



Whitefield News

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Volume 8, Issue 9

Published Monthly

March 2021

Meet the candidates

by Tony Marple and Sue McKeen

Although town meeting has once again been delayed until June due to the coronavirus, voting will still be held on Friday, March 19 from 4:00 -8:00 at the fire station. In order to keep you informed, we have contacted each candidate and have provided an overview below.

Lester Sheaffer

Select Board: 3 year term

Lester has served on the Board for 9 years and is no stranger to public service. He is currently chair of the Select Board and has served on the Comprehensive Planning Committee and School Board. He said he enjoys being involved in town politics and working for the community. When asked what he'd like to see in his next three years on the Board, he commented, "I like the town the way it is. I don't want to see it change and have too many rules and regulations that you see in the larger communities. I like simple."

Jennifer Grady

Planning Board – 3 year term

Jennifer told us she has been a resident of Whitefield for 40 years and a Lincoln county resident for a lifetime. She and her husband Steve have two businesses here in town, Grady Forest Products, a family operated logging business and Acorn Hill Farm, a horse breeding, training, boarding facility. She said her job for decades has been training horses and their owners, from trail riding to national champions and is also a licensed horse show judge. She told us she is a gardener and raises livestock at their farm to provide for their needs. Her sons and their families also live, work, and have businesses in Whitefield. Jen currently serves on the board of the Kings Mills Union Hall and has been a fundraiser for them for years through trail rides. She recently designed and spearheaded the fund-raising effort for the Share the



Roads signs in town. When asked why she decided to run she said, "I decided to run for the planning board because I have a strong interest in the community here and keeping opportunities available to all who want to thrive here in town, with a special interest in the farming interests of our town. We have an interesting farming community, and I would like to see us continue to keep these opportunities available. I also feel it is a duty of a citizen to attempt to participate and help their community. I feel I can bring to the planning board a strong work ethic, a hopeful vision to help keep this town a working farm community that offers opportunities to those who are willing to work for it."

Kathy Dauphin

Planning Board – 3 year term

Kathy Dauphin was born and raised in Bath. She spent summers in Baypoint, Georgetown, Maine. Kathy came to Whitefield 40 years ago with her husband, Harold Dauphin whose family owned land and a camp on the Weary Pond Road. They moved here permanently four years ago. When asked why she is running for the Planning Board she said, "I decided to run for the Planning Board because I love the people and the community of Whitefield and I have an interest in maintaining our rural setting. I'm very proud to live here and am proud of the fact that even in a pandemic, we all work together. I also want to maintain our Maine traditional values. I have worked on several non-profit boards, have run my own successful business in Bath for 40+ years, and am willing to put in the time necessary to work on the Planning Board."



Continued on Page 2

Town Office News

By Yolanda Violette

Administrative Assistant, Town Clerk & Treasurer

Well, here we are in March already, so guess what that means? It's Municipal Election time and "normally" the Annual Town Meeting. The Whitefield Municipal Election will be held as usual on **Friday March 19, 2021, Polls will be OPEN 4 pm – 8 pm** at the Central Fire Station, 24 Townhouse Road. We will be taking all the same safety precautions as we did in November. Absentee Ballots are now available at the Town Office. There are 3 ways to Vote Absentee:

1. You can call the office. 549-5175, and request one, it will be mailed to you.
2. You can come in to the office and request it to take it home with you.
3. You can come in to the office and Vote in Person.

Absentee Requests will be taken up until Monday March 15th.

The positions being voted on this year are: 1 Select Board seat – a 3 year term, 2 Planning Board seats – both 3 year terms, 1 Planning Board seat – a 1 year term, 1 School Board seat – a 3 year term and 1 School Board seat – a 2 year term.

