



Whitefield News

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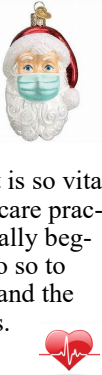
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Please Wear a Mask

With Covid-19 occurring in Whitefield, please remember to Wear A Mask. It is so vital and the medical care practitioners are literally begging people to do so to protect yourself and the people around us. Thank You.



COVID-19 Outbreak at Whitefield Elementary

by Mark Deblois, Principal

The middle of November saw Whitefield Elementary School (WHES) experience our first positive Covid diagnosis. This was followed in fairly quick succession by four additional positives. The Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC) defines an outbreak as three or more confirmed positive individuals not from the same family or cohort within the school. WHES met that standard and, as of Monday, November 16th, we had quarantined two classrooms and moved all students to remote learning until after the Thanksgiving holiday break. On Tuesday, November 17th, because of another positive test from a school-related individual, we also quarantined one additional class, including all students

and staff connected to that class. All of the school's responses have been guided by practices recommended by the CDC, including moving to remote learning, quarantining specific groups of students and staff, recommending certain groups schedule COVID-19 tests, doing through contact tracing, and instituting a rigorous cleaning and disinfecting of the entire facility.

What we have learned from our consultations with the CDC is that this outbreak represents the presence of community transmission within our geographic area rather than the school being the origin of the outbreak. All members of the school community have been closely following basic safety guidelines of wearing a mask, maintaining appropriate social distancing whenever possible and rigorous hand washing throughout the school day. We have all students isolated into learning cohorts (grade level groups) who stay within one space for most of the day with very little intermingling. We have upgraded our ventilation systems and added devices that will help eliminate contaminants from the air. Our buses have strategically arranged seating plans and maintaining

good ventilation in all weather has been planned. The CDC cites that schools in Maine have been very forthright in following the necessary guidelines in order to provide students and staff with the safest possible environment to enter each day. In essence, we do our very best to control the health variables that we can every day but, even with all of these precautions, this virus can find a way into individuals and families with potentially devastating results.

Our school district (RSU#12) has been very aggressive, because of our beliefs about what is the most effective manner of educating children, in choosing to offer five days per week of in-person education to our families. We need the entire community's help in order to keep offering this type of schedule. Please follow the standards that are proven to minimize the spread of this virus: wear a mask when out in public, wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, maintain appropriate social distancing and monitor your own health, making sure to seek medical assistance if you present any of the known symptoms. By following these simple steps, you make Whitefield a safer community and you help us avoid future outbreaks that so disrupt the education of our children.

Mark Deblois, Principal

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"At Whitefield Elementary School We Have PRIDE INSIDE"

A view from Whitefield Students

Some Thanksgiving and holiday thoughts from the students at Whitefield School. We are thrilled that the students want to contribute to the newsletter. We also hope that the message got to the students that the Macy's Parade was definitely on.

How Thanksgiving This Year Won't Be The Usual Norm

By Hannah Ratcliff

As the majority of you already know, well I sure hope you all know there is a worldwide pandemic going on. Covid19, aka Coronavirus or what I like to call the worst thing that has ever happened in my lifetime. This virus has changed so many things over the past year, it's insane. To think that just a year ago I was hugging friends and family, going to school without a mask, and just overall enjoying life is pretty shocking. So much has changed for not only me but everyone I'm around. Which brings me to the topic I am going to be discussing today, what Thanksgiving is going to look like this year.

Ah, Thanksgiving. One of the finest holidays in my opinion; The holiday where you gather around with your household and eat splendid food while taking a moment to reflect on all you have to be thankful for. What will Thanksgiving be like this year for me? Will I get to snuggle with my parents on the couch to watch The Macy's Day Parade? A tradition my family has practiced for years.. Will my Aunt Stephanie who lives quite far away from me still be able to come over and share her hilarious stories of "when she was younger"? Or will me and my brother still go to each of our different households and families to meet? The short answer would have to be no. The Macy's Day

Parade is not going to happen this year. The parade that my parents have forced me to watch since I was a child. And my Aunt Stephanie, she won't be able to tell me her stories this year due to the fact she has a high risk husband at home who she worries about every single day. And Gabe and I will not be going to my other families houses to meet.

