



Thankful

# Whitefield News

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## Goodbye to the Chief

By Sue McKeen

I first met Scott Higgins, as owner of Higgins Appliance, when I called him in a panic to come fix my 25-year-old washing machine. He showed up, didn't remind me how ancient my machine was, and promptly fixed it. We've been friends ever since.

I sat down with Scott to talk about his years as a firefighter and then chief. Scott told me he was born in Winthrop where as a kid he and his friends would jump on their bikes when the fire whistle rang and speed down to the station hoping to catch the roar and activity of the trucks racing to a fire. But, he told me, he never had any aspirations to be a firefighter. He wanted to be a pilot. To that end he attended Emory Riddle and Air Force ROTC. Back in 1979, Scott recalls, everyone wanted to be a pilot. He eventually returned to Winthrop where he worked for Dave's Appliance and married his wife Kathy. It was at that same time he first became a firefighter for the Winthrop Fire Department where he quickly advanced in the ranks.

In 1986 Lewis Jones, owner of Jones Hardware and Appliance in Windsor, approached Scott to come work for him and when Jones retired in 1993 Scott decided to buy the business. Scott recalls that on the day before Christmas, with a wife and four little kids, Scott made the leap and purchased the business he and Kathy continue to run as Higgin's Appliance, now only doing appliance repair. When Scott moved to Windsor, he was immediately recruited by the Windsor Fire Department. But Coopers Mills had other plans for Scott. The late Scott Mason, then Deputy Chief at

Coopers Mills, contacted Scott, he came to a meeting and never left. Scott recalls they were just "my guys, my kind of people." When Chief Billy Pass left the department, Scott took over as chief with Jim Brann as Town Fire Chief.

We talked about Whitefield's transition from three associations to a municipal department back in 2010. He recalls this was a difficult time, but "the guys all came around and got the job done, like they always do."

And now, 28 years after Scott first walked into the Coopers Mills Fire Station, he has decided to hang up his gear. We talked about what's ahead for fire departments and how he plans to spend his time.

Scott told me, "Back then, if you wanted to become a firefighter, we'd just give you a pair of boots and ask you if you could drive a truck. That's all changed now, the regulations and administrative duties make it almost a fulltime job." We talked about the lack of firefighters.

Scott said, "Fire fighting is going to change, we are using mutual aid more than ever. When that fire whistle goes off, I just pray someone in town is around to answer the call, but more than likely there isn't or if we're lucky, one or two firefighters might be available, and we have to rely on mutual aid."

We talked about volunteers and why *Continued on Page 2*



## Chicken Pie Sale for Kings Mills Union Hall

We're sorry to say that in the interest of the health and safety of the community in regard to COVID, Kings Mills Union Hall will not be having its Annual Chicken Pie Supper.

However, we will be making our traditional all meat chicken pies to sell on a pre order basis. Pies will be \$20 each. Please call Jennifer Grady at 549-3170 to place your order. The chicken pies will be made on Saturday November 6th and ready for pickup on Sunday November 7th between 12 and 2:00 PM at the Union Hall, on Townhouse Road.

The organically raised and processed chickens are being donated by Chrissy and Ryan Wilson, Commonwealth Poultry, in Gardiner.



## Scholastic Book Fair

Whitefield School will be having a book fair that will run from November 22 until Dec.

3. Go to the school's website or Facebook page and use the link to go to the book fair and order online. We will also be offering two nights (Nov. 22 & 23rd) with after school opportunities to come in personally from 3:00-6:30 pm, - you will need to schedule a time by contacting

Clarissa Howard at [choward@srsu.org](mailto:choward@srsu.org).



**Higgins From Pg. 1** younger people don't come forward. He said, "Of course many work several jobs and have families. But one key reason is we used to draw firefighters from town, who also worked in town, either in small business or on the farms and when that fire whistle went off, we'd have several guys show up. That was when we were more of a farming community. Now we're a bedroom community and we have maybe two or three people respond. Right now we have 15 active fire fighters, including me." The fire department is advertising for volunteers and trying to think of ways to entice people to join. And they're not alone, this is a problem everywhere.

