



Whitcomb Hall Restoration Project Begins!



Old image of Whitcomb Hall (date of photo unknown)



Whitcomb Hall Stage

The history of Whitcomb Hall began 100 years ago, when Dr. Arthur Hopkins was elected Master of the Lincoln Grange in West Swanzy Village in 1913. Soon after he was installed as Master, the question was raised about a new meeting hall. The grange rented space in the Universalist Church to hold meetings, but Dr. Hopkins suggested the grange purchase a building to call their own. Their plan was to buy the church from the Universalist Society for \$1500 (just over \$35,000 in 2013 dollars). To raise the capital, the grange held a membership drive that recruited over 125 new members.

One famous Swanzy resident, George E. Whitcomb, was especially moved by how the community banded together to accomplish this goal. Whitcomb met with Dr. Hopkins and made a deal – if the community can raise \$1500, Whitcomb would cover the difference and build a brand new hall as a gift to the community. Soon after, the “Build a Hall” campaign began. A meeting was held and the response was rapid - in 35 minutes, \$1508 was pledged. The committee kept the subscriptions open and raised another \$700. The extra money purchased and installed the clock tower that is still working on top of Whitcomb Hall.

Whitcomb Hall construction was completed in 1916. The beautiful two story Hall, built in the most prominent spot on Main Street, has hosted minstrel shows, school plays, talent shows, graduations, dance classes, community dinners, town dances, parties and wedding receptions. While many of life’s moments were celebrated in this building, Whitcomb Hall has succumbed to old age, and in 1988 was forced to close its doors to the public. Whitcomb Hall was the social

center of Swanzy, and in 2013 was added to the New Hampshire Registry of Historic Places. In 2011, the Board of Selectmen formed a committee with intentions to reopen Whitcomb Hall. The Whitcomb Hall Committee hopes to reopen the first floor (at minimum) by 2016, when the building turns 100. While the structure is sound, Whitcomb Hall does not meet many of the codes now in place for assembly occupancy.

The Whitcomb Hall Committee is taking a lesson from Dr. Hopkins by starting a fundraising campaign to support this massive undertaking. This summer, the Whitcomb Hall Committee will be selling calendars with old Swanzy photos, we will be at Old Home Day and *The Old Homestead* performance. We are planning barbecues on the lawn by Whitcomb Hall. So stop by and say hello and together lets help “Rebuild a Hall.”

What’s Inside?

- Project updates since the Meet Me On Main! Charrette in November.
- Reports from the Annual Awards Ceremony in the Fire Department.
- Updates from the Open Space Committee, Sewer Commission, and Economic Development Advisory Committee.
- A case for air quality! Ways to improve your community with safe wood-burning practices.
- What’s Going On? Highlights of all the great activities occurring in Swanzy - including Old Home Day, Bands at the Bowl, Swanzy Lake Day Camp, Summer Reading Programs at the Mt. Caesar Union Library, and more!

What's Up In West?

Over the past 6 months, much attention has been focused on the west village. The very successful Meet Me On Main! charrette, held in early November, jump-started a flurry of activity.

The Whitcomb Hall Committee has been meeting regularly to develop plans and raise funds to re-open the building as a community center in time for its 100th anniversary in 2016. If you are interested in donating to the Whitcomb Hall Fund, checks should be made payable to the Town of Swanze, noting in the memo line "Whitcomb Hall Fund." Checks can be dropped off at Town Hall or mailed to Town of Swanze, Attn. Whitcomb Hall Fund, PO Box 10009, Swanze, NH 03446.



The Town also purchased the former West Swanze Athletic Association property (which, at one time, housed Gomarlo's store). After a series of public hearings and with enthusiastic support from the public and Town boards and committees, the Board of Selectmen voted to purchase the property with the intent to demolish the building and create a river-front park. The property is adjacent to the Thompson Covered Bridge and has over 200 feet of frontage on the Ashuelot River. Swanze Selectmen would like to thank the Board of Directors of the West Swanze Athletic Association for its support and cooperation during the purchase of this key property.

