



The WHATELY SCOOP

Certified News for the Town
with the Milk Bottle...

Volume 10 Number 2 December 2012 Whately, Massachusetts

The 2013 Whately Talent Show

Steve Calderone

Save the date – March 23, 2013 – for the 16th annual Whately Family Talent Festival.

For fourteen years, this wonderful town has supported the children and adults who wanted to share their special skills – music, dance, magic, stories, poems, whatever. The event has been great each year, and for the third year in a row, it will happen before April First.

The good news: As always, the event is still free, the performances are still great, and (thanks to our wonderful sponsors) everybody who attends still has many chances to win a door prize. Last year's door prize list included 10 sponsors!

The winter break is always a great time to start thinking about what you might want do on stage. Please consider this a reminder to start those creative juices flowing.

The event is on Saturday, at 7pm, in the Whately Elementary School Gym. For 15 years, "Uncle Dave" has invited hundreds of acts onto the stage in your home town – from the youngest children to the most seasoned performers. Every year, the story is the same: everybody who attends, and everybody who performs, has had a great time. Everybody is welcome to join in the fun.

The obligatory rehearsal is on Friday, March 22nd, same place, 6-8pm. We are unable to allow any acts to perform on Saturday if they do not attend on Friday. Thank you for understanding. We look forward to seeing you

there. Thank you for your continued support.

Welcome, Yule!

Come and celebrate the season at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls with music, dance, song, and story to drive the dark away. Your Whately friends Jinny Mason, Alan McArdle, Margaret Christie, Larkin Christie, Calla Jones, Hattie Archbald and Montserrat Archbald will be performing along with children and adults from neighboring towns. This year's show features rich and poor folk in medieval England overcoming their class differences over a feast of "stone soup."

Welcome Yule: A Midwinter Celebration

Dec. 7th & 8th, 7:30 p.m., Dec 9th, 2 pm

Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls

413-863-2281

Adults \$10, children 5 – 16 & seniors \$8, children under 4 free

www.welcomeyule.org

**Whately Library
and
Transfer Station
will be Closed
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1
details inside!**

Town Hall Straw Poll Results Announced

by Jonathan Edwards - Muni. Build. Committee

Throughout most of 2012, the Municipal Building Committee has been working hard to understand the building needs of our town government operations and the capacity that exists at Town Hall. This process was approved at our 2011 Annual Town Meeting and is a part of both realizing the most effective and efficient delivery of services from the town to its residents, while also determining the best possible solution to an under-utilized town hall.

These businesses have made donations to help cover the cost of printing & mailing the Scoop

Julie's - North Street, Whately

Pro Pel Plastech, Long Plain Road Whately

INSIDE: See the ads from our many other generous sponsors who make this newsletter possible. THANK YOU ALL! Want to see your business listed here? Details on page 7.

Over the past several months we have worked to educate Whately residents about both of these items and at a public forum earlier this fall, combined with regular reports in the local newspapers we know that residents of Whately now have a much deeper understanding of our town needs and the capacity and potential of town hall.

With this information in mind, we ran a straw poll at the November 6th elections to ask town residents what direction they think the town should take for either a new town hall to be built on town property somewhere in Whately, or the renovation of the current town hall. Both options would satisfy the overriding need for additional office, storage and meeting space and to consolidate town offices in one building.

The results from the straw poll showed strong support for the renovation option. By a 2 1/2 to 1 ratio residents of Whately indicated that their preference would be to renovate and expand town hall to meet current and future town administrative needs. While the straw poll is not binding and more information is still needed, we believe that a vote that saw 402 residents support renovation and expansion, with 153 supporting a new town hall and 150 people needing more information is a sign that a strong majority of residents want the consolidation of town offices to include renovation and expansion of the current town hall. Though people should judge for themselves, some believe this result wasn't even close.

Over the coming weeks and months, the Municipal Building Committee will work closely with the Board of Selectmen to continue to educate the public on our progress and to set in motion a plan for next steps on office consolidation. More work still needs to be done and all options are still on the table, pending more research and information gathering.