Those are only three of the things that are not going to happen with my family this Thanksgiving. As depressing as that may be I have been trying to remind myself that even though Thanksgiving isn't just about Aunt Stephanie, and The Macy's Parade, but about what I am grateful for. At least I still have the privilege of celebrating the holiday with the family I am with each day. There are some people who on Thanksgiving day who aren't going to be able to sit down with company and eat a turkey. And I'm just so lucky to have people I can do that with. So, even though things aren't going exactly how we want them to this year... Let's all try to think about what IS going our way and what we are all gifted to have.

Thanksgiving and Christmas!

By Khloe Luce

This year for Thanksgiving things aren't going to be that different even though the Coronavirus is happening. I am still going to go to my aunt's house with my family for Thanksgiving like I usually do every year. My aunt's house is pretty big so it shouldn't be a big deal to social distance. My aunt said that she is going to be cleaning things more often because she doesn't want to be the reason the state shuts down. One thing I am looking forward to though for Thanksgiving this year is seeing some of my family members. Due to the virus I haven't been able to see a lot of my family so I am *Continued on Page 2*



Students from Pg. 1 super excited for that. One thing that I am sad about this year is because of the Coronavirus the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade won't be happening. Every year I watch it with my family and because of the virus the parade won't be happening this year. I am upset about it but I understand that it can't happen.

This year for Christmas things aren't going to be that different even though the Coronavirus is happening. I am still going to have a big Christmas Party with my family like I usually do every year. We are going to have it a few days before actual Christmas Day like we always do. Now for actual Christmas Day it is still going to be the same. My sister and her boyfriend are still going to come over and spend Christmas Day with us. They might come over and spend Christmas Eve and spend the night with us too but I am not exactly sure about that. On Christmas morning we will all open our stockings and our gifts. I usually pass out the presents and actually last year when I was passing them out I knocked the tree over. I reached under the tree to grab a present and it fell over on top of me. After that, we usually have a Christmas breakfast which is usually cinnamon rolls. Then we usually just spend some time together and then later that day we have a Christmas dinner.

I am so excited for the holidays this year. I love the holidays every year but this year I just love it more for some reason. I might help out with cooking the Thanksgiving meal and the Christmas meal. Also, for Christmas I have my own money this year so I can buy some of my family members gifts which I am super happy and excited about. I hope you have a good holiday season!

Holidays

By Cassidy Brann

Holidays will be different this year because usually we have like 20-30 people over at my grandparent's house but this year we don't really have a plan for what we're gonna be doing for Thanksgiving. My whole family has different opinions. My grandparents want to just have immediate family only. My parents want to do what we do every year but take precautions, and my sister, my cousin, and I want it to be the same but have a mandatory quarantine, take temperatures, and have everyone fill out a form before entering. If we just are careful and don't go near anyone then we can have a normal Thanksgiving dinner. My grandmother is apparently really scared of COVID. I think that this year we'll probably end up just having dinner at my grandparent's house with immediate family.

Town Office News

Yolanda Violette

Well Election Day is now behind us. For those of you that came to the polls on November 3rd, you saw that we made some changes to our polling place by reversing the direction of entering the polls and the direction of the flow within the polling area to make it as safe as possible and to allow for social distancing due to Covid-19. This year is the year of change for sure, for many things, and voting was included in the changes. This may be the way voting will be run from now on. Like most municipalities we had record #'s for absentee voters, we had 841 Absentees received back by the end of day when the polls closed at 8 pm on November 3rd out of the 860 that were requested. The polls maintained a steady flow all day with 650 voters coming though. Thank You to the voters on election day for your patience with making the updates to the voter card files. We shall continue to work on this project to get everyone's card current. We had 1491 Votes cast, we now have 1868 registered Voters in Whitefield with 77 of them being new voters to Whitefield and some being first time voters, In 2016, the last Presidential Election, we had 1432 Voters, 361 of them were absentee voters. Overall Elections Day was a Success and we were all part of making history! Thank you to All who Voted! Always keep in mind every vote counts no matter how big or how small the election is.

2021 Tax Bills went out on October 6th, the first ½ was due by November 30th

The Whitefield Town Office Holiday Schedule

Thursday December 24th CLOSE at 12 pm

Friday December 25th. CLOSED

Thursday December 31st CLOSE at 12 pm

Friday January 1st. CLOSED

I want to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season ahead! It is hard to believe but the New Year is upon us, approaching quickly.