The Board of Selectmen also created the Main Street Advisory Committee. This Committee's charge is to evaluate Main Street and make recommendations regarding the placement of utilities, parking, lighting, drainage, etc. The Selectmen have requested that this Committee report its findings by July 1st.

Another committee has been formed to evaluate the water supply in the west village, both for domestic use and for fire protection. Many properties in the west village are served by the West Swanze Water Company, a private water provider regulated by the State of New Hampshire. Questions have arisen in recent years about the ability of the West Swanze Water Company to provide water for fire protection services. With much of the land along West Swanze Road (Route 10) zoned for business and commercial uses, water supply for fire protection is an extremely important issue.

Finally, town residents and other interested citizens were treated to a presentation on a Saturday morning in late March by three of the entrants in the NH-AIA's (American Institute of Architects) Young Architects' Competition. Competition winner Adam Lemire, Drew Queen, and Swanze native Amanda Nelson Weglinski presented their ideas as to how Whitcomb Hall could be revitalized to become the center of the west village once again. Amanda's grandmother (Irene Miller) was also at the event when Amanda shared the story of how



Whitcomb Hall played a prominent part in her grandparents' engagement! In addition to the presentations by the up and coming architects, those present also heard updates from the various committees working on projects in the west village and were also treated to a "Then & Now" photo exhibit, featuring the photographs of John Bridges and staged by Hayley Hill.

No More Annual Inventory Forms!

Haven't received your annual inventory form this year? No problem! The Swanze Board of Selectmen has decided to discontinue requiring annual inventory forms for Swanze residents. Most towns throughout New Hampshire have opted out of this practice, and Swanze decided to discontinue annual inventories as well in an effort to streamline staff efforts.

Firefighters Recognized at Annual Awards Ceremony



Forest Ranger Matt Apgar presenting Charlie Beauregard with Certificate of Appreciation for serving as NH Deputy Forest Fire Warden.



Firefighter Kevin Bell receiving 2013 Fire Service Award from Chief Skantze and Deputy Mick Sanchez



Probationary Firefighter Brandon West, Sarah Tatro, Lt. Ben Tatro, Lt. Geoff Davis, and Firefighter Mark LaClair enjoying good food and company at the annual Awards ceremony.

On March 21, over seventy Swanzey Fire Department members, guests, retired members and Town officials attended the department's awards. The annual event was hosted and sponsored by Pilgrim Pines, East Coast Conference of the Covenant Church as a community outreach initiative to recognize firefighters and EMS providers for their service to the town. Firefighters were honored by the attendance of newly appointed Town Administrator Shane O'Keefe, Selectman Nancy Carlson and Selectman Ken Colby.

Every year, Swanzey firefighters and EMTs dedicate hundreds of hours training and preparing to respond fire and medical emergencies in our community. Last year, the Swanzey Fire Department responded to over 800 emergencies including fires, motor vehicle accidents and medical emergencies. This accomplishment was the result of significant dedication and commitment by members - some of whom have served the Department for decades. The evening started with the introduction of rookie firefighters and EMS providers who have been recently appointed to the Department within the last year. Once again, we welcome Joe Amato, Maura Mason, Tyke Frazier, Brandon West, Jake Poulin and Keith Jackson to the Department. Honors for top emergency responders went to Lieutenant David Mason, Firefighter Darren Naeck, Kevin Bell, Richard Lewandowski, and Firefighter Mitchell LaChapelle.

Longevity Awards were presented in recognition of members of the Swanzey Fire Department who serve the department with distinction. The Department recognizes achievement of service in five year increments. Longevity awards were given to Chief Norman Skantze (5 years), Firefighters Sherry Mattson and Mark LeClair (10 years), Lieutenant Eric Kerylow (15 years), Firefighter Robert Goodell, Jr. (25 years), Firefighter Lee Dunham (35 years), Firefighters Richard Lewandowski and Fred MacKenzie (40 years).

