



The WHATELY SCOOP

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

Volume 5 Number 3 March 2009 Whately, Massachusetts

Murder at the Library

by Robert Duda

Kill some watts ! We now have kilowatt meters available for your use. The meters show you the actual kilowatts per hour appliances are using. Test your old refrigerator, air conditioner, space heater, or other electric guzzlers and see how much it actually costs to operate them. We have four (4) of the meters with easy to read instructions available for check out by library patrons. You could save some big bucks.

Energy Audits - 75% off insulation & air sealing!

by Lynn Sibley

Could your home use more insulation or other energy efficiency improvements? If your home is served by WMECO, National Grid or Berkshire Gas, your cost to insulate or seal your home through the MassSAVE program could be reduced by 75% (up to \$2000)! Call 1-866-527-7283 or visit MassSAVE at www.masssave.com to see about scheduling a free energy audit and getting an insulation proposal. Whether energy costs are high or low, buildings are responsible for almost 50% of greenhouse gas emissions, so an energy efficient home saves money and helps the environment.

Home Repair Program

By Lynn Sibley

Is your home in need of some repairs? The Town of Whately has received a Community Development Block Grant to provide Deferred Payment Housing Rehabilitation Loans to qualified residents. We are also applying for another similar grant for 2009. Examples of

eligible work include new heating systems, plumbing and electrical work, ramps, roofing, septic systems, lead paint removal and much more. Qualified applicants may be eligible for 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 sale or transfer of the property. At the present time, a family of four would qualify if the annual gross income is equal to or less than \$59,200. For more information, please contact Charity at the Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) in Turners Falls at 863-9781 ext. 132 or cday@fchra.org.

Beautiful Whately



Looking forward to spring to begin planting and making the town look beautiful. Any donations will be appreciated checks can be made out to Beautiful Whately and mailed to Fiona at box 178 Whately Thank you! Also on a personal note Fiona is up for hire to do landscaping this season what ever you need weeding, planting, edging, spring cleanups, mowing, creating new gardens. call Fiona at 413 325 3130.

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

Propel Plastics - Whately

Look for the ads from Austin's, Cowl's, Collective Homecare, Hillside House, In-Touch, Becky Jones, NEWFS, Northeast Alpacas and Sunrise Landscaping inside!

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

Historic Preservation Award to Nicholas Jones and Whately Congregational Church

By Alan McArdle

In December of 2008, the Whately Historical Commission presented the Historic Preservation Award to Nicholas Jones and the Whately Congregational Church for their efforts to restore the Mid-19th century carriage shed located behind the church. The restoration of this shed is a significant contribution to the preservation of an unusual example from our town's architectural history.

The carriage shed consists of two bays which are all that remain of a much larger structure that once encircled the rear of the church. It was designed to provide shelter for the townspeople's horses during church services which often continued for many hours. The construction of this shed is unusual and has drawn attention from architectural historians who have seen few similar examples.

Listed as a contributing structure on both the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register of Historic Places, the carriage shed will remain an important marker of Whately's history thanks to the diligence of Nicholas Jones and the support of the Whately Congregational Church. The Whately Historic Commission takes great pleasure in recognizing both Nicholas and the Church for their endeavors with this award.



Whately Walking Group

Last fall a few Whately residents started getting together for weekly hour-long walks for exercise and pleasure. After a winter hiatus, we are retrieving our walking shoes and resuming our perambulations about

town. We would love to have others join us. The walks take place on varying weekdays at 9:00 a.m. If you'd like to know more, call Jeanne at 665-7057 or email jkocsis@crocker.com.

Hillside House Bed and Breakfast

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

Web address: www.hillsidehousebb.com

Nomad Volunteers Go To Montana! *Students Journey to Make a Difference*

The Nomad Volunteers are going to Montana! The Nomads are a group of active student volunteers from Frontier Regional High School and Western New England College. For two weeks in July of 2009, we plan to journey to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and Glacier National Park. In addition to doing community service, such as construction, on the Blackfeet Reservation, we will be restoring trails in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex, south of Glacier National Park. We are overjoyed to have this opportunity and are very excited to volunteer in ways that will be valuable to the environment, our culture, our education and our community.

