

## Why is it important to prevent mosquito bites?

Mosquitoes can spread diseases that make you sick. In Massachusetts, mosquitoes can give you Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus and West Nile virus (WNV).

West Nile virus infections are more common than EEE, but still rare. Most WNV infections do not cause any symptoms. Mild WNV infections can cause fever, headache, and body aches, often with a skin rash and swollen lymph glands. A small number of people (less than 1 out of 100) who get infected with WNV develop more serious illness; this is more common in people over the age of 50. Symptoms of serious illness can include headache, high fever, stiff neck, confusion, muscle weakness, tremors, convulsions, coma, swelling of the brain, and sometimes death.

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) is an extremely rare but serious disease. Symptoms include high fever, stiff neck, headache, and lack of energy. Swelling of the brain, called encephalitis, is the most dangerous complication, and can cause coma and death. Most cases in Massachusetts occur in the southeastern part of the state, but recently there has been an increase in cases occurring in other parts of the state.

See your doctor if you develop these symptoms.

Only a small number of mosquitoes are infected at any given time, so being bitten by a mosquito does not mean you will get sick. However, the best way to avoid both of these illnesses is to prevent mosquito bites.

# Preventing Mosquito Bites



Produced by MA Dept. of Public Health  
with modifications made by the Town of Whately  
Board of Health [www.whately.org](http://www.whately.org)

## What is the best way to prevent mosquito bites?

- When weather permits, wear long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors.
- Be aware of peak mosquito hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many species of mosquitoes. Take extra care to use an EPA-approved repellent and protective clothing during evening and early morning. Make sure to follow directions on the repellent label.
- Be aware of mosquitoes around you. If mosquitoes are biting you, reapply repellent, or think about going inside.
- Use mosquito netting on baby carriages or playpens when your baby is outdoors.
- Make sure screens are repaired and are tightly attached to doors and windows.
- Remove standing water from places like gutters, old tires, and wheel barrows. Replace the water frequently in bird baths and wading pools. Mosquitoes can begin to grow in any puddle of standing water that lasts for more than four days, so don't let water collect around your home.

## What can I do to protect my animals?

Mosquitoes can infect horses and other animals. Horses are susceptible to WNV; and horses, llamas, alpacas, and certain birds can get EEE. WNV and EEE viruses are not spread from horses or other mammals to humans in any way.

- Licensed vaccines for horses are considered highly protective and can even be used in some other animals. Talk with your veterinarian about vaccinating your animals.
- Eliminate standing water by getting rid of items that can collect and hold water such as flower pots, tires, and containers. Cleaning out (not just topping off) animal water buckets and troughs at least twice weekly will reduce mosquito breeding habitats.
- Consider screening stalls if possible or install fans to help deter mosquitoes.
- Keep animals indoors during peak periods of mosquito activity (dusk and dawn).
- Avoid turning on lights inside barns during the evening and overnight because mosquitoes are attracted to light.
- Apply mosquito repellents approved for use on animals. Read the product label before using, and follow all instructions.

Use an EPA-approved repellent anytime you're outdoors.



Wear long pants, long sleeves and socks to reduce exposed skin outdoors.



Repair torn screens early in the season to keep mosquitoes outdoors.



Remove standing water around the house to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.



Dusk to dawn is peak biting time for mosquitoes that carry disease.



# What's Your Wish List for Local Cultural Events and Activities in Whately?

The Whately Cultural Council wants your help to make sure we fund programs that Whately residents will attend and enjoy. Help us and local entities that host programs expand and refresh local cultural activities with your wish list of events and your suggestions of local artists and presenters.

Please check off or write in **activities** you would be likely to attend and add **names of performers** you think might be a good fit for Whately. Return your questionnaire to: Whately Cultural Council, 4 Sandy Lane, S. Deerfield, MA 01373. You may also email us at [Culturalcouncil@whately.org](mailto:Culturalcouncil@whately.org) with your suggestions. Thanks!

