



The WHATELY SCOOP

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

Volume 23 ❖ Number 2 ❖ December 2025 ❖ Whately, Massachusetts

23 Years and going strong. Thanks to you!

Whately again receives 100% state match for town CPA revenues.

CPA funding applications due December 9

By Judy Markland, CPC

Whately did it again!! Whately was one of only 7 communities in Massachusetts to get a 100% match for our local FY25 CPA revenue collections. The match amount from the state was \$113,687. We anticipate receiving roughly \$215,000 in state and local CPA revenues for the current fiscal year.

The project funding cycle for Community Preservation Act funding at the spring annual town meeting starts on December 9 at noon, when project applications are due at Town Offices. Email submissions to townclerk@whately.org are acceptable as long as the time on the email meets the deadline.

To qualify for CPA funding, projects must be for historic preservation, open space, community housing or recreation. It is helpful if the project can be reviewed by the appropriate town commission (Ag, Conservation, Historical, Housing or Recreation) before it is submitted to the CPC. Application forms, sample applications, and a link to an explanation of project eligibility can also be found via the CPC page at whately.org.

Since the CPA was adopted in 2009, Whately has generated \$2.7 million in CPA funds for town projects, half of this from the state match. The town has approved \$1.8 million in spending for a wide variety of CPA-funded projects,

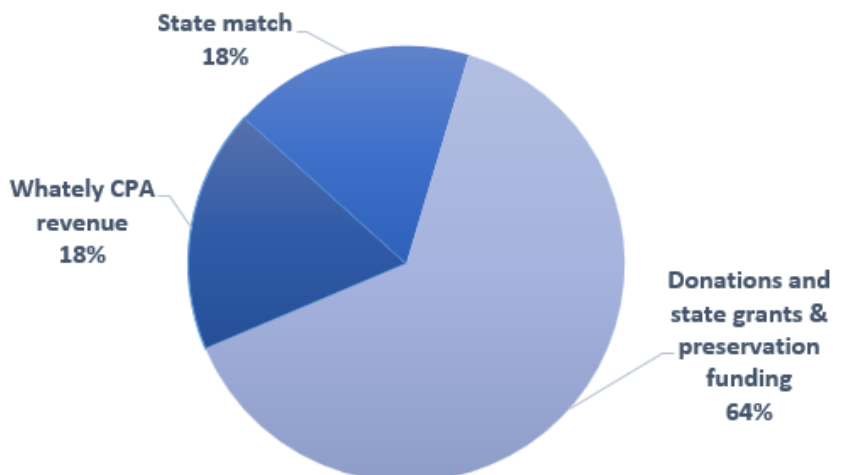
including funds for rehabilitation of Town Hall, improvements at Herlihy Field, purchase of Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, cemetery improvements, rehabilitation of the Veterans Memorial, and expansion of the hockey rink. (The full project list can be found on the CPC page at whately.org.) Our CPA funds also helped generate another \$4.8 million in state grants and private donations for various projects, so the total investment in Whately has been \$7.4 million.

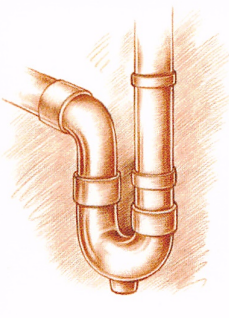
ZIP CODE CHANGE - Status Update

by Amy Lavalley, Town Clerk

The Town of Whately would like to provide an important update regarding the ongoing ZIP code project. As many residents know, the Town has been working closely with the United States Postal Service (USPS) to address long-standing concerns related to mailing addresses and ZIP code assignments within Whately. Earlier this year, the USPS indicated its initial support for moving the project forward. However, after further internal review, the USPS has since denied the request.

Whately CPA Project Funding Sources 2011-2025





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At this time, the project is on hold. Town officials are seeking clarification from the USPS and are exploring available next steps to advocate for a resolution that better reflects Whately’s municipal boundaries and community identity. We understand the frustration this reversal may cause, and we will continue to communicate updates as they become available.

