



# The WHATELY SCOOP

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

Volume 22 ❖ Number 3 ❖ March 2025 ❖ Whately, Massachusetts

*22 Year and going strong. Thanks to you!*

## **Whately Roadside Clean-up**

By Becky Jones

Another year, another Whately Roadside Cleanup! we will be spending a beautiful (we hope!) spring morning picking up trash along Whately's roads. Please join us! We'll meet at the **old Town Hall at 9 am on Saturday, April 26**, rain or shine. Bring bags to reuse if you have them (feed/seed/pellet bags work well), gloves, and your own water bottle. Dress for getting dirty. We'll have lots of our own reused bags and a truck for the final haul. Questions? Call or text Becky Jones (413-387-7746) or Montserrat Archbald (413-559-9998).

## **News from the Grange**

By Ruth Leahy

Whately Grange #414 will be celebrating its 85th anniversary on Saturday, April 5 from 1 to 4:30pm at the Whately Town Hall. A history of this Grange will be presented. The event's entertainment will be Sarah the Fiddler and refreshments will be served.

## **Whately Historical Society**

By Dee Bardwell

We received several interests in the antique appraisal event. However, not enough to schedule one. Are there others out there? We need to know how many people would bring items for appraisal. The last date to sign up is March 31. Call Adelia Bardwell at 665-3837.

## **The Housing Committee Needs You!**

By Montserrat Archbald

The Whately Housing Committee is seeking members and—most important—a new chair. We typically meet once a month. We have an

approved Housing Production Plan, and now we need a full, active committee to address housing issues in town. The HC's mission is as follows:

"To investigate and/or facilitate the creation and support of affordable housing, which would include affordable senior housing. To encourage the innovative use or reuse of existing structures to create diverse housing opportunities while preserving the rural, agricultural character of Whately."

If you're not already active on a Whately board or committee, please consider volunteering. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors, keep Whately running smoothly, and participate in your community and democracy. If you have any expertise in this field, or even if you're just interested and want to learn more, please contact Pete Kane ([townadmin@whately.org](mailto:townadmin@whately.org)).

## **News from the Whately Church**

By Dee Bardwell

The Whately Church is happy to share its activities with you and invites you to join us in any that interest you.

Thank you to all who supported our Book/Food Sale and made it such a success.

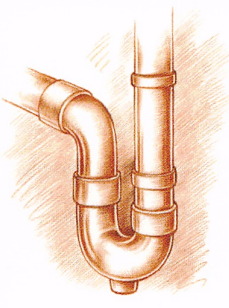
During Lent we will be reading and discussing Matt Rawle's book "The Final Days: A Lenten Journey through the Gospels" meeting March 9 and 23 and April 13 after the morning worship service.

On April 6 new members will be received.

We distribute palms on Palm Sunday April 13.

On Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 6:30 we will gather for a simple supper in remembrance of the Last Supper.

Easter Sunrise Service at 6:00 AM at the library will be followed by a breakfast at the church.



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The Easter Morning Worship Service and coffee hour will be at 10 AM.

Monthly, bread is collected for the survival center, and donations of non-perishable foods are brought to the veterans the last Sunday of every other month.

### Planning Board News:

By Brant Cheikes

The Planning Board held a hearing on February 12<sup>th</sup> to obtain public comment on two zoning bylaw amendment proposals: (1) a new Floodplain Overlay District to replace the current §171-27 Flood Hazard Overlay District Regulations; and (2) a set of amendments intended to enable a limited form of marijuana manufacturing to be allowed by Special Permit in the Commercial, Commercial-Industrial and Industrial Districts. The Board voted unanimously to recommend the floodplain bylaw but to take no position on the limited marijuana manufacturing proposal. Both proposals have been submitted to the Selectboard to consider for inclusion in the upcoming Annual Town Meeting warrant. Details on the proposals and the Board's decisions are posted on the town website at this link: <https://www.whately.org/planning-board/pages/zoning-amendment-proposals>.

The Affordable Homes Act, passed by the state legislature in 2024, includes new rules that allow accessory dwelling units — or ADUs — up to 900 square feet to be built by-right in single-family



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zoning districts. The new state law constrains how local zoning may regulate ADUs. The Planning Board is developing bylaw amendments to ensure that our local zoning rules are consistent with state law while preserving Whately's rural character and natural resources. Resident feedback is invited (email [planningboard@whately.org](mailto:planningboard@whately.org)). To learn more about the new ADU rules, visit <https://www.mass.gov/adu>.

One of the Board's long-serving members will be stepping down soon, creating an opening for another Whately resident to volunteer to serve their town in this vital role. An ideal Planning Board member is fair-minded, collegial, collaborative, non-partisan, interested in learning about local zoning, and able to strike a judicious balance between the desire to preserve and protect, and the willingness to allow reasonable change that may offer economic benefits to the town and its residents. The Board meets 12-14 times per year, and members can expect to spend 4-8 hours per month on Board-related business. Write to [planningboard@whately.org](mailto:planningboard@whately.org) to learn more.