<p><b>Instrumental Music</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Classical</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pop</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Traditional/Folk</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jazz</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bluegrass</li> </ul> <p><b>Other suggestions, specific artists you'd like to see</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><b>Vocal Music</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chorus</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Singer Songwriter</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pop</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rap</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Country</li> </ul> <p><b>Other suggestions, specific artists you'd like to see</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p><b>Theater/Movies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Plays performed for elementary or high school students</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Drama, Comedy, Musical Theater for adults and families (specify below)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Documentary films at Town Hall</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Movies indoors at Town Hall</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Movies outdoors</li> </ul> <p><b>Other suggestions, specific artists you'd like to see</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><b>Nature</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Guided walks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bird walks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Animal demos and slide shows</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gardening workshops</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Astronomy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Valley geography</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Valley geology</li> </ul> <p><b>Other suggestions, specific artists you'd like to see</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p><b>Readings/Story Telling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Folk tales</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> International</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Poetry Readings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Local authors</li> </ul> <p><b>Other suggestions, specific artists you'd like to see</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><b>Demonstrations/Workshops</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Crafts (specify below)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Technology (e.g., Bitcoin, renewable energy)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Activities (e.g., Yoga, Zumba)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Instruction (e.g., gardening, playing bridge)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dances (Latin, Ballroom, Contra, Polka, etc.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Other suggestions or specific artists you'd like to see</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

What other **activities or events** and/or **specific artists or presenters** would you like to see?





# The WHATELY SCOOP

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

Volume 18 ❖ Number 4 ❖ May 2021 ❖ Whately, Massachusetts

*Our 18th Year and going strong. Thanks to you!*

## Whately's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

By Susan Baron, cochair Whately 250th Com.

**Parade** - Thank you to everyone who helped make the mobile parade a huge success, whether building a float, riding in a vehicle, or cheering from your lawn as the parade drove by. And a special thank you to the fire department for organizing this fantastic event. You can watch a video of the parade by searching for "Whately's Big Parade" on YouTube, thanks to FCAT.

**#HappyBirthdayWhately Winner:** Jacquelin Holmes - Ms. Holmes' blue and gold celebration of Whately's special day turned a lot of heads and scored a lot of likes across social media. The Whately 250 Celebration Committee is happy to present her design as the winner of our door decorating challenge.



A HUGE thank you to everyone who rolled up their sleeves, got their creativity on, and joined in the fun of this lighthearted event. To see the other festive doors, search for #HappyBirthdayWhately on Facebook or Instagram.

## Marine Corp League BBQ

By Brian Brooks, UPVSD

Marine Corps League Memorial Day BBQ will be held in Cushman Park in Bernardston, Monday May 31, 11am-4pm. Rain or Shine. Upper Pioneer Valle Veteran Services will be on hand to provide info to vets and their families.

## Whately Historical Society: Whately Made and Grown

By Neal Abraham, President

Did you know that gin was made in Whately? And did you know that stockings were made in Whately? These and eight other products made and grown in Whately were featured on the floats provided by the Whately Historical Society (WHS) in the April 24, 2021 parade. For details of the cultivation and/or manufacture these ten products and associated photographs, visit the WHS website [whatelyhistorical.org/events/](http://whatelyhistorical.org/events/) or the Whately 250<sup>th</sup> celebration website [whately250.com](http://whately250.com). We thank the following contributors of ideas, equipment and/or labor to our three floats: Fairview Farms and Sandersons Alan, Brad and Jake and employee Angel; Jenny Miriam; Jonathan Kohrman; Allison Bell and Nicholas Jones.

To support the WHS and our events and programs, please join as a member or

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 Whately

665-2653  
[www.LaSalleFlorist.com](http://www.LaSalleFlorist.com)

contribute (details on the website). We hope to resume activities, including displays in our museum in Town Hall, later this year. To expand our storage space for materials and supplies, we will be installing a shed behind Town Hall (as approved by the Select Board). You can shop for items explaining Whately's history on our website.

