



# MAY Whitefield News

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Volume 9, Issue 12

Published Monthly

May 2022

## Why Whitefield's EMS needs you

By Sue McKeen

It's certainly not news in these unusual times to hear about yet another organization having trouble raising interest in volunteering. Whitefield's Emergency Medical Services, like so many other groups, is falling prey to the same story. Not enough volunteers. This story is like a broken record, no one is interested in volunteering, or no one has time, or someone else will do it.

I recently sat down with Ben Caron, Whitefield's Assistant EMS Chief. Ben was nice enough to fit me into his busy schedule. He works full time for the Ellsworth Fire Department and Northern Light Medical Transport. That's not all. Ben is also a full-time student at Eastern Maine Community College where he is studying Fire Science. He and his wife Sarah live in Whitefield. He told me he grew up in Baldwin where he joined the fire department's junior fire fighters' program at the age of 13. He's been with the Whitefield Fire Department for six years and tells me he has held just about every post.

We talked about the current crisis in finding volunteers to fill the EMS positions. He said there are four types of licenses: Emergency Medical Responder, we have one; Emergency Medical Technician, we have 0; Advanced EMT, we have one; and Paramedic, we have 0. He told me, "When a call goes out there is at least a 20-minute wait time before Delta Ambulance can get to the emergency call. Twenty minutes is a long time to wait if you are in a crisis. Last year we had over 200 emergency medical calls, but we could only respond to 60. With those small numbers and considering everyone has a full-time job generally out of town, the odds of having anyone available during the daytime are very low. If we have no first responders, the rescue side of the fire department is essentially defunct." He noted, the town will pay for anyone wishing to take the EMS training.



**Ben Caron**

Photo by Sue McKeen

I asked Ben what motivates him to be part of the team. He told me he has a passion to help people and has learned the necessary skills to do just that. He believes most people want to help their community and work for the greater good. Ben acknowledges it is a lot of work and training but well worth it. Whitefield Fire and Rescue is a multi-hazard department responding to everything from fire-fighting, car accidents, downed trees and much more with the majority of calls for EMS.

We discussed the educational benefits of training for EMS. Ben told me his

training has led him to his current career path. For someone who clearly loves to help people and loves his job, Ben Caron has chosen the right course and his passion is making a difference.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Ben Caron or Jesse Barton.

## First call for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July!



Yes, it's official. The parade is back, the hot dogs and fries are back, the Union Hall white elephant sale is back, the music is back.

After two years

without Whitefield's iconic parade, the town, the KMVFD and Union Hall have given the go-ahead nod. We all understand there is always the Covid cautionary disclaimer, but plans are being made with optimism and enthusiasm.

Erik Ekholm reports the KMVFD will once again be selling their famous hot dogs and fries. They are planning an auction and all the usual activities. This, also, is with a caveat. The Department has a limited number of volunteers, and

they are seeking help from the community.

Judy Maldovan said the Union Hall is ready to go with items aplenty accumulating over the last two years!

In a time when the world seems a little off, Whitefield's Fourth of July celebration is back, and all is right with the world.

For more information or to volunteer contact Sue McKeen, 446-7473, Dolly Burns or Erik Ekholm.







*A new colt was born yesterday, April 15, on Eli Troyer farm on Rte. 126. The mother, Patty, is 20 years old and a first-time mother! The colt's name is Lisa.* Photo by Kit Pfeiffer



## Whitefield Planning Board

Notes are very long and therefore we included a link to view the minutes.

For more information go to the town website at <https://townofwhitefield.com/agendas-minutes/> and read the Planning Board minutes.

