



# The WHATELY SCOOP

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

Volume 14 ♦ Number 3 ♦ March, 2017 ♦ Whately, Massachusetts

*Our 14th Year and going strong. Thanks to you!*

### Scoop By Email?

By Joyce PalmerFortune, ed.

Dear readers - do not fear - the paper version of the Scoop is not going away!

But I am increasingly getting requests for email delivery of the Scoop, so it might be time to let folks subscribe by email too. This might be especially good for former Whately residents who want to keep up, without adding to our cost.

If you subscribe by email and live in town, you will still get your paper copy of the scoop - our postal permit gives us the best rate if we do a "saturation" mailing, so we can't really take anyone off the mailing list. But can certainly start an email list for those who want an to get the PDF by email.

Please email [jpfortune@comcast.net](mailto:jpfortune@comcast.net) and put "Scoop Email Delivery" in the subject line if you are interested in getting the next scoop by email.

ALSO - HELP WANTED - Someone who can meet me in Northampton at the post office on scoop mailing day to help deliver the trays to our local (So. Deerfield, Whately and Williamsburg) Post offices. No experience required. Pay is twice what the editor makes. (= 2 x \$0.00)

### Community Welcome!

Whately Elementary PTO

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 5th, 2017

8 to 11 AM at Whately Elementary

Coffee, Pancakes and Sausage w/  
Local Maple Syrup

\$6 per person, \$24 per family.

### The 5th Annual Chief John F Skroski Memorial Wiffle Ball Tournament

Sat. May 13th 2017, 9 AM.  
126 Christian Lane Whately

By Chris Skroski

All proceeds go to the John F. Skroski Memorial Scholarship for graduating senior student athlete at Frontier Regional

H.S. and Hampshire Regional H.S

It is a 3 on 3 tournament \$20 per player, food, t shirts, prizes trophies. A really fun day! To register or have any questions call or text Chris Skroski at (413) 265-1668.

This event is in honor of my father (and former Whately resident) and South Deerfield and Southampton Police Chief John F Skroski who passed away in 2011. All proceeds from the event go towards the John F Skroski Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Fund gives \$500 to graduating a senior student athlete at Frontier and Hampshire Regional High Schools. Then event has gotten bigger every year and we are expecting over 30 teams from all over New England this year. The event is family friendly with a bouncy house for young children, food, event t-shirt and a raffle for a signed David Ortiz baseball.

(See photo on last page.)

### March & April dates:

Pancake Breakfast - *March 5, 8:00-11:00am, WES*

*CPA Meeting - March 7, 6pm, town offices*

*Town Hall fin. and renov. info. April 3, 7pm, WES*

*Town Meeting April 25, 7pm WES*

**TOWN HALL FINANCING & RENOV INFO Pages 6&7**

Donations from **Pro Pel Plastech**, Long Plain Road help cover the cost of printing & mailing

*The Scoop...*

Please see the ads from our many, long-time and new sponsors who make this newsletter possible.

**Thank you all!**

## How Sweet It Is...

By Paul Newlin

I noticed activity at Bean's sugarhouse, the sweet sight of sap tapping preparation. And just in time because we're almost out of last year's supply! And if maple sap is beginning to flow, the annual town meeting can't be far behind. The selectboard and finance committee have been meeting together regularly over the past month or so putting together the 2018 budget. Maple syrup is admittedly sweeter and tastier and goes better with pancakes (and almost everything else) than town meeting, but town meeting, in my opinion, is becoming increasingly important in our digital age as "social" media, somewhat ironically, increasingly separates us from each other and replaces face-to-face deliberation and discussion with clicking and scrolling through endless posts from mostly like-minded people who reinforce our own ideas and biases.

I urge people to put down their cellphones, close their laptops, and turn off their TVs for a couple of hours this spring (Tuesday, April 25) and come to and participate in what is perhaps the most democratic forum and opportunity we have to speak to one another, our neighbors we rarely see or talk to, and talk about how to keep Whately a community we all feel a part of.

Additionally, my colleague on the selectboard, Fred Orloski, is organizing another informational session (Monday, April 3, 7pm, elementary school gym) in advance of town meeting in order to help better inform residents about the financing and planning for the renovation of the Town Hall.

