

SHUTESBURY

MASSACHUSETTS



# OUR TOWN

## The view from Boston

By Becky Torres, *Shutesbury Town Administrator*

On the weekend of January 24, I went to the Mass Municipal Association conference in Boston. Hundreds of local officials from all parts of the Commonwealth attended speeches, workshops and a trade show. We listened, talked, learned, and shared ideas about how to make local government work better.

A futurist, Mike Walsh, was the keynote speaker. His blog, Disruptive Futures, is at [www.mike-walsh.com/blog](http://www.mike-walsh.com/blog). He urged us to embrace data-driven decision making. His book, *Futuretainment: Yesterday the World Changed, Now It's Your Turn*, is about the impact of the Internet.

The presentation slide he used for an example of innovation right here in Massachusetts was of the founding members of WIREDWEST.

You all created the Shutesbury Municipal Light Plant (MLP) at Town Meeting. Shutesbury MLP is a member of the WiredWest MLP Coop. For the last four years WiredWest has been searching for funding of our business model. This past fall the Mass Broadband Institute began partnering with WiredWest to build the last mile of fiber work.

Stop by Town Hall any Monday between 10am - Noon for coffee and refreshments in the Senior Lounge! Everyone is welcome.

And be sure to check out the lounge's winter and spring activities. You can read about them in the Council on Aging flyer included in this newsletter.

In December the Shutesbury Broadband Committee reported on their work comparing three models to bring broadband, fiber to the home, to Shutesbury. They researched and compared three models over the last six months. They put together a comparative analysis of the Leverett model, a private company proposal, and the MBI/WiredWest Municipal Light Plant Cooperative network proposal. They recommended the MBI/WiredWest Municipal Light Plant Cooperative network. The Select Board embraced their recommendation and signed a non-binding resolution with MBI/WiredWest. This means Shutesbury is now included in the engineering work for the new WiredWest network, along with 32 other towns.

The next two steps are outlined in this newsletter on page 3 by the Shutesbury Broadband Committee and on their webpage on Shutesbury.org

The new President of the Senate is our very own **State Senator Stan Rosenberg**. State Representative **Steve Kulik** is a part of House leadership. Shutesbury has responsive and hardworking representation in Boston. This should bode well for Shutesbury. Rosenberg and Kulik are strong supporters of the state IT bond bill, the funding of last mile, the

**See Boston, page 4**

## Winter updates from your Select Board

By Elaine Puleo, April Stein and Mike Vinskey, *Shutesbury Select Board*

Although you may be in the middle of shoveling or de-icing, let us remind you that Town Meeting is right

around the corner! – No really, it is. Once again, we are encouraging you to start becoming aware of the issues at hand and the decisions that will be made. This is a big year for some crucial decisions (both monetary and philosophical), and we hope you'll be informed.

The Select Board, Finance Committee and School Committee will do all they can to hold forums and information sessions in the next three months. Please make time to participate in these. When you drive by Town Hall at night or early Saturday morning and see the lights on, it's because both employees and volunteers are busy attending to the needs of your community. Here are a few of the items that we're working on:

**Item One of interest** The Broadband Committee has moved our community closer to being able to have broadband (high speed state-of-the-art Internet service). There will be a lot more information coming from this committee over the next weeks and months, and the community's input is extremely important and welcomed. *This will include deciding whether to make a major initial investment on the part of the town.* It is a complex issue. Many thanks to the Broadband Committee for their work – please come hear about the effort to bring Shutesbury into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with respect to communication.

**Item Two of interest** The town is being asked to decide on a proposal to regionalize our schools with Amherst, Pelham and Leverett at the pre-K to 12 level. The proposal is

**See Select Board, page 4**

## Messages from the Town Clerk

Leslie Bracebridge, *Town Clerk*

Office Hours: 9am –1pm Monday through Thursday; call 413-259-1204 for special appointments.

An Annual Street List form, requesting the household census on January 1 of this year, should have been received at each Shutesbury household by the time you receive this newsletter. As required by state law, these forms should be completed and returned in the SASE within 10 days of receipt.

