



The WHATELY SCOOP

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

Volume 22 ❖ Number 4 ❖ May 2025 ❖ Whately, Massachusetts

22 Year and going strong. Thanks to you!

Off-cycle CPA applications are due by June 10

by Judy Markland, Community Preservation Committee

The deadline for submission of CPA applications for funding at a fall special town meeting is Tuesday, June 10 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.

Peer-Led Seminars for the Curious Mind by Susan Baron

Five College Learning in Retirement (FCLIR) is an organization in our area that provides, encourages, and supports opportunities for active learning. Despite the name, it is not just for retired people. Each semester peer-led seminars are offered on a wide variety of topics – history, science, literature, the arts, cultures, politics, and so much more – with new topics

offered each term. Members broaden their learning experience through reading, researching, presenting, and participating in small group discussion. FCLIR also offers interest groups such as reading classics or current literature, photography, and current event discussions as well as Writing to Remember groups and social get-togethers. For more information and a list of upcoming seminars, visit fclir.org.

Regional Repair Event May 31st

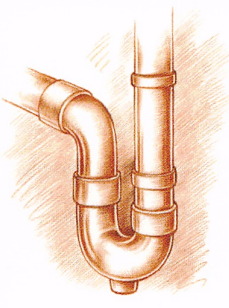
By Amy Donovan FCSWMD

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is working in conjunction with the Franklin County Tech School to host a repair event on Saturday, **May 31st from 9 am to 1 pm** at the Franklin County Tech School, 82 Industrial Blvd. in Turners Falls.

This event is free and open to all residents residing in solid waste district member towns. Those towns are Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately.

A combination of Tech School students and instructors plus other "fixers" will help residents with small electrical repairs, such as rewiring lamps. The Tech School will also offer a sharpening service for knives, scissors, tools, chainsaws, and lawn mower blades. Fixers are being sought to provide small repairs to furniture, such as gluing and clamping broken chairs and other small wooden items.

There is no registration for this event. More information will be available in the coming weeks at franklincountywastedistrict.org or by calling 413-772-2438.



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The Housing Committee Still Needs You! By Montserrat Archbald

The Whately Housing Committee is seeking members and—most important—a new chair. We meet on Zoom at 6pm on the second Tuesday of the 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 are interested, please come to our next Zoom meeting at 6pm on Monday, June 9th—no obligation! The link will be posted on Whately.org.

Whately Center School Committee

By Jenny Miriam

Wondering **what is going on with the Center School?** The ad hoc committee formed to help develop its future is now in need of new members to keep the ball moving. We are looking for interested town folk to help:

• **Help the town evaluate future uses for the building.** We already have the grant to evaluate future uses for the building. So the next step is to work with consultants evaluating different possibilities.

• **Research funding options.** We know several but Federal budget cuts have eliminated some so research is needed to be sure that we have found all of the possibilities.

• **Help write grant requests.** We've done several already so we have experience to share. Also, the town employs a Community Development specialist who will help with this.

• **Obtain estimates for rehabilitation work.** This is exactly as it sounds. Finding possible contractors, making arrangements meeting them, and following up for actual estimates.


Come be part of our group and catch up on what's going on. We can work around your schedule and limitations. Contact communitydevelopment@whately.org.

News from the Whately Church

By Dee Bardwell

Our Tag/Estate Sale was a great success thanks to the many generous donors and the multitude of buyers.

Our next community event is the Memorial Day Celebration. We are proud to host the veterans and townspeople to kickoff the day at the worship service at 10 AM on May 25. The parade forms in front of the church. The



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The Murphys Realtors

speaker of the day is Rev. Cynthia Crosson-Harrington.

We look forward to our summer services in the West Whately Chapel at 153 Conway Road at 10 AM in July and August.

All are welcome to join us at any of our 10 AM Sunday services.