## Historical Society News

by Adelia Bardwell

### Help the Historical Society rediscover 'Lost' Whately

Do you have a photo or painting of a building that no longer exists in Whately? Or memorabilia from a former restaurant or

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*193 Chestnut Plain Road, Whately Center, 413-665-3044*

business? Items from a social club that faded away? Equipment used in corn broom making or shade tobacco? The Historical Society is seeking photos, objects, and memories of bygone Whately for our special museum exhibit this spring – and we need your help. We're happy to scan photos and would love to exhibit any memorabilia that you can lend for the exhibit. Just call Jane Grybko at 665-2992.

The Whately and Hatfield Historical Societies are co-sponsoring a slide lecture on March 16 by Barry Dietz, a self-styled 'storyteller' who has researched the effects of building a highway through one's town. His talk will be on the building of Interstate 91, beginning in 1956, with emphasis on Springfield and the northern part of the Valley. The talk will be at the Whately Congregational Church at 7pm.

### Historical Society pledges \$10,000 towards the rehabilitation of Town Hall.

The funding plan for the Town Hall renovation depends heavily on state grants and private donations, and the Society wants to add its support. We have pledged \$10,000 towards the construction costs and only wish that our finances would permit us to give more. We encourage others who would like to contribute to go to our website [whatelyhistorical.org](http://whatelyhistorical.org) and click on the Friends of Town Hall link for information on giving. Donations may be made by check or credit card via PayPal. It's an important project for the Society and for the Town and your help will be much appreciated.

### Crafts Whately Histories available for purchase.

The Society has several copies of an excellent reprint of the 1899 James M. Crafts, *History of the town of Whately, Mass*, available for purchase at \$60. Contact us at [info@whatelyhistorical.org](mailto:info@whatelyhistorical.org) or stop by at the museum on Tuesday mornings if you're interested. Want to read it on your tablet? Check out the link at the Resources page at [whatelyhistorical.org](http://whatelyhistorical.org).

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## Whately Congregational Church

by Cynthia Crosson-Harrington

Our little church is buzzing with activity as we anticipate Easter and spring. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and is a time for emotional and spiritual housecleaning in anticipation of Easter. The area churches host Lenten presentations every Wednesday during the Lenten season. We will be hosting on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

In preparation for Easter, we will join in our traditional Maundy Thursday simple supper of soup and bread held in the church hall at 6:00 on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Please join us to remember the Last Supper.

**Tue. March 7 at  
6pm at Town  
Offices**

Easter morning,, April 16<sup>th</sup>, finds us up bright and early for the ecumenical Easter sunrise service held behind the library at 6:00. We cordially invite everyone back to the church for breakfast afterwards. Easter worship will be at 10:00 with an Easter egg hunt for the children immediately following. All are welcome.

In April we begin our church suppers the first of which is chicken pie on Thursday April 20<sup>st</sup> at 6:00. For reservations please call 665-2653.

We hope that you all will join us to celebrate this wonderful season.

## Whately Students Love to Help

by Terri Anderson

The Whately Elementary Student Council had a successful trip to the Soldier's Home on Friday before the break. These students were fantastic representatives of their school. They independently ran a bingo game, distributed valentines to vets and were able to have conversations with many of the people who came to our small celebration. We had a beautiful tour of the building which included the greenhouse, the woodworking station and the train room. They also enjoyed a pizza lunch at Papa Gino's on our way back to classes.

We enjoyed Book Character Day on Thursday. The creativity was evident with Pippi Longstocking, Hermione Granger and several varieties of the Cat in the Hat.

At our next meeting, the students will be discussing the school supply collection for Guatemala. This new initiative was brought by one of our 4th grade members of the student council. Stay tuned to hear more about how you can all be a part of this

## Hillside House Bed and Breakfast

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important community service. Another March project is our Teacher Appreciation Breakfast. The student council will make invitations and decorate the teacher's room for this much anticipated event.

## CPA project recommendations.

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) will hold a public meeting on March 7 to give townspeople a chance to learn about and comment on the projects recommended for CPA funding at town meeting in April. Whately has received a 100% match for its revenue contributions every year since we first started collecting them in 2010 – a total of over \$495,000 and a great bonus for our small town. We anticipate that CPA revenues (town and state combined) will total about \$150,000 in FY17, 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 two funding projects. One would provide \$5,000 as the local share of an APR on 12 acres of farmland on Long Plain Road adjacent to other APR-protected land. The state will contribute \$95,000 towards the land's conservation.

