

VALLEY NEIGHBORS

AUTUMN EVENTS 2023

Friday, September 22, 10:30 am-12:30 pm **Historic Deerfield**

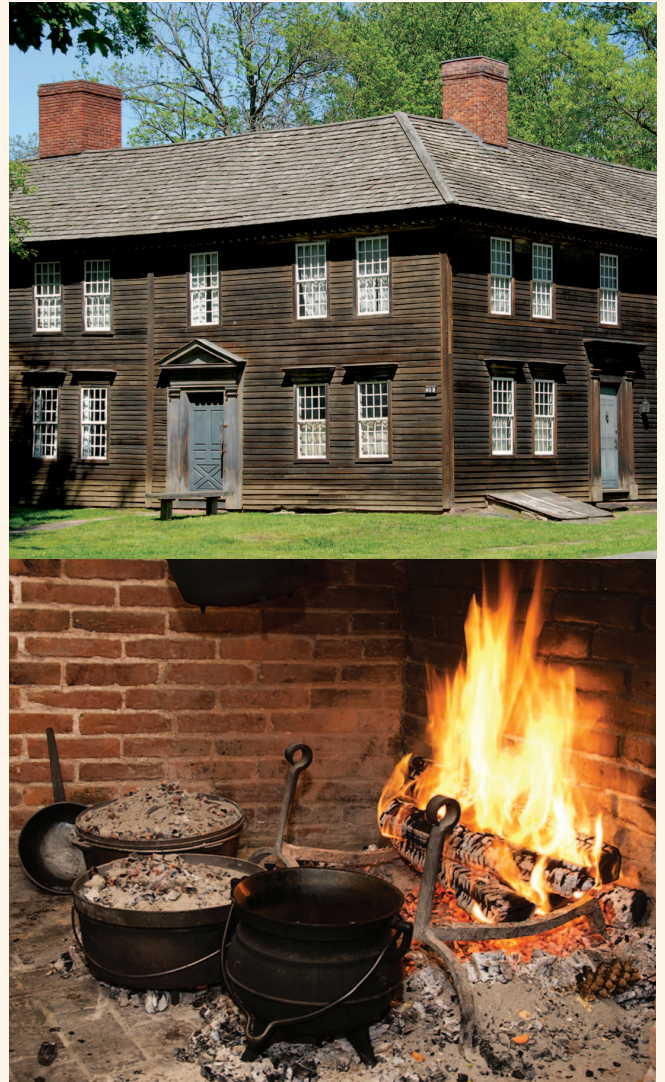
Tour of Historic Deerfield, with a talk by Annie Rubel, their Historic Preservationist, on preserving and restoring old houses; choose between a walking tour to discuss slavery in Deerfield or an open-hearth cooking demonstration; and tour of the newly restored Barnard Tavern. **Meet at the Historic Deerfield Visitor's Center at Hall Tavern, 80 Old Main Street, at 10:30 am.** Parking nearby. Free Historic Deerfield one-day passes for Valley Neighbors members and volunteers. Lunch option afterwards at Champneys Restaurant, in the Deerfield Inn, with a 10% discount. Passes good for the whole day. Co-sponsored by the Whately Historical Society.

Tuesday, October 17, 2:00 pm **All About Dementia**

Join us at the **Sunderland Library Community Room** to learn about Alzheimer's and dementia, including the warning signs, risk factors, current treatments, and local resources for those dealing with the disease and for their caregivers. Presented by Meghan Lemay, M.S., Regional Manager of Western MA Alzheimer's Association, Springfield, MA. **Registration is required. Please call 413-453-9057 by October 15 and leave a message that you plan to attend.**

Tuesday, November 14, 2:00 pm **Recognize Scams and Fraud**

Join us at the **Whately Town Hall Auditorium, 194 Chestnut Plain Road**, to learn how to recognize scams and fraud. Anita Wilson from the District Attorney's office will explain the tricks scammers use and share tips to help residents keep their personal and financial information safe. Her presentation with examples of scam phone calls, emails and text messages, shows what these scams look like. She will also have handbooks, bookmarks and brochures to share, and information about financial exploitation. Be prepared to avoid scams!



