



August Whitefield News

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Coopers Mills VFD Re-Visions Annual Benefit Auction

The Coopers Mills Volunteer Fire Department announces that it has elected to re-vision its annual benefit auction. As result, there will be no 2021 auction, though plans at this time are to resume the event in 2022.

Proceeds from the annual auction have funded the department's annual capital, operating and maintenance expenses, including providing major funding toward CMVFD's fire station rehabilitation project. As an independently incorporated organization, the Coopers Mills Volunteer Fire Department raises its own funds required to purchase and sustain its fire station and apparatus in support of its mission.

The ROMEOs are back

By Sue McKeen

In 2014 an article appeared in this newsletter about the "Senior Men". At that time this was a group of retired men who decided to get together at Sheepscot General to share stories, muffins, coffee, and camaraderie. But this group really had their roots at what used to be Country Farms Restaurant where they would meet every week and were subsequently dubbed, by one of the wait staff, the ROMEOs (RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT). In fact, the name became so popular they purchased their own hats sporting the acronym.

The genesis of the group in 1999 was the brain-child of the late Dot Howell, wife of the late Jay Howell when she suggested Jay start a men's club. It is the long-held belief that this was Dot's way of



Romeos 1999

finding Jay something to do.

Fast forward to 2021. During the pandemic the group stopped meeting. I recently spoke with Phil

Russell, who has been the spokesperson for the group. He told me that Frank Small, a long-time member, decided it was time to resume the Thursday morning weekly meetings. He approached Ben



Romeos 2021

Marcus at Sheepscot General who, as is

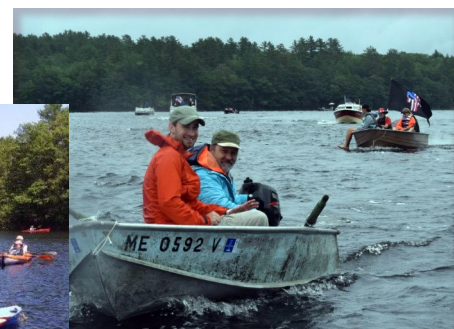
his way, made room for the ROMEOs in their newly designed café. Phil told me, "Anyone is welcome. We don't care what kind of coffee you drink or who you are." Phil went on to stress, "But, we don't want any hurt feelings, so no conversations about politics or religion".

I stopped in on a Thursday to see for myself. I was warmly greeted by Phil Russell, Robert DeLisle, Frank Small, Sandy Waters, David Jewett, Ed Maguire, Owen Merrill, George Jordan and Keith Sanborn. I assured the group I wouldn't try to join. The hats were on, the buzz was at full throttle. And now, every Thursday morning at 10:00 tables are pushed together, baked goods and coffee consumed, and conversations abound. The ROMEOs are back in the house.

Fourth of July, it was a wet one

For the second holiday in a row this season, the heavens rained on all our respective parades. The "cruise", organized by Jerret Condon, did have a few hearty souls who, despite the rain, ported smiles and lots of noise from the fire trucks. Thanks to Jerret for organizing this event – no one can predict the weather.

The Clary Lake Boat regatta also saw several die-hard sailors out on the lake showing their stuff with signs and decorations. This is the second year Shanna Pease has organized this event and it appears to be a keeper. Here are a few highlights.



Whitefield School opens August 31; What's in store for the upcoming year?

By Sue McKeen

I recently spoke with Mark Deblois, principal at the Whitefield Elementary School about what parents and students might expect in the upcoming school year. The burning question is, of course, to mask or not to mask. Another of the many challenges facing how schools will open this year is the fact that the COVID 19 vaccine is not yet available to children under 12. As of this writing, according to Deblois, each district will meet in committee to discuss how to approach this very difficult issue. He said he expects the RSU to meet soon to establish protocols that will be fair to all students while providing safety precautions.

The Whitefield School will continue supplying free school meals for the upcoming year. Deblois explained that in March of 2020, during the pandemic, the USDA allowed free school meals to be provided to all students, including breakfasts and lunches. This practice was extended until August of 2021. He said a recently passed law in Maine (part of the operating budget) has provided funds to continue to provide free

school meals to any student who wishes to have one and that



Maine and California are the only two states in the US to provide this for their students. He said, "Lack of nutritious foods for children is a clear detriment to their ability to access their education." In order to access the program, he said that while no application or qualifying document will be required for a child to receive free meals at Whitefield School this coming year, all parents are greatly encouraged to complete the "Free / Reduced Lunch" application because a school district's federal grant levels are determined by the number of families who qualify for free and/or reduced lunches under the federal guidelines. These grants provide our schools with important supportive programs and materials so all families are asked to file their applications. He said, "We're all eager to provide our students with a normal and productive school year and are dedicated to doing the hard work to make this happen."

