



Whitefield News

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Masks are back in school for now but continue to be a moving target

By Sue McKeen

It seems like just a few short months ago, weeks even, it looked like a return to normalcy for the upcoming school year. Not so fast, with the Delta variant numbers rising, and especially high in Lincoln County at this time, the RSU 12 school board has voted to start the year with staff and students fully masked.

I spoke with principal Mark Deblois who told me, "The members of the School Board committee felt passionately about it. It was a long

and difficult discussion with the result that we will begin the school year with a mask mandate for all staff and students within the school building as well as anyone entering the building." He pointed out that the Department of Education recommends the mask mandate and most schools are following suit. Deblois was quick to point out that many people will be upset about the mandate but stressed that as conditions change the RSU board will reevaluate the mandate. He said the Board will be revisiting the policy monthly and make adjustments during the year when conditions permit as this continues to be a moving target.

He told me volunteers will be welcome back in the building and, like staff and students, must follow protocol. He said, "By having a mask mandate, if a positive case is found in the classroom, the mandate will limit the number of kids who might have to quarantine as long as the protocols have been followed – masking and keeping a three-foot distance from others. This will allow us to keep a greater number of kids in school without having to quarantine a whole classroom at a time. The new CDC guidelines allow more flexibility. We will

have the ability to do rapid testing for any kids who might show symptoms. We will also be offering pool testing and hope that both parents and staff will



voluntarily participate."

Although this isn't the way Deblois had hoped to start the new school year, he is optimistic. He said many of the things the school had to close last year are back, including the cafeteria salad bar and school sports. He said, "Nobody likes wearing a mask, but our students have proven in the past they can handle it well. With everyone's help, we can have many more in-person days this year and get back to the business of education and kids being kids."

September 12th is Maine Apple Sunday

Come Celebrate Maine Apple
Sunday with us at
Bailey's Orchard!

Free apple squares

Apple prize drawings.

Amish Buggy Accidents on the Rise

By Keith Sanborn

We've had a rash of Amish buggy accidents lately. I found this list of rules to follow online ("*Drive Safely in Amish Country*," Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health) and was thinking it may be good to put something like this in our newsletter. These rules do not apply just to Amish buggies. We have tractors, tractors pulling hay wagons, trucks pulling hay wagons and other slow moving vehicles on our roads. These rules apply to all. Please be careful on our roads.

Slow down If you are approaching a tractor, hay wagon or horse and buggy, leave plenty of room to pass where it is safe and allow at least 20 feet in front of a horse before returning to the travel lane.



Do not follow too closely Hay wagons and Horse and buggy drivers may not be able to see you behind them.

Leave plenty of space This space between your vehicle and a wagon or horse and buggy gives you time to react.

When stopped at a stop sign or stoplight, stay back Buggies often roll back a few feet after coming to a complete stop.

Do not blow your horn or race your engine when passing Horses can be unpredictable and are easily spooked.

Buggy drivers may use hand signals Buggies will merge toward the center when making a left-hand turn. Drivers will often use turn signals or hand gestures to alert motorists.

Horses may not have reflective harnessing At night, buggies may be illuminated but the horse may be dark without reflective harnessing and can be difficult to see.

Passing Buggies Buggies will drive as close to the right side of the road as they can, but that should not be an invitation to pass

them in the middle of the road. Passing should always be done as far from the buggy as possible and only in perfect circumstances. Never pass a buggy when approaching the top of a hill or in other situations where it's difficult to know if traffic is coming from the other direction.

Fresh Manure If you see fresh horse manure in the road it probably means there is a horse & buggy not too far ahead.

Amish Message to Whitefield as the Town Seeks to Reduce Accidents

We, as a community, try to go on the road with respect for cars and trucks, etc., and we also want to thank the Whitefield Selectmen, the DOT Department, and the Sheriff's Department for their support. We all want to do our part on the road, and also want to thank everyone who comes up behind us for their patience and support. Thank you, Thank you,
Signed: A Member of the Amish Community

Whitefield Library News

As of this writing, the library is still awaiting our public access permit from the Fire Marshall's office. While we had planned to be open by now, because of the pandemic, there is an enormous backlog of projects at the Fire Marshall's Office. We continue to wait patiently in line.