Valley Neighbors

Valley Neighbors, P.O. Box 281, Whately, MA 01093
413 453-9057 · Valleyneighbors.org

News from the

WHATELY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

info@whatelyhistorical.org

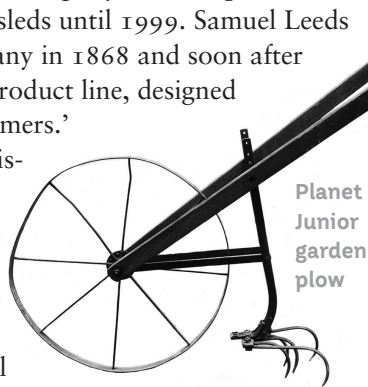
www.whatelyhistorical.org

In Town Hall, 194 Chestnut Plain Road,
Whately, MA 01093 • September 2023

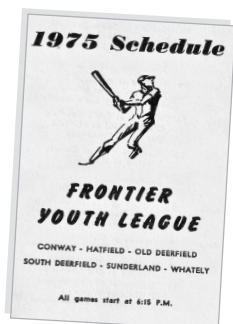
NEW ACQUISITIONS • Steve Calderone, long-time Whately resident now living in Goshen, donated an early 20th-century wood and steel **garden plow** (WHS 2023.119.001). It was made by the S. L. Allen Company in Philadelphia, the same company that designed and marketed Flexible Flyer sleds until 1999. Samuel Leeds Allen founded his company in 1868 and soon after launched the Planet Jr. product line, designed for use by 'one-horse farmers.'

The Planet Jr. line was displayed at the Centennial International Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876 and the 1889 International Exposition in Paris. Our 'high-wheel garden plow and cultivator', which retailed for \$5.50 in 1922, was advertised as an 'easy running tool' for home gardeners—particularly useful for plowing up scratching yards near chicken coops.

The plow was found in a c. 1920 barn, formerly owned by George Holich (1924–2009), on Chestnut Plain Road.



Planet
Junior
garden
plow



WHS 2023.123.001

Doug Kendall, who lived in Whately from the late 1960s until the early 1980s, has contributed a complete set of **records from the 1973–75 Whately Youth League baseball team**—hand-annotated scorecards, statistics, game summaries with color commentary, rule books, schedules, and other memorabilia. Doug's careful pencil notations capture the records of Whately sluggers and pitchers in the

Dwight, Farrick, Fydenkevez, Grybko, Kendall, Samson, Sanders, and Sanderson families—to name but a few!

The Kendall family lived at 68 Christian Lane, across

from the fire station and then-ballfield. Doug, who now directs the Yager Museum at Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY, attributes his interest in history to his work as an undergraduate cataloguing some of the Historical Society's holdings with Ena Cane (1909–83), longtime Whately Librarian.

BARN TOUR • Twenty-plus supporters of WHS gathered on a Saturday morning in August to learn from Tim Nourse about the recently restored 1870 barn across from Nourse Farm headquarters on River Road. Nancy Heafey (c. 1800–1881), a widow with five adult children, bought the property on which the barn stands in 1860 when she emigrated from Ireland.



Although the restoration required replacing the original wood flooring with concrete to stabilize the structure and closing off the shallow lower level that had provided shelter to herds of sheep, the original posts and cross beams, as well as much of the exterior cladding and scalloped decoration, were repaired and retained. Bill Flynt, formerly of Historic Deerfield, used dendrochronology (dating of wood by scientific analysis of tree rings) to confirm the date of the massive hemlock cross beams of the original floor.

Check out Whately Historical Society on Facebook!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Festival • Sunday, Oct. 1, 11 am–2 pm, Town Hall lawn • **Food** by Tom's Long Hot Dogs of Whately • **Music** by Old Country Road Band, funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council through the Whately Cultural Council • **Free ice cream** from Snow's/Bart's of Greenfield • **Mums** from Mill River Farm • **Dazzle Day Face Painters** • **Rug braiding** by Ruth Leahey • **Blacksmithing demo** by Rick Martin—traditional iron working techniques on his portable forge.

Trolleys in the Valley! Saturday, Oct. 14, 9:30 am–noon • Self-guided tour of the trolley route from Hatfield to Greenfield and exhibitions of memorabilia at four cooperating museums: Whately, Hatfield and Greenfield Historical Societies, and Historic Deerfield. Learn about the furious dispute between Whately and

the railway company as the route was determined!

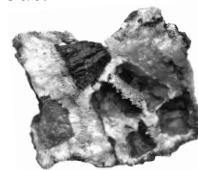
Get a tour map at any of the cooperating museums. Funded in part by the Pioneer Valley History Network (PVHN) as part



of their *History on the Go* program.