The second proposal is a portion of the funding for the construction phase of the Town Hall rehabilitation as a community center and Historical Society museum. The

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CPC is recommending contributing \$340,000 of its current unallocated reserves towards the \$1.2 million project cost. The remainder of the funding will come from town capital funds, state grant requests, and private donations. The Committee also recommends up to \$400,000 in borrowing against future CPA revenues. This borrowing capacity will serve as a 'backstop' against any funding shortfalls and fund construction until reimbursement grant payments arrive.

Town meeting will also have a chance to approve transferring this year's allocation to the community housing 'bucket' to the Housing Trust for disbursement.

Community Preservation Committee

### **From the Friends of the Whately Library**

By Melissa Caldwell and Georgia Scura

The Friends give a warm welcome to our new library director, Candace Bradbury-Carlin. We look forward to working with Candace on the numerous interesting and fun events that she has planned. We sincerely appreciate our community's ongoing and generous donations of both time and money to help support the various programs that the Friends sponsor, and we hope to see more Whately residents in 2017. With activities such as the summer outdoor music series, nature-related presentations (birds, gardening, etc.), craft workshops, and our new holiday tree lighting, there is lots to enjoy at the Whately Library. Happy spring and see you soon at the library!

### **From the Trustees of the Library**

Sheila Powers

It is with great sadness that the Trustees of the Library announce the departure of Bob Duda as Chairman. Bob announced his resignation in February to focus on personal issues. He has served us long and well and been a guiding force behind the forward

momentum of the library. During his tenure a great many necessary projects came to fruition including:

- Purchase of Gazebo & lawn bench from funds donated in memory of Hoxie & Daniels families
- Replacement windows throughout (already savings hundreds in fuel costs!)
- Upgraded electrical service to 200amp
- Engineering study and installation of mini-split heaters/air conditioning units
- Replacement front door w/ handicap access button, locally crafted
- Overhead phone lines replaced by underground conduit feed
- Restrooms lavatory and toilets replaced with energy efficient units, leaking windows replaced
- Repaired/replaced decking and handrails on the handicap ramp
- The "movie wall" in the community room finally replaced by a projector screen, and new black-out drapes made & installed.
- Fire escape repair and painting completed
- Old leaking water heater replaced
- New drop box acquired from Trade School
- Office & patron computers replaced or upgraded
- Flower gardens landscaped and improved, as well as roof scupper, gutter & downspout repairs
- Acquired metal shelving for storage and installed in downstairs wings

There is still a long list of accomplishments headed by Bob, and we thank those in the local community for working alongside us for the good of this facility and the Community we serve. He has initiated, researched, mentored, directed, and been a driving force for the current Trustee group. His words of departure will be held close as we continue: "your obligations are to the town as stewards and manager of the facility. Your job is to insure the building is maintained, funds are properly allocated and the programs


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presented to the town fall within the needs and desires of the citizens of Whately. I am sure you will continue on with what we as a group began." A sincere thank you, Mr. Duda, for your time, effort and dedication. Your tenure has been second to none!

## NEWS - Whately Public Library

By Candace Bradbury-Carlin

Did you know that the Whately Public Library has a new director? Candace Bradbury-Carlin started in mid-December and if she hasn't already met you, she is eager to see you at the Library to say hello! Also, Cyndi returned from her maternity leave and is a happy mom of new son Jack. So, we welcome you to stop by the Library to chat, shop the shelves, and see what is new here...

### FEATURED EVENT:

BOOKS AND BEYOND: Whately Library Community Brainstorm party!

Saturday, April 29, 12-2pm, Whately Library **This is YOUR library.** What are your ideas for making a great library even greater? Got ideas for new books or DVDs? Want to see more of – or new – programs on the topics you love? Would you like lots of comfy seating nooks with great views where you can read or use your laptop? How about a library community room as coffee shop? You can see we have some ideas. What are yours?

**Join us for an open house style party!** Pizza, cake, and drinks will be provided. There will be raffle prizes! And of course, we'll provide plenty of paper and pencils with which you can share your opinions and ideas. The library director will make a 10-minute presentation at 12:00, but feel free to pop in anytime and stay as long as you want.

