



# Whitefield News

**FREE** Thanks to our advertisers



Volume 8, Issue 11

Published Monthly

May 2021

## Town Office News

**I want to say THANK YOU to Nicole and GOOD LUCK!!**

Nicole was hired in November 2019, she has been an asset to the office. Things have changed in her life in the last 6 months and she had to make the decision to leave her job here at the Town Office. She will eventually be moving back to her childhood home once the renovations are complete. For now, she will be helping her Mom at her convenience store in Dresden and with the experience and knowledge she picked up here she may find herself a job in another municipality closer to her residence. It has been a pleasure getting to know her and working with her over the last nine months for me being here in the Whitefield Town Office as the Administrative Assistant, Town Clerk and Treasurer. Nicole's last day in the Town Office was on Friday April 16, 2021. She will be missed!! We had posted an opening for a Part time Office Clerk *Continued on Pg. 2*



## The Leonard's Bridge Saga

By Lester Sheaffer and Keith Sanborn

In 2017 the State Department of Transportation was conducting bridge and culvert inspections in Whitefield when they notified the town of the

culvert, known as Leonard's Bridge, was deteriorating and was going to need to be replaced. The Roads committee and the Select Board took two steps at this time. First was to contact the town's engineer, Jim Coffin, and start the process of replacing this culvert. Because there is no way of telling how long a degraded culvert will last the second thing we did was to start putting \$50,000 aside at town meeting each year until we can get the culvert replaced.

Because the culvert was declared degraded, the State DOT was inspecting it each year. In 2019 The state recommended we put a weight restriction on that bridge of 23,000 lbs. The town had core samples taken, which is a prerequisite to any engineering, so we can get a design made that would have to be approved by the Army Corps of Engineers in accordance with all their rules and regulations.

Coffin Engineering developed a design for a bridge which would be in line with the Army

Corps of Engineers. This would have cost the town upwards of \$400,000. This was rejected due to cost and Coffin Engineering was working on another plan similar to what was used in another town at a lesser cost.

In September of 2020 the state notified the town of an advanced deterioration of the culvert and recommended we restrict the weight limit to 16,000 lbs which we promptly did. On April 1, 2021 the northbound side of the culvert collapsed. It dropped approxi-



mately 4 feet. The town promptly closed the road with cement barricades on each side of the culvert. Three days later the southbound side collapsed.

As was explained to the Roads Committee and the Select Board, this is now an emergency replacement and a different set of Army Corps of Engineers rules apply which would allow us to replace in kind. As of this writing Coffin Engineering has located a culvert of the same size for \$45,000. Once we get a set of plans approved by the Army Corps of Engineers we can commence with the replacement.

## Wishin' and Hopin': The Fourth of July is back

By Sue McKeen

Some might remember the old song by Dusty Springfield from the 60's, Wishin and Hopin' and today it is especially significant as we are all wishin and hopin' life will begin to get back to normal.

Covid-19 has changed the landscape, but in Whitefield, the show will go on. The Select Board has asked a committee to plan the Fourth of July parade, bearing in mind safety precautions. The parade has been a town venue but in these times the committee is working with the Union Hall and KMVFD to create a scaled down outside-the-box event. As many of you might remember, last year Jerret Condon organized a Fourth of July "cruise". He managed to pull all this together in 3 weeks and had over 40 vehicles. The town response was so positive that once again, due to crowd restrictions, Jerret has offered to coordinate this event and hopes to sig-



nificantly grow participation.

Kings Mills Fire Association interim president Phil Yund, who is working with the committee said because they traditionally begin planning many of their activities months in advance, a decision was made early to scale back this year. He is hopeful

they will be able to offer some of the usual Fourth of July culinary delights if conditions permit. Union Hall president Judy Maldovan will be meeting with their Board with the hope they can safely offer a different kind of White Elephant Sale which would be held outside and be smaller in scope. Although this will not be the same iconic Whitefield Fourth of July celebration with crowds of family, friends, and neighbors, we hope to offer a place for folks to stop in after the "cruise", buy a hotdog, purchase an old teapot and be part of the spirit of the town. More details will follow in June. Join the parade!

