



Whitefield News

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Published Monthly

June 2021

2020 Annual Reports are now available.

You may pick one up at the Town Office, Sheepscot General, North Whitefield Superette & Country Corners Store.

They are also available to view on our website at: https://townofwhitefield.com/annual_reports/

Town Meeting June 5th

Along with the Annual Town Meeting Warrant with the Proposed Building and Development Ordinance

Hopefully, everyone has marked their calendars to attend this year's Town Meeting on June 5th, at 10:00 AM, at the Whitefield School (may be held outside). Last year, during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Select Board and Budget Committee were concerned about the potential for diminished Town funding, so all non-critical expenses were stripped from the budget. This year, a few items were returned to the budget, but the Board was still careful to minimize expenses. Budget articles new this year include funding for 8 LED streetlights (\$1,300); line striping on a few roads to improve safety (Townhouse, North and South Hunt Meadow Roads, \$5,200); repair to the salt/sand shed and most likely deferred repair of the back wall (amount TBD);

Continued Pg. 2

Kiara Luce, Now she's cookin'!

By Sue McKeen

I recently met via zoom with Whitefield Elementary School eighth grader Kiara Luce, winner of the Department of Education's Farm to School cook-off held May 5th in Augusta. The first thing I noticed about Kiara is her smile, her poise and innate calm. Last month Kiara and head cook Vicki Dill, or commonly known as "Miss Vicki", competed in the state-wide event, which was eventually narrowed down to two teams, Whitefield and the Kaler Kooks team from South Portland. I asked Kiara a little about her skills and if she always liked to cook. She told me, "For the past couple of years I would help cook meals with my family. I like to bake too. My grandmother would bake brownies and cakes with me. My dad also enjoys cooking, he likes to get creative in the kitchen. My older sister took culinary classes at Morse High School's culinary program." Kiara told me she got involved in the competition last October when "Miss Vicki" asked her if she would be interested in competing. She was most definitely excited to be involved and this led to a video which was sent to the judges of the Farm to School project. Their video was chosen, and this resulted in the cook off between South Portland and Whitefield.

She explained, "We had to cook two meals, breakfast and lunch. We had one hour for breakfast and prep for lunch, then 30 minutes to cook for lunch. All the things on the menu were on our school menu and all the ingredients used were from Sheepscot General and our school greenhouse." She went on to say,



"We made a breakfast burrito with eggs and veggies and a baked fish dish for lunch. We have fresh fish every Thursday at school. This is the most popular day for school lunch, everyone likes the fish which is provided by a local fisherman." She told me they completed the dishes and then made their presentation to the judges. I asked her if she

was nervous having such a limited time frame to cook two meals. Kiara smiled and nodded her head yes then told me, "We just put our heads down and stuck to the task."

Kiara's future plans include high school at Lincoln Academy where she hopes to attend the culinary arts classes in Bath. She doesn't spend all her time cooking; Kiara also likes to play sports. I asked if any of her future plans include cooking. She said she is very interested in becoming a chef and being involved in the culinary arts world. Her cooking companion, "Miss Vicki" said of Kiara, "It was a busy and fast time to do all of this, but we did it. Kiara was a champ! She was focused and on her mark the entire time. I am so proud of her and her culinary skills. I believe there is a chef in the making with her!"

Kiara is a girl with a big future. She's smart, articulate, creative, smiles a lot, and she sure can cook!

Fourth of July Kings Mills activities off, but cruise is still on

By Sue McKeen



Unfortunately, it appears the Fourth of July celebration at Kings Mills will not take place this year. We all know the CDC is relaxing guidelines, but that does not necessarily push a button to make things return to normal.



However, Jerret Condon will go forward with the cruise again this year. I spoke with Jerret and while he was disappointed the traditional parade will not take place, he has enthusiastically agreed to take on the cruise again this year. He said, "The town has been kind enough to sponsor the event this year,

however it is up to US to make it happen. Everyone had a great time last year and I would REALLY like to see more people come out and participate for 2021. The event will be a bit more streamlined this year and my appeal to everyone in town, as well as our neighboring towns that are not having an event is to JOIN UP!! I would personally like to see 100 vehicles this year! We had almost half of that last year with the limited planning. There is a dedicated event page on Facebook with all the details! Share it! Invite your friends! We will need a few volunteers to direct traffic for an hour or two that morning. Please reach out to me personally with questions or interest! This will likely be the last time we do this, so let's make a mark!" You can contact Jerret at 207-671-1489 or <https://www.facebook.com/events/533955911108804>.

Additionally, in the spirit of making things happen, the Whitefield Library and Community Center will hold a used book and yard sale at the library beginning at 10:00. Come out on the Fourth, join the cruise, support the library, and visit with friends.

Community Solar for Whitefield Families and Businesses

Tony Marple and Steve Sheehy

A growing number of solar farms in Maine is creating a number of great electricity options that save money for families and businesses while helping the environment.

