

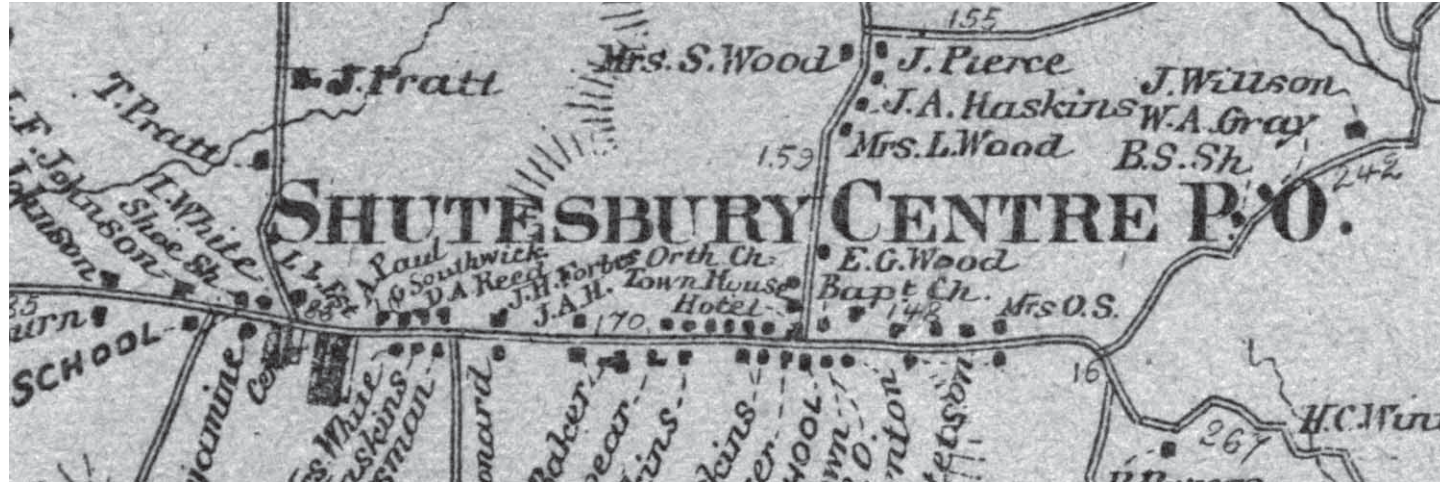


TOWN OF SHUTESBURY
P.O. BOX 276
SHUTESBURY, MA 01072

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SHUTESBURY MA 01072

Special and Annual Town Meetings and Election May 5!
Learn more inside . . .

Resident
Shutesbury, MA 01072



HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

Go to www.shutesbury.org for email addresses, or call the phone numbers below.

ACCOUNTANT Gail Weiss 259-1108	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Robert Mahler, Principal 259-1212	RECREATION COMMITTEE Rich Ferro 259-1361
ADA COMMITTEE Martina Carroll 259-1110	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR Walter Tibbetts 259-1211	RECYCLING COORDINATOR Gary Bernhard 259-1235
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Rebecca Torres 259-1214	FINANCE COMMITTEE Lori Tuominen 259-1765 Rus Wilson 259-1820	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE Kristen Luschen 256-3303
ANIMAL INSPECTORS Denise Chiminiello 259-1020 Nancy Long 259-2123	FIRE DEPARTMENT Walter Tibbetts, Chief 259-1211 or home 259-1286	ROADS COMMITTEE Vacant Call 259-1214
ASSESSORS Kenneth Holmberg 259-3790	HEALTH AGENT David Zarozinski 549-3710	SCHOOL COMMITTEE Michael DeChiara 259-1059
BOARD OF HEALTH William Elliott 259-2122 Public health emergency 413 659-7294	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Tim Hunting 259-1215	UNION 28 SCHOOL SUPT. Joan Wickman 423-3337
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE Dale Houle 259-1696	HISTORICAL COMMISSION Barbara Goodhind 259-1428	SELECT BOARD Elaine Puleo, Chair 259-1979 Al Springer 259-1578 J. April Stein 259-1074
BUILDING INSPECTOR Jim Hawkins 774-3167 ext. 113	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY Mary Anne Antonellis, Dir. 259-1213	SHUTES.-LEV. BROADBAND COMM. Weezie Houle 259-1696
CEMETERY COMMISSION Marilyn Tibbetts 259-1976	LIBRARY TRUSTEES Karen Traub 367-9826	TAX COLLECTOR Ellen McKay 259-1615
COUNCIL ON AGING Muriel Gross 259-1371	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Janice Stone 259-1557	TOWN CLERK Leslie Bracebridge 259-1204
CONSERVATION COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 259-3792	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER Janis S. Gray 259-1584	TREASURER Gabriele Voelker 259-1801
CULTURAL COUNCIL Renee A. Richard 259-9296	PERSONNEL BOARD April Stein 259-1074	TREE WARDEN Thomas Houston 259-1508
DEPT. OF VETERAN'S SERVICES Leo J. Parent, Jr. 863-3205	PLANNING BOARD Deacon Bonnar 259-1276	WEB COMMITTEE Fred Steinberg 259-9996
DOG OFFICER Nancy Long 413.345-8796	PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR John Letourneau 367-0017	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Charles J. DiMare 549-5330
ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR Maurice Gregoire 253-7505	POLICE DEPARTMENT Chief Thomas E. Harding 259-1279 Dispatch 625-8200	250th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE Janis S. Gray 259-1584 Maryélise Lamet 259-1551

POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE SQUAD 911



Going green will deliver 'greenbacks'

Becky Torres, Town Administrator

This spring and summer we are going out to bid on the list of eight projects funded by the Green Communities Grant Shutesbury received.

