



Whitefield Newsletter

Town of Whitefield

Volume I, Issue I
November 28, 2001

TOWN OFFICE

Selectmen: Bruce Mathews, Chair (Tel: 549-7015); Steve McCormick (Tel: 549-3697); and Timothy Chase (Tel: 549-5016).

Selectmen Meetings: Monday at Town Office 7:00 p.m. sign warrant; 7:30 p.m. for all other business. Please call before Monday evening for an appointment.

Town Hall Hours: Monday 7:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.; Tuesday 7:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; Wednesday 7:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; and Friday 7:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Town Clerk: Gwyn Benson Dixon; **Deputy Clerk:** Robin White; and **Assistant Clerk:** Judy Greenleaf

Code Enforcement Officer and Plumbing Inspector: Arthur Strout (Tel: 445-3263)

Road Commissioner: David Jackson (Tel: 549-5115)

Planning Board: David Wright, Chair (Tel: 582-0448); Susan McKeen (Tel: 549-5533); Bob Bills (Tel: 549-7837); Steve Smith (Tel: 549-7972); and Mark Fenderson (Tel: 549-5711). Meetings held the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Please call for an appointment.

School Board: Barbara DelVecchio, Chair (Tel: 549-7949); David Boynton (Tel: 549-7548); Lori Jones; Brenda Kaselis (Tel: 549-5208); and one vacancy on the school board. Meetings the first Monday of the month at the Whitefield School.

Fire Chief: Jim Brann (Tel: 549-5285)

Health Officer: Cathy Sell (Tel: 549-3513)

Inside this issue:

<i>Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association</i>	2
<i>2002 Dog Licenses Garden Club</i>	
<i>Recycling Center Whitefield Senior Men</i>	3
<i>Whitefield Food Bank Lions Club</i>	4
<i>Schedule of Events Whitefield PTA</i>	5
<i>School Committee News</i>	6

SELECTMEN'S COMMENTS

We hope that you enjoy our first quarterly newsletter. We have been working on this for some time and it is finally here. Our hope is to publish this four times a year and it is our goal to make this newsletter interesting and informative.

It is also our goal to have the businesses in town purchase ads so we can print this without any expense to the taxpayers.

Our next issue will be in January and it will cover the months of January, February, and March. Any organizations interested in being included in the next issue please have a copy of your club/organization at the Town Office by December 28th.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEWS

For the last two years, you have heard debate over changing School Union #51. Our Union is large (six towns) and unwieldy. After a lot of thought and work, all six Union 51 towns decided to reorganize into two smaller unions. In October, the Whitefield Committee voted to form a smaller union with Jefferson and Chelsea, two of the original towns. This arrangement will give us increased services from the Superintendent's Office for about the same money (estimated increase is \$2,200). The next step in the process is the Commissioner of Education's approval. After that we will develop a budget to present to you at town meeting as part of our school budget.

Beth Vigue resigned from the Committee in October. We accepted her resignation, regretfully, Beth had done a great job organizing Whitefield's position on the Union reorganization. This leaves an opening on the Committee. We will interview interested candidates on November 19th in order to appoint a replacement to serve until Town Meeting in March. In March, we will have two openings on the Committee. If you are interested, please come to any school committee meeting to meet the Committee and the administrators, watch the process, and learn about the issues.

Starting the end of November we will work on budget issues. Our first workshop will be November 28th in Somerville from 6:00-8:00 p.m. After that the meetings will be in our school library; December 5th at 8:00 p.m. following our regular meeting, January 12th at 8:00 a.m.; and probably January 26th. To learn more about the budget, please join us at any or all of these meetings.

Our regular meetings are the first Monday of the month in the school library. The time varies. We alternate starting at 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. In December we will meet at 5:30 p.m. for a presentation from the teachers with the formal meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. January's formal meeting will start at 8:00 p.m. and February's at 6:00 p.m. We welcome visitors. The Committee members are Lori Jones, David Boynton, Brenda Kaselis, and Barbara Welch.

OTHER NEWS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 FIRE DEPARTMENT
 PLANNING BOARD
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WHO LIVES IN WHITEFIELD?

Total Population 2,273 ---- 49.5% Male ---- 50.5% Female
 Median Age: 37.8
 Under 18: 26.4%
 Over 65: 11.7%
 Average Family Size: 3.02
 Average Household Size: 2.62
 Total Households: 844

TAX INFORMATION

	1980	1990	2000	2001
Taxable Valuation	\$18,878,147	\$54,015,017	\$68,722,131	\$78,416,562
Tax Mill Rate	15.8	12.67	15.75	16.25

RECYCLING CENTER

Are You Throwing Money Away?