This process will continue on December 19th at 7 p.m. in the Center School Offices with the

next meeting of the Municipal Building Committee. At this meeting, we will discuss next steps and determine other committees that will need to be involved in the next steps of the process.

All of our meetings are open to the public and we encourage your participation in this ongoing discussion.

Whately's First Solar Farm

By Paul Newlin, Selectman

Farming continues to dominate the Whately landscape in the flatlands of East Whately. But now a new kind of farming is springing up: harvesting electricity from sunlight; solar farms. The first solar farm is nearing completion and is located behind the town garage and transfer station.

Citizens Energy (CE), a nonprofit corporation whose primary business is providing lower cost heating oil to low income households, is developing approximately 10 of the 14 acre site by installing 7,156 monocrystalline photovoltaic panels each with a rated output of 250 watts. Peak capacity of the "farm" is about 1.8 megaWatts, which, over the course of a year, is expected to produce about 2.3 million kilowatt hours of electricity or, very approximately, the annual consumption of 350 households (or about half of Whately's residences). The DC electricity generated by the panels is inverted to 400 volt AC power then transformed up to 13.8 kilovolts and fed into the utility grid. The panels are warranted for a period of 25 years but should outlive that guarantee. The system is mounted on metal legs that extend below frost. At the end of its life, the system can be easily disassembled and trucked away.

CE is investing roughly \$7 million into the project. CE leases the land from a local family. CE earns energy sales credits from WMECO, which they then sell to the Franklin County Jail at a discount. CE also sells the solar renewable energy credits (SRECS) that it earns according to how much energy they generate. CE has multiple subsidiaries (their solar business being

\$5 off every \$50 Mondays-Tuesdays-Wednesdays Whately Residents only



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one) whose revenues help offset the cost of their heating oil supply to lower income families. They are currently constructing four other similarly sized facilities in Agawam, Holyoke and Devens.

Information for this article was kindly supplied by Brian Morrissey of Citizens Energy.

First Congregational Church of Whately
 By Judy Hunter

December is an extremely busy time at the church. We celebrate the beginning of Advent with an Advent party and pot luck on December 2nd. The crafts are always fun to do. On the

16th of December, we will have our biannual Living Nativity at 3PM at the carriage shed with the Christmas story & carols. The live people and animals bring the story of Jesus's birth to life. Hot drinks and refreshments will be served following the service. On December 24th at 6:00 PM will be the annual community wide Christmas Eve dinner followed by the pageant at 7:00 PM. We hope to have a special visitor from the North Pole if he can work us into his schedule which he seems to be able to do each year. At 9:00 PM there will be a candlelight service of Carols and Readings to highlight the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

Our church is very mission and community minded. During the Christmas season we collect hats and mittens for needy children and sponsor a family with gifts and food.

Our services are every Sunday at 10:00 AM.

Our doors are open and welcoming to anyone that wishes to worship with us. If you haven't worshipped in a while, what better time of year than the celebration of the birth of Christ to begin attending again.

Cable Contract Negotiations starting NOW
 By Joyce Palmer Fortune, Whately Cable Com.

Seems like not that long ago when we negotiated the current cable service contract for the town, but as my sister would say "that's what happens when you take off your coat!" - meaning - all of a sudden 7 years have passed and we are starting the cable contract negotiations again.

So much has happened since the last contract! Our last contract helped us get resources so that our local access channels (12, 15 and 23) could be something substantially more than the character generator that had been our only option from about 1993 to 2004. Now we have 2 fully functioning programmed channels (12, 23) and our own announcement channel and the capability to broadcast most of our public meetings. (See the article next page on ch. 15.)

As with the previous negotiations, we will join forces with our neighbors Deerfield and Sunderland to negotiate as a group to get the best possible terms. Again, this time we will enlist the services of Attorney Bill Solomon, who helped us negotiate such favorable terms last time around. One thing that will be different about the upcoming negotiations is that we now have Frontier Community Access TV (FCAT) as a

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Michael Archbald, RN- Owner

resource. FCAT's highly knowledgeable staff will be very valuable to the negotiating team as we try to anticipate technological needs going forward into the next 10 years.