**The Whately Church celebrates its 250<sup>th</sup> too.**

By Cynthia Crosson-Harrington  
 Spring is always a busy time for the Whately church, and this year is no exception. As you can see from the sign on our church (created by Jack Cooper), we like the town are celebrating our 250<sup>th</sup> year of service to the town. Jack Cooper and Jim LaSalle represented us in the Whately birthday parade on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Giant Tag Sale & Silent Auction**  
**Flowering Plants**  
**Saturday May 22, 8 – 2**  
**at the Whately Church**

Since we are not yet comfortable hosting our church suppers this year, we have planned other fundraisers. Check out our frequent Saturday Sales on the church lawn

**\$10 off every \$50 Mon-Tue-Wed, Whately Residents only**



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



**Watermelon Wednesdays**  
*in West Whately*

**Celebrating 20 Years of the Finest Acoustic Music**

[www.watermelonwednesdays.com](http://www.watermelonwednesdays.com)

featuring baked goods, other seasonal items, and grocery gift cards. And be sure not to miss our giant tag sale with a silent auction and flowering plants on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, opening at 8 am.

We are delighted to have been worshipping back in church – socially distanced and with precautions--since the end of March. The service is also offered on Zoom and we have folks as far as Delaware and upper New York State worshipping with us. All are welcome to join us at 10 am every Sunday in person or virtually. Look on our Facebook page for the virtual access information. If you would like regular link notifications, contact Judy Markland at [jmarkland@LMstrategies.com](mailto:jmarkland@LMstrategies.com).

**Whately Library news**

By Cynthia R. Steiner, Library Director  
 Spring is here and the library continues curb side pick-up and has more recently opened for browsing by appointment. Call the library at 665-2170 to schedule! We thank you, one and all, for bearing with us as we all navigate the pandemic and associated rules and restrictions. We feel fortunate to be open and providing services and hope you have found what you've needed through us, or through the many associated services available! Please check the Town's library page for services and instructions.

We are sad to bid farewell to Library Associate Emma Zyskowski who moves on to the next phase of her journey in library



**NATHAN SMITH**  
**Electrical Contractor**

**413 774 0096**

science. Congrats to Emma and we shall miss you! Patrons will soon be seeing a new face at the library. Staff, Trustees and Friends are happy to have Rebecca Schmidt joining the team and hope you will all help us welcome her aboard! Her strong resume and skillset will be a welcome complement to our facility and we hope you'll all stop to greet her soon! Plans are in place for a "soft" reopening (rules and restrictions still apply of course) and we very much look forward to seeing all our patrons and friends again!

Last - as we look to possibly reopening, the task of researching events, programs and concerts remains before us and anyone interested, or having suggestions, or willing to help with any facet of future programs is welcome! Friends of the Whately Library would appreciate any and all help. Meetings are held on the first Wed of each month at 6:30pm. For more information please email [friendsofwhatelylibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwhatelylibrary@gmail.com), or contact Cyndi at 413-665-2170 if you have some time to volunteer. Many hands make light work, hours are flexible and we welcome any and all help.

Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram. We look forward to seeing, hearing from, and serving you! Everyone is welcome at our treasured library.

## Transfer Station News

by Fran Fortino

**Trial Swap Shed reopening!** Since we closed the swap shed due to covid last year, we hoped that enough Whately residents would become vaccinated in 2021 and risks to covid spread would be low enough to re-open this valued service with precautions in place. The improved covid situation now allows us to cautiously reopen the swap shed on a trial basis May 29 under use guidelines below. We urge users to please keep your visit to the



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swap shed short and bring only 1-2 items to start for space reasons:

- All users of swap shed must wear masks inside
- Only 1 person or 1 household at a time inside
- Others must wait at a safe distance of 6 feet
- Users will have only 3-5 minutes per visit inside when busy
- All users must clean hands with hand sanitizer (available) before entering.

**Blue Bins and Compost Pails** - We have a new supply of blue recycling bins and food waste pails free for Whately residents who want to recycle and compost to save money. You can ask the Whately transfer station attendants if you want one.

## Board of Health

by Becky Jones & board members

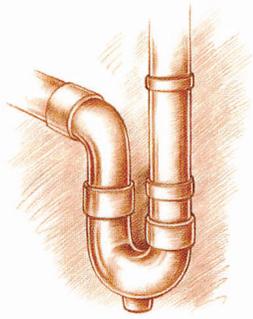
**May COVID update:** If there is one thing we have learned with the COVID epidemic it is that accurate information is a moving target. As of this writing 4 million in Massachusetts or 58% have received one dose and 35% are fully vaccinated. Everyone 16 and older is eligible, and appointments are easier to get and you can find one at [vaxfinder.mass.gov](http://vaxfinder.mass.gov). The CDC projects a



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Certified Public Accountant

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decline in COVID by July...if vaccine rates continue as they are. With a rough target of 80% immunity imagined as a goal to reach "herd immunity", the medical community is actually optimistic that Massachusetts as a state could hit that target, between those vaccinated and those who have already been infected having some immunity. But this all hinges on us continuing to follow guidelines. While the mask rule has been loosened so that you don't need to wear one in outdoor settings where you can maintain 6 foot distance, for now it is still in place for indoor settings. Fenway Park and TD Garden are set to open by May 10 at 25% capacity and bars, breweries and wineries can open by May 29.