Each year the Department recognizes a member of the Swanzey Fire Department by awarding an Emergency Medical Service Award presented to an emergency medical technician who demonstrates leadership, character, and dedication to the field of Emergency Medicine through their participation in training, emergency response and patient care. The recipient is a patient advocate and an example to other EMS providers. This year the Department EMS award was presented to Captain David Page, a twenty-four year veteran of the Department and currently serves as the Captain of Station 1 in East Swanzey. Captain Page is a caring provider who is consistent and compassionate with his care.

The Department also recognizes a member of the Swanzey Fire Department by awarding a Fire Service Award. The Fire Service Award is presented to a firefighter, officer, operator, or support personnel who demonstrates leadership, character, and dedication to fire service and the craft of firefighting through their participation in training, emergency response and firemanship. The recipient is technically qualified and sets a high standard for co-workers and supervisors. This year the Department Fire Service Award was presented to 39 year veteran firefighter Kevin Bell. Bell has served exclusively as a driver operator and continues to do so with great enthusiasm. He is an example to all of his co-workers and is incredibly reliable on the fireground. Bell also serves on the Department's Capital Improvement Committee and is active in fundraising with the members of the Center Company.

The highlight of the evening included the recognition of five long term members of the Department who retired in 2012 following long and dedicated careers with the Swanzey Fire Department. Firefighters Ernie Kirouac (30 years), Carl Bell (45 years), Charles Beauregard (48 years), Edwin Ridley (61 years) and Captain Gerald Bell (63 years). Each member was recognized with a plaque commemorating their years of service with the Department and a sweatshirt embroidered with the Department's logo along with other gifts from their respective stations.

Old Home Day is July 20th!

The theme of this year's Old Home Day being held on July 20th is "A Salute to Swanzey – Past and Present". Swanzey's past is highlighted in many ways. Francis Faulkner will lead a very interesting walk through the Mt. Caesar Cemetery offering commentary on many of the town's former citizens, history and folklore. A covered wagon ride from the Grange Hall through the Cresson Bridge and back will highlight some of the architecture and families that first settled the area. The Civil War re-enactors and their campsite offer a unique perspective of what our ancestors were dealing with during a difficult time in our history. The Grange Hall will be open for tours and is loaded with history. The classic car show is sure to conjure up many fond memories, as will the horseshoe exhibition. Don't miss the huge array of old tractors! All are offered for free!



To celebrate current activities in Swanzey, there are exercise activities in the form of a hike up Mt. Caesar, led by Stanley Earle and a 12.4 mile guided bike tour through five of Swanzey's historic covered bridges, led by Bob Audette. The farmers' market, vendors and crafters will entice you with their food and wares and the children will enjoy the many free games and activities, as well as seeing many animals close up. The Mt. Caesar Library will host its annual book sale, and the Stratton Free Library will have a display of Denman Thompson images at the Library throughout the day. The food vendors will offer a wide variety of tempting delights or you can bring your own picnic lunch and sit back and enjoy the day. The Open Space Committee will have a booth to share outdoor-loving activities. And don't forget to say hello to Open Space Committee Ambassadors Bright, Jesse and James. These three loving oxen will be walking in the parade and hanging out in the shade eating hay before their big performance in *The Old Homestead!*

Volunteers needed! Swanzey's Old Home Day does not just happen on its own. It takes lots of pre-planning and organization. A committee of community volunteers has been working diligently behind the scenes, coming together once a month since January to collaborate and coordinate their efforts on the community's behalf. There can never be too many volunteers, especially on the day before when set-up begins and on the day of the event from early morning to take down at the end of the day. If you can spare a few hours, we could use your help in putting up directional signs around the community, tents, tables and chairs, assisting with vendor/crafter unloading and loading, parking control or working a two-hour shift at one of the many free children's activities. If you can spare some time on Friday afternoon, July 19 or any time from 7:00 am – 5:00 pm on Saturday, July 20th, please contact Kathy Habiby at kshabiby@ne.rr.com or call her at 603-357-8778. She will be pleased to hear from you.