Seven of the projects are Energy Conservation measures. One is a renewable energy project. The energy conservation projects include heating improvements at town hall, i-beam insulation and air sealing at the elementary school, fan motor controls and VFDs (Variable Frequency Drives) at the elementary school, fire station heating system improvements, a lighting upgrade and a new hot water system for the fire station.

In total this is projected to be a 229 MMBTU annual energy savings with a projected annual cost savings of \$4,227.

Our Renewable Energy project funded by Green Communities grant dollars is a 10 kW to 15 kW pole mounted Photo Voltaic solar system to be installed in the field behind the Shutesbury Fire Station. The four or six poles will run east to west, 20 to 30 feet to the south of the tree line and fire tower. The poles will be to the east of the fire tower, and more than 100 feet from the wetland to the west. The location of the poles will allow for continued fire department and recreational use of the field.

The 10 to 15 kW system will produce 12,000 to 18,000 kW hrs of

Please complete the survey from the Council on Aging included in this newsletter and return it by May 7. Thank you!

electricity a year at a cost savings of \$1,800 to \$2,700 per year. The 15kW system will earn approximately \$8000 per year in SRECs, (Solar Renewable Energy Credits).

I want to express my thanks and appreciation to the Building Committee and the Energy Committee who continue to work diligently to ensure these projects maximize energy conservation, energy production and efficiency with every dollar.

Supporting the core of education

Michael DeChiara, Chair, School Committee

Before getting to the larger issues, let's focus on the kids and Shutesbury Elementary School. As of March 2012, the school had a total of 152 children enrolled from pre-school to sixth grade. Our town's children were learning about many topics using challenging and varied educational approaches.

For example, the pre-school has been studying animal habitats through dramatic play, 2nd graders are part of a writers workshop that will be publishing their poems and short narratives, and the 5/6th graders have begun the Living History Project, through which a historic individual is studied and then portrayed by each student.

This is the core of what makes Shutesbury education so valued in our town – strong, creative and effective teaching and successful learning by our students.

With the budget season upon us, the School Committee has requested the first increase in four years. Prior See Schools, continued on page 5

Spring cleaning? Items to bring to Town Hall

Gary Bernhard, Recycling Coordinator

Mercury-bearing items, certain batteries and cell phones are hazardous waste and should not be thrown out with the trash.

Mercury is toxic for human beings, but we continue to use it in many different ways – in fluorescent lights, thermostats, some electrical switches. So, what do we do with mercury-bearing waste?

Shutesbury residents can drop mercury-bearing items off at Town Hall for recycling. When the containers at Town Hall fill up, we put the nasty stuff in the Universal Waste Shed out back. Once a year a company that processes mercury-bearing waste (by binding the mercury to inert material) picks up the waste and takes it off for processing.

The Town has to pay for this service, of course, and **you can save Shutesbury money by recycling your fluorescent bulbs at Lowes, Home Depot, or Whole Foods in Hadley.**

See Waste, continued on page 6

Rabies vaccination clinic for dogs, cats April 28!

On the chance that you receive this newsletter in time, please note:

There will be a rabies vaccination clinic at the Town Hall on Saturday, April 28 from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Please have all dogs and cats on leashes or in pet carriers.

Please bring proof of previous rabies vaccination if available for your pet. The cost is \$15/pet.

Messages from the Town Clerk

Leslie Bracebridge, *Town Clerk*
townclerk@shutesbury.org
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00am –1:00pm
Call 259-1204 for special appointments or to leave a message.

Saturday, May 5, is Shutesbury's **Annual Town Meeting and Election of officers**. There is also a **Special Town Meeting** that day. The polls will be open at Shutesbury Elementary School, 23 West Pelham RD from 8:00am - to 2:00pm. The Special Town Meeting begins at 8:30 am and the Annual Town Meeting at 9:00am.

Saturday April 14 was the last day to register to vote in these meetings and election. Once you have registered to vote in a Massachusetts town, as long as you remain at the same address and continue to fill out your annual street list form in January, your name remains on the voter registration list. Call the number above anytime if you would like to check your voter registration status.

