



Whitefield News

FREE Thanks to our advertisers

Volume 9, Issue 6

Published Monthly

December 2021

Sand for Walkways

By Lise Hanners

This seems like a distant issue right now but presumably winter is coming, and walkways will be slippery! If you would like a bucket of sand delivered to your house, Whitefield Cares! volunteers would be happy to help. If you're interested, please call Yolanda Violette at Town Office (549-5175).

Young At Heart

Our December meeting is on Dec. 1st. We plan early just in case of snow storms. If anyone wants to come Santa will be there and if anyone wants to participate there will be gift exchanges. If you are a woman bring a wrapped \$10 gift and if you are a man bring in a \$10 gift for a man.



Persistence and hard work pay off for The Whitefield Economic Development Committee

By Sue McKeen

Several years ago, two select board members held a public forum at Sheepscot General with the intent of finding the pulse of the town, how we see ourselves, how we wish to grow and how we can control our future. Out of that forum came several ideas but the most important was the overarching notion of how to preserve Whitefield's rural character.

At the 2016 town meeting, the Select Board developed a questionnaire outlining several committees the town proposed to form and asking townspeople to volunteer. These committees were the result of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan's initiative to develop a venue for municipal growth and development. Several people showed interest in helping Whitefield shape its future. One of them was Louis Sell, who volunteered for the Economic Development Committee and was ultimately elected chair.

Louis, as a teacher, a scholar and a writer was

the perfect choice for this task.

I recently sat down with Louis to talk about the committee, its mission and what has been accomplished since that first meeting in 2016. Louis said the first step was to send a town survey to businesses and citizens to ask what issues are important to

them. The response was not surprising. At the top of the list were access to high-speed internet and retaining our rural character. The committee developed their mission statement, "To encourage the creation of new and the growth of existing businesses in Whitefield while maintaining the town's rural character and other aspects of its quality of life." The committee then developed a brand which would promote the town in a positive way. "Whitefield Produces" was created, and Bill McKeen designed a map and

guide designating businesses and places of interest.

The work of the committee to seek grants for high-speed internet was a 5-year project. Louis told me, "Everyone contributed, and we were especially fortunate to have Karl

Continued on Pg. 2



Interested in a Community Skating Rink?

By Lise Hanners

The Town of Whitefield and the Whitefield Elementary School are interested in working jointly to create a community skating rink on the end of the baseball field nearest the Recycling Center. Mark Deblois, the principal of the school, has reached out to families of the school to assess interest and with this article we hope to do the same from residents of Whitefield. This rink would be temporary and inexpensive (plastic with framing), with access from the school property and the Recycling Center. Jamie Simpson, the Physical Education teacher, is excited at the possibilities this would present for student skating during the normal physical education periods as well as use outside school session. The school is interested in maintaining the rink (removing snow), but we will need help from residents to set up the plastic and frame and take it down after winter. In addition, we will need support for fund raising to cover the cost of materials (about \$600). If you are interested in assisting with this project, please contact Yolanda Violette at Town Office (549-5175).



SHARP Grant Awarded to Whitefield Library

Whitefield Library & Community Center is happy to announce that they were awarded a SHARP General Operating Support grant by the Maine Humanities Council! The awarded funds will help support the heating of the Whitefield Library. Remaining open year round has been one of their primary goals, and with this generous funding they will be able to do so this winter.



Development From Pg. 1 Richards, an IT professional and Steve Sheehy, a retired attorney, to help us along the way.” To assess the situation, the committee drove every road in town and were surprised to learn that most were served by high-speed internet cable. In fact, he explained, “We were not successful in applying for grants due to the fact that the town already had a lot of folks with access to internet. Unfortunately, those who did not, either because they lived on a road without cable or could not afford the service, fell between the cracks.” The committee worked for several years, attending meetings, researching and applying for grants, working with the regional planning office. All this work finally paid off. On November 9th, at a special town meeting, the town voted to approve the use of up to \$120,000 out of the American Rescue Plan Act funds with Spectrum paying \$137,000 in a build-out that will bring access to high-speed internet to virtually every road in Whitefield. This would not have been possible without the extensive and detailed work of the Economic Development Committee. Louis believes work on the project will begin next spring.

Louis said, “The benefits of broadband have become clear especially since COVID. Access is as vital as electricity was in the first part of the 20th century. The ability to offer expanded broadband coverage makes the town more attractive and will increase growth.”