In the meantime, residents should not make any changes to their mailing addresses. Please continue using your current, USPS-recognized address and ZIP code until the Town issues further guidance. Any premature changes may result in delays or disruptions to mail delivery or other services.

We appreciate your patience as we work toward a solution and remain committed to keeping the community informed.

The USPS did say that those in the 01373 zip code can start using Whately, MA 01373 as their mailing addresses however that may not be recognized on all delivery platforms besides USPS.

If you would like to, we encourage residents dissatisfied with this decision to write a letter to :

Manager, Rural Delivery
US Postal Service
475 L’Enfant Plaza SW Room 7416
Washington,DC 20260-7340

We also want residents to know that we are working with Senator Elizabeth Warren’s, Senator Ed Markey’s, and Congressman Jim McGovern’s offices on this. For questions, please contact the Town Clerk’s office

Housing committee update

by Brant Cheikes, Housing Committee Chair

The Housing Committee aims to facilitate the development of affordable housing, including affordable senior housing, while preserving the rural, agricultural character of

Whately. This mission includes raising awareness of resources available to help current residents live in Whately more affordably. To that end, we want to highlight the Home Modification Loan Program, which offers zero-interest loans for homeowners in Franklin County who need to adapt their home for a household member with a disability or age-related limitation. Residents may contact the Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority by phone (413-223-5211) or email (tbloom@fcrhra.org). A detailed flyer on this program is available at Town Offices as well as from the Housing Committee page on whately.org.

The committee welcomes comments and suggestions from residents on affordable housing development opportunities and challenges. Currently we are evaluating the 4-acre parcel of town-owned land at 268 State Road to see whether any multi-family housing units could be built there and how such a project might be funded. We hold monthly public meetings via Zoom and can be contacted by email at housing@whately.org.

A Comprehensive Plan for Whately

By Megan Rhodes, FRCOG Livability Program

The Town has received grant funding to create a Comprehensive Plan for Whately. A Comprehensive Plan is a long-range plan that identifies a community’s goals and guides future physical and economic development.

This project has been divided into 2 phases. The 1st phase occurred in 2023 and focused on Public Engagement and Outreach. The results from this process can be found on the project website at <https://whatelyplans.org/> and includes survey results, a draft vision statement, and guiding principles for the Plan.

The 2nd phase of the project is the creation of the Comprehensive Plan incorporating the

Fredrick & Associates

Victoria Fredrick
Certified Public Accountant

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results of the public outreach and previous planning efforts. This phase began in 2025 and there are now several draft chapters available for public review on the project website. These chapters examine the topics of Agriculture, Climate Change & Energy, Economic Development & Cultural Resources, and Housing. Additional draft chapters will be available to review in February. The Draft Comprehensive Plan will be available in May and there will be many opportunities for public comment this spring.

Stay tuned to <https://whatelyplans.org/> for project updates and community engagement opportunities! We want to hear from you!

Questions and comments can be directed to Megan Rhodes, FRCOG Livability Program Manager at mrhodes@frcog.org or Peter Kane, Town Administrator at townadmin@whately.org.

Update on a home for the South County Senior Center (SCSC)

By Joyce Palmer Fortune, SCSC BOO Chair

Over the past few years, we have been actively working toward establishing a centralized location to house all of our programs and services under one roof.

You may have heard that the Board of Oversight (BOO) is looking into 112 Amherst Road in Sunderland as a potential new home. We are planning to have three walk-throughs

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Chestnut Plain Road, Whately

The Murphys Realtors

that will be open to the public so that townspeople, especially seniors, can take a look at the site and tell us what you think.

The dates and times are:

- Dec. 16, 11am,
- Dec. 17 at 2pm, and
- Dec 18 at 5pm.

Please meet us at 112 Amherst road in Sunderland at one of those times if you would like to take a look at the site we are considering.

We will also be holding a community forum to give further information and updates in mid January. Date/time/place are to be confirmed, please see the SCSC Facebook page, the SCSC website and the SCSC newsletter for details as we move into January.