The following positions will appear on the ballot:

Board of Health:	2 three-year positions
Cemetery Commission:	1 three-year position
Constable:	1 one-year position
Library Trustees:	2 three-year positions
Library Trustees	1 one-year position
Planning Board	2 three-year positions
School Committee	2 three-year positions
School Committee	1 one-year position
Selectmen	1 three-year position

Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office for voters who will either be absent from Shutesbury, or who have a physical disability, or a religious belief that prevents them from being present during polling hours. Applications for absentee bal-

lots must be made in writing and include the voter's name, voting address and the address to which the ballot should be mailed, and the voter's signature. Please allow plenty of time for mail delivery of an application and the ballot back and forth. A voter can also absentee vote in person at the Town Clerk's office until noon on Friday, May 4.

The only way to vote on the Town Meeting warrant questions is to be at the meeting. We hope you will be able to attend. Key **results of both the election and town meetings** will be put on the Town Clerk's answering machine (259-1204) and posted on the front door of town hall at the end of the day. As soon as the first draft results are prepared, they will be sent to the town website (www.shutesbury.org.)

You can **re-license your dog** any time now for the July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013 period. A re-licensing form is available at www.shutesbury.org. I will send mail-in request forms for dog licenses in a June town-wide mailing also. Check now to make sure that your dog is up to date on its rabies vaccination, as is required in order to re-license. (See related story, pg. 1.)

Note from the Town Collector

Ellen McKay, *Town Collector*

Dear Shutesbury taxpayers,

Happy spring! Now that the warmer weather is approaching, we are approaching the end of FY12 and the Town Meeting for FY13.

My office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:--am - Noon and Thursday from 8:00-11:00am. Should you need to see me and these times are inconvenient, please call and we can arrange a better time to meet.

Apparently the US Postal Service is closing its Springfield mail sorting facility, which means we will NO longer have next day mail delivery. PLAN ACCORDINGLY when mailing your payments. Under Mass. General Law, we do NOT use the postmark for

date of payment but rather the date of actual receipt.

Your fourth quarter real estate taxes are due May 1. I urge you to pay these bills promptly as the next bill you will be receiving is a demand that will cost you an additional \$ 5.00 plus interest. If you need to set up a payment arrangement on your bill, please contact me as soon as possible. Although interest will accrue on any overdue portion of the bill, you will avoid the additional interest and any collection procedures beyond the demand that will accrue should you leave the entire bill unpaid.

Don't forget to contact the Board of Assessors if you no longer have a vehicle on which you have received a motor vehicle excise tax bill. All bills should be paid in full before you apply for abatement. If this is not done and the bill becomes overdue with additional fees and interest before abatement, these must be paid along with any outstanding balance on the bill.

Should a demand bill be issued on a motor vehicle excise tax, the law provides 14 days for receipt of payment before a warrant for collection is issued to the Deputy Collector. This results in at least \$ 22.00 in additional fees. Upon mailing of the demand bills, payment of the original bill will NOT be accepted and checks made out in the incorrect amount WILL be returned to the sender.

Some of you have been unable to pay your bills on-line. Once a bill is overdue, it is automatically deleted from the system and can't be paid on-line until the demand (for motor vehicle) or next quarter bill (for real estate and personal property) is issued.

Have a good spring.

Our Town, published three times a year in January or February, April, and August or September, is supported by tax dollars. We welcome news from Town of Shutesbury departments, boards, and committees, and from individuals and groups about local projects, activities, or special events of benefit to our community. Submissions promoting the sale of goods or services for private profit cannot be accepted.

Janis S. Gray, *Editor*
Leslie Bracebridge, *Town Hall Liaison*



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30% POST CONSUMER WASTE

Join us for these other fun-filled events to support our library

A huge THANK YOU to **Emily Bloch, Lindsay Van Dyke** (the film maker! See article on video below), **Julie Stepanek, Paul Jacobs, Michele** and **Erin Regan-Ladd, Jamie Donta, Alicia Duffy, Jane Urban, Sally Fairfield, Laura Walton, Sylvia Goldman, Karen Traub, Weezie Houle, Janis Gray, Susan Millinger, Jen Davies, Susie Mosher, Martha Favre** and **Natalia Jacobs** for helping with fundraising efforts for the Friends of the Library and the New Shutesbury Library!

These are among the many people working on other events coming soon. Mark your calendars and plan to attend! More details on our website, www.mnspear.org. More volunteers are always needed.

Shutesbury Celtic Fest 2012

Irish music and dance, road bowling, and more! Saturday, April 28, 1 - 8pm, Shutesbury Athletic Club.

Tickets are \$15 in advance (available at the Spear Library) and \$20 at the door.

Wild About Balloons with Jungle Jim

– and a fabulous Puppet Show with **Talking Hands Theatre!** Friday, May 4, 6:30pm, Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall, Boltwood Walk, Amherst.

\$5 per person

Shimmy-thon!

Belly Dancing for Your Library! Sunday, May 13, Time to be announced. Shutesbury Athletic Club

Ukulele Jam

With Joe Blumenthal and the AEIOUkes and special guest, Jim Beloff. Thursday, May 24, 7:30 - 9pm, The Jones Library, Amherst

Trivia Night 2.0

Back by popular demand! Saturday, June 2, 7pm. The Harp, 163 Sunderland Road, Amherst.