We got around to talking about his future after fire fighting for so many years. I asked him if he'll miss it. He said, "I won't miss all the administrative work, I'll miss the people and it's been great working with the town. This is a family, we all care about each other no matter what differences we might have."

I must admit here, I told Scott I don't see him staying quiet for long, he's a leader after all and that's not what leaders do. When I asked if he's done with firefighting, his eyes twinkled and he said, "Maybe not." He said, "I'd like to be part of finding a path forward for fire departments. But that's down the road, at least two months." Right now, he says, "I plan to fish a little, hunt a little, and just see where I go." In parting Scott said, "I've enjoyed being the Chief of our organization. It has been an honor to lead this group of people. I will miss it immensely."

And Chief Higgins, we will surely miss you.

## Donate to Support Your Neighbors

By Lise Hanners

Last winter the Town of Whitefield received many more requests than usual to the Heating Assistance Fund for support with wood, heating fuel, K1, and propane. Normally the Town receives 1-2 requests per winter and last year 15 requests were supported. Happily, the Town also received 3 donations to the Heating Fund as well as a cash donation and egg donation to the Food Pantry. We have every reason to expect that funds will be tight for our residents this year, and hope that you will consider donating to either the Heating Fund and/or the Food Pantry to allow these valuable services to continue. If you need more information, please bring your donation to Town Office, or call Yolanda Violette at 549-5175. Thanks!



## Whitefield Cider Options

By Tony Marple

There are at least two great options in town to get cider and there may be others.

Rodney Bailey has been making cider for 46 years from his large, well-managed orchard. He and his wife, Kay have been retired for 21 years, but used to work full time and also manage their orchard on the North Hunts Meadow Rd. Their children Mark and Margo also work there which is great because Bailey's Orchard is quite



short staffed during a robust crop year. They use a large electric apple crusher and press and sell around 2,500 gallons a year. Because they sell commercially, they use a UV machine to sterilize the cider. They use three to five types of apples in the mix. Right now those are Macintosh, Cortlands and Paula Reds and the mixture changes over the season.

As you know, Bailey's Orchard is great.

Four years ago John Miller and his son Jerry started a different kind of cider operation next to where they live on the Mills Rd. In their operation, you bring your own apples and they crush and press them to make cider in gallon or half gallon jugs. Hand crushing and pressing apples is quite a workout, but they use small gas engines to drive their equipment making it way easier.

The number of gallons the Millers produce was 1,500 the first year and this year it could end up at 25-30,000 because of large orchard owners from out of town bringing truckloads of apples. Jerry said he's thinking about expanding his cider shed to deal with the growth. When I was there recently, a couple with an orchard in Winslow was there with many big boxes of apples, looking very pleased as Jerry and his sister Patty worked through the process, carefully slicing off portions of apples with rot or other problems and tossing the bad ones.

If you have a lot of apples and don't have a cider press, this is a great option and they are a really nice family.



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# Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



**Cornhusking, ca 1910**, was a task to be done every fall to preserve the crop for the winter. But note the clothing: the ladies in white dresses and fancy hats and the men in ties with fedoras. This was no common work bee but a fall festival event. We don't know much about this tradition so if any of you have any memory or knowledge or family story about it, please let the Whitefield Historical Society know. Also note the beautifully woven baskets and the scale in the background to weigh the product of their labors. *WHS Archives Gift of Lore Ford III*

## Town News

Fall is upon us. Election day is near, November 2, 2021 Polls will be Open 8 am – 8 pm State Referendum Election. Tax Bills went out on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the first half is due November 30, 2021. If you did not receive your tax bill please contact us here at the Town Office. Dog Licenses are now available for the 2022 Dog Licensing year, \$6 spayed/neutered, \$11 non-altered. You must bring current rabies and neutered certificate if it is a new dog to Whitefield. Snowmobile registrations are now available for the upcoming 21-22 winter season, the registration fee is \$55 for Residents and \$119 for Non-Residents. Hunting/Fishing Licenses for 2022 will be available to purchase starting on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you to our Road Committee for volunteering their time, over the long weekend of October 9 – 11<sup>th</sup>, installing the new walkways at the Town Office Entrances.

