



The WHATELY SCOOP

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

Volume 23 ❖ Number 1 ❖ September 2025 ❖ Whately, Massachusetts

23Year and going strong. Thanks to you!

Historical Society Appraisal Event, Sept. 13, 2-4 pm

by Judy Markland

Here's your chance to get those antique and vintage items valued!

The Historical Society has invited Doug Bilodeau of Douglas Auctions to conduct appraisals of antiques and items you hope might be antiques in the auditorium at Town Hall on Saturday, September 13. Bring as many as you can comfortably handle. High resolution photographs are acceptable as well. The fee is \$5 for the first item and \$3 for each additional item, and all the proceeds benefit the Historical Society. We'll reserve an unloading area by the rear door to Town Hall, closest to the lift.

If you haven't yet seen the current exhibit *What's for Dinner?* or would like to see it again, the Historical Society Museum will be open during the appraisal event. The exhibit uses objects, images, journals and account books to show how politics, technology and transportation influenced the meals Whately residents prepared, from 1775-1975. New material has been added since the Spring 2025 opening!

Our Continued Journey for a home for the South County Senior Center

By Jennifer Ferrara, Director

Over the past few years, we have been actively working toward establishing a centralized location to house all of our programs and services under one roof.

A new possibility has opened up at **112 Amherst Road in Sunderland**. With the help of edmSTUDIO, we are exploring whether this space could become the future home of South county Senior Center. This location is close to

where we are now, right on the bus line, and has the square footage to host everything from movement classes to community meals. While some refurbishing would be needed, the building is largely move-in ready and offers a much more attainable path than building from scratch.

This is where you come in. Your voice and support are essential as we explore this opportunity. Together, we can shape a Senior Center that works for Whately, Deerfield, and Sunderland—not just for today, but for generations to come. In the months ahead, we'll be inviting you to join us to share your input, and help us build the grassroots momentum needed to make this vision a reality.

With your advocacy, we can move one step closer to giving older adults in our community the space they truly deserve. I strongly urge you to attend your monthly Selectboard meetings and share your support for a new Center. If you can't attend in person, I encourage you to write letters to your Selectboard and other public officials to share your support.

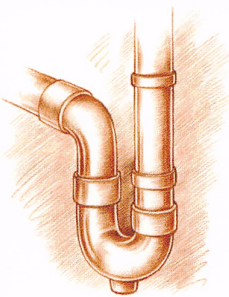
The Whately Giving Garden By Julie Waggoner

Community Garden Project

The Whately Giving Garden is currently working on developing a community garden, on a Town-owned piece of property. We aim to produce food for donation to residents, and to further build community cooperation. We are coordinating the development of the Community Garden with the Pollinator Garden project that is underway.

We are planning two community-outreach events to brainstorm, get feedback, and move ahead with this project. We will announce these events in *The Scoop*, and on the Whately.org website. Please join us to participate!

If you'd like to learn more about this project or



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to get on our mailing list, please contact Julie Waggoner, at j.waggoner@whately.org.

Plant & Vegetable Swaps

The Whately Giving Garden and Plant/Seed Swap, active since mid-May, is held on alternate Saturdays from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Whately Transfer Station. The remaining Saturday swap dates this year are September 6, September 20, and (if weather/harvests permit) October 4, and October 18. Please join us!

Our aim is to help residents to create their own home vegetable gardens, following the example of the World War II Victory Gardens. These gardeners and Whately's generous farmers have begun donating their extra produce to our efforts so that we can offer free fruit and vegetables to residents as well.

We have twice been featured in articles The Greenfield Recorder. We have built a mailing list of more than 60 people who attend regularly, and who appreciate the community-building effort as well as the free seedlings and produce.

If you'd like to learn more about this project or to get on our mailing list, please contact Julie Waggoner at j.waggoner@whately.org.