The 2 School Board seats are Write-Ins only, no one took papers and returned them to have their name on the ballot. You can view the Sample Ballot and view the Election information on the town website at <https://townofwhitefield.com/election-information/>

During "normal" times the Annual Town Meeting would have been held the following day. The Board has voted to hold off the Town Meeting till June due

TOWN OF WHITEFIELD ~~GENERAL~~ BALLOT
Municipal Election --- Town of Whitefield, State of Maine
FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2021

Instructions to Voters: Vote for ONE Candidate in each Office.
To Vote for Candidate Check the box to the left of the name.
To Vote a Write-In: Check Box & Write Last Name, First Name.
If you make a mistake, you may request a new ballot. DO NOT REUSE.

Select Board Member - 3 Year Term
☐ Sheaffer, Lester E Jr
☐ Write In: _____

Planning Board Member - 3 Year Term
☐ Dauphin, Kathy E
☐ Write In: _____

Planning Board Member - 3 Year Term
☐ Grady, Jennifer E
☐ Write In: _____

Planning Board Member - 1 Year Term
☐ Grady, Glenn B
☐ Write In: _____

RSE 12 School Board Representative - 3 Year Term
☐ Write In: _____

RSE 12 School Board Representative - 2 Year Term
☐ Write In: _____

Thank You --- You have now finished Voting

to Covid-19. Mark your calendars for the **Whitefield Annual Town Meeting on June 5, 2021 at 10 am** at the Whitefield Elementary School.

Annual reports will not be out at the regular time frame of early March either. They will be finalized and go to print once we complete the budget process for the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. We plan to have them available in early to mid May.

As you know in Maine we never know what the winter weather

is going to bring us. February brought us two storms that had shut the office down for those two days, both on Tuesdays which fell on our regular Board meeting nights so those were cancelled as well. I just want to let people know that on storm days, Please check the website for Office Closures at townofwhitefield.com and we are now signed up with the television stations of WLBZ, WSCH, WMTW, WABI and WGME for storm closure postings. I am also trying to collect email addresses for a mass email notification, so if you would like to be part of the email notification send me an email at *Continued on Pg. 2*

Candidates from Pg. 1

Glenn Angell

Planning Board – 1 year term

No stranger to the Planning Board, Glenn Angell has been a member of that Board since 2012. He told us he is running for the Board, “Primarily to retain some continuity on the board as two new members joined last year and two more will join this year. Beyond that, to continue to work on adding clarity and specificity to ordinances so they are more legally defensible.” Glenn told us he would like to see revisions to the ordinances in order to add clarity and to begin work on updating the town's comprehensive plan.

Bonnie Nichols

RSU Board – 3 year term

We were recently able to speak with Bonnie Nichols who is running the for three-year RSU Board term. Bonnie and her five children moved to Whitefield from South Gardiner last July. Bonnie is currently a very busy mom attending UMA, working part time as a case manager and raising five children. She said she is anxious to get involved in the community and is very invested in the school as a parent and community member.

Stephen Smith, Jr.

RSU Board – 2 year term – WRITE IN

Steve Smith, Jr. is the oldest of the five children of Marylou and Steve Smith, Sr. Steve, Jr. runs a law firm in Augusta focused on family law, personal injury and criminal defense. Steve points out that Whitefield School has consistently ranked low in academics and discipline. As a result of this concern, Steve felt compelled to send his children to a private school, but feels strongly that other Whitefield parents should have access to a strong Whitefield School for their children.

He wants the curriculum to be focused on core subjects while returning to normal teaching and athletic practices. He is committed to having the school achieve the highest possible quality.

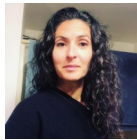
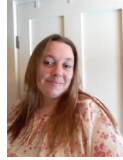
Suzanne Balbo

RSU Board – 2 year term – WRITE IN

Suzanne Balbo grew up in Maine and has been living in Whitefield since 2012. She was an elementary school teacher for 12 years, operated a farm in Whitefield with her husband, Clint, for several years and is an active environmentalist.

Since her term began in August, Suzanne's focus had to be on academic practices during the pandemic, but she looks forward to putting more energy into the Curriculum and Development Committee. She also wishes to join the Anti-bullying Committee and will focus on climate science and social justice initiatives.

She is committed to our community and has the time and energy to advocate for the specific Whitefield School needs in the context of RSU 12 as a whole.