If your household did not receive a form, please call or email the Town Clerk's Office (413-259-1204, townclerk@shutesbury.org) and one will be sent to you right away. Returning the completed street list form keeps one's voter registration active, ensures one's continued receipt of municipal mailings, and verifies eligibility for the annual trash bag distribution list!

Shutesbury's Annual Town Meeting and Election of Officers will take place Saturday, May 2, 2015 at the Shutesbury Elementary School, 23 West Pelham Road. Polls will be open 8am – 2pm. The Town Meeting usually begins at 9am. Watch for the late April *Our Town* mailing for final town meeting and election details.

If you are not already registered to vote, and you wish to vote on May 2, you must do so by Saturday April 11. Though my office will be open at least from 2 to 4pm and 7 to 8pm on April 11, why wait for the last minute? You can register to vote anytime: in person at the town clerk's office or by mail. Mail-in voter registration cards are always tacked up in the outdoor bulletin board of Town Hall and inside Town Hall in the files by my door. Call if you would like a mail-in voter registration card sent to you. These cards can also be used if you have moved within the town, changed your name or if you wish to change your party affiliation.

Absentee ballots for the Annual Town Election will be available for voters who cannot come to the polls on May 2, due to health concerns, religious restrictions or because they

will be out of town between the hours of 8am and 2pm.

You (or your relative on your behalf) may apply for an absentee ballot in person, or just write to the Town Clerk, P.O. Box 264, Shutesbury, MA 01072 to request an absentee ballot be mailed to you. Your request must include your residential and mailing addresses and your signature. If you apply in person, you can choose to vote at that time or a ballot will be mailed to you.

Your census mailing contained a summary of the offices and positions that are known to be on the ballot as of this date. More positions may open up due to resignations. Should any of these positions interest you, please request a nomination form from this office. You need only collect 20 signatures for your name to appear on the ballot. Completed nomination forms must be returned to the town clerk by 5pm on Saturday, March 14.

People sometimes ask if they can get an absentee ballot for the Town Meeting Articles. Absentee ballots are strictly for the election of officials and any ballot questions. Town Meeting questions are voted only by those who can be present on the floor of Town Meeting after an open exchange of information.

I look forward to being of assistance during this up-coming Annual Election and Town Meeting season.

## Thank you to our folders!

The Fall 2014 *Our Town* reached you in September thanks to "folders" **Susie Mosher, Marilyn Tibbetts, Susan Millinger, Catherine Hilton, Becky Torres and David Jolivet**, who joined Administrative Secretary **Leslie Bracebridge** to stuff, seal and label the newsletter.

If you would like to join a "folding party" for any future newsletter or other municipal mailing, please call Leslie at 413-259-1204 to be added to her list of folks to call.

You are under no obligation to participate if you do — but we will welcome your help whenever and wherever it suits you best.

## Note from the Town Collector

Ellen McKay, *Town Collector*

Dear Shutesbury taxpayers,

With the winter upon us, the third quarter of our real estate bills have become due and the calendar 2015 motor vehicle excise bills for many vehicles registered on January 1 have been mailed. Additionally, excise bills on vehicles registered late in 2014 are billed during 2015. The year for which the bill is issued is found in the upper right hand corner of the bill.

If you receive a bill on a car you have traded or on which you have changed registrations, do NOT ignore the bill. The Board of Assessors should be contacted to obtain an application for abatement. The forms are also available on the Assessors' section of the Town's website. The mailing address for the Assessors is PO Box 264, Shutesbury.

Our on-line bill paying feature allows you to pay your tax bills either directly from your checking or savings account with a fee of \$.25 or with a credit card for a fee based on the amount of your transaction. To use this service, click on the Town's website and then on the announcement on the Home page.

For Real Estate and Personal Property taxes, you should enter 2015 for the year and just the bill number WITHOUT the RE or PP to enter the program.