Until fairly recently, the only solar power option was having solar panels installed on south facing roofs without shade or having them mounted more expensively on the ground. Under net metering rules, if your panels generate enough power to cover your kWh of usage, your electricity is free and you just pay \$10-\$15/month for the meter connection. While it takes 10-12 years to save enough to cover the upfront cost, averaging about \$14,000, panels last about 40 years. The return on investment after 25 years which also includes a federal tax credit is at least 150%.

Now, for about the same cost, you can buy a share of a community solar farm (CSF) sufficient to cover your kWh usage at about the same cost as having it installed at your own place. The community solar farm can be located anywhere in the CMP grid. The cost and return on investment for buying a CSF share is very similar to having it installed at your property. As an example, a typical upfront cost net of the federal tax credit would be around \$11,000 but would save you around \$17,000 over 25 years while also protecting you from potentially soaring electricity rates. Loans for the purchase price are also available. Solar farms available for the buy-in model for Whitefield customers are owned by Revision Energy.

A new community solar opportunity is called the subscription model and it offers a 10-15% discount off your CMP electricity rates without any upfront payment. Contracts are available with some for 5 years others for 20 years, but you can opt out of the contracts at any time with no penalty. This is a good option for those who can't afford to purchase a CSF share and provides annual savings of around \$150/yr (depending on kWh usage) for the life of the contract with no upfront cost. Sometimes the companies that manage the subscription model are separate from those that own the solar farms. Examples of subscription model companies include Arcadia for Revision, PowerMarket for Sun-Raise, Nexamp and Ampion. To get details on the purchase or subscription models, just Google those names.

If Whitefield citizens can spread the word to friends, neighbors and businesses about these community solar options, our people can save a lot of money while helping to fight climate change by using a clean source of energy.



Town from Pg. 1 and repair of Leonard's Bridge on South Hunts Meadow Road (amount TBD). Please join us on the 5th!

Town News

I want to **Welcome Kathleen Goetzman** to the Office! She joined us on May 13th, she is new to learning municipal government, so I ask that when you come in and she waits on you to be patient with her as she learns the procedures of all the different processes here in the town office. Her and her husband, Phillippe, moved to Whitefield in June of 2020. They moved here from South Carolina to make this their home for retirement.

Our Assessors have been out reviewing homes that have notified the office with an intent to build or other changes that have happened within the last year, from April 2020 to April 2021. Homestead Exemption, Veterans Exemption and Tree Growth applications are still be accepted for this upcoming tax commitment. If you have had a change of address in the last year it is up to you to notify the town office of an address change so we can mail the tax bills to the correct address, to ensure you have adequate time to pay your taxes before the first installment is due. This is the last month to sign up for the Tax Club Payment Plan for your taxes. Contact Tina if you would like more information or visit our website at <https://townofwhitefield.com/tax-information/>

Town Meeting is June 5th at 10 am at the Whitefield Elementary School. There are 44 articles being presented to be voted on. You may review the warrant on the website at

https://townofwhitefield.com/annual_reports/. The proposed Building and Development Ordinance that is being presented to the town, is an ordinance that combines the previous three ordinances which were the Development Ordinance, Minimum Lot Size Ordinance and the Notice to Build Ordinance. The Annual Reports are now available at the Town Office, N Whitefield Superette, Sheepscot General and Country Corners Store. Yolanda Violette
Administrative Assistant



Knox-Lincoln Soil &

Water Conservation District (KLSWCD) recently received a grant from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide outreach for this National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI). The Sheepscot River and Dyer Brook Watersheds are considered high-priority areas with water quality concerns.

In 2016, "(t)he Dyer River, a Class B freshwater stream, has been assessed by Maine DEP as not meeting water quality standards for the designated use of aquatic life, and (was) placed on the 303(d) list of impaired waters under the Clean Water Act." Land use within watersheds directly impacts the health of water resources. Effective implementation of conservation practices ensures the quality of watersheds.

Of interest along the Sheepscot River and Dyer Brook are conservation practices that control soil erosion and contain nutrient runoff. Practices such as vegetated buffers, manure management structures, improved stream crossings, or other trapping practices would be eligible. Towns included in this initiative are portions of Whitefield, Jefferson, Alna, Newcastle, Wiscasset, Edgecomb and Pittston in Kennebec County. See included map of focus area.

Interested farmers and woodlot managers may be eligible for cost share funding to implement conservation practices. Producers along the Sheepscot and Dyer Rivers and tributaries are strongly encouraged to contact Peter Abello, District Conservationist at the USDA-NRCS by phone (207) 480-3937 or email peter.abello@usda.gov.

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to farmers and other private landowners and managers. KLSWCD is a non-regulatory community leader that responds to local natural resource concerns. Our mission is to provide assistance in the conservation of soil and water resources for our community through proactive efforts, actions, and education.

For more information, contact USDA-NRCS by phone 207-480-3937 or email peter.abello@usda.gov, or Knox-Lincoln SWCD at 596-2040 or julie@knox-lincoln.org

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Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



L to R: Gigi Hutchins, Kate Mason, Don Hutchins, Milva Smith, Kristin Smith Mason. Photo from Whitefield Historical Society

Preparing Dinner at St. Denis Hall for the 200th Anniversary of St. Denis Parish. June 10, 2018

Before 1818 when Rev. Dennis Ryan came to Whitefield, there was no Catholic church.