Happy New Year!!

Shop local this holiday season – Thinking outside the box

It takes a lot of creative thinking to figure out how to market a product during a pandemic, but Sheepscot General has risen to the challenge. In years past, Sheepscot General has hosted an Annual Holiday Bazaar showcasing local crafters. If you have ever attended this busy event, you know it is wall to wall people shopping, browsing and eating in the café. This year, as we all know, is different. Thinking outside the box, the store is featuring a Pop-up Holiday Artisan Market where you can browse, shop and enjoy the wonderful aromas coming from their kitchen. And just because you can't sit down for a meal, you can bring home something delicious.



Jenna Marcus told us, "The Artisan Market features handmade crafts provided by local artists, is located in the store's former indoor cafe space and will be open during regular store hours. You can find something for everyone on your list without even leaving town, all while directly supporting your local community. We allow up to five customers in the store at any given time and require that masks be properly worn before entering." She asked to remind people to please maintain appropriate physical social distancing while browsing the Artisan Market. The market is open now through December. The following vendors will be participating:

Patti Hamilton: Hamilton Farm

Isabel Stearns: The Felted Acorns

Leane Morin and Kate Parker: Painted Turtle Illustrations

Allison McKeen: Allison McKeen Art

Libbey Seigars: Whitefield Pottery

Genevieve Keller: Snow-Day Artist

Claire and Carly Weinberg: Dulce & Rugosa

Toki Oshima: TokiArt

Adam Perkins: Fisher Frames

Deborah Dubard: Good Deed Up-Cycle

Coreysha Stone: Stone Studio Designs

Tom Aldrich: Alna Woods

Darlene Thompson: Blooms End Stitches

Oliver Gottlieb

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Sue Morrill

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Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



This is a picture from the WHS showing kids in 1984 building a snow sculpture in celebration of Whitefield's 175 birthday.

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHITEFIELD?!

Don't forget to buy your Whitefield Library and Community Center calendar.

A very special 2021 Whitefield Library and Community Center calendar featuring local artists of all ages. Available at :



Sheepscot General Store
North Whitefield Superette
Country Corners

Select Board Notes

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.

The budgeting process for the year beginning July 2020 is underway. So far revenues are coming in as anticipated and the Select Board will be recommending inclusion of some expenses that had been planned before the pandemic hit.

Some improvements are planned for the Town Office. CMP will be installing an outdoor LED light, free of charge, to improve visibility in the parking lot at night. The Facilities Committee will be planning to install a small roof over the public entrance at Town Office, to protect residents entering and leaving the building during poor weather.

Repairs will be made at the salt/sand shed. A light fixture will be replaced by an electrician and the skin on the roof is starting to peel and will be repaired. More significant structural repairs on the building itself are planned once the Facilities Committee has completed estimates for cost and design.

The Town of Whitefield has been directed by the State DOT to set a 16,000 lb. weight limit on the culvert passing the West Branch of the Eastern River under South Hunts Meadows Road (AKA Leonard's Bridge). This is being done as a safety measure to maintain the integrity of the bridge until it can be replaced in Spring 2021. The weight restriction on the road itself will remain at 23,000 lbs and local fuel deliveries, school bus traffic, etc. will continue as it has been. However, any vehicle weighing over 16,000 lbs cannot cross the bridge itself. The bridge will be posted as soon as the signs can be purchased and installed.

Winter Sand for Seniors



Whitefield Cares! is swinging into action this winter by providing 5 gallon buckets of sand for Whitefield residents to spread on slippery areas on their walkways. Some of the funding from the Maine Community Foundation grant to Whitefield Cares! will

be used to buy paint buckets which will be stored at Town Office. Residents such as seniors or anyone needing support can call Town Office and request that a bucket be delivered to their address. Town Office staff will contact Lise Hanners who is coordinating the effort by Whitefield Cares! and she will identify a volunteer to make the delivery. The volunteer will pick up the bucket, fill it with sand at the Town shed, and deliver the bucket to the address. If anyone needs delivery of sand, please call Town Office at 549-5175 and make the request. If you're willing to lend a hand to deliver buckets, please go to Whitefield-cares.org and sign up for our emails and volunteer.