For motor vehicle payments, enter the year and bill number which is found on the top, right side of your bill. You are now able to find your bill information by clicking on the

*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*

notation "Need help locating your bill" after you indicate what type of bill you wish to pay. You then enter your last name and mailing address and click on the bill information.

With changes in the postal service, it now can take as much as a week for mail to travel from point of mailing to the destination. PLEASE PLAN AHEAD when mailing your tax payments to avoid interest due to late payment. The date your payment is received in this office or by the lockbox is the date of payment for receipt purposes under Mass. General Law.

If you receive a demand notice, you should pay it immediately as you only have 14 days from the demand date to pay before the bill goes on warrant which results in a substantial increase in the fees.

If you have purchased your property after January 1, 2014, Massachusetts General Law requires that the previous owner's name remain on the real estate tax bill. Hence, your name will appear with an "in care of." There is nothing we can do to put the bill solely in your name.

The question has come up concerning the information found on the bills. All information is required either by Massachusetts General Law or by the Department of Revenue of the Commonwealth. The Town and this office have no discretion on the statements printed thereon.

Before venturing out to pay a bill in person, please call this office at 413-259-1615 to check the answering machine to determine if I will be here.

Have a happy, healthy, and safe New Year.

Ellen

## MMA seeks local photos

What's the signature photo of our community?

Whether it's a historical site or natural resource, the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) would like a copy for possible use in future editions of *The Beacon* or the *Municipal Advocate*.

Send your photographic gems from Shutesbury to the MMA through Town Administrator **Becky Torres**, [townadmin@shutesbury.org](mailto:townadmin@shutesbury.org)

## Brush burning: What everyone should know

Walter R. Tibbetts, *Fire Chief/EMD*

By the time you read this, we will be in "Brush Burning Season." The season runs from **January 15** through **May 1**. The hours for burning are from **10am to 4pm**. Yes that does mean that the fire cannot be started before 10am and must be extinguished by 4pm. This is for the burning of brush only. **The burning of stumps, logs, leaves, building materials and trash is prohibited.**

Fires are to be located at least 75 feet from any building, and are to be attended at all times by a person 18 years or older. You should have some means of extinguishing the fire on site. This could be a garden hose or buckets of water and a rake and/or shovel.

**You must obtain a permit to be able to lawfully burn brush.** Permits are good for one day only, so you must get a permit for each day that you want to burn on the day that you want to burn.

There are two ways that you can obtain a permit. **The preferred way is on line.** The web site that you want to go to is: [www.fcburnpermits.com](http://www.fcburnpermits.com) The online permits are available from 8:30am to 1pm on any day that burning will be allowed. If burning is not being allowed on any particular day, the website will inform you of this and not allow you to obtain a permit.

You will first come to a welcoming page that describes the brush burning rules and regulations. To get a permit, click on the "click here to apply for a permit" line. You will see two lists, one of the towns that are allowing burning that day, and one for those that are not.

Click on your town, "Shutesbury," and fill out the form. When you submit the form a record of the permit will go into the system and a copy of the permit will be emailed to you at your email address. Print this permit out and sign it. It should be kept with you while you are conducting your burning.

**For those of you without a computer or Internet access, do not worry!** You can still call our dispatch center Shelburne Control at

413-625-8200 to get your burning permit, just as you have been doing for the last several years. They will in turn enter the information into the system.

I do need to stress that the burning regulations are set by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and not the Bureau of Fire Prevention. Therefore **days that seem safe for burning, such as those overcast with a light drizzle or rain, are considered bad days for burning in regards to air quality.** Warm, dry days with a light to moderate breeze are good days for air quality but may be hazardous for fire safety.

The air quality as determined by DEP is the first qualification for allowing burning or not. If the DEP determines that it is ok, they will allow us to issue permits.

On any day that the fire danger index reaches a "high class 3" day or higher, permits will not be issued due to the fire danger. This usually happens once we lose the snow cover, the surface fuels dry out, and before we get leaf cover or things start greening up. In these conditions there is a high risk of the fire getting out of control and spreading. **If this happens, don't delay, call 911 immediately.**

Please use care in starting your fires. Use a small amount of paper and kindling to start the fire if possible.