Town page 1 townwhitefieldadm@gmail.com and put in subject line “Sign Up for Notifications”.

Dog Licenses: IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO LICENSE YOUR DOG(S) – Governor Janet Mills has signed [Executive Order 29 FY 20/21](#), allowing dog owners extra time to license their animals. Owners now have until **June 2, 2021**, to renew overdue dog licenses. Licenses are available [online](#) and pet owners are strongly encouraged to renew license(s) before June 2 to avoid late fees.

2021 Real Estate Taxes - the second ½ payment will be due April 30, 2021. As approved at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting, Article 32, I am now working with our software company, TRIO, setting up the Online Tax Payment System. This will allow tax payers to pay the current years property taxes at their convenience at home. There will be a 2.5% charge added to your total just like using a CC in the town office. If you have any question, please feel free to reach out to me.

Hope you all get out and Enjoy the remainder of the Maine Winter, we have been fortunate for a fairly mild winter so far. Take some time to go out and Walk, Snowshoe, Cross Country Ski, Downhill Ski, Snowmobile, Ice Fishing or any other Winter activity you Enjoy! Spring is in the air and will be here before we know it.

Out and About in Whitefield

By Christine LaPado-Breglia
christine.lapado@gmail.com

I recently had the good fortune to be able to pick the brain of Whitefield maple-sugaring expert Tim Chase, of Tim's Sugar Shack fame, on the timely topic of maple sugaring—or making maple syrup—in a little Q&A. Because, as Tim reminded me, “Maple season is here.”



Tim's Sugar Shack

Christine: How do you define “maple sugaring”?

Tim: According to the Oxford [English] Dictionary, “maple sugaring” is the process of gathering maple sap to make into maple sugar. That sounds pretty simple but actually can be hard, yet very rewarding, work.

You are usually trudging through snow pulling a loaded sled, then tapping the trees and hanging buckets. When the weather is right, you are back out collecting the sap, lugging it to the sugar house and then boiling until it reaches a temperature of 219 degrees F., which means it is a sweet syrup.

Early in March, the sap contains a lot more sugar than it does at the end of the month. Because of this extra sugar, it takes about 20 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup. At the end of the season, it might take 55 gallons to make 1 gallon. On an average for the year, it is usually 40-to-1.

C: What is the prime (or only?) season for it and why?

T: Maple season is typically the month of March. It sometimes starts near the end of February and also has extended into April at times.

During the summer growing season, the trees collect starch through the leaves, store it, and then become dormant during the winter. When days start to warm up, the starch turns into sugar and sweetens the sap. When the nights go below freezing and the days warm up, the sap begins to flow down from the branches and out the spout. As long as the nights go below freezing and the days warm up, the sap will continue to run and fill the bucket. Once the days get warmer and the nights no longer cool down, the flow process stops.

Once buds begin to appear on the tree, there is no longer any sugar in the sap, and it becomes bitter and no longer edible.

C: What is most exciting about maple sugaring season for you and why? For others?

T: To me, maple sugaring is one of the most exciting times of the year that brings family, friends, and neighbors together. It is a sign that spring is here. You know when you see steam coming from a sugar house that you are always welcome to stop and say hi.

Martha [Tim's wife] and I have made lots of new friends from far and near. Because of our work with Maine Maple Producers Association, we have become friends with a sugaring family from Canada who have a special place in our hearts. We also have a family from Pennsylvania who stop in every summer on the way to camp and purchase their yearly supply of syrup.

C: Where can people go to take in the best of this season?

T: There are lots of places to visit during maple season. A couple of my favorites are Bacon's in Sidney and Kinney's in Knox, and you know when you see steam coming from the sugar house across from Sheepscot General that it's OK to go up and keep Ben company.

Martha and I are in the process of selling our home, so for the first time in 25 years Tim's Sugar Shack will not be open this year. Look for us in a new spot next year—and happy sugaring!



