



The WHATELY SCOOP

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

Volume 17 ❖ Number 1 ❖ Sept 2019 ❖ Whately, Massachusetts

Our 17th Year and going strong. Thanks to you!

Visioning the Future of the Whately Center School

By Brian Domina, Town Administrator

The Whately Selectboard is actively seeking volunteers to serve on the Whately Center School Visioning Committee to help plan for the future of this building/parcel. The Center School is a town-owned building located at 218 Chestnut Plain Road across from the Center Cemetery in the Whately Center Historic District. The charge of the Committee is as follows:

To identify, investigate and assess the possible reuse opportunities for the Center School building and parcel and to submit a written report of its findings to the Whately Selectboard on the Committee's preferred reuse scenario(s) within two (2) months. The Committee is asked to investigate both public and private options for reuse of the Center School building/parcel and to consider such factors as the existing condition of the building, available infrastructure, renovation/demolition costs, its historical significance, location, public needs, market demand, public input and how other communities have successfully reused former public school buildings of a similar size.

If you have an interest in helping to plan for the future of this building/parcel, please contact Town Administrator, Brian Domina at townadmin@whately.org by September 23, 2019.

Preparing to Celebrate Whately

By Susan Barron 250th Celebration Committee

It's Not Too Early to Start Taking Pictures - Whately is the most photogenic place we know. To celebrate the town's beauty, the 250th Celebration Committee will be sponsoring a photo contest next year with the goal of featuring winning pictures in a calendar for the year of the

Town's anniversary, 2021. You may want to start taking pictures now!

Be a Part of History - The anniversary celebration will include many exciting activities such as Family Day, a Gala, live performances, a parade, fireworks, and more. For these events to happen, we need volunteers to help. Email 250th.whately.info@gmail.com to join in the fun.

Stay Up to Date with Facebook - Follow us on Facebook at Whately 250th Celebration to keep up with what is planned.

New Playgroup comes to Whately Elementary School

by Amy Battisti, CFCE Coord, U-38 Schools

The Union 38 Family Network is happy to announce that following a very successful Summer Playgroup at the Whately Elementary School, we will host a weekly playgroup throughout the school year! We look forward to meeting many Whately families. **Playgroup will be held each Tuesday morning** during the school year from 9:30-11:30 for children ages 0-5 and their caregiver (parent, grandparent, sitter, nanny, family member, etc). We will play both indoors and out (weather depending) and will have a School Library story time @ 11. Come join us for a morning of informal play, interactive literacy activities and chat with other families and caregivers! This playgroup is FREE and Drop-In. All are welcome!

*Union 38 Family Network Tuesday Playgroup
Sept 10th - June 9th - 9:30-11:30
Whately Elementary School*

Donations from Pro Pel Plastech, Long Plain Road help cover the cost of The Scoop... Please see the ads from our many local business sponsors who make this newsletter possible.

Questions or concerns? Call Amy Battisti @ amy.battisti@frsu38.org or 413-362-9145

The Union 38 Family Network is supported by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant through the MA Dept of Early Education and Care.

Whately 250th Pottery for Sale Now

by Nancy Talanian

The Pottery Committee is accepting orders for replicas of 19th century Whately pottery, which will be made by Tom White of Northfield. Proceeds from pottery sales will help fund the town's 250th anniversary celebration. We expect pots to be ready for pickup approximately six to eight weeks from the time you place your order. Orders will be accepted through the end of April 2021.

Prototypes of the pots are on display at Quonquont Farm, and order forms will be available there until the farm closes for the season in late October. Payment is due upon receipt of finished pots. You may also see the pots and place orders at the Whately Historical Society's Fall Festival on Sunday, September 29th. To view photos of the pots and to order pottery online, go to www.tinyurl.com/whatelypots or visit the Whately 250th Facebook page, www.facebook.com/Whately250th.

All pottery will be made of stoneware clay, wood-fired and salt-glazed. They will be oven- and dishwasher-safe. Choose from seven pottery shapes and sizes:

1. Gallon jug, \$100
2. Half-gallon jug, \$75
3. Large covered crock, \$100
4. Medium covered crock, \$90
5. Pitcher, \$75
6. Churn, suitable for kitchen utensils, \$25
7. Large, uncovered crock, for fermentation, kindling, or other uses, \$75

The Pottery Committee thanks Alan McArdle for photographing the pots. We also thank Ben Bardwell for his assistance displaying the pots and setting up online ordering.

Historical Society news.

By Adelia Bardwell

Things are happening at the Historical Society. Get involved in the fun and excitement.

A curtain that used to hang on the stage in Town Hall is being brought back to life! After it is

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restored it will be hung again. On September 10 and 11 conservators will be working on the curtain. When the work is completed Chris Hadsell, restorer, will explain the project on September 11 at 7 P.M. You need to be there to hear all about it.

September 27 there will be a group of pie makers at the Whately church at 9:00. The pies will be sold at the Fall Festival September 29 at Town Hall. Join us for the fellowship of this event.

