

S. White Dickinson Memorial Library/Whately Public Library Community Survey

1. Which of the following words describe how you feel about libraries in general? Check all that apply.

Comfortable	Excited	Inspired	Intimidated
Shy	Welcome	Disappointed	Indifferent

2. How often do you visit the Whately library?

Several times a month	One to two times a month
Several times a year	Once or twice a year
Never	

3. If you don't use the Whately library, what are the reasons? Check all that apply.

I am not a big reader

Inconvenient hours

I get my information from other sources (please specify)

I don't feel welcome there (please specify why)

I don't have transportation

I use another library (please specify which other library and why you use it)

The library doesn't have . . . (please specify)

I feel like I have to be . . . (please specify)

Other (please specify)

4. In the past few years, the Library has offered the following programs.

Which are you most interested in? Check all that apply.

Reading (print)	Yoga/Exercise	Author visits	Community Dinners
Live Music	Technology	Nature and Science	Arts and Crafts
Other (please specify)			

5. Which of the following improvements and programs would you like to see in the future? Check all that apply.

A more diverse collection (please specify what you would like to see)

A "Library of Things" (toys, cookware, camping equipment, etc.)

Regular coffee or tea

More accessibility

More collaboration with town boards/offices (please specify which ones and why)

More programs outside the Library (please specify)

Computer classes

More downloadable materials (please specify)

More open hours

Other (please specify)

What additional adult programs would you like to see?

What additional children's programs would you like to see?

What additional teen programs would you like to see? ***Parents, please let your teens answer.***

What additional senior programs would you like to see?

Please return in person to the library or by mail:

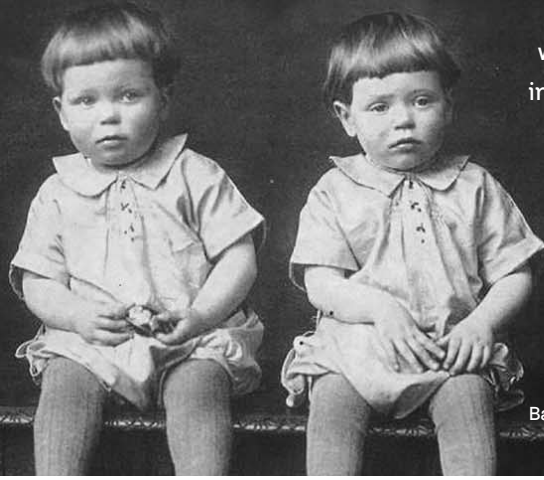
Whately Public Library

PO Box 187

Whately, MA 01093

News from the

WHATELY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



www.whatelyhistorical.org
info@whatelyhistorical.org
In Town Hall
194 Chestnut Plain Road
Whately, MA 01093

May 2024

Photo: Fay and Fred Walter
Bardwell 1926 (WHS 2004.003.007)

RECENT ACQUISITIONS • Sometimes a search for information yields results far different than those originally imagined. In 2021, the Historical Society contacted Cliff Satterthwaite, a Virginia-based artist whose grandfather James Arthur Wood (1870–1961) ran the East Whately General Store and Post Office on Christian Lane. Mr. Satterthwaite responded with a wealth of information and images, painted and photographic, of Whately. Later he spoke with his cousin Ben Thompson in Augusta, Maine, whose mother Norma Charlotte Wood Thompson (1915–93) was the youngest of James Wood’s four children, about WHS’ interest in the family.



Gas pumps at Town Center Post Office (WHS 1981.064.001)

Ben Thompson and his wife Cynthia stopped by in 2023 to see two of Cliff Satterthwaite’s paintings, donated to WHS in 1981 and now hanging in the Town Hall Auditorium, as well as the North Street Schoolhouse replica in the Historical Society Museum made by another cousin, Eugene Wood (1902–74), in memory of his mother Florence Whiting Wood (1876–1951), a schoolteacher. Early in 2024, the Thompsons noticed our plans to mount an exhibit on childhood in Whately. After discussion with Ben’s siblings, Christine Thompson Wentworth and Norma Jean Thompson King, the family decided that their mother’s extraordinary

Kiddy Cyclist, c. 1930 (WHS 2024.052.001)



collection of children’s toys, games and books belongs in Whately. Six carefully packed and shipped boxes later, WHS has already catalogued many, all of which are in pristine condition and many in their original early 20th-century packaging. We’re also scanning and preserving many photographs of Wood family members, friends and neighbors, most of which are labeled with the names of those pictured and dates. **The Norma Charlotte Wood Thompson Collection** is a wonderful surprise that has strengthened the WHS collection immeasurably.