\$5 per person, includes a free buffet meal at the end of the game!

Teams of three to five people compete for fun and prizes.

Form your own team or just show up and we'll help you find a team.

Have you seen our video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUQ1vdJQWn0 ?

It's "gone viral" on the Internet and is bringing in donations from around the globe. It's also drawn the attention of many popular bloggers and Internet sites. Here are just a few:

Life Lift: The Oprah Blog *Save the libraries! Starting with this one* <http://www.oprah.com/blogs/Saving-a-Library-Saving-a-Town>

GOOD: A Small Town's Library Love Goes Viral, Earns Donations <http://www.good.is/post/a-small-town-s-library-love-goes-viral-earns-donations/>

Comedian John Hodgman's blog: That is All (which author Neil Gaiman and 800 others then shared): <http://area-sofmyexpertise.com/post/18903286935/the-public-library-in-shutesbury-ma-has-made-a>

BoingBoing: Tiny library raises money with tiny uke and awesome video <http://boingboing.net/2012/03/06/tiny-library-raises-money-with.html>

Huffington Post: Library in Crisis Gets Creative http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/20/library-crisis-creative_n_1367121.html

Boston Globe http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2012/03/25/war_of_words_erupts_over_shutesbury_library_plan/

Maria Popova's EXPLORE: <http://exp.lore.com/post/19398799821/where-would-you-be-without-your-library-charming>

When Shutesbury's **Julie Stepanek** improvised an original song for her Monday Story Hour at the library, she had no idea it would be the soundtrack of a fund-raising video! Excerpts from "Everybody Let's Jump (For Your Library)" as recorded in the video appear at right.



*Everybody get up,
Get on your feet,
Say "hello"
To someone you don't know.*

*Get ready and do as I say,
That way we're gonna have
some fun.*

*Everybody let's jump,
Everybody let's jump,
Let's jump, everybody,
Let's jump, everybody,
Let's jump . . .*

*Let's sway,
Everybody let's sway,
Wiggle, and then jiggle and
Then sway . . .*

*Now go real slow,
Turn around,
Touch your belly and then
Touch your nose.*

*And then jump, everybody
Let's jump, everybody let's
Jump, everybody let's jump,
Everybody let's jump . . .*

*Everybody let's say "hi" to
Someone you don't know,
Everybody smile and see
How long you'll make it go,*

*Everybody let's sway, and
Say hello, you know, you
don't know, you don't know
How far you can make it go.*

The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

10 Cooleyville Road
259-1213; www.mnspear.org
Mary Anne Antonellis, *Director*

Hours:

Monday and Wednesday:
11-1 and 3- 7:30
Tuesday and Thursday: 3-7:30
Friday: Closed
Saturday: 10-1
Sunday: 3-6

New catalog: What patrons need to know

Last fall we expected a change to the software system that is used for circulation and the library catalog. That change has been delayed but it appears likely that the change will be happening soon.

As C/W MARS prepares to move to the new Evergreen system, patrons will need to be aware of some of the differences they will see in the new catalog and things that will and will not be migrated over from their catalog record.

In the new catalog, patrons will see some new features, such as:

* All library items in one place!

All C/W MARS libraries will have their items in this catalog, so patrons will not have to change catalogs to request from the other region.

* **Patron Dashboard.** When logged into your library account, it will show all checkouts, holds, items to be picked up and fines in one place.

* **RSS Feeds for lists.** Do you have a list of books you want to share with others? You can create a "published" list that others can see.

* **Outstanding Holds.** Patrons who have outstanding holds at the time of migration will find them on the new catalog.

Patrons will also need to be prepared for some changes. These next items will not be able to be carried over to the new catalog, including:

* **ECommerce.** Paying fines and library donations online will not be available when we come up on the new system. We hope to have online payments back by the end of summer 2012.

* **Current PIN.** Patrons will be able to login to their new online catalog account using the last four digits of their library card barcode as a password. They will be required to create a new password when they login for the first time.

* **Reading History and Current Wish Lists.** In the case of Reading History and Wish Lists, patrons have the ability to export their lists or print from a computer. There is a button to choose "Export List" at the top of their list. We recommend that patrons choose "Brief Display" for their list; this will give you the title, author, and publishing information. These can be sent to an email address as a text file or displayed on the computer for printing.

Patrons who wish to export their Reading History or Wish Lists should do so prior to the conversion.

Fundraising for the New Shutesbury Library!

Volunteers are working tirelessly to raise money for a new Shutesbury library. On January 11 we were offered a \$150,000 challenge gift by an anonymous donor. Each donation received since then is worth twice as much. I am writing this newsletter article on April 11. As of right now, we

have raised \$225,000! We have matched \$54,000 of the \$150,000 challenge gift, only \$96,000 to go! I am sure that we will have raised even more by the time you are reading this.