Services were held in John Malloy's barn or Peter Kavanagh's log cabin on the Cooper Road. A wooden church was built and a cemetery was set aside. In 1833, a brick church replaced the wooden structure. In about 1870, a brick structure built across the street became a convent, academy and an orphanage. It burned in 1922 and was rebuilt as St. Denis Hall. St. Denis is now part of St. Michael's Parish in Augusta which has recently decided to sell the building where so many celebrations, festivities and memorial services were held.

Select Board Corner

April 15-May 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.

- Paving contracts for Heath Road and the Town Office parking lot were awarded to All-States Paving to be completed by fall. No paving was done last year to minimize expenses during the pandemic, so the Roads Committee is back on track to get these projects completed.
- Road improvements on the dirt part of Hollywood Boulevard up to the Brewery will be conducted this summer by David Boynton. David will be testing an approach to dirt road maintenance using a fabric below a deep bed of gravel to see if the road is better able to manage the Spring thaw without requiring additions of gravel. If this approach works well, other Town-owned dirt roads will be improved using the same method.
- The damaged arch in the salt/sand shed will be repaired and Town insurance will cover the cost. Repair to the back wall of the building will be deferred until next year because the amount of sand in the building is higher than normal because of the milder winter.
- The Town worked with neighbors on Fox Farm Lane to come to an agreement whereby the Town contributes annually to maintenance of the beginning of the road up to the Olson Preserve.
- Kathleen Goetzman was hired as a part-time employee for the Town Office. Welcome Kathleen!
- The Select Board and Whitefield Elementary School have begun conversations about putting up a temporary skating rink on the Town-owned end of the soccer field in the Winter. More to come on that plan in the Fall; please let us know if you're interested in helping!

Your Neighbors Needed Help this Winter!

By Lise Hanners

I am sure you've all read about how hard the Covid-19 pandemic has been for people across the country with significant job loss and real struggles with day-to-day living, never mind the personal loss of loved ones. But I have wondered how our neighbors here in Whitefield have been faring. Yolanda Violette shared with the Select Board, a summary of emergency support needed in Whitefield, that begins to flesh out just how hard things have been locally. As context, each winter typically one or two families come to the Town looking for emergency General Assistance to help with the cost of heating fuel. This winter, 15 emergency requests for heat were made to the Town's heating assistance fund and one request was made for help with electric bills. Of those one-time requests, two were for a cord of firewood, seven requests were for heating fuel, two requests for K1, and four requests for propane. Demand for food at the Food Bank jumped from about 30 families a week to a high of about 47 this winter. That seems like an astonishing jump in help needed, and I am proud that Whitefield does so much to help residents. In addition, three donations were made to the Heating Assistance Fund as well as one cash donation to the Food Bank and a donation of eggs. We are not out of the woods yet on our collective recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, so I urge anyone with the wherewithal to consider making a donation to the Heating Fund or Food Bank to help your neighbors next winter!



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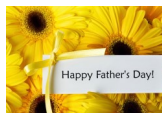


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JUNE 2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

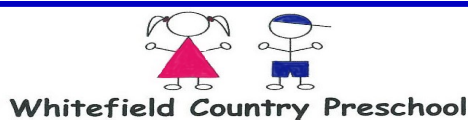
- 1st **KINGS MILLS UNION HALL MONTHLY MEETING** 7pm Union Hall
Public is welcome.
- 4th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
- 5th **TOWN MEETING**, Outside at the Whitefield School 10 am
COOPERS MILLS VFD ANNUAL BENEFIT HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT
registration 9AM, Games 10AM, Kennebec Valley Horseshoe
Tournament, Piggery Rd, Augusta For details – 485-0044
- 7th **ROADS COMMITTEE**, Central Fire Station, 4:00 pm
- 8th **SELECT BOARD** with Budget Committee 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 12th **FOREST WALK**, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Hidden Valley Nature Center, meet at
the Barn. Rain date Sunday the 13th
- 10th **RSU 12 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 6:30—9:00 pm**
- 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
NATURE WALK, 10-12 pm, Hidden Valley Nature Center
10TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMER SOLSTICE ICE CREAM SOCIAL the Sheepscot General
is celebrating a with live music, free ice cream, and fun for the whole family!
- 22th **SELECT BOARD** with Budget Committee at 7 pm Central Fire Station
- 26th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm



The volunteers for the Whitefield Newsletter would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Joan at the Whitefield Country Preschool. They have been supporting our newsletter, non stop since the beginning. (Next month begins our 9th year)

Joan contacted us to say that they would not be continuing their ad with us because they are closing their doors and retiring. Although your services will be sorely missed, we wish you all the best in your retirement and that you enjoy your much deserved time off! Thank you very much!

The Whitefield Newsletter
Crew



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2. Ford F-350 bumper. \$50 firm Call 485-3991
3. Plastic Gun cases, made in Italy. Took in trade. Inside case length 47", width 7.5" by handle. 4 slide latches. Brand new \$35 OBO Call 485-3991

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

Whitefield Newsletter Committee: Cheryl 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

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