We discussed Whitefield and how we see ourselves in the future. Louie said, “If we want to grow well, we need a good comprehensive plan and zoning in order to preserve the town’s rural character. If this is not done, at the end of the day we’ll wish we had.” He would like to see a member of the select board chair a comprehensive plan committee to review and update the plan which was passed by the town in 2005 but later sent back by the state for minor changes.

I asked Louis about his plans for the future. He told me he is stepping down as chair. He said, “I have lots of things I still want to do with what’s left of my life.” He intends to stay engaged until Spectrum completes their work. He went on to say, “I encourage people to engage in public service, it can make a difference. It can be time consuming and rewarding as well. At the end of the day, we all feel good when years of work bring a positive result.”

Thanks to the Economic Development Committee for all the years of good work. Karl Richards, Bill McKeen, Ann Roberts, Harriet Vaughn, Steve Sheehy, Tony Marple and their sparkplug, Louis Sell.



Whitefield Food Pantry Has Moved

The Whitefield Food Pantry needed to find a new home as the building we have been housed in for approximately 10 years was up for sale. We needed one with ease of access for our clients as well as our deliveries.

We have found such a place. The Calvary Baptist Church at 150 Grand Army Road has graciously opened their doors for us. Volunteers, including Jim Brann who did the electrical work, have renovated a storage room in the basement of the Baptist Church which will house our refrigeration units as well as non perishables. Pro Movers Service from



Earl Lemieux at the Whitefield Food Pantry, Cavalry Baptist Church

Winslow moved our refrigeration units. With the help of many volunteers we were able to move without any interruption in service to our clients.

Our **location** has changed : 150 Grand Army Road, but our **hours** will remain the same: first Friday of the month 10-2; 2nd, 3rd, 4th, (5th) Saturday from 10-12. We will be located in the basement of the church. We provide fresh produce from local farmers, Sheepscot General Store and Farm, and Twin Village Farm in Damariscotta. We also get deliveries from Damariscotta Hannaford as well as Good Shepard Food Bank for other perishables and non-perishable goods. The grocery store in Damariscotta that sponsors the Fill The Bus events is Main Street Grocer.

We are always looking for volunteers to do odd jobs: pick up deliveries, maintain facebook page, **?????** We are always looking for ways to better serve our community. If you are in need or know of anyone who is food insecure please come see us.

Contact Jeanne Shaw 549-7014 or Janet Ober 549-3672 with any questions, concerns or needs.

• IRS Notices • Settlements • Extensions

Up Front Pricing:

NO Surprises, NO Hidden Fees

Tax Relief and Planning:

Lowest Tax, Highest Expertise

Early Season Refund Advance:

Same Day, NO Interest, NO Fees

**H&R
BLOCK**

Maximum
Refund
Guaranteed

Augusta (East)
84 Bangor Street
622-3738

Augusta (West)
198 Western Avenue
621-0001

Whitefield Trash Service

Weekly Household Garbage Pickup
Free Metal Removal
Appliances (no Freon),
woodstoves
batteries (auto, marine,
lawnmower)
ANY METAL ITEM!

Call Dana Rogers 485-3991

Free Estimates for Clean-outs



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

Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



Post cards from Lillian Rogers Collection.

Town News

Voters came to the polls at a steady pace on Nov 2nd, we had 703 who voted at the polls and 155 people who voted absentee, for a total of **858 voters**. That is almost half our registered voters. Thank you all who took the time to vote. Our next election will be our Municipal Election in March 2022. The nomination papers for the positions up for election are 2 Select Board Members, 1 Planning Board Member and 1 RSU #12 School Board Member, all are for 3 year terms. **Nomination papers are available December 10, 2021.** They will be due back to the office on January 18, 2022. Lise Hanners will not be running for her Select Board seat, so we are looking for someone who would be willing to serve the Town of Whitefield. If you are interested stop by the office and pick up your nomination papers, collect 25 signatures of registered Whitefield voters and return it to the clerk's office. If you are interested or have any questions of the position reach out to the town office or any of the current board members.

Property Taxes for the 1st half were due November 30th, Interest began on December 1st.

Dog licenses are now available for 2022. Get yours before your 2021 tag expires on December 31st. \$6 spayed/neutered or \$11 for unaltered. You must bring current rabies and neutered certificate if it is a new dog to Whitefield.

Snowmobile registrations are now available, Residents \$55, Non-Residents \$119

Hunting & Fishing Licenses for 2022 are available December 1st. These make great stocking stuffers.

As winter sets in remember those in need, we have a **Heating Assistance Fund** that is always accepting financial donations. Send donations to the Town Office. For those of you that are in need the assistance contact Yolanda at the Town Office.