Trivia Night packs The Harp

The following businesses contributed to the success of Trivia Night at The Harp March 31:

**Amherst Music House
Pineapple Dance School
Hampshire Athletic Club
Ziporah Hildebrandt
Mary Moore
Kringle Candle
A. J. Hastings,
Judies
The Toy Box
The Creative Needle
Amherst Wine & Spirits
Brueggers
Henion Bakery
Amherst Books
The Black Sheep
Cushman Market
Hair by Harlow
Sei Bella Salon
The Mercantile
Starbucks
Print Associates**

– and of course, **Harpo and The Harp.**



Statements from candidates for contested positions on the ballot

Space in *Our Town* for campaign statements is available to all candidates for contested seats, including known write-in candidates. The Town of Shutesbury does not endorse candidates. Each is invited to submit a statement up to 125 words long. Candidates have provided all information appearing in statements. *Our Town* does not proofread or edit their submissions.

Shutesbury's Election of Officers is Saturday, May 5



The polls will be open at the Shutesbury Elementary School at 23 West Pelham Road from 8:00am to 2:00pm. For more information, see story on page 2.

Two-way race for one three-year term on Select Board

Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil
315 West Pelham Road

Shutesbury has been my home for the last 36 years. I have a degree in accounting and currently work as the Admission Information Coordinator in the Admission Office at Amherst College. I hope to serve our town by carefully listening to all points of view, making common sense decisions and standing for fiscal responsibility. I will consider the short and long term implications of each issue facing our town and I will make decisions based on facts, figures and reason. I will bring a new approach to problem solving. I look forward to working with others in town government and the community to help create a bright and stable future for our town.

Elaine Puleo
129 Baker Road

In my 21 years living in Shutesbury, I have served on the Finance Committee (1991-1994 and 2007-2009), School Committee (1994-2001), Personnel Committee (2009) and Select Board (2009-present). I have participated in hiring (principals, superintendents and police) and collective bargaining negotiation teams. I am asking you to give me the opportunity to continue the work that we Select Board members have started. We don't always agree on all the issues. We often have healthy debates as we explore decisions. But, there is one very important thing we do agree on; we are all on this board because we are deeply committed to doing our best for everyone who lives in our town. I would appreciate your support in the upcoming election.

Three-way race for two three-year terms on School Committee

Emily Bloch
73 Weatherwood Road

I'm the mom of two girls at SES—one in preschool, one in 2nd grade. I've been involved since my eldest started kindergarten: PTO, a teacher hiring committee, and the "Lunch Bunch," which puts on the Harvest Dinner and seeks to bring local and nutritious food to school. I was appointed by the town to serve on the Shutesbury Education Study Committee, researching how we might work with other school districts, to increase efficiencies while improving local control. I'm committed to quality education and support for all Shutesbury kids, from toddlers through high school. A journalist by training (covering children's health and wellbeing), I ask questions until I understand, and translate complex information into common sense. I look forward to serving Shutesbury however I can.

Mary Lou Conca
105 Wendell Road

As an experienced teacher I hold a Preschool Teacher Qualified Certificate, The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, an Associate in Science Degree Aquinas College, Newton, MA, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree, cum laude, The University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA. Currently I work for Union #28 as a substitute teacher, paraprofessional and cafeteria assistant. After speaking with The Massachusetts State Ethics Commission, if elected, I understand that I can no longer work as a teacher, but with a signed exemption form I may continue to work as a paraprofessional and cafeteria assistant. Achieving equitable education opportunities for all children makes me an ardent advocate. Endless dedication and, fresh ideas, are what I will bring to the school committee. Thank you for your support.

Mare Fox
250 West Pelham Road

I am a parent of two SES children. I am in the school most weekdays. I listen to every resident's comments about the school. As a school committee member I have worked to ensure that every child receives the best possible education in an atmosphere conducive to learning. The best possible education should not be equated with the most expensive education. Costs should be questioned as every resident has to pay for that education. In the past year, I have worked to balance education and its costs not only through the school committee but also as Shutesbury's representative to the Union 28 Budget and Personnel Committee.

Proposed Zoning Bylaw amendments explained

Several zoning bylaw amendments are being brought to Annual Town Meeting May 5.

All are necessary to **create a new floodplain overlay district** along parts of the shoreline of Lake Wyola, so that residents there may be eligible to obtain reasonably-priced flood insurance for their properties under the National Flood Insurance Program, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA. The bylaw is proposed because some banks are now requiring this insurance be carried by mortgagees within the floodplain, and without the federal program in place the annual policy costs are significant.

A homeowner at Lake Wyola experienced this problem first hand. The bylaw was written to be as minimally restrictive as possible to landowners while complying with the requirements of FEMA to obtain such insurance. The articles themselves, and brief explanations are listed below.

Two flyers are included in the newsletter, Proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendments to Create Floodplain Overlay District and the Floodplain Overlay District statement of purpose, boundaries, base flood elevation, floodway data and regulations.

Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to amend Article II, Section 2.1-1 of the Town of Shutesbury Zoning Bylaw by adding new text as follows: "In addition, there shall be a Floodplain Overlay District as defined herein in Section 8.9." or take any other action relative thereto. **(Sponsor: Select Board and Planning Board) Requires 2/3 vote**

Explanation: This article adds this new floodplain overlay district to the list of the other four pre-existing land use districts in Shutesbury.

Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to amend Article VIII, Section 8 of the Town of Shutesbury Zoning Bylaw by adding a new Section 8.9, Floodplain Overlay District (See attached text), or take any other action relative thereto. **(Sponsor: Select Board and Planning Board) Requires 2/3 vote**

Explanation: This amendment inserts the body of the proposed new bylaw into the current Town of Shutesbury Zoning Bylaw.

Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to amend Article XIII, Section 13.2 of the Town of Shutesbury Zoning Bylaw by adding new floodplain overlay district related definitions (See text attached to warrant), or take any other action relative thereto. **(Sponsor: Select Board and Planning Board) Requires 2/3 vote**

Explanation: This amendment adds new definitions to the zoning bylaw that clarify the meaning of new terms used in the proposed Floodplain Overlay District Bylaw.

Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to amend Article XIII, Section 13.2 of the Town of Shutesbury Zoning Bylaw by adding the following words to the end of the definition of Structure: "For floodplain management purposes, structure means a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home. Structure, for insurance coverage purposes, means a walled and roofed building, other than a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground and affixed to a permanent site, as well as a manufactured home on foundation. For the latter purpose, the term includes a building in the course of construction, alteration, or repair, but does not include building materials or supplies intended for use in such construction, alteration, or repair, unless such materials or supplies are within an enclosed building on the premises." or take any other action relative thereto. **(Sponsor: Select Board and Planning Board) Requires 2/3 vote**

Explanation: This amendment elaborates on the existing definition of "Structure" for the purposes of the Floodplain Overlay District Bylaw.

'Citizens United' to come to Town Meeting floor

Graeme Sephton and Joanne Sunshower

Shutesbury's Annual Town Meeting will discuss a citizens' petition for the Massachusetts legislature to pass MA

Senate Resolution 772, calling for the Congress to pass a Constitutional Amendment affirming that the rights of citizens found in the Constitution and Bill of Rights belong to natural born persons, not artificial entities like corporations.

Many towns in New England and across the US will be discussing the same issue. Resolutions have already been passed by Hawaii, New Mexico, and Vermont. Eleven State Attorneys General – including Martha Coakley of Massachusetts – sent a joint letter to Congress calling for such an amendment. The issue is not new: Massachusetts Law (Ch.55,§8) bans corporate contributions to political committees or elections, and other states have equivalent laws.

In 1819, the US Supreme Court recognized corporations as having the same rights as natural persons for the purpose of entering into contracts. Since then, corporate lawyers have argued to expand this originally limited definition to mean that corporations should have all the rights of people that reside in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that corporations are entitled to spend unlimited funds in our elections, based on the argument that money is speech.

This allows corporations to channel billions of dollars into both elections and ballot questions. In a nationwide survey, 80% of people believe this will allow corporate power to influence elections and undermine our democracy. A Constitutional Amendment is the most secure way of overruling the Supreme Court's harmful ruling.

The petitioners are hoping for a rich discussion, and a finding of common values on this issue. A thorough review of the legal history can be found at: http://reclaimdemocracy.org/personhood/mayer_personalizing.html

Current conversation and actions can be found at: <http://freespeechfor-people.org/> Free Speech for People was founded by Amherst resident Attorney John Bonifaz. The US is the only nation in which corporations have the legal status of "person". Anyone wanting to discuss the petition, included in the Town Warrant, contact Graeme Sephton, 367-2253 or Joanne Sunshower 259-1129.



Curtain call from "The Tavern of Time: Scenes from Our Story, 1761-2011," Celebrate Shutesbury, September 24, 2011.

Dry winter + dry spring = summer drought

Catherine Hilton, Board of Health

It's elementary. No snow cover, no mud season ... these are the conditions that lead to water shortages and wells running dry.

We should all use water prudently this summer. If you must water-and gardens are already thirsty-water carefully and use mulch to conserve

soil moisture.

For the rest, well, listen to your mother: Avoid doing small loads of dishes and laundry; shower quickly; turn off the faucet while you're brushing your teeth (and stand up straight!). If you don't already have low-flow fixtures, install them now.

And if, heaven forbid, your well does run dry, see the Board of Health for a well permit: 259-2122, boardhealth@shutesbury.org

Union #28 Community Network for Children

The Community Network for Children (CNC), funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, supports all families with children from birth through 3rd grade in our school union.

Programs include weekly playgroups and story hours, parent/guardian workshops and events, opportunities to meet other families, support in accessing child care or assistance in paying for child care, new baby gift bags and home visits, and newsletters with current programs and events.

Playgroups and story hours are intended for children 0-5 years of age.

SHUTESBURY PLAYGROUP
Shutesbury Elementary School,
Fridays, 9:00-10:30am

SHUTESBURY STORY HOUR
MN Spear Memorial Library, Mondays,
10:00-11:00am

UPCOMING SPECIAL PROGRAMS!