A Whately Sampler • Sunday, Nov. 12, 2 pm, Town Hall auditorium, 194 Chestnut Plain Road. Join us for three short presentations about:

- **Miners from Cornwall, England**, in West Whately in the early 1860s extracting lead from the mine on Edwin Bardwell's (1819–84) property.



Galena ore
WHS 1981.038

- **WWII V-Mail** sent by soldiers overseas—reduced to 1/4 size to minimize weight. WHS has a collection of WWII

V-Mail and other letters from Whately resident Marshall Pease, Jr. (1920–2006).



- **Laura A. Sanderson** (1851–1949), poet and teacher, who lived in her family's house in Whately Glen until the late 1890s, when she moved to Indianapolis and founded a highly successful business school.

WHS 1999.002.001

Roaring Brook exhibit • Just a few more months to join the 200+ Whately residents and friends who have visited our exhibit! The Whately Glen story is told through videos, historic and contemporary photographs, artifacts, and newspaper clippings spanning over a century. **Open Tuesdays 9 am–noon, first and third Saturdays each month 10 am–noon, and during the WHS programs listed in this newsletter.**

Support the Historical Society

Offer Materials • We're always looking for items that illustrate the past and complement our holdings. Call for an appointment to bring materials to Town Hall. Our archivist and curator will review all offers to decide which to add to the collection.

Volunteer • We always need help maintaining and documenting the collection, social media, and planning and supporting events. Call Adelia at 665-3837 or email info@whatelyhistorical.org.

Contribute & Become a Member • Join others who care about the history of our town! Receive notices about all public programs and invitations to special activities. Donations to support our work of preservation, documentation and expansion of our museum collection are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Individual donors of at least \$10 become one-year members; higher annual contributions are encouraged: Supporter \$40, Sponsor \$75, Patron \$150. Donors of \$500 or more become five-year members. Make your check out to: *Whately Historical Society*. Send it with name, address, phone number and email address to Whately Historical Society, P.O. Box 7, Whately, MA 01093. You may also pay with a credit card or via PayPal at www.whatelyhistorical.org.

The Whately Historical Society was founded in 1966 to preserve the town's history and to educate townspeople and others about Whately's past. The Society sponsors programs, research and activities about the history and culture of Whately and the region; maintains a museum of Whately documents, images and objects; and responds to inquiries about Whately history and genealogy.

The Whately Historical Society is incorporated as a charitable organization in the Commonwealth of Mass. and has been designated as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the IRS.

Explore www.whatelyhistorical.org to learn more about our collections, access resources about Whately history, learn about future events, and purchase Town histories, historic postcards and note cards, T-shirts, or sweatshirts.

Officers

Neal Abraham, President
Adelia Bardwell, Immediate Past President
Larry Ashman, Vice President
Sara Cooper, Treasurer
Gretchen Bechta, Secretary
Dereka Smith, Archivist
Jane Grybko, Curator
Maida Goodwin, Webmaster



The WHATELY SCOOP

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

Volume 21 ❖ Number 1 ❖ September 2023 ❖ Whately, Massachusetts

21 Year and going strong. Thanks to you!

Local farmers need our continued support

By Margaret Christie, Whately resident and Special Projects Director at CISA, Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture

While many Whately farms didn't experience the severe flooding that occurred elsewhere in the region, they have been badly hurt by extensive, prolonged rainfall this summer and by two freezes earlier in the year. The letter below, updated from an earlier printing in the Daily Hampshire Gazette and the Recorder, addresses their needs, along with so many other farmers in our area.

The widespread flooding that hit our region in mid-July illuminates many truths: the vulnerability of many local farms, the hard reality of climate change, and the amazing response that is possible when the community, non-profit and foundation partners, and government all step up and work together.

Several hundred local farms were affected by the floods; they lost over \$15 million in crops alone, and long-term effects are still being assessed. The flooding came on the heels of two freezes that damaged peach, blueberry, and apple crops, and was followed by continued heavy rains that have deluged even non-flooded fields. As our climate changes, these extreme weather events will become more common.

The response, from the generosity of individual donors to the speed with which our state government has acted, has been stunning. The Massachusetts Farm Resiliency Fund, a public/private partnership housed at the United Way, raised \$3 million in July and August and has already begun distributions to more than 200 farms. Fundraising is ongoing to meet an ambitious \$5 million goal for that fund, which will

allow them to make additional payments to farms whose losses are far greater than the initial payment. The Massachusetts legislature and the Healy administration passed a supplemental budget that includes \$20 million in disaster relief to cover crop losses; that fund will make distributions this fall.