### Whately Library News


By Cynthia Steiner

Happy Spring from all of us here at the Whately Public Library.

We will be closed for the following holidays:

Monday April 21 Patriots' Day

Monday May 26 Memorial Day



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**Whately Library News, con't**

Curbside Pickup is still available. Please call us at 413-665-2170 and we will have your items waiting for you on the bench when you get here.

We now have Museum passes to Magic Wings and the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill. We now have two hotspots available for patrons to borrow. Each hotspot can support up to 10 devices at once. Hotspots use the T-Mobile Network. Must be 18 or older and have a valid CWMARS Library card to check out.

Please remember that you are always welcome at the Whately Public Library!

**Upcoming Events:**

**Monday Morning Music with Janet Ryan.** Mondays 10AM: This program is made possible by the Whately Cultural Council, The Whately Public Library, and The Union 38 Family Network. Material does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the DEEC or the federal government.

**Silent Reading Group** - last Tuesday of the month, 5PM

**STEAM/Aerodynamic Workshop** with Ed the Wizard Saturday April 26 11AM\*

**Songs and Stories of Appalachia:** Faces Behind Fossil Fuel Extraction with Carrie and Michael Kline Tuesday April 29 6PM\*

\*Support from Whately Cultural Council grants

Rebecca M. Jones, M.D., LLC.  
 Dermatologist  
 www.drjonesdermatology.com

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**Watermelon Wednesdays**

By Paul Newlin

Artists	date	location	time
<b>Pesaturo/Tenenbaum</b>	Tue Mar 18	Click Work Space (Noho)	7pm
<b>Max Wareham</b>	Sat Apr 5	TH	7pm
<b>Acoustic Nomads</b>	Wed Apr 23	Chapel	7pm
<b>RASA</b>	Wed Apr 30	Chapel	7pm
<b>Molsky &amp; Moller</b>	Wed May 21	Chapel	7:30pm
<b>Hot Club</b>	Wed July 16	TH	7:30pm
<b>Solas</b>	Thu July 24	TH	7:30pm
<b>Brit and Nat Haas</b>	Wed Aug 6	Chapel	7:30pm
<b>Caleb &amp; Reeb</b>	Wed Aug 13	Chapel	7:30pm
<b>Tony Trischka</b>	To Be Determined	TH	7:30pm
<b>Tannahill Weavers</b>	Wed Oct 1	TH	7:30pm

<https://www.watermelonwednesdays.com/upcoming>

Watermelon Wednesdays kicks off its 26th year bringing world class (mostly acoustic) music of varied styles and genres from Bluegrass to Jazz and Classical and even some Country to the West Whately Chapel as well as the Town Hall. Concerts are mostly, but not always, on

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Wednesdays and begin at either 7 or 7.30pm., so **check times and dates carefully!** Note also, I'm always adding shows to the program, so check back regularly for changes and additions to the line-up. Also, feel free to email me suggestions of shows you'd like hear. I'm already booking into 2026, but there are still a couple of available times this year. Most importantly, come to a show. Support live music in Whately (mostly) and avoid the traffic and parking headaches in Amherst and Northampton! Also, plan to come early and have dinner at the Whately Inn and support local business!

Thanks to the town of Whately and the Whately Congregational Church for their support of the series. And thank you!

**Federal Actions Information Committee**

by Julie Waggoner

A committee of town employees and officials is following federal funding changes and federal actions, to determine how our community may be impacted by funding freezes, or by discontinuation of various federal programs. We are also coordinating with FRCOG to determine regional impacts. The committee is Julie Waggoner, Selectboard; Pete Kane, Town Administrator; and Erica Roper, Community Development Administrator.

We are gathering information from the town's departments and the town accountant regarding

our funding sources, as well as reaching out to local and national legislative leaders for their input. We will share the information with the community as soon as possible.

If you are a Whately resident and have been or expect to be impacted by funding freezes, or by the discontinuation of a vital federal program, please contact us so that we can include that data (anonymously) in our research. All contact will be held as confidential between the resident and the committee. Contact:

- Julie Waggoner [j.waggoner@whately.org](mailto:j.waggoner@whately.org)
- Pete Kane [townadmin@whately.org](mailto:townadmin@whately.org), Erica Roper [communitydevelopment@whately.org](mailto:communitydevelopment@whately.org)

**News from the Town Clerk**


By Amy Lavallee, Town clerk

**Special and Annual Town Meeting:** Our Spring Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 29, 2025 at 5:30pm at the Whately Elementary School. Our Annual Town Meeting will immediately follow the Special Town Meeting at the Whately Elementary School on April 29, 2025 at 6pm.