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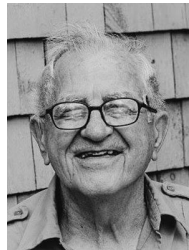


Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



North Whitefield School, early 1930's, courtesy of the Whitefield Historical Society. Albert Boynton is the little boy leaning on the school house. He never told me why he didn't sit in the front with the other little boys. (If anyone recognizes someone in the photo they let us know.)

Albert Boynton, the oldest Whitefield resident, who died on Jan. 31, 2021, shared this photo with the Whitefield Historical Society a short time ago. It is a photo of the North Whitefield School in the early 1930s. Albert is the little boy (First grader?) leaning on the school house. One room school houses educated Whitefield children from 1810 (right after incorporation) until 1959 when the new Whitefield "Consolidated" school was built in North Whitefield. Albert had a prodigious memory and was always ready with a story about what life was like in Whitefield. He shall be missed.



A view from Whitefield Students

I was going back and re-reading all of the amazing poetry by students in the newsletter, and it reminded me that I wanted to share the first poem I wrote as a Whitefield School student that I was really proud of. I wanted it in that section because it's in Whitefield School where I first learned to love writing; in class with Ms. Joslyn, actually.

HOME

By Keith Marple

A gentle spring rain bathed the large picture window of the living room, each fat droplet leaving a soft ring of impact across his vision of the verdant outside world. In between bursts of activity, or at moments of deepest contemplation, he would stare at the patterns the droplets left behind, watching their moments of impact and the trails they left for others to follow.



Under the force of a single rainstorm, the glass surface reverted into a sandy riverbed through which a millennia of tiny currents cut their wending paths. Each raindrop coursed its season and was spent, most sticking carefully to the oddly circuitous but predefined routes. Only occasionally would these minute rivers overflow their banks and set a new course, often later to rejoin the charted path and find their way home to the earth.

Their shapes pleased him. In them he discerned a secret order, an unbreakable harmony. Through their refractions the struggles of wind-buffed and fragile early daffodils and green budding trees became unreal, diffuse, and he was free to create order in the safety of his own kingdom. Legos clicked neatly into place, geometric castles spiraling ever higher. On the patterned whorls of his scratchy carpet, baseball cards were sorted and re-sorted; each one examined carefully and categorized by name, team, position, and quality. Adventure books were mined exhaustively, each branching choice deliberated, savored and expended. In this place he even imagined he deciphered the staccato rhythms of his mother's jazz records as they spun lazily on the family turntable. Over it all her warm presence, felt even from another room, became the metronome of his rainy afternoon; snatches of a forgotten folk song, the whirl of an egg beater, the click of clean silver arranged on a napkin just so. Finally her call to dinner, as clear as a factory whistle signaling the end to his labors.

Over his years the patterns mostly remained hidden to him, hibernating as though curled in a leaf. But sometimes, in moments of deepest quiet, the world would seem to offer him an echo of its underlying harmonies. At 30,000 feet, peering through a porthole window to look out in surprise at the desert's hidden tendrils of long-dry stream beds. Laying on a lake's icy surface and gazing into the intricacies overlaid there. Viewing the contours of the earth's rocky surface, clearly visible from a mountain ridge in winter. Or when, his own children playing nearby in the sand with their grandmother, he felt a gentle tug and looked down. Only to see a familiar memory carved by the receding ocean tides as their rushing waters pulled him inexorably back to the sea.

Spirit of America Award to go to Whitefield Library and Community Center Renovation Committee volunteers

By Cheryle Joslyn

Volunteers have always been at the cornerstone of creating, organizing, and providing services at Whitefield Library. In June of 2017, nine enthusiastic long-time Whitefield neighbors unpacked the last box of donated books and arranged the secondhand furniture into a welcoming space to greet patrons young and not so young on the first day of Whitefield "Summer Library". From the inspiring spark of a 2nd grader's letter signed "your Citizen Quinn" to the Whitefield Select Board pleading on behalf of all local children to open a library "because in the summer, there is nothing to do", those volunteer numbers grew to well over 100. From storytelling to selling cookies and calendars, it has taken many hands to bring this little library into fruition; each individual filling a need and bringing a useful talent to the efforts.