**Town from Pg. 1** position and will be doing interviews, so a new person will be in the office soon....stay tuned.

**Dog Licenses** – it is not too late to license your dog, you have until June 2<sup>nd</sup> to avoid the \$25.00 late fee. The Governor's EO 29 FY 20/21 waives the late fee from Feb 1<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. Get into the Town Office before it's too late...

**Tax Club** – Having trouble making the semi-annual tax payment deadlines? We offer a Tax Club Payment to pay your Taxes over a 12 month period without interest or penalties. Check out our website for more information at:

<https://townofwhitefield.com/tax-information/> or email Tina at [townwhitefielddep1@gmail.com](mailto:townwhitefielddep1@gmail.com) for more information.

**RE Taxes & PP Taxes** – April 30<sup>th</sup> was the due date for the second half of the 2021 Taxes, no worries, the Select Board has waived the interest until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. So get that payment mailed in....

**Homestead Exemption** – If you have owned your home in Whitefield for more than a year and you claim your residency here in Whitefield, you could be eligible for the Homestead Exemption. Not sure if you receive it? Look at your tax bill and in the upper right hand corner of your tax bill is the valuations and exemptions listed. If you have a 25,000 exemption value listed you already receive it. If not, go to our website at:

<https://townofwhitefield.com/forms-permits/>, print out an application and send it in. May also view more information on the maine.gov website at:

<https://www.maine.gov/revenue/faq/homestead-exemption-program>.

I sent letters to many that I believe qualify for this, Thank you to those that have responded! If you have not responded yet you still have time, take the time to fill it out and send it back in, it's a simple process and takes only a few minutes and Saves you Money! There are also Veteran's Exemption (6,000), Blind Exemption (4,000), Open Space Program and the Tree Growth Program. If you have questions on any of these call or email Yolanda, 549-5175 or [townwhitefieldadm@gmail.com](mailto:townwhitefieldadm@gmail.com) Again, the applications for any of these are on our website....

**Monthly Emails** – If you haven't been receiving emails for monthly Municipal Events, then you are not on my email list. If you would like to be part of the email notification, send me your email and put in the subject line "Sign Up for Notifications"

**Whitefield Brochure** – We have a new Brochure out, originally created by Nicole and recently updated by Tina. Thank you to both, you put many hours into this project and it looks Great! It has a lot of information packed into it. Ask for your copy next time you are in the Town Office.

Reminder the **Annual Town Meeting is June 5, 2021 at 10 am** at the Whitefield Elementary School. The Budget Committee has finished reviewing the Budget presented by the Board, the Board will be finalizing the warrant by early May and will be posted on our website and at the Town office. The Annual Reports will be available mid to late May.

Spring has sprung on us early this year. Enjoy the Weather!!

**Yolanda Violette, Admin Assist**

<b>• IRS Notices • Settlements • Extensions</b>	
<b>Up Front Pricing:</b> NO Surprises, NO Hidden Fees	
<b>Tax Relief and Planning:</b> Lowest Tax, Highest Expertise	
<b>Early Season Refund Advance:</b> Same Day, NO Interest, NO Fees	
	<b>Maximum Refund Guaranteed</b>
<b>Augusta (East)</b> 84 Bangor Street 622-3738	<b>Augusta (West)</b> 198 Western Avenue 621-0001

<b>Whitefield Trash Service</b>
<b>Weekly Household Garbage Pickup</b>
<b>Free Metal Removal</b>
<b>Appliances (no Freon), woodstoves</b>
<b>batteries (auto, marine, lawnmower)</b>
<b>ANY METAL ITEM!</b>
<b>Call Dana Rogers 485-3991</b>
<b>Free Estimates for Clean-outs</b>

## A Sad Goodbye

*Austin's obituary was sent to the Whitefield News by his family.*

**Austin Johnson Moore**, 75, died at his home in Whitefield, ME, Thursday, April 15, 2021, with his children at his side.