Could be if you are not regularly visiting the Recycling Center. Located behind the Town Office, the Recycling Center is open each Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and all Whitefield residents are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities it offers. During the past year, a total of 78 tons of materials were collected. These included newspaper, magazines, cardboard, mixed paper, glass bottles and jars, number two plastic, Styrofoam peanuts, and tin cans. Had the same 78 tons been taken to the Hatch Hill landfill, the cost to Whitefield residents would have been \$4,524. And that's on top of less waste in the landfill and conserved natural resources. As an extra bonus, going to the Recycling Center is a chance to meet a friend or neighbor and catch up on all the important local news.

In addition to recycled materials, the Recycling Center collects returnable containers that go to benefit the Whitefield School Library. There is also a "swap shop" for the free exchange of small, usable items. If you bring something to the swap shop, please make sure it is in good condition and complete. Ask yourself, "can some one else really use this?" Swap shop items are limited to those smaller than the proverbial breadbox. If you have something larger, there is a bulletin board where you can post a note about that item. During recent months, there have been increasing problems with worn out, broken or useless items being left. This junk ultimately has to be thrown out at Town expense. (A special thanks to Holly and Stephen Torsey for a great job cleaning and organizing the swap shop!)

Finally, the Recycling Committee is looking for new members. Anyone interested in learning more about recycling or contributing to the program in Whitefield is welcome. If you have questions about the Recycling Center or Recycling Committee, please check with our attendants Ian Shaw and Scott Richards on Saturday morning or call the Town Office.

WHITEFIELD SENIOR MEN

On Tuesday mornings, courtesy of Country Farms Restaurant, the Whitefield Senior Men meet for coffee, perhaps a snack, and conversation. Laughter is frequent. A few subjects –religion and politics--are left at the door.

Jay Howell got this group going with just a few postcards. He never gave away the secret of why some were drafted for this most cheerful duty. But his energy and his projects made the venture work. And the staff of the restaurant do all they can to keep the atmosphere inviting.

Visitors interested in our group are welcome. Just show up at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday morning.

Those projects Jay dreams up are not burdensome. We are better on talk and laughter than work. But he did get us to restore the Kings Mills Honor Roll, collect money to buy or beg flags and equipment to permit the Boy Scouts to "show the flag" in style at the 2001 Fourth of July parade. Sometimes we perform some less public matters. And we were proud to help with the war memorial that dresses up the grounds behind our Whitefield Town House.

Whitefield is a good town in which to live. We gather each week to remind ourselves of our good luck in being here at this time in history, and perhaps do a little to help others share that feeling.

OTHER NEWS

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 SCHOOL
 SPORTS SCHEDULE
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DECEMBER 2001

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Holiday Craft Fair—School 10:00 a.m.
2 Tree Lighting at Town House— 4:p.m.	3 Selectmen 7p.m. School Com-	4 Garden Club	5 School Board	6	7	8
9	10 Selectmen— 7:00 p.m.	11 PTA Meeting— 6:00 p.m.	12 Grange—6:30 p.m.	13 Coopers Mills Fire 7p.m. Lions Club	14 Music Festival at the School	15
16	17 Selectmen— 7:00 p.m.	18	19 Planning Board—7:00 p.m.	20	21	22
23	24 No Meetings	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29
30	31 No Meetings					

WHITEFIELD SCHOOL PTA

The Whitefield School PTA is an all-volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to enriching our school community. Each year there are some activities we repeat, and others we try for the first time. Most of our planning is done at monthly meetings. We hold our meeting on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the school library. Everyone is welcome to come to any meeting whether or not you've "officially" joined PTA. These meetings are a good forum for discussing ideas and issues, and a great place to learn more about our school community.

The Whitefield School PTA has just completed its annual fundraiser in support of education enrichment. The student in grades K-5 and their parents raised \$5,300. There was 69% total participation, with Ms. Roper's class achieving 100% participation and Mrs. Beck's class reaching 86% participation. Thank you to everyone who participated for making this the most successful PTA fundraiser in recent years. This money will be used to offset costs for field trips, in-school presentations, and hands-on materials for the classrooms.

During the first two weeks of November the PTA will be taking orders for Whitefield Wildcat athletic wear, tote bags, and water bottles. Call Dolly Burns if you need an order form. Coming up on the calendar is the annual PTA Holiday Make-A-Craft Fair on December 2nd, where children and adults alike can make inexpensive and beautiful ornaments and gifts. Hope to see you there.

The volunteers on the PTA take pride in enriching our Whitefield students' educations. We are always open to new ideas and new energy. On an ongoing basis, the PTA collects Campbell's Soup labels and General Mills Box tops for Education. These can be dropped off in the school lobby.