**Nomination Papers are available for the June 10<sup>th</sup> Town Election.** Positions up for election this year are Selectboard - 3-year term, Assessor - 3-year term, Board of Health - 3-year term, School Committee - 3-year term, Two Library Trustee Positions - 3-year terms, Cemetery Commissioner - 3-year term, Water Commissioner - 3-year term, Moderator - 1 year term, Elector to the Will of Oliver Smith - 1 year term, Two Constable 3-year terms, Town Clerk-3 year term. If you are interested in running for office in the June 10<sup>th</sup> election, please contact Amy Lavallee, Town Clerk at 665-4400 ext.3. Nomination papers will be available until April 17, 2025. Nomination Papers must be returned with 20 valid signatures to the Registrars of Voters (Town Clerk's Office) by April 22, 2025.

**Elections** - The Annual Town Election will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at the Whately

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Town Hall, 219 Chestnut Plain Road 10:00a.m. – 7:00p.m. The election ballot will include the votes for Elected Town Officials (please see above). Vote by Mail Ballots will be available for those not being able to vote that date. Mail in applications for Vote by Mail ballots must be received by Wednesday June 4, 2025. Please visit the town clerk's page at [whately.org](http://whately.org) for a Vote by Mail application and return it to the Clerk's office. However, keep in mind that you must allow for the return of the ballot to the Town Clerk before the close of polls on Election Day. Registration of voters for the Town Election will be held May 30th from 9:00am-11:00am and 3:00pm-5:00pm. A copy of the warrant for this election will be posted at the Town Offices, Transfer Station, Post Office, Library, and the Town of Whately website page at [www.whately.org](http://www.whately.org) by May 22, 2025. **Please note: There will be no In Person Early Voting for the Local Election on June 10.**

**Dog Licenses** – This is a reminder that dog licenses need to be obtained by June 1, 2025. If your dog is not licensed by June 1<sup>st</sup> a late fee of \$50 will be applied to each dog.

There are 4 ways to license your dog(s) if a current rabies certificate is on file:

- Online: [www.whately.org](http://www.whately.org) - go to Pay bills
- Drop-box: Located in the parking lot outside of the Whately Town Offices
- In Person: Cash, check, and/or credit/debit Checks - payable to the Town of Whately
- By Mail: Please make check payable to the Town of Whately for the correct amount.

Fees are \$10.00 each for Spayed females and neutered males and \$15 each for unaltered females and males.

Whately Dog of the Year Contest!! - License your dog on or before June 1, 2025 and their tag number will be automatically entered into our Whately Dog of the Year contest! On June 3 a

Offering the best in acoustic music of all types  
*Now in our 19th year!*



**Summer schedule now posted**  
[www.watermelonwednesdays.com](http://www.watermelonwednesdays.com)

random tag will be selected live on our Facebook page. The winner will win a goodie bag including tag #1, be featured in our 2025 Annual Town Report, and will have the option to be on the Town Clerk's Memorial Day (2026) float. When licensing please specify if YOU DO NOT WANT your dog to be entered

**Ollie's Law** - A new law has passed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding dog licensing and kennels called Ollie's Law. This law changes some aspects of commercial and private kennels in our town.

Anyone who has five or more dogs over 6 months old MUST obtain a kennel license, as well as any commercially run kennel. Please visit the new section at [whately.org](http://whately.org) for more information.

**Census** - 2nd census forms have been sent to those residents that have not responded to the first mailing in January. If you receive the 2nd mailing please indicate any changes, sign it, and return it to my office. The census is vital so that we have an accurate picture of our town's population and enables you to stay on our voter rolls.

**Boston Post Cane** -The Town Clerk turned over possession of the Boston Post Cane to the Whately Historical Society for display at their space in the Town Hall. Larry Ashman built a beautiful custom case for the display.

The Boston Post Cane is a tradition dating back to 1909 when the Boston Post newspaper distributed gold-tipped ebony canes to selectmen in 700 New England towns. The canes were to be presented to the towns' oldest male residents (women weren't eligible until 1930). Although the newspaper no longer exists, the tradition continues in many towns where the cane is still passed to the oldest resident.

Here in Whately, if the resident accepts the honor they are presented by the Selectboard a ceremonial pin and certificate.



# The WHATELY SCOOP

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

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Way down below the quiet ground  
All life continues, all year round  
We may not feel it, see it, hear it,  
But every year that lively spirit  
pushes up to greet the Spring  
And soon the birds begin to sing

We cast aside our Winter blues  
As sun begins to spread good news  
We will be warm, all things will bud  
And hardened dirt will turn to mud  
Viruses their strength will lose  
So listen for Spring's subtle clues.

### 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](http://www.whatelyhistorical.org).

The closing date for submissions to the May 2025 issue of the Scoop is **Weds. May 14.**

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