Austin was born on June 12, 1945, in Norristown, PA, and grew up in Lebanon, CT. He was the eldest child of Dorothy Mathilda (Johnson) Moore (b. Coventry, CT) and Hugh William Moore (b. Stradbilly, Ireland).

From boyhood, Austin was drawn to farming and he worked on several Lebanon-area farms as a teenager. He graduated from Lyman Memorial High School and earned a degree in dairy husbandry from Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture in Doylestown, PA.

During college, a friend introduced Austin to Linda Zollers, whom he wed in 1967. For two years, Austin worked on Conrad and Marion Nelson's farm in Uncasville, CT. Daughter Rebecca was born in Norwich, CT.

Linda and Austin shared a dream to start a farm of their own and their search for land brought them to Maine. They moved to Whitefield in 1969 and spent a winter farming at John Dysart's on the River Road. Austin built up a dairy operation, and in 1970 they purchased Jerome and Frances Hickey's 180-acre farm on Townhouse Road. Son Gustav was born in 1971.

The pursuit of a sustainable and profitable small family farm prompted Austin to adopt innovative farming techniques, including a shift from Holsteins to Jerseys and from conventional dairying practices to lower-cost, higher-yield rotational grazing. Further diversifying, the dairy evolved into a vegetable farm stand, local restaurant produce distribution, and eventually Uncas Farms Natural Foods store (now Sheepscot General Store). Austin was known for his maple sugaring and strawberry fields.

Austin gained a moment of national fame when friend Victoria Chundia discovered a Mickey Mouse shape on one of his cows. The cow lived out her years on display at Disneyland. In the 1980s, Austin was named Maine Dairy Farmer of the Year. His photographs capturing farm life and local landscapes were shown in galleries around the state and in New York City. In later years, he traveled, doing work stays on organic farms in Washington State and New Zealand. In 2004 he placed the farm in a permanent conservation easement held by Maine Farmland Trust. He was married to Shirley Barlow from 1996 to 2008.

Austin will be remembered for his curious and gentle spirit. He was a self-taught mystic, known for his playful humor and reflections about the universe. He charted his own way, anti-establishment to the end. He leaves behind a loving community in Whitefield and friends and family around the world. His legacy of stewardship, hard work, and the example he set to practice "peace, love, and happiness" will live on.

Austin is predeceased by sister, Cynthia Mello; he is survived by sister Linda McCall and husband Brian of Ann Arbor, MI, and brother-in-law Jim Mello of Lebanon, CT, and their children; his daughter and son and spouses, Rebecca and Fred Haines of Arlington, VA, and Gustav Moore and Anna Fahey of Anacortes, WA; and his grandchildren Audrey and Gavin Moore.

A special note of thanks to Dr. Zach Mazone, Kim, Faith, and the team at Dayspring Integrative Wellness in Bath, and to the Hospice team at Maine Health Care at Home for their wonderful care and support.

A Celebration of Life will be planned for a later date. If you would like to make a donation in Austin's memory, please consider the Whitefield Food Pantry, 123 Philbrick Lane, Whitefield, ME 04353, 207-549-3672; the Maine Farmland Trust, [www.maineFarmlandtrust.org](http://www.maineFarmlandtrust.org); or your favorite conservation or food security charity.





# Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



## The Whitefield Historical Society Presents A Memorial Day Celebration At the Town House May 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 am

The Whitefield Historical Society is pleased to announce a return to its celebration of Memorial Day. The

ceremony will be held outside due to Covid safety precautions but will include the traditional flag raising and songs. This year the program will feature the passing of the Boston Post cane to Whitefield's oldest resident. As always, refreshments will be served.