Using flammable liquids should be avoided because of the risk of personal injury. If you feel you must use an accelerant, use small amounts of kerosene.

**Never use gasoline to start the fire.** Make sure the area around your burn pile is free of leaves, long dry grass and any other readily flammable materials that would promote fire spread.

Also be courteous of your neighbors. Try to keep a clean-burning fire, producing as little smoke as possible and watch where your smoke is going. Remember: in Massachusetts brush burning is a privilege, not a right.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



The Shutesbury Broadband Committee has had a tremendously busy year since we started meeting in April.

We are pleased to announce that we've recommended that the Town of Shutesbury adopt and support the Wired West Cooperative initiative to bring high-speed fiber optic Internet to our town.

The Wired West Cooperative in

partnership with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) has made incredible progress this year to bring a solid and viable proposal for building a regional broadband network.

Our endorsement comes after nine months of careful data collection and deliberation.

We've analyzed three different plan models and chosen the one that we believe will bring broadband to Shutesbury in the most cost effective, equitable, minimum risk, high quality and expedient manner.

The Select Board endorsed the plan and we're working with the Finance Committee to present full

details for vote by Annual Town Meeting.

We'll be mailing out more information in February about the cost and timing for the project as well as the next action steps YOU as a potential broadband subscriber can take to move the project forward.

See more information and updates at [www.shutesbury.org/broadband](http://www.shutesbury.org/broadband)

*The Broadband Committee includes Gayle Huntress and Asha Strazzero-Wild, Co-Chairs, and Frank Citino, Craig Martin, Graeme Septhon, Eric Stocker, Ayres Hall, Tim Boudreau, Michael DeChiara and Steve Schmidt*

### **Boston, cont. from page 1**

MBI/WiredWest fiber network and active participants shaping the state budget.

But the message from Boston at the MMA conference was that the state of the Massachusetts FY15 budget is not good, although the Massachusetts economy is strong. The Governor presents his FY16 budget in March. His administration is focusing on a shortfall of \$760 million in this current year, with only five months left in this fiscal year.

The outgoing Administration's projected deficit was \$329 million in the \$36 billion state budget. Gov. Patrick made \$250 million in 9c cuts and sent

a bill to the House to close the gap \$80 million. The \$80 million was not acted upon by the legislature.

The incoming Administration's projected deficit is \$760 million. The new Governor has identified the budget gap as a result of the Commonwealth's spending problem.

Governor Baker said in his speech at the MMA conference that he is committed to not raising taxes, not using any of the \$1.2 billion rainy-day reserve fund and not reducing Chapter 70 education aid or the Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) to cities and towns. He also said he will not pass down unfunded mandates to the cities and towns. Like our local

town budget, much of the state budget is nondiscretionary.

Where are the cuts going to come from? How will they impact local services? The towns, the planning agencies and many non-profits depend on state grants. Outside of Chapter 70 and UGGA, local towns count on state funds for our libraries, for our schools, for veterans, payments in lieu of taxes for forest, and support from Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

As we start this new relationship with our new Governor, and new President of the Senate, we will all need to share our thoughts, concerns, priorities, with them as important decisions are made.

### **Select Board, cont. from page 1**

before the current Regional School Committee who will bring it forward to all four Town Meetings for a vote. This is the culmination of five years of work by the regionalization committee, of which we hope you have been staying aware. There will be forums in our town, as well as in neighboring communities, giving opportunity for input from all our citizens. The proposal is posted on the Shutesbury.org website. Please take the time to review, comment and think about this document. A tremendous amount of work has gone into it, and it is worth everyone's time to look at it. *The current timeline has us voting on the proposal to regionalize our schools at Town Meeting.* Even if you do not have children in the school system, this will impact you.