If you cannot volunteer, why not come out and share the fun! The festivities begin at 9:00 am with the parade at 10:00 am. It is a great family fun day for all! For further information, check out our website: www.swanzeyoldhomeday.org

Economic Development Advisory Committee

After considering several alternatives, the EDAC elected to concentrate 2013 efforts on better promoting Swanzey's Revenue Development District (the "District"). The District comprises approximately 350 acres of business (commercial) or industrial zoned property stretching from the airport to the fairgrounds. The completion of Safford Drive through to Route 12 will bring improved transportation access together with public water and sewer. Fiber-optic communications offering ultra high speeds to high-tech businesses will soon be available.

The Committee will focus on the promotion of the District to desirable businesses seeking relocation and/or expansion. Valuable experience gained in the District may later be applied to other development areas of the Town, with a first priority directed towards the West Swanzey-Route 10 corridor.

In February, in an expanded meeting format that invited other Town officials, employees, committees and residents, EDAC met with Stuart Arnett, Managing Partner of Arnett Development Group LLC. Mr. Arnett was part of the PlanNH team at "Meet Me on Main!" last autumn.



He also served as NH's Director of Economic Development for eight years. He addressed the spectrum of development and what proactive steps Swanzey could take to achieve greater economic growth both in the District and the town in general. During April and May EDAC will look at proposals for development mapping and 'branding' of the District in order to attract appropriate investments.

Rail Trail Dedication

On April 29th, the Town dedicated the section of the rail trail that was upgraded in the fall of 2012. The area that was upgraded runs from Sawyer's Crossing Road to an area just short of Railroad Street. Approximately 1.8 miles of the trail was cleared and widened, drainage ditches were cleaned, and a stone dust surface was laid down. In addition, repairs to an historic stone box culvert were completed. Pat Rawson Construction completed the work, under the supervision of Project Administrator Bruce Bohannon.

The project cost of \$104,000 was raised primarily through private donations, with additional funding from the Swanzey Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee. Repairs to the stone box culvert were funded through a \$20,000 grant from the Recreational Trails Program.

The project was administered by Bruce Bohannon (entirely on a volunteer basis - thank you Bruce!).

It is hoped that the entire Ashuelot Rail Trail line can be upgraded to the Winchester town line within the next few years. The next sections of the trail will likely involve more work (including potential right of way issues, requiring surveying to be conducted), and a greater cost. However, it is the intent of the Town to fund these improvements without utilizing tax payer dollars.

If you are interested in volunteering your time or services to improving the rail trail, please contact Town Planner Sara Carbonneau at 352-7411 ext. 108 or Bruce Bohannon at 209-2353.



Above - Trail upgrade underway. Below - Image of the recently upgraded trail



Emergency Management

The Town of Swanzey Emergency Management Office is located at 34 Eaton Rd. within the Swanzey Police Department. Office hours vary according to need, but the office is usually open on Monday evening beginning at 6PM. Please feel free to contact our office at 355-8852 or e-mail us at swanzeyeoc@swanzeypd.com.

We are currently preparing to update the Town of Swanzey Emergency Operations Plan. This plan represents a concerted effort on the part of Town government to provide a mechanism for effectively responding to and recovering from the impact of natural or human-caused disasters or emergencies.

Our Radiological Emergency Plan has been updated and submitted to the State. Currently, we are waiting approval from FEMA on the plan.

We are busy training and preparing for our next two Vermont Yankee exercises along with other Town government participants. Each exercise allows us to test our plan and make appropriate changes as needed.

Preliminary work is being done on the COOP Plan (Continuity of Operations Plan) for the Town. This plan would allow the Town government to relocate if necessary and continue essential functions and services during emergencies or disasters.

Carpenter Home

The Carpenter Home has been a part of the Monadnock region for the past 200 years. It is located close to the site where Swanzey's first meeting house was built in 1753. The Carpenter family maintained a farm on the land for several generations. The home and its 230 rural acres was given to the Town of Swanzey by Lucy Carpenter. In 1939 the Swanzey voters accepted Lucy's gift and began running the Carpenter Home as a facility for elder care.

Currently the Carpenter Home holds a license as an "804" residential care facility. The license issued by the State of New Hampshire is for 16 residents. Currently the Carpenter Home has 16 residents.

