



The WHATELY SCOOP

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

Volume 13 ♦ Number 3 ♦ March, 2016 ♦ Whately, Massachusetts

Our 13th Year and going strong. Thanks to you!

The 2016 Whately Family Talent Festival plus Donations for the Western Mass Food Bank by Steve Calderone

It's almost here - March 19, 2015 - for the 19th AWFTF.

For 18 years, this town has supported the amazing children and adults who enjoy sharing their special skills - song, dance, magic, stories, poems, comedy, and more. The 2016 event will be extra special.

All participants (audience and performers) are invited to bring one non-perishable food item. After the celebration, the collection will be delivered to the Western Mass Food Bank in Hatfield, from the AWFTF. Please note: nobody will be turned away if they don't bring a donation. However, those who can, please bring a can, a box, or a jar.

The good news: for the 19th year, this event will be free, the performances will be great, and (thanks to our wonderful sponsors) everybody who attends will have a chance to win a door prize. Now is a great time to fine tune your act. Please consider this a reminder to keep those creative juices flowing.

The event is on **Saturday**, at **7pm**, in the Whately Elementary School Gymnasium.

*Presentation by Darcy Tozier & Paul Fleuriel
Whately Cemetery Stone Restoration
Thurs., Mar. 3, 7pm Whately Town Hall*

It's easy to get on stage: just call and describe your act. If you have something in mind, please call Dave Robinson, at 665-8452. For 18 years, "Grandpa Dave" has invited hundreds of acts onto the stage in our home town - from the youngest children to the seasoned performers. Everybody who attends, and everybody who performs, has a great time. Don't be left out. Please join in the AWFTF fun.

The rehearsal is on Friday, March 18th, same place, 6-8pm. We are unable to allow any acts to perform on Saturday if they do not attend on Friday. Remember: Enjoy this talent creation ... And bring a food donation. We hope to see you there. Thank you for your continued support.

Whately Grange By Adelia Bardwell

Whately Grange and the Whately Agricultural Commission are proud to host an Agriculture Day April 23 at the Town Hall as a showcase for all town farms.

All farmers are invited to bring samples of their wares and brochures about their production. From 9 am to 3pm visitors may browse farm exhibits, learn about Heifer Project International, and view samples of tools from the Whately Historical Society's

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Hillside House Bed and Breakfast

60 Masterson Rd
Whately, MA 01093
413-665-5515

Web address: www.hillsidehousebb.com

collection. Farm machinery will be outside on display.

There will be refreshments and door prizes.

Art With Wine Fund Raiser for the Scoop! Wednesday April 27, 2016 6-8pm

Local Art Teacher Bette Sokolowski is having a fund raiser for **The Scoop** at 2 Hobbie Road, S. Deerfield. Cost of attending is \$35 per person. Bette guides each participant in creating and finishing a 16"x20" painting to take home.

Bette supplies everything - paint, brushes, easels, canvas, smocks - you simply bring \$35 and a beverage. The Scoop will receive \$10 for each participant. Preregistration required - call Bette at 665-4039 or email flowerpot48@yahoo.com if you are interested.

Curious? Bette will have an Open House on April 13 from 6 PM till 8 PM

Come and see the 16" X 20" sample painting and sign up!

News from the Whately Church



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Find me on Face Book @ Art With Wine

by Cynthia Crosson-Harrington

Our little church is buzzing with activity as we anticipate Easter and spring. We are currently in Lent, that time for emotional and spiritual housecleaning in anticipation of Easter. Our ecumenical Easter sunrise service will be held behind the library on March 27th at 6:30 am followed by breakfast at the church. All are welcome. Easter

worship will be at 10 with an Easter egg hunt for the children immediately following.

In April, we begin our church suppers the first of which is chicken pie on April 21st at 6:00. For reservations please call 665-2653.

Stay tuned for more information on the All-Church Tag sale on May 14th. And in the meantime, we worship every Sunday at 10 am. All are welcome no matter where you are on your spiritual journey.



Whately Congregational Church (UCC)
177 Chestnut Plain Road
Worship service & Sunday School 10am Sundays

Join us on Easter Sunday.

6:30am sunrise service behind the library,
then breakfast at the church.

10am Easter service followed by coffee hour and
children's egg hunt.