Be sure to stop by Town Hall the 29th to enjoy the Milk Bottle Band and purchase a pie, plant, or hot dog and treat yourself to free ice cream. The museum will be open to visitors.

As always, we are seeking more members to carry on the purpose of our society. We meet monthly and welcome ideas as well as participants.

Valley Neighbors Membership Drive

By Fran Fortino

In communities all over the country, the Village movement is growing in response to older Americans' needs and wishes. Valley Neighbors (VN)—a member-driven, non-profit organization—continues to work toward offering local volunteer services and programs to seniors in Whately and Deerfield who wish to live independent, engaged lives in their homes and communities—with a little neighborly help.

VN's Board of Directors has met monthly for the past year, mindful that more than one third of Whately residents are over age 60 and likely to need some form of assistance as they age. We're developing plans to meet those needs and offering memberships now.

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VN Services - Our resident survey shows that the most pressing issue for older folks is transportation. We plan to offer rides to medical and other appointments, to social events, meetings, as well as grocery shopping. As VN grows, members may also receive help with small household chores, basic technical problems as well as phone checks and companionship.

Become A VN Member or Volunteer - We invite town residents needing help or their families to join VN at charter membership rate of \$50.00 per household—the year starts when we begin offering services in 2020. Members may be of any age, but we will provide support services to those 60 and older. We also need volunteers. All who volunteer receive training and insurance coverage while providing services.

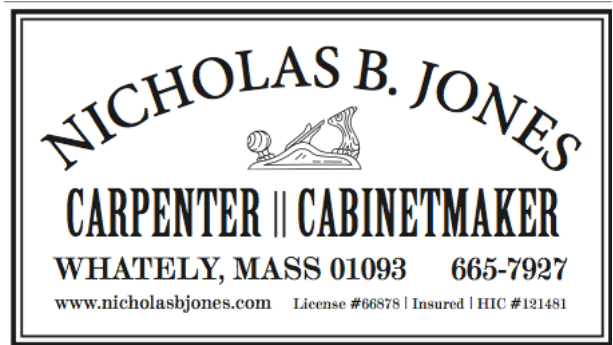
Another Way to Help - VN gratefully accepts donations (tax-exempt!) from businesses or individuals to help us defray the costs of training volunteers, providing insurance and purchasing software.

Donations & memberships can be sent to Valley Neighbors, P.O. Box 183, Whately, MA 01093. For more information and to volunteer, please contact one of these VN members: Julia Berman: juliaberm@yahoo.com, Fran Fortino: ffortino79@gmail.com, or Nancy Maynard: nancyomaynard@gmail.com

News from the Whately Church

By Cynthia Crosson-Harrington

We have had a wonderful summer worshipping in the West Whately Chapel where



we joined with the Conway church as we have done in previous summers. On September 1st we return to 'the big church' in town to commence our worship for the year ahead. Our Labor Day BBQ on Sept 2nd was a great success and we were sold out

Sadly, we will be losing out long-time organist Sheila Ayala-Heady at the end of September. Sheila has been with us for fifteen years and we have watched her go from a talented high school student to an extremely competent musician. We have watched her mature, married her to her wife, Nieves and have been treated to her musical talent each Sunday. We will miss her a great deal but wish her well as she returns to school for a Master's degree. We will be honoring Sheila for her long years of service with a pot luck luncheon on September 22nd following worship. All are welcome.

As we lose our organist we are in the process of searching for a musician to assume this role. Anyone interest in interviewing for the position, please contact Adelia Bardwell at (412) 665-3837 by October 1st.

We worship every Sunday at 10 am and invite all to join us. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your faith journey, our doors are open to you.

Exciting News from the Friends of the Whately Library

By Georgia Scura

The Friends of the Whately Library continue to offer fun and educational programming throughout the year and welcome your input



and feedback. We are here for you!

Again, in 2019, the Friends are hosting their very successful **tag sale** on the front lawn of the library on **Sunday, September 29nd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** This event is rain or shine and is the same day as the Whately Historical Society Fall Festival! The tag sale is an excellent opportunity to clean out your closets, make some money, and meet some of your neighbors.

Tag sale participants can reserve an approximately 10' by 10' space for just \$10.00; please call the library to register. We don't supply tables, so please bring your own blanket, table, or tent to display your items. This will be a fun event for all ages, and it's a wonderful way to support the library. Be sure to stop by for a treasure!

Looking ahead to the holidays, we will be holding our fourth annual **tree lighting with live music, baked goodies, and hot chocolate** on **Saturday, December 7th**. On **Sunday, December 8th**, we will be holding our tenth annual **holiday craft fair**. We hope you'll join us again to usher in the winter with both of these fun events. In addition, we are planning a holiday wreath-making program. Stay tuned for more details.

And don't forget, the Friends have purchased passes for Historic Deerfield, Clark Art Institute, Mass MoCA, the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, and the Smith College Museum of Art, as well as a ParksPass for all Massachusetts DCR parks and recreation facilities. Passes are available at the library on a first come, first served basis.