FCAT open house (6pm) and Cable Licensing Hearing (7pm) October 7

by Joyce Palmer Fortune, Cable Negotiating Committee Chair

Every 10 years, the town negotiates a renewal of the rights for our cable provider, Comcast, to use the public right of way to deliver their services to homes and businesses in Whately, Deerfield and Sunderland. This is important because the licensing agreement provides basic funding for our public, education and government access channels (12, 15, 21) and for FCAT, the non-profit organization that provides programming for those channels.

FCAT provides other services over and above programming on these channels. FCAT makes it possible for our public meetings to be broadcast

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live and to be posted on their YouTube channel. FCAT is there for events big and small (Parades, Whately 250, town meetings, guest speakers, sporting events, concerts and performances at the schools, etc.) to record and make available to everyone via their website and YouTube channel.

One of the most important things FCAT does, in my opinion, is that they are warm and welcoming place for students to learn videography and supports our local students in producing their video projects. FCAT has worked with Frontier Regional School since its start in 2004, with many prize winning videos produced by our students and supported by FCAT.

Please mark your calendars and come visit the FCAT studios at 12 School Street in Sunderland at 6pm on October 7, to see and celebrate their work in our community, and stay for the hearing to let the folks from Comcast know that you support public, education and government access in our towns. More information: Jon Boschen, 413-665-0012 or <https://fcats.tv/>

How would YOU like to see a restored Center School used?

by the Whately Center School Committee

Several years, and a pandemic, have passed since the Center School Visioning Committee last asked for your input. The newly formed ad hoc Center School Feasibility Study Committee is excited to report that the process of rescuing the lovely old schoolhouse is back and we want to move toward finalizing a plan.

As a start, with the proceeds of grants from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the CPA, the Town has engaged McCabe Enterprises to conduct a feasibility study for the Center School. McCabe has begun structural and architectural analyses as well as advising on some long overdue basic repairs and protections for the building. Their study will recommend one residential use for the school building and

Fredrick & Associates

Victoria Fredrick
Certified Public Accountant

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two commercial uses. These options will be structured after, and advised by, researching town preferences, market demands and rents, structural and architectural constraints, and relative estimates of the cost per square foot of the different scenarios.

The next step is to survey you! We really want to maximize the number of responses from Whately residents of all ages, parts of town, and individual backgrounds and perspectives. All input will truly help us determine the best path forward for the building. PLEASE give us your two cents by using either this link (<http://bit.ly/4g7LrX1>) or the paper copy enclosed in this edition of our wonderful SCOOP. Paper copies can be returned to the town offices, the library or the transfer station.

Please let us hear from you! We cannot succeed without you.

A Word About the Importance of Town Meeting and Local Election Attendance by Amy Lavallee, Town Clerk

We've all kept our eyes peeled on the news for national election updates, waiting with bated breath to see who would win a presidential race. But have you ever refreshed X, concerned to see the ballot counts for your local town's Assessor position or to be updated on the Selectboard election or Town Meeting budget? Probably not.

When we think about voting, most people will picture ballots cast every four years, a Democratic and Republican candidate, and

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constant news coverage in the weeks leading up to Election Day. However, there are dozens of other positions and propositions to vote on at the local level. Nevertheless, local elections and town meetings are just as important as, if not more than, national elections because they decide so many things that will affect us in our daily lives. From road conditions to school quality, the list can go on and on, even down to how clean the water is when you brush your teeth every day.

Local elections and town meetings are the time where we are really deciding on the people who make the decisions that truly impact our everyday lives and how that is implemented. At the local level we have people making the decisions about how our tax dollars are spent on schools and our roads and our town and we have an opportunity to be a voice in those decisions.

Local elections and public officials have also lead the way in various national movements. Landmark policies such as women's suffrage, marriage equality, minority rights and environmental protections all started at the local level.

Even though local elections and town meetings are the place where many decisions that impact our town and community are made turnout and participation for these events is extremely low. With only five to ten percent of voters turning out for local elections and town meetings, and no contested and vacant positions, these big decisions make the outcomes less representative of the overall population.

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Participating in local elections and town meetings also means that your vote will count a lot more—decisions can really be swayed by just one vote. Local governments share over \$2 trillion of spending power, so voting in local elections and participating in town meeting can make sure that it’s being spent in a way that represents all interests.