Whitefield Library Book and Yard Sale a big success

The weather looked questionable, the library was full of treasures waiting to be sold at the yard sale, the crew was holding their collective breaths.

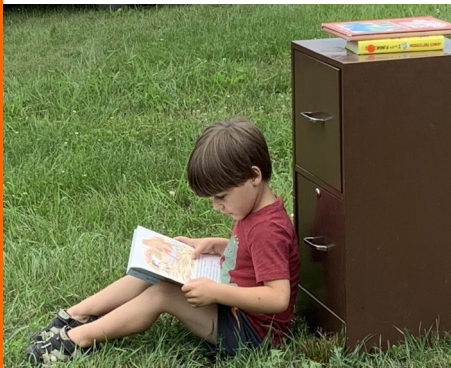
But the rain held off and the sale was on with first comers arriving before 9:00. The first thing to go was a hand lawn mower, snapped up by one of our Amish friends and then it was off to the races. It was busy all day, the weather cooperated, and the community really came out to support their library. Thanks to all who attended.



Caption. Erik Ekholm takes a break at the yard sale
Photo by Sue McKeen

Currently the library is waiting for their public use permit. The plan is to

open in the beginning of September. Although this is much later than we had anticipated, the goal is to open to the community, showcase our wide selection of books and show off just what can be done when everyone pitches in. Stay tuned. The doors will be open soon. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and visit us at www.whitefieldlibrary.org.



Lovely Chalk Art by Donna Wenkus, an employee at Sheepscot General.

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Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



From the Whitefield Historical Society Archives, Gift of Phil Russell.

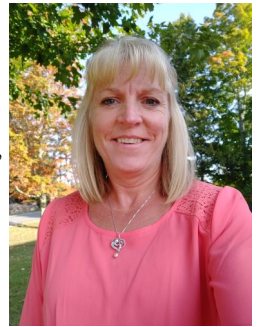
Women's Recreation, 1890's. Three young ladies in their bustle dresses and stylish hats seem to be about to climb aboard their cycles and pedal off down the road. How, you wonder, can they ride a cycle in such a costume? But actually, they didn't go anywhere. This is a studio photo, the 19th century version of Photoshop. Hidden behind each cycle was a young man supporting it. The first woman on the left is Miriam Castner Peaslee who lived at 241 Head Tide Road in a house that was later owned by Richard Russell. Her sister is in the middle. The third woman is unidentified.

Whitefield's "Big Dig" is making speedy progress! Head Tide Road may be closed, but activity has been brisk this month. New culverts lining Perham Brook (which flows into the Sheepscot River) are replacing the 35+ year old metal ones that had rusted away over the years.



Town News—A Year in Review

Wow, August, it's hard to believe that half the summer has gone by and that I have been working for the Town of Whitefield for a year already. What a Wonderful year it has been working here! As I sit here and reflect back on the year, I will try to inform you of some of the many different processes in a town office. I had said in my interview I was up for a challenge, coming from working in a smaller municipality for 13 years to Whitefield, which is 3 times the size. Well I got that on the second day in the office, I got a call from the auditor stating we had an audit to begin. Then we go into our tax commitment time, the time to send tax bills to all the landowners. Then preparing for the largest Presidential Election in history in the middle of a pandemic. We then move onto budget season where the Select Board prepare the warrant articles to put in front of the Town's people for our upcoming fiscal year at a town meeting. They work hard to be conservative of the tax payer's monies and look at projects that need to be completed. Budget Committee then analyzes what the Board puts together and give their recommendations. The Annual Reports are then prepared and printed for all to have. As March rolls along, we hold our municipal election and normally our Town Meeting. Due to Covid-19 restrictions still in place the Town Meeting was held in June this year.