Whately Historical Commission by Donna Wiley

Supported entirely by funds from the Community Preservation Act, the Conway School of Landscape Planning and Design will work with Whately residents this spring to develop a plan for Town Center to address parking, walkways, lighting, grading and landscape maintenance plans.

Their work will focus on the Whately Center National Historic District, from the Center School and Cemetery to below the Congregational Church on Chestnut Plain Road, and up Haydenville Road, and includes the original historic town common.

They will hold several public meetings, as well as consulting with residents and representatives of the Library, Cemetery Commission, and the Town.

The Conway School team will be on site between April and June 2016, with a final report to the community by early July.

The Historical Commission and the Municipal Building Committee have submitted a joint proposal for 2016 CPC funding to support the production of bid-ready documents for the rehabilitation of Town Hall, which the CPC supports unanimously.

Regardless of the Town's ultimate choice to address the needs of Town Hall in phases or all at once, plans for the full project are necessary for application to a number of potential public grant sources.

The entire Town Hall renovation will be eligible for CPA funding under the "historic preservation" umbrella. This application will be discussed at a public hearing of the Community Preservation



Commission on March 9 (see below) and at a public meeting of the Historical Commission and Building Committee on Monday, April 4, 6 pm.

For further information, contact Alan McArdle, Chair, Whately Historical Commissions, at ahmcardle@gmail.com.

2016 CPA project recommendations. by Judy Markland, for CPC

The Community Preservation Committee will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, March 9 at 6pm at Town Offices to give townspeople a chance to learn about the projects recommended for funding at April's town meeting. Whately has received a 100% match for its revenues every year since we first started collecting them in 2010 – a great bonus for our small town. We anticipate that CPA revenues will total between \$155,000 and \$160,000 for FY16, which ends on June 30.

At least 10% of each year's CPA revenues must be spent or set aside for historic preservation, 10% for open space, and 10% for community housing. CPA funds may also be spent for certain recreation projects.

This year the CPC is recommending three projects for approval. One would provide \$84,000 to prepare bid-ready documents for the restoration and rehabilitation of Town Hall as a community center and Historical Society museum. We are also recommending that voters approve \$30,000 for the second phase of rehabilitation of damaged stones in the three historic Whately cemeteries and \$16,000 for a portion of the local share of an APR on 17.6 acres of farmland on Long Plain Road.

The Housing Committee will be asking town meeting to approve the creation of a Housing Trust so that it can act quickly to buy property when it becomes available without the delay of getting town meeting approval for each transaction. If the Trust is approved, the CPC will be asking approval to transfer the \$86,726 now set aside for community housing

projects into the Trust, subject to an agreement with the town that this money will only be spent in accordance with CPA requirements.

Housing Committee News

By Catherine Roegg

The Whately Housing Committee was established in 2012 to assist the town and the Community Preservation Committee in the use of the funds collected through our CPA taxes that is designated for affordable housing.

Each year, by statute, at least 10 % of expected CPA revenues must be allocated towards the provision of affordable housing. To date, \$86,235 has accumulated.

At one point, the Committee was interested in purchasing a parcel on State Road, but the parcel was put under contract by the time town meeting met to approve the purchase.

The Committee would like to continue to explore available options for this purpose, and has been working with town counsel to create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF).

An AHTF would allow the Committee to expend small amounts of funds to ensure any property that may become available is suitable for development, such as a perc test, appraisals, and surveys, or potentially make an offer on a parcel with Selectboard approval.

This year at annual town meeting, the Committee wants the town to approve the creation of such a trust under Massachusetts General Laws Section 55C of Chapter 44.

The Trust would be subject to open meeting laws and would be a municipal agency with its funds under custody of the town treasurer, and also subject to the same audit of town records as all other funds. Trust projects will meet the same standards and requirements of all other CPA funded projects. The Trust would simplify the process of evaluating and selecting sites for potential housing projects.

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The current Housing Committee members have been considering partnering with agencies like Habitat for Humanity or the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority to enable the town to work on a community project.

Locally, the town of Amherst has used their trust in this manner, as have many other towns across the Commonwealth, such as Brewster on the Cape and Bedford. Please look for the fact sheet we have posted on the website.

Cemetery stone restoration, local archeology and the sestercentennial by Adelia Bardwell

The Historical Society has two exciting programs coming up in March. On Thursday, March 3rd at 7pm at Town Hall, Darcy Tozier and Paul Fleuriel will describe the restoration work done recently at our cemeteries, showing amazing before and after pictures of the gravestones.