We have been very busy this winter and spring. The residents have enjoyed many trips to the Humane Society, especially when they bring homemade dog biscuits and cat toys. We will begin planting flowers this year around the new deck. We are looking forward to cooking outside and many summer picnics!

The Carpenter Home welcomes any volunteers whether for gardening, reading, walking and playing the piano. If you are interested in volunteering please call Dawn Rice at 352-2269.

Open Space Committee Updates

The Swanzey Open Space Committee started the year with a workshop at The Bridges Inn on Main Street in West Swanzey. Inn-keeper Susan Karalekas and chef David Schuster treated the Committee to a lovely assortment of goodies in their beautiful historical parlor during the working meeting. Members reviewed 2012 activities and shared ideas on how to enjoy Swanzey with an eye to planning events for 2013. To begin, members discussed and restated the Committee's Mission Statement so that all of our projects and energy relate back to this important focus.

Swanzey's oxen Ambassadors of Open Space protection Bright, Jesse and James are ready to begin their roles in town. They learned from the best: their oxen mentors Buck and Ike who will always be fondly remembered. The team has been busy training and working hard with their teamsters Victoria Barlow and Rick Lewis. Their first event which is the Walk for Animals sponsored by the Monadnock Humane Society on Saturday, June 22nd. Come walk with the oxen! The walk will be different this year as it will be held at the Dillant Hopkins Airport property in Swanzey, specifically on the Airport Access road. The Open Space Committee will have their booth with the map of special places in Swanzey where children can put stickers on their favorite outdoor spots in town. A schedule of the day will be forthcoming.

Also anticipated as a new event this year is a moonlight hike in August. This will be a hike to remember (date and place to be announced)! There will also be a fall hike on one of Swanzey's conserved lands (possibly led by its landowner). Who better to share the stories of the land than one who has lived on it! We look forward to inviting landowners to share stories or point out details about the land that might otherwise be missed by the casual visitor.

It is time to update the Master Plan in Swanzey and the Open Space Committee is already working on the Swanzey Open Space Plan as an integral part of the plan. Thank you to Open Space Committee members who will be working on this task this summer.

Details for all these events will be coming soon! Bright, Jesse and James and the Swanzey Open Space Committee are looking forward to an exciting spring and summer in Swanzey!

Wood-Burning and Air Quality: What You Should Know

In New Hampshire we value our natural beauty and clean, crisp air, but on some winter days poor air quality can be found in valley communities including Swanzey. Occasionally a weather event known as a temperature inversion can occur in which cold air collects on the valley floor and warmer air higher in the atmosphere traps air and pollutants near the ground. At times, this cold air contains unhealthy levels of fine particle pollution. This fine particle pollution has been linked to adverse health effects such as asthma especially in individuals with respiratory problems, older adults, and young children. Fine partial pollution can even trigger heart conditions.

Health impacts are not the only threat. In the past few years Keene has exceeded limits set by the federal Clean Air Act for fine particle pollution on certain days due to temperature inversions. If the problem gets worse, Keene and surrounding towns may be subject to potentially costly regulation to try to fix the problem.

Research has suggested that high levels of fine particle pollution are linked to residential wood burning. The good news is that there are simple steps one can take to protect our air quality, our community's health, and avoid costly regulations. If you heat your home with wood, you can also save money and protect your home by practicing these three steps:

- Burn the right wood: Burn only dry hardwood seasoned 6 months or more. Consider buying or cutting next year's wood this spring!
- Use the right stove: Use an EPA certified stove for greatest efficiency. These EPA certified stoves are generally those manufactured since 1990. No matter what stove you use, have your stove and chimney maintained by a technician at least annually.
- Burn the right way: Maintain a hot, bright fire and do not let the fire smolder. Burning wood safely and efficiently will save you money and protect your home.

Learn before you burn! Visit Keene Air Quality (www.swrpc.org/air-quality) for more tips and a daily forecast of air quality, or call the NH Air Quality Information line 1-800-935-SMOG.