These two funds, and generous donations to individual farms from local residents, show what we can do as a community. We're beginning to build the robust emergency response system that will help the farms that feed us manage the weather volatility brought by a changing climate.

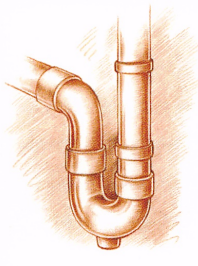
You can help! Farmers are resilient and they are adapting to their new reality but they will need continued support. Funds raised to date do not cover this year's losses, which include property damage, equipment, crops not planted because fields were too wet, and crops lost to disease. You can support farms, as always, by buying local, and you can help the MA Farm Resiliency Fund reach their ambitious \$5 million goal. Learn more and find links to donate at buylocalfood.org/helpfloodedfarms.

Watts up! - Report from the town energy committee

By Paul Newlin & Nat Fortune, Energy Committee

Back in the '70's, a popular slogan was "Think globally, act locally." Globally, temperatures are rising at an alarming rate. The good news is that locally, we are in position to help change that. Even little measures can add up to significant steps towards restoring a more balanced climate. Here are some actions our town is taking to save money, energy, and our climate by saving energy (and how you can contribute).

1) A solar electric system (PV) — with battery backup — is being installed on the roof of the



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town municipal office building. This 87 kW system will produce around 104,000 kWh of energy per year, save our town close to \$10,000 / year at our current town electricity rates, and even more in the future. The battery backup improves performance of the system, extends hours of operation on cloudy days, and will help the town offices be better prepared for emergency operation. The cost of this project is being covered in full by a \$300K Municipal Vulnerability Program grant.

2) With your help, a draft Community Solar Action plan for our town has been completed by the UMass Clean Energy Extension Service (incorporating feedback you gave them in their survey earlier this year). This plan is intended to help us maximize our solar potential while minimizing any possible negative impacts. We will be having a public forum (date TBD) to discuss the findings. A copy of the plan is available at www.whately.org.

3) Is it time to replace your home heating system? Take time to learn how you can significantly reduce your monthly bill by installing whole home or mini split heat pumps. These run on electricity rather than heating oil and gas and the state is currently offering significant rebates on new systems: <https://www.masssave.com/en/residential/rebates-and-incentives/air-source-heat-pumps> To learn more about heat pumps go to: <https://tinyurl.com/mrx9t6eb> or contact a local installer.

4) Want to learn more? The Clean Energy Extension Service at UMass that prepared the community solar action plan for our town is also hosting a Western Mass Solar Forum. The forum will feature experts on the many aspects of solar

energy for individuals and communities. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/47x22ayt>. The forum begins on Sept. 5.

Free A Capella Concert at Town Hall

By George Colt

On Saturday, October 21, at seven o'clock, fourteen former members of the Harvard Krokodiloes---including Whately's very own George Colt---will give a **free concert** at the Whately Town Hall.

Who are the Harvard Krokodiloes? To put it more bluntly, WHAT are the Harvard Krokodiloes? Founded in 1946, the Kroks, as they're known to their friends, were Harvard University's first a cappella group. Their name is loosely inspired by the stuffed crocodiles mounted upon the wall of the bar where they first sang.

Not only were these guys members of the country's oldest college, but now they're pretty darned old themselves. They sang together as undergraduates in the 1970s and never really stopped. They still gather from across the country two or three times a year to rehearse, reminisce, argue over how "a cappella" is spelled, and put on a concert.

These Kroks have performed for Leonard Bernstein, Valerie Harper, and David Rockefeller---but that's small potatoes compared with performing in Whately! Many of them have never been to Western Massachusetts, and they can't wait for the fall foliage, the fabled Whately milk bottle, and the great acoustics of the renovated Town Hall, as they sing "Over the Rainbow," "Blue Moon," "Let's Do It," "Loch Lomond," and other classics from the American



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The Murphys Realtors

Whether you are a devotee of a cappella or just want to see what a Krokodiloe looks like, please come to Whately Town Hall on Saturday, October 21, at seven o'clock.