Whately Library News

By Cynthia Steiner

Happy Spring & Summer from all of us here at the Whately Public Library. Take a few moments to energize and recharge by coming and enjoying our view! Come and check out our newest books, DVS and audiobooks. We have something for everyone. If we don't have what you are looking for then, please ask us to get it for you.

The theme of this year's Summer Reading Program is *Level Up! At your library!* Check out our website library@whately.org or our Facebook Page Whately Public Library/S. White Dickinson Memorial Library for more information and programs.

I want to take this opportunity to address the impact of Presidential Executive Order 14238 signed by President Trump on March 14, authorizing the defunding of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This federal agency is the single source of federal funding for libraries. Massachusetts received \$3.6 million dollars from the IMLS grants to the State's Program. These funds have helped pay for the licensing of the Online Databases, Libby, Commonwealth Catalog as well as the summer reading program. While much is still unknown about the total impact of these funding cuts, CWMARS and The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners are working diligently to come up with alternative funding sources to try and keep as many of the programs as possible. Consider contacting your state and federal representatives to make your voice heard on this

matter.

Upcoming Events:

Tue. June 17 2 PM - Pollinator Craft & Plant Workshop - Open to all ages. There will be plants to take home and refreshments will be served. Please register at library@whately.org

Wed. June 18 6:30 PM. Band News Jazz and Blues Orchestra (Funded by the Whately Cultural Council.)

Tue. July 1 6:30 PM Song of Appalachia by Michael & Carrie Kline (Partially funded by the Whately Cultural Council and The Whately Public Library)

Sat. July 12 6 PM Sarah Clay & the Star Cats "Games people play"

Tue. August 5 6 PM Ray Mason

Tue. August 26 5:30 PM. TJ & the Peepers

Watermelon Wednesdays

By Paul Newlin

Even though the watermelons are not yet quite ripe, the music is, and the following is the current late spring, summer program (warning: other acts may be added, so always check back at watermelonwednesdays.com.)

May 21 Bruce Molsky and Ale Moller, West Whately Chapel, 7.30 pm

June 11 Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem with Darlin' Cory, West Whately Chapel, 7.30 pm

July 16 Hot Club of Cowtown, Whately Town Hall, 7.30 pm

July 24 (Thu!) Solas, Whately Town Hall, 7.30 pm

August 6 Brittany and Natalie Haas, West Whately Chapel, 730 pm

August 13 Caleb and Reeb, West Whately Chapel, 7.30 pm

October 1 Tannahill Weavers, Whately Town Hall, 730 pm

Shows regularly sellout, so buy your tickets well in advance by going to www.watermelonwednesdays.com \upcoming

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Whately Civic Association

by Paul Newlin

Whately Civic Association is a new gathering of local residents who meet on the first Sunday of each month at Whately Town Hall from 4:30 to 6:00. We are a voluntary, participant-driven group of concerned citizens working to strengthen local community ties and relationships. By fostering a civic forum for regular discussions about the myriad issues facing us as citizens of Whately and the nation, we aim to create a group of people who can work together for common goals.

We strive to:

- identify national, state, and local government initiatives and emergencies that could affect Whately;
- educate ourselves and the community about the local impact of these issues;
- and determine how best to respond individually and, where agreed, together.

We welcome all Whately residents to join our discussions. We believe in respectful listening and civil dialog. No fees or RSVPs are necessary, just show up at Whately Town Hall on the first Sunday afternoon of each month. For more information, contact Paul Newlin, paulnewlin@comcast.net.

Water Department Update

By John Lukin, Commissioner

This spring's abundant rainfall has been good for replenishing the groundwater all public water

system and private homeowner wells draw from. Perhaps the rains have erased from your mind the declarations of drought that the state had been issuing periodically?

Everybody uses more water during the warmer months, which is something the Water Department anticipates every year. Now that the lush New England vegetation is green and growing, the plants utilize most of the rain that falls. Very little recharges groundwater during the growing season.