## Schedule of events for story time at the library

- APRIL 29<sup>th</sup> Kindness/ Caring -make May Day baskets
- MAY 6<sup>th</sup> Mothers ( and Mother figures, Gramma, Aunts etc.)
- MAY 13<sup>th</sup> Frogs- the hoppy life!
- MAY 20<sup>th</sup> Shoes- that's right, the things on your feet!
- MAY 27<sup>th</sup> Flying- paper planes to passenger planes and everything in between!
- JUNE 3<sup>rd</sup> Cats- our furry feline friends!
- JUNE 10<sup>th</sup> Vegetables- The life of a veggie & planting activity
- JUNE 17<sup>th</sup> Fathers (and Father figures, Grampa, Uncle etc)
- JUNE 24<sup>th</sup> Freedom (In honor of Juneteenth, LGBT Pride, and Independence Day)

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## Library News

By Cheryle Joslyn

We are celebrating being open now for three and a half months and remain so very thankful to our volunteers for making that happen. From our volunteer librarians to our renovation volunteers, we are definitely “building” block by block, and it has been a very busy Spring. Planning summer renovation projects, tweaking library policies & procedures, lining up activities and programs, and refreshing our fund-raising strategies are all part of our efforts; none of which would ever be possible without our volunteers.

We are in great need of a volunteer Program Coordinator to help us establish summer programs of interest for our community members such as author chats, book discussions, and other special focused events for adults. If you can help, please be in touch ([whitefieldlibrary.org](http://whitefieldlibrary.org) or 549-0170 to leave a message).

Ms. Emma (our volunteer Storytime Program Coordinator) helped to arrange a fun-filled collaborative event between the library, Sheepscot Valley Hinterland Preschool, Sheepscot General, and Whitefield School PTA. Stories at the library, flower planting, roadside cleanup with a hike to the school, and singing with forest play at the school were all part of the two-hour fest, and Mother Nature was in full compliance (one of her brightest Spring days).

Looking ahead, the month of May promises more fun while celebrating “Moms”, flying, frogs, and sneakers with Storytime, activities, and another “field trip”. Plans for a summer reading challenge are also in the making. Keep an eye on our Facebook posts for upcoming events.

If you have stepped onto our porch lately, you can't miss our new addition. Our bright yellow Book

Dropbox welcomes your “Returns” 24/7. Handmade by a very generous and talented patron who keeps a sharp eye on our progress, Steve designed just what we needed to get those overdue books back on the shelf for the next ready reader! (Reminder: renewal is always an option if you need more time to finish that great book; just check in with us).

Have you heard about our “Marie Fund”? During the 80's and 90's, Whitefield Elementary School was extremely fortunate to have a Reading teacher named Marie Patfoort. If you were in Kindergarten to 8th grade during that time, you knew Marie was much loved by her students, but you may not have known her amazing survival story of being born and raised in Belgian, Congo (see David Chase's Webpage [mainething.com](http://mainething.com) “Life History of Marie Patfoort”). Recently, a former colleague of Marie's (Ms. Pond) made a generous donation to the library in her honor; funds designated to be set aside and used for purchasing books throughout the years to come. A few new children's books will be our first purchase! If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile fund, please let us know, and we'll appreciatively add your donation to the list. We're happy to say that Marie is well, resides nearby, and enjoys seeing her old friends.

Our Renovation Committee has started the exterior work landscaping the area around the building. Once that *Continued on Pg. 3*



*Kids celebrate Earth Day at the Library* Photo by Cheryle Joslyn



*Kids celebrate Earth Day at the Library* Photo by Cheryle Joslyn



## “Just Yesterday”



### **Team of White-faced Oxen, Main Street, Coopers Mills, early 1900s.**

Teamster Clarence Glidden is in front of Clarence Achorn's barn with a load of pressed hay on a platform wagon. Pressed hay was loose hay compressed by equipment and then manually bound with wire or cord. Clarence bought the homestead in 1921 and converted the barn to an automotive garage. It was still operating as Glidden's Garage when it burned in 1967.

*Gift of Tom Weiblen*

**Library from Pg. 2** is taken care of, we can work on the parking area and the driveway. Your financial donation towards this project, would be greatly appreciated (our 501c3 nonprofit is tax deductible).

If you haven't gotten your Library Card yet, you can sign up online ([whitefieldlibrary.org](http://whitefieldlibrary.org)) or stop by. Our beautiful bookshelves are lined with choices, so come see what we have to offer. It's also a sunny spot to visit and chat. We're open every Friday and Saturday from 10-2 and hoping to extend our hours soon.



