



August Whitefield News

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It was a dandy of a Fourth of July!

If we'd put in a special order, the weather couldn't have been better, the smiles couldn't have been bigger, and we were all reminded that Whitefield people show up as the long parade wound down the road it has taken for so many years. The Food Bank float paid special tribute to Earl and the late Mary Lemieux who were instrumental in starting the Whitefield Food Bank.

In the winner's circle the following participants received certificates.

Most Patriotic – Washington crossing the Delaware – Eric Westbye and Friends

Most Creative – A little kelp from my friends – Boynton and Cronkite families

Best Design – Butterfly with floral flag – Paul Marcus and Taryn Marcus

Community Spirit – Whitefield Library



Summer at Whitefield Elementary: Grants, Good Food, Gardening, Greenhouse and More

By Kathleen Goetzman

While the halls at Whitefield Elementary (WHES) are much quieter in the summer, learning opportunities and activity abound.

Through a couple of grants secured by Mike Flynn, RSU #12 School Nutrition Director, the school is, once again, delivering breakfast and lunch, enough for five days of the week, to families across Whitefield. Coordinated by Vicki Dill, WHES Kitchen Manager, and supported by Sue Peaslee, WHES is delivering meals to almost 100 children in town. This grant has extended the program supporting the delivery of food initiated during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic but ended in June.



EMS crisis – A problem for all of us

By Sue McKeen

We've been talking about this for several years, but somehow no one really thought the day would come when there would be no EMS capacity at the Whitefield Fire Department. The reason: The one and only EMT at the department, is moving out of town and there is no one trained to pick up the position.

Who doesn't know about the staffing shortages in Maine and the entire country? Or the supply chain problems, the lack of young people to step in where so many have hit retirement age or come close and due to the pandemic, decided to call it quits earlier. Really, who needed the hassle?

On July 18th about 25 people gathered at the fire station to talk about the crisis and what to do about it. According to fire chief Jesse Barton and EMS chief Ben Caron, as one would expect, there are more emergency calls every year and fewer fire fighters and EMS staff available. They told the crowd the staffing shortage hits everyone, including Delta Ambulance, the town's responding ambulance service. Caron said due to a serious shortage of staff at Delta the response time for Whitefield has increased.

What does this mean for us? It means with no EMS on board at the fire department and with increased wait times when an emergency is called in, the critical time between response and getting medical assistance will be increased. A lot can happen in 25 minutes or longer without medical intervention.

What's the answer? Several ideas were floated around the room, including a paid position, creative recruitment efforts and several others. Louis Sell suggested the Select Board take this problem on as a front and center task. Select person Charlene Donahue responded they will be working with the Department, and she suggested starting a volunteer auxiliary as a way to help with recruitment, retention and engagement. She asks anyone who is interested in helping to contact the town.

It really is, right now, all hands on deck.

The school Gardening Club program brings students into school weekly to help in gardening efforts. Organized by Garden Club advisors Karen McCormick and Tim Davis, students from all grade levels come in to work in both the current greenhouse, as well as the school's gardens. Performing all the standard gardening tasks, this provides these enthusiastic young gardeners the opportunity to learn new skills and, happily, get their hands dirty. Given that many of the vegetables harvested in the fall are utilized by our nutrition program, club members experience a real sense of satisfaction in their efforts to help feed the school. In mid-July, the club harvested Kohlrabi (a German turnip), cucumbers, zucchini, and summer squash, plus basil in the dehydrator. And they planted a new crop of beans and cucumbers.

Plans for the construction of a new greenhouse are coming together with a goal of it being fully operational by the time school opens for the 2022-2023 year.

July found the summer school programming in full swing with students participating in both Extended School Year (ESY) programs and Title 1 programming. These are four-week summer programs designed to maintain and enhance learners' skills with the chief goal being to prevent the "summer slide" that occurs for individuals when they do not have a focused academic schedule over the summer and their essential reading and mathematics skills decline.