Puzzle-Peg game, c. 1929 (WHS 2024.063.001) and Whirlpool game, c. 1899 (WHS 2024.062.001)

SWAG ALERT

A new line of WHS t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies in Youth and Adult sizes will be for sale at the Spring Festival, Sunday May 26. This shirt design features a fanciful bird, painted in cobalt glaze on a stoneware jug made by S. D. Kellogg in Whately, c. 1850 in the WHS collection.

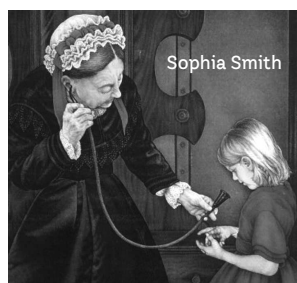


Check out Whately Historical Society on Facebook!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday May 26, c. 11:30 am–2 p.m. · Spring Festival

Town Hall, following the Memorial Day parade and festivities · Music by bluegrass band *Seven Mile Line* · Fun activities about insects led by Faith Deering of the Hitchcock Center for the Environment · Basket-weaving demonstration by Laurie Smith · Food by Tom's Long Hot Dogs · Ice cream donated by Bart's/Snow's Dairy of Greenfield



Thursday, June 20, 7 p.m. · “An Illustrator’s Journey: From Whately to the World of Children’s Books and Back Again,” a talk by longtime Hatfield resident Monica Vachula, who has illustrated books about Paul Revere, Sophia

Smith, and Noah Webster. Whately Town Hall Auditorium, 194 Chestnut Plain Road

Stay tuned for presentations this fall about:

- Late-19th- and mid-20th-century games and toys and their makers, by Ann Lomeli
- Beavers in the Valley, by Allison Bell and Laurie Sanders, in partnership with Historic Northampton

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 for review by our archivist and curator.

Volunteer—We always need help maintaining and documenting the collection, social media, and planning and supporting events. If you’d like to help, call Adelia at 413-665-3837, email info@whatelyhistorical.org, or drop by Tuesdays, 9 a.m.–noon.

Contribute & Become a Member—Join others who care about the history of our town! Donations to support preservation, documentation and expansion of our museum collection are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Annual donors of \$10 or more become members; higher annual contributions are welcome. Send your check, made out to: *Whately Historical Society*, 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.

2024 EXHIBITIONS

Childhood in Whately

1771-1950 · How did Whately children work, play and learn in times past? Our 2024 exhibit presents childhood in Whately from the late 18th to mid-20th century. Enjoy our array of photographs, games, toys, books, and costumes from the period.



Baby moccasins, 1880s, worn by Carrie Osgood (1884–1912) (WHS 2016.119.001)



Lois or Lucy Crafts, 1915. (WHS 2020.076.001)

Family Exhibits

with photos and memorabilia of the Fred (Twarog) Farrick family of East Whately and the Roote-Waite-Markland family of Town Center and North Street.

The WHS museum is open to the public May 26 to mid-December on Tuesdays, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.; first and third Saturdays of each month, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.; and during festivals and special programs.

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 4 ❖ May 2024 ❖ Whately, Massachusetts

21 Year and going strong. Thanks to you!

Town Hall Gardens

By Neal Abraham, Steward

Gardens near Town Hall and the Post Office have been enhanced this Spring thanks to compost donated by Bear Path Compost and annuals donated by Fairview Farms. THANK YOU!

Bicycle Maintenance Stations at the Ready!

By Sylvie Jensen, Assistant TA for Community Development

As summer approaches and more cyclists take to the road, the Town of Whately is happy to have Dero Fixit bicycle repair stations ready for use at the Town Offices at 4 Sandy Lane, S. White Dickinson Memorial Library, Herlihy Park, and at the intersection of Conway Road and Poplar Hill Road in West Whately. Each maintenance station is equipped with a bike stand, an air pump, and a full set of tools for repairs. You can find the location of Whately's repair stations – as well as fixit stations throughout the country – on this map: <https://www.dero.com/fixitmap/fixitmap.html>. Wishing you many happy adventures this season, throughout the Pioneer Valley and beyond!