So a dry, hot summer can stress the underground water supply that all Whately residents rely on. The deluges that sometimes come in summer storms are problematic for the damage they cause to crops, roads and property via fast rising streams. The storms increase runoff, but don't contribute much recharge to the water table.

Declarations of drought with restricted water use will result if conditions warrant. Those conditions are many and the details can be found in the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan (115 pages), which is available for download on www.Mass.gov.

The state's approach is that public wells, private wells and all other sources from the same river basin (watershed) draw water from that basin. So drought declarations are issued by watershed. Whately is in the Ct River watershed within the Ct River region (Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden Counties).


Many variables are monitored to determine if a drought exists within a watershed, including stream flow, precipitation, evapotranspiration (evaporation plus what the plants utilize), groundwater levels in wells, and others.

There are four levels of drought with associated guidelines for outdoor water use. Level 1 is "mild." The guidance suggests one day a week watering (think lawn sprinklers) after 5 pm and before 9 am to reduce evaporation loss.

Watering the lawn in the heat of the day is wasting water; most of it evaporates.

Level 2 is "significant" drought that recommends

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limiting outdoor watering to hand held hose or watering can, again after 5 pm and before 9 am. Level 3 is “critical” and recommends a ban on all nonessential water use, which is defined in the plan in great detail. Level 4 is “emergency” with a bottom line of do everything you can to conserve water.

The Whately Water System wells have been able to meet those summer peak demands over the years. However they are not a limitless resource. Should any level of drought be declared for our region, we will need to limit outdoor water use.

Of course folks want to keep the veggie and flower gardens growing. When it’s dry, they need to be watered. Please do so as sparingly as possible and only late in the day or early in the morning. Your garden plants will flourish and you’ll be helping assure that we all have ample water flowing from our faucets throughout the summer.

News from the Town Clerk

By Amy Lavallee, Town clerk

The Annual Town Election will be held on **Tuesday June 10, 2025** at the **Whately Town Hall, 194 Chestnut Plain Road, from 10:00a.m. – 7:00p.m.** The election ballot will include the votes for Elected Town Officials. Registration of voters for the Town Election will be held May 30, 2025 from 9am-11am and 3pm-5pm at the Town Offices. Vote By Mail ballots will be mailed out starting May 13th for those who filled out a Vote By Mail card earlier this year. 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. A copy of the warrant for this election will be posted at the Town Offices, Post Office, Library and the Town of Whately website Town Clerk’s page at www.whately.org.

Below is a list of candidates appearing on the annual town ballot. All are 1 seat unless noted otherwise.

Selectboard - 3-year: Julianna C. Waggoner
Moderator - 1 year: Nathanael Alexander Fortune

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Summer schedule now posted
www.watermelonwednesdays.com

Town Clerk – 3 year: Amy E. Lavallee
School Committee – 3-year term: WRITE IN
Assessor – 1-year: Michael Husted
Assessor - 2-year: Jane Theoharides
Library Trustees – 3-year (2 seats): Robert Klinger, WRITE IN
Cemetery Commissioner – 3-year: Neal B. Abraham
Board of Health – 3-year: Michael Archbald
Water Commissioner – 3-year: George Bucala, Jr.
Elector Under Oliver Smith Will – 1 year: Keith E. Bardwell
Constable – 3-year (2 seats): Thomas J. Mahar, WRITE IN

Annual Town Meeting June 03, 2025

The Town Clerk's office will be 10 days prior to Annual and Special Town Meetings to register voters.

Residents who are not registered voters will NOT be allowed to vote.

Voters must have been REGISTERED by to Saturday May 24 at 5:00pm for the Annual Town Meeting

A voter registration session will be held on Saturday May 24, 2025 from 9:00am - 11:00am and 3:00pm-5:00pm located at the Whately Town Offices.

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 1st 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 and 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:

Spayed females / neutered males \$10.00 each
Unaltered females and males \$15.00 each



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 Sept. 2025 issue of the Scoop is **Weds. Sept. 3.**

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.