**Congratulations to Fire Chief Scott Higgins and THANK YOU for your years of service to the Town of Whitefield.** Whitefield Fire Chief Scott Higgins has retired after 40 years of service to his community. Thank you for his expertise and dedication to keeping his neighbors safe.

Keep in mind, as the cold weather sets in, we have a Heating Assistance Fund that is always accepting financial donations, to help those in need of Heating Assistance. Send donations to the Town Office.

November 5<sup>th</sup>, last day to submit bids for the Tax Acquired Property posted. FMI checkout our website  
<https://townofwhitefield.com/2021/10/12/tax-acquired-property-for-sale/>

## Town Office will be Closed

Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Day

Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Friday

Yolanda Violette

Administrative Assistant, Town Clerk & Treasurer

## Select Board Corner

September 15 – October 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.

The Board received information from the Town Attorney, Mary Dennison, regarding the closure Weary Pond Road. Her opinion was that the Town of Whitefield has no current ownership, easement rights, or maintenance obligations in the discontinued portion of the road. However, she also reviewed the process for creating a public easement provided by Jennifer Grady and agreed that the process is accurate if the Town wishes to move forward with this approach. The Attorney's remarks have been forwarded to the interested neighbors and the Select Board may appoint a Town Committee to investigate the details and make a recommendation to the Board, for consideration at a subsequent Town Meeting.

Yolanda Violette has submitted a request for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the Town of Whitefield. The Town is eligible to receive a total of \$204,804 over two years. The first request was to support providing broadband internet to unserved roads in Town under an agreement with Spectrum, whereby the Town and Spectrum share the expense. This agreement was negotiated by the Town Economic Development Committee who have been working on this issue for several years but needed funding. Projects under consideration for ARPA funding must provide a benefit to the public and provide an economic benefit. More to come on additional projects.

Fireman Ben Caron has agreed to serve as the Interim Fire Chief for Whitefield after Scott Higgins retires. A search for a new Fire Chief will be conducted by Yolanda Violette at Town Office.

## New Look!

Coopers Mills Volunteer Fire Department would like to share

our new look. After years of fundraising, and completely rehabbing the inside of the station, The outside has caught up. The

new siding, installed by Central Maine Siding (a locally owned business) will keep the building tight and looking good for years to come with minimal maintenance expense. A big thanks to all our supporters.



## NOVEMBER 2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

- 1st** **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
- 2nd** **SINGING CIRCLE** 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
- 4th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
- 5th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
- 8th** **WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 9th** **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm  
**SELECT BOARD** at 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 11th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General  
**RSU 12 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** 6:30—9:00pm
- 13th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
- 14th** **WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL** Midcoast Conservancy virtual event, 4-6 pm
- 15th** **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, Town House, 10:00 am
- 16th** **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
- 17th** **YOUNG AT HEART**, Seniors Pot Luck, 12 pm  
 Debbie 445-4930  
**PLANNING BOARD**, Town Office 7:30 pm
- 18th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
- 20th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
- 23rd** **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm  
**SELECT BOARD** at 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 25th** **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
- 27th** **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
- 30th** **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm



### Sheepscot General Artisan Market

*Beginning mid-November, Sheepscot General will feature handmade arts and crafts from local artists, providing you the opportunity to purchase locally crafted gifts.*

*The Artisan Market will be open during store hours for approximately six weeks; plenty of time to finish your holiday shopping!*

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

Email [whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com](mailto:whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com)

1. Complete set of National Geographic magazines from 1975 to 2020. Take all or some. FREE. Call Joanne 549-3062.
2. Yamaha PSR-47 keyboard (36"), excellent condition, with case. \$75. Please call 549-3323 and leave message.

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.

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