**In addition, our Planning Board is moving toward revising our 10-year-**

**old master plan.** This will be a long range project and will set the stage for future years' decision making. We hope to have a visioning process that will take EVERYONE'S viewpoint into consideration. If you want your ideas considered, you must come and be heard.

Small rural towns like Shutesbury have to raise most of our resources through property tax. We also have to provide the same services a larger town provides (schools, roads, government, police, fire, etc.).

Given our resources, careful planning and discussion is needed. Where Shutesbury should be going as a community is something we can all have a voice in. Meetings are posted, and input from community members is always welcome.

There is always a need to hear what residents of Shutesbury expect from its leadership. Come to commit-

tee and board meetings to offer your insight. Send emails via [@Shutesbury.org](mailto:@Shutesbury.org) and let us know what you are thinking.

Better yet, volunteer for a committee and take an active role in shaping our future. Just as a small town has a smaller base from which to generate taxes, we also have a small base from which we can seek volunteers to help with running the town. Any assistance you can provide goes a long way to making life better for all of us in town.

One of the great benefits of being in a small town is having a voice that really matters. Get involved, get active. You'll learn a tremendous amount along the way, meet new people and feel a great sense of accomplishment.

We urge you to be involved, communicate with the Select Board, attend our meetings.

## Shutesbury in 2025 — what will it be like?

The Planning Board (PB) has to answer this question and wants your help. State statute recommends that municipal planning boards develop a Master Plan (Plan) and update it periodically. Shutesbury's current Plan ([shutesbury.org/sites/default/files/offices\\_committees/planning\\_board/MasterPlan.pdf](http://shutesbury.org/sites/default/files/offices_committees/planning_board/MasterPlan.pdf)) was created by many residents 10 years ago, so it is time to work on an update.

The first key planning step is called "Visioning," which is a guided public process that solicits input from a cross section of residents to develop a set of goals and objectives for the town's next 10 years. The goals will identify the end targets and the objectives will clarify how to reach them. Key topics in town that are likely to draw strong opinions will be discussed.

Some issues that immediately come to mind are broadband, elementary school regionalization, library expansion, road conditions, fiscal constraints, and the Town's changing demographics. In addition to identifying the formative issues, residents will be asked to identify the barriers to addressing those issues, and suggest ways to overcome the barriers.

Several tasks need to be accomplished prior to the Visioning process beginning. The tasks include assessing the interest of various town committees and boards, requesting funding to hire a professional planner/facilitator to guide the Visioning process, forming a Master Plan steering committee comprised of a diverse group of residents, and getting townspeople involved in the discussion.

To date the Planning Board has met with the Library Trustees, Broadband Committee, Water Resources Committee, and Board of Selectmen to assess their interest. They have also worked closely with the Group for Civil Communication to advance



plans for the Visioning Process. Stay tuned for updates.

For more information or to share ideas about the Visioning or Master Plan process, contact a PB member ([planning@shutesbury.org](mailto:planning@shutesbury.org)).

## Open Space & Recreation Plan ready for review

The Shutesbury Open Space Committee is pleased to announce that the January 2015 Final Draft of the Open Space & Recreation Plan is open for public review. The Plan and Maps are available for download on the Open Space Committee's webpage ([http://www.shutesbury.org/open\\_space](http://www.shutesbury.org/open_space)).

Paper copies will be available for review at the Library and Town Clerk's office. Deadline for submission of review comments is **Friday February 20, 2015**.

## Community Preservation Committee on upcoming hearing and news

Shutesbury's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is off to a jump start this year with a total of four applications for historic and recreation projects.

The CPC will be meeting with the applicants in open meeting on Thursday, February 19 at 6pm in the Town Hall.

In addition, a public hearing will be held on Thursday, March 19, from 6:30-8:30pm at the Shutesbury Elementary School library at 23 West Pelham Road.

Attendees will hear presentations, and have an opportunity to ask questions about the proposed community preservation projects.

Shutesbury's Conservation Commission and the Old Town Beach Improvement Committee (see Old Town Beach insert in this newsletter) have proposed separate recreation projects at Lake Wyola.