News from the Whately Church

By Rev. Cynthia Harrington

We always enjoy worshipping at the West Whately Chapel and this summer was no exception—even between the raindrops. We also enjoy our return to our church which we will do on September 3rd. Don't forget our Labor Day barbeque on Sept 4th. It is always a big hit. Hopefully you've made your reservations by calling LaSalles.

On September 10th at 2:00 pm, we will be hosting a book signing in the church hall for Gary Wilson, one of our members who has written his first book. It is an interesting collection of stories and fables that is sure to delight. Come and hear Gary talk about how he got his inspiration and join your friends at the reception to follow. Gary's book will be available for sale and the event is open to all.

Our official Welcoming Sunday will be on September 24th when we welcome members new and old as well as anyone else who would like to come. We finish the celebration with a pot luck lunch.

We worship at 10 am every Sunday and welcome all to join us.

News from the Whately Library

By Cyndi Steiner, Director

Happy Fall from all of us here at the Whately Public Library. The past few months have brought many changes here at the Library. We have said goodbye to old friends and welcomed new ones.

Thank you to Cynthia Allen, Lawrence Ashman and Sheila Powers for your time and dedication to the library as Trustees. Welcome to our new Trustees Debra Carney and George Colt. Thank you to Mary Ellen Smith, Katherine Ross, Karen Kirkendall, Ellen Skroski and Virginia Selman for your time and dedication as members of the Friends



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of Whately Public Library. Welcome new friends members Sheila Powers, Julie Cavacco, Kelly Deforest, and anyone who I might have missed.

We also say goodbye to Library Associate Julie Cavacco, who has left to become the Director of the Goshen Free Library. We

welcome Alison Baitz as our new Library Associate. If you haven't already, stop by and say hello. Alison is highly energetic, has been creating Zine for ten years and is an avid reader.

We have also been busy cleaning and rearranging your library. Stop by and see what we have done.

Thank you everyone for your understanding and patience during the two weeks that accessibility to the library was limited. The front steps have now been fixed and are ready to provide current and future patrons access to their library.

We will be **closed** for: Sept. 4 Labor Day; Oct. 9 Columbus Day; Nov. 11 Veterans Day

Upcoming Events:

Annual Book Sale The Friends of the Library will be holding their Annual Book Sale on the front lawn during Fall Festival.

Friend's of the Whately Public Library Open House Wednesday September 27 6:30PM

Come by and share your favorite things about the library, your favorite events, and what you would like to see in the future.

Did you know that we have a monthly email newsletter? Have you signed up yet? If not, visit the library's website and sign up today.

Please check our website library@whately.org or our Facebook Page for updates and upcoming events.

Family Memories - The Whately Historical Society needs you!

By Neal Abraham

The Historical Society's 2024 exhibit will focus on childhood and youth in Whately from the late 18th to mid-20th century. If you have letters, diaries, report cards, photographs, games, or toys that might help us to tell the story and that you'd be willing to loan us, let us know! We're happy to scan works on paper



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and return them to you in digital format with the original documents or photographs. We're also looking for Town residents who can tell us their stories, particularly those who worked on Whately farms or for other local businesses as children or teenagers. Please send us a note at info@whatelyhistorical.org, or drop by the Museum in Town Hall on a Tuesday morning, 9 am – 12 noon. We'd love to hear from you!

Watermelon Wednesdays

By Paul Newlin

Despite the name, Watermelon Wednesdays is not always on a Wednesday, and we do not always serve watermelon!

Here's the current schedule for the remainder of the year.

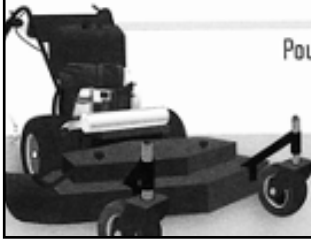
September 30, Saturday, **7:30**, West Whately Chapel: Ukrainian violinist Solamiya Ivahkiv performs selected works from J.S. Bach's music for solo violin. This show is also a fundraiser to benefit Ukrainian musicians.

October 23, Friday, **7pm**, West Whately Chapel: Sam Reider and the Human Hands: a truly eclectic blend of Klezmer, Swing, Classical, and Bluegrass-ish tunes featuring accordion, trumpet, fiddle, mandolin, guitar...

December 6, Wednesday, **7pm**: A Bluegrass Showcase featuring three bands: Poor Monroe, Mama's Marmalade, and Mile Twelve.

For tickets and more information, go to www.watermelonwednesdays.com or call me, Paul, at 413-665-3741.