You can find out more about changes in restrictions on the link below but what we want to stress here is that people are still getting sick with COVID, still being hospitalized and still dying. It is still something to take seriously and we all need to take precautions. So keep up the good work everyone, and if you are vaccinated enjoy that wonderful feeling of hugging family and friends.

<https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-announces-plans-for-continued-reopening>

### Protect yourself and family from mosquitos carrying EEE/WNV

Mosquito season will soon be upon us, and the Whately Board of Health is reaching out to all residents with information to protect yourself and family from potentially serious diseases spread by mosquitos like Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile virus (WNV). Fortunately, the risk of such diseases is quite low in Whately, but could change with a warming climate.

The color flyer attached to this Scoop



You want to remain in the place you call home.

413.773.5555

LifePathMA.org



LifePath  
options for independence

describes the best ways for you to deter mosquitoes and prevent their bites while enjoying the outdoors. Hang it on the fridge!

These preferred prevention measures do not include the spraying of chemicals designed to kill mosquitoes or their larvae. Instead, the emphasis is on preventing bites through personal protection and repelling the mosquitoes. This approach has the additional benefit of preventing unintended harmful consequences of chemical spraying to humans, pets, livestock, crops, insects, birds, and the entire food chain.

Mosquitos are deterrable pests. We hope that the attached flyer provides you with the tools you need to be outdoors and protected from mosquito-borne disease. If you have any questions, please contact us!

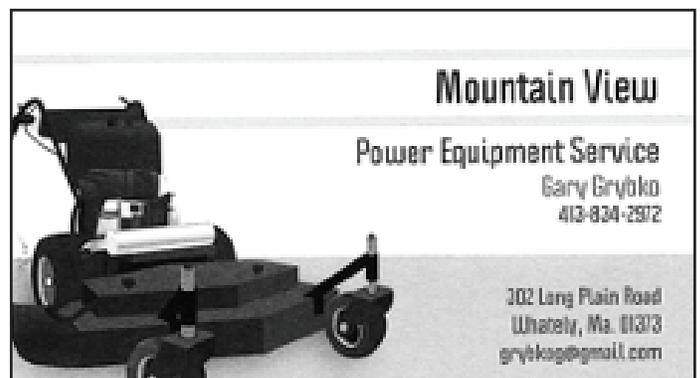
Whately Board of Health: Fran Fortino, Becky Jones, Mike Archbald and Health Agent Mark Bushee Phone: (413) 268-8404 [boardofhealth@whately.org](mailto:boardofhealth@whately.org) [foothills@burgy.org](mailto:foothills@burgy.org)

### News from the Treasurer/Collector's Office

By Lynn Sibley

**Water Bills** - Water bills will be mailed by May 24th and will be due by June 24th.

**Change of Hours** - The Treasurer/



**Mountain View**  
Power Equipment Service  
Gary Grybko  
413-834-2972

302 Long Plain Road  
Whately, Ma. 01373  
[grybkog@gmail.com](mailto:grybkog@gmail.com)

Collector's office will be changing hours effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. The new hours will be Monday 8 am to 7 pm and Tuesday through Thursday from 8 am – 4 pm. The office will be closed on Friday.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 413-665-4400 x2. Town Clerk News

By Lynn Sibley, Town Clerk

**Elections** – Again, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, we will be holding the Annual Town Election at the Whately Town Hall, 194 Chestnut Plain Road from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. on June 8, 2021. We would like to encourage all voters to vote by mail. An application is available at [whately.org](http://whately.org) or you may request a ballot in writing with a signature. Email requests are not sufficient unless you are scanning and emailing your application with an actual signature. All people entering the Town Hall will be required to answer a few questions and wear a face covering. Voters will be supplied a ballot and a disposable pencil. Voting booths will be continually sanitized for your protection. Hopefully by election time next year we will return to a somewhat more normal election. Registration of voters for the Town Election will be held May 19<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 and 7-8. If you are already registered, there is no need to register again.

