



# 2022 Whitefield News

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Volume 9, Issue 7

Published Monthly

January 2022

## The Gift...a true story Whitefield Library Opens January 14th!

By Cheryle Joslyn

Allow your imagination to take you back to N. Whitefield in December 1883. Civil War veterans had returned home, their rural farming community was beginning to prosper, and dreams and visions were taking shape once again. These young men (and many of gray hair) must have been very grateful to have returned home safely. Their deep sense of providing for others directed them to reach out to the orphans, widows, and less fortunate to help provide their security. Thirty members formed the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R. Post #24), an organization to attend to that mission! They were Union soldiers, returned home to rebuild "community". They met one evening in the Hall over the store of widow Tarr to discuss...most likely "town business". The discussion turned to the



*Turner's Corner to be located in the new G.A.R. Hall, when built" (Whitefield Timeline 1884). The seed of a hopeful vision had been*

need for their own meeting hall, and one of the members, Wm Douglas, offered a piece of land across the road, and thus the "gift" of a large two story building began to take shape! It wasn't very long before another discussion was had: "The question of a town library is now being agitated at

planted! Someone (it would be fun to know who) had a hope that the newly built GAR Hall would also house a library!

As you now know, the gift from those 30 members was built atop Grand Army Hill and remained serving the community for 39 years! We can only surmise that many celebrations took place within those walls over the seasons; including a few very joyful Christmas celebrations in the upper story! The lower story was a free High School educating many of Whitefield's young men and women, but it did not become a town library as they envisioned, unfortunately...at least not in their time. I

In 1918, when that life chapter had run its course, the building was sold to the Arlington Grange. The name was adopted in recognition of grange member Fred Arlington Naray, a Civil War soldier from Whitefield who was listed in the census as "a farmer and a poet". For the next 104 years, the prominent two-story gift hosted many Whitefield attractions featuring its rich agricultural mission (pot luck suppers being one of its most memorable). Volunteers were the spark keeping "grange" alive. Many recognizable family names are etched in the Arlington Grange #528's monthly minutes; people who gave a great deal of time and energy to sustain farming traditions. Very noticeably, their gift took root. Whitefield's fields and valleys have attracted all manner of "farmers" from far and wide.

When a small group of women in town chatted about creating a "summer library", but having no place to locate that simple vision, it was the Grange who welcomed them in. From 2017-2019, they "set up shop" with the generous invitation from the tiny handful *Continued on Pg. 2*



## Parish House purchase

By Kit Pfeiffer

Did you see the Christmas tree and lights shining forth from the windows of the former St. Denis Parish House at the sharp corner on Rt. 126 in December? The building was recently purchased by Lisa Pixley, an artist/printmaker from Portland and owner/founder of the business PrintCraft. She is moving her operations from Portland to Whitefield. We will

feature an interview with Lisa Pixley in the February issue of Whitefield News. Meanwhile, stop by and welcome her to town!



## South Hunts Meadow Road open to traffic

by Keith Sanborn

Dirigo Timberlands, who is contracted to replace Leonard's Bridge, is filling in the culvert over the old culvert pipe to make it passable until it can be replaced early next Summer (probably in June). The old pipe was mostly exposed when Dirigo dug it out in preparation for replacement. However, the water level remained too high to replace it this year. The exposed pipe was inspected by Lionel Cayer, a civil engineer working for the town through Coffin Engineering, and found to be sound enough to fill in with gravel and made passable until it is replaced. The bridge is now open to two lane traffic. This is all being done with no additional cost to the town. Cayer has set a weight restriction of 14 tons on the bridge which will allow school bus traffic and lightly loaded plows to cross the bridge. A weight restriction of 23,000 pounds still applies to through traffic on that road with the exclusions noted in the town ordinance addressing this.

According to Cayer, as a test run, they ran a fully loaded dump truck (approx. 70,000 pounds) across the culvert and there was no deflection in the culvert pipe. This gives us added confidence in the strength and safety of the filled in crossing.



**Gift from Pg. 1** of remaining Arlington Grange members. Donated books and again, generous volunteers turned the quiet old building into a lively gathering spot for all ages for a few hours every week throughout the summer. Patrons appeared to truly value "the summer library"! It would have been so much fun to throw a Christmas party again (surrounded by books this time), but heating the large uninsulated space would have taken all of the \$275 that the treasurer held.



Arlington Grange struggled to stay "alive", and made the painful decision to dissolve in the Spring of 2018. The "summer library" volunteers prepared for closing. The Grange's wishes were that the Library could stay, and own the building. However, the sale of the building was not their decision to make. The property belonged to Maine State Grange, and they set a high price that the Summer Library's bankroll could never match. Unbeknownst to the 13 Library Board members, someone else had an eye on this little library. President and CEO Andrew Silsby from Kennebec Savings Bank didn't exactly come down the old Hall's chimney, but his surprise visit one day in late March, brought great excitement and joy. Andrew handed Whitefield Library a check for \$25,000.00! With that amazingly generous gift, the beautiful old building would continue serving its community and surrounding neighbors!