Helen Winkley, North Whitefield Gold Star mother whose son, Sean, was the only Maine fatality of Desert Storm (the Persian Gulf War) in 1991, and Julian Howell, who conceived the idea of a Veterans Memorial and worked diligently with a volunteer crew to bring it to reality. The unveiling of the millstone took place on Memorial Day, May 27, 1996. A bronze plaque attached to the millstone reads: "Dedicated to all veterans who have served our country and protected our freedoms." The millstone was taken from a grist mill on Grand Army Road at the bridge over the Sheepscot River and was donated by Chester and Margaret Chase. The dedication program included a flag ceremony and color guard of boy and girl scouts, a benediction and singing of the National Anthem and other patriotic songs. The flower boxes surrounding the flag staff were planted by Dolly Burns and the 4H girls. Every year since then (except 2020) the Historical Society has hosted a Memorial Day event. An outdoor-only event is planned for this year which hopefully will go forth without incidence. All are welcome.



## Select Board Corner

March 15-April 15, 2021

By Lise Hanners

Below are issues of likely interest to the 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 Select Board finalized the budget for 2021-2022 and the Budget Committee began meeting weekly for four weeks to review the Board's recommendations. Members of the Budget Committee are Barbara Mayer (Chair), Chuck Vaughn (Secretary), Chris DeLisle, Mike McMorro, David Hayden, and new member Kathleen Goetzman. Thanks to all for working to improve the Town's budgeting!
- In elections this year, Lester Sheaffer was re-elected by the Town for Select Board and was nominated and elected by the Board as Board Chair. Charlene Donahue was nominated and elected by the Board as Vice Chair. Scott Higgins was nominated and elected by the Board for Fire Chief.
- The Board signed new contracts for paving Heath Road, paving the Town Office parking lot, roadside mowing, and snow plowing.
- The culvert on Leonard's Bridge on South Hunts Meadow Road collapsed and the road is now closed to through traffic. The Board and Roads Committee had been working hard to replace the structure and now that effort has taken on new urgency! An article in this newsletter will provide details.

## RSU 12 and Whitefield Elementary School Offer In-Person Learning Five Days a Week All Year

In August of 2020, the Maine Department of Education released six requirements for returning to in-person learning. These requirements included at least three feet of distance between students, masks for all students, and regular hand cleaning among others. During the summer of 2020, RSU 12 formed a Reopening Committee composed of forty-five stakeholders from around the community including parents, educators, nurses, union representatives, and administrators who were tasked with writing a reopening plan that allowed us to bring students into school for in-person learning. The committee believed in-person learning was the best way to educate students and RSU12 could do it safely. The RSU 12 Board of Directors approved this reopening plan in mid-August 2020.

All RSU 12 schools opened on time in September and have been offering a safe learning environment where all students have been offered an in-person learning opportunity five days a week all year. Students have been quarantined from time to time due to a positive case in the community, but there has been no spread of COVID-19 in our schools. In the fall of 2020, the RSU 12 Facilities Committee approved the installation of ionization filters in all areas of the buildings which has helped to reduce the possibility of spread in our school buildings.

RSU 12 is one of the few school districts in Maine to offer in-person learning five days a week since September 2020. From the beginning of this school year, the educators, staff, students, and community have been dedicated to following the safety protocols and have been committed to providing in-person learning as much as possible. As this school year winds down, we should acknowledge the staff of RSU 12 and of Whitefield Elementary School for realizing the importance of in-person learning and for investing themselves in making it happen.