They'll also describe the next phase of the project if the CPA funding the Cemetery Commission has requested is approved at town meeting.

And if you're worried about the condition of your family's tombstones, they'll also have information on their proper care and cleaning. Refreshments will be served. The talk is free and all are invited.

On Thursday, March 17th at 7pm, we and the Hatfield Historical Society are sponsoring a talk by Randy Daum of Hatfield on the archeological work he has done at early Hatfield homestead sites. Randy has literally unearthed fascinating evidence about the architecture of the early houses as well as information about early Hatfield settlers' lifestyles.

Many of these people were the ancestors of early Whately settlers, so it's a part of our history as well.

The talk will be at the Hatfield Congregational Church and refreshments will be served.

Did you know that Whately's sestercentennial is coming up soon? If we've stumped you, a sestercentennial is a 250th anniversary, and ours is in 2021. To help us all get in the mood, the Historical

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Michael Archbald, RN- Owner

Society's spring exhibit will be *Recalling the Bicentennial*. We're seeking documents and objects related to that 1771 celebration for our exhibit. Do you have a prize medal from one of the contests, a costume that you wore, a painting that was exhibited in the art show, the razor you used to shave off your bicentennial beard, or another remembrance of that special year? If so, we'd love to display it. Call Adelia at 665-3837 or email info@whatelyhistorical.org.

We're still working hard to get our collection properly catalogued and organized prior to moving to our new home and would greatly appreciate help. If you can spare occasional time to help, please stop by the Center School on Tuesday mornings or contact us to set up another time.

Solarize Whately Again By Whately Energy Committee

The Whately Energy Committee urges all homeowners with southern exposure to consider the installation of solar electric generation (PV or photovoltaics panels). Panels can be roof or ground mounted assuming good solar exposure and a roof in good condition.

Homeowners can now install PV for about \$5,000 less than the cost of a new, no-frills model Honda Civic or \$2,000 less than the bottom-of-the-line Ford Fiesta (and this does not include savings due to car loan financing charges).

A typical 5.4 kW system costs approximately \$20,000. Deducting the 30% federal tax credit (which



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may be rolled over) and the \$1,000 MA state income

tax credit, the installed cost to the consumer is approximately \$13,000. The simple payback dividing the \$13,000 by the annual net-metering and SRECs amounts to a 5 to 6 year simple payback or an annual rate of return of over 15%. Furthermore, the homeowner may qualify for solar loans at 0% interest (see www.masssolarloan.com for details)!

Additionally, solar PV systems have been estimated to add approximately \$15,000 to the value of a house, but this added value is not allowed to be added to the home assessment or property tax.

Added benefits to installing PVs include:

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels.
- Reduction of summertime peak demand.
- Ability to charge electric vehicles for free (electric vehicle availability and growth is increasingly exponentially).
- Ability to couple homeowner power production with increasingly available home energy storage capability (higher efficiency batteries) further reducing dependence on utility electricity.
- Keeping money in the local economy by saving on electricity as well as by increasing local employment of solar installers (check the phonebook or go to <https://masssolarloan.anbetrack.com/solarloanportal/FindInstaller> for installer listings; most will give free-estimates and site evaluations).

If you have any questions about solar PV, feel free to call one of your Whately Energy Committee members or a local solar installer:

Jonathan Edwards 665-3598

Nat Fortune 665-6739

Paul Newlin 665-3741

PS: Heating your domestic hot water with solar thermal has an even shorter payback than PV systems. See: <http://www.masscec.com/learn-about-solar-hot-water> for details.

Questions? visit

www.watermelonwednesdays.com



Spring 2016 Transfer Station Events

By Fran Fortino

Whately residents have many opportunities to compost or recycle most of their trash for free at the Whately Transfer Station, including the spring bulky waste collection day on **May 21**. For all the events and options, see the transfer station calendar insert in this Scoop.

Bill Obear, who helped form the town's solid waste committee and initiated the town's recycling program over 30 years ago, has retired after 30+ years. Thanks to Bill and the solid waste committee's efforts, the Town of Whately has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars by recycling and composting waste items otherwise destined for a landfill. As Bill noted: "Since the beginning, and after the construction of the MRF in Springfield, Whately residents have recycled in excess of 2,000 tons of various materials - a list which keeps on growing."