I will be adding shows, so check the [website](#) regularly to make sure you don't miss anything.



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News from Valley Neighbors: Upcoming Events and Ongoing Services

By Debra Carney


As summer wanes, *Valley Neighbors* (VN) has planned an active fall! Don't miss our flyer in this edition of **The Scoop** for details on our September tour of Historic Deerfield (co-sponsored with the Whately Historical Society); an October presentation by the Alzheimer's Association on learning about and living with Alzheimer's and dementia; and a November presentation by the DA's Office of Consumer Protection on recognizing frauds and scams.

All events are free (except Historic Deerfield) and open to residents of Whately, Deerfield, and Sunderland.

VN continues to grow; we now have over 100 members and 46 trained volunteers, and we always welcome new members and volunteers. Our volunteers receive training and insurance coverage.

VN provides transportation to local appointments, phone check-ins, friendly visits, household help, and tech assistance to our members 60 years and older in Whately, Sunderland and Deerfield. **Membership in Valley Neighbors is free**, thanks to the generous support from our funders and from our local donors.

If you would like more information on VN or to donate, please visit: valleyneighbors.org/. To become a member or volunteer with Valley Neighbors, contact us directly: Valley Neighbors, PO Box 281, Whately, MA 01093 - 413 453-9057, and via email at info@valleyneighbors.org

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Enhancing Digital Literacy for Older Adults - Getting devices and training to our older adults

By Jennifer Remilard, SCSC Director

This year the South County Senior Center applied for and was awarded a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs in the amount of \$100,000. We are so grateful! This grant will allow us to provide technology and internet connection for many members of our community.

The focus of this grant is to increase access and knowledge of technology for older adults who reside within South County (Deerfield, Sunderland, and Whately) by removing cost barriers, such as the cost of new technology, training on how to use the new technology, and access to the internet.

So, how will we provide the technology and access? ***The SCSC will use the grant funds to purchase 131 iPads, 3 MacBook Air Laptops, provide technology training, and provide a monthly stipend for up to 52 older adults.*** Two iPads and 3 Laptops will be available for use by our community mainly at our Sunderland SCSC location, and at the Deerfield location by request. This will allow us to offer an updated computer lab for our members to use at no cost to users.

The SCSC will be holding two lotteries - one for the iPads and the other for the monthly stipend. To be eligible for these lotteries you must: live within Deerfield, Sunderland or Whately, be aged 60+, and be screened for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). If you are found to be eligible to receive the ACP benefit of \$30 a month, you will not be eligible for the stipend lottery through this grant (per the EOE guidelines of this grant). You would receive the monthly ACP benefit instead (which is more than the \$500 stipend you would receive through us). You may, however, enter the iPad lottery. There are no income guidelines for either lottery. It is open to everyone who meets the residential, age, and ACP screening requirements. Please note: only one member per household may win either lottery (i.e. you can only win an iPad or a digital stipend,

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not both) as this grant allows for up to \$500 value per household.

We will lottery off 129 iPads. If you are chosen to receive an iPad, you must participate in the 2 one hour training classes provided through the SCSC at our Sunderland location at no

cost to you (it is funded through this grant). Free transportation will be provided if it is needed. Once the technology training is completed, the iPad is yours to keep.

We will follow up with you at a 6 month and 12-month intervals after the training is completed to see if you could benefit from further training. We are working with local schools to implement technology support.

We will lottery off 52 digital stipends for up to \$500 per household over 12 months. If you are chosen to receive the stipend, you will need to provide a copy of your monthly internet bill, quarterly, to be reimbursed. Reimbursement will be done quarterly (every 3 months) for the duration of the grant

To apply for either lottery, pick up an application at Center, call 413.768.1066 to request one by mail, email scsc@town.deerfield.ma.us or come to our Lottery Informational Session on 9/1 at 10:30 am at 29 Sugarloaf St., S Deerfield or 10/17 at 10:30 am at 22 Amherst Rd., Sunderland. If you need transportation to the Informational Session, please call Chris at 413.768.1066 to schedule a free ride.

Lottery applications must be received, in hand, by Noon on Friday, December 29th at the South County Senior Center. We will accept them on Friday, 12/29 from 9:30 am until Noon at the 29 Sugarloaf St., S Deerfield location. If applications are not received by 12/29, they will not be accepted. The lottery will be held on 1/3/24 and winners will be notified by January 10th.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Jennifer at 413.665.2141, or Chris at 413.768.1066.

