



October

Whitefield News

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How are we doing? What's your silver lining?

By Sue McKeen

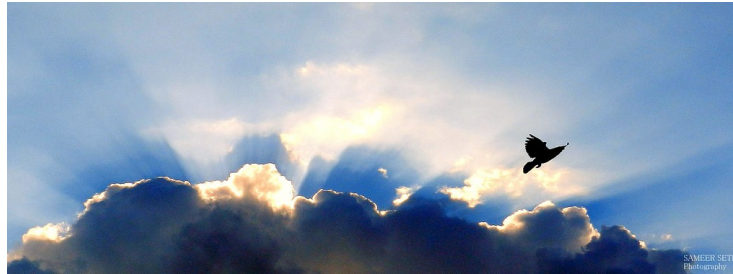
COVID-19 has certainly brought challenges with its domino effect touching every corner of our lives. As human beings, we rely on each other, we rely on togetherness with family, friends, co-workers, we miss hugging each other, feeding the humanness in all of us. We thought we'd ask a few people in Whitefield how they're doing and how life has changed since March.

I asked MARGARET FERGUSSON

how she's doing. Margaret, ever the optimist, turned the question on its head and asked, "Maybe the simple question is 'What's your silver lining during these unprecedented times?' she replied to that question saying, "As someone who makes lists and keeps a calendar of social events, it's been an adjustment to essentially have an 'empty' schedule. What to do? I can and do 'schedule' kindness! No particular date and time necessary."

While taking my weekly run to Recycling, I ran into NORM BEST. I didn't recognize him behind his mask, so I had to get a little closer. I asked Norm how he's feeling. He said, "Confined. We don't go out much but I've tackled lots more home projects than ever before (with emphasis on Lots)." We agreed life will probably never be the same and wonder what that will be like. But Norm only smiled and advised everyone to stay safe.

While admiring DOLLY BURNS' colorful mask at the post office the other day, I asked Dolly how life has changed and what's her silver lining. She told me, "Both of our kids were home, Hannah from college and Nate from Tennessee. Nate was working remotely from our sunroom, Hannah was studying. We were all together for a couple of months and that hadn't happened for several years. We took some nice day trips to some of the beautiful places right in "our backyard". We discovered a couple of places close to home that



we hadn't been to before. Needless to say, I was a very happy mom!"

I recently ran into JONI JONES at the Post office, she was suitably masked. We talked about how her life has changed. Joni is a teacher at the Chelsea school. She admits she was excited to have lots of time off when

schools were first closed last March. She could envision retirement. But then it went on for another month, then another. Although she is now back in school four days a week, this has brought new worries. She said, "Every year in the fall I visit my 86-year-old mother who lives in Vermont. I was preparing for the trip when my sister reminded me that I couldn't possibly be considering visiting, especially now that I'm back in school. We have to keep her safe. We have to rethink everything."

My relatively new neighbor from Massachusetts, JOHN CROSBY was out walking his dog Zeus when I ran into him the other day. We always meet and talk on the road for at least half an hour. I asked John how he's doing. He didn't hesitate to say, "Life is still a paradise here in Whitefield. Thank goodness we live in a place where people take care of each other, where we respect each other. Community is the most important thing."

I ran into CARI JEWETT and asked how life has changed for her family. Cari has a son at Lincoln Academy where they are using the hybrid model and a daughter who is in 5th grade and usually attends Whitefield School. However, Cari and her husband Ben chose the remote option and Cari is home *Continued on Pg. 2*

Coopers Mills Dam Site Park Gets a Facelift

By Kit Pfeiffer

Have you visited the waterfront park and observation deck at the site of the old dam in Coopers Mills? The dam removal was spearheaded by Mid-coast Conservancy, including local input and support from state and federal conservation groups. Following lengthy discussion and planning, the project was completed in late 2018 and was dedicated in May of 2019. Since then, the many native trees, shrubs and perennials planted on the banks and along the pathways have been maturing and filling in.

The Whitefield Selectboard asked the Whitefield Trails group to help maintain the site, and they agreed. Their first workday there was September 14. Top on the list was to pull up or lop off the many saplings of the invasive Honey Locust, as well as some invasive honeysuckle and Purple Loosetrife. Two heaping pickup loads of vegetative debris were hauled off to a volunteer's burn pile. Controlling and eventually eradicating these plants will allow the "natives" to thrive. Red maple, sugar maple, viburnums, mountain ash and sumac and primrose, to name a few, were planted two years ago and are getting established. Other native volunteer species such as cardinal flower and clover are adding to the attractiveness and conservation value of the site. Together they serve important ecological functions such as retaining the stream bank, improving aquatic habitat by shading and cooling the water, providing nesting habitat and food for birds, and producing flowers that attract our native pollinators.