The Whately Giving Garden

By Julie Waggoner

The Whately Giving Garden Committee – now an official Town committee – would like to THANK all the farmers and resident gardeners who participated in our first year of plant, seed and produce sharing.

A big thank you to local producers Nourse Farms, Wayne and Scott Hutkoski of Long Plain Farm, David Chamutka, Doug Coldwell of Happy Valley Organics, and Alan Sanderson of Fairview Farms. We'd also like to thank our mailing list / resident participants, who

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www.drjonesdermatology.com

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numbered more than 70 people! You made our first year a great success.

The Giving Garden and participants distributed FREE seedlings, seeds and produce every two weeks – initially at the Library, and then at the Transfer Station -- beginning in May and running through late September.

In 2026 we anticipate beginning in May again, every other week at the Transfer Station. Although we'd considered building a centralized Community Garden plot, the decentralized/community way we worked last year seemed to be very effective. So we will continue to support folks in gardening at home, growing their own produce, and donating it to the Giving Garden swap when they have surplus.

Through the generosity of Doug Coldwell and BearPath Compost, we will be able to offer lumber and compost to construct 10 home garden beds. Please stay tuned if you are interested in gardening at home; we will have a sign up available in early 2026.

The members of the Giving Garden Committee are:

- Julie Waggoner (Selectboard),
- Amy Lavallee (Town Clerk),
- Erik Debbink (Agricultural Commission),
- Cyndi Steiner (Library),
- Stan and Terry Gadomski (at Large),
- Melanie Skroski (at Large).

Our focus is to distribute free food to residents in need, and we are happy to share and coordinate with the general Whately population as well. If you need fresh food, or would like to participate in growing and donating food, or would like to be on our mailing list, please contact Amy Lavallee at townclerk@whately.org, or j.waggoner@whately.org.

Whately News from the Whately Congregational church by Dee Bardwell

Where does time go? Thanksgiving is just over and we are in Advent! We celebrate with a Pot Luck luncheon December 9 following morning worship. Each Sunday in Advent we light a candle recognizing the approach of the birth of Jesus.

Christmas Eve we gather for the traditional candlelight service with readings and carol singing. This service will be at 5:00 PM.

We were pleased to host a concert showing our appreciation for the CPA funds which aided our window project which is now complete.

Our Sunday service at 10:00 is open to all who seek a house of worship.

An UPDATE from the Center School Committee


by the Whately Center School Committee

The feasibility study conducted by McCabe Enterprises on the best uses of the Center School is wrapping up. Thanks to the 118 survey respondents we have good input on preferences within town, which the Committee has discussed extensively throughout our monthly meetings. The final report is due at the end of the year and will be posted at whately.org.

In addition, several immediate fixes needed to keep the building from deteriorating further have taken place. Our fabulous Building Supervisor Garrett Barry found an experienced roofer who patched the roof. Many thanks to the CPC who paid for that repair from its administrative expense fund. In addition, the Highway Department removed bushes crowding the front steps and repaired a broken downspout which was allowing water to flow into the building's masonry. This tightening up of the building gives the town significantly more time to finalize long-term plans.

The structural engineering portion of the feasibility study pointed out the original

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framing weaknesses that have allowed the roof support to spread out and weaken over time. The cheapest fix is cabling, which would reduce the utility of the attic. However, since the attic has an antiquated load-bearing capacity that is inadequate for most uses, cabling may work fine. As a result, current design discussions do not include use of the attic space.

A study of traffic passing by the school was completed by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and reports an annual average daily traffic is 2,320 vehicles per day; of which 11.6% are heavy vehicles.

The final report will include information on demand for the multiple uses identified and estimates for the cost per square foot of these options. This will be invaluable information for further decision-making. We look forward to continued progress in 2026.

Dec. 10 Talk on Health Care

Affordability by Nancy Talanian

"Everyone Needs Health Care, But Can We All Afford It?" is the title of a public talk at Whately Town Hall on Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Allison Van der Velden will discuss the rising costs of health care coverage affecting us all, including Medicare, Medicaid /

Everyone Needs Health Care, But Can We All Afford It?