With the decision to purchase the building and to extend the vision for its use, the association put into motion a building renovation committee charged with the task of developing a plan to reach two goals (create a year-round 1st floor library space that meets fire, safety, and sanitation codes and

Continued on Pg. 4

• IRS Notices • Settlements • Extensions

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MARCH 2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

- 1st **ROADS COMMITTEE**, Central Fire Station, 4:00 pm
 2nd **SELECT BOARD** 6 pm Central Fire Station
 5th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
 11th **"REWILDING YOUR YARD: HOW DOING LESS CAN BRING YOU MORE" WEBINAR**, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM.
FREE! [HTTPS://WWW.MIDCOASTCONSERVANCY.ORG/](https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/)
RSU 12 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 6:30—9:00 pm
 13th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
 16th **SELECT BOARD** 6 pm Central Fire Station
 17th **PLANNING BOARD**, Town Office 6:00 pm
 20th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
 27th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
 30th **SELECT BOARD** 6 pm Central Fire Station



Spirit from Pg. 3 resurrect the beautiful 2nd floor community gathering/performance area for public use). Lofty goals, but for these ambitious volunteers, not insurmountable. From planning to driving nails, there has been a consistent and reliable team of generous individuals. This team has been surrounded and supported by many community members who have "stopped by to help", graciously replied, "yes" when asked to give a hand, or offered wise advice on how to approach a complicated task.

We have been asked to recognize "Spirit" with this award, but we would like to share our recognition with everyone who added their "piece" to this puzzle. The renovation accomplishments are not just from the volunteer spirit of 6, but from a large network of Whitefield people who care about one another. The group age for this team of 6 accumulates to 510 years (meaning "retired"), which explains why they are able to donate so many hours to the project. Their selfless endeavor began in June of 2020; before COVID hovered over their shoulders, and with just "on-site time", they have logged well over 1500 hours. Their more than \$50,000 savings in labor for Whitefield Library & Community Center is a tremendous gift. They have "shown up" nearly every day because there has been "something to do every day"! These six have followed the golden rule...do it!

Erik Ekholm brought us his years of building experience with particular knowledge about "old". He hit the ground running; building the perfect ramp to wheel the bookcases from the Library to the storage trailer, and without skipping a beat was able to install our all-new bookshelves from a massive Erector set and made the librarians smile. Dan Joslyn's flexibility is unending. Craftsmanship has been his talent, but never above digging a trench, ripping lathes, or demolishing old mouse infested ceilings. Everybody gets in on that dirty work! Dennis Merrill came to the planning table early and has stuck with us ever since; identifying what needed to be done, and going to work on it. Dennis never missed a great Roxul day. Every single nook and cranny got jammed with Roxul insulation before the drywall arrived. His relentless sense of humor made tough labor much lighter to endure. Mike McMorrow was driven by the bottom line. He wanted to see things "done".

The work wasn't always pretty; a lot of drudgery. Mike would demolish...carry...chuck, then start all over again the next day. Eventually the tiles and wires were down, the paneling removed, the lathes, and plaster stripped, and the bare beams and walls waiting for new life; hard labor, but Mike's genuine passion kept going. "Chris Kaminsky is a painter", we were told, and little did we know the gold mine that came our way. With his tall frame and long stretch, Chris 2-coated the 9' ceilings on the 1st floor, primed/ painted walls and floors, and answered the "begging" call when we needed that extra muscle to finish the tasks.

When it was time to get "professional" with the wall finish, we called upon Tommy Benne who knew a thing or two about plastering. In less than a week, Tommy and the guys had a beautiful plaster finish on our main room walls...an "old technique" requiring patience for an "old" building, and she sure looks pretty. Then it was time to use his welding expertise, and he retrofit all the new shelving to fit its new space. The proof is above that amazing volunteers do exist, and their impact is quite extraordinary. We hope you will stop by Whitefield Library and Community Center when it reopens and have a look for yourself.



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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