



The WHATELY SCOOP

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

Volume 5 Number 4 May 2009 Whately, Massachusetts

A new policy at the Scoop

by Joyce Palmer Fortune, editor

I have been lucky to have put this newsletter together these last 5 years with the help of many in the community and without having a single official policy - just common sense. That has changed, sadly as I report that as the Scoop's editor, I must institute an actual policy. Sigh.

I recently received a letter from a reader who was offended by the poetry on the cover page of this newsletter. At first I was surprised and re-read the poem. I couldn't figure out why it would be offensive. As regular readers know, the poetry on the cover asks us all to refrain from throwing trash out of car windows. This particular poem mentioned only alcohol containers as the trash items. The reader thought that other beverage containers deserve equal time, that we were unduly chastising alcoholics, and that we should be caring, supportive and understanding instead. While alcoholics may deserve our support or understanding, I don't know anyone who feels that way about litterers. If readers are offended by our cover poem, know that alcoholics were not being singled out, rather the message was for *all who litter, no matter what they toss when littering or why.*

For the record, we have also run poems on all manner of roadside trash on the cover of the Scoop, but we have run the same one for the past year or so, and it might be time for a new one. (For this issue I went back in the archives to find a oldie but goodie with a broad theme.)

That said, I left out one very important fact - I cannot respond to the reader directly because the reader did not sign his or her name, nor did the reader offer to write an alternative message for the cover. Most readers know that we are an all volunteer operation, and this newsletter wouldn't be possible without all the people who contribute articles that I cut and paste to make the scoop

every 3 months or so. Thus, I throw this open to the community - please send your signed letters or emails with your ideas on what to put on the cover for September's issue.

One last note - this is the first and last time I will read or respond to an anonymous letter as per our new policy.

Historical Society May Festival

By Barbara Drollette

The Whately Historical Society is hosting its annual May Festival, Sunday, May 24, noon to 3pm, Center School Grounds. On display are Historical Textiles In Whately (quilts, fashions and more). Sale items: t-shirts, historical items, plants. Games for the young at heart. Roger Tincknell Family Concert. Ruth Fairman at the keyboard. John Passiglia -Blacksmith Demo. Baked goods, hot dogs, finger foods, beverages. FREE Ice-Cream from the Milk Bottle! We use the money to preserve donated materials about Whately and to develop public awareness of our rich heritage.

Historical Society New Exhibit

By Dee Bardwell

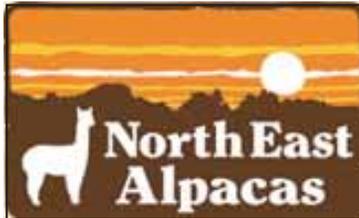
Every year the Historical Society is excited about its new exhibit. This year is no exception.

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

Enterprise Farm - 71 River Rd. Whately
Julie's - North Street, Whately

Look for the ads from Austin's, Collective Homecare, Hillside House, Becky Jones, NEWFS, Northeast Alpacas and Flowers by Fiona inside!

Want to see your business listed here?
Details on last page of this issue.



North East Alpacas

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Yarn, Alpaca Clothing &
Farm Tours

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Whately, MA

www.northeastalpacas.com

Our collection is so special you need to see it for yourself. Many items have never been on display before. Preparing the theme, " W H A T E L Y TEXTILES : Quilts, Fashions, and More" has been a learning experience. Many volunteers have aided in the process. We hope everyone enjoys a visit to the museum's opening May 24th from 12-3. The Society is pleased to sponsor speakers whose

presentation is recorded. At our next meeting June 4th at 7:00 Stanley Ashman will tell us about his life in Whately.

Anyone with an interest in Whately's history is encouraged to join us.

Tennis Players Wanted!

Bob and Kay Gaffney, at 95 Haydenville Road (at the base of Webber Road) have a tennis court and are welcoming neighbors for tennis Friday, June 5, 3-7PM and possible future play. Please bring a racquet and tennis shoes (or flat-soled sneakers). RSVP (413)665-9579.



**2nd Annual Whately Police Triathlon
July 5, 2009
Tri-Town Beach**

Sponsors, Volunteers and Participants Needed. Last year's event was a great success with 144 participants, 55 volunteers and lots of cheering residents. \$7900 was raised for the new Whately Police Station!

We are hoping to break all of last year's numbers, and need your help!

You can participate solo, or form a team of 2 or 3 people! All ages welcome.

Register at www.whately.org . Discounted entry fee until June 1, and after that, we still have the most affordable entry fee around! "TRI-it!"