Town Office will be CLOSED Friday, December 24th & Friday, December 31st



Wishing you all a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Safe and Happy New Year!!**

Yolanda Violette
Administrative Assistant, Town Clerk & Treasurer

Select Board Corner

October 15 – November 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.

- After much study, it appears that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds are very specific to community relief resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic. Right now, these funds in Whitefield will be used only for expansion of broadband in Town and the Board will be looking for additional opportunities to use the funds. A contract with Spectrum was signed and a Special Town Meeting approved the use of \$93,000 of Town ARPA Funds for this purpose.
- The Budgeting process for 2022 begins with the Select Board meeting on November 23 this year. Their draft budget will be provided to the Budget Committee for review beginning on January 4 and running through January 25, unless bad weather necessitates an additional meeting on February 1. The Town Report will be sent to the printer on February 25, and Town Meeting will be held on March 19, 2022.
- The Leonard's Bridge Culvert replacement began the week of November 15. (Insert applause here!)
- Whitefield has hired Kip Glidden as an hourly maintenance person, and he is working on replacing the doors on the Recycling Center.

Donation of Children's Books to the Whitefield Library

Chapter F Maine of the International PEO Sisterhood has donated dozens of children's books to the Whitefield Public Library. The root of this donation was the brave voice of a young boy speaking to the selectmen, asking why the town did not have a library, a place where kids could go in the summer. Sue McKeen, a long-time town resident recognized the importance of reading and the sanctuary of libraries immediately began reaching out to her connections. The rebirth of a Whitefield Library was underway. The Whitefield Public Library is housed in the former Grange Hall, which was originally the Grand Army Hall. Through the hard work of grants writers, fundraisers and those with building skills, the library became a viable entity. Whitefield resident, Cathey Sell wasted no time and asked her chapter members of their interest in supporting this cause. PEO, is a 125-year-old organization dedicated to the mission of helping women CELEBRATE the advancement of women; EDUCATE women through scholarships, grants, awards, loans, and stewardship of Cottey College in Iowa and MOTIVATE women to achieve their highest aspirations. "Women Helping Women Reach the Stars". For more information regarding Chapter F, please contact the chapter president at jn.tenan@gmail.com.



DECEMBER 2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

- 2nd **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
 4th **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** at Inn Along the Way in Damariscotta, on Tuesdays
 1-3 pm <https://www.innalongtheway.org>
SELECT BOARD at 6 pm Central Fire Station
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—9:00pm
 10th **WINE TASTING** Sheepscot General from 5-7
 11th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
 13th **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, Town House, 10:00 am
WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT., Fire Station, 7 pm
 14th **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
SELECT BOARD at 6 pm Central Fire Station
 15th **YOUNG AT HEART**, Seniors Pot Luck, 12 pm
 Debbie 445-4930
PLANNING BOARD, Town Office 7:30 pm
 16th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
SINGING CIRCLE 1-3 pm
 18th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, St. Denis Hall, 10-12 pm
FULL MOON HIKE Hidden Valley Nature Center, 4:00 PM 6:00 PM
 20th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY & COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD MEETING** 10 am at the
 Whitefield Firehouse.
 21st **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
SELECT BOARD at 6 pm Central Fire Station
 23rd **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
 28th **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm



**Don't forget to purchase your 2022 Whitefield Library
 calendar available at Sheepscot General.
 Support the Library !**



Sheepscot General Artisan Market

*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 four weeks; plenty of time to finish your holiday shopping!*

STUFF FOR SALE- This is a free service.

Email whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com

- Four glass panels from sliding glass door. Make offer. Micah: (207-549-7256)
- Free Rooster, 7 months old. 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.



ALBISON'S PRINTING

Quality Printing Since 1932
 Offset & Digital Printing
www.albisonsprinting.com
 124 Riverside Drive, Augusta 622-1941

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!

207-549-7921
 open 7 days a week



North Whitefield Superette

Since 1976
 Pizza, Sandwiches and Groceries

N.C. Hunt LUMBER & Hardware

Mon-Fri 7 - 5
 Sat 7 - 4
www.nchuntlumber.com
 200 S. Clary Road, Jefferson, ME 04348
 Phone 207-549-0922







STEVE SMITH
 TRIAL LAWYERS


Personal Injury - Family Law
 Criminal Defense

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



THE HAIR WORKS

FAMILY HAIR CARE
 APRIL CAPPER
 207-549-3375



221 GRAND ARMY ROAD
 WHITEFIELD, ME 04353

OWNER
 AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

You can receive the newsletter by email by signing up at whitefieldtownnews@gmail.com