The Library Association jumped into high gear. The vision of creating a year round community library came to life! Many elves knocked on the door offering their talents to make a dream into a reality. Each wore a different hat, but all had the same heart's desire. They offered their "gift"! Planners, designers, engineers, fund raisers, cookie bakers, rippers & tearers (they had too much fun), expert contractors who plumbed, electrified, portered our potties, hauled our debris, muscled our beams, crawled on their bellies or tiptoed on staging, dug our dirt, wielded their hammers, catalogued and shelved our books, and touched off a firestorm of technology...all appeared with their talents! No fancy paper wrapped their gifts; they just gave. Wal-lets were opened with no strings attached, Foundations responded generously, and volunteers sold everything from well-worn books to Christmas trees!

After more than 18 months of feverish elf work, it's time for these amazing folks to take a rest, but we know their busy little minds will be spinning out plans for the 2nd floor. For now, though, their labor has brought forth the solid old structure and a beautiful 1st floor space that will offer "library" and "community" once again.

The old Hall's doors will officially open on January 14. Please come in! You'll be surprised by what you see and what is waiting for you. The gift is yours, and we are so very happy that we can give. (PS: If you use a keen eye, you might spot an elf or two skittering around or resting by the heater).

May your new Library year be bright! -from all the Elves of Whitefield Library ([whitefieldlibrary.org](http://whitefieldlibrary.org), ph: 549-0170, [info@whitefieldlibrary.org](mailto:info@whitefieldlibrary.org), 1 Arlington Lane, Whitefield, ME. Open Friday & Saturday 10:00-2:00)

## Town News

**Welcome 2022!!!** While we have ended 2021, here in the office the board has been working on the budget for the 22-23 FY, they are doing their part in keeping the municipal budget down wherever possible. It will be presented to our Budget Committee, 9 members, starting January 4<sup>th</sup> and after 4 consecutive weeks, weather permitting, of them analyzing and making their recommendations it will then be presented to the Town at the Annual Town Meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>. All board meetings are open to the public, if you would like to attend to observe what is going on in town.

**Nomination papers** are now available for the municipal election, to be held on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The positions that are up for election are as follows, 2 Select Board positions, 1 Planning Board and 1 School Board seat, all are 3-year terms. If you interested in any of the positions, stop by the office to pick up your nomination papers, go out and collect 25-100 signatures from registered Whitefield voters and return the papers back by January 18<sup>th</sup> close of business day to have your name on the ballot. At the time of writing this article the school board position is the only one that has not had papers taken out for the position. If you are interested or know someone that is interested stop by the office to pick up papers for that position.

The Town has hired a new Fire Chief, Jesse Barton. Welcome Jesse we look forward to working with you. he can be reached at 557-0744. Thank you to Ben Caron for being the Interim Fire Chief for the short time. If you are interested in becoming part of the Whitefield Fire Department, contact Jesse, we are in need of more firefighters.

**Dog Licenses have EXPIRED for 2021!** If you have not licensed your dog for 2022, you have until January 31<sup>st</sup>, after that there is a late fee of \$25 per dog effective February 1<sup>st</sup>!

**Thank you to those** that have already donated to the Heating Assistance Fund. We are continuing to accept donations to help those that may be in need this winter. Also Thank you to those that have donated to the Skating Rink Fund, we have reached our goal to get this started and will continue to accept donations for any unforeseen situations and maintenance. You can mail them to the Town Office.

If there is anyone out there that needs sand for their walkway or driveway and is unable to get the sand/salt shed, please contact Yolanda at the Town Office. We have a group of volunteers that are willing to bring buckets of sand to those unable to get out.

Town Office will be Closed Monday January 17<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day.



Yolanda Violette  
Administrative Assistant, Town Clerk  
& Treasurer

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# Whitefield Historical Society "Just Yesterday"



*Sleigh Ride on Benner Lane, 1956*

Planks were put on a scoot to provide a platform for the riders. The teamster is Charles Harvey. The riders are Katy McCormick (Bechard), and Maggie McCormick (Caron) and Mary Lou Chase (Smith).

*WHS Collection Gift of Libby Harmon*

## Whitefield Planning Board

November 17, 2021 meeting

The Whitefield News will begin carrying highlights from the monthly Planning Board meetings. The board meets once a month and the news will reflect the last month's meeting.

**Notification of Violation:** The board addressed the situation of some individuals undertaking a building project, failing to fill out a Notice to Build beforehand, and being found in violation. Based on board chair Kristin Mason's research on other municipal ordinances and the Whitefield board's ability, via provisions in the Building and Development Ordinance (Article 16), to take a more active role in enforcement beyond the CEO's responsibilities, there was discussion of drawing up a Notification of Violation. Currently a written report to the board of Stop-Work orders issued by the CEO is lacking and there is a gap in the select board's awareness of relevant planning board actions each month on the Notices, especially on after-the-fact cases.