A fine example of Bill's pioneering work came in 2003, when Whately was the first municipality in the state to collect food waste from its residents at the transfer station. The food waste became compost at Bill's Bearpath Farm and eventually nourished hundreds of gardens and landscapes in Whately and beyond. Despite its small size, Whately has over the years consistently had one of the highest recycling rates in the county and number of other firsts, including our plastic bag recycling program.

We are proud of all you have done to make Whately a model for recycling and composting. **Thank you, Bill!**

Volunteers Needed

One of our town's recycling advocate and long-time bulky day volunteer Larry Kuttner has been appointed to the solid waste committee. However, we are looking for another person to join the solid waste committee, and also for volunteers to help out on bulky waste days in May and Oct. Please call 665-4561, if you might be interested.

Whately Library News by Wendy Peppercorn

Mondays, March 7 &, April 4, 10:30am-Mother Goose on the Loose

30-minute event for babies and toddlers followed by open play. Please RSVP at 413-665-2170

Saturday, March 12, 11am, Book discussion, Brooklyn by Colm Toibin

Refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library

Monday, March 14, 11am- Whately Knitting Circle and Instruction

For knitters at all levels. Want to make a simple scarf? Bring two 7 or 8 inch knitting needles and two worsted weight yarns.

Tuesday, March 15, 3 and 6 pm- Movie Tuesday-Trumbo- (Rated R)

Saturday, March 19 -Annual Spring Extravaganza! Decorate a basket, dance and sing. Join in the egg hunt! RSVP 413-665-2170. Sponsored by The Friends of the Library

Wednesday March 23, 6:30 pm-Music Masters For Women's History Month, Vocalist Sarah Clay and pianist Nick Kachulis, Skylarkz, present "Woman Singers, Songwriters and Performers"

Saturday, March 26, 11am- National Nutrition Month-Ana Maria Moise, MS, CNS, LDN of The Nutrition Center discusses "Getting the Most Out of Your Food: A Talk about Nutrient Density".

Nutritious snacks provided by Friends of the Library

Tuesday, April 5, 6:30- Cello Concert with Gideon Freudmann

Gideon returns with the electric cello for improvisational music. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

Tuesday, April 19, 2:00pm, Crocodile Kids Yoga (With Jocelyn O'Shea, Ages 5 and Up) Practice postures, breathing, relaxation, and meditation. Please register at 413-665-2170.

Saturday- April 23, 1 am-Book Discussion- Between Shades of Grey by Ruta Sepety

Town Clerk News by Lynn Sibley

Census forms were mailed at the end of December. Please return them to the Town Clerk's Office, 4 Sandy Lane, So. Deerfield, MA 01373. If you never received a form, please call the Town Clerk's office at 665-4400 Option 3.

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A Drop Box is now available for all town-related mail at the new town offices. It is located in front of the handicapped spaces at the front of the building. Do not use the box by the side of the road.

Dog Licenses are available. Please note that license fees have gone up. A valid rabies certificate and the appropriate fee will be required to license your dogs. Intact Males and Females are \$15.00, spayed females and neutered males are \$10.00. Licensing may be done in person at the Town Clerk's Office during regular office hours, by mail sending the rabies certificate and a check made payable to the Town of Whately for the applicable fee, and online at www.whately.org. Click on online payments. All dogs must be licensed by June 1 to avoid a late fee. Per the new Animal Control bylaw, late fees will start at \$50 per dog for those dogs not licensed by June 1.

Nomination Papers are available for the June 14 Town Election. Positions up for election this year are Selectman - 3 years, Town Clerk - 3 years, Assessor - 3 years, Board of Health - 3 years, School Committee

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- 3 years, Two Library Trustee Positions - 3 years, Cemetery Commissioner - 3 years, Water Commissioner - 3 years, Moderator 1 year, Elector to the Will of Oliver Smith - 1 year and two Constable positions for 3 years. If you are interested in running for office, please contact Lynn Sibley, Town Clerk at 665-4400 Option 3. Nomination papers will be available until April 22, 2016. and must be returned with 20 valid signatures to the Registrars of Voters (Town Clerk's Office) by April 26, 2016

Town Administrator Updates: By Mark Pruhenski

All town offices are now under one roof at the 4 Sandy Lane building as well as our many volunteer boards and committees. Meetings are held here in a modern and accessible facility.