The Cemetery Commission and Shutesbury Athletic Club have each proposed historic preservation projects.

There will also be an opportunity to contribute, and to hear others' ideas about Shutesbury's community preservation needs, possibilities, and

resources. We encourage all to attend the public hearing and look forward to seeing you there.

## A new meaning for 'Spring Cleaning'

Save the Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015. On that day the Roadtown Roadside Clean-up Project will be launched. This is a volunteer initiative that received enthusiastic support from the Recycling Committee, the Select Board and Republic, the town's trash hauler.

On April 11, we are hoping to get volunteers to work together in their neighborhoods to pick up trash alongside the road. This is an opportunity for the community to get out together, shake off the winter dregs and do a little spring cleaning up along our town roads.

Thank you to all who signed up at Celebrate Shutesbury last fall to indicate they would be interested in helping. We are identifying and organizing neighborhoods and will be contacting people. If anyone would like to join in this community effort please contact either **Susie Mosher**, [sndmoes@verizon.net](mailto:sndmoes@verizon.net) or **Sally Fairfield**, [sjmcfair@gmail.com](mailto:sjmcfair@gmail.com).

**THINK APRIL SAVE THE DATE  
SPRING CLEAN-UP**

## Nextdoor Shutesbury an easy way to communicate with other town residents

By Paul Vlach, a *Nextdoor Shutesbury "Lead"*

"Nextdoor Shutesbury," a *non-municipal* community-based website, now has 368 subscribed members. Access to postings, and optional email notifications, is restricted to Shutesbury residents. This non-municipal community-based website is a place for citizens to share information about community events, missing and found pets, weather and travel conditions, things to give away, and a host of other topics. Members can choose to share info or requests with the adjacent High Point neighborhood of Amherst, as well.

To join Nextdoor Shutesbury, you **See Nextdoor, page 6**

## Fall Preschool & Kindergarten enrollments under way

Shutesbury's Preschool serves 3 and 4 year old children. To enter this fall, your child must be 3 years old on or before September 1, 2015. Please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

**Enrollment decisions will be made by March 15, 2015.**

If you have a child who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2015, please get in touch with us as soon as possible for Fall 2015 kindergarten enrollment.

The Shutesbury Elementary School Community (SES) believes that opportunities for early childhood education are essential components of a good education system.

Early experiences in an environment rich in hands-on materials and activities provide children various opportunities to grow emotionally, physically, socially and cognitively. We believe that a trans-disciplinary team

approach, in which all adults working with children are responsible for a child's learning, is the most effective way of teaching and we also believe that parents are the most important teachers of their children and that their involvement in their child's education is essential.

For more information, please call: **Jessica Carlson-Belanger** at the Main Office of SES, 413-259-1212 ext. 100, [carlson-belanger@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:carlson-belanger@shutesburyschool.org)

**Grace Griecci** at 413-259-1212 ext. 140, [griecci@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:griecci@shutesburyschool.org)

**Our Early Childhood Program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), which is a mark of a high quality program for young children.**

## Pre-School and Kindergarten Screening offered for 3, 4 & 5 year olds in our community

Developmental screening is available through the school as a first step in a process intended to find children in need of special services and to plan for meeting those needs.

**This screening is available to all**

**families in town, including those with a child not already enrolled in the school's preschool program.**

The screening focuses on a child's growth in a number of areas, such as large and small muscle control, speech/language development and concept development.

This activity takes about 20 minutes and consists of a number of games that children typically enjoy playing. The screening gives an indication of

whether or not a child's skills are developing within the typical range.

If you or anyone you know has children under the age of 5, or you have questions or concerns about your child's development, please contact us for more information about the program.

Contact **Grace Griecci**, Pre-K teacher, at 413-259-1212 ext.140 or email her at [griecci@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:griecci@shutesburyschool.org)

## Nextdoor, cont. from page 5

must register with your real name and Shutesbury address. Outsiders cannot see member info or any postings on this closed group. You may choose to post and view exchanges only through the website, or to receive digest or immediate emails about any new activity.