MassHealth, and other health insurance plans and programs. She will also cover recent and proposed legislation affecting access to health care and what we can do to keep our health care affordable. Dr. Van der Velden is the CEO of the Community Health Center of Franklin County and is a practicing dentist. She serves on the boards of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers and the Amherst Survival Center.

The program is the third in a series of talks presented by the Whately Civic Association (www.whatelycivic.org). The talks are free, and all are welcome. Whately Town Hall is ADA accessible

Whately Civic Association

by Paul Newlin

The **Whately Civic Association** is a gathering of local residents who meet

Offering the best in acoustic music of all types
Now in our 19th year!



Watermelon Wednesdays
in West Whately

Summer schedule now posted
www.watermelonwednesdays.com

monthly. We are a voluntary, participant-driven group of concerned citizens working to strengthen local community ties and relationships. By fostering a civic forum for regular discussions about the myriad issues facing us as citizens of Whately and the nation, we aim to create a group of people who can work together for common goals.

We strive to:

- identify national, state, and local government policies and behaviors initiatives & emergencies that could affect Whately
- educate ourselves and the community about the local impact of these issues including, where applicable, the social, political, economic, and environmental effects;
- determine how best to respond individually and where agreed, together.

The **Whately Civic Association** often meets on the first Sunday of each month at Whately Town Hall from 4:30 to 6:00. All Whately residents are welcome to join our discussions. We believe in respectful listening and civil dialog.

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Library News

By Cynthia Steiner

Seventy-five years ago, on December 17, 1950, the S. White Dickinson Memorial Library opened its doors to the residents of Whately.

For those of you who may not know, the history of libraries in Whately dates back to 1790, when forty-seven of the town's leading citizens each contributed a shilling and fourpence to start a subscription library—for men only. It lasted until 1795. Over the following eight decades, a number of informal libraries, some in private homes, some in schoolrooms, came and went. Then in 1874, Whately citizens voted to "establish a town library," and a room was set aside in the Town Hall; by 1893, there were 1710 books on its shelves.

How did the S. White Dickinson Memorial Library come into being? Salmon White Dickinson, a cabinetmaker, was born in 1822. He had two daughters, Jennie and Anna. When he died at the age of 98, he left his entire estate to Anna, with the stipulation that on her death the money be given to the town for a library to be built in his honor. Anna was a frugal spender and a wise investor; when she passed away in 1945 she was able to leave Whately \$225,000 for the library. The will, however, was contested, and by the time everything was settled, only \$165,000 remained.

That same year, Howard R. Waite deeded the town seven acres on Chestnut Plain Road for a library site. The original plan called for an elaborate, three-story structure, but due to financial constraints, it morphed into the modest yet elegant, Georgian-style building we have today. Some of you may know that the library was also designed to serve as the town's bomb shelter. But you may not know that the green steel stacks in the adult section were not the ones originally ordered; the company hired to provide the stacks went bankrupt and the town had to find another supplier.

Over the last seventy-five years, the S. White Dickinson Memorial Library has been under the direction of eleven librarians. The



most well-known, Ena Cane, served from December 1, 1952 until June 30, 1980. (Ena is also remembered for her immensely informative bicentennial history of Whately, published in 1971.) In researching the library's history, I discovered that Ena tried to retire in 1979, but was asked to return when her successor wasn't working out. Ena spent another year as Director, and worked closely with the Trustees to find a suitable replacement, Ella Fritch. In February of this year we dedicated our children's room in Ena's honor.

Upcoming Events:

75th Anniversary Open House Sat. Dec. 13 2-4pm
Mon. Morning Music with Janet Ryan Dec 1, 8, 15th. (Janet will return in March.)

Holiday Closings:

Wed. Dec. 24
Mon. Jan. 19
Mon. Feb. 16

Transfer Station News

by Fran Fortino

Annual Holiday Reminder – Recycle or Compost it!

Recycle or compost most of your **holiday trash free** at the Whately transfer station! See details below. Town recycling and food waste composting are open to all residents, even if you have a private trash hauler. Remaining rubbish can be disposed of in Whately town bags for just \$2.50 per bag for

10-pack at the transfer station – best deal in town!