Our negotiation process is completely open, all are welcome to our next meeting, to be held in early-mid January 2013. For more info contact Joyce @ 665-6739 or jpfortune@comcast.net

Greeting from the Friends of the Library by Susan Boone

The Friends of the Library are truly impressed by all the support we have received. Our book sale was a huge success and we couldn't have done it without your donations and purchases. We are especially grateful to Jim and Brenda Ryan of Leeds for the use of their tent, Wally Thayer who loaned us his wagon, and the Whately church for the loan of their tables. Our events have been very well attended and we are in the midst of planning our next series of programs. We encourage and welcome any ideas. Warm greetings of the season and thanks from us to all of you.

From the Whately Public Library

by Tiffany Hilton

Handmade Holiday Fair – Sun, Dec 9, 12-4pm & Kids Craft 12-2pm

Come see what your Whately neighbors are busy making at the Handmade Holiday Fair. Gift items will include hand knit and sewn items, gifts from Stockbridge Herbs, honey, pottery, beaded jewelry, handbags, hats, wooden toys, soap, maple syrup, notecards, journals, holiday wreaths and more. This event will take place at the library and used books will also be for sale. Drop-in winter craft projects for kids during the fair with Marion Abrams from 12-2pm.

Movie Times Free popcorn. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Mon, Dec 10, The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, PG-13, 3:00 &



6:00pm

Wed, Dec 26, Brave, Disney, PG, 1:00 & 3:00pm (School Vacation)

Mon, Jan 14, Hope Springs, PG-13, 3:00 & 6:00pm

Mon, Feb 11, To Rome with Love, R, 3:00 & 6:00pm

George Howe Colt Reading - March 5, 2013 – Local author Colt reads from his new book Brothers: On His Brothers and Brothers in History, Tues, March 5, 6:30pm.

New CWMARS Library Cards – Do you already have a library card from a CWMARS library? If not, be sure to sign up for a new Whately card, as we are getting closer to switching over to the regional network. Workshops will be scheduled early 2013 on how to search the new online catalog, download audio and e-books to your own devices, and access your account to request or renew books, movies, and audio. Library staff are getting their final training mid-December and we will announce when we'll be "going live" on CWMARS soon after that.

THANK YOU to our Volunteers Bryanne McDonough, Barbara

Banik, Judy Markland, Bob Gaffney, Linda Stairmond, Kathy Layer, Jackie Siller, Maryellen Cranston, Susan Boone, Katie and Jim Ross, Sheila Powers, Linda Theriault, Martha Goodridge, and the Library Trustees for all your time and effort. Thanks to Jim Olsen for donating each new Signature Sounds CD to our music collection, and thanks to LaSalle's and Chamutka Farm for year-round flowers and seasonal decorations.

WLP Celebrates 8th Anniversary

By Larry Kuttner

This autumn marks Whately Land Preservation's eighth anniversary. Thanks to everyone who has supported WLP over the years. With your help, the permanent preservation of 380 acres of Whately farmland, natural habitat, and historic landscape has become a reality.

WLP has recently made some changes to the structure of the group's affiliation with Franklin

Library Holiday Hours:
Closing early
Dec. 24 & 31
open 1:00-5:00pm
Closed Dec. 25 & Jan. 1
Happy Holidays!

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Land Trust, a frequent collaborator in many local land preservation efforts. In addition to providing invaluable technical assistance, FLT has maintained the WLP Whately Fund.

In an effort to simplify the accounting of donations and to keep in line with current non-profit organization accounting practices, WLP will no longer raise funds through annual membership contributions, and instead bestow free membership to everyone interested in supporting WLP's efforts.

Future fund-raising will be done specifically for individual preservation projects. Contributions can be made directly to FLT for each project and will continue to be tax deductible. Contributions to the Whately Fund will no longer be accepted. The existing balance will be used to fund upcoming Whately projects.