Volunteering has been a major part of the Nomad's lives. Last year, we traveled to Beard's Fork, West Virginia and volunteered in a small mining town. Our projects included building a dormitory, repairing homes and helping with the summer reading program in the community center with the organization Global Volunteers. During our first trip together, in 2006, we offered our assistance in Rabinal, Guatemala, through Habitat for Humanity. We helped lay the foundations for two new homes, allowing for two families to stay off the streets and out of poverty.

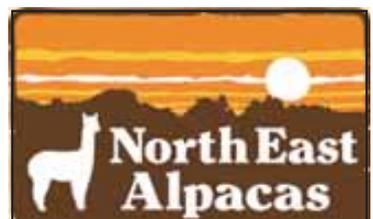
This year, we hope to once again make positive changes while meeting new people, and enjoy the enriching experiences of travel. Unfortunately, volunteering has many costs like travel expenses and the cost of the

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Dr. Rebecca Jones

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



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service trip itself. We estimate this year's trip will cost about \$26,000. We will be fundraising throughout the year to cover the seemingly astronomical cost of the trip, and donations are always appreciated. Any way you could help would be met with the most sincere appreciation and gratefulness.

Please send donations to Nomad Volunteers c/o Kathy Decker at 168 Whately Rd. South Deerfield MA 01373. Also, visit our web site at www.nomadvolunteers.com to learn about our past trips and upcoming fundraisers or email nomadvolunteers13@gmail.com with questions. Nomad Volunteers are: Carrie Decker, Aleah Diemand, Jeff DuCharme, Nick Krauss, Aidan McKenna, Abby Morton, Leah Morton, Matt Spinale, Jake Steve, Bridget Stryszko, Kate Sabo, and chaperones Kathy Decker, Mike Morton, and Fiona Stryszko.

2009 Whately Talent Show - Almost Here!

By Steve Calderone

We're getting close – March 28, 2009 – the 12th annual Whately Family Talent Festival.

For eleven years, this wonderful town has supported the children and adults who wanted to share their special skills – music, dance, magic, stories, poems, whatever. The event has been



great each year, and for the first time in a dozen years, we are planning it before April First. (Call it, a time for CHANGE, if you'd like.)

The good news: the event is still free, the performances are still great, and (thanks to our wonderful sponsors) everybody who attends still has many chances to win a door prize.

The scary news: this year, the event is a few weeks earlier than it ever has been. So, the best time to start thinking about what you might want do on stage ... is RIGHT NOW.

The event will be on Saturday night, 3/28/09, at 7pm, in the Whately Elementary School Gymnasium.

The process for getting on stage is quite simple: just call and describe your act. If you already have something in mind, please call Dave Robinson, at 665-8452.

For a dozen years, "Uncle Dave" has invited hundreds of acts onto the stage in your home town – from the youngest children to the most seasoned performers. Every year, the story is the same: everybody who attends, and everybody who performs, has had a great time. Everybody is welcome to join in the fun.

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The obligatory rehearsal is on Friday, March 27th, same place, 6-8pm. We are unable to allow any acts to perform on Saturday if they do not attend on Friday. There will be no exceptions. Thank you for understanding.

We look forward to seeing you there. PLEASE HELP US KEEP THIS GREAT TRADITION GOING. Thank you for your continued support.

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

We have had a busy few months at our little church. On February 15th we celebrated by installation as settled (permanent) pastor. Now, with the coming of Lent, we will again be joining our brothers and sisters from area churches for Lenten discussions, centered around the theme, "Why would anyone want to be a Christian when no one seems to care?" All of the discussions will be held at 7 pm. at various churches and are open to all. Schedules of who is presenting where and when are available at church.

Please join us for our "Games to Chase Away the Winter Doldrums" on March 8th at 2 pm. when we will drag out the board and card games, rev up the popcorn makers and settle down for a couple of hours of fun, good natured competition, prizes and laughs. All are welcome.

Our Lenten season will culminate in our Palm Sunday and Holy Week observances. Weather permitting, you may see our procession wending its way down the street toward the church for worship at 10 am (April 5th). On Maundy Thursday evening (April 9th), we will join in our

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Michael Archbald, RN- Owner

remembrance of the Last Supper that we hope will inspire you.