Whately Public Library

by Cynthia Steiner (director)

We have had a busy summer here at the Library. Emma and I have settled in nicely and have developed a nice routine. Together we make a great team! We have been busy working on updating and organizing our



Nate Johnson
265 State Rd. (Rt. 5 & 10)
Whately, MA 01093
413-665-3000
Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
zononisauto@gmail.com

Church Organist Opening

The Whately Church is seeking an organist to play Sundays and at special services. Contact Adelia Bardwell at 665-3837 for more info.

Applications due by October 1.

Children's Room. If you haven't seen it yet stop by and check it out.

Starting Sept. 2, we now have Kanopy. Kanopy is an online streaming service that partners with public libraries and universities. With Kanopy you can watch documentaries, foreign films, classic and independent films. This service is free. All you need is your library card to create an account.

If you haven't already heard as of July 1, 2019 CWMARS had started automatic renewals. You no longer need to worry about remembering to renew your library materials.



Watermelon Wednesdays
in West Whately
Celebrating 20 Years of the Finest Acoustic Music
www.watermelonwednesdays.com

As long as the items can be renewed CWMARS will do it for you.

Your Library needs YOU! We are looking for volunteers. Do you have some extra time and are looking for something to do? Come and help out your library. It could be for a one-time project, once a week, month. What best fits your schedule. Stop by, email library@whately.org or call 665-2170 to find out more.

Finally, I would like to thank the Friends of the library as well as the Whately Cultural Council for another great and successful Summer Concert Series. Friends are needed! The Friends meet on the first Monday of each month, here at the library. Meetings are open to the public.

Now that I am feeling more settled in as Director, I will be working on bringing back more programs here to the Library. This fall we have:

9/11 Author Siegfried Haug will be reading from his new book "Bad Sleep" 6:30pm

9/25 Leslie Cerier will be doing a "Marvelous Meatless" presentation on how to introduce vegan recipes into your diet. She will be

bringing samples to taste! 5:30pm

You are always welcome at the Whately Public Library. Hope to see you soon.

Transfer Station News

by Fran Fortino

The annual **household hazardous waste collection** is **Saturday, September 21**, at GCC Main Campus. This is a once a year opportunity for Franklin Co. residents to safely dispose of hazardous items like leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, fluorescent lamps, automobile batteries, and other toxic household chemicals.

To participate, residents must pre-register by **September 16th**. Online registration forms may be completed at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html. Paper registration forms are available at participating transfer stations, while supplies last. A complete list of acceptable items is also available at that link.

Our **next bulky waste collection** will be **Saturday, October 19 , 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** at the transfer station. Whately residents can get rid of bulky items, including, old rugs, furniture, mowers, metals, TV's, computers, sinks and toilets, BBQ tanks, tires and more. Fees charged for most items to cover cost.

If you would like to volunteer for the Oct. 19 bulky day, contact Fran Fortino at 665-4561.

Please keep Recycling! Trash disposal costs keep rising, yet the Town of Whately still gets paid by the ton for recyclables. So, please do your part and separate out your cans, bottles, jars, tubs, plastic clamshells, etc. plus paper, cardboard and food waste to bring to the transfer station. For a complete list of what can be recycled at the Whately transfer Station, ask the attendant or check online at: <https://www.whately.org/transfer-station> Thanks for recycling!

Board of Health

by Fran Fortino

Triple E Virus Alert - The Whately Board of Health has received notification from Mass DPH that Triple E virus has been detected in horses nearby (Colrain & Heath). There have been four human cases of EEE in the state so far. Please empty all **standing water**

collected outdoors on your property in tires, bird baths, buckets, etc. Limit outdoor activities when mosquitos are active, use appropriate clothing and repellent when outdoors.

Town Administrator Updates:

by Brian Domina, Town admin.

With summer drawing to a close it seemed like a good time to provide updates on several of the more significant projects taking place or scheduled to take place in town.

Water Merger Project: The merger of the Whately Water District into the Whately Water Department is still on schedule to be completed next spring. The Water Department and Highway Department recently finished installing pipe across Chestnut Plain Road between the end of the District's system and the proposed location of the new pumping station. Current customers of the District should anticipate receiving additional details about the merger from the Water Department this fall.

Manganese Filtration Project: The manganese filtration project is nearly complete. The filtration system is currently in its testing phase to ensure its safe and efficient operation prior to bringing the filtration system online. Initial water tests of the filtered water showed very favorable results with only trace amounts of manganese, well below the allowable limits. Over the next couple of weeks the contractor will be finishing up the punch list items and the filtration should be fully operational and online shortly thereafter. The Water Department will post a notice on the website when the system is fully operational.

Chestnut Plain Sidewalk Reconstruction: The sidewalk reconstruction project is still in the design phase. It is our hope to have a preliminary design available for public comment sometime in October with a public meeting to be scheduled around the same time. Actual construction of the sidewalks remains scheduled for next spring once the weather warms up enough for construction to begin.



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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

The Whately Scoop

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

Thank you very much!

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

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

The closing date for submissions to the December 2019 issue of the Scoop is Wednesday November 27.

Please email your 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 (4 issues) and a mention in the 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.