Friday, May 4 - Dinosaurs after Dark PJ Story Hour at the New Salem Library

Sunday, May 6 - Lola's Fandango Story Hour at the Shutesbury Elementary School

Tuesday, May 15 - CNC Council Meeting at Swift River School, New Salem

Wednesday, May 16 - Parent Support Group for Families with Children with Special Needs. Potluck 5:30pm, discussion 6:00-7:30pm at Erving Elementary School



New '250' items arriving!

The 250th Anniversary Steering Committee will be offering a DVD of "The Tavern of Time" (presented at Celebrate Shutesbury last fall) at Town Meeting. Editor **Shauna Butcher**, blending her own footage with video taped by others that day, has produced a keepsake to treasure! "250" tee-shirts, ornaments and DVDs of other anniversary events will also be available.

And, you can reserve your copy of a commemorative album from our 150th anniversary in 1911, enhanced with additional text and images to span the century that followed. When published, it will include a CD of reproduceable color photos from the many events of our 250th year.

If you won't be at Town Meeting and are interested in any item, call Co-chair **Janis Gray** at 259-1584.

Redeem coupon for a Welcome Baby Gift Bag!

We would like to extend a welcome to your new baby with a free Welcome Baby Gift Bag. Your bag will contain books, health and safety items and valuable information about local services for you and your new baby. Please call or email Gillian, CNC Coordinator, at (978) 544-5157, Budine@erving.com. to arrange for a drop off at your home or to pick up your welcome baby gift bag at one of our local story hours or playgroups!



Schools, continued from page 1

to and throughout the economic hard times, the school has repeatedly faced 0% budgets – just holding things together while costs rose around us.

While our dedicated staff has found ways to go the extra mile and parents and community members have stepped up with donations of time and money, we knew that eventually this would need to change; making do can only go on for so long before the impact becomes significant enough that action is needed. The action we need to take is in fiscal year 2013 which starts in July.

Most significantly, the school faces the elimination of essential federal stimulus funds – funds specifically intended to keep local education intact, mostly directed at paying and retaining needed staff that otherwise would have been laid off. For the coming year, Shutesbury Elementary School will lose \$43,000 in stimulus funds and will need to fill the hole to keep our programs intact.

Shutesbury is also part of Union #28 – a network of five towns. The shared costs of administration of Union #28 are allocated annually based on the relative enrollment (who has higher percentage of kids enrolled). In the coming year, Shutesbury will pay \$7,000 more simply because our percentage of enrollment went up in relation to the other towns; nothing else changed.

The other drivers which will increase the elementary budget this year include a modest re-investment in professional development and programming; and salaries – both contracted increases and staffing addition that is needed to meet the unique needs of students.

While the school committee continues to be fiscally responsible and works closely with the town leadership, this year we face challenges that leave us with little choice but to seek an increase in the budget; again the first time in four years.

At the Regional Schools, the budget is also going up given increased costs of operation. The increases to the town assessments are being held in check by several



strategies including the expansion of school choice slots, modest programmatic cuts, and one-time internal transfers from the excess and deficiency (E&D) account.

Among the four towns, Shutesbury is seeing the lowest increase in our annual assessment – approximately \$29,000 or 2.07% (as of February). Again, because Shutesbury has the least growth in enrollment in relationship to the other towns in the region, we are assessed a lesser percentage. Comprehensive budget documentation regarding the various elements of the regional budget can be found at the arps.org website.

One significant educational development that has occurred since the winter edition of *Our Town* is **the formal coming together of the towns of Amherst, Pelham, Leverett and Shutesbury to explore ideas about how to reconfigure our local education delivery.**

Since the Regional School District was created in the 1950's, this four-town exploration has occurred every 10-15 years – literally in the 60's, 70's, 90's and a few years ago.

Since all four towns send their 7-12 graders to the same middle and high schools, it begs the question, "Are there ways to change how education is organized on the elementary level to advance our town's educational goals (including expanding capacity and increasing cohesion), finances, or governance?"

Previously, every time the four towns came together, huge volunteer time and effort were expended, yet the status quo remained.

With a changing world and new educational, financial and governance pressures being imposed, it seems responsible to ask the question again and to explore all options. Our ultimate goal is to see if we can better serve Shutesbury's children and Shutesbury's residents.

This time, unlike previous efforts

by the four towns, each town has created three-person Regional School District Planning Committees (RSDPCs) per state law. These committees enable each town to officially "talk" to each other about reconfiguration.

Together all four towns sought a state grant to hire consultants to look at the available data and understand the educational, governance and financial impacts of any possible changes. Unfortunately, we did not get the grant but all four towns remain committed to finding ways to get this information so that informed decisions can be made. **To be clear, these exploratory discussions do not commit Shutesbury to anything.** Right now we are just talking.

The bottom line is that these issues are complex and solutions are not straightforward. If they were, something might have been done in the last 50+ years.

