



The WHATELY SCOOP

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

Volume 23 ❖ Number 4 ❖ May 2026 ❖ Whately, Massachusetts

23 Years and going strong. Thanks to you!

FIX-IT/ REPAIR DAY

By Fran Fortino

SAVE THE DATE: On Saturday, June 27th, 11 am – 2 pm, Whately, Conway and other local towns, in conjunction with the Franklin County Solid Waste District, are hosting a fix-it/repair event at the **Conway Grammar School** at 24 Fournier Rd.

This event is free and open to all residents in Franklin County. There is no registration for this event. Local “fixers” will help residents fix household items, sharpen knives, and glue favorite, but still useful old or broken items. Fixers are being sought. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the solid waste district.

Details on repair options will be available soon at franklincountywastedistrict.org. Contact the solid waste district at: fcswmd@crocker.com or by calling 413-772-2438.

Calling Tech Support

by Rich Vaden, the Franklin County Digital Navigator (United Way)

Want to learn how to use your phone, computer or tablet better? Want to manage storage on your device to get more space? Want to clear out your inbox and better manage your email? Want to feel more empowered with digital skills?

If it's on a computer, phone, or tablet, the Franklin County Digital Navigator can help! Whether you need support with devices or skills, I offer FREE services to help you build your confidence with technology. Come visit me during my drop-in tech help hours every third Wednesday of the month, from 1-3pm, at the S. White Dickinson Library in Whately. No appointment required, drop-in service is first-come, first-served.

Are you having a hard time registering for or using the Libby app? It's a free app that allows you to borrow digital eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines from the library. I will be running an “Introduction to Libby” workshop on Tuesday, May 26, from 3-4pm, for anyone who needs a little extra help accessing their favorite titles. Services are provided by the United Way of the Franklin and Hampshire region.

Foothills Health District News

by Lily Stafford, Foothills District Public Health Nurse

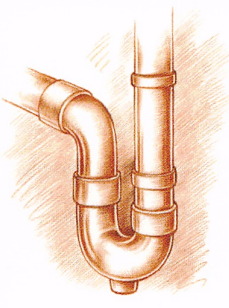
The Community Health Center of Franklin County's Mobile Health Vehicle is partnering with the Board of Health and the Foothills Health District to bring **medical and dental care to you at the Whately Town Office parking lot!** Open to all residents of any town, regardless of insurance. They will visit every first Monday of the month --- come drop in **June 1st from 10am-2pm** where they will share information about the Health Center and available services, assist individuals with becoming a new patient, and help determine insurance eligibility/coverage options. Come visit and get some free goodies while you're there!! Questions? Contact Lily Stafford, Public Health Nurse at 413-522-7112.

The Center School Committee -Looking for Partners

by Whately Center School Committee

The Center School Committee is excited to share that planning work is moving forward. As part of this process, the Town is seeking qualified operators, nonprofits, and entrepreneurs interested in leasing and operating programs in the Center School, and we've put out a Request for Information (RFI) to hear from anyone interested.

This step will inform the Town's planning and



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may shape a subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Know anyone who might be interested in being a partner? Please share it with them and help us spread the word.

The RFI focuses on two mixed-use scenarios developed through extensive community input and technical analysis:

- Scenario A: Coworking/Multi-Use Space + Community Art Gallery + Childcare
- Scenario B: Coworking/Multi-Use Space + Community Art Gallery + Time-Share Cooperative Kitchen

Alternative mixed-use proposals will also be considered, provided they align with the Town's community priorities of historic preservation, regional economic development, and community benefit. The Town will retain ownership of the building and land and anticipate entering a lease arrangement with qualified tenant operators.

Questions on RFI due: May 18, 2026

RFI responses due: July 6, 2026

The complete RFI, including building details, floor plans, and submission requirements, is available at: <https://www.whately.org/procurements/index.php>. For more information, contact the Caroline Gurek at communitydevelopment@whately.org.

When a Loved One is Dying

Valley Neighbors

Valley Neighbors invites you to an informative presentation by long-time hospice and palliative care nurse Maureen Groden. She will lead a real-life discussion about serious illness and end-of-life care on Thursday, June 11th, 2-3:30 pm in Whately Town Hall.

Most of us are anxious about dealing with a dear friend or family member dying.

Maureen is the author of the book "When a Loved One is Dying - Conversations about Care, Connection and Coping". She will share her experience in hospice and palliative care and education.

Maureen is passionate about helping families navigate the health care system when their loved one has a serious illness. She wants to help families experience a peaceful end of life journey.

She will provide handouts, and copies of her book will be available for sale. This event is accessible and open to the public.

