



The WHATELY SCOOP

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

Volume 24 ❖ Number 1 ❖ September 2026 ❖ Whately, Massachusetts

24 Years and going strong. Thanks to you!

Foothills Health District News

by Lily Stafford, Foothills District Public Health Nurse

The Foothills Health District will be offering a **FREE shoe spraying treatment** (Permethrin) for tick prevention on Sep. 4th at the Town Offices from 11am-1pm. Bring a pair of dry shoes that you don't plan on wearing for 24 hours post-treatment. It is safe for all ages, and lasts about 60 days. No registration required! Contact Lily with questions at 413-522-7112.

Whately Agricultural Commission News

By Bill Obear

The Agricultural Commission is frequently engaged in supporting APR's in Whately. So what are APR's anyway? The acronym APR stands for Agricultural Preservation Restriction which is a type of farmland conservation program that was adopted by the Massachusetts legislature in 1977 and is managed by the MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). "This voluntary program enables farmers to access the financial value of their land without needing to sell it. Through federal, state and local funds the MDAR can pay farmland owners the difference between the "fair market value" and the "agricultural value" of their farms in exchange for a permanent deed restriction to retain the land for farming. This helps to preserve the land for generations, and to maintain affordable and accessible farmland for new and experienced farmers."

Presently there are 29 APR's in Whately conserving 665 acres of productive farmland for future generations. Another Whately farm currently applying for APR certification is Golonka farm located on the Whately – Hatfield border on route 5. Golonka farm was honored by the local farm advocate organization Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) with its annual

Local Hero Award at its annual meeting last April. This award is in recognition of Golonka Farm for its commitment to growing high-quality produce for decades, supporting the needs of its many customers and advocating for farmland protection. The Agricultural Commission is very pleased for Golonka farm to have received this recognition.

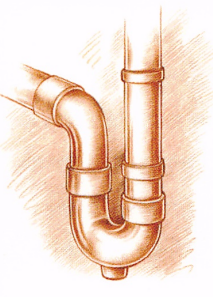
Lastly, the Agricultural Commission is happy to announce the renovation of the Whately Elementary School (WES) gardens with the establishment of 9 raised beds for growing vegetables and flowers and also refreshing existing old raspberry plants, planting a row of new raspberry plants as well as planting two apple trees. Agricultural Commission members as well as many Whately parents participated in the workday on April 18th. Special thanks goes to Doug Coldwell of Happy Valley Organics Farm and Theresa Carter the farm to school coordinator for their invaluable service. Thanks should also go to Tim Nourse for assisting in renovating the existing bed of raspberries, Mike Mahar of Bear Path Compost for donating compost and topsoil for the project as well as Bill Obear for donating three Vego Garden metal raised beds for the WES gardens.

Transfer Station News - Fall 2026

By Fran Fortino

Hazardous Waste Collection day is Sep. 19 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 Sep. 9th. For online registration forms, go to <https://>



Don's Plumbing

Service, Remodeling, & Repairs

Donald Barcomb
Fully Licensed & Insured
MA # 31800
215 State Road
Whately, MA 01093
(413) 522-4191

franklincountywastedistrict.org/p/24/. Paper registration forms are available at participating transfer stations, while supplies last.

Fall Bulky Waste Collection day is set for Oct. 17, 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>.

The Center School Committee Update

by Judy Markland

Are you interested in helping the Center School become a useful part of Whately again? The Center School Committee is in the process of forming the Friends of the Center School to help with social media outreach and eventually fund raising. It's a great option for folks who don't have time to be a committee member but still want to help with the future reuse effort. If you're interested, contact Judy Markland at jmarkland@lmstrategies.com.

Summer vacations have slowed our progress somewhat, but we're still moving forward. The survey we prepared for farmers, caterers and food trucks to determine the amount of interest in a potential time-share commercial kitchen at the school has been distributed and we have visited a second such kitchen to learn more about the operations.