Well, I conquered the audit over many months, as for the Presidential Election that is something I enjoy doing, although it was a lot of work with all the specific laws to follow, it's enjoyment to see (this year for me, to meet) everybody. I will say I couldn't have done it without the help of my office staff and poll workers, Thank You All, You Rock! Budget season is fairly easy, extra meetings, for me this time it was learning the process that is used here. Thank you Budget Committee for your time. The annual report takes many hours of work to prepare to go to print. Thank you Tina for the bulk of the work load on it. We hope you enjoy it. We got through the Municipal Election with a breeze. Then we end with the Annual Town Meeting, that was a fairly short and a smooth meeting this year. Thank you to all those that attended.

That is just a list of the few things that are part of the process to run a Town. You can look at it like the 4 seasons, spring, summer, fall and winter. Municipalities have seasons as well... Liens, Tax Commitment, Audit, Election, Budget, Annual Report, Assessing, Municipal Election, Town Meeting, etc. that happen at specific times of each year.

There are many committees of volunteers here in Whitefield that help the town. If you have time to spare and would like to help your town thrive, reach out to me and let me know what talent you have that could help us out. Also we have a wonderful group of Select Board currently, Thank you for your time serving the community!

I have met many people over the last year and hope to meet many more over the next year(s). Please stop by and introduce yourself if you haven't done so yet. It has been a pleasure to work here in Whitefield. Thank you Select Board for choosing me and giving me the opportunity to serve as the Administrative Assistant for the town. I was up for a challenge, I got it and I'm conquering it! Visit our website at: <https://townofwhitefield.com/> for up to date information and you can subscribe to receive notifications when the website is updated with something new or send me an email and ask to be put on our email list for when I send out notices.

Yolanda Violette



Town of Whitefield is Hiring
Part time Office Clerk – 15 hours a week
Cleaning Person – One day a week, 2-3 hours.

Inquire at the Town Office

AUGUST 2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

- 2nd **ROADS COMMITTEE**, Central Fire Station, 4:00 pm
COOPERS MILLS FIRE DEPT. All are welcome. No obligation. 7 pm
KINGS MILLS FIRE DEPT., 7 pm
- 3rd **SELECT BOARD** 6 pm Central Fire Station
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL MONTHLY MEETING 7pm Union Hall
 Public is welcome.
- 5th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
PADDLE ON DAMARISCOTTA LAKE, August 5, 4-6 pm
 (207) 389-5150 <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/>
- 6th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
- 7th **KINGS MILLS UNION HALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS** at 7pm, Public is welcome
NATURE JOURNALING, Hidden Valley Nature Center, August 7, 1-4 pm
 (207) 389-5150 <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/>
- 9th **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 11th **FORESTRY WALK AND TALK** at Hidden Valley Nature Center : Learn about how to manage forest trails, maintain water quality, improve forest stands and encourage wildlife habitat 11:30am For more information or to register, check out our website at <https://www.knox-lincoln.org/events-workshops/forestry-walk-and-talk> or call 596-2040
- 12th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
RSU 12 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 6:30—9:00 pm
- 14th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
- 17th **SELECT BOARD** at 6 pm Central Fire Station
WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
- 18th **PLANNING BOARD**, Town Office 7:30 pm
- 19th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
PADDLE ON DAMARISCOTTA LAKE, August 19, 4-6 pm
 (207) 389-5150 <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/>
- 20th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
FULL MOON PADDLE HVNC, August 20, 7:30-9:30 pm
- 21st **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
MOUNTAIN BIKE CLINIC, HVNC, August 21, 2-4 pm
 (207) 389-5150 <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/>
NATURE WORKSHOP: BUG SAFARI, HVNC, August 21, 10 am -12 pm
 (207) 389-5150 <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/>
- 23th **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, Town House, 10:30 am
- 24th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
- 26th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
- 27th **Natasha Mayers Film Screening** at Sheepscot General, 5:30-9:30 pm
 Free film screening of *Natasha Mayers: an unStill Life*, a new documentary profiling our art activist neighbor down the road. The film has been chosen for multiple film festivals, including the Maine International Film Festival and is one of the winners of the Made Here Film Festival . Film begins at 8 pm
- 28th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
JAZZ IN THE WOODS, HVNC, August 28, 4-6 pm
 (207) 389-5150 <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/>
RISE THE RAILS TO HIKE THE TRAILS, Alna, August 28, 11 am - 2 pm
 (207) 389-5150 <https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/>
- 31st **SELECT BOARD** at 6 pm Central Fire Station



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5. Ford F-350 bumper. \$50 firm Call 485-3991

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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