Energy Committee Update: Solar Coming to Town Offices

By Whately Energy Committee

Exciting news from the Energy Committee and Town Offices: solar panels have been installed at the Town Offices and will be coming online soon. Want to learn more or share questions and ideas? Stop by our table at the Comprehensive Plan event at the library on **June 6** from **11:30 am–1:30 pm**. You can also join Town staff for solar project office hours at the Town Offices, **4 Sandy Lane**, on the dates and times below.

Mon, June 8: 10–11 am	Wed, June 17: 2–3 pm
Tue, June 9: 2–3 pm	Thu, June 18: 10–11 am
Wed, June 10: 10–11 am	Mon, June 22: 10–11 am
Thu, June 11: 2–3 pm	Tue, June 23: 2–3 pm
Mon, June 15: 2–3 pm	Wed, June 24: 10–11 am
Tue, June 16: 10–11 am	Thu, June 25: 2–3 pm

Bring your questions—we'd be happy to talk with you. Highlights from the solar project include an estimated **100,425 kWh** of electricity in year 1, with a guaranteed minimum output of **80,340 kWh**, from an **87.36 kW DC** solar PV system.

News from the Whately Church

by Cynthia Harrington

The Annual Tag Sale that was held on May 2nd was a huge success! We would like to thank everyone who donated items and came to shop. Your support of your community church is very appreciated.

Special thanks to the following:

The Denehy family for estate items in memory of Hazel; John Pease for the bear collection in

Organist or pianist wanted
 for the Whately Congregational Church



Contact Irene Morrissey
 at 413-665-2481 or
renejmorrissey@gmail.com.

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memory of Jane; Heather H., a friend of the church for her donations of art, unique items and decorative antiques; Don Bates and his mother Sharon for donations of housewares, decorative items and general goods; Fairview Farms for their annual and generous donations of hanging flowers and annuals; Our church bakers including: Karrie Orloski, Michael Motyl and other friends of the church for their delicious baked goods every year.

Our thanks to the Fisher Home Hospice Shop, Alison's Shoppe, Tina Peters of the Mary Lyon Church and Marilee Kloc for posting the event on their Facebook pages.

Coming Events

Sunday Services will move to the West Whately Chapel for the months of July and August. Please join us at 10:00 AM.

The 31st Annual Chicken Barbecue will be held on Labor Day September 7th from 12:00-1:30.

Watermelon Wednesday Schedule

By Paul Newlin

Cory Pesaturo and Leah Zeger, June 3, 7.30 pm, Wednesday, West Whately Chapel - [TIX here!](#)

[Skye Consort with Emma Bjorling](#), Wednesday July 1, 7.30pm, West Whately Chapel - [TIX here!](#)

[Beppe Gambetta](#), Wednesday July 8, 7.30pm, West Whately Chapel - [TIX here!](#)

[Faux Paws](#), Wednesday July 22, 7.30pm, West Whately Chapel - [TIX here!](#)

[LADAMA](#), Saturday, August 22, 7.30 pm, Whately Town Hall - [TIX here!](#)

[Mr. Sun](#), Wednesday September 9, 7.30 pm,

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KVeon@gmail.com
Chestnut Plain Road, Whately

The Murphys Realtors

Whately Town Hall - [TIX here!](#)

[Tony Trischka and Earl Jam](#), Saturday, November 21, 7 pm, Whately Town Hall - [TIX here!](#)

For more information about the shows and the series go to: www.watermelonwednesdays.com/ or contact Paul at paulnewlin@comcast.net

The Whately Giving Garden - Plant / Seed & Produce Swaps

By Julie Waggoner

Spring is in the air at last, and the Whately Giving Garden Plant / Seed and Produce Swaps will be starting up again at the Whately Transfer Station. **Our swaps last year were a great success, so please join us!**

Our first Swap is on Saturday, May 30, 2026 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon at the Whately Transfer Station, and will continue every other Saturday throughout the summer on June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8, August 22, September 5, September 19, and October 3. Dates and times will also be posted on the Town website at www.whately.org, and on the Town of Whately Facebook page.

Our aim is to encourage residents to create vegetable gardens at home, to supplement their food resources. We also want to provide free, fresh produce for people who might need it. All starter plants, seeds, and produce are FREE, donated by local farmers and by Giving Garden volunteers. DONATE what you can, TAKE what you need!

We are also looking for **VOLUNTEERS** to help staff the Giving Garden tent from 9 a.m. – 12

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noon on the alternate Saturdays. Please contact Julie Waggoner at j.waggoner@whately.org, or Caroline Gurek at communitydevelopment@whately.org for more information.