Off-cycle CPA applications are due by June 11

by Judy Markland, Community Preservation Committee

The deadline for submission of CPA applications for funding at a fall special town meeting is Tuesday, June 11 at noon at Town Offices. Email submissions to townclerk@whately.org are acceptable as long as the date and time on the email meet the deadline. These applications must be for

time-sensitive projects that cannot wait for funding at the 2025 annual town meeting. The applicant must be prepared to explain why the project is time sensitive.

The Community Preservation Committee considers applications for funding for eligible projects for community housing, historic preservation, open space and recreation. The CPC encourages applicants to have received the approval of the relevant town committee(s) (Ag Commission, Conservation Commission, Housing Committee, Historical Commission, and Recreation Commission) before submitting them. Information on project criteria and eligibility and a link to the application form can be found via the CPA Project Application tab on the CPC page at whately.org.

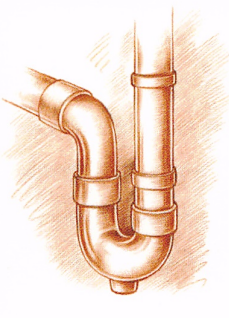
Please contact a member of the CPC if you have questions about a project's eligibility.

Water Department Update

By John Lukin, Commissioner

Recently the Water Commissioners established a new rate structure for the town water system. Since 1985, water users have paid a flat rate per 1000 gallons, a simple "pay for what you use" rate. That approach no longer generates enough revenue to cover the cost of pumping, treating, storing and delivering safe drinking water to user taps, let alone the cost of repairs, replacements and capital improvements that lay ahead.

We chose to implement a rate structure that fairly distributes the costs across the user base, encourages conservation, and stabilizes revenues for each 6 month billing period. Summer water use is much greater than in winter, which causes a large discrepancy in revenue between spring and fall billings. So water bills now include a "service fee" that appears on the most recent bills as a "meter



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fee." The fee varies by meter size, since larger meters are needed on larger volume users.

So for households on the system, the annual service fee is \$80 to have safe drinking water available to your home. Consumption is charged according to metered use. Water that flows through your meter is water you purchase. How to fairly charge for that while encouraging conservation resulted in a three level system.

The median household consumption for 6 months is very close to 25,000 gallons. In our system, nearly all households use less or not much more than that 25,000 gallons in six months. So our first tier for pricing is for 1 to 25,000 gallons.

The next tier is 25,001 to 50,000 gallons and the third tier is 50,001 plus.

By crunching the numbers at various per 1000 gallons cost, we arrived at \$6 per 1000 gallons for the first tier, \$7 for the second and \$9 for the third. The projected revenue from this rate structure is what's needed to run the system, with some surplus to set aside for unexpected expenses and those looming future capital improvements. We want the rates to be stable and not skyrocket because we need another well or need to build a bigger treatment plant and/or storage tank.

The bottom line is this: a metered use of 25,000 gallons over six months will result in a total bill of \$190. Use half that amount (12,500 gallons) and the bill is \$115. Sounds like a lot? Well, many people say they don't drink the water. (Much more on water quality in a future



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article) They prefer bottled water. It's a choice.

On Walmart's web site, generic "Great Value Purified Drinking Water" costs \$5.36 for forty 16.9 oz bottles. That's \$1.02 per gallon or \$25,500 for 1000 gallons! At \$6 per 1000 gallons, Whately water costs six tenths of a penny for one gallon, six cents for 10 gallons.


How we each use the water is our choice. You can reduce your cost by using less water, if possible. If you water your lawn frequently, you'll use a lot of water. One inch of water (the prescribed weekly watering for lush lawns) over an acre of land amounts to 27,152 gallons sprayed over that acre. Using town water on lawns is not economical.

Whately's water comes from gravel wells along the Mill River near the Hatfield border. It costs a lot to pump it, take out the manganese, disinfect it, pump it up to the storage tank, test it to be sure it's safe to drink, and deliver it to you. The Water Department exists to keep the potable water flowing as economically as possible. We established the new rate structure with all that in mind.