Participating in and getting involved in local elections and in town meetings is extremely important for our town and our community. Our local election is the last Tuesday of April every year, and our Town Meeting is the second Tuesday in June. Please consider coming out to vote or run for a position and participate in Town Meeting because in our little Town every voice matters.

Whately Civic Association Speaker Series by Paul Newlin

Whately Civic Association, a recently formed group of residents concerned about the future of our democracy, is launching a speaker series addressing the profound transformation of our Federal government currently underway.

The speaker for the first presentation will be Attorney Bill Newman, of Northampton. Bill is co-host of Talk the Talk, a weekday program on WHMP radio. He has been practicing law for fifty years and specializes in civil litigation, civil rights, labor and employment.

The impacts of the administration’s actions will affect all of us to varying degrees, and will continue to do so for decades. In order to get a

better understanding as to how the Trump administration changes and policies will affect us, WCA is hosting a series of talks followed by discussion.

The first event with Bill Newman will be at the Whately Town Hall, Monday, September. 29, at 7.30 pm. These talks are all and open to the public. Additional dates will be announced later.

Speakers will be addressing various topics including but not limited to:

- Constitutional issues.
- The roles and relationships of the three branches of government.
- Local, regional, state, and national political responses to Trump administration actions.
- The caring economy: healthcare and education.
- Monetary and fiscal policies; tariffs, debt, taxes. Inflation and unemployment.
- Our relationships with other countries.
- Civil and legal rights for all people.
- The environment, energy, and resource management.
- Issues of democracy: voting and representation.

whatelycivic@gmail.com for more info.

Valley Neighbors: Fall Brain Health and Dementia series by Fran Fortino

For all of us concerned about our long-term memory health, Valley Neighbors is sponsoring a brain health and dementia series this fall in Whately and Sunderland. Topics include: Optimizing Brain Health (Sept. 16), The Many Faces of Dementia (Oct. 14), and The ABC of Dementia Care (Nov. 18), all presented by Linda Puzan, MSW, a compassionate guide for individuals and caregivers dealing with memory issues. She has decades of experience in brain health and dementia care training and support.


See our Valley Neighbors flyer in this edition of the Scoop for more details. **All are welcome!**

Valley Neighbors Needs YOU! Please Consider Volunteering

By Debra Carney

Valley Neighbors (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. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit. **Membership is free**, thanks to the generous support from our funders and from our local donors.

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VN continues to grow; we now have 171 members and 51 trained volunteers. But we need more volunteers: particularly volunteers willing to drive their neighbors.

All of our volunteers receive training, support, and insurance coverage. They make a significant and deeply-appreciated difference in the lives of our members: in 2024, VN volunteers met 294 transportation requests, driving more than 8,000 miles. We're on track to surpass those numbers in 2025.

Significantly, our VN volunteers have great flexibility in choosing—or declining—assignments! **We require no minimum nor set time commitments.**

Without our valued volunteers, Valley Neighbors quite literally would not exist. We can only meet our mission through your efforts, your generosity, and your commitment to community. Volunteers are the lifeblood of VN. Please consider joining our effort.

If you would like more information on VN or to donate, please visit: valleyneighbors.org/

To become a volunteer with VN, contact us directly:

Valley Neighbors, PO Box 281, Whately, MA 01093 - 413 453-9057, and via email at: info@valleyneighbors.org

Whately News from the Whately Congregational church by Dee Bardwell

When you are reading this another chicken BBQ will be history. Thanks to all who supported this event.

We have worshipped in the West Whately Chapel in July and August and now we return to the church in the center.

We collect bread every first Sunday of each month for the Project for Self-Reliance in Greenfield and non-perishable food for veterans the last Sunday of every other month. The biggest collection will be November 23 when we celebrate Thanksgiving.

Offering the best in acoustic music of all types
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Summer schedule now posted
www.watermelonwednesdays.com

October 5 some of us join the county Crop Walk in Northfield.

October 19 a Pot Luck meal will follow morning worship.