OSC Mission:

"Your Swanzey Open Space Committee facilitates in the protection of Swanzey's rural character by permanently preserving important open space. We do this by promoting land conservation, bringing together landowners with land trusts and by providing the tools to assist in the acquisition of land or conservation easements."

Swanzey Sewer Commission

The upgrades to the Keene Wastewater Treatment Plant are in process and will continue over the next several years. As previously reported, Swanzey owns 4.7% of the capacity of that plant and will be responsible for 4.7% of the cost of the EPA-ordered upgrades. The projected cost of Swanzey's share is \$855,000. To finance our share, Swanzey applied for and was granted a Community Development Block Grant of \$300,000. The balance will be financed through a low interest loan from the State revolving loan fund.

Another project in the works is the extension of Safford Drive to connect to Route 12 at the Cheshire Fairgrounds. Part of the utility portion of that project will extend sewer mains through the industrial park zone and the Fairgrounds to Route 12. The sewer main cleaning project is ongoing as is the replacement of older manholes that have begun to deteriorate.

If you are on public sewer and received a resident verification form, please return the form to Town Hall. Contact Sandi Page (352-7411 ext 110) with any questions.

What's Going On?

Spring/Summer Events in Swanzey

Old Home Day! *Saturday, July 20th*

Visit www.swanzeyoldhomeday.org for full schedule of events, including a parade, food vendors, nature hikes and a book sale put on by the trustees of the Mt. Caesar Union Library!

SWANZEY LAKE DAY CAMP PROGRAM

June 24 through August 16, 8am-4pm

For children ages 5 to 11 years old

\$75/week (payment due Friday prior to week)

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL: \$480/8 weeks, if registered by May 23.

RED CROSS SWIM LESSONS*

July 22 through July 26th

9am-12pm

For children at least 5 years old

\$30/child (resident) \$40/child (non-resident)

SPLASH & PLAY PROGRAM*

July 17, 24, 31 and August 7 (Wednesdays)

3 - 4 years old: 11am-12pm

Infant-2 years: 12pm-1pm

\$10/child (resident) \$15/child (non-resident)

*Registration for both programs must be at the Town Hall no later than Friday, July 5. Contact Sandi Page at 352-7411 ext. 110 for more information on any of these programs listed above.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

"Dig into Reading"

July 10 - Gardening Party

July 17 - Archeology/Fossils Party

July 24 - Rocks & Minerals/Caves & Mines Party

July 31 - Underground Animals Party

August 7 - Ice Cream Social with performer Alex the Jester

All parties begin at 6:30pm at Mt. Caesar Union Library. Free to the public with crafts, games and snacks!

MISS KATY - MUSIC & MOVEMENT FOR TODDLERS

Tuesdays at 10am (free). Mt. Caesar Union Library

June 18, 25

July 9, 16, 23, 30

August 6, 13, 20

RING THE MT. CAESAR BELL!

July 4, 11am-12pm

Mt. Caesar Union Library in Swanzey Center

Events at the Potash Bowl

Old Homestead Highway
(across the street from Town Hall)

Bands at the Bowl 2013

June 21 - Hot Mustard

Come enjoy the unique Bluegrass style of Hot Mustard - a local band with a bass, guitar, and TWO banjos! Hot Mustard is a frequent host to standing-room only shows at Fritz in Keene, in addition to several other festivals throughout New England. Hot Mustard is a must see for the whole family!

June 28 - The Nelson Town Band

Back for another year at the Bands at the Bowl Concert series, The Nelson Town Band is an old favorite to Swanzey. The band plays on town commons, church lawns, and parades throughout the Monadnock Region, and is made up of people of all ages.

July 5 - 20th Century Pops

Come bask in the cool sounds of 20th Century Pops! Local to Keene, the Pops specialize in Blues, Jazz and Pop songs that will surely get you dancing!

July 12 - Tom Foolery Band

This 9-piece band, complete with a 4-piece horn section, provides a little something for everyone. TFB covers chart toppers and dance hits from the past 50 years.

All shows start at 7:00pm.

Free Admission. Refreshments available for purchase.

July 19, 20 & 21 - The Old Homestead

The Denman Thompson play and a Swanzey tradition in its 72nd year!