With this move, came significant improvements in technology and security, vastly improved efficiencies, increased meeting space, and of course a much safer

and warmer environment for staff and elected/appointed officials.

Thank you to everyone for your patience while we relocated our offices. I hope to update you soon about the small renovation in our new building for additional office and meeting space.

The Mill River Project has wrapped up construction, and awaits the spring weather for final clean-up and plantings to take place. Completion of this project will ensure a safe water supply for the residents of Whately for many years to come. We were fortunate to have a great team of contractors and engineers, town staff, and volunteer board members to help us navigate this very complicated process.

The Town of Whately seal, re-colored and re-lettered, has been made into a new flag and will be proudly displayed in the meeting room at the new Town Office Building. An additional flag will also be presented to the Massachusetts State House, for display in the Great Room, alongside many of the other 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth.

Meeting Schedule for Town Boards

Assessors- Most Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00PM, Town Hall
Board of Health-2nd Weds, 5:00PM, Center School
Conservation Commission-3rd Weds, 7:00PM, Town Hall
Franklin Tech School Com.-2nd Weds, 7:00PM, Tech School

FRS School Committee - 2nd Tue, 7PM FRS

Historical Commission - 3rd Mon, 7PM, 4 Sandy Ln.

Library Trustees - 2nd Tue, 7PM, Library

Planning Board - Last Tuesday, 7PM, Town Hall

Recreation Commission - 2nd Mon, 7PM, WES/Herlihy

Selectmen - 2nd and last Tue, 7PM, 4 Sandy Ln.

Water Commissioners - 1st Tue, 7PM, 4 Sandy Ln.

Whately School Committee - 1st Monday, 7PM, WES

Zoning Board of Appeals - 1st Thu, 6:30PM, Town Hall

Historical Society 1st Thursday, 7PM, 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.

Town Offices Hours of Operation

Assessors - Tue. 9a - 4p, Wed 9a - 3p

Library - M, 10a-5p, T, W, 1p - 8p, Sat 10a - 3p
 Selectmen - M, W, Th 8a-4p, T 9:30a-6p

Town Clerk- M 12-7pm, Th 9a-4p, F 9a-12p
 Treasurer/Collector M 8a-7p, T-Th 8a-4p, F 9a-12p

Transfer Station - Tues 12-5PM, Sat. 7am-5pm

Anticipating spring, we look toward completion of the Egypt Road intersection project, which will improve the overall safety for drivers entering and exiting Routes 5 & 10. We hope to continue the phase two project of our town office renovations, as well as launch a new and improved Town website. We also hope to re-start airing our meetings live on Channel 15 soon. Comcast is connecting our new building as I write.



Town Office Contact Information

4 Sandy Lane,
 South Deerfield, MA 01373
 Main 413-665-4400 Fax 413-665-9560

Town Directory

Assessors	665-4400
Board of Health Health Agent	268-8404
Animal Control	665-8027
Emergency Mgmt.	665-4400
Fire Department (routine)	665-8200
Burning Permits	625-8200
Highway Department	665-2983
Police (Dispatch, non-emergency)	625-8200
Police (Station)	665-0430
Schools:	
Whately Elementary	665-7826
Frontier Regional School	665-2118
Franklin County Technical	863-9561
Selectboard	665-4400
S. White Dickinson Library	665-2170
Collector/Treasurer	665-4400
Town Clerk	665-4400
Town Accountant	665-4400
Water Department	1 665-4400

*Town Offices located at
 4 Sandy Lane, Whately
 Mailing address is*

4 Sandy Lane, S. Deerfield, MA 01373



The **WHATELY SCOOP**
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The Whately Scoop

If you misplace your copy of The Scoop, do not despair! You can always find it on the resources page at whatelyhistorical.org.

The closing date for submissions to the June 2016 issue of the Scoop is **May 18, 2016**. Please email your literary contributions to jpfortune@comcast.net before that deadline.

If you know any local businesses that you would like to see advertise in the *Scoop*, let them know, and give them this contact information: Joyce Palmer Fortune, jpfortune@comcast.net, 665-6739. Individual donations from readers are welcome, at the same address. Please make checks out to:

The Whately Scoop