The Geezer Gang continues their outstanding work. As you drive by you'll see that almost all of the clapboards have been installed on the East side of the building. The gang is finishing up the new porch entry where I understand Erik Ekholm will have a permanent rocking chair installed. Next up is the much-needed storage shed, shingling on the South side, and then constructing the second-floor emergency exit and stairway.

A big thank you to author Craig Grossi, author of *Craig and Fred* and *Second Chances*, for donating the proceeds from the sale of his books at a fundraiser generously hosted by Sheepscot General.

Volunteers are furiously cataloguing books and to date have catalogued 3600 books, which is a little over half of the books currently in the library. We have a cheery working bathroom and kitchenette, complete with appliances. The library looks like a most welcoming space and we are anxious for the community to visit.

While we don't want to project a date, as we seem to have learned our lesson there, we can guarantee a community open house as soon as the ink dries on the permit. Your continued support is appreciated. The wait will be well worth it. Our next Board meeting is Monday, September 13 at 10:00 at the library. We welcome your participation.



Town Office News

It's hard to believe Fall is right around the corner, September 22nd to be exact. With Fall in mind, that means tax bills will be coming out soon too. They will be sent out near the end of September to beginning of October. The first half will be due November 30, 2021 and the second half will be due April 29, 2022. Keep in mind if two larger payments is hard to come up with, you can always mail in smaller amounts on a monthly basis and as long as the half is paid in full by the due date then no interest will be charged.

The Select Board will be looking to hold a Special Town Meeting in early September to decide where to appropriate funds from for the completion of Leonard's Bridge Culvert Replacement Project, which we are in hopes to have completed by the end of November. The date and time for the Special Town Meeting will be set at the August 31st Select Board Meeting. It will be posted at the Town Office, the local convenient stores, the LC News, the website and an email will be sent out. If you would like to be on our email list, call Yolanda at the town office to sign up or email her at townwhitefieldadm@gmail.com

I just want to say Thank you to those that responded to my letter that was sent out in April to those that did not receive the homestead exemption. I received many applications back, over 80, but many still do qualify that have not submitted them to the office. When you receive your tax bill this will be reflected in the top right hand box. All though the deadline of July 30th, due to Covid-19 EO #31 FY 19/20, has passed for eligibility on this year's taxes, you can still submit it and it will be applied to next year's taxes. The deadline to submit applications is always April 1st. The same goes for Veterans Exemption, Blind, Tree Growth, Open Space, etc.

My staff and I are working on clarifying all our tax accounts in our database, if you could assist us by reviewing your tax bill, once received, and look at all the information on it especially to see if your name(s) and address are correct and current, also the book and page (should have a date after of it). If not, contact me to discuss any discrepancies you see. It is important to keep us updated with changes of addresses you may have to ensure tax bills and any other mailings reach you properly.

If your property was sold after April 1, 2021, the tax bills that will be sent out at the end of September will still be in the previous owner's name. If you are the new owner, you may contact the Town Office for a copy of the tax bill.

Election time is just around the corner as well. We are now accepting applications for absentee ballots for the November 2, 2021 Referendum Election. There are three ways you can request and absentee ballot: stop by the town office to request in person, call the town office to request over the phone or use the online Absentee Ballot request service on the maine.gov website at <https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>

We encourage wearing a mask when entering the Town Office to ensure everybody's safety.

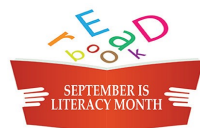
The Town Office will be CLOSED on Monday September 6th, in Observance of Labor Day!

Enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Yolanda Violette, Administrative Assistant

Young at Heart Club meetings resume

For many years, on the third Wednesday of each month, the Young at Heart Club has been meeting at the Lion's Club in Coopers Mills for some good conversation, friendship and a great meal. During the past year and one-half, the pandemic kept its members from getting together. According to Debbie Gray, spokesperson for the Club, "This is a senior citizens' group (over 50) and anyone who would like to attend we request that you bring either a salad, dessert or main dish to share. It's a time for fellowship with people who live in the area. After lunch we will be having a silent auction and you are welcome to bring an item to donate to the auction. The Club will meet September 15, October 20, November 17 and the first Wednesday in December at noon at the Coopers Mills Lion's Club." For more information, please call Debbie at 445-4930.



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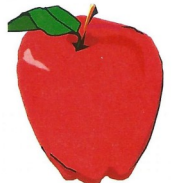
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Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



Summer Boarders, early 1900s. While wealthy city folk had discovered the Maine coast and other resorts as an escape from the summer heat and diseases of the industrializing cities in the 1800s, by the early 1900's those of more modest means traveled to the countryside, especially to rural towns where there was often a family or friendly connection. This photo was taken at the Artell Felt residence at 185 Pittston Road where Paul Marcus lives now. According to the late Larry Felt, the visitors commonly took a steamboat from Boston up the Kennebec River to Gardiner where they were met by a family member and transported to Whitefield in a horse and buggy. The two women standing behind the dog are, left to right, Kate Leonard Morse (later Comeau) and Margaret Grogan Felt. Kate and Margaret were orphans who came to Whitefield together when they were children and remained close friends the rest of their lives. Kate devoted her life to nursing and in 1923 started the Cottage Hospital at 571 Town House Road which specialized in obstetrics and minor surgeries until 1938. (House burned in 2017.) Margaret married Artell Felt, Larry's grandfather.

WHS Archives, Gift of Larry Felt.

Jump Into Fall -- Craft and Vendor Event

St. Giles Episcopal Church in Jefferson is hosting a festive outdoor event September 18 on its property under the pines at 72 Gardiner Road. The event, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., aims to raise money for the church and its outreach programs, and to bring the wider community together.

Up to 40 craft and vendor tables are available for \$20 per table. Vendors will keep all the proceeds from their sales.

In addition, an auction of several spectacular items will be held including a three night stay for up to five people on a fully equipped houseboat in Robin Hood harbor.

Many other items will be raffled off, at a cost of five dollars a ticket or six tickets for twenty, including pizzas for a year, passes to the Camden Ski Bowl, preventative dental care, and visits to local hair salons.

The Lunchbox Food Truck will provide a variety of food choices and drinks and St. Giles parishioners will host their usual homemade pie sale and book sale.

In case of rain, the event will take place the following day, Sunday, September 19. For further information, or to reserve a table, call 207-549-7872.



Select Board Corner

June 15-August 15, 2021

By Lise Hanners

Below are issues of likely interest to the residents of Whitefield from the Select Board meetings of the previous two months. 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.

- Representatives of the Economic Development Committee in Whitefield received consensus approval from the Board to move forward with using \$93,000 of American Rescue Funds coming to the Town to expand broadband services to the remaining unserved roads in Town. Spectrum is willing to work with the Town and will provide the \$137,000 for the project.
- The Town will be contracting with a handyman to do various projects in and around Town properties. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in working with the Town, please let Yolanda Violette in Town Office know!
- The Board approved the construction of wooden walkways at the door entrances to Town Office. These will be installed after the parking area at Town Office is paved. Paving the parking area at Town Office will begin Wednesday, July 28. In addition, wooden gables will be built over the entrances this summer to protect residents from the elements and snow and ice falling from the roof.
- Yolanda Violette reported that lighting in 4 Town buildings has been replaced with LEDs. She applied for funding from Efficiency Maine and received \$1429 which meant the Town only paid \$39 for whole project. Good work Yolanda!
- The Roads Committee with Select Board member Keith Sanborn have made great progress on the replacement of the Leonard's Bridge culvert on South Hunt's Meadow Road. The Town has received notice that the replacement will be treated as an emergency which expedites the permitting process considerably. The culvert will be replaced with a larger aluminum pipe which has been ordered. Five contractors have submitted bids to do the work which should be completed in the October/November time frame. The winning bid will be identified at the next Board meeting and a Special Town Meeting will be called to approve construction. Making progress!
- Sheriff Todd Bracket came in to speak to the Board about the recent collisions between Amish buggies and motorists. The Sheriff was seeking input on ideas to minimize risk and get the word out to remind motorists to slow down and watch for buggies. Recent collisions have occurred during the day and appear to be the result of impatient motorists or speeding where visibility is poor. The Sheriff will launch a month-long campaign to call attention to this issue and will erect digital signs similar to those on I-295 with catchy messages and will put up posters to call attention to the issue. The Sheriff's observations were that the Amish are doing the best they can to be careful and avoid collisions. The Amish are very appreciative of most motorists going wide and slowly around the horse and residents are being very friendly.