WLP 2013 desk calendars featuring artwork from Whately Elementary School students will soon be available. The calendar will be on sale at the Whately Library Handmade Holiday Fair on December 9, and then afterwards at the library front desk, along with WLP note cards.

This year marks FLT's 25th anniversary, as they approach an impressive total of 25,000 acres of open space preserved in the Franklin County area. FLT deserves our support. Without their skillful assistance, WLP could not have been successful, and much work remains to be done.

CH 15 still needs interns of all ages By Joyce Palmer Fortune, Whately Cable Com.

Can you imagine what your Tuesday nights would be like without the selectmen live on

your channel 15? OK, technically it's just the 2nd and last Tuesdays of the month, but still - we know folks in Whately are interested because we get phone calls when we aren't LIVE on ch 15 for Selectmen's meetings. And when we are not on, it is almost always because we do not have a volunteer or an intern available on that particular night to set up, run the camera and record the meeting for video on demand.

This is a shame, because setting up and using the equipment is fairly easy, and we even offer a small stipend (\$25/meeting) for those who complete training at FCAT and regularly help record and broadcast public meetings.

Also, folks have told us they would like to see more public meetings on ch 15. That's very understandable - it helps make our local government more transparent and makes it easy to be well informed about what's going on in town. If there were some more folks willing to help with the technical setup and operation of broadcasts, we all win.

INTERESTED? All ages welcome - we have had interns as young as 14 and volunteers as old as, errr, ummm, well.... let's just say eighty-something. Call Joyce at 665-6739 or Doug Finn at FCAT 665-0012.

Whately Gets Third 100% State CPA Match! by Judy Markland, Community Preservation Committee

Whately was one of only nine Massachusetts communities to receive a complete state match of its FY2012 locally-generated Community Preservation revenues. The average match percentage statewide was 38%, with only those

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Dr. Rebecca Jones

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communities - like Whately - which had adopted the full 3% CPA surcharge getting more than the 26.8% first round state match distribution. The town will get \$68,340 from the state.

Our CPA dollars can leverage a lot of additional outside money, above and beyond the state match. Last April's town meeting approved spending \$118,000 for four historic preservation projects and two agricultural preservation restrictions. The total value of the APR's was about \$790,000 more than the amount we voted, thanks to state funding and other local donations,

This year's match money along with the town's FY2013 CPA collections will be used to help fund projects which will be voted on at next year's town meeting. The projects must be for historic preservation, open space, community housing or recreation. (See the Forms page at whately.org for CPA application forms, which include eligibility criteria, or contact a CPC member.)

CPA project applications are due on Tuesday, December 11, to allow time for evaluation and a public hearing before warrant items are due in March. It is helpful if the project can be reviewed by the appropriate town commission (Ag, Conservation, Historical, or Recreation) before it is submitted. Call Alan Sanderson Jr. at 665-3841 or Judy Markland at 665-4638 if you have questions.

Whately Waste Mgmt Committee NEWS

by Fran Fortino

Annual Holiday Reminder - Free Recycling

You can recycle most of your holiday trash free at the Whately transfer station. Town recycling and food waste composting are open to all residents, even if you have a private trash hauler. Any trash left over can be disposed of in Whately bags for just \$2 per bag at the transfer station.

Please recycle corrugated cardboard boxes, paperboard gift boxes, and greeting cards (except those with foil, metallic inks, or glitter),

and Christmas trees after the holidays. The following items are not recyclable: foil gift-wrapping paper, ribbons, bows, and tinsel; plastic coated boxes; plastic packing peanuts and Styrofoam.

Thanks for Your Support on Bulky Waste Day

In October, Whately residents and those from nearby towns got rid of approximately 13 tons of bulky items, metals, old TV's and computers, BBQ tanks and tires at the fall bulky waste day. Thank you again to town staff Tyler Mankowsky and our terrific bulky day volunteers: Montserrat Archbald, Chris Boutwell, Vic Covaleski, Lynn DiTulio, Larry Kuttner, Dana Robinson. Next bulky waste day will be mid-May 2013.