Your email address and other info is not given to anyone, so you won't get spam from joining up.

This alternative to the official Town website and email announcement systems allows you to share info directly with others throughout town.

The Town system is rightly restricted to official town business postings, with no two-way exchanges. If you are not currently signed up for that list, we urge you to do so, by completing the form found here: <http://shutesbury.org/announcement-list>

To join your neighbors already enjoying Nextdoor Shutesbury, visit: <https://shutesburyma.nextdoor.com/join>

## Union #28 Community Network for Children

The *Community Network for Children (CNC)* program is funded through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant.

The CNC supports all families with children from birth through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in our school union.

Some programs for families include: weekly playgroups and story hours; parent/guardian workshops and events; opportunities to meet other families in our community; support in accessing child care and information regarding assistance paying for child care; information about children's development; new baby gift bags and

home visits; and newsletters with current programs and events. Our local CNC council assists in the oversight of the grant funds.

If you are interested in being on our mailing list to receive the newsletters, please call or email **Gillian Budine**, Co-

ordinator, 978-544-5157 or [Budine@erving.com](mailto:Budine@erving.com).

See our newsletter here: <https://sites.google.com/site/communitynetworkforchildren/newsletters> to get more information.

### Redeem coupon for a Welcome Baby Gift Bag!

The Union #28 Community Network for Children (CNC) 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, 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!

978-544-5157 or [Budine@erving.com](mailto:Budine@erving.com)!

# The M. N. Spear Memorial Library

10 Cooleyville Road  
413-259-1213; [www.mnspear.org](http://www.mnspear.org)  
Mary Anne Antonellis, *Director*

## Hours

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

## Return it in Shutesbury!

The Massachusetts Library System operates a statewide delivery system for the transportation of library materials across the Commonwealth. Last year fourteen million books, audiobooks, magazines, DVDs and more traveled among Massachusetts libraries through this delivery service.

The M.N. Spear Memorial Library receives deliveries three times each week on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Last year Shutesbury library patrons received 4,260 inter-library-loan items, delivered through this service. Our library also provided 4,943 inter-library-loans to patrons at libraries in other Massachusetts towns.

An added convenience of this delivery service is the ability of Shutesbury library patrons to return items borrowed from any Massachusetts library here at the M.N. Spear Memorial Library. We place the items in our out-going delivery bins and they will be transported to the owning library – usually within a few days. Don't hesitate to return items borrowed at other libraries here if it is more convenient for you, we don't mind at all.

## STEAMRollin' at the SLEW Libraries

Preschool-aged children in Shutesbury, Leverett, Erving, Wendell, and surrounding communities are invited to join us for a year-long exploration of STEAM topics. Each library will offer a series of eight monthly programs exploring science, technology, engineering, art and math. Activity Stations at the libraries will encourage children and their families to ex-

ploration these topics through creativity and play. Visit one of these four libraries to pick up a program calendar and to participate in fun, interactive programs and activities.

The next STEAMrollin' program in Shutesbury will be Wednesday, February 11, 3pm, at Town Hall. **Helen-Ann Sephton** from the Hitchcock Center will guide children and their caregivers as we explore Squirrels and their Adaptations. Squirrels have amazing adaptations that allow them to survive in our area. We will learn about their interesting lives and create a squirrel nest to take home.

This program is federally funded with LSTA funds through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Additional support is provided by the Friends groups of each library.

## Free Digital Downloads

Our CW MARS membership gives Shutesbury Library Patrons access to a collection of more than 30,000 digital ebooks, audiobooks, and video. These can be downloaded onto a computer, ereader, iPod, tablet, or smart phone.

To access most of this collection, click on the digital catalog link on our website. Free software must be downloaded onto your computer from the Overdrive site. Brochures with instructions for using the Digital Catalog with a variety of devices are available at the Library.

## A little bit helps a lot

The Friends of the Library offer support to our town library by fundraising, sponsorship and advocacy.