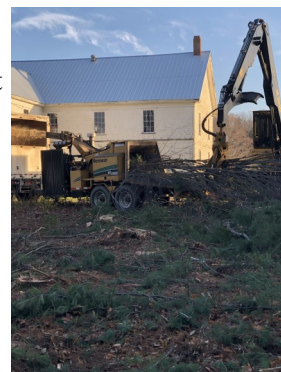
Volunteers continue to give at the Kings Mills Union Hall

By Judy Maldovan

Although 2020 has been a year without our traditional events, that doesn't mean our volunteers haven't been busy. We wanted to highlight some of our accomplishments during this year without a Chicken Pie Supper, Christmas events or Fourth of July White Elephant Sale.

As many of you know, in 2019 volunteers removed the ductwork and furnace from the hall and 2 new Rinnai heaters were installed with grant monies received from the Maine Community Foundation. This year, Grady Forest Products, Steve Grady & Sons, graciously donated time and equipment for tree removal, chipping, and land clearing for the future septic system site. A thank you to Glenn Angell who donated his time and expertise to design the system.

As in years past, Louie & Cathey Sell have donated our outside Christmas tree which will be decorated with lights. Even though we won't be gathering to sing carols, the Christmas tree will burn bright all season. We look forward to seeing everyone in 2021.



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TUESDAY-SATURDAY 7AM-6PM

SUNDAYS 9AM-5PM



general
whitefield, maine

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98 TOWNHOUSE RD.

WHITEFIELD ME 04353

207.549.5185



sheepscotgeneral@gmail.com
www.sheepscotgeneral.com

DECEMBER 2020 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

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

- 4th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-2pm
 8th **SELECT BOARD** 6 pm Central Fire Station
 10th **RSU SCHOOL BOARD MEETING** Please check the website for meeting date and availability online.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 4 pm at the fire station.
 12th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
 16th **PLANNING BOARD**, Town Office 6:00 pm
 19th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
 22nd **SELECT BOARD** 6 pm Central Fire Station
 26th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm



Bacon-Wrapped Cranberry Walnut Pork Tenderloin from Collette Mooney

Ingredients:

- 1 (1 lb.) pork tenderloin
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary (or 1/2 dried)
- 1 teaspoon finely sliced sage leaves (or 1/2 dried)
- 1 tablespoon panko bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup chopped toasted walnuts
- 1/4 cup chopped dried cranberries
- 1 cup chopped sautéed mushrooms (optional)
- 1 pinch cayenne pepper
- Kosher salt and ground pepper
- 4 thinly sliced bacon

Pan sauce:

- 2/3 cup white wine
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons cold butter
- Kosher salt and ground pepper

Directions: Place tenderloin on flat work surface. Slice lengthwise down the middle, being careful not to cut all the way through. Spread open 2 sides like a book.

Place butterflied tenderloin between 2 pieces of plastic wrap. Flatten using a meat pounder to 1/4 inch thickness. Season generously with salt and pepper. Spread Dijon mustard thinly over tenderloin. Dust with panko crumbs. Sprinkle in rosemary, sage, walnuts and cranberries. Add optional mushrooms.

Fold ends in about 1 inch. Roll tenderloin up from the long side as tightly and neatly as possible, forming a tube. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate for at least an hour.

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil.

Unwrap tenderloin and transfer to baking sheet. Lightly season with salt, pepper and cayenne. Wrap tenderloin in a single layer of bacon.

Roast in oven until bacon is browned and an instant-read thermometer inserted into the center of the tenderloin reads at least 145 degrees (25-30 minutes)

While tenderloin roasts, in a pan over medium heat, combine wine, balsamic vinegar and Dijon mustard. Cook, stirring occasionally, until sauce reduces by about half (5 minutes). Turn off heat and swirl in butter, salt, pepper.

Remove tenderloin from oven, cover, and let rest for 5 minutes. Slice at a slight angle and serve with sauce.

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2. Blaze King wood stove for sale. In good condition, huge wood stove. \$800 OBO 485-3991
3. Antique Wood Dog Sled, touring style. Asking price based off appraisal. Please call 549-4902 for further information.

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.

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