We welcome all who wish to join us for worship service at 10:00 AM.

Whately Grange News

By the Connecticut Valley Pomona Junior Grange

Two new exciting events are happening for our local Whately Grange and the Connecticut Valley Pomona Junior Grange, both are seeking members.

Whately Grange will begin its 86th year with its installation of officers on Sept. 11, 2025, 7 PM, Town Hall.

The Connecticut Valley Pomona (county level) has expanded its membership area to include children from Whately. Ruth Leahey has been named leader and children ages 5 to 14 may join.

The Junior Grange offers its members learning experiences in community values, citizenship, leadership while developing a spirit of respect, cooperation and concern for others. Craft projects are offered also. These can be entered at local fairs as well as at the Big E, New England Grange Building.

Parental involvement is welcomed and encouraged. For further information regarding either Whately Grange or the Junior Grange, please contact Ruth Leahey at 665-3108. Please leave your name and telephone number.

Library News

By Cynthia Steiner

Happy Fall from all of us here at the Whately Public Library! As the weather is getting cooler and we start to spend more time inside, don't forget to stop by the library for your next read. Maybe get reacquainted with an old favorite or find your next favorite read. We have something for everyone. If we don't have what you are looking for then, please ask us to get it for you.

I have had several patrons asking if Kanopy is

still going to be available? Yes, Kanopy is paid using the library's municipal budget. Don't have Kanopy? Want to learn more? Stop by the library and we will assist you with signing up.

We will be closed for the following Holidays:

Monday October 13 Indigenous Peoples Day

Tuesday November 11 Veterans Day

Upcoming Events:

Alchemy Laboratory with Ed the Wizard
Saturday September 6 11AM sponsored by a grant from the Whately Cultural Council

We are hoping to do a puzzle swap during the fall festival. Bring your gently used puzzles (complete puzzles please) and swap for another one or two.

Monday Morning Music and Movement with Janet Ryan returns in October.

Please check our website whately.org/library for future upcoming events.

On Sunday September 28, stop by the Book Sale on your way to the Fall Festival. We will be here from 11-2. Unfortunately at this time we are unable to accept donations.

Watermelon Wednesdays

By Paul Newlin

It's been a great year for Watermelon Wednesdays. Almost all shows were sellouts. We've been using both the West Whately Chapel as well as the Town Hall, even a show at Click Space in Northampton. If you've missed any of the shows, you still have an opportunity to catch one or more of the four remaining concerts (but be sure to go to the website and order your tix now, as these shows will definitely go fast). Go to: watermelonwednesdays.com for tix and info about the artists. Here's the lineup through December (I'm currently booking for 2026):

Sep. 10, West Whately Chapel, The Clements Brothers (American)

Oct.1, Town Hall, The Tannahill Weavers (Scottish)

Oct. 29, Town Hall, The Fretless (Canadian) and Vasen (Swedish)

Dec. 3, Town Hall, Mr. Sun (American)

All shows begin at 7.30pm; doors open at 7pm.

From the Energy Committee Chair

By Paul Newlin

The Trump administration is pulling the plug on many of the Biden era incentives for using renewable energy, so if you haven't yet made the move to more efficient energy whether it be heat-pump systems, rooftop solar panels,

electric vehicles, or just saving energy with conservation, now is the time to act. Remember, with renewable energy and conservation, you're not just reducing your carbon footprint and reducing climate change, you're saving money, serious money.

The following link is good place to start your investigation into what energy measures you can take and the savings they accrue.

<https://vitalsigns.edf.org/story/clean-energy-and-ev-tax-credits-are-disappearing-theyre-not-gone-yet-heres-how-you-can-still>

This is from the Building Electrification Accelerator. It is mostly resources for nonprofits and municipalities, but some good information for local residents too: [Building Electrification Funding & Technical Assistance Directory - Google Sheets](#)

All the MassSave-related rebates and other services are available here: <https://www.masssave.com/residential/rebates-offers-services>

This is also a great link from MassCEC that has a personalized incentive finder and also a full incentives list: Massachusetts Energy Savings Finder (<https://goclean.masscec.com/benefits-savings/>)

Transfer Station News

by Fran Fortino

Hazardous Waste Collection day is September 20 at Greenfield Community College Main Campus. This is a once-a-year **free** 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 10th. For online registration forms, click: <https://franklincountywastedistrict.org/p/24/>. Paper registration forms are available at participating transfer stations, while supplies last.