**Kids celebrate Earth Day at the Library** Photo by Cheryle Joslyn

### **Kathy Dauphin Massage Therapy**



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## **Select Board Notes**

March 29 to April 12

Payment American Rescue Funds were approved to be paid to Whitefield Fire/EMT for radios and Whitefield Library for an alternate heat source from the first half of the Town's ARPA funds.

The cost of mowing the Whitefield Cemetery has increased over recent years. According to Barry Tibbets and Dan Joslyn the Cemetery's fund will barely cover this year's mowing. It is expected that increased funding will be needed from the town for next year.

An improved design for the sand shed back wall repair and grader shed is under discussion with A. E. Hodson Engineering, Dennis Merrill and Erik Eckholm.

A resignation letter from Suzanne Balbo was received for the RSU #12 schoolboard seat. Gretchen McMorro will fill out the term which ends March 2023.

Sue McKeen attended the selectboard meeting to report that The King's Mills Fire Volunteer Department Association along with the Union Hall association will go ahead with our annual Fourth of July event after two years of inactivity due the Covid Pandemic. The parade will be sponsored by the town.

According to Fire Chief Ben Caron, The EMS program at the Whitefield Volunteer Fire Department is in need of help. The program gives the Town's residents a first response service until Delta Ambulances arrive. They are down to two people who are out of town during the day and can only respond at night. The town will pay for the required training for those interested in volunteering.

The town took seven junkyard cases to Lincoln County District Court and were awarded six judgments. One case was settled before the court proceeding. Each property owner was given time to clean up before receiving fines from the town. The properties must pay the court costs and attorney's fees.

Lester Sheaffer was re-elected to another term as Chair of the selectboard and Charlene Donahue was re-elected as Vice Chair.



## **Memorial Day Program**

**Presented by**

**The Whitefield Historical Society**

**May 30 at 10:00**

**Flag raising ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial**

**Program at the Fire Station**

**Celebrating our local nurses from the Spanish Flu to Covid**

## MAY 2022 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 **SINGING CIRCLE** at Inn Along the Way in Damariscotta, on Tuesdays  
 1-3 pm <https://www.innalongtheway.org>  
**KINGS MILLS UNION HALL MONTHLY MEETING** 7pm Union Hall  
 Public is welcome
- 5th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General  
**WINE TASTING** at Sheepscot General 5-7 pm
- 6th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2  
**SHEEPSHOT GENERAL LIVE MUSIC** 6-8 pm Outside, weather permitting
- 7th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-2 pm  
**WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2 Storytime at 10:30 am
- 9th **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, Town House, 10:00 am  
**WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT.**, Fire Station, 7 pm
- 10th **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm  
**SELECT BOARD** at 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 12th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General  
**RSU 12 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING** 6:30—9:00 pm
- 13th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2  
**SHEEPSHOT GENERAL LIVE MUSIC** 6-8 pm Outside, weather permitting
- 14th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2 Storytime at 10:30 am  
**WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-12 pm
- 16th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY & COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD MEETING**  
 10 am at the Whitefield Firehouse.
- 17th **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
- 18th **YOUNG AT HEART** will be at the Lions Club in Coopers Mills at noon.  
 Bring a hot dish, salad or dessert to share. After lunch entertainment  
 will be Bonnie Hendsbee.  
**PLANNING BOARD** 6 pm at Central Fire Station
- 19th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
- 20th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2 Storytime at 10:30 am  
**SHEEPSHOT GENERAL LIVE MUSIC** 6-8 pm Outside, weather permitting
- 21st **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2 Storytime at 10:30 am  
**WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-12 pm
- 24th **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm  
**SELECT BOARD** at 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 26th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
- 27th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2  
**SHEEPSHOT GENERAL LIVE MUSIC** 6-8 pm Outside, weather permitting
- 28th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2  
**WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-12 pm
- 31st **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm

*Happy Mother's Day*

**HAPPY  
MEMORIAL  
DAY**

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

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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, Lise Hanners & Debbie Rogers.

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