Many thanks also go to the unheralded volunteers who help us maintain the Swap Shed at the Transfer Station, including Shelly Futter and Regina Wroblewski. Thank you all for your recycling efforts in 2012 and Happy Holidays from the Whately Waste Management Committee (665-4561)!

National Drug Take-Back Day

Don't flush prescription drugs! There will be another National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, September 29, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This event is hosted by area police stations. To find a local drop-off site, check:

www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/

Transfer Station Closed

Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

Town Clerk News

By Lynn Sibley

Street List – During the last week of December 2012, the 2013 Annual Street List forms will be sent to all households. Please verify the information, include all household residents including children, sign and date the form and return to the Town Clerk's Office by January 18th. There is a locked black mailbox outside the Town Clerk's office at the Center School Building at 218 Chestnut Plain Road for your use.

It is important that the town has a correct account of all residents because many of our assessments and grants are based on population and we must have accurate numbers so that we receive or are charged the correct amount of money.

Dog Licenses – The Town Clerk's Office will start issuing dog licenses on February 1, 2013. There will be an insert in the Street List envelope explaining the requirements to license your dogs. All dogs must receive a rabies vaccine and any dog six months old or older must be licensed per state law. See section below for new online payment availability. Late fees for not licensing your dog will go into effect on June 1, 2013.

Elections – The Annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2013. Nomination papers for elected positions will be available on February 4, 2013. Visit www.whately.org for more information in the weeks to come or contact Lynn Sibley, Town Clerk at 665-0054.

New Services Now Available Online Vital Record and Dog License Requests

The Town Clerk now has an online system that will allow you to purchase dog licenses, birth, marriage and death certificates online. Much like the present system for paying real estate taxes on line, the Clerk's office offers you the opportunity to purchase your dog license from the comfort of your home. If the Clerk's office has a valid rabies certificate on record, you will be able to pay from your checkbook or with a credit card on line. Just go to www.whately.org and click on Online Payments. (Additional fees will apply to purchases made with a credit card). If you have a new dog or need to provide updated rabies information you will need to do the transaction by mail or in person.

Birth certificates will be available for those people whose parents were living in Whately at the time of their birth. Marriage certificates will be obtainable for those people who filed their marriage intentions in Whately, not necessarily that they lived or were married in Whately. Death certificates will be available for any person that died in Whately or was living in Whately at the time of their death. If you are unsure of these requirements please call the Clerk's office at 665-0054.

Connect CTY – Town Wide Notification System

When the town first purchased the Connect CTY system I never realized how much it would be used and what a vital service it provided to the residents. Using the system for updates on Tropical Storm Irene and for the October 29, 2011 snow storm we recognized how important

cell phone numbers are to the system. Residents who had corded phones and Verizon service were able to receive calls. Residents that used Comcast or had portable phones lost the service a few hours after the power went out. Cell phone service in general was up and running through most of the storm.

I encourage everyone to include their cell phone numbers in our Blackboard Connect CTY program. It is very simple to do. You can go to Whately.org, scroll down and click on "Sign on to Blackboard Connect CTY". It will ask you to set up an account. If you have another number as your primary number, your cell phone will not be called for routine messages. However if the message is of a critical nature such as the recent storm updates, the system is programmed to call all numbers. You may also call 665-4400 directly and we will input any numbers that you would like into the system.

I would also like to thank everyone for their positive comments regarding this phone notification system.

Wildlife Sightings

by Marianne Simon

Last month my husband, Tom, came out of the house and saw a young bear, alone, no doubt an adolescent, standing in the yard. They looked at each other and the bear, but not Tom, was intimidated, turned and went back into the woods. No words were exchanged between them - too bad, imagine the stories they could have told each other!

The beaver pond on Westbrook Road is widening again. I finally saw the big beaver and the little beaver swimming around. Then the big one climbed onto the grass and went to a huge tree that had already had considerable work done on it. She started chewing - I could hear the sound clearly from the road - kept at it for a long time, then went back to the water. Each of them got to work chewing on a small stick in the water, and kept at it until I had to move on. It seems they have ambitious plans for their liquid home!