According to Mark Deblois, WHES Principal, "schools in summer look like a disaster area as the custodial staff empties all rooms to provide a thorough cleaning to all classrooms and offices. This is also the time that classroom and hallway floors are stripped of the old wax and refinished...a very critical summer task." He continued, "our custodial staff have been working very hard and their progress is steady, even having to work around the various activities that are scheduled in the school during the summer. While it looks like a disaster now, it will all be pulled together nicely for the beginning of school."

Schools begin on August 31st.

Whitefield Library Yard Sale Puts the Fun in Fundraiser

By Kathleen Goetzman

Whitefield residents and shoppers from neighboring towns gathered at the Whitefield Library Saturday July 16th for the 4th Annual "Used Book, Bake, and Yard Sale." Baked goods sold out quickly as neighbors browsed through books, household items, home décor, sporting goods, children's toys, artwork and more. Rusty Hinges entertained



the crowd with familiar toe-tapping tunes. Many toured the building to check out the selection of books and see progress in renovations. All funds raised directly benefit the Whitefield Library, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Coopers Mills Volunteer FD Auction is Back Saturday August 20, 10:00 AM

The traditional Coopers Mills Volunteer Fire Dept. Auction is returning after two years of covid. If you have items you would like to donate, contact Norm Best at 207-215-6600. With limited manpower, we are being a little more selective, which means that the quality of items being auctioned off should be even better. We already have some really nice items.

We also are inviting folks to help out either on the day of the auction or in picking up and organizing. If you have an evening or few hours you could spare, we'd love to have the help.

Whitefield Planning Board News

The Whitefield Planning Board has been developing a Commercial/Community Solar Energy Facility Ordinance to responsibly encourage sustainable solar energy, but to also protect the rural character of our town. We are encouraging the citizens of Whitefield to participate by attending the public hearing on our C/CSEF ordinance which is scheduled for Wednesday, August 3rd at 6:00 PM at the Whitefield Fire Station. It is your opportunity to review and comment on the proposed ordinance.

August 2022 - recent approval by Whitefield Planning Board
Tiny Cabins of Maine, owned by Joel Pitcher and Sherri Simmons, received a permit from the Whitefield Planning Board to build up to eight tiny units on Rt. 17. The cabins will occupy probably 10 acres of the 88-acre property, and will offer short-term stays. The couple's signature goal is to provide a retreat where veterans can reunite.

You can still get your \$850 State rebate check

By Keith Sanborn

You can still get a rebate check for \$850 even if you haven't filed a State Income tax return yet. You have until October 31st to file. You must file a tax return in order to get the rebate. Tax forms can usually be obtained through the post office or you can print one from the online website – just type in Maine State tax forms. The form is only a couple of pages long and fairly simple to fill out. There is a guide that is posted alongside the online form that can answer any questions.

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"Just Yesterday"



Whitefield Centennial Celebration, August 25, 1909
Whitefield Historical Society



WHITEFIELD LIBRARY NEEDS YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

The Whitefield Library is looking for photographs for their annual calendar. The theme will be People, Places and Things around Whitefield. All photos should be sent in horizontal format with high resolution and emailed to smckeen66@gmail.com or maciainchief@gmail.com. Please caption and sign your photographs. All photos should be submitted prior to the end of August. This is a major fundraiser for the library, and we appreciate your support.

Select Board Notes

June 21 through July 18

By Seth Bolduc

Below are issues of likely interest to the residents of Whitefield from the Select Board meetings of the previous month. 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 Select Board has been working on junkyard notices, supporting residents to clean them up and following up with residents who have not yet

The recycling area parking lot has been paved along with North Howe Rd and Hilton Rd.

A roadside brush clearing contract has been awarded. The board had an extensive conversation about the future of emergency medical services and first responders in town, and held a follow up meeting to get more in-depth. There will be more attention on this issue in the near future.

The board is following up on the broadband expansion work in town and researching possibility of cellular repeaters to extend coverage throughout town.