**Annual Town Meeting** – The Annual Town Meeting is currently scheduled for June 15, 2021 at the Whately Elementary School. Please stay tuned for more information.

**Dog Licenses** – This is a reminder that dog licenses need to be obtained by June 1, 2020. You may license your dog in several ways.

1) Mail a \$10 check for each neutered or spayed dog or \$15 for an intact dog and a copy of the rabies certificate to Town Clerk, 4 Sandy Lane, South Deerfield, MA 01373.

2) Online. Go to [whately.org](http://whately.org) and on the left side of the page is a Pay bills section. Once into the Unipay site go to Town Clerk and it will walk you through the steps. There is a small fee to pay with your checking account of .50 cents. If you use a credit card there is a fee of \$2.50 and \$3.95 if you use a debit card. I need to have an active rabies certificate on file or you can email me a copy at [townclerk@whately.org](mailto:townclerk@whately.org).

3) After-hours Box - you can drop payment and rabies information in the after-hours box in front of the Town Office building at 4 Sandy Lane.

4) In person – Currently the Town Offices are open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m.- Noon. We hope to open up full -time soon so check the website for any updates.

If your dog is not licensed by June 1st a late fee of \$50 will be applied to each dog.

## **Town Administrator Updates**

by Brian Domina, Town admin.

As the end of the pandemic is hopefully in sight, the Town is looking forward to making progress on some important projects. The Town recently submitted a grant to the Complete Streets Program run by MassDOT seeking funds to complete the sidewalk project on the east side of Chestnut Plain Road from the Town Hall to the Congregational Church, as well as to extend the sidewalk at the Whately Elementary School out to Long Plain Road. I am optimistic that improvements to the Veteran's Memorial in the historic center of town will receive CPA funding at the Annual Town Meeting so those much-needed improvements can occur. Equally as important, the accessibility improvements at the S. White Dickinson Library will hopefully receive CPA funding at the Annual Town Meeting. These improvements will make the entire building and restrooms accessible to all persons regardless of disabilities for the first time ever.

Important projects like those mentioned above started from an idea or concept that evolved into a project. Please never hesitate to let us know your ideas for projects and/or improvements that would benefit the town and its residents.

Lastly, the Town has a number of vacancies on boards and committees that need to be filled. If you have a desire to serve on a town board or committee, please reach out to me at [townadmin@whately.org](mailto:townadmin@whately.org) to discuss your interests.

As always please don't hesitate to contact me with questions, issues or concerns. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer.



# The WHATELY SCOOP

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

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## Whately Postal Customer Whately, Ma. 01093

Weather warms from day to day  
And now it really looks like May  
With green adorning many trees,  
The nights, though cold, avoid a freeze.

Windy April, very cool  
But trees and flowers are hard to fool  
Blossoms bloom and bring us glee  
We honor every flower and tree

And working outside in the sun  
Makes gardening a lot of fun

And soon we'll gobble summer fruits  
And even don our bathing suits

So even though the wind does blow,  
Summer's coming, that we know,  
With thunderstorms and lots of heat  
And yummy things for us to eat.

Hugs with family coming soon!  
A splendid piece of summer's boon,  
To celebrate the month of June,  
And sing together all in tune.

### The Whately Scoop

*Cost for printing and mailing this edition of the Scoop was provided by  
the small businesses who ran ads in this issue -*

*Thank you very much!*

*We encourage all readers to thank these awesome businesses by patronizing them!*

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 September 2021 issue of the Scoop is Monday Aug 30 .

Please email your our 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.

Business card sized ads are \$100 for 1 year (4 issues) and a mention in a box on the front

page is \$50/year. Please make checks out to: The Whately Scoop and mail to 152 Westbrook Rd RFD So. Deerfield, 01373

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

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

If you are interested in any of those please call or email Joyce at 665-6739;

[jpfortune@comcast.net](mailto:jpfortune@comcast.net).