**Howard Tuttle, Sheepscot Valley RSU 12 Superintendent**



sheepscot  
Farm / store / cafe



general  
whitefield, maine

**HOURS:**

CLOSED MONDAY

TUESDAY-SATURDAY 7AM-6PM

SUNDAYS 9AM-5PM

**FIND US:**

98 TOWNHOUSE RD.

WHITEFIELD ME 04353

207.549.5185



sheepscotgeneral@gmail.com  
www.sheepscotgeneral.com



**STEVE SMITH**  
TRIAL LAWYERS

Personal Injury - Family Law  
Criminal Defense

136 State St., 2nd Floor - Augusta  
(207) 622-3711  
Svee@MaineTrialLaw.com  
MaineTrialLaw.com



## APRIL 2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

- 3rd **ROADS COMMITTEE**, Central Fire Station, 4:00 pm  
 5th **GUIDED BOG WALK** Hidden Valley Nature Center 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
 (207) 389-5150  
 7th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm  
 11th **SELECT BOARD** with Budget Committee 6 pm Central Fire Station  
 12th **BIRD WALK ON THE BOARD WALK**—HVNC 7 am—10 am (207) 389-5150  
 13th **RSU 12 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** 6:30—9:00 pm  
 15th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm  
 19th **PLANNING BOARD**, Town Office 6:00 pm  
 22th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm  
**NATURE WORKSHOP: TICK TALK** 10 am—12 pm HVNC (207) 389-5150  
 25th **SELECT BOARD** with Budget Committee at 7 pm Central Fire Station  
 29th **BIRD WALK ON THE BOARD WALK**—HVNC 7 am—10 pm (207) 389-5150  
**WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm

**AP ALBISON'S PRINTING**  
 Quality Printing Since 1932  
 Offset & Digital Printing  
**www.albisonsprinting.com**  
 124 Riverside Drive, Augusta 622-1941

  
**Whitefield Country Preschool**  
 Serving the area's 3 - 5 year olds since 1981  
 1 - 5 days of instruction per week Sept. - May  
 Register year round  
 For information, please call  
 Joan Kierstead - 549-5019

## Please Consider Helping Whitefield Cemetery



Friends, families, and patrons of Whitefield Cemetery, we are in need of financial assistance to maintain the continuing care and beauty of our cemetery.

Whitefield Cemetery is especially beautiful from Memorial Day through to Veterans' Day when volunteer school students proudly display 200 American flags on each and every Veterans' gravestone. It is a sight in which to take pride.

Over the years, we have been extremely fortunate to have the custodial services of Geoff Monteith and his family who have consistently provided outstanding services

to the care and beauty of our cemetery. For example, Geoff and his family volunteered to take down the cemetery sign, clean it, refurbish it, and reinstall it all at no expense to the cemetery.

The interest from the "Perpetual Fund" does not generate enough income to cover cemetery expenses. We need your help. Please send whatever you can spare to defray costs of keeping our cemetery looking beautiful. Please send donations to Whitefield Cemetery Corporation, 280 Head Tide Road, Whitefield, Maine 04353.

Sincerely,  
 Whitefield Cemetery Corporation

  
**GRADY Forest Products**  
 Mechanical Timber Harvesting Steve Grady & Sons  
 Master Logger Certified Whitefield, ME  
 Chipping h:(207)549-3170  
 Earthwork c:(207)242-9840

207-549-7921  
 open 7 days a week  
  
**North Whitefield Superette**  
 Since 1976  
 Pizza, Sandwiches and Groceries

  
**THE HAIR WORKS**  
 FAMILY HAIR CARE  
 APRIL CAPPER  
 207-549-3375  
  
 221 GRAND ARMY ROAD  
 WHITEFIELD, ME 04353  
 OWNER  
 AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

## STUFF FOR SALE- This is a free service.

Email **whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com**

1. Antique Boston Co. Federal B wood cook stove \$400, very good condition, call or text 207-215-7433
2. (28) three-ring binders of different sizes. Some unopened. Free. 549-5002
3. Plastic Gun cases, made in Italy. Took in trade. Inside case length 47", width 7.5" by handle. 4 slide latches. New, never used. \$35 OBO Call 485-3991
4. Old camper trailer. I had it set up for moving 8 foot logs in the woods. 2 inch hitch. \$750 OBO Also a Trailer for road or around the house in the woods. Deck 52" by 8' 74" to the outside of fenders. 1 7/8" ball \$650 OBO and a Woods trailer for 4 foot wood \$290 OBO Call 485-3991
5. Ford F-350 bumper. \$50 firm Call 485-3991

**Country Corner's Store**  
 549-3135  
  
 Mon-Fri 5:30 AM - 9 PM  
 Sat 6:30 AM - 9 PM  
 Sun 7:30 AM - 9 PM  
 Gas, Groceries, Deli, Pizzas, Sandwiches,  
 Meats and MORE!

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.

You can receive the newsletter by email by signing up at [whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com](mailto:whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com)