Community Cares Day in Whitefield!

By Lise Hanners

CHIP Inc, the Community Housing Improvement Project will be sponsoring a workday in Whitefield on September 11, 2021, this year. CHIP serves residents in central/eastern Lincoln County and provides help with heating and home repairs. Whitefield Cares! is teaming up with CHIP to provide volunteers to work on projects including weatherproofing, window and door repairs, and other projects. At each property where we work, we will provide a team leader who can direct everyone to the tasks of the day. We are looking for both skilled volunteers who work more independently and unskilled workers who can follow directions given! If you need home repairs or know someone who could use help, please call 207-677-3450 and CHIP will try to address your needs in September. If you are interested in volunteering for the workday, please email lisehanners@gmail.com and we'll add you to our team!

SEPTEMBER 2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

- 2nd **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
 3rd **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
 6th **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
 7th **SINGING CIRCLE** has been re-initiated at Inn Along the Way in Damariscotta, on Tuesdays at 1-3 pm. <https://www.innalongtheway.org>
KINGS MILLS UNION HALL MONTHLY MEETING 7pm Union Hall Public is welcome
 9th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
RSU 12 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 6:30—9:00 pm
 11th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
 12th **MAINE APPLE SUNDAY** Come Celebrate Maine Apple Sunday with us at Bailey's Orchard! Free apple squares and Apple prize drawings.
IDENTIFYING NEW ENGLAND'S EDIBLE AND MEDICINAL MUSHROOMS
 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
 Hidden Valley Nature Center (207) 389-5150
 13th **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
 14th **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
SELECT BOARD at 6 pm Central Fire Station
 15th **PASTURE MANAGEMENT WALK AND TALK** at Sheepscot Valley Farm: Learn about grazing and pasture management and best practices to ensure water quality along the Sheepscot River
<https://www.knox-lincoln.org/pasture-management> 11-1 pm
YOUNG AT HEART, Seniors Pot Luck, 12 pm Debbie 445-4930
PLANNING BOARD, Town Office 7:30 pm
 16th **ME DEP'S BASIC AND ADVANCED EROSION CONTROL PRACTICES CERTIFICATION** training, Union Town Office, 8:00-4:30 pm 596-2040,
julie@knox-lincoln.org.
SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS) 10 am Sheepscot General
 18th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
ST. GILES FALL FESTIVAL, 10-2 pm. See article on Pg. 3
 19th **2021 LIVE EDGE MUSIC FESTIVAL** HVNC 11:30-6 PM
<https://www.midcoastconservancy.org/events/2020-live-edge-music-festival/>
FULL MOON PADDLE HVNC, 6:30-8:30 pm (207) 389-5150
 20th **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, Town House, 10:00 am
WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
 21st **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
 23th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
 25th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
RACE THROUGH THE WOODS -8-2 pm HVNC (207) 389-5150
 28th **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
SELECT BOARD at 6 pm Central Fire Station
 30th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General



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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.

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