For more information contact Sue Monahan at 413-522-6421 or email at



sbmonahan@comcast.net .

If you can't sign up to compete or volunteer... PLEASE come out on July 5 and CHEER on the athletes! They are not only helping our local community cause, but they are accomplishing some terrific personal goals. Your support makes a BIG difference.

A Collaborative THANK YOU

By Michael Archbald (for the Emergency Preparedness team)

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who helped out with the EMERGENCY MEDICATION DISPENSING DRILL on Saturday, April 19th. Thanks for taking time out of your busy lives—everyone from participants and evaluators to family members who did extra chores around the house to free up their volunteers. Across the board, those assessing this exercise believe our community is better prepared for just such an emergency. Please consider participating again next spring and be part of this important exercise...volunteers make all the difference.

Our hearts go out to the families who recently lost loved ones due to contagious outbreaks: grandparents, mothers, fathers, and children in Mexico and around and around the world devastated by swine flu, and in Miami the weekend after our drill when four died and more were hospitalized by Meningitis. In light of these and other tragic events, we are firmly resolved to ensure that residents of Whately--our families, friends and neighbors--are up to date, fully informed, and prepared to respond to such potential emergencies.

THANKS FOR SHOWING UP, WHATELY!

The 12th Annual Whately Family Talent Festival

By Steve Calderone

Congratulations to all participants and prize winners at the recent Spring Talent Show, which was held on March 28th, 2009, at 7pm. It was another successful event where everybody involved had a great time. This year marked a dozen years since our founder, Uncle Dave Robinson, pulled the logistical strings to create the traditional town event.

For the yet uninitiated, the Talent Festival has been called a Community Recital, a Competition-Free Fun Performance, and a Wonderfully Entertaining Family Show. Each year, there are musical acts (singing, dancing, playing instruments), and eclectic acts (hula hoops, karate, poetry, magic, and yo-yo tricks).

Each year, there are "first time" performers, "veteran" performers, and "role model" performers (beyond 6th grade).

We've also recognized the inspirational phenomenon known as the Cycle of Perpetual Motivation. The 2nd grade girl sees a 5th grader on stage and says, "That looks like fun, I want to try it." Years later, she'll be on stage in 5th grade, and a 2nd grade boy sees her and says, "That looks like fun, I want to try it."

Thanks to the parents who motivated these talented children. Public performing experiences always enhance the confidence and communication skills necessary for lifelong success. Every year, parents tell us how their children have grown as a result of their performance experience. Without these supportive parents, and their creative children, there would be no Talent Show.

The community support continues to be fantastic. There were 9 sponsors this year, many of whom have been providing door prizes for our audience since we started inviting local support, 5 years ago. Thank you to all the Sponsors:

Since 2004: Yankee Candle, Bow Wow Bathhouse, The Whately Inn, LaSalle's Florist, Wolfie's Family Restaurant; Since 2006: Elm Farm Bakery, Holiday Pizza; Since 2007: Whately Antiquarian Book Center; Since 2009: L & L Fence, Inc.

Thanks to all who were involved. Hope to see everybody again in 2010.



Greetings from First Congregational Church of Whately By Rev. Dr. Cynthia Crosson-Harrington

Our church has been unusually busy with a variety of activities as we enjoy Spring. Our Spring suppers have begun with the chicken pie supper in April (quite a success), our asparagus

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Michael Archbald, RN- Owner

Hillside House Bed and Breakfast

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

Web address: www.hillsidehousebb.com

supper (May 21st) and our strawberry supper coming up on June 18th. Our plant, tag and food sale (May 9th) went well despite the clouds and sprinkles. Much thanks to Fairview Farms for the beautiful plants and for offering us help to move furniture for the tag sale. And thanks to Judy Markland, Bill and family for the donations from Bertha Markland's estate and others for numerous donations.

We are about to confirm four young people who have been working hard, with their mentors, as they explore not only their own faith journeys but learn more about our denomination and the Whately church. Their confirmation on May 31, the culmination of all their diligence, coincides with the celebration of Pentecost which is the birth of the Christian church. 'Quite fitting as we welcome these four young people as new church members. It should be a festive occasion.

June begins with Children's Sunday on June 7th when the Sunday School children present a special program and receive their awards. Following the service, we join for food and fellowship as our Sunday School year officially closes until the fall (although children are always welcome to come to church with their parents or grandparents). At the end of June, we will be welcoming several more new adult members into our church. It is so good to watch our little church grow!