The Friends 2015 membership drive is ongoing. Membership dues are tax deductible and can be paid



be a check made payable to FSML, PO Box 256, Shutesbury, MA 01072 or online through the Friends Paypal account. Visit [www.mnspear.org](http://www.mnspear.org), click on Friends of the Library in the sidebar and then click Donate to the Friends.

Thank you for your support!

## Stay tuned for news about programs

The Library offers more than 100 programs a year.

With support from the Union 28 Community Network for Children we offer a Tales and Tunes Story Hour every Monday at 10am at the Library.

This winter and coming spring we will be offering workshops on positive psychology, felted scarf making, print making, Lego club and more.

A program calendar is included in this newsletter but programs are added often.

Stay tuned to our website, [www.mnspear.org](http://www.mnspear.org).

LIKE the library on Facebook [www.facebook.com/ShutesburyLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/ShutesburyLibrary),

join the Town of Shutesbury email announcement list, [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org) (click the link in the sidebar on the right side of the page).

We also regularly post on the eCricket and Nextdoor Shutesbury.



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### HOW TO CONTACT TOWN OFFICIALS

Go to [www.shutesbury.org](http://www.shutesbury.org) to find email addresses, or call the appropriate number below.

ACCOUNTANT Gail Weiss 259-1108	ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Jackie Mendonsa, Principal 259-1212	POLICE DEPARTMENT Chief Thomas E. Harding 259-1279 Dispatch 413-625-8200
ADA COMMITTEE Town Administrator 259-1214	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR Walter Tibbetts 259-1211	RECYCLING COORDINATOR Gary Bernhard 259-1235
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Rebecca Torres 259-1214	FINANCE COMMITTEE Rus Wilson 259-1820	REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE Stephen Sullivan 259-1626
ANIMAL INSPECTORS Denise Chiminiello 259-1020 Nancy Long 345-8796	FIRE DEPARTMENT Walter Tibbetts, Chief 259-1211 or at home 259-1286	SHUTESBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE Sean Woodard-McNiff 978-660-7983
ASSESSORS Kenneth Holmberg 259-3790	HEALTH AGENT David Zarozinski 549-3710	UNION #28 SCHOOL SUPT. Robert Mahler 423-3337
BOARD OF HEALTH Catherine Hilton, Clerk 259-2122	HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Tim Hunting 259-1215	SELECT BOARD Elaine Puleo, Chair 259-1979 Mike Vinskey 253-4260 J. April Stein 259-1074
BUILDINGS COMMITTEE Dale Houle 259-1696	HISTORICAL COMMISSION Leslie Bracebridge 259-1204	SHUTESBURY BROADBAND COMMITTEE Gayle Huntress 259-1905 Asha Strazzero-Wild 413-478-8368
BUILDING INSPECTOR Jim Hawkins 413-774-3167 x. 113	M.N. SPEAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY Mary Anne Antonellis, Dir. 259-1213	TAX COLLECTOR Ellen McKay 259-1615
CEMETERY COMMISSION Marilyn Tibbetts 259-1976	LIBRARY TRUSTEES Co-Chairs: Michele Regan-Ladd, 259-1149 Michele Sedor 256-5495	TOWN CLERK Leslie Bracebridge 259-1204
COUNCIL ON AGING Med-Ride Program 259-2123 Marilyn Tibbetts, Chair 259-1976	OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Janice Stone 259-1557	TREASURER Gabriele Voelker 259-1801
CONSERVATION COMMISSION Leave inquiries at 259-3792	OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER Janis S. Gray 259-1584	TREE WARDEN Thomas Houston 259-1508
CULTURAL COUNCIL Julie Stepanek, contact 387-5670	PERSONNEL BOARD J. April Stein 259-1074	WEB COMMITTEE Fred Steinberg 259-9996
DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES Timothy Niejadlik. 772-1571	PLANNING BOARD Deacon Bonnar 259-1276	ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS Charles J. DiMare 549-5330
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ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR Maurice Gregoire 253-7505		

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