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



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

Board of Health news

By Fran Fortino

The Whately Board of Health, with all regional public health organizations in western Massachusetts, is asking our residents to take

the state's new **community health equity survey** so we can target more public health funding to our local communities. The survey is particularly important to those of us in rural areas without easy access to health care.

The survey is anonymous and takes about 15 minutes. Visit the survey website: bit.ly/3P7RQFB

You can take the survey with a computer, cell phone or tablet and skip questions you prefer not to answer. There are also paper versions of the survey available.

Our goal is to get at least 30 people from each town in Foothills Health District to take the survey to ensure good results. We hope you'll take the survey and urge others to do so. Thank you so much for your help!

Transfer Station News - Fall 2023

By Fran Fortino

September Hazardous Waste Collection is **September 23** at Greenfield Community College Main Campus. This is a once-a-year opportunity for residents to safely dispose of hazardous items like leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, and other toxic household chemicals.

To participate, residents and businesses must pre-register by **September 15th**. For online registration forms, click: fcswmd.wufoo.com/forms/hazardous-waste-collection-day-registration. Paper registration forms will be available at participating transfer stations, while supplies last.

October Bulky Waste Collection is set for **October 21, 9-noon** at the Whately transfer station. Residents can get rid of bulky items, including old rugs, furniture, mowers, metals, TV's, computers, sinks and toilets, BBQ tanks, tires and more. If you would like to volunteer, please call 665-4561. More information: franklincountywastedistrict.org.

In other transfer station news, please welcome and say hello to our new transfer station staff Connor Otto, a recent Frontier H.S. grad and who is eager to help our residents. **Later this fall**, we will be switching to new larger Town trash bags and offering a discount on 10-pack rolls. This will make it even easier and cheaper for residents to dispose of their trash.

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Summer schedule now posted
www.watermelonwednesdays.com

News from the Town Clerk's Office

Amy E. Lavallee

Hello Whately Residents!

Just wanted to introduce myself as your new Town Clerk. I was voted in on June 13, 2023 taking the place of Amy Schrader, who is our Treasurer/

Collector (don't worry, Lynn is still in the office 10+ hours a week!). I was previously the Administrative Assistant to the Town Administrator. I am a 4th generation Whately resident and have lived here almost my whole life. I love our little town and am excited to work for its residents! I appreciate everyone's patience while I learn all there is to learn in my position! I am happy to also announce that I have an Assistant, Jessica Murphy, to help with Clerk duties. Jessica is also currently the Administrative Assistant to the Town Administrator.

Just a reminder that Dog Licenses are now in the late fee stage (\$50 plus the normal fee), but please register your dogs-it is State Law.

Things coming up in the horizon- I am excited to announce that I will be able to issue **hunting and fishing licenses** at the Town Offices again in the near future (hoping to be able to get started before this year's fall hunting season). Stay Tuned!

I will be out of the office for training September 20th-September 22nd.

Next year we will be holding 4 Elections-Local, State, and Federal elections. YOUR VOTE COUNTS. If you are not a registered voter already I encourage you to sign up! It is easier than ever to cast your vote via mail or in person. Please feel free to visit me in the Town Offices for more information. You can also visit Town Clerk/Board of Registrars | Town of Whately MA for more Clerk news and information.

As summer winds down I am reminded of how beautiful our area is and how lucky we are to be able to call it home. I hope that everyone has a better fall harvest than our summer harvest (ugh the rain!).

Committee Members Needed!

By Sylvie Jensen, Comm. Devel. Admin.

The town is actively seeking members to form a steering group that will partner with the Franklin Regional Counsel of Governments to draft and distribute a digital equity survey and to guide the visioning process for Whately's forthcoming

Master Plan. The steering group will lead the effort to conduct community visioning sessions, which will inform the Master Plans and its many recommendations and areas of focus.

Members of the Steering Group should expect to attend an introductory meeting next month and to meet four or five times between September 2023 and March 2024. Meetings can take place virtually or in-person. This will be a great opportunity to collaborate on a plan for the town that truly reflects this community and its objectives.

To learn more please contact Sylvie Jensen, Whately Community Development Administrator, at 413-665-0054 or communitydevelopment@whately.org.