Information about the Request for Information (RFI) for potential partners to operate commercial operations in the school has gone out to 41 businesses, non-profits, and trade organizations soliciting interest. The deadline for returning the RFI has been extended until we find qualified partners. We're especially seeking experienced operators of childcare facilities, co-working office space, and time-share kitchens. If you know of any such who might be

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1949

Kieras Oil, Inc.

97 RUSSELLVILLE ROAD, NORTH AMHERST
PO Box 9601 N. AMHERST, MA 01059

413-549-1144

WWW.KIERASOIL.COM

24

HVAC
EMERGENCY
SERVICE
AVAILABLE

interested, please refer them to the RFI on the procurement page at whately.org (<https://www.whately.org/procurements/index.php>). It's a great opportunity for a business or non-profit to locate in a well-located and town-owned building and to have input in the design of its rehabilitation.

Whately Civic Association News

By Marianna Massed

The Whately Civic Association is here to stay! We continue with our effort to resist federal policies that are having deleterious impacts on various segments of our population.

This summer, we celebrated the 250th anniversary when several members of WCA publicly read the Declaration of Independence. This action was enthusiastically appreciated by Whately residents and particularly rewarding for the readers.

We are committed to continuing our efforts this Fall. We invite you to join The Whately Civic Association on Labor Day - Monday, Sep. 7th from 7:00-8:30 at the Town Hall to write postcards to voters in Texas which has a critical US Senate race.

We suggest that residents check your voter registration by texting 59798 and enter the word "voter". It will lead you to your voter registration status. Updated information for Whately Civic Association can be found at <https://www.whatelycivic.org/#aboutus>.

News From The Town Clerk's Office

Amy Lavallee

Elections - This is a very busy year for elections. We are finishing Early Vote by Mail and Early Voting in Person for the Sep. 1st Primary. For the Nov. 3rd State Election, you will be offered the same opportunities to vote. For our Special Election on Oct. 6, 2026 for the Franklin County Technical School MSBA Approval there will be no Early In Person or Vote by Mail. The last day to register to vote for the Oct. 6 election



Matt Fortune
*Solar, Roofing and Battery
 Storage Solutions*
(413) - 461 - 6681
matthew.fortune@trinity-solar.com
*Call/Text/Email to get a quote or
 site assessment today!*
*Energy With Integrity.
 Since 1994*
MA Electrical Business: 8746-EL-A1
 Home Improvement Contractor: 170355

is Oct. 3 from 9am-5pm. The last day to register to vote to be eligible to vote in the Nov. 3rd election is Oct. 24th. The Town Clerk's Office will be open that day from 9:00am -5:00p.m. If you are already registered there is no need to register again.

New Ballot Drop Box-There is a new Ballot Drop Box in front of the Town Hall at 194 Chestnut Plain Road. If you have a Vote by Mail ballot you can leave your completed ballot in the secure box-no need to mail it USPS if you so choose. Ballots are collected every morning. Please be sure to place your ballot in the brown envelope and the white envelope just like if you were going to mail it.

Early Voting by Mail - The Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office will be sending out another round of Vote Early by mail applications for the Nov. 3rd election in mid-Sep. for those that have not chosen to Vote by Mail for the election yet. If you had already sent in an application and indicated that you wanted a ballot for the Nov. election or all elections this year, you will not receive another application. Early vote ballots will start to be sent out to all voters who have applied as soon as I receive them which should be the end of Sep. or the beginning of Oct.. All applications for the Nov. 3rd election must be in the Town Clerk's office by 5 p.m. on Oct. 30th. Once your ballot has been mailed by my office you can visit www.trackmyballotma.com to check its status. **Make sure you use Whately and 01093 to track your ballot.**

Early Voting in Person - Early voting in person for the Nov. 3rd election will be held at the