Whately Library News

By Cynthia Steiner

Can you believe that it's been five years since the library last completed our most recent Strategic Plan? Join us on **Saturday May 18** for our Community Input Session. This is your chance as patrons of the library and to let us know what you would like to see



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in the next five years. The Community Input Session is being facilitated by Oscar Lanza-Galindo from the Massachusetts Library System. We hope to see you there!

We will be **closed** for the following Holidays:

Memorial Day Mon. May 26

Juneteenth Wed. June 19

Upcoming Events:

Sat. May 18 Community Input Session 11AM

Wed. May 29 Silent Reading Book Club 5PM

Sat. June 1 Ed the Wizard 11AM Sponsored by a grant from the Whately Cultural Council

Wed. June 5 Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra 6:30 PM Sponsored by a grant from the Whately Cultural Council

Sat. June 8 S'mores with Smokey 11AM

Tue. June 11 What is the Conservation Commission? 6PM. Presented by Scott Jackson from the Whately Conservation Commission

Sat. June 15 Walking tour of Whately Woods 11AM - with Scott Jackson from the Whately Conservation Commission - meet at Whately Woods

Tue. August 6 Mass Capoeira 2PM - Partially sponsored by the Friends of the Whately Public Library

Tue. August 13 Ray Mason 6PM - Sponsored by the Friends of the Whately Public Library

Tue. August 27 TJ & the Peepers 5:30PM

Rebecca M. Jones, M.D., LLC.
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News from the Whately Church

By Cynthia Crosson Harrington

We celebrated the Easter Season with our usual events.

Our Estate Sale was a great success.

Now we turn to Memorial Day. We are pleased to be the start of Whately's festivities with the worship service at 10 AM, May 26. Veterans and townspeople join in recognizing those who have served our nation. The annual parade starts off from the church following the service.

July and August services find us in our summer home at the West Whately Chapel 153 Conway Road.

Our doors are always open welcoming any who wish to join us at our 10 AM service.

Transfer Station news

By Fran Fortino

Thanks to Bulky Waste Day Volunteers

On May 11, the transfer station hosted the spring bulky waste collection. We collected and recycled tons of bulky items with help from our bulky day volunteer crew and town highway staff. We thank Montserrat Archbald, Becky Jones, Mette Gustafsen, Larry Kuttner, Dan Talbot, Chris Boutwell, Ken MacDonald, Mike Carey, as well as town staff Dylan and Eric for their terrific help! Next bulky waste day is October 19, so mark your calendars.

New Transfer Station staff

Bill's Lawncare Plus
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 Bill & Zach Smith

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



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

We have added two new transfer station staff to our small but mighty crew there.

Please welcome Ken MacDonald and Mike Carey when you see them. Both are locals and eager to help our residents deal with trash, recycling and composting.

From the Board of Health

By Becky Jones

Well it's spring again in Whately and you know what that means! Time to talk compost. The Board of Health is going to be at the spring festival with our bins and our enthusiasm to help you be successful composters. Simply put, composting means putting food waste where it belongs. When food ends up in landfills it creates methane, which is 30 times more potent than CO2 as a greenhouse gas. Rescuing organic matter from your trashcan basically makes you a climate hero. Compost at home or bring it to the transfer station, where you can also bring meat, packing material, dead house plants and pizza boxes. See you there!

Watermelon Wednesdays

By Paul Newlin

Note: Not all shows are on Wednesday, and some begin at 7pm and some at 7.30pm, nor is watermelon served at all shows. Some shows are in the Town Hall; others in the West Whately Chapel. But all shows feature the best in acoustic music anywhere. For more info and tickets, go to



www.watermelonwednesdays.com

Thu. May 22nd 7:30 West Whately Chapel. **Solomiya Ivakhiv & Steven Beck** (Bach Sonatas for violin and harpsichord)

Wed. June 12th 7:30 West Whately Chapel. **The Earegulars** (Acoustic New Orleans Jazz with a NYC flavor)

Thu. June 27th 7:30 Town Hall. **Sister Sadie** (Five woman bluegrass band)

Wed. July 10th 7:30, West Whately Chapel **Corey Pesaturo & Nahre Sol** (Accordion & violin)

Wed. July 24th 7:30 West Whately Chapel. **Larry & Joe** (a fusion of Venezuelan and Appalachian folk music on harp, banjo, cuatro, fiddle, maracas, guitar, upright bass...)