Upcoming programs:


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- Sat March 4, 11:00am: A Winter Wonderland: Birds of the Bay State, *Slide presentation*
- Mon March 6, 1:30-2:30: Booktopia – Storytime and Fun with Lola and Lucy
- Saturday March 18, 11:00am: Whately Library Book Club: *H is For Hawk* by Helen Macdonald
- Sat March 25, 11:00am: Saturday Family Movie Matinee: *Kubo and the Two Strings*
- Mon April 3, 1:30-2:30: Booktopia – Storytime and Fun with Lola and Lucy
- Saturday April 8, 10:00am – 12:00pm SPECIAL EASTER EVENT: Meet the bunnies from Hoppinhill Farm! Also: stories and treats.
- Sat April 15, 11:00am: Whately Library Book Club: *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman
- Weds April 19, 5:00-8:00pm: Board Game Night, ages 12 - adult, PLEASE SIGN UP! Greenfield Games will bring a few short games and one more complex game to teach and play...or you can bring your own board games to play with friends. For ages 12 – adult. Space is limited, so please sign up with the library. Pizza and drinks will be provided.
- Tue April 25, 6:30pm: Edible Perennial Gardening with John Root, *Presentation*
- Weds April 26, 6:00pm: LOCAL AUTHOR Reading with her Service Dog: *Sunny and Malcolm* by Cynthia Crosson  
Reading of a book about how a service dog and a community help a family with an injured veteran-mom. Meet Cynthia's own service dog, Dandy! All ages welcome.
- Sat April 29, 12:00-2:00pm: COMMUNITY BRAINSTORMING PARTY- SEE ABOVE "FEATURED EVENT" FOR DETAILS
- Wednesday May 3, 5:30-7:30: Bookmaking workshop, ages 13 - adult, class size limit: 10 people, PLEASE SIGN UP!
- Saturday May 6, 10-12: Henna Tattoo workshop, ages 11 - adult
- Wednesday, May 10 6:30-7:45: After the Rain *Acapella Performance*
- Saturday, May 20, 11:00am: Whately Library Book Club: *John James Audubon: Making of an American* by Richard Rhodes

## Town Clerk News

by Lynn Sibley, Town Clerk

**Census forms** were mailed at the end of December. If you have not already done so, 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.

**DROP BOX** – There is a drop box available for all town related mail at the new town offices at 4 Sandy Lane. The drop box is located in front of the handicapped spaces in the front of the building. Do not use the box by the side of the road; that is for USPS mail only.

**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, 4 Sandy Lane during regular office hours or by mail. You may also license by mail by sending the rabies certificate and a check made payable to the Town of Whately for the applicable fee to Whately Town Clerk, 4 Sandy Lane, So. Deerfield, MA 01373. You may also license online at [www.whately.org](http://www.whately.org). Click on online payments. All dogs must be licensed by June 1, 2017 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, 2017.**

**Nomination Papers are available for the June 13<sup>th</sup> Town Election.** Positions up for election this year are Selectman - 3 year term, Assessor - 3 year term, Board of Health - 3 year term, School Committee - 3 year term, Two Library Trustee Positions - 3 year terms, One Library Trustee - 2 year term, Cemetery Commissioner - 3 year term, Water Commissioner - 3 year term, Moderator 1 year term, and Elector to the Will of Oliver Smith - 1 year term. If you are interested in running for office in the June 14<sup>th</sup> election, please contact Lynn Sibley, Town Clerk at 665-4400 Option 3. Nomination papers will be available until April 21, 2017. Nomination Papers must be



returned with 20 valid signatures to the Registrars of Voters (Town Clerk's Office) by April 25, 2017.

## Town Administrator Updates

by Brian Domina, Town Administrator

Steady progress continues to be made on several important projects. The energy efficiency improvements were completed at the Whately Elementary School in January. The LED lighting upgrade has made the hallways and classrooms brighter and the energy management system has made the building environment more comfortable. The estimated energy savings for the project is approximately \$9,518.86 based on current utility rates. This project was completely funded by a state Green Communities grant through the Department of Energy Resources.

The Municipal Building Committee is finalizing the design and cost estimates for the Town Hall renovation project. A detailed information session is being planned for residents to learn more information about the proposed project in late March or early April. Once the date and time are finalized an invitation will be sent to all town residents.