Your Local Neighborhood Realtor

Kristin Vevon, REALTOR, ABR

413.210.3423
KVevon@gmail.com
 Chestnut Plain Road, Whately

The Murphys Realtors

Town Offices, 4 Sandy Lane from Oct. 17th - Oct. 30th. Hours will be:

- Saturday: Oct. 17 12pm-5pm
- Monday: Oct. 19 & 26 12pm-5pm
- Tue-Thu: Oct. 20-Oct. 22 10am-12pm
- Friday: Oct. 23 12pm-5pm.
- Saturday: Oct. 24 9am-5pm
- Monday: Oct. 26 12pm-5pm
- Tue - Fri: Oct. 27-30 12pm-2pm

Voting In Person on Election Day - Polls will be open at the Whately Town Hall, 194 Chestnut Plain Road. The hours for the Oct. 6 FCTS Special Election will be 12pm-8pm. The State Election on Nov. 3 will be from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Voting will take place in the auditorium upstairs. If you should need the lift (elevator) to reach the auditorium enter through the side entrance behind the Post Office. Once upstairs, proceed to the other end of the auditorium to check in.

Other Town Clerk News

New Town Clerk Assistant- The office has a new Assistant! Please stop in and say Hi to Nika Tomasic. She will be working Thursdays.

Town Clerk Office Closed- The Clerk's Office will be closed on Sep. 7 for Labor Day, Oct. 5th & 6th, and Nov. 2nd & 3rd for elections, and Nov. 6-16 for vacation.

New Dog Licensing- For 2027 we will be using an online system for Dog Licensing. This new system will allow you to license and pay for your dog's tags right online-no need to come to the office. Please check the Town Clerk's page for more information.

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

1-802-251-0958

181 State Road
Whately, MA 01093

138 Elliot St., Suite One
Brattleboro, VT 05301



665-8986
Bill & Zach Smith

News from the Whately Church

by Cynthia Harrington

After a wonderful summer of worship at the West Whately Chapel, we will be returning to the main church sanctuary in Whately Center on Sunday Sep. 6th at 10:00 AM. Please feel free to join us as all are welcome.

Every Labor Day the church hosts an annual Labor Day Chicken Barbecue. This event is a take home only event and is by reservation only. The reservation deadline for this year's event is August 29th. If you missed this year's deadline please mark your calendars for next year! We would love to see you there!

On Sunday Oct. 4th the church will be hosting the annual Franklin County CROP Hunger walk. The CROP Hunger Walk is a nationwide movement sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world. 25% of funds raised stay in Franklin County. Donations can be made online at events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/whatelyma. If you would like additional information regarding donations or participating in the walk please contact BettyLou Guilford at 413-369-4481 or Mary Husted at 239-825-2587

Watermelon Wednesday Schedule

By Paul Newlin

[Mr Sun](#), Wednesday Sep. 9, 7.30 pm, Whately Town Hall - [TIX here!](#)

[Tony Trischka and Earl Jam](#), Saturday, Nov. 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

As the days grow shorter and the evenings cooler, the Whately Giving Garden's Free Seed, Plant and Produce Swaps are heading into their final weeks, wrapping up in early Oct.. The swaps have been a great success this year, so please join us for one or all of our last three: **Sep. 5, Sep. 19, and Oct. 3.** Dates and times are also posted on the Town website and Facebook page. Keep an eye out for our new banner, generously donated by CopyCat Print Shop in Greenfield. Thanks CopyCat!

Earlier this year, we were able, through the

LaSalle Florists & Greenhouses

Cultivating a tradition since 1934
a CISA Local Hero farm



Our dahlias are here &
beautiful garden flowers too!

23 LaSalle Drive
Whately

665-2653
www.LaSalleFlorist.com

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. Across those ten beds, recipients cultivated 20 different varieties —basil and tomatoes were the most popular, alongside peppers, cucumbers, zucchini, and on to kale, herbs, strawberries, and even a few flowers for color. No two gardens looked quite alike.