Mason asked CEO Strout to share with the planning board any Stop Work orders he issues to violators. In addition, after each meeting she will send selectmen a summary of the board's review of and decisions on Notices to Build.

**Notices to Build:** The board found no issues with the five proposals up for review. Jon Miete, 18x12-ft. single story storage building; Craig Kline, modify existing outbuilding to make a small efficiency apartment/in-law suite; Scott Jones, 28x20x12-ft steel open-ended building to store implements and equipment; Michael Carver, double-wide manufactured home, new septic, well, driveway; Brandon Boucher, 14 replacement double-wide, new septic system.

**Notice to Build form:** Board member Glenn Angell presented proposed revisions in progress to clarify requirements of the Notice to Build/Building and Development Permit Application.

**Medical Marijuana Ordinance:** Voters at the Oct. 21 special town meeting adopted a 180-day Moratorium Ordinance Regarding Medical Marijuana operations. The board will meet Wed., Dec. 1, 6 pm, to begin work on drafting an ordinance.

*A more detailed version is available on the Town website.*

## Select Board Corner

November 15 – December 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.

1. The long saga of the Leonard's Bridge culvert replacement project had a major setback with the high Fall rains and resulting high water levels that made it impossible to replace the culvert in later Fall, as planned. Representatives from the construction company (Dirigo Timberlands) and an engineer assessed the old culvert that is still in place and determined that the steel culvert is strong enough to support gravel fill and allow re-opening of South Hunts Meadow Road until the culvert can be replaced, likely in June of 2022. Jersey barriers will be erected for safety alongside the bridge and signs will be erected to limit load limits to 14 tons. The good news is this temporary bridge will allow school buses to travel that road again and smaller (1 ton) snowplows will be able to cross the bridge. The Town Roads Committee deserves all our thanks for doing their utmost to fix this problem.
2. Jesse Barton has been hired as the new Whitefield Fire Chief, replacing long-time Fire Chief Scott Higgins. Jesse is excited to take on this new responsibility and has many new ideas and energy to bring to this role. The next Town newsletter will feature an interview of Jesse and his plans. The Town continues to look for new fire fighters so if you, or someone you know is interested in joining the force, please give Jesse a call!
3. The Select Board began the process of assembling and approving the Whitefield Town Budget for 2022. The solar panels on the Central Fire Station will be bought out from The Power Company, as planned, after the Town set aside funds for three years toward the purchase. In January the solar panel purchase will be complete with a purchase price of \$26,725. And the Town continues to generate solar energy toward its ongoing electric bill, now at no cost to the Town!

## Whitefield Supports a Community Ice Skating Rink!

By Lise Hanners

I am delighted to report that Whitefield residents quickly supported an ice-skating rink in Town, donating \$1335 toward the purchase of materials. The rink will be set up on the baseball/soccer field (exact location to be determined) where Town residents can gain



easy access from the parking lot of the Recycling Center and school students can easily approach from the school. The rink will be set up following a design discovered by Haskell Padgett, the athletic director at school and a builder, using a PVC pipe frame covered in heavy plastic. Metal benches will be erected beside the rink to allow ice skaters to put on and take off skates (this is a great opportunity for a generous Town resident to build benches of wood that will be much more comfortable!). Once the rink is set up, the fire department will fill the rink in increments to make sure the ice freezes in layers, so the ice is solid throughout and the ice is ready for skating! The materials are being purchased soon and we hope to schedule a work party in January once winter's cold gets a little more serious. This will be a wonderful addition to the Whitefield Community!



## JANUARY 2022 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR.

- 3rd **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
- 4th **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
- 6th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
- 7th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-2 pm
- 8th **YOUTH XC SKI CLINIC** Jan. 8- Feb. 12 at Hidden Valley Nature Center
- 10th **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, Town House, 10:00 am  
**WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 11th **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm  
**SELECT BOARD** at 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 13th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General  
**RSU 12 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** 6:30—9:00pm
- 14th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY OPENING DAY** 10:00-2:00 (Facemask required with consideration for our patrons and volunteers)
- 15th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2  
**WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-12 pm  
**PLANNING BOARD**, Town Office 7:30 pm
- 16th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General  
**SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
- 17th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS** 10:00 @ the Whitefield Firehouse meeting room. The public cordially invited to attend.  
**FULL MOON HIKE** Hidden Valley Nature Center, 4:30 PM 6:30 PM
- 20th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY & COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD MEETING** 10 am at the Whitefield Firehouse.
- 21st **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2  
**SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm  
**SELECT BOARD** at 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 22nd **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2  
**WINTER WOODS WALK**, Hidden Valley Nature Center, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM  
**WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-12 pm
- 23rd **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
- 25th **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm  
**SELECT BOARD** at 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 28th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2  
**SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
- 29th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2  
**WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-12 pm



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