Share your wildlife sightings - mpsimon70@comcast.net

The Whately Scoop -The deadline for submission to the March, 2013 issue of the Scoop is Feb 28 2013. Please email your literary contributions to jpfortune@comcast.net.

If you know of any local businesses that you would like to see advertising in the scoop, LET THEM KNOW!, and give them the following contact information: Joyce Palmer Fortune, jpfortune@comcast.net, 665-6739.

TOWN DIRECTORY

<i>Department</i>	<i>Office</i>	<i>Phone</i>
Assessors	Town Hall	665-3470
Board of Health Health Agent		268-8404
Animal Control		665-8027
Emergency Mgmt	Center School	665-4400
FAX for Center School		665-9560
FAX for Town Hall		665-5064
Fire Department		665-2230
Burning Permits		625-8200
Highway Department		665-2983
Inspection Services:		
Building	Courthouse	772-2026x123
Plumbing & Gas	Courthouse	772-2026x125
Wiring	Courthouse	772-2026x126
Police (non-emergency)		625-8200
Schools:		
Whately Elementary		665-7826
Frontier Regional School		665-2118
Franklin County Technical		863-9561
Selectmen/Center School		665-4400
S. White Dickinson Library		665-2170
Town Collector/Treasurer	Town Hall	665-2595
Town Clerk	Center School	665-0054
Town Accountant	Town Hall	665-2595
Water Department	Center School	665-3080

Assessors - Tue 9a – 8p. Wed. 9a – 4p
Library - Mon Tue Wed 1p. – 8p; Sat 10a – 3:00p
Selectmen - Mon Tue 9-6– Wed Fri 9a – 4:00p
Town Clerk – Mon noon-7:00p; Tue-Fri 9:00a -4:00p
Treasurer/Town Collector -Tue & Thu 8:45a-2:45p Mon. 3-7p
Transfer Station - Tue., Noon-5p; Sat. 7a-5p

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR TOWN BOARDS

Assessors- Most Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00p, Town Hall
Board of Health-2nd Tues, 7:00p, Center School
Conservation Commission-3rd Weds, 7:00p, Town Hall
Council on Aging - 2nd Tue, 4:00p Library
Franklin Tech School Com. 2nd Weds, 7:00p, Tech School
FRS School Committee - 2nd Tues, 7:00p FRS
Historical Commission -3rd Monday, 7:00p, Town Hall
Library Trustees - 2nd Tuesday, 7:00p, Library
Planning Board - Last Tuesday, 7:00p, Town Hall
Recreation Commission –2nd Mon, 7:00p,WES/Herlihy
Selectmen - 2nd and last Tues, 7:00p, Center School
Water Commissioners - 1st Tues, 7:00p, Center School
Whately School Committee -1st Monday, 7:00p WES
Zoning Board of Appeals - 1st Thurs, 6:30p, Town Hall
Historical Society 1st Thursday, 7:00p, Center School

Note: This schedule is provided for informational purposes only. Meetings are also posted on the Whately Bulletin Board, Channel #15 for cable viewers in town and at the town's website, www.whately.org. Please check at the Town Offices for official notification of meetings and hearings.

If you misplace your copy of the Scoop - do not despair! You can always find it on the Whately Library's website (www.whately.org/library)

Postage cost for this issue provided by the Whately Historical Society; Printing cost provided by generous readers and local businesses, Thank You All Very Much!



The WHATELY SCOOP
Certified News for the Town
 with the Milk Bottle...

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December's here - it's time to rest
 All creatures find a cozy nest
 Or else a warm and ample cave
 For them and all the food they've saved.

Birds are quiet - not a song
 to hear from them all winter long,

Snow is quiet coming down,
 It muffles sound throughout the town.

So let's keep warm and ease our pace,
 Remember life is not a race,
 Enjoy the winter and the snow,
 Drive with care and keep it slow!