Perhaps the most meaningful number, though, didn't come from a plant count. The Agricultural Commission estimated that roughly half of this year's recipients likely wouldn't have been able to start a garden on their own without this support — a reminder that this program didn't just add vegetables to ten yards, it opened a door that had been closed for a number of Whately families. And it came with no strings attached: there were no pre-qualification requirements to apply.

The feedback so far says it all:

"I am so happy to have this. Less weeding. The plants seem happy."

"I have already enjoyed the harvest. Having a raised bed near my house has been great and it is easier to weed."

"Could we have built one on our own? Yes. But would we have? Probably not. Thank you for the kick start to growing some of our own food."

"It has given me a sense of purpose. I've been able to feed the special people in my life

NICHOLAS B. JONES



CARPENTER || CABINETMAKER

WHATELY, MASS 01093 665-7927

www.nicholasbjones.com License #66878 | Insured | HIC #121481

from the bounty."

We have also been maintaining 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're working with the Elementary School to create some artwork for the design, so keep a look out!

If you'd like to learn more about the Giving Garden project, would like to VOLUNTEER or would like to get on our mailing list, please visit our website: https://www.whately.org/boards_committees/whately_giving_garden.php

Water Department Update

By John Lukin, Commissioner

"We couldn't possibly have used that much water!"

The water superintendent has received a couple of phone calls making that statement in recent history after the semi annual bills have been delivered. These residents got a shockingly high bill and rightfully can't understand how they had used so much more water than usual.

Their next statement is "I'm not paying for that." What's the water department to do?

The reason for this dilemma is a leak on the property owner's side of the water meter. The meter registers volume as the water flows from the street into the building. Water through the meter is water purchased by the property owner.

An analogy is leaving a few windows open in the winter. The furnace will run more to replace the heat that escapes, which means more heating fuel consumed, which will cost the owner much more money. The open windows waste fuel.

"The most likely "window" left open in a house's plumbing is a toilet. A leaky toilet will use a lot more water than you might think. At 60 PSI (pounds per square inch) operating pressure, a 1/16 inch hole (the size of a pencil point or ballpoint pen tip) will leak 148,000 gallons over six months. At our present water rates, that wasted water costs \$1,207! That's how you get the shocking water bill.

A dripping faucet or any other leak in your plumbing can be expensive. One case was a pipe the owner installed and buried from the

Offering the best in acoustic music of all types

Now in our 19th year!



Summer schedule now posted

www.watermelonwednesdays.com

house to an exterior structure. It leaked and the owner only found out when they received a water bill for a few thousand dollars.

The water department cannot dismiss these charges. Once the water passes through the meter, it's yours. The plumbing on your property is your responsibility. Make sure it is in good working order.

A little food coloring in the toilet tank will bleed into the bowl if the flush mechanism is leaking. When all faucets are off, look at the meter in the basement. If it's showing water flowing through, however slowly, you have a leak. Call the water department if you need some guidance in performing this inspection.

If your toilets are old, you may want to replace them. Look in the tank. If it's got a lot of scale and scum in it, consider a new toilet. Before the manganese removal system was installed some 8 years ago, black scale would accumulate in the toilet tank. An old toilet is more likely to leak.

The cost of supplying safe drinking water to Whately water system customers keeps going up like everything else does these days. The biggest cost is the electricity we use to pump water. We will be bumping up the rates a bit this fall to cover those increasing costs.

System users have been responsive to widely broadcast drought conditions by using less water this summer. We thank you. The 5+ inch rainfall in July helped our 2 wells a lot. They're good wells and we don't want to endanger them with over pumping.

We monitor the distribution system for leaks and fix any promptly. Please do the same with your property's plumbing. No one wants to be responsible for a shockingly big water bill because of a small defect that is easily eliminated.



PRSRT STD
US Postage Paid
Northampton Ma
Permit no. 801

**Whately Postal Customer
Whately, Ma. 01093**

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

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 (four issues). 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 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.