On Easter morning, we will gather near the library for our traditional Sunrise service (time TBA). And what would Christmas morning be without our Easter breakfast featuring such remembered goodies as the 'sticky buns' that have been known to bring people from far and near. The Easter morning worship service will be at 10 am followed by coffee, goodies and fellowship in the parish hall, while the children are invited to join in an Easter egg hunt. It promises to be a blessed and festive day.

We look forward to seeing you at our Sunday worship each week at 10 am. If you have never been there or have not been for some time, do come and worship with us. We are a friendly group that mirrors the love of Christ and welcomes all.

News from the Historical Society

By Adelia Bardwell

Whately is such a great place to live! There is so much to do if you are interested in getting involved! The Historical Society is just one of the opportunities.

If you join:

- you will meet other history-interested people
- you will become aware of our Whately treasures preserved for the future
- you will be rewarded for your service to your community
- and more---

Part of our 2009 exhibit will feature pictures of Whately brides in their wedding gowns. Our object is to highlight the many different styles over the years. We will display a copy of your original picture, labeled with your name and date of your wedding. We are excited about this and hope to receive many pictures that you may bring to the Museum on Tuesday mornings, or call Adelia at 665-3837.

Calling all body forms!!! We have several dresses/gowns which should be displayed. We could put out more dresses if you have a body form that you would loan us.

Save May 24. We open our new exhibit after the Memorial Day Parade

WLP ANNUAL MEETING

by Rebecca Jones

Come join us! We know you love Whately—you live here! Join Whately Land Preservation March 15th for our annual gathering, and help us celebrate our first major success—the preservation of over 250 acres of land on Chestnut Plain Road, and Wykowski farmland.

We need your support--we really can't do it without you. Everyone is invited, and there is no fee, so come check us out. However, we will show you why you will want to become a member, and remain one. Donations of 200.00 or more will get you a beautiful, signed print by our own Gabe Cooney, worthy of matting and framing. The festivities start at 3 and go til 5pm at the centrally located home of Becky Jones, 185 Chestnut Plain Road. Delicious refreshments provided. Hope to see you there! And watch in the mail for your invitation to renew or continue your membership.



Friends of the Library ANNUAL MEETING

by Jeannine Atkins

The Annual meeting of the Friends of the Library will be held Wednesday April 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the library. Please join us and find out ways you might get involved.

We are sponsoring a spring series of walks and talks called Treasures of Whately. For more information, look for posters at the library and post office, or call the library. On April 6, 7:00 p.m., Connie Parks from Mass. Audubon will talk about wildflowers in Whately. On April 22, 7 p.m. Scott Jackson from UMass will talk about local

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reptiles. On May 2, time to be announced, Ted Watts of the Hitchcock Center will lead a wildflower walk in the Whately glenn. And on May 11 at 7 p.m. Neil Sanderson, Lois Bean, and Fred and Adelia Bardwell, members of the Whately Historical Society, will give presentations on Quonquont Farm, local pottery, and the reservoir. All events are free and open to the public. We hope you can join us!

Whately Citizens Corps WCC In Community Service 2009

The WCC continues to grow in strength and usefulness to our town throughout 2008-2009. With the invitation of the Emergency Management Coordinator, Lynn Sibley, the WCC has joined the guiding committee for the community wide volunteer effort in preparation for Whately's Door-to-Door emergency preparedness drill this Spring.

Also, the WCC volunteer phone tree list of individuals who remain formally available as a back up resource to the Whately First Responders continues to grow. The Whately Police & Highway Departments will use the WCC phone tree list when a formally coordinated & organized group of volunteers is needed as back-up assistance for disaster response, such as a flooding or hurricane event.

The WCC continues its role in providing public education of disaster planning for personal & family preparedness. Currently, donations are

being sought for cots & blankets that the town will use as part of its shelter preparedness.

The Whately Citizens Corps is not a membership organization. The WCC is an organized group of volunteers willing to be assigned as backup support in assistance to the Emergency Response Team in times of disaster.

Sandy Mazzacane, Jodi Cecchi, Richard Korpiewski, Peter Williams, Carter MacDonald, Bill Smith, Ed Farrick, Susan Boone, Kathy Marchard, Alan Thackeray, Mary Abel-Dingman.