Fall Bulky Waste Collection day is set for **October 18, 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 other large treasures. If you would like to volunteer for the bulky day crew, please call 665-4561. Check here for more information: <https://franklincountywastedistrict.org/p/70/Clean-Sweep-Bulky-Waste-Collection>.

Foothills Health District News

by Lily Stafford, Foothills District Public Health Nurse

The Foothills Health District (FHD) has moved locations; our new space at is 45B Main St in Williamsburg! We also have a new website with links to permits and Public Health information: www.foothillshealth.org

Lily Stafford, RN, is the new Public Health Nurse and the newest FHD staff member. She continues to offer walk-in wellness clinics in all four of our member towns, with referral support, resource connection and navigation, sharps collection, chronic and acute disease management assistance, medication management, infectious disease monitoring and more. No appointment necessary – Whately hours continue on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 10-11:30am at the Town Hall. Please contact Lily with questions at fhd.phn@burgy.org.” Transfer Station News - fall 2025.

News from the Town Clerk

By Amy Lavallee, Town clerk

Reminder: Connect CTY Notification System

When the town first purchased the Connect CTY system we never realized how much it would be used and what a vital service it provided to the residents. We have been using the system for emergency messages as well as public service announcements, tax payment reminders, or special town meetings. Please remember that this is a “robo” call and there is a small delay from the time you answer the phone until the message starts.

As people are transitioning from landline numbers to cellphones, I encourage everyone to include their cell phone numbers in our Blackboard Connect CTY program. It is very simple to do. You can go to Whately.org, scroll down and click on “E-Alerts”. It will ask you to set up an account. You may also call 665-4400 x3 directly and we will input any numbers that you would like into the system. You can opt for phone, email or text messages. Text messaging is limited by characters so we usually refer you to the website for further information.

If you haven’t been receiving emergency messages or reminders regarding Town Meetings or tax due dates, please call or go online

to Whately.org to get signed up.

Census Forms and Voter Lists

I would like to remind those voters that have not sent back their census form that was sent in January and again in late February or their confirmation mailing that was sent in May, you have been placed on an inactive voter list. In order to vote, you will need to bring ID showing your Whately address and complete an Affirmation of Current and Continuous Residence form. This ID can consist of a driver’s license, current photo id, current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other document showing the voters name and address as they are registered to vote. In order to avoid delay at the election, send back any of the above forms or call the Clerk’s office for further instruction at 665-4400 X 3.

Dog Licenses: This is a reminder that dog licenses needed to be obtained by June 1. There is now a late fee in effect to license your dog. If you do not license or pay the late fee for this year you will be charged for it next year during the licensing period. You may license your dog in several ways.

1. Mail a \$60 check for each neutered or spayed dog 2 years of age or younger or \$65 for an intact dog over the age of 2 and a copy of the rabies certificate to Town Clerk, 4 Sandy Lane, South Deerfield, MA 01373.

2. Online. Go to whately.org and on the left side of the page is a Pay bills section. Once into the Unipay site go to Town Clerk and it will walk you through the steps. There is a small fee to pay with your checking account of .50 cents. If you use a credit card there is a fee of \$2.50 and \$3.95 if you use a debit card. I need to have an active rabies certificate on file or you can email me a copy at townclerk@whately.org.

3. Afterhours Box - you can drop payment and rabies information in the afterhours box in front of the Town Office building at 4 Sandy Lane.

4. In person – The Clerk’s Office is open Monday 8am-6pm, Tuesday - Thursday from 8am-2pm.

Whately Dog of the Year Contest

Congratulations to Toby from Poplar Hill Road!!! He was picked in our first dog of the year contest!!





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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 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.