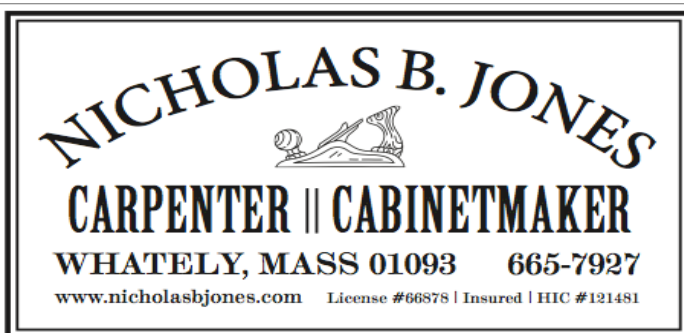
Wed. July 31st 7:30 West Whately Chapel, **Lonesome Ace String Band** (Old-time, bluegrassy)

Wed. Aug 7th 7:30 Town Hall. **The Sensational Barnes Brothers** (the perfect blend of funk, soul, bluegrass, and R&B with Gospel tinges...did I say eclectic? I do say high energy!)

Wed. Aug 31st 7.30 West Whately Chapel, West Whately. **Rayna Gellert and Kieran Kane** (Fiddle, guitars, banjo...Nashville singer-songwriters par excellence)

Wed. Sep 11th 7.30 West Whately Chapel. **Mr Sun** (Darol Anger, Joe K. Walsh, Grant Gordy, Aidan O'Donnell; the vanguard of neotrad, Americana, and then some)

Sun. Nov 3rd 3pm Town Hall. **Ball in the**



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Some Thoughts on Cats

By Becky Jones

I know how hard it is to keep an outdoor cat in. They demand to go out and come in constantly, returning far too often with prey. I love cats and want the best for them, but the calculation of my cat's joy versus the lives of these wild creatures - especially birds - started to weigh on me. I adopted kittens and with this fresh start decided to keep them indoors. They are about three years old now, and while I can't know for sure, they seem pretty happy - and I am, too. I don't have to worry about the birds anymore, or about the cats being hit by a car or taken by a predator. I have since learned that between one and 4 billion song birds are killed each year by domestic cats. So I invite you to join me, and next time you adopt a kitten, make them an indoor cat. Thanks!

Town Administrator Updates

By Lynn Sibley & Patricia Vinchesi, Interim Co-Town Administrators

Brian Domina has left Whately for an opportunity to serve as the Town Administrator in Hampden. We thank Brian for his seven years of service to the town and wish him well in his next venture. On March 5th, Patricia Vinchesi and I started work as

Offering the best in acoustic music of all types
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Watermelon Wednesdays
in West Whately

Summer schedule now posted
www.watermelonwednesdays.com

Interim Co-Town Administrators until a new permanent Administrator is hired. Patricia had served in the role of Co-Town Administrator in Whately back in the 1990's and has been a Town Administrator in various towns since then. She recently retired and jumped at the chance to serve part-time again in Whately. We are happy to report that Brian left the Town in great shape with detailed information on each ongoing project so that the transition could be as seamless as possible. The Selectboard has recently hired **S. Peter Kane** as the new Town Administrator. Pete will start work on June 17th. In the meantime, it is great to help the Town of Whately as Interim's until he is officially hired.

Some of the projects that we have been working on include:

- Guiding the Center School Visioning Committee II as they work to compile a project that meets the needs of the community,
- Haydenville Road reconstruction project
- Solar panels on the Town Office building
- Shared Conservation Agent
- Municipal Animal Control
- Assisting various departments with hiring, software updates and budget concerns
- Updating the Personnel Policies
- Future projects that are on our radar:
 - Highway Garage Replacement,
 - Produce a Wage and Classification study for town employees.
 - Cable License renewal

We have also been handling everyday issues to keep things progressing during the transition including working with the Finance Committee, Selectboard and Capital Planning Committees to present the FY25 budget to Annual Town Meeting.

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The WHATELY SCOOP

Certified News for the Town
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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 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 May 2024 issue of the Scoop is **Sunday Sept. 1.**

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.