SHEEPSCOT VALLEY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

The Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association has been protecting the natural and historic resources of the Sheepscot River watershed for over 30 years. Through conservation easements and trusts, we protect nearly 1,000 acres of land, most of it protecting critical salmon spawning and rearing habitat. We have also developed public nature trails on our preserves in Newcastle, Alna, and soon on Howe Road in Whitefield. Our volunteers have monitored river water quality for the past eight years.

We represent a broad collection of interests in the watershed. Our growing membership contains multi-generation Mainers, many from rural parts of the upper watershed as well as those who have made Maine their home. All are committed to protecting the natural resources of the mid-coast area. We encourage use of public properties for hunting, fishing and hiking and are pleased to know that many area residents enjoy visiting and using our lands. We have found a great commonality of interests among a diverse spectrum of watershed residents, and are proud to serve as a uniting voice for maintaining the character of the Sheepscot Valley. For more information or to volunteer help with our projects, call our office in the Old Head Tide Store in Alna, at 586-5616, or e-mail us at svca@lincoln.midcoast.com.

All dogs six months of age and older must be licensed. After January 31, 2002 late fee is charged.

To obtain a license, a valid Maine Rabies Certificate must be presented as proof of the dog's immunization. All owners of spayed or neutered dogs must provide a certificate stating so in order to receive the reduced license fee.

2002 tags are now available at the Town Office.

GARDEN CLUB

Our first year of existence was a success. We started working to improve the flower garden at the Town House. We are working at cleaning the wall beside the flowers at the end of Townhouse Road.

We held the first annual Scarecrow Contest, and with the help of the Historical Society will have the annual tree lighting ceremony on December 2nd.

Our meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month. This winter we will have a speaker at each meeting and everyone is invited to come and have an enjoyable evening.

NEWS FROM ARLINGTON GRANGE 528

Since 1884 the stately building at the top of Grand Army Hill has worn several hats. When first built the Grand Army of the Republic used the upstairs and there was a library and a high school on the lower floor. In 1914 the 27 members (Charter) of Arlington Grange purchased the building for \$600. They held dances, shows, and other entertainment to pay off the purchase price. Today the Grangers do the same thing. There has been a new furnace, ceiling in the upstairs lowered, the floors redone, a new pump for the well, hot water tank just to mention a few improvements. Along with the subordinate grange we also have a junior grange, which is growing all the time. The junior grange raised \$700 during the diabetics march. The Grange holds monthly suppers from May until it gets too cold or the weather does not cooperate. We continue to grow and now have over 50 members. We would like to see the townspeople join at our meetings. The new guideline in the Grange is: Come and look us over; if you like what you see, join us. We meet during the winter the 2nd Wednesday of the month; if it is stormy it is the 4th Wednesday of the month. We have a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting at 7:30 p.m. We hope that you will join us as we continue to grow. Arlington is on the move.

WHITEFIELD FOOD BANK

The Food Bank in Whitefield is called St. Denis/Whitefield Union Food Bank.

St. Denis buys the food from Good Shepherd in Auburn, and the Whitefield Church houses and distributes the food.

The food bank is open 1:00-3:00 p.m. the first Friday of every month.

This year we have about 47 families with 143 individuals. We also get donations from the Scouts, School, Grange, Lions Club, and we receive the food that the mail carrier picks up from the town's people. We also receive from individuals from their gardens, etc.

Four times a year we receive government surplus food. Money donations may be sent to St. Denis Church earmarked food bank.

We also need bags, paper or plastic and ziplock bags because we have to break down the bulk food. One gallon bags or better. Thank you.

YOUR AD HERE?

CALL 549-5175

LIONS CLUB

Our Club covers the towns of Whitefield, Windsor, Jefferson, and Somerville. We have two major fundraisers each year; the model railroad and doll show at the Armory in February and our food booth at the Windsor Fair.

Each year we try to help as many people as we can. Our flu shot clinic in November was a success. We sponsored an outside canopy for the residents at the Country Manor Nursing Home. We sponsored the train that you see when you visit the Children's Museum in Augusta. We helped sponsor an exchange student from Kosovo. We donated to project graduation, fire victims, Special Olympics, cancer research, diabetes, and this year to the disaster relief for N.Y.C. We bought Mother's Day corsages for nursing home residents. We delivered Christmas Fruit Baskets to the shut-ins and food baskets to the needy.

Please think about joining the Lion's and helping others.

HOLIDAY MAKE-A-CRAFT FAIR

(7TH ANNUAL)

December 1, 2001, Whitefield School Gymnasium—10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Tickets are 3 for \$1.00

Many crafts cost 1 or 2 tickets

Some craft include: Pine Cone Christmas trees, cookie decorations, tinsel crowns, felt wreaths, painted Christmas bulb ornaments, beaded snowflakes, painted tile magnets, felt angel door hangers, and face painting.

The WAA with the help of 8th grade students, will run a concession stand.