During the cleanup, volunteers observed that the site showed signs of regular public use, but other than a small amount of debris, there was very little trash or waste.

The volunteers thank the public for their respectful use of the site.

The Whitefield Trails group invites you to help with this ongoing maintenance of the park in Coopers Mills. There will be two workdays each year, a spring clean-up and a late summer removal of new invasives. If you're interested, contact David Elliott, spokesperson for the group, d.elliott.92546@gmail.com, to join the distribution list.



Volunteer Mike McMorrow helping with the cleanup at the Coopers Mills park

Silver Lining Cont. from Pg. 1 schooling her daughter. She commented, "The kids don't get to see their friends and there are no extracurricular activities, their world has been turned upside down. But the silver lining has been this has brought us closer as a family. Before COVID, with all the busy schedules we never had time to do the things we've been able to do since March. Simple things like making maple syrup, cooking, eating together. It was hard at first, but we are a closer family."

I asked a couple of students from the Whitefield School to tell us how they're doing. MARIAM DELISLE who is an eighth grade student at the Whitefield School said, "I am very excited to return to school. I am worried that what should be a great year might not be, because we have to social distance and wear masks. I am also worried that if one person gets Covid that we will all have to do online school. I really had a hard time with the online school because I was very tempted to just watch YouTube. I am excited for soccer because at the beginning of the year I thought we might not have a season. In all I am excited to be back at school even with all the new rules in place."

Also in eighth grade at the Whitefield School, LANDEN HAYDEN told us, "I think my biggest fear with starting school while in a global pandemic is an outbreak in our school. There are so many contact points on our school property that we would have to lockdown our school and switch to remote learning. Even under these circumstances I'm excited to get back to learning and socializing with my friends. One of the hardest changes I have had to adapt to is the hand sanitizing and bathroom breaks. We have to sanitize every time we leave or enter a classroom, and only one person in the bathroom at a time, which can cause some congestion in the hallways closest to the bathrooms. I hope by next year we can all have things go back to semi normal and just learn like we used to."

I sat down with TIM AND MARTHA CHASE on a beautiful early fall day last week to talk about how they're doing. Besides not getting to see their grandchildren as often as they would like, both are doing pretty well. Martha told me, "I realized there are more important things in life than what we have been pursuing. What is important is that we are healthy and can take care of each other. We have new routines. For example, we always ate dinner at the dining room table, now we have a small table in front of the TV where we religiously watch Wheel of Fortune. It's fun, it's a competition to see which one of us can guess the answer first. She went on to say, "We've settled in together nicely, we're closer than ever." Tim and Martha will have been married for 50 years this year. Happy Anniversary. You'll get to NYC eventually!

Everyone I spoke with had something positive to say, which points to our propensity as human beings to look for a silver lining. The truth in all of us is to get up every morning and start again. In a song I recently heard, the lyrics said, "I'll see you then, when the good times come again.....the door that we went out of, is the door that we'll come in, when the good times come again."



Town Office News



Let me start out by saying THANK YOU for all the warm welcomes that I have received from all those that have stopped by the Town Office to meet me. I appreciate them all and look forward to meeting each and every one of the taxpayers. I am here to serve you and I take pride in providing the best customer service possible. If you have any questions please reach out to me during regular business hours or send me an email at townwhitefieldadm@gmail.com.

With the upcoming Presidential Election on November 3, 2020 and a big push to vote absentee due to Covid-19. I would like to take a moment to help you all to understand the options you have:

Request an absentee ballot in person during regular business hours

Call in to the Town Office and request over the phone. 549-5715

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

Vote in Person Absentee at the Town Office. (Available October 5th – October 30th)

If you choose not to Vote Early you can vote on Election Day at the Polls 8 am – 8 pm (at the Whitefield Fire Station)

For all voters: You must be a registered voter in the Town of Whitefield in order to request an absentee ballot, if you are not a registered voter please stop by the office and register to vote first (bring proof of ID and residency), then at that time you may request an absentee ballot. Also different organizations/groups are sending multiple request forms to voters to request an absentee ballot, **You Only Need to Request a Ballot ONE TIME!!** By sending in multiple requests it makes more work on my Deputies and myself, Town Clerk. Once we receive the ballots (around Oct 5th), we will then mail out (only ONE Ballot), to each person that has requested a ballot, you will vote your ballot and then mail it back to us or drop it off during regular business hours. Ballots must be received by 8 pm on Election Day. If you have any questions about the absentee voting process please give me a call at the office.

I am looking to grow my list of people to work at the polls. If you would be interested in being an Election Poll worker please give me a call or stop by the office. You can review this website for more information: <https://www.maineelectionworkers.org/>

Here is a moto that has just been given to the Clerks across the State:

REQUEST EARLY (now) ---- **VOTE EARLY** (ballots will be available Oct. 5th) ----- **RETURN EARLY** (mail by Oct.26th)

Again, I want to Thank You all for the opportunity to work in Whitefield. Customer service is my number one priority and I look forward to serving you and meeting more of you in the upcoming months. Take a moment to Enjoy the colors of Fall across the State of Maine! Such a Beauty...my favorite time of the year.