From the FRCOG

by Ted Harvey, planner, FRCOG

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) recently launched the Massachusetts Statewide Digital Equity Survey to better understand the needs of Massachusetts residents when it comes to internet access and digital equity. The information from this survey will be used to develop the Massachusetts Digital Equity Plan. Simultaneously, the FRCOG is working directly with many communities across Franklin County on developing local and regional Digital Equity Plans. Responses from the survey will also be used to develop these local and regional plans.

This important survey will help inform the investment of historic funding to provide improved connectivity for all residents of Massachusetts, increasing access to education, healthcare, civic engagement, economic, and other opportunities. We would like to make sure your voice is heard and that both our Franklin County plans, and the Commonwealth's plan reflect the unique needs in our communities.

The survey will take about 5 minutes to complete at <https://tinyurl.com/ScoopMBIDES>.

For more information, please contact Jessica Atwood at jatwood@frcog.org or Ted Harvey at tharvey@frcog.org.

Town Administrator Updates – Summer 2023

By Brian Domina

I want to extend a public welcome to Sylvie Jensen and Jessica Murphy who recently joined the team at the Whately Town Offices. Sylvie will be working as the Community Development Administrator and Assistant Town Administrator focusing on grant writing and administration,

project management, community planning and assisting the Town's boards and committees in fulfilling their important regulatory, permitting and planning roles. Jessica will be working as the Administrative Assistant and Assistant Town Clerk focusing on ensuring the day-to-day operations of the Town Offices run smoothly and providing help and direction to members of the public in getting the information and help they need. Please feel free to stop in and say hello to Sylvie and Jessica.

As summer comes to an end, there are a few project updates to pass along. The Herlihy Park Accessibility Improvement project is nearing completion. All three restrooms inside the pavilion at Herlihy Park have been totally renovated with all new walls, paint, electrical, plumbing and fixtures. Importantly, one of the three restrooms is now completely handicapped accessible. The renovations were put to good use when the South County Senior Center held its annual picnic at Herlihy Park this past June. The entire driveway and parking lot at Herlihy Park have been paved and drainage was installed to address the severe bank erosion that was happening adjacent to Sugarloaf Brook. The remaining work includes final grading, loam and seeding around the parking lot edges, line painting, replacement of the deteriorated split rail fence and a large number of plantings to compensate for the removal of the white pine trees.

The Complete Streets Phase II project is recently underway. This project consists of three smaller components. The first component is the extension of the sidewalk at the Whately Elementary School to separate students walking and biking to school from vehicle and bus traffic. The second component is to complete the sidewalks along the east side of Chestnut Plain Road from the Town Hall, crossing Chestnut Plain Road in front of the Church. Once completed, the sidewalks will form a walking loop from the northern end of Chestnut Plain Road to the Church allowing residents a safe place to walk. The third component will re-align the intersections at Upper Conway Road - Williamsburg Road and Webber Road - Lower Conway Road to improve intersection visibility and to encourage safer travel speeds.

Many other projects are in the planning and design phase, including an analysis of the I-91 Exit 35 area, master plan visioning, and engineering/design for culvert replacements and water main extensions. As always please feel free to email (townadmin@whately.org) or stop by the Town Offices my door is always open.



The WHATELY SCOOP

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

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As summer winds its way to fall,
Lazy days will cease their call.
Swimming holes will be too chill
And birds will try to eat their fill
To ready for their southern flight
As day turns early into night

Schools will open up their doors
And kids will run along their floors
To meet their friends and see what's new
And show off all the ways they grew
While teachers work with all their might
To see that children get it right

Seasons change, and so do we
And that's the way it has to be
So welcome both the old and new
And keep your eye on what is true

By Marianne Simon

.....As the lazy, care-free summer days,
Reluctantly draw to an end.
Excitement grows for what's ahead,
As school days and the Fall begin.

And no matter how the years may pass,
And how old I come to be,
I'll always love this time of year,
As it holds such fond memories

Of sitting with my childhood friends,
Recalling all our fun
While running, swimming and riding bikes
Beneath the summer sun.....

By Patricia A Fleming. "The Summer's End."
Family Friend Poems, Aug 2018.

Submitted by Amy Lavallee

The Whately Scoop

*Cost for printing and mailing the Scoop was provided by
the businesses who placed ads within. Please patronize our local businesses!*

If you misplace your copy of The Scoop, do not despair! You can always find it on the resources page at www.whatelyhistorical.org.

The closing date for submissions to the December 2023 issue of the Scoop is **Wednesday Nov 29. (For mailing Dec. 4)**

Please email your our literary contributions to 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 (four 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.