This year we were able, through the generosity of Doug Coldwell and the Whately Agricultural Commission, to **give away materials and labor to construct ten 4' x 8' raised garden beds**. 39 town residents entered the giveaway, and 10 winners were chosen via random lottery. Clearly there is a lot of interest in raised garden beds – so stay tuned for **next** year’s garden bed giveaway in late Winter / early Spring!

We have also initiated a small **food pantry**, currently housed in the lobby of the Whately Town Offices at 4 Sandy Lane. We will be installing a non-functioning refrigerator outside the Town Offices this year, to act as a 24-hour pantry for non-perishable items. We’ll be holding a “Refrigerator Design & Painting Contest” in late spring, so stay tuned if you’re artistically inclined and would like to enter!!

Library News

By Cynthia Steiner

The theme of this year’s Summer Reading Program is Plant A Seed, Read!. The theme is rooted in the concept of farm-to-table. A farm grows food that nourishes our bodies; a library grows ideas that nourish our minds. Both food and stories connect us to our family, culture, economy, and ecology.

Join us on **Saturday June 20 from 11-2** as we kick off this year's Summer Reading Program with **Touch a Tractor**. This event is being held at the ball-field next to the Fire Station.

I am excited to announce that the library has been awarded an Age & Dementia Friendly Grant from LifePath. This grant will be used to purchase two “Happy to Chat” Benches and will create a seating area around the rock that marks the location of the town’s time capsules on the south side of the library. The benches are being designed to be accessible for all.

Thank you to everyone who donated puzzles



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for our Puzzle Exchange. We have quite the selection of puzzles available! Stop by and find a puzzle or two.

We will be having a **Book Fair on Sunday May 24 from 11-2**. Stop by and take a look at the great selection of books and other items we have to offer.

Holiday Closings: Monday May 25 Memorial Day; Saturday July 4

Upcoming Events:

- Learn Libby with Digital Navigator Rich Tuesday May 26 3pm
- Touch a Tractor Saturday June 20 11-2
- Tech Support with Digital Navigator Rich, third Wednesday of the month 1-3pm

Summer Concerts:

- Bad News Jazz & Blues Orchestra Wednesday July 1 6:30pm
- Old Country Road Tuesday July 21 6pm
- O-Tones Tuesday August 4 6:30pm
- Ray Mason Tuesday August 11 6pm
- T.J. & the Peepers Tue August 25 5:30pm


Town Clerk News

Amy E. Lavallee

Congratulations to everyone who won seats in our Local Election held on April 28th! And a huge thank you, as always, to our amazing residents that step up to keep the polls open and our election running smoothly. I couldn’t do it without you!

Annual Town Meeting June 03, 2025

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



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to register voters. Voters must have been REGISTERED by to Saturday May 23 at 5:00pm for the Annual Town Meeting. *Residents who are not registered voters will NOT be allowed to vote.*

A voter registration session will be held on Saturday May 23, 2025 from 9am - 11am and 3pm-5pm 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:

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

Fees are: Spayed females and neutered males age 2 and under \$10.00 each; Unaltered females and males over the age of 2 \$15.00 each.

Change to Real Estate and Personal Property bill mailings

By Jennifer Day, Whately Treasurer/Collector

Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills are issued and collected on a quarterly basis. Beginning in FY 27 the tax bills will be sent in 3 mailings. The preliminary bills will be mailed at the end of June and will now be a two-part bill. The bill received at the end of June will contain your August and November bill. Quarter 1 is due on August 1st, and Quarter 2 is due on Nov. 1st.

A Word About the Importance of Town Meeting and Local Election Attendance

by Amy Lavalley 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 constant news coverage in the weeks leading up to Election Day.

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Watermelon Wednesdays
in West Whately

Summer schedule now posted
www.watermelonwednesdays.com

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.

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.

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 June 2 this year. Please consider coming out to vote or run for a position and participate in Town Meeting because in our little Town every voice matters.



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The Whately Scoop

*Cost for printing and mailing the Scoop was provided by
the businesses who placed ads within. Please patronize our local businesses!*

Volunteer Appreciation - submit your candidates for volunteers to thank in future issues of the Scoop!

The Whately Recreation Commission shared the photo you see here of one of the newly built dugouts constructed and installed at the Herlihy Park Youth Baseball Field.

JDR Builders volunteered to design and build the new dugouts for the small diamond, with help and materials from rk Miles, Thayer Excavating, Underground Supply Inc. and the Whately Highway Department.

THANK YOU ALL!



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. issue of the Scoop is **Wed. Aug. 26 2026**.

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). Please make checks out to: The

Whately Scoop and mail to 152 Westbrook Rd
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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 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
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