Selectmen's Office

By Lynn Sibley

The Selectmen are in the process of gathering preliminary information on road projects in town. One of the projects being considered is reconstructing/upgrading the dirt portion of Conway Road through a STRAP (Small Town Road Assistance Program) grant. Selectmen have asked residents that live on the road to supply input on whether they want the road repaired and have received some positive comments. If the Selectmen choose to go forth with the project, the next step will be to hire an engineer to complete the plans and then we would be ready to apply for the STRAP grant



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.



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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!

Whately Transfer Station Calendar and recycling info - Save this page!

Fran Fortino, Waste Mgt. Committee.

The Whately Waste Management Committee invites you to recycle as many items as possible to save you and the Town money. We have a new Transfer Station Calendar (see below) featuring the many ways you can recycle items or dispose of trash.

Batteries—rechargeable and non, **cell phones & batteries; laptop, camera and power tool batteries.** Drop in battery recycling box. Mercury-filled **Thermometers** in special box. **Fluorescent lights/bulbs** Drop off in swap shed box. See attendant for details. Small fee charged for bulbs, no broken bulbs please!

Plastic Bags – All types, must be clean, dry and have no paper inside or sticky labels (tear them off even if bag rips). Drop into plastic bag container. See attendant for details.

Books, etc? Drop off any books, audio books, CDs, DVDs, records/LPs, sports cards, old video games, computer software—free—into the new book container next to the ramp.

Compost— See next article for more details.

Sharps Collection – For those who use needles for personal health, get free collection boxes at (and return to): Whately Health Center, 181 State Rd., **Mon., Wed., and Fri. 9-12 only.**

Brush Chipping – May 2 & June 6 only, 8 a.m.-Noon. Bring brush up to 6" in diameter and free of nails and dirt, but **NO** leaves, grass, or construction debris. Wood chips available afterwards for landscaping.

Swap Shed – First Saturday of the month, May 2 – Nov. 7, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Bring only useful household items, sporting goods, and small toys, etc. – NO exercise equipment please. Take items you can use free. All items must be in good condition & re-usable or will be rejected. PLEASE be considerate of staff and other residents, don't bring or leave broken junk or parts! Thanks.

Spring Bulky Waste Collection day - May 16, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. For old furniture, stoves, freezers & refrigerators—**DOORS MUST BE REMOVED FIRST**, mowers, BBQ tanks, computers, TV's, furniture, metal items, air conditioners, bicycles, beds, radios, tires & more. Fees for most items to cover costs.

Hazardous Waste Collection day, Sept. 26 - toxic materials like motor oil, pesticides, solvents, etc. Pre-registration required, call 772-2438.

Fall Bulky Waste Day Oct. 10, 8 am - 1 pm

Please note: Only trash in Town of Whately bags will be accepted – still the best deal in Town at only \$2 for a 33 gal. trash bag!

If you would like more information or can volunteer for a little while to help on bulky waste days, please call: Fran Fortino 665-4561.

Update on Whately Transfer Station Composting Program By Amy Donovan, Program Director, Franklin County SWMD

In 2008, Whately residents composted nine tons of food waste and Whately Elementary School composted one ton of food waste!

Food waste is collected from Whately residents, free of charge, in special collection carts and brought to Bear Path Farm in Whately for composting. Finished compost reduces the need for pesticides, fertilizers and irrigation.

Towns pay an average of \$70/ ton to dispose of household trash, plus hauling fees, so any food waste diverted to the composting program saves Whately money. Residents can save money by depositing food waste for free in the collection carts instead of in the \$2 town trash bags.

NEW! The following items are now acceptable: meat, chicken, fish (*no bones*), soiled or waxed cardboard, *soiled* pizza boxes (clean pizza boxes are *recyclable* in paper recycling), soiled or waxed paper, paper napkins, paper towels (*no chemical or cleaning residue*), paper plates (*no plastic coating; Chinette preferred*), paper cups (*no plastic lids*), paper bags (*no plastic*), paper flour/sugar bags, paper egg cartons. Get a newly revised compost guide at the transfer station.

Do not deposit the following: anything that is not biodegradable such as plastic, Styrofoam, or other trash, or anything toxic such as household chemicals. **Do not**

deposit plastic bags: empty the contents of the bag into the collection cart and put the empty bag in the trash. To collect food waste you can use a reusable bucket or pail lined with a layer of newspaper.

After you add materials to the collection cart, sprinkle the provided sawdust over the food waste. Please tell the attendant if you have any sawdust or wood shavings to donate to the program.