The Town intends to submit three grant applications to various state agencies to help fund the project.

The Town Center water project continues to move forward. In January, the Town hired Berkshire Design Group to work with the Water Department to develop final plans and cost estimates for connecting the town residents living in the center of town to the Water Department's system. The ever-increasing financial burden of complying with new state regulations and an unreliable water supply during times of dry weather have made the operation of the small private water district





in the center of town infeasible. To connect the two systems, located within several hundred yards of each other, will likely require the installation of a pump station. More information will be provided to residents as it becomes available.

The Town is always in need of volunteers to serve on various committees and boards. Please visit [www.whately.org](http://www.whately.org) to see a list of open volunteer positions. In the very near future, the Town will be looking for volunteers to serve on a 250<sup>th</sup> Committee to plan the Towns' celebration in 2021.

As a reminder, please mark your calendars for April 25, 2017 at 7:00 PM for Whately's Annual Town Meeting to be held at the Whately Elementary School.

As always please feel free to stop by my office at 4 Sandy Lane for a cup of coffee and to talk – the door is always open.

### Town Office Contact Information

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

### 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,-Th 8a-4p, F 9a-12p  
Town Clerk & Treasurer/Collector– M 8:15am-7pm,  
T-Th 8:15a-4p, F 9a-12p  
Transfer Station - Tues 12–5PM, Sat. 7am–5pm

### 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	665-4400

### Wildlife Sightings

by Marianne Simon

Birds must have a pecking order - or at least they create order by pecking! The bird feeder is a busy locale for "move over, it's my turn" poking and pecking. I frequently give them lectures on bullying, but as far as I can tell it does no good. I even tried telling them, "Use words, dears, instead of violence"... but perhaps pecking is their words, I don't know. It certainly is a pleasure to see so many of them, each so different from the next.

One of our neighbors has seen a good sized bobcat, down by the river. That must have been a bit of excitement for our quiet, snow-bound town. But soon the hubbub of spring will be hubbubbing all around us. To quote a neighbor I met in the Post Office, "We'll all be saying, 'Oh, it wasn't such a bad winter'". That's the New England spirit!



**John F. Skroski**  
(see tournament story on page 1)

### Meeting Schedule for Town Boards

Assessors- Most Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00PM, 4 Sandy Ln.  
Board of Health-2<sup>nd</sup> Weds, 5:00PM, 4 Sandy Ln.  
Conservation Commission-3<sup>rd</sup> Weds, 7:00PM, Town Hall  
Franklin Tech School Com.2<sup>nd</sup> Weds, 7:00PM, Fr. Tech.  
FRS School Committee - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue, 7PM FRS  
Historical Commission -3<sup>rd</sup> Mon, 7PM, 4 Sandy Ln.  
Library Trustees - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue, 7PM, Library  
Planning Board - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7PM, 4 Sandy Ln.  
Recreation Commission –2<sup>nd</sup> Mon, 7PM,WES/Herlihy  
Selectmen - 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Mon, 6:00PM, 4 Sandy Ln.  
Water Commissioners - 1<sup>st</sup> Tue, 7PM, 4 Sandy Ln.  
Whately School Committee -1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7PM, WES  
Zoning Board of Appeals - 1<sup>st</sup> Thu, 6:30PM, 4 Sandy Ln.  
Historical Society 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.whately.org). Please check at the Town Offices for official notification of meetings and hearings.



# The WHATELY SCOOP

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

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Way down below four feet of snow  
All life continues, this we know  
We may not feel it, see it, hear it,  
But every year that lively spirit  
pushes up to greet the Spring  
And soon the birds begin to sing

We cast aside our Winter blues  
As sun begins to spread good news  
We will be warm, all things will bud  
And hardened dirt will turn to mud  
Seeds will sow and crops will grow  
So listen for Spring's subtle clues.!

## The Whately Scoop

If you misplace your copy of The Scoop, do not despair! You can always find it on the resources page at [www.whatelyhistorical.org](http://www.whatelyhistorical.org).

The closing date for submissions to the May, 2017 issue of the Scoop is **May 17, 2017**.

Please email your literary contributions to [jpfortune@comcast.net](mailto: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.

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

- 1) Volunteer to write articles
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- 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

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