\$8/person

Performances start at 7:30pm

The Nurse is in!

Free Health Screenings at the Town Hall provided by Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services 2nd Thursday of the month from 1pm-2pm.

Spring/Summer Health Check Dates:

Thursday, May 9th

Thursday, June 13th

Thursday, July 11th

Thursday, August 8th

Services include blood pressure check, pulse and overall health consultation

TIRE AMNESTY DAY - JUNE 22

To help prevent the spread of West Nile Virus, the Recycling Center will accept up to four regular automobile tires per household, free of charge. Tires must be removed from their rims, and proof of residency is required.



TOWN OF SWANSEY
 620 OLD HOMESTEAD HIGHWAY
 PO BOX 10009
 SWANSEY, NH 03446-0009
 (603) 352-7411

PRSR.T STD.
 PAID
 SWANSEY, NH
 PERMIT #11
 ECRWSS

Get Involved in your Community!

The Town of Swansey has open positions on three committees: Monadnock Regional School District Budget Committee (1 member), Economic Development Advisory Committee (1 alternate member), and the Recreation Committee (2 members). Individuals may nominate themselves for consideration.

Volunteering to serve on a board or committee of Swansey can provide a great opportunity to learn more about your town and make a lasting difference in your community. For more information, contact the Town Hall.

Property Assessors Abound!

As part of our townwide property assessment update in 2014, the Town of Swansey has hired Vision Government Solutions and sent property assessors to Swansey land. Every vehicle of the assessors are marked with a "Town Assessor" label. Additionally, each assessor carries a letter from the Town Hall. If you have any questions, please contact the Assessing Coordinator, Amy Bush, for more information.

Swansey Remembers Our Late Troubadour Laureate

On March 30th, Swansey lost Walt "Mattie" Calkins – a lifelong resident of West Swansey village. Born in West Swansey on December 14, 1921, Walt was a true character and touched many lives in the community. Eileen Longe has fond memories of Walt while they worked together on the Grange Hall preservation efforts. As Eileen recalls, "Walt was a walking, talking Swanzian, through and through. He knew the locations of lost graves and cellar holes and who lived where. He knew back woods and how to bush-whack. He knew the rivers, streams and lakes and where the good swimming holes were. He knew how to read the fauna and indentify wildlife. But most of all, he knew how to keep a song in his heart and share that gift with others." Walt was always writing poetry and singing songs. Walt's song about Swansey was featured in the 2008 Annual Report, and in 2009 Walt was named Swansey's first and only Troubadour Laureate. Walt could always be found riding his bicycle along Eaton Road no matter what the weather; red hat atop his head - always accessorized by a feather. When he was not on his bike, he could be found making wooden toys for children, working to preserve Swansey's natural and historic resources, and telling stories. Through his song and stories, Walt made joy for life contagious. He was guaranteed to make everyone's day a little brighter, and we will surely miss his warmth and commitment to our community. You will surely be missed, Walt!

Not Our Village, but Our Town
 IT SPELLS SWANSEY

by Walt "Mattie" Calkins

S - is for the smiles town people gave me.

W - waving to neighbors.

A - you're always welcome in our village.

N - new friends as well as old.

Z - is for the way we pronounce Swan-z.

E - let's end our differences.

Y - is for yes these letters spell Swansey.

Not your village nor
 my village, but our town.

Property Tax Relief for Low and Moderate Income Homeowners

Swansey taxpayers with a total household income of \$20,000 or less if single, or \$40,000 or less if married or head of a NH household, may be eligible for property tax relief through the NH Department of Revenue Administration (RSA 198:56). Applications are available at the Town Hall or online at www.revenue.nh.gov. The form must be submitted to the Department of Revenue Administration by June 30, 2013. The paperwork required to receive property tax refunds through the State program can seem daunting. Swansey resident Lloyd Hill has graciously volunteered his time to help with the paperwork on **Thursday, May 16th from 1-4pm.**

POSTAL PATRON
 SWANSEY, NH 03446

Visit www.town.swansey.nh.us for the most up to date information on Swansey news and events!