** Town Office will be CLOSED October 12th, in observance of Indigenous Peoples Day

** We are looking for photos of Whitefield for the town website, if you have one you would like to submit send it to me at townwhitefieldadm@gmail.com Fall ones would be great!

** Tax Bills for 2021 will be going out around October 1st, the 1st payment being due November 30th

Yolanda Violette

Administrative Assistant, Town Clerk & Treasurer

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Wednesday Closed
Thursday 7-12 and 3-7
Friday 8-2

Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHITEFIELD?!

A great find, the Whitefield Elementary Class of 1959-60. Many familiar names!
Courtesy of the "I survived Whitefield School in Whitefield Maine" Facebook page.

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Select Board Notes

by Bill McKeen

At the last two meetings of the Select Board the following was discussed.

David Elliott of the Whitefield Trails Committee reported to the Board that members of the committee will schedule two work sessions to clear brush around the trails and have professionals remove a large dead tree.

Scott Cecil was appointed to the vacant seat on the Whitefield Planning Board. He will join Maryann Marple, Chair, Steve Sheehy, Glen Angell and Kristen Mason.

Fire Chief Scott Higgins is continuing work the Salmon Federation to cure a problem with the fire hydrant and water pool at the Coopers Mills Park.

Roadside mowing has begun in town. Go slow and watch out for the tractors as they do their work to make our roads look nice.

A meeting was held to discuss the brush growing at the town-owned land off Fox Farm Lane. If brush continues to grow, the concern is that it might eliminate the possibilities of recreational use.

There has been lots of activity in town about culverts and bridges. A culvert on Route 194 will be replaced by the Maine DOT, Coffin Engineering is finishing design for a culvert on South Hunts Meadow Road and the culvert on Senott Road has recently been replaced. The Senott Road stream crossing is now actually a small bridge allowing a better flow of water and use by fish.

For a complete description of the issues before the Board, please click this link: <https://townofwhitefield.com/agendas-minutes> to go the town website and read the Select Board minutes.



New bridge on Senott Road



A nice handwritten note of thanks from the Whitefield Food Pantry signed by Secretary, Lise Nickerson was read to the select board at its last meeting.

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BULBS, BOOKS, CIDER FEATURING 2021 WHITEFIELD LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTER CALENDAR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH

10:00 to 1:00

AT THE LIBRARY

Calendar Artwork by local artists of all ages

Fedco bulbs Heirloom collection

Book Sale

Cider and Fudge

A sale to benefit the renovation project
Come join us and help us build our library and community center!

OCTOBER 2020 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

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

- 2nd **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-3 pm
 8th **RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** Please check the website for meeting date and availability online.
 10th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-1 pm
 13th **SELECT BOARD** 6 pm Central Fire Station
 15th **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** 4 pm at the fire station.
 27th **SELECT BOARD** 6 pm Central Fire Station
 17nd **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-1 pm
 21st **PLANNING BOARD**, Town Office 6:00 pm
 24th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-1 pm
 31st **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-1 pm



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 Joan Kierstead - 549-5019

Can Emergency Services Find You?

By Lester E. Sheaffer Jr.
 Whitefield E911 Director

If something happened to you would Emergency Services be able to locate your home? Could the ambulance or firetruck find your place fast enough? What about the county sheriff? These are questions you should be asking yourself in regards to your house number.

All houses that can be seen from the road should have the house number prominently displayed on the front of the house, fence, post, mailbox or some structure on the residence next to the walk or access drive. But what if you cannot see your house from the road? In that case you should display your house number on the mailbox or a post at the access drive of the property.

All numbers that can be confused with your address should be removed. It is for your own health and safety that these services can find you. As these services drive back and forth to narrow down which house is yours they are wasting time. Remember the longer they have to look for your place the more time there is for the situation to get worse. Be responsible for your own health and safety and do all you can to assist these services. Any questions you have can be answered by the town office or myself. You can also look online for the road naming ordinance and policy.

**EMERGENCY
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- Battery operated wheel chair, free if you are in need. Please call Kathy at 549-0286
- Seasoned Firewood, \$70-\$75 per face cord, \$270 per cord of Oak. You haul. 485-3991
- Blaze King wood stove for sale. In good condition, huge wood stove. \$800 OBO 485-3991
- 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
- Antique Wood Dog Sled, touring style. Asking price based off appraisal. Please call 549-4902 for further information.
- 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

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Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 15th of the month. whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

Whitefield Newsletter Committee: Cheryle 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