I am especially pleased with the Missions work done by this church. From donations to the Food Bank, providing blankets as part of the blanket drive, participating in the CROP walk, donations to Canines for Combat Veterans, a program of NEADS (Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans) to the community meals we participate in, plus many more, our

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Dr. Rebecca Jones

**Thank You
to everyone who helps
produce the Scoop and
helps keep Whately
informed.**

church demonstrates Christ's teachings of service through love.

If you have not already, we would love to have you join us for worship at 10 am during May and June. In July, we will once again journey out to the chapel in West Whately as we come together with the Conway church for our summer worship. During August, we will once again be hosted by the Conway folks at their church. The Rev Candi Ashenden (of Conway) and I will alternate preaching throughout the summer.

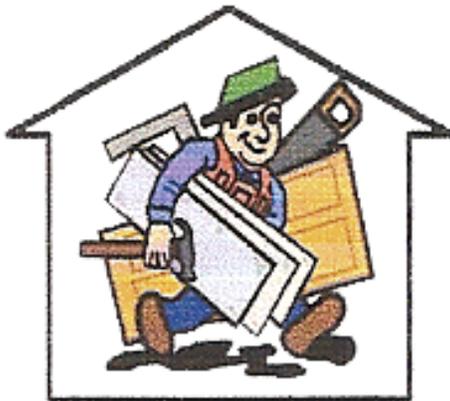
Housing Rehabilitation Program

by: Lynn Sibley, Town Administrator

Would you like to update your heating system, do some plumbing or electrical work or add insulation to your home among other things?

Check into this program. Qualified applicants may be eligible for a deferred payment loan of up to \$35,000. The 0% interest, deferred payment loan is secured by a mortgage placed on your property. The amount loaned is due and payable upon the sale or transfer of your property.

Do you think you make too much money to qualify?



A family of two can have a gross income of \$47,350 and a family of four is \$59,200. These are rather generous income levels.

We have money available and

would love for our residents to take advantage of this program. The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority is administering this program and you can contact Charity at 413-863-9781 ext. 132 or cday@fchra.org for more information.

Election News

By Lynn Sibley, Town Clerk

Our Annual Town Elections will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, June 9, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The ballot is as follows:

- Selectman 3 year term Joyce Palmer Fortune
- Assessor 3 year term Vacant
- Assessor 2 year term Melanie Chorak
- Board of Health 3 year term Francis Fortino
- School Committee 3 year term Nathanael Fortune

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Library Trustee 3 years –Barbara Banik; 3 years Ellen Brown; 2 years Robert Duda
Cemetery Commissioners 3 years Peter D. Hannum
Moderator – 1 year – Paul M. Fleuriel, Jr.
Elector Under the Will of Oliver Smith 1 yr John LaSalle
Frontier Regional School Com. 3 yrs William J. Smith
Water Commissioners 3 years Paul M. Fleuriel, Jr.

If you are interested in running a sticker campaign for the 3 year Assessor position or any of the positions, please contact Town Clerk, Lynn Sibley at 665-0054

Absentee ballots for the June 9th election are *now available* in the Town Clerk's Office.

If you are going to be out of town during the polling hours, have a physical disability preventing you from going to the polling place or are unable to vote at the polls that day because of religious belief you would be eligible to vote an absentee ballot. You may apply by mail or in person. Absentee ballot applications are available at the Whately Post Office or the Town Clerk's Office. You must apply before Noon the



Library Open House

Saturday, June 6 10am-3pm

Refreshments.

Please come meet our new Librarian, Tiffany Hilton, and welcome her to Whately.

While you're there, learn about the Summer Reading Program for kids and teens.

day before the election but keep in mind the time it takes to mail the ballot to you and for you to return the ballot by election day.

Community Coupon Box now in Library

Sharing coupons you can't use is a great way to help your neighbors in these tough times. Bring those extra coupons to the Community Coupon Box at the Library – and take home any coupons that you will use!

Library Notes by Tiffany Hilton

Big thanks to Betsy Cook for working many long days this spring to keep the library open. We are sending Chris our warmest wishes and keeping her and her family in our thoughts. The Trustees of the Whately Library have hired Tiffany Hilton as the new director and she looks forward to meeting you all and to making the library a place that you want to visit often. Please contact Tiffany or Betsy at 665-2170 or library@whately.org with any ideas or suggestions you have for the library.

Library Open House, Saturday, June 6th, 10-3pm. Meet the new library director and share some refreshments.

The Library will be Closed, Saturday, July 4th
Visit our website <http://www.whately.org/library> for news on upcoming events, new book acquisitions, and announcements from the library. Thank you to Judy Markland for maintaining our website.