You can recycle cardboard and paperboard boxes; greeting cards and wrapping paper (except those with foil, metallic inks, wire, button batteries or glitter); catalogues, calendars, and more. Tape and paper shopping/gift bags are also OK with any type of handle. We also take real Christmas trees for chipping **after** the holidays.

Please DO NOT recycle these items: ribbons, bows, and tinsel (reuse 'em), holiday lights, bubble wrap, packing peanuts (drop at UPS store) and Styrofoam, foil gift-wrapping, blister pack, or old glossy photos.

Clothing & Textiles are recyclable too

Whately residents have the option to drop clothing, shoes, etc. in the Salvation Army box at the transfer station. Any clothing, footwear, accessories (bags, belts, hats) and linens (sheets, towels, fabric) are accepted. These items may be torn, stained, out of style, or missing a mate, but they **must be CLEAN, DRY and in a plastic bag.**

No Junk please at the town Swap Shed

Often junk items show up in the town swap shed that are broken, unusable, missing parts. Please be considerate and remember, donated items are intended for reuse, otherwise no one benefits. Our transfer station staff keeps this resource going but needs your help. **DO NOT** leave anything when the transfer station is closed.

No bulky plastic accepted after 12/15/25

The transfer station will pause collection of bulky plastic items, including 5-gallon pails, plastic lawn furniture, plastic trash cans and recycling bins, laundry baskets, storage totes, milk or soda crates. We hope to restart this program again, but please don't bring these bulky plastic items to the TS after 12/15/25.

Thanks to Bulky Day Volunteers

On Oct. 18, our stellar bulky waste crew of volunteers and staff collected and recycled tons of bulky items. We thank Montserrat Archbald, Becky Jones, Larry Kuttner, Dan Talbot, Ellen Brown, Darcy Tozier, Chris Boutwell, and town staff Dylan and Scott for their terrific help!

Compost and Recycle New Year's Resolutions for 2026!

The transfer station offers one of the best

and cheapest options to get rid of your trash, recyclables, and food waste. Bring them to the TS! As always, we say **Thank You** to all Whately residents for composting & recycling this year. Happy Holidays!

Foothills Health District News

by Lily Stafford, Foothills District Public Health Nurse

If you haven't already gotten seasonal vaccines to protect yourself and others, now is the time! Your primary care office should be able to administer routine vaccines, or any local pharmacy. Call ahead to verify insurance and if an appointment is needed. Vaccination is the primary way to prevent vaccine preventable disease, and remember hand hygiene, staying home if you are sick, and distancing from folks who are immunocompromised, elderly, or at-risk for serious complications. Contact me for help or with any questions at 413-522-7112.

As a reminder, I have open hours (no appointment needed) at the Whately Town Hall on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month from 10-11:30am. Come with questions on medications, diagnoses, referrals, resources, chronic health conditions etc. Blood pressure screenings available, and more! – Lily Stafford, RN BSN Public Health Nurse for Foothills Health District





The **WHATELY** **SCOOP**
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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!

The Whately Scoop

*Cost for printing and mailing the Scoop was provided by
the businesses who placed ads within. Please patronize our local businesses!*

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

The closing date for submissions to the March, 2026 issue of the Scoop is **Weds. March 4.**

Please email your our literary contributions to jpfortune@comcast.net before that deadline. Also use this email if you want to be on the reminder list and get an email from me about 3-4 weeks before the deadline, or if you would like email delivery of the scoop.

Business card sized ads are \$100 for 1 year (four issues) and a mention in a box on the front page is \$50/year.

Please make checks out to: The Whately Scoop and mail to 152 Westbrook Rd RFD So. Deerfield, 01373

Like the Scoop? Want to see it continue? Here's what you can do:

- 1) Volunteer to write articles
- 2) Volunteer to help prep the scoop for mailing
- 3) Volunteer to help on mailing day
- 4) Ask your favorite local businesses to place an ad
- 5) Make a donation to help us cover costs

If you are interested in any of those please call or email Joyce at 665-6739; jpfortune@comcast.net.