Congratulations Dr. Hodgdon

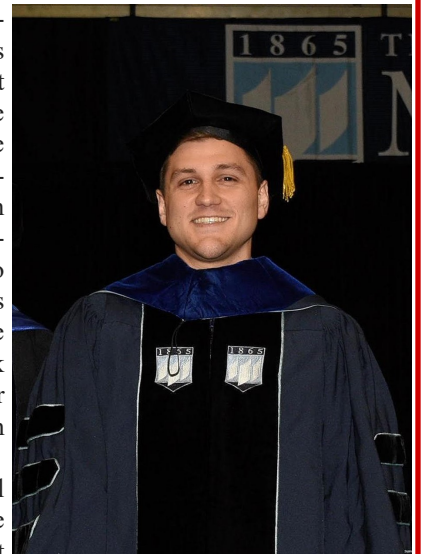
Dr. Cameron T. Hodgdon, son of Tracy Northrup of Whitefield and Tyler Hodgdon of Boothbay, received his Doctorate of Philosophy in Marine Biology from the University of Maine on May 6th.

After completing his dual degree in Marine Science and Applied Mathematics at the University of New England, Hodgdon started his PhD under the advisement of Dr. Yong Chen at the University of Maine in the fall of 2017. His dissertation work was focused on Maine's scallop and lobster fisheries: trying to predict how these stocks and industries will change in the future. This work led Hodgdon to 14 peer reviewed publications in international journals.

Hodgdon is a National Marine Fisheries Service and National Sea Grant

Population and Ecosystem Dynamics Fellow, an ICES Stock Assessment Review Group leader for European fish stocks, a member of the Lenfest Ocean Program's International Crustacean Task Force, a member of the Maine Department of Marine Resources Lobster Research Collaborative, and winner of the University of Maine's Three Minute Thesis Competition.

In New York, Hodgdon has already started a postdoctoral research position at Stonybrook University where he will continue his work with the lobster fishery as a member of the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences and the Institute for Advanced Computational Science.



AUGUST 2022 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
 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
- 3rd **SPECIAL PLANNING BOARD MTG.** Public hearing on Commercial/ Community
 Solar Energy Facility ordinance which is at 6:00 PM at the Whitefield Fire
 Station. It is your opportunity to review and comment on the proposed
 ordinance on the
- 4th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
- 5th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2
WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-2 pm
SHEEPSHOT GENERAL LIVE MUSIC Tom Giordano live music 6-8 pm
 Outside, weather permitting
- 6th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2 Storytime at 10:30 am
- 8th **WHITEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**, Town House, 10:00 am
WHITEFIELD MUNICIPAL FIRE DEPT., Fire Station, 7 pm
- 9th **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
- 11th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
RSU 12 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 6:30—9:00 pm
- 12th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2 Storytime at 10:30 am
SHEEPSHOT GENERAL LIVE MUSIC WITH Jake McCarthy 6-8 pm
 Outside, weather permitting
- 13th **WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY**, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-2 pm
WHITEFIELD LIBRARY Open 10-2
- 15th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY & COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD MEETING**
 10 am at the Whitefield Firehouse.
- 16th **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
SELECT BOARD at 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 17th **YOUNG AT HEART** will be at the Lions Club in Coopers Mills at noon. Bring a
 hot dish, salad or dessert to share.
PLANNING BOARD 6 pm at Central Fire Station
- 18th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
- 19th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2 Storytime at 10:30 am
SHEEPSHOT GENERAL LIVE MUSIC WITH Monsoon Rose 6-8 pm Outside, weather
 permitting
- 20th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2 Storytime at 10:30 am
WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-12 pm
- 23rd **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
- 25th **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP (ROMEOS)** 10 am Sheepscot General
- 26th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2 Storytime at 10:30 am
SHEEPSHOT GENERAL LIVE MUSIC WITH Rusty Hinges 6-8 pm
 Outside, weather permitting
- 27th **WHITEFIELD LIBRARY** Open 10-2 Storytime at 10:30 am
WHITEFIELD FOOD PANTRY, 150 Grand Army Road, 10-12 pm
- 30th **SINGING CIRCLE** 1-3 pm
SELECT BOARD at 6 pm Central Fire Station
- 31st **WHITEFIELD ELEMENTARY, SCHOOL BEGINS**

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