Movie Times will be starting up again soon. Families can come inside during the high heat of summer for a cool drink and popcorn. Please look for dates and times to be posted soon.



Join us Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 for Alexandra Mello's Gentle Yoga for all ages and all levels. Call Alexandra at 397-0980 or the library for more information. Try your

first class for free!

The library appreciates your donations and support! At this time however, we need to make room for some new books and sort through donations that have piled up. Please look for announcements of the Friends Book Sale this fall



in which your donations will be more than welcome.

Tiffany is eager to work with our volunteers, both new and old. Please stop by and introduce yourself. We need volunteers to run craft tables, story times, movie times, and to help with many other library tasks. Please contact Tiffany at

665-2170 or library@whately.org

Paula Spencer and Tiffany are hoping to start an adult book discussion group. Please visit the library or our website for the announcement of our first meeting this summer. We are open to suggestions on the best time to meet. Let us know what you think!

Join us for the "Starship Adventure" statewide summer reading program. All ages are invited to sign up for the summer reading program beginning June 27. Pick up your reading log and some great summer reads! The library will also make a special display of school reading list titles. Prizes will be given to all participants thanks to the Friends of the Whately Library. Look for more information on special summer programs, craft tables, story times, and more.



Check out the links to cool sites for kids and teens at the library web site, whately.org/library.

Go to the Kids & Teens page and then click on Kids Picks or Teen Picks.

The web site also has info on new books, DVDs and audio books for folks of all ages.



Roll Off Containers "**The Smaller Hauler**"
P.O. Box 612 Whately, MA 01093
1-413-665-0942

Did You Know that the Whately Library can request books and other materials for you from the regional library catalog. These Inter Library Loan requests are free. Click on "Regional Catalogue" from our website and call or email us with your requests.

Spring Bulky Waste Day Clean Up

Fran Fortino, Waste Management. Committee.

Our town residents again cleaned out their bulky items during the May 16 spring bulky waste day held at the transfer station. They disposed of old mattresses, fridges, AC's, furniture, rugs, grills, computers, printers, TV's, exercise equipment, mowers, BBQ tanks and more metal, plastic, and miscellaneous junk than you can imagine.

We'd like to thank the Whately Highway Department's Clint Labato and the bulky day volunteers: Montserrat Archbald, Chris Boutwell, Vic Covaleski, Caroline Gear, Larry Kuttner, Gary Lawrence, Bill Obear, and Ronnie Williams for their terrific help!



If you missed spring bulky day, the next one will be October 10, 8 a.m.-noon at the transfer station.

Transfer Station Closed July 4

Please note that the Whately transfer station will be closed on Saturday, July 4 for the holiday. Thanks go to our amazing attendants who deserve the day off.

Federal Tax Provision Offers Landowners Incentive to Protect Their Land

by Cris Coffin, for WLP

Last year, Congress voted to extend a tax provision that offers landowners around the country a generous tax deduction to permanently protect their land. For folks who own land with important natural or historic resources, this provision can provide potentially significant federal tax benefits for donating a conservation restriction or agricultural preservation restriction on that land, or for donating a portion of the value of a restriction sold through the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)

program. This benefit, however, is available only through the end of 2009, unless extended by Congress.

In a nutshell, the current federal conservation tax incentive allows a landowner who donates a conservation or agricultural preservation restriction on their land to deduct the full value of that gift from their federal income taxes over a sixteen year time period, limited annually to 50% of the landowner's adjusted gross income. If a landowner qualifies as a full-time farmer (making more than 50% of his or her annual income from farming), they can deduct up to 100% of their annual adjusted gross income from their federal income taxes.

Here's an example: A landowner has annual gross income of \$50,000 from non-farming sources, and donates a conservation restriction valued at \$500,000 to a local land trust. He would be entitled to a federal tax deduction of \$25,000 in the year of his gift, and, assuming his annual gross income remains at \$50,000, could deduct \$25,000 against his federal income taxes each year for an additional fifteen years, for a total tax deduction of \$400,000.

If that same landowner earned more than 50% of his \$50,000 annual gross income from farming, he would be entitled to deduct the full \$50,000 from his federal income taxes in the year of the gift. Assuming his annual gross income remained \$50,000, he could continue to take an annual deduction of \$50,000 for the next nine years, at which point he would have reached the full value of his \$500,000 restriction. If his restriction were valued at \$1,000,000, he could take a \$50,000 deduction for the full sixteen years, for a total deduction of \$800,000.

In the case of a "bargain sale" through the state APR program—where a landowner donates a portion of the value of the restriction—the same rules would apply. The landowner could deduct



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the full value of the donated portion of the restriction over a sixteen year period, up to 100% of the landowner's annual gross income.