For more information, contact Franklin County Waste District: 413-772-2438 or info@franklincountywastedistrict.org. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD) The District is an equal opportunity provider.



WILD CREATURE SIGHTINGS

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

On an afternoon in December, I happened to glance out the kitchen window and saw a splendid heron walking slowly down the brook. S/he dove in and caught a fish. Then s/he exited the brook and began walking across our yard. I grabbed my camera, but was so excited that I kept making mistakes with it. As s/he stalked into the street, I finally got a good angle and here is that noble bird crossing Chestnut Plain Road.

This morning behind my house (Haydenville Rd., a mile from the center of town) I saw a bobcat, stalking purposefully through the snow. It was the first time I had seen one of these beautiful creatures, and it was very exciting! (from Jeanne Kocsis)

There have been a few other sightings of bobcats in the neighborhood. Stay alert - you may be the next person to be so blessed!!



About the Scoop....

THE WHATELY SCOOP is an all-volunteer community supported quarterly newsletter. **Deadline for the next Scoop (May) issue is May 16, 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 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 the 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.



TOWN DIRECTORY

Department	Office	Phone
Assessors	Town Hall	665-3470
Board of Health Health Agent (Health Agent)		665-8051
Animal Control		268-8404
Emergency Mgmt	Center School	665-8027
FAX for Center School		665-4400
FAX for Town Hall		665-9560
Fire Department		665-5064
Burning Permits		665-2230
Highway Department		625-8200
Inspection Services:		665-2983
Building	Courthouse	772-2026x123
Plumbing & Gas	Courthouse	772-2026x125
Wiring	Courthouse	772-2026x126
Police (non-emergency)	Center School	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 - Tues 9 A.M. - 8:30 P.M. Weds. 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Library - Mondays and Wednesdays 10 A.M. - 8 P.M. and
Saturdays 9 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Selectmen - Monday - Friday 9 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Town Clerk - M-W-Th-F 9:00a - 4:00pm; Tu 12noon-7:00pm

Treasurer/Town Collector - Tues & Thurs 8:45a - 2:45p
Mon. 3 - 7 P.M.

Transfer Station - Tues., Noon - 5 P.M. Sat. 7 A.M. - 5 P.M.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR WHATELY TOWN BOARDS

Assessors- Most Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 P.M., Town Hall

Board of Health-2nd Tues, 7:00 P.M., Center School

Conservation Commission-3rd Weds, 7:00 P.M., Town Hall

Council on Aging - 2nd Tuesday, 12:30 P.M., Senior Center

Franklin Tech School Comm. 2nd Weds, 7:00p, Tech School

FRS School Committee - 2nd Tues, 7:00 FRS

Historical Commission - 3rd Monday, 7:00 P.M., Town Hall

Implement. Committee - 3rd Thurs, 7:00 P.M., Center School

Library Trustees - 2nd Thursday, 7:00 P.M., Library

Planning Board - Last Tuesday, 7:00, Town Hall

Recreation Commission - 2nd Mon, 7:00 P.M., WES/Herlihy

Selectmen - 2nd and last Tues, 7:00 P.M., Center School

Water Commissioners - 1st Tues, 7:00 P.M., Center School

Whately School Committee -1st Monday, 7:00 P.M. @ WES

Zoning Board of Appeals - 1st Thurs, 6:30 P.M., Town Hall

Historical Society 1st Thursday, 7:00 P.M., Center School

Committees with no set meeting: Cable TV Advisory, Capital Planning, Cemetery Commissioners, Cultural Council, Finance, Franklin County Coop. Inspection Prog., Personnel, Tri-Town Beach

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 printing provided by local business who placed ads and made donations -
Thank You All Very Much!**



The WHATELY SCOOP

Certified News for the Town
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152 Westbrook Road
RFD So. Deerfield, Ma. 01373

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You know that lovely roadsides are a treasure
And if you ride your bike for work or fun
You'd never toss your bottle when it's done.*

*But if you're in a car
And thoughts have wandered far
Or if you've had a drink
At the local corner bar
Or if you've bought a nip
At a nearby liquor store*

*You might just toss things out your window
Rather than dropping them on the floor
A thoughtless act of "I don't care -
Let someone else clean up my share."
So please remember when you drive
That beauty keeps us all alive!!*