put "coins" in our bucket and lend a tremendous "boost" to our efforts.

With much appreciation to Sheepscot General for hosting us, our month long August Outdoor Cinema has been a great success (an event we will undoubtedly revisit next summer as well). Our next fundraiser will be the sale of our beautifully designed 2021 community calendar featuring twelve local artists and supported by several area businesses. You will truly enjoy seeing these paintings and drawings as each month flies by. We intend to have the calendars ready for sale by the end of September. We also have a large order of flower bulbs that we will be selling for your Fall plantings. We'll have more details when these two fundraisers are ready to begin. As you can see, there may not be a librarian checking books out for you inside this old yellow building on Grand Army Hill, but Whitefield Library & Community Center still has a lot happening inside. It has been a very busy place, with an optimistic eye towards the future.

Like us on Facebook to see weekly updates and visit us at [www.Whitefieldlibrary.org](http://www.Whitefieldlibrary.org).





## Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



### SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHITEFIELD?!

Courtesy of Eleanor & Eric Westbye. Eleanor is the daughter of Bill & Edna Carleton Glidden.

Ellen Weiblen is third student from left in the front row; Raymond Beale is the teacher on the right. Students are standing in front of the Grand Army of the Republic Hall.

From the 1916 School Report: The Free High School has been under the instruction of Mr. Raymond C. Beale who is a very faithful and efficient teacher. The school has been well attended, good discipline maintained, and the scholars interested in their work. This school should have a cyclopedia.

### September 13th is Maine Apple Sunday

Come Celebrate Maine Apple  
Sunday with us at  
Bailey's Orchard!

Free apple squares

Apple prize drawings.

## BAILEY'S ORCHARD

Our Barn is Open Pick Your Own  
Starts September 4th

255 North Hunts Meadow Road

Whitefield, Maine 04353

We are following CDC Guidelines

Hope to see you at our orchard this Fall

Apples, Cider, Pears, Plums, Fudge, Honey & Pumpkins

Rod & Kay Bailey

207-549-7680



## Select Board Notes

by Bill McKeen

The select board discussed a vacancy remaining on the planning board. The planning board meets once a month, lately by Zoom. Working with the board is a great way to help guide the town in a positive way. Those interested in being appointed, please call the town office at 549-5175.

Tax liens will be mailed out soon, and until further notice no interest will be added due to the current pandemic. It is hoped that this will be an incentive to speed up these tax payments.

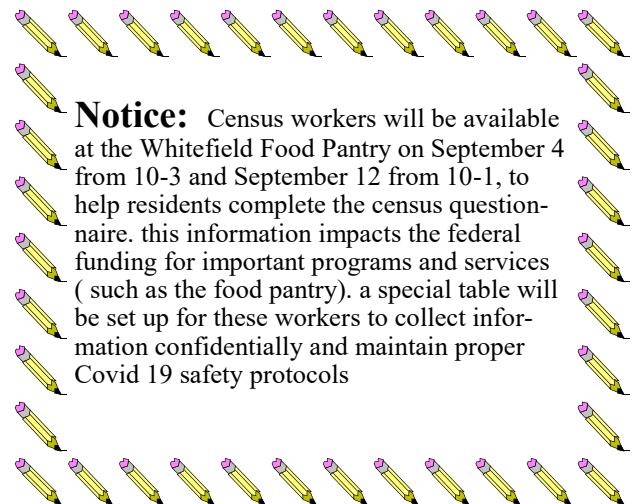
The board approved a request from Fire Chief, Scott Higgins to sell two rescue trucks that are not being used at this time. Contact the town office if interested.

Free business listings are being offered on a new website, Whitefield Produces. The website is an effort by the Whitefield Economic Development Committee to encourage new business. A form is available on the town website at [www.townofwhitefield.com](http://www.townofwhitefield.com) or online at [www.whitefieldproduces.com](http://www.whitefieldproduces.com).

Maintenance of the Coopers Mills Cemetery is in progress. Four other cemeteries in town will be reviewed to assess maintenance needs.

The Facilities Committee is in the process of discussing repairs to the salt shed arches and replacement of planks on the entrance deck at the historical society as well as any painting needed.

A plan is being drafted by the Trails Committee to maintain the Coopers Mills Park. A large dead tree will be cut down and weeding done as necessary.



**Notice:** Census workers will be available at the Whitefield Food Pantry on September 4 from 10-3 and September 12 from 10-1, to help residents complete the census questionnaire. This information impacts the federal funding for important programs and services (such as the food pantry). A special table will be set up for these workers to collect information confidentially and maintain proper Covid 19 safety protocols

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CLOSED MONDAY

TUESDAY-SATURDAY 8AM-7PM

SUNDAYS 9AM-5PM

#### FIND US:

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sheepscotgeneral@gmail.com  
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## SEPTEMBER 2020 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

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

- 1st **SELECT BOARD** 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 4th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-3 pm
- 10th **RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** Please check the website for meeting date and availability online.
- 12th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-1 pm
- 15th **SELECT BOARD** 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 16th **PLANNING BOARD**, Town Office 6:00 pm
- 17th **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** 4 pm at the fire station.
- 19nd **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-1 pm
- 26h **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-1 pm
- 27th **KINGS MILLS UNION HALL ANNUAL MEETING** at 3pm. Public is welcome.
- 29th **SELECT BOARD** 6 pm Central Fire Station



Whitefield's newest trail through the Maguire Preserve on Heath Road now has an off-road parking area! Soon to come will be a Midcoast Conservancy kiosk with trail map and interpretive information. All Whitefield trails are linked on the Conservancy's site at [www.midcoastconservancy.org/preserve/sheepscot-valley/](http://www.midcoastconservancy.org/preserve/sheepscot-valley/)

### STUFF FOR SALE- This is a free service. Email [whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com](mailto:whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com)

1. Electric Hospital Bed with side rails and pressure mattress. Was used only two months two years ago and has been in storage since then. Model is "Drive" Ultra Light Plus #15570FR. Excellent condition - \$500. Can send photo. 549-5002
2. Looking for someone to do bushhogging for us. Please call 549-5664
3. Antique Wood Dog Sled, touring style. Asking price based off appraisal. Please call 549-4902 for further information.
4. Thule bike rack- made for trailer hitch. Fit 4 bicycles. \$ 50. Call or text 549-4902.
5. 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
6. 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](mailto:whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com)  
 Whitefield Newsletter Committee: Cheryle Joslyn, Kit Pfeiffer, Sue McKeen, Tony Marple, Christine Lapado-Breglia, Lise Hanners & Debbie Rogers.



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