If an agreed-upon solution is identified, no change will happen quickly or without residents knowing. A change in the regional agreement, for example, requires both a Town Meeting vote and approval by the State Commissioner of Education.

So far the process has been transparent, involving two Town Meeting votes, a public forum and a public website.

As official representatives of the town, the RSDPC asks that you continue to follow developments, so that when feedback is sought, residents can engage in informed discussion. (Note: see the town website for links to this information). All meetings of the RSDPC are open to the public and you are welcome.

To find out more about the elementary school, I encourage residents to visit the school website at: www.shutesburyschool.org. For the secondary schools, please visit www.arps.org.

Members of the community are always welcome to attend Shutesbury School Committee meetings, usually on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

On behalf of our teachers and staff, the parents and guardians, and of course the children, thank you for your continued support of quality education for our Shutesbury children.

Waste, continued from page 1

Here's how to recycle mercury-bearing waste at Town Hall:

Fluorescent lamps of all kinds – **do not tape long fluorescent lamps together. Please no packaging, bubble wrap, cardboard, etc.**

Thermostats, thermometers barometers – **again, no packaging, please.**

Elemental mercury – if you break a thermometer or have some other kind of mercury spill, here's what to do:

1. Ventilate the room and put tape around the area so no one will walk through the spill.

2. Get some disposable gloves, then use a note card or other stiff cardboard to push the mercury globules together.

3. Place the mercury in a Zip-lock bag along with the card and the disposable gloves, place the bag in a glass jar with a tight lid, label the jar "elemental mercury," and bring it to Town Hall.

Some batteries are hazardous waste. Cell phones are also classified as hazardous waste because of the lead, copper, nickel, and antimony in them. There are a number of mail-back programs that are free for recycling batteries, cell phones and other items. A list of these programs is at this web site:

<http://earth911.com/recycling/mail-back-programs-recycling-from-home/#>. **Again, you can save the Town money if you participate in one of these programs.**

Do not bring items with rechargeable batteries in them (such as electric toothbrushes, beard trimmers, etc.) to Town Hall. Take the rechargeable batteries out of these items (hitting them with a hammer does the trick) first, then bring the batteries to Town Hall.

Here's how to recycle batteries and cell phones at Town Hall:

Rechargeable batteries and button batteries. Place each battery *separately in a baggie* and place the baggie(s) in the box under the table in the copy room. They need to be in separate baggies so that they don't touch one another. Truckloads of



apparently "dead" batteries have ignited, causing serious fires.

Do not bring items with rechargeable batteries in them (such as electric toothbrushes, beard trimmers, etc.) to Town Hall.

Take the rechargeable batteries out of these items (hitting them with a hammer does the trick) first, then bring the batteries to Town Hall.

Do not bring non-rechargeable (alkaline) batteries to Town Hall. They are not hazardous waste and can be thrown out with the trash.

Cell phones. Take the batteries out, put the batteries in baggies and then in the battery box. Put the cell phone in the cell phone box, also under the table in the copy room.

Speeding Our Town on its way to you

Each time she hears that the printer has finished running off the latest issue of this newsletter, Administrative Secretary **Leslie Bracebridge** reaches for a valuable document: her list of "folding party" volunteers.

"**Johanna Hall** gets the blue ribbon this time!" she wrote last month, when asked who'd helped fold, seal and stuff the 875 copies of the Winter 2012 edition for mailing. Leslie noted that Joanna arrived at Town Hall within 20 minutes of receiving her call, and the two of them worked together for four hours.

"Then **Marilyn and Walter Tibbetts** walked in from an evening event," Leslie added, "rolled up their sleeves and got to work. **Becky Torres** came in after a meeting. And we were done and out the door."

If you would like to join a "folding party" for *Our Town* or special municipal mailings in the future, please call Leslie at 259-1204. (You will be under no obligation if a given date or time does not work for you.)

Town Democratic Committee honors longtime members

Bruce Parkin, *Secretary, Democratic Town Committee*

The Presidential Primary ballot provided for the election of members to the Shutesbury Town Democratic Committee. Nine members were elected. At a subsequent meeting, the committee added six associate members.

Three members were honored for serving over 20 years, which earns them the status of emeritus (lifelong): **Jonathan Tuttle, Bruce Parkin, Georgianna Parkin. Linda Lawton-Jacobson's** long participation was also acknowledged.

The Democratic Town Committee invites town residents to view information about local activities and links to state-wide campaigns at its website (www.shutesburydems.info).

Public Auction Corner: Town-owned equipment



Please submit your bid in a sealed envelope if you are interested in the following item to Becky Torres, Town Administrator, 1 Cooleyville Rd., Shutesbury, MA 01072. Bids will be opened at noon on May 11, 2012. Equipment will go to highest bidder. Thank you for your interest.

Dell Optiplex PC tower good condition. Purchased in 2005.

Pentium 4 processor 2.26 GHz
1.5 gigs RAM, 40 GB HD + 80 GGB HD, CDRW

Windows XP PRO clean install w restore CD

17" CRT monitor w/ speakers
Keyboard and mouse

The town reserves the right not to award an item.