If you would like more information about this federal tax incentive or about land protection tools and how Whately Land Preservation and the Franklin Land Trust can help, please contact Cris Coffin (665-9337) or Pete Westover (665-4077). And if you would like to see this valuable federal tax incentive made permanent, please contact Senators Kennedy and Kerry and Representative Olver and urge them to support S. 812 and H. 1831!

WILD CREATURE SIGHTINGS

Report your wild creature sightings to Marianne Simon, mpsimon70@comcast.net

THE WHATELY SCOOP is an all-volunteer community supported quarterly newsletter. **Deadline for the next Scoop (Sept.) issue is Aug. 31, 2009.** Send your community oriented article or event information to jpfortune@comcast.net, 665-6739 or 152 Westbrook Road, Whately 01373.

The Scoop is sent free of charge to all Whately residents with Whately PO Boxes, North Hatfield PO Boxes, or delivery from So. Deerfield or Haydenville Post Offices. It is also available at the library and the town Clerk's office.

If you live in Whately & have not been getting the Scoop, please let us know where you get

About The Scoop...



your mail so we can get you on our list. Or, if you are not a resident but have a Whately connection and want to receive the Scoop by mail or email, contact Joyce (same email, phone, address above).

Businesses or individuals wishing to donate to help support the production cost of the scoop, please contact Joyce (same address above). Most businesses contribute \$100 to place a business card sized ad in 4 issues (1 year). Other businesses have contributed \$50 to be listed in the sponsor's area on the front page.

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Scoop Annual Reader Survey and request for support

The Whately Scoop is provided for free 4 times per year to all town residents and anyone who requests it. It is written and produced by volunteers to keep the cost down, but our expenses are not zero. Thanks to the support of local businesses who buy ads and to community organizations like the Whately Historical Society, WLP and CPA who have made donations in the last year, 60-75% of the printing and postage costs are covered.

Thank you to the many individuals who have chipped in to close the gap, your support is very much appreciated. If you haven't done so already, please consider sending in a donation of any size to help keep the scoop running in the coming year. 100% of donations go toward printing and postage costs. Please send to 152 Westbrook Road, So. Deerfield, Ma 01373

Name: _____ Donation Amount \$10 \$20 \$30 Other

What I'd like to see more of in the scoop: _____

Special topic: Cable access channels 12 and 15:

What I'd like to see more of on the cable access channels _____

I'd like to take a class so that I can produce video about or for my local organization for CH 12 or 15 broadcast

1) Basic camera operation	3) Studio Production
2) Basic Editing	Field Production

Contact email or Phone (optional) _____

TOWN DIRECTORY

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

OFFICE HOURS

Assessors - Tue 9a – 8:30p, Wed. 9a – 5p
Library - Mon & Wed 10a. – 8p; Sat 9 a – 3:00p
Selectmen - Monday – Friday 9a – 4:00p
Town Clerk –M-W-Th-F 9:00a -4:00p; Tue noon-7:00p
Treasurer/Town Collector -Tue & Thu 8:45a-2:45p Mon. 3-7p
Transfer Station - Tue., Noon-5p; Sat. 7a-5p

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR TOWN BOARDS

Assessors- Most Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00p, Town Hall
Board of Health-2nd Tues, 7:00p, Center School
Conservation Commission-3rd Weds, 7:00p, Town Hall
Council on Aging - 2nd Weds, 10:00p Senior Center
Franklin Tech School Com. 2nd Weds, 7:00p, Tech School
FRS School Committee - 2nd Tues, 7:00p FRS
Historical Commission -3rd Monday, 7:00p, Town Hall
Library Trustees - 2nd Thursday, 7:00p, Library
Planning Board - Last Tuesday, 7:00p, Town Hall
Recreation Commission -2nd Mon, 7:00p,WES/Herlihy
Selectmen - 2nd and last Tues, 7:00p, Center School
Water Commissioners - 1st Tues, 7:00p, Center School
Whately School Committee -1st Monday, 7:00p WES
Zoning Board of Appeals - 1st Thurs, 6:30p, Town Hall
Historical Society 1st Thursday, 7:00p, Center School

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

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



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

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WHATELY is WORTH IT

Imagine the world that will soon be here,
 Where everyone knows that the earth is dear,
 That we must be careful of what we drive,
 And eat, and wear, and throw away,
 That we must protect all things alive,
 Be wise in our work and smart in our play.
